

BIG SAUK LAKE ASSOCIATION

INFORMER

SPRING EDITION 2014

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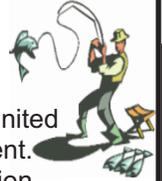
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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings Fellow Lake Residents,



On August 9, 1974, President Nixon resigned as President of the United States. Vice President Gerald Ford was sworn in as our new President. He went on national TV that evening and to the best of my recollection, he said "Our long national nightmare is over." That night our nation breathed a sigh of relief. This comment came to me after we experienced our first days of 50's and 60's, when the lake ice disappeared and the lawns started to turn green. What a relief it has been! It can be debated whether the disturbing parts of the Nixon presidency can be compared with the seemingly unending torment of our past winter. Let's just enjoy these days and focus on the Spring and Summer to come.

I would like to re-emphasize participation of our Annual Meeting. Please note the announcement elsewhere. Remember that this is an opportunity to get an update on your Association activities particularly with regard to the shift from mechanical weed harvesting to chemical treatment. Another issue will concern the permitting process/cost. It is also the opportunity to be nominated for election to our Board of Directors. We currently have eight whereas the By-Laws call for a maximum of 13.

I can tell you that in recent weeks, our Board has moved to select five potential contractors to conduct spray operations when needed. They were contacted by letter and a questionnaire. We expect returns by May 10th and will select one shortly after I assume that a contract will be signed thereafter. We were partially delayed because we were not sure if the City wished to become a partner to this operation. Apparently they now have agreed. In the meantime, we felt we could not wait to acquire a contractor should we experience an explosive growth of invasive species (clp?). after ice-out. If there are additional questions on these issues, we can deal with them at the Annual Meeting.

Our May newsletter be a bit shorter on content than usual. We want to make sure that publication and mailing occurs prior to our Annual Meeting. Readers will note that topics on invasives are being emphasized again. Readers may be getting tired of these reports. Readers are assured that they will be minimized in the future unless there are major controls to discuss in the fall

newsletter. We were able to invite Sabin Adams to comment on his work with the NRCS and Pheasants Forever. While his principle work is to improve pheasant habitat, he may be able to help Todd county property owners with programs to control soil erosion and install cover on your lake lot(s). The Sauk River Watershed District staff is always ready to assist in design and implement design of rain gardens and erosion control. I assume cost-sharing is still possible. Finally, I recently read that the Lessard-Sams Legacy Fund directors will be soon receiving invitations and organizations to petition for funding the next round of projects to benefit water quality and habitat in Minnesota.

A big Thank-You to all of our 2013 members who have renewed and to those joining us for the first time.. We appreciate your support. Feedback is always welcomed especially "newsy" reports of fishing successes, unusual bird sightings, restoration projects, etc

Sincerely, President Bob

BIG SAUK LAKE ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING
Saturday, May 24 ~ 8:00 a.m.
First Lutheran Church ~ Sauk Centre
SEE YOU THERE!

The Origin of Zequanox - A Brief History

Editor's Note: Readers should peruse the lengthy article by Gary Montz relating to the "Silver Bullet" before reading this. Information for this story came from a longer article written by Robert Boyle, published February 24, 2014 in the N.Y. Times. I think the story demonstrates how research leads to discoveries concerning control of invasives.

Zebra and quagga mussels had their beginnings in Eastern Europe and migrated to Western Europe some 200 years ago. By 1991, they appeared in the Hudson River, probably by hitching a ride on the surface of ships or in ballast water. Calculations by an ecologist at the Cary Institute revealed that the number of mussels between Troy and West Point, in one year, were estimated to have reached 500 billion!

A research team led by Dr. Daniel Molloy began an investigation of mussel control. The site was the Cambridge Field Research Lab in upstate New York. Eventually under controlled experiments, Dr. Molloy discovered the bacterium, *Pseudomonas fluorescens*. It was tested against the mussels. Water from Lake Carlos was used in the experiments. Its effectiveness led to awarding a license to a company in Davis California to develop the product commercially. Thus Zequanox was born. As the article in Shore to Shore revealed, the final usage of the product as the "poison pill" for mussels still needs evaluation,



Natural Resources Conservation Service
607 9th Street NE
Long Prairie, MN 56347



Many Todd County landowners are looking for information and technical assistance on improving wildlife habitat and protecting soil and water quality. I provide this service 100% free and voluntary to landowners. Upon your request we can discuss your property goals and put together a management plan to meet them. I can also assist land owners looking for funding to achieve their goals.

One program that can assist land owners is USDA's Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). Eligible lands in Todd County typically receive an annual rental payment of \$60-\$85/acre as well as cost share to help them implement the plan. CRP may be able to provide you with the funding and knowledge to install necessary habitat for wildlife, protect environmentally sensitive areas and receive a rental payment.

