

The Pipe Lakes Newsletter

News and ideas for the protection and rehabilitation of our lakes and land.

February 15, 2008

www.pipelakes.org

Board of Commissioners Adopts 10 Year Strategic Plan

On October 12, 2007, the Pipe Lakes District Commission adopted a Ten Year Strategic Plan which provides a framework for the long term management of the Pipe Lakes.

The Plan was developed over the past year by the District's Water Quality Core Group, which includes Larry Bresina, Joe Errigo, Dick Hollar and Ron Vantine. It was initially reviewed by the District Commissioners at its meeting on July 20, 2007, and presented to the full membership of the Lake Management District at its Annual Meeting on Sept. 1, 2007. The membership expressed enthusiastic support for the Plan at that annual meeting.

In his presentation of the Plan at the Annual Meeting, Commissioner Joe Errigo noted that the plan was a product of many diverse opinions and perspectives. He said the implementation phase would require that same approach of inclusiveness, with Commissioners seeking out diverse opinions on the many complex issues facing our lakes. Errigo said the key to success is to get more people involved, including long term lake and watershed owners, and those who have come to the Pipe Lakes in recent years.

The Strategic Plan

identifies three broad goals rather than specific tasks, tools and timelines. At its January 18, 2008 meeting, the Board of Commissioners made some revisions to the three goals to reflect new analysis and information received during the past three months. In 2008, the Board of Commissioners will develop several detailed Action Plans in key functional areas. The Action Plans will include implementation guidelines, projections, assumptions, cost estimates and benchmarks for success.

The Commissioners are unanimous in their agreement that achievement of the Strategic Plan Goals will require increased involvement on the part of lakeshore and watershed property owners, both as volunteers and as active participants in lake preservation initiatives.

Please take the time to review our strategic plan - you can link to the plan by going to our website after March 1, 2008.

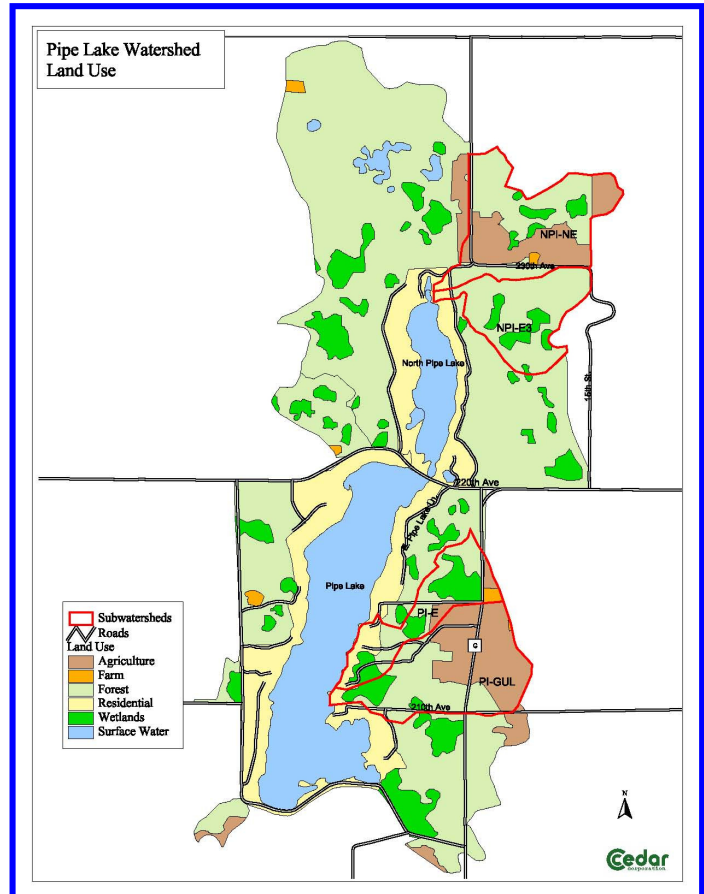
www.pipelakes.org

Vision

Our vision is a healthy lake ecosystem that attracts, protects and balances the needs of all living species.

Mission

The mission of the Pipe Lakes Protection and Rehabilitation



District is to improve and protect the waters and associated watershed area for the safe use and enjoyment of all.

