From the president

By Ron Carlson

Although Marlys and I have been property owners on Big Sugarbush since 1978, it has only been the last three or four years that we have been active in the lake association. It is gratifying to see the large majority of property owners who are members of, and support the association. We currently have 63 dues-paying members, a record number for the years I can find data for.

The participation should be 100 percent. With an updated membership list and better communication, I think we can get closer to that.

Some of the very positive things I have seen accomplished over the past few years through the association and individually through some of the members of the association are:

1. Purchase of the island with donation to the state.
2. Successful defeat of a campground on the lake.
3. Getting the public access in usable condition.

I am sure that there are some other accomplishments I have left out. Big Sugarbush is blessed with the talent and dedication that we have among our property owners. I would hope that everyone would lend some of their time and efforts to the preservation of Big Sugarbush in the way we would all like to have it be. The job is not that enormous or time-consuming if everyone does one little bit.

I hope everyone has a great winter, and we will see you all at the spring meeting.

COLA report: sustainable lake planning

By Fred Drenkow

Meetings: May-Oct., at 6:30 p.m., the second Thursday of the month at the Northwest Technical College in DL.

The main topics of discussion:

Sustainable Lake Planning project – Dean McBride is our lake coordinator and a member of the steering committee. Training sessions will be held in September, October, and November. Dean will be calling for volunteers to attend these training sessions. Anyone interested should contact Dean.

Proposed changes to the Becker County Zoning Ordinances – A public hearing was held this summer regarding the proposed changes. There was much opposition to the changes, which resulted in the proposal being sent back to committee. The two main changes would (1) increase the allowable percentage of impervious surface (drives, decks, roofs, etc.) from 20% to 25%. (2) Create a Lake Ratio Number for each Lake. The Lake Ratio is a ratio of the Surface Area of the lake to the Shoreline Miles. Those lakes with a Lake Ratio larger than 1, would have the min. shoreline footage (150 ft.) increased by an amount equal to the Lake Ratio times the present shoreline footage (150 ft.), up to a max. increase of 150%, or 225 ft. Big Sugarbush would see the max. increase to 225 ft. for new developments. (Note – existing plotted lots would remain as they were plotted.) The committee will reconvene this fall.

Next Meeting: Sept. 13 – J. Johnson, Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge, was to present the program.

The 10th Annual Meeting of COLA was Saturday, August 25 and was attended by 10 people from Big Sugarbush Lake, Association. The meeting was a “kick-off” for the Sustainable Lake Project.

Some “food for thought” from the meeting –

"In the span of time, we are only on this planet for a wink of an eye."
—Unknown

This statement was printed in the program for the Annual Meeting:

“Yet we must never forget that the land the water are ours for the moment only, that generations will follow who must themselves live from the land and drink that water. It would not be enough to leave something for them, we must leave it a little better than we found it.”
—L. L’Amour

Don Hickman, one of the presenters at the meeting, presented the following thought:

COLA report to page 8
Talk about the birds: eagle housing, loon travel

Eagles bond through home improvement

Many of us have heard that a pair of bald eagles graced Big Sugarbush Lake this summer with a nest built on the island. It may be that the nest will grow bigger and bigger as the years pass. According to Audubon magazine, eagles mate for life, and return year after year to the same nest.

Like people, the eagle pair work on regular home improvement projects to make their site bigger and posher. In fact, eagles have to stay busy to keep up with their species: eagle nests can grow over the years to huge proportions. One in Vermilion, Ohio, used for more than three decades, measured nine feet across and nearly 12 feet high, and was estimated to weigh two tons.

Eagles attract mates through astounding aerial acrobatic courtships. But nest-building seems to do most to bond the couple to home and family. The male eagle helps incubate the eggs and feed the eagles. And that may be a long-term commitment: bald eagles are ready to breed at about four years, and have been known to live up to 28 years.

Of course, bald eagles aren’t unique among birds for their commitment to family values. More than 95 percent of bird species are monogamous, notes Frank Gill, Audubon’s senior vice president of science. However, recent research seems to indicate birds often step out for a bit of philandering on the side. To find similarities between the animal kingdom and the people kingdom seems an

Loons go salty

Where do loons go in the winter?

