



Loon Calls

www.lakesylvia.org

Fall 2021

G R E A T E R L A K E S Y L V I A A S S O C I A T I O N

"Hot August Nights"

August 21st, 2021 Annual Picnic

The GLSA Annual Picnic was held at the Chi Rho Center and the day was blessed with nice weather. It was another successful summer picnic. The following activities were part of this year's event. Karaoke DJ was provided by "Cowboy Up Entertain-

ment." There was food, beer and wine and root beer floats. Activities included face painting, gunny sack races and corn bag games. There was also a K9 unit presentation from the Wright County Sheriff Dept. with Deputy, Michael Loomis and K9 GRIZZ.



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Are You A GLSA Member?

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TO CONTINUE
FIGHTING AQUATIC
INVASIVE SPECIES.

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health of our
lake literally
depends on it.

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- Wildlife Conservation Committee

Please contact any chair to join their committee.

GLSA Loon Calls Editor

- Stephanie Schaunaman
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A Few Words From Your President

By Russ Fortner

The 2021 summer season is over at the lake. The basic events, such as the golf outing, lake picnic, fireworks, and lake parade were held, and after a one-year hiatus were back and successful.

No new invasive species were found. The very low water resulted in excessive weeds. Other than the extra weeds and low water, it was a good year. What will 2022 bring??

I, along with the GLSA Board, wish all Lake Sylvia residents a safe and healthy winter season, and look forward to spring and another season on our beautiful lake.



After you got skunked and u still want to cook fish

GLSA Event Calendar for 2021

2021 GLSA Events

Please watch or check the following for updates:

- The website (www.lakesylvia.org) • Email blasts from the website
 - Loon Calls newsletters • Annual Dues Letter

All members are welcome to attend board meetings. We meet at the Southside Town Hall. To request a presentation to the board, contact President Russ Fortner

Learning to Recognize and Understand Invasive Species in Lake Sylvia

By Blaine Barkley

Eurasian Water Milfoil

Description

Appearance

Eurasian watermilfoil is a rooted, submerged aquatic plant. The leaves appear green while the stems are white to reddish.

Leaves and Stem

Leaves are feather-like, with four leaves arranged in a whorl (radiating out from a single point) around the stem. Space between whorls along the stem can be a half inch or greater. Each leaf has a central axis with 12 to 21 leaflet pairs. Leaflets are limp when the plant is removed from the water. The stem is typically light brown, but sometimes pink. Tips of the plant are sometimes red or pink in color. Color alone should not be used for identification as it can be highly variable.

Flowers

A small pink flower spike up to four inches long produces tiny yellow flowers. Male and female flowers are found on the same plant.

Seeds

Even though each plant can produce approximately 100 seeds per season, this species is more successful at reproducing via fragments.

Roots

Roots are thin, white, and sometimes form dense clumps underneath the plant.

Biology

Eurasian watermilfoil is a perennial plant that flowers twice a year, usually in mid-June and late-July.

It can grow up to 20 feet tall, but typically only grows three to nine feet tall. It creates canopy-like structures as it grows toward the water's surface. It primarily establishes through vegetative fragmentation—a fragment can break off, settle in the sediment, grow roots, and establish a new plant. The plant dies back in the fall, but the root system can survive the winter and begin growing again in the spring.

Origin and Spread

Eurasian watermilfoil is native to Europe and Asia. It was discovered in the eastern United States in the early 1900s. The species was likely introduced and spread through the movement of watercraft and water-related equipment. In Minnesota, it was first recorded in Lake Minnetonka (Hennepin County) in 1987. Refer to the infested waters list for current distribution.

Don't be fooled by these look-alikes

Eurasian watermilfoil looks similar to many native, beneficial watermilfoils found in Minnesota lakes and rivers. Its common native look-alike is northern watermilfoil. In comparison, northern watermilfoil has only five to nine leaflet pairs, the space between whorls is short,



and it produces winter buds (dense club-like clusters of leaves at the end of the stem) at the end of the growing season.

