

Pelican Lakes Property Owners Association
Spring 2008 Newsletter

Letter from President.....

This newsletter will primarily be devoted to PLPOA's aggressive strategy to prevent the introduction of zebra mussels and other invasive species into our lakes. And we'll update you on our plans to curtail the curlyleaf pondweed infestations. To increase our odds of success with these daunting tasks, PLPOA is working with state and local partners including the DNR, The City of Breezy Point, Pelican Lakes Conservation Club (PLCC) and other community members. We've also been pursuing grant funding through multiple sources to help with the expenses associated with these costly projects.

In addition, PLPOA has been collaborating with other area lake associations and through this joint effort we were recently invited to meet with Governor Pawlenty and the DNR Commissioner at the Capital!

Please join us in our efforts to combat invasive species. Become a member, join a committee or make a donation! And don't forget to mark your calendar for July 19th to attend our annual meeting. We appreciate your support!

Joan Mondale

jmondale@comcast.net

www.pelicanlakes-poa.org

July 19th at 10:30am – Annual Meeting at the Elks Camp!

For the first time ever, the Elks have graciously offered to let us hold our annual meeting at the Elks Camp! Join us at this historic camp on Pelican Lake (located off of CSAH 118). Guest speaker Steve McComas of Blue Water Science will tell us more about curlyleaf pondweed. Please bring a neighbor and come to hear more about all the exciting projects PLPOA is working on!

Invasive Species Prevention Efforts Receive Grant Dollars

We are all acutely aware that the introduction of non-native species into our lakes would have a detrimental impact on water quality, fishing, as well as recreational activities. As a result, the Pelican Lakes Exotic Species Task Force was formed in June 2007. This organization is comprised of community members who have joined together to develop a comprehensive proposal to prevent the spread of zebra mussels and other non-natives into our lakes.

The group developed an action plan to protect Pelican Lake from the spread of aquatic exotic species. PLPOA applied for and received \$9500 in matching grant funds from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and \$5000 from the Initiative Foundation's Healthy Lakes & Rivers Program (HLRP).

With these funds, PLPOA will partner with the DNR to staff two (2) watercraft inspectors at 40 hours per week for 17 weeks. The staff will start on Memorial Day and continue through Labor Day. The DNR has already volunteered to provide the watercraft inspectors at their expense for the fishing opener.

In addition, the task force has planned the following educational events for 2008:

1. Focus on Invasive Species at the PLPOA annual meeting including having Steve McComas as the guest speaker to discuss the spread of invasive species, aquatic plant surveys, as well as the PLPOA invasive species management activities.
2. Publish results of zebra mussel tile monitoring and other invasive species activities in the PLPOA and PLCC newsletters and on the PLPOA website.
3. Work with other lake associations in the area to fund zebra mussel community education advertisements in local newspapers in conjunction with the DNR.
4. Increase signage for invasive species at six boat landings.
5. Partner with the DNR to hold three service provider sensitivity training sessions starting in early 2008.

The total cost of the program is projected to be \$29,995. We have received \$3280 in in-kind donations from Minnesota Waters, the DNR, and the task force. The DNR will fund \$8350 for 696 hours of watercraft inspections, \$1150 to help with signs at landings and \$500 for media advertising. PLPOA is responsible for matching \$8350 (for inspection) \$6050 for signage at landings and \$300 for guest speakers. PLPOA will incur additional costs for communication, community education efforts, publications and continued tile studies bringing our total to \$17,215. The \$5000 grant from HLRP will go towards this effort, leaving a balance of \$12,215. We will be submitting additional grant requests to community organizations as well. We would greatly appreciate any monetary contributions from lake association members toward this cause.

First service provider training on zebra mussel prevention held in April

PLPOA wishes to thank the following area professionals who attended the DNR seminar on April 3 and were trained in the proper identification of zebra mussels and how to prevent their spread.

Marv Koep	Nisswa Guides League	Breezy Point	(218) 562-4187
	Bertha Boatworks Inc	Pequot Lakes	(218) 543-4100
Jeremiah Mich			
Lenny Hodgson	Nisswa Guides League	Nisswa	(218) 568-4527
Ed Carlson	D.H. Docks	Nisswa	(218) 963-2566
Kevin Swanson			
Justin Vargo			
Tracy Gibson			
	Brainerd Sports & Marine	Brainerd	(218) 828-4728
Dave Shogren			
Dan Zimmerman	Nisswa Dock Co	Nisswa	(218) 963-2584
Dennis Zimmerman			
Bob Ressen			
Roger Landers	Norlake Dock Service	Nisswa	(218) 568-5016
Jim Spileman	Ricka Mfg.	Pequot Lakes	218-562-4923

Patrick Selter			
Lisa Schultz	Professional Lake		
Tanya Lund	Management	Pequot Lakes	218-568-5379
Justin Norring	Cabin Care	Pequot Lakes	218-562-4521

Why is this training important? Last summer a professional service provider moved a boat lift from Ossie to Pelican. The lift containing zebra mussels was about to be installed in our lake when the property owner came home and stopped the install and had the lift properly cleaned before installing it into Pelican Lake. Another close encounter was experienced spring of this year when a lift from Ossie was taken in on a trade by a local marine service and sold to a Gull Lake property owner. Fortunately, the marine service and contracted installer took the actions necessary to clean the zebra mussels off the lift before it was installed in the lake.

