AIS Updates:

How you can help combat AIS

1. As you start to put in your docks and boats please be sure to check for any zebra mussels or other invasive species. Everything would have died off over the winter, but it's important that we identify and locate any AIS that might have been in the lake last fall.

2. Be on the lookout for Curly Leaf Pondweed. It's a very invasive plant that is most easily detected in spring/early summer and its leaves look like lasagna noodles. The CLP below was found in Leech Lake.

3. The LBTA is excited to have contracted with the company that discovered Starry Stonewort in Long Lake last August to conduct the first ever Point Intercept Survey of LBT. Aquatic Survey Professionals will survey 400+ GPS points on the lake. This will give LBT a baseline survey which will help the county and DNR monitor the health in the lake over time. We are so fortunate to have the most dedicated volunteer shoreline monitoring program in Hubbard County too.

4. If you would like more AIS information, please contact me. I'm happy to give your family a mini AIS seminar on your dock. - Andrea Dutcher

Zebra Mussels

Curly Leaf Pondweed

Aurora Dreams
Linda Fox, 12/1/23

How your donations help combat AIS

LBTA Funding for lake AIS inspectors

In 2023 at the Belle Taine Access (1299 inspection hours):

3082 watercraft were inspected – the highest single lake inspections in the county.

248 (14.16%) of the boats inspected identified as entering from infested waters.

Shallow Lake Access (198 inspection hours):

113 watercraft were inspected

8 (13.11%) of the boats inspected identified as entering from infested waters.

For more info visit 'Lake Health' on: www.lakebelletaine.org

Loon Nesting Platforms

In addition to the six loon nesting platforms already around the lake, the LBTA has four new platforms. Thanks to Steve Gossen for building two of them! Nesting platforms help protect the eggs from predators. While there is no guarantee that loons will use them we hope to decrease nest failures. Be ready to see our loons return shortly after the ice goes out and please avoid the areas where you see a loon platform. Remember - the loons will tell you when you are too close!

Left:
Steve Gossen

Middle:
Hello Spring, by Dean Watterman, 5/24/22

Wondering what the Lake Level is?

Does your dock need to be pushed in or pulled out? Login to the website and see! We also have depth/clearance #s through the new 14' x 14' culvert into Muskie Bay. The lake elevation as of 3/4/24 is 1426.58'. This is more than a foot lower than last spring at this time!

One Watershed, One Plan (1W1P) - Update

Concerned about the future of Lake Belle Taine water quality and water level management? The Crow Wing River 1W1P process got underway last June and has a stated completion date of the end of 2024. To track the current information produced by the committee visit our website.

Your LBTA Board Members

JoEllen Bailey, Chuck Blair, Jim Caratozzolo, Steve Gossen, Rob Hall, Steve Hankey, Camille Heyman, Phil Krahn, John Maczko, Tom May, Tim O'Neill, Mike Stevens, Lynn Swaggert and Linda Fox.

Right:
LBTA members gathered at the Iron Horse for a Holiday Dinner in Dec. Thanks to Shawn Dudley & staff for hosting our group and to our many members who joined us.

Annual Meeting

The LBTA Annual Meeting will be held on June 22 at Bethany Lutheran Church. Doors will open at 9am with the business meeting beginning at 9:30am. Come to hear about the work our Board of Directors has been doing over the winter and to participate in the election of new/returning board members. A potluck lunch will follow the meeting at the Muskie Pavilion. Come join us!