

Winter 2010 Newsletter

“You are receiving this news letter as a courtesy of the paid members of the Fish Trap Lake Property Owners Association.”

A letter from the President

Hello again,

I hope your winter is going well. We are, hopefully, only about 75 days to ice-out!

We've seen a number of exciting developments since our May newsletter. On May 18th of last year, the DNR conducted a point intercept study which examined the plant life in our lake. The previous point intercept study was conducted in 2005. The DNR did not find any Eurasian Milfoil! The entire study can be found on our website at www.fishtraplake.pbwiki.com.

Our Lake Improvement District once again hired Professional Lake Management to treat 55 acres of our lake for curly-leaf pondweed. The treatment was completed on May 18th. The location of the areas treated can be found on our website (above). The areas treated in 2009 are slightly different than the 55 acres treated in the previous year. The change came as a result of the 2008 “delineation” by the DNR which marked the boundaries of the curly-leaf pondweed in our lake. At the time of the delineation, the DNR did not find curly-leaf in several areas of the 55 acres that had been treated one month earlier. It's possible that the curly-leaf had diminished in those areas due to the success of the treatment. The DNR, however, did not approve our application in 2009 to treat those areas but did allow the Lake Improvement District to treat alternative locations.

The Lake Improvement District (LID) Board met on July 18, 2009 and seated new board members Lee Goderstad and Wayne Hoffman. Previous board members David Hoeller and Judy Mehr had decided not to run for re-election. Thanks to both David and Judy and welcome Lee and Wayne. The Lake Improvement District plans to again treat curly-leaf pondweed on 55 acres in 2010. A postcard soliciting nominations for the LID board will be sent out in the spring, followed by another postcard for the actual election. The LID annual meeting will follow the lake association annual meeting on June 19th.

We've attached our survey of lake water quality for 2009. If you could please complete the survey and send it to Lisa Kajer by March 15th that would greatly assist us in determining the effectiveness of the treatment and help guide decisions on where to treat in future years. Thanks for your assistance in completing the survey.

We are now recognized by the IRS as an official 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation. The primary reason for submitting an application to the IRS was to allow all members to continue to deduct dues as a charitable contribution. With the increased funds from grants and dues in recent years, the association was approaching the upper limit of income for organizations not listed as a 501(c)(3). With our current 501(c)(3) status, members will continue to be able to deduct dues and gifts made to the association.

Jim Folgelberg and Jim Bluum continued to monitor our lake for clarity (Secchi dish depth), total phosphorus and chlorophyll-a. Although the Spring Secchi dish readings of 27 feet were some of the lowest in forty years (showing extremely clear water) the readings by late summer were at depths of only 4 to 6 feet. The average for the summer was about 11 feet. The total phosphorus levels ranged from a low in the Spring of 15 ug/l (ug/l is micrograms per liter) to a high in September of 41 ug/l. The chlorophyll-a ranged from 1ug/l in the spring to 22 ug/l by the fall. Environmental

Laboratories evaluated the data collected by Jim and Jim and noted that the Secchi dish readings were within the expected range. The lab noted that total phosphorus and chlorophyll-a readings were above the expected range. If you would like to see all of the readings and compare them to previous years, please visit www.rmbel.info and go to Lakes Program/Retrieve Data Reports. Thanks to both Jims for their continued efforts to measure and report water quality data of Fish Trap Lake!

We've again applied for a grant from the DNR to assist in paying the costs of curly-leaf pondweed treatment. We'll know by the end of March whether we are successful. We did not get the DNR grant in 2008 or 2009.

Welcome back Lisa Kajer. Lisa previously served as the association board secretary for many years and, with her husband Tom, assembled and published our newsletters. Lisa filled the position vacated by Marilyn Hoegemeyer who, as association board secretary, had published the newsletters for the last two years. We'll miss Marilyn greatly but are excited to have Lisa rejoin the board. We are still short one property owners association board member. Please let me know if there is anyone interested in filling that opening.

I'm looking forward to seeing all of you at our June 19th annual meeting.

Chuck Salter

**Fish Trap Lake Property Owners Association
Fall Board Meeting, September 19, 2009, Scandia Town Hall**

Board Members Present: Peg Hartung, Marilyn Hoegemeyer, George Heroux, Tom Kajer, Lisa Kajer, Joan Russell, Chuck Salter, Scott Schnuelke, Marilyn Sutton, Peggy Swalm, David Thibert

Absent: Bill Bates, Brian Sams

President Chuck Salter called the meeting to order at 9:34 AM.
Secretaries report was accepted.

