

The Loon Call

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

August 15, 2009

www.pipelakes.org

DISTRICT AWARDED COMPETITIVE GRANT COST SHARING PROJECTS WILL IMPROVE PIPE LAKES

-GOOD INVESTMENT RETURN- PROTECTION OF PROPERTY VALUES

Pipe and North Pipe Lakes District has been awarded a \$200,000 grant by the State of Wisconsin. We were one of the top ranked applicants for state funds to preserve and enhance water quality. Thanks to years of monitoring and study led by lake leaders such as Dick Hollar and Larry Bresina and the teams they assembled, we have the opportunity to assist property owners in getting workable solutions to reduce runoff, install several tree falls for better fish habitat and near shore water quality, address streambed erosion and runoff abatement in the outer watershed.

The grant will be funded over five years. The District must provide both increased tax revenues and volunteer hours to meet the requirements of the grant funding. Assuming we are able to provide the maximum allowed 1263 volunteer hours, we will only need to pay approximately

\$32,000 to \$37,000 for materials and services to receive the additional \$199,900 + funding from the state. That is a 5:1 return for our investment. In addition, as property owners we protect both the current and future value of our property by maintaining and improving the water quality of our two lakes - a definite plus when other lakes are suffering from invasive species or diminishing clarity.

The 2010 District budget, with the necessary District funding for the grant, will be presented at the Annual Meeting Sept 5. Budget projections for 2011 -1214, (the remaining years of the grant) will also be discussed. The District will mail property owners the agenda and proposed 2010 budget prior to the meeting.

GRANT IMPACT ON DISTRICT

CURRENT CORE SERVICES

MONITORING

- Lakes
- Streams
- E. Coli
- Invasive Species

LAKE QUALITY PROJECTS

- Fish stocking
- Shoreland restoration
- Tree falls/ fish cribs
- Fund raising / grants

EDUCATION

- Boat inspection
- Newsletter / website
- Tuition reimbursement
- Presentations / classes

CONSTITUENT DEVELOPMENT

- Boat Parade
- Picnic
- Volunteer recruitment

FIVE YEAR GRANT

MONITORING

- Adds specific stream monitoring
- Adds culvert inspection

LAKE QUALITY PROJECTS

- Adds shoreland / upland projects
- Adds selected culvert replacement
- Adds stream bank erosion abatement
- Adds investigation, design and possible installation of retention basin
- Pays significant portion of cost

EDUCATION

- Adds on-site professional consulting
- Adds Pipe Lakes site for classes

CONSTITUENT DEVELOPMENT

- Need volunteers for all new projects and to continue core services

ZEBRA MUSSEL TRAP

Polk County is taking a proactive approach to zebra mussel invasions. Jeremy Williamson, Water Quality Specialist for the County and a key consultant for our work on Pipe Lakes, has placed a zebra mussel trap in the rocks north of the big island in Pipe Lake. The trap itself is marked with a buoy and the rocks are marked with a buoy.

Jeremy also says that the bluegreen algae bloom may be larger than normal this year because of the drought. Bluegreen algae can make their own nitrogen even in poor conditions.

ATV ROAD RULES JOHNSTOWN TWP

- Can operate only on posted roads
- 35 mph (10 mph within 100 feet of pedestrian)
- DNR registration and under-age driver restrictions
- Must always yield to other vehicles and pedestrians
- Illegal to operate on private property without permission
- Call Sheriff - 715-845-8300 for more information or complaints

2009 CALENDAR COMMISSION MEETINGS

- Aug 21 10AM Budget prep
2198 W. Pipe Lake CT
- Aug 21 1PM Board Meeting
Township Shed
- Sept 5 9AM Annual Meeting
Christ Church
- Oct 23 5PM Board Meeting
2198 W. Pipe Lake CT

Protecting Pipe Lakes

We've come a long way - The path ahead is in our hands

by Larry Bresina

With the award of a protection grant in July, we are about to embark on a significant effort over the next five years to protect the Pipe Lakes into the future. How we got to this point and what we might expect to accomplish with this grant are discussed below.

