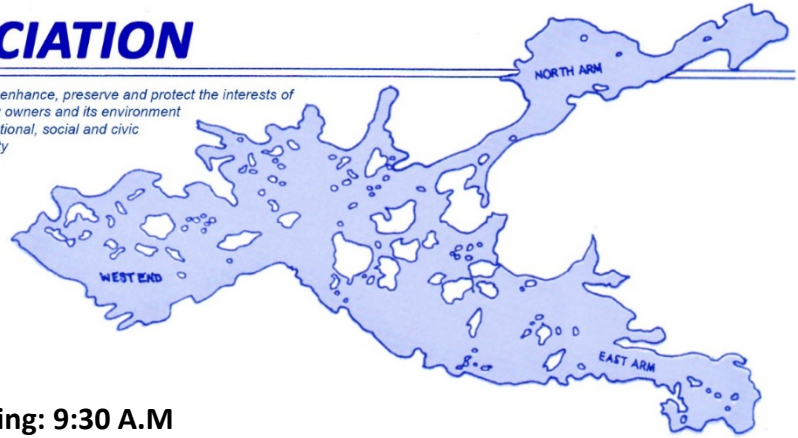


BURNTSIDE LAKE ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 81 ELY, MINNESOTA 55731

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 XXIII, Summer 2016

2016 ANNUAL Meeting

Place: Vermillion Community College

Date: Saturday, August 6, 2016

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

Topic: Aquatic Invasive Species and the Future of Burntside Lake

Our Burntside Lake Association AIS Task Force will give us a status report on AIS monitoring and control for our lake and community. To succeed in meeting project goals, your awareness, support and participation is critical.

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Diedre Plude*
Jeff Rome

Island Reps:

Bob Leininger
Paul Gustad

*Newsletter advertising

From the President :

In January, we completed our application to St. Louis County for a grant from St. Louis County to combat the spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS) to and from Burntside Lake and among the other lakes in the greater Ely area. We were awarded almost \$190,000 to carry out these specific projects:

- **Launch Site Boat Inspections and Education.** Provide DNR-trained Level 1 boat inspectors at the Van Vac public landing and other boat landings on Burntside Lake.
- **Decontamination Stations.** Place two boat decontamination units operated by DNR certified boat inspectors: one on Burntside and another in Ely.
- **Education and Awareness in Ely.** Because there are so many lakes in the Ely area with different AIS present, it is important that all visitors and boat operators in the Ely area are aware of the risks of AIS and know how to prevent their spread. Work with resorts, restaurants, outfitters, bait shops and others who serve boaters to raise awareness and provide educational materials on what to do.
- **Build Partnerships with Ely-Area Organizations.** We cannot do this alone. We have begun to meet with other lake associations in the area to try and build a more region-wide approach to the problem.
- **Build Early Detection Capabilities.** Working with the Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center (MAISRC) and other groups, we will be training BLA volunteers on how to identify AIS so that we can respond quickly to try and eradicate any introductions into Burntside.

In April, a newly redesigned web site was created to better present AIS information and more timely updates for Burntside Lake news. See it now at our web address: www.Burntside.org. We are now using a mailing list manager to send timely messages. If you have not been receiving our mailings you can subscribe to the list by visiting this link: <http://www.burntside.org/get-our-newsletter.html>. Many of us use GMAIL as our email provider. Depending on your options, BLA mail may be diverted to your "promotions" or "junk" folders. If you move the message to your inbox, BLA mail will go directly to your inbox

Stories of Association Board Members Places on Burntside

At our BLA 2016 Spring Board meeting, we took a moment to introduce ourselves and describe our family history on the lake. It turned out the members had some wonderful stories and recollections

Jeff Rome: I have been a visitor to Burntside Lake for many years, since my first canoe trip as a boy. In 1989, my wife and I purchased our property on the south shore of the lake. We now reside at the cabin about half the year, enjoying this beautiful setting all seasons. Burntside has become a touchstone in our lives and important for all our extended family. Along with the waters of the lake, the wildlife, and the boreal forest, we greatly value the many friends we have made over the years around the lake and in the Ely area.

Niki Roussopoulos Geisler: I represent the North Arm as a staff member of the YMCA of the Greater Twin Cities, who owns and operates two camps on the North Arm- Camp Widjiwagan and Camp du Nord. For more than 85 years, the YMCA has had presence on Burntside Lake and has impacted thousands of teens and families through its wilderness based programming. I have been the Executive Director of Camp du Nord for seven years and my husband, Brian, was a Program Director at Camp Widjiwagan from 2011-2015.

