

Shoreline Ramblings



A Newsletter of the Pleasant Lake Improvement Association

Summer 2009

Pleasant Faces by Gloria Warner

Boating around Pleasant Lake in the spring is always enticing, to see the changes that have taken place over the winter... new siding, new windows, year round homes standing in place of a cabin torn down. One gentleman who has watched the changes of Pleasant Lake for a lifetime is property owner Kermit Lundeen. Kermit was born and raised in Annandale and has owned property on Pleasant Lake since 1950.

It was a coffee conversation with Kermit and his longtime friend, Dick Anderson, that gave me some insight of Pleasant Lake in the 20's and 30's! Kermit and his family lived at the North end of Excelsior



Avenue, currently (Co Rd 5) which was a gravel road with a sizeable group of Elm trees in the center of the road, near the current boat landing. It was state highway 69 at that time. He told me that people would use this road to get to Fairhaven, before Hwy 55 was developed west of Annandale. The lake was extremely low and the swimming beach was at the East end of the lake. People could pull their cars off the road along what is now State Hwy 24 and plunge in swimming, as there were no homes on that side of the lake. The park property at the North end of Oak (main street) was always there but none of the beach area was developed. There was also a resort on the lake just to the East of Oak, (main) along with four other resorts on Pleasant

Lake in the 1930's. Dick shared that when he first came to the Annandale area with his family they would stay at some of the resorts on Pleasant Lake, Casselius Resort, Heaton's, Dunton's, Shady Lawn,--to name a few). Ferguson's Resort, (the Lundberg property today) was the only thing on the southwest corner of Pleasant Lake.

The two gentlemen chuckled over some of the experiences they shared as young men. Dick told about hurrying to Annandale on Friday nights to go to the outdoor tent shows that would come to town and set up on the shores



of Pleasant, where the Pavilion is today. When Kermit was 14 or 15 years old, he bought a speed boat that had been built from a kit by a previous owner. He bought the ten foot yellow and brown boat for just \$4, and his friend, Floyd Brown, spent \$75 on the 15 hp motor. They used Dick as a windshield since there wasn't one on the boat. They told how, for lack of a boat lift, they just pulled it up on shore and left it there until the next time they went boating. Kermit never worried about it, he always knew the boat would be there.

Kermit and Margaret, built their home on the Southwest side of Pleasant Lake in 1950 and raised their 3 sons in the house he still lives in today. That side of the

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Mark your calendars...

Friday, Aug 28th, 7 pm

Music on the Shore, City Park

Sunday, Aug 30th,

Picnic and General Membership Mtg,
at City Park Pavillion

(more details on back page)

Heart of the Lakes Triathlon

On Sunday, July 19th, the 24th Annual Heart of the Lakes Triathlon was held at Annandale City Park. More than 1,100 triathletes participated in the event, many from distant cities, such as Phoenix, Pittsburgh and Portland (Oregon). The conditions were superb, early morning cool temperatures warming up only modestly over the morning, made for *happy triathletes and record breaking times*. The well-seasoned organizing team and the hundreds of eager volunteers once again pulled it off like clockwork, an event that many participants refer to as the “best organized” triathlon in the country! In testimony to its popularity, while most events of this type have not been reaching capacity the past couple of years, our event filled up again this year in just 3 weeks. (*registration is closed at approximately 1000 entrants, teams’ push the participant list over that number.*) All profit from this community event are donated to charitable causes. Recent contributions have gone to the American Cancer Society, Annandale Youth First, Annandale Food Shelf, Annandale Community Education, Camp Friendship and many more.

This year, **on short notice**, we (PLIA) were offered the opportunity to set up a concession stand at this event. We owe a large and sincere “*Thank You*” to Denise



Froehlich for her valiant efforts in organizing this ‘last minute’ venture and for the crew of PLIA members that scrambled with her and helped to

make it a success. The menu consisted of donuts, **Willinghams** “pulled pork” sandwich baskets, vegetable & dip boats and flavored waters. “**In Hot Water**” shared our tent offering Espresso and coffee drinks. Profits from this joint venture will be directed to our newly formed “**Water Quality Improvement Fund**”.



Pleasant Faces continued fm pg 1

lake was undeveloped at the time. Kermit’s son Vince (and Peni) now live on Pleasant Lake too, not far from the family home. When asked about the changes on the lake during his lifetime, Kermit talked with some sadness about the demise of the resorts and the gradual development of homes on the lakeshore. One of Kermit’s ongoing concerns for the lake is the continual problems with the water level. He feels the control outlet has helped some, but to Kermit this is still an issue to be monitored. Kermit has been a director of the Pleasant Lake Association since its reorganization in 2002.

