

## Note from the President

What a difference one year makes. Fish Trap Lake has gone from extremely high water levels in 2011 to very low in 2012. I hope that 2013 will bring a happy medium.

We discussed water levels at our general meeting in June. The members reviewed a recommendation by the water flow committee and unanimously approved a policy where the association would spend up to \$500 annually to remove beaver dams west of the Minnesota DNR dam at Fish Trap Creek. The association would do so, however, only if water levels exceeded the level of the DNR dam.

Those who were able to attend our June meeting heard some very good news ... we reached our goal of raising \$5,000 for our endowment! That \$5,000 has been matched by \$5,000 of our association funds and \$10,000 of Initiative Foundation funds to create our \$20,000 endowment. The endowment is expected to generate approximately \$1,000 each year to be used for lake projects such as zebra mussel migration control, lake wide studies, weed control (wild celery, Eurasian milfoil and others) and shoreline buffer zones. If you are interested in serving on a committee to annually determine how the proceeds are used, please plan to attend the June meeting. We will also announce our plans to form the committee on our website ([www.fishtraplake.com](http://www.fishtraplake.com)) and in upcoming newsletters.

I also have some sad news to share ... the Minnesota DNR has confirmed a small patch of Eurasian watermilfoil growing in the northeast area of Lake Shamineau, east of the public access. The DNR conducted further surveys but did not find it in other locations. Although our lake contains northern watermilfoil, one of our many native aquatic plants, Fish Trap so far remains free of the non-native and very aggressive Eurasian watermilfoil.

Our LID is continuing to combat another invasive aquatic plant - curly-leaf pondweed. In the spring of 2012, the DNR identified approximately 65 acres of curly-leaf pondweed which is approximately half the total acreage that existed several years ago, prior to the lake wide treatments. To help cover costs of treating the plant, our association will again apply for a grant from the DNR. We received approximately \$10,000 in 2012 and \$20,000 in 2011.

We are also working with the Morrison County Soil and Water Conservation District to obtain a grant to assist lakeshore owners in updating septic systems. When we have news to share about those grants, we will post the update on our website as well as our spring newsletter.

Thanks to all who sent emails or attended the meetings expressing opinions on closing the crossing in Lincoln in order to eliminate train whistles at that intersection. We are sorry to report that the Morrison County Board on June 19th voted against closing the road. Special thanks to association board member Paul Baker who spearheaded the effort to convince the County to close the crossings and association

*Continued from page 1*

members Marilyn and Jim Sutton who attended almost half the season. Thanks to Jim Feigels and Jim Blumn for once again spending many precious summer hours monitoring our lake's water clarity, phosphorous and chlorophyll-a. For those interested in reading about the results for this summer you can view those results and compare them to previous years at the RMB website (<http://www.mapfeeder.net/rmb.php/guest>). Simply select the date, table, or graph that you are interested in, select Fish Trap Lake (site 204 to be specific) and then click on the magnifying glass at the top of the page. Although water clarity in May and June was outstanding, the readings dropped dramatically in July and August quite likely due to lower water levels on our lake.

As always, any comments or questions are welcome and may be sent to our website at fishtraplake@yahoo.com. Sorry for any delays in responding but we do respond to every email.

See you in the spring,

Chuck Salter

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**We would like to recognize the following property owners, friends and family and local businesses for contributing to the Initiative. This group contributed over \$5,000 so far to the fund. If we missed your name please contact us.**

Contributions made exceeding \$1,000 = Platinum (P), \$500-\$999.99 = Gold (G), \$250-\$499.99 = Silver (S), \$100-\$249.99 Bronze (B).

