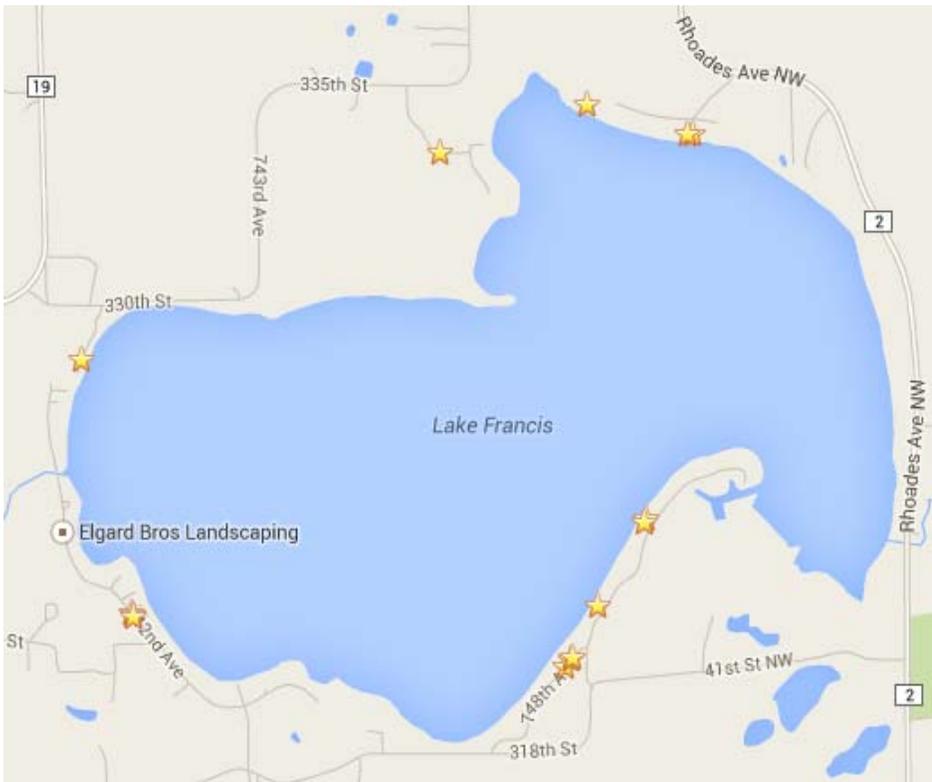




**SUMMER 2014 ISSUE**



*Fifteen properties, shown above as yellow stars, have sold on Lake Francis since the beginning of 2009. The average sale price was \$286,603, according to Carla Sundblad from Oak Realty in Annandale. Source: Multiple Listing System (MLS). This map does not include properties that were sold by owner.*

## Lake Francis Real Estate in Recovery Mode

Property sales around Lake Francis bottomed out in late 2011 and have been in recovery mode since then, according to Corky Weber from Edina Realty. It is expected that lake prices will continue to increase from 3.5 to 5 percent this year. The shortage of homes and lots for sale on Lake Francis will continue to drive price increases in the future.

“Last year, there were four houses for sale on the lake ranging from a low of \$91,000 to \$348,000,” Weber said.

There are currently two lake homes for sale. They range from \$499,300 to \$799,000. There are also three lots for sale, ranging from \$225,000 to \$400,000.

“In general, we have seen an increase in activity on lake shore properties in the last couple of years,” Carla Sundblad from Oak Realty said. “Inventory remains low and demand is increasing. It is a great time to sell!”

If you have real estate or market questions, please feel free to contact Carla Sundblad or Corky Weber, both of whom are sponsors of the LFARCC.

## Lake Newsletter Goes Electronic in 2014

Beginning in Summer 2014, the summer and fall Lake Francis Area Recreation & Conservation Club newsletter editions will be delivered electronically via e-mail. The winter/spring issue will continue as a printed publication mailed to all lake residents.

The move to an electronic format will save the lake association approximately \$700 per year. This money will be re-allocated to the “Invasive Species” fund.

