

## Winter Newsletter 2009



Thanks to your support, PLPOA implemented several new projects in 2008 and plans are already underway to continue these programs in 2009. We're especially excited to announce that we're partnering with the Elks Camp on the restoration of 300 ft of their lakeshore. PLPOA has secured grants from various organizations to support this worthwhile project. Find out the status of our latest efforts and read about plans for 2009 on the following pages!

The lake association has accomplished much over the last few years including the introduction of our water monitoring program, the formation of an invasive species prevention plan, lakeshore restoration projects, and stronger relations with the community. But we continue to face tough challenges including the treatment of curly leaf pondweed and the prevention of other invasives such as zebra mussels. In addition, the ongoing destruction and loss of natural shoreline, storm water runoff problems and the increase in the use of chemicals by some will have long lasting implications on our water quality.

While the challenges can seem overwhelming, we also see tremendous positive changes taking place around the lakes. It's clear that residents are making a conscious effort to become more "lake friendly". Whether it is as simple as eliminating the use of phosphorus in the cabin or on the lawn to allowing part of your land to return to its' natural state or taking on a full-fledged shoreline restoration project --- You are making a difference!!

On behalf of the entire board, we are very appreciative of your efforts and your generosity in supporting our initiatives to protect and improve the water quality of the Pelican lakes.

Joan Mondale  
President  
[jmondale@comcast.net](mailto:jmondale@comcast.net)

### **Board of Directors**

Thank you to outgoing board members Kelly Anderson and Jim Strampe. Both served on the PLPOA board for several years and were instrumental in spurring the growth of the organization and the creation of new programs. Fortunately for all of us, Kelly will continue to oversee our Beach Captain efforts and Jim has graciously offered to continue to publish our newsletter.

Please join us in welcoming new board member Bill Hodder. We appreciate his interest and commitment to our organization. And PLPOA welcomes your involvement – call us anytime you have a question or want to help!

## **Join us July 11<sup>th</sup> at the Elks Camp!**

Our friends at the Elks Camp have again offered us the use of their facilities for our annual meeting! Last year's meeting was a huge success with over 115 in attendance. Please join us this year on Saturday, July 18th, 2009 from 10:30 am – 11:30am. After a brief meeting, we invite you to visit the newly planted lakeshore restoration project. In addition, the Elks would be pleased to take you on a short tour of the grounds. (via golf carts)

## **2008 Invasive Species Prevention Project**

In the spring of 2008, we implemented a multi-pronged approach to prevent the introduction of additional non-natives into our lakes. To finance these efforts, we received grant funding from the DNR and the Initiative Foundation with the remaining costs of these programs covered by PLPOA. Please see below for a summary of the projects.

### **1. Educational Classes for Professionals**

Each year hundreds of different people enter our lakes to put in docks, deliver boats, harvest weeds, rent personal watercraft, etc. Last year PLPOA coordinated 3 seminars in partnership with the DNR to educate these frequent lake users on reducing the risks of spreading non-native species between neighboring lakes. The names of the professionals that attended these seminars are listed below.

PLPOA will be scheduling another training session for spring 2009. We ask that the property owners on the Pelican Lakes contact the professionals that they use for boat storage/ delivery, dock installation, etc. and request that they attend this DNR seminar.

Without the cooperation of these professionals, the ongoing fight against the spread of non-native species will be difficult. Please help us by sending the name / address of your professional via snail mail to our PO Box or by email to [info@pelicanlakes-poa.org](mailto:info@pelicanlakes-poa.org).

Marv Koep	Nisswa Guides League
Jeremiah Mich	Bertha Boatworks Inc
Lenny Hodgson	Nisswa Guides League
Ed Carlson, Kevin Swanson, Justin Vargo, Tracy Gibson	D.H. Docks
Dave Shogren	Brainerd Sports & Marine
Dan Zimmerman, Dennis Zimmerman, Bob Ressen	Nisswa Dock Co
Roger Landers	Norlake Dock Service
Jim Spileman	Ricka MFG
Patrick Selter, Lisa Schultz, Tanya Lund	Professional Lake Management
Justin Norring	Cabin Care
Dan Eigen, Tim Idanske, Toby Kuaevos, Bruce Meinz, Jeff Anderson	Walleye Dan's Guide Service
Tom Snook	Lake Restoration
Matt Lovitz, Scott Nelson	Neighborhood Landscaping and Development

## 2. Watercraft Inspections

This past summer the DNR conducted 795 inspections of boaters entering or leaving Pelican Lake. Of those boats, 91 were found to have attached vegetation. 37 came directly from a body of water known to be infested with zebra mussels (Ossawinnamakee, Mille Lacs, Mississippi River). Another 3% were considered high risk as they traveled from a different state that has lakes with zebra mussels. 59 of those questioned never heard of zebra mussels.

