



The

Loon Call



Newsletter of Pipe and North Pipe Lakes Protection and Rehabilitation District

SPRING 2014

What's Inside...

Commissioners Corner
PAGE 2

The Bear Necessities
PAGE 3

Water Quality Committee
PAGE 4

Alien Invaders
Annual Picnic
Share your Stuff
PAGE 5

www.pipelakes.org



Hepatica *Anemone americana*, is a native woodland ephemeral that emerges from the fall leaf litter to bloom in April and May before the trees leaf out. Later in summer you'll find its bright green, three-lobed and waxy leaves shining on the forest floor.

PHOTO: KAREN ENGELBRETSON

WHAT DO YOU MEAN...

My Last Chance?

Since September 2009 we have been encouraging all property owners to request a *free* consultation with Harmony Environmental to determine any **recommendations** for reducing runoff from their property into North Pipe Lake and Pipe Lake. As property owners participate in this effort, we better understand and control the amount of pollutants and nutrients that enter our lakes. Wisconsin DNR and private studies demonstrate that nutrients and pollutants in runoff make our water less clear, make it harder for desirable plants and fish to survive, and reduce the value of everyone's property.

Our grant from WDNR to provide these consultations, and the matching funds for approved installations of one or more of any recommended practice will end in September, 2014.

We have opportunities in May and early June for free consultations. If you decide to implement any recommendations you receive in your property report, you will have time in June, July and August of 2014 to complete the work and qualify for matching funds.

Even if you believe that your property does not need any changes to reduce runoff or you do not want to undertake any new projects this year, we still encourage you to request a consultation. The resulting report is a helpful document to keep with your property records.

Many of the 67 consultations already completed around Pipe Lakes resulted in a report stating that nothing needed to be done. In some cases, the report gave several recommendations but the owners chose not to implement them or to implement them in a way not funded by the grant. The Vantines, for example, were urged to put in a 35-foot wide native plant barrier at the shoreline to prevent further erosion. They chose to use a rock retaining wall and some native plants to reduce runoff. While the Vantines did not receive matching funds for this work, they did benefit from taking action before the erosion increased and Pipe Lakes benefitted from the resulting runoff reduction. A win-win for everyone!

Please take a moment to consider how spending one hour with our consultant will help you understand your property and its relationship to the lake. Call Carol at 612-750-8785 to schedule a consultation for May or June.

"It is life, I think, to watch the water. One can learn so many things." —Nicholas Sparks, *The Notebook*

COMMISSIONER'S CORNER

by Curt Deering, Chair

Hello Pipe Lake Residents, it seemed like yet another long winter. The snow has melted, ice is out and boats are being launched, the sign that summer will be here shortly.

In preparation for this winter's water runoff and this year's boat launch inspections, some additional off season work has been done. There has been a concerted effort this winter by the newly formed Water Quality Committee (with additional volunteers) to prepare for and conduct water quality testing. Also, our Clean Boats Clean Water program will benefit from increased monitoring hours of boats at the launch this year. We have continued to place our primary focus on water quality to preserve and protect the Pipe Lakes.

Thank you again to all the volunteers that make these and other activities for the Pipe Lakes work. ■

Pipe and North Pipe Lakes Protection and Rehabilitation District

Commissioners

Curt Deering

Chair
curt.deering@comcast.net
612-770-2994

Tom O'Hern

Treasurer
tohern@gmail.com
651-428-5532

Greg Warner

Secretary
Rapid Response Plan
gjwjas@gmail.com
507-202-5233

Stephanie Boysen

Communications
sboyson@frontiernet.net
651-433-5707

Brooke Thill

Activities Planning
brooke@myarbonne.com
715-822-3669

Craig Moriak

Polk County Representative
moriak.ent@gmail.com
715-948-2835

Joe Zaspel

Township Representative
715-822-2356

www.pipelakes.org



Pipe Lakes Commissioner and District Chair Curt Deering presents **Art Ringsven** with an award in recognition and appreciation of the hours he has “camped out” at the boat landing inspecting watercraft before they enter Pipe Lakes. Our new Clean Boats Clean Waters monitor, **Randall Brom** has been spending time with Art learning the ropes. When you stop by the landing, welcome Randall to our lakes community.



The Bear Necessities

Being a part of the Pipes community means sharing our resources with wildlife. This includes our bear friends. Numerous bear sightings have already occurred in the Pipe Lakes area. Wisconsin DNR provides the tips listed here on what to do if you encounter bears while you are out enjoying our beautiful surroundings.

More information related to bears can be found at the following websites: dnr.wi.gov/topic/wildlifehabitat/documents/bearpractice.pdf and dnr.wi.gov/org/land/wildlife/hunt/bear/



If you see a black bear:

Make noise and wave your arms. Let the bear know you are there so you don't surprise it. Bears normally leave an area once they know a human is around.

If you happen to surprise a bear at close range, back away slowly.

If you are near a vehicle or building, go inside until the bear wanders away.

Do not approach a bear. Respect black bears as wild animals and enjoy them safely — from a distance.

This beautiful mama bear and her cub were sighted in the spring of 2012 near North Pipe Lake.

Save the date!

