



PELICAN LAKES ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL MEETING

JULY 10, 2010

9:00 am at Breezy Point Community Center located in Breezy Point City Hall, ¼ mile north of the Breezy Point Gate.

We invite all of our members, lake residents, and lake users to join us for two hours of learning about what's happening on our shoreline and in our area.

We'll cover these questions and many more....you'll leave with ideas and practical knowledge on what you can do for the lake.

- What's happening with our lake levels?
- How is the lake level measured?
- What's going on with dock and shoreland rules?
- How can I help improve the water quality of the lake?
- How does my water softener impact the lake?
- What should I be doing to take care of my septic system?
- Is there any news with the runoff from the Breezy Point parking lot?
- What new regulations do I need to know about?
- Why would zebra mussels and spiny water fleas in Mille Lacs Lake affect my property values?
- How does the gulf oil spill affect our wildlife?
- Why were 2200 dead birds found on Gooseberry Island last summer?
- Bring your questions to the meeting – we'll collect them at the door and leave time to answer them at the end.

Are you interested in being more involved? Consider being a board member, a beach captain, helping with the newsletter or website, or volunteering to monitor boat landings. If you are interested in filling an open position on the board, contact Joan Mondale at jmondale@mondale.biz for more information on the nominating process.

As you can tell from the size of the newsletter, there is a lot going on our lake and in the community around us. We look forward to seeing everyone at the annual meeting!

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

WILDLIFE AND HABITAT CORNER

By Bill Rodgers, Minnesota Master Naturalist, BJR10375@hotmail.com

The natural environment around the Pelican Lakes area continues to evolve as we move from spring to summer, with July bringing interesting changes. The wood ducks discussed in the last Wildlife and Habitat Corner have mostly hatched their eggs and are on our bays and backwater areas raising their young. Other birds in our yards have been very vocal and active during the spring months as they staked out their territories and began courting and nesting behavior. By now most are very busy caring for their new babies and not singing as much. With the young maturing, adult birds have less need to declare their home base, so songs we have heard for the past couple months begin to fade. The same goes for our frogs that live in the cattail lined shores whose nearly deafening night vocalizations are disappearing now that their tadpoles are arriving.

By July we see more busy insects around us, including bees, butterflies and those pesky mosquitoes. Luckily we also have an abundance of dragonflies and damselflies this year, which spend their days devouring mosquitoes. Damselflies are about half the size of dragonflies and hold their wings parallel to their body when resting, while dragonflies hold their wings straight out, perpendicular to their body. Damselflies are often brightly colored with blues and reds. There are some 5000 different species of dragonflies and damselflies, not all in Minnesota, of course.

Besides bees pollinating flowers, we are now seeing hummingbirds feeding on the nectar of flowers. The male ruby-throated hummingbird of our area has a bright red bib on his chest. Hummingbirds have a weak song that is difficult to hear, so listen carefully. What you easily hear is the hum from their wings beating a hundred times each second. While their wings are powerful enough to permit them to fly in all directions, or even hover right in front of us, their legs are very weak. Hummingbirds can perch but they cannot walk. So if you see a hummingbird walking in your backyard call the authorities.

On a bigger scale, ospreys and eagles are busy feeding and caring for their young. The loons in our bay had two furry loon chicks on May 29 and by now most of the area loons are busy caring for their new families. Please be aware of the loon families when you are boating, being especially careful during the upcoming holiday period.

On a more somber note, the oil leak that continues to dump crude oil into the Gulf of Mexico may be impacting our Pelican Lakes' loon population. In the fall, the new young loons migrate to the gulf coast area and as juvenile loons remain there for 3 years before returning to our area to mate and begin nesting. Therefore, there are juvenile loons in the gulf area right now who may be impacted by the oil leak. DNR authorities are concerned since it is uncertain how they will be affected. Oil in the food chain ingested by the loons may affect them and their development. Also, oil they come in contact with could coat their feathers causing them to become weighted down, resulting in drowning. Indeed the effects of this unprecedented situation are uncertain, but our juvenile loons currently in the gulf area, as well as all of our migrating birds who will be returning there this fall may well be impacted.

As always, I look forward to learning of your experiences and observations while you are enjoying the abundant wildlife in our area. Please email me with any interesting news or thoughts you might have.

