

BIG SAUK LAKE ASSOCIATION

INFORMER

WINTER EDITION 2013

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings Fellow Members,

As I began to write this article, the sunshine is streaming into my kitchen. The time is nearing 6:00 PM. What a great feeling this brings after the darker days of the past three winter months. My bird feeders have been regularly visited by goldfinches, chickadees, downy and hairy woodpeckers, occasional blue jays and more frequently by both male and female cardinals. The most recent visitor was a lone mourning dove eating sun-flower debris from the snow cover. I thought it a bit unusual to see one even at this time. The meteorologists call these days the start of Meteorological Spring even if it is not Spring on our calendars. I am almost convinced that my trio (sometimes a quartet) of squirrels have developed covert sensors which I shall identify as the SSE (Seed Sensing Radar) and the OHSD (better known as the Optical Human Sensing System). Squirrel convergence soon follows seed replenishment!

Your Board of Directors did not meet in December. The January meeting occurred late in the month and the March meeting will be held on March 2nd, prior to publication of the newsletter. Topics considered included:

1) The updating of our Vegetative Management Plan has not occurred. I believe that progress will be made when the use of the weed harvester and the operating fund have been settled.

2) The Todd-Stearns COLA has not met since our 2012 Fall issue. The organization has accumulated about \$2100 in dues over the years. I am a strongly in favor of using the funds to support projects which would benefit individual lake associations. We will keep you informed if any progress is made.

3) I was privy to a meeting with SRWD manager Holly Kovarik and technician Tara Osendorf regarding the pro's and con's of retaining the Harvester and dealing with the funds levied to operate it. This information was brought to the January Board meeting. Based on this information, the Board passed two motions. The first stated that we support discontinuing its use. Since there are very few requests for its use, property owners would be responsible for acquiring a permit and contacting private spray companies to destroy any growth of curly leaf pondweed. The second motion was to recommend that the levy fund be retained by the SRWD for control of invasive weeds in future years.

4) These motions were brought to a SRWD Manager's meeting held on February 19th. After the presentation, there were several questions to clarify our position. There was a feeling by the Manager's that the BSLA should assume responsibility to make contact with Spraying Companies and work with the members who desire assistance in eradicating any growth of CLP. The SRWD Managers will take up the issue again at their March meeting.

5) I have been contacted by an individual who is representing a group of people in the Chain-of-Lakes region who have succeeded a forming a Stearns COLA. It would only involve Stearns County lake associations with dues of \$60 per association. Obviously we have been participating in the Todd-Stearns COLA since 2/3rds of Sauk Lake is in Todd County. We will continue to look at the usefulness of our current COLA.

6) I have also been contacted by several Melrose residents whose property borders the Sauk River upstream from the Melrose dam and extends to the western city limits of Melrose. They have formed the Melrose Lake Association. The surface area of the river is about 72 acres. I did attend a meeting in the Melrose City Hall with three of their members. I shared with them the activities that we have been involved with and shared copies of some of the research projects which the SRWD has conducted on Big Sauk Lake. They have made an application to an organization called CURA for a grant application to hire a St. Cloud State graduate student to conduct a summer study of the upstream silting, the water chemistry and recommend actions which will start the process of cleaning up this stretch of the river. They have asked us for a letter of support and the ability to access any other relevant studies done on Sauk Lake.

7) I also was invited to attend a meeting sponsored by the Big Birch Lake Association relating to the control of Aquatic Invasive Species. It was held at the Methodist Church on the North side of BBL. It was attended by approximately 20 members of BBL, a few visitors, and the presenter, a DNR staff member who supervises lake association volunteers who have agreed to be present at lake accesses to inspect boats before they are launched. It is my impression that all of the BBL members have volunteered to serve as monitors. The program was very informative and covered topics such as the extent of invasive species in Minnesota Lakes, identification of both invasive plants and animals, the impact of these species, the laws governing transfer of these species including the penalties for doing so, distribution of official sign-up forms, and finally a demonstration of the techniques used in searching for invasives on an actual boat brought by the DNR staff person.



President's letter continued on page 2

The spread of Invasives especially zebra mussels, hydrilla and the spiny water flea continues to be a critical factor to control. It should not be a shock if and when they appear in our lake

8) Our spring Board meetings will be devoted to these issues and others. Our 2013 budget has been set. Be assured that we will continue to invest these funds in a careful manner as they reflect our stated purposes and our 501(c)3 status.

