



Newsletter of Pipe and North Pipe Lakes Protection and Rehabilitation District

SPRING 2015

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www.pipelakes.org

WDNR Healthy Lakes projects include 10x35 plantings, rain gardens, fish sticks, water diversion and infiltration practices.

DNR and District offer new matching grants...

by Carol Vantine

The District is excited to announce that the DNR extended our grant ▲ until December of 2015 for shore land projects that reduce runoff into the lakes. As a result, the District Commissioners have approved two new matching programs for property owners in 2015.

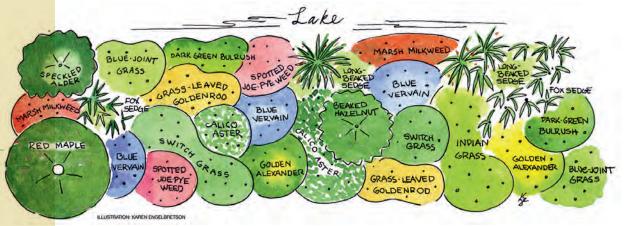
- 1. Owners who agree to install a 35-foot native plant shoreline strip (and accept the DNR required amendment to their deed pledging to keep the strip in place) can qualify for up to a \$4000 match from the District toward the cost of native plants and the installation costs.
- 2. Owners who wish to do two or three qualified runoff remediation projects can now receive up to \$1500 match per qualified project. Previously the matching funds were restricted to one project per owner.



Both of these new programs are available for 2015. Project design and contracts must be approved by December 31, 2015, although the installation work may carry over into 2016.

Interested owners should contact Cheryl Clemens at Harmony Environmental, 715-268-9992, or Carol Vantine, 612-750-8785, for more information.

Marsh milkweed



A DNR Healthy Lakes project like this 10x35 foot planting at your shore can help reduce runoff to Pipe Lakes.



Pipe and North Pipe Lakes
Protection and Rehabilitation
District

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www.pipelakes.org

Commissioner's Corner

by Greg Warner

The Pipe Lake and North Pipe Lakes Protection and Rehabilitation District members and many volunteers continue several activities to better understand our lakes. You will read elsewhere of new efforts with shoreline protection measures. Please consider taking advantage of these new initiatives.

We have entered into an agreement with Professor William James at UW-Stout to study the pond on North Pipe Lake. Thanks to Larry Bresina for leading this effort, along with Doug Stevens and Bill Radtke.

The Wisconsin DNR selected Pipe Lake to participate in a statewide project measuring water temperature. Water temperature is a critical determinant of fisheries and water quality. We have expanded this to include North Pipe Lake. The DNR will share results with us during the winter of 2015-2016.

We continue collecting water samples from streams entering our lakes and samples from the two lakes. These data will now be included in a new grant recently approved by the DNR. This grant will add new data to our understanding of our lakes. The timing is such that the grant will also include the updating of our Lake Management Plans. These 5- and/or 10-year plans are critical road maps for continually learning about our lakes.

The grant includes other components such as:

- Conducting a resident survey
- If interest, holding pontoon classrooms
- Collecting rainfall data through the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow Network
- Evaluating a sediment core of North Pipe Lake
- Performing a phytoplankton study

As with all efforts, we are totally dependent upon the good will, time and talent of our many volunteers. The more volunteers we have, the more we all better understand our lakes and the more fun we all have. If you have the interest, please let me or other commissioners now and we would be happy to engage you in the many activities underway to better understand and improve our lakes.

We hope to see you at the District Special Meeting on May 23. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please email me at gregpnpl@gmail.com or call me at 507-202-5233. Have a fun and safe summer. ■ —Greg Warner

Clean Boats Clean Waters

As we all appreciate, the first line of defense in preventing an aquatic invasive species (AIS) into our lakes occurs at the boat landing. By assuring that all watercraft and trailers are free of water and vegetation from other lakes especially those with AIS, we will be protecting our lakes.



This year we will have two individuals working for us at the boat landing. Max Skyles will be back this year and Steve Naurre will be joining the monitoring team. We all know it only takes one boat to create a whole boatload of problems for us! Your Commission has decided that we will continue with the extended hours implemented last year. We are providing coverage during the times

when there is the most activity at the landing. We continue monitoring activity and will make any necessary adjustments.

We will start the year by providing coverage at the landing from 7-10 AM, Monday through Friday and 3-6 PM Friday afternoon. Saturday hours will be 7 AM to 6 PM and Sunday hours 7 AM to 5 PM.

Please note, this coverage is only at the public boat landing. People have used the south end of Pipe Lake for putting boats into the lake. This is private land, it is posted and should not be used.



