

SENTINEL Spring/Summer 2006

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Merilee Meyers

Greetings! The snow and ice are finally releasing their hold on the North Country. Ice on the lake has begun to acquire a grayish tinge and the bay between Awsumb's and Johnson's is looking tawny gold, a sure sign of the break up...which is still at least a few weeks away. The back dirt roads have been treacherous with muddy ruts and piles of slushy snow but the mornings are filled with the conversation of returning birds. What a blissful and uplifting sound of the returning warmth and life!

Another sure sign of spring is the return of our neighbors! What a pleasure to welcome our friend and neighbors back to the lake. the winter is long...familiar faces are a sight for sore eyes. In a month the loons will be back and in another month we will once again be 'pontooning' on our glorious lake.

We were only about sixteen at our annual Holiday Kick Off party at the Seventy-One Bar but a good time was had by all, even though the food left a bit to be desired. We will explore other venue for the Christmas. Suggestions are welcome.

This promises to once again be a busy year. Please note the EVENTS listed on this website. Our first official Association party is the annual "Welcome Back Wine and Cheese Party" at Diane Plath's in June, followed by the annual Fourth of July boat parade, the annual meeting in August at the Merle and Mavis Olson's, the weenie roast at Sandy and Will Johnson's and the annual Holiday Kick-Off party in December. A fun time will be had by all!

I hope to see all of you soon. We can always add a party in May! It is time to celebrate summer at the lake.

PERSONAL WATERCRAFT REGULATIONS:

Excerpted from the "2006 Minnesota Boating Guide

Personal watercraft must travel at slow-no wake speeds (5 mph or less) within 150 feet of non-motorized boats, shore (unless launching or landing skiers directly to or from open water), docks, swimming rafts, swimmers or any moored or anchored boat.

Personal watercraft is allowed only from 9:30 am to one hour before sunset.

You may not travel through emergent or floating vegetation at greater than slow-no wake speed.

You may not weave through congested watercraft traffic or jump the wake of another watercraft within 150 feet of other watercraft. This includes other personal watercraft.

HARRY KRUEGER: A LONG LAKE PROFILE

Submitted by Jay Johnson

Harry Krueger was retired from his work for the Internal Revenue Service as an accountant. The Kruegers lived in Wichita, Kansas.

In 1949 they bought the first property sold by Melvin Rhoda in what was named NODAWAY SUBDIVISION. It was called POPPLE AVE., now known as JAY COURT.

The property they bought was off Popple Avenue and formed a point of land with about 700' of lakeshore. It became known as Krueger's Point. It is now the home of Jim and Cherry Brouwer.

Harry, also referred to as "Grandpa", decided to have a cabin on the point and in those days Cap[p Homes sold houses as kits, and it was delivered in finished wall sections and assembled on site. As years went by, the Kruegers wound up with five grandsons. Of course, these boys spent a lot of the summer at the lake with local boys like the Lees and Braatens.

With all these boys around Harry decided to build an attached room for them that he called "the dorm." Bunk beds and all. It just made sense. With all the water activities going on at the Krueger's, the point's waterfront developed a nice sand beach-no need to cross to any beach across the lake.

Grand Krueger had a passion for gardening. Under the power line he developed a garden with 100-ft rows. He grew almost anything a garden could produce.....kohlrabi to raspberries. For a long time he cultivated with a 5 tine, heavy duty, hand held tool, and the points formed a "V" shape. As he grew older, Harry decided to quit using it as a hoe so he attached a crossbar at the end of the handle, a rock wa wired to the tine end for weight, and he pulled it like a mule. On hot days he'd wipe his brow and exclaim, "Boy howdy, it's hot!"

What do you think he did with all that his garden reduced? He pulled into the cabin every year with a trailer that had a 16 cu. ft. freezer on it. When the harvest was frozen, they headed back to Witchita, with the freezer full and plugged it in whenever they stayed for the night. It just made sense.

Harry had a dress code for himself for his gardening and household work. He always wore a straw hat and bib overalls. In his bibs he also had a small note pad and a pencil about 2 inches long. He used these frequently to record important facts or ideas. Maybe he kept accounts for himself right into his daily retirement activities.

Back in the early 50's he became a part of a group that tried to develop a fish-rearing pond at the outlet of Long Lake. It was a failed venture but possibly a topic for further history of Long Lake activities.

As Harry grew older, he began to dislike kneeling on his boat seats to bail out rainwater with a coffee can. Resourceful as he was, he built a boat-bailer. This machine was made of 3-inch drainpipe about 3 feet long. Near the top he attached a short pipe about 1 foot long at 90 degrees to the long pipe. This was done just as though he had been trained in sheet metal work. It had a rod down the pipe made of popple, with a wooden T" handle attached at the top. This unit had 2 valves made of plywood with inner tube flaps. It worked like a regular water pump and it just made sense.

He enjoyed golf and card games and was a nice man who enjoyed his family and grandsons. He died in 1972 while he was making a sign for the driveway that said "Dangerous Curve." The dangerous curve is still there, and you can still see some of Grandpa's work at the lakeshore on the point. There are locust trees that he planted or transplanted and in the spring you can motor in close enough to see their beautiful blossoms and think about Harry Krueger.

