

# Shoreline Ramblings

A Newsletter of the Pleasant Lake Improvement Association



Online at [www.pliamn.com](http://www.pliamn.com) and [www.facebook.com/pleasantlake](http://www.facebook.com/pleasantlake)

Early 2015

## Pleasant Faces: Over 60 Years on the Lake

GLORIA WARNER

It was suggested I visit with Doris Miller, a long time Pleasant Lake resident to share Pleasant Lake's history. After visiting with Doris, her daughter Sharon, and son Jeff, I thought this was a bigger story than Pleasant Lake. This is a story of a young couple that chose to buy a business on Annandale's main street, and make a difference in our community.

Doris and Lee Miller were high school sweethearts in the Paynesville, Minnesota, area. They married in 1942. Lee served our country in WWII, fighting most notably in the Battle of the Bulge. Later in the war, Lee was injured while driving over a landmine. This changed his plans, as he needed to pursue a different line of work due to his injuries. He and Doris moved to Elgin, Illinois for Lee to become trained in the watch business. He then apprenticed in St. Cloud and bought Ludman

Jewelry in Annandale in 1950. The Miller family, with three children in tow, moved above the jewelry store. Jeff told about the errands he would run for his family and the experience of living on Main Street. The bakery was one of the best stops! Sometimes the bread would come home with very little crust remaining as the boys would eat it as they brought it home. Lee was good at giving them some change to buy some fresh rolls as well.

With five children at that time, it was time for the Millers to leave the jewelry store home and to build their first Pleasant Lake home. They built on Highway 24 next to the Lawler farm. The Miller home was the first one on that side of the lake. There was the farm and pasture next door with the lake in their front yard. Doris shared that Mark and Gary were best friends

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## Get to Know New Board Members

[In their own words]

**Tina Honsey**

We moved to Annandale in the summer of 2009. I'm married to Matt and we have two children: Brett (14 years old) and Olivia (12 years old).

We all love the lake and all the wonderful opportunities it provides: wake-boarding, tubing, waterskiing, pontooning, fishing, and ice skating. We also enjoy meeting friends and sharing a beautiful sunset and concert in the park.

Matt and I love to stay physically active. We



keep our focus by signing up for events such as Grandma's Marathon, Twin Cities Marathon, and The Heart of the Lakes Triathlon, which is just a mile from our home. This desire to push ourselves has impacted our children. We all enjoy training, participating in the events, and feeling the accomplishment of achieving a goal. We feel blessed that we have a community that provides running/walking trails, beautiful groomed parks, and pristine lakes.

Our family is grateful that we have the oppor-

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## Community Calendar

Daylight Savings Time Starts  
Sunday, March 8

Easter Egg Hunt, City Park  
Saturday, April 4, 10 a.m.

Business Expo, AHS  
Saturday, April 11, 8 a.m.-1 p.m.

All-City Garage Sale  
Saturday, May 2

Fishing Opener, Saturday, May 9

13th Annual Chili Cook-Off  
Saturday, May 23

Farmer's Market  
Saturdays 8 a.m.-12 p.m.  
City Hall Square  
June through October

Summer Concerts in the Park  
Dates: June 12, June 26, July 10,  
July 24, August 14, August 28  
7 p.m., City Park

Fourth of July Celebration  
Wed-Sun, July 1-5

**PLIA Boat Parade  
Friday, July 3**

30th Heart of the Lakes Triathlon  
Sunday, July 19, 8 a.m.

Back to School  
August 31



Send your favorite lake photos to [pliamn@yahoo.com](mailto:pliamn@yahoo.com) or share them on our Facebook page!

Visit [www.pliamn.com](http://www.pliamn.com) for board meeting minutes, lake photos, past issues of our newsletter and more!

# President's Letter: Caring for Our Lake

**JOHN SEDEY (President)**

No doubt by now you received the dues notice for 2015. Some of you were surprised that the Association can no longer subsidize the DNR permits for lakeshore treatment. As mentioned in the letter that accompanied the dues, the DNR increased the "whole lake" permit free from \$750 to \$2,500. For each of us who treat our lakeshore to pay our fees individually, the cost remains \$40, and Lakeshore Restoration will build that into your invoice.

