



Pequawaywan Lakes Association



Spring Newsletter

April 2008

Winter won't win, summer will appear

There might have been doubts about this, given our cold winter and late-season blizzard on April 11. But it is warming up.

The first Lake Association meeting will be May 10. Dates for meetings have been scheduled through the summer to make it easier for you to plan to attend! (See the calendar at right.) Date and details for several summer events will be announced at a later date — the Annual Picnic, Trash Day and Pontoon Boat Ride Exchange.

For those who ordered trees from the Association and the North St. Louis Soil and Water Conservation District, they will be available at the May 10 meeting. There will also be some trees and shrubs for sale, specifically cranberry and Juneberry shrubs. There may be other trees and evergreens for sale if those who ordered trees do not want a complete bundle.

Please note that on pages 6 and 7 of this newsletter are the proposed draft bylaws for incorporating the Association as a nonprofit. Your feedback is encouraged. The bylaws will be discussed at both the May and June meetings and you can send in feedback by mail, email or phone if you can't attend either of those meetings.

Please also note that there is a form on the last page of the newsletter to use for sending in your \$10 association dues. You can also pay your dues at the first meeting.

If you have email and have not sent it to the Association, please do so. We will add you to the electronic mailing list, which helps save postage and printing costs for the Association. You can send it to info@pequawaywanlakes.com.

The Association's web site is www.pequawaywanlakes.com, where calendar updates and other news are posted.

Events Calendar

Association meetings are on Saturdays and start at 10 a.m., at the Fire Hall.

- May 10** Tree sale, discussion of bylaws
Program: Star Lake classification, invasive species
- June 14** Discussion of bylaws. Set dates for annual picnic and trash day.
Program: Shoreline issues, water levels, etc.
- July 12** *Program:* Everything you wanted to know about fishing on our lakes
- August 9** Annual meeting
Program: Birds of the Northland
- Sept. 13** Program to be determined

May 12 **Road Clean Up**
Meet at Scott and Phyllis Mead's (9130 West Branch Road) for coffee at 9 a.m. Cleanup starts at 10.

May 21 **Hazardous Waste Collection**
2 to 7 p.m., North Star Fire Hall

North Star Township will host a WLSSD (Western Lake Superior Sanitary District) Household Hazard Waste Day. For a list of recyclable items, see http://www.wlssd.duluth.mn.us/documents/HHW_Disposal_Card.pdf

June 7 **Pequawaywan Community Rummage Sale**, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Fire Hall (more info on Page 2)

July 6 **Fire Department Annual Pancake Breakfast**, 8 a.m. to noon, Fire Hall

Area News and Events

Pequaywan Township

Congratulations to April Smitke, who was elected new town clerk in March, replacing Marialice Arndt who retired. April lives with her husband and children on Big Pequaywan. Congratulations also to Rick Fry who was re-elected to a three-year term as township supervisor.

Township meetings are the second Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the Fire Hall. Minutes and other information can be found on the township's web site at <http://pequaywantownship.org>.

Also watch the township sign at the corner of Pequaywan Lake and West Branch Roads for meeting announcements (including Association meetings).

Fire Department

By John Lucia, Fire Chief
Pequaywan Lakes Volunteer Fire Department

2007: 11 medical responses and 2 fires.

2008: 4 medical responses and 0 fires as of April 1. Thanks to all for having a safe winter season. Due to the late snow-fall, we should have a low fire danger this spring.

Our annual pancake breakfast will be Sunday, July 6 from 8 a.m. - noon. We will again have many prizes to give away, along with baked goods for sale from the Ladies Auxiliary. Pequaywan Lake Fire Department T-shirts will also be for sale.

We are always looking for more help with the pancake breakfast. This event is a lot of work for the fire department members to handle and community help is greatly appreciated. It's a great way to visit with your neighbors and meet new neighbors. Please consider volunteering to help with this event. If you are interested, please call John at 391-8232.

We would like to congratulate new recruit Jack Rinne as he has completed his Fire Fighter I training and will earn his certification after a live burn in May.

We are also looking for new members. There are currently positions open for: Fire Fighters, First Responders, and Fire Prevention Specialists. All training costs are paid by the fire department with a 3-year commitment from the member. We also offer a very nice retirement plan.