Most loons from the Midwest fly to the South Atlantic off the coast of Virginia and Florida, and on into the Gulf of Mexico. Even though they are freshwater birds, they can spend the winter on salt water because they have a pairs of large glands above their eyes that expel the salt by dripping it out like human tears, and helping to maintain the proper balance of water in the body.

To follow loon migration, check out Journey North’s web site at www.learner.org/jnorth/. Loon observers in Florida and other southern coastal states send in observation data that is tracked by Journey North. Students use the date to learn about animal migration.

(Excerpt from Minnesota Lakes Association newsletter)

An environmental quiz

So you think you know about your environment? Prove it with this short true-or-false quiz.

1. The main source of water pollution in the United States is runoff from farm fields, roads, parking lots, and lawns.
2. Plastic rings from beverage six-packs are the leading cause of life-threatening wildlife entanglement in the United States.
3. Most electricity in the United States is generated by hydroelectric, nuclear, or solar power, all non-air-polluting sources.
4. Worldwide, most childhood deaths are caused by microorganisms and other pollutants in water supplies.
5. Aerosol spray cans are the number-one source of chlorofluorocarbons, which deplete the earth’s protective ozone layer.

Answers:

1. True. Only 22 percent of 2,000 Americans polled by the National Environmental Education & Training Foundation and the polling firm Roper Starch Worldwide gave the correct response. Nearly half believed that the most common polluters of waterways were factories.
2. False. Just one-tenth of those polled answered correctly. Most wildlife entanglement is now caused by discarded fishing line, according to the Center for Marine Conservation, Washington, D.C. Today many six-pack rings are designed to become brittle when exposed to the direct sunlight that is common in rivers, lakes, and oceans.
3. False. Less than a third of respondents knew that 70 percent of all electricity is produced by burning coal and other flammable materials.
4. True. Only 9 percent of those polled got this one right. The majority believed that starvation causes most childhood deaths.
5. False. Almost a third of Americans blamed aerosol spray cans for ozone depletion, but chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) were banned from cans in 1978. Another third of respondents are aware that the biggest threat to the ozone layer comes from CFCs which until recently were still used in refrigerators and automobile air conditioners.

(Survey published in Audubon Magazine, July-August 1999.)
Big Sugarbush Lake Area Association
2001 Spring Meeting
May 26, 2001

Site: The Black Bear Inn

President Odegaard convened the meeting at 1 p.m. with introduction of guest speaker, Patty Johnson, Becker County Deputy Zoning Administrator.

Ms Johnson said that the County Commissioners’ concern for lake development and environmental impacts has prompted formation of a committee to review select zoning regulation. She noted the diversity of perspectives among the 14 committee members: COLA, County Commissioner, DNR, Realtor, et al. Revisions proposed by the committee focused on the relationship of lineal shoreline (miles) to lake acreage with the division of acreage by shoreline miles yielding a Lake Ratio. The smaller the ratio, the greater the front footage and square footage required for NEW lake development. In the proposal data used for Big Sugarbush were 668 acres and 7.1 shoreline miles, a lake ratio of 94.1. The proposal stipulated that NEW development on any lake with a Lake Ratio less than 100 required a lot lake frontage of at least 225’ and a lot area of not less than 60,000 square feet. After a hearing by Becker County Planning and Zoning and County Commissioners referred the proposal back to the committee.

Ms Johnson noted that the proposal as presented had had very strong endorsement from Planning and Zoning Office professional staff. She did not speculate on results of Committee reconsideration.

Ms Johnson responded informatively to audience questions. She explained Special Protection District as a status which directed allowed use of defined areas protected for reasons of flora, fauna, habitat, etc.

She identified Jeff Mercer as Enforcement Officer for Planning and Zoning.

Ms Johnson reviewed the Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) process with emphasis on opportunities for public input. She noted that an EAW requirement reportable to Becker County Commissioners (RGU – Responsible Governmental Unit as determined by the MN EQB – Environmental Quality Board) was required for the Taylor Investment property whether platted as Rolling Oaks or developed outside the Zoning Office review procedure through metes and bounds surveying of plots of at least five (5) acres.

