

Shoreline Ramblings



A Newsletter of the Pleasant Lake Improvement Association

Winter 2011-12

Pleasant Faces

Lake residents' Jim and Sharon Peterson have a placard hanging in their home that truly expresses the way many people feel about the luxury of living on Pleasant Lake:

"If you are lucky enough to have a house by the water, you're lucky enough!"

This column will focus on just a few of the many "Pleasant Lake Memories" made in 2011...

Some of the highlights of the year were, the annual **boat parade** with the Justin Bieber float winning first place... the **Heart of the Lakes Triathlon** held on a steamy Sunday in July... Friday night **Music in the Park**... and the first **Pleasant Lake Social**, for our association members and families, held in August.

The landscape of the East shore was changed this year, as the white shed straddling the water's edge succumbed to the high tide, necessitating a tear down event. It was more than an old building... it was the "swimming beach and concession stand"



for past generations. It had special memories for long time Annandale residents.

Judy Ferrell wrote, "East End' was the swimming place for most of the kids around town. Jack and Sadie Miller lived in the house across the road and they owned the building on the lake. All the "town" kids rode bikes out there to swim. It was the gathering spot for kids and the little white building was a bonus. If we had enough money we could buy a treat. What a great way to spend an afternoon! Jack Miller sold his house and built the house where Ron Johnson lives now. Maybe when the beach in town was developed it was the end of kids going to East End."

Roland (Boots) Froyen had this to say about the 'East End' beach area, " I remember parking my

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Roadside Boat Checks...

Following is copy of an article that appeared in the Minneapolis Star Tribune, (January 8, 2012) :

Boaters and anglers will face mandatory roadside checkstations this spring, where their crafts will be inspected for aquatic invasive species--part of a statewide crackdown. Boats that fail inspections will be sent to a decontamination area to be high-pressure-washed with hot water. Violators can expect citations and fines instead of warnings (for the full story, see startribune.com/outdoors).

"It's long overdue," said Barb Halbakken Fischburg with the Minnesota Coalition of Lake Associations. Yes, she said some boaters won't like being diverted to inspection stations. "But the risk factor if we don't do this is much greater," she said. "If we don't protect fishing, we don't have a tourism industry."

Meanwhile, boaters will be required to apply free decals provided by the DNR to their boats reminding them to comply with the law, including draining all water from boats and bait containers and removing vegetation or invasive species from boats and trailers. Those stickers should be available later this month.

There have also been warnings for those buying used docks or lifts. They need to be thoroughly checked and cleaned of zebra mussels. Docks being moved from one lake to another can easily be a carrier for invasive species, which then infest a new lake.



And a good time was had by all!

With the winter months upon us, we find ourselves remembering the warm days of summer and the fun we had at the **1st annual Pleasant Lake Summer Social!**

We'd call it a rousing success, as more than 75 people were able to join us for this first annual get-together. We understand that not everyone could be there, but hope that more of you can attend the **2nd annual event**, which will be held on **Saturday, Aug 11th** just 6 months from now... *Mark your calendars!*

More on back page... with pictures!

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Dad's 51 Mercury between the road, the present MN 24 – (was then called 240) and the lake. Mr. Paggenkoff, the high school principal, owned the concession house. Someone constructed a diving tower very close to shore as the water was very deep." Good times and good memories!

Traci King McCormack, (*Traci Lohse*), a member of the next generation, recalls Dunton Beach (town beach).

"Growing up in Annandale, I would ride my bike to the beach every summer day in the 80's and meet friends and swim all day. It was so much fun to spend the whole day there with everyone laughing, swimming and playing in the park. I swear sometimes, I can shut my eyes and hear the splashing, laughing and the little kids yelling "Mommy" during their swimming lessons! Then in high school we moved to the lake and my summers were filled with friends and water skiing, taking our paddle boat out and flipping it over to lay on it to get our suntans! The lake was a vacation, a retreat, so exciting and so serene all at the same time. It was my favorite place to live. Then to be so lucky to purchase a cabin on this lake 25 years after graduation was the best purchase of my life! Sharing this little piece of heaven with my new family is a blessing that we will always be grateful for. We've been here two years now, and we're having a blast with jet skiing, fishing and enjoying the best of times with our friends! Tom really enjoys taking care of the cabin and working on the many projects. Even though the water was high this year and looked like our cabin might be flooded, we treasured every moment we were there. When I get really stressed out, I shut my eyes and let my mind go to this lake and feel the sun and listen to the ripples on the water created by the summer breeze. I actually feel myself squint with sun glistening on the water like bright diamonds. It provides me instant relief! Also, I truly believe the sunsets on this lake are sent from heaven...!"



