

Lake Francis

Area Recreation & Conservation Club
Since 1970

FALL 2015 ISSUE



ANNUAL PICNIC A HUGE SUCCESS

By Jiselle Graves, Rustic Ridge, LFARCC Secretary

On a gorgeous, sunny afternoon in August, the annual Lake Francis Picnic was held in Rustic Ridge. Roughly 140 guests, including those who tied their boats up to the dock, took part in a barbeque including hot dogs, hamburgers and brats at the home of Mike and Sue Beaver. Guests met new neighbors, reminisced and laughed with current friends, and enjoyed the beauty of East Shore and Rustic Ridge. Children and adults alike played bean bag toss and other games while some children took a ride on the tree swing and the tractor, courtesy of Mike Beaver.

A highlight every year, each child selected a prize from the prize table while Lake Francis Area Recreation and Conservation Club (LFARCC) President, Jan Anderson, welcomed guests and thanked them for bringing salads and desserts to round out the picnic menu. She also thanked the many volunteers who made the picnic such a success. The fun continued as Jan gave away \$20 prizes to five lucky and surprised winners on behalf of the LFARCC.

ZEBRA MUSSELS FOUND IN LAKE JOHN

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has confirmed a report of zebra mussels in Lake John, in Wright County.

A citizen involved in a monitoring program reported a single zebra mussel in late September, but subsequent surveys revealed a more widespread



and established infestation throughout much of the lake. The lake is not a candidate for

current treatment methods because the infestation is widespread. Lake John has been added to the infested waters list. Other bodies of water connected to Lake John may also be added to the infested waters list after further assessment.

This time of year it is especially important to check docks, lifts, and other equipment for zebra mussels.

"There is a common misconception that zebra mussels 'are everywhere' and that their spread is inevitable. The reality is, zebra mussels have been confirmed in less than two percent of Minnesota lakes, and more Minnesotans than ever before know and follow invasive species laws," Lund said. "People spread zebra mussels, and people can prevent the spread."

