

FISH TRAP LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

October 2010

Note from the President

It has been a great summer and fall. I especially enjoyed viewing the beautiful fall leaves from the lake in the comfort of our unusually warm weather. My family and I will continue to enjoy our great lake this season as long as we have open water.

As we plan for next spring and summer, there are several concerns this year that lake owners brought to the attention of our board. Several people had contacted us or the DNR about the over-abundance of wild celery. I talked to Audrey Kuchinski from the DNR who explained that wild celery is a non-invasive native aquatic plant that is good for fishing. Wild celery breaks lose in August and floats in "bogs" on the surface. When it is blown to shore, it creates significant problems for the property owners who have to clean the plants from their beaches. Ms. Kuchinski stated that other lakes in the area had also reported problems with excessive amounts of wild celery floating on the water in late summer. She stated that conditions this year were just right for the growth of wild celery and that she would not expect the problem to reoccur annually. Since wild celery is a native plant, we cannot treat it (and don't want to treat it) as we do the invasive non-native curly-leaf pondweed. Hopefully, the wild celery levels next year will revert to the levels seen pre-2010.

As a result of the wild celery overgrowth, our boat access was clogged with the floating plants during late August and early September. The DNR indicated that in future years, if this problem reoccurs, they would be willing to come to the access to clear out the plants. Next summer, if any of you observe that the access is becoming clogged with floating aquatic plants, please contact me (fishtraplake@yahoo.com) or any of the board members so that we can contact the DNR and request assistance.

Thanks again to Jim Folgelberg and Jim Bluhm for testing our water quality throughout the summer and early fall. The results this year generally showed improved water clarity and lower concentrations of phosphorous and chlorophyll-a compared to levels seen prior to 2009. It's possible that it is a result of better lakeshore practices, but it could also be a result of higher water levels in 2010. For more specific information about sampling results please go to www.rmbel.info and click on the Lakes Program and then Lake Database links.

In May 2010, Professional Lake Management (PLM) again treated our lake for curly-leaf pondweed. In an attempt to determine the effectiveness of the treatments, we've again included a survey. If you could take a few minutes to complete the survey included with this newsletter or online, we would appreciate it. I'll list instructions for online participation on our website at www.fishtraplake.pbwiki.com. We are working with the DNR to explore other options to increase the effectiveness of the treatments, including annual treatment of all 125 of the acres infected with curly-leaf instead of the current practice established by the DNR of treating only approximately 50 acres annually. In the areas being treated in 2011, the LID will likely also seek permission from each property owner. (continued on Page 2)

FISH TRAP LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

Letter from President (cont.)

owner to treat for curly-leaf pondweed within 150 feet from shore.

Currently, we treat outside of 150 feet. PLM will treat the lake in May and will mark the treated areas with buoys. Please see our website for more information about the treatment of curly-leaf pondweed. The location and time of the spring treatment will also be posted on our website in the spring.

Thanks again to Ron Nypan for leading the boat parade on July 4th. Once again we had a great turnout – both boats and people observing from the shore.

Have a great fall and winter,

Chuck

Chuck Salter

President, Fish Trap Lake Property Owners Association

Another Chapter Closed—THE STOP

As we watch the summer come to an end we are reminded of the great times experienced over the past few months. These thoughts bring back memories of past years and the many events enjoyed by all. With this in mind I want to share some not so happy news. THE STOP is turning off their lights for the last time in early November. Roy and Gwen Hollandsworth have decided to “retire.” The closing of THE STOP reminds me how times have changed, even in a little roadside shop in Lincoln Minnesota.

Some of us started spending our hard earned cash there over 50 years ago. After my cousin and I got our jobs done at “grandpa’s resort” we had permission to put the five horse Johnson on the back of the 16’ wood boat and head across the lake to the store, a fifteen minute ride. In those days when you visited THE STOP by water, the bay was active and the dock was full of boats. There were no pumps at the dock. Paul Baker reminded me of the red wagon that was always next to the dock. This was used to haul our gas cans to the pumps and back.

