

PELICAN LAKES ASSOCIATION

FALL 2010 NEWSLETTER



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

www.pelicanlakesassociation.org

Letter From the President

By Joan Mondale, President

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It was another beautiful summer on the Pelican Lakes! Thank you to all of our volunteers that made our projects so successful this season. Whether you've given time or money, your contributions make a difference in protecting the water quality of the lakes.

Please join us in congratulating one of our board members, Clyde Clement, who was recently presented with the Water Warrior Award, sponsored by the Crow Wing County Lakes and Rivers Alliance (LARA) and 1,000 Friends of Minnesota. Clyde was recognized for his efforts to prevent the spread of invasive species through various initiatives, including the creation of BLAISTF (Brainerd Lakes Area Invasive Species Task Force). Clyde was also instrumental in developing educational seminars for lake service professionals that focus on stopping the spread of invasive species from lake to lake.

Governor Rejects Revised Shoreland Rules

Content from the Minnesota Waters August 2010 newsletter

Minnesota regulators spent years devising more protective shore land and dock rules to guide new development along state lakes.

But Gov. Tim Pawlenty sent them back to the drawing board, rejecting their revisions as "overreaching" and as undermining local control and property rights. He suggested the Legislature take up the matter next winter.

Pawlenty's decision means decades-old standards for lakeshore construction and docks that are commonly considered out of date will be around a good while longer. If the governor had accepted the draft changes, a public hearing process would have begun soon, and new standards could have been in place next year.

MN Waters' Executive Director Marian Bender was interviewed by MPR on the issue and described the governor's decision as "heartbreaking."

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Letter from the President	1
Governor Rejects Shoreland Rules	1
Results of DNR Sensitive Shoreland Study	2
Wildlife and Habitat Corner	3
Use a Trained Service Professional	3
Saving Men and Forests - CCC on Pelican Lake	4
Contact Us and Thanks to Sponsors	5

We also want to thank Jodi Eberhardt for her time and service as PLA President. Jodi is now our newsletter publisher - check out the new format that is being rolled out in this edition!

Thank you to Dave Slipy for coordinating and starting our new volunteer landing monitor program with 14 trained monitors.

Questions? Comments? Suggestions? Contact any of your board members - we'd love to hear from you!

Marian commented: "So many hours of time and so many tax payer dollars were spent on the very inclusive process to revise these rules - we feel it is irresponsible for the governor to just say "start over." The developers, the counties, the cities, shoreland owners, and industry had a very large role in drafting these rules - they were all represented on the stakeholder committee, which met every month for almost a year to go over the rules sentence by sentence. They had time to voice their opinion. MN Waters was also on that committee, and I didn't hear that the other members felt that the DNR was overreaching."

MN Waters and several coalitions of lake associations signed on to a commentary letter outlining concern over the governor's decision. Parts of this article are from the St. Paul Pioneer Press.

What was found in the DNR Sensitive Lakeshore Study?

By Paul Radomski, DNR Sensitive Lakeshore Project Manager

Our Pelican Lake sensitive lakeshore surveys went very well this spring and summer. We completed our shoreline bird surveys, and in these surveys we observed and documented some really exciting things.

First, we observed Common Terns with nestlings. Common Tern nesting areas are rare in Minnesota. Common Terns are not all that common! They are listed as a 'Threatened Species' in Minnesota (<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/rsg/index.html>). Until this survey there were only five nesting locations in the state.



© MN DNR, Carroll Henderson



Second, we observed a hen and brood of Red-breasted Mergansers. This diving duck nests further north, so seeing a brood of Red-breasted Mergansers on Pelican Lake is unique for this area. Third, we observed nesting Black Terns. Finally, within the Ring-billed Gull nesting colony on Gooseberry Island, we found several pairs of Herring Gulls nesting. The Common Tern, Red-breasted Merganser, and the Herring Gull nesting activity are the first recorded breeding of these species in Crow Wing County.

In addition to the bird surveys, we completed our frog surveys. We found the two shoreline dependent species, mink and green frogs. Mink frogs inhabit quiet waters near the edges of wooded lakes and ponds, and are considered the most aquatic of the frogs found in Minnesota. Populations of mink frogs have potentially been declining recently.



Green frogs are strongly associated with the shallow water of lakeshores, and while their populations are generally stable, regional declines have been noted. The

presence of these two species on Pelican Lake is a good sign.

We also completed our nongame fish surveys. Of particular interest, was the collection of several Least Darters. Least Darters are Minnesota's smallest fish. Shoreline alteration threatens the species, and it is listed as a 'Special Concern' and a 'species in greatest conservation need' in Minnesota (<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/cwcs/set.html>).



