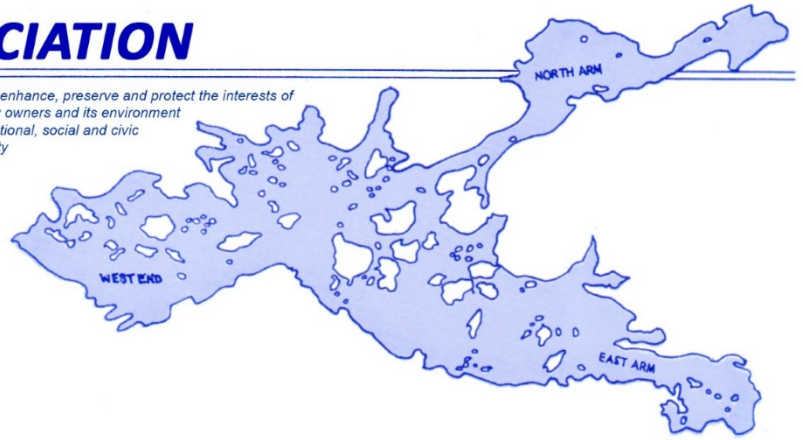


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Incorporated in 1976 to enhance, preserve and protect the interests of Burntside Lake property owners and its environment and contribute to recreational, social and civic welfare of the community



Volume XXIV, Summer 2017

2017 ANNUAL Meeting

Place: Vermillion Community College

Date: Saturday, August 5, 2017

Time: Coffee, Muffins: 8:30 A.M, Meeting: 9:30 A.M

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Guest Speaker: “Told and Untold Stories of Burntside Lake”

David Kess

David Kess recently published *More Than Just Ore* which tells how the underground mining industry, a geography of lakes and forests, and an immigrant population formed Ely, Minnesota, into a unique community. David has been a key contributor to the Ely-Winton Historical Society and **will bring us additional stories about Burntside, and by his leadership and example encourage us to write our own tales of the lake.**

Highway 88 Burntside River Bridge Closing August 7

(From the Ely Echo, Friday 1/13/2017) A bridge replacement project on Highway 88 (Grant McMahan Boulevard) will cause delays and detours in 2017 and 2018. St. Louis County Highway Department officials spoke at a January 2017 Town of Morse board meeting and explained that the bridge over the river that runs from Burntside to Shagawa is in need of full replacement. The \$1.26 million project will start Aug. 7 and is scheduled to run for 12 weeks until Oct. 28. Final work would be done in 2018 and could include an additional three weeks of closures.

During the construction traffic will be detoured using the portion of County 88 that goes from Van Vac Road along the North side of Shagawa past the Echo Trail Junction and rejoins Highway 169 east of Ely.

Please notify family and friends who will be visiting resorts, cabins, residences and the Van Vac public landing of this required detour.

In this issue:

- Aquatic Invasive Species in or near Burntside that require our vigilance
- A look back at history of Indian, Pine and Snellman Islands
- Using a St. Louis County website to see aerial views of locations on Burntside
- Sigurd Olson watching Burbot (Eelpout) breed in Outlet Bay 75 years ago
- The annual ice on ice out chart updated with this year’s data

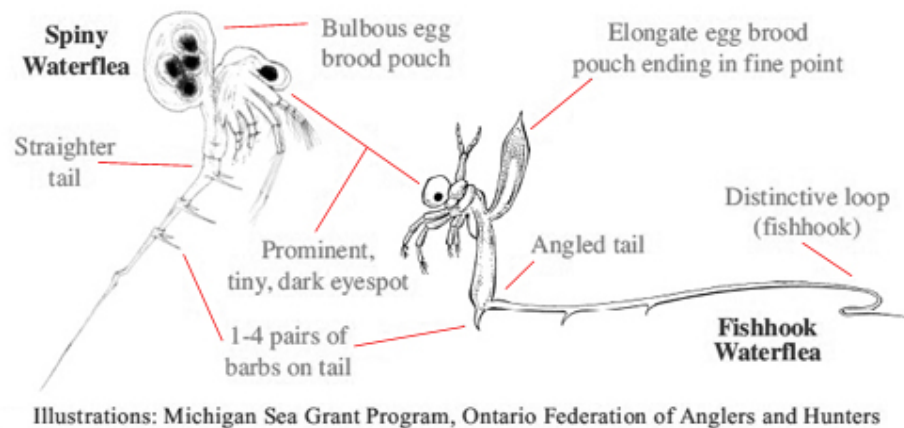
Spiny Waterflea – Already Throughout Burntside!