President Odegaard convened the Association meeting at 1:37 PM.

M/S/C (T Schaffer/B Bohnsack) to approve minutes of the September 2, 2000 general Meeting and April 21, 2001 Executive Board Meeting as printed in Big Sugarbush Notes, Volume 11. Number 1, 2001. Ron Jenson explained that the Newsletter was mailed to dues paying members of the Association, not all lake property owners.

Treasurer Carlson reported a 5/25/01 balance of $866.20 plus $126.41 in the High Water Fund. He noted 60 members as usual with 17 ($170, $400 toward legal fees) prior to the meeting and 11 ($110, $175 toward legal fees) added to the moment at the meeting.

M/S/C (R. Jenson/W.Epperle) to transfer the entire High Water Fund to the General Fund.

Marilyn Reinke was acknowledged by President Odegaard as owner – with her sons – of land with significant lake shoreline. She told the group the family didn’t intend or want any development of their shoreline. The area is the basis of their maple syrup business. President Odegaard pledged vigorous Association cooperation in pursuing mutual interests with the Reinke family.

Fred Drenkow explained Big Sugarbush Lake’s potential involvement in implementing a COLA initiated project to adopt the Minnesota Lakes Association’s Sustainable Lakes Planning Model to Becker County lakes. While the planning model would not carry the force of law or regulation, it could be a useful reference tool for future development, both by those planning such development and authorizing entities.

Dean McBride is on the model development group. Additional persons are welcome.

Fred Drenkow is the 2001 water quality test coordinator for Big Sugarbush.

Fred is coordinating tree orders for spring 2002 delivery. Orders are to be placed with full payment by August 1, 2001.

President Odegaard offered a special welcome to new, first time members, Mark Voxland and Jim and Judy King (new owners of former Weideman property 32023 Sugar Creek Rd).

President Odegaard noted “Thank You” cards for Phyllis Onsager, retiring COLA president were being circulated for signatures. She is completing 10 years of formal leadership with COLA, now also 10 years old.

Big Sugarbush clothing can be ordered by May 27 from Diane Odegaard.

Bruce Norness will coordinate the July 4 Boat Parade to begin promptly at 2 PM from the Public Access.

M/S/C (R Bergen/D McBride) that the Secretary cast a unanimous ballot for Executive Board candidates Jim Jasken, Ade Sponberg, Tom Shaffer and Marilyn Reinke. Done. (Each had stated a willingness to serve if elected.)

M/S/C (T Schaffer/E Ahonen) to adjourn the meeting. So ordered at 2:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
David H Anderson

By consensus Directors met immediately following the May 25 General Meeting. Directors choose 2001-2002 officers: President and Treasurer: Ron Carlson. Vice President: Tom Schaffer. Secretary: David Anderson.
What is a wetland?
It’s more than just a swamp—but it might be that, too. Here are a few tipoffs.

The term wetland is used to describe a wide variety of web environments found in Minnesota. A wetland can range from a slight depression which holds water only after spring runoff, to a forested swamp with saturated peat soils.

Most people probably would describe a wetland as a small body of open water with cattails on the fringe. Lakes and streams are generally not wetlands, but may be bordered by wetlands. How then do we know what is and what is not a wetland?

Since there are many laws today protecting wetlands, it is important to identify wetlands and defined their boundaries. There are some clues that are helpful in determining wetland or non-wetland areas.

Water usually determines soil color and influences the vegetation found on a site. Therefore, vegetation, soils, and hydrologic (water) factors must all be present in legal identification of a wetland. In undisturbed sites, vegetation is the most easily identifiable criterion and can be useful in wetland observations. Soils and hydrologic factors are more complex.

**Wetland vegetation**

Wetland areas are usually dominated by vegetation that competes well or survives in wet conditions. In fact, some plants are almost always found in wetlands these “obligate” wetland plants are good indicators of the existence of a wetland.

If you see the following obligate wetland plants, you are looking at a wetland.

