



The

Loon Call



Newsletter of Pipe and North Pipe Lakes Protection and Rehabilitation District

FALL 2014

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www.pipelakes.org



The best things about asters...

- 1) They bloom in October when everything else is dying back.
- 2) Bees and butterflies are attracted their rich nectar.
- 3) They are easy to manage in your garden; just cut them back by the 4th of July to keep the plants robust.
- 4) Many native varieties are available.

PHOTO: KAREN ENGELBRETSON

Annual Pipe Lakes boat parade winners...



< FIRST PLACE

Bringing the Pipes to Pipe — Stormonts

MOST ENTHUSIASTIC

World Cup Soccer — McCarthy/Peterson



BEST THEME Two-way tie

Camp Pipe Lake — Breyers, and Zombies of Pipe Lake — Durkees and Jensions



“Humanity is exalted not because we are so far above other living creatures, but because knowing them well elevates the very concept of life.” —Edward O. Wilson, *Biophilia*

COMMISSIONER'S CORNER

by Curt Deering, Chair

I've had the privilege to serve on the Pipe Lakes Protection and Rehabilitation District Board for three years and serve as chair in my final year.

We consistently hear from outside sources that our district is one of the more active communities in the area, our lake continues to be cleaner than most and is still free from aquatic invasive species. This is a testament to the many volunteers who have contributed to this end for several decades now.

On a day-to-day basis change may seem slow, but over time significant progress is being made, again, all with volunteers. We have a tradition of district community-building events like the boat parade and annual picnic. Also, we've recently added a retention basin, there is an active water quality monitoring team, a newly formed water quality committee, extended hours at the boat ramp for the Clean Water Clean Boats program and most recently an extension on our grant for water quality projects.

While on the board; I met people I wouldn't have otherwise met, learned useful information about protecting water quality and gained the satisfaction of trying to make a difference with our watershed district. As with so many volunteer activities, I got more out of the experience than I would have otherwise expected. So if you have ever considered volunteering for any of our activities, I strongly recommend giving it a try.

I look forward to helping more in the future. ■

Respectfully,
Curt Deering

Pipe and North Pipe Lakes Protection and Rehabilitation District

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www.pipelakes.org



Pipe Lakes P&R District Commissioners, left to right: Greg Warner, Stephanie Boyson, Tom O'Hern, Jan Breyer, Tim Schmuck, Joe Zaspel.

Newly elected commissioners are Jan Breyer and Tim Schmuck. Thank you! retiring commissioners Brook Thill (right) and Curt Deering for your years of service on the Pipe Lakes board.



Check It Out — Pipes Lake Website Updated!

By Stephanie Boyson

Want to stay up to date on District activities between meetings and *Loon Call* editions? Check out the new Pipe Lakes website! The website has been updated thanks to the efforts of Larry Bresina and Cindy Manwarren! The web address remains pipelakes.org.

The web site has been simplified and includes:

- Basic lake related information
- A home page enjoyment theme with slideshow, notices and recent news
- Events: scheduled events with map, events history
- Contacts: who's who, email list sign up
- Documents: past years documents archive
- Johnstown: contacts, notices, minutes, financial, ordinances, resolutions
- Plus random photos and items of interest, and a site comments link

We invite you to share your Pipe Lake photos for the home page and sidebar display! Please send all photos to webmaster@pipelakes.org.

If you would like to receive the *Pipe Lakes Messenger* e-mails, and the *Loon Call* newsletter via e-mail, please be sure to sign up at the website. Click on the "Contacts" tab and fill in your information. Be sure to complete the confirmation after you sign up.

Thanks Larry and Cindy! ■

Good News!

By Carol Vantine

Just when we thought we were running out of time to utilize all of the funds from our 2009 – 2014 DNR matching grant, the DNR graciously extended our grant period through December 31, 2015.

This means that we have another year to develop and implement cost share projects with individual property owners who are interested in addressing shore erosion or run-off issues, more time to install our new fish sticks projects, and more opportunities to address stream bank erosion. It also means that we will be able to work with experts from the University of Wisconsin to develop and implement more meaningful retention basin impact measurements. Those attending the Annual Meeting on August 30 to heard a report on the District plans for 2015. ■

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 Boyson. Contributions and comments are welcome, contact the editor, stephanie.boysen@cummins.com. Design and production: Karen Engelbretson, KJE Design LLC.



Save the date!