MEETINGS:

May 17, 2014	8 AM	Commissioner Meeting, 2172 West Pipe Lake Lane
May 24, 2014	9 AM	Special Meeting, Christ Lutheran Church
Aug. 9, 2014	8 AM	Commissioner Meeting, 242 220th Ave.
Aug. 30, 2014	9 AM	Annual District Meeting, Christ Lutheran Church

EVENTS:

July 5, 2014	1 PM	Boat parade, boat landing (Rain date July 6)
Aug 16, 2014	Noon	Annual Picnic, County Line Tavern
Date to be determined		Bass Tournament

Welcome Committee Volunteers Needed!

To continue to build a strong sense of community on Pipe Lake, we are looking for volunteers interested in welcoming new lake residents!

If you are interested or know of new Pipe Lakes property owners please contact Stephanie Boysen at 651-433-5707

The Loon Call is published three times per year for its members by Pipe and North Pipe Lakes Protection and Rehabilitation District, Polk County, Wisconsin. Editor: Stephanie Boysen. Contributions and comments are welcome, contact the editor, stephanie.boysen@cummins.com. Design and production: Karen Engelbretson, KJE Design LLC.

Water Quality Committee Plan and Update

by Greg Warner

The Pipe Lakes Protection and Rehabilitation District approved the formation or re-formation of a Water Quality Committee at the January 11, 2014 meeting. Greg Warner is leading the group. Volunteers were sought and we are pleased to report that several lake residents have stepped forth

We are fortunate to have Dick Hollar and Larry Bresina on our group as they bring a rich history of the collective efforts preceding this group and in-depth lake management/water quality knowledge. Also joining the group are Carol Vantine, Doug Stevens, Tim Schmuck and Chris Wilson. I am very encouraged with their commitment, energy and new ideas these individuals bring forth to ensure our lakes' water quality continues to be as great as it is for us, and for generations to come.

The District approved an outline of a *One-Year Water Quality Plan* that provides the structure for our initial efforts. The plan includes:

- Recruiting volunteers
- Documenting current practices
- Assessing current efforts and evaluating what else, if anything we should consider doing
- Conducting a stream inspection this spring
- Affirming adjoining farm land management practices

We are fortunate to have many former and current volunteers who conduct water sampling and measurements on a regular basis. We all owe them a huge thank you. One of our goals as noted, is to document our current practices. This provides guidance to our current volunteers and makes transitions to new volunteers much easier. Although the Wisconsin DNR provides procedures for lake water sampling and measurements, we have not found a similarly accepted process for stream sampling. But, as we have been researching this, new information is becoming available.

Because the District had the foresight several years ago, we are fortunate to have many years of lake data including secchi disk measurements and chemical analysis. We have placed these data on a secure network so, in the unlikely event an individual's computer who has all the data is lost or crashes, we do not lose these data. We are also looking at how we can best use these data to determine what if anything, we should propose doing differently. Or, with these data, should we consider seeking professional advice. Still an open question at this time but with data going back to 1998, we need to periodically assess where we have been and where we are going. We all realize that 15 years is a relatively short time in the life of a lake but we have a very strong foundation on which to continually enhance our efforts to protect and improve the water quality of our lakes.

We look forward to sharing more with you at the **May 24th Special Meeting**. In the meantime, if you are interested in joining us or have any questions, please contact me or one of the Water Quality Committee members. ■



This loon nests on a bed of White water lily tubers uprooted by beaver activity.

PHOTO: BRIAN COLLINS

Pipe Lakes Kids - Watch for Alien Invaders!

PIPE LAKES KIDS are the future of our beautiful lakes! Take some time to help them understand the value of our beautiful resources by introducing them to the dangers of invasive species. Wisconsin DNR provides some excellent kid-friendly educational tools on their EEK (Environmental Education for Kids) website. The “Critter Corner” of EEK includes a section on “Alien Invaders” a.k.a. Wisconsin invasive species. Check it out with your favorite Pipe Lakes kid(s)!

dnr.wi.gov/org/caer/ce/eeek/earth/aliens.htm



Save the date!

THE 2014 PICNIC is planned for Saturday, August 16, 2014 at 12:00 noon. We are currently seeking a volunteer to lead and organize the event as well as volunteers to help on the day of the event. If you're interested, please contact Brook Thill at 715-822-3669.

Last year's picnic was a huge success. We had record breaking attendance and the day was filled with food, fun and games. A huge thank you to all the helpers including: Brian and Julie Dahl, check in; Jon McDonough, check in; Julie Doss, Chris Boyson, Aileen Wahtstedt, Ann and Curt Derring, servers; Jim Peterson and Peggy Weber, pictures; Bill Radtke, collecting all the door prizes; Kevin Thill, game coordinator; Kay McDonough, bingo caller. Also, thanks to everyone who helped set up and clean up. It is much appreciated!



Pipe Lake Sharing

Ray Fugitt shared this beautiful photo of the first snow on October 20, 2013. It was beautiful then, but we are glad it's gone!

Do you have something you'd like to share with the Pipe Lakes Community? A great wildlife photo or Pipe Lake story?

Contact Stephanie Boysen at sboyson@frontiernet.net