



The Christmas Lake Homeowner's Association Newsletter
Spring 2011

From the President

This is my first column as your new Christmas Lake Homeowners Association (CLHA) President. I am excited to take on the role working with the Board as stewards of the lake. If there is anything you wish to discuss, please do not hesitate to email me at president@christmaslake.org or call my cell phone (612) 209-2075.

I'd be remiss if I didn't start by thanking Ron Mason for his three years of service as our most recent President. We have all been very well served by his commitment, passion, and intellect. I'm very pleased that Ron will be continuing his involvement as a CLHA Board member. I'd also like to thank Jack Fess for his many, many years of active service to the lake as a Board member and for his leadership of the Water Safety committee. Jack resigned from the Board this past April.

Our Annual meeting was held on May 3rd and about 50 residents attended. In this column I'll try to provide some highlights from the meeting.

The dues for 2011 have been set at \$200. The most significant expenditures for 2011 are described below, and include: an investment to complete the Christmas Lake history book, continuing water quality consulting services from Steve McComas of Blue Water Science, and building a reserve for possible actions yet this year to prevent the spread of zebra mussels to Christmas Lake. While \$200 is a significant jump from recent years, we feel this is still a

remarkably low amount to pay to maintain the water quality and the quality of life that the CLHA provides its homeowners. We ask that all homeowners make this tax-deductible contribution so that we can take the actions deemed necessary and appropriate by the Board. It is simply not appropriate to "opt out" of contributing.

The Christmas Lake history book is in the final stages of preparation before printing. Peter Brown, the author, provided an overview of the content and teased us with several "Do you know..." facts and stories from the book. It sounds great! The book has been designed as a companion to the hardcover Christmas Lake picture book. You still have time to be listed in the book credits as a "sponsor" with your \$100 tax deductible contribution. Contact Sherri West (952-470-1523) or Maureen Bruce (707-938-7193) to be a sponsor and to buy copies of this treasure for you and other family members.

We had several topics on water quality and our efforts as stewards of the lake. It is encouraging that most government organizations we meet with refer to Christmas Lake as a jewel that needs extra special care, and I know that this sentiment is shared by all homeowners. To that end, the board has engaged Steve McComas of Blue Water Science to compile the myriads of data from various government organizations and to advise us on possible actions to maintain and improve our water quality. It is clear from the data that the Christmas Lake water quality has been

sustained over the last 50 years, despite our man-made abuses. Steve's most recent report is available to lake residents on our Christmas Lake website, along with an assessment we commissioned to understand the suitability of Christmas Lake for a zebra mussel infestation. The presentation of the results of the study is posted on our website.

As you may know, Eurasian watermilfoil, curly-leaf pondweed, and purple loosestrife have infested Christmas Lake, but there are more aquatic invasive species threatening the lake. The invasive species of greatest immediate concern is zebra mussels as it has already infested Lake Minnetonka. Zebra mussels can be transferred easily between lakes if precautions are not taken. We are attempting to start up a pilot project with the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District for inspection of boats coming into the lake, and hopefully there will be more details coming soon about this exciting project. In the meantime, please educate yourself about zebra mussels and the steps you and your boating friends must take to keep them out of our lake. A good place to start your education is the DNR website: www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/aquaticanimals/zebramussel/index.html.

As in recent years, the Board recommends that chemical treatments are not used to control weeds near your shore, instead, we recommend harvesting or hand-pulling the undesirable weeds. The following organizations provide the kinds of services we recommend: Midwest Weed Harvesting, Waterfront Restoration, and the Milfoil Busters (a service of lake residents Brett and Blake Szalapski)

Christmas Lake is participating in a pilot project run by the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District to assess the viability of biologic control of Eurasian watermilfoil using milfoil weevils that are already found in Minnesota Lake, Christmas Lake

included. Bill Cole, one of our new CLHA Board members is overseeing this effort on behalf of the lake. This pilot project is being funded by the watershed district, and includes the advisory services of Steve McComas.

Let's enjoy the summer and take good care of the lake at the same time.

Joe Shneider

Board of Directors

The Board of Directors of the CLHA is as follows:

Joe Shneider, President
Gregg Elliott, Secretary
Harley Feldman, Treasurer
Bill Cole
Dan Fields
Tom Kelly
Miles Lord
Ron Mason
Steve Midthun
Todd Novaczyk
Doug Punke
Greg Swirtz

Please reach out to any of the Board members with questions or ideas to make Christmas Lake a better place to live.

13th Annual Christmas Lake Run/Walk

The 13th Annual Christmas Lake Fun Run/Walk will be held on Memorial Day, May 30, at 9:00. This year's event will be dedicated to the memory of Dennis Jabs, a longtime resident of Christmas Lake, who passed away in March. The proceeds raised will be donated to the Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation. Last year, we contributed \$1,940 to the Intercongregational Food Shelf.

