

The Pipe Lakes Newsletter

News and ideas for the protection and rehabilitation of our lakes and land.

June 15, 2008

www.pipelakes.org

100 YEARS OF DEVELOPMENT

Merwyn Moen

1930's Picture of Pipe Lake supplied by Merwyn Moen.



The development of the Pipe Lakes community after the arrival of the white man was centered around two structures. Christ Lutheran Church (where we will hold our Annual Meeting August 30) was founded in 1884 and the present building was constructed in 1903. Just one year after the founding of the church, the original Pipe Lake School was built. The school burned down in 1914 and a new building was constructed the next year. That building is now known as Pipe Lake Dream Center owned by Manfred and Truan Schonauer and is the site of many wonderful Saturday night musical performances.

An iron bridge was located between the two lakes in 1904. Up until the new bridge was constructed in 1969 we could water ski under the bridge! Unfortunately, many loads of gravel and fill were washed into the channel between the lakes as a result of construction of the new structure. As a result, we now have a navigation problem when the water level is low.

At one time there was a pavilion on the north end of Pipe Lake that was the site of parties, a watering hole for the thirsty residents and a place to socialize with friends and neighbors. Doc O'Hern purchased the pavilion and land in 1959 and removed the building. He then constructed a new road away from the lake and sold 900 feet of new lakeshore to Jack Nessen. Nessen built a number of small cabins on the north end of the lake and similar cabins on the west side of North Pipe Lake.

The availability of affordable cabins brought many more people—and powerboats to the lake. Safety on the water became a concern. The first lakeshore association was set up in the late 1950's to help us manage the use and quality of the lake. The association gave us a way to talk about and agree on how to address our concerns, but we did not have any public funding or legal standing to make changes.

We worked with the farmers to prevent their cattle from entering the lake and from spreading manure on frozen ground. The farmers were very cooperative, but we did not see a decrease in the pollution of the lake. In fact, the clarity got worse. I could no longer scuba dive down 15 to 25 feet and look back up through the water to see the panoramic view of the trees decked out in the autumn colors.

We all came to understand that the changes in Pipe Lake and North Pipe Lake were not being caused by our farming practices, but by the development of the lakeshore from forest and a few homes to over 200 cabins and residences which changed the way the land was able to handle the water headed for the lake.

Lots of things have changed over the years. In the 1800s we had an abundance of white pine and some mixed hardwoods. There were many fur bearing animals (mink and fox were trapped), a few deer and the occasional wolf and bear, lots of ducks, walleye and bullfrogs. Now we have abundant deer, turkey and geese but only a few ducks. The bears raid birdfeeders and the deer eat the red oak saplings. On the plus side, the eagle population has increased now that DDT is not being used. Even with all the changes, Mary and I have been privileged to live on Pipe Lake for the past 37 years. It is a very special place.

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Annual Pipe Lakes Boat Parade

WHO: You and your family and guests

WHAT: Decorated pontoons, runabouts, or any other watercraft

WHEN: **SATURDAY, JULY 5th @ 1:00 PM SHARP**

RAIN DATE: JULY 6th @ 11:00 SHARP

WHERE: Meet at the north end of big Pipe Lake

NUMBER ASSIGNMENT: O'HERN dock (5TH dock west of the public landing) one hour prior to the start of the parade

JUDGING: Numbered watercraft will be judged on enthusiasm, theme, originality and decorations. Prizes will be awarded immediately following the conclusion of the parade around Pipe Lake.



CONTEST

Last Chance to Name the Newsletter !

The Lake District Commission is sponsoring a contest to find a name for our new, improved newsletter! The winner will be selected by a blue ribbon panel and announced no later than August 30.

The rules are simple:

- * You must be at least five years old and able to spell your own name.
- * Send your proposed name for the newsletter in an email or snail mail message to Carol Vantine before July 1, 2008 at carolvantine@gmail.com or Carol Vantine, 45 University Avenue SE, # 606, Minneapolis, MN 55414.
- * Include the proposed name (no more than 16 letters or symbols), your name and address.