**Thank you.**

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|--|--|--|
| Arlene Baker   | Ray & Carol Bernardy                             | Ralph Butkowski, Janet Beneke <b>B</b> |
| Tim & Catherine Brattensborg- Brown / Four Pines Assoc. <b>B</b> |  | David & Joan Ciminski <b>B</b>         |
| Mark & Shelly Czech  | David & Mary Ellering <b>B</b>                   | Mike & Bobbie Flanagan <b>S</b>        |
| Ron & Beverly Flanagan   | Tim Flanagan                                     | Harold & Dona Hagstrom                 |
| George & Cordy Heroux <b>B</b>                                   | Mike Mrozek / Hilltop Sports                     | Barry & Kristi Holden <b>P</b>         |
| Dave & Jeanne Jaeckels   | Robert & Christina Johnson                       | Stanley Kaczor by George Kaczor        |
| Tom & Lisa Kajer <b>B</b>  | Roger & Mary Ann Karnowski <b>B</b>              | Tom & Peggy Kasak                      |
| Dave and Sue Kerkow <b>B</b>                                     | Robert & Debra Knutson <b>B</b>                  | Jim & Jeanne Licari                    |
| Jim Licari   | Lincoln Area Business Assoc. <b>G</b>            | James & June Loscheider                |
| Mel Lundgren   | Ron & Karol Markfelder                           | Joe & Mary McKiernan <b>B</b>          |
| Doug & Judi Mehr <b>B</b>  | Lyle & Connie Nuhring                            | Barry & Jackie Opatz                   |
| Jay Paczkowski   | Dave Perlich                                     | Ritch & Sandy Peterson                 |
| Todd & Chris Reimringer <b>B</b>                                 | Mark & Margaret Ruffino <b>G</b>                 | Jim & Mary Rumpca                      |
| Charles Salter & Kate Bretscher <b>B</b>                         |  | Scott & Kristin Schnuckle <b>S</b>     |
| Marion & James Seeley Kreisman, Suzanne Seeley                   | Sisters of St. Benedict att: Sister Magaret Wurm |  |
| James & Rebecca Smith  | Kay & Paul Solon                                 | Khris Sundvahl                         |
| Jim & Marilyn Sutton <b>B</b>                                    | Dan & Peggy Swalm <b>B</b>                       | Rod & Marilyn Swanson                  |
| Mary & David Thibert   | Sandra O. Thompson                               | David & Joellen Uhl <b>B</b>           |
| Wayne & Diana Vaverek  | Gary & Chris Ziehm <b>B</b>                      |  |

We will continue to accept these **tax deductible** contributions to this Initiative Fund and will match the next \$1,000 with an equal contribution from our association. Checks can be made out to: FTLPOA Initiative and mailed to:

**Fish Trap Lake Property Owners Association Inc.**  
**Annual Financial Report Revised**  
**6/17/11 to 6/15/12**

**Total Bank Balance 6/17/11** **\$10,318.29**

**Checking Account:**

Balance 6/17/11 \$4,232.18

**Income:**

Dues Paid 5,975.00

Interest Earned 7.20

Newsletter Ads 700.00

DNR Grant 21,500.00

**Total Income** **\$28,182.20**

**Expenses:**

Administration 179.87

Annual Meeting 2010 452.00

Checks 71.91

Fishing Contest Manager 75.00

Fishing Contest Winners 140.00

Newsletters Printing &  
Postage (Fall & Spring) 2,071.03

Liability Insurance 224.00

MN Waters Assn. Dues 200.00

P.O. Box Rent 56.00

Postage 445.24

1/2 Tree Purchase + Postage 172.00

Water Monitoring Expense 316.50

Weed Control 21,500.00

Newsletter Expense 2011 250.00

Secretary Expenses 2011 250.00

Treasurer Expenses 2011 300.00

**Total Expenses** **\$26,703.55**

**Checking Balance 6/15/12** **\$5,710.83**

**CD Balance 6/17/11** **\$6,086.11**

**Interest Earned** **45.91**

**CD Balance 6/15/12** **\$6,132.02**

**Endowment Savings Account Balance 6/15/12**  
**\$4,840.88**

**Total Bank Balance as of 6/15/12** **\$16,683.73**

<b>Total Members 2011</b>	<b>199</b>
<b>Total members as of 6/15/12</b>	<b>101</b>

**Fish Trap Lake Property Owners Association Inc.**  
**Annual Financial Report Revised**  
**6/15/12 to 9/28/12**

<b>Total Bank Balance 6/15/12</b>	<b>\$16,683.73</b>
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<b>Checking Account:</b>	
<b>Balance 6/15/12</b>	<b>\$5,710.83</b>

<b>Income:</b>	
2012 Dues Paid	2,250.00
Interest Earned	<u>      .79</u>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$2,250.79</b>

