

# The Loon Call

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

## ANNUAL MEETING

PIPE AND NORTH PIPE LAKES P&R DISTRICT

SEPTEMBER 4, 2010

9:00 AM – CHRIST CHURCH – CTY T/G

- Review and approve Minutes of May Special Meeting
- Review and approve current financial report
- Review Nomination Committee slate and vote on new Commissioner
- Update on Polk County septic systems from Herschel Brown
- Report from Cheryl Clemens, Harmony Environmental, on shoreland consultations
- Report from Commission on other aspects of the project
- Presentation and vote on 2011 Budget Proposal
- New Business

## 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

### An Important Correction!

#### "Durkee--Jenson Coop"

The Winning Boat in the Pipe Lake Boat Parade "was a cooperative effort between the Durkee and Jenson Families." There are actually some in-law names in the coop too. The kids do work hard in the planning, preparation, and presentation of the Parade entry and nice to see the recognition. I think it is a very nice initiative for our Association. Thanks again.  
Ken Jenson

## Shoreline Facts

- Shorelines act as a bridge between aquatic and terrestrial life. They provide habitat for many plant and animal species.
- A well planted shoreline helps to prevent pollution from entering into the lake, allowing for better water quality.
- Good shorelines will prevent erosion and provide stunning views of the lake.
- Well planted shoreline provide privacy for the landowners.
- Planted shorelines will help to stop unsightly algae blooms.
- Emergent plants attract minnows that in turn attract larger fish.



### LOST and FOUND

Two life jackets have floated onto our beach in the last few weeks. We are located at 2183 East Pipe Lake Lane (map location 93).

## Carol's Corner

I want to thank all of our owners who have taken the time this summer to become involved in one or more of our District projects. Your participation in monitoring lake quality, your consulting with a specialist on how you can improve the filtration of runoff water on your property, the enthusiastic decorating and entertaining for the Boat Parade, strengthening networks to other owners at the picnic, attending our meetings and asking questions – all of that and so much more that you do makes North Pipe and Pipe Lakes a wonderful, caring community.

We are moving into our second year of a five year grant to improve the quality of our lake water by focusing on several different ways undesirable nutrients reach the lakes. What can you do to help?

- Sign up for a quick technical assessment of your property for next May and June.
- If you have already completed the technical assessment, consider implementing the recommended cost share project.
- Volunteer to work on the tree fall crews this fall and winter.
- Attend the Workshop scheduled for May 28, 2011 to learn more about native plants that will thrive in our environment and local wildlife that you may want to encourage on your property.

## SPOTLIGHT ON SHORELAND RESTORATION PROJECT

Randy and Diane Alberg, owners of 2116 Pipe Lake Lane since 2004, recently completed the construction of a high tech infiltration pit with matching funds from the District's Shoreland Restoration Program. The Alberg lot has one of the highest elevations on Pipe Lake. Before the project was completed, heavy rains would accumulate in a low area near the Alberg driveway, flow over the sides and rush into the lake, carrying sediment and phosphorus and many other things that can't be mentioned in a family publication.

The infiltration pit project was the third Alberg initiative designed to reduce runoff to the lake. In the Spring of 2009, they replaced a rotting green treated deck and plantings near the lake with a new deck, drain tiles and native plantings. Later that year the Albergs installed two small drainage pits near their house to collect water from the eave troughs.

These improvements, entirely paid for by the Albergs, were helpful in slowing runoff, however they knew more was needed to handle the runoff problems near their driveway.

The Albergs worked closely with Cheryl Clemons to determine the correct size for an infiltration pit near the driveway. Also, they worked with a neighbor to find ways to minimize runoff that would flood the neighbor's driveway in heavy storms. The original design was calculated to handle rains of up to three inches per hour. When a contractor was brought in, it became clear that larger amounts of poorly draining clay soils would have to be removed. The hole became deeper instead of wider. The structures inside the pit, made from interlocking "lego-type" bricks, are wrapped in landscaping fabric and filled with rock. The completed infiltration pit holds 1500 gallons of water.

Randy Alberg enjoyed working with Cheryl Clemons and with his contractor, Balsam Lake Prolawn, to design and implement the project. The contractor, well regarded by Polk County officials, helped facilitate the approval process. Randy says the \$1,500 matching fund from the District were a big help in making the project a reality.

He urges other owners to explore the possibilities of Shoreland Restoration projects on their land. Randy is willing to give tours of his projects, noting that there are many creative ways to address runoff and that owners should consult with Cheryl Clemons and a qualified contractor to get the job done right.

Randy Alberg said, "We realize the importance of doing our part to maintain and improve the quality of the Pipe Lakes." Their Shoreland Preservation initiatives are great examples of what can be done, with the assistance of District matching funds.

FEATURED VOLUNTEER

# Chris Morton

Two years ago, Chris Morton agreed to take on one of the more challenging volunteer assignments for Pipe Lakes – Chair of the Annual Picnic Committee. “At first, the idea of taking on a job previously handled by Dick Hollar seemed real intimidating. He’s a hard act to follow!” said Chris. Dick Hollar had been the number one volunteer for Pipe Lakes, leading the transition from lake association to Lake Management District, and somehow recruiting volunteers for the Annual Picnic in his “spare” time. Chris Morton had been one of those picnic team volunteers. When the time came for Dick to find a new leader for the picnic, Chris Morton became the prime suspect. “Dick did a real sales job on me,” says Chris. “He handed me a step-by-step, very detailed set of instructions on how to run the picnic – who to talk to, how to talk to them, how to line up prizes and food – the whole works! He made it look easy.”

