

Pelican Lakes Property Owners Association Winter Newsletter 2008

Letter From the President

We're often asked what PLPOA does over the winter. The past few months have been especially busy and we have a lot to share with you!

First, I'm pleased to announce the Pelican Lake Exotic Species Task Force is moving forward with the implementation their first major project spring of 2008. This team, lead by Clyde Clement, is comprised of numerous community partners, including representatives from PLPOA, the PLCC and area businesses. They have formulated a strategy to help prevent the spread of additional non-native species, including zebra mussels, into our lakes. More details will be shared regarding this expansive initiative shortly!

You'll note I used the term "additional non-native" above. Pelican is no longer free of "exotic species". When PLPOA asked the DNR to check aquatic plants at access points last summer, a non-native plant, curly-leaf pondweed was identified in Breezy Bay and Halverson Bay. It was not found at the Little Pelican access. Under certain conditions, curly-leaf will spread rapidly which can impact recreational activities and negatively impact water quality. But do we have those conditions that would encourage the plant to flourish?

To answer this concern as well as other critical questions, the PLPOA Board has engaged the services of a well-respected, independent expert, Steve McComas of Blue Water Science. Once we evaluate the existing locations and collect sediment samplings this spring, we can then establish an effective management plan. This process will require volunteers as well as approximately \$10,500. With Steve McComas' guidance and your help, we're hopeful early intervention will be worth the investment. Lakes with nuisance level curly-leaf can end up spending tens of thousands of dollars annually on control methods.

Funding for all of these projects come from grants and your dues/donations. Thank you to all that submitted requests for matching donations through your employer. We are very appreciative of your support – without it we could not be as diligent in our efforts.

Joan Mondale, President

Join us July 19th at the Elks Camp!

The Elks Camp has generously offered us the use of their facilities for our annual meeting! We invite you to join us on the beautiful grounds of this historic youth camp on Saturday, July 19, 2008 from 10:30 am – 11:45am.

Fun Facts on the Camp

The Minnesota Elks Youth Camp is a co-ed camp for deserving youth of Minnesota, ages nine through thirteen. The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks pay all necessary camp fees for campers. The Elks have 270 acres of property and are on both Pelican and Markee Lakes.

Who Installs Your Docks

Each year hundreds of different people enter our lakes to put in docks, deliver boats, harvest weeds, rent personal watercraft, etc. The lake associations in the Brainerd lakes community are promoting the creation of a DNR seminar for these area professionals that work in our lakes. The class would provide information on which lakes are infested with zebra mussels, Eurasian milfoil, curly-leaf pondweed, etc.; and explain how the professional could reduce his exposure for transporting the infestation to another lake. The professionals that attend this seminar will be taught to identify the various non-native species and will be asked to report possible identification of invasive species observed in lakes not currently listed as being infested.

We ask that the property owners on the Pelican Lakes contact the professionals that they use for boat storage/ delivery, dock installation, weed treatment and shoreline restoration and request that they attend this DNR seminar scheduled for early April. If you send PLPOA the name and mailing address of your professional, we will make sure that they receive an invitation. In addition, we can also add them to our communication list so that they receive our newsletters. For example, it would be helpful for them to know our two locations of curly-leaf pondweed so that they could avoid spreading it to other places in our lake, plus also avoid transferring the plant to another lake.

These professionals will be a great asset in the ongoing fight against the spread of non-native species. Please help us by sending the name / address of your professional via snail mail to our PO Box or by email to info@pelicanlakes-poa.org. Thanks for your help!!!

New Subdivision on Pelican

On 2/26/08, Crow Wing County approved the preliminary plat for a new subdivision to be built on the east side of Pelican Lake. The "Pelican Pines" development will be accessed from Morningside Drive and includes 11 homes, 8 of which are to be located on the shoreline. Go to www.co.crow-wing.mn.us, select Planning & Zoning, click on February Minutes and Agendas to view the plans.

PLPOA and the DNR approached the owner/developer last year about purchasing the property but the owner was already committed to a developer. We had hoped to help the DNR combine this land with the adjacent property to the south which is currently undergoing the process of being designated a DNR Aquatic Management Area.

If you own or know of land that may be put up for sale in the future, please contact us. We are looking to facilitate opportunities with the DNR, The Nature Conservancy, the MN Land Trust and other such organizations to help preserve the shoreline and the water quality of our lakes.