Keeping invasives out of our lake is up to each of us! We ask you to choose your lake service providers carefully. If you use a service provider that was not listed as attending the zebra mussel training, ask them to attend the next DNR Invasive Species Sensitivity Seminar. Please send the name, address, and phone number to jodi.eberhardt@gmail.com and we'll make sure they are added to our list of invitees for the next session which is tentatively scheduled for mid-August.

Brainerd Area Invasive Species Task Force meets with Governor Pawlenty

Clyde Clement, PLPOA board member, led the Brainerd Lakes Area Exotic Species Task Force to identify what additional actions could be taken at the state level to prevent the spread of invasive species. The group sent a letter to Governor Pawlenty and area legislators sharing those recommendations.

With the fishing opener on Pelican Lake, the timing was ideal, and the group was invited to the state capital on April 29 to meet with Governor Tim Pawlenty; Mark Holsten, DNR Commissioner; Luke Skinner, DNR Invasive Species Unit; and Josh Gackle, Senior Policy Advisor. Clyde Clement and Joan Mondale represented PLPOA at the meeting.

The group discussed the following recommendations:

1. Increased emphasis on invasive species prevention efforts within the DNR
2. Increased communication to the public
3. Increased enforcement and penalties.

The meeting went very well and the group and agreed to continue to work together to address the concerns and find solutions.

The organizations involved in the letter and the meeting include: Whitefish Chain Property Owners Association, Gull Lake Chain Property Owners Association, Ossawinnamakee Lake Property Owners Association, Kimball Lake Property Owners Association, Pelican Lake Property Owners Association. Minnesota Waters, and Crow Wing County Lakes and Rivers Alliance.



Meeting with Governor Pawlenty about the PLPOA clean water efforts are from left to right, Molly Zins (Minnesota Waters), Denny Loechler (Kimball Lake), Bob Grussendorf (Gull Lake), Governor Pawlenty, Austin Kraft (Lake Ossawinamakee), Joan Mondale (PLPOA) and Clyde Clement (PLPOA and PLCC).

Zebra Mussel Facts:

- ? Zebra mussels foul beaches, interfere with food webs, smother native mussels, clog water intakes, and are linked to fish and wildlife die-offs.
- ? Once they are in a lake, there's no way to get rid of them. Diving ducks, the freshwater drum, and other fish eat zebra mussels, but will not significantly control them.
- ? A single large female can produce up to 1 million eggs per year.
- ? You have to move both a male and female to a new lake to start a new infestation.
- ? Zebra mussels feed by filtering phytoplankton, bacteria and detritus (dead organic matter) from water. Adults can filter more than 1 quart (1 liter) of water per day, and many live up to three years or more.

How to prevent the spread of Zebra Mussels

- ? **Inspect** your boat, trailer, and boating equipment (anchors, centerboards, rollers, axles) and **remove** any plants and animals that are visible before leaving any waterbody.
- ? **Drain water** from the motor, livewell, bilge, and transom wells while on land before leaving any waterbody. **Drain water from bait containers from zebra mussel infested invested waters.**

- ? **Dispose** of unwanted bait in the trash. Never release live bait into a waterbody, or release aquatic animals from one waterbody into another.
- ? **Wash then dry** your boat, tackle, downriggers, trailer, and other boating equipment to kill harmful species that were not visible at the boat launch. This can be done on your way home or once you have returned home. Zebra mussels can live for a week in a damp area, so it is important to:
 - o rinse your boat and equipment that normally get wet with hot (at least 40° C or 104° F) tap water; or
 - o spray your boat and trailer with high-pressure water; or
 - o dry your boat and equipment for at least 5 days, before transporting to another waterbody.

What we are doing about the Curly Leaf Pondweed in Pelican Lake?

The PLPOA invasive species committee was established June with the mission of keeping invasive species out of Pelican Lake. The first step in this process was to determine a baseline for all of the vegetation in Pelican Lake. At the request of PLPOA, the DNR was able to complete a brief public access survey of aquatic plants on Pelican lake and Little Pelican lake on July 12, 2007. This survey alerted the PLPOA board to the presence of curly leaf pondweed in our lake. To date, this is the only invasive species known to be in the lake.

