The Loon Call

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

We Have a New Web Site!

www.pipelakes.org

Larry Bresina has delved into the art of web site design and has made a new web site for pipelakes.org. It includes new features such as a want ads for Pipe Lake and an opinion poll. You can also register address changes.

2010 Calendar Commission Meetings

Feb 19	5PM District Board Meeting 2198 W. Pipe Lake Ct.
Apr 16	5PM District Board Meeting 2198 W. Pipe Lake Ct.
May 7	5PM District Board Meeting 2198 W. Pipe Lake Ct.
May 29	9AM Special Meeting

Culvert Replacement Delayed

The replacement of the culverts on 20th Street will be delayed to coincide with the construction of a holding pond in the area. Both of these projects are under the grant the District recently received from the state. The holding pond and the culverts are a part of the drainage of a stream that our studies have identified as a source of phosphorus entering the northeast side of North Pipe Lake.

The District is also looking to purchase a water logger to continuously measure the flow of water in a stream. The water logger is a battery powered instrument that will more accurately monitor water flow 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. It will help us determine the contributions each stream makes to the lake.

Boating Class

Boating Class will be June 12-13. Article in June 2009 *Loon Call* describes basic intent. We need a volunteer to handle reservations (phone and mail) and a small amount of coordination on June 12 -13. This is a great opportunity for a volunteer who prefers shorter, well defined time commitments. Call Kent Wilson, 651-698-8494 for details.

Wisconsin Lakes Convention

This year's Wisconsin Association of Lakes annual convention will be held March 30th through April 1st at KI Convention Center in Green Bay, Wisconsin.

This year's theme, Fringe Benefits: Restoring Wisconsin Shorelands and Shallows, will focus on all aspects of caring for these vital places where the water meets the land. It will explore the connections among people and community, nature and science, policy and politics. The WI Lakes Convention is a great place to find answers to all your lake related questions, participate in hands-on workshops, share new ideas, and network with experts in the field all in one place for one low price. For program details and registration visit: http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexlakes/conventions/

Shoreland Assessment and Recommendations

The District has available consultants who will come out and discuss with you options and suggestions for improving and restoring your lake shore. Contact Tom Mears at 715-822-3097 for more information.

Why Not Go Natural?

John Haack and Bret Shaw, exerted from Lake Tides, Vo. 34, no.4, Fall 2009

Natural resource and communication professionals from Burnett County have been exploring how lakeshore property owners think about having a more natural shoreline. Based on focus groups and surveys, the authors identified six main concerns and some solutions for respecting property owners' priorities while promoting the long -term health of their lakes.

WATCHING KIDS SWIM

One of the highest rated barriers to restoring buffers was an unobstructed view of the lake and a reduced ability to see children or grandchildren while they are playing in or near the water. One option to address this concern is the strategic planting of low growing native shrubs and grasses that still provide a view of the lake.

LIFE'S A BEACH AND WE LIKE IT

Another significant concern expressed was the perception that having natural shoreline plants would prevent their property from having a sandy beach. While that may be true for very extensive beaches, statewide standards allow for a 35 foot access corridor and use area. It is important for lakeshore owners they can strike a balance between their desire to recreate by the water and protect the quality of their lake.

TICKED OFF BY TICKS

People worry that having a buffer would increase the prevalence of nuisance insects such as ticks. Including the use of mulched paths or mulched yard edges, which ticks avoid, can help people prevent ticks on their property and encourage more natural lake shorelines.

PROTECT THE HABITAT OF YOUR FAVORITE ANIMALS

Surveys in Burnett County indicated that eagles and loons were animals people wanted to see more abundantly around their properties. Some lamented the loss of lake frogs. Knowing specific types of habitat that will attract birds, frogs or other desired lakeshore animals may encourage some property owners to protect specific sites or habitat features.

DUCK…DUCK…GOOSE?