Pam Freeman: Pam and Fletcher Freeman have been permanent residents on the East End of Burntside for the past seven years. Fletcher's Great Grandparents, Charles and Agatha Hario, emigrated from Finland in the 1880's and were the first Finns to get married in Ely. Fletcher's Grandfather, A. I. Levorsen, purchased land on the East Arm and built a summer home there in 1933. Fletcher brought Pam up to the summer home on their Honeymoon in 1970, and they have been coming up every year since then. They finally moved to Ely from Dallas, Texas in 1998 and completed their home on Burntside in 2009.

Paul Gustad: My Burntside lake experience began in 1948 as a camper at Widjiwagan. From 1955-57 I was a counselor, wilderness canoe guide, and program director. In 1957 my wife Barb joined the Widji staff as camp nurse. As our son and daughter grew up we camped and "cabined" on the lake. In 1982 we acquired our cabin on the south end of Blueberry Island. We continue to enjoy "the lake" we all appreciate as Burntside.



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Eric Webster (“Good Dog Island”) : We bought our place in 2011, which makes it one of the more recent cabin establishments on the lake. I was told that of the 41 properties for sale on Burntside that summer, ours was the only one that sold. The person we bought it from had been trying with limited resources to build a livable cabin on the footprint of an older existing cabin for a couple of decades. At one point, the County attempted to shut down his project, claiming that the cabin he was building violated shoreline setback regulations. Fortunately for him (and for us), he was able to produce a variance granted in the 1970’s, which grandfathered in the existing previous cabin where our cabin is now. The person we bought from was heartbroken at the sale, as it meant the end of his dream of making a summertime retreat to share with his family.

When we took possession, the island had only a lot number to distinguish itself, which emergency responders would be unable to locate. It also lacked plumbing and interior surfaces. In order to get a 911 address we were told the island had to have a name. In the 72 hours we had to consider options, “Good Dog Island” was what we came up with. I later learned that some locals had called it “Untinen Island” after the name of a previous owner. Burntside resident and Ely native Doug Luthanen recalls that as a teen he was commissioned to haul materials to the island to help Emil Untinen construct the small fishing shack (now used as a studio) on the island. A succession of earlier Untinen’s and other Finnish-sounding family names dominate the list of the previous owners on the Abstract of Title; originally the island was part of a much larger tract purchased by Van Vacton Harris, whose granddaughter, Nancy Jo Tubbs, retains a smaller neighboring island to this day.

Rodney Nyenhuis: After vacationing in Ely for a number of years, my wife Julie and I decided to look for a piece of lake property. We contacted a local realtor, Bill Trygg during the winter of 1983- 84. We arranged to view some properties in mid-March. We met with Bill at his office and decided on three specific properties that attracted us. The first property was located on County road 88 next door to the Burntside Lodge. We parked on County 88 and began walking up what passed for a driveway. Bill had gone out the day before and using snow shoes made a path up the driveway, which hardened overnight. Stepping off the path resulted in snow at least waist deep.



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We climbed a long hill finally reaching the top. Bill led us to a set of stairs that lead up to the top of ledge rock. Upon reaching the top of the stairs we were ready for an oxygen tank. I became aware of a roof top slightly to the left of the walkway. I could see a number on the cabins door. I was very disappointed that we had worked so hard to see such a small place, not at all what we expected. Bill assured us that this was not the cabin, but part of the Lodge. Another 75 feet and we got our first view of the property. The outside was exactly as we had imagined. After installing the master fuses we looked at the inside of the cabin.

After going over the inside and the entire outside Bill suggested that we should start for the other properties. We informed Bill that we would not be looking at the other properties and wished to make an offer on this property. We returned to Bill's office and drew up the formal purchase agreement. The property was being sold by a brother and sister. The agreement had to be sent to Illinois and Colorado for both parties to agree and sign. The next month took forever but finally we got the call from Bill that both parties had agreed. The closing also took place by snail mail and finally on Memorial weekend, 1984 we moved in and took possession. We have never been disappointed with our choice and our children have indicated their desire to keep the property after Julie and I can't enjoy it any more.




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The Rautio (Mack) Cabin by Reynold Mack

I luckily have a lake cabin on Burntside Lake because it was in my wife's {Carol Rautio} family. Carol's father and mother purchased a piece of property in the Passi Plot on the east arm of Burntside in Minister Bay in 1947 for \$200. The property was an island when they purchased it and that is why the price was low. Carol and her sister spent summers out there after the boat house that was turned into the cabin was erected. Carol would stay out there by herself during the summer when she was in grade school and high school.