<b>Expenses:</b>	
Annual Meeting	450.00
Water Monitoring Expense	158.31
Web Page	500.00
Transfer to Savings (Trees)	<u>  145.00</u>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$1,253.31</b>

<b>Checking Balance 9/28/12</b>	<b>\$6,708.31</b>
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<b>CD Balance 6/15/12</b>	<b>\$6,132.02</b>
Interest Earned	<u>      7.73</u>

<b>CD Balance 9/28/12</b>	<b>\$6,139.75</b>
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<b>Endowment Savings Account</b>	<b>\$5,267.28</b>
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<b>Total Bank Balance as of 9/28/12</b>	<b>\$18,115.34</b>
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<b>Membership as of 9/9/11</b>	<b>181</b>
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<b>Membership as of 9/28/12</b>	<b>193</b>
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# **Fish Trap Lake Property Owner's Association Annual Meeting Minutes**

**June 16, 2012 at 9:00 am Scandia Valley Town Hall**

Board Members present: Chuck Salter, pres., Scott Schnuckle, vice pres., Marilyn Sutton, sec., George Heroux, treas., Peg Hartung, Brian Sams, Ron Mash, Paul Baker, Mike Flanagan, David Thibert and Peggy Swalm. Absent: Tom Kajer and Joan Russell.

Secretary Report: Brian moved and seconded a motion to accept the minutes of the March 17, 2012 meeting and seconded by Peg. Motion carried.

Financial Report: There are 335 property owners on the lake of which 199 are FTLA members. There is a new member application form on the website, [www.fishtraplake.com](http://www.fishtraplake.com).

Guest Sheriff Michael Wetzel: Good news to report. Thefts are down in the lake area. However, heroin use is on the up trend. He reminded everyone especially the kids to wear life jackets in the boat.

Guest Amy Kowalzek: Morrison County Planning and Zoning Administrator reported they have applied for a Soil and Water grant to start a pilot program to secure baseline data on FTL. The purpose is to have every parcels on the lake surveyed for septic compliance, hire inspectors who can go onto properties who do not have septic certificates on file previous to the year 2009. The county will target properties where they have no recorded data and which represent the greatest risk for non-compliance. Holding tank inspections will be checked for cement bottoms/walls, pumping records, leaks and soil leakage. Septic tanks and drain fields will be checked relative to the standards for the year in which they were installed. Generally, drain fields should have at least 3' of separation from saturated ground. Their evaluation methods will include soil borings and looking for any evidence of affluent or/and muddy spots in the area. Straight pipes are referred to the MPCA and they levy fines. If a system is found to be non-compliant and surface water on the property is found, the owner will have 10 months to install a new system. Grant funds based on income, will be available to anyone with a non-compliant system not just Imminent Public Health Threats. Property owners have one year to correct a system that fails to protect groundwater, and 10 months to correct a system that is in Imminent Public Health Threat. Costs for these inspections will range from \$150 to \$300. Ms. Kowalzek noted that there was an opening case involving straight pipe drainage Fish Trap Lake.

Guest Glen Erickson: County Assessor reported six sales on FTL in 2011. Sale ratios were based on 90% of market value. The value decrease on Fish Trap properties were less compared to other lakeshore properties in Crow Wing County.

Guest Eric Altena: Area Fisheries Manager gave a power point presentation on the history and trends of fish populations including bass, crappies, blue gill, pike, walleye, musky etc throughout the years since 1990. He also discussed the stocking of walleye fingerlings and fry in the lake over the years. He mentioned that zebra mussels present near Alexandria are not severe in Northern Minnesota...yet. He welcomed many questions and suggestions from the members. One suggestion was made that fishing clubs and leagues get permits to enter fishing contests and that public accesses are gated to control invasive species.

Old Business: Chuck reported that the DNR grant awarded was down from \$20,000 to \$10,000. The cost to treat FTL had gone up from \$15,000 to \$23,000 for treating the same 70 acres as last year. Our contract with PLM was renewed.

Water Clarity: Jim Fogelberg reported the ice went out March 22, 2012, the earliest ever. Secci Dish readings were at 28' at ice-out, June 5<sup>th</sup>, 19', and June 15<sup>th</sup> 12' which tied our record for the best readings ever. Normal readings by August are generally 6'. He and his partner were thanked for their reporting.