Valley Homemakers

The annual first gathering of **Valley Homemakers** will be the cleaning of Lakeside Chapel Thursday, May 22, at 6 p.m., in anticipation of services beginning Sunday, May 25. After the cleaning, the group will enjoy a supper together at the Pequaywan Inn. Regular meetings will be held the 4th Thursday of the month through the summer and into the fall.

Rummage Sale

Pequaywan Lakes Community Rummage Sale will be Saturday June 7, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The sale will be held at the Pequaywan Volunteer Fire Hall, outside behind the hall in the grassy area and also inside. Maps will be provided with directions to the individual sales in the community. No Early Birds please! Contact Kristin Larsen, (310-6023 or larse026@umn.edu), Deb Pomroy, (525-7502) or dpomroy@d.umn.edu), or Marialice Arndt (848-2998 or marialicearndt@hotmail.com) to participate at the hall and/or to get on the map for individual sales.

Have a green thumb?

Join your lake neighbors in the **Garden Club**, which meets the last Tuesday of the month. Call Deb Pomroy or Ray Barnes, (848-2286) or Phyllis Mead (848-2051) to get the location of a particular meeting as the club meets at the home of members.

Recycling

North Star Recycling Center is open Saturdays, 9 a.m. to Noon, accepting cans, glass, plastic, paper, cereal boxes, and cardboard. Also, Paul Johnson takes additional recyclables to benefit other local causes including: printer cartridges, cell phones, Box Tops for Education, Campbell's Soup labels, Kemps milk bottle tops, and pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald House. County Road 44, next to the North Star Fire Hall.

Lakeside Chapel

Services begin Sunday, May 25, at 10 a.m., 8905 Pequaywan Lake Road, and continue through Labor Day.



Do your part to protect loons



We all love our loons and a few simple practices can help protect them.

- Watch loons from at least 200 feet. Close encounters can be deadly for swimming and nesting loons. Use binoculars from a safe distance. Getting too close to the baby loons can be stressful to the parents and babies.
- Use non-lead fishing sinkers and jigs. Ingesting one sinker or jig can kill a loon.
- Protect native vegetation on all shores. Loons often nest on natural shorelines and use natural materials to build their nests.
- Don't leave garbage lying around. It can draw raccoons, fox, gulls and eagles which prey on loon eggs.
- Be an ethical angler. Never fish or cast near loon nets or swimming loons.
- Use only phosphorus-free fertilizers on shoreland. Fertilizer that runs off into lakes increases aquatic plant growth making it difficult for loons to swim and find food.
- Report any unusual loon activity or harassment of loons to your lake's Loon Watcher (Lorene Sorlien on the Big Lake and Carmen Freeman on the Little Lake).
- Be a responsible boater. Never chase loons or run boats or jet skis over areas where loons have been seen. Loons have died by being hit by boats and propellers.

Submitted by Lorene Sorlein

How everyone can have a good summer

Like many lakes in Minnesota, ours are changing. We are becoming less of a wilderness and more of a residential community. The number of year-round residents and year-round lake homes has grown substantially in recent years. Simply put, this means more people, and a higher population density.

Given this, it is even more important to be a considerate neighbor. While sitting by your campfire at night, with no houselights around, it might be easy to think you are alone in the woods. ***You're not!***

In some areas, cabins are closer together than on many city lots and noise travels farther across water. So be considerate with the noise. Your neighbors don't welcome fireworks and loud music at midnight.

If you wouldn't do it in the city, don't do it at the lake.

More people also means more traffic on the lake. Being a considerate and safety-conscious boater is important. Stay away from other boats, whether they be pontoons or fishing boats. Remember that your speed boat can cause large wakes which can really rock a small fishing boat.

And while your personal watercraft may be a lot of fun for you while riding it, it can be a major irritant for others.

Please remember the State laws regarding these watercraft: **Jet skis must travel at slow no-wake speed (5 mph or less) within 150 feet of shore, docks, swimming rafts, swimmers, any moored or anchored watercraft or non-motorized watercraft (unless launching or landings).**

(You can read all the regulations at <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/regulations/boatwater/index.html>)

You can picture out how far 150 feet is by thinking that if a pontoon boat is about 25 feet... it would take six (6) of them to make 150 feet.