I conclude this letter by asking our readers to note the announcement concerning the Bow Hunters of Carp Tournament on Sauk Lake in June. Plan now to attend our ANNUAL MEETING which is scheduled for Saturday morning, MAY 25th. More information will be forthcoming in the Spring Newsletter coming out in May.

Lastly, many THANKS to all our previous members and to those who have already renewed their membership. We hope that all of you will continue to support YOUR Lake Association.

NOTE OUR ADVERTISERS:

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

ATTENTION MEMBERS

Recently a call was received from the president of the Land O' Lakes Bow Fishing Association. The Association has voted to hold their mid-state carp bow hunting tournament on Sauk Lake. The event will be held on Saturday, June 8th.

What we know at this time is the following: The Highway 71 access will be the launch area; Usually the participants will launch in early evening and fish all night- obviously lights are needed; Boaters may report back to the launch area at any time for weigh-in or wait till closing time to weigh-in. The "catch weight " for each team or individual will be totaled so that we will know how many pounds of carp have been removed from Sauk Lake; A DNR permit has already been acquired.

This event will not cost our Association anything. However, individuals may visit the launch site and volunteer their help if needed. This event will be placed on the Board Agenda for our next meeting. The Board may decide on a monetary contribution if it meets our 501(c)3 restrictions. This announcement concludes with the STRONG Plea that lake residents do not swamp the local police or sheriff's offices with phone calls reporting a multitude of lights mistakingly reporting AN ALIEN INVASION!.

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.



**Big Sauk Lake
Maps**

17 1/2" x 21 1/2" Map
Fully Laminated—\$15
26 1/2" x 34" Map
Not Laminated—\$25

Send check or money order
along with your name, address,
and phone number to:

Big Sauk Lake Association
Box 282
Sauk Centre, MN 56378

**Or save \$5 on each map by
calling 320-351-2513
to pick up order.**

More On The Lighter Side. . .

Note: If there are readers who would like to go to exotic places, the following may be intriguing. I suspect the traveler is not young.

I have been in many places, but I've never been in Cahoots. Apparently, You can't go alone. You have to go in Cahoots with someone.

I've also never been in Cognito. They say it isn't much fun. Nobody recognizes you there.

I have however, been in Sane. They don't have an airport; you have to either drive yourself or be driven there. I have made several trips there, thanks to my friends, family and work.

I have also been in Doubt. That is a sad place to go, and I try not to visit there too often. I've been in Flexible, but only when it was very important to stand firm.

Sometimes I'm in Capable, and I go there more often as I am getting older.

One of my favorite places to be is in Suspense. It really gets the adrenaline flowing and pumps up the old heart! At my age I need all the stimuli I can get!

I may have been in Continent, but I can't remember what country I was in. It's an age thing.



Although Hank was a young man, he would occasionally wake up at night sweating believing that someone was under his bed. He decided to consult a psychiatrist for help. "Doc, every time I go to bed I think I will wake up fearing someone is under my bed. I think I'm going crazy." "Just put yourself in my hands for one year," said the psychiatrist. "Come talk to me three times a week and we should be able to get rid of your fears."

Hank asked "How much do you charge?" "Eighty dollars per visit," replied the doctor. "Let me think about it," Hank said.

Six months later the doctor met Hank on the street. "How are you doing and why didn't you come to see me?" Hank replied, "Well eighty bucks a visit three times a week for a year is an awful lot of money! A bartender cured me for just \$20. I was so happy to have saved all that money that I see him regularly." A bit miffed, the doctor asked "How did a bartender cure you?"

"He told me to cut the legs off the bed! - Ain't nobody under there now!!!"

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THE ICE MELTS?

Some readers may sadly remark, "I'll have to call a tow truck. My car just fell through the ice!" or "I'm so happy to see the clear water. It's been a long winter." Or, "It's time to check out my boat and fishing tackle." This article attempts to go beyond such comments and to serve as a primer on the physical changes which happen and their effects on lake chemistry and nutrient movement. Some readers may have studied these effects in the past. For them, it will be a refresher.

As or spring days advance, the sun's angle gets higher. The snow cover is warming and begins to melt.

The accumulating surface water is at 32 degrees F or 0 degrees C and begins to gradually warm. It is getting denser than the ice beneath. (Remember, ice floats on water!). Cracks develop in the ice allowing the denser water to drain into or through the ice into the colder (32 degree water) just beneath the ice sheet.