DISTRICT MEETINGS:

November 15, 2014 8 AM
Location TBD

January 17, 2015 8 AM
Location TBD

April 18, 2015 8 AM
Location TBD

May 23, 2015 9 AM
Special Meeting
Christ Lutheran Church

August 15, 2015 8 AM

August 29, 2015 Annual Meeting

EVENTS:

July 4 Boat Parade
(Rain date July 5)

August 22, 2015 Picnic
Location TBD

Fun and games at the Pipe Lakes annual picnic!



Thanks to everyone who helped make our picnic a special occasion! See the list of local business donations on page 8.

Clean Boats Clean Waters Monitoring

By Dick Hollar

Pipe Lake boat monitoring coverage has expanded at the landing, by having a monitor there every week day from 7:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m., Friday evening from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., Saturdays from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Sundays from 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.. This provides us with coverage for something over 99% of all boaters that enter the Pipe Lakes. We would like to welcome Max Sykes, our new monitor!

Monitoring coverage has also been provided for several fishing tournaments that have taken place on our lakes. Generally these boats are very clean, because if a person is cited for a violation, he can no longer participate in the club.

Traffic at the landing seems to have been less this year for some unknown reason, and this is reflected in the numbers. So far this year 285 boats have entered and/or left the landing compared with 482 last year. This year we have contacted 556 people compared with 1036 last year. We also have put in less total hours this year, 217 vs. 258 last year. Even though we expanded the hours of coverage, we lost at least 3 weeks due issues with the monitors. I am happy to report that there have been no problems or issues with any of the watercraft that have entered our lakes. Maybe these public educational programs designed by the WDNR are starting to work as we are finding that most boaters are aware of the laws.

Underwater surveillance was performed at the landing area on the north and the unofficial landing area on the south again this year. An underwater inspection of these areas is conducted once a month from June through October. Once a year the entire shoreline of both Pipe and North Pipe is inspected. I am happy to report that no AIS has been found in our lakes this year. ■



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 Boyson at 651-433-5707



Pipe Lake Sharing

Lawrence Doff shared this moonlit photo of a grand and peaceful evening at Pipe Lake. Note the red ring around moon, bonfire and lone fisherman.

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

Contact Stephanie Boyson at sboysen@frontiernet.net

Lake quality, actions, and results

By Dick Hollar



It's up to everyone who values our waters to help keep them healthy and productive. Many waterfront dwellers question what difference the alterations to their lot could possibly make, but when the actions of dozens or hundreds of property owners are added up, the sum effect can alter the habitat and water quality on that waterbody.

Three lake characteristics are typically used to describe water quality: clarity (transparency), nutrients (phosphorus), and algae (chlorophyll).

Clarity is not a chemical property of lake water, rather it is an indicator or measure of water quality related to chemical and physical properties. Clarity is measured by a Secchi disk, a weighted, 8" diameter black and white disk which is lowered into the water; its visibility is noted through a prescribed procedure.

Phosphorus promotes excessive aquatic plant growth and is usually the key ingredient affecting the amount of algae present. Phosphorus originates from soil erosion, detergents, septic systems, runoff from farmland or lawns, leaves and grass clippings and a variety of human activities. A concentration of total phosphorus below 20 micrograms/liter (20 parts/billion) should be maintained to prevent nuisance algae blooms. Remember that one pound of phosphorus can produce from 300 to 500 pounds of algae.

Chlorophyll is a measure of the green pigment found in algae. The more chlorophyll the more algae present. The concentration of chlorophyll should remain below 8 micrograms/liter for a good clean lake.

Transformation Process

Left to nature, lakes will transform over centuries from crystal clear water to weed choked and/or covered with heavy green algae. This process is called eutrophication and is classified into three stages: oligotrophic, mesotrophic or eutrophic.

Oligotrophic are generally clear, deep and free of weeds or large algae blooms. They are low in nutrients and do not support large fish populations, but may sustain large game fish.

Mesotrophic lakes are slightly nutrient-enriched lakes that represent the middle point on the water quality time line. Mesotrophic lakes often support a rich and diverse community of native aquatic plants and a healthy population of fish, wildlife and waterfowl.

Eutrophic lakes have high levels of nutrients, organic matter and sediments that encourage the growth of plants, which may become excessive; these lakes are subject to frequent algae blooms.

This natural aging process occurs in all lakes over time, causing shallow lakes to eventually fill in. But if a lake's watershed remains relatively undisturbed, aging of that lake can take thousands of years. Because of their depth, lakes like Pipe Lakes will probably not fill in for many centuries, but the concentration of nutrients can become so great that the waters will become undesirable. The interaction between people and the lake plus its watershed causes this process to accelerate: a process known as *cultural eutrophication*.