- Bog rosemary.
- Bog birch.
- Cotton-grass.
- Black willow.
- Labrador tea.
- Bulrush.
- Cattail.
- Swamp milkweed.
- Sundew.
- Sand bar willow.
- Skunk-cabbage.
- Sphagnum moss.
- Wild rice.

The follow plants are usually found in wet areas, and are fairly good indicators of the presence of a wetland. If any of these are found in the area of interest, further investigation should be done to determine the presence of a wetland.

- Red-osier dogwood.
- Larch (tamarack).
- Northern white cedar.
- Black spruce.
- Speckled alder.
- Black ash.

**Wetland soils**

Soil development is also affected by water. In Minnesota, there are two major soil types that develop in wet conditions. One is organic soils, or peat. The second is mineral soils that do not drain well because of low land, ground water seepage, or a slowly permeable soil layer (e.g., clay, bedrock, or hardpan). These are both called hydric soils.

Organic soils develop in depressions and consist of plant remains that do not decompose because soil is saturated. Organic soils can range in thickness from 2-30 feet. Plant parts are often still discernible in many organic (peat) soils.

Mineral soils that are saturated much of the time become dull colored, or gleyed. Gleyed soils are neutral gray and occasionally greenish or blue gray.

Mineral soils saturated for short periods develop spots or blotches of different colors. These spots are called mottles, and can be an indication of hydric or wetland soils.

**Wetland hydrology**

Hydrology is the third criterion used in describing a wetland. Hydrology refers to the presence or flow of water though the site. Some wetlands are relatively dry during drier times of the year (i.e., late summer). Often, aerial photographs, personal interview with neighbors, and visual evidence are used to determine wetland hydrology.

**Wetland delineation**

Using vegetation, soils, and hydrology, wetland areas are identified on site. The hardest part of defining a wetland is locating the boundary between the wetland and upland. This is called wetland delineation. When any of the above three criteria are no longer present, legally, you are out of a wetland and into the upland area.

(Excerpt from Preserving Wetlands, a Minnesota Extension Service publication.)

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**PICKLED NORTHERN**

Cut the fish into small pieces, cover with salt for 48 hours. Drain and rinse several times, cover with white vinegar for 48 hours. Drain. Boil four cups white vinegar, one cup water, and three cups sugar. Combine one tablespoon whole cloves, one tablespoon whole allspice, three whole bay leaves, one tablespoon mustard seed; tie in bag or cheese cloth and add to boiling mixture. Cool mixture, then add one cup white port wine. Pour fish in gallon jar with onion; pour juice over. Makes one gallon.

(From Cliff and Gloria Hansen, Lake Benton, Minn., published in the Minnesota Lakes Association newsletter.)
The **common** loon

One possible origin of the word “loon” is an Old English word “lumme.” Lumme means lummox or clumsy one—not a flattering description for the bird that symbolizes Minnesota! Loons are powerful and graceful swimmers, but “clumsy” does describe the bird on land.

Loons’ legs are located far back on their bodies, enabling them to propel themselves powerfully through water, but making it difficult for them to balance their weight when walking.

Common loons (Gavia immer) winter on the East and West Coasts, then return to their breeding grounds soon after ice-out. Loons arrive with their mates. The pair chooses a territory with suitable nesting sites and food supplies. Territories are 60-200 acres. Lakes under 100 acres generally support only one pair of loons; larger lakes may support more. [Sugarbush Lake is about 320 acres.] A territory must have deep water, as loons hunt underwater for fish, salamanders, frogs, leeches, crayfish and insects.

Loons prefer to nest on islands, but also use undisturbed peninsulas and headlands. Instead of laying eggs in a nest, loons build a nest around their eggs. Two eggs (rarely one or three) are laid in a small depression in the ground. While incubating the eggs, the birds add vegetation and build up the next. During early stages of incubation, the pair defends the area immediately around the nest. As hatching time approaches, they defend more and more of the territory. Repeated disturbances decrease a pair’s chance of hatching and rearing young. One study in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area found that loons living on lakes rarely used for recreational use reared more young than loons on lakes frequently used for recreation.