The surface water will reach 39.4 degrees F or 4 degrees C. It is now at maximum density. Further cracks in the ice allow some of this denser water to increasingly flow downward. All surface water will reach 4 degrees C.

The massive amount of surface water is continually sinking forcing the less dense water upward. This circulation is the familiar "spring turnover." The upwelling of deeper water forces nutrients and oxygen upwards. In a shallow lake, the temperature may become uniform from top to bottom.

As spring advances and more more energy of the sun's rays are absorbed, the surface water warms more rapidly. The density decreases as the molecules of water "separate" slightly. Wind can now play an ever increasing role circulating the upper layer of water. In deeper lakes, the temperature between deep and surface water can stratify. The line of separation between the deeper, colder water at 4 degrees C, and the warmer water above is called the thermocline. Water below the thermocline is called the hypolimnion and above it is the epilimnion. Circulation in the epilimnion has been described as an "endless belt". Below, the water remains relatively quiet.

As the summer progresses and the upper water layer continuously warms, O₂ levels may decrease causing fish to seek well-oxygenated water below.

On the other hand, if the previous ice layer is prolonged by a late winter, preventing surface water to contact the air, O₂ levels fall. With aquatic plants remaining dormant and not photosynthesizing, there is little chance for O₂ levels to rise and severe fish kills can result.

This article has focused on the "spring turnover" and its aftermath. but remember, all lakes experience their "fall turnover" as well. The temperature changes occur once more. This time, cold fall air cools the surface-down to 39.4 degrees F causing the water to sink and warmer, less denser water to rise. The whole lake reaches 39.4 degrees. Further surface cooling causes ice to form. Water under the ice is at 32 degrees and deeper water stays at 39.4 degrees.

Lake turnover is a fascinating result of the change in density of water with temperature. Most substances are denser in the solid state than the liquid state, but not water. Water molecules have a structure that causes this. Life on earth is possible because of it. It would do us all good to marvel at this phenomenon as we watch "ice out" on Sauk Lake.

PLENTY OF FISH IN THE SEA?

Aquaculture: the regulation and Cultivation of water plants for human use or consumption.

Source: Webster's New World Collegiate Dictionary; 4th Edition

Editor's Note: The following article is credited to the UM Aquaculture research and Extension; Author - Nick Phelps; Shore to Shore Issue #107

Is it time to retire the old adage; there are plenty of fish in the sea? Well, with a finite number of fish and rapidly increasing pressures - maybe so. We have made significant progress in recent years, but many of the world's fish populations remain at risk. Over-fishing, environmental contamination, invasive species, and exotic diseases are a few of the significant pressures our fish face.

All of these factors affect Minnesota's fish populations, too. However, as you have undoubtedly heard through this and other publications, there is hope! Minnesota has some of the best minds in the fields of water resources, ecosystem health, and conservation working to alleviate these pressures. One particular topic receiving increased attention is aquaculture. Safe, sustainable fish production is essential to supplement natural production and maintain healthy fish populations. Fish populations in Minnesota supply food, recreation, and ecosystem stability, and are an important part of the economy.

Aquaculture helps ensure that supply meets growing demands.

Since 1970 global aquaculture production has increased at a rate of 9.2% per year, compared to 2.8% for terrestrial meat production and 1.4% for capture fisheries.

This rise in production now supplies 38% of the

world's fish - a significant contribution! In Minnesota, state and private aquaculture has operated for more than 100 years and has primarily been focused on supplemented natural production for recreational improvement. Production numbers in 2009 were staggering, with more than 265-million walleye (mainly fry), 1.4-million trout/salmon, and 35,100 muskies stocked into Minnesota lakes and rivers. Minnesota also produces some food fish, with about 1-million pounds of tilapia sold each year, as well as 30 other species of fish, leeches (100,000+ pounds!), and turtles. Our state leads the nation in walleye, muskie, and leech production, and ranks second for baitfish.

In addition to traditional aquaculture, a growing demand for locally grown and sustainable food fish has increased interest in aquaponics - a plant/fish production system. These indoor systems can range in size from a small living room aquarium to a Minneapolis warehouse. Large scale, these systems have grown promise with several businesses currently in operation selling a variety of leafy greens along with yellow perch, tilapia, and rainbow trout.