PREACHERS' COVE

Mariam Flann, sister of Myrle Olson

It seems unimaginable that it's been over a half century since our dad, M.A. Olson and two of his Lutheran preacher friends took a 'leap of faith' and purchased a small, unused resort on the south end of Long Lake. For a total price of \$7,500, Pastors Hanson, Olson, and Peterson obtained four cabins, four boats, a boat house, a fishhouse, a pump and well, two outhouses and 700' of lakeshore. Now that was a deal!

Vacationing and growing up at Birch Haven (the name 'Preachers' Cove' was dubbed by other lake residents) was wonderfully unique in many ways. As teenagers, we were never allowed to play face cards as that led to innumerable vices with dancing being the final and worst. We did have fun, though. Huge get-togethers with a packed bunkhouse were yearly occurrences. Some remember rowboat loads

of lake kids coming over to sing hymns for the pastors. Perhaps one of you reading this was one of those 'serenaders'!

Traveling from Bemidji to Long Lake was a real experience. The road (#20) was one huge washboard so, to save the car shocks, trips for groceries were limited.

In these earlier years, the lake levels were low enough that we could easily walk the beach from Birch Haven to the sandbar point. There even were strawberries to pick by the lakeshore and a large, sandy beach. As we looked across the lake, there were no human inhabitants--only the cows grazing and wading off of Grandpa's Tree Farm. In fact, the nearest housing was what is now Ettl's.

Our parents always felt Long Lake to be their special corner of the world and we, the next generation, continue to be blessed by its unique beauty.

WATER QUALITY MONITORING

This year will be the third year we have monitored not only for clarity but for phosphorus and chlorophyll. At the end of this season we will have established a baseline for the annual levels of phosphorus and chlorophyll as well as the on-going Secci disk readings. It may be possible for the Association to continue only with the Secci disk clarity for the next few years. However, we do have many properties being sold and new houses being built. It will be incumbent on us to continue to keep a close eye on our water quality. It is much easier and far less costly to keep a lake clean rather than restore it.

Please remember to keep fire pits well away from the shore and well-ringed with either deep-dug stones or a metal ring. Ashes are full of phosphorus and phosphorus stimulates algal growth. Good fishing, rotten clarity.

PERMITS

Shoreline alteration permits are required for any clearing or changes to the current shoreline. These permits cost \$150, after-the-fact permits are \$300 plus any costs associated with shoreline restoration. It is far less expensive to get a permit from Bill Patnaude's Environmental Services Office located in the new county administration building located at 701 Minnesota Avenue, suite 113.

Structures such as swimming rafts, boat lifts, slalom courses, ski jumps, etc., which do not extend from the shore, cannot be placed in the water before first obtaining a permit from the county sheriff. All

structures placed under permit must have the permit number painted on them. In addition, the structure or buoy must have either a light visible in all directions or be reflectorized so as to reflect light from all directions.

NOTE:

There are areas along both shores which are eroding from wave action. High speeds from all watercraft result in high waves resulting in increased erosion, which in turn causes the lake to become cloudy with suspended solids.

WELCOME PACKET

Jay Johnson is forming a committee to produce a welcome packet for all property owners. Included in this packet will be information on the lake association, perhaps a small Norway Pine plus other information pertinent to this lake. Please contact him if you are interested in serving on this committee and/or have suggestions of items to include.

ISLAND UPDATE

At a special meeting of the Long Lake Association membership in September 2005, the island committee was directed by the Association membership to move forward towards the acquisition of the island offered to us as a donation by the Mihal Family. Much time and energy was spent towards this effort. The end result is that the Association, as it is currently organized, cannot receive the island donation from the family.

In order for the Long Lake Association to receive the island as a donation and for the Mihal Family to receive a tax deduction for the donation, the Association must first become a charitable tax-exempt 501c3 entity. The IRS has very strict categories for allowing the tax-exempt status, none of which the Association currently meets. The State of Minnesota is even stricter with their criteria for the 501c3 designation. To qualify as a charitable organization, the mission of the Association would, of necessity, change, becoming primarily an educational and service organization.

Given the time, energy and possible financial commitment needed to explore the most remote possibility of achieving 501c3 tax-exempt status, on March 30, 2006, the island committee met and unanimously passed the following motion: that "the Association not continue to proceed toward the acquisition of the island for the reasons stated in the Island Update published in The Sentinel, Spring 2006." As the majority of voting members indicated a desire for the acquisition of the island at the 2005 special meeting, a vote to act on this motion by the island committee will be taken at the 2006 annual meeting in August.

I am looking forward to the summer, welcoming back old and new friends. Together we can move forward in fellowship and appreciation for our lake, our friends and our neighbors.

!'NON-INSECTICIDE' MOSQUITO REPELLENTS!

Contributed by Cynthia Prevey

--Use Bounce fabric softener sheets...just wipe on and go...great for babies...great for golfers under their caps!

--Take one vitamin B-1 (thiamine hydrochloride 100 mg) tablet a day April through October.

--Stop eating bananas for the summer...something about the banana oil as your body processes it seems to attract mosquitoes.

--This is going to floor you, but someone who is in the woods every day, found Vick's Vaporub to be one of the best insect repellents.

--Plant marigolds around the yard and in the garden; the flowers give off a smell that bugs do not like.

--Tough guy" Marines who spend a great deal of time "camping out" use Avon Skin-So-Soft bath oil mixed about half and half with alcohol.

--When all else fails...get a frog!