



Spring Newsletter 2010

PLA Annual Meeting Saturday, July 10, 2010

9:00 – 11:00 Breezy Point Community Center

CALL TO ACTION – PROTECT WHAT YOU LOVE!

Unfortunately, the public funding for Pelican Lakes Association (PLA) invasive species prevention efforts has been greatly reduced this year. At a time when PLA is working to increase public access monitoring, the state divided the funds across more lakes applying for grants. Over the past couple of years, PLA has been able to fund the DNR landing monitor program through grants, dues, and contributions from PLCC. We will need to raise additional funds for 2010 and beyond.

Pelican Lakes are at high-risk for infection. We have infested waters surrounding us:

- Ossawinnamakee is 1/2 mile away: Zebra mussels and Eurasian water milfoil
- Kimball is 3 miles away: Eurasian water milfoil
- Rice Lake/Mississippi River is 15 miles away: Zebra mussels
- Mission Lake is 3 miles away: Eurasian water milfoil
- Lake Mille Lacs: Zebra mussels, spiny water flea
- Bay Lake: Eurasian water milfoil

Once we have an infestation – it's too late. There's no good option to eliminate the curly leaf pondweed we already have. Eurasian water milfoil, zebra mussels, and spiny water fleas would be devastating and can't be removed once they are in our lake.

Pelican Lakes Association has been awarded four grants to assist with invasive species prevention efforts this summer:

1. \$2520 from the DNR to assist with 420 hours of public access monitoring (we requested 1400 hours)
2. \$5000 from Minnesota Waters to partner with Central Lakes College on projects for invasive species prevention efforts and offset some of the costs from the DNR monitoring.
3. \$1000 from the DNR to assist with public awareness efforts including brochures and professional training seminars

4. Signage grant from the DNR to install new and larger signs at five public access points on both lakes.

Here's what we are doing as a board:

- Hiring the DNR to monitor our landings for an additional 500 hours this summer at a cost of \$7625.
- Exploring the option to create a program to monitoring our own landings with volunteers or interns to supplement the DNR program.
- Continuing to write articles for the newspaper and promote educational efforts.
- Creating a brochure to help educate occasional lake users on the dangers of invasive species.
- Hosting an invasive species training seminar for area professionals this summer.
- Reaching out to PLCC, Minnesota Waters, LARA, the DNR, and state legislature with our concerns and to find partners on projects.
- Exploring the option of creating a lake improvement district to raise funds to focus on these efforts.
- Appreciating the efforts of Breezy Point resort in training their staff to monitor the access point at the resort.

What can you do?

- Use only trained service professionals to install your docks and lifts. See the attached list.
- Do not use rented equipment (e.g. pontoon trailer) that has not been properly cleaned using the instructions on the pages that follow.
- Let a board member know of any event (e.g. fishing tournament, regatta) that is planned for the lake, provide a contact person and the date of the event so we can educate the participants before they arrive.
- Spread the word – to your guests, friends, and neighbors.
- Volunteer your time to monitor boat landings or to manage the volunteers.
-

If you can't give your time, please make a financial contribution. PLA has created a separate account to track and fund contributions and expenses toward these efforts. Funds raised through this effort will go toward the following:

- Funding DNR landing monitoring for 2010
- Hiring interns or contractors to cover hours the DNR cannot
- Funding additional media campaigns and training efforts
- Building a reserve to address future prevention or treatment needs
-

Thank you for doing what you can!

Jodi Eberhardt
President
Pelican Lakes Association
jodi.eberhardt@gmail.com

Cut and return to: Pelican Lakes Association, P.O. Box 823, Nisswa, MN 56468
or, reply via e-mail to jodi.eberhardt@gmail.com

Name(s): _____
Address: _____
Phone(s): _____
eMail: _____

We would like to contribute the following to invasive species prevention efforts:

- _____ **Contribute** funds toward invasive species efforts: \$50 \$100 \$500 Other
_____ **Volunteer** for landing access monitoring
_____ **Manage** the volunteer program for landing access
_____ **Become a member** of the invasive species committee and work on these efforts

Other suggestions?