Chris Morton hasn’t missed a beat when it comes to delivering a top quality late summer picnic for families and friends of Pipe Lakes. Chris says he’s been fortunate to recruit a team of up to 15 people every year, including a co-chair for this year’s event. Chris acknowledges the great work of Dennis and Kim, owners of The County Line Restaurant. They work closely with the committee, analyze the data from the previous year, and consistently deliver the fixins in grand style on the day of the picnic.

Last year, we had over 100 picnic attendees and came within thirty dollars of breaking even. That’s a real accomplishment – a credit to Chris and his team.

Chris Morton and his family bought the now famous Cabin #1 in 1994. They were introduced to Pipe Lakes by Joe Ryan, another long time

Pipe Lake owner. Chris was impressed by the clarity and cleanliness of Pipe Lake, especially when compared to the (mis-named) Clearwater Lake near Annandale, MN, where as a boy Chris helped his dad shovel weeds and muck. Now the entire Morton clan enjoys Pipe Lake – Chris’ wife Tammy, their four kids Matthew, Nick, Andrew and Sara, and two granddaughters, 12-year old Kacie and Lauren, who just celebrated her first birthday. The family members regularly show up on that list of volunteers for the picnic.

Chris was born and raised in Hopkins, MN and for the past 20 years has made his home in Chanhassen. When not enjoying Pipe Lakes and other great spots in the great outdoors, he tends to his multiple business interests, including commercial equipment manufacturing, real estate development and a family-owned bank in Saint Louis Park, MN. It’s an understatement to say Chris loves to hunt and fish. He owns hunting land near Pipe Lake and can be caught ice fishing somewhere in Minnesota or Wisconsin almost every day from the end of November to the end of March.

When asked why he volunteers at Pipe Lakes, Chris’ response is direct and to the point: “The preservation of our lakes needs our time and attention. I get enormous satisfaction knowing that I helped get it done and helped bring others into the process. I’ve gotten to know a lot of very interesting people. Together, we’re making a difference.”

Please give Chris Morton a warm and hearty thank you for serving as a valued Pipe Lakes volunteer.

And, mark your calendar for **this year’s picnic on Saturday, August 21 at 1:00 PM.**

### Commissioners

Chair	Carol Vantine	612-750-8785
Treasurer	Tom O'Hern	651-674-5531
Secretary	Joe Errigo	715-822-3564
Communications	Dan Paulson	715-822-3543
Volunteer Coordinator	Tom Mears	715-822-3097
County Representative	Herschel Brown	715-472-4095
Township Representative	Doug Rouzer	715-822-3288

## PROPOSED 2011 BUDGET

<u>INCOME</u>	APPROVED 2010 BUDGET	PROJECTED 2010	PROPOSED 2011 BUDGET
Opening Balance	\$3,368	\$12,330	<b>\$19,674</b>
Grant Reimbursement	\$41,635	\$7,000	\$19,500
Tax Levy	\$17,000	\$17,000	\$17,000
Owner 50% Matching Contributions		\$1,498	\$9,000
Site evaluation payment \$25		\$150	\$400
Invasive Species Grant		\$1,100	\$1,500
Loan @ 4%			\$50,000
Other-Lottery Credit, DNR 2009, Picnic	\$650	\$2,031	\$1,050
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$62,653</b>	<b>\$41,108</b>	<b>\$118,124</b>
<b><u>EXPENSES</u></b>			
<b>Grant Expenditures</b>			
General	\$3,400	\$2,480	\$3,400
Road Construction and Maintenance	\$4,150		\$5,685
Stream Bank Stabilization		\$60	\$2,600
Phosphorus Retention Projects	\$3,000	\$1,161	\$50,000
Shore Land Buffers	\$30,750	\$10,023	\$33,250
In-Lake	\$1,500		\$2,500
Monitoring Studies	\$3,350	\$408	\$2,000
Contingency	\$2,000		
Loan Interest			\$1,500
<b>TOTAL GRANT PROJECTS</b>	<b>\$48,150</b>	<b>\$14,132</b>	<b>\$100,935</b>
<b>Lake Management Projects</b>	\$3,450	\$3,450	\$2,450
<b>Lake Quality Monitoring</b>	\$1,180	\$1,180	\$1,180
<b>SUBTOTAL MONITORING</b>	<b>\$1,180</b>	<b>\$1,180</b>	<b>\$1,180</b>
<b>TOTAL LAKE QUALITY</b>	<b>\$4,630</b>	<b>\$4,630</b>	<b>\$3,630</b>
<b>Constituent Development</b>	\$1,830	\$1,586	\$1,730
<b>Miscellaneous Expenses</b>	\$1,400	\$1,087	\$1,505
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b>\$56,010</b>	<b>\$21,435</b>	<b>\$107,800</b>
<b>CASH ON HAND</b>	<b>\$6,643</b>	<b>\$19,674</b>	<b>\$10,324</b>

### **2011 Proposed Budget Highlights**

- The District tax levy will be \$17,000 in 2011 as it was in 2010.
- Expenses for traditional District activities remain consistent with prior years.
- 2010 expenses /reimbursement for shoreland restoration projects are less than anticipated to date. Owners are currently evaluating the implementation of recommended projects.
- We expect continued interest in the shoreland restoration projects and tree falls work in 2011.
- We are ahead of planned timing on the development and installation of a retention basin. If the design process

is completed and the property owner concurs, we may implement the basin in 2011 rather than 2014. Depending on cost of the design and timing, the District may need a bank loan to bridge the gap between invoiced expense and state of Wisconsin reimbursement.

- We committed to \$37,500 in volunteer hours over 5 years to get the \$200,000 state grant. We need significantly more volunteer hours donated in 2011 to insure we can access the full \$200,000. Shortage of volunteer hours will increase District expense.
- Cash on hand at the close of 2010 will be between \$17000 and \$21000. Cash on