High Water Levels: Brian and his committee met and recommended that the association make every reasonable attempt to remove obstructions in Fish trap Creek in order to maintain natural unobstructed flow when it is observed that there is an obstruction and the lake level is above the control structure. The association will cover expenses, including reasonable compensation, not to exceed \$500 a year. Scott Schnuckle moved to adopt the motion. Tom Vouk seconded and the motion was passed unanimously.

*Continued on page 6*

*Continued from page 5*

Initiative Foundation Endowment: Scott reported that as of 6/16/12 FTLA has raised \$5000 from area business and members, including 100% of the board members, to match the association's \$5000 (CD) needed to apply for the matching \$10,000 grant. We hope to continue to raise additional funds for the endowment, and significant donors will be recognized as sponsors of our lake n future News Letters and other ways. The association will be guaranteed 5% annual dividend back to use for lake improvements. Chuck called for a committee to work on this project.

Train Noise: Paul Baker attended the Town Hall meeting with the Morrison County Commissioners held on May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2012. Concerned residents heard from Steve Backowski, County Engineer and Bentley Tomlin, Burlington Northern regarding the closing of the Lincoln crossing. 11 people were for the closing and 11 were against. Emails sent in were 13 for closing and 1 against. Scott mentioned that property values on FT are estimated to be affected by 5 to 8% because of the train whistles and noise. Members were encouraged to email the county commissioners before they meet on June 19<sup>th</sup> to voice their opinion either for or against this proposal. Chuck read a letter from County Commissioner Tom Wentzel announcing his retirement from public office. The letter will be posted on our website.

New Business: Peg Hartung, George Heroux, Joan Russell and Paul Baker have all agreed to serve another 2 year term on the Board. Tom Kajer is retiring. Larry nominated Jim Licari to the Board and seconded by Jim. Motion made, approved and carried.

4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade will leave from the camp ground at noon. No water balloons or tubes.

A drawing was held for door prizes.

Motion to adjourn was made by Scott, seconded by David and carried.

Adjournment at 11:25. Marilyn Sutton, Secretary

Executive Meeting following the annual meeting

All previous members were present. Motion made and seconded to have Chuck remain as president, Scott, vice president, George, treasurer and Marilyn, secretary. Approved and carried.

Discussion about forest tent caterpillars was held and this item will again be placed on the September agenda.

A motion was made by Peg Hartung that between now and the September meeting electronic voting will be accepted until an amendment is made to the association by-laws. Motion seconded by Scott, carried.

Next meeting will be SEPTEMBER 29, 2012 @ 9:30 am Scandia Valley Town Hall followed by the LID meeting.

# Fish Trap Lake Property Owner's Association Board Meeting Minutes

Scandia Valley Town Hall, September 29, 2012 at 9:30 a.m.

Meeting convened at 9:35 a.m.

**Board Members present:** Chuck Salter, president, Scott Schnuckle, vice president, George Heroux, treasurer, Mike Flanagan, Peg Hartung, Jim Licari, David Thibert, Joan Russell and Brian Sams.

**Secretary Report:** Peg Hartung moved and David Thibert seconded a motion to accept the minutes of the June 16, 2012 meeting of the Fish Trap Lake Property Owner's Association (Association). The motion carried.

**Financial Report:** George Heroux discussed the financial report for the period from June 15 to September 28, 2012. The report was received. Scott Schnuckle moved and Joan Russell seconded a motion to amend the 2011 and 2012 financial reports to show that \$250 was paid to the secretary and \$250 to the newsletter editor rather than \$500 to the secretary for both 2011 and 2012.

## **Old business:**

**Initiative Foundation Endowment Discission:** The Initiative Foundation informed the Association this summer that it was no longer receiving the funding from the McKnight Foundation necessary for the establishment of new endowments. The Initiative Foundation is currently funding the last of endowments for lake associations able to raise \$10,000. The Initiative Foundation did inform our Association that they would match \$10,000 of our funds and would establish a Fish Trap Lake Endowment. We will contact the Foundation to see if they would consider an additional match if they have funds remaining for the endowment program at the end of 2013 when all lake associations need to have raised the minimum \$10,000. We agreed to continue to match Association funds for any new contributions received for the Fish Trap Lake Endowment up to the level of our Certificate of Deposit funds, a total amount of approximately \$1,000. Board members received and reviewed the proposed contract with the Initiative Foundation that established the Fish Trap Lake Endowment.

