

# The Loon Call

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

October 15, 2008

[www.pipelakes.org](http://www.pipelakes.org)

## INVASIVE SPECIES DIPLOMAT SUCCESSFUL

### ART RINGSVEN



Article by Joe Errigo  
Picture by Peggy Weber

Art Ringsven, the distinguished looking gentleman who camps out at the boat landing every weekend, is playing a leading role in achieving one of the key goals in our Ten Year Strategic Plan – Avoid Invasive Plant Species.

Four years ago, Art responded to the District's call for volunteers to check boats entering our lakes for any attached plant materials. That volunteer work has evolved into a paid position, which is now funded by a multi-year grant from the DNR.

Avoiding invasive plant species requires a careful balance between enforcement and education. Some lakes in our region are already infected with Eurasian Milfoil. Beaver Dam Lake is spending over \$130,000 a year on removal of Eurasian Milfoil. They and many other lakes are focused on enforcement, using tools like video monitors and very strict inspection techniques. Others rely only on a signage. Pipe Lakes District Commission has adopted a

middle ground approach that successfully blends enforcement of applicable laws and education of the people who use our lakes. Art Ringsven adds a personal touch that brings it all together. It is, in more ways than one, a work of Art!

A recent Saturday morning is a great example! Art cheerfully greeted the first boat owners to approach the landing, a father and son team, and asked if their boat had been in a body of water in the last week (most plant materials will die in 5 to 7 days). Art and the two owners examined the boat and trailer, and Art quickly declared, "It's lookin' pretty good!" All of this was mixed with a good dose of friendly conversation about how the owners had decided it was "guys day on the lake," while their spouse and mom was out picking raspberries. Art asked if the owners had seen the educational brochure on invasive species (they knew all about it), and there was a discussion about a recent catch of a 28" walleye, a new record for Pipe Lakes.

The second boat entering the lake was delivered by a dad and his son, a young lad about 8 years old. I was especially interested in watching Art handle the educational opportunity for the 8 year old. After everyone agreed that the boat was clean, Art gave some helpful suggestions on when and how to clean the boat. He gave the dad and the son a copy of the educational brochure. He wrapped up the conversation with a hearty, "Glad you're up and enjoying our lakes!" That young boy is likely to become a true believer in lake water quality, and that will pay off

20 years from now when he's putting his own boat into the lake.

Art manned his post 225 hours this summer while observing 470+ boats and talking with 700+ people. He was able to address the 4 invasive species transport violations he found. The District is supplementing Art's work with professional underwater observations looking for invasive plants that have taken hold. Fortunately, there have been no underwater sightings to date.

Art has shared some interesting observations about his work. About three quarters of the boats that enter the lakes are owned by people who live on Pipe or North Pipe Lake. They tend to be good stewards of the lakes and care a lot about invasive plant species. Another 10 to 20% know people who live on the lakes, so they hear about lake water quality initiatives from the owners. Only 5 to 10% of the boats are entering the lakes for the first time, and they account for the lion's share of the potential problems. Holiday weekends generally see an increase in numbers for this last group. It's a real credit to Art that he never experienced a circumstance where a boat owner wasn't cooperative, even when he noticed some potentially dangerous plants attached to the boat or trailer.

About half the boats entering our lakes are there for the fishing experience and the other half are purely recreational (water skiing, sailing, etc.). Art says the fisherman are more dangerous, not because they care less about lake water quality, but because they tend to fish in

weed beds where an invasive species might thrive.

It is very easy to see why our invasive plant prevention program is getting better every year. Art Ringsven delivers the perfect blend of enforcement and education. Everyone who comes to the boat landing knows and respects him. He thoroughly enjoys his work, knowing that it's making a difference over the long haul. Art brings a friendly and personal touch to the job and helps people understand the challenge we face from invasive plant species.

### PICNIC PICTURES

Email Peggy Whitlock at [whitweb@mac.com](mailto:whitweb@mac.com) if you want to see the terrific picnic pictures she posted on Snapfish.