5 Key Strategies

1. Educate, motivate and sustain support from shoreland owners, visitors, community leaders and public officials.
2. Initiate projects in the outer watershed to reduce runoff and protect and/or enhance habitat.
3. Initiate projects with shoreland owners to reduce runoff and protect and/or enhance habitat.
4. Protect against entrenchment of invasive plant and animal species.
5. Monitor and interpret information on the lakes

IN THIS ISSUE

- [Strategic Plan Approved1](#)
- [Understanding Phosphorus..... 2](#)
- [Newsletter Naming Contest.....2](#)
- [Thoughts from the new Chair3](#)
- [Volunteer Honor Roll.....3](#)
[Joan Billig](#)
- [New Cross Country Ski Trail.....4](#)
- [Summary of District Meeting.... 4](#)
[January 18, 2008](#)

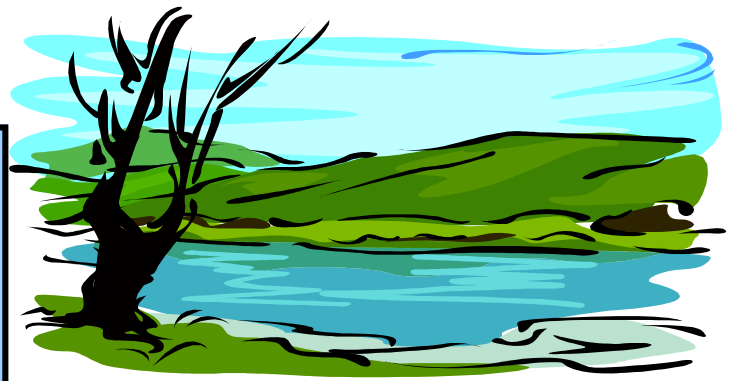
CONTEST

Name the Newsletter Contest !

The Lake District Commission is sponsoring a contest to find a name for our new, improved newsletter! The winner will be selected by a blue ribbon panel and announced no later than August 30.

The rules are simple:

- * You must be at least five years old and able to spell your own name.
- * Send your proposed name for the newsletter in an email or snail mail message to Carol Vantine before July 1, 2008 at carolvantine@gmail.com or Carol Vantine, 45 University Avenue SE, # 606, Minneapolis, MN 55414.
- * Include the proposed name (no more than 16 letters or symbols), your name and address.



COMING SOON!

Each household will soon be receiving a letter explaining how to take advantage of the matching funds for restoring your shoreland or building rain gardens. The deadline to indicate your interest in qualifying for the first round of matching funds is March 31, 2008 - so if you are out of town and would like to receive the letter via email, please contact Joe Errigo (jale@commonbond.org).

THE BATTLEFIELD (Part One)

PHOSPHOROUS VS PIPE LAKES

Water Clarity

From 1999 through 2006, Pipe Lake had an average water clarity of 15.8 feet and North Pipe Lake, 7.2 feet. The new strategic plan for our two lakes calls for improving the water clarity in both lakes by substantially decreasing phosphorus loading by the year 2015 as one of the three goals of that plan. In short, in order to substantially improve our water quality, we must significantly reduce the amount of phosphorus that enters our lakes.

Why Phosphorus ?

The amount of algae present in our lakes is the main cause for any increase or decrease in water clarity. Algae growth depends on the amount of nutrients that enter the lake. The primary nutrient that stimulates excessive growth of algae is phosphorus. For example, one pound of phosphorus can produce up to 500

pounds of algae and other aquatic plants once it enters a lake. In addition, phosphorus may, indirectly, rob a lake of some of its oxygen. This, in turn, may negatively impact the fish population.

Sources of Phosphorus

Most of the phosphorus that gets into our lakes comes from decayed materials that wash into the lakes in runoff across our own properties, and secondarily, from sediment that enters the lakes from streams. Phosphorus also comes from fertilizer and soaps that wash into our lakes when rainwater flows across our properties. Other pollutants that over-fertilize our lakes because of their phosphorus content include grass clippings, leaves, waste from our pets and other animals, and seepage from faulty septic systems.

What can we do?

We can, collectively, significantly reduce the amount of phosphorus that enters the Pipe Lakes from our own properties by focusing on just five action steps:

- (1) Maintain the native plants and reeds on our shorelines to reduce erosion and surface water runoff.
- (2) If you must fertilize (it's best if we do not), use a phosphate free fertilizer. Whether a particular fertilizer is phosphorus free will be indicated on the package.
- (3) Use only phosphorus-free dishwashing detergents,
- (4) Properly maintain our septic systems, including having them pumped out on the recommended schedules,
- (5) Create diversions, swales, rain gardens, etc to reduce the runoff into the lakes from roofs, driveways, and other impervious surfaces.

Shoreland Restoration

One of the most effective techniques for reducing runoff from our properties is the creation of shoreland buffer zones containing just native species and no turf grass. In the next installment of The Battlefield, we will discuss why native

species are so much more effective in reducing runoff than is turf grass and outline the basics for creating a shoreland buffer zone.

Article by Ron Vantine

Pipe and North Pipe Lakes Protection And Rehabilitation District

Board of Commissioners

Carol Vantine 612-750-8785	Chair
Joe Errigo 651-222-1698	Secretary
Tom O'Hern 651-674-5531	Treasurer
Larry Bresina 651-735-0019	Water Quality
Dick Hollar 715-822-5317	Special Projects
Jeff Peterson 715-822-472-2728	County
Doug Rouzer 715-822-3288	Township

**NEW WEBSITE COMING!
MARCH 1, 2008**

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION ...