To sustain recreational pressures, and meet the demand for locally grown, sustainable food sources, aquaculture is essential. This is evident by the increased collaboration and investment between the University of MN Extension, Minnesota Sea Grant, University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources private aquaculture associations, Minnesota Board of Animal Health, and other stake-holders. These groups are working to alleviate some of the pressures facing our fish populations by supporting aquaculture in our state.

So no, don't retire that old adage yet, but perhaps change it to: There are plenty of fish in the aquaculture pond!

Definition: lake morphology: Any scientific study of form and structure, as in physical geography. (In lakes this could apply to the shape of its shoreline, water depth, shape of its bottom, etc.)

Editor's note: Information for this article is credited to the U of MN Extension Service publication From Shore to Shore, Issue 108.

HOW DOES LIGHT AFFECT OUR LAKE?

Physical properties such as the distribution of light, lake morphology, heat, waves, and currents are important elements in learning about the structure of your lake. Light influences the biological activity of a lake, the temperature of lake water and, therefore, the distribution of most aquatic organisms.

A lake can be split into light regions. The upper sunlight region is the photic (or euphotic) zone. The zone reaches from the lake surface down into the lake to where the light dims to 1 percent of what it was at the surface. This zone is where oxygen is produced during the daylight hours because plants are photosynthesizing: using light and carbon dioxide (CO₂) for energy and giving off oxygen (O₂) as a waste product.

At night, when oxygen is not produced, oxygen levels decline as animals and plants respire.

The aphotic or profundal, zone stretches from the bottom of the photic

zone to the bottom of the lake. There is not enough light in this area for photosynthesis to take place, so no oxygen is produced. Organisms that live there must respire, however, using oxygen. The boundary between light zones can vary daily and seasonally with differences in the strength of the sunlight. As algae or suspended solids increase in the water column, the photic zone becomes shallower. When there is a thick growth of algae covering a lake, there may not be enough light penetration through the water to allow for photosynthesis, thereby stifling oxygen production.

Light can penetrate through ice, but the intensity depends on the quality of the ice. Clear ice can transmit about 70% of the surface light, while ice with compacted snow on it may transmit about 8 percent of the surface light. Most plants are dormant in the winter, but some remain photosynthetically active even under the

low water temperature and low light conditions. However, they produce only about 40-75 percent of the oxygen they consume during respiration, adding to the oxygen stress that occurs in many lakes during the winter.

Measuring the amount of solar radiation underwater can be done using high tech waterproof photocells or spectroradiometers, but the simplest and least expensive way to measure the transparency of lake water is to use a Secchi disk. In most lakes, the Secchi depth is approximately one-third the depth of the photic zone.

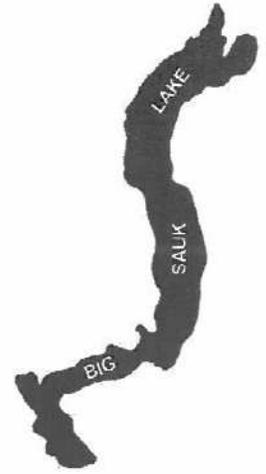
To view the historic Secchi disk readings for a particular lake, visit the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Lakefinder site at www.dnr.state.mn.us/lakefind/index.htm; Once you find the lake you are interested in, click on "lake water clarity" to see past Secchi readings.

THANK YOU!!!

Dear BSLA Members,

Below is the final listing of lakeshore property owners on Big Sauk Lake and on the next page are area businesses who were BSLA members in 2012. The board would again like to thank all of you who have become members of the lake association. We believe that is your way of saying that we are doing what you believe needs to be done to keep our lake in as good of shape as we can. Your membership fees and donations are the backbone that keeps this organization moving forward and makes our lake a great place to live and play. We hope you will continue to support BSLA in 2013 (a membership form is included on the next page). Along with the board of directors, I would like to wish you all a Happy New Year and hope you enjoy the winter on our lake or wherever you are. Have a safe and fun-filled winter and we will see you on the water next summer!