The interesting thing that I found is that Carol's father did the plumbing work on the Francis Matthews {Secretary of the Navy} cabin over by Waters Island about that time which is probably why he could purchase the property. Waino Rautio was the town plumber in Ely. I'm sure while he was working on the Matthews cabin he noticed that they were taking down cabins on Waters Island, and he was able to obtain one of them and take it over to Minister Bay by water to erect a boat house on his property. It was a special place built on a massive ledge with a dock all the way around which the ice didn't damage it in the winter. Unfortunately I think at that time that is all they could afford so the boat house became the cabin. Many on the lake remember the old cabin in Minister Bay. People would sometimes fish so close to the front of that cabin we could reach out the front window and shake their hands.

Carol always wanted to build a log cabin for her dad on the higher part of the property. That was his dream and Carol wanted to make that dream happen. Unfortunately Waino passed away before we could get started. We still finished his and Carol's dream. We had Barry Bissonette do the log work in the winter of 1981 one of the nastiness winters in a long time. This was Barry's first bigger cabin, we were so lucky to have him help us. Carol and I dug and poured the footings by hand in the summer of 1980 because there were no barges on the lake at that time. We peeled a little over half of the 126 logs across the bay at Dr. Frank Udovich's property on Thanksgiving weekend in 1980. We had 12 or more people come up and help. Barry dragged the logs across the bay over the ice in early 1981, and he used a winch that worked off his chain saw to pull the logs up on the island. We had to work on keeping the front of the logs from digging into the hillside. After that Carol and I continued at finishing the cabin over a 25+ year period often on weekend trips from the cities.

The cabin sits on a point so that we always get a breeze from somewhere. There are many personal treasurers in the cabin from Carol's dad, fishing equipment, handmade snowshoes pictures and all the right touches by Carol. The massive fireplace is the center of attention as well as the Finnish Sauna {the first room done in the cabin as is a Finnish tradition}. We still go to the cabin by water. Luckily we don't have far to go. Dr, Udovich sold us a small piece of property for a lake access point off of Passi Road, so our travel by water is only about 300 yards. The water access makes it a special place.

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The Sundholm Cabin in the 20's by Phil Voxland

In 1921 Uncle Arvid and Aunt Ellen Sundholm built their first cabin near Sandemar and the Van Vac public landing. Birch trees were pioneering the restoration of a forest after commercial logging had cleared the area.



In 1923 the East Arm is visible down the drive from Van Vac Road



The simple original Cabin did have a screened porch



Looking from inside to the porch



Logging timbers had washed up on the sandy shore



Friends help friends get to the beach!



FAB was there for clothes washing (Oliver Island in the distance)

Leininger's Island by Bob and Phyllis Leininger

Our understanding of the history at our island begins in the early 1900's when the United States deeded this property to a private individual. Around 1904 the St Croix Lumber Company and later the 1913 the St Croix Lumber and Manufacturing Company owned the Island as recoded in our abstract which recorded that these were companies: "Whose General Nature at business shall be to do all kinds of mining, manufacturing and mechanical business; to purchase, own, hold and dispose of lumber and all the products of timber; to carry on and to conduct general logging, lumber and manufacturing business: to erect buy and sell saw mills, shingle mills, planing mills and all other mills and factories: to own, buy, sell, lease and improve lands and for the purpose at smelting, reducing, refining or working of ores and minerals, etc for the Principal Place of Business: Winton, Minnesota"

The island was again in private ownership when in July 1934 Frank Hubachek bought the Island reportedly to insure that the magnificent white and red pines would be saved from lumbering in the future. The abstract has it named as "Hippo Island". On February 14th, 1945 a local Ely banker, Mr. Somero bought the Island for his wife Mary Somero for a valentine. Mary referred to the Island as Acorn Island where the squirrels to this day scamper up and down the oak trees chasing each other.

For Bob Leininger, who was Canadian born and raised on the prairies of North Dakota where there were no trees and the water bodies were shallow sloughs for the migrating duck, there has always been a "need" for the pine trees and lakes.

In 1987 Bob's former Alaska dreams transferred to the BWCA and the Northern Woods. The search was on. Our son John (working at Widjiwagan) kept saying "Dad, check out Ely". After a few visits and checking out cabins, Trygg's Land Office sent a note. "On Bumtside Lake there is this 7.25 acre Island that has beautiful pine trees you might want to see." The 4 hour trip from Roseville, MN seemed like a piece of cake: 2 Hours out of the Cities and 2 hours into the boundary waters.