Mike Flanagan moved and Scott Schnuckle seconded a motion to approve a contract with the Initiative Foundation to establish an Endowment. The motion carried unanimously.

Brian Sams moved and Jim Licari seconded a motion to transfer \$5,267 of money raised for the endowment and a matching \$5,267 of Association funds to the Initiative Foundation to be matched by \$10,000 of Initiative Foundation funds to create an initial endowment of \$20,534. The motion carried unanimously.

**Summer Studies:** Board members reviewed the Fish Trap Lake water quality data prepared by RMB Environmental Laboratories (RMB) based on water samples collected by Jim Folgelberg and Jim Blumn during the Spring and Summer of 2012. The data is available on the RMB website at <http://rmbel.info>. Of particular interest was the decrease in water quality between May (Secchi disk reading at 19 feet) and July (Secchi disk reading at 6.5 feet) possibly due to lower lake levels and a resulting increase in the concentration of particles (plants, silt, etc.). Scott Schnuckle suggested that we look at the cost of hiring an expert on water quality who could evaluate our lake and advise us about possible next steps. One board member suggested that the approximate \$1,000 generated in the first year of the endowment could possibly be used to pay for all or a portion of the assessment. Scott agreed to investigate the names of companies which might do such an evaluation and the costs they would charge. Board members also discussed the increase in lakeshore changes that appear to be happening in violation of Morrison County zoning regulation and the perceived lack of response by Morrison County. Brain Sams agreed to approach Morrison County Planning and Zoning about our concerns. Scott Schnuckle said that he would talk with Tom Wenzel.

**Eurasian Milfoil at Lake Shamineau:** The board discussed the report that Eurasian milfoil was discovered on Lake Shamineau. Mike Flanagan stated that he had learned that divers found approximately ten Eurasian milfoil plants and removed them from the lake. Chuck Salter stated that he would talk to the Minnesota Department of Natural

*Continued on page 8*

*Continued from page 7*

Resources (DNR) about a plan of action for Fish Trap Lake in the event that Eurasian milfoil is discovered on our lake. Chuck stated that he would also talk to the DNR about potential dangers created by bass tournaments (where participants fish in a variety of local lakes during the day of the tournament) and possible additional controls at the Fish Trap Lake access. Board members agreed that we need to keep funds in reserve in order to immediately address potential future problems such as Eurasian milfoil.

**Grants:** Board members agreed that we should again apply for the DNR grant and should continue to do so as long as the grant is available and we have a need to treat invasive aquatic plants. We received a grant of over \$20,000 in 2011 and just under \$10,000 in 2012 for the treatment of curly-leaf pondweed. Scott Schnuckle moved and George Heroux seconded the motion to authorize annual applications to the DNR for its grant to treat invasive aquatic plants. The motion passed unanimously.

**Website:** Brian Sams noted a recent problem with the domain name [www.fishtraplake.com](http://www.fishtraplake.com) referring users to a site other than our Fish Trap Lake Association website. Brian stated that he would correct that problem. [www.fishtraplake.pbworks.com](http://www.fishtraplake.pbworks.com) continues to work. Board members also talked about the possibility of updating the website through the use of a local web designer/webmaster who could change the design of the site and update information as needed. The webmaster could potentially be someone who would attend meetings and take notes, thereby eliminating the additional step of having a board member communicate all requested updates and changes to the webmaster. Peg Hartung will check with the web designer/webmaster for the Lincoln Lakes Business Association and will invite her to attend our Spring meeting so that we may further discuss this idea.