I encourage each of you to continue to treat your lakeshore, as you have in the past. If you have not done so and have weeds, please give strong consideration to doing it. Each of our efforts provides a cumulative effect on the entire lake, not only our property. Unfortunately, invasive weeds will never be a problem that is completely solved. Each of us needs to do our own part to keep the situation under control. Of course, a certain level of vegetation is necessary to maintain a healthy lake.

The Association will continue to treat the Curly Leaf Pondweed in the bays, as we have in the past and will consider expanding efforts as we find additional funding. The Board will be seeking matching grant funds for such expansions. In addition, there is strong consideration that we do another Aquatic Vegetation Survey, the results of which can be compared with the previous one done in 2011. Such a comparison can indicate whether we are making progress in our war on the unwanted plants.

There was some confusion last summer over the "No Ordinance" of which Pleasant Lake is a part. The only time the ordinance is in effect on our lake is if the high water reaches a level where the gate at the northeast end is closed due to the DNR maximum water height being exceeded at the Grass Lake Dam. The ordinance states that as long as the gate is closed, wakes are prohibited within 300 feet of shore. That ordinance was in effect during the high water of the first half of last summer. Residents and guests

are to be commended on the respect that was shown throughout that period. Hopefully, this year we will enjoy one of those summers we envision at this time of year—warm weather, just enough rain to keep things green, and lots of lakeside ambiance.

Finally, as you write that check to pay your dues, please consider including a tax deductible additional amount for our Clean Water Fund. Last spring we received our IRS 501c3 status. We thank all those who have donated in the past and encourage each of you to not only join the Association that represents your interests at the state, county and local levels in efforts to improve the quality of our lake.

We are fortunate to live on such a wonderful environmental asset. Let's only leave footprints, as we remain respectful stewards so that Pleasant Lake can continue to be enjoyed by those who follow us.

Enjoy the seasons!

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tunity to live in Annandale and could not imagine our lives without this community.

## **Steve Miller**

Together with Maggie, "the Beagle," I have lived in Annandale on the South side of Pleasant Lake since August 2014 (city limits, so no more well/septic system, hooray!) I relocated from the North end of Sugar Lake and the Parkway West area of



Minneapolis. I'm retired from a large Minneapolis area CPA firm, but have found it very difficult to permanently retire. A few clients are very hard to transition to other firm partners, but I'm working on it. I am no stranger to the Annandale community and have several relatives in the surrounding area. I love spending time on the lake and being outside. I enjoy the July 4th activities, especially the fireworks which I can watch from my lakeside patio. One of my major areas of emphasis will be on lake water quality and the preservation of a healthy Pleasant Lake for all to enjoy. Pleasant Lake is truly a community asset and gem.



## Special Mentions

- Please watch your mail for a letter regarding 2015 Membership Dues. The form is no longer a part of the newsletter.
- Thank you to Dave Haugland, lake resident and owner of Impressive Prints in St. Paul, for donating the printing of our newsletters!

# Pleasant Faces: Over 60 Years on the Lake

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with Mark Lawler, and all the boys were full of mischief. Sharon told of frogs in her shoes, frogs in her cold cream jar, and Jeff chasing both Sharon and Linda with snakes, as there was a snake pit on the property. In the 50's-60's the lake level was down. Where water stands today was the pasture that the kids used for a ball field. Mr. Miller loved to "dabble" with property and cars, so when someone made an offer on the lake house the Miller's moved to temporary housing in town near the middle school. By that time there were two girls and six boys in the family.

At about the same time that they moved to town, Lee made a purchase of a piece of property at the end of Oak and East Lake Drive. Pleasant Lake Lodge was there with small cabins owned by Earl Johnson. The Millers bought a piece of property that had three small cabins. That was the summer fun for the boys as they lived in town and would go to the lake property to play. Earl Johnson enjoyed the boys, and he taught them "witching" to find wells and water lines with two metal clothes hangers. Still to this day some of the Miller men can still "witch." Lee eventually sold one of the cabins to Dale Triplett, tore down two cabins, removed 40 plus trees, and in 1968 they moved into their home where Doris lives today.

