

PELICAN LAKES ASSOCIATION

SPRING 2012 NEWSLETTER



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

www.pelicanlakesassociation.org

Letter From the President

By Joan Mondale

With an early spring, we are anxiously awaiting ice out when the DNR will resume the search for additional zebra mussels in Pelican Lake. One lone mussel was found last fall and we hope this is only a wake up call and not the sign of a larger issue.

We are pleased with the new legislative action to fund invasive species prevention efforts and allow the DNR to enforce the laws that were already in place. You'll find more information about this in the newsletter.

Pelican Lake Association continues our local awareness efforts. There are five new billboards around the lake reminding boaters to take appropriate steps to stop the spread. We applied for 2300 hours of landing access monitoring and have received 1386 hours which will cost the association \$10,741 (the DNR pays half and we pay half).

Unfortunately, we asked for 1,000 hours last year and only 418 hours of monitoring were completed due to the state shutdown and a shortage of inspectors.

Your help would be appreciated to volunteer for a few hours at any of our boat accesses. Contact David Slipy for more information.

Mark your Calendars!
Annual Meeting
June 30, 2012
9:00 am
Breezy Point Community Center

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Highlights from the DNR inspection reports show the dangers to our lake and the importance of education:

- 10% (78 boaters out of 790 inspections completed in 2011) had come to Pelican Lake from a waterbody in Minnesota known to be infested with zebra mussels.
- This is an increase from 2010 when 42 boaters out of 1,276 inspections completed had come to Pelican Lake from mussel-infested waters.
- 63 out of 790 (about 7.97%) boaters inspected either entering or exiting Pelican Lake had come from another state.
- 4.81% of boaters inspected were not familiar with invasive species
- Out of the 524 boaters who were entering the water 131 did not have their drain plug out while arriving.
- Out of the 790 inspections done at Pelican, 519 or 65.6% had not been inspected prior to 2011 and were an important audience for us to contact.

Wildlife and Habitat Corner

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



Red-tailed Hawk

Some of the birds we see soaring overhead in the Pelican Lakes area are our native hawks. Red-tailed and Broad-winged hawks are found throughout Minnesota; however both prefer our northern forests and wetlands. The Red-tailed hawk is a larger bird; about 19 to 26 inches long, usually brown colored with black and white streaks and a distinctive red tail. Their sound is a high-pitched scream. In our area we also find the Broad-winged hawk, a medium sized bird about the size of a crow, usually 13 to 15 inches long. It has 2 white bands and 2 black bands on its broad tail, with a dark back and light coloring beneath. It is distinguished when flying overhead by its thickly striped broad tail. Their sound is a high-pitched “Keeeee” whistle used when defending its territory.

Broad-winged Hawk

Hawks feed primarily on rodents, but will eat rabbits, snakes, frogs and other birds. The Broad-winged hawk skins snakes and frogs and removes feathers from birds before eating them, thereby leaving evidence of their attack. A hawk's eyesight is 5 times better than human vision, so what we clearly see at 20 feet a hawk will see clearly at 100 feet. Hawks soaring high above while hunting can see something the size of a rabbit a mile away, not necessarily recognizing it as a rabbit if it's sitting still, but when it moves it may well be its last move because hawks can dive at speeds well over 100 miles per hour. For those of us who maintain feeder stations for song birds, hawks can be a concern as they can find our activities to attract birds to our yards very convenient for their hunting .



Hawks, as well as other raptors migrate to warmer areas in the fall. Broad-winged and Red-tailed hawks migrate in groups of several dozen to hundreds called kettles. An excellent place to observe fall migration of hawks as well as other raptors and a wide array of songbirds is Hawk Ridge in Duluth. Kettles of Broad-winged hawks make for a spectacular sight passing over Hawk Ridge where 8,000 to 100,000 have been observed in a single day.

Hawk Ridge is a 315 acre reserve offering some of North America's best hawk and bird watching opportunities during migration. The north shore of Lake Superior is one of the premier migrating routes for raptors and songbirds in North America. Lake Superior tends to serve as a boundary as birds prefer to not fly over large bodies of water, especially since they

Wildlife and Habitat Corner, continued

are continually looking for cover and food along their route. The lake funnels migrating birds along its shoreline with hundreds of thousands of birds flying this route that eventually passes over a hill in Duluth known as Hawk Ridge.

Raptor counts began at this location in the 1950's, and were standardized in 1972, the first year of operation for a banding station and formal fall hawk count. The banding operations are now staffed 24 hours per day from the middle of August until late in November. This banding station is one of the most active in North America in total number of banded hawks and owls with an annual average of nearly 3,000 per season.