2008 District Family and Neighbors Picnic

WHO: All residents of the District and their Guests

WHEN: **SATURDAY, AUGUST 16 @ 1:00 PM**

WHERE: Behind County Line Tavern

MENU: BROASTED CHICKEN HOT DOGS POTATO SALAD
COLESLAW WATERMELON POP / BEER

GAMES: EAST vs. WEST TUG OF WAR

SOFT BALL (BRING YOUR MITT, BAT AND BALL)

FISHPOND SAWDUST MONEY HUNT FOR 2'-5 YR. OLDS

WHAT YOU NEED TO BRING:

\$5.00 ADULTS AND CHILDREN OVER 11

\$2.50 CHILDREN 5 TO 11

FREE CHILDREN UNDER 5

CHAIRS AND BLANKETS AS PICNIC TABLES ARE LIMITED

RESERVATIONS NOT REQUIRED:

PLEASE TELL US IF YOU ARE A LARGE GROUP

715-822-5317

Self-Evaluation Checklist for Waterfront Runoff

Are all areas of your lot well covered with vegetation?

——Yes Good. Vegetation cover prevents erosion.

——No Bare soil may lead to significant erosion and deposits of sediment and nutrients in the lake. Consider the possible cause of areas of bare soil...

Foot traffic

Shade

Construction project

Water flow

There are no deposits of sand in flat places?

——Yes This is probably a good thing. It may mean that your runoff is clean. Be cautious though—it can mean that water does not have a chance to slow down and runoff is carried all the way to the lake.

——No Deposits of sand show that runoff water carries a significant sediment load. It may mean that smaller silt and clay particles that carry higher phosphorus load have made their way to the lake.

Does water flow across your property evenly during big rainstorms?

——Yes Avoiding channelized flow will help reduce erosion.

——No Could water be diverted into a rain garden, rain barrel or buffer zone?

Do you have natural, wild vegetation near the lake-shore?

——Yes Good for you! Your property is an example to others. You are helping keep the lake clean while providing habitat for the many creatures that live near the water's edge.

——No Please consider a natural shoreline buffer of native vegetation. Lawn grasses have shallow root systems and short stems. The deep roots and tall stems of native vegetation slow runoff flow which prevents erosion and allows water with contaminants to be captured.

Want to know more?

- Copies of this checklist in full as produced by Deer Lake Conservancy/Harmony Environmental/ Burnett County Land and Water Conservation Department are available from Carol Vantine.
- You can access Cedar Corporation's latest report on our lakes and specific issues by property location on our website www.pipelakes.org or contact any Commissioner for more information.

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION ... Dick Braun - Champion for Lake Quality

Dick Braun discovered Pipe Lake in 1961, when his grandparents purchased a cabin near the Boat Landing. For more than three decades, his family spent almost every summer weekend at the lake. In 1995, Dick took the plunge himself, buying a cabin on the northeast side of Pipe Lake. After a twelve year remodeling project, the Braun family moved across the bay to the north side of Pipe Lake. His extended family is still very much invested in the lake. Dick's brother, Tom, now owns that original 1961 cabin near the Boat Landing.

As a Pipe Lake "veteran," Dick Braun was involved as a lake volunteer even before the official formation of the Lake Management District. He served as the first secretary of the newly formed Lake District Commission in 2003, and then took the leadership role in what has become one of our most successful volunteer initiatives – a creative partnership with the Department of Natural Resources and several lake owners to increase the walleye population.

A couple years ago, the DNR recommended construction of forty fish spawning beds using half logs and concrete blocks. Dick Braun mobilized fourteen volunteers on a Saturday to build the structures and place them in 3 to 5 feet of water in sandy gravel areas. The goal was to create areas for small mouth bass to spawn and be able to protect their eggs under the spawning bed structures. Dick's work wasn't limited to the formidable task of building and placing the forty spawning beds. In addition, he convinced the DNR to change their fishing regulations to help make the spawning beds more effective. Those new regulations went into effect this Spring!

Dick Braun and many other fishing advocates are keeping a careful watch on the impact of the spawning beds and the new regulations. Dick Braun's leadership on this project is a model for what all of us have to do as lake volunteers – get directly involved in a hands-on project, AND help change public policy to improve lake quality.