THE STOP had everything, including a great assortment of magazines and comics books. After spending about thirty minutes there we would head back with a stack of new Spiderman, Sad Sack and Archie comics, jaw breakers, candy bars and pop (still in the bottle, cans were not always available). The entire purchase would cost about \$2.00.

It was also the best bait and tackle store around. They had a great assortment of Lazy Ikes, Bass Oreno’s and daredevils. We made a trip there every spring to pick out our new cane poles. They would have a bundle of 15-25 foot long cane poles stacked at the corner of the building every spring. If you did not get there early, the good ones were always gone. They were also the first shop to sell leeches in the area. If you wanted any other

FTLPOA Board Meeting Minutes - October 2nd, 2010

Scandia Valley Town Hall - 9:30 A.M.

Present: Chuck Salter, Peg Hartung, Ron Mash, Scott Schnuckle, Mike Flanagan, George Heroux, Joan Russell, David Thibert, Tom Kajer, Peggy Swalm, Ron Nypan (chair of FTLID) in attendance to discuss curly leaf pondweed treatment

Not present: Marilyn Sutton, Brian Sams, Paul Baker

1. **Secretaries Report:** Correction: George Heroux was present at March 2010 Board meeting. Approved with correction.

2. **New members:** Welcome Ron Mash and Mike Flanagan

3. **Treasurer's report:** Report was reviewed and approved. Present balance: \$11,789

a. **Dues update:** One new member this year. Total members – 203. 2nd mailing was helpful. Other ideas for increasing membership were discussed. We are a member of LAB (Lake Area Business Association), which provides a link to our website.

b. **Dues reduction** was discussed including multiyear and lifetime options Board decided to keep dues at \$25 until next year and see how we are doing with membership and budget. George asked if board members would like to receive hard copies of "The Confluence" a publication of Minnesota Waters, for an extra \$10. It was decided that the free email version is sufficient.

4. **Old Business:**

a. **Curly Leaf Pondweed treatment 2010** – board members Chuck Salter, Scott Schnuckle, Mike Flanagan, and LID president Ron Nypan reported on their meeting with the DNR and Patrick Selter, treatment contractor. Following their report, the board discussed the pros and cons of lake wide treatment. **A motion** was made by Scott Schnuckle and seconded by Joan Russell to request a variance to our Vegetative lake Management Plan to increase curly leaf pondweed treatment from 15% to the full extent of curly leaf as identified by the most current DNR delineation study, with the exception of Kohler Bay. The motion was passed.

Treatment of curly leaf pondweed within 150 feet of the shoreline was also discussed. When treatment is done in this way, the LID must obtain signatures of property owners in the affected areas giving permission to apply the treatment along the shoreline of their property. **A motion** was made by Tom Kajer and seconded by Scott Schnuckle to support the Fish Trap LID in treating curly leaf pondweed within 150 feet of the shoreline. The motion carried.

2010 Survey - The board agreed to continue soliciting feedback regarding the effectiveness of curly leaf pondweed treatment by including the same survey we used last year as a part of the newsletter, and also on the web. This annual survey is a required part of our Vegetative Lake Management Plan.

b. **Wild Celery and Snails** – We will continue to monitor them on an annual basis. They are cyclical and numbers can depend on the wind and the current. This year was an unusual abundant year for wild celery.

c. **Summer Water Testing** – Good news, 2009 report showed phosphorus is going down. We are not sure what the reason is. The 2010 figures are on our website. Chuck will also send them to us as an attachment. Jim Fogelberg has volunteered to continue to take samples.