(Excerpts from: <http://www.seagrant.umn.edu/ais/waterflea>)

Spiny (*Bythotrephes longimanus*) and fishhook (*Cercopagis pengoi*) waterfleas are small predacious crustaceans that threaten aquatic ecosystems and fishing by competing with native fish for food and fouling gear. Both arrived in ships' ballast water from Eurasia. Spiny waterfleas were discovered in Lake Ontario in 1982, then spread to all of the Great Lakes, and some inland lakes.

Anglers often discover new infestations. Both waterfleas collect in masses on fishing lines and downrigger cables (see cover). These masses can clog the first eyelet of rods, damage a reel's drag system, and prevent fish from being landed. They can spread to inland waters when fishing gear is contaminated with egg-laden females. While females die out of water, under certain conditions they produce eggs that resist drying, remain viable, and can establish a new population. Eradicating established infestations is impossible. Your help detecting and reporting new infestations is vital for preventing their spread.

Identifying Invasive Waterfleas



- Difficult to distinguish without magnification, 1/4 - 5/8 in (5-15mm) total length
- Clumps look and feel like gelatin or cotton batting with tiny black spots
- Prefer deep lakes, but can establish in shallow waterbodies and rivers
- Abundant during summer (June-September) depending upon water temperatures

What You Can Do

- **Clean** all aquatic plants, animals and mud from watercraft, trailers, docks, lifts, anchors and other recreational equipment before leaving access. Waterfleas may appear as gelatinous or cotton batting-like material on lines, especially where lines meet a swivel, lure or downrigger ball connection.
- **Drain** water-related equipment (boat, ballast tanks, portable bait containers, motor) and drain bilge, livewell and baitwell by removing drain plugs before leaving water access. *Keep drain plugs out while transporting watercraft.*
- **Dispose** of unwanted bait, worms and fish parts in the trash.



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“Artifacts from the Boshey Family on Indian Island, Burntside”

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Photo from Facebook Group “Ely’s Burntside Lake. Yesterday. Today...”

Early native cultures on Burntside Lake appear to go back into prehistory. The earliest known artifacts were stone points from the Paleo-Indian culture which ended about 5000 B.C. For the 4000 years that followed this same land was inhabited by peoples from the copper culture. Pottery and burial mounds from the Woodland Culture that came later show it to have been here until about 1650 A.D.

The Dakota or Sioux were next but were “replaced” by the Ojibwe in the early 1700s. It seems likely that Ojibwe traversed the portage from Shagawa to Burntside and also lived on the lake from about the mid 1800s. What became known as Indian Island just off the shore of what is now Burntside Lodge was established as a burial ground.

In 1896 a Mr. C. C. Pope from Superior, WI, visited the island summer home of Martin Pattison on Burntside Lake. He noted the number of white flags floating on poles on a nearby island (Indian Island) and remarked these marked the presence of graves. Graves were also marked by spirit houses— first made of twigs and branches but later constructed with boards.

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Since the 1880s or perhaps earlier there was a summer village on the west side of Indian Island. The primary residents were the extended family of Chief Joe Boshey (Ay-wim-ah-je-way-aush) and his wife Mary (Maish-kah-wah-ne-nah-doke). Their family of six included Tom, Maggie, Emma, Jim, Edward, and Rose. (Each of course also had Ojibwe names.) There were three buildings and a horse barn on the island. Winter camps were on Lake Vermilion or Big Lake.

Martin Pattison, a fee holder in the Pioneer Mine, built a log summer home on a nearby Burntside island. Some of the Boshey women were employed by Grace Pattison who in turn taught them and their children English and some basic skills.