Eurasian and northern watermilfoils often hybridize. Hybrids have similar characteristics and may require genetic screening to distinguish from non-hybrids.

Look-alikes:

- Northern Watermilfoil (native) (Below left)
- Coontail (native) (Below Right)



Welcome Wagon

If you know of a friend or neighbor that is new to the lake, please let us know so we can welcome them and reach out with a variety of information on the lake and the local area. Or if you have neighbors who moved to the lake in the last 3-4 years, check with them to see if they have joined and are receiving the newsletter.

In 2021, 7 properties were sold on the lake/s.

Thank You!

Lisa Peery
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Stephani Lind
splind@comcast.net
612-710-1316

Remembering Lake Sylvia fun Facts

Fun facts from the **Lake Sylvia history book** (see page 6 for answers)

1.) Cozy Comfort Lodge cabin rental for the season in 1931 cost?

- \$25.00
- \$60.00
- \$150.00

2.) What year was the first Annandale Water Ski Club show?

- 1973
- 1980
- 1989

3.) In 1859, how many pounds of Ginseng roots would buy an acre of land?

- 10
- 25
- 50

4.) Al Capone and other gangsters visited the dance hall at Bridal Beach?

- True
- False

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Life of the Chick

By Mike McNellis, the Old Loon Ranger

Let's look at the life of a Loon Chick. This will be in a series, because there's not enough room to do it all in the space provided. This is part one. It's not the easy life, as some may think. There's danger from the day the egg is laid, let's start there with this article.

The egg incubates for approximately 28 days, give or take. The worst thing that can happen early is a late winter snow, cold freezing rain, or just extended cold. Yes, the egg is protected by its parents but they do have to leave the nest occasionally to eat. Young first-time adults, that are just now seeing their first spring, having no experience may leave a nest for too long.

A second reason an adult leaves the nest is because of predators. Racoons, mink, the family pet, while swimming in shallow areas, may loot the empty nest. Hawks and eagles also can raid empty nests. They even drive a nesting adult from a nest. We have had this happen on Lake

Sylvia this spring. It was very upsetting to watch.

High water on a nest, that is on a natural setting, can flood from heavy rains and large waves during storms or from boats, this all may flood a nest. The adult at first will add material, building the nest up from the rising water. They roll the egg over and place material under it. Sometimes they abandon a nest if the water rises too quickly, or from continual extended rain events of 3 to 5 days. Our floating rafting nests almost eliminate these problems, but not the human predator.

The human predator is the worst enemy of the Loon. The need to look in a nest, show it to the kids, take a picture, or just to see a Loon egg, kills. Too many fisherpersons trespassing in a nesting area drive the Loons off the nest. The human trespasser thinking "I'll be in and out in just a short time", will drive an adult Loon off and away from the nest. If done often enough the adult Loon may decide not to return.



The human predator wins. They don't eat the egg like other predators, they just kill the chick in the egg. That's the life in the nest. Life of the Chick, part one.

(If you see a loon in distress you can call Mike McNellis at 320-266-0198.)

Lake Sylvia History Fun Fact Answers

1.)b, 2.) a, 3.) b, 4.) a



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Power loading damages boat ramps!

What is power loading?

Power loading is what it's called when you use the boat motor to load and unload a boat onto and off a trailer. Power loading can damage your boat, motor and trailer, as well as the launch ramp and lakebed.

Why is power loading a problem?

Trying to load or unload your boat using engine power can erode sediment and dig large and hazardous holes at the base of the ramp. The eroded sediment creates a mound behind the propeller. Trailer tires can get stuck in these holes, and boats can run aground on the mound. It results in a bar-

rier for both launching and loading.

- Boats and equipment can incur costly damage when boaters unknowingly back trailer wheels into the hole, damaging their trailer frames on the submerged ramps or getting the trailer stuck in the hole. When this happens, a tow truck may be the only option to retrieve the trailer and the vehicle attached to it.
- The boat or lower unit can run aground on the mound.
- In extreme cases, the end of the launch ramp can collapse, leaving it unusable and causing the access to be closed.