The island was a short boat ride due north of Burnside Lodge, just east from the "jumping rock" with federal land bordering a channel on the north side. This was our *perfect spot*. If you believe in LOVE at first sight, it was here! We went back to the Cities and the next week left a note for our then teenage kids. "Went to buy an Island" and we did. (Phyllis now likes to think it was her birthday present as it was her birthday.)

A full log cabin on the crest of the rock, among the stalely pine, with a 365 degree view of Burnside Lake was the dream. in reality. Berry Bissontte orchestrated carrying the scribed western red cedar logs to the landing. Bob and sons towed 2 logs at a time across the lake then manhandled each log with log-dogs up to the crest of the rock and reassembled the logs in to a beautiful cabin. A sauna. Building, guest cabin, two "biffies" and a Teepee round out the living quarters.

There are numerous stories still lingering in our memories (a tree smashing Bob's sleeping tent in a mega storm while he was in town getting more supplies). Come visit! We would love to share more of ours memories and hear your stories. For our whole family, kids, grandkids and for future generations we know this special place will be a blessings of peace and tranquility that we value.



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TeepsRock by Ward T. Nelson

In the big blue book, Since 1888, Ely published by The Ely Echo in 1988 my Dad, Theodore Petrus Nelson, wrote "This is the saga of one family, descendants of Swedish immigrants, that holds title to TeepsRock among precious lands abraded eons ago by glaciers and where now grows a wild, wide garden of conifers, birch, maple and tiny flowers. Cool, clean waters reflect Heaven's blue dome dappled with white clouds." Dad was known to his 23 nieces and nephews as Uncle Teep. His initials "TP" had earned him the nickname "Wigwam" during his US Navy officer's training during World War II

Mom is Eleanor L. Nelson and is better known as "FarMor." Her youngest sister's husband, Dr. Harold Q. Kirk, became a most successful eye surgeon in Chicago after growing up on a poor farm in North Dakota. Uncle Harold introduced our family to Canadian fishing trips in Manitoba and Ontario. One year, on the way home, we took a detour through Ely which Dad had heard and read about. As we drove through town he remarked, "I like the feel of this place." The cool fresh air was a welcome contrast to the hot, humid summers at home in Rock Island, Illinois.

Due to the Viet Nam war I was drafted into the US Army from graduate school at Dartmouth in June 1969. After completing Combat Engineering Officer Candidate School, and Finance Officer training I had a couple of weeks leave before heading for 13 months of duty in South Korea. In September 1970 Dad and I took the opportunity to drive to Ely with a Grumman sport boat on top of the family station wagon in search of property to fulfill a dream of building a place on a lake in the North woods.

We spent a few days exploring with local real estate agents. We discovered that all lakes in the Ely area were not equal. It didn't take long to figure out that Burntside Lake was the premier lake in the region. Land prices also reflected a premium. The variety of properties and spectrum of prices had us somewhat confused and discouraged. We were describing our quest to the bartender at Vertin's and he mentioned that a lady in town had recently become widowed and was listing some property on Burntside Lake. As you might expect he knew her name and where she lived. We drove over, knocked at the door and met a delightful lady, Elizabeth Domich. She explained her situation, told us where the property was, and explained that she had listed the property with an agent in Tower.

The next morning which was quite cool and misty we boated into Sunset Bay for the first time. Jim Baxter paddled up in his canoe with three little girls and invited us into his sauna cabin where Diane was making breakfast. The next day we went to Tower and signed purchase agreements. Dad purchased Lot 7. With proceeds from selling my 1964 Olds Cutlass Convertible, I purchased Lot 9 and Outlot B (known as Ward's Hole). Pictures of my Burntside Lake shore line hung in my finance office for the next 13 months at Camp Humphrey's in South Korea. My wife, Muffin, saw those photos when she visited me there.

When my Dad brought Uncle Harold up to see his property, Uncle Harold just shook his head and said, "Teep, you just bought a damn rock." From that day forward the family compound has been known as TeepsRock.

Planning for a cabin began and in 1975 the Nelson work crew built a structure of pre-cut western cedar timbers in two weeks. The maximum crew of 27 including the Kirk Family gathered for food and banter under the dining tarp. Water was carried in buckets from the lake. The work day began at 0800 and ended with swimming and saunas at 4 pm. There was singing around a campfire every evening. In 1976 the four Nelson kids (Ward, Brad, Lee, and Leanna and their spouses; Muffin, Nancy, Lorri and Chris) bought the cabin and sauna between Dad's lot and my lot from Mrs. Ellen Saari. The approximately 650 feet of shore line with 5 structures is now placed in the TeepsRock Trust and will hopefully fulfill Mom and Dad's dream to preserve a place to be enjoyed by future generations. Mom, age 92, still spends the summers at TeepsRock and is one of the five Trustees. We divide the year into 2 week blocks and annually lay out the calendar. Each of the four families "owns the property" during their selected 2 week blocks. However, nobody displaces Mom from "The Captain's Quarters."