One November day Martin Pattison, his brother-in-law Jack West, and several others were fishing on the lake when somehow their canoe overturned. Chief Boshey happened to not be too far away and was able to rescue Mr. Pattison but not Mr. West. To reward Joe Boshey, Martin Pattison not only purchased Indian Island but also legally stipulated that the Boshey family could occupy the island as long as Chief Boshey lived. He died in 1951 at the age of 100 according to tribal records. The Bois Forte band is now in possession of Indian Island.

The Bosheys made frequent trips to town often being transported to and from town by another guide and Burntside Lodge employee Harry Lindsay. Harry had his own lakeshore cabin and became a good and generous friend during lean times. In turn the Bosheys gifted him with handcrafted items made of buckskin, moose hide, birch bark, and quill and beadwork. Various pieces were dyed with natural dyes. Two rare items were a birch bark birdhouse and a beaded and quilled bag.

By the early 1960s the Bosheys had vacated Indian Island. Harry eventually became arthritic and too infirm to use his cabin so he sold it and the contents to Donald Kess of Ely. Knowing that these handcrafted items were invaluable Donald chose to loan them to the Ely-Winton Historical Society for safekeeping and to be shared with visitors to the museum.

The items on display include the birch bark bird house, the beaded and quilled bag, a deerskin pouch, moccasins, moosehide choppers, and other beadwork.

Much credit for the history of Indian Island and the Boshey family must be given to the late Milt Stenlund and his book Burntside Lake-The Early Years. Additional information also came from Lee Brownell's Pioneer Life in Ely.



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Rusty Crayfish – A Nearby Invader!

(Excerpts from: http://www.seagrant.umn.edu/ais/rustycrayfish_invader)

Rusty crayfish (*Orconectes rusticus*) have invaded much of Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Illinois, Ontario, and portions of 17 other states. Although native to the Ohio River basin and the states of Ohio and Kentucky, rusty crayfish continue to spread into many lakes and streams where they cause a variety of ecological problems. The first observation of rusty crayfish in Minnesota was in 1967 at Otter Creek in southern Minnesota. Since then, their range has expanded to approximately 50 different lakes and streams spanning in 13 counties. They are already present in area lakes including Shagawa, Vermilion, and White Iron. They have been detected in the Burntside River near Shagawa Lake.

Rusty crayfish are probably spread by non-resident anglers who bring them along to use as fishing bait. As rusty crayfish populations increase in many areas, they are harvested for the regional bait market, biological supply companies, and food. Such activities probably help spread the species farther. Invading rusty crayfish frequently:

- displace native crayfish,
- reduce the amount and kinds of aquatic plants,
- decrease the density and variety of invertebrates (animals lacking a backbone), and reduce some fish populations.

Environmentally sound ways to eradicate introduced populations of rusty crayfish have not been developed, and none are likely in the near future. **Preventing or slowing the spread of rusty crayfish into new waters is the best way to prevent the ecological problems they cause.**

The harvest of rusty crayfish for food and bait may provide the only beneficial use for this exotic. Harvest for bait has been going on for over 40 years in Wisconsin. Commercial harvest for food is more recent and varies from year to year in Wisconsin and Minnesota. Regulations in both states make it illegal to introduce rusty crayfish into any waters. In Minnesota, it is illegal to sell live crayfish as bait or as aquarium pets. A DNR permit is required to commercially harvest or culture crayfish.

It is important to note that it is not necessary to introduce both a male and a female crayfish to begin a new infestation. One female carrying viable sperm could begin a new population if released into a suitable environment. Rusty crayfish readily mate in captivity so it is reasonable to expect that mature females, whether used as fishing bait or as science class specimens, could produce offspring.

Crayfish are considered opportunistic feeders. Rusty crayfish feed on a variety of aquatic plants, benthic invertebrates (like aquatic worms, snails, leeches, clams, aquatic insects, and crustaceans such as side-swimmers and waterfleas), detritus (decaying plants and animals, including associated bacteria and fungi), fish eggs, and small fish. Juveniles especially feed on benthic invertebrates like mayflies, stoneflies, midges, and side-swimmers.