© MN DNR, Konrad P. Schmidt



Finally, we surveyed and mapped the aquatic plants across the entire lake. We have delineated the floating-leaf and emergent plants (e.g., bulrush), and we will be

developing detailed maps of aquatic vegetation by species.

We will be organizing our findings and surveys into a final report this winter, and we will share the results with citizens, the lake association, and Crow Wing County when it becomes available.

Mark your calendars to come and hear the DNR share the results!
PLA Annual Meeting -- 9 am on July 25, 2011

Wildlife and Habitat Corner

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

Driving home one evening recently my wife and I waited for 7 wild turkey hens to cross the road and disappear into the woods near our home, a new experience for us. While wild turkeys were once non-existent in Minnesota, today they have become common in southern and western Minnesota, with some extending their range to the north in our area.

As America was settled an abundant wild turkey population vanished from many places, including the woods of Minnesota, due to too much hunting and land clearing that made food and shelter scarce. In the 1970's the Minnesota DNR traded walleyes and small game birds to Missouri and other states for turkeys. Wildlife biologists released these birds into Minnesota woods, and by 1978 they had multiplied enough to begin limited hunting without fear they would disappear. Today, with over 30,000 birds in the state there is a spring and fall hunt for wild turkeys, the state's largest game bird. They have excellent eyesight, which makes them a challenge to hunt.

Wild turkeys live in hardwood forests near farm fields and feed on insects and young plants in spring and summer. In the fall they eat lots of acorns and other nuts to build up a layer of fat so they can survive the winter since they do not migrate south. A full-grown tom turkey can weigh more than 20 pounds and hens from 8 to 10 pounds. These large birds do fly, especially to escape owls and other predators. Wild turkeys differ from the domesticated "thanksgiving turkeys" we eat which have been bred to not fly, and to have white rather than black feathers.

The hen nests on the ground in April, laying 8 to 14 eggs which she incubates for about 28 days. The young grow fast and weigh 6 to 8 pounds by fall when several hens may join the young females of their broods to form flocks of 6 to 40 birds. The male toms join with the young males to form their own broods. Turkeys roost in trees at night, which may be where the flock we encountered was heading.

Did you know?

Zebra mussels were found in Lake Minnetonka this summer. Since their discovery in the Duluth harbor in 1989, zebra mussels have spread to 17 Minnesota lakes.

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.

Use a Trained Service Professional

Help keep invasive species out of your lake by using a trained professional for dock/lift work, boat storage, trailer rental, weed management, and shoreline landscaping! If your professional is not on this list, send an e-mail with their contact information to darclyde@tds.net. The following businesses have attended training:

Bait Box Marina

Bradow Dock Service

Brainerd Sports & Marine

Breezy Point Marine Service

BW Professional Caretakers

C & C Boat Works

Cabin Care

Central Lakes Dock Service

Clasen Property Management

D.H. Docks

Gryphon Enterprises

John Niskanen

Lake Bertha Boatworks Inc

Lake Fun Rentals

Marv Koep

Moes' Hardware & Docks

Minnesota Shoreline Restoration

Mauer's Lakeside Service

Lake Restoration, Inc.

Lenny Hodgson

Neighborhood Landscaping & Development

Nisswa Dock Co

Nisswa Marine

Norlake Dock Service

Otterness Dock Service

Personal Touch Property Services

Professional Lake Management

RR Handyman/ Aquatic Weed Harvest

Ricka MFG

Royal Karels

Walleye Dan

Willey's Marine Inc

Saving Men and Forests – The CCC on Pelican Lake

By Dr. James Henderson

On a Sunday morning in September 1935, an M&I passenger train stopped at the Nisswa depot. On board were nearly 200 men and boys, members of CCC Company 4751. Waiting at the depot were a group of men and trucks from the Minnesota Emergency Conservation Work group better known as the Civilian Conservation Corps or CCC. The trucks transported them to a site on the southeastern shore of Pelican Lake. A mess hall was already under construction, but barracks and other buildings had yet to be built. Tents were erected and the work of setting up Camp Pelican began.

The CCC enrollees were involved in a number of activities on Pelican Lake. These included fishing (both in winter and summer), swimming, ice-skating, ice harvesting and the creation of a lake sounding map during the winter of 1937–38. In June 1938, during a lake survey, water samples were taken from Pelican Lake by CCC enrollees. Samples from the deepest parts of the lake were obtained to determine oxygen, carbon dioxide, mineral and carbonate content. Water visibility was evaluated using Secchi disk readings.