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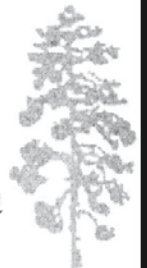


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50 Firewise things you can do to protect your Lake Place

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1. Move your firewood pile out of your home's [defensible space](#).
2. Perform a [FIREWISE assessment](#) of your home.
3. Clean your roof and gutters of leaves and pine needles (best done in October).
4. Clear the view of your house number so it can be easily seen from the street.
5. Put a hose (at least 100' long) on a rack and attach it to an outside faucet.
6. Trim all tree branches that overhang your house.
7. Trim all tree branches from within 20' of all chimneys.
8. Remove trees along the driveway to make it 12' wide.
9. Prune branches overhanging the driveway to have 14' overhead clearance.
10. Maintain a green lawn for 30' around your home.
11. If new homes are still being built in your area, talk to the developer and local zoning officials about building standards.
12. Plan and discuss an escape plan with your family. Have a practice drill. Include your pets.
13. Get involved with your community's disaster mitigation plans.
14. Check your fire extinguishers. Are they still charged? Are they easy to get to in an emergency? Does everyone in the family know where they are and how to use them?
15. Clear deadwood and dense flammable vegetation from your home's [defensible space](#).
16. Remove evergreen shrubs from your home's defensible space, especially if your home is in a high-risk area.
17. Review your homeowner's insurance policy for adequate coverage. Consult your insurance agent about costs of rebuilding and repairs in your area.
18. Talk to your children about not starting fires or playing with matches.
19. If you have a [burn barrel that you use for burning trash](#)  , STOP!
20. Compost leaves in the fall, don't burn them.
21. If you burn your brush piles or grass, get a [burning permit](#). [Tips on debris burning](#)
22. Always have a shovel on hand and hook up the garden hose BEFORE you start the fire.
23. Never burn if the smoke and flames are blowing toward your home (or your neighbor's home).
24. Be a Firewise advocate.



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27. Install metal screens on all attic, foundation, and other openings on your home to prevent accumulation of leaves and needles.
28. Hold a neighborhood meeting to talk about fire safety. Invite your local fire chief. Have coffee and donuts for neighbors.
29. Install a fire extinguisher in the kitchen AND the garage.
30. Install a metal shield between your home and an attached wood fence.
31. Replace evergreen shrubs with low-flammable plants in your home's defensible space.
32. Thin and prune conifer trees for 30' to 100' around your home.
33. Purchase and use a NOAA weather alert radio. Many types of emergencies are announced through this service.
34. Replace vinyl gutters and downspouts with nonflammable metal gutters and downspouts.
35. Install a spark arrestor or heavy wire screen with opening less than 1/2" on wood burning fireplaces and chimneys.

37–40: Moderate cost actions (\$50 - \$250 and a little more work)

36. Build a gravel turnaround area near your house big enough to allow a fire truck to turn around.
37. Join your neighbors in having an additional access road into your neighborhood. Share the costs.
38. Treat flammable materials like wood roofs, decks, and siding with fire- retardant chemicals.
39. Modify driveway gates to accommodate fire trucks. They should be at least 10' wide and set back at least 30' from the road. If locked, use a key box approved by your local fire department or use a chain loop with the lock that can be cut in an emergency.
40. Enclose decks to prevent accumulation of leaves, needles, and debris. Include a metal screen with a 1/8" mesh opening to prevent sparks from getting under the deck

41–50: High cost actions (more than \$500)

41. Replace your roof with fire-resistant materials such as Class A shingles.
42. Install a roof irrigation system to protect your home's roof.
43. Install an independent water supply for a sprinkler system with a nonelectric (e.g., propane) powered pump capable of running unattended for 24 hours.
44. Replace wood or vinyl siding with nonflammable material.
45. Replace single-pane glass windows and plastic skylights with tempered, double-pane glass.
46. Box in eaves, fascias, and soffits with aluminum or steel materials with metal screens to prevent entry of sparks.
47. Improve driveway culverts and bridges to accommodate the weight of a fire truck.
48. Relocate propane tanks inside the defensible space but at least 10' from the house. Have nonflammable ground cover such as gravel around them for 10'.
49. Have electric service lines to your house placed underground.
50. Improve your driveway by straightening sharp curves and filling in sharp dips that would hinder a fire truck.

