

2011 Elbow Lake Update

Lake Superior State University recently did a study on Elbow Lake in the spring of 2010. They found that the dissolved oxygen level was good. The average pH was 4.53, which was even lower than the average pH of 5.18 measured in fall 2009. They found an abundance of good sized blue gills and some perch and bass. They also found a shortage of minnows and other baitfish. They recommended that Elbow Lake be limed to improve growth and survival of fish stocked into the lake. They also recommended that Elbow should have about 10,000 minnows added along with more bass. This is providing the pH level is adequate when tested this spring. The club maintenance crew and Lester added lime last year that improved the pH to adequate levels. LSSU will be back in early spring to test the pH. If the levels are adequate the bass and baitfish will be stocked in May.

It was also recommended that fish covers be added to protect the fish from predators, particularly any Cormorants that could be nearby. Club volunteers went into action in January and made about 20 fish covers using members' old Christmas trees and other cuttings. They were wired together by twos along with weights and left on the ice near the shore. See picture below.



Picture taken from boat launch

The trees were brought onto the ice by snowmobiles. The project took about half a day to complete.



Volunteers who helped are pictured above and from left to right:
Dan Crandall, Fred Miller, Ivan Darling, John MacFarland, Jim MacMeekin, and
Jim Rutledge.

Many years ago fish covers were set out in the other half of the lake and seemed to have done a good job. LSSU found young bluegills in the lake last year indicating there is active reproduction in the Elbow. Hopefully, these new covers will add to this reproduction.