

# *Pelican Lakes Property Owners Association Winter Newsletter 2007*

## *A Message from the President*

On behalf of the Board, we want to thank all of you for a great 2006! Because of your support, PLPOA accomplished a great deal last year including the expansion of our water monitoring program, an increase in membership and donations, continued communication through our website and newsletter publications, and the development of new educational programs. In addition, attendance at our meetings has been tremendous.

While we celebrate these achievements, we continue to need your involvement to carry us forward. We strive to represent the interests of all, including both seasonal and full time residents. So whether you volunteer to help with a single event, become involved in committee work or provide financial support, we greatly appreciate your time and effort in maintaining and expanding our programs. Here's how you can make a difference!

- ~ Become a member
- ~ Make a tax deductible donation
- ~ Attend our annual meeting 6/30/07
- ~ Participate in the visioning session 6/9/07
- ~ Join a committee
- ~ Help with a single activity/event
- ~ Be a Beach Captain

We're a diverse group of people with a common bond – the Pelican Lakes. Because we have a collective interest in something we all treasure, there is a place at PLPOA for everyone – please join us today!

Joan Mondale (jmondale@comcast.net)

## *2007 Schedule of Events*

June 9	8:15am - 9:00am 9:00am - 11:00am	Continental Breakfast PLPOA Visioning Session Commander Restaurant
June 30	9:00am- 10:30am	PLPOA Annual Meeting Breezy Point City Hall
August 11	TBD	Shoreline Restoration Workshop Breezy Point City Hall

## ***Shoreline Restoration Workshop***

Jodi Eberhardt has arranged to have Eleanor Burkett from the University of Minnesota Extension office teach a customized shoreline restoration workshop on Saturday, August 11 at Breezy Point City Hall. The all-day class emphasizes a holistic approach to shoreland vegetation – addressing environmental functions of a natural shoreline, property owner expectations, and shoreland regulations. You will leave the workshop with practical advice and understand how to begin your shoreland vegetation project. The cost of the workshop is \$20 per participant to cover materials and lunch. Class size is limited and advance registration is required. To register, contact Jodi Eberhardt at [jodi.eberhardt@gmacrfc.com](mailto:jodi.eberhardt@gmacrfc.com).

## ***Lakes & Rivers Healthy Partnership (HLRP) Grant Project Update***

If you were given \$5000 to spend on a lake project, what would you choose?

We want your help in answering this question! Join us on Saturday morning, June 9<sup>th</sup> at the Commander Restaurant to select a worthwhile project!

PLPOA was selected to participate in the Initiative Foundation's HLRP Program last spring. As a result, we are eligible to receive \$5000 in grant funds with opportunities to obtain matching donations once we complete several requirements including:

1. *Attend two training sessions.* Our committee completed training summer '06.
2. *Develop a written lake management plan.* The draft is close to completion.
3. *Hold a community visioning session.* The entire community is invited to help us determine the project and then participate in the implementation. The meeting will be professionally facilitated by Denise Stromme.

Neil Narveson has graciously offered us the use of the upper level of the Commander Restaurant for this meeting. Breakfast will be served from 8:15am 9:00am. The meeting will run from 9:00am – 11:00am.

*HLRP Committee Members: Art Weaver, Molly Zins, Clyde Clement, Dale Bolt, Glen Gustafson, Ed Nordgaard, Joan Mondale*

## ***What's Draining into Pelican Lake?***

If you read the January 18, 2007 edition of the Lake County Echo, you will know the answer is debris, chemicals and fecal coliform. And it is flowing into Big Pelican in the Breezy Point area, specifically the 5.5 acres near Breezy Point Center, The Point, Point Place, Lodge Apartments and the beach.

The area of concern is located within the Thirty Lakes Watershed District territory. The District has hired an engineering firm to conduct a study and to develop options to correct the runoff problem. A public meeting was held on January, 13, 2007 at Breezy Point City Hall at which time information and possible corrective options were presented. The firm is actively soliciting

feedback from the community and more public meetings are planned over the next several months.

PLPOA raised concerns to the Thirty Lakes Watershed District a couple of years ago about the possibility of runoff in this particular area polluting the lake. We appreciate the District taking action to address the potential contamination and are pleased to see those impacted in Breezy Point engaged in the process.