Status of the Burntside Lake Fishery

<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/lakefind/showreport.html?downum=69011800>

Burntside Lake is located northwest of Ely and has five public motor boat accesses as well as a number of portage and water route connections to other nearby lakes. It is a 7,314 acre lake with a maximum depth of 126 feet and clear water. There are several relatively minor inlets, located mostly on the north side of the lake. The Shagawa River is the only outlet which flows out of the southwest corner of the lake where it then turns and heads east to Shagawa Lake. Burntside Lake is a two-story fishery with deep, cold, well oxygenated water capable of supporting a cold water fishery (fish such as lake trout, lake whitefish, cisco and burbot) and a shallow, warmer, but still well oxygenated area capable of supporting a cool and warm water fishery (fish such as walleye, northern pike, bass and panfish).

Unfortunately, rainbow smelt and spiny water flea, both non-native invasive species are also present in Burntside Lake. Rainbow smelt were first discovered in the lake in 1970. Their presence is likely a result of an unintended bait release or the consequence of smelt netters cleaning their catch from Lake Superior on their docks and unintentionally introducing fertilized eggs to the lake. Spiny

water flea are a zooplankton that were first discovered in Burntside Lake in 2010. Their presence is likely a result of infested boats or fishing equipment being used on Burntside. There is an increased risk of spread with this small invasive as they can attach to fishing lines, downriggers, anchor ropes and fishing nets, as well as be transported in bait buckets, bilges and livewells of boats if they are not completely dried out.

Burntside is one of the most popular lakes in the Tower area providing for a number of recreational pursuits. It is a prototypical northern Minnesota/Canadian shield waterbody with shorelines covered in tall pines, areas of tall granite ledge rock, many islands, exceptionally clear water and much of the shoreline undeveloped. Areas along the south shore, east end and parts of the north arm are accessible by road. Some of these areas are moderately developed with homes and cabins. Most of the undeveloped public land is owned by the US Forest Service. Several lakeshore campsites are located on the north arm and west end.

In the spring of 2015 the Forest Service conducted prescribed burns along the north shore of much of the west end and part of the southwest side of the north arm. Some of the islands on the west end were also burned. Lake bottom substrates along the shoreline are mostly boulder and ledgerock. Some bays have soft bottoms with a fair amount of aquatic vegetation. Additionally, a few bays are quite sandy and make for great swimming areas.

Burntside has a long history of stocking dating back to 1912. Since 1965, walleye and lake trout were the only species that were stocked. Lake trout were stocked from the 1990's to 2010. Walleye fingerlings are still currently being stocked in even years at around 25,000 fish per stocking. This survey used four different net types: deep water gill nets, shallow water gill nets, small mesh gill nets and trap nets. **Fish species sampled included black crappie, bluegill, burbot, golden shiner, green sunfish, hybrid sunfish, lake trout, lake whitefish, northern pike, rainbow smelt, rock bass, sculpin, shorthead redhorse, smallmouth bass, walleye, white sucker and yellow perch.**

The deep water gillnet catch for **lake trout** was just over one fish per net, down slightly from other assessments on Burntside Lake, and just below average when compared to other area trout lakes. Fish from 9 to 27 inches were sampled with an average length of 15 inches. The largest fish sampled and the average length are on par with previous surveys. The average weight was nearly two pounds. In 2010, lake trout stocking was discontinued, but all lake trout stocked prior to this had been fin-clipped for later age identification. Of the 22 lake trout captured in the 2015 assessment, only one fish was fin clipped. This indicated over 95% of the fish captured were naturally reproduced. Lake trout ranged in age from 2 to 12 years. Fish over 17 inches long or older than 6 years generally were sexually mature. Growth for young fish on Burntside was slightly slower but older fish was slightly faster compared to other trout populations in the Tower area.

Lake whitefish in Burntside first started showing declines starting in 1982 and the 2015 catch rate was the lowest on record. Only six lake whitefish were caught in all the nets combined. Sizes ranged from 23 to 27 inches with an average of 25 inches. Ages of all six fish ranged from 24 to 54 years old, indicating that there has been little to no natural reproduction for the last 25 years. The average weight was just over 6 pounds and the largest whitefish weighed in at nearly 9.5 pounds.

Cisco (tullibee) are noticeable by their absence from surveys since 1999. An average of 4 fish/deep gill net were captured from 1950 through 1986. Cisco numbers then gradually declined until 1997 when the last cisco was sampled. Declines of cisco and lake whitefish were likely due to the smelt introduction.

