



Loon Lakes Management Association
P.O. Box 50
Antioch, IL 60002

2015 Annual Report

A Year in Review

Loon Lake Management Association was created to promote understanding and comprehensive management of East and West Loon Lakes and their watershed ecosystems. Loon Lake Management Association provides a coordinated and unified effort for the implementation of policies and programs for the long-term management, restoration and protection of East and West Loon Lakes, including the management of the lakes' watershed (6500 acres) and other natural resources and manmade features within the defined area.

Submitted December 2015 to the Lake County Health Department
by the Board of Directors of Loon Lakes Management Association

The Year in Review

Health of East and West Loon Lakes

Plant and Algae Control

In January an oxygenation test was performed on both lakes by the harvesting crew.

The 2015 East Loon Lake Proposed Treatment Site taken in August 2014 was reviewed and it was cutting back on areas that are not that dense to save money. Jerry Urbanozo cut the treating area of the Eurasian milfoil to 28 acres from 30 acres. Discussion regarding treating the Eurasian milfoil and getting an RFP in the 2015 season. A possibility of switching to a different herbicide treatment solution in 2016 was proposed. Health Dept. returned in late April to remap area.

In May 4 RFPs were sent out and Rollins Aquatic was hired to treat the Eurasian Milfoil in East Loon Lake. Treatment was very successful.

Harvesting takes place on a weekly basis after areas are visually inspected and a schedule for the following week is set. Additionally, weeds are collected weekly along roadway areas until the week after Labor Day.

Training of the weed harvesting crew began on 6/1 and 6/15 and weed cutting officially commenced on 6/18. The harvester is in good shape, but the Truck needed new tires. After an analysis of the weeds in the lake taken last year, harvesting started in East Loon. Around the 4th of July the harvester was back to West Loon. A Lowrance GPS system was purchased for the weed harvester to keep better records of what areas have been cut.

They went around 18 inches deep for boats to maneuver. Then they went 4 ft. down. West Loon Lake began the second week of July. Lily Pads were noted to be a problem again this year in both lakes.

In July the trailer needed repairs to a wheel and the rear axle. And the truck needed a new fuel filter system.

Harvesting was completed on 9/18.

Fish

Fish stocking was a success in 2015. 1600 walleye were delivered on October 27th to both lakes from Keystone Hatcheries. Red Ear Sunfish stocking was suggested as a possibility for next year to help fight the zebra mussels. A fundraiser was again held to supplement the fish-stocking budget by selling LLMA hats.

Dave Tatak discussed how fish cribs are beneficial for habitats for fish. It was discussed at the LLMA Conference of the possibility of using Loon Lake as a pod for the fish cribs.

Lakes Management

As requested by the IDNR in 2012, the final of three fish studies was conducted by Integrated Lakes Management in June 2014. In 2012, The Health Department performed the Threatened & Endangered (T&E) survey for East and West Lakes and reported both East and West Loon Lakes were two of the best lakes they had seen. They found a good population of endangered species and confirmed that our current management practices were not harming the lakes.

It was agreed that Loon Lake Management Association (LLMA) would be responsible for having a survey performed in 2014. If there is no significant change in the 3 studies, the Department of Natural Resources said it would consider revising the number of studies required for our lakes. This study is done to insure we are not harming endangered and threatened fish species in both lakes. A copy of the Threatened & Endangered Fish Study for 2014 is on our website. Mike Adam recommended conducting the study every 5 years.

In April, the Incidental Take Organization Coordinator from the DNR, submitted an amendment to the original LLMA Incidental Take Authorization (ITA) dated 5/10/2012:

- An extension of the term of the ITA to May 10, 2025 (10 years);
- Reiterated written approval required from IDNR fisheries for use of aquatic herbicides;
- A reminder that the Take of listed plants requires bottom-owner permission;
- A stipulation that IDNR will review any dredging plans; and
- Monitoring will now be required every 3rd year instead of every year.

There was a plant study completed by the Lake County Health Department in 2015 and to date we do not have the report. Once that report is received it will be reviewed by the Plant and Algae Committee and taken into consideration for the 2016 harvesting plan.

Bathymetric maps of East Loon Lake were completed by the Health Department and a link to these maps can be found on LLMA website <http://loonlakesmgmt.com/>.

Channel between East and West Loon Lakes

Fundraising for Phase 2 of the channel refurbishment between East and West Loon Lakes continued this year. Phase 2 will include the additional dredging needed to keep the channel open. T-shirts and glasses were sold this year along with a raffle during the summer to help fund the project. Corporate sponsors and grants are being sought for larger donations.

RFP's are being prepared for the second phase and it is hopeful the RFPs will be done by the beginning of 2016 and dredging will begin in the Fall of 2016.

Tom met with Army Core of Engineers Health Dept., Stormwater Management and Planning Building & Development. Army Core of Engineers we will need permits due to our endangered species. The Army Core of Engineers permit application would need to be reviewed by IDNR. In addition, we need to identify a location where dredging materials will be put prior to obtaining permits. The Lake County Planning Building and Developing Department has approved the dewatering on the Summers Park property. Dan Krill is assisting in the permitting process. We would like to get a 10-year permit in case additional dredging becomes necessary in the future.

Educate and Communicate

The property owners of Loon Lakes (SS8) have been kept informed of all activities and provided educational information via our website at <http://loonlakesmgmt.com/> and our Facebook Page, which were updated this year.

Business cards were printed this year for each of our association representatives to supply contact information to their homeowners.

Illinois Boating Laws were posted to our Facebook and Website pages regarding safety and the new orange flag requirement for skiing in Illinois.

A few members attended the ILMA 30th Annual Conference in February.

No Wake signs were purchased this year to post around the lakes as needed.

Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of Loon Lakes Management Association was held on Saturday, August 15, 2015 at the Summers Park. Tom Keefe called the meeting to order at 11:00 am. The business that was conducted during the meeting was the election of officers. The slate of officers and their terms were:

Vice President	Joan Lahey	Dec. 2015 to Nov. 2017
Secretary	Karen Tatak	Dec. 2015 to Nov. 2017

The election balloting was open from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm. A total of 53 ballots were cast. Joan Lahey and Karen Tatak were elected unanimously.

In attendance were approximately 200 individuals with 53 property owners signing in.

A lunch of hamburgers, hot dogs, chips, lemonade and water were served to the members of SSA8 and their families. Many attendees also brought dishes to pass.

A fishing tournament and games for children were provided. In addition, proceeds from raffles and the sale of t-shirts and glassware went for the channel dredging and the sale hats went for fish stocking.

A new Raffle/Lottery was initiated this year and tickets were sold to 116 people.

Educational posters were set up regarding the health of our lakes.

Not For Profit

An application for 501(c)(3) status was sent by Federal Express to the Internal Revenue and Ill. Atty. General on June 29, 2015. In September we received notices from both for additional information. On October 23, 2015 Loon Lakes Management Association became a tax-free charitable organization with the state of Illinois.

A Look at the Future

We understand the needs of the lakes and the importance of balance. The Conservation Plan assists us in finding and maintaining this balance. Also, the plan will help us prioritize and budget for projects both short-term and long-term. This plan will be our guide and launching point to keep Loon Lakes the quality lake it has been for centuries. Our 2016 priorities will be weed control, fish stocking and dredging the channel.

Equipment Inventory

2015-2016 LLMA Equipment Inventory Spreadsheet TBD

Water Quality Monitoring Data

All reports have been forwarded to Lake County Health Dept.

Fiscal Audit of Expenditures

Will be forthcoming