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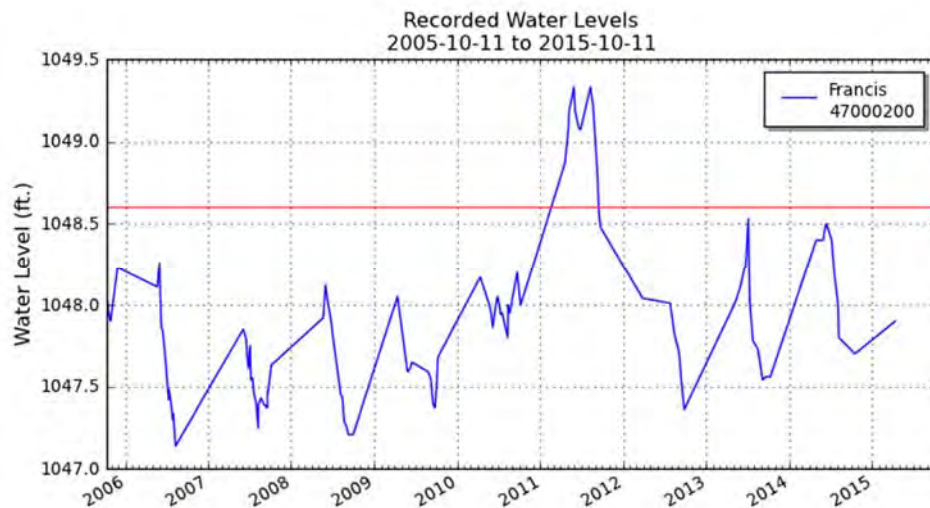
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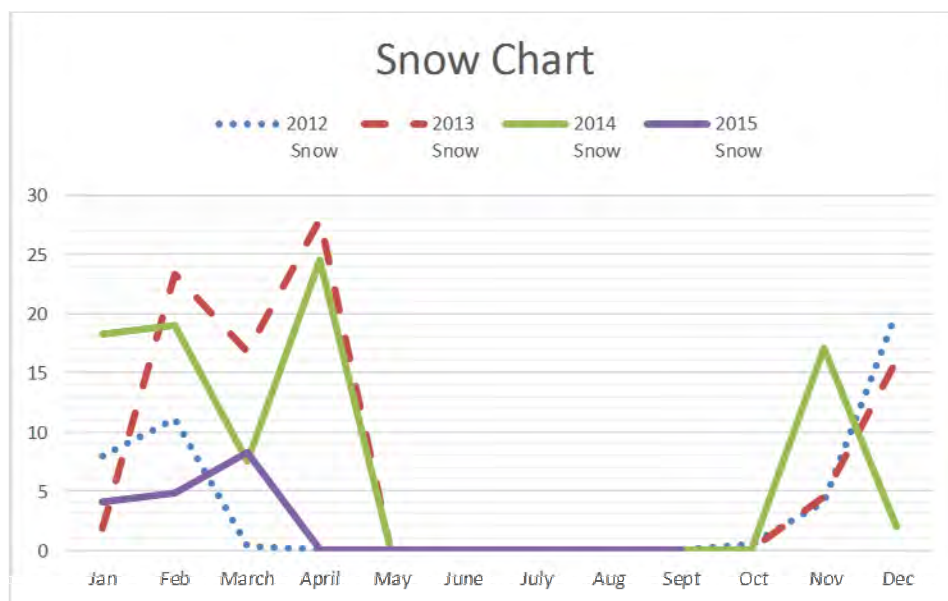
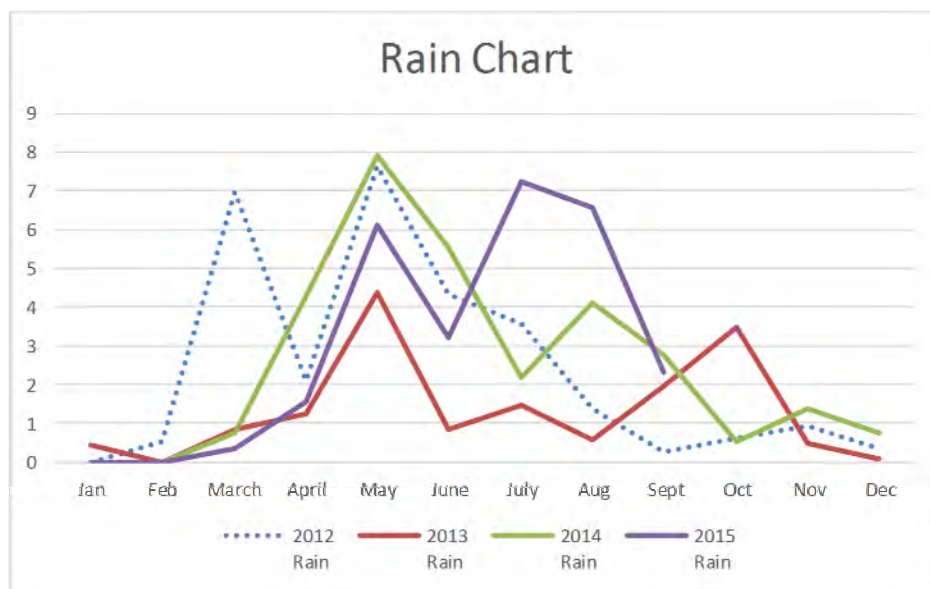
Web Site Aaron Tatone

*Thank you to the board, officers,
volunteers and the many others who
help make the LFARCC possible!*

Water Levels & Precipitation



10-Year History: Data Courtesy of the Minnesota DNR.



Rain and Snow Data Courtesy of Wally Erickson, Lake Francis resident.



LFARCC VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DINNER

Over 40 volunteers attended the LFARCC Volunteer Appreciation Dinner on Saturday, Sept. 19, at the Triple R in Kimball. The hard work and dedication of volunteers helps us continue to build upon our mission to promote the enjoyment and safety of water recreation for all members and to conserve and improve the natural resources of Lake Francis. The Board of Directors extends a big THANK YOU to all who lend their time and talents to our organization and to Holly Edwards for coordinating the event!