Back in 1996, a few of us "lake people" started asking questions like, "What is normal clarity to expect for Pipe and North Pipe Lakes?" and "Over the next 25 years, should we expect the lakes to stay beautiful lakes, get better, or get worse?" and "Should we be doing something to keep the lakes healthy?" We contacted the County and DNR but could not find adequate answers. So in 1998, Dick Hollar started monitoring the lakes, and I organized our first community survey. By 2000, the County, with help from many lake volunteers, started our first planning grant study. Soon after that we organized a water quality committee to share and discuss information. This committee unanimously agreed on how we would think about managing our lakes and what to emphasize. We concluded we should think about our lakes as two distinctly different lakes to manage but with the people joined together as one community. We determined two main goals: (1) maximize lake clarity whenever practical and (2) prevent invasive species from damaging the lakes. To collect the information that would build confidence in how to manage our lakes into the future, we eventually needed two more planning grants, an invasive species grant, continued advice from the DNR and Polk County, and years of lake and stream monitoring. Over these years, we also learned that lake management success strongly depends on broad support from the District members.

Now, in the summer of 2009, we think we have sufficient information on our lakes, sufficient understanding of what the community wants, and sufficient outside funding to move forward with protective projects on our shores and in the outer watershed. Our "foundation blocks" that justify this implementation phase include:

- 11 years of quality lake and stream data
- Basic understanding of the sources of nutrients in the lakes
- DNR-approved 5-yr Lake Protection Action Plan
- Estimates of the protective effect of our planned action steps
- Survey data that shows District members support the plan
- Survey data showing members will accept a tax to implement the plan
- \$199,937 lake protection grant to fund 75% or more of the expenses.

So as we begin this lake protection implementation phase, what can we hope to accomplish? We hope to maintain, and possibly improve, our lakes over time. Some might say we should be able to maintain what we have by simply doing nothing. Others might say we should be able to accomplish more from a \$200,000 grant and some Lake District taxes.

Unfortunately, doing nothing is likely to result in a slow degradation of what we have. This is because many of our daily activities tend to slowly, without notice, introduce things that degrade lakes. For example, we now know that our

buildings, roads, and patios increase runoff to the lakes thereby adding extra nutrients which increase algae growth. Increasing algae growth decreases clarity. We also know that inadvertent addition of plant fragments from a nearby lake to our lakes, because a boat and trailer was not completely cleaned before launching, could introduce invasive clogging plants.

Those of us who have been students of lake management are often reminded that no silver bullets are available to easily improve lakes. Preventing degradation still takes effort and funding but is much easier than seeking improvements once significant degradation sets in. Lake management requires collecting information, analyzing the information, planning for action, implementing the plan, and then starting the process over again as time marches on. Wise lake management is capable of preventing loss of clarity and intrusion of invasive species, and sometimes making significant improvements. In our case, we hope to

- Continue monitoring both our lakes and streams so future lake managers can make wise decisions
- Continue friendly education, and devise additional actions, to prevent invasive species entrenchment
- Encourage natural plants at our shores to prevent invasive species growing sites, and promote wildlife and clarity
- Make the shoreland more natural so it can minimize nutrients flowing to the lakes
- Further study and implement protective measures in the outer-watershed, including consideration of a nutrient retention basin northeast of North Pipe Lake

If we are serious about protecting our lakes for ourselves, our grandchildren, and future generations, the path ahead is in our hands. To be successful, each of us must participate in some way. Some will take small but important steps like being careful about cleaning and drying their boats and trailers before launching them into the lakes. Others will place native plantings on their properties to help absorb some of the runoff from their property. Another group will continue the monitoring process. And, most importantly, we will also need a continued replacement of those who serve as lake leaders. Only by persistently investigating and taking positive actions, then reviewing and updating our plan and again taking actions, can we expect to have healthy lakes into the future.