A motion was made by Joan Russell and seconded by Peg Hartung to pay for water quality testing on an annual basis. Motion was passed. We have been using RMB Labs at a cost of between \$50 and \$200.

d. **Brochures at access** have been well received. People are continuing to pick them up

e. **Weed Cleanup** - removing weeds that wash up on the shore is recommended. Chuck contacted the DNR and they indicated that they will remove the weeds from our public access if we call them when there is a problem.

f. **Grants** – Chuck will reapply for funds to help us cover the cost of our Vegetative Lake Management Plan.

g. **LVMP Buoys** – As part of our plan, buoys may be placed to protect native vegetation such as bulrushes. Chuck will get information about buoy placement and we will agree upon a plan at our spring meeting.

h. Website - It would be nice to have quicker access. Public Wiki site is free but does not show up readily when doing a Fish Trap search. We will continue to explore other options. It was suggested that we publicize the site prominently in our newsletter and also recommend that members save it as a "favorite" on their computers.

i. Variances - Chuck has not received notification of variance requests for a while. There has been a change in management at the Planning and Zoning Department. He will request notification again so that he can forward it to us when it occurs.

j. Increase in Crime - We will include as an item in the newsletter to increase awareness. There was a rash of thefts in June and July where access seemed to be gained from the lake. Stolen items included lifejackets, oars, motors, and gas.

5. New Business

a. Newsletter Fall 2010 - Mike Flanagan will coordinate the newsletter. Peg Hartung and Tom Kajer are the other committee members. Scott Schnuckle will write an article on the outcome of the meeting held with board members and the DNR regarding the 2010 treatment of curly leaf pondweed. Mike Flanagan will write an article about his memories and the history of The Stop which will be closing in November.

A motion was made by David Thibert and seconded by Mike Flanagan to purchase a \$100 gift certificate to The Landing from the Lake Association to the owners of The Stop in appreciation of their many years of service and friendship to the Fish Trap community. Motion carried. George will get the certificate.

b. Winter spring board meeting - Our next meeting will be on April 16th. Brian Sams has offered us a meeting space in one of his cabins at Campfire Bay Resort.

6. Adjourn The meeting was adjourned at around 12:00 noon. And minutes were not approved

Fish Trap Lake Boards meet with the DNR

On September 28, representing our association and Lake Improvement District (LID), Chuck Salter, Ron Nypan, president of the LID, and Scott Schnuckle met with three members of the DNR, Audrey Kuchinski, Chip Welling and Dan Swanson in addition to Patrick Selter from Pro Lake Management, to discuss this year's treatment of the curly-leaf pondweed, future treatment strategies and opportunities for grants.

The meeting, conducted by video conferencing between Brainerd and St. Paul, went very well and enabled all members to have the opportunity to share concerns, offer ideas and educate each other on the challenges and science involved in fighting the spread of curly-leaf in Fish Trap Lake. We requested this meeting, as we and Patrick Selter felt that this year's treatment was significantly less effective than prior treatments due to the DNR's stipulated dates for application and the limited growth of curly-leaf at the time of the treatment. The DNR provides a relatively tight window for professional applicators to apply the herbicides based on the available science regarding the most effective temperature range for treatment. Patrick felt that in addition to water temperature, the presence of emerged vegetation must also be considered. The end result was that we learned that the science and studies are still developing, every growing season is unique, impacting timing and results, and all involved are attempting to do what is best for our lake even though they may disagree on the best approach.

Our conversation continued with a discussion of more effective solutions for our future treatments. We believe the current requirement in our Lake Improvement Plan (LIP), which limits our treatment area to less than half of our affected acreage, currently estimated to be between 120 and 130 acres, is frustrating to owners in areas not treated and may lead to a never-ending war against curly-leaf pondweed, as seeds from untreated areas move and establish themselves in other areas of our lake. Thus, we asked the DNR leaders to consider allowing a variance to our LIP to enable treatment of the total affected acreage, with the exception of the buffer area at the mouth of the creek flowing from Lake Alexander, which is afflicted with an even greater scourge, i.e., Eurasian milfoil.

