

LICA NEWS

Issue No. 47, April 2018

LICA joins other stakeholders to fund Baker Ravine Stabilization Project

by Robin Reid • LICA Board Member

The TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) Reduction Plan for Lake Independence mandates phosphorus reduction of 1,081 lbs. per year. Responsibility for meeting this goal is shared among the Cities of Independence, Loretto and Medina, and Three Rivers Parks. The ravine next to Baker Park's

campground has been identified as a major source of phosphorus loading, contributing an estimated 277 lbs. of phosphorus and 300 tons of sediment annually.

Ravine improvement was identified as a high-priority project. A plan was developed for stabilizing the ravine with rounded field stone and angular rip-rap, at an estimated cost of \$520,000. Grants from the state Clean Water Legacy Fund and Hennepin County will cover a major portion of the expenses. The Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed Commission, the City of Independence and Three Rivers Parks are each paying a share, and LICA is donating \$2,500.

Project planning will be completed



This photo shows an example of a stabilized gully.

in June, a contractor will be selected in September and construction will start in October. The improvements are expected to reduce phosphorus loading by 134 lbs. per year.

This project is an example of multiple stakeholder groups working together to achieve a common goal: To improve the water quality of Lake Independence.



This photo shows the erosion in the Baker Ravine.

Steve Pennaz, The Lake Commando, to Speak at LICA's Annual Meeting



Lake Independence's own Steve Pennaz, host of the World Fishing Network's popular cable program Lake Commandos, will be the speaker at LICA's Annual Meeting on May 19. Steve is a professional fisherman with more than thirty years of sport fishing experience, and a lot of stories to tell.

Those of us who heard Steve speak at a previous Annual Meeting remember how entertaining he is. If you're a avid fisherman/woman, you won't want to miss his tips and comments. And even if you're not a fishing fan, you'll learn a lot about the interaction between fish and lake.

Join us for the LICA Annual Meeting!

The LICA annual meeting is an important event for all Lake Independence shore owners and interested parties.

Steve Pennaz, The Lake Commando and our resident fishing expert, will be our keynote speaker. LICA president Barbara Zadeh will provide an overview of LICA's activities this past year and board members will present committee updates, LICA will recognize the winner of the Friends of Lake Independence award, and election of LICA board members will take place.

The 2018 Board Members welcome your attendance and encourage you to bring a neighbor.

See you on May 19th at Independence City Hall, 1920 County Road 90, Independence.

Continued on Page 3

Results of Lake Survey for Curlyleaf Pondweed & Eurasian Milfoil

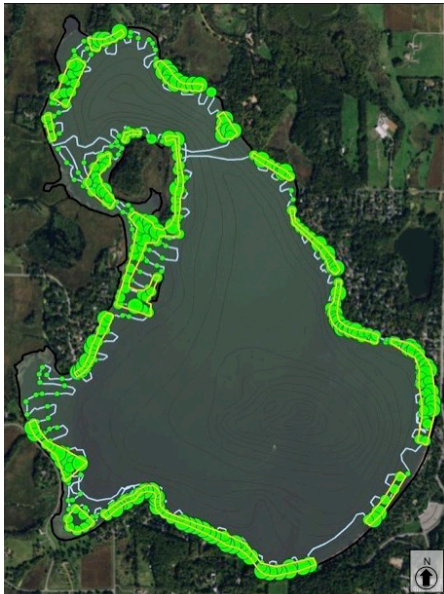
by **Robin Reid** • *LICA Board Member*

Last summer LICA commissioned James Johnson of Freshwater Scientific Services to survey Lake Independence and identify the areas of the lake with the highest concentrations of Eurasian milfoil and curlyleaf pondweed. The curlyleaf pondweed survey was performed in late spring when the growth is peaking; the milfoil survey took place in the summer when the concentrations of milfoil are at their maximum. The data was collected by following a zig-zag course in the shallow areas all around the lakeshore. GPS readings were taken to pinpoint the exact location of each measurement.