Listening to two men with a long history of the Annandale and Pleasant Lake area makes us realize the legacy given to all of us who live on this beautiful lake and in this community. We need to take the challenge to share and preserve this lake in whatever ways possible for our children and grandchildren.



Music on the shores...

On quiet Friday evenings this summer, live music could often be heard wafting across the waters of Pleasant Lake. Many residents have been gathering ‘in the park’ with their lawn chairs and blankets for this summer’s special event series. The five Friday night concerts have been sponsored by The Annandale Arts and Culture Committee.

Our own “**Annandale Community Band**” opened the series on June 12th. The summer lineup also featured a theatrical folk group called “**The Shovel Girls**”; the Brazilian jazz group “**Xibaba**” and “**Will Hale and the Tadpole Parade**”. You still have time to catch the final concert of the season. On **August 28, at 7 PM**, “**Dennis Warner, an Americana musician**” will be performing ‘live in the park’. Be sure to join us for this ‘pleasant’ community get-together.



Are you an experienced Web Designer ?

We would like to develop a Web site for Pleasant Lake. If you are (*or know of*) a designer/programmer that would be willing to help us out, please contact me (jrbayer@yahoo.com) or any other board member. We’d be very interested and grateful for any help you could offer.

2009 Boat Parade a rousing success...

Many thanks to Bonnie & Dean Hoglund for once again organizing the July boat parade. There were nearly a dozen 'floats' this year with clever themes such as a pirate attack boat, cell mates from Alcatraz to a Michael Jackson inspired Thriller display. All entries were entertaining and seemed to be having a blast as they cruised around the lake, kicking off the July 4th weekend! Judging, I'm told, was provided by an undercover panel, at strategic locations around the lake.



"Thriller - King of Pop" '1st Place Winner'
This winning entry was the creation of the families of Dave & Nancy Haugland and Dave & Gloria Warner.



"Annandale - Minnesota's Best Treasure"
by Ed & Jennifer Mader and Jeff & Shelley Weinzetl families earned them the '1st Runner Up' spot.



"Rockin' the Dock / Schmidty's Diner" a clever 50's theme, was a popular favorite by the Gerald & Bernice Schmidt family and took '3rd Place'.



"the Rock, Escape from Alcatraz" undisputed '4th Place' went to the inmates of Alcatraz... the families of Dave & Penny Hogberg, Dave & Jackie Ahsenmacher, Kirt & Rosemary Hinz and Steve & Mary Jo Logeais.



'5th Place' went to **"the Kenny Chesney float"**. This 'party barge' creation was carefully constructed and navigated by the families of Mike & Coreen Dougherty, Greg & Kelly Fobbe, Craig & Amy Miller and Craig Johnson. Party On!

A message from your PLIA Chairman...

Brief History of the PLIA

The first meeting to organize was held on July 22nd, 1978 at the Shady Lawn Resort. Harold Kolstad headed the steering committee and presided over the meeting. Many property owners from around the lake were present. When asked as to why the organization was being formed, Harold replied, *"To preserve and maintain good clean water and to protect environment surrounding the lake."*

Elected officers were: Harold Kolstad, President; Joel Carlson, Vice President; Virginia Hall, Secretary and Val Lawler, Treasurer. It was suggested that a board of 16 or so directors be formed to govern the association and that representation be equally represented from all sides of the lake. 16 persons volunteered and all sides of the lake were represented. Membership dues were set at \$10/year. Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation were subsequently drawn up, and were recognized and recorded on the 15th of December, 1978 when **Pleasant Lake Improvement Association, Inc.** was legally certified by the State of Minnesota.

Our Mission

It should be interesting to note that after 31 years, our mission is basically unchanged, *"To preserve and maintain good clean water and to protect environment surrounding the lake."* Our challenge has become greater however. Development in our area has, and will

likely continue to deplete some of the natural filtration of stormwater runoff. Another challenge and on-going concern is the influx of the aggressive varieties of non-native plants that threaten to replace desirable native plants that provide healthy fish habitat. A more recent concern is of the rapid spread of Zebra Mussels to many Minnesota streams and lakes. There is currently no effective control program for this invader once it appears. Public awareness is our only defense.

Thanks for your membership support!