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# THE BIG SLUMP

Article and Pictures by  
Alan Siemers



Have you ever heard it go whoosh in the night? It's scary. At 2:00 AM you know it's no bear, no raccoon. What is it? The answer was clear the next morning back in 1996 and the specter still remains.

We had had one of those rains that never seems to quit. Day after day. The ground was soaked for miles around. In the middle of the night, a good sized chunk had given way and was smack dab in the lake. The landslide took a the hillside, a couple of decent sized trees and some underbrush. There had been no warning.

When we looked out our front windows we were met with an odd sight— lots of white stuff floating in the lake. The mass extended some thirty feet out from the shore and was twenty to thirty feet wide. Our first reaction was "What on earth is that?" We were stunned to see a big chunk of land was simply missing! Mother Nature was taking her toll.

Some days later I asked a county employee: "Why did this happen?" He turned 180 degrees to face away from the lake and said that the answer lies for miles around. New buildings, more paved roads and parking lots— all mean there are fewer and fewer places for the rain to soak in as it once did.

Some ten truckloads of fill, ground cover of various sorts, lots of help from Tom Schaffer (we still say "Thanks Tom!") and patience on everyone's part finally saw the cleanup completed. We even had a good citizen show just the kind of diligence that we need to protect our lakes when he/she reported to the authorities that a Bobcat was messing up the shoreline between Siemer's place and Schaffer's place. Yes, it was. When the law arrived, the officer could see just what we were doing. No hard feelings on anyone's part— just good diligence at work.

Today the scar remains. There is a flagpole (often with a Twins flag at the top) and a raggedy waterline with assorted branches in and out of the water to provide cover for the fish and other wildlife. The hillside is covered with planted fescue, bluegrass and rye.

No bear, no raccoon, but a Night Noise we would not wish on any of you!



Margaret and Al Seimers  
Picture by Peggy Weber

# FOR YOUR LAKE'S SAKE

Excerpts from CABIN LIFE  
May 2008

Because so many lake home owners—and the lake associations they belong to—covet clear water, many shorelines are often being naturalized these days. Manicured beachfronts and groomed lawns that run to the water are giving way to beautiful, bushy verdant lakeshores.

What does it mean to naturalize your shoreline, and what are the rewards? The list begins with:

- Return of native trees, plants, reeds and lily pads;
- Introduction of intimate, meandering pathways through the yard to the lake;
- Revival of driftwood and recovery of fishing holes that sprout around it;
- Healthier, clearer lake because the natural shoreline filters run-off that may contain sediments and algae—encouraging phosphorous;
- Pesky, lawn-loving geese go elsewhere, fearing that your natural shoreline might harbor predators.

Nobody ever said being a lake home owner was easy—just rewarding. Being a shoreland steward is even less so on the first account—and maybe even more so on the second.

The following is a list of helpful tips you can use to reestablish the forest sponge along your shoreline:

- **Limit cutting, plucking, pruning, trimming, manicuring and mowing.** If you let things go, the natives will come back.
- **Drop the rake.** What you thought was unsightly debris, those leaves and twigs in various stages of decomposition, is called "duff" and it makes up an important layer of your forest sponge.
- **Planting new.** To give your shoreline a boost, you may want to plant native seedlings. How do you figure out what's native to your area? Call your local DNR office.
- **Planting: Think Big and Small.** If you decide to plant native species, include a variety of trees, as well as saplings, shrubs, bushes and smaller plants. Big: The trees' root systems are as vast in the soil as the crown is up top. Those roots hold the soil together and prebig-ger event erosion. Small: The smaller the plant, the more it protects the soil immediately around it, stopping raindrop erosion in the topsoil around the plant.
- **Leave the driftwood.** One of the first things property owners do is drag all the dead trees and branches out of the water in an effort to neaten up the place. But consider letting the downed trees lie. It's an integral piece of the ecosystem, providing habitat for fish and wildlife.
- **Create walking paths.** You don't want a straight shot for obvious runoff reasons. You do want to add a layer of mulch (4 inches is recommended) to paths.

