The
Loon Call
Newsletter of Pipe and North Pipe Lakes Protection and Rehabilitation District

SUMMER 2013

What's Inside...

www.pipelakes.org

See page 3 for more about beautiful Red Osier Dogwood, *Cornus stolonifera.*

SUMMER EVENTS

Boat parade winners

The 2013 Boat Parade was a huge success with many great boat themes! Congratulations to all who participated.

Boats were judged on energy, decorations, theme, originality.

1st place Pipe Lake Super Heroes
2nd place Oktoberfest
3rd place Pipe Lake Spring
4th place U of M
5th place Duck Dynasty
6th place Little Monsters of Pipe Lake

A huge thank you to Dan Lowe the judges for all their help with this fun event!

The First Annual Invitational **BASS MAN Fishing Tournament** was held Friday, July 5th, hosted by Tom and Joanne Braun.

With six boats and a total of 24 fisherman participating, the three-hour tournament yielded 78 Largemouth bass which were consumed later in the day by friends and family of the participants on the shore of the Braun cabin.

Many thanks go out to all who helped make this a successful event: Dave Oberle (the cook), Dawn Oberle and Vandy King (the bass preparers), Tom Braun, Jack Keeley and Matt Horan (the fish cleaners), and the many others who prepared side dishes and desserts that were enjoyed with the fish.

Traveling trophies were awarded:
Most inches of Largemouth bass caught per boat: JACK KEELEY BOAT
Biggest Largemouth bass Caught by an individual: LEESA KEELEY
Congratulations winners!

The earth has music for those who listen. — George Santayana

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COMMISSIONER CORNER

by Curt Deering, Chair

Whether you're favorite lake activity is fishing, water skiing, jet skiing, canoeing, sunset cruising, cross country skiing or just watching the loons, Pipe and North Pipe Lakes provide a wonderful environment for these and many more activities.

I'm fortunate to serve on a board of committed volunteers that are continuing the great work of past volunteers. Recently we have installed a retention basin, a tree fall to improve fish habitat, and implemented a Rapid Response Plan in case aquatic invasive species are found in the lakes (currently we haven't identified any). This is in addition to all the standing committees which coordinate water quality monitoring, boat inspections, boat parades, picnics and elections ,to name a few.

We will now be focusing on evaluating the 5-year and 10-year plans. This work and the work of all the committees relies on volunteers. We will be posting and emailing requests for volunteer help. So please consider what lake district activities you could help with to continue the work of our great volunteers.

The board of commissioners hopes to see you at the annual meeting August 31. ■

Clean Boats Clean Waters

As we all know and very much appreciate, **Art Ringsven** has spent many hours inspecting watercraft before it is launched into our lakes.

Watercraft inspection is our first line of defense against the introduction of an aquatic invasive species into our lakes. It only takes one small plant or other invasive species to take hold in Pipe Lakes and we would have a significant costs to simply limit its spread. The probability of eradicating the invader is remote to impossible.

We all owe Art our sincere appreciation for all the hours he has "camped out" at the boat landing. But as with all good things, his time of monitoring boats is coming to an end. He has decided he wants to spend more time doing other things. Can you imagine? Well, who can blame him. Thank you, Art, for all the hours, the friendly smile and kind words you have shared over the years at the landing.

We are fortunate to have found a replacement. **Randall Brom** has started working with Art to learn the tricks of the trade. A better teacher he could not have! Stop by and welcome Randall to the lake community. We look forward to working with him to keep our lakes clean and free of aquatic invasive species.

And, a big thank you to Dick Hollar for his time interviewing the two great candidates we had. ■

Red Osier Dogwood,
Cornus stolonifera

Add beauty and wildlife habitat at your shore

Red osier dogwood is a great choice for shoreline plantings

With its bright red stems in winter and spring, summer flowers and fruit, and glorious fall color, red osier dogwood, C*ornus stolonifera,* is a perfect choice for shoreline plantings. Its fall berries are eaten by 17 different bird species including wood duck, goldfinch, yellow warbler, kingbird, cardinal, turkey and ruffed grouse.

This dogwood grows best in a sunny location with wet to well drained soils. It reaches 4 to 10 feet in height and is often used to stabilize eroding lakeshores.

