



PLPOA E-NEWSLETTER  
AUGUST 2017

[WWW.pelicanlakemn.org](http://WWW.pelicanlakemn.org)

Pelican Lake, Ottertail Co, MN

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

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## **Greetings From the President**

That was a fast summer. Things you should know about the PLPOA as we move into fall:

### **AIS**

- Starry Stonewort is spreading in MN as the MN DNR encourages fishing tournaments and improves public boat accesses making MN lakes more susceptible to AIS.

- Zebra Mussels, according to Dr Sophie Mallez from the U of M, show

different genetic markers across MN, suggesting they arrived in various regions from different sources. The lakes with the highest boat traffic are the most likely to have zebra mussels. We can and should stop spreading zebra mussels to new lakes. There is no known technology to get rid of zebra mussels at this time.

- Muskie, an invasive species to the Pelican Watershed stocked into Pelican Lake by the DNR to attract sport fishermen are undesirable by the majority of the PLPOA. If you have not yet signed the petition to STOP STOCKING MUSKIE, please do so. Your beach captain has a copy of the petition.

Good Changes Can Happen - Bill Kaler from Land and Resource Management encourages us to make changes to the county rules to further protect the lake.

PLPOA Organization - We welcomed 7 new, talented, energetic, dedicated lakers to the board in July and have high hopes for their contributions.

Beach Captain Folders - Most of the annual membership and database updates have been made, but if you are a busy Beach Captain still in possession of your beach folders, please ask for help. There are people who will help you.

Appreciation Dinner - The PLPOA volunteers gathered, ate and celebrated another year of over 60 volunteers working to create a community and protect the lake for future generations. Thank the volunteers.

Have a great Labor Day Weekend.  
Call if questions, Sherry Trepp 651-261-5475

[Sherry](#)

### 2017 Calendar

09/11/17	9:00 a.m.	Executive Committee Meeting
11/15/17	9:00 a.m.	Executive Committee Meeting



## **Sunrise over Pelican Lake**

This photo was submitted by Skip Duemeland of Pelican Point

## **Beach Events on Pelican Lakes**



## **Jim Sugihara Celebrates 99**

Jim Sugihara of Haugen's Point, former PLPOA President, celebrated his 99th birthday this summer.



## **Little Pelican Beach Picnic**

Little Pelican held their beach picnic on Sunday afternoon, August 6. Milan Christianson graciously offered his yard for the gathering. The picnic was hosted by the Beach Captains Jan DeSautel, Mary Kava, Peg Severson and Mary Swanson. Fred Manuel and Kurt Lackmann cooked up tasty fresh caught "Sunnies" for the group. As always it was a great opportunity for neighbors to meet, get to know each other and share a potluck meal.

[Peggy Severson](#)



## **Sensational Senns Beach**

Many people refer to our beach as "Sensational Senns Beach". The party was hosted this year by Dick and Margie Bailly. We have one every year.



## **PLPOA Annual Meeting**

The Annual meeting of PLPOA Members was held Saturday, July 22 at the Fair Hills Resort. Preceding the meeting was the annual breakfast for Members

Dr. Sophie Mallez, University of Minnesota, was introduced. Dr. Mallez spoke to the membership about Studying the Spread of Zebra Mussels. She reviewed zebra mussel invasion and the pattern of spread. Control is also an issue. A future prospect for control is genetic biocontrol technology. The membership was reminded that all boats, lifts, etc. need a dry time of 21 days before placing in another lake.

Tom Sherman and Fred Manuel reviewed the muskie petition. The petition was circulated among the tables for members to sign. There is 100% of Board support for not stocking muskie. Also, each member was asked to complete the email muskie survey previously sent to them. The survey references 4 questions to determine if the PLPOA is on the right path to stop muskie stocking in nonnative lakes.

Volunteers were recognized and asked to stand as their names were presented. The volunteers present included Bert McDonough/Clean Up Day; Anne Haley/Database; Paul Horstmann & John Kruse/Parade; Nick Valentine, Skip Duemeland, Millie MacLeod, Sherry Trepp, John Cosgriff & Patti Cosgriff/Fireworks; Rocky Swenson & Cole Carley/Fireworks Clean Up; Mary Lystad/Membership and all Majors and Beach Captains.

New PLPOA Directors were elected and installed: Russ Severson, Roger Stadum, Bob Smart, Jennifer Weixel, Ernie Strube, Dean Sellheim,

and Susan Stibbe.