Dick and his family have lived in Sunfish lake, MN for 13 years and somehow, even with all the activity and commitment at Pipe Lake, have managed two complete remodeling jobs on that house during those years. He has been a successful real estate professional for 30 years, specializing in new construction, land development and residential sales.

One of Dick's finest memories of Pipe Lake is his record catch (if you haven't already heard) of a 27 7/8 inch walleye in June of 2006! That is widely believed to be the largest walleye ever caught on either Pipe or North Pipe Lake!

Dick says he's motivated to continue volunteering at Pipe Lake because of his passion to maintain the lake quality we have enjoyed over these many years, AND to make sure that "under OUR watch, our jewel of a lake maintains its superior quality and status as an exceptional fishery." Dick Braun strongly supports the District's ambitious goal of doubling the number of volunteers over the next five years. He wants to engage the younger generation in this important work.

Please extend your personal thanks to Dick Braun for being a long time champion for lake quality, and a leader who gets things done!

Joe Errigo, one of our current Commissioners and Chair of the Communication Committee wrote the Volunteer Recognition article above. If you have someone to suggest as a candidate for recognition as a volunteer, please contact Joe.

ANNUAL MEETING AUGUST 30 AGENDA

- ELECT TWO COMMISSIONERS
 - APPROVE 2008 BUDGET
 - APPROVE DISTRICT GRANT APPLICATIONS
 - REVIEW 2008 GOALS PROGRESS
 - ANNOUNCE NEWSLETTER CONTEST WINNER
- 9AM Christ Lutheran Church Cty Roads T/G

CAROL'S CORNER

JOIN US FOR SUMMER FUN!

The trees have leafed out, docks are in, fish are biting and families are gathering at the lake — isn't this just a great time of the year?

I hope you and your friends and family are enjoying the higher water level (thanks to the many rain showers), the brisk, clear water and the yard work that seems to always be a part of Pipe Lake and North Pipe Lake life.

Summer offers us three opportunities to come together as a community to catch up with one another and share some fun.

On Saturday, **July 5**, the **Boat Parade** will display the creative design and decoration talents of children and adults on pontoons, fishing boats, ski boats, canoes and kayaks. This is a great chance to dream up a theme and exercise your imagination in pulling together the look of your boat and crew! If you don't want to decorate, be sure to enjoy the parade and cheer on the participants from your deck or dock. July 6 is our "rain date".

The District **Annual Picnic** will be held Saturday, **August 16** at our usual location near the County Line Tavern. Join us for children's games, tug-a-war, yummy food, lots of laughs and great conversations with new and old friends. We gather rain or shine! In fact, last year we had dozens of folks who enjoyed a fun afternoon despite the first rainy picnic day in many years. Don't miss this chance to hang-out for a few hours - and have someone else do the cooking!

August 30 is our **Annual Meeting**. We meet at 9am at Christ Lutheran Church (County Road T/G intersection). We will be electing two new commissioners, authorizing the 2009 budget, reporting on our 2008 projects and discussing both the District's plans and residents' concerns. The meeting provides a good

opportunity for you to stay informed on District issues and make your opinion (and vote) count. I hope see you there.

Carol Vantine is the Chair of the District. Carol and Ron, along with their children Peter (wife Caroline, son Hugo) and Jessica (husband Trevor Birkenholtz) will be at the lake swimming, sailing, biking and goofing off at Pipe Lake this summer.

Signs of Summer



Pipe and North Pipe Lakes Protection And Rehabilitation District

Board of Commissioners

Carol Vantine 612-750-8785	Chair
Joe Errigo 651-222-1698	Secretary
Tom O'Hern 651-674-5531	Treasurer
Larry Bresina 651-735-0019	Water Quality
Dick Hollar 715-822-5317	Special Projects
Herschel Brown 715-472-4095	County
Doug Rouzer 715-822-3288	Township

WANT TO STAY IN THE KNOW?

- Be sure we have your current email address. Send changes to Joe Errigo.
- Log on to www.pipelakes.org at least once a month. Financial reports, water quality reports, news from the DNR, county and township, the Commission's meeting minutes, and our strategic plan are just some of the kinds of information available. You can find the 5 Year Lake Management Plan there also.

