

The Loon Call

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

Advisory Committee on Water Quality Formed

A citizens advisory committee has been formed to help get direction and feedback to the board on efforts to monitor and preserve water quality. Members are needed on this new committee. If you are interested in participating please email Dan Paulson at daniel492@centurytel.net . The first meeting will be 2 PM November 6th at 2260 24th Street.

SAVE THE DATES!!!

NEXT COMMISSIONER MEETING

OCTOBER 29, 2010
5PM 2198 W. PIPE LAKE COURT

Water Quality Advisory Committee Meeting

November 6th
2PM 2260 24th Street

New At The Pipe Lake Web Page

The Pipe Lake web site now has a page devoted to Johnstown Township news.



October 15, 2010 www.pipelakes.org

Carol's Corner

I love Autumn! The crisp air – especially with the memory of some of those “dog days” this summer, the changing colors, the sense of “nesting” I get from putting away the summer gear and preparing the fireplace log pile. The lakes seem peaceful these days.

It has been a good year for the District. We had a terrific turnout for the picnic and boat parade – be sure to check out the photos on our website: www.pipelakes.org. Despite the alarming fall in the lake levels at the beginning of the summer, we enjoyed a heartening rise in the water level after heavy rains finally saturated the wetlands and forest that drain to the lakes. Several boaters were even able to get pontoons and larger fishing boats under the bridge! We also made a great start on utilizing our grant to help protect the water quality of the two lakes.

The District Commissioners will be using the coming months to plan for both our water quality activities and our District social events. We will also be tracking the shoreland ordinance review that Polk County is undertaking. It is always helpful hear from you about your concerns so that we can be sure we are addressing the needs of our property owners. The Commissioner names and contact information are printed in this issue of the [Loon Call](#) and are listed on our website. Give us a call!

lakes. One property has installed an infiltration trench to slow water on a steep incline. Recommended designs for 10 additional properties have been delivered to the owners, with three additional designs currently in the works. In two cases, the configuration of the property is such that we are referring the owner to the Polk County Land and Water Resources Department for assistance.

Native plantings lists suitable for our specific District have been developed by Harmony Environmental. The lists include pictures and are posted on our website: www.pipelakes.org. Additional lists specific to clay soil will be added in the next few months.

The District is continuing to work with the Polk County Engineer and the Christenson family to finalize a design for a retention basin installation north of North Pipe Lake. We are planning to move forward with that project and the culvert replacements on 20th Street in 2011.

The regrading and culvert installation on the Danner property done by Merwin Moen in 2009 was approved and endorsed by the County Engineer as effective in addressing our grant plan issues for that area – thereby saving the District \$5000 - \$6000 in expense. We thank Merwin for this contribution.

Our request for a \$17,000 tax levy for 2011 to help pay the District's portion of the grant expense remain the same as 2010.

2011 Grant Activities

- **No Strings Attached property evaluations – details to come in the [LOON CALL](#)**
- **Tree falls to increase fish habitat**
- **Culvert replacement – 20th Street**
- **Retention basin finalization**
- **Installation of individual shoreland projects**

Possible community activity to clear streambeds

2009 – 2010 Grant Update

The District has completed a total of 22 technical assessments of individual properties as part of our water quality grant. Cheryl Clemens, our consultant, reports that 7 of the properties are already using well-designed features, natural habitat and plantings and other measures to insure that any runoff has ample time to soak into the ground before reaching the

REFLECTIONS – 50 YEARS ON PIPE LAKE

by Joe Errigo

Spring, 1960. Telephones had cords and rotary dials. Televisions had only black and white pictures. The VCR was not yet a gleam in anyone's eye. Cars were made of heavy gauge steel and had gleaming chrome bumpers. There were less than 20 cabins on the Pipe Lakes, and two young couples were making the big decision to invest in Pipe Lake property.

Bob and Aileen Wahlstedt had considered cabins on Wapagasset and Big Blake lakes, but didn't find anything that appealed to them. Their realtor suggested undeveloped land on the Northeast corner of Pipe Lake, and that was the beginning of their 50 year story. The Wahlstedts jumped at the opportunity to buy three heavily wooded lots at the premium price of \$1,000 per lot! Then, they brought their good friends **Jack and Adele Graber** into the picture and the Grabers bought two additional lots next to the Wahlstedt's.

Here are some reflections of the Wahlstedts and Grabers about those early years on Pipe Lake and some of the memories of family and friends over the past five decades.

Bob and Aileen started building in 1960. Bob's dad, Gabriel, and cousin Dick helped pour the footings and cut the long poles (sometimes twice to get it right!) that formed the long, slanted sides of the cozy A-frame. A photograph of the construction crew brings back warm memories. They built a charming lake cabin.