The deep water gillnet catch for **burbot** was nearly a half a fish per net which was slightly better than average for Burntside Lake. Sizes were 20 to 24 inches with an average length of 22 inches. Although lake whitefish are on the decline and cisco seem to have disappeared completely, the burbot catch has remained relatively unchanged through time.

Sixty-five **walleye** were sampled in the shallow water gill nets for a catch rate of just over five fish per net which is better than the historic average for Burntside Lake. Lengths ranged from 7 to 29 inches with an average of 16 inches which was slightly better than the average. The average weight was two pounds. Walleye growth in Burntside Lake is exceptional, likely due to the presence of smelt as a forage. Fish from 1 to 20 years old were sampled with all but the two oldest fish coming from a stocked year class. Ten year classes were identified with 2012, a stocked year, representing just over 50% of the catch.

The **northern pike** shallow water gillnet catch was just over two fish per net which is better than average for Burntside Lake. Lengths ranged from 12 to 38 inches with an average of 25 inches. Both the average and maximum lengths were on par with previous surveys. The average weight was over four pounds.

Twelve **smallmouth bass** were sampled in shallow water gill nets. Lengths ranged from 6 to 19 inches with an average of 11 inches. Thirty-three smallmouth were also sampled in trap nets for a catch rate of just over two fish per net which is the highest on record for the lake and quite high when compared to other similar lakes. The trapnetted fish tended to be a little smaller than fish from the gill nets. Growth was slow compared to other smallmouth bass populations in the area. Ages ranged from 3 to 10 years.

The **bluegill** trapnet catch in 2015 was over 11 fish/net which is much higher than the two previous surveys that used trap nets. Sizes were relatively small though ranging from 3 to 8 inches with an average of 5 inches. The yellow perch shallow gillnet catch was just under one fish per net which is average for the lake. The lengths ranged from 8 to 10 inches. These sizes are comparable to previous surveys.

High catches of **rock bass** were sampled in both shallow gill nets and trap nets. The shallow gill net catch rate was the highest catch rate on record for the lake. Combining the catches of both nets, lengths ranged from 4 to 9 inches with an average of 6 inches.

Other species sampled in nets but in low numbers were **black crappie, green sunfish, hybrid sunfish (pumpkinseed and northern sunfish cross), shorthead redhorse, sculpin, golden shiner and white sucker**.

Rainbow smelt are a non-native invasive fish that were first documented in Burntside Lake in 1970. Regular small-mesh gillnetting began in 1987. Previous surveys of smelt catches were highly variable but more recent assessments are showing lower numbers. The 2015 assessment shows the lowest catch rate to date. Sizes have remained relatively constant through time though. *It is likely that the unintentional introduction of smelt has resulted in the nearly total failure of natural reproduction of walleye, lake whitefish, and cisco in Burntside Lake.* Lake trout natural reproduction was also poor and has only recently showed signs of rebounding. These are all species that do not nest or otherwise protect their eggs or young following spawning. Smelt have been shown to have effects on these other species both by preying on eggs or young fish and by competing with these species for food.

Spiny water flea (*Bythotrephes longimanus*) are a non-native invasive zooplankton that were first discovered in Burntside Lake in 2010. They are known to consume other native zooplanktons which are often an important food source for native fish. Evidence from other lakes has shown a decline or elimination of some species of native zooplankton after spinys were introduced. There is an increased risk of spread with this small invasive as they can attach to fishing lines, downriggers, anchor ropes, and fishing nets, as well as be transported in bait buckets, bilges and live wells of boats if they are not completely dried out. Although they were only recently introduced to Burntside Lake, their impacts have yet to be determined.

Length of Fish Surveyed in Burntside Lake - July 2015

The Department of Natural Resources, uses a number and variety of nets or traps to sample the distribution and number of fish species. The previous survey was in 2011. This table gives us an estimate of the sizes of each species throughout the lake. Table edited from: <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/lakefind/showreport.html?downum=69011800>

Species	Number of fish caught in each category (inches)										Total
	0-5	6-7	8-9	10-11	12-14	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	
Black Crappie		3	2	1							6
Bluegill	142	28	1								171
Burbot						1	4				5
Golden Shiner		1									1
Green Sunfish	13										13
Hybrid Sunfish	2										2
Lake Trout	3	1	1	4	6	2	2	3			22
Lake Whitefish							4	2			6
Northern Pike					3	2	8	12	5	2	32
Rainbow Smelt	26	8									34
Rock Bass	168	83	4								255
Sculpin	12										12
Shorthead Redhorse						6	3				9
Smallmouth Bass	4	22	13	1	1	4					45
Walleye	1	5	1	4	27	10	15	3			66
White Sucker					1	1	2				4
Yellow Perch	2	7	3	2							14