We also discussed our inclusion in the pilot studies of those lakes currently treating their entire curly-leaf population. The advantage of being named part of the pilot group is that we become eligible for state grants, potentially reducing our LID's expenses and future assessments.

Following our meeting, we met with the Fish Trap Lake Association Board and LID and received unanimous support for moving forward on a formal request. Moreover, we approached Representative Al Doty and Commissioner Tom Wenzel and received letters of support from each of them as well as the entire Board of County Commissioners. All of our letters have now been sent to the DNR, and we await their decision.

Fish Trap Lake Property Owners Association

Survey of effectiveness of the May 2009 curly-leaf pondweed treatment.

As you probably know, in May 2010 Professional Lake Management (PLM) treated 55 acres (the maximum amount allowed by the DNR) of curly-leaf pondweed on Fish Trap Lake in areas identified in the attached map. We are asking property owners to complete the following survey to assist us in determining the effectiveness of the treatment.

1. Does it appear that there is significantly less curly-leaf pondweed in those treated areas than there has been in recent years? _____
2. Does it appear that there are still significant amounts of curly-leaf pondweed in an area **beyond** approximately 100 feet from the shore? _____
3. Does it appear that there are still significant amounts of curly-leaf pondweed in an area **within** approximately 100 feet from the shore? _____
4. Other comments. _____

Please return this survey to Chuck Salter, 4721 Wedgewood Dr., Minnetonka, MN, 55345

Thank you for your participation.

THE STOP (continued from Page 2)

bait you would have to BYOC (bring your own can). Worms and night crawlers were stored in a large covered wood box and they would count them out to fill your order. Wally Kjellberg would make sure every kid had enough bait so we would each get one to put in our hands when we walked back to the boat.

Until the highway moved in August of 1993 they were also a Greyhound bus stop. The bus would only stop if they were dropping off a passenger or if the "Flag" was put out on the highway sign in front of their store, telling them they had to pick up a person. On several occasions the bus would miss the flag and continue north. Roy would have to get on the phone and call the El Ray Truck Stop in Motley to let the bus know and they would have to wait until the passenger was driven up to catch the bus there. THE STOP received a whopping \$20 a year from Greyhound to be an official stop.

For well over thirty years THE STOP has been the official cribbage headquarters of the town. Dick and Joe, with many others coming and going, have played thousands of hands over the years. You can image the number of stories and tales coming from that group of guys.

Over those many years the price of gas has gone from a dime a gallon to over \$4.00 several years (back cover)

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Another chapter closed—THE STOP (cont.)

ago. When Roy bought the place 29 years ago the pumps only went up to \$.99 a gallon. He had to set the price in the machine at half of what he wanted and the sign told us that the machine price was for ½ gallon, so we had to pay double the pump price. I am sure I was not alone when I had to do this the first time, I was sure I was over paying for gas. They later purchased new pumps that went to \$3.99 and he was happy to know that he would never have to do that again, WRONG.

We are not historians but from what have heard is that Harold Rosecrans was the first owner back in the 1940's. Wally took over from Harold. We believe Shirley Wittenberg purchased it from Wally. Bud and Darlene Bellamy purchased THE STOP from Shirley. Roy and Gwen bought it in October 1981, owning it about half the years it was open. When we asked Roy about his most favorite moment, he said, "the day we paid off the mortgage." We also asked him about his least favorite moment and it obviously related to the highway moving but it was "that they didn't move the railroad tracks with the highway."

They will be closing in early November, please STOP by and wish them well. They have said that they already know it will not take long before they begin to miss all of us. They are talking about a farewell party in the Spring. We wish them well and thank them for all they have done for our community from being the unofficial town bank by cashing our checks for cash (without asking for an ID), the Sunday paper stop, to hosting the association fishing contests and always having the doors open, even when times are tough.

Mike Flanagan

Paul Baker

Roger Rolstad

David Thibert