

President Allan Zahn's Comments

Hopefully each of you had a great summer. Summer weather was a bit slow to get here but September weather has been fantastic. Whether you are packing to leave, will leave later in the year or are staying in Minnesota I hope you have a safe and enjoyable winter.

We welcome Dennis Hagman as our new board member replacing Sheila Loughren and thank Sheila for her time on the board. We also thank Bonnie Anderson and Phil Dukes for agreeing to continue in their role as secretary/treasurer and director respectively. I have also agreed to continue as president for an additional term but firmly believe that it is healthy for the MLPOA to encourage new leadership at our upcoming elections.

I want to thank everyone who executed their right to express their preference to the DNR Fisheries regarding the bass catch and release regulation on Mule. However you framed your feedback, it was great to see the Woodrow town hall packed with people from Mule and Blackwater lakes. The fishing committee will be meeting with Harlan Fierstine of the Walker Area DNR Fisheries after Harlan Fierstine, and his staff, following their review of all the feedback. The final decision needs to be approved through several layers of DNR management so will not be finalized until this winter. As soon as I know the decision, I will send an announcement to my Mule Lake resident's email list.

Over the recent years, our membership rate has been quite consistent at 67% or higher. However, the board is concerned about the number of memberships to date which is considerably behind past years. Please send your dues payment to Bonnie as soon as you can. I would also like to hear, and understand why, anyone who has chosen not to be a member of our association. We would love to get near 90 to 100% of our potential membership. Working together as an association, we can make a difference in keeping Mule Lake as beautiful as it can be.

It's great to see the progress of the lake resident handbook. A grant application has been submitted to get matching funds for this project from the Initiative Foundation. The committee (Barb Schachtschneider, Bonnie Anderson, Sheila Loughren and Kathy McMenoman) are defining the content and are working the details for the overall handbook to get ready for distribution next year. This project is our first major deliverable in our Healthy Lakes initiative.

Remember to visit our web site at mulelake.org. See you in May.

Northland Area Family Center

In spite of lower than usual attendance at our annual meeting and picnic, we collected \$250 for our school supplies appeal. We purchased and took the supplies to the school secretary who distributed them to the parents in advance of the 1st day of school. She assured us that they were badly needed and would be most gratefully received. We are grateful for the generosity of our friends on Mule Lake! Coordinators are Ernie and Carol Larsen.



On August 21, 16 Mule Lake residents and two DNR staff worked to plant in excess of 300 plantings around the old north access. After two hours of digging, raking, and planting the work was complete and we are hoping that Mother Nature takes care of those plants during these dry times as well as over the winter. It was an excellent project for our residents and we're all anxious to see how it looks next spring. Hopefully the tilting of the minimal access road and the plantings stop the erosion that continues to occur.



Mule Lake Shoreline Restoration Project

Thanks to all of the volunteers!

We could not have asked for a more dedicated group!

More North Access pictures throughout newsletter.

Secretary Report

2009 Annual Meeting Update – Secretary Bonnie Anderson

The meeting was held on Sat. , July 25, 2009 at the Mule Lake Narrows Association with 30 in attendance. Thank you cards were read from the families of John Schultz and Larry Converse who received memorials from the MLPOA.

- North access shoreline restoration was discussed
- Carol Larsen requested money for the Northland Family Center for school supplies. \$240.00 was collected.
- An update on the Healthy Lake Initiative was presented.
- The new board members elected were Al Zahn, Bonnie Anderson, Dennis Hagman, and Phil Dukes. Al was elected President and Bonnie was elected Secretary/ Treasurer.
- Scott Gustafson from the DNR was the guest speaker. He gave information on fishing and the stocking history of Mule Lake.

A drawing was held for door prizes. Donations were received from the Corral Bar, Mule Lake Store, Lakes Area Lumber, Wheeler Marine, and Dennis and Jacque Hagman.

Update to the 2008 Mule Lake Directory

We will not issue a new directory this fall as a new handbook will be handed out at the 2010 annual meeting. The following corrections need to be entered in your 2008 directory.

