



# 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](http://www.longlakeassoc.org)

Annual Edition 2007

## Bird Notes

Jay Johnson

This report is based on recent interviews with Rick Bowman and Dave Forte, both of Jay Court.

Rick and Wendy saw several bald eagles in trees along the rocky shore of the lake at the northeast end. They were all there for a good reason. The suckers were spawning in that shallow water. Eagles eat fish and at times the big birds would dive in and take a fish.

Eagles can also swim, according to Dave Forte who witnessed the event. The eagle had something in the water that it could not fly away with. So it swam to shore with it. An article with photos was produced to lend credibility to Dave's report. These big birds move in the water with their powerful wings, much as a person does the butterfly stroke. They can move this way for about 50 yards according to the news article. These incidents explained by Rick and Dave are their versions of the truth and there is no reason to doubt them.

Sonny and Karen Braaten have, for the second (although not consecutive) season a hummingbird nest in plain view from their dining room window. How lucky they are. It's not something you see every day or very often, if ever. They have also watched loons nesting just across the little bay at

their place. The eagle watches them too.

Speaking of loons, does anyone have a photo of a person feeding minnows from a boat to a young loon? That information may be just a rumor but if you have it send it to the Sentinel, please. That would also be something you don't see every day.

We know there are many other interesting stories from our lake residents involving all kinds of wildlife. Please submit the story or relate it to a writer. Think of all the possibilities: mammals, fish, reptiles, birds, butterflies, moths etc. Some accounts may include a combination of critters, like Bill Beck's observation of an eagle swiping some food from an otter on the ice! A great story.



## Letter from the President

Merilee Meyers

After a blustery Monday, we awoke to snow on the ground! The blustery wind and rain has continued throughout the day but with the temperature standing at 40 degrees F, the snow is gone. The fall has been warm and lovely with some rain but no hard freeze - yet. This morning was a not-so-gentle reminder of the months ahead. Although we have had some inches of rain in September and early October, it has been not nearly enough to bring up any water levels, especially ground water levels, which are extraordinarily low.

As most lakes in northern Minnesota are spring-fed, low ground water levels means low lake levels. Given the dry summer and current low ground level readings, it is highly unlikely that lake levels in our area will be coming up appreciably until ground water is replenished by many, many inches of precipitation. Several feet of snow plus a slow spring melt plus an exceptionally wet spring will be necessary to bring up water levels. For more information on this and other water-related issues, go to: [www.beltramiswcd.org/siems](http://www.beltramiswcd.org/siems). Dann Siems is an aquatic biologist who recently joined the Beltrami SWCD after several years of teaching at BSU.

Another water-related tip from Dann: if you are troubled with freezing septic systems, stop using antibacterial cleaning products. These products are designed to kill bacteria, including the good bacteria working in the septic tank.. The heat produced by this bacterial action helps keep the tank warm in the winter. No working bacteria, no heat can freeze a septic system.

Whether you travel to warmer climes for the winter or stick around here, have a peaceful and joyous holiday season. Stay safe until we meet again.

## Animal Prints

Diane Winter

We bought our cabin in 1975 for \$9600 as a wedding gift to ourselves, and it is the best investment we ever made—not just because it has increased in value, but because of the joy it has brought us. Sure, we have spent numerous hours building additions and repairing things that are faulty, but we have had a place to entertain family and friends and enjoy the beauty of the lake and woods.



One of the things we have enjoyed the most is seeing the wildlife...the loon families, the eagles flying overhead, the birds at the feeder, the beavers and muskrats swimming by, and the occasional otters. Our chipmunks are so tame they climb up and eat out of our hands—or pockets! At present, we have a family of five raccoons that have moved under our gazebo and think our bird feeder is a “raccoon” feeder. That's a bit closer to nature than we appreciate, but it has been amusing to watch them try to open our squirrel-proof feeder.

One of the most interesting thing that happened to us was years ago when we raised a family of 12 ducklings. We got the newly hatched ducklings when they were tiny, and we kept them penned where we could protect them from predators. During the day, we let them out and they would follow us around the yard like puppies. As they grew older, we released them to the lake. They would still climb up the hill to eat our food, but otherwise were free to swim and eat from the water.

Early one morning, we awoke to the sound of the ducks quacking loudly at the door of our cabin. I had visions of Lassie coming for help. We followed the ducks down to the water where we discovered one lone duck frantically flapping his wings and trying to release himself from a turtle's jaws. My husband climbed into the boat and went to the rescue. The turtle suddenly released the duck as George approached. Our duck was saved and, even though he had an injured leg, he survived and was able to climb the hill for food. We couldn't believe the ducks had enough instinct to come to us for help. How lucky we are to be able to enjoy this special place on Long Lake and all the wildlife around it!

## Long Lake Progressive Holiday Soiree

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2007

Hors d'oeuvres at Will & Sandy Johnson - 6 pm

Dinner at Eldon & Lynda Leino - 7 pm

Dessert at Don & Georgine Casement - 8 pm

\$10.00 per person.

To 'reserve' your presence, please call

Diane Plath at 586-2672 by November 12.



## Gen's Grocery

Carol Hoyem

### Long Lake's First, Last, and Only "Convenience" Store

Back in the early 1950's Genevieve Ozland (mother of Peggy and Kay Ozland) decided that Long Lake needed a place where the locals could buy a few needed (or wanted) items without running all the way into Bemidji. A carpenter named Archie Telbert and Kay and Peggy's father built the store, close to the road for easy access of customers. The location of the store was at 9548 Marcella Drive NE. This property, adjacent to her father's property on the lake, was purchased from him for \$500. Peggy, Genevieve's younger daughter, shared her memories of that era for this story.