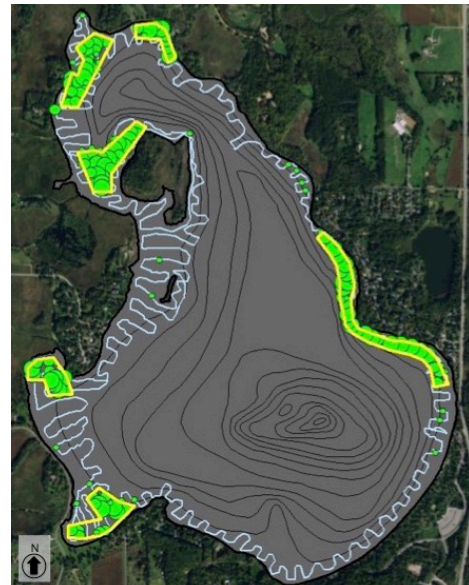
The purpose of the survey was to identify those areas

where treatment would have maximum beneficial impact. But Johnson recommended to the Board that before we take any action, we develop an Aquatic Plant Management (APM) Plan that spells out our goals and objectives, to provide guidance when prioritizing future projects. There are a number of issues related to treatment plans: cost vs benefit, input from lakeshore owners, areas where treatment would be most effective, what type of herbicide to use, etc. Before drafting our APM plan, the LICA board will be surveying members for their input. We will also be working closely with the U of M, DNR and Three Rivers experts.

2017 Eurasian Watermilfoil Delineation



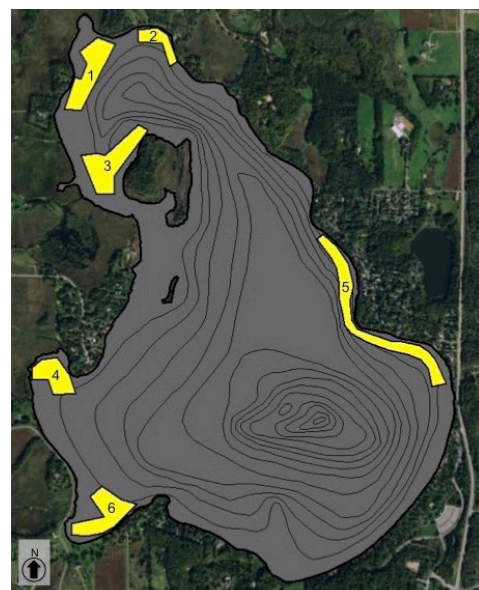
2017 Late Spring Curlypond Weed Delineation



Eurasian Watermilfoil Potential Treatment Areas



Curlypond Weed Potential Treatment Areas



Lake Level Monitoring on Lake Independence

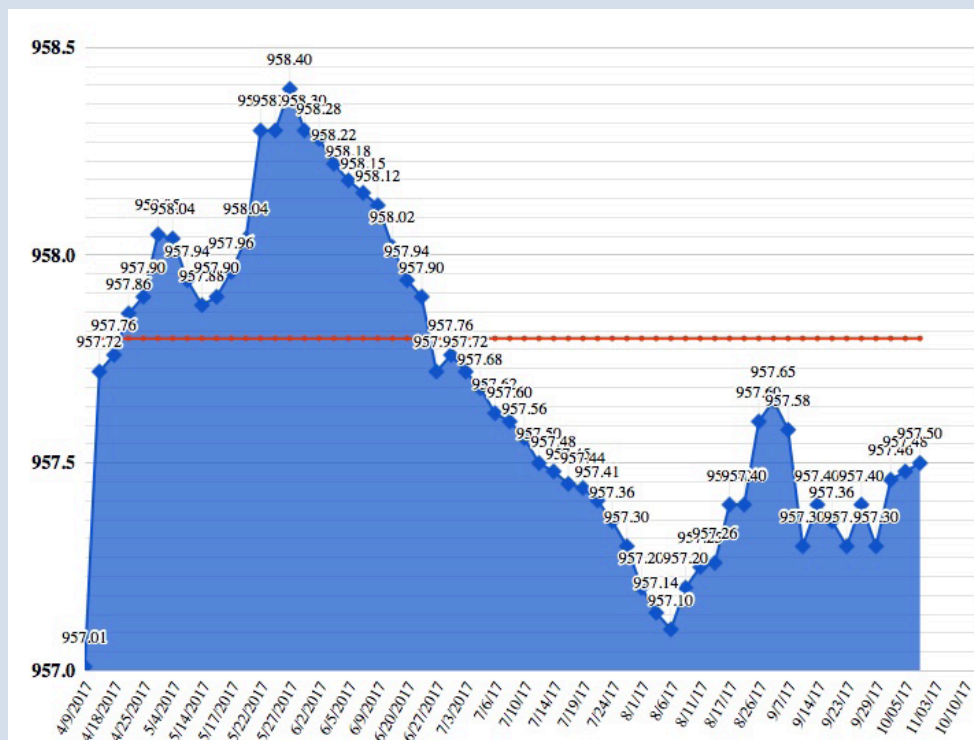
LICA Members Dick & Pat Wulff Collect Lake Level Data for the DNR.