Lot 11a	Previous Owner	Wikenheiser
	New owner	Dean and Patricia Gulsvig 15737 Cobblestone Lake Pkwy. Apple Valley, MN 55124
Lot 14	Previous Owner	Savelkoul
	New owner	Kathy and Chris Sieberg 57274 238 th St. Mankato, MN 56001
Lot 51	Previous Owner	Thiesen
	New owner	Delmar and Katherine Jacobson 1900 K Victoria Rd. S Mendota Heights MN 55118 651-688-7936 deljacobson@msn.com
Lot 61	Previous Owner	Kubasch
	New owner	Scott and Amy Rolfe 2931 Hwy 84 Longville, MN 56655

Contact Bonnie Anderson with other directory changes.

A potluck followed our annual meeting.



Meet Your Board Members

The MLPOA Board is listed below with expiration year:

President	Allan Zahn (2011)
Vice-President	Barb Schachtschneider (2010)
Sec/Treasury	Bonnie Anderson (2011)
Directors at large:	Ernie Larsen (2010) Marj Dahlager (2011) Bev Peterson (2010) Kathy McMenoman (2011) Phil Dukes (2012) Dennis Hagman (2012)

Matt Krueger demonstrates how to remove the Y bones from northern at our annual meeting.





July 4TH Flotilla

The 2009 July 4 Mule Lake Flotilla was the largest one so far with 25 entries. The entries were colorful and creative. Even though we had a good number of entries, it was good to see residents at the end of their docks or on their shore enjoying the decorating by their neighbors. Hopefully we will be able to exceed that number in 2010. You can mark your calendars for 2PM at the north access on July 4.



2nd Annual Bernie Blackman Golf Scramble

19 Mule Lake residents played in the 2nd Annual Bernie Blackman Golf Scramble, held on September 10, 2009 at the Wilderness Trail and Golf Club. The annual scramble is named in memory of Bernie Blackman, long time resident of Mule Lake and an avid teacher and promoter of the game of golf. Frances Blackman, along with members of her family, served as hosts for the event and handed out prizes.

Prize Winners Were:

1 st Place – Championship flight:	Harriet Mouw Mark Blackman
1 st Place – 2 nd flight:	Jim Blackman John Buell
Closest to the Pin - #8 hole:	Patti Blackman
Longest Putt - #9 hole:	John Buell

Submitted by Dick Loughren



Fishing

Mule Lake was stocked with 250,000 fry in May of this year. Since Mule Lake has been designated as a "contingency lake," surveys will be conducted to determine the survival rate of the fry. Therefore, later this year, the DNR Fisheries will conduct an electro fishing process to identify how many young-of-year walleye can be located. If the survey results do not meet the established targets of young-of-year walleyes, Mule Lake will be stocked with 364 pounds of fingerlings (2 lbs/littoral acre) late in 2009. Bass electro fishing was also conducted late summer in Mule. The results continue to show an increase in abundance and an increase in size of both large and smallmouth bass.



Mule Lake and Blackwater Lake have solicited feedback relative to the existing bass catch and release regulation. This regulation has been in place for 5 years and may be removed, extended or modified depending on the feedback received by the DNR Fisheries. Final decisions will be made late this year or early next year with approvals required up the management chain of the DNR Fisheries. The Mule Lake fishing committee will meet with Harlan Fierstine after Harlan and his staff have completed the analysis of the feedback from residents and across the state. It's most likely that whatever the decision, it will cover both Mule and Blackwater. The approved changes to the existing regulations will be implemented spring of 2010. The next scheduled gill netting survey is set for 2013 unless the DNR chooses to conduct an additional one assuming the bass regulations are changed.

Those who attended the annual meeting were rewarded with a northern pike cleaning demo by Matt Krueger. Following the cleaning Matt prepared the northern pike in his deep fryer so everyone could get a sampling of those northern pike. We all need to keep as many northern pike as possible to reduce their population levels and, hopefully, enable more of the walleye fry and fingerlings to survive. Submitted by Al Zahn.

Water Quality Report

For over ten years Mule Lake has participated in the Citizen Lake Monitoring Program. Starting in May and ending in September approximately 14 secchi disk readings were done this year. The disk is lowered into the water until it disappears. Then it is pulled up until it appears again. On May 8 and again on June 14 the disk was visible at 25 plus feet. The clarity gradually decreased until September 14 when it was 13 feet. To put this in perspective the trend analysis is likely improving over the 10 years. The MN Pollution Control Agency estimates an increase of 2.5 feet per decade.