I will be taking a break from a formal Pipe Lakes lake leader position after the Annual Meeting but hope to stay involved. Please accept my thanks for allowing me to help lead our lake protection process over the past 10-plus years. This time has been filled with challenges but rewarded with great successes as well. Overcoming challenges together with others is a big piece of what I enjoy. Please give Carol Vantine, lead person for implementing the protection grant, your generous support as we begin this lake protection implementation phase.



Larry Bresina is stepping down Sept 5 after three years as Commissioner and Chair of the Water Quality Committee . Thank you Larry for your energy and passion which have helped guide us toward sustainable, high quality lakes.

CAROL'S CORNER

I am very excited about the five year grant we have received from the state! The very fact that we competed successfully against so many other groups for limited funding dollars is a testament to the commitment our District property owners have shown to being caretakers of both the water quality and the surrounding habitat of the Pipe Lakes watershed. All of us have benefitted from the learning and planning that has been done over the last decade. You can read a great summary of the spade work done for this grant in **Larry Bresina's article** on page 2.

Now, as the saying goes, comes the hard part. We need everyone's participation to make the grant projects a success. We will be offering classes, assessments of water runoff issues on individual properties, working on stream and culvert improvements and more. We are allowed to offset part of the District's funding of the projects through the donation of volunteer time. Those donated hours can save us up to \$13,600 of out of pocket expense!

The projects (and the funding) will be spread out over 5 years. I encourage you to attend the Annual Meeting Sept 5 to learn about what our 2010 focus will be and how you can help. The Commissioners are working with Harmony Environmental and the County to get off to a good start. Help us help you! *Carol Vantine is the current Chair of the District.*

PIPE AND NORTH PIPE LAKES PROTECTION AND REHABILITATION DISTRICT

ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

SEPTEMBER 5, 9AM

Location: Christ Lutheran Church

- Approve Minutes of Special Meeting May 23, 2009
- Review 2009 Financial Report
- Elect two Commissioners* for three year terms
- Review 2009 Progress on Lake Mgmt Goals
- Overview of Grant Implementation 2010-2014
- Discuss and approve 2010 Budget
- New Business

* Nominations accepted from floor. Nominating Committee candidates:

Dan Paulson
Carol Vantine

NOTE: Proposed BUDGET will be posted on website and mailed/emailed August 22.

BOAT PARADE WINNERS

The Boat Parade was a resounding success with blue skies and thirteen creatively decorated crafts. The winners were:

- 1st—Powerball—Durkee/Jensen
- 2nd—Madoff—McCarthy/Peterson
- 3rd—Tiki Barge—Neilson
- 4th—Aloha— Manor
- 5th—Mardi Gras—Price
- 6th—Honeymooners—Cobb



1st PLACE



2nd PLACE

Pictures by Joan Billig

BURNING RESTRICTIONS

Polk County has banned open burning. Until the restriction is lifted, only small, attended cooking fires are allowed.

DISTRICT PICNIC

WHO: All residents of the District and their Guests

WHEN: SATURDAY, AUGUST 22 @ 1:00 PM

WHERE: Behind County Line Tavern

MENU: BROASTED CHICKEN HOT DOGS POTATO SALAD
COLESLAW WATERMELON POP / BEER

GAMES: EAST vs. WEST TUG OF WAR

SOFTBALL (BRING YOUR MITT, BAT AND BALL)
FISHPOND SAWDUST MONEY HUNT—AGES 2-5

WHAT YOU NEED TO BRING:

\$5.00 ADULTS AND CHILDREN OVER 11

\$2.50 CHILDREN 5 TO 11

FREE CHILDREN UNDER 5

CHAIRS AND BLANKETS AS PICNIC TABLES ARE LIMITED

RESERVATIONS NOT REQUIRED

DRY HYDRANT

A dry hydrant to service fire tank trucks in all temperatures will be installed within a few weeks on the north end of Pipe Lake. The hydrant will significantly reduce the time needed to access water in the event of a fire on either North Pipe or Pipe Lake. The Township has secured the necessary permits, materials and funding.

Thank you Township Supervisors!