



THE SENTINEL

Merilee Meyers, President
Long Lake Association
8343 Waterview Ct NE
Bemidji, MN 56601

THE SENTINEL



Our lake is your lake...help preserve its clarity and tranquility.

www.longlakeassoc.org

Spring / Summer 2007

Letter from the President

Merilee Meyers

Greetings! Old man willow is getting yellow, dogwoods are getting red and water is running in the ditches. The geese are trying to nest on the snow and ice. Spring has arrived! By the time you read this, the lakes will be open, the loons will be calling, and the trees should be misty green...maybe!

This has been a difficult winter for septic systems. Dozens and dozens froze due to the lack of snow cover during the frigid temperatures during January and February. Plumbers and contractors have been busy – the frost line went down to 4 feet. If you have been away for the winter, check your system carefully. Many tanks cracked when they froze up.

More weather-related news - the drought we have experienced for the last few years is expected to continue this summer unless we have a multitude of exceptionally heavy rain this spring. Unfortunately, weather forecasting models show this not to be the case. Burning bans went into effect April 2 of this year; grasses and weeds are still standing upright due to the light snow cover, creating the perfect tinder for fires.

The DNR has a program – “FIREWISE” – which helps home owners identify ways to reduce the danger of fire. The program has a brochure listing 50 steps that can be taken to protect a home from wildfire. Firewise brochures and the accompanying home assessment checklist available will hopefully be available to all property owners by late April - early May. Almost half of these 50 steps can be done at no cost.

No-cost ways to create a 30 foot defensible space around your house are: move your firewood pile beyond 30 feet; remove all dead vegetation, including downed trees; trim all tree branches overhanging your house; remove branches within 20 feet of all chimneys; widen your driveway to 12 feet by removing all trees along it; be sure your house number is clearly visible from the roadway. For more info, visit www.dnr.state.mn.us/firewise.

Guess who is moving the wood pile! Although our roof is metal, the siding is fiber-concrete and the deck planking is made of Trex recycled plastic bottles, we will also clear brush and dead vegetation on our lakeside hill.

A second edition of the BCLARA “Shoreland Buffer Restoration” guidebook will be available this spring for all shoreland owners in Beltrami County. At least 100 copies will be available here, along with ideas, encouragement, iced tea and special thanks.

Imagine how beautiful our lake would appear if everyone would make a concerted effort this year to restore their shoreline

by creating a 10 foot wide buffer filled with native vegetation. Grass mown straight down to the water just does not work with clear, algae-free water.

The board is considering awarding a plaque to the owner of the property with the greatest amount of buffer restoration this summer. We are also considering a sign for all properties with “wild” shorelines. The easiest, cheapest method of buffer restoration is to STOP MOWING! Think of how much time could be available for snoozing, fishing and reading! We made a choice to live in the woods on this exceptionally clear and beautiful lake. Mowed lawns belong in town. Please remember:

*“We do not own our land or water;
we borrow it from our children.”*

Merilee would like to train a third person living on the lake to do water sampling. It would be best if this person has a pontoon.

Samples are taken the Sunday before the third Monday of the month, May thru September.

A Few Things Everyone Can Do to Protect Water CONSERVE

- Limit lawn watering, long showers, garbage disposals and running faucets.
- Fix leaky faucets. One drip a second can waste 2,000 gallons a year. Buy water efficient plumbing fixtures. If all plumbing fixtures in the United States were replaced with water-conserving fixtures, we could save from 3.4 to 8.4 billion gallons of water a day.
- Avoid using phosphate cleaners and detergents. Eliminate the use of garbage disposals and drain cleaners.
- Use recycled products. The earth's natural resources are not limitless.

PROTECT

- Wash your car on the lawn instead of a paved driveway. Every spill onto a hard surface has the potential to contaminate groundwater, lakes and rivers. Once water lands on pavement, it flows through the watershed to the nearest body of water and deposits any contaminants there.
- Limit the use of lawn fertilizers. Use only phosphorus free lawn products.

LEARN

- Realize that many human activities affect water quality. Wetlands, groundwater and waterways are destroyed by construction, polluted runoff, and spills. Population growth only intensifies these impacts.

- Become an educated consumer. Buy recycled, environmentally friendly products.
- Learn to recognize and become knowledgeable about aquatic nuisance species. These exotic invaders (Eurasian watermilfoil, zebra mussels, and thousands more) cause habitat destruction, decrease biological diversity and cause millions of dollars of damage in the United States each year.

