



PLPOA E-NEWSLETTER
February 2017

WWW.pelicanlakemn.org

Pelican Lake, Ottertail Co, MN

E-Newsletter February 2017

This E-Newsletter will provide updates on events, projects and issues important to PLPOA Members.

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Greetings From the President

It's been beautiful at the lake this year with all of the sunshine reflecting off the snow. And my husband, Nick, actually heard a bird singing last week.

Two notes for you this month:

ONGOING CONCERN

Water quality, AIS and the lack of Walleyes are getting a lot of attention in the state. Thankfully, there is increasing awareness of the importance of

lake stewardship. We need to think hard about all of our activities that impact the lake. Yard and shoreline management, boating events that encourage visitors onto the lake, public accesses, septic systems should be a concern to all of us. Starry Stonewort is the latest AIS concern as it was found in MN lakes in 2016 and it can produce dense mats of weeds at the water surface.

SEASONAL CONCERN

A concerned citizen reported a wide stretch of open water running from Pelican Point all the way to the south shore as a result of the unusual weather swings and ice heaves. A fisherman reported only 20" thick ice in his favorite spot this past weekend. Please remind your family and friends to be extremely careful when on the ice.

If questions or concerns, you can reach me at 651 261 5475.

[Sherry, Pres](#)

2017 Calendar

03/01/17	9:00 a.m.	Executive Committee Meeting
04/18/17	9:00 a.m.	Executive Committee Meeting
05/19/17	4:30 p.m.	Board Meeting - Fair Hills Resort Blue/Green Room
05/19/17	5:30 p.m.	Member Spring Social - Fair Hills Pavilion
05/19/17	6:00 p.m.	Member Spring Meeting
05/30/17	9:00 a.m.	Executive Committee Meeting
06/03/17	8:30 a.m.	Majors & Captains Meeting - Fair Hills Blue/Green Room
06/14/17		Clean up Day
06/17/17	8:30 a.m.	Board Meeting - Fair Hills Resort Blue/Green Room
07/04/17		Independence Day Parade and Fireworks
07/10/17	9:00 a.m.	Executive Committee Meeting
07/22/17	8:30 a.m.	Board Meeting - Fair Hills Pine Room
07/22/17	9:30 a.m.	Member Annual Breakfast - Fair Hills Dining Room
07/22/17	10:00 a.m.	Member Annual Association Meeting - Fair Hills Dining Room
08/18/17	4:30 p.m.	Board Meeting - Fair Hills Pine Room
08/18/17	5:30 p.m.	PLPOA Volunteer Appreciation Social - Fair Hills (by invitation)
08/18/17	6:30 p.m.	PLPOA Volunteer Appreciation Dinner - Fair Hills (by invitation)
09/11/17	9:00 a.m.	Executive Committee Meeting
11/15/17	9:00 a.m.	Executive Committee Meeting

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DNR Issues Ice Warning for Aerated Lakes



The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources warns ice anglers, snowmobilers, skiers and other outdoor enthusiasts to use caution when going onto any lake covered or partially covered with ice, especially those that feature aeration systems.

"Open water areas created by aeration systems can shift or change shapes depending on weather conditions," said Marilyn Danks, DNR aquatic biologist. "Leaks may develop in air lines, creating other areas of weak ice or open water."

Aeration systems are generally operated from the time lakes freeze until ice break-up in the spring. They help prevent winterkill of fish, but they also create areas of open water and thin ice, which are significant hazards.

[**MORE**](#)

Farmers Remain Furious Over MN Buffer Laws

ST. PAUL - Nearly two years into a Minnesota law requiring plant buffers between cropland and water, some farmers remain furious.

They say the 2015 buffer law violates the U.S. Constitution provision saying no "private property (can) be taken for public use without just compensation," that buffers take too much land out of crops and lower its value, that discussion about options to planting 50-foot buffers is starting too late and that farmers know what is best for their own land.

In other words, arguments made against the law two years ago remain alive.

[MORE](#)

Statewide Fisheries Advisory Group Discusses Walleye Limits, Fishing License Fees, Northern Pike Limits



A statewide fisheries advisory group again has brought up the idea of reducing Minnesota's statewide walleye limit from six fish to four, said Chris Kavanaugh, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources regional fisheries supervisor at Grand Rapids.

The topic was one of several fisheries issues discussed at the DNR's annual Roundtable meeting Jan. 6 in a Minneapolis suburb. Other topics included the possibility of a fishing license fee increase and establishing new limits for northern pike, Kavanaugh said.

[MORE](#)

INFORUM Sam Cook Jan 15, 2017

Gov. Dayton Wants Public Input On Water Quality Plan

Gov. Mark Dayton is making another push to clean up Minnesota's waters - and says he's learned lessons from his contentious battle two years ago to implement buffer strips along the state's waterways.