Zebra mussels look like small "D" shaped clams, averaging about 1" long. They commonly attach to hard surfaces.

When removing your dock and lift in the fall, check for this invasive species.

Water Temperature Study

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources selected Pipe Lake for a state-wide lake water temperature study. Since we approach our lakes as one lake system, we worked with the study organizer to include North Pipe Lake. Water temperature is a valuable indicator of a lakes water quality and it's fisheries.

The DNR will share these data with us during the winter of 2015-2016. We will be sharing these data once we have them.

If you have any questions regarding this study, please let me know.

-Greg Warner

E-mail Updates Needed

We have noticed that many of the email addresses we currently have are outdated. 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 our website, pipelakes.org. Click on the **Contact Us** tab and then the **Email Sign Up** from the drop down and fill in your information. Be sure to complete the confirmation after you sign up.

Save the date!

DISTRICT MEETINGS:

District Special Meeting

May 23, 2015, 9-11 AM Christ Lutheran Church Intersection of G and T Comstock Wisconsin

District Board Meeting

August 15, 2015, 8 - 10 AM

District Annual Meeting

August 29, 2015, 9 - 11 AM Christ Lutheran Church

EVENTS:

Boat Parade

July 4, 2015, 1-2:30 PM Starts at boat landing, Comstock

Annual Picnic

County Line Tavern
Comstock

Important dates can be found on the Pipes Lakes website, pipelakes.org, under the Events tab.

Pipe Lake Sharing

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

Fish Stick Project

by Tom O'Hern

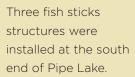
Three years ago, we were approved to install "Fish Sticks" around the islands at the south end of Pipe Lake; we placed three structures. Two were placed around the big island and one closer to the south end of the lake.

We were scheduled for additional structures in the winter of 2014, but mother nature was not cooperative. The amount of snow caused water on top of the ice.

This year, we had ideal conditions: good ice and not much snow. On January 20th, under the direction of our DNR coordinator, Aaron Cole, 65 trees were cut from the Mears/Wilson property. Whole trees were loaded on a flat bed truck and delivered to the north end landing. From there, the whole trees were dragged across the ice down to the south end of the lake.

Each structure contains five plus trees, two long trees placed in a "V" and three others placed on top of the "V". Ten of these structures are placed around the islands.

The Pipe Lakes P&R District would like to thank the Mears and Wilson families for their generous donation of the trees. ■







Fish sticks: Improving Lake Habitat

Trees have been dropping naturally into Wisconsin lakes since the glaciers receded. Fallen trees provide shelter and feeding areas for a diversity of fish species and may also provide nesting and sunning areas for birds, turtles and other animals above the water. Nearly all fish species use woody habitat for at least a portion of their life cycle.

What are fish sticks?

"Fish Sticks" projects are intended to restore woody habitat in lakes by adding trees to the near-shore area. They are large woody habitat structures that use either single trees or trees grouped together. Fish sticks structures are anchored to the shore and are partially or fully submerged near the shoreline of a lake. Fish sticks projects are completed to provide additional fish habitat, as well as to expand fishing opportunities for anglers and to provide protection to shorelines.

SOURCE: WISCONSIN DNR

LAKE SCIENCE AT WORK ON OUR LAKES

Retention Pond Performance Study

by Larry Bresina

E valuation of the phosphorus retention pond northeast of North Pipe Lake is underway as part of our current protection grant from the Wisconsin DNR.

Professor William James, University of Wisconsin-Stout, and his graduate students are providing this evaluation during the 2015 runoff period. Rachel Fleck, who is pursuing a Professional Science Master's degree in conservation biology, plans to visit us at our spring meeting next year to present the results of this study.

Automated equipment installed in late March will monitor the stream entering and leaving the pond for the amount of flow and phosphorus. With this information, Professor James and Rachel will determine the amount of phosphorus the pond removes from the stream before entering North Pipe Lake.

District volunteers Bill Radtke, Doug Stevens, and Larry Bresina are providing maintenance support for this project. The results of this study will be an important component in devising an updated lake management plan for our two lakes.

Thanks to Gary Christenson, land owner, and his brother Doug for their gracious cooperation in this project. ■



Professor William James and graduate student Rachel Fleck with the stream monitoring equipment they installed.



Pipe Lake Sharing

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 Stephanie.boysen@cummins.com.

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 612-708-1048. At least 75 wild bird species in the United States are poisoned by lead fishing sinkers lost in lakes and rivers. Bald eagles, cranes, ducks, swans, loons, geese and other waterfowl ingest lost sinkers and spent lead shot each year, often with deadly consequences. The birds mistake shot and sinkers for food or grit and can die a painful death from lead poisoning, while others suffer for years from its debilitating effects.