In the recent "flyer" we distributed, we described our efforts (and dilemma) in attempt at controlling the spread of Curly Leaf Pondweed in our lake. We also stressed the need to work together, to make sure we are doing everything we can to maintain the water quality we now enjoy. We have since received renewals from 6 more residents... **Thank you for coming back!** Our current membership now stands at 65% of total properties. In the past couple of weeks, we also did receive a membership contribution from the City of Annandale, for which we are most grateful.

Don't forget, our annual meeting and picnic in just two weeks, bring your neighbors! (details on back page)

Joe Bayer

Projects we've been working on...

Our mission *"To preserve and maintain good clean water and to protect environment surrounding the lake."* is a pretty broad description. In addition to **weed monitoring and treatment programs** for the Curly Leaf Pondweed, some of our other activities include an ongoing program of **monitoring lake water quality** in concert with the DNR. This involves regularly scheduled checks and recording of water clarity, through "Secchi Disk" readings, and taking water samplings, which are sent in and documented by the DNR. Past projects include a **storm water runoff study** with the City and Clearwater Watershed District to determine its effect on our water quality. We **monitor the water levels of the lake** and kept a close eye on the Hwy 24 project, in particular with regard to the repair and reinstallation of the outlet control culvert. When MNDOT decided to install new culverts under the highway which would allow direct runoff into our lake and cause washouts on the beach of our residents, we voiced our objection, engaged our Representative and ultimately got it corrected. **Repair and upkeep of Loon nesting structure** as

needed to keep our summer residents happy here. **Arranged to have signage put in place**, when we found that there were no signs at our boat landings to remind boaters to check their boats for weeds. For the past few years, members of our board have agreed to provide **volunteer service as Water Patrol** to help DNR authorities in maintaining safety on our lake. As your representatives, every member of this board is committed to **"the mission"**.

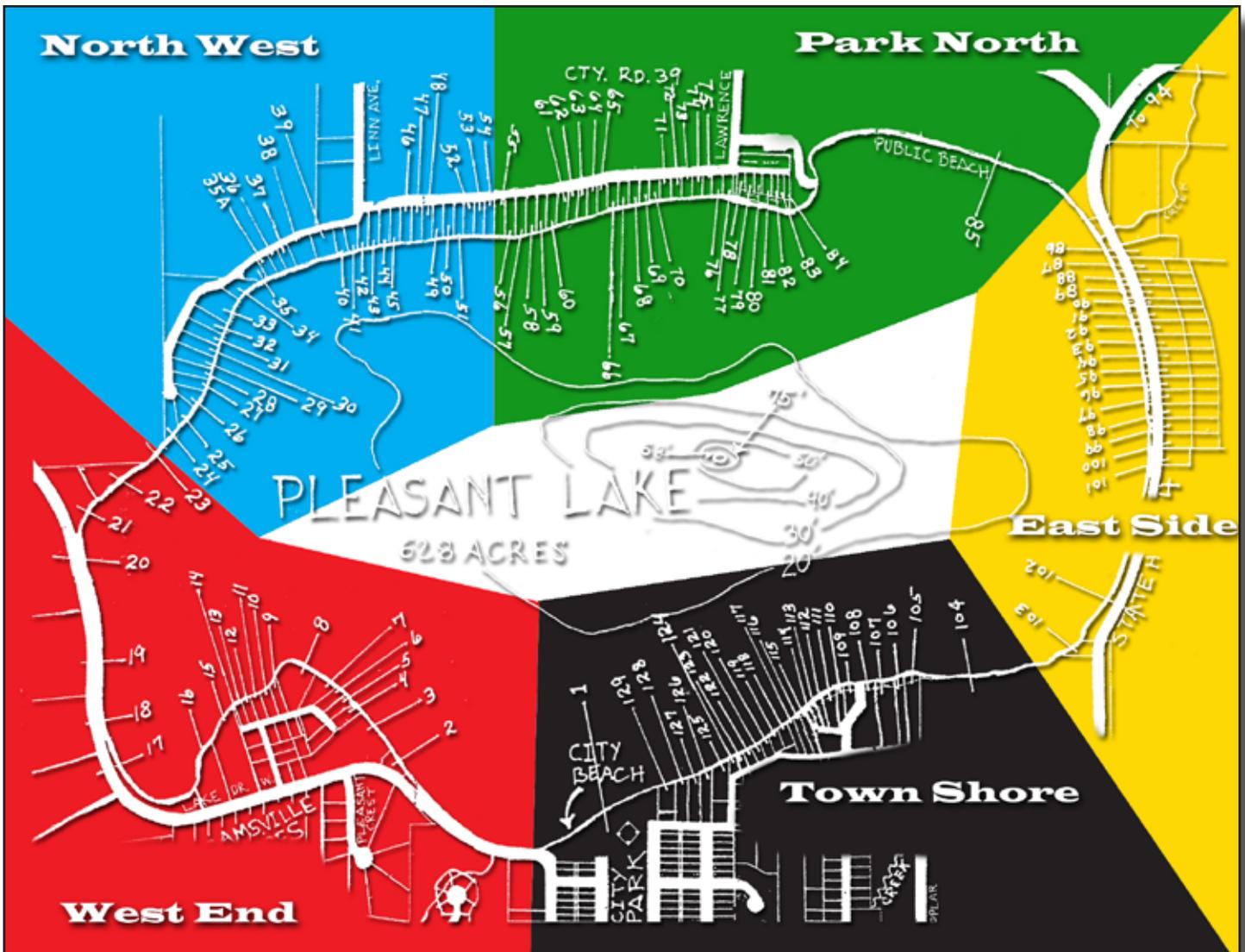
The minutes of all PLIA Meetings can be reviewed at www.annandale.mn.us (see Civic Groups)