A little consideration doesn't mean you can't have fun; it just means your neighbors will also.

Association Meeting Minutes September 1, 2007



The meeting was called to order by President Phyllis Mead at 10:05 a.m. 31 members present.

Jim Guldseth presented the treasurer's report. The checking account balance is \$1,582.49. That amount did not include the \$541.80 for the dumpster from Trash Day.

TRASH DAY: August 18. Judy Strom reported 14 people utilized the dumpster this year. The dumpster was filled again this year and Judy felt it was a success. As noted above, the cost was \$541.80; but this was offset by the \$10 fees members paid to dispose of their trash.

POWERLINE WARNING BALLS – LITTLE LAKE: Jim Guldseth reported that Cooperative Power & Light Co has the warning balls at their office and will install them either in this fall or winter. The power lines will need to be lowered in order to install the balls. Jim will continue to follow up with CLP to ensure this occurs.

ASSOCIATION INCORPORATION: President Phyllis Mead explained to the members the purpose for recommending the Association incorporate. This would protect the officers and the Association from liability. Some concerns were raised as to what the benefits would be to incorporate. Phil Erickson, who is an attorney, stated there is no downside to incorporating, but by not incorporating, the association and its officers would not be protected against liability. Phyllis asked members to vote to create the documents to incorporate. Information regarding incorporating process would be included in the spring newsletter. Ron Sluka made a motion to approve the beginning process of incorporation for the Association. Phil Erickson seconded the motion, which was approved by the members.

LAKE BUOYS: Phil Erickson has been checking into having standard markers for hazardous areas identified on both lakes. He will continue to follow up with the sheriff's department. Members shared their appreciation to Dale Gauthier, for taking on the responsibility of putting marker buoys out on the Big Lake for many years.

NEW BUSINESS: Deb Pomroy circulated a specimen of Curly Leaf pond weed, which is an invasive water plant.

LOON WATCH: Lorene Sorlien reported there were 3 adult loons, and 1 young one on the Big Lake. Kathy Sluka reported there were 2 adults and 1 young loon on the Little Lake.

WATER CLARITY: President Scott Mead reported the clarity level was at 10½ feet two weeks ago on the Big Lake. Two days ago the clarity was at 8 feet.

Dale Brooks submitted a report for the clarity on the Little Lake for the summer:

“Last year (2006) averaged about 13 feet and readings are much better this year. I would note that the last 3 readings are at 19 or 20 feet when normally this time of year the readings drop.

“The narrow part of the lake where I take the Position 1 reading is in front of Bill Wade's house and the Position 2 reading is in the middle of the 'bowl' part of the lake.

June 4, 2007	6 pm (Monday) windy and overcast Position 1 (narrow part of lake) – 16' Position 2 – 15.5'
June 10, 2007	4 pm (Sunday) Sunny Position 1 (narrow part of lake) – 20' Position 2 – 19'
July 6, 2007	10:30 am (Friday) Sunny Position 1 (narrow part of lake) – 18.5' Position 2 – 16.5'
July 28, 2007	11 am (Saturday) Sunny Position 1 (narrow part of lake) – 19.5' Position 2 – 19.5'
August 12, 2007	4 pm (Sunday) Sunny Position 1 (narrow part of lake) – 19' Position 2 – 20'
August 26, 2007	5 pm (Sunday) Partly Sunny Position 1 (narrow part of lake) – 19' Position 2 – 19'

ROAD CLEAN UP: President Scott Mead scheduled September 17 as the next road clean up date. Those involved will plan to meet at the Fire Hall at 9 am. The Association renewed the road clean up agreement for another 2 years.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2008: Copresidents Scott and Phyllis Mead were reelected Current Vice President Phil Erickson retired from position. Jan Kolehmainen nominated Judy Strom, who was elected to replace Phil.

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Help keep our lakes clear and clean



Big and Little Pequaywan are two of the nicest and cleanest lakes in the state (let alone two of the prettiest). But there is no guarantee they will stay that way without efforts by resident to protect them.

As noted in the minutes from last September, the quality of water on our two lakes isn't something we can take for granted. It's good now and we want to keep it that way.

Lake quality reports go to the Citizen Lake Monitoring Program of the Minnesota Control Agency. This effort allows long range looks at trends that may be occurring and compared statewide to other lake monitoring efforts.