Many property owners are okay with watching geese fly overhead or swim in the water, but they do not like them congregating on their lawns and leaving nasty green goose droppings. Lawn-loving geese will be deterred from spending too much time on shoreline property with areas of 20 to 30 inch tall vegetation because they fear the natural shoreline vegetation may harbor predators.

NOT EVERYONE LIKES THE WILD LOOK

Some property owners like to let native vegetation just "go wild" while others like to be much more in control. Fortunately, there are lake-friendly options for both. Many property owners are surprised at how elegant planned plots of native trees, shrubs and wildflowers can look in their yards.

CAROL'S CORNER

Winter Reflections

I love winter and its moments of enforced quiet. When the roads get icy and the winds are blowing, I am much more likely to take a few hours "off" - giving me time to get out of the details of my life and see the larger picture. Our January weather blasts gave me the chance to think about how the District could motivate property owners (**YOU!**) to volunteer for one of our activities like the safe boating training or to participate in the shoreland technical assessments that are funded by our grant from the state. I realized that I get motivated to do something new when two conditions exist: 1) I understand what is being asked of me, and 2) someone addresses my unspoken fears and concerns.

Encouraging participation is a key value for our District and the Commissioners for two reasons: First, you pay the bills - the more you know about and participate in the District, the more likely

our priorities will reflect the needs and desires of the property owners. Second, it's fun! You have the chance to get to know families around the lake, share laughter, ideas and sometimes some physical work - all of which makes Pipe and North Pipe Lakes a better place to live.

The District has tried to let you know what we are asking of you - and we will continue to focus on that clarity in our requests, proposals, announcements and pleas. In 2010 I am also going to make every effort to surface fears and concerns that people may have and address those as well. One example is the article on p. 2 about concerns others have had when considering restoring their shoreline to more natural vegetation. We want you to take advantage of our shoreline technical assessment (see p. 1). We know you will learn of options for your property from the plan our consultant will provide. We recognize that not all who take that first step will implement the plans - but we want to encourage you to explore how shoreline restoration can benefit you and your family while helping our lake ecosystem. You can help us by giving us feedback on this and any other District project or activity - and by voicing your concerns so we don't have to guess what might be a barrier to your getting involved!

Shoreland Plant Selection for Non-Botanists, Part 2 - Wet Transition Plants

March 2006

Mary Blickenderfer, University of Minnesota Extension Service, 888-241-0885

Once again shoreland specialists share their short list of native species plants that have performed the best in restorations statewide this time for wet areas of your shoreline.

Wetland, wetland edge, wet transition, wet fringe and wet meadow are all names for ground that is at or near the water table and may experience seasonal flooding. This may include a narrow band along a lake or river shoreline, the low area behind an ice ridge, or a low area that captures rain and melt-water to form ephemeral shallow pools elsewhere on your property. Plants growing in these wet soils are adapted to having wet feet or roots in saturated or moist soil.

Most native plants along high-energy shorelines are also resistant to erosion due to their deep fibrous root systems (e.g., grasses and sedges) or stout woody roots (e.g., trees and shrubs). Diverse shoreland plant communities made up of a variety of these plants minimize shoreland erosion caused by wave and ice action, river currents, or upland run-off. If a shoreline is disturbed, many shoreland plants will readily reestablish from root and stem fragments to revegetate and stabilize the exposed soil.

To create a plant list for your site, it is best to identify the plants growing on an undisturbed piece of shoreline with soil and water regime similar to your site (called a reference site). This may require the assistance of a botanist. Select plants from the reference list that are also on the short list below, or use the list below as a general guide. Additional plants can be added for diversity, if desired.

Due to the likelihood of flooding, plants, rather than seeds, are usually used in these wet areas. For flowers and grasses, small containerized plants (plugs) spaced 1-2 feet apart work well. For shrubs, use bare-root or larger containerized plants spaced 3-6 feet apart. Dormant branches of willow and red-osier dogwood driven into the ground (live stakes) will also root to produce shrubs.