**Electronic voting between scheduled meetings:** The board met briefly after the June meeting and discussed the need in some limited situations to react immediately to lake situations without calling an emergency meeting of the board. The current bylaws do not specifically allow for such action. Upon further discussion at our Fall meeting, the board approved the following change to Article IV, Section 8 of the Association bylaws:

*Any action that could be taken at a Board of Directors meeting may be taken without meeting when approved by a super majority of at least 8 board members. A non-response by a board member counts as a no vote. Any vote must be preceded by notice on the association website stating both the action and the intent to decide the action by an electronic vote. The notice must be posted on the website three days prior to any vote by the Board of Directors.*

Peg Hartung moved and Brian Sams seconded the motion to make that amendment to Article IV, Section 8 of the Association bylaws. The motion carried unanimously.

**Train Noise:** The board discussed the June 2012 decision by Morrison County to deny the request to close the rail crossing in Lincoln. Board members speculated that train traffic will continue to increase due to the tremendous amount of oil being shipped on the line from North Dakota and empty oil tankers moving to North Dakota. The board agreed to again petition the Morrison County Board for action on that crossing as soon as the Morrison County Board will entertain further discussion. **One member stated that the Morrison County Board may make us wait two years or so before granting the request to place the issue on their agenda.** The Association board discussed the need to document the amount of time that trains remain stationary at the Lincoln crossing and, through the use of an independent source, the time differences between using the crossing and using Highway 10 to reach the neighborhood of those people most affected by the change in the emergency vehicle traffic route.

**Tent Caterpillars:** The board revisited our decision in 2011 not to fund treatment of tent caterpillars and again determined that we would not fund treatment of tent caterpillars. Although we are all affected by the infestation, the infestation is cyclical (7 to 10 years) and trees seem to recover after an initial defoliation. Some members are opposed to chemical treatment. The board decided against funding treatment based primarily on financial and liability concerns.



**Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) Website rating of FTL:** On its website, the MPCA continues to state that there is not enough data available to determine recreation, aquatic life or fish consumption conditions on Fish Trap Lake. We will invite a speaker from the MPCA to our June meeting to discuss water quality on our lake.

**FTLPOA Board insurance:** Although the Association has insurance coverage, the coverage does not extend to individual board members. The annual cost to insure individual board members is approximately \$650. The board discussed the Minnesota statute that protects unpaid board members of nonprofit organizations and decided that there was not a need for additional insurance. The board has reviewed this issue approximately once every four years and will look at it again in the future.

**Compensation of Secretary and Treasurer and Newsletter Editor:** The board treasurer, George Heroux, stated that the annual \$300 approximately covers gas, supplies and other annual expenses and did not request any additional funds. The newsletter editor, Mike Flanagan, indicated that his expenses were not quite covered by the annual reimbursement but that he also did not want any increase. The board discussed using the \$250 annual allotment for the board secretary to pay or partially pay for an administrative assistant, hired as an independent contractor, to both take notes at each of three meetings and update the website. As noted above, the board will continue discussions on this issue at the spring meeting.

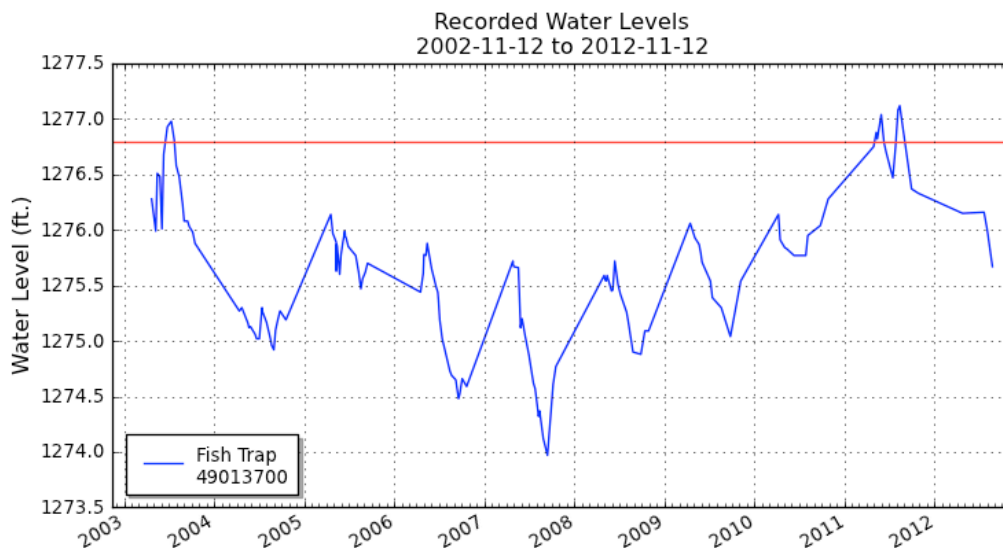
**Trees:** The Association successfully gave away 500 trees this spring, most of which are planted around our lake with the excess remaining after the June meeting going to a camp on Lake Shamineau. We will likely distribute trees again in a few years. Since the DNR requires minimum purchases of 500 trees, those wanting trees in the meantime can purchase minimum orders of 25 from Morrison County.