- Most of Minnesota's public launch ramps were not designed to sustain the forces of power loading generated by today's larger and more powerful boats.
- Repairs by DNR crews are costly and time consuming.

What you can do.

- Always check the end of the ramp for power loading holes and mounds before launching, especially in low water level conditions. You may not be able to see holes from the surface of the water.
- Don't race your boat motor while on the ramp. Slightly more than idle speed should

be all that is necessary to load or unload the boat.

- Instead of power loading, use the trailer winch to load and unload your boat.
- Back in just far enough that your boat starts to float - you don't need to back in so far that the boat floats entirely off the trailer.
- Consider using smaller watercraft or going to a different launch ramp if the water is too shallow

*Photo and article by MN DNR
https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/water_access/powerloading.html*

Why a Public Landing

By Blaine Barkley

Given the choice between a public access or no public access, what would your choice be?

There are only two answers. You see a benefit from one including easier access to a lake or you see a negative to a public access because of easier access to a lake. Many have strong opinions on one side or the other of the question. It is actually very easy to make a long list of reasons to not have a public access if given the choice. It is a shorter list that praises having a public landing on a lake. To me, the reason for one public access on a lake the size of Sylvia given the apparent water quality of the lake is a well settled decision. I believe Lake Sylvia needs the best access possible. There is one and I believe only one reason for that decision. It is a relatively well-established fact that invasive species travel by boat trailers that follow roads with boats launching at lake accesses. Lake Sylvia has no doubt suffered negative consequences from access to the lake by boaters. Birds don't spread invasive species. Turtles do not spread them. People spread them. As a result of watercraft moving from infected lake to non-infected lake, invasive species continue to spread every year. In Lake Sylvia, just like Lake Koronis at Paynesville, we have most of the real problematic invasive aquatic species that negatively impact water quality and for which GLSA spends significant volunteer time, effort, and



money to control. At the present time, we have them well controlled.

Starry stonewort is referred to as a lake killer. No lake has ever eliminated it. Lake Koronis has it and we know from our inspectors at the landing that we get boats from Lake Koronis launching every year. At the present time, it is well controlled in Lake Sylvia in the landing and most home owners and boaters give it little thought. Other lake residents manage the issues. Our situation can change quickly turning Lake Sylvia into Lake Koronis which is shown in the pictures. We have it at our public access. So far it is confined to the public access where we survey the landing and treat it four times a year to minimize the im-

pact on Lake Sylvia.

Now assume there is no public access. Lake Sylvia has approximately 70 privately owned parcels capable of launching a boat coming from another lake. Without a public access, boaters will still get onto Lake Sylvia through friends that have property suitable to launch. By using only, the public landing, if new plant matter comes in on a boat, it will likely be confined to the public landing where we look for it, find it and treat it. Now imagine people allowing boaters to launch their boats on any of the estimated 70 potential private landings. Should starry stonewort get introduced into the lake anywhere except the public landing it greatly endangers the value of every foot of lakeshore. At the present time,

the DNR only allows a lake association such as GLSA to treat 15% of, for ease of explanation, lakeshore. Lake Koronis is only able to treat 15% of their shoreline each year. Treatments last about two years where treated. Treating 15% of Lake Koronis this year costs \$170,000 and 85% of the lake, as shown in the pictures is not treated each year. Please, only allow launching at the DNR landing. If there is an outbreak of starry stonewort in front of your property and you have a private landing on your property, it will be obvious what happened. Chain that access with a lock when you are not there. Your property is at great risk and GLSA will likely be unable to help you.

Stranded Boat Assistance

By Russ Fortner

Again, this year, GLSA volunteers are available and willing to assist stranded boaters. Enter these names/ numbers into your cell phone contacts in

case you need their services. This information is also available on the GLSA website at lakesylvia.org.

Our thanks to these volunteers.

If you'd like to add your name, contact Russ Fortner.

NAME

Chris Hector
Keith Schaunaman
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