Also, Mule Lake Property Owners Association is working with RMB Environmental Laboratories, Inc. to collect and analyze water samples 5 times a summer. This program is on its third year. Testing is done for phosphorus, chlorophyll-a and secchi disk. This data is used to determine how healthy our lake is. The Trophic State Index indicates the health of the lake at the site where the samples are collected. Our trophic state as of August is oligotrophic (best of the three states). For more complete information including definitions you may go to <http://www.rmbel.info/reports> or get there via our web site which is mulelake.org.

So far Mule Lake residents have done a marvelous job in preserving our precious lake for ourselves and for future generations. We must remember that our decisions have consequences for the water we love. To keep our water clean we need to keep our septic systems in good working order. To help do this we should upgrade the system when needed, maintain the system every 3-5 years, use small amounts or no bleach, and not use antibacterial soaps and cleaners. Every flush toilet cleaners should not be used. Also, do not flush medication, especially antibiotics into the system. Animal wastes should be picked up promptly so they do not wash into the lake. Reduction or no lawn fertilization is preferable. Erosion control and lakeshore buffers are desirable. I have noticed how Mule Lake residents have left much of their lakeshore natural. (This is good) Leaves should be composted and never raked into the lake. I had a conversation with someone in the Stillwater area who told me that his neighbor raked all of his leaves into the lake. This activity would add great amounts of phosphorus to the lake as well as making the bottom mucky. Submitted by Marj Dahlager.

Thank you to all Mule Lake residents for their participation in making Mule Lake a healthy lake.



Healthy Lakes Initiative

The project to develop our property owner's handbook has begun as part of our Healthy Lakes Initiative. A grant application for matching funds has been submitted to the Initiative Foundation. Decision on our grant should be communicated by the end of September. Initial planning including the development of some of the key sections is in progress while we wait for the matching funds decision.

The project team (Barb Schachtschneider, Bonnie Anderson, Sheila Loughren and Kathy McMenoman), has reviewed the recommended sections and proposed content and is looking at how to leverage our website. Consistency between the handbook and the Mule Lake website will also be reviewed. Target distribution will be the second half of 2010. All lake property owners will receive a copy of the handbook.

We are pursuing support for a Mule Lake vegetation survey. The earliest for a detail survey is 2010 but that assumes county funds become available to conduct the next phase of lakes. It is more likely that the vegetation survey will be conducted after 2010.

Everyone is invited to a **Healthy Lakes Legislative Forum** for Citizens Protecting and Improving Minnesota's North Central Lakes and Streams on **October 2 from 1:15 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. at the Northern Lights Casino in Walker.**

This year's Forum will be similar to last year's very successful Forum and discussion with key state legislators. The goal is to address the success of citizen-led initiatives for lake and stream protection in the north central region and the actions legislators can take to help empower these local efforts.

The program outline was developed through working with Senator Olson and includes: Cass County Septic Compliance project by Brent Rud; Land Conservation Successes in the Leech Lake Watershed by Paula West; Shoreland Regulations by Phil Hunsicker; and an AIS panel of citizen leaders.

Last year's forum was quite good. It should be an excellent learning and awareness seminar with presentations covering important aspects of any lake. Submitted by Al Zahn.

Treasurer's Report As of September 15, 2009

MLPOA	\$2,856.14	Support for membership, memorials, postage, newsletters, annual meeting, donations
Healthy Lakes	\$1,664.89	Support for the 4 initiatives listed in the Lakes Mgmt Plan

Of the 75 members, we have only received dues from 27 members for 2009-2010. If you owe dues, it is listed to the right. If you have any corrections or new information, send it to Bonnie. We need all the information updated for the new handbook.



Are Your Dues Current?

_____ Your MLPOA annual dues are current

_____ Submit your \$20 annual dues payment for the current fiscal year (July 1 through June 30)

Submit your dues to: Bonnie Anderson
2864 Hwy 84
Longville, MN 56655



***** MULE LAKE CHANGE FORM *****

Please use this portion to reflect any directory changes and send to:

Bonnie Anderson
2864 State Hwy 84 NW
Longville, MN 56655

Owner's Name (s) _____
(last) (first) (middle initial)

(last) (first) (middle initial)

Mule Lake Address: _____

Mule Lake Phone #: _____

Home address (or seasonal address) if different from above: _____
(street address)

_____ (city) (state) (Zip code)

Home Phone #: _____

Email address: _____



Mule Lake Property Owners Association
2864 State 84 NW
Longville, MN 56655