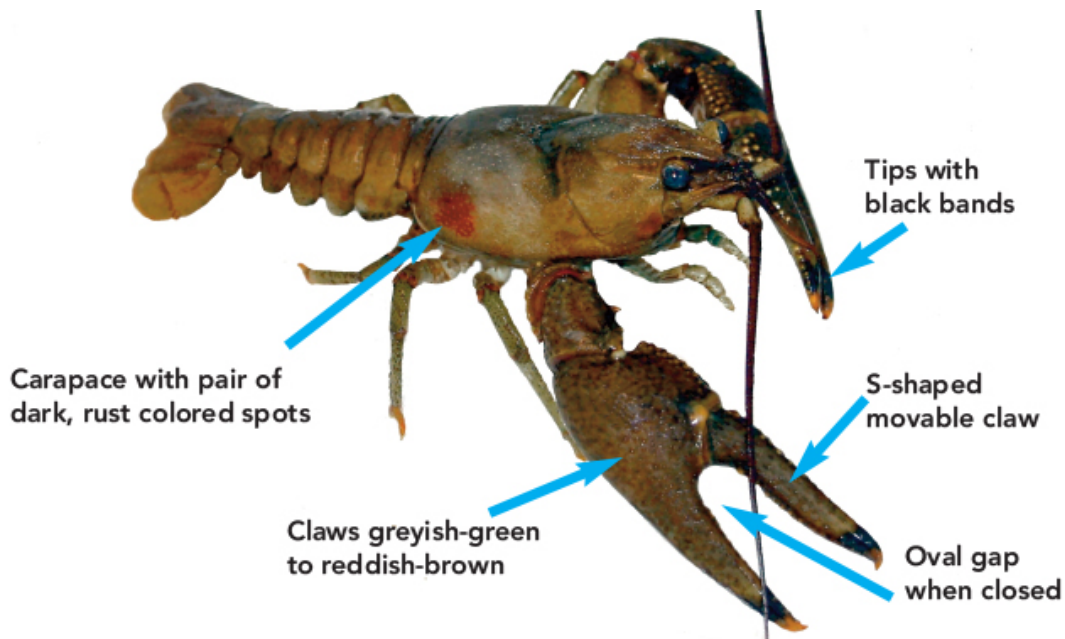
The destruction of aquatic plant beds is perhaps the most serious impact. Rusty crayfish have been shown to reduce aquatic plant abundance and species diversity. This can be especially damaging in relatively unproductive northern lakes, where beds of aquatic plants are not abundant.

Submerged aquatic plants are important in these systems for:

- habitat for invertebrates (which provide food for fish and ducks),
- shelter for young gamefish, panfish, or forage species of fish,
- nesting substrate for fish, and
- erosion control (by minimizing waves).

Observations and circumstantial evidence gathered by Wisconsin fishery managers suggest that bluegill and northern pike populations frequently decline following the introduction of rusty crayfish). The cause of bluegill, bass, and northern pike declines is probably reduced abundance and diversity of aquatic plants. Reduced food (such as mayflies, midges, and stoneflies) and egg predation may also play a role. Because impacts and population abundance of rusty crayfish vary in lakes that appear similar, it is not possible to predict what will happen when they invade a new lake.

Cabin owners on heavily infested northern Wisconsin and Minnesota lakes have even stopped swimming because large numbers of "rustys" occupy their favorite swimming area throughout the day. They fear stepping on them and getting pinched by their large claws. Other crayfish species, even if abundant, are less conspicuous during daylight hours.



Unattributed photo from: <https://www.watershedcouncil.org/rusty-crayfish.html>

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Starry Stonewort – A More Recent Aggressive Invader

(Excerpts from: <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/aquaticplants/starrystonewort/index.html>)

Starry stonewort are grass-like algae that are not native to North America. The plant was first confirmed in Minnesota in Lake Koronis, near Paynesville in late August of 2015. Plant fragments were probably brought into the state on a trailered watercraft from infested waters in another state. In August of 2016, starry stonewort was confirmed in several north-central Minnesota lakes in Beltrami, Itasca and Cass counties.