Plant Type	Plant name" Common" *Scientific (synonyms)*	Comments
Shrubs	Red-osier dogwood *Cornus sericea* *(C. stolonifera)*	6-12 feet tall; bright red stems; can be established from cut branches
	Sandbar willow *Salix exigua*	6-20 feet tall; an aggressive colonizer; can be established from cut branches
	Meadowsweet *Spiraea alba*	3-6 feet tall; showy white flowers
	Highbush-cranberry *Viburnum trilobum*	6-12 feet tall; showy white flowers and bright red berries
Grasses and grass-like	Sedges *Carex retrorsa, C. comosa, C. vulpinoidea*	2-3 feet tall; fibrous roots that resist erosion; interesting seed heads
	Canada blue-joint grass *Calamagrostis canadensis*	2-4 feet tall; fibrous roots that resist erosion
	Bulrushes *Scirpus atrovirens, S. cyperinus*	3-5 feet tall; good soil stabilizer
Flowers	Marsh milkweed *Asclepias*	3-4 feet tall; showy pink flowers; attracts monarch butterflies
	Boneset *Eupatorium perfoliatum*	2-3 feet tall; showy white flowers
	Joe-pye-weed *Eupatorium macalatum*	3-5 feet tall; showy rose-pink flowers
	Blue vervain *Verbena hastata*	2-4 feet tall; showy purple flowers; readily reseeds
	Asters *Aster puniceus, A. lucidulus*	1-5 feet tall; showy lavender flowers; aggressive ground cover

Shoreland specialists who contributed to the short list:
Gregg Thompson- Asso. of Metropolitan Soil and Water Conservation Districts
Bonnie Hiniker- Sunshine Gardens
Mary Blickenderfer, Eleanor Burkett- U of MN Extension

Your Letters and Articles

Bear Trouble

Spring is here (it is?) and it won't be long before our friends the bears will be out of hibernation and begin to forage for any available trash or garbage, yours and mine included. Have you ever had a nocturnal visit from on of these forest creatures?

I not, consider your self fortunate. This article is not for you. But if you are among those who have found morning evidence of night time intruders, or the neighbors so informed you upon your return to Pipe Lake the next weekend, read on.

In our part of the world Tuesdays are pick-up days for C & C. Knowing you have paid your bill for the month you stow your garbage and trash in containers of some kind and set them by the roadside. You have done your bit correctly, and you depart the premises. You are OK. Wrong. There's a good chance that trouble is soon upon you in the form of Herr Bruin. So why not try this:

> Attach a heavy-enough chain to a 4 X 4 post firmly in such a way that it will encircle the trash cans/barrel and both ends will be secured to the post. The chain will act as a deterrent to tipping the cans/barrels.

Our forest predators want to get into the barrel/can so that they can easily enjoy the delicacies inside; not getting in easily may deter your nighttime visitor. He may stay around and make several attempts at finding dinner, but the odds are he will give-up — or tear your flimsy container apart. This idea goes for raccoons too, of course.

We know NOTHING will stop a determined bear, but a well-chained trash barrel will slow them up. If you think you don't need this, drive on many of the lakes roadways come Monday morning. See what happened to the trash that well-meaning property owners put out on Sunday night before they left for the week. A SECURE trash container could help.

Allan Siemers

Chain is heavy enough, but the bottom screw eye is not. A bear bent it, thereby loosening the entire-arrangement. (It was replaced!) Upper screw eye worked fine. Chain enclosed two trash containers sufficiently to keep them upright.

Photographs by Allan Seimers.

Editors Note

This is a trouble some issue. One resident has a "bear proof" solution to leaving his trash out. He parks his car at the end of his driveway with the trash in the trunk!

A google search of "bear proof trash cans" brought up a list of articles and products available on the market. We will put a listing of web sites on pipelakes.org.

Our thanks to Allan for this article.

The Loon Call welcomes your letters and articles.