Curly leaf pondweed is in over 50% of the lakes in Crow Wing County and has been a known problem since the 1960's. Curly-leaf pondweed (*Potamogeton crispus*) is an exotic plant that forms surface mats that interfere with aquatic recreation. The plant usually drops to the lake bottom by early July. Curly-leaf pondweed was the most severe nuisance aquatic plant in the Midwest until Eurasian watermilfoil appeared. For more information, see the DNR website at:

http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/aquatic_plants/submerged_plants/curlyleaf_pondweed.html

While we are concerned about the presence of curly leaf pondweed, the DNR advises us that it may have been in the lake for many years and Pelican may not be an environment that encourages abundant growth. PLPOA has defined the following steps to assess the situation and determine the best approach for treatment:

1. Hiring Steve McComas, aka "Lake Doctor", Blue Water Science, to assess the lake and develop a treatment plan. This assessment will occur in June 2008. Steve will also speak at our annual meeting, but will likely not have the assessment complete prior to the meeting.
2. Work with the DNR and Steve McComas to conduct a complete vegetation survey of the lake(s) to ensure that we do not have other areas of concern beyond what we've identified.
3. If the infestation is in need of management, contract with a local service to treat known areas of curly leaf pondweed. The treatment could start as soon as the spring of 2009.

What does it look like?

Where was it found? How much?

Across from Halverson Bay landing, approx 200 plants

Near marina landing in Breezy Bay, approx 50 plants



In Memory

Bunny Young, long-time resident of Pelican Lake, passed away in March 2007. Bunny was a PLPOA board member from 1984 – 2003. After retiring from the board, she continued to volunteer as a Beach Captain for several years. We are very appreciative of Bunny's contributions to our organization and for her commitment to preserving and protecting the Pelican Lakes.

Jones Bay Access

The channel between Jones Bay and the big lake was dredged in March. Please exercise caution as you move through the channel as the navigation area has been moved slightly to the west from where it was previously.

Non-Phosphorus Fertilizers

Minnesotans know to avoid *phosphorus* in fertilizers but there are other nutrients in fertilizers, such as *nitrogen*, that can encourage the growth of algae and noxious weeds, especially if phosphorus is already abundant in the water. Fertilizers may also contain *herbicides* that kill vegetation. Woody plants may be damaged when herbicide drifts from its desired location due to wind. Birds and other wildlife are impacted by the release of these chemicals in our environment.

Minnesota banned the use of fertilizers containing phosphorus primarily because of the detrimental effect of excess phosphorus on water quality. Always read the label as fertilizer containing phosphorus is still sold in stores around the state.

If you want to continue to have clean, clear lake water, put the chemicals away and let your yard go natural. Leave the manicured lawns in the suburbs and enjoy the natural surroundings of being at the lake. The birds, the fish and your neighbors appreciate it!

Aquatic Vegetation

Any control of emergent vegetation, such as cattails, and the use of pesticides in public waters **require** a DNR aquatic plant management permit. Check with the DNR before cutting any aquatic plants. Plant cuttings **CANNOT** be left in the lake or along the

shoreline. PLPOA received several complaints last summer of plant cuttings washing ashore some properties. Cutting or pulling plants will release additional phosphorus and other nutrients into the lake which causes algae blooms and decreased water clarity. For more information go to: www.dnr.state.mn.us

Membership

Thank you to all of those who have recently paid their membership dues. Your dues and donations help us to continue our many projects to maintain the quality of the Pelican Lakes. A special thank you to those who have contributed at the following levels:

Loon (\$50-\$99)

Draheim, Edmund & Jane Archerd, Charles Slater, John

Eagle (\$100-\$199)

*Macken, Daniel
Mellinger, Jim & Judy
Pansing, Thomas & Jennifer
Steiner, Fred & Evadne
Vaughn, Robert & Joyce
Yanson, Oscar & Julia*

Pelican (\$200+)

*Johnson, Allen & Becky
Anonymous
Perdue, Glenn & Sandy*

We have had several newsletters returned because the forwarding order of the addressee had expired. For all of those people that have their mail temporarily forwarded, the US Post Office will only forward it for 6 months. If you need your mail forwarded for a longer period of time, you must submit a new Temporary Mail Forwarding Form.

To alleviate this problem, you may want to have your newsletter sent via e-mail. Please contact Glen Young @ youngsmn@brainerd.net to have your newsletter sent via e-mail.



Pelican Lakes

Property Owners Association
PO Box 823
Nisswa, MN 56468

Join Today!

Membership runs from August 1st to July 31st.
Please complete the attached form and return it to PLPOA with your dues.

New property owners, 1 year FREE membership.

Annual Membership: \$25
Loon Membership: \$50
Eagle Membership: \$100
Pelican Membership: \$200+

Make checks payable to:
PLPOA
PO Box 823
Nisswa, MN 56468

Name _____ Spouse _____

Lake Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____

Permanent Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____

E-Mail _____

Beach/Plat Name _____

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