## INTERESTED IN RESTORING YOUR PROPERTY?

There is still time to indicate your interest in receiving help through our pending grant request to the DNR in planning or installing projects that reduce runoff or improve shoreland habitat on your property.

If you did not fill out a **Participant Interest Form** as part of the Property Owners Survey last summer, you can go to [www.pipelakes.org](http://www.pipelakes.org) (Programs and Studies page) and download the form from the Survey materials. Fill it out and mail to Larry Bresina, 320 Burlington Road, St. Paul, MN 55119. Call Larry at 651-735-0019 for more information.

## DICK HOLLAR HONORED FOR SERVICE

At the Annual Meeting of the Membership on August 30, 2008, the members present unanimously and enthusiastically approved a resolution honoring the work of Dick Hollar for his many years of service to the Pipe Lakes:

**The property owners of Pipe and North Pipe Lakes hereby express their gratitude and appreciation for Dick Hollar's enormous contributions to the betterment of our lakes and our lake community.**

Perhaps the most significant part of this tribute was the fact that, after the resolution was passed, people couldn't stop talking about the enormous contributions to Pipe Lakes from the guy with the license plate that reads: "RET ENG." Dick Hollar engineered the formation of the Lake District and provided extraordinary leadership during its first five year. Those of us who have followed in his footsteps, taking on the various responsibilities of the District, know only too well that this guy did the work of ten people! It's a tough act to follow.

This year's Annual Picnic was a great example of how Dick Hollar made things happen. Dick and Agnes were enjoying a well deserved vacation in Alaska at the end of August. Dick recruited a team of what seemed like thousands, gave them detailed, step by step instructions on what to do and where to go and, guess what, the picnic (which Dick had personally overseen for years) came off without a hitch!

The following resolution of the Commissioners, approved on September 1, 2007 when Dick stepped down as the first Chair, tells the whole story:

**The Board of Commissioners of the Pipe and North Pipe Lakes Protection and Rehabilitation District, acting on behalf of the Membership, hereby commends Dick Hollar for his extraordinary leadership at the Pipe Lakes over this past decade. We acknowledge, applaud and extend a sincere thank you for Dick's vision, commitment and participation in the many critical aspects of lake management, including but not limited to: analysis, planning and mobilizing broad public support for the establishment of the Lake Management District; serving as Chairman of the District Board from its inception until 2007; distinguished service on the Water Quality Committee; active involvement in the development of the Ten Year Strategic Plan; serving a liaison with other planning associations and districts; and planning, organizing and doing more than his fair share of heavy lifting for numerous special projects, including monitoring of lake quality, annual picnics, annual boat parades, updates of lake ownership maps, production and distribution of the newsletter, and many communications with Commissioners, members, other constituents and public officials.**

Thanks, Dick Hollar, for a job well done!!



**ENJOYING THE LAKE**

*Picture by Peggy Weber*

## WISCONSIN WATER GUARD REVIEW LAWS

*Excerpts from Lake Tides  
Vol 33, No. 3 Summer 2008*

There are nine Wisconsin Water Guards stationed throughout the state. Their role is to inform boaters, anglers and other users of Wisconsin's waters about aquatic invasive species and to enforce the laws that deal with invasive species. Here are the main points of Wisconsin law to remember if we are to protect our lakes from invasive species' negative impact:

- No aquatic species may be transported. This means that before traveling anywhere you need to make sure your boat, trailer and equipment are clean.
- No boat or equipment may go into the water if there are aquatic plants or zebra mussels attached. Give your equipment the once over and remove any vegetation or mussels that may have gotten attached **before** actually backing into the water.
- All water must be drained from the boat and your equipment before leaving the landing. This is to stop the spread of the fish disease VHS (viral hemorrhagic septicemia) to any other waters. Draining all water means live wells, bilges, ballast compartments and water within the motor must be emptied. Any fish taken home must be "dead". You may use ice to keep fish fresh.
- Bait can be used on different bodies of water only if the bait was bought from a licensed bait dealer and no lake or river water was added to the container. A maximum of two gallons of water can be transported for this purpose. If lake or river water is added to the bait container, the bait can only be used on that same body of water.