What preventative actions can people do to slow or halt this cultural eutrophication process?

The major source of sediments and excess nutrients deposited into a seepage lake such as ours is almost always surface water runoff. It follows that eliminating or slowing this runoff will reduce the amount of sediments and nutrients that get deposited into the lake. The best way to accomplish this is to establish a “buffer zone” (35-foot minimum recommended) along the lakefront. This is an area where native shrubs, trees and grasses can grow undisturbed to help absorb and filter the runoff water. The plants’ root systems also help stabilize the shoreline and protect against erosion.

Improperly maintained or non-functioning septic systems are another source of nutrients that flow into the lake. Your septic system has to be pumped, cleaned and inspected on a regular basis to be sure it’s functioning properly.

Much of the fertilizer applied to lakefront lawns washes into the lake with the next thunderstorm. Avoid overapplying fertilizer and use only phosphorus free (middle number is 0) fertilizer. Avoid using weed killer; when washed into the lake, aquatic plants can be affected as well as fish and other near shore wildlife.

Leaves and grass clippings that wash into a lake decompose and release phosphorus. Also the ashes from burning wood and leaves contain phosphorus; so do not allow water to flow this ash and into the lake.

Impervious surfaces such as paved or packed down driveways and parking areas increase the amount of runoff that reaches the lake. Minimize impervious surfaces and compensate for them with structures or materials that slow or stop their runoff.

Nutrients find their way into Pipe and North Pipe Lakes through all the mentioned sources. However, data indicates that possibly the largest single source of nutrients flowing into Pipe Lake is North Pipe Lake. The velocity of flow is not great, but the quantity of flow is large. Therefore, if this is true, whatever can be done to reduce the nutrient level in North Pipe will benefit Pipe.

Internal recycling is a complex process that occurs in some lakes depending upon many variables, of which the more important ones are: bottom sediments, depth of lake, water temperature, oxygen levels at the bottom, and wind/wave effects. This condition exists in our lakes when phosphorus released from the bottom sediments mixes with the upper water layers as lake water turns over twice a year. Internal recycling is more predominate in North Pipe than in Pipe in part because of longer periods of no oxygen at the bottom. This is a process, which we humans do not have a lot of control over, but some lakes can be treated to minimize this nutrient release.

Finally, it is not the actions of one or two property owners that bring on this cultural eutrophication; but the actions of all of us around the lake and within the watershed area. Remember, we do not own our lake; we are borrowing it from our children. Therefore it is up to us to preserve what we have as best as we can for the use of future generations.

Water clarity related to Secchi disk readings

Water Clarity	Secchi Depth (ft)
Very Poor	0-3
Poor	3-5
Fair	5-7
Good	7-10
Very Good	over 10

Water clarity could directly effect your pocketbook.

A study published by Bemidji State University in June, 2003 showed that with a one-meter decrease in water clarity, property value decreased an average of \$69.37 per frontage foot over 37 lakes studied. Similarly, with a one-meter *increase* in water clarity, property values *increased* an average of \$45.37/front foot.

PROTECT YOUR WATERFRONT INVESTMENT

CURB POLLUTANTS at their source — fertilizers, household toxins, eroding soils, malfunctioning septic systems

CUT RUNOFF that picks up pollutants and carries them to the waterway by minimizing the hard surfaces that create runoff.

CAPTURE & CLEANSE pollutant-carrying runoff before it reaches the water with shoreland buffers, rain barrels or rain gardens.

Please thank the following businesses for their generous donations to our annual picnic