DNR SENSITIVE LAKESHORE IDENTIFICATION

You'll see the DNR boats on Pelican Lake all summer and we'll have the results of their work to share at our 2011 annual meeting. Here are some details about what they are studying:

by Kristin Carlson and Paul Radomski

As evening sets, an American Bittern sounds its “glug, glug” call from deep in the cattails and a chorus of mink frogs fills the air. A longear sunfish darts among the dense vegetation of a clear water bay. Protecting these sensitive species (and many others), and their critical habitat, is the goal of one project undertaken by the DNR. The Sensitive Lakeshore Identification Project began in 2006 as a cooperative effort between the DNR and Cass County. The original project focused on seventeen high priority lakes identified by Cass County. These lakes represent some of the county's most valuable waters – large lakes with significant undeveloped shorelands. Led by project manager Paul Radomski, the project team also includes nongame wildlife biologists Pam Perry, Kevin Woizeschke and Kristin Carlson, and aquatic plant biologists Donna Perleberg and Stephanie Loso. The project aims to identify and protect ‘sensitive’ lakeshores.

Sensitive lakeshores are comprised of shorelands, shorelines and the near-shore areas that provide unique or critical ecological habitat. Sensitive lakeshores also include areas vulnerable to development (e.g., wetlands and shallow bays), areas with unique soil conditions (e.g., high proportion of hydric soils), areas with high species richness, areas that provide habitat connectivity, and habitat for species of greatest conservation need (SGCN). *Tomorrow's Habitat for the Wild and Rare: An Action Plan for Minnesota Wildlife* describes animal SGCN as those species whose populations are rare, declining or vulnerable to decline, or below levels desirable to ensure their long-term health and stability. Multiple species of greatest conservation need, from common loons and bald eagles to least darters and snapping turtles, depend on lakeshores.

Protocol to identify sensitive shorelands consists of several components. Field surveys are used to evaluate the distribution of high priority plant and animal species. Aquatic plant surveys are conducted in both submerged habitats and near-shore areas, and assess both the lake-wide vegetation communities and unique plant areas. Animal surveys target bird and nongame fish species of greatest conservation need. Surveys also identify proxy species that represent animals with similar life history characteristics, and other species, such as frogs, that rely heavily on intact lakeshores.

An ecological model ranks lakeshores for sensitive area designation. The model is based on scientific data; lakeshore areas used by target species, areas of high biodiversity, and vulnerable habitats are important elements in the ecological model. Because the model is based on scientific data, it provides objective, consistent results. Results are delivered to local governments and other groups who will use the information to maintain high quality environmental conditions. Delineation of sensitive areas will be helpful in land use regulation, aquatic plant management, shoreland restoration, and defining priority areas for conservation easements. Cass County is currently working to develop provisions in their land use ordinance that will require conservation-oriented development standards for sensitive areas. Implementation of resource protection zoning districts will help promote healthy near-shore communities and protect critical fish and wildlife habitat.

Within Cass County, the project is nearing completion. Field surveys have been completed on all seventeen study lakes as well as three connecting lakes. Sensitive lakeshore assessments have been completed and lake reports have been provided to the county and the public. To date, over 80 miles of shoreline have been identified as sensitive, and Cass County has adopted provisions within their shoreland ordinance to provide protection to those sensitive areas that are rezoned into resource protection districts. Over 30 bird species of greatest conservation need have been

documented, representing nearly one-third of the bird species on the Minnesota SGCN list. Included in the project findings are several Minnesota Threatened and Special Concern species. Surveyors have also identified four fish species of greatest conservation need and over 15 species of rare or unique aquatic plants.

This spring the Sensitive Lakeshore Identification Project received funding from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service via the State Wildlife Grant Program to conduct sensitive lakeshore assessments on Pelican Lake and the Whitefish Chain of Lakes. The objectives of the assessments are to identify important habitat for rare species and to develop methods that can be applied elsewhere to quickly assess lakeshore habitat for species of greatest conservation need. Plant and animal surveys, which are conducted by boat, began this June and will continue through the next two summers.

For more information about the project, including the procedures manual and lake reports, please visit: <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/eco/sli/index.html>

Funding for this project in Cass County was provided by the State Wildlife Grants Program, Game and Fish Funds, Heritage Enhancement Funds, and by the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund as recommended by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR).