CHANGE

- Rethink your daily habits and help reduce water pollution and water use. Drive less and bike, walk, or carpool more to help reduce the production of toxic air pollutants that cause acid rain.
- Turn down your water heater temperature and your home thermostat to reduce your energy usage and again help to curb pollutants that cause acid rain.
- And...SHARE your knowledge with others. (excerpt from THE FRESHWATER SOCIETY)

Valuable websites:

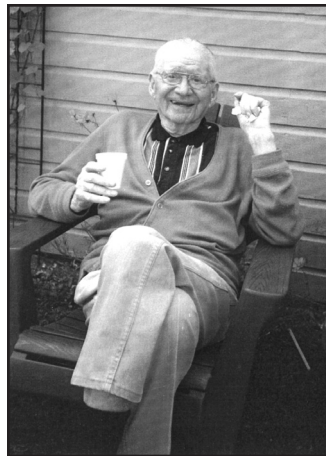
www.freshwater.org
www.pca.state.mn.us/hot/globalwarming.html
www.magnusontrucking.com
(click on 'new customer hand out' for recycling info)
www.longlakeassoc.org

GRAB 'N MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW!

Long Lake Happenings

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| May 1, 2007 | Spring Road-Ditch Clean-Up |
| June 9, 2007
(Sat., 4-6 pm) | Welcome Back Wine & Cheese
@ Pat/Fred Pick - 8090 Esther Ln NE.
Bring an hors d'oeuvre. |
| July 4, 2007
(Wed., 11 am) | Annual Boat Parade
preceding refreshments @ Fred Ettl's beach. Decorate your boat! Parade starts at south end of the lake, proceeds down east side and around lake ending at Ettl's beach. Bars/cookies welcome. |
| Aug. 5, 2007
(Sun., 1 pm) | Annual Association Meeting/Potluck
@ Colleen/David Forte, 13880 Forte Haugen Trl NE. Bring a dish to share, your own lawn chair, plate, and eating utensils. |
| Sept. 8, 2007
(Sat., 6 pm) | Open Fire Cook-Out @ Diane/George Winter - 8808 Cranberry Ct NE.
Bring your own chair and roasting stick. Bars/cookies welcome. |
| Dec. ?, 2007 | Progressive Holiday Soiree (TBD) |

In Memory of Vernon Oman



An Admirable Man

If a man is honest with others and with himself...
 If he receives gratefully and gives quietly...
 If he is gentle enough to feel and strong enough to show his feelings...
 If he is slow to see the faults of others but quick to discover their goodness...
 If he is cheerful in difficult times and modest in success...
 If he does his best to be true to his beliefs...
 Then he is truly an admirable man. Unknown

Think of Vern when you drive on Oman Road. He paid for the surveying for the road and felt honored that the road was named after him.

Our condolences extend to Frank & Sharon DeClusin in the loss of their son, Ernie, and to Ron & Nancy Restemayer in the loss of Ron's father, Norbert.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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The Executive Committee appreciates any and all input by association members. Meetings are open to anyone who chooses to attend.

Animal Control in Turtle River Township

For years, the township has considered passing an animal control ordinance. As a direct result of an animal control issue on our lake last fall, the Turtle River Township Board has agreed to explore the possibility of passing an animal control ordinance for Turtle River Township.

The on-going presence of several Long Lake residents at monthly township board meetings has kept pressure on the Board in continuing in their animal control ordinance fact-finding. This continued "holding their toes to the fire" effort has had positive results.

At the township annual meeting in March 2007, the 2008 township budget was approved, which includes an additional \$8,000, the estimated cost of hiring an animal control officer for the township. Although board members – private citizens at annual meetings – threw up arguments against an animal control, a motion was made by Clint Braaten authorizing the Board to continue towards such an ordinance. This motion was passed almost unanimously; three persons currently serving on the township board abstained. Lance Eberwine voted for the motion. To clarify: at annual meetings all board members become private citizens and vote as such.

The proposed animal control ordinance, the same ordinance used by several townships in Beltrami County, gives authority to the animal control officer to resolve dog and cat conflicts between township residents. It does not make him a dog catcher cruising through the township, looking for stray dogs and cats.

The officer will only become involved in an animal control issue if a complaint is filed with him.

The Board cannot pass an ordinance without holding three public hearings, in order to give all township residents the opportunity to express their views, either in person or in writing. To date, there have only been a few – or no – people present at any township meetings. It is time for that to change!

