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The Christmas Lake Home Owner's Association Newsletter

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Spring 2004

by Harley Feldman

### From the President

Summer has arrived again on beautiful Christmas Lake. It's great to see all our friends and neighbors out enjoying themselves in this great lake community.

The Homeowners Association is working with the city of Chanhassen and the Minnehaha Creek watershed district on developing and implementing an equitable plan to solve the Curry Farm Creek erosion problems. The creek enters Christmas Lake at the southwest corner of the lake. Over the years a large amount of sediment, phosphorus and nutrients have been introduced into the lake from this source.

This has had and continues to have a negative impact on our water quality throughout the entire lake (see water quality graph).

The cost of this project will most likely be funded by the city of Chanhassen, Minnehaha Creek Watershed District and the Christmas Lake Homeowners Association.

The Christmas Lake homeowners will receive an invoice for a one time assessment of approximately \$250-\$285. If you are in a position to contribute more support please feel free to do so.

We are all very fortunate to live on this jewel of a lake and we need your support to keep it this way for future generations. If you have any questions please feel free to give me a call at (952)380-1440.

Thank you for your continued support as we strive to be good stewards of our special lake. Best regards for a safe and enjoyable summer on Christmas Lake!

*Greg Swirtz*

### Annual Meeting

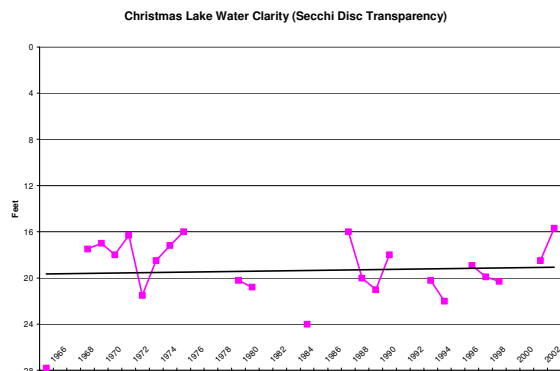
The Christmas Lake Homeowners Association Annual Meeting was held on May 11 at the Excelsior Elementary School. About 45 residents attended.

The 6<sup>th</sup> Annual William Newhouse Fun Run will be held on Memorial Day at 9:00. Contributions from the last two runs were given to charities - \$4,000 to the Intercongregation Communities Association Food Shelf and \$1,923 to Suicide Awareness Voices of Education.

There are still copies of the Christmas Lake book available from Maureen Bruce. Please contact her if you are interested.

Steve McComas, Blue Water Science, talked about rating lakes – three measures that the Metropolitan Council uses: 1) total phosphorus, 2) chlorophyll, and 3) Secchi Disc (clarity). Christmas Lake merits an “A” in all three measures. However, if you look closely at the water clarity data from the lake for the years that data was recorded, you will see that the water clarity trendline has dropped by one foot over the past 30+ years. The large decrease in clarity in 2003

may have been due to the large spring runoff from Curry Farms.



The other big issue that is still with us is Eurasian Milfoil. There was progress made with last year's cutting. It was only done once due to the late start. Since cutting seems to be having a positive effect, the Board has decided to cut twice this summer, once in mid-June and again in early August. The estimated cost of two cuttings is \$15,000 - \$18,000. The cuttings will come to within 150 feet of the shore which is a DNR restriction under the harvesting permit. Homeowners who desire to cut closer to their shoreline can contact Rick Thompson of Midwest Weed Harvesting at (763) 238-1012.

Steve McComas talked about two other methods for ridding the lake of milfoil – chemicals and weevils. Steve believes that the long term effects of chemicals are unknown and treating for milfoil may affect other species. The weevil will probably not work well on Christmas Lake as sunfish feed on the weevils.

Carol Dindorf, Limnologist, Fortin Consulting, talked about lakescaping, restoring a lakeshore's natural beauty. Carol has many materials and books to help people manage their lakeshore environment. She can be reached at (763) 478-3606.

## 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Bill Newhouse Walk/Run

The run/walk will be held on Memorial Day, May 31. This is a great opportunity to

see friends and neighbors after the long winter. The proceeds will be sent to a deserving charity chosen by the Newhouse family.

## Annual Dues

This year's dues are based on two milfoil harvestings. In addition, the Board is recommending that those Association members who own lakeshore where the milfoil is particularly evident, and more harvesting is required, will be assessed a larger amount. The applicable lots are detailed on the harvesting application. Therefore, each homeowner's dues will be a minimum of \$150 with a small number of lots having dues of \$250. Bills for the correct amount are included with this letter. Please remit your check to the association Treasurer, Joe Shneider, 1035 Holly Lane, Chanhassen, MN 55317. Since we would all like the milfoil problem to be minimized, the Board is shooting for 100% dues collection.

## Special Assessment

As soon as the final negotiations are complete on the Curry Farms project, a one-time special assessment bill will be sent. The Board has allocated \$10,000 of the Association treasury to offset part of the costs of the project.

## July 4<sup>th</sup> Activities

Last year's theme for the parade and dock contest was "Broadway Plays". There were many outstanding entries. Below are pictures of the winning entries and the annual poem. The 2004 theme is "Adventure Movies".

The after parade party will be hosted by the Feeney's. We thank Patty and Mike in advance.



**Eagle Dock – “Hello Dolly”**



**Shark – “Rockettes”**



**Eagle Boat – “Lion King”**



**Honorable Mention – “South Pacific”**



**Eager Beaver – “Hair”**



**Honorable Mention – “Lion King”**