

# 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)

Late 2016

## The Heart of Annandale, Our City Park

**JILL BISHOP** (Lake Resident)

The Annandale area is known as the "Heart of the Lakes," and the City Park on Pleasant Lake has always been at the heart of Annandale, a hub of summertime activity.

Softball tournaments have been held in the park since Annandale has had a park, though the original field was north of its current location with an occasional homer-un landing in the lake. A large grandstand was located just south of the field until the 1940s. The high school football team played their games on a 90 yard field in the park until the current field was built in the 1970s. The missing 10 yards were compensated by all kick-offs from the 25 yard line instead of the 35, and if it did not get run back for a touchdown, then the ball was moved ten yards back to make the 100 yard total distance for a touchdown.

The pavilion has been a cornerstone of the park for over a century. Originally built in 1903, it was renovated in the 1990s by the Lion's Club when they raised the building and added a lower floor with kitchen and bathrooms. The pavilion has always been a community gathering place. In earlier years, it has housed roller-skating, community theater, summer dances, bingo, and a Haunted House for Halloween. Today the pavilion is busier than ever. It hosts the July 4th Pork Chop Dinner, triathlon registration, Concerts in the Park when it rains, and is rented out often for graduations, weddings, and family reunions.



Ice harvesting on Pleasant Lake.

Civic organizations have supported the City Park since the beginning. The Annandale Improvement Club minutes recorded adding steps to the pavilion walk in 1903, planting flowers in the park in 1905 (as they continue to do today), and planting shade trees in 1945. In addition to the major renovation to the pavilion in the 1990s, the Lion's Club also constructed the picnic shelter in 1977 and replaced the timber playground in 2006. The Annandale Community Team (ACT) reopened the Beach House in 2010 staffed with equipment check-out and activities, and they commissioned the 19' steel Breeze Gate sculpture, installed in 2011.

One interesting part of the park's history, quite foreign to most of us, is the ice harvesting industry on Pleasant Lake. When the ice was between 24 and 28 inches thick, usually sometime in January, huge 22" x 28" blocks of ice were cut and hauled to an ice house to be stored in layers of sawdust. If there was a lot of snow, the lake had to be plowed off

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## Community Calendar

**Fall Pancake Breakfast**  
Pioneer Park  
October 16, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

**Spook-a-Rama**  
Pioneer Park  
Saturday, Oct. 29, 5-8 p.m.

**Chamber Business Trick or Treat**  
Monday, Oct. 31, 3-5 p.m.

**Election Day**  
Tuesday, November 8

**Daylight Savings Ends**  
Sunday, November 6

**Village Christmas**  
Pioneer Park  
Saturday, Dec. 3, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

**Kiwanis Christmas Pancake Breakfast**  
Sunday, Dec. 4, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

**Main Street Holiday**  
Downtown Annandale  
Saturday, Dec. 10

**CPR Holiday Train**  
Oak Avenue Crossing, Annandale  
Sunday, Dec. 11

**New Year's Eve at Nine Ball Drop**  
December 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

**JOHN SEDEY (President)**

Pleasant Lake Neighbors,

Many thanks for a great turnout for this August's general membership meeting and picnic. A highlight of the program was a presentation by Jefferson Bishop on the work his company is doing in battling invasive vegetation and species infestation of our lake. These include Anchor Dock's management of programs to inspect boats being launched at our landings and the free boat cleaning operation at their site next to Classic Rides and Rods.

As you may have noted in an excellent recent Annandale Advocate Starry Stonewort is the latest invasive vegetation to threaten lakes in our area. According to the DNR, "Starry stonewort is a grass-like form of algae that is not native to North America. The plant was first confirmed in Minnesota in Lake Koronis in late August of 2015. Now, just in the last week we have learned that it has been confirmed in Lake Sylvia at the public access.

Plant fragments were probably brought into the state on a trailered watercraft

from infested waters in another state. Starry stonewort can interfere with recreational and other uses of lakes where it can produce dense mats at the water's surface. These mats are similar to, but can be more extensive than, those produced by native vegetation. Dense starry stonewort mats may displace native aquatic plants. Like all plants, starry stonewort may grow differently in different lakes, depending on many factors. At this time, we cannot predict how it might grow in any one Minnesota lake.

Starry stonewort is believed to be spread from one body of water to another by the unintentional transfer of bulbils, the star-like structures produced by the plant. These fragments are most likely attached to trailered boats, personal watercraft, docks, boat lifts, anchors or any other water-related equipment that was not properly cleaned.

The most important action you can take to limit the spread of starry stonewort and other non-native aquatic plants is to remove all vegetation and animals from

your watercraft and any water-related equipment before you move it from one body of water to another. Make sure you drain all water from your watercraft and bait bucket and dispose of any unwanted bait in the trash."

Starry Stonewort is potentially a much greater challenge than Eurasian Milfoil and Zebra Mussels. In October your lake association board will planning its 2017 strategies for continued attack on the Curly Leaf Pondweed we have and will be redoubling efforts to prevent the introduction of Eurasian Milfoil, Zebra Mussels, and most important, Starry Stonewort. Considerations will include continued monitoring of issues that affect our water quality, increased treatments of that which we have, and the investment of additional resources to monitor our boat landings.

Shortly, we will begin our membership campaign for 2017. As you write that check for your \$40 dues, please consider including a tax-deductible contribution to our "Clean Water Fund."