**To receive the newsletter via e-mail, go to the LFARCC website and click on the “E-News” tab. Select the e-news drop down and follow the directions.**

The lake association takes your privacy seriously and will not share your e-mail address with others - it will only be used for distribution of the e-newsletter and other time-sensitive information.

No computer? No problem. Contact your area representative to receive a printed copy of the newsletter.

## OLD PHOTO CONTEST

We’d love to see old photos from Lake Francis! The first person to submit a photo of the big paddlewheel boat that used to cruise Lake Francis to our newsletter e-mail will win a \$10 gift certificate to the Triple R Grill & Bar in Kimball, one of our LFARCC sponsors.

We would like other old photos of the lake to share in the newsletter so others can see how the lakeshore used to look. Feel free to email them anytime!



## More DNR-Trained Watercraft Inspectors and Checkpoints This Summer

This summer, to help combat the spread of aquatic invasive species, the Department of Natural Resources is increasing the number of watercraft checkpoints to 36, double the number from last year.

The DNR also expects to hire 146 watercraft inspectors and place 23 decontamination units at zebra mussel infested waters and high-use areas. Up to 300 additional authorized inspectors will be working for tribal and local government units throughout the state.

“These folks are going to be out there checking boats, trailers and other water equipment this summer,” said Maj. Phil Meier, DNR Enforcement Division operations manager. “It’s their job. They aren’t there to cause a delay, but to keep invasive species from entering our lakes and rivers.”

The DNR’s watercraft inspection program is designed to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species by educating boaters, inspecting watercraft and providing decontamination services at public water accesses.

All DNR-trained watercraft inspectors are authorized to help ensure boats and trailers are clean and free of AIS before entering or leaving a lake, river or other body of water. They will show boaters where aquatic plants and animals are likely to hide, and how to remove them.

Whether they work for the DNR, or for a county organization or lake association, inspectors are there to help make sure boaters are not in violation of AIS laws.

If someone refuses to allow an inspection, or doesn’t remove aquatic plants or animals, DNR trained inspectors can prohibit the launching or operation of water-related equipment. Authorized inspectors can also require a watercraft to be decontaminated prior to launching into Minnesota waters.

In the rare situation when an individual does not follow instructions from a watercraft inspector before launching or leaving an access, inspectors are advised to contact the local conservation officer to report violations.

“Please work with them; it’s required by law,” said Ann Pierce, DNR Ecological and Water Resources Division section manager. “Your cooperation will make it go faster and help everyone get in and out more quickly. All watercraft inspectors are trained by the DNR, and working in scheduled locations. If you have problems with them, let us know.”

*Courtesy of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.*

## CROW Rain Barrel Sales Continues

Including rain barrels on your property or operation will help the environment and reduce your water bills. They can capture and store runoff flowing from rooftops during rain events that can be used later to irrigate flowers and landscaped areas. As well, reducing the amount of water that immediately flows in the storm drain cuts down on the amount of contact water has with contaminants, such as oil, salt, pesticides, fertilizers, and trash. As the spring rains continue to pour, now is a good time to get your rain barrel. Each barrel is \$55, including tax, and holds up to 54 gallons with a removable debris screen, hoses, and a flat back. **Contact Charlene at 763-682-1933 x122 or [charlene.brooks@mn.nacdn.net](mailto:charlene.brooks@mn.nacdn.net) for more information.**

## 2014 Fishing Seasons

May 10-Feb 22. Northern Pike, Sauger, Walleye

May 10-Sept 30.....Lake Trout

May 16-Oct 31 .. Stream Trout, In Lakes

May 24-Feb 22. Smallmouth & Largemouth Bass

June 7-Dec 1..... Muskie

Sept 8-Feb 22 ..... Smallmouth ...Bass, Catch & Release Only

Sept 15-30 ..... Stream Trout, Catch & Release Only

Nov 15-Feb 22 ..... Dark House Spearing



**SHARE YOUR BIG CATCH!** Send your fishing photos to [lakefrancisnews@gmail.com](mailto:lakefrancisnews@gmail.com).



## Kayaking the Crow

*By Ray Hirte, Newsletter Co-Editor*

My wife and I have kayaked the leg of the Crow from Forest City to Kingston several times.

