



The Christmas Lake Home Owner's Association Newsletter
Spring 2009

From the President

I have had the great fortune to attend multiple meetings and to work with directors from multiple other watersheds and lakes. In doing so I have become more and more aware of how incredibly special and unique Christmas Lake is. It is one of the only lakes in the region that, year after year, receives an "A" rating for water quality. One of the visual indicators of the Lake's "A" rating is its water clarity, which is essentially unmatched in the metropolitan area.

One of the meetings the Board of Directors held over the winter months was a presentation on lake ecology. We learned that multiple factors lead to water clarity. One of the reasons Christmas Lake is so clear is it has a low nutrient level with a very low phosphorus level of 15 ppb. Phosphorus is found in some fertilizers and when phosphorus is in water it is an excellent nutrient source, augmenting algae growth. A non-fertilized yard 100 feet by 200 feet will create approximately 0.2 pound of phosphorus and one pound of phosphorus will create approximately 100 pounds of algae. As one can imagine, a yard that is fertilized with a phosphorus containing fertilizer will contribute much more phosphorus than a non-fertilized yard. This is one of the reasons the Board encourages minimal fertilizer use, especially fertilizers that contain phosphorus. Another way to help prevent yard nutrients from entering the lake is to have a buffer of plants and lowland between one's yard and the water.

If one's lawn does not extend right to the edge of the lake, less yard nutrients are able to find their way into the water. Just as phosphorus augments algae growth, nitrogen (found in fertilizers and other sources) may enhance the growth of Eurasian Water Milfoil.

Another factor that contributes to Christmas Lake's water clarity is its relatively small watershed (i.e. the land area which drains into a lake) and much of its watershed is minimally developed. The significance of this is twofold. First, a small watershed means there is a limited amount of yard sediment and nutrients that drain into the lake. Second, a minimally developed watershed is a natural watershed (i.e. one that is not developed with roads, houses, etc.). Only 10% of rainwater becomes runoff, where as in an urban watershed approximately 55% of rainwater becomes runoff entering lakes and streams. Thus the limited development in the Christmas Lake watershed reduces runoff and thus reduces the nutrients and sediment load entering the lake.

The Board's recommendation to harvest or pull Eurasian Water Milfoil versus treating Eurasian Water Milfoil with chemicals is also related to water quality and clarity. Nutrients, including phosphorus, are bound in plants and when bound by plants these nutrients are not available for algae growth. When Eurasian Water Milfoil is removed from the lake by harvesting or pulling these nutrients are removed from the lake. On the other hand, when plants are

killed by chemicals means, the dead plants decompose in the water releasing their nutrients (including phosphorus) causing algae blooms.

I would like to describe the association between phosphorus levels, algae, dissolved oxygen, zooplankton, anaerobic metabolism of sediment, and water clarity but space is limited. So if you are interested please feel free to call me or talk to me when you see me around the lake.

I hope everyone has a marvelous summer on and around the lake!

Ron Mason

Annual Meeting

The Christmas Lake Homeowners Association Annual Meeting was held on May 5 at the Excelsior Elementary School. About 40 residents attended. The PowerPoint slides used at the meeting are available on the website.

The big issue that is still with us is EWM. The Board has decided to let each homeowner harvest or pull EWM according to their own needs and interests. The CLHA will schedule a week in late June when the lake harvester will be on the lake. Homeowners who desire to harvest can contact Rick Thompson of Midwest Weed Harvesting at (763) 238-1012. Please do not call Gregg Swirtz for your own harvesting needs – deal directly with Rick. If you would like hand pulling of EWM, contact Tom Suerph at Waterfront Restoration, (888) 381-9746.

The Board agreed to hire Blue Water Science to perform analyses of the lake this summer and present the findings to the Board in the fall for better decision making to preserve the future of Christmas Lake. The findings will be made available to the membership.

11th Annual Christmas Lake Run/Walk

The 11th Annual Christmas Lake Fun Run/Walk was held on Memorial Day, May 25, at 9:00. Last year, we contributed \$2,140 to the Intercongregational Food Shelf. This year's proceeds will be sent to a deserving charity chosen by the Association Board members. Suggestions are welcome.

Annual Dues

This year's dues are based on no harvesting being done by the CLHA but continuing to build up the association balance in preparation for the CLHA portion of the Curry Creek Restoration project assuming that it will begin at some time in the future. Please remit your check for \$50 to the Association Treasurer, Harley Feldman, 5635 Christmas Lake Point, Shorewood, MN 55331.

Boating Safety Classes

Dave and Peggy Schultz are working with Walk On Water to produce a boat safety video that will be available to the CLHA. The Board supported a \$2,000 donation to WOW from the Schultz's to help produce this video. It should be available later this summer.