What you do to your shoreline has an affect

Manicured lawns are not lake friendly but Canada geese love them. While attractive, these lawns cause the most problems to water quality. Please be very conservative in applying fertilizers.

Fertilizer should not be applied within 75 feet of surface waters. Herbicide application near or in the water requires a permit from the DNR.

A natural filter strip of native grasses, trees and shrubs along the shoreline is ideal. This vegetation is

Minutes from page 4

Current Secretary Lin Johnson retired from her position and Lorene Sorlien was elected secretary to replace Lyn. Treasurer Jim Guldseth was reelected.

ATV TRAIL CLOSURE REQUEST: Ron Sluka reported the DNR had contacted him regarding possibly closing the trail, at the end of the West Branch Road, which runs from the Big Lake to Bear Lake. Any questions or concerns should go to the DNR office in Two Harbors.

WHITE LAKE FISH CENSUS: Arnie Johnson reported the DNR conducted a fish census on White Lake. This should be done approximately every five years. It is believed the last census taken on the Big Lake was in 1991.

Immediately following the meeting a program on the tree diseases and appropriate species for this area was be presented.

Lin Johnson, Secretary

important to water quality as it acts as a natural filter to man-made pollutants from rainwater runoff.

When trees and other natural vegetation are removed and replaced by buildings or grass, a gap is created in the lake's natural filter. This increases the amount of pollutants in the rainwater draining into the lake and will impact the lake's water quality.

Alterations and/or vegetation removal within Shore and Bluff Impact Zones are managed by federal, state, and local ordinances to protect water quality. Any development within these areas should be carefully planned and researched prior to construction. Land owners are only allowed to remove minimal amounts of vegetation.

Permits may be needed, and you should check with the Planning Department of St. Louis County before starting any work.

A highly recommended reference is "*Landscaping for Wildlife and Water Quality*" published by the Nongame Wildlife Program of the DNR. (<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/shorelandmgmt/index.html>).

Many have seen lakes in the southern part of the state so choked with algae and weeds that swimming and even boating are difficult. We are blessed with our clear water, but we need to make efforts to make sure it stays that way.

Invasive species also a threat

Invasive lake plants and weeds can be brought in on boats from other lakes. If you take your boat to other lakes, or allow a friend to launch his boat from your shore, make sure there are no "hitchhikers" when you relaunch into our lakes, especially Eurasian watermilfoil.

The Department of Natural Resources is also keeping an eye on a new threat...a virus that's deadly to many kinds of fish. The disease, known as VHS, has quickly spread through the other Great Lakes. Minnesota officials worry if it reaches Lake Superior, VHS could jump to inland waters and devastate the state's fishing industry.

As part of this effort, please don't dump any unused bait into the lakes when done fishing.

Association begins incorporation process

Last fall the Association voted to begin the process to incorporate as a nonprofit. The advantages include being able to purchase liability insurance that would cover Association officers and members who volunteer for various Association events. In addition, the Association would be able to take advantage of such nonprofit benefits as tax deductibility for dues.

On this and the following page are a draft set of bylaws. These were compiled by looking at what other lake associations have done and recommendations by association organizations. The goal was to try to keep

things as simple as possible; bylaws can be amended if necessary.

Member feedback is encouraged. The bylaws will be discussed at both the May and June meetings to give members an opportunity to weigh in with opinions. You can also call or email any Association officer with your thoughts.

Scott/Phyllis Mead: 848-2051, spmead@frontiernet.net
Judy Strom: 651-604-9416, jstrom@superiorassociates.com
Lorene Sorlein: 848-2424, lsorlien@aol.com
Jim Guldseth, 952-226-4142, userfarfar@aol.com

Proposed Mission and Purpose

The mission of the Lake Association shall be to maintain or improve the living, recreational, environmental and ecological conditions of Big and Little Pequaywan Lakes and watershed and to preserve the high quality of Big and Little Pequaywan Lakes and surrounding lands.

The purpose of the Association is to accomplish the organization's mission through a spirit of stewardship among property owners within the PL watershed.

Specific purposes of the Association in support of the mission include:

- Monitor and maintain lake water quality.
- Maintain the health of the lake environment.
- Promote the aesthetic qualities of the shoreline and environmental practices.
- Promote water safety and courtesy.
- Work to prevent invasion of exotic plants and aquatic animals.
- Promote a spirit of community through activities and publications.