In low water, the Crow can have you walking some sections; however, during high water it has some dangerous areas. In the past we have seen canoes and kayaks stuck on the brush with no way to easily retrieve them.

There is a nice launch in Forest City and it takes you through farm lands and beautiful scenery. You pass by the old bridge just upstream from Kingston a couple of miles.

Typically the float from Forest City to Kingston will take about 4 hours.

Bring your bug spray as the flies and mosquitoes can be ferocious this time of year. And don't be surprised to see some deer, wood ducks and beaver along the way, as well as cattle and sheep from farms along the river.

The fishing can give you a variety — from carp to crappies to some nice Northern along the way as you float down the river.

## The North Fork of the Crow River

Rising in southeastern Pope County, the North Fork of the Crow River flows southeast for about 175 miles until it joins the Mississippi River at Dayton. Although the North, Middle and South Forks of the Crow are all part of a state-designated canoe and boating route, the North Fork is generally considered to be the main stem, the best maintained and the best for canoeing.

The North Fork is small, shallow and fairly clean from the Lake Koronis Spillway to Kingston. Prairie and hardwood vegetation border the river. Falling an average of less than three feet per mile, the river tumbles over many small rapids (the spillway, however, should be avoided.)

The Crow River was once flanked by the “big woods,” a thick forest of maple, basswood, elm and other hardwoods supporting abundant wildlife. Names by the Ojibwa Indians for the bird they called the “marauder of newly planted corn,” the Crow River passes several archaeological sites, although none have been thoroughly studied. Two sites near Lake Koronis have a total of 43 mounds.

Courtesy of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. Go to [www.mndnr.gov/watertrails](http://www.mndnr.gov/watertrails).

## 2014 Calendar of Lake Events & Area Happenings

- June 21..... Lower Crow Paddle, Dayton Public Access, 9 a.m., \$10/person or \$30/family, Please RSVP to CROW
- June 21..... Lake Francis ARCC Annual Meeting  
Kingston Community Center, 9 a.m.**
- June 21..... Lake Francis ARCC Board of Directors Meeting**
- July 4..... Lake Francis Dock Decoration Day**
- August 2..... Lake Francis ARCC Annual Picnic**
- August 8-10 ..... Kimball Days
- August 9 ..... 28th Antique Car Run, Kingston, 10-12:30 p.m.
- September 1..... Deadline to Submit Newsletter Items for Fall**
- September 20..... Lake Association Board of Directors Meeting**
- October 14 ..... Kingston Blood Drive, Kingston Community Center, TBD
- October 19 ..... Kingston Lions and Johnson Kelly Post 483 American Legion Turkey Dinner, Kingston Community Center, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

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

## 2014 MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

For only \$35/year, you'll enjoy up-to-date lake information, special events, a printed lake directory, water level monitoring, lake stewardship, and access to the DNR, Wright & Meeker County, area watershed and other representatives and expertise.

Contact your Area Rep/Board Member (see page 2) for more information or to join.

***Thank you for your continued support!***

To submit a photo, event or news item, e-mail [lakefrancisnews@gmail.com](mailto:lakefrancisnews@gmail.com).

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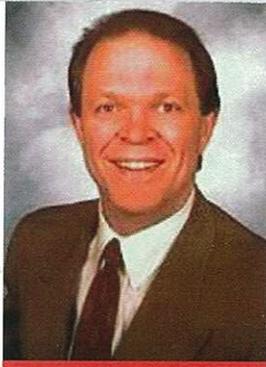


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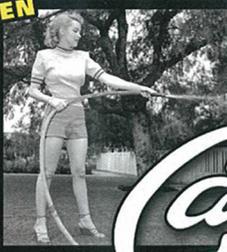
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