PLPOA Website

Have you ever checked out the lake cam on our website? Check out our website, www.pelicanlakes-poa.org and watch the ice go out this spring. Trying to remember information from a previous newsletter? Want to check out water quality results from the last few years? See the curly-leaf report? It's all there! Plus you can send us your favorite pictures to post!

Thank you to Glen Young for donating his time on maintaining this great site for all of us!

Curly-leaf Pondweed in Pelican Lake

In the summer of 2007, the DNR visually inspected all accesses on Pelican and Little Pelican and identified curly-leaf pondweed in two locations in Pelican Lake. The DNR report can be found on our website at www.pelicanlakes-poa.org. As you read the report you'll note that the plants were found at the private access/dock in Breezy Point Bay and the public access in Halverson Bay.

Curly-leaf pondweed is a submerged aquatic plant that typically grows in 3 -10 feet of water. In the spring, curly-leaf can form dense mats that interfere with boating and other recreational activities. It can also cause ecological problems as it displaces native plants. In mid-summer, the plants usually die back and wash up in thick masses along the shore. This is often followed by an increase in phosphorus and undesirable algae blooms.

Curly-leaf is believed to be spread lake to lake by the transporting of the turions, hardened stem tips, on plant fragments carried into the water by trailered boats or personal watercraft. It is believed to have been accidentally introduced when the common carp were intentionally brought to Minnesota in 1910. Curly-leaf is in hundreds of lakes around the state and has caused varying degrees of distress, depending upon the type of lake.

Past experiences in Minnesota and elsewhere have shown curly-leaf cannot be eliminated from a lake. Lake associations currently utilize different control methods ranging from herbicide treatments to mechanical harvesting or both, depending upon the severity of the infestation. For very small infestations, the plants may be pulled by hand. The DNR will provide limited technical advice and has recently offered grants to help lake associations cover associated treatment costs. In our meeting last fall with the DNR, PLPOA was advised to contact an independent expert to obtain advice to address our infestations.

As a result, the PLPOA board hired Steve McComas, owner of Blue Water Science. Mr. McComas met with us this past January and provided valuable information on the invasive plant. We requested a proposal from Mr. McComas that includes mapping current infestations and growth patterns as well as potential treatment protocols. While we are evaluating sediments to determine where it might spread, we will also look for areas that may be prone to Eurasian watermilfoil (not currently present) and for future zebra mussel colonization locations (not present but are in Ossawinnamakee). From there, we will develop a management plan for curly-leaf as well as potential action plans to follow if the other species appear in our lakes. In addition, we have invited Steve McComas to speak at our annual meeting on July 19th so you can have your questions answered by the expert.

As you might expect, there are costs associated with this process. We're anticipating needing upwards of \$10,500 for this summer's activities but will try to utilize volunteer help to reduce costs. We would greatly appreciate financial contributions to help cover these expenses.

If you are willing to volunteer some time, please contact us at info@pelicanlakes-poa.org or send snail mail to our PO Box or call Joan Mondale at 952-412-6023. No experience necessary!

County Road 4

3.8 miles of CSAH 4 are being redesigned starting at the intersection of CSAH 18 and ending at Lakeshore Drive. Reconstruction is scheduled to begin in 2009 with a portion of the cost covered by federal funds. *Everyone living on this corridor of CSAH 4 will be impacted!*

Crow Wing County has hired the engineering firm of WSB & Associates. While the County and WSB have made every attempt to contact the property owners on this stretch of the road, we're hoping to reach anyone that might have been inadvertently overlooked through this newsletter.

Why does Crow Wing County want to "fix" CSAH 4?

- Safety Issues
- Drainage Concerns
- Inadequate Recovery Areas
- Increased Traffic Levels
- Improve Existing Pavement Strength
- Lack of Bike/Pedestrian Access

New Design Details Include:

- 40 mph design (the posted speed may not change)
- Addition of 6 foot shoulder to both sides of road
- Curb and gutter in tight areas to minimize impact

Improved drainage and additional stormwater ponds
Roadway curvature modified (shifted left and right)
Sight distance increased by clearing of trees
Alignment of the road will be significantly altered in certain areas

What's Next?

Cultural Resource Study by MnDOT Spring 2008
Environmental Impact Studies Ongoing
Revisions based on results of studies plus those requested by County
Project Management Team (PMT) meeting early-mid summer 2008
Open House to view final design mid-late summer 2008
*Speed study by MnDOT Spring 2008 (does NOT impact road design process)

Questions or concerns? We strongly encourage you to ask your questions NOW.