From **Rita and Gary Larson**: "We are fairly new to Annandale and to Pleasant Lake, (2 yrs). We had a very memorable reunion with lots of relatives over the 4th of July! They came from Chicago, Minneapolis, Waverly, California, New York, Florida and Australia... It was surreal!! We had

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about 40 relatives in town, all of our children and grandchildren together for the 1st time in a long time and it was just too special. The highlight of our weekend was the 4th of July parade. Gary has restored an old "B" Farmall tractor, like the one he grew up with on a farm near Cokato. It is a sentimental tractor for him and he used it to pull a trailer in the parade



with all 6 of his grandkids in it! They didn't want to get out when the parade was over. We had a barbecue at the house on the 4th and so much great food was consumed (a few beers) and fun was enjoyed both in and out of the water. We watched the infamous boat parade (maybe next year we will have an entry)- We sat by the fire and watched the fireworks, how convenient is that?

Our kids and grandkids fell in love with the lake, the fishing, the boating and rafting. Everyone wants to come again next year—did we open a can of worms?! Not!! This is what life is all about. We love our neighbors and the entire community of Annandale is unbelievable."

Curtis, Maggie, Jack and Katie Nilson shared a memory of 2011 as their first summer on Pleasant Lake. "This summer was the first time both our children caught their own fish from casting to reeling in all by themselves off our Pleasant Lake dock".



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Welcome to www.pliamn.com!

Thanks to Maggie Nilson, we now have a website home for the Pleasant Lake Improvement Association (PLIA).

Maggie, husband Curt and children Jack and Katie are newcomers to our lake community, living on the West end of Pleasant. Maggie has kindly offered to set up and maintain a web site for us... and we are most grateful. Thank You Maggie! Be sure to visit the site and send your favorite lake-themed photos to Maggie for posting, send to pliamn@yahoo.com. We will post our newsletter on the website beginning with this issue.

Pleasant Faces continued

Jim and Amy Miller related this story “ Our son Weston, age 5, is a passionate fisherman and logs many, many hours on our dock. Early in the summer he learned there was huge bass living under our neighbor’s boatlift, and he dedicated himself for many weeks to catching this specific fish. On the morning of June 23rd, he was fishing like always and I was inside when I heard him banging on the lakeside door and yelling for me. I found him standing at the door holding a large fish net with this large bass inside, squealing “I got the bass under neighbor Jim’s boatlift! I got him!” He had reeled him in, left his rod and ran for a net somehow, and dragged him to the door (too big for him to lift and walk at the same time.) The joy on his face was immeasurable. After we took pictures, he released him, and picked up his rod to go after his next big catch!”



Gale and Kevin Bergstrom have a memory that is hard to top!! ”This year happiness came again to the lake. A few years ago our son David proposed to girlfriend Jesse out on the pontoon, being very careful that no one dropped the ring! This summer, when the photographer wanted to take photos, there was no question but to return to the lake that has been such a part of their lives. The park, cabin, and lake were the perfect background for the happy couple.”



Of course “**No Wake**” was part of the 2011 summer experience on our lake... from the end of July until end of August. Many residents, none more so than **Vince and Peni Lundeen**, were happy for this restriction. Peni stated, “It was a summer to forget” as they spent hours sandbagging in attempt to save their lower level.

There were many beautiful rock walls around the lake that began to collapse due to the high water level. Many lake users found new ways to enjoy the water... like the **Boie family** “Our family

really enjoyed going to the middle of the lake and jumping off, floating with upside down life jackets (like diapers) and swimming under the boat.” More Kayaks were noticed too, as well as people swimming the full distance of the lake without the worry of speeding watercraft.

The **Dave, Nancy, Ryan and Hannah Haugland** family commented on the “no wake” restriction, “Our summer was once again a very enjoyable time at the cabin. We had many friends and family up, and we found ourselves playing more yard games. Frisbeer became our game of choice and many dual competitions were on!”

“We also discovered that ”slow” tubing was a blast and since we weren’t tossing each other off it was a much more relaxing ride”. Our kayaks got a lot more use and we all enjoyed seeing the snapping turtles and fish swim below as we paddled the shoreline. We love our lake cabin and our neighbors and always have a good time.”

