

SHORELINES

October 2009

Nebraska Lakes Association Annual Meeting

Shorelines is a publication of the Nebraska Lakes Association, a nonprofit organization of private lakes.

Our Mission

is to provide a forum for information and resources to educate members so their lake experience is safe, healthy and enjoyable.

Our Associate Members are businesses that provide products and services to lake associations and/or lake residents.

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**Peter Kiewit Lodge
Nebraska Room
Mahoney State Park
Sunday, October 18
2:00 P.M.**

All NLA members are encouraged to attend the Annual Meeting of the Nebraska Lakes Association on Sunday, October 18, 2009 at 2:00 p.m. The meeting will be held in the main Peter Kiewit Lodge at Mahoney State Park this year. We'll meet in the Nebraska Room on the second level.

A brief business meeting will be conducted first which will include the election of four NLA Board Directors. If you are interested or know of anyone interested in serving on the NLA Board, please contact any of the current officers. (See page 3 for NLA contact information.) We're always looking for new ideas and input.

Our resident boating expert, Herb Angell, Boating Law Administrator at Nebraska Game & Parks Commission,

will be on hand to update us on boating regulations and safety plus answer our never-ending questions on enforcement.

The official notification papers for this annual meeting are included at the back of this newsletter. On pages 7 – 10 you will find the notice and RSVP form, an agenda, proxy and ballot. Please review them, make reservations to join us or send in your proxy if a representative of your lake is unable to attend. If you have any questions, please contact Joanne Harse, NLA Administrator, at 402-438-2221 or email her at: jmharse@windstream.net.

All residents of NLA member lakes are welcome to attend this meeting. There is no charge and reservations are not required, just an interest in making your lake a better place to live. Come join us!

*Nebraska Lakes Association
Board of Directors*

Membership forms are all available on our website:

www.nebraskalakes.org

President's Message: ~~Have Gun~~ Boat will Travel

Remember the old TV Program, "Have Gun Will Travel", with Richard Boone as Paladin? He was the erudite gunman for hire – dressed in black and had a business card with a knight chess piece on it. Paladin was a skilled gunman and killed people when necessary – boaters are killing people, too – when it's *not* a necessity. In fact, in Nebraska boats kill more people than hunters who use guns. So far six fatalities!

The reason I am going this direction is that traveling boaters are causing some serious problems to our lakes and waterways. I have frequently written about the "Brother-in-Law" boat on the lake that doesn't follow or respect the lake's boating rules. Of course, there are some resident boaters that do the same thing – posing a hazard to themselves and all other boaters on the lake.

I know people that go berserk at the word "gun" but they will drunkenly get into a boat and go zooming off ultimately to kill or injure their own family members and friends. I would have to say that maybe hunters understand the power and danger of their guns and respect the safety codes. Also, they are *required* to pass a safety program. Unfortunately, boaters don't and aren't -- not enough of them, anyway.

The traveling boat also presents another severe problem – not to the lives of people necessarily

but to the quality and life of our lakes. We had the honor of having Annabel Lee Major, Nebraska Master Naturalist Program Coordinator speak at our spring seminar about invasive species. Say What!?! That was my reaction, too. But there are plants and animals that have no natural predators and are proliferating and destroying our waterways, to the tune of *billions* of dollars. The traveling boat goes from lake to lake and has attached to it and its trailer (and even the vehicle towing it) microscopic spores and seeds of the invasive species. **Wash your equipment down when you take it OUT of the lake.** That'll put the invasives back in the water from which they came and can do a lot to help stop the problem

Read the article about Invasive Species on Page 4 and check out these websites:

<http://snr.unl.edu/invasives/>

<http://snr.unl.edu/invasives/news.htm>

<http://snr.unl.edu/>

<http://naturalist.unl.edu>

<http://www.protectyourwaters.net/>

There are some big words, but there is a phenomenal amount of great information.