Rob Hall, Crow Wing County, 218-824-1110 or Rob.Hall@crow-wing.mn.us
Becky Haydon, WSB 763-287-7145 or bhaydon@wsbeng.com
Joan Mondale, PLPOA PMT representative 952-412-6023 or jmondale@comcast.net

More Information: www.co.crow-wing.mn.us/highway

Lake Monitoring Report –From Glen Gustafson

This past summer volunteers of our lake association participated in a special research study about E. Coli bacteria monitoring in surface water. The University of Minnesota Water Resources Center sponsored the study. They provided training and research test kits for volunteers.

Samples were taken on a weekly basis and tested by the lake association volunteers. Additional samples were given to a certified lab. Results were then forwarded to the University for comparison purposes.

The final evaluation of the study indicated that the volunteer test results correlated very well with the results from the certified lab.

Three sites on the lake were tested during the summer with no indication of an E.Coli bacteria issue.

Our zebra mussel and periphyton tile study also continued last year. Two inch square ceramic tiles were placed on docks at five locations around Pelican Lake. The purpose of the tiles was to again determine if any zebra mussels were detected in the lake. Periphyton is a complex matrix of algae and heterotrophic microbes that attach to submerged substrata. The tiles were placed on June 27 and removed on September 4, 2007.

Visual analysis of the tiles determined that zebra mussels were not attached. To determine the biomass of periphyton, the tiles were weighed prior to placement and after. Those results were within normal limits.

Trophic status index was also monitored. PLPOA continued TSI monitoring on Pelican and little Pelican Lakes. Samples were collected and analyzed during June, July and August. Normally samples are taken May through September, but due to low lake levels and high winds in those months, we were unable to complete that work. The TSI readings are a combination of water clarity by depth, total phosphorus and chlorophyll. Due to low lake levels and lack of precipitation, the readings were not as desirable as in the past. We will continue our lake monitoring program in 2008 and hope to see

improved results. If you have any questions about the lake study contact Glen Gustafson at 218 765-3796 or glengustafson@msn.com

DNR SIZE LIMITS FOR DOCKS, DOCK PLATFORMS

(For more information, go to www.dnr.state.mn.us). Current dock rule (2002)

- Dock walkways may be up to 8 feet wide, for those who do not have platforms at the end of those docks.
- Two dock segments, each 4 feet wide, may be joined together at the end of a dock in an "L" or "T" or other formation. This combination is not considered a platform.
- The rule remains in effect indefinitely, unless it is revised.

Temporary limits that allow platforms (2008 through 2012)

- Dock walkways shall be no more than 5 feet wide, only for those who install platforms.
- Dock platforms shall be no more than 170 square feet, if final dock segment is included in the measurement.
- Dock platforms shall be no more than 120 square feet, if measured separately from the access dock.
- Platforms larger than these sizes may be allowed for those who show need and apply for individual permits.
- These limits are allowed from 2008-2012, unless changed by a new dock rule

Membership

We now have 272 members and continue to offer new property owners a one year free membership. Please indicate on the application if you are a new property owner, and your dues will be waived for the first year. Our Regular Annual Membership remains @ \$25.00, However we have added three new membership categories. The following members have contributed at the new levels since the last newsletter.

Loon

\$50.00-\$99.00

Eagle

\$100.00-\$199.00

Pelican

\$200.00 +

Kerr, Michael & Nancy

Kleinman, James & Eloise

We also had one anonymous donor at the Eagle level. If you wish to donate anonymously, please indicate that with your dues payment.

Remember to check the mailing label on the newsletter to determine the date through which your dues are paid. Your annual dues are for the period Aug. 1, through July 31.

In order to save printing and postage costs we are offering to send newsletters via e-mail. Thus far 39 people have accepted this offer saving the organization over \$16.00. If you would like to receive your copy of the newsletter via e-mail, please send your e-mail address to youngsmn@brainerd.net.

Name _____ Spouse _____

Lake Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Permanent Address _____

Phone _____ Beach/Plat Name _____

Membership dues and donations are tax deductible

Please make checks payable to PLPOA, PO Box 823, Nisswa, MN 56468

Annual Dues \$25.00 _____, Donation _____, Total _____

PLPOA
Box 823
Nisswa, MN 56468