Mike Blenkush, Membership Director



RESIDENTIAL Members

James & Alice Abraham	Tom & Edie Fischer	Chuck & Bev Kortuem	John Rucinski
Frank & Nancy Ademite	Roger & Darlene Fisher	Ron & Carol Kuffel	Arthur & Lorraine Schapp
Ed & Beth Ampe	Marty & Deb Fitzgerald	Marge & Bob Lackmann	Jerome & Mary Schmitz
Gary & Darleen Anderley	Katherine Fobes	Christine E Lamusga	Jeff & Nancy Scholl
Dennis M. Anderson	Eugene & Marion Fourniea	Curt & Ivy Langeberg	Mark & Shellie Schreier
Eugene & June Anderson	Tom & Terry Frazee	Bill & Mary Jo Lanik	Eleanore Scott
Kevin & Leisa Baartman	Nathan & Angie French	Cory & Megan Larson	Tom Shaw
Phil & Vicki Bahl	Robert Friedl	Robert & JoAnn Larson	Paul Sieben
John & Cindy Banovetz	Nick & Diane Gerten	Larry & JoAnn Lawinger	Keith & Jean Sjurseth
Kevin & Mari Banz	Joan Gerten	Josephine Leko	Erna L. Spehn
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Jerry & Renee Beddow	Bonnie & Roger Grapper	MeRoy & Carol Lillehaugen	Jeff & Kathy Stickles
Grant & Jill Bening	Danny & Monica Grow	Maxine Lobejko	Jim & Wanda Storie
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Linda Besse	Ed & Sara Hackenmueller	James & Mary Maddox	Darlene Swank
Catherine & Jason Beste	Benedict & Claire Haeg	Skip & Lyn Manoski	Bob & Linda Swanson
Jerry & Kaye Beuning	Gloria & Mike Hage	Darlene & Dave Mareck	Lawrence Terwey
Roger & Susan Beuning	Francis II & Theresa Hagen	Jeff & Carol Mayer	Randy & Phylis Thompson
Marian Bielke	Francis & Darleen Hagen	David Mayer	John & Janet Tracy
John & Gail Bieniek	Heather & Tom Hamilton	John & Karla McCarey	Vic & Lorryne Traut
John & Jan Bieringer	Gene & Kristine Hansen	Troy & Sandra McCarthy	Dwayne & Judy Trisko
Big Sauk Lake Coop	Harry & Alta Hanson	Peg and Lance Mead	Joe & Katie Uphus
Bob Bjork	Gary & Mary Hargreaves	Steve & Fran Messerli	Ed & Tama Vohnoutka
Mike & Betty Blenkush	Rick & Cindy Haroldson	Patricia Meyer	Dennis & Dorothy VonBank
Gene & Judy Blomgren	Maggie Heinen	J&J Miller Family Trust	Tim & Myrna Walker
Russ & Edith Blue	Richard & Grace Henning	Marlene Mohr	Gene & Debra Walter
Jim Boyer	Larry & Debbie Herke	Lanny & Darlene Moyer	Roy Walz
John R. Bregel	Bill & Deb Hildebrand	Gary & Nancy Mueffelmann	Bruce & Barb Wanquist
Mark & Brenda Breitbach	Mark J. and Barbara A. Hilgers	Patricia Musenbrock	Steve Warzecha
Andrew & Teresa Burret	Dean B. Hilgers	Roland & Sherry Musolf	Dwayne Weiner
Barbara Carlson	Jim & Liz Himanga	Ken & Judy Nelson	Brian & Sue Weinzierl
Wendell & Clara Christensen	Alyce Hintzen	Ken & Mary Nelson	Tim & Jo Weir
Dennis & Kathy Christianson	Paul & Shawn Hintzen	Bob & Carrie Nelson	Marcia & Chuck Weisbrich
Roger & Janette Cook	Lawrence & Barbara Hittle	David & Gerry Newgaard	Cathie Wendell
Jim & Barb Cooper	Ken & Kathy Hoeschen	Chereen & Dave Norstrud	Bruce & Vanessa Whitehead
Richard & Linda Cross	Bob & Sue Hoffman	Fred & Sandy Olson	Loren A. Williams
Erv & Raeanne Danielowski	Kris & Chrissy Hokanson	Gilbert & Treonne Panitzke	Gary & Connie Winter
Robert & Colleen Diercks	Randy & Denise Hommerding	Chad Pederson	Mike Wittrock
Steve & Debbie Dierkhising	Theo & Linda Hortis	Bob & Deb Petersen	Lynn & Lynn Woodward
John & Lorna Dierks	Stan & Dorothy Hortness	Rod and Jeanne Pettit	Candi Woodward
John A. & Louise Dietsch	Gary & Renae Illies	Ed & Susan Pfeifer	Bill Wroge
Hazel Dirnberger	Isaac & Marlene Israelson	Roger & Betsy Piela	Joe & Sharon Wyffels
Jon & Charlotte Dockter	Tim & Mary Janish	Mary Ann Polipnick	Wayne & Mary Jo Yokiel
James Dolan	Dan Jaros	Dupper Polipnick	Judy Zabel-Felling & Mike Felling
Pat & Janet Dubois	James & Bernadette Jennissen	Dale & Nancy Primus	Dale & Jan Zaczkowski
Duffey - Lind	Rick & Laurie Jennissen	Roger Reinardy	Carolyn Zehrer
Phil & Marian Ehresman	Dean & Elaine Jensen	Don & Patricia Reller	Jim & Mary Zilka
Merle & Kathy Felling	David & Kay Kallenbach	Shirley Rice	Kevin & Joan Zimmer
Tony & Irene Felling	John & Hank Kessler	Al Rindfleisch	Jim & Connie Zuccaro
Jean & Pat Fiedler	Tony Klasen	Marjorie D. Ripperton	Jeffrey & Deanna Zuccaro
	Kenneth Korte	Bruce & Lyn Robeck	Patrick Zwilling