Raising eight children around Pleasant Lake lead to many stories. They told about walking from their home on Highway 24 to the best beach on the lake, Ponsford's Point, memories of buying



candy and hanging around Shady Lawn, buying cane fishing poles in the spring at Dunton's Hardware Store (which today is Kaz Hardware), and the many ball games played with friends and neighbors. A tornado crossed the lake in the late 70's, and Doris told how she and two of her sons stood out on the dock, and then they quickly took cover as it moved across the lake and turned downtown rather than toward their house. There was a near tragedy as Doris and Lee's son, Gary, was swimming at the Pleasant Lake public beach and got caught in the rungs under the lifeguard's chair out in the water. His friends couldn't pull him out, they yelled to the lifeguard and De De Heino rowed out, got him loose, and did CPR until the fire department came. Doris said that Dr. Bendix met her and Lee, and his first words to them were, "Just about lost one today."

Being a mother of a large family was quite a job. What stood out to both Jeff and Sharon was how loyal Doris was to her family as

their "number one sports fan!" They said that their dad wasn't always able to get to all the school events due to work, but they knew they could look up in the stands and see mom. She followed them to college games at St. John's and Rochester Junior College, and now follows grandchildren and soon great-grandchildren. Doris said there isn't any better entertainment!



Jeff and Sharon were proud to tell about the involvement of their parents in the Annandale community. Lee was active in the Lions, the beginning of the Kimball Golf Course, the Knights of Colum-

bus, and just about any other organization in town. They were involved at St. Ignatius, and Doris is an honorary member of the Improvement Club. She had a knack for the arts. She told about a painting class that Julia Barkley started. She started with oils then to watercolors. Doris and the art club started the arts and crafts fair that spread all through downtown Annandale in the 80's, and they sold bouquets of cut flowers to raise money for downtown projects. All of her children have a piece of her artwork in their homes.

Lee passed away in 2002, and Doris continued to live in her beautiful home on the South side of Pleasant Lake. Neighbors have visited with Doris as she walked her dog on a daily basis, and she goes to many community events. She has hosted 4th of July parties for over 50 years. The crowd can range from 50 to over 100 as people come and go throughout the day.

Pleasant Lake has many people that have given much to the beauty and enjoyment of the lake, and it is clear that Lee and Doris Miller were a special couple advocating for our lake, and even more the community of Annandale. They made it special enough that most of their eight children still call Annandale home. What a gift it is to listen to these stories of the Miller family and their involvement in our community.

**Footnote:** They shared an interesting piece of Pleasant Lake history written by Mourane Baker. She told that a fort was built in 1863 (due to the Indian Wars) on some of the property that the Miller's bought. The fort, built of rough logs, was called Fort Skedaddle. Many of the people of Clearwater and Pleasant Lake area stayed in or around the fort until they felt they should return to a church stockade near Clearwater, because it was better protected. The fort was left on the shore to rot over time. Doris told that her sons did find some arrowheads on the property when they were building their home.

*Thank you to the following members who donated to the Water Quality Improvement Fund in 2014:*

Dean and Bonnie Hoglund  
Jim and Sharon Peterson  
Dave and Gloria Warner  
Randy and Bruce Grachek  
Steve Miller  
Bob and Teresa McMahon  
Doris Miller  
Jeff and Rebecca Harkman

Marvin Marohn  
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John and Jill Bishop  
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Tim Hable  
Dave and Barb Lundberg  
Leo and Deb Kill

Merle and Pat Marohn  
Dave and Penny Hogberg  
Jim and Amy Miller  
Jim and Rhonda DiOrio  
Joe and Renee Joyce  
Carolyn Harper  
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Mike and Susan Carlson  
Steve and Sandy Beckman  
Tim and Ellen Lohse  
Denny and Mariette Arfsten  
Sandra Baert  
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Tom and Barb Monson  
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Joe and Judy Bayer  
Curt and Maggie Nilson  
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Contact your PLIA Board with questions, comments, concerns at [pliamn@yahoo.com](mailto:pliamn@yahoo.com)