*The Thirty Lakes Watershed District's primary goal is the protection of the surface and subsurface water within the district's boundaries. The purpose of the district is to conserve natural resources through land-use planning, flood control and other conservation projects to protect public health, safety and welfare. For more information, go to [www.30lakes.org](http://www.30lakes.org).*

To read the article in its entirety, please go to [www.pineandlakes.com](http://www.pineandlakes.com) or connect through [www.mnlakes.org/plpoa](http://www.mnlakes.org/plpoa).

## **2006 Crow Wing County Sanitary Management District Update**

In early 2006 the Crow Wing County Board of Commissioners appointed the first members of the Crow Wing County Sanitary Management District Board. The members include: Crow Wing County Commissioner-Gary Walters (Paul Thiede appointed Jan 2007 to replace Gary), (Ed Larson-alternate, replaced by Dewey Tautges), Thirty Lakes Watershed District representative-Joe HampI, City of Crosslake- Dean Swanson, District 1-Dave Bergin, District 2-Barb Simon, District 3- Denny Palmer, District 4- Jim Knudsen, District 5-Bob Ebert, Crow Wing County at-large-Martin Joyce.

On February 14<sup>th</sup> the Crow Wing County Board established the first pilot subordinate district. The sanitary district's performance management standards will be implemented within the pilot district. The subordinate pilot district includes the townships of Unorganized, Mission, Center, Pelican, Lake Edwards, Ideal, and the City of Crosslake.

To assist the sanitary management board in the operation of the District the board hired an office coordinator. In August of 2006 Sierra Mclean was hired. Sierra brings to the board and the District experience in office management, public relations, and database experience. Sierra will be the contact person for the Board and District. Sierra's office is located within the Crow Wing County Planning and Zoning office at their new location in the courthouse annex building in Brainerd. Sierra can be reached at (218) 824-1388 or [sierramclean@co.crow-wing.mn.us](mailto:sierramclean@co.crow-wing.mn.us).

The funding of the district activities and projects for the first three years was obtained by a federal appropriation bill sponsored by Senator Mark Dayton. The appropriation funds are being administered through an EPA grant. The EPA grant for \$470,000 was finalized by the District and approved by EPA in early spring of 2006.

Since the approval of the funding and hiring of staff the District has been working on:

- > Inventorying all the onsite treatment system within the pilot district
- > Drafting by-laws and an ordinance
- > Developing performance evaluation standards for field inspections
- > Developing a comprehensive GIS linked customized web based database

In 2007 the sanitary management district anticipates continued progress on current projects and the following new projects:

- > Establishment of the administrative assessment fee (\$23.00)
- > A series of informational workshops
- > Field performance evaluations of pre-1996 onsite treatment systems without a certificate of compliance
- > Teaming with Crow Wing County and partners for a digital ortho photography and LiDAR project

If you would like additional information on the sanitary management district, district activities or would like to attend a district board meeting please contact Sierra at the numbers listed above.

*Thanks to Joe Hampl!*

## ***Pelican Lakes Property Owners Association 2006 Lake Study***

In 2006 the lake association continued several projects started during 2004. These projects included:

- 1 Well Water Study
- 2 Fecal Coliform Study
- 3 Zebra Mussel and Pheriphyton Tile Study
- 4 Trophic Status Index (TSI) Monitoring

And added in 2006

5. Total Phosphorus & Ortho Phosphorus Study

The following presents a summary of results for projects 1-5 by PLPOA during the summer of 2006.

### **Well Water Study**

Only two homeowners from the lake collected samples for the July 8, 2006 study. The samples were tested for coliform bacteria and nitrate nitrogen. Both samples showed no contamination. Because of the small participation in the study we will probably suspend the study in 2007 and resume again in 2008.

### **Fecal Study**

Samples were collected at five locations around Pelican during the months of June, July and August. The only high fecal colony reading was on June 28<sup>th</sup> at the south end of Gooseberry Island. Follow-up readings during the summer at this location were within the acceptable range. Samples taken at the other four locations during the summer were well within or below anticipated ranges.