Folks, this is your local government, making decisions which affect all of us living in Turtle River Township. Since, to date, no one living elsewhere in the township has elected to attend many township meetings, it is our opportunity to have a voice in decisions made by the Board. We have the ability to impact the look and operation of our township for years to come. The township board is open and receptive to citizen input. However, citizens need to care enough to present their views. If no one does care . . . we have only ourselves to blame.

Township board meetings are held at 7 pm., the second Thursday of every month in the township community center. The Township Planning and Zoning board meetings are held the first Thursday of the month, March through November.

NEW FUN-TO-DO'S

FRIDAY FLOTILLAS

First Friday Flotilla will be May 18!
 All aboard on pontoons, once a month, bring your own beverages and snacks (whatever will keep you afloat!) Most importantly, bring some bungee cords so that we can hook together and visit from pontoon to pontoon. Other dates will be June 15, July 20, August 17 and September 21.

SHOP CLUB

Anyone interested in a 'shop night club', please call or email:
 Sonny Braaten 586-2530 sbraaten@paulbunyan.net
 Denny Carlson 586-2229 denny@paulbunyan.net
 All 'shops' welcome: wood, auto, metal, repair, etc. Meetings will rotate each month from one shop to another. These evenings could be an opportunity to share 'n compare projects and techniques.

MEN'S GOLF OUTINGS

First and third Mondays of each month beginning in June. Those who may be interested can contact Denny Kaatz at 218-766-5537 (cell).

SENIOR MOMENTS SUPPORT GROUP

It was suggested that a senior moments support group would be beneficial. However, half of us would forget to attend and the other half would be trying to remember why we were there!!

Bemidji Community Food Shelf

The balance of monies left after expenses from the "Holiday Progressive Soiree" was donated.

The following is a note from Carolyn Hegland at the Bemidji Community Food Shelf:

"On behalf of the Bemidji Community Food Shelf, I would like to thank you for the donation of \$165.00 donated from the proceeds of the progressive dinner. What a great idea and a much needed gift."

New Long Lake "Residents"

Phil & Shelly Amundson (15)

Rick & Wendy Bowman (Jay Ct)

Gregory & Yvonne Lapp (45)

"My wife and I are really appreciating the 'jewel' of property we lucked into when we purchased it in May. We really didn't realize what a lovely and pristine lake it really is."

Peter & Heidi McDonald (64)

"I am just writing to let everyone know how excited my wife Heidi and I are to have our own place on Long Lake. My family has been coming to Long Lake for as long as I can remember and it is the one thing about living in Minnesota that I cherish most. Both Heidi and I have a lot of respect for what Long Lake represents and we will do our part to preserve its beauty."

Paul & Sharon Oman (Oman Rd)

10 BEST USES FOR A DOCK

(besides parking your boat!)

- speed ramp for leaping dogs
- open-air planetarium for stargazing
- rendezvous for sipping wine and nibbling cheese
- grandpa's school for new fisher boys and girls
- front row seats for the Fourth of July boat parade
- getaway for late-night skinny-dipping
- grandstand for greeting boaters-by
- a hideout from your spouse's honey-do list
- stadium seat for hailing the onset of the seasons
- aisle for open-air matrimonials

Lake-Friendly Soaps?

Sadly, there really is no environmentally friendly way to lather up in a lake. A few generations ago, taking a bar of Ivory soap down to the lake for a bath created a fairly small human impact on a big body of water. But there are more people now, more pollutants in the water, and more chemicals from the shore washing into the lake.

Soaps can create algae blooms, which greatly alter the health of a lake. Even products that contain only natural ingredients may affect ecological balances in unintended ways.

The U of MN Extension Service provides a list of "Shoreline Stewardship Best Practices." Prominent among them are "Stop washing dishes, laundry and self in lake while camping" and "Quit using soap or shampoo in the water."

There are no guarantees that biodegradable products are completely non-polluting or that the elements they break down into are harmless to an ecosystem. And absolutely avoid antibacterial soaps or anything containing phosphorus.

Dust & Fire

Becky Chakov's poetry was 1 of 64 selections published in the 21st edition of "Dust & Fire" which is produced by the Department of English of BSU. The anthology features memoirs, poetry, narratives, journal entries, short stories, essays and art from women residing in Minnesota or its neighboring states.

Holiday Progressive Soiree 2007

The 2006 soiree was an evening of pure and simple joy...tables decked with scrumptious food and glad tidings with Long Lake friends and neighbors. Sandy and Will Johnson have offered to host the "Hors d'oeuvres/Cocktails" phase of the 2007 Holiday Progressive Soiree. Two other homes are needed: one for "Main Course" and one for "Dessert." Would love to hear from you...

586-2672 (dp)