Starry stonewort is similar in appearance to native grass-like algae such as other stoneworts and musk-grass. Native stoneworts and musk-grass are both commonly found in Minnesota waters. Starry stonewort can be distinguished from other grass-like algae by the presence of star-shaped bulbils.



Photo Credits: Minnesota DNR (L); Monika Lawrence / MPR News (R)

Why is starry stonewort a problem?

Starry stonewort can interfere with recreational and other uses of lakes where it can produce dense mats at the water's surface. These mats are similar to, but can be more extensive than, those produced by native vegetation or other invasive species. Dense starry stonewort mats may displace native aquatic plants.

Like all plants, starry stonewort may grow differently in different lakes, depending on many factors. At this time, we cannot predict how it might grow in any one Minnesota lake.

How does it spread?

Starry stonewort is believed to be spread from one body of water to another by the unintentional transfer of plant fragments and bulbils, the star-like structures produced by the plant. These fragments, or mud containing them, can be transferred on trailered boats, personal watercraft, docks, boat lifts, anchors or any other water-related equipment that is not properly cleaned.

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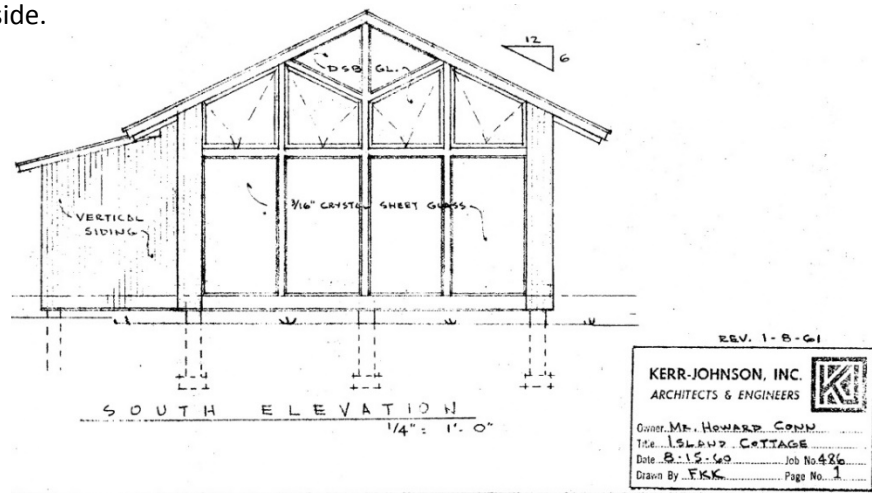
Once Upon Pine Island - a Cabin that was a Chapel

The [Burntside Islands Scientific and Natural Area \(SNA\)](#) are located in the western end of the lake. They include a chain of islands: Pine, Snellman, and the three Gaul Islands. Nearby Gusty Island awaits being officially added to this distinctive group. Everyone is welcome to explore these undeveloped islands. The last private owner of Pine and Snellman Islands was Dr. Howard Conn, widely respected Pastor at the Plymouth Congregational Church in Minneapolis. Howard also owned a cabin property now held by Carolyn Sundquist. It is nearby Sigurd Olson's Listening Point. Dr. Conn had used the islands for outdoor religious service, and youth work. He preserved the islands in their natural state, except for the small modern cabin that served as a chapel.

Carolyn delights in telling this story about Sigurd and Howard. It occurred to Sigurd that Pine and Snellman ought to be preserved from any future development, retaining their many ancient pines which had never been commercially logged. Sigurd invited his neighbor to come to the Listening Point Sauna to have a discussion. "Howard", Sigurd said as the sauna's cleansing steam rose, "It's time you should sell Pine and Snellman to the Nature Conservancy, for CHEAP!" Howard Conn agreed so that in 1974 the Minnesota Chapter of the Nature Conservancy acquired the islands and eventually transferred the property to the United States Forest Service.