### **New Business**

- A. Fall/Winter Newsletter - Mike Flanagan requested all articles be sent to him by October 30<sup>th</sup>.
- B. Spring board meeting date – April 6, 2013 at 9:30 a.m. at Scandia Valley Township Hall.
- C. Open seat – With the resignation of Marilyn Sutton this summer, there is an open seat on this board. For anyone interested in serving, please contact the Association at its website at [www.fishtraplake@yahoo.com](mailto:www.fishtraplake@yahoo.com).

Meeting adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

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## A Century on Fish Trap Lake: 1912 -2012 part 2, continued from spring newsletter Jeannette Dewars Dobrick

As told to Dan Dobrick, October 2012

By midsummer of 1935, things were changing on the island. My cousins, now in their late teens, began to spend time at home in Minneapolis with their friends and visited the island with them occasionally. My sister and I were happy with the prospect of renovating the cottage and land which my father had purchased in 1929. This cottage was directly across from the island to the west. Little had been done until now, but when electricity arrived, work began in earnest. No more kerosene lamps with glass globes to clean every day, and no more kerosene stove. It seemed as if a different group of relatives arrived every weekend to help with work and perhaps do a little fishing.

We discovered that the porch had been added to the original house (built around 1903) and that it had long been rented by the week. The outside wall of the house was covered with pencil written comments by renters: good/bad weather, great/awful fishing, will return/will never return, followed by names and addresses, mostly out of state, Iowa and Illinois. I wish I had written down some of these comments, but I can still see my father mixing up the whitewash that would cover the walls with all their reports.

My uncle Jim was the heart of the island. He spent as much of his time as possible there and was always improving things. It was a great shock to us all when he died unexpectedly in late September 1935. It was only six weeks earlier my grandmother Margaret (his mother) had died. That summer at the lake ended with sadness, and the cottages on the island and the shore were closed and the season ended. We never spent any time at the island after that, and finally our furniture was brought from the island. The porch was not entirely finished, so the furniture was wrapped and stored in a corner.

On November 28, the town of Lincoln was swept by a fire that destroyed three businesses. We heard this news on the radio, but did not see the damages until the next spring. It was about this time that my cousin Billy went up to the cottage and found a man camped on our property living in a tent, with a goat tied to a tree. Although he protested that the owner had given him permission (not true), he was sent on his way.

In 1937, a concrete dam was built across the small stream that was the outlet to the lake. A short time later, a small shed to hold the boards which would be used to control the lake level suddenly appeared on our property. This stream wound through Max Mayer's pasture and under the highway bridge, continuing

on to empty into the Long Prairie River at Philbrook. A small bridge was in the center of the pasture so Max's cows could get to the part of the pasture on the north side of the creek. I have an old photo of that pasture with haystacks in it. When the dam was built, no provision for drainage was made and large volumes of water spread out and filled the pasture. Drainage was slow because of vegetation and beaver dams along the creek. Today this area is a swampy mess, nibbling away at the surrounding properties –the creek I remember never returned.

In 1938 and 1939, four of my friends and I spent two weeks each summer at the lake. Once, we were so determined to have an ice cream cone that we walked all the way to the Blue Front Store on Lake Alexander for our treat. This turned out to be almost five miles one way. The walk back seemed twice as long and bedtime came early that night. It was our custom for the first person up to use the small wind-up phonograph and play Glenn Miller's "Sunrise Serenade". No one got to sleep late.