ANTIQUE CAR RUN ROLLS THROUGH KINGSTON

The 29th Annual New London to New Brighton Antique Car Run was held on Saturday, August 8, 2015, and travelled through Kingston. Seventy cars registered, 64 started out in the morning from New London and 53 crossed the finish line in New Brighton in the afternoon. All vehicles from 1908 or earlier, or any 1- or 2-cylinder vehicles up to 1915 are eligible to participate. The Antique Car Run is an American version of the prestigious London to Brighton Commemorative Run held annually in England. To learn more, visit www.antiquecarrun.org

2015-16 Lake Events & Area Happenings

- Oct. 18, 2015..... Annual Turkey Dinner, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Kingston Community Center, \$10 for Adults, \$5 for Kids 6-10, Free for 5 & Under, Hosted by Johnson Kelly American Legion Post 483 and Kingston Lions Club
- Feb. 6, 2016 Kingston Lions Club Fishing Contest
- Feb. 13, 2016 South Haven Sportsman's Fishing Contest
- April 23, 2016 LFARCC Board Meeting
- June 25, 2016 LFARCC Board Meeting & Annual Member Meeting
- Aug. 6, 2016..... Annual Picnic hosted by Hidden Forest
- Sept. 17, 2016 LFARCC Board Meeting

Watch the LFARCC Facebook page for updates!

Contact your Area Representative with concerns, comments or questions you'd like the Lake Francis ARCC Board of Directors to address.

FISHING ON LAKE FRANCIS & THE NORTHERN PIKE ISSUE

By Jan Anderson, Wildwood Terrace, LFARCC President,

Earlier this year at the Annual June membership meeting we had a special guest speaker Gene Jeseritz from the Hutchinson Fisheries Management Area come to speak to us about the quality of fishing in Lake Francis and surrounding areas.

Gene spoke about the Northern Pike and how having too many of these fish less than 22 inches long can reduce the fish population of perch to unhealthy levels and even reduce the effectiveness of walleye stocking. In July, Lake Francis underwent two different studies to count the population of fish in the lake, netting and electrofishing. The results of these studies will be available sometime in the Spring of 2016.

Recently, we learned of a proposal the Fisheries Management team is bringing to the State for the 2016/2017 seasons. In a nutshell, the proposal states changing the Northern Pike in possession limits for the next several years.

- Northern Pike under 22 inches = limit 10 in possession
- Northern Pike 22-24 inches = 0 in possession/release
- Northern Pike over 24 inches = 2 in possession

There is an excellent website with more information on this issue you can explore at www.dnr.state.mn.us/pike/index.html

PICKLED PIKE RECIPE

Recipe courtesy of <http://honest-food.net/2014/08/11/pickled-pike-recipe/>

Northern pike is traditional for this Scandinavian-style pickle, but you can use any firm, white fish. If it's a fish you can eat raw, like albacore or mahi mahi, you don't need to freeze the fish first. All other fish — including pike — you need to freeze for 48 hours before you can make this. This will kill any potential parasites in the meat; freshwater fish like pike can carry tapeworms, which you absolutely do not want, even if they are a great weight-loss strategy. Store your pickled fish in the coldest part of your fridge and it will keep for a solid month or even 6 weeks. Your nose will be your guide when it turns. Trust me.

Makes 1 quart.

Prep Time: 36 hours to salt cure and then pickle in vinegar.

Cook Time: n/a

- 1 cup kosher salt
- 5 cups water, divided
- 1 pound pike, cut into 1/2-inch pieces
- 2 cups cider or white wine vinegar
- 1/3 cup sugar
- 1 teaspoon mustard seed
- 2 teaspoons whole allspice
- 2 teaspoons black peppercorns
- 2 bay leaves
- Peel of 1 lemon, sliced and white pith removed
- 1 medium red onion, thinly sliced

Heat 4 cups of water enough to dissolve salt. Let this brine cool to at least room temperature, preferably colder. When it is cold enough, submerge the pike pieces in the brine and refrigerate overnight. Meanwhile, bring the sugar, vinegar, the remaining cup of water and all the spices to a boil. Simmer 5 minutes, then turn off the heat and let this steep until cool.

When the pike has brined, layer it in a glass jar with the sliced lemon peel, bay leaves and red onion. Pour over the cooled pickling liquid with all the spice and seal the jars. Wait at least a day before eating, and I find it best after about a week to 10 days. Store in the fridge for up to 1 month.