Yellow warbler

New Beach Addition by Tom O'Hern

At the suggestion of a number of lake residents attending the 2012 annual meeting, the Board looked into the possibility of renting a Porta-Potties for the months of June, July and August.

A board member attended the open forum township meeting and suggested the possibility of installing the Porta-Potties. They were all in favor and agreed to a cost sharing of the project, 50/50 between the Pipe Lakes District and the township. The Lake District cost will be around $200.

The response to the Porta-Potties has been positive, and a relief to swimmers in many ways. ■

Save the date!

August 31, 2013	9-11 AM	Annual District Meeting, Christ Lutheran Church

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.

by Dick Hollar

Attending the NW Wisconsin Lakes Conference

On June 21st, I attended the one-day 2013 NW Wisconsin Lakes Conference in Spooner. Here's a summary and comments on the three sessions I attended.

Almost Everything You Wanted To Know About Lakes. Led by Pamela Toshner and Alex Smith, DNR lakes specialists, this was really good session, especially for those who have not done any study of lakes.

Here are a few things I learned: There are officially 15,081 lakes in the State of Wisconsin, 4,574 of which are located in NW Wisconsin. Pamela and Alex are the primary DNR people responsible for the management of these lakes (no wonder they are so busy). In this region, we get an average 32 inches of rainfall per year, 22 inches of which are lost to evaporation leaving an average of 10 inches per year going into groundwater and our lakes.

Lakes age naturally, but the influence of people speeds up the process through increased runoff and additional evaporation due to impervious surfaces. Additionally given our increased water usage, the water table goes down. In previous Planning Grant Studies of Pipe & North Pipe, it has been determined that the vast majority of the groundwater in this area passes *below the bottom of our lakes.* This is why we are not overly concerned about leaky septic systems.

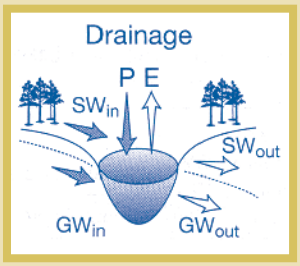
A fully developed shoreline property will create five times the amount of runoff, six times the amount of phosphorus, and 18 times the sediments into the lake vs. a natural shoreline. Given this effect, the groundwater effect and the fact that no major streams flow through Pipe Lakes (we are a seepage lake) we can conclude that the majority of the pollutants to Pipe Lakes comes from runoff from our properties and the greater watershed.

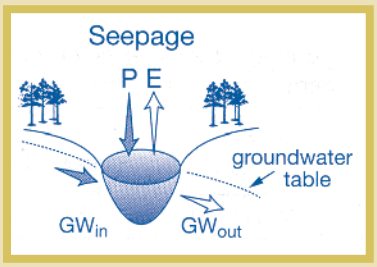
Changing Water Levels Lake levels fluctuate naturally for many reasons. High levels are usually the result of increased runoff from more frequent or intense storms. Low levels are usually the result of a lack of rain (three or four of the past five years). Increased runoff brings more pollutants into the lake and Secchi disk levels are low; whereas low lake levels are generally cleaner due to lack of runoff resulting in increased Secchi disk readings. Light can penetrate only so deep in a water column given its clarity. With high water levels, light cannot penetrate as far into the lake, and thus the growth of aquatic plants will not be as far into the lake. With low water levels, the opposite is true and aquatic plant growth will occur farther out into the lake.

If you are interested in copies of the handouts, contact me.

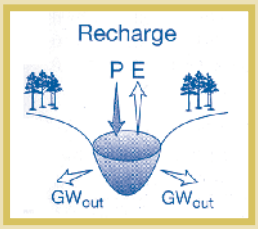
Short-Term Lake Shore Rentals Controlling short-term rentals either by licensing or by ordinance, fees, and permits was covered. I was disappointed in this session. Issues and resolutions surrounding short term rentals were not discussed. ■

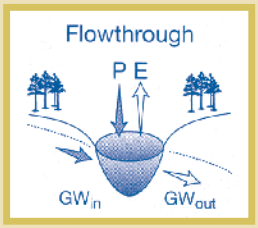
Hydrologic types of lakes

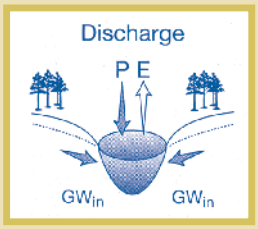




Drainage lakes have a surface inlet and outlet. Seepage lakes do not have a surface water inlet and outlet They are classified by the patterns of groundwater flow: Recharge, Flowthrough, or Discharge.