Young usually hatch in June. They eat whole fish, which the parents catch. Although young loons swim, they often ride on their parents’ backs. This provides protection against underwater predators like Northern Pike. Loons use several calls to communicate. The tremolo call, which sounds like a laugh, is believed to be an alarm call or a signal of aggression. The long wail sounds like a wolf’s howl, and maintains contact between mated pairs. The yodel is thought to warn other loons to stay away from an occupied territory.

Minnesota is home to more common loons than in the rest of the lower 48 states combined. With the exception of the Red River Valley, loons nest throughout central and northern Minnesota. Volunteers in the Minnesota Loon Monitoring Program monitor these populations. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources started this program in 1994. Trained volunteers count adult and juvenile loons on a total of 600 lakes within six regions. The collected data will alert biologists to changes in loon populations, and assist biologists in protecting the state’s bird.

The common loon has been Minnesota’s state bird since 1961. Could there be a better symbol for the Land of 10,000 Lakes than a bird so closely tied to the water? (Excerpted from *The Ridgeline*, summer 2000.)

Your trophy without the muss and fuss

More anglers are catching on to the advantages of catch-and-release fishing. It’s satisfying to release that lunker to fight another day, but—will anyone believe your fish story years later? Not if you don’t have a trophy mounted on the wall to prove it.

Well, now you can save your fish and mount it too.

Matt Yernatich is one of a growing number of taxidermists willing to rely on your photos and measurements to construct a trophy just like the original scaled beast, but made out of fiberglass.

Yernatich of Duluth was featured in a Minneapolis Star-Tribune article by Doug Smith that noted the popularity of mounting fake fish is growing among Minnesota anglers as the big ones become increasingly rare in Minnesota lakes. “Obviously catch-and-release saves fish,” said Dave Zappetillo of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources fisheries division, “and it gives someone else the thrill of catching a big fish.”

Artistic Anglers, Yernatich’s company, now also gives anglers the thrill of mounting a memory. In fact, the company ships 1,500-2,000 reproduction fish a year, and includes in its client list big businesses such as Cabela’s the big box outdoors stores. Of the real fish taxidermy the company also offers, business has slacked to about 75 a year. Most anglers want the fake fish.

The company creates the fish using a fiberglas-graphite blend. A basic body serves as support for fins, teeth, eyes and gills attached later. The 14-hour process is guaranteed not to fade or deteriorate over a lifetime.

Well, what about looks? “Hanging on the wall, the average person isn’t going to be able to tell them apart,” said Yernatich. Sure. But the fish photos in the Star-Tribune article did look pretty good. What’s more, you don’t have to worry about scaring the guests at home or the clients at work. Tell ‘em it’s fake. Maybe they’ll believe.

This firm charges $10 an inch for a replica, versus $8 an inch for a real thing.

Of course, it’s still not the real thing, and that bothers some fisher folk. On the other hand, they can catch the fish for the satisfaction, and still have something to prove their prowess. And who knows—they might get the opportunity to catch the same fish again.

Catch and release guidelines
Where have all the warblers gone?

The chestnut-sided warbler is one of Minnesota’s most common northern warblers. It is most abundant in cut-over, disturbed hardwood forest habitats, and nests at a density of about one nest per three acres in young aspen-birch habitat, according to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. This warbler is characterized by a yellow crown and reddish-brown sides. Chestnut-sided warblers nest over a broad region of northeastern North America, but winter in a relatively small area of mature lowland rainforest from Honduras south through Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Panama.

John R. Sauer and Sam Droege of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service reported that chestnut-sided warbler numbers declined 2.9 percent per year during the 1980s. Although these appears to be no shortage of suitable habitat for this species, chestnut-sided warbler nest are heavily parasitized by brown-headed cowbirds. There could also be problems with the loss of rainforest wintering habitat in Central America.

Further research will help to determine the reason for the decline of the chestnut-sided warbler. The Minnesota DNR Nongame Wildlife Program uses donations to the Nongame Wildlife Checkoff on state tax forms to help fund research projects that will help preserve woodland songbirds.