July 4th Activities

Last year's theme for the parade and dock contest was "Minnesota Historical Event". There were many outstanding entries. Below are pictures of the winning entries and the annual poem. The 2009 theme is "Rock and Roll". We are looking for a volunteer family to host this year's after party. Please contact Ron Mason or Harley Feldman if you would like to host the party.



**Eagle Boat – “Mayo Doctors”
(Larsons and Meiusis)**



**Shark – “Minnesota Royalty”
(Meyers)**



**Eagle Dock – “West Nile”
(Punkes and friends)**



**HM - “Good-Bye Northwest Airlines”
(Rainey)**



**Eager Beaver – “Loon-A-Tic”
(Cunninghams)**



**HM - “Charles Schultz”
(Newhouses)**

Christmas Lake – July 4th, 2008
by Harley Feldman

Here we are again, the best day of the year
The weatherman scheduled a good one, he deserves a great cheer.

There was running in Excelsior, two miles and 10K
The Firecracker Run, started this very special day.

A “Minnesota Historical Event”, was the theme for this year
A sesquicentennial to celebrate, and the events that endured.

The judges were the Chris and Dennis, Jack and Deanne
Kelly, Adam and Harley, and the entire Mason clan.

The Eagle Boat Award, goes to the very best boat
It takes cleverness and courage, to make the chosen event float.

The Eagle Dock Award, goes to the very best dock
That is special to see, and causes the judges to rock.

The Eager Beaver Award, goes to the best group display
The more kids, the better, for them it is play.

The Shark Award is special, a very high honor
It is one of those displays, people wished was a goner.

Fagerlees and Saunders, had the “Miracle on Ice”
And the hockey players aboard, with the Russians were not nice.

The Larsons and Meiusis, had Mayo doctors galore
And the surgeon with clippers, she was ready to gore.

What was that fire, burning on the Twiford’s boat?
It was the Hinckley Great Fire, and on the lake it did float.

Who was that Viking, and what was he doing?
For the Josephs on Al & Almas, it turned into a big suing.

The Halloween Blizzard for days, was depicted by the Obergs
Even though it is July, it looked like a snow berg.

The Lords were for Humphrey, and patriotic for sure
Even though he lost the election, his legacy dues endure.

The Gullicksons were trucking, until they ran into a strike
The truckers were yelling, and it caused a big bite.

Dorothy was born, by the Wetzels in Grand Rapids
She was incredibly cute, and definitely not placid.

Babe the blue Cow, herded to the dock by the Becks
It was completely blue, with absolutely no specks.

The Larson's dock was crowded, celebrated with local beer
The dock was an excuse, for them to have cheer.

You know those Twins, the Novaczyks did draft
While they were sailing as in real life, a player fell off the aft.

There was a strange sound, coming from the Punke's dock
Infested with West Nile Virus, the bug bites were a shock.

The Dougans had fur traders, on the bow was their teepee
They should have used paddles, to help find the sea.

The Peterson Commander was in evidence, with full regalia displayed
It was a memory of Jim, and the legacy that he made.

The Rainey's dock, had the Northwest red tail
Julie was lamenting, the Delta demise of that tail.

All of the Peanuts characters, were on the Newhouse dock
The doctor was in, and Lucy was part of the flock.

Loon-a-Tic History, was displayed by the Cunninghams
Paul Bunyan and Tammy Faye, they deserved a big hand.

Al Franken and Jesse, and Larry Craig in the bathroom
The Meyers had everything, even chest filling balloons.

The Fayfields were celebrating, four generations of parade
While not exactly a State event, their dock deserved a good grade.

We've heard all about the entrants, docks and boats aplenty
Now to the awards, giving a few from the many.

There are honorable mentions, several to be sure
The Rainey's were most sincere, and Delta is not the cure.

The Josephs worked hard for the Shark, and came up just short
The Newhouse kids were very special, the judges are happy to report.

The Eagle Boat Award, goes to the doctors who were aboard
The Larsons and Meiusis, deserve this very special award.

The Eagle Dock Award, goes with a very strange sound
The Punkes and their mosquitoes, get the Eagle all-around.

The Eager Beaver Award, had a history lesson for all
Loon-a-Tic History, kept the Cunninghams tall.

The Shark Award is special, it had politicians and the men's room
The Meyers did it again, with Jesse and his balloons.

We are grateful to the Fields, a great party for the cause
Let's give our hosts, a thunderous applause.

On Minnesota's 150th Fourth, it could not be better
Time with friends and our families, the day perfect to a letter.

Let's head to the lake, boating and skiing for sure
Swimming, games and great food, this day will endure.

When the sunset is orange, and the day is getting short
The nighttime brings fireworks, the explosions will report.

Let's have a great time today, with everything so fine
We will celebrate again, in 2009.