Another program that is highly beneficial to landowners, and all Minnesotans, is the Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) easement program. This program usually pays landowners \$1,500-\$2,500/ per acre to protect sensitive areas next to lakes, rivers, streams and ditches. The land remains private property, and can be sold by the land owner after the easement is recorded.

Many landowners are interested in programs but they aren't for everyone, so if you would like to simply discuss how you can make your property better for wildlife, soil and water we can do that. Feel free to contact me; I am stationed at the NRCS office in Long Prairie MN Monday-Friday 8am-4:30pm. I can also be reached by phone at (320) 250-6317 or email at sadams@pheasantsforever.org

Thank you,

Sabin Adams

NOTE OUR ADVERTISERS:

Should you visit any one of them, please mention their advertisement in our newsletter!

NEWSLETTER NEWS ITEMS

Members, you are our best source for events, issues, and information. Our "collective" eyes and ears come across many tidbits of information in the months between newsletters. If you would like this newsletter to mention these topics, please give me a call at 320.351.2513.

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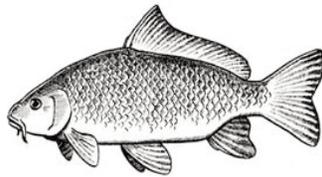
\$18 Billion Price Put on Effort to Block Carp

Ed. Note: Don't be too alarmed. This price tag does not apply to eradicating and keeping carp out of Sauk Lake! Read on to find out where this applies. This paraphrased article appeared in the N.Y. Times, Jan. 7, 2014.

"This most effective method of keeping carp from the Great Lakes via Chicago's web of waterways could cost up to \$18.4 Billion and take 25 years to put in place, the federal Army corps of Engineers concluded in a recent report." This report was ordered by Congress in 2007 and presents eight options to prevent carp and other unwanted species from entering Lake Michigan. There is evidence from DNA fragments of silver carp that Michigan has been breached. The evidence was found in May, 2013. Not surpris

ing, Senators from Great Lakes states called for action. In 201 Congress ordered the secretary of the army to design and build barriers, if justified. These electric barriers have helped but are not fool proof. Other steps included removing thousands of carp from the Illinois River.

Ed. concluding remarks: Does this problem resonate with Minnesotan's? Readers may recall that experts are debating how to keep carp from migrating upstream in the Minnesota and Mississippi Rivers. Solutions will be costly and controversial.



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17 1/2" x 21 1/2" Map
Fully Laminated—\$5
26 1/2" x 34" Map
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Below is a listing of BSLA Residential and Business members who have paid dues for calendar year 2014 as of **May 7, 2014**. **THANK YOU** for your support of Big Sauk Lake and the Sauk Centre community!

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(\$25 per Year: Jan. 1—Dec. 31, 2014)

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THANK YOU for your support of Big Sauk Lake!

The Big Sauk Lake Association is a Minnesota nonprofit corporation and a tax-exempt environmental organization under Article 501 (c) (3) of the U. S. Internal Revenue Code.

Zebra Mussels in Our Lakes - Have They Found "The Silver Bullet" Yet?

Editor's Note: Information for this story has been provided by Gary Montz, Research Scientist, MNDNR - Division of Ecological and Water Resources. "Shore to Shore" Issue 116

By now everyone in Minnesota is familiar with zebra mussels. These small striped mussels are found in a small number of lakes across the state, from Lake Zumbro in the southeast, Lake Minnetonka in the metro area, Lake Mille Lacs in the central part and to Lake Le Homme Dieu in the Alexandra area.

Zebra mussels are small, generally less than 1 1/2 inches long. The adults attach themselves to solid objects in water including rocks, wood, aquatic vegetation, boats, docks or any other hard surface. In the spring when water temperatures reach over 55 degrees F., eggs are released into the lake. They are fertilized in the water and develop into the larval stage called a veliger. These veligers float for up to three weeks until they grow large enough to settle to the bottom and attach themselves with structures called byssal threads.

Large numbers of this invasive can cause problems in our lakes. People have been cut or scraped from the sharp ridge on the shells. Boat motors can be fouled, and personal water pumps can be clogged by settling mussels. Zebra mussels filter algae for food, which may possibly interfere with the ecological food chain in lakes.

Much research has been done searching for a way to control the mussels in natural waters. While industry uses a variety of chemicals, most of these are not registered for use in natural waters due to their toxicity to other aquatic animals. A few attempts by resource agencies (including the MN DNR) have used copper products to attempt limited control. However, copper products can cause fish kills, so this chemical is not viable for larger areas of lakes. Potassium chloride (KCl) was used under a special permit in one small quarry in the state of Virginia, but this product is not permitted for general use in lakes or rivers. Recent attention has been focused on a bacterial control product. It is a strain of common soil bacteria (*Pseudomonas fluorescens*) that kills zebra mussels if they eat enough of it. Further investigation found that the bacteria could be killed and still be effective, and this material is now being investigated for zebra mussel control under the trade name Zequanox.