FISHING WISCONSIN:

Get the lead out: One lead split shot is enough to kill a twelve pound loon!

Loons and other wildlife sustain lead poisoning from ingested tackle: a lead jig head is swallowed by a fish later eaten by a loon or eagle, or lost lead tackle is picked up along with small stones and grit from the bottom of lakes to help digest food. Fish, loons, eagles, trumpeter swans and many other wildlife species are consuming lead in one or both of these ways, and the results can be fatal.

Anglers can tackle lead

Lead fishing tackle has been used by generations of Wisconsin anglers. One of the goals of the *Get the Lead Out!* Wisconsin campaign is to bring awareness to anglers about lead poisoning in fish and other wildlife from lead tackle ingestion. Inexpensive and ecologically sound alternatives to lead fishing weights are available. Anglers can use sinkers and jigs made from non-poisonous materials such as tin, bismuth, steel and tungsten-nickel alloy.

Dispose of lead properly

Dispose of your lead tackle properly — do not throw it in a lake or trash can. Contact your local recycling program to see if they will accept it. If not, take it to your local household hazardous waste collection site or a scrap metal collector/recycler.

Education

Another great way to help is teaching good stewardship to young anglers. Outfit kids with tackle boxes filled with non-lead weights and jigs. Non-toxic tackle is safer for youngsters to handle (lead is poisonous to us, too). Plus, inexperienced anglers tend to lose the most sinkers, so you'll be cutting down on the amount of lead getting left behind in Wisconsin lakes and rivers.

For more information, visit our website library, pipelakes.org/library, for *Get the Lead Out!* links and more:

- Scrap metal recyclers accepting lead products
- Non-lead alternatives for fishing tackle
- More about lead poisoning of Wisconsin's birds

Please, Get the Lead Out!



Mark Your Calendars

The next annual Pipe Lake Picnic will be held on Saturday, August 16th at the County Line Tavern, beginning at 12:00 noon. The fabulous County Line fried chicken will once again highlight the meal.

Volunteers would be greatly appreciated to help with registering people as they arrive, handing out raffle tickets, and being sure everyone has a name tag. In addition someone is needed to help organize the games (tug of war, egg toss, bingo, and the fishing pond.) Volunteers are also needed to help with set-up and clean-up when we have finished for the day.

Don't hesitate, please call Tim Schmuck at 612-247-4206 if you'd like to join in the fun of putting on this great event.

Once again the raffle will be fun for all. A quick look at last year's donors will give you an idea of the types of prizes to be won. PLEASE make sure to thank these generous merchants for their support of our event.

Indianhead Sport Shop

Pete's Auto & Customs

Cumberland Golf Club

Cifaldi Motors

Dollar General

Island Wines

NextGen Water Sports

The Apothecary

Johnson & Johnson Land Co.

Remax Island City Realtors

Subway Verizon

Waite's Car Wash & Coffee Shop

Kwik Trip Corner Bar

Noah Insurance

Design Nail and Hair Studio

Magic Touch Massage

Kindled Hearth

Radio Shack

Schneider Pharmacy

Spot Bar, Nezzy's Sports Bar

Dancing Bird Art Studio

Cumberland Federal Bank

Dairy State Bank

Idlewild

Tower House Restaurant

US Bank

Island City Food Coop

Sammy's Pizza

Louie's Finer Meats

Louie's Lodge

Cumberland Ace Hardware

Cumberland Chamber of Commerce

Sherrilee Carter
Cabin Experts

Edina Realty

County Line Tavern
Staples Lake Bar & Grill
Ellsworth Cheese Factory

Jane's Lake Country Pizza

Bistro 63, Brickyard Pottery

Hoff Construction Hilltop Restaurant

Radiance Within

Boat Parade

Before you know it, the 4th of July weekend will be here and that means it will be time for the annual Pipe Lake Boat Parade!! This year, the parade will begin at 1:00 PM on Sunday, July 5th.

It's never too early to plan your design, so get your creative juices flowing and come up with a winning plan. In the spirit of family fun, please leave all political statements out of your planning. Prizes will be awarded in the following categories:

- · Best patriotic theme
- Best environmental theme,
- Best kid's movie (or any kid-related) Theme, and
- Best rookie boat (for firstyear participants only)

The line up will begin at 12:45 PM on July 5th in front of the boat landing, and the parade will proceed in a westerly direction around the lake.

Interested in helping? Judges are needed. Please call Tim Schmuck, 612-247-4206 to volunteer.

Rain date is July 6th.

Bringing the Pipes to Pipe (below) took first place in last year's parade.