2010 AIS LEGISLATION: UPDATE FROM MINNESOTA WATERS

Success and a veto

Responding to citizen concern about the spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS), the MN State legislature addressed a number of AIS-related pieces of legislation put forward by the DNR and citizen groups during the 2010 session.

MN Waters is happy to report that MN state statute was amended to require draining of all boats and equipment before transporting them on public roads, and requires that all drains must remain open during transport. In addition, that amendment requires the DNR commissioner to advise the legislature by January 15 of every odd-numbered year of additional measures required to protect public waters from the human transport of AIS.

Unfortunately, other critical AIS-related legislation was defeated at the last minute by the governor's veto of the omnibus fish and game bill on May 25. The omnibus bill included provisions that would have

- Made it a misdemeanor for aquatic plant transport (up from a civil penalty)
- Required certification and training about AIS for all lake service providers
- Required all youth boater safety training to include AIS identification and prevention training
- Clarified that minnow harvest equipment used in certain infested waters may not be used in any other waters.

The governor said that several provisions of the omnibus bill reflected "legislative overreach" and that legislators tried to set "arbitrary hunting and fishing management policy" that conflicted with DNR experts. The controversial parts of the wide-ranging bill did NOT include AIS-related provisions. "The AIS provisions in the bill were well supported," said Luke Skinner, supervisor of the DNR's Invasive Species program. Now that the session is closed, there are no more opportunities to push AIS legislation forward in 2010. "But those provisions will be re-introduced in 2011, and should have an easier time next year," said Skinner. Minnesota Waters will continue

to work with citizen leaders to promote the adoption of a more pro-active response to aquatic invasive species and their threat to our state's water quality.

This article was reprinted from Minnesota Waters May issue of "The Confluence".

INFORMATION ABOUT THE FISH POPULATION IN PELICAN LAKES

Check the DNR website, they have fisheries management info on each lake in the county. Some are managed for walleyes, some for crappies, etc. Go to <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/lakefind/index.html>. On Lake Finder, enter Pelican as the lake and Crow Wing as the county or enter Pelican Lake ID of 18030800 or Little Pelican Lake ID of 18035100.

TRAINED SERVICE PROFESSIONALS

We extend a special thank you to the following service professionals who attended the Invasive Species Prevention workshop on June 8, 2010. Your time and willingness to learn more about the threats to our lakes are greatly appreciated!

June 8 Attendees	Previous Seminar Attendees
Bait Box Marina	Brainerd Sports & Marine
BW Professional Caretakers	Breezy Point Marine Service
Cabin Care	C & C Boat Works
Central Lakes Dock Service	Cabin Care
Clasen Property Management	D.H. Docks
Lake Fun Rentals	Gryphon Enterprises
Mauer's Lakeside Service	Lake Bertha Boatworks Inc
Minnesota Shoreline Restoration	Lake Restoration, Inc.
Otterness Dock Service	Lenny Hodgson
Personal Touch Property Services	Marv Koep
RR Handyman/ Aquatic Weed Harvest	Moes' Hardware & Docks
Willey's Marine Inc	John Niskanen
Bradow Dock Service	Neighborhood Landscaping & Development
Gryphon Enterprises	Nisswa Dock Co
	Nisswa Marine
	Norlake Dock Service
	Professional Lake Management
	Ricka MFG
	Royal Karels
	Walleye Dan

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Do you have a couple of hours a week to spare? Does your company allow you to take some time off from work to volunteer? Consider spending some time at the lake boat landings providing information on invasive species as people launch their boats. Contact Dave Slipy at dslipy@hotmail.com to sign up to help.

WHAT'S GOING ON WITH THE ROAD CONSTRUCTION?

County Road 4 has been resurfaced from Highway 18 to Merrifield. Construction is about to start on County Road 4 from Highway 18 to Southview Drive in Breezy Point. The following is a summary of the information in the letter to residents along the road. If you have questions or concerns, contact the Crow Wing Highway department at 218-824-1110.

The construction work will consist of grading, aggregate base, storm sewer, concrete curb & gutter, and bituminous surfacing. Clearing and grubbing operations are proposed to begin in new alignment sections on June 28. The highway will remain open during this week. Beginning on July 6, through traffic will be detoured from the construction site.