Zequanox has been shown to be extremely safe for a variety of other aquatic animals, including fish, other small invertebrates, and native mussels. It does not persist in the water, but is eaten by other microorganisms. However, it is not currently registered for use in natural waters. While industry has used it in pipes, fairly high doses over longer periods of time have been needed to kill most of the mussels.

Federal researchers are currently working in a few Minnesota lakes to look at Zequanox and zebra mussel control in partnership with a number of groups, including the MN DNR. One study is examining the possible use to kill zebra mussels that are infesting native mussels. If these attempts work well, it could give resource managers a tool to help protect endangered and rare species in our lakes and rivers. Another project is using small enclosures in Lake Minnetonka to see if this material can control zebra mussels in a natural lake.

While there are some intriguing aspects of Zequanox, there are also significant questions that remain. The high dosages and long exposure times used by industry create major difficulties for possible open water use. Zebra mussels need to eat Zequanox for it to be effective. and keeping this material in the water long enough for it to be toxic presents a major hurdle. Finally, even in industrial settings, complete kill of zebra mussels is not often achieved. Studies may provide answers to some of the questions, but it also might only be useful over small areas of water. Right now there is no effective, environmentally safe control material for lake-wide use. The best alternative for control remains prevention of spread. Draining water from boats, cleaning off boats and other gear and making sure that any docks, lifts or other equipment purchased second hand are completely and thoroughly cleaned can prevent mussels from hitching a ride to our lakes.

Conclusions: There does exist some good qualities inherent in our lakes. If there is to be any improvement, there must also be action taken to reduce sediment input and increase the growth of native aquatic plants. Suggestions?

Zebra Mussels May Have Met Their Match

Ed. Note: This article was found on the "Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers" website, (www.protectyourwaters.net) part of the Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) Task Force. The task force was established in 2004 and has some very recognizable groups including the U.S. Coast Guard, the Army Corps of Engineers, the EPA, and the U.S. State Department, among others. These articles on mussels and carp invasions should drive home to us the cost of trying to solve problems AFTER the invasives have gotten control. Yes, Sauk Lake has carp. How many, we do not

know. Have zebra mussels been transported here? Again we don't know. We probably will not know until some boat owner discovers them attached to his/her craft. The catch-word phrase is DRAIN, CLEAN, DRY. - APPLIES TO EVERYONE who uses a boat from one lake to another.. We must be vigilant on this issue. Incidentally, if the reader logs on to the web site, numerous articles appear from accounts all over the U.S. and the World to control invasive species.

"Lakeshore residents and (Wisconsin) DNR officials say Lake Winnebago (Wisconsin) has lost the battle with Zebra mussels but Lake Michigan shows just how sadistic the winners can become. Zebra mussels, an invasive species of mollusks that form vast colonies on rocks, piers, and anything else they can latch onto, leave behind equally vast shell piles when they die. The shell remnants are driven by waves into piles four feet high on the lakeshore properties on Edgewater Beach Road in Dyckesville, five miles north of Green Bay. That's enough shells to fill about 22 dump trucks per household."

Big Sauk Lake Association ANNUAL MEETING

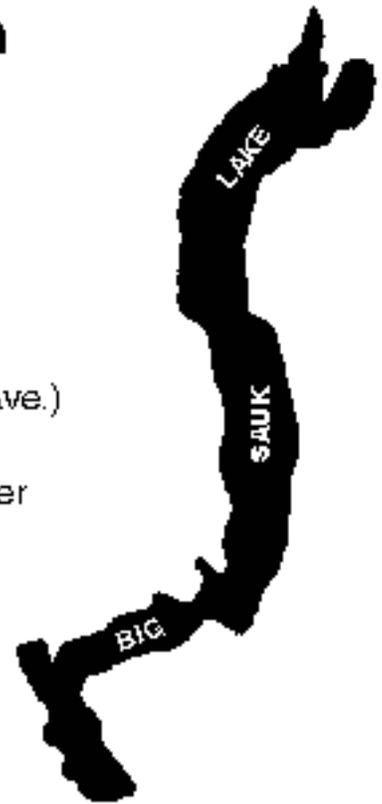
WHEN: Saturday, May 24, 2014
8 am—Breakfast Served By Youth Group
(Free - Will Offering Appreciated)
8:30 am—Business Meeting

WHERE: First Lutheran Church, (Elm St. & Sinclair Lewis Ave.)
Please enter via southwest entrance to basement.

GUEST SPEAKER: A representative from the Sauk River Watershed District will speak on the status of the Aquatic Plant Control project for Big Sauk Lake.

FREE: An attendance gift of a plant for shoreline stabilization to each membership registering and present for the Business Meeting.

Hope To See You There!



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

*Big Sauk Lake Association
Box 282
Sauk Centre, MN 56378*

BIG SAUK LAKE ASSOCIATION

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