### **Zebra Mussel and Periphyton Tile Study**

Two-inch square ceramic tiles were placed on docks at seven locations around Pelican and one location in Little Pelican. The purpose of the tiles was to again determine if any Zebra Mussels were detected in Pelican and Little Pelican Lakes. Zebra Mussels have invaded Lake Ossawinnamakee that is just north of Pelican Lake. Periphyton is a complex matrix of algae and heterotrophic microbes that attach to submerged substrata. The tiles were placed out in early June and removed in late August.

Visual analysis of the tiles determined that Zebra Mussels were not attached. To determine the biomass of Periphyton, the tiles were weighed prior to placement and after. All the tiles bio-mass weight ( in grams ) were in the exceptable range as compared to previous years studies.

### **Trophic Status Index Monitoring**

PLPOA continued TSI monitoring on Pelican and Little Pelican. Samples were collected and analyzed from May through September. TSI is an indicator of water quality. It reflects the lake's nutrient and clarity levels. Monitoring was done at three sites on Pelican and one on Little Pelican. The clarity of both lakes decreased as the summer progressed. Clarity comparison are measured against readings of previous years. Pelican and Little Pelican Lake are starting to experience drought conditions that haven't been experienced since the mid 1930's. Because of this drought condition the lakes are producing aquatic environments that have not been seen before which in turn can affect water clarity.

To review the current and past results of the four sites go to the PLPOA website at [mnlakes.org/plpoa](http://mnlakes.org/plpoa). At the website go to "Water Quality" and click on "TSI Data".

### **Total Phosphorus & Ortho Phosphorus**

2006 was the first year that the Association did total phosphorus and ortho phosphorus testing at each of the tile locations. This testing was done in June, July and August. The purpose of the testing is to see what the correlation is between the biomass on the tiles to the total phosphorus concentration in the water. We will use this data as a base for future testings.

The PLPOA Water Quality Program is our way of taking an annual physical of the Pelican Lakes to make sure they are maintained at optimum quality. That is being proactive!

In this report and on the website graphs you may find numerous words that need more explanation. Please go to the PLPOA website, go to "Water Quality" and click on the link, "helpful definitions" for assistance.

If you have questions or comments about the Water Quality Program please contact Glen Gustafson at 218-765-3796 or e-mail [glegustafson@msn.com](mailto:glegustafson@msn.com).

## **Minnesota DNR Guidelines for Shoreline and Aquatic Plants**

Most of us on the Pelican Lakes experienced additional plant growth on our shorelines last summer. According to the Minnesota DNR, the primary factors that influence the growth of aquatic plants are water depth, bottom type, and water clarity. Last year's increase is attributed to the low water level combined with warm temperatures. Low water levels can promote plant growth, particularly that of rooted plants, by expanding the shallow-water areas available for growth. In addition, excess nutrients flowing from watershed into the water generate heavy growth of aquatic plants.

**Since drought conditions are expected to continue across the region, you can expect to see changes this upcoming summer 2007 in our water conditions as well as continued plant growth in and around the shoreline. Regardless of the reason for increased plant growth,**

**we all must adhere to DNR guidelines when considering removal of such plants. The DNR will impose a penalty and/or fine for those found to be in violation of the rules.**

**Below is a summary of the current DNR guidelines. Please be aware that the DNR is in the process of amending these rules to better protect near-shore aquatic habitat. We will notify you once these changes are announced. In the meanwhile, for more information on current rules, please contact the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources at [www.dnr.state.mn.us](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us).**

### **Minnesota DNR RULES**

**Under Minnesota law, aquatic plants growing in public waters** are the property of the state. Because of their value to the lake ecosystem, they may not be destroyed or transplanted unless authorized by the Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources.

#### **Activities NOT allowed:**

- Excavating the lake bottom for aquatic plant control
- Use of hydraulic jets
- Destroying or preventing the growth of aquatic plants by using lake bottom barriers.
- Removing aquatic vegetation within posted fish-spawning areas.
- Removing aquatic plants from an undeveloped shoreline.
- Removing aquatic plants where they do not interfere with swimming, boating, or other recreation.