In a speech to the Minnesota Environmental Congress, the DFL governor said he'll propose improving Minnesota's water quality 25 percent by the year 2025.

But he's not proposing specific tools to accomplish that reduction just yet. Instead, he says he'll solicit citizen input around the state this summer and

make proposals based on that input in 2018.

[MORE](#)



Citizens Action Network (CAN) is your Lake Association's tool for lake and river advocacy. You CAN check up on important bill status, write your legislators, send letters to the editors of media in your area, track the work of legislative committees, see how your legislator voted on a specific bill and more. With CAN, you CAN and will make a difference. No one else is going to protect your lakes for you. It is up to each of us.

[MORE](#)

[Jeff Forester, Minnesota Lakes and Rivers](#)

County 9 Update

The Otter Tail County Engineers office has received four bids for 2017 highway work, which includes the County 9 project. The project also includes resurfacing work on the Pelican Rapids to State Highway 34 stretch of roadway. The lowest bid is \$100,000 under the original estimate. The County has previously worked with all the bidders. The Engineers Office will now double check all the bids before presenting their final recommendation to the County Board for final approval. This should be completed in a few weeks, well ahead of the start of the construction season.

Despite the cold weather and heavy snow, the Arvig utility crews have already been hard at work moving telephone, cable TV and computer cable out of the way of the planned construction.

[Jim Beckstrom](#)

PLPOA Bylaws

A working draft of updates and revisions for the PLPOA Bylaws has been distributed to the PLPOA Executive Committee. All other interested PLPOA Members are being invited to critique the draft and offer input. If you are interested in participating in this critique effort please contact

[Russ Severson](#) or [John Kruse](#).

Pelican Lakes Foundation Feasibility Task Force

Work is continuing to compile information and organize a Task Force to explore the feasibility of a Pelican Lakes Foundation. Task Force members are being assembled to address the various corporate, accounting and administrative requirements. PLPOA Members desiring to participate in this project are encouraged to contact [John Kruse](#).



Don't Release Aquarium or Water Garden Plants

The recent discovery of a non-native aquatic plant in Minnesota is a reminder that people should always dispose of aquarium or water garden plants or animals appropriately - not by releasing them into the environment.

Invasive species staff with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources identified java water dropwort in an isolated small pond in Le Sueur County. The wetland plant is native to Southeast Asia and is sometimes sold for ornamental purposes. DNR staff said the plant was likely released into the wild by someone who didn't understand the harm non-native plants can cause.

[MORE](#)



Update from Minnesotans for Family Fishing and Healthy Lakes

MFFHL continues to work statewide with other lake associations, property owners and fisherman to stop the stocking of expensive, unwanted non-native muskie into our lake and river ecosystems.

Recently the Minnesota Darkhouse and Angling Association (MDAA), with their 3000 members, joined our cause. And we have hired a lobbyist to work with us at the legislature this session.

Please visit the [MFFHL website](#) for all of the news and updates on MFFHL and join our [MFFHL database](#) so we can email you directly with updates on our effort to "take back family fishing in Minnesota".

PLPOA Donations Appeal

In the past two years we have had unplanned legal expenses that the majority of the board and members voted to spend to protect the lake. New issues may arise again and we want to be prepared. Please review the work on these projects and consider a donation to the PLPOA to help defray some of our costs.

Please consider making a donation. For your convenience a separate donation line-item has been included on the annual PLPOA membership billing statement. Send checks to Pelican Lake Property Owners Association, PO Box 1782, Detroit Lakes, MN 56502-1782. To make a donation by Paypal or credit card, go [HERE](#). If there are questions please call Jim Prondzinski at 703-727-8039 or Sherry Trepp at 651-261-5475.

Missed a past issue of the PLPOA E-Newsletter?

Find past issues of the PLPOA E-Newsletter on the [PLPOA Website](#). They are located on the [NEWS](#) page.

**OTTER TAIL COUNTY
COALITION OF LAKE ASSOCIATIONS**



OTC COLA is gearing up for the 2017 lake season. One of the programs administered by OTC COLA is water monitoring. Volunteers from over 40 lakes in Otter Tail County work with RMB Labs of Detroit Lakes, MN to obtain monthly lake water samples to assess lake health and plot trends of water quality.

PLPOA is a Member of OTC COLA. PLPOA Members serve on the OTC COLA Board of Directors and provide administrative support for the organization.

To learn more about OTC COLA visit the [OTC COLA](#) website. There you can sign up for the monthly E-Newsletter and get more information about OTC COLA. You are also welcome to attend monthly Member meetings during the summer months.

[John Kruse](#)

Sincerely,

[John Kruse](#)

PLPOA Communications Chairman