Lakes that have strong and enforceable procedures to limit non-resident (Brother-in-Law) boats have done themselves a big favor, for many reasons. One lake feels that their biggest reason to control foreign boats is to check for liability insurance. Good point! But now that the knowledge of Invasive Species is out in the open, this may be the biggest reason to

control the Brother-in-Law boat. I think Herb Angell, Nebraska Boating Administrator, is on the right track, education is the key to improving both boating and our lake quality. I'll add one more, after the education, lake dwellers and users have to be willing to do what is necessary to protect their own environment – voluntarily and vigorously.

More Lake News:

We're making progress on getting the grant to reimburse member lakes for their expenses for boating safety up to 35%. See more on that on Page 3. We're also looking for a board member that has some knowledge of marketing and can work with our webmaster Scott Eveland. We want to find better ways to be more interactive with you, our members, so we are more responsive to your needs. Having Joanne Harse as our Administrator has also expanded our ability to get stuff done! Joanne has been with NLA since its inception and her experience and savvy are irreplaceable.

Woody

President NLA

New Benefits for NLA Members!

Boating Safety Grant Program Update

The Nebraska Game & Parks Commission is initiating a new program this year that will give NLA members the opportunity to receive reimbursement on part of their monies spent on boating safety efforts.

According to Herb Angell, Boating Safety Administrator for NE Game & Parks, this program is financed partly by a Federal grant from tax on motorboat fuel. NE Game & Parks is anticipating some left over monies that they may be able to "pass through" to non-profit agencies like the Nebraska Lakes Association to assist members with some boating safety efforts. The pass-through grant will consist of a 35% refund of what has already been spent for boating safety on their lakes.

Examples might be:

- buoys and buoy placement costs
- boat ramps and construction of access.
- safety officer to patrol lake
- signs displaying boating safety rules
- and other expenses to promote boater safety

Herb will be discussing the mechanics of how this will work at the NLA annual meeting. Attend the meeting to learn firsthand about this great new benefit for NLA member lakes!

First Scholarship Winner Announced

At the August board meeting the NLA Scholarship Program Committee selected Beaver Lake Association's nomination for the annual scholarship. The Nebraska Lakes Association Board then voted to endorse Cortney Elizabeth Weatherby as the \$500 scholarship winner for the new program. Cortney is attending Missouri State University this fall and pursuing a degree in the field of marine biology. Testing the process for the first time the Board is confident that Cortney is an outstanding prototype for the award. All the established criteria was satisfied and even though there may be some modification for future awards the Board is very proud of our selection of Cortney as the first recipient of the scholarship.

Remember all applicants must be nominated by a member lake of the Nebraska Lakes Association.

Congratulations to Cortney Elizabeth Weatherby for commitment to her goals, her already demonstrated leadership and being selected as our first scholarship winner.

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Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers!

Karie Decker, Nebraska Invasive Species Project, invasives@unl.edu, <http://snr.unl.edu/invasives/>
Annabel Lee Major, Nebraska Master Naturalist, naturalist@unl.edu, <http://naturalist.unl.edu>

Aquatic hitchhikers cost millions of dollars in ecological and economic damage.

These *known invaders* harm native fish populations and threaten your waters. By following a few simple rules, you can protect your waters and prevent these harmful species from establishing, harming local plant communities and fisheries, and ruining your fishing, boating, and outdoor recreation experiences.

Check your equipment for hitchhikers and remove any visible mud, plants, fish, or animals.

What may appear harmless could be an invader like *Zebra Mussel* or *Eurasian Watermilfoil*. These species are

known to travel in ballast water, attach to boats, and are transported between reservoirs. Zebra mussel invasions have caused tremendous economic and ecological damage. In the period from 1993-1999 researchers estimated the zebra mussel cost communities over \$5 billion in damages and control.

Clean, dry, and drain all equipment that comes in contact with the water.