Once the transfer of ownership was completed there remained a task of removing the cabin. Some of the windows were reused on other lake locations. There was a bell on a tower which was an "attractive nuisance" which could be heard ringing in the middle of the night. It was bothersome enough for a nearby resident to remove the clapper in the bell and throw it out into the lake. The cabin was built atop cement piers. Despite the value of the solitude experienced on the Island, dynamite was brought in to break up and dislodge a pier. It is said that if you look up into a nearby tree you might still see a chunk of the cement from that detonation.

Pictures of the cabin would be a great addition to a written history of Burntside. Despite even weddings being held at the chapel, photos of it seem to be scarce. However Carolyn Sundquist does have the architects original plans, and here is one page that shows its modern design which provided a narrow kitchen on one side.



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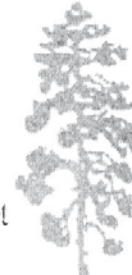
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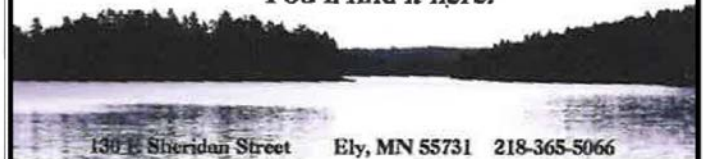
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Bird's Eye View of Burntside Properties

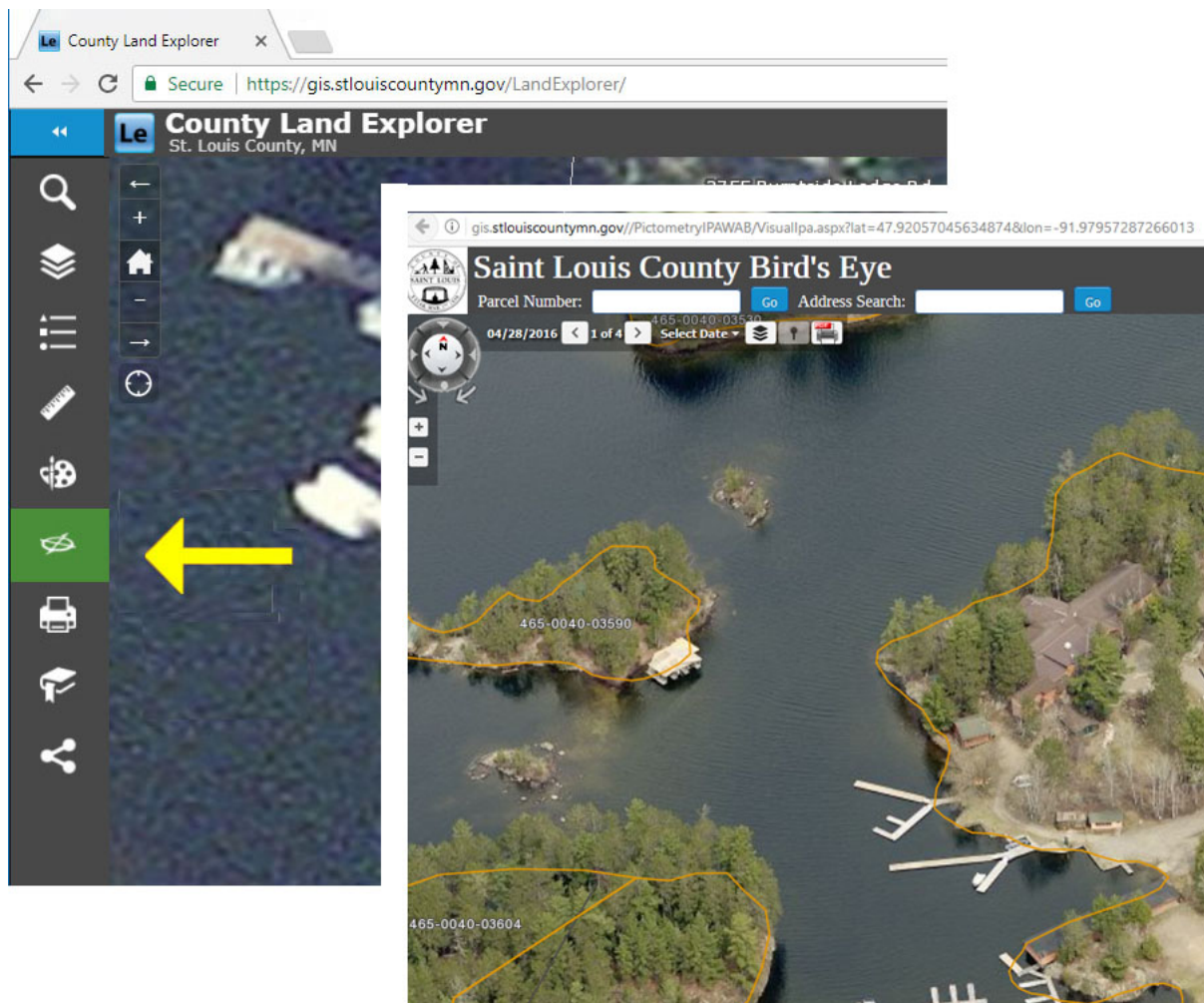
St. Louis County has improved its options for obtaining aerial views of locations throughout the county. The images are high resolution, taken when leaves are not on trees. This enables county officials to visualize locations for planning and assessment purposes. The imagery is provided freely to anyone visiting their website. The new tools are easy to use. This brief guide should help you get started.