Another time, one of Louis Dvorak's sons came to deliver a message received at Dvorak's store that one of the girls was requested to take the train to St. Cloud the next day for an uncle's funeral. Louis Dvorak with a perfectly straight face told her she would have to flag the train down to make it stop. So we all stood and watched our friend stand on the tracks and wave the flags. It made a great story later.

In the summer of 1940, we received notice that the army would be conducting large maneuvers in the area from Brainerd to Buckman- from Isle to Lincoln. One day in July we saw that area between the depot and the road by the railroad water tower filled with soldiers, a large steam engine train on the side track.

*Continued on page 11*

*Continued from page 10*

Two of the soldiers wandered down our road. They said they were from Iowa and wanted to see the lake. They walked the path to the dam and sat there for a while, before returning to their companions.

Declaration of war in 1941 led to rationing of many things: meat, sugar, cigarettes, leather shoes, and gasoline. My father took the street car to work and saved his gas coupons so we could occasionally go to the lake. After the war, trips to the lake resumed with either my sister or I going with our parents. My father died in 1951 and there was a lapse of a few years when we seldom went there. By the late 50's the only change we had made was to have a well drilled on the property. Oothoudt from Randall was the well driller. Before that, our neighbor had allowed us to get water from his well, which was free flowing with good water. As the well was being drilled, the elder Oothoudt called out to his son: "how deep is the well Ashley....."

I SAID HOW DEEP IS THE WELL ASHLEY?" Replied the son: "well, I'll have to turn my head and look!" This story was told and retold with great amusement for years in our family.

In the early sixties we finally decided to get rid of the old wooden canoe we had used to paddle around the lake. We simply tied it to the back bumper of the car and drove it over to the dump. This was the old dump in Lincoln, now hard to see up at the junction of Highway 10 and Holt road. Imagine our surprise when we came with a second load of junk an hour later to find the canoe was gone! Nice to think some enterprising soul was going to rebuild it.

The one thing that has remained constant was the train traffic and their whistles. There was a place in the yard where we could see the trains as they passed, so when we heard a train whistle, we often stopped what we were doing and went to watch the trains pass. The business-like "honk" of a diesel holds much less interest than the nostalgic whistle of a steam engine, but we all enjoy it still.

Sometime in the mid-sixties my mother decided to spend summers at the lake. We added a telephone to the cottage so we could keep in touch and in case of emergency. My cousin Margaret and her mother lived on the other side of the dam and they all spent a lot of time together. 1972 Was the year of the 9 inch rainfall in Randall that flooded areas everywhere nearby. My mother was alone at the lake; at that time she

was in her late 70's and so hard of hearing that she did not hear the heavy rain. Imagine her surprise when she got up the next morning and found the cottage to be an island! Margaret contacted the County Sheriff who was out rescuing people and he ran his boat right up to the back door of the cottage and took my mother to Margaret's house, which was somewhat less flooded.

The water slowly drained away, and the next year the cottage was raised and a new foundation (cement blocks instead of rocks) was laid. A few years after that, my mother decided to stay at home instead of heading north for the summer.

My sister Marilyn and I and our families shared use of the cottage and after my mother's death continued to carry on as usual. Now our children and grandchildren and a great grandchild enjoy summers at the lake.

Eagles, great blue herons, bluebirds, rainbows behind and over the island – and frogs coming back. What's not to enjoy? We love it all.

Many have asked which island the articles refer to, it is the small island just outside the public boat landing.

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## **TRAINS**

In late May Morrison County Board voted against closing of the crossing citing safety concerns for those that live between old Highway 10 and new Highway 10. This fall several members of the County Board will change out. The Board will continue to pursue the closing of the crossing with the new County Board of Commissioners when in place after the first of the year 2013.

FISH TRAP LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION  
P.O. Box 85  
Cushing, MN 56443

For those of you who have misplaced your application for membership for 2012, we have attached a copy. Please fill this out and mail it to the address below with \$25. Thank you.

### 2012 Membership Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Permanent Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Lake Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

**The FTLPOA is a 501c3 non-profit organization and dues are tax deductible.**

**Make check payable to: Fish Trap Lake Property Owners Association**

**Send check and form to: George Heroux, treasurer  
1032 Postel Drive**

**Motley, MN 56466**