

The Loon Call

Official Newsletter of Pipe and North Pipe Lakes Protection & Rehabilitation District

January 20, 2009

www.pipelakes.org

TOSTON SKI TRAILS OPEN

Rick Toston has once again opened the ski trails on his property to cross-country skiers. The trails make a 2.5 mile loop through gently rolling hills near ponds and swamps. To find the trails, go north 3/4 mile from 220th on Pipe Lake Road (west of West Pipe Lake Lane). Many of us know that road as the "logging road". There is a small parking area at the dead end. Take the snowmobile trail west (left) 125 yards and you will see the signs marking the skiing trail. Please note that NO motorized vehicles are allowed on the ski trails at any time. Rick has arranged to keep the trails groomed after significant snowfall, so it is a great place to enjoy the beauty of winter!

LAKE PROTECTION GRANT UPDATE by Larry Bresina

To qualify to apply for a lake protection grant by May 1, 2009, the DNR must first approve our ambitious 5-Year Lake Protection Action Plan. A preliminary review of this plan with the County and DNR on January 20th produced a few modifications to make before sending it on to the DNR for formal review. The next major step will be to draft the protection grant application documents. Cheryl Clemens of Harmony Environmental will generate the application with the District supplying information she needs such as results of the survey last summer, lake/stream monitoring data, and estimated project expenses. The District is soliciting letters of support from the Town, the County, and property owners where larger-scale grant work is likely to occur. The County is preparing a proposal for the scope of its participation if the grant is awarded.

Thank you Larry for your tireless efforts on this!

COMMISSION ACTIONS January 7, 2009

- Accepted the unaudited Year End Financial Report for 2008, showing a carry forward to 2009 of \$7,484.66.
- Reviewed and approved a final draft of the Five Year Lake Protection Action Plan which will serve as the basis for Lake Protection Grant Proposal.
- Approved a motion stating that Outer Watershed projects proposed in the DNR grant request will not require owner cost sharing. The District will assume responsibilities for the portion of the cost not covered by a Lake Protection Grant.
- Approved substance of a proposed Documents and Records policy, subject to certain refinements regarding financial reports.
- Reviewed development plans for a proposed subdivision of North Pipe Lake property. Commissioners discussed with the development team their plans for addressing run-off, impermeable surfaces, removal of plants from the new dock areas and locations or buildings on the three new residential lots.

2009 CALENDAR COMMISSION MEETINGS

Feb 25	6:30pm Shoreview Library
April 1	7PM 2198 W. Pipe Lake CT
May 8	7PM 2198 W. Pipe Lake CT
May 23	9AM Special Meeting Christ Church
Sept 5	9AM Annual Meeting Christ Church

IN THIS ISSUE

Summary of District Meeting.....	1
Ski Trail.....	1
Grant Update.....	1
Invasive Species.....	2
Boater Education.....	2
Carol's Corner.....	2

2008 AIS PROGRAM SUCCESS: KEEPING INVASIVE SPECIES OUT

by Dick Hollar

Many of you saw Art Ringsven down at the public landing every weekend from May 23rd to September 1. Do you know what he was doing down there? Not much EXCEPT during the 225 hours he spent there in 2008, Art talked with 841 people and inspected 462 boats. Art talked to all those people about Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS), explained the Wisconsin Law, provided helpful information and yes, inspected all those boats.

Most of the lakes around us have been infested to some degree with AIS, but currently our lakes are free of any of this "bad stuff". Art is our first line of defense. By talking with all these people, he makes them aware of the problems that exist and how to prevent their spread. They are aware because 49% say they learned from him and 51% say they learned from our sign.

Art did find 3 boaters that were in violation of the law due to the excessive amount of aquatic plants hanging from their boats and trailers. Fortunately they were cleaned before entering the water. Another 77% of the boats/trailers contained minor amounts of plants, which were removed before entering the water. The biggest problem source are boats with skid trailers. Aquatic plants can get onto the skids and you cannot see them until the boat is off the lift. Art's advice is to make sure to clean the skids on your boat after you put the boat in the water and then keep them clean.

Our second line of defense against AIS is biologist and scuba diver Matt Berg. Matt conducted an underwater inspection of the north end of the lake around the public landing area and across the south end along the beach area once a month from June through October. Again there was no evidence of any AIS. Matt did notice that some property owners were aggressively removing both submergent and emergent native vegetation from their section of the lake and shoreline. He strongly recommends that owners refrain from doing this, especially near the two landing areas. This bare substrate creates an ideal opportunity for an exotic species to become established and subsequently spread throughout the lakes.

The efforts by both of these gentlemen will continue throughout the next 4 years of our AIS Grant period.

CAROL'S CORNER

Carol Vantine is Chair of the Pipe and North Pipe Protection and Rehabilitation District. She also edits this newsletter.

Welcome to a beautiful winter! Our several snowfalls during and since the holidays have turned the lakes and surrounding woods into a wonderland of powdery white, contrasting browns and grays and ever changing shadows that create new visual interpretations of our watershed. I know that some of you are embracing winter by ice fishing or snowmobiling, while others are enjoying a crackling fire.

I just came in from skiing on the Toston trails and I recommend them to anyone who enjoys cross-country skiing. The gently rolling hills offer good vistas of the ponds and wetlands. We flushed several grouse as we skied past and the deer, rabbit, fox and (?) coyote tracks were everywhere.

District Commissioners have been working on finalizing the project details for our DNR grant request. We have learned a lot from our meetings with township officials, county officials, county employees and the landowners whose support we need to qualify for the grant. Over the next few years it will be important for all of us to continue to build good relationships with these stakeholders to insure that our District has a voice in the events and regulations that impact our properties and the quality of our lakes. We hope all of you will actively support our efforts to implement the District's Lake protection Action Plan.

The LOON CALL is experimenting with different font sizes (larger font means shorter articles) and layouts with and without graphics and pictures. Call CAROL at 612-926-7990 if you have suggestions for our format.

BOATER CERTIFICATION JUNE 13—14, 2009

Safe boating on our lakes is important to all of us. The state of Wisconsin recognized in 2007 that an educated boater is usually a safe boater and now requires all watercraft operators born after January 1, 1989 to have either a Wisconsin boating safety certificate or an out-of-state equivalent. Operators between the ages of 12 and 15 must either have a safety certificate or have an adult on board while operating.

Pipe and North Pipe Lakes Water Protection and Rehabilitation District (the folks who bring you this newsletter) is cooperating with the Polk County Sheriff's Department to offer the boating certification program Saturday and Sunday June 13-14, 2009. Deputy Tamara Larson will present the two part class (about 4 hours each day). The cost is \$10.00 and is designed for watercraft operators 11 years old or older. We will have more detailed information in the next newsletter.

SAVE THE DATE!