John

## *Current Board Members*

John Sedey | President  
Dave Hogberg | VP  
Jim Peterson | Secretary  
Jeff Harkman | Treasurer

Dave Boie | Director  
Ed Mader | Director  
Tina Honsey | Director  
Kevin Bergstrom | Director

Steve Miller | Director  
Amy Miller | Director

**Contact your PLIA Board with questions, comments, concerns at [pliamn@yahoo.com](mailto:pliamn@yahoo.com)**



## Special Mentions

- Join the PLIA! 2016 membership dues can be mailed in anytime. If you did not receive a letter, please call Jim Peterson at 320-274-5043.
- Thanks to the Annandale Area Community Team for the great Summer Concert in the Park series.
- Thank you to Dave Haugland, lake resident and owner of **Impressive Prints** in St. Paul, for donating our newsletter printing.

# Summer 2016 Highlights

It was another spectacular Fourth on Pleasant Lake! The Boat Parade continues to grow, and the creativity of this year's participants and winners was incredible! 1st place was awarded to the Mader family (Aquarium), 2nd place went to the Hogberg family (Halloween), and 3rd place was given to the Warzetha family (80's Rock'n'Roll). The Queen candidates always lead this great event that winds around the entire lake! The Golden Gopher firetruck, our PLIA parade entry, was a hit. The celebration always ends with a spectacular fireworks display over the lake, and this year was no exception. The weather was perfect, and everyone was treated to a wonderful show!



1st Place



2nd Place



3rd Place





Sailing, paddling, sunset gazing, the HOLT Triathlon and taking in the music at the park are just a few of our favorite things to do in the summer months on Pleasant Lake. The South side neighborhood hosted a National Night Out street party in early August, we had a great Membership meeting and picnic a few weeks later, and the new Field to Feast Community Dinner held on the end of Oak Avenue by the pavilion, was a wonderful bookend to another great summer!



# The Heart of Annandale, Our City Park

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so the ice depth would increase faster. One ice house was located just south of the current Bath House by the beach, and Brown's Creamery had another ice house. Throughout the year the huge blocks were cut into smaller pieces and sold.

Louis Larson had the Ice Harvesting business on Pleasant Lake from the 1920s to the 1950s. His daughter, Aileen (Larson) Lundeen wrote about his business for her 2005 presentation to the Annandale History Club:

*"The first cut was made with a gas driven motor with a large circular saw attached. This would cut only part way through. There was a guide on the ski of the machine to measure the width of the next row to be cut. There would be crosscuts, too. The rest of the cuts had to be done by hand with a long blade saw. A channel was made to float each 400 pound cake of ice to a ramp that led up to the platform. A pulley system was set up with a large ice tong on the end of a rope. Two or three cakes could be pulled up at a time. The pulley was activated by one team of horses that pulled at command. The platform was the height of the sleigh waiting for its load as the ice came up to the platform.*

*Mother was part of the ice business, too. They had a little shed by the side of the garage that Dad would stock with smaller cakes of ice. There was a small scale where the ice was weighed. It was Mother's job to sell ice from this shed to fishermen, who would come and buy ice to keep their fish cold until they got home, or for their ice boxes at their cabins. Each purchase was maybe 25 cents, but it was something (back then, 25 cents bought a pound of hamburger)."*

The ice was used for refreshments during the July 4th celebration and of course to

cool residents' ice boxes before electric refrigerators became commonplace. Ice Harvesting on Pleasant Lake continued until the 1960s.

Some activities have taken place in the park since nearly the beginning such as softball tournaments and the July 4th Celebration with a carnival and fireworks. The annual Soo Line Picnic took place in the park from 1923 to 1957 when special trains brought in Soo Line employees. Coronation of the Annandale Ambassadors (Miss Annandale and Princesses) has been in the park since the 1950s, and Red Cross swim lessons and life guard training took place on the beach 1970s-1990s. Winter activities have included an ice skating rink cleared, enclosed, flooded and lit as early as 1923; and a Kids Fishing Contest sponsored by the Commercial Club starting in the 1958 and then by the Conservation Club in more recent years. The Triathlon started in 1986 and the 104' fishing dock was installed in 1989.

Other additions to the park this century



Grand Stand that stood until the 1940's

include the Boat Parade since 2001, the Concerts in the Park since 2005, and several memorial benches facing the lake. In 2010 the beach was named Dunton Beach in honor of Ed "Tubber" Dunton (1895-1976), a leading citizen who contributed time and money improving the beach in the 1960s.

We're fortunate the early organizers of our city had the foresight to set aside these seven acres on the shore of Pleasant Lake for our City Park. It has always been an integral part of Annandale's community life.

Photos: Thanks to Dewey Gunnarson for the use of his pavilion photo and to Judy Ferrell for her photo of Ice Harvesting on Pleasant Lake.



*Thank you to our current members for your support!*

Penny and Dave Hogberg  
Ron Yanish  
Sandy and Steve Beckman  
Doug and Linda Johnson  
Randy and Bruce Grachek  
Kris and Mindi Dahl  
Randy and Amy Unzicker  
Joe and Jody Zylstra  
Joe and Janice Carlson  
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Eric and Nancy Stack  
Sean and Karen Flaherty  
Carleen Hart  
Dave and Gloria Warner  
Steve and Kelly Bruggeman  
Gary and Rita Larson  
Diana, Jerome, Cynthia and Nathan Geske  
Jon and Robin Strohschein  
Ron Johnson

Ben and Anna Lawler  
Dean and Bonnie Hoglund  
Pat and Janice Wagener  
Tim Hable  
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Bob and Mary Ferguson  
Chris and Calley Lidle  
Tim and Ann Everette  
Brian and Judy Dahlberg  
Karen and Ray Larson

*Our Condolences* to the families of two long-time residents of the South side of Pleasant Lake: Carole Hausken lived in the Annandale area her entire life, and she and her husband, Donnie, moved to the lake in the 80's.

Dick Meyer started coming to Casselius Resort in 1935, when he was 5 years old. When he grew up, he purchased lake property and lived full time on the lake for many years. Dick's son, Gary, continues to live in the Meyer home.