#### **Control methods which MUST HAVE a permit:**

- Destruction of any emergent vegetation (for example, cattails and bulrushes).
- Cutting or pulling by hand, or by mechanical means, submerged vegetation in an area larger than 2,500 square feet.
- Applying herbicides or algicides.
- Moving or removing a bog of any size that is free-floating or lodged in any area other than its place of origin in public waters.
- Transplanting aquatic plants into public waters.
- Use of automated untended aquatic plant control devices (such as the Crary WeedRoller).
- Physical removal of floating-leaf vegetation from an area larger than a channel 15 feet wide extending to open water.

#### **When a permit is NOT needed**

If you are a lakeshore-property owner who wants to create or maintain a swimming or boat-docking area, you may cut or pull submerged vegetation, such as Elodea, without a DNR permit under certain conditions:

- First, the area to be cleared must be no larger than 2,500 square feet.
- Second, the cleared area must not extend more than 50 feet along the shoreline or one-half the length of your shoreline, whichever is less.

A boat channel up to 15 feet wide, and as long as necessary to reach open water, may also be cleared, through submerged vegetation. (The boat channel is in addition to the 2,500 square feet allowed). The cutting or pulling may be done by hand or with hand-operated or powered

equipment that **does not significantly alter the course, current, or cross-section of the lake bottom**. Such control cannot be done with draglines, bulldozers, hydraulic jets, suction dredges, automated untended aquatic plant control devices, or other powered earth-moving equipment. **After you have cut or pulled aquatic plants, you must dispose of them on land to prevent them from drifting onto your neighbor's property or washing back into the lake.** In addition, a channel 15 feet wide through floating-leaf vegetation (except yellow lotus, a protected wildflower) extending to open water may be maintained by mechanical means without a permit. Any other of floating-leaf vegetation requires a permit. If you have questions on control activities that do not require a permit, please contact your local DNR office.

A DNR permit is not needed to gather aquatic plants for personal use (except for wild rice and yellow lotus) or for constructing a shooting or observation blind.

**Measures such as cutting, pulling or using herbicides can control aquatic plants from season to season. But in the long run, the best way to combat excessive growth of aquatic plants is prevention -- reducing the flow of nutrients, sediments, and exotic species moving into a lake.**

## ***The Beach Captains Need Help!!!***

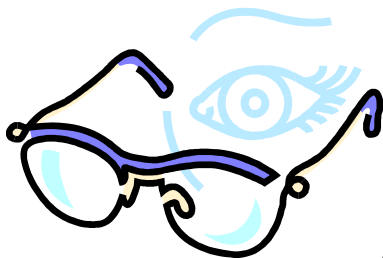
**If you live in Nelson Bay, Mousseau Bay, or along Highway 3 between Morningside and Horseshoe Heights, we need your help.**

**The Beach Captains are looking for people willing to represent these areas of the lake. Your primary responsibility as a Beach Captain would be to update and maintain our resident database for your area, so that the property owners association can keep residents informed.**

**This is not a recruitment campaign and you will not be asked to collect any money.**

**It's a great way to get to know your neighbors as well as others around the lake.**

**If you would like to learn more, please contact Kelly Anderson at 952/238-1709 or [KAnderson3@comcast.net](mailto:KAnderson3@comcast.net).**



## ***Looking for 56 New Members***

We currently have 244 members and would like to see that number increased to 300. If you are not a member, please consider joining the Pelican Lakes Property Owner's Association (PLPOA).

Your \$25 membership dues and additional contributions, which are tax deductible, will allow us to continue our involvement in maintaining the quality of our lakes.

We continue to offer new property owners a 1 year free membership in our organization. If you know of a new neighbor, please call San Countryman @ 414-481-2075 or e-mail San at countrymanks2@aol.com to notify us of the new owner's name. Our membership year extends from August 1<sup>st</sup> to July 31<sup>st</sup>. If you are a current member, you will receive an invoice in July reminding you to pay your 2007/2008 dues by August 1, 2007. To check the status of your membership, look at the date on the mailing label of this newsletter. This date indicates the end of your membership year.

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

Lake Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Permanent Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Beach/Plat Name \_\_\_\_\_

Membership dues and donations are tax deductible  
Please make checks payable to PLPOA, PO Box 823, Nisswa, MN 56468  
Annual Dues \$25.00 \_\_\_\_\_, Donation \_\_\_\_\_, Total \_\_\_\_\_

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***PLPOA  
Box 823  
Nisswa, MN 56468***