Proposed Bylaws

Article I. Membership

A. Eligibility

Membership in the Association shall be open to any individual or family who subscribes to the mission, purposes and objectives of the Association.

Active membership shall be limited to one membership per land parcel. However, there shall be no additional memberships for any individual or entities owning or leasing more than one parcel. Only registered property owners or contract for deed holders may be active members.

B. Membership Dues

Annual membership dues shall be paid by each individual or family who seek membership in the Association. The amount of the membership dues is set each year by the Board of Directors of the Association prior to the start of the membership year and shall be paid to the Association

Treasurer. The membership year shall run from May 1 to April 30 of each year.

- i. Annual dues are payable by May 1 of each year and are to be used in support of the mission, purpose, policies and objectives of the Association.
- ii. The Board of Directors may periodically establish additional fees for services or merchandise provided by the Association.
- iii. The Board of Directors may periodically indicate a need for voluntary donations to meet objectives of the Association that cannot be adequately met through only annual dues alone.

C. Voting

For the purpose of voting, registered membership shall be entitled to one vote. A member who is not current in *dues shall be ineligible to vote until dues are paid.*

Article II. Governance

A. Officers

Officers of the Association shall be President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary.

B. Board of Directors

The Board of Directors shall include the President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary and two At-large Directors elected from the membership of the Association, one from Little Pequaywan and one from Big Pequaywan.

C. Term

Officers and the two At-Large Directors shall be elected for terms of two years at the Association's annual meeting. Their terms shall expire after the annual meeting or upon election of new officers and directors, whichever comes later. Terms shall be staggered so the terms of president and vice president do not expire in the same year. The same practice shall be followed with the secretary and treasurer as well as the two At-Large Directors.

D. Eligibility

To be eligible to be an officer or director, an individual must be a member of the Association and current in his or her dues.

E. Elections

The Board of Directors shall nominate one or more members for each vacant position on the Board. Additional nominations of members, present at the annual meeting and willing to serve, shall be taken from the floor.

F. In case of vacancy

The Board of Directors will appoint a member to fill out the term of the officer or Board member until the next annual meeting,

G. Committees

The president with advice and consent from the Board shall appoint such committees as are deemed necessary for the conduct of Association affairs.

Article III. Membership Meetings

A. Schedule

i. The Association meets once a month during May, June, July, August and September. The schedule of these meetings will be set in advance before May and members informed.

ii. The president or a majority of the Board of Directors may call special meetings of the Association as needed. If official business is to be conducted at this meeting, members must be notified 30 days or more of the meeting.

iii. The annual meeting will be in August of each year. The date will be set at the first meeting in May.

B. Quorum

A quorum is necessary for any *official* business of the Association to be conducted. A quorum shall consist of 20 percent of members who are current in their dues and eligible to vote. Unofficial business such as reading of minutes, report of committees, or discussion of activities may take place without a quorum present.

Article IV: Miscellaneous Provisions

A. Fiscal year

The records and accounts of the Association shall be maintained on a calendar year basis, running from January 1 to December 31.

B. Accounts and Investments

Funds of the Association shall be promptly deposited at a financial institution designed by resolution of the Board of Directors. Funds not needed for current operation shall be deposited in investment accounts or certificates as authorized by the Board.

C. Adoption and Amendments

These bylaws and any amendments thereto may be adopted at any annual or special meeting of the Association by two-third vote of members present and entitled to vote, provided that a quorum is present. Proposed amendments to the bylaws must be provided to members along with the notice of the annual or special meeting 30 days in advance of said meeting. This notice may be by mail or by e-mail as appropriate.

Pequaywan Lakes Association
c/o Scott and Phyllis Mead
9130 West Branch Road
Duluth, MN 55803

TO

Pequaywan Lakes Association Membership Dues



Please send this form along with your \$10 check (made out to
Pequaywan Lakes Association) to: Jim Guldseth
14550 Beverley Lane
Savage, MN 55378

Your Name: _____

Cabin Address: _____

Cabin Phone _____

Mailing Address: _____

Home Phone _____

Email: _____

Corrections or additions to your listing in the Lake Directory _____