The results from these inspections highlight the importance of monitoring boats entering our lakes. While education is important, on-site monitoring is a more effective tool in ensuring those entering or leaving a lake take the appropriate steps to remove water and/or vegetation from their watercraft. Therefore, PLPOA will submit an application to the DNR seeking acceptance in their 2009 Watercraft Inspection grant program.

## 3. New signage

Larger, newly designed signage will be placed at major landings around the lake early this spring. In 2009, PLPOA will be asking those with private accesses on the lake to place these signs in visible locations.



## Curlyleaf Pondweed Update

PLPOA is in the process of finalizing a plan to control the spread of curlyleaf pondweed in Breezy Bay. As you may recall, the DNR measured 10+ acres of this weed in Breezy Bay. We have applied to the DNR for a grant to cover the expense of treatment.

In addition, we will be asking for volunteers in mid to late June to search for signs of curlyleaf in other locations around the lake. More details will be shared on this as well as the treatment program and grants in our spring newsletter.

## Elks Shoreline Restoration Project and Grant

Pelican Lake Property Owners Association (PLPOA) and the Elks are partnering to restore the border shoreline of the Minnesota Elks Camp – 150 feet on each side – to a depth of 30 feet. The restoration will compliment the existing natural landscape of the camp and serve as a very important demonstration site on the lake. We are working with Crow Wing County Soil and Water, Thirty Lakes Watershed, University of Minnesota Extension and Sunshine Gardens to provide training and planting expertise.

The project has received \$10,000 in grant funding from Minnesota Waters, DNR, and Thirty Lakes Watershed. We have an additional \$7,000 in donations from in-kind labor on the project. We have worked with the Elks camp to harvest native seeds from their property this past fall.

Sunshine Gardens is germinating the seeds and we'll plan the shoreline with truly local plants next spring.

This project will restore the native plant community in a large, visible area on our lakeshore. The native shoreline will help keep the water clean, provide habitat for birds and insects, and add beauty and diversity to the shoreline. It will serve as an example site and provide education to children at the camp, lake residents, and the community.

Planting weekend is scheduled for May 15 and 16 of 2009. Contact [Jodi.eberhardt@gmail.com](mailto:Jodi.eberhardt@gmail.com) if you are interested in participating.

**This project has the following goals:**

- Preserve, protect, and restore native plant and wildlife communities along the shoreline of Pelican Lake by restoring 9,000 square feet of shoreline – creating a 30 foot buffer zone on 300 feet of sandy shoreline.
- Educate PLPOA members and all lake-users on the benefits of restored shoreline through a highly-visible demonstration site
- Create a science curriculum for the camp to provide continuous education to 600 kids each summer.

**Timeline:** The project timeline is as follows:

- September 2008 – Site design and site preparation (including removal of invasive weeds on shoreline)
- October 2008 – Collect native seed from Elks Camp land and other natural shoreline on Pelican Lake
- November 4, 2008 – Plant small experimental seed site (100 x 6 feet)
- May 15 & 16, 2009 – Planting weekend – with the help of 40 to 60 Elks members we will install 6,000 plant plugs on the site.
- June 2009 – Promotion and education of the project with PLPOA annual meeting at Elks camp
- September 2009 – Annual maintenance weekend

**PLPOA Board Members:**

Joan Mondale	President	952-412-6023
Tracy Donovan	Vice President	218-562-4805
Jodi Eberhardt	Sec /Lakeshore Restoration	612-298-2935
San Countryman	Treasurer	414-481-2075 (Sept – June) or 218-963-4490
Clyde Clement	Invasive Species	218-562-4807 or cell 218-831-1683
Glen Gustafson	Water Quality	218-765-3796
Bill Hodder	Land Use	952-925-2047
Ed Nordgaard	Land Use	203-762-2972 (Sept-June) or cell 203-216-7857
Rick Nolan	Land Use	218-546-6166 or cell 218-838-9879
Roger Okerman	Invasive Species	612-719-0795
Art Weaver	Land Use	218-562-4196 or cell 402-202-7680

**2008 Lake Monitoring Program**

Volunteers once again completed testing on Pelican and Little Pelican Lakes. The water samples were taken in June, July and August. We were unable to do testing in May due

to the late ice-out and in September due to low water levels and high winds. With low lake levels and lack of precipitation some test readings were not as positive as in the past. However, overall the lakes continue to be healthy. We will continue to our monitoring program in 2009. If you have any questions regarding this program please contact Glen Gustafson at 218-765-3796 or [glengustafson@msn.com](mailto:glengustafson@msn.com).