The CCC boys at Camp Pelican worked on a number of projects in the Pillsbury and Crow Wing State Forests. These included dam building on several area lakes, fire lookout tower construction and tree planting. As a result forest conservation and management was much improved.

Membership Update: The membership committee would like to thank the 349 members that are current with their membership dues. A special thank you to those who have contributed at the following levels from June 2nd to Sept. 1st, 2010. Your financial support helps us to continue our programs of water testing, monitoring for invasive species, & shoreline restoration.

Eagle Memberships this quarter: Morningside Estates Association, Shu Mei Hwang & Jane Miller, Waldenheim Condominium Owners Assoc.

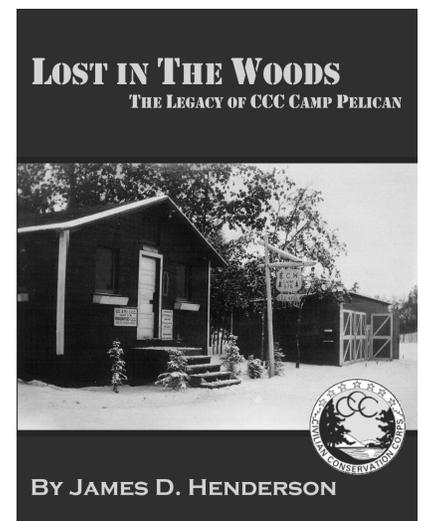
Pelican Memberships this quarter: Brian & Caroline Phillips

The employment the young men had in the Civilian Conservation Corps, during the hard times of the depression years of the 1930s, was a lifesaver for them. Most of the money they earned went back to families at home and provided needed assistance to their parents who were often jobless themselves.

Dr. James D. Henderson, a PLA member and summer resident on Pelican Lake near the old campsite, recently published a book about the camp.

LOST IN THE WOODS—THE LEGACY OF CCC CAMP PELICAN describes the camp's history, how it was formed, the men and boys who built it, the projects they worked on, and what camp life was like. Details and construction photos of the diversion ditch from Lake Ossawinnamakee to Pelican Lake are presented. The book includes a roster of over 600 members that lived in the camp between 1935 and 1938 when the camp closed.

The book is available for purchase at local bookstores, the Crow Wing County and Nisswa Area Historical Societies and online from the author at



<http://pelmarpublishing.webhop.net>.

The author may be contacted at pelmarpub@gmail.com.

Elks Camp Wish List: Financial donations for camperships and program activities, use kid's clothing, rain jackets and ponchos, and swimsuits.

Contact JohnMMiller@allstate.com to donate.

Pelican Lake Association Board of Directors

Joan Mondale President	(952) 412-6023 jmondale@mondale.biz	Roger Okerman Invasive Species	612-719-0795 rokerman@gmail.com
Dave Slipy Vice President Landing Monitors	218-562-5393 dslipy@hotmail.com	Rick Nolan Land Use	(218) 546-6166 nolan@crosbyironton.net
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Beach Captains: Kelly Anderson, (952) 238-1709, kanderson3@comcast.net
 Newsletter: Jodi Eberhardt, (612)-298-2935, jodi.eberhardt@gmail.com

Newsletter Sponsorships

With this issue, Pelican Lake Association is working with Lakes Area Printing to help us improve the newsletter. As printing and mailing costs continue to increase, we are seeking sponsors for the newsletter.

If you are an area business and wish to sponsor the Pelican Lakes Association newsletter, we are looking for sponsors at the \$250/year level and friends at the \$100/year level. Contact San Countryman to start your sponsorship for 2011.

Special thank you to the businesses that were members at the friends level for 2010.

2010 Business Contributors

Sponsors of Pelican Lake Association

- Become a sponsor!

Friends of Pelican Lakes Association

- City of Breezy Point
- Morningside Estates Association
- Waldenheim Condominium Owners Association

Useful Websites for Information on Lake Stewardship

University of Minnesota Shoreland Newsletter	The September - October 2010 issue of the "From Shore to Shore" newsletter is now posted on the website for you to view and/or download. To access it, please go to: http://shorelandmanagement.org/shore_shore/
Minnesota Waters	www.mnwaters.org
Thirty Lakes Watershed	Did you know that you will likely need a permit from the Thirty Lakes Watershed District if you intend to complete any construction or dirt moving project on your lakeshore lot? See storm water permit at www.30lakes.org

Become a Member



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
Pelican Membership: \$200	Nisswa, MN 56468

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Beach/Plat Name _____

Membership dues and donations are tax deductible under IRS code 501c(3)

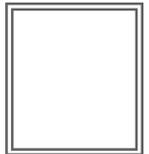
1-1-2010

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Therefore, to continue receiving PLA
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