Getting the lead out of the lake

Most of us are aware of the danger of lead in our homes and environment. It’s been banned from common consumer products such as paint and gasoline, and even wineries have discontinued the tradition of sealing corks in lead foil. But many of us still use lead all the time on our fishing lines. The state natural resources folk are asking us to reconsider.

Now that the summer fishing season is coming to a close, it might be a good time to think about making a change to your tackle for next season. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is asking the state’s two million anglers to restock their tackle boxes with new non-toxic sinkers. Many anglers are not aware that the lead in fishing sinkers lost in the weeds or from the “big one that got away” are a threat to Minnesota’s state bird, the common loon, as well as bald eagles and trumpeter swans.

According to Carrol Henderson, DNR non-game wildlife program supervisor, “The ingestion of just one lead sinker can poison a loon.” Lead is a poison that affects the nervous and reproductive systems of birds and mammals. When fishing lines break, the lead sinkers or split shots are lost, and loons, swans and eagles can inadvertently eat them. Some birds are poisoned when they swallow lead as they scoop up pebbles from the bottom of a lake or river to help grind up their food. Others ingest lead by swallowing fishing jigs that are mistaken for minnows.

About 40 percent of Minnesota’s trumpeter swan fatalities are caused by lead poisoning, according to Henderson. “In a recent study, Minnesota biologists found that 17 percent of loons found dead in Minnesota had ingested lead objects and tested positive for lead poisoning,” he added. Lead poisoning was also found in 138 of 650 eagles treated by the University of Minnesota’s Raptor Center between 1980 and 1996.

In response to growing awareness of and concerns for the lead sinker problem, the fishing tackle industry has begun retooling to create non-toxic sinkers. Their first sinkers were made with a combination of tin and iron dust. New models are a combination of tin and bismuth. Currently, 13 United States manufacturers are producing non-toxic fishing tackle. The new non-toxic sinkers are a small portion of their total sales, because most anglers don’t know they exist and, more importantly, they are not aware of the accidental poisoning of loons, eagles, trumpeter swans, and other wildlife that is being caused by the use of lead sinkers.

Currently non-toxic sinkers are twice as expensive as lead sinkers, partly due to the industry dealing with very small volume of sales, which prevents mass production. Prices should decrease as acceptance and use of non-toxic sinkers increase.
Wildlife protection: Minnesota’s Nongame Wildlife Program

In 1977 the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources established its nongame wildlife program, one of the nation’s first. Its purpose: to develop and implement comprehensive conservation management programs for nongame wildlife, programs that prevent wildlife from becoming endangered. This program gives a second chance to many wildlife species that need more attention. Below are answers to common questions, as published in a program newsletter.

What is nongame wildlife?
In Minnesota, it is any native species of mammal, bird, fish, reptile, amphibian, mussel, or butterfly that traditionally is not hunted, trapped or harvested.

Is there a need for the Nongame Wildlife Program?
Nearly 600 vertebrate species (having a backbone) live in Minnesota. Of these, 110 are hunted, trapped, or fished as “game” animals. The other 490 are nongame wildlife. That’s 82 percent of the total vertebrate species in the state. Within this category of nongame, 12 species are federally endangered or threatened. There are also 60 species of freshwater mussels, 140 species of butterflies, and countless number of insects, snails and other invertebrates included as nongame wildlife.

Haven’t these species been considered in management programs before the establishment of the Nongame Wildlife Program?
Yes, but more attention is needed. Money to support conservation and management programs comes largely from hunting, fishing and trapping licenses, and a federal excise tax on sporting goods. The programs paid for by these revenues favor the protection and management of habitat for game species. There were many benefits to nongame wildlife through the preservation of habitats, but these efforts were not comprehensive, so much more must be accomplished.

How is this program supported?
Money to support nongame wildlife comes largely from donations. The Nongame Wildlife Checkoff passed by the Minnesota Legislature in 1980, provides an opportunity to contribute on the Minnesota State Income Tax and State Property Tax forms. Contributions can be any amount over $1. Look for the loon picture on Minnesota tax forms and write in the desired contribution. Those receiving a refund will have that amount subtracted from it. Those not receiving a refund can add the amount of their donation to the amount paid the state.