Lisa Kajer volunteered to fill the open position on the board for a three year term. George moved and Joann seconded to appoint Lisa Kajer to the three-year term. Motion carried. For personal reasons Marilyn Hoegemeyer will not be able to continue as secretary. Lisa volunteered to become the secretary. Tom thanked Marilyn for her hard work and dedication to the board.

Treasurer's Report George gave an update on membership. To date there are 226 paid members. At the end of August he sent out a second reminder to 150 people. In November he will send out another reminder to persons who had been members in 2008 and have not renewed for 2009.

Membership dues for 2010 will remain at \$25. A return envelope (without a stamp) will be placed in the spring newsletter to make it easy for people to send in dues. The spring newsletter is paid with advertisements, however, the winter newsletter is paid for by members. All homeowners on the lake will receive the winter newsletter. The newsletter will include the statement, "You are receiving this news letter as a courtesy of the paid members." Scott moved and Peg H. seconded to accept the treasurer's report. Motion carried.

Peg H. moved and Marilyn S. seconded that \$5000 be put into a six month Certificate of Deposit.

George will contact the county to determine if they will reimburse, as they have in the past, the \$142.05 for postage for the water monitoring.

Scott asked the group to consider hiring someone during weekends in the fall to clean weeds from the public landing boat launch. The weeds could possibly be composted. The DNR will need to be contacted about the composting. After some discussion it was decided to pursue this idea further

with possibly contracting with Brian Sams to provide that service. Scott will contact Brian Sams and the DNR.

George would like to see an “Adopt An Access Program” similar to the “Adopt a Highway Program” to help the DNR with putting in public docks. He even knows someone who would be willing to put in the dock on Fish Trap Lake. George will contact the DNR about this idea.

Old Business

a. Scott moved and Peg H. seconded to amend The Articles of Incorporation (see below) to meet the Federal Government requirements for the Fish Trap Lake Property Owners Association to become a 501(c)(3). The 501(c)(3) status will allow members to take deductions for dues and for board members to deduct miles (at the charitable rate) driven to board meetings.

Peg H. will check the PO box in Cushing on a weekly basis and forward important information to Chuck.

b. Lisa will let people know if she needs volunteers to help with the newsletters and mailings.

c. FTLID Update. Chuck said that property owners were assessed \$65 this year for the curlyleaf pondweed treatment. The taxes may be even less in the future if the group receives a grant from the DNR to help pay for some of the treatment. **The LID decided to hold their annual meeting after the FTLPOA Annual meeting in June. Both meetings will be held on June 19, 2010 at Scandia Valley Town Hall.** Lisa will reserve the room. The annual meeting will begin at 9 AM. The LID repaid the \$2500 loan which is noted in the treasurer’s report.

d. The goals set in our 2008 Lake Vegetative Management Plan are almost complete. Chuck is working with the DNR to receive a summary of the Point Intercept Survey completed on the lake by the DNR. Members will be surveyed again this year to determine if they saw improvement in the areas that were treated for curlyleaf pondweed. A total of 150 brochures/ educational materials were made available for property owners and visitors

at the public boat launch. Next year the brochures should state that all islands on the lake are privately owned.

More education is needed about other ways that the lake is polluted (i.e. fire pits near the lake, broken septic systems, the use of phosphorous fertilizers, grass/lawn grown down to lakes edge instead of providing a buffer zone). Marilyn H. mentioned that Archie Block from Hillman is a certified septic system inspector who is very knowledgeable about septic systems. He does not install septic systems so he can be objective. He could be contacted to present information at the annual meeting. Marilyn will send Chuck his contact information.

Jim Fogelberg said that this summer the lake clarity was the highest it has ever been (28 feet in the spring) and the poorest it has ever been (4 feet in the fall). Chuck will send an email when the summer water testing studies are completed. Marilyn suggested the lake information be the focus of the winter newsletter.