P = precipitation
E = evaporation
SW = surface water
GW = groundwater
in - into the lake
out - out of the lake

How to Protect your Waterfront Investment

Ten Simple Steps to Shoreland Stewardship

The quality of our lakes and streams is ultimately a reflection of how we take care of our land. A recent study of over 1000 waterfront properties in Minnesota found that when all other factors were equal, properties on lakes with cleaner water commanded significantly higher property prices. Similarly, higher property values were found on lakes without Eurasian Water-Milfoil. What you and your neighbors do to sustain or improve water quality will improve resale potential. On the other hand, if water quality is degraded, lower property values could result.

There are three types of opportunities to protect your property investment:

Curb pollutants at their source: fertilizers, household toxins, eroding soils, malfunctioning septic systems

STEP 1: If you must fertilize, avoid fertilizers that contain phosphorus. Remember, it's phosphorus that accelerates growth in our lakes—one pound of phosphorus in runoff can result in 500 pounds of algae growth.

STEP 2: Properly dispose of household hazardous wastes. Do not pour old oil or pesticides into the ditch or wash paint brushes at the end of your driveway. Where do these pollutants end up? In our groundwater, lakes and streams!

STEP 3: Minimize erosion during any construction by 1) develop an erosion control plan, and fence the construction area to reduce the amount of sediment and phosphorus delivered to the lake; 2) divert runoff around disturbed areas, and after construction, establish vegetation right away.

STEP 4: Inspect and maintain your septic system regularly.

- Pump or inspect your system once every three years.
- Divert surface water away from drain field.
- Don't drive or park on the drain field to prevent compaction of the soil.
- Keep the roots of trees and shrubs away from the drain field pipes to avoid obstructed drain lines.
- Avoid putting the following down the drain or toilet because they may clog the drain field: cooking grease, oils, coffee grounds, cigarettes, facial tissues, and paper towels.
- Avoid using a garbage disposal.
- Conserve water.

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

STEP 6: Plant trees and shrubs or protect your wooded areas. Allowing water to soak in rather than run off your property filters out pollutants and replenishes our groundwater. Remember the runoff from lawns carries eight times more phosphorus than the runoff from a wooded area.

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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 (remember the last article in The Loon Watch).

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

PROTECTING YOUR WATERFRONT INVESTMENT, continued from page 5

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

STEP 7: Direct downspouts into a wooded area or to flow away from the lake and not onto hard surfaces.

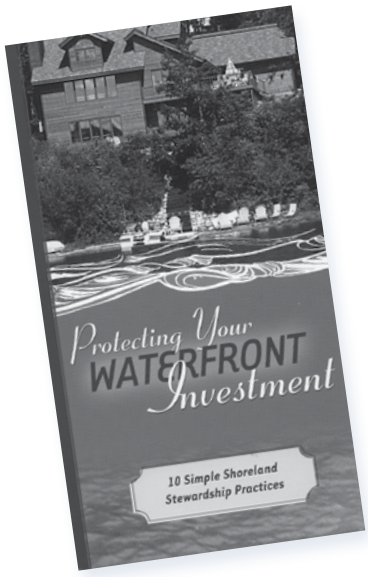
STEP 8: Install a rain barrel and use the water for your plants and flowers.

STEP 9: Build a rain garden to provide an area to soak up rainfall and runoff.

STEP 10: Protect or restore your shoreland buffer. Natural shorelands contain a lush mixture of native grasses, flowers, shrubs and trees that help to filter polluted runoff and provide important habitat for animals in the water and on the land. ■

A buffer of low-maintenance native plants can help prevent pollutants in runoff down a slopefrom reaching the water.

Rain barrels capture water from your downspouts. You can use the water to irrigate your gardens, and water plants.



Source: WDNR publication WT-8211 by Lynn Markham and Kate Demorest, Center for Land Use Education, UW-Extension.

A rain garden can add beauty to your property while protecting the lake from pollutants in runoff.