*Please share this information with your family and friends who use Pipe and North Pipe*

### **WANT TO STAY IN THE KNOW?**

- Be sure to send any address or email changes to Joe Errigo.
- Logon to **[www.pipelakes.org](http://www.pipelakes.org)** at least once a month. We provide meeting minutes, reports, our strategic plan and helpful links. The site is updated monthly.



## 2008 DISTRICT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Adopted Ten Year Strategic Plan with three key goals
- Adopted Five Year Communications Action Plan
- Developed Five Year Lake Protection Action Plan
- Completed and analyzed the results of the Member Survey
- Secured a grant to expand the Clean Boats, Clean Waters program
- Continued to measure phosphorus loading in the most cost effective way
- Adopted a 2009 Budget with no tax levy increase

### APPROVED 2009 BUDGET

#### INCOME

Opening Balance	\$5769
Tax Levy	\$9000
Picnic Income	\$ 650
Invasive Species Grant	\$1100
Protection Grant	\$4000
Map Sales	\$ 75

**TOTAL INCOME \$20,594**

#### EXPENSE

Lake Quality Management Projects	\$8725
Lake Quality Monitoring	\$2530
Constituent Development	\$2230
Insurance	\$ 850
Other	\$ 950

**TOTAL EXPENSE \$15,285**

**CARRYOVER TO 2010 \$5309**

### IF YOU WANT TO CONTACT YOUR COMMISSIONERS

Larry Bresina	651-735-0019
Herschel Brown	715-472-4095
Joe Errigo	651-222-1698
Tom Mears	715-822-3097
Tom O'Hern	651-674-5531
Doug Rouzer	715-822-3288
Carol Vantine	612-750-8785

## MEET THE 2009 COMMISSIONERS



Tom O'Hern, Carol Vantine, Joe Errigo, Tom Mears, Larry Bresina  
Not available for picture: Doug Rouzer, Herschel Brown  
Picture by Peggy Weber

### THE YEAR AHEAD

*By Carol Vantine*

I can't believe that it is October! Like many of you, my family has prepared the dock, boat, garden and cabin for the coming winter. We still have the leaves to clean out of the gutters in a few weeks, but we are enjoying the crisp air and fireplace fires.

While activity on the lakes has quieted down, District activity on behalf of the lakes is in full swing. We are working with the DNR, county, consultants and property owners to button down the specifics of our request for funding to implement our 5 year plan aimed at reducing unabsorbed run-off that can damage our water quality. The health of Pipe and North Pipe Lakes is the basis for the value of your property and mine — both in terms of recreational use and as a primary component of market value.

We are also recruiting many of you to help the District monitor, document, negotiate, and communicate on the issues we face. Thank you to all who have raised their hand to help. In coming newsletters we will be letting all of you know how you can help us succeed in protecting our land and water for our families now and in the future.

### WANT TO SELL?

Rules for placing ad:

- Ad must be placed by District property owner.
- Item must be personal property related to lake life such as boats, grills, docks, etc.
- No ads for land, cabins, or homes.
- Requires \$5 donation to District for every 25 words.
- Placement is at the discretion of the editor.

### 2009 CALENDAR COMMISSION MEETINGS

Jan 7	7PM TBD
April 1	7PM 2198 W. Pipe Lake CT
May 8	5PM 2198 W. Pipe Lake CT
May 23	9AM Special Meeting Christ Church
Sept 5	9AM Annual Meeting Christ Church

### GREAT GIFT IDEAS!

Pipe Lake Jackets, Sweat-shirts, T-shirts, etc.

For order form, email  
ppp@westairheating.com