

# The Loon Call

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

## **LOW WATER!! WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP**

We are all frustrated by the low water condition of our lakes. Boating is restricted – **some folks can't even get their boats into the water.** Many properties have lots of sand or marsh between their ordinary high water mark and the current edge of the water. Low lake levels are the norm across Wisconsin as we go through a cycle of years of minimum rain and snow. It appears that our lakes are three feet lower than the ordinary high water mark this year. Somehow it **doesn't seem to help much that Pipe Lakes are not as bad as they were in the 1950's** when one could walk from the woods out to the big rock on the east side of Pipe Lake without getting your feet damp. Nor does it seem to help that other Wisconsin lakes are in worse shape with algae and weed fill-in.

### **What can we do?**

The lake levels won't change without more rain and snow accumulations. What we can do is protect Pipe Lake and North Pipe Lake from the threats that low water brings to both lake water quality and our properties. Extra caution is required!

**GO SLOW** – Boat motors will stir up phosphorus from the bottom in water less than 10 feet deep. That phosphorus mixes with the water and feeds algae blooms.

**PROTECT YOUR SHORE FROM EROSION** – The weeds and plants on your shore and in the shallow water help break up both natural and boat waves that will erode your land. Limit any cleaning out to no more than a 30 foot width across the shoreline of your property.

## **AVOID GIVING EURASIAN MILFOIL A PLACE TO ROOT**

Milfoil prefers to root in shallow water where the bottom has been disturbed – particularly where plants have been pulled out by their roots. Leave the lake bottom untouched in front of your property – wearing swim shoes or walking on some lake plants is a small compromise to protect the value of your property!

## **Call for Candidate Nominations**

We have one District Commissioner position (three year term) open for election at the Annual Meeting.

Ellen Breyer is heading up the Nomination Committee. Please contact Ellen no later than August 1 at 612-377-3211 if you would like to

## **SAVE THE DATES!!!**

### **DISTRICT PICNIC – AUG 21 1PM**

Food, Fun and Friends  
County Line Tavern

### **ANNUAL MEETING – SEPT 4**

**CHRIST CHURCH**

**INTERSECTION OF CTY T AND CTY G  
9AM – 11AM**

## **Fishing Survey-Last Call**

There is a fishing survey on [www.pipelakes.org](http://www.pipelakes.org) Please visit the site and fill out the survey.

## Carol's Corner

I am pleased to report that we are off to a great start on our Shoreland Restoration Project. We had a handful of site visits last fall and we are working our way through fifteen site visits right now. Each of the property owners involved has taken the time to meet with our consultant from Harmony Environmental to discuss how water flows across their property and to learn what improvements they could make that would provide additional protection for the quality of the lake water. Some property owners are taking the second step of paying the \$25 fee for a project design plan that they can use to implement recommended changes. Once the property owner reviews the plan, they can decide if they want to enter a cost sharing project with the District.

One project has already been completed – an infiltration pit that will hold runoff water from a garage and driveway long enough to allow the soil to absorb it rather than draining directly into Pipe Lake. We were able to use our grant monies to match the Alberg's contributions for a significant portion of this project. Other projects may result from the design plan visits already scheduled by two other property owners.

We will have an opportunity next year for additional owners to participate in the site assessments that are the first step in our Shoreland Restoration Project. If you are interested, please contact Joan Mears at 715-822-3097 to sign up.

## WEB SITE UPDATE

Have you checked out [www.pipelakes.org](http://www.pipelakes.org) lately? You will find the latest information on the Boat Parad, the District Picnic, interesting slides from our Special Meeting May 22, 2010, a classified ads section, our survey on fishing and much more.

## LOONS! LOONS! LOONS!

If you love the loon calls on Pipe Lakes or you have enjoyed seeing our local loons swim and dive, you can learn more by checking out these websites:

<http://www.mnbound.com/live-loon-cam/> is the KARE !! Live Loon Cam

<http://www.mnbound.com/larrys-loon-blog/> provides lots of information on loons.

## TREE FALLS HELP THE LAKES

Trees that fall into the lake and are allowed to remain there with their branches and leaves provide very important habitat for the tiny invertebrates that help keep our lakes healthy and also provide a nursery for desirable fish hatchlings like walleye. Part of our 5 year grant from the State of Wisconsin covers the cost of permits to create four tree falls in sensitive areas of Pipe and North Pipe Lakes. Tom Mears is coordinating the selection of tree fall sites and the implementation of this program. Please contact Tom Mears at 715-822-3097 if you are interested in helping with or finding out more about this project.

## Web Site Want Ads!

Now you can advertise those Yard Sales, Boats, or anything else you want to sell on [www.pipelakes.org](http://www.pipelakes.org)! You may even advertise your house if you are selling it yourself. Go to the web site and start selling or buying today.

## Enhancing Water Quality and Wildlife By Cheryl Clemens

At the Spring Special Meeting, Cheryl Clemens from Harmony Environmental made a presentation that included many interesting facts and issues. The whole power point is on the [pipelake.org](http://pipelake.org) web site.

**One pound of phosphorous creates 500 pounds of algae.**

### Water Front Recommendations

**Stop mowing**

**Plant native trees, shrubs, grasses**

**Capture run off**

**Stabilize banks and slopes**

**Minimize hard surfaces**

# July 4th Boat Parade

The boat parade was wonderful this year! We had 8 boats enter the contest. All were wonderfully decorated and everyone had a great time. The judging was based on Theme, Energy, Decorations and Originality. This was our first year with Junior Judges. Thanks to Tad and Ashley Fugitt, our Junior Judges. There was much deliberation on the Judges boat and it was close!

First place went to the American Idol Boat (Jensons) featuring "Adam Lambert" and all of the American Idol Judges. The Jensons did a great job singing and acting around the whole lake!

Second Place went to BP Deepwater Horizon (Bryers). They had great costumes and enthusiasm. Their use of props (including the Grandchildren) was stupendous.

Third Place went to Star Wars (Manner). The lightsaber battles were fun to watch. The costumes were good and we especially liked the use of life jackets.

Thank you to all who participated! We look forward to next year.



## First Place Winner



## Second Place Winner



## Third Place Winner