Annual Dues

This year's dues is \$200 as outlined by Joe Shneider above. A check for the amount can be sent to Harley Feldman, CLHA, 5635 Christmas Lake Point, Shorewood, MN 55331. Please submit your annual dues payment by July 15.

Boating Safety Classes

The details will be announced in a few weeks on the website. If you have any questions, please call Joe Shneider.

July 4th Activities

Last year's theme for the parade and dock contest was "Classic Bedtime Stories". There were many outstanding entries.

Unfortunately, we did not get pictures of the winning docks and boats. However, here is a list of the winning entries:

- Eagle Boat: Peter Pan (Obergs and friends)
- Eagle Dock: Snow White (Fields)
- Eager Beaver: Good Night Moon (Larsons)
- Shark: Good Night Moon (Kellys/Fragolas)

The theme for this year is "Famous Families". This is a great opportunity to have entire families working together.

We are looking for a volunteer family to host this year's after party. Please contact Joe Shneider or Harley Feldman if you would like to host the party.

Christmas Lake – July 4th, 2010
by Harley Feldman

It's that special day of the year, and it could not better
Minnesota summer is here, and no need for a sweater.

Runners started the day, they ran the Excelsior 10K
Then everyone was working, on docks and boats to display.

The Board debated themes, a winner was quite clear
"Classic Bedtime Stores" was chosen, for everyone to cheer.

The judges were the Tiltens, Jack and Deanne
Yours truly, Harley, what a clan.

The best awards are the Eagles, one each for a dock and a boat
The docks are very stable, but the boats they must float.

There is the Eager Beaver Award, it takes a team to make it well
The more kids the better, so many that no one can tell.

Finally the Shark Award is special, the winners are creative
Sometimes it hurts, to call them Christmas Lake native.

Peter Pan was everywhere, Dennis Jabs looked good in his nylons
With all of the Elves working, they definitely piled on.

And who should appear, the Grinch that Stole Christmas Lake
The Oberg's and friends, and man did they shake.

Pooh Goes Visiting, the Fagerless stretched the story
Rabbit kept hopping, and Tigger was in glory.

Newhouses and Feeneys, were Good Night Gorilla
Everyone eating bananas, but where was the sasparilla?

Good Night Moon was rising, over the Twiford's boat
With grandkids galore, they were having much fun afloat.

Another Peter Pan with the Gundersons, they had a big green crock
With a very big smile, he looked like he had eaten a clock.

Peter Pan was busy, on the dock with the children Beddor
They did a very fine job, and deserved a big score.

On the Fields dock, was the entire Snow White story
All the dwarfs were a-marching, and Prince Dan was in his glory.

Another Good Night Moon, with much effort did the Larsons
The kids were real cute, and nice as a parson.

Good Night Moon, and Hello Sunshine
The Larson girls dressed special, their suns were real fine.

Mikey was in the Night Kitchen, creating quite a brew
The chefs were all cooking, and making a good stew.

The Hayes family's Sleeping Beauty, was asleep on a pea
Everyone was cheering, you would have to agree.

Red Riding Hood came calling, but at the Swirtz's she was asleep
Then the bad wolf ran away, and Red had a chest that was deep.

Pinocchio was lying, and his nose grew quite big
Cunninghams had all the liars, especially John Edwards with his fibs.

Then there was the Szalapskis, the Good Night Moons were not too cool
They were incredibly gross, and belonged deep in a pool.

The Good Night Moon was also rising, on the grass of the Kelly's
They were helped by the Fragolas, you couldn't see their bellys.

On to the awards.....

There were many good entries, several Honorable Mentions
Steve Beddor in tights, and Beddor children at attention.

The Jabs and the Pohlads, another Peter Pan entry
The Cunninghams Pinocchio, were also complementary.

Fagerlees Pooh, and Rumpelstitskin on Cosettes
Charlotte's Weber from Novaczyks, were not top with regret.

The Eagle Boat Award, goes to the largest green guy
The Grinch Who Stole Christmas Lake, Obergs deserve Eagle Boat high.

The Eagle Dock performance, was very good
It goes to the Fields, Snow White and the Hood.

There were many Eager Beaver entries, but one that stood out
The Larsons worked hard, they deserve the big shoot.

The Shark Award was a challenge, two Good Night Moon entries
But the overall winner, goes to the Kellys/Fragolas dancing entry.

We need to thank the nice people, who allowed us to party in the sun
For their land and their help, a Thank You to the family Noonan.

Thanks to everyone who entered, this famous Fourth of July event
The winners were special, but everyone had intent.

As Wayne and Garth would say, "Party On" for the day
Eat too much food, oh well, it's only today.

At 10:00 to the lake, to see the fireworks galore
Two displays to see, for everybody to adore.

We've done it again, it's as if Christmas Lake is heaven
But you all must return again, on July 4th 2011.