The Grabers built the following year, in 1961. Jack wanted seclusion and privacy and that's what they got. They built a small cabin and replaced it twenty years ago with a larger home that was designed as a permanent residence. The Grabers' saga, and their official 50-year anniversary on Pipe Lake, will be featured in a 2011 edition of The Loon Call.

The local Cooperative newspaper did a feature article on the Wahlstedts' new A-frame in 1961. The article is part of a beautiful scrapbook of memories and photographs that chronicle the lake stories of two growing and tightly knit families. The scrapbook has dozens of photos of young kids and very attractive young adults.

Those young adults are, of course, Bob Aileen, Jack and Adele.

The Wahlstedts said there was no other cabin in sight in 1960, other than what is now the Brauns' place across the bay on the north shore. Bob remembers large groups of unruly young people, waterskiing all day and partying into the night. They didn't come from cabins on the lake (there weren't that many!). As more cabins got built, Pipe Lake became less popular as a wild party spot for young people.

Both couples remember the road west of the bridge being right on the lake, until Doc O'Hern took the bull by the horns and had the road moved north, creating several nice lots on the north end of the lake. There was a roller rink on that old road that disappeared late in 1960. Skinny-dipping was possible then (still is, but the Lake District is not recommending it). Bob mentioned the incredible clarity of the water and wonders what the Secchi-disk reading might have been in 1960. There were lots of scuba divers in those days, taking advantage of the great water clarity.

The Wahlstedts and Grabers fondly remember the names of other pioneering lake owners from those early years: **Johnson, Truitt, Thom, Mc Dougal, Rye, Heinze, O'Hern, Mears, Pipkorn** and **Benson**, to name a few. Some of those names still appear on our now famous lake map.

One of the highlights of their 50 years on the lake is the collaborative efforts of the Wahlstedts and Grabers to participate in and dominate the July 4 Boat Parade. Aileen says, "We Ruled!" in 1974, 1975 and 1976, although the only record of the Big Prize was in 1976 when the two families lashed together all the boats they owned to make an ocean-liner-sized entry that blew the judges away. Aileen acknowledges the lack of serious competition in those days, but the 1976 prize is in the scrapbook!

One slightly off-the-lake memory is the many lives of the County Line Bar and Restaurant. In 1960 it was Vic's Place, with an elk and bison farm out the back door. Then, it morphed into George and Joyce's before becoming the County Line.

Continued-50 Years On Pipe Lake

The Wahlstedts added a new wing to the original A-frame in 1991, which included a flushing toilet and a second bedroom. They had the help of a contractor on that one. Bob's dad had passed away in 1975.

Other long-term memories of the lake were passed on to the Wahlstedts by Lawrence and Ann Zolman, then the owners of the house on the corner where County Highway G turns from north-south to east-west. The Zolmans told Bob and Aileen that, in 1900, most of the trees surrounding Pipe Lake and North Pipe Lake were only eight to ten feet tall, due to the clear cutting of timber in earlier years. There was a lumber mill on the south end of Pipe Lake until about 1900. Jack said that in 1960, you could still see the large stumps of the original old growth forest.

Little known facts: In 1960 the lake level was lower than it was earlier this summer. In the 1930's (according to Ann Zolman) it was even lower than that! Ann talked with the Wahlstedts about walking on land between the "big rock" and the shoreline. The "big rock" was completely out of the water.

A conversation with these 50-year veterans of Pipe Lake confirms that they are great stewards of the lake and the surrounding lands. They have kept their properties in their natural state, with vegetation that helps keep the lake as clean as possible. Their families have learned from their good example, so the tradition of stewardship is being passed on to future generations.

Let's join with Bob, Aileen, Jack and Adele in celebrating their 50 years on Pipe Lake!

Through the Looking Glass... A Field Guide to Aquatic Plants

Produced by the Wisconsin Lakes Partnership: University of Wisconsin-Extension, Wisconsin Association of Lakes and the Department of Natural Resources, this 248 page guide contains over 120 original illustrations of North American aquatic plants. *Through the Looking Glass* contains detailed and highly accurate information needed to identify aquatic plants and that knowledge is delivered in a fun and friendly manner.

Through the Looking Glass is well suited for use by anyone interested in nature or freshwater ecology: nature lovers, waterfront property owners, teachers, students, botanists, or fisherman to name a few. It is attractive enough to take a place on your coffee table and yet precise in its information.

Through the Looking Glass costs \$19.95 plus \$2.05 for shipping and handling and is available from:

UWEX-Lakes Program, CNR
1900 Franklin St.
Stevens Point, WI 54481

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