Working Together For A BETTER Big Sauk Lake

Benefits of being involved as a BSLA member?

- Receive the BSLA newsletters (INFORMER) with water quality, shoreline, social event information and more!
- Opportunity to join with other shoreline property owners to protect and improve the quality of Big Sauk Lake.
- Meet and enjoy the friendship of other lake shore property owners!
- Opportunities to share your skills, interest and expertise with involvement in grants, education, and state/local agencies that benefit the health and enjoyment of Big Sauk Lake!
- Set an example of the importance of "involvement" with your family and friends—Big Sauk Lake is a very important natural resource and a valuable asset in central Minnesota and to the Sauk Centre community!

Who Can and Should Be A BSLA Member?

- Lakeshore owners of Big Sauk Lake.
- Family and friends that share our great lake's experience with you.
- Businesses you use for fishing, boat service, beverage, food, lawn and yard care, house and cabin maintenance, supplies, and insurance, etc.
- Visitors who frequently use Big Sauk Lake for recreational purposes.

All of the above have an interest in the continued protection and enjoyment of Big Sauk Lake and the Sauk Centre community.

Our lives are "too busy." However, remember that in contrast, the sunrise/sunset boat or pontoon cruises, roasting marshmallows, fishing, tubing, swimming and quiet times with our families and friends at BIG SAUK LAKE are priceless. See you on the lake!

2013 Membership—Big Sauk Lake Association

(\$25 per Year: Jan. 1—Dec. 31, 2013)

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Lake Address (if different): _____

Phone No: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Please cut out and include with your payment to:

BSLA, Box 282, Sauk Centre, MN 56378

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.

2012 BUSINESS Members

Boomerang Marine & Powersports, Inc
Centre Hair Design
Centre Sports, LLC
City of Sauk Centre
Diamond Point Steakhouse & Lounge
Felling Trailers, Inc.
First State Bank
Fletcher's Bait
Greystone Golf Club
Holiday Super Stop
Mainstreet Press

Midwest Machinery Co.
Minnesota National Bank
Mitch's Dyno Tuning
Sauk Centre Chamber of Commerce
Sauk Centre Country Club
Sauk Centre Public Utilities Commission
Saukinac Campground
Schaefer's Market
Stearns Electric Association
Westside Liquor
Worms Ready Mix

On the Lighter Side

Let's Start With Some Word Play Such As:
Jokes about German sausage are the wurst.
Herman got a job at a bakery because he kneaded dough.
The cost of Velcro...What a rip-off!!
Another earthquake in California?? Obviously Government's fault.
England has no kidney bank, but it does have a Liverpool.
Alice used to be a banker but then she lost interest!
Louie dropped out of class on communism because of lousy Marx.
This girl said she recognized me from the vegetarian club, but I'd never met herbivore.

Don't forget; If you get a bladder infection, urine trouble!

All of the following Headlines preceded a Story

"County to Pay \$250,000 to Advertise Lack of Funds"

"Puerto Rican Teen Named Mistress of the Universe"

"Army Vehicle Disappears"

An Australian Army vehicle worth \$74,000 has gone missing after being painted with camouflage."

"Parents Keep Kids Home to Protest School Closure"

"Miracle Cure Kills Fifth Patient"

"New Sick Policy Requires 2-day Notice"

Editor's Note: None of the following stories has been fact-checked for accuracy but here goes.

This may come as a surprise to any readers who have not lived in Las Vegas, but there are more Catholic churches than Casinos. Not surprisingly, some worshipers at Sunday services will give casino chips rather than cash when the offering plates are passed.