Joan Billig Keeps Boat Parade Moving

Joan Billig's first exposure to the Boat Parade was about 12 years ago, when she served as a judge. "It was a fun experience and an easy way to volunteer in a small way at Pipe Lake. I was asked to serve as chair of the event about eight years ago and I've worked on it every year since then," said Joan.

She is the kind of person who gives lots of credit to others, saying Dick Hollar had things very well organized, the O'Hern's played a key role in handling the increased numbers of participants, and Dick Braun always came through with the trophies. She likes finding new judges every year, and making sure they don't take bribes. Also, for the past couple of years, Joan implemented a suggestion from Meghan Mears Fuggitt to give participant ribbons to all the young kids on the boats. Joan says, "It's great to see their faces when they receive recognition!"

Joan's family includes husband Reid, sons Matt and Andy, and now Andy's wife Erin. They have been coming to Pipe Lake for 25 years, first as guests of Ron and Carol Vantine, and then buying a piece of property from the Mears family. Joan said Reid had always wanted to build a house and got his chance with the Pipe

Lake cabin. They moved in on Memorial Day in 1989. Andy became a great water skier and Matt is the world class fisherman in the family. The Billigs like to have extended family reunions at Pipe Lake.

Joan says she will continue to volunteer at Pipe Lake to "give back in some small way for all the fun and wonderful memories her family has experienced here." She praised the work of other volunteers for the Pipe Lakes, especially those who work on water quality and environmental issues for the Lake Management District.

The Billigs recently sold their home in Minneapolis and are spending the winter months in Naples, Florida. They hope to spend more time at Pipe Lake in the years ahead.

Please join us in celebrating the exceptional volunteer work of Joan Billig!

Article by Joe Errigo

WANT TO HELP SELECT WHICH PROJECTS WE FUND TO IMPROVE LAKE QUALITY ?

You are invited to join the Water Quality Committee Core Group. The group meets as needed to review consultant reports and the monitoring results done by other volunteers. Recommendations from the Core Group play a key role in Commission funding decisions. Contact Larry Bresina at 651-735-0019



CAROL'S CORNER



GETTING STARTED ON OUR FUTURE

Each New Year seems so full of promise – until I have to live up to my New Year's Eve resolutions. I have found, after many failures and some successes over my 60+ years, that it takes two things to insure any successful completion of a change: perseverance and teamwork. Whether it is starting (or restarting) a new eating or exercise approach or putting in place sustainable land and water management improvements, without friends, professional resources and other folks sharing the vision, monitoring me (I lie to myself a lot about food), contributing advice and a helping hand, laughing over events and pushing me to move beyond temporary setbacks, I don't change anything – and then I am disappointed in the status quo and myself!

We need you to be part of our team! Our water district commission has adopted a ten year strategic plan that is focused on protecting and improving the quality of Pipe and North Pipe Lakes, the watershed and the habitat that we share. There are many ways to do that, but, after much study, our 2008 priorities are (1) shoreland restoration (improvements to residential lots that reduce the rate of flow and amount of phosphorus that washes into the lakes from

our cabins, driveways, lawns and other impermeable surfaces),

(2) sustainable protection against milfoil and other invasive plants that threaten the lakes, and (3) identification of funding and implementation options for addressing agricultural runoff and streambed / culvert erosion to reduce the rate of flow and the amount of phosphorus that is reaching our lakes.

All of our activities are dependent on volunteers like you. Just like learning to cook, swim, fish or sail (all of which have been attempted by the Vantine second generation at Pipe Lake) – we need to learn together by doing. Right now, we need **YOU** to **help us find demonstration projects** for improving the capacity of the shoreland to filter runoff and withstand high water erosion. Our recently completed Near Shoreland Survey identified many different opportunities on both lakes. Take a look at the report on our website (www.pipelakes.org) to see if your property might benefit from one of the restoration recommendations. You will receive a mailing in a few weeks explaining how you can choose to participate. Together we can protect North Pipe and Pipe Lakes for ourselves and future generations.

Carol Vantine is the Chair of Pipe and North Pipe Protection & Rehabilitation District. Carol and Ron, along with their children Peter (wife Caroline, son Hugo) and Jessica (husband Trevor Birkenholtz) have had a cabin on the northwest corner of Pipe Lake since the late 1970's. Despite the second generation living far from Wisconsin, they all love to come to Pipe Lake summer or winter. Carol has also served twice as Treasurer for the District. Retired from General Mills, Carol is active in organizational design and governance consulting and loves to bicycle and cross country ski. She is working on learning to sail at Pipe Lake.