Local businesses

Indianhead Sport Shop	715-822-2164	2274 US Hwy 63	(3) bags, each with \$10.00 gift certificate, hat, & koozie
Pete's Auto & Customs	715-822-3640	2252 US Hwy 63	Gift certificate for oil change
Cumberland Golf Club	715-822-4333	2400 - 5th St	(2) certificates, each for 2 rounds of 18-hole golf with cart
Cifaldi Motors	715-822-4931	1925 State Rd. 48	Gift certificate for oil change
Dollar General	715-822-3393	1855 Hwy 63	Sesame Street books, pens, boy's shirt, stylus, key chain
Island Wines	715-822-4777	1845 Frontage Rd.	(2) Gift Certificates for \$10.00
NextGen Water Sports	715-822-8337	1530 Elm Street	\$25.00 gift certificate
The Apothecary	715-822-2424	1470 Webb	(2) \$10.00 gift certificates
Johnson & Johnson Land Co.	715-822-3305	1435 Elm St	\$30.00 cash
Remax Island City Realtors	715-822-0200	1215 Elm Street	\$25.00 cash
Subway	715-822-2927	1195 - 2nd Ave.	(5) Gift certificates for 6" sandwich
Verizon	715-822-8838	1165 - 2nd Ave	Portable bluetooth speaker
Waite's Car Wash & Coffee Shop			(2) sets of 2 cash wash tokens & coffee cards
Kwik Trip	715-822-3853	1180 Elm Street	(2) \$20.00 gift certificates
Corner Bar	715-822-8111	1201 - 2nd Ave	\$25.00 gift certificate & T-shirt
Noah Insurance	715-822-3355	1446 2nd Ave	Box of golf balls
Design Nail and Hair Studio	715-822-2400	1245-2nd Ave	Gift bag with hair products and lotion
Magic Touch Massage	715-822-4418	1268-2nd Ave	Gift certificate for 30 minute massage
Kindled Hearth	715-822-5355	1272-2nd Ave	Gift certificate for chimney cleaning or other service
Radio Shack	715-822-3315	1520- 2nd Ave.	Battery charger
Schneider Pharmacy	715-822-2434	1296-2nd Ave	\$20.00 gift certificate
Spot Bar	715-822-4457	1327-2nd Ave	Gift certificate for \$5.00 off pizza
Nezzy's Sports Bar	715-822-4321	1345-2nd Ave	\$20.00 gift certificate
Dancing Bird Art Studio	715-822-2525	1393-2nd Ave	Gift Certificate for \$40.00 off framing
Cumberland Federal Bank	715-822-2249	1390-2nd Ave	Gift basket with hat, mugs, piggybank, pens, coin purses
Dairy State Bank	715-822-8316	1405-2nd Ave	Gift bag with T-shirt, hat, sleeve of golf balls
Idlewild	715-822-2423	1414-2nd Ave.	Pipe Lake coasters and \$10.00 gift certificate
Tower House Restaurant	715-822-8257	1445-2nd Ave	\$25.00 gift certificate
US Bank	715-822-3311	1485-2nd Ave	Blanket, hat, 2 koozies
Island City Food Coop	715-822-8233	1490-2nd Ave	Child's cooking play set & certificate for orange cranberry bread
Sammy's Pizza	715-822-4533	1780 Arcade Ave	Gift certificate for pizza
Louie's Finer Meats	715-822-4728	2025 Superior Ave.	(2) \$25 gift certificates
Louie's Lodge	715-822-8741	2035 Superior Ave.	Bottle of Absolut Tune
Cumberland Ace Hardware	715-822-8459	2421 Hwy 63	(2) children's sling chairs, (2) squirt guns, Diego fishing pole
Cumberland Chamber of Commerce	712-822-3378	1277-2nd Ave	Rutabaga Days hat
Cabin Experts	715-419-2527	PO Box 565	Gallon of 2-stroke engine oil

Out of town businesses

Edina Realty			\$25.00 cash
County Line Bar	715-822-3512	3-220th Ave	(2) gift certificates for a 16" one-topping pizza each
Staples Lake Bar & Grill	715-822-2971	2251 Polk Barron St	(2) gift certificates - buy 1 get 1 free
Ellsworth Cheese Factory	715-822-2437	1858 Hwy 63	\$20.00 gift certificate
Jane's Lake Country Pizza	715-986-2622	Comstock 225 US Hwy 8 & 63 Turtle Lake 54889	Gift certificate for 16" and pitcher of pop
Bistro 63	715-822-6363	2982 Hwy 63 Barronett 54813	(2) bottles of white wine
Brickyard Pottery	715-468-7341	Brickyard Rd. Shell Lake 54871	Pottery cruet
Hoff Construction	715-357-3586	121 Alma Street S. Almena 54805	(2) twenty-five dollar cash prizes
Hilltop Restaurant	715-822-3230	2896-1 1/2 St.	(2) \$25.00 gift certificates
Radiance Within - Brook Thill	715-822-3669	2268-24th St Comstock 54826	(3) gift certificates each good for a haircut
Sherrilee Carter	612-822-2996	5041 Lyndale Ave. S. Minneapolis, 55419	Pack of greeting cards