Summary of District Meetings

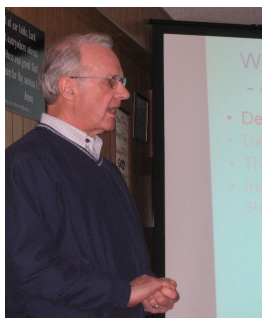
Summary of Commissioners' Actions at May 16, 2008

- Accepted the Auditor's Report for 2007, including recommendations for check signing, monthly recording and reporting, and maintaining permanent files.
- Allocated \$1,000 budgeted for Outer Watershed Projects in 2008 towards enhanced monitoring and analysis of the northeast streams of North Pipe Lake.
- Approved two applications for Shoreland Restoration matching grants, and discussed strategies to recruit additional participants for the 2008 Shoreland Restoration Demonstration Program.

Summary of Actions at Special Meeting of the Membership on May 24, 2008

- Amended and Approved the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Membership held on September 1, 2007.
- Accepted the Auditor's Report for 2007.
- Accepted a financial report for the period ending May 22, 2008.
- Reviewed a Status Report on 2008 Goals (Communications Action Plan; Five Year Lake Management Plan; Clean Boats / Clean Waters Program).
- Reviewed a presentation on volunteer opportunities in 2008, and signed up in record numbers (Of the 23 members present at the meeting, 16 signed up for at least one volunteer activity in 2008).
- Reviewed a slide presentation on the development of the Five Year Lake Management Action Plan, including cost projections, estimates of the District's share and the potential for private funding partners. In July, the District will distribute a Member Survey to all lake owners to determine the level of support for a Lake Protection Grant application in 2009.

Bresina Clarifies Water Quality Plans



Commissioner Larry Bresina reviewed the planned series of projects the District has targeted to protect the water quality of Pipe and North Pipe lakes at the Special Meeting May 24. Funding for the projects would be from DNR grants (61%), volunteer in-kind donations (7%), and private funding partners and/or District revenues (32%).

District Strategic Goals

- Protect water quality of Pipe Lake.
- Improve water quality of North Pipe Lake.
- Enhance habitat around Pipe Lake.
- Protect habitat around North Pipe Lake.
- Prevent entrenchment of invasive aquatic species.

5 Year Project Focus

- Reduce run-off from shoreland
- Reduce phosphorus and sediment run-off from selected watershed areas
- Prevent invasive species entrenchment
- Monitor lakes and streams

What Was So Funny May 24th?



Commissioners Joe Errigo, Carol Vantine, Dick Hollar, Tom O'Hern, Larry Bresina and Herschel Brown enjoy the comments from the membership at the Special Meeting. Picture by Peggy Weber.



Joan Billig, Liz O'Hern, Bev Bresina, Lisa Lynch and others got in on the laugh. Picture by Peggy Weber.

MATCHING GRANT FUNDS AWARDED
Two residents have been awarded matching funds for planning and planting areas of their property that will reduce run-off to the lake. We look forward to seeing the results on the properties of Peter McCall and Randy Alberg. Additional grants are still available.

Next Steps

- Survey property owners (July)
- Approve Protection Grant Application Expense (\$2500) at Annual Meeting (Aug)
- Gain DNR approval of Plan (Oct)
- Determine outer watershed owner cooperation (Fall)
- Seek funding partners (Fall / Winter)
- Submit protection grant application (May 2009)

2008 CALENDAR COMMISSION MEETINGS

June 13	3PM	CANCELLED
July 11	3PM	2198 W. Pipe Lake CT
Aug 15	3PM	2198 W. Pipe Lake CT
Aug 30	9AM	Annual Meeting Christ Church
Oct 3	3PM	2198 W. Pipe Lake CT

Q & A

Q: Where can I find a list of contractors that may be able to help me plan and execute a project to restore my shoreline or reduce the amount of runoff from my property?

A: A list of known contractors can be found on our website:

www.pipelakes.org

This is a partial list and does not imply recommendation of any one contractor over similarly qualified contractors not listed.