Burntside Lake Ice Out (1940-2016) and Ice On (1987-2015) Dates

Year	Ice Out Date	Year	Ice Out Date	Ice on Date	Days 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		
1977	April 24				
1978	May 4		Earliest Ice Out	March 28, 2012	
1979	May 12		Latest Ice Out	May 22, 1950	
1980	April 28		Median Ice Out	April 29	
1981	April 12				
1982	May 4		Earliest Ice On	November 20, 1988	
1983	April 23		Latest Ice On	December 28, 2001	
1984	April 26		Median Ice On	December 8	
1985	April 26				
1986	April 19		Fewest Open Water Days	194	
			Median Open Water Days	221	
			Most Open Water Days	257	



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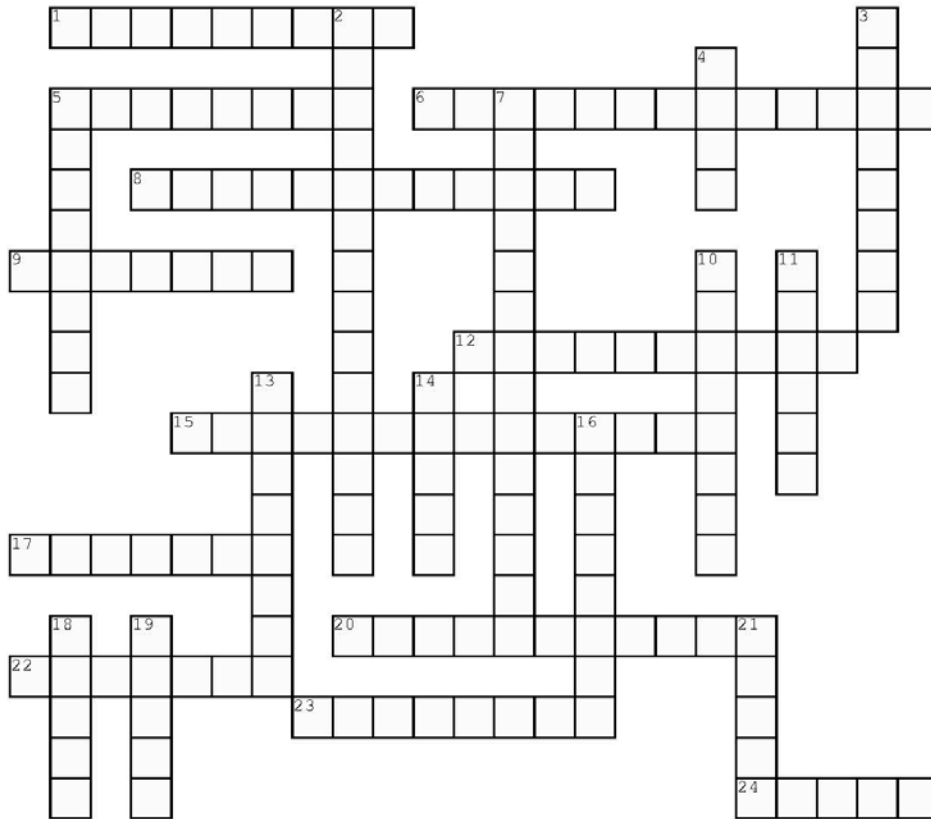


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Burntside Teaser

How well do you know the lake?



Across

1. Ally in fight against 5 Down
5. Burntside's own Secretary of the Navy (see 2015 Newsletter)
6. AIS present in Vermilion
8. Feisty sportfish
9. BWCA's Canadian counterpart
12. North Arm YMCA camp
15. Hoist Bay historic monument
17. Aquatic Invasive plant
20. AIS first transported in ocean-going ship
22. Tasty eating fish
23. Road serving southern end of lake
24. A warm prelude to a cool dip

Down

2. Sigurd's hangout
3. Site of 2016 wildfire
4. Alternative to 21 Down
5. Summertime pest
7. AIS already present in Burntside
10. Bay or Lake for a Sunday sermon?
11. Burntside River winter spawner
13. Popular North Arm portage
14. Playful Burntside resident
16. Rustic convenience
18. Road along Burntside's northern shore
19. Boat securing device
21. Fishers' temptations

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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 2016. Checks may be made payable to: "Burntside Lake Association".

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2016 Burntside Lake Association Dues and/or Address Change Notification

Name (Please Print): _____

Mailing Address (if changed): _____

E-Mail Address: _____

- Enclosed are 2016 dues of \$20
- Please remove me from your mailing list

- Please note my change of address
- Please note my e-mail address change

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