The Pelican Lakes Community Foundation (PLCF) update was provided by Dave Majkrzak. The Foundation was launched to provide a 501(c)(3) tax exempt status for those wanting to donate now or through estate planning. The Foundation will be independent from the PLPOA. Members present agreed to support the creation of PLCF.

Members unanimously adopted provisional revised PLPOA Bylaws prepared by John Kruse and Russ Severson.



## **PLPOA Annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner**

The annual PLPOA Volunteer Appreciation Dinner was held at Fair Hills Resort on Friday, August 18. The many who attended was a reminder of the spirit of Pelican Lakes property owners and their dedication to making the lake experience as enjoyable as possible.



## **Aldie Kelsven Honored At Volunteer Dinner**

Aldie Kelsven was recognized at the PLPOA Volunteer Appreciation Dinner on August 18th. Aldie has served the PLPOA in multi capacities over the past 19 years, including her efficiency and determination as PLPOA Secretary for 14 years; her role as Membership Chair; maintaining the Directory database, and securing advertisers for the Directory. In addition, Aldie managed the Beach Majors and Captains. The PLPOA honored her with a gift certificate and a screen print of Pelican Lake.

[Helen Friend](#)



## **GMG Natural Gas Update**

It's State Fair time and everyone's thinking about pronto pups and food on a stick. What this also means is that heating season is right around the corner. Join over 1,000 property owners in the GMG service area who have

switched to natural gas and are enjoying the benefits and convenience of natural gas. Avoid the fall rush and call today to setup a no-obligation appointment with Ben or Jim at your property.

You've seen the crew installing gas main along the south side of Pelican Lake.

To provide an update regarding the private roadways where easements have been requested:

For properties in Haugen's Point (Pelican Bass Lane) we have great news! All easements have been granted and natural gas service is now available. Our crews will begin installing main within the next couple of weeks with service lines to follow. As promised, natural gas will be available this fall. A big thank you to the Haugen's Point property owners who have supported natural gas for their neighborhood by granting the easement.

For property owners on the south side of Pelican Lake along private roadways in Summer Haven, Broadwater, Beauty Bay we are hopeful that the last few easements will be granted and returned so that these areas will be able to have natural gas yet this fall. If you are in Haugen's Point, all easements have been granted and natural gas will be installed. If you've received an easement but have not yet returned it that there is no obligation to use natural gas but without granting GMG the easement your neighbors who do want to use natural gas to heat their homes or cabins won't be able to. Questions? Interested? We are here and happy to help! Please call (888) 931-3411 today.

[Nikki Kupser Greater MN Gas](#)

## **County 9 Update**

After 5 months of being awakened every day by the beeping of huge highway construction vehicles at 5:30 am, having your mailbox be 1 mile away and the road closed to get to it, having the inside and outside of your lake home be covered by fine sand and dust particles kicked up from gawkers driving by, guessing whether you can get out of your own driveway, putting up with the telephone, natural gas, and propane workers swarming all over your property, homes and trees, the hardy Pelican Lake west enders have been told that everything will be back to normal by the end of September (if the weather co-operates). As Yogi Berra would say, it aint over until it's over!

We are currently celebrating and thank the Scambler Township Board for the first ever, long wished for, paving of Duck Lake Road, which has functioned as an escape route from the chaos. We are also celebrating the creation of the already well used concrete walking/bicycling path that runs from South Pelican Drive to Zorbas. The Otter Tail County Engineer, his

staff and its employees are all to be thanked for the hard and long days of work on every part of this project, and their willingness to work with all the affected residents on their individual glitches.

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[Jim Beckstrom](#) [Gary Lawrence](#)



## **Pelican River Dam A Topic In Cormorant**

The Fish Lake Dam project was updated at the annual meeting of the Pelican Group of Lakes Improvement District (PGOLID). The meeting took place at the Cormorant Community Center on Saturday, Aug. 12.

Construction bids cannot be put in place before DNR permits can be approved. Already, money has been confirmed. The Minnesota DNR has pledged about \$305,255 in grants and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has put in \$98,540.



## **Pelican Dam Draw-Down Exposes Mass Of Zebra Mussels**

The invasion of zebra mussels to the Pelican Lake and Pelican River waterways is not news, as the species has been with us for a decade.