LEARN MORE ABOUT IT

The Department of Natural Resources has consolidated information at:

<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/index.html>

The Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers site is sponsored by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Coast Guard: <http://www.protectyourwaters.net/>

PREVENT THE SPREAD

(source: http://www.protectyourwaters.net/prevention/prevention_generic.php#3)

Remove all visible mud, plants, fish/animals.

Before leaving any body of water, it is important to examine all your equipment, boats, trailers, clothing, boots, buckets etc and:

- Remove any visible plants, fish or animals.
- Remove mud and dirt since it too may contain a hitchhiker.*
- Remove even plant fragments as they may contain a hitchhiker.*
- Do not transport any potential hitchhiker, even back to your home. Remove and leave them at the site you visited.

*The larvae (immature form) of an animal can be so tiny that you cannot see it. However, it can live in mud, dirt, sand, and on plant fragments.

Do not release or put plants, fish or animals into a body of water unless they came out of that body of water.

Whether you have obtained bait at a store or from another body of water, do not release unused bait into the waters you are fishing. If you do not plan to use the bait in the future, dump the bait in a trashcan or on the land, far enough away from the water that it cannot impact the lake.

Eliminate water from all equipment before transporting anywhere.

Much of the recreational equipment used in water contains many spots where water can collect and potentially harbor these aquatic hitchhikers. Thus, make sure that you:

- Eliminate all water from every conceivable item before you leave the area you are visiting.
- Remove water from motors, jet drives, live wells, boat hulls, scuba tanks and regulators, boots, waders, bait buckets, seaplane floats, swimming floats.
- Once water is eliminated, follow the cleaning instructions listed below.

Clean and dry anything that came in contact with the water.

(boats, trailers, equipment, dogs, boots, clothing, etc.). Basic procedures include:

1. Use hot (< 40° C or 104° F) or salt water to clean your equipment.
2. Wash your dog with water as warm as possible and brush its coat.
3. The following recipes are recommended for cleaning hard-to-treat equipment that cannot be exposed to hot water:
 - a. Dipping equipment into 100% vinegar for 20 minutes will kill harmful aquatic hitchhiker species.
 - b. A 1 % table salt solution for 24 hours can replace the vinegar dip. This table provides correct mixtures for the 1 % salt solution in water:

Gallons of Water	Cups of Salt
5	2/3
10	1 1/4
25	3
50	6 1/4
100	12 2/3

4. If hot water is not available, **spray** equipment such as boats, motors, trailers, anchors, decoys, floats, nets, **with high-pressure water.**
5. **DRY Equipment.** If possible, allow for 5 days of drying time before entering new waters.

HIRE TRAINED SERVICE PROFESSIONALS

Thank you to these area service professionals for attending invasive species training sessions and helping to protect the lakes!

Brainerd Sports & Marine, Brainerd
Breezy Point Marine Service, Pequot Lakes
C & C Boat Works, Crosslake
Cabin Care, Pequot Lakes
D.H. Docks, Nisswa
Grypton Enterprises
Lake Bertha Boatworks Inc, Pequot Lakes
Lake Restoration, Inc., Nisswa
Lenny Hodgson, Nisswa
Marv Koep, Breezy Point
Moes' Hardware & Docks, Merrifield
John Niskanen, Pequot Lakes
Neighborhood Landscaping & Development, St Cloud
Nisswa Dock Co, Nisswa
Nisswa Marine, Nisswa
Norlake Dock Service, Baxter
Professional Lake Management, Pequot Lakes
Ricka MFG, Pequot Lakes
Royal Karels, Brainerd
Walleye Dan, Lakeshore

MAKE SURE YOUR PROFESSIONAL ATTENDS JUNE 8

While our state legislators are considering a bill requiring registration and Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention training for our states water front service professional, we will be continuing to offer this AIS sensitivity training for our Brainerd Lakes area and Pelican Lakes water front service providers. Over the past two years we have provided seven sensitivity training seminars, but have been disappointed by the small number of water front service businesses that have attended. We have mailed out over 90 invitations for each of these seminars, but only 21 of these invited businesses have yet to attend.