The building was designed with a store area in the front part and a family living area in the back part. Gen was a very busy woman, running the store with little outside help. Kay, 12 years old at the time, apparently has quite vivid memories of the "store days" and helping her mom in the store. Peggy, only 3 at the time, recalls the store days via pictures and family lore.

Gen's Grocery was a hit with the locals. The store sold items such as milk, eggs, bread, pop, beer, candy bars, etc. Peggy reported that in the summer the beer and pop truck came a couple times a day to keep the store well stocked. She remembers hearing about how Gene DeClusion and his brother rode their horses to the store to pick up what they needed. Other names of people that Peggy recalled living on the lake at that time include: Poppo, Prevey, Sweeney, Loftgren, Fitch, Cook, Bishop, Gallagher, and Reinhardt.

The store was open in the summers only. It operated from 1950-1952. When the store closed, Genevieve had it moved closer to the lake and turned around so that the store area now faces the lake, not the road. This became their summer lake cabin, Gen's favorite place to be and a place Gen's daughters continue to cherish. Both spend as much time at the cabin as possible. Some day, in the not too distant future when both retire, they plan on spending a lot more time there.

A few years ago, when Jim and Carol Hoyem (who now own the property that was once owned by Gen's father) were cleaning out an old garage on their property, they came across an old metal sign that read Gen's Grocery. Not knowing about the store but puzzling about the coincidence of the name, they showed the sign to Gen and Peggy next door. Sure enough, it was the sign that used to hang in front of Gen's grocery store. (See picture.) Peggy and Kay now have the sign. It brings back memories of their mother and that era of their lives whenever they look at it. (Genevieve Ozland passed away in 2005 at the age of 91.)



## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**Merilee Meyers, President** ..... 586-3259  
bwcamn@paulbunyan.net

**Jay Johnson, Vice President** ..... 586-2605  
janenp@paulbunyan.net

**Diane Plath, Secretary** ..... 586-2672  
dplath@paulbunyan.net

**Arlene Lee, Treasurer** ..... 586-2857  
ahlee@paulbunyan.net

### Members-at-Large:

**Sonny Braaten** ..... 586-2530  
sbraaten@paulbunyan.net

**Carol Hoyem** ..... 586-2779  
jhoyem@paulbunyan.net

**Denny Kaatz** ..... 586-2698  
kaatz@paulbunyan.net

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

### Dues are Due

Long Lake Association dues run from August 1 to August 1 of the following year. Take a minute and send your check for \$15.00 to:

Arlene Lee  
10338 Long Lake Dr NE  
Bemidji MN 56601

## THE ABC'S OF LIFE

Submitted by Maggie Schwegman

**A**ccept differences

**B**e kind

**C**ount your blessings

**D**ream

**E**xpress thanks

**F**orgive

**G**ive freely

**H**arm no one

**I**magine more

**J**ettison anger

**K**eep confidences

**L**ove truly

**M**aster something

**N**urture hope

**O**pen your mind

**P**ack lightly

**Q**uell rumors

**R**eciprocate

**S**eek wisdom

**T**ouch hearts

**U**nderstand

**V**alue truth

**W**in graciously

**X**eriscape

**Y**earn for peace

**Z**ealously support a worthy cause



Mohr Family Third Generation  
July 4, 2007

## LONG LAKE CLASSIFIEDS

### CHRISTMAS TREES

Fred and Pat Pick will be selling Christmas Trees this year. You can choose and cut your own tree or have Fred cut one for you. Available are Scotch, Norway and White Pines plus Balsam Fir. If you are interested in a Long Lake Christmas Tree this year, contact the Picks at 218 586-2617. Trees will be available beginning November 23, 2007 (Prices vary re: type/size of tree.)

### REAL ESTATE

*Myrle Olson*  
Sales Executive



Cell: (218) 766-5381  
24 Hr. VM: (218) 444-0974  
Bus: (218) 444-1021  
Res: (218) 586-2934  
Fax: (218) 444-2269



The Producer Group LLC  
Website: www.realtyexecutivesbemidji.com 1499 Anne Street NW  
email: mmcabin@paulbunyan.net Bemidji, MN 56601

### A Lotta Litter

Diane Winter

I have been picking up litter along Marcella Drive and Long Lake Drive for years, but this year I decided to keep track of how many cans and bottles I have collected during the summer. My first trip to the lake was in early May and I found an incredible amount of items along the road on my first trip. The ditches were still clear of poison ivy, so I was able to walk deep into the ditches and clean thoroughly. With the help of my husband, we hauled out 4x8 foot sheets of insulation board, room carpets, and computer parts, as well as the usual cans, bottles, fast food containers and candy and cigarette wrappers. I even found a driver's license which had been stolen from someone's car last December. We collected 122 cans and bottles on our first trip down Long Lake Drive (27) between county roads 20 and 22.

Throughout the summer, I made daily walks and weekly bike rides along the road and continued to find more cans and bottles. To date, I have collected a total of 503 cans and bottles. This doesn't include all the paper, plastic and Styrofoam items I also gathered. I know I am not the only person gathering litter along the roadside, but these numbers are the result of one person's efforts. We have such a pretty area, it's too bad people passing through the area haven't been as responsible as our Long Lake residents in maintaining a clean and attractive roadway.