But the draw-down of the pond behind the Pelican Rapids dam brought the ugliness into full focus. With the water lowered for closer inspection of the dam, rocks and concrete fixtures were visually exposed-covered by tens of thousands of shells, not far from the iconic "Pelican Pete" statue at the Pelican Rapids damsite.

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## **Water Quality Remains A Minnesota Problem**

Current Gov. Mark Dayton announced earlier this year that he wants a 25 percent improvement in water quality by 2025. To help achieve that, he has launched a series of water quality town hall meetings to learn more about the problem and offer fixes.

"I ask all Minnesotans to join me in finding solutions that will ensure our children and grandchildren inherit clean water to drink, swim and fish in," he said. "This is everyone's challenge, and everyone's responsibility."

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## **Starry Stonewort Confirmed In Pope County's Lake Minnewaska**

There are now 11 lakes in Minnesota where starry stonewort has been confirmed. Two were confirmed in 2015, seven in 2016, and two this year. It has been present in at least some of these lakes for several years, rather than being spread to many lakes in a just a year or two.

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## **Power Loading Causes Damage To Boats, Ramps, Trailers**

The Fergus Falls DNR Parks and Trails Office takes care of close to 230 public water accesses in an eight county area. Increasingly we are noticing problems at many of these sites. At the end of the boat ramp is a hole. On the other side of the hole is a mound of sand, gravel and rocks. An inventory of our sites last season showed these problems at approximately two-thirds of our boat ramps (that's about 150 total).

Why is this a problem? Some people back their boat trailer off the ramp and into the hole. Then they have trouble pulling the trailer back out, often damaging it. The mound makes it difficult to motor out into the lake or back to the access and can damage the boat and motor. Our office receives many calls each year from users about power loading related issues. In extreme cases users have ripped wheels and axles off their trailers trying to get the trailer back onto the ramp.

Why is this happening? Power loading is the culprit.

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## Take Action Against AIS

The DNR is taking comments on a proposal, the Wright County Enhanced Inspection and Decontamination Pilot Project, and all lake lovers need to write in support. It is important that you voice your support for a mandatory, regional inspection and decontamination pilot project.

As [Star Tribune outdoor reporter Dennis Anderson](#) recently wrote, "Canada's western provinces, along with states in the northwest U.S., are serious about keeping aquatic invasive species (AIS) out of their waters. Compared with their efforts, Minnesota's early attempts in recent decades to prevent infiltration by the same creepy critters appear lame. And, one could argue, Minnesota's AIS prevention efforts are still lame."

[MORE](#)

[Jeff Forester, MLR](#)

## MLR Survey

Dear Minnesota lake association member,

You are being asked to complete this survey because you belong to a Minnesota lake association and we are conducting a study to better understand who Minnesota's lake associations are, what activities they engage in, what social and financial capital they invest in managing and protecting lakes, and what concerns they have. The study, which is the first of its kind, is being conducted by researchers at Concordia College, Moorhead on behalf of Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates (MLR). Documenting and understanding Minnesota's lake associations' vital role in lake conservation would help in developing better partnerships with and more support for these lake associations.

The survey takes about 30 minutes to complete. There are no anticipated risks to you as a result of completing this survey. Only aggregated group data will be reported. Your responses will be confidential as they will not be linked to your name or to the name of your lake association in any reports

of the data. Individual responses will be accessed only by the Concordia College researchers (Drs. Mona Ibrahim and Michelle Marko, and their research assistants: Matthew Zabel and Benjamin Bjertness), and by the Executive Director of Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates (Jeff Forester).

Your participation is voluntary and you may skip any questions on the survey that you would prefer not to answer. Should you have any questions or comments, please contact Dr. Mona Ibrahim ([ibrahim@cord.edu](mailto:ibrahim@cord.edu)) or Jeff Forester ([jeff@mnlakesandrivers.org](mailto:jeff@mnlakesandrivers.org)). If you have any concerns about how this study is conducted, please contact Concordia College's Institutional Review Board (218-299-3001).

Please don't miss out on participating in this important survey. Your responses will help increase understanding and appreciation of the vital role that lake associations play in lake conservation. The survey will only require about 30 minutes of your time and will close at 11:59 PM on August 31st.

[Take the Survey](#)

## **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.

Sincerely,

[John Kruse](#)

PLPOA Communications Chairman