From the swimming spots on Pleasant, to the first time a child fished, to a kayak cruise at sunset and now the winter season of ice fishing, living on a lake fills families with memories that are never forgotten. And 2012 brings us a chance to create a whole new set of Pleasant Lake memories! Happy New Year to all as we continue our efforts to keep our lake healthy for generations to come.



Mark your Calendars...

- May 5th (Sat) Camp Friendship charitable event
(A spring/summer style show by All Things Good, Northern Lights, and Mariska's boutiques)
- May 18th (Fri) Friends of the Library
Author series- Erin Hart
- May 19th (Sat) PLIA Member Mtg,
9 AM lower level of the Pavillion
- May 26th, (Sat) 10th Annual Chili Cook-off,
- Jul 3rd (Tue) Pleasant Lake Boat Parade,
7 pm start from town (public) dock
- Jul 15th (Sun) Heart of the Lakes Triathlon
- Aug 11th (Sat) Pleasant Lake Summer Social

“Friday Night, Music in the Park” for the 2012

- Jun 8 - Annandale Community Band
- Jun 22 - Big Toe Jam (Funk)
- Jul 13 - (to be announced)
- Jul 27 - Divas through the Decades *(a female quartet from the 40's on...sponsored with funds from the LEGACY FUND)*
- Aug 10 - Trio Sem Nome *(Lee Peterson group Brazilian Jazz)*
- Aug 24 - Jimmi and the Soul Band (Blues)

Water Quality Facts

Improving and maintaining water quality is a major concern of your Lake Association. Water quality is determined on three measures:

Clarity - this is measured by lowering a white (secchi) disk about the size of a dinner plate into the water at selected locations. The number of feet the disk is lowered until it disappears determines clarity. Jim Peterson has been doing this test for many years. John Sedey does it too, in conjunction with gathering water samples for the following two additional measures. Between May and September 2011 a number of readings varied from a high to 17 feet (May) to a low of 5 (August). The average monthly readings for this year were 10.2 feet. Our five-year average has been 9.1.

Phosphorus—this is a measure of the amount of nutrients in our water. Monthly water samples are sent to a lab in Detroit Lakes for analysis. Average readings for summer 2011 were 20 units. Our 5-year average is 24.4 units. (Lower number is better)

Chlorophyll—this is a measure of algae in our water. Monthly samples during summer 2011 averaged 7.6 units, with a five-year average of 9.4. Again lower numbers are desired.

In addition to our frequent periodic secchi readings and monthly water samplings, the Association commissioned Wenck Associates to conduct thorough samplings (spring and fall), for weeds around the entire lake. Although we await the scientific analysis data, preliminary indications by the samplers are mixed (good news/bad news). While no Eurasian Milfoil was found, large amounts of other vegetation, such as Curlyleaf Pondweed, were discovered. The study findings and recommendations will be presented at our *spring general membership meeting*.

By John Sedey

Summer Social continued fm pg 1

We are most grateful to the following businesses and organizations for their generous support in helping to make our Summer Social a success. Your support and patronage of their business will help to show our appreciation.

- Cathy Petersen/PC Procurement Services
- Pottery on Pleasant
- Jodi Otto/Sassy's Salon Spa
- Annandale Embroidery
- Little Jims
- Anchor Dock & Lift
- Dingmann Marine
- The Marketplace
- Danielle Peterson/Studio 411
- Tom and Gary's Bowling Center
- Bayer Built Woodworks

Special thanks are in order for Ed and Jennifer Mader, who chaired this event and did a superb job of organizing lots of games for the kids, door prizes, cribbage tournaments and a wonderful picnic meal befitting the occasion. Of course they had lots of help and we extend our thanks to all of them as well. Near as this reporter could tell, everyone seemed to be having a great time getting to know their neighbors and **"Socializing"** their hearts out!



see more pictures from the picnic at www.pliamn.com

The *Shoreline Ramblings* Team is a volunteer group, consisting of reporters/contributors Jim Peterson, Gloria Warner, Tim Hable, John Sedey & occasional guest correspondents. Layout & editing is provided by Joe Bayer. The "classy" look of our newsletter is owed to the professional services of **Impressive Print**, of St. Paul, MN, a company owned and managed by Dave and Nancy Haugland, members of our Pleasant Lake Community. We are very grateful for their generous donation in producing the stunning end product.