Migrating hawks and birds return in spring beginning in middle March, continuing through May, however spring migration routes tend more to the southwest, still passing over Duluth but not necessarily over Hawk Ridge. Hawk Ridge Reserve offers a great opportunity to watch fall migration beginning in the middle of August. You can check their website (www.hawkridge.org) for the best time to view fall migration.

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.

Sensitive Lakeshore Identification Project Complete

Want to learn more about the aquatic plants and wildlife of Pelican Lake? The DNR has completed a report on Pelican Lake that includes the results of plants, birds, frogs and fish surveys. Go to this link to learn more about the project and scroll down to the bottom of the page to find the link to the Pelican Lake report. <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/eco/sli/index.html>

Membership Update

By San Countryman

The membership committee would like to thank everyone that has paid their 2012 dues. Also, thank you to those members that included a donation with their dues payment. Currently we have about 33% (330) of the Big & Little Pelican property owners as paid up members. Please help us get to at least 50% (500) member participation. If you are concerned about maintaining our beautiful lakes, please consider joining PLA.

It has been suggested that we include both husband & wife's name on future invoices. We will do so with the 2013 invoices to be mailed next January.

We would like to keep our resident mailing list as current as possible. If you have changed your mailing address, e-mail address, or phone number in the last two years please notify us @ countrymanks2@aol.com or send a note to us at 3725 S Lenox St, Milwaukee, WI 53207.

Changes in the Fight Against Invasive Species

Source: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

The Minnesota Legislature passed a number of new laws in 2011 related to prevention and management of aquatic invasive species (AIS). The laws apply to not only boaters and property owners, but also lake service providers and others involved with transportation of water-related equipment.

Service Provider Licensing: Service providers are individuals or businesses hired to install or remove water-related equipment such as boats, docks, boat lifts or structures from waters of the state. They are now required by state statute to obtain a permit from the DNR before providing any services. The DNR will begin to implement and enforce this during the 2012 open water season. All service providers must complete invasive species training and pass an examination in order to qualify for a permit. Homeowners must make sure their service provider is appropriately licensed.

Road Check Stations: A new state law gives DNR authority to operate check stations that require motorists transporting boats, trailers and other marine equipment to be inspected for aquatic invasive species. Those caught violating state laws against transporting zebra mussels, Eurasian water milfoil and other invaders can expect citations and fines instead of warnings, as in previous years.

Additional Decontamination Units: The DNR will purchase 20 high-pressure, hot-water decontamination units that will be operated at zebra mussel infested waters, high-use destination lakes and at DNR Enforcement check points. One of these units was in operation last summer in the Brainerd Lakes area.

ADDITIONAL STAFF

The DNR will hire 150 new authorized watercraft inspectors who will be deployed around the state. Three additional invasive

species specialists will also be hired to work with lake associations, local units of government and individuals on local prevention and management efforts.

Additionally, the DNR plans to demonstrate inspections and decontamination of boats at major fishing tournaments on zebra mussel-infested waters. The agency also is producing a video documentary on aquatic invasive species that will be distributed to news media, lakeshore organizations and others.

MORE INFORMATION ON DNR WEBSITE

The DNR's invasive species web page has been revamped to make it easier to access information on aquatic invasive species. Key categories of information include DNR contacts, news and announcements; identification and management of individual species: how the public can help stop the spread of the invaders. New pages include information for lake service providers and invasive species management. There is also new link on the DNR homepage under "find it fast."

It is unlawful to:

- Transport aquatic plants (see: [exceptions in statute](#)), round goby, zebra mussels, or other prohibited species
- Launch a watercraft with aquatic plants, zebra mussels, or prohibited/regulated invasive species attached
- Transport water from designated infested waters
- Transport water from lakes or rivers in boats, livewells, and bait containers
- Transport watercraft and water-related equipment that hold water from a water access site or riparian property without draining them by removing the drain plug and opening water-draining device

How to Help Wildlife

Source: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Donate to the non-game wildlife fund: Check the box on your taxes - April 15, Chickadee Checkoff. Tax Day! Don't forget to look for the loon on your Minnesota state income tax form. The loon line provides an opportunity to make a tax-deductible contribution that benefits wildlife in Minnesota.

Buy a Conservation License Plate: Show everyone you care about our state's natural resources by proudly displaying Minnesota's conservation license plate. With an annual contribution of \$30 or more to the Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Critical Habitat Program, you will be helping to preserve important wildlife habitat and plant communities such as wetlands, prairies, old growth forests, and endangered orchid sites.