IMPORTANT LAW ENFORCEMENT CONTACT INFO

Minnesota DNR

Central Office

Phone: (651) 296-6157

Toll Free: (888) 646-6367

www.dnr.state.mn.us

Turn in Poachers

To report a violation immediately, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, call toll-free 1-800-652-9093 or key in #TIP on your cell phone. To report a violation that isn't time sensitive, go to enforcement/tipreporting.html.

Meeker County Sheriff

Phone: 320-693-5400

www.co.meeker.mn.us

Wright County Sheriff



The Lake Francis Lake

Association is on Facebook!

Like our page at [facebook.com/lakefrancismn](https://www.facebook.com/lakefrancismn) to learn more about our members, events and area business members.

Feel free to share your photos, lost and found, events and lake updates, too!

Don't forget to support our Business Members!



FALL TREE CARE

Excerpted from Meeker County Extension Service

...This year has been ideal for crop growth and development and for home landscape plants.

At the beginning of autumn, stop watering until the leaves fall from the trees. Once they fall, water your trees up until the ground freezes so they will have enough water to make it through the winter drought. Trees and shrubs, especially conifer trees and trees and shrubs planted in the last three years should be watered generously.

Young trees are especially susceptible to the temperature changes that come with winter in cold climates. They are usually not developed enough to withstand the constant freezing and thawing that may occur. Mulching newly planted trees with a thick (3-6") layer of bark chips or leaves will help reduce winter root damage. Do not put the mulch right up against the trunk - this can cause moisture buildup that attracts fungus. Put this mulch layer down once the ground has frozen.

Young maples and thin-barked trees may benefit from some kind of sunscald protection to prevent the bark from cracking this winter and spring. This protection is usually in the form of a plastic tube or tree wrap (remove in spring). These practices can also help in reducing winter animal damage. Other fall management practices which will help reduce winter damage to trees and shrubs can be found at <http://z.umn.edu/winterdamage>.

Protecting trees from rabbits, mice, voles and deer is a major concern in some landscapes during the winter. Mow or remove tall grass to reduce mice and vole damage. If the bark is removed or severely damaged around the tree, it will die. Protective physical barriers such as tree tubes, hardware cloth or fencing can be used when practical. Odor, taste and visual repellents can also be used to repel many wildlife species, but may have inconsistent effectiveness. Human hair, soaps, garlic oil, hot sauce and animal repellents can be applied to branches and foliage to discourage browsing but weather, application frequency, animal population and feeding pressures all affect the success of repellents. Some animals become desensitized to the repellent, so you may want to alternate repellents. A web resource that reviews prevention and control of wildlife damage can be found at: <http://z.umn.edu/105p>.

Fall is also a good time to plant trees. The temperatures are cooler, stressing the trees less and allowing them a better chance to get their roots established. The recommendation is to plant at least three weeks before the ground freezes. If you have already planted this fall make sure to water until the soil freezes. Recommended trees for all regions of Minnesota can be found at the University of Minnesota's extension website: <http://z.umn.edu/105q>.

While pruning can be done in the fall, the best time to prune trees is during the dormant season from January to March. Flowering shrubs can be pruned in the summer after flowering. Make sure to remove the 3 D's - dead, diseased or damaged. They all serve as points where diseases or pests could enter and removing them will also make the tree look better. You can also prune branches that aren't growing the way you would like.

If you are unsure what is causing problems in your landscape, the University of Minnesota Extension has a great web site to help homeowners diagnose tree, shrub and plant problems or identify a weed or insect. This site also has links to the UM Plant Disease Clinic and Soil Testing Lab: <http://z.umn.edu/105r>.

MEMORIALS

On behalf of our lake community, the Association sends its heartfelt condolences to the Traeger family.

John Traeger

Sept. 30, 2015

John, age 55, of Minneapolis, passed away September 30, 2015. He's survived by his wife, Bernadette; children, Michael and Brian; and granddaughter, Breanna. Memorial services were held Saturday, Oct. 10, in Crystal, Minn.

John was a member of the Lake Association and former Board member.

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