## Membership

Thank you to all of those who have paid their membership dues. We now have 126 paid up members. Your annual dues of \$25 and all donations are tax deductible. These funds help us to continue our many projects to maintain the quality of the Pelican lakes. We offer a special thank you to those who have contributed at the following levels since June 1, 2008.

### Loon (\$50-\$99)

**Bolt, Dale & Shelley**  
**Gleason, Robert & Margaret**  
**Kolbe, Douglas & Stephanie**  
**Larson, David & Jennifer**  
**Larson, Ronald & Jesslyn**  
**Mellinger, James & Judy**  
**Okerman, Roger & Sandra**

### Eagle (\$100-\$199)

**Anderson, John & Janet**  
**Austin, Dr. Carol**  
**Baber, Robert & Patricia**  
**Eberhardt, Joseph & Jodi**  
**Groover, Dr. Robert & Ann**  
**Leonard, Winifred**  
**Lewis, Jim & Tonya**  
**Morgan, Judith**  
**Znameroski, Susan**

### Pelican (\$200+)

**Hampl, Joseph Jr. & Joan**  
**Hodder, William & Sue**  
**Neal, Lorraine**  
**Nordgaard, Ed & Vernita**  
**Van Dyke, William & Karen**  
**Weaver, Dr. Arthur & Joanne**

We have now changed our membership year to coincide with the calendar year, January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>. This should make it easier to remember when to pay your dues. Invoices will be mailed early in 2009 to those people that have not yet renewed their membership for 2009.

Remember to keep your postal forwarding order current as the post office will only forward mail for 6 months. If you would like to have your newsletter sent via e-mail please contact Glen Young at [youngsmn@brainerd.net](mailto:youngsmn@brainerd.net).

Please complete the attached form and return it to PLPOA with your dues. New property owners have one year free membership. Annual Memberships are \$25, Loon Memberships are \$50, Eagle Memberships \$100 and Pelican Memberships are \$200. Make checks payable to PLPOA and send to PLPOA, Box 823, Nisswa, MN, 56468. Dues and contributions are tax deductible under IRS code 5.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse \_\_\_\_\_

Lake Address \_\_\_\_\_ (Inc. city, state, zip)

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Beach/Plat name \_\_\_\_\_

Permanent Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

## **Let's Get The Lead Out**

Lead is a toxic metal that, in sufficient quantities, has adverse effects on the nervous and reproductive systems of mammals and birds. Found in most fishing jigs and sinkers, this metal is poisoning wildlife such as loons and eagles.

But there is hope. There are alternatives to traditional lead tackle. Anglers can now use sinkers and jigs made from non-poisonous materials such as tin, bismuth, steel, and tungsten-nickel alloy – and they can find them at established sporting goods retailers and on the Internet.

When lead fishing sinkers are lost through broken line or other means, birds can inadvertently eat them. Water birds like loons and swans often swallow lead when they scoop up pebbles from the bottom of a lake or river to help grind their food. Eagles ingest lead by eating fish, which have themselves ingested it.

A bird with lead poisoning will have physical and behavioral changes, including loss of balance, gasping, tremors, and impaired ability to fly. The weakened bird is more vulnerable to predators, or it may have trouble feeding, mating, nesting or caring for its young. It becomes emaciated and often dies within two to three weeks after eating the lead. Eating just one lead sinker can poison a loon.

During the 2002-03 session in Minnesota, the State Legislature considered banning the sale and use of lead tackle. But after a series of stakeholder discussions, the groups involved agreed that a better approach would be to educate anglers about the alternatives to lead tackle and to offer opportunities to try out non lead sinkers and jigs. This effort is supported by the cooperation of tackle manufacturers, retailers, lake associations, conservation organizations, sports enthusiasts, and government.

***PLPOA***

***Box 823***

***Nisswa, MN 56468***