How well has this been working?
Public support has been tremendous. In the first seven years since the checkoff began, more than 300 conservation projects have been sponsored. Among these are bluebird recovery, the re-establishment of a river otter population in southwestern Minnesota along the Minnesota River, and the re-introduction of trumpeter swans and peregrine falcons.

Could we perhaps try a bit more courtesy?

Many of us are familiar with the peculiar feeling of standing on a dock while listening to a conversation from a boat far away. A lake apparently forms a dish that focuses and projects sound, amplifying even quiet conversation.

How much more so, then, is the effect of really loud noise on the lake: speedboats, Jet Skis, boom boxes, fireworks, chain saws, and amplified music. Those of us who come to Big Sugarbush Lake for a quiet retreat from the noise of city life sometimes find ourselves a bit annoyed at the noise of a busy day on the lake. But we realize people use the lake for different kinds of recreation and, like in town, we have to offer mutual patience, respect and courtesy for other people’s fun.

Patience and courtesy, however, need to come from all of us, not only those who prefer a quiet lake.

An example of those who strain the boundaries of courtesy have so angered some Minnesota lakeshore owners that the state has passed laws regulating their use—the operators of personal watercraft, or Jet Skis. But these small, powerful watercraft can indeed be fun (as I found out last summer), and they don’t have to be so disruptive. Drivers who stay far from shore, turn at reasonable speeds, and avoid driving around and around in circles for hours can show that even these much-maligned watercraft can be good neighbors. Standard speedboats, too, can be annoying, disruptive, and even dangerous if operated near shore and back and forth in a small bay.

Perhaps even more disruptive are activities that disturb our quiet summer nights on the lake. Fireworks are illegal in Minnesota, but most of us turn a blind eye to a little fun around the 4th. When some of us this summer decided to extend the fireworks season through the rest of the month and far into August, however, our patience wears thin.

Courtesy would also probably lead us to put up with a live, amplified band blasting over the evening water, although an argument could be made that such D.L.-style parties really are inappropriate on a rustic lake such as Big Sugarbush. At least organizers can follow noise ordinances customary in the city, and turn off the music at bedtime hour. Midnight should be the extreme limit; 11 p.m. is better. The amplified sound cast across Sugarbush’s south end one Saturday last August lasted until 1:30 a.m., and ended in a call to the Becker County Sheriff’s Department.

It’s embarrassing to have to summon a deputy to our lake for such a reason. Perhaps as we look forward to the 2002 lake season we can pause to consider ways to show more courtesy to our friends and neighbors who are willing to compromise on a variety of lake activities—but only to a point.

—Ross Collins
Big Sugarbush third annual 4th of July boat parade

The third annual 4th of July boat parade was another success and great fun. It was a sunny and very windy day, which did cause a few minor problems with hats, balloons and other boat decorations, but it certainly didn’t discourage any participants. The parade started with 13 participants, and ended with 14 (Ade must have still had his watch set on Arizona time). The winning entry this year was the Brian & Mary Espeseth family boat.

They had a very festive and colorful Hawaiian/Mexican theme.

I would be remiss if I didn’t mention the terrific entry the Ron Jenson family had again this year. For those of you who missed last year, he towed a small boat which was decorated as a loon. This year the small boat was decorated as a (very) large fish—terrific job.

Congratulations to the Espeseths!
—Steve Odegaard

Cola report from page 1

“We have all heard of the term Natural Resource Management. Natural resources don’t need management, they have been here since the beginning of time. What needs management is human behavior.

**Water monitoring results:**

Two water samples were take this year:

June:
- Total phosphorus, 12; chlorophyll a, 1; Secchi Disk, 18 ft.; Temperature, 64.

August:
- Total phosphorus, 15; chlorophyll a, 4; Secchi Disk, 15 ft.; Temperature, 74.

Averages for northern forest lakes:

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*Big Sugarbush Notes* is published twice a year by the Big Sugarbush Lake Association, Becker County, Minnesota. Opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of officers or members. For information please write or call Ross Collins, 1017 7th St. S., Fargo, ND 58103, (701) 239-6152; e-mail ross.collins@ndsu.nodak.edu.

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