At this time, the contractor plans to begin grading operations on the north end of the project and progress to the south. Although the road will be open to local traffic for the duration of the project, there will be stages where it will be very difficult to navigate through the construction zone.

Weather permitting and barring unforeseen circumstances, the current schedule has grading operations completed by September 1, concrete curb and gutter completed by mid September, final aggregate base completed by the end of September and paving operations completed by October 15.

SHORELAND BUFFER ZONE EXPO SET FOR AUG. 7

Plans for Shoreland Buffer Zone Expo '10 are well under way. The event, featuring interesting and informative workshop sessions on the "whys" and "how tos" of shoreland preservation, will be held on Saturday, August 7 from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Deep Portage Learning Center. The Center is located east of Hackensack off of County Highway 46

Workshop sessions will include information on (a) what buffer zones are and why they are crucial for preserving the quality of our lakes, rivers and shorelands (b) creating a buffer zone on your shoreland, including sources of financial assistance, shoreland preservation expertise and native plants, (c) maintaining an existing buffer zone, including identification and elimination of invasive species, (d) controlling storm water run-off, including construction of rain barrels and rain gardens. There will also be a session on the DNR's proposed new shoreland rules and a native species planting demonstration. Exhibitors from public agencies and non-profit organizations as well as local businesses providing shoreland preservation related services will also provide information to Expo attendees. The event is sponsored by the Cass County Chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America (IWLA) and Deep Portage.

A fee of \$15 per person or \$25 per couple, which includes lunch and is payable at the door during sign in for the event on August 7 from 8:30 to 9:00 a.m., will help offset expenses. Please note, however, that pre- registration by August 1 is required so that appropriate preparations for the event can be made. For further information, to make arrangements for an exhibit or to pre-register, call Jack Fitzgerald at 218-682-2941.

PROJECT RECHARGE!

Crow Wing SWCD is now accepting applications to cost-share with Landowners within Crosslake, Breezy Point, Fifty Lakes, and Crosby communities on shoreline buffers, shoreline stabilization projects, rain gardens, and no-mow zones.

Four types of projects are encouraged through the program:

1. Swap Rock for Native Stock: Thinking of placing rock on your shore, use Minnesota grown plants instead. These deep and long rooted native plants are designed to hold the water's edge.
2. Buff up your Shoreline: Is your shore a goose magnet? Create a native plant buffer between your turf and the lake which will deter the geese and reduce their waste. Go Green while keeping the water blue!
3. Rain, Rain Soak Away: Capture that rainfall flowing off your roof and your driveway. Let the Minnesota natives and the soil soak up the water and the pollutants.
4. Convert Your Turf: Take some ease off your wallet and your back. Stop mowing a section of your lawn and let Minnesota's own awake and revive beauty to your shoreline.

All projects require a cash match, in-kind contribution and deed restriction placement on the project. For more information: <http://www.co.crow-wing.mn.us/swcd/Stromwater.htm> or call 218-828-6197.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

The U S Post Office will only forward temporary address changes for six months and permanent address changes for one year. Therefore, to continue receiving PLA mailings, remember to keep PLA informed of your current address.

The membership committee would like to thank the 338 members that are current with their membership dues. A special thank you to those who have recently contributed at the following levels from March 21 to June 1, 2010. Your financial support helps us to continue our programs of water testing, monitoring for invasive species, & shoreline restoration.

Loon (\$50-\$99)

Cibuzar, R O & Ardyce
Dahlen, Kieth & Iris
Fair, Marie
Freeman Trust Account, Robert
Pearson, Daniel
Severson, Don & Marge
Smith, Mathew & Jennifer

Eagle (\$100-\$199)

Baltzell, James & Karin
Greeno, Edward & Laurie
Grunewald, William & Joan
Sell, Thomas & Barbara
Solomon, Jerry & Barbara
Sparks, Mary
Van Ruden, Beverly**
Williams, Jerome & Anita
Young, John

Pelican (\$200+)

McComas, June
Mellinger, Jim & Judy
Shook, Tom & Karen

** In memory of Dennis Van Ruden & Roy Ryappy

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