This year we asked that with your payment of the Pelican Lakes Association annual dues, you advise the name and address of the professional service providers that you contract. We received from the PLA members, with their payment of their dues (to date) 84 responses identify the contracting of 26 different providers. Over half of these identified professional service providers had not been previously identified and will be added to our mailing list and will be invited to attend our 2010 AIS sensitivity seminars scheduled to be held June 8th.

If you have not already done so, please advise the name and address of your contracted lake front service provider so they can be included in invitations for our AIS seminar on June 8th. If you have already advised us of your service professional, call them to express your desire that they attend an AIS sensitivity seminar on June 8th.

Our spring AIS sensitivity seminars will be held in the Breezy Point Community Center (just west of Highway 4, less than a mile north of the Breezy Point gate). Dan Swanson, DNR Biologist Brainerd, and Jim Tischler, DNR Conservation Officer, will be conducting two trainings seminars Tuesday, June 8, 2010 from 4 to 6 PM and again from 7 to 9 PM.

Please take the necessary actions to insure that your contracted water front service professional attend one of the two provided AIS seminars. The health of Pelican Lakes may be dependent our your actions. Contact jodi.eberhardt@gmail.com by May 1st to provide the name and address of your water front service provided if you have not already done so.

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service provided if you have not already done so.

Membership Spring, 2010

If we are new to you, WELCOME. This may be the first newsletter you are receiving from PLA as we were recently made aware of an additional 350 property owners around the Pelican Lakes. You may join as a member by completing the application at the end of this article and returning it to us or you may go on our website www.pelicanlakesassociation.org & download the application. If you are a new property owner on the Pelican Lakes, your first year membership is free.

A special thank you to those who have contributed at the following levels from January 1, to March 20, 2010. Your financial support helps us to continue our programs of water testing, monitoring for invasive species, & shoreline restoration.

Loon (\$50-\$99)

*Bennett, Robert & Rebecca
Borden, Mark & Jane
Brubaker, Richard & Nancy
Carter, Chuck & Jane
Countryman, San & Karen
Cullen, Peter
D.H.Docks & Tracks
Draheim, Edmund & Jane
Evenmo, Caryn & Dawson, Lannie
Flittie, John & Jo
Gabrielson, Don & Sharon
Gaukler, George & Audrey*

Loon (\$50-\$99)

*Gustafson, Glen & Jane
Hanus, Lou & Lorraine
Herrema, Kevin & Jeannie
Johnson, Daniel & Patricia
Kennedy, Patricia
Kerr, Aubrey & Nancy
Kimmelman, Peter & Elbrun
Kirkpatrick, Thomas
Kruhoeffer, Paul & Laurie
Larson, Randy & Jesslyn
Lau, Robert & Janice
Lindquist, Eldon & Nancy
McGrann, Thomas & Marcia
Mondale, Curtis & Joan
Mondale, Dr. Roger & Judith
Norman, Craig & Maureen
O'Dea, Robert & Marilyn
Okerman, Roger & Sandra
Pansing, James & Barbette
Peterson, Judd & Kaye
Plummer, Dr. Alan & Virginia
Poppe, Kenneth & Angela
Rosel, Patricia & France, Scott
Rosel, Richard & Liane
Schuetz, Robert & Kathy
Stover, James & Elizabeth
Strain, Darrell & Jan
Tenney, Dean & Jackie
Trimble, Pamela *
Van Kampen, Dolores*

Eagle (\$100-\$199)

*Anderson, Scott & Kelly
Androff, Robert
Archerd, Fred & Jane
Baber, Robert & Patricia
Brausen, Ted & Cheryl
Breezy Point City of
Donovan, Tracy & Barbara
Dotty, John
Fletcher, Ron & Nancy
Gates, Brian & Linda
Gleason, Margaret
Groover, Dr. Robert & Ann*

Eagle \$100-\$199)

*Henderson, Dr. James & Marge
Johnson, Allen & Becky
Jones, Dave & Jean
Kaufman, Joyce & Glenda
Krenzen, Jack & Marilyn
Larson, David, Jennifer & Cade
Levig, Dr. Anne
Lewis, Ralph & Fawna
Martin, George & Caroline
McComas, June
Mellinger, Jim & Judy
Morgan, Judith
Ohlsson, Ken & Sandy
Owen, Randall & Faye
Owens, Tim & Rosita
Pansing, Thomas Jr. & Jennifer
Paulsen, Joyce
Purdue, Glenn & Sandy
Richters, Thomas & Jill
Rosel, Katherine & Burns, Robert
Smith, Jeffery & Mary
Snedeker, Clarence & Karen
Steiner, Fred & Evadne
Stephens, Phillip & Judith
Vander Schaaf, Stephen & Debora
Znameroski, Michael & Susan*