Radio Tagged Loons Heading North Soon

By Pam Perry, DNR Biologist

In September, Minnesota's adult loons travel to their winter home along the Atlantic coast from North Carolina south to Florida, or on the Gulf of Mexico. Younger loons follow a month or so later. During the summer of 2011, biologists from the USGS (U. S. Geological Survey) coordinated with DNR biologists to put radio-transmitters on 13 male loons in Minnesota. Seven more loons were attached with radios in Wisconsin and Michigan. To see where these loons are now and to follow their migration route north in the spring go to

http://www.umesc.usgs.gov/terrestrial/migratory_birds/loons/migrations.html

Fun Facts about Loons

Source: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

- Minnesota has more loons (roughly 12,000) than any other state except Alaska.
- Loons like fish - panfish, perch, ciscoes, suckers, trout, bullheads, smelt, and minnows. They also may eat frogs, leeches, crayfish, mollusks, salamanders, amphipods, and insects.
- The common loon has four calls. The tremolo, which sounds a bit like maniacal laughter, is an aggressive call. The wail is a long, drawn-out sound. The hoot, a shorter call, is used to communicate among parents and young. The yodel is sounded by male loons guarding their territory.
- The bones of most birds are hollow and light, but loons have solid bones.
- The extra weight helps them dive as deep as 250 feet to search for food. They can stay underwater for up to five minutes.
- Because their bodies are heavy relative to their wing size, loons need a 100- to 600-foot "runway" in order to take off from a lake.
- Loons can fly more than 75 miles per hour.
- The red in the loon's eye helps it to see under water.
- Scientists think loons can live for 30 years or more

Mousseau Bay's Early History

By Dr. James Henderson

Although some Minnesota DNR maps call it Moose Bay, the body of water that once was the entrance to Little Pelican Lake should officially be called Mousseau Bay. In the early 1900s one could easily boat between the two lakes and a bridge on County Road 4 carried Model T Fords over the channel just south of Breezy Point.

Sometime prior to 1913 Frank and Sophia Mousseau purchased 151 acres of shore land just north of where the old bridge once stood. Frank was born in Minneapolis in 1876. His father David worked as a cooper (barrel maker) for the Borm Company. Frank married Sophia Daigle in 1902. He worked as a Northern Pacific railroad switchman in Minneapolis until he retired.

When Frank registered for the draft in September 1918 during World War I he listed Sophia as his nearest relative living in Pequot Lakes. They seemed to have maintained a residence in Minneapolis as well as in Pequot Lakes.

Just when Frank and Sophie built the small restaurant and skating rink on their Mousseau Bay property is not known, but it was likely around the end of the war. During the 1920s and 30s it had a gas pump out front and catered to the tourist trade that motored by on their way to Captain Bill Fawcett's Breezy Point Lodge.

Once such infamous customer, according to a local Pelican Lake Outing Club history written Marjorie Wilson Richison, was the Chicago gangster George "Bugs" Moran who bought lunch at the restaurant for himself and his boys. Moran was born in St. Paul, but moved on to Chicago at age 19 to live a life of violence and crime.

He was the archenemy of Al "Scarface" Capone and was nearly killed in the 1929 St. Valentine's Day massacre when a bunch of his boys were machine gunned down in a warehouse by Capone's gang.

After Frank Mousseau's death in 1950, Sophia moved to California to live with her son David. The building was then purchased with funds raised by friends of Mrs. Taylor, a long-time waitress at Breezy Point Lodge who had seven children, since at the time she apparently had no other place to live.

When Mrs. Taylor left, the home sat empty for several years and was finally purchased by Laura and Oscar Shogren in 1989. In 1935 Oscar's father John served as a cook for 6 months at CCC Camp Pelican that was located on the southeast side of the lake. Laura said when they moved in they found a hidden area behind the basement stairs where coins were stored. I guess Sophia Mousseau had a good place to hide her money from the likes of "Bugs" Moran.

The author is collecting information and old photos of resorts and lake views around Pelican Lake for future articles in the PLA newsletter. If you have a photo of the old Mousseau restaurant please email Jim Henderson at james7122@gmail.com.



The gas pumps are long gone from the front of the old Mousseau cabin now owned by Laura & Oscar Shogren.

Pelican Lake Association Board of Directors

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NEW! Newsletter Advertising

Beginning with the summer newsletter, Pelican Lakes Association will offer advertising to area businesses. Advertising is open to anyone and the services are not endorsed or promoted by the lake association. Please contact jodi.eberhardt@gmail.com if you are interested.

Newsletter Advertising Rates:
 \$125 (1/8 page - business card size)
 \$250 (1/4 page)
 \$500 (1/2 page ad)
 \$1000 (full page)
 all sizes include a link on our website for business sponsors

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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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Spouse _____

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Beach/Plat Name _____

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

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