Since they get chips from many different casinos, the churches have devised a method to collect the offerings. The churches send all their collected chips to a nearby Franciscan Monastery for sorting and then the chips are taken to the casinos of origin and cashed in. This delicate work is done by the chip monks.

Editor's Note: The reader may have to read paragraphs 2 and 3 to understand the complexities of the engineering involved!

A toothpaste factory had a problem. They sometimes shipped empty boxes without the tube inside. This challenged their perceived quality with the buyers and distributors. Understanding how important the relationship with them was, the CEO of the company assembled his top people. They decided to hire an external engineering company to solve their empty boxes problem. The project followed the usual process: budget and project sponsor allocated, R&D, and third-parties selected. Six months (and \$8 million) later they had a fantastic solution - on time, on budget, and high quality. Everyone in the project was pleased.

They solved the problem by using a high-tech precision scale that would sound a bell and flash lights whenever a toothpaste box weighed less than it should. The line would stop, someone would walk over, remove the defective box and then press another button to re-start the line. As a result of the new package monitoring process, no empty boxes were being shipped out of the factory.

With no more customer complaints, the CEO felt the \$8 million was well spent. He then reviewed the statistics report and discovered the number of empty boxes picked up by the scale in the first week was consistent with projections, however, the the next three weeks were zero! The estimated rate should have been at least a dozen boxes a day. He had the engineers check the equipment; they verified the report as accurate.

Puzzled, the CEO traveled down to the factory, viewed the part of the line where the precision scale was installed, and observed just ahead of the new \$8 million dollar solution sat a \$20 desk fan blowing the empty boxes off the belt and into a bin. He asked the line supervisor what that was about.

"Oh, that," the supervisor replied, "Bert, the kid from maintenance, put it there because he was tired of walking over every time the bell rang."

**IMPORTANT
DATE
Saturday,
May 25, 2013
Big Sauk Lake
Association
Annual Meeting
(More details will be in the
spring issue of the
INFORMER)**

Visit Us on the Web
For BSLA information, notices, and lake-related links
or to contact us.



www.BSLA.org

This site is courtesy of the
World Wide Web Foundry, LLC.
A BIG thank you to BSLA member,
Lynn Woodward.

**FOR INFORMATION ON
ADVERTISING IN THE INFORMER CALL:
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OR E-MAIL:
BLENKUSH@WISPER-WIRELESS.COM**

Editor's Note: Our newsletter generally focuses on our lake issues. This article is designed to change our focus to another of our state treasures: The Mighty Mississippi. Information for this article is credited to Trevor Russell, Friends of the Mississippi, and Lark Weller, National Park Service.

THE STATE OF THE RIVER REPORT

How is the Mississippi River? Can we swim in it? Is water pollution improving? Can we eat the fish we catch?

We all know the Mississippi River is a large and complex ecosystem, and it can be difficult to know how to answer these questions. That's why Friends of the Mississippi River (FAR), and the National Park's Service's Mississippi National River and Recreation Area (MNRRA) developed the State of the River Report.

This Report highlights the history, status, and trends of 13 key indicators of water quality and river health in the TwinCities metro Mississippi River. Developed over 15 months in partnership with a team of more than 30 scientific advisors, the report distills a wealth of river data down into simple terms that non-scientists can understand.

So, how is the metro Mississippi River?

It's a river that improved in both water quality and ecological health overtime, but there are also some distressing trends and emerging concerns.

*Positive trends in **bald eagle**, **native mussel**, and **fish populations** are signs of a restored river that is once again home to healthy and abundant wildlife.

* Other indicators remain causes for concern. Portions of the river are impaired with excess **sediment** and **bacteria**. The metro area sends too much **phosphorus** downstream. Site-specific **fish consumption** guidelines are in place throughout the river due to elevated levels of **PFOS**, **mercury** and **PCBs**.

*Indicators of serious concern include **river flow**, which has increased 25% between 1976 and 2005. **Nitrate** concentrations have increased by 47% during the same time period. The invasive **Asian carp** have reached the metro area, and emerging contaminants like **triclosan** and **PAH** are becoming more widespread.

To learn more about *The State of the River Report*, or to download your copy for free, visit www.stateoftheriver.com

There, readers can also review stewardship and policy guides, and take the Clean Water Stewardship Pledge to help protect the Mighty Mississippi river.

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