First, open your web browser (Firefox, Chrome, Safari, etc) and enter this link location:

<https://gis.stlouiscountymn.gov/LandExplorer/>

Using your mouse, navigate to Burntside Lake by “dragging” the image and using the zoom feature, then move to and zoom in on your property of choice. Once arrived at your chosen location, County LandExplorer’s “bird’s eye” mode can provide you a more three-dimensional-looking view. Click on the tilted compass icon in the tool bar (marked by the arrow in the image below). Drag the compass symbol (which turns green) into the initial Land Explorer aerial view. In this example the marina area of Burntside Lodge was selected to open a new web page in the Bird’s Eye mode. You can also locate images by property address or county parcel numbers.

In the new screen there is a compass which can be clicked on to select images with views taken from different directions (approximately North, South, East and West). The view can be zoomed in and out with the plus and minus buttons just under that compass. The center of the image can be changed by putting the mouse pointer in the image and dragging it in any direction.



Spawning of the Eelpout (Burbot)

Over 75 years ago Sigurd Olson writes in *Conservation Volunteer (January-February, 1946)* about an expedition one cold dark night to Outlet Bay, where the Burntside River begins.

"It was February and the mercury was down far below zero. We had come in the middle of the night to watch the spawning of the eelpout, those brownish, eel-like deep water fish that thrive in the coldest lakes of the north.

Seldom is one ever taken by hook and line except in the winter time when they approach the shallows and rivers to spawn, and never are they actually seen in the summer because of the depths which they inhabit. Only in February when they seek the shallows of some stream at night can they be watched.

As we neared the upper reaches of the Burntside River, we could hear the rapids murmuring through the dark. It was at this spot we would see them for they need shallow water, gravel and sand for their breeding. Not until we were within ten feet of the bank did we shine our lights, and then saw such a sight as few have ever seen—a struggling, squirming mass of fish, the long brownish snaky bodies twisted around each other, the entire contorted mass turning over and over beating the water into foam.

Fascinated, we stood and watched for it was a primitive sight, this mating, the water white with milt and eggs and the foam of their threshing. Out of the deep water of Burntside Lake they had come, swimming beneath the ice to reach this stretch of open water in the rapids; here in the blackness of the night they were exchanging their offerings of eggs and sperm.

"You see," said my companion, a noted scientist, "I believe the eelpout, a relative of the salt water cod, was trapped here aeons ago when an arm of the sea receded. Somehow the species managed to survive in the colder, deeper lakes, but it still spawns when the cod spawns in the ocean, irrespective of the season or the temperature here in the north, adhering to the age old habit of the species."