The Minnesota DNR Water Resources department is responsible for tracking the water surface levels at approximately 1,000 locations around the state. Every spring DNR Waters employees travel around the state to install and reset lake level gages. During open water season the gages are read by a network of more than 700 volunteers who record the lake level data and report to the DNR. LICA members Pat and Dick Wulff are the volunteer monitors for Lake Independence.

At the beginning of the season, the DNR establishes a “zero level” for each gage. The actual water surface

level reading is calculated by adding the zero level number to the gage reading. Volunteer monitors are asked to read the gage and record the measurements at least once a week and after

substantial rain events. Pat and Dick read the gage on their dock daily, when the water is quiet enough to get an accurate reading. The cumulative readings are posted on LICA’s website. The DNR compiles data from all of the lakes into their statewide database.



The Slow No Wake ban, established by City of Medina and City of Independence ordinances, is activated whenever the water surface level reading reaches or exceeds 957.8 feet above sea level for three consecutive days. When this occurs, the Wulffs notify City of Medina staff who in turn notify the City of Independence and Three Rivers Parks staff. The Cities publish official notices about the ban being activated, and signs are posted at the Baker Park and Independence Beach boat launches. The ban remains in effect until the water

level recedes below 957.8 feet above sea level.

Water Level Data is available on LICA’s website. Curious about the lake level measurements? During open water season the latest data is posted on our website, lakeindependence.org. Just go to the home page and click on the “Latest Water Level Data” link. Or click on “Water Levels” under Info on the menu bar. All of the 2017 readings are visible on the current chart. As soon as the DNR places the gages, data recording for this season will begin. The chart is updated weekly.

Pennaz, Continued from Page 3

Steve’s cable show, Lake Commandos, is broadcast on the World Fishing Network. Each week Steve and another expert angler “go commando”, heading out on an unfamiliar lake to spend a day fishing and competing to see who catches the most fish. Analyzing the lake, trying different techniques and equipment, and relying on their extensive experience, Steve and his guest go head-to-head to test their fishing prowess.

In addition to his weekly program on cable television, Steve has written numerous articles about fishing, and has produced a number of fishing videos including a series of 2-minute videos about ice fishing called Stone Cold Fishing, which appears on the Lake Commandos’ website. He has hosted fishing programs on ESPN, NBC Sports, the Sportsman Channel and the Outdoor Channel. In 2017, Steve was inducted into the Fresh Water Fishing Hall of Fame.

LICA BOARD MEMBERS

Barbara Zadeh, President
barbara.zadeh@icloud.com
(612) 790-4678

Tom Blanck, Vice President
tom.blanck@chainalytics.com
(612) 252-1831

Pat Wulff, Secretary &
Founding Member
pawulff@aol.com
(763) 479-2978

Christian Dahlberg, Treasurer
chris@lakeindependence.org
(651) 402-5999

Mike McLaughlin
mclaughlin110@yahoo.com
(763) 479-1604

Robin Reid
robinreid@mchsi.com
(763) 670-7614

Jim Copeland
jim@copelandbuhl.com
(763) 479-0268

Joel Settles
jsettles5@mchsi.com

Randy Szarzynski
r.szarzynski@yahoo.com
(805) 216-9479

Mission Statement: The Lake Independence Citizens Association, through education, advocacy and community involvement, is dedicated to the protection of Lake Independence's water quality, natural beauty, and fish and wildlife habitat, to encourage the lake's use and enjoyment by all.

Mark your Calendars!



Independence City Hall

1920 County Road 90, Independence.

Come and enjoy an ice cream cone or sundae, socialize with neighbors, and hear what is happening on your lake!

Lake Independence Citizens Association
P.O. Box 174
Maple Plain, MN 55359
info@LakeIndependence.org