Helen McCellan from soil and water contacted Marilyn H. about the survey that the county did on each property. Chuck will check with Helen and if information is compiled on a CD he will look at it and determine as to how the information can be used.

c. Grants. Chuck, at the recommendation of Al Doty at the annual meeting, tried to obtain a Star Lake Grant application via their website. To date, he has not received an application and understands that the program has no funds this year. On behalf of the LID, a DNR Grant application will be completed by Chuck to assist with costs of the curlyleaf pondweed treatment. It was suggested that since the curlyleaf pondweed issue is now under control that the association work on other issues that concern our lake. The pollution of our lake should be our next focus area. Tom suggested that the state lake association be contacted to learn of ways that other lake associations have addressed the issue of non-compliant septic systems.

- f. Website () costs \$200/year. Unfortunately, when Fish Trap Lake is typed in as a search the website isn't listed. Chuck would like to pursue other options.
- g. Minnesota Pollution Control Agency website ratings on Fish Trap Lake will be available in February. The lake may be listed as impaired.
- h. George now has the email listings for many members in a database. He will send that to Lisa.
- i. Chuck mentioned that there is a lot of information on the history of Fish Trap Lake that should be compiled on a CD to create a complete history.
- j. There was discussion to determine if board members are receiving notices from the county about variances/rezoning. The information will not be posted on the website but if a board member believes that a specific variance request could be a problem then an email will be sent to the entire group.

New Business:

- a. Eurasian Milfoil was not found in Thoroughfare Creek when the DNR kayaked the creek at the end of the summer.
 - b. Sometime this fall/winter the members will once again be surveyed about the curlyleaf pondweed treatment and that information will be summarized for the newsletter. Other items to include: all islands on the lake are private, fire pits near the shoreline information, leaf and grass clipping depositing. The MN Pollution Control Agency rating for the lake will be included if it is available before the newsletter is sent out.
- Peg H. will talk to Julie and Jeff at the campground about having newsletters and brochures in the campground office. They may want to include some of the information in mailings that they send to their clients.
- c. George mentioned that the MN Waters Association is asking for donations. The board felt the \$200 we pay for dues is sufficient.

d. Spring meeting date was set for March 20th at 9:30 AM at Scandia Valley Town Hall.

Joan moved and Peg. H seconded that the meeting be adjourned. Adjourned at 12:10 PM.

Changes to the Articles of Incorporation, as required for tax-exempt 01(c)(3) status are as follows:

This corporation is organized exclusively for charitable, religious, educational, or scientific purposes, including, for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

ARTICLE XIII

No part of the net earnings of this corporation shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that this corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in the purpose clause hereof. No substantial part of the activities of this corporation shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and this corporation shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provision of this document, this corporation shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by an organization exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or (b) by an organization, contributions to which are deductible under section 170(c)(2)

of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

ARTICLE XIV

Upon the dissolution of this corporation, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose. Any such assets not disposed of shall be disposed of by the Court of Common Pleas of the county in which the principal office of this corporation is then located, exclusively for the purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

Lisa Kajer

Secretary

The board is again asking members to complete a survey about the curl-leaf pondweed treatment of the lake. You may complete the survey in one of two ways: 1). Answer the enclosed survey and return in the envelop provided – please add a stamp, or 2) Complete the survey online. Go to: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/XWNXN63> and answer the questions. Chuck added the appropriate link to the website so that members can go directly to the survey from our website: fishtraplake.pbwiki.com
Please complete the survey by March 15, 2010!

Fish Trap Lake Property Owners Association

**Survey of effectiveness of the May 2009 Curly-leaf
pondweed treatment.**

Dear property owner,

As you probably know, the Fish Trap Lake Improvement District in May paid Professional Lake Management (PLM) to treat 55 acres (the maximum amount allowed by the DNR) of curly-leaf pondweed. PLM completed treatment in late May 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. In 2010, the Fish Trap Lake Improvement District will again hire PLM to treat 55 acres of curly-leaf pondweed and will, in part, rely on the results of the survey in determining treatment policy.

1. Does it appear that there is significantly less curly-leaf pondweed in those treated areas than there has been in recent years? _____

1. Does it appear that there are still significant amounts of curly-leaf pondweed in an area **beyond** approximately 100 feet from the shore? _____

1. Does it appear that there are still significant amounts of curly-leaf pondweed in an area **within** approximately 100 feet from the shore? _____

1. Other comments. _____

Please return this survey by March 15, 2010 to:

Lisa Kajer, 937 7th St. NE.

Staples, MN 56479

Thank you for your participation.

Sincerely,

Charles Salter

President, Fish Trap Lake Property Owners Association.