Current Board of Directors

Joe Bayer, Chairman	West End
John Sedey, Vice Chairman	West End
Jim Peterson, Secretary	Town Shore
Denise Froehlich, Treasurer	North West
Kermit Lundeen	West End
Dave Hogberg	Town Shore
Gloria Warner	Town Shore
Jonathan Strohschein, M.D.	Town Shore
Denny Arfsten	East Side
Vince Lundeen	West End

Lake Neighborhoods...

Many "Thanks" to Jim Peterson, Gloria Warner and Steve Bruggeman for their work in creating a detailed map of our lake properties with an accompanying list of current residents. We plan to use this map as part of our Pleasant Lake Directory, which is presently under construction. Ideally, it would be nice to see board representatives from all around the lake. Two of our neighborhoods, the **Town Shore** and the **West End** are well represented. The **East Side** and North shore not as much. Since the North shore consists of twice as many homes as the other 3 neighborhoods, we propose counting it as two separate neighborhoods, **Park North** and **North West**. This would give us 5 similarly sized neighborhoods of 25-30 properties each. Below is a copy of the map with the proposed neighborhoods.



Are you an Easy target? Early this summer Annandale fell victim to several incidences of theft and other acts of vandalism, including some of our lake neighborhoods. In most cases, the criminals found car keys and other valuables left in unlocked vehicles. It's easy to become complacent and take our quaintness for granted, but evil knows no boundaries. Make sure you're not an **Easy Target**. **Lock it up.**

Oops... In the July 15th edition of the Annandale Advocate, section 2B, Pleasant Lake was **erronously** included in a list of local lakes with confirmed presence of Eurasian Watermilfoil. The author admitted that he was remembering a false call from a couple of years ago, and realizing his mistake, made a correction to the following weeks' edition.

FUN and FOOD

Come meet your lake neighbors!

at the annual

PLIA Meeting & Picnic.

Sunday August 30th at 11:15 @ the Park Pavilion
Willingham's pulled pork sandwiches will be provided...

Bring a "MustGo" Dish to pass.

Take the opportunity to clean out the pantry...

Find that package of Creamette ring noodles
that's been on the shelf for 2 years.

It "MustGo"!

Add some veggies and that bottle of Italian dressing that won't last
another season and you've got

"MustGo Primavera"

Be creative.... bring your own MustGo creation.

Meeting Agenda

from 11:15 to 11:45

Picnic and Lawn games to follow.



Freeze/Thaw record, past 9 yrs...

FREEZE UP	ICE OUT	# Days
November 21, 2000	April 21, 2001	151
December 20, 2001	April 16, 2002	117
December 3, 2002	April 12, 2003	131
November 28, 2003	April 3, 2004	127
December 14, 2004	April 8, 2005	115
November 30, 2005	April 8, 2006	129
December 1, 2006	April 1, 2007	121
November 27, 2007	April 23, 2008	147
November 25, 2008	April 13, 2009	139

recorded by John Sedey

Wildlife Spottings

April 6-9 Bald Eagles were sighted on the
edges of the ice

April 8: Hooded Mergansers appeared in
the area.

April 13: The last of the ice disappeared

April 13: Our loons were spotted

April 15: Blue Herons were sighted

(email your spottings to: dgwarner@lakedalelink.net)