Such was the explanation of the wintry mating we saw before us. The squirming mass gradually quieted down, and the brown shapes slipped off into the calmer waters below the riffle. There they lay in the shadows, fanning the waters with their long eel-like tails, waiting lazily until the strange apparitions on the bank should go so they could resume the vital business before them.

Each year for centuries past these fish had come out of the lake to spawn at this particular spot, each female leaving a million or more of the smallest eggs produced by fish in inland waters. One female we took that night was estimated to have between two and three million eggs in her egg sacs. No wonder the water was colored by their release.

They spend a few nights in mid-February in the rapids and then they swim back into the depths from which they came. I had seen that night a primitive picture that I could never forget, a picture of what might have taken place in some cold primeval pool millions of years ago. There was life in the raw obeying the great urge to reproduce, the one implacable law of creation."

For more information check out: <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/minnaqua/speciesprofile/burbot.html>



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2017 Burntside Ice Out and Ice On Dates and Records

Year	Ice Out Date	Year	Ice Out Date	Ice on Date	Days of Open Water
1940	May 11	1987	April 16	December 17	245
1941	April 10	1988	April 30	November 20	204
1943	May 2	1989	May 6	December 3	211
1944	May 11	1990	April 26	December 2	220
1945	April 12	1991	April 24	November 26	216
1946	April 24	1992	May 6	November 29	207
1947	May 13	1993	April 30	November 28	212
1948	April 28	1994	May 2	December 10	222
1949	April 28	1995	April 30	November 25	209
1950	May 22	1996	May 17	November 27	194
1951	May 5	1997	May 1	December 8	221
1952	April 29	1998	April 17	December 22	249
1953	May 5	1999	April 28	December 17	233
1954	May 12	2000	April 29	December 9	224
1955	April 21	2001	May 1	December 28	241
1956	May 10	2002	May 3	November 27	208
1957	May 1	2003	May 2	December 3	215
1958	April 21	2004	April 30	December 17	231
1960	May 1	2005	April 18	December 17	243
1961	May 1	2006	April 16	December 7	235
1962	May 6	2007	April 28	December 1	217
1963	April 30	2008	May 12	December 9	211
1964	April 18	2009	May 1	December 14	227
1970	May 5	2010	April 3	December 9	250
1971	May 3	2011	May 1	December 17	230
1972	May 7	2012	March 28	December 10	257
1973	April 27	2013	May 19	December 19	214
1974	May 2	2014	May 13	November 28	199
1975	April 30	2015	April 21	December 25	248
1976	April 19	2016	April 24	December 18	238
1977	April 24	2017	April 19		
1978	May 4				
1979	May 12				
1980	April 28				
1981	April 12				
1982	May 4				
1983	April 23				
1984	April 26				
1985	April 26				
1986	April 19				

Earliest Ice Out March 28, 2012

Latest Ice Out May 22, 1950

Median Ice Out April 30

Earliest Ice On November 20, 1988

Latest Ice On December 28, 2001

Median Ice On December 9

Fewest Open Water Days 194

Median Open Water Days 221.5

Most Open Water Days 257

From the Treasurer’s Desk ...

The Articles of Incorporation of 1976 establish the purposes of **Burntside Lake Association** “to enhance, promote and protect the interest of property owners on Burntside Lake and the watershed thereof; to protect the environment thereof; and to contribute to the recreational, social and civic welfare of the community.” As a property owner, that’s in your interest! As a non-profit corporation we operate with no political agenda. Wouldn’t you like to join?

We send the newsletter to all property owners, whether or not they are members of the Association, with the hope that they also send in their \$20 dues. We are able to keep the dues low because of the advertising placed by businesses in the Ely Community. We encourage you to patronize their businesses!

Please send this form with your \$20 dues for 2017. Checks may be made payable to: “Burntside Lake Association”.

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2017 Burntside Lake Association Dues and/or Address Change Notification

Name (Please Print): _____

Mailing Address (if changed): _____

E-Mail Address: _____

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Enclosed are 2017 dues of \$20 | <input type="checkbox"/> Please note my change of address |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Please remove me from your mailing list | <input type="checkbox"/> Please note my e-mail address change |

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