Don't take a chance on the health of your lake. Wash your boats! If there is a place for water to collect, there is a chance you may be transporting something harmful. Some of these costly invaders are not visible to the naked eye, and are therefore transported

unknowingly. Every part of a vessel that can hold water, can transport these invaders.

Dispose of all bait on dry land and do not release any plants or animals into the water supply!

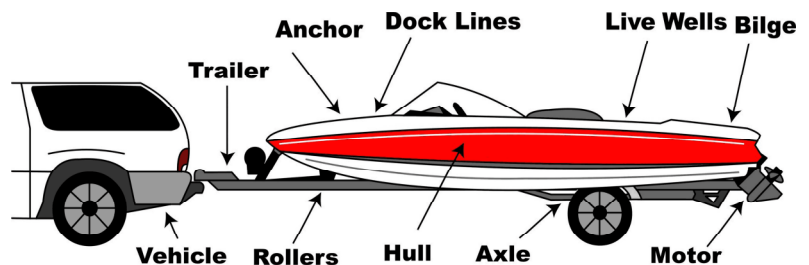
Rusty Crayfish and *White Perch* hitchhike in bait buckets hidden amongst bait. When we transport bait or dispose of it in the water supply, we run the risk of releasing these invaders into the wild. With a little extra effort, we can keep your waters clean and healthy!

For more information please visit the Nebraska Invasive Species Project website at <http://snr.unl.edu/invasives> or Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers at www.protectyourwaters.net



Zebra Mussels on propeller

Always check equipment for aquatic invaders!



Nebraska Master Naturalists: Opportunity for Community Leaders

by Annabel Lee Major,
Nebraska Master Naturalist, naturalist@unl.edu, <http://naturalist.unl.edu>

The new Nebraska Master Naturalist Program will equip participants with the scientific knowledge and hands-on skills training to enhance their skills as community leaders. *This is your chance to learn about Nebraska's diverse ecosystems and to connect with others who share a passion for nature and conservation.*

“This program provides the opportunity to train the first line of defense in the prevention of invasive species” says Annabel Major, Nebraska Master Naturalist Program Coordinator. “We need a group of trained professional volunteers available to ensure people are taking the proper precautions, washing their boats, and not transporting invasive plants and animals. I believe that Master Naturalists can fill that role.” Nebraska Master Naturalists are volunteers in parks and nature centers,

docents at zoos, scout leaders, land managers, and people that are already conserving natural resources and protecting habitat.

“These are highly trained volunteers that are going to be a valuable asset to wildlife and habitats across the state,” said Kristal Stoner, wildlife diversity program manager at the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission. “It is fantastic that the Master Naturalist Program has come to Nebraska. The folks who become Master Naturalists are going to make a difference.”

The program is based in the School of Natural Resources at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, funded primarily by three-year grants from the Nebraska Environmental Trust and Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, announced in spring 2009.

The program will focus on habitat conservation, environmental education, citizen science, outdoor skills and ecotourism. Participants will receive forty hours of primary training alongside scientists, land managers, local experts and professional educators. Through this unique opportunity, participants will gain hands-on experience in Nebraska's natural history and ecosystems, plants and animals, and conservation biology, all while providing a valuable service to their community.

We are currently taking names of people who are interested in becoming Master Naturalists. ***More information on how to become a Master Naturalist is available online at <http://naturalist.unl.edu>, or by contacting Annabel Major at naturalist@unl.edu or (402) 805-7400.***

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Visit Our Website

Discover more about who we are and what we do. Visit www.nebraskalakes.org

- Boating safety resources
- Water quality issues
- Environmental issues
- Discussion of lake rules enforcement
- List of member lakes
- Links to member lakes websites
- Links to Associate Members websites
- Additional links to expert advisors
- Grant program for boating safety expenses
- College Scholarship opportunities
- Membership Dues Statements
- Conference Registration forms and details

www.nebraskalakes.org

Annual Meeting Notice follows on next 4 pages

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