Pelican (\$200+)

*Anonymous
Austin, Dr. Carol
Eberhardt, Joe & Jodi
Hampl, Joe & Joan
Hodder, Bill & Sue
Hubbard, Tim & Amy
Kinsella, Daniel & Karen
Koep, Marv & Judy
Macken, Dan
McCabe, Ray & Marcee
Mueller, Holly
Nordgaard, Edgar Jr. & Vernita
Pelican \$(200 +)
Rosel, Dr. Paul
Van Dyke, Bill & Karen
Weaver, Dr. Arthur & Joanne
Yanson, Oscar & Julie*

** In memory of Dan Macken*

If you would like to receive the newsletter via e-mail, please subscribe using the following link:
<http://www.pelicanlakesassociation.org/mailing/mail.cgi/list/newsletter/> or click on “newsletters” from the main page of the Pelican Lakes Association website www.pelicanlakesassociation.org and follow the instructions.



Pelican Lakes
Association
P.O. Box 823
Nisswa, MN 56468

Join Today!

Membership runs from January 1st to December 31st.
Please complete the attached form and return it to **PLA** with your dues.

New property owners, 1 Year FREE membership.

Annual Membership: \$25 **Make checks payable to:**
Loon Membership: \$50 **PLA**
Eagle Membership: \$100 P.O. Box 823

Name _____

Spouse _____

Lake Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____

Permanent Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Wildlife and Habitat Corner

As I write this in the middle of March, it looks very spring like as nearly all the snow has melted and light rain has been falling for days. The unexpected early arrival of spring weather at the end of February spurred increased activity by our “backyard friends” with more vocal visitors to our bird feeders and even an appearance from our resident chipmunk on a few early warm days.

This weather is a reminder that it is time to anticipate and prepare for the return of our migratory birds. Wood duck houses should be cleaned out and new wood shavings added as needed to prepare for nesting by wood duck hens. The wood duck is the most colorful North American waterfowl. Their mating season typically begins in late April or early May around the Pelican Lakes area and is an interesting ritual to observe. At this time a hen wood duck begins looking for a nesting site, with standard wood duck boxes near shorelines as very likely candidates. The hen lays one egg per day, usually in the morning with the drake waiting nearby during the roughly half-hour ritual. This continues almost daily for 10 –12 days, at which point incubation begins. Approximately 30 days later the eggs hatch and in a day or so the little wood ducks leap from the nest box and take to the water. Placing a wood duck house on your shoreline is a good way to add this fascinating ritual to your spring season, which leads to an interesting summer as “mom and dad” raise the new little “woodies”. If you are interested in attracting wood ducks visit the Wood Duck Society website for details under the “Best Practices” link. (www.woodducksociety.com)

The early spring weather will most likely lead to an early ice out on the Pelican Lakes, which means an early return of loons and their preparation for the mating season. From time to time concern is expressed for the loon population as we wonder whether it is threatened or decreasing. DNR wildlife biologists conducted a study between 1994 and 2002 with nearly 1000 citizen volunteers who recorded observations of loons on a sampling of over 600 Minnesota lakes, including some in Crow Wing County. The conclusion of DNR biologists is that the loon population is very stable and Minnesota loons are doing just fine. This is certainly good news for all of us who watch and enjoy our loons in the Pelican Lakes area. With loon mating activity just around the corner we must redouble our efforts to ensure their nest areas are respected and be watchful of the new young loon families as we are boating during the summer.

By now other migratory birds such as the ospreys and blue herons should have returned to our area to make their contribution to helping us enjoy our life at the Lake. As mentioned in the last newsletter, I am looking forward to a dialogue with other lake residents regarding your experiences with our abundant area wildlife, especially renewed or new occurrences, or even concerns you have during this springtime.

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