Summary of District Commissioner's Meeting Jan 18, 2008

Note to our Snow Birds: Your Lake District Commission fought bitter winds and below zero temperatures to attend a board meeting at Pipe Lake on January 18, 2008.

Reviewed 2007 Planning Grant Results

The Aquatic Plant Survey identified no invasive plant species in the Pipe Lakes! The consultant recommended some long term strategies for monitoring and protection against invasive species. The Near Shoreland Survey identified potential areas for improved shoreland buffering. The Watershed Analysis provided a very preliminary look at larger scale projects that can reduce phosphorus loading over the long term. The Commissioners agreed that remaining challenges include making decisions on larger watershed projects, finding solutions for reducing phosphorus loading in streams, and finding the most effective ways to communicate with owners about easements and other implementation tools.

Set Priorities for 2008

The Commission identified six priority areas for action this year.

1. The **Shoreland Restoration Program** will be put in place, with cost sharing to assist interested property owners. More details on this program will be published in the next newsletter.
2. A grant proposal is being prepared to support a five year program to protect against invasive plant species.
3. The Commission will conduct a more thorough investigation of culverts and stream beds.
4. The Commission will open conversations with selected owners

about the potential for retention basins.

5. In 2008, the Commission will explore the use of site control tools, including easements.
6. The Commission passed a resolution encouraging landowners to explore the formation of a Pipe Lakes Conservancy modeled after the organization established for Deer Lake.

Revised Strategic Plan Goals

The Commissioners made some revisions to the **Ten Year Strategic Plan Goals**, originally adopted at the October 12, 2007 meeting, to reflect new analysis and information received over the past three months. The revised goals are:

- Develop broad based community support and involvement for long term protection and enhancement of the lakes, watershed and habitat for native plants, animals birds and fish.
- Improve average water clarity through significant reduction in annual phosphorus loading by 2015.
- Avoid Eurasian Water Milfoil, Curly Leaf Pondweed and other invasive species.

Communications Action Plan Adopted

The Commissioners approved an ambitious Communications Action Plan with new and improved strategies that will double the number of volunteers within five years and increase support for Lake District activities among lakeshore and watershed owners, public agencies and elected officials at the local, county and state levels. The Plan includes guidelines for an

improved newsletter and website, new partnership with area educational institutions, development of a Pipe Lakes Ambassadors Group, recruitment of new volunteers for the Boat Parade and Picnic and other outreach strategies such as encouraging the formation of a Pipe Lakes Conservancy.

Approved Payment to Consultants

The Commission approved payments to Cedar Corp. and other consultants for their recent work. In most cases the payments are subject to approval of final reports by the DNR.

2008 CALENDAR COMMISSION MEETINGS

April 4	3PM	2198 W. Pipe Lake CT
May 16	3PM	2198 W. Pipe Lake CT
May 24	9AM	Special Meeting Christ Church
June 13	3PM	2198 W Pipe Lake CT
July 11	3PM	2198 W. Pipe lake CT
Aug 15	3PM	2198 W. Pipe Lake CT
Aug 30	9AM	Annual Meeting Christ Church
Oct 3	3PM	2198 W. Pipe Lake CT

Q & A

Q: Where can I find the Aquatic Plant Survey, The Near Shoreland Survey, Watershed Analysis, and other information about the condition of Pipe and North Pipe Lakes?

A: Log on to our website after March 1, 2008:

www.pipelakes.org

We will have links to Cedar Corp's report and to the Endangered Resource Services' report. Maps and recommendation will be included.

New Cross-Country Ski Trail

This past summer Rick Totson contracted with Kyle Young of Stora Enso Corporation for the timber sale on his western most 100 acres. The logging was done primarily to re-establish wildlife habitat with an emphasis placed on promoting oak regeneration. As the logging activities neared completion, the logging contractor (Luedtke & Krizak Forestry) established a road system through the newly logged area. The opportunity to establish a cross country ski trail in addition to the snowmobile trail on the eastern edge of the property became apparent - providing a groomer could be obtained. Fortunately, the Polk County Snowmobile Council agreed to provide a groomer to set the x-country ski trail.

The x-country ski trail is for skiing only...motorized vehicles of any kind are not permitted. The trail is now open and will remain open until the snowmobile trail closes for the season. Friends, neighbors and their guests are all invited to use the ski trail. The Fox Creek Snowmobile Club has graciously agreed to groom the course with each snowfall of 4 inches or more, however the condition of the course will depend totally upon the availability of snow cover. .

To find the course, go north ¾ of a mile to the end of N. Pipe Lake Road (the dead end gravel road north of 220th Street) until you reach the snowmobile trail. Take the snowmobile trail west (left) about 125 yards and you will see the signs marking the beginning of the ski trail (being installed January 26th). Please be careful of snowmobile traffic. The 2.5 mile ski trail basically makes a loop and returns the skier to the beginning.

Thank you Rick!

