



Mule Lake Property Owner Association Newsletter



Visit Our Website at MuleLake.org

Spring 2010

President's Comments

Allan Zahn

Welcome back to Mule Lake to those of you who head to another place during the winter months. The ice out date of April 2 was the earliest date I remember with the water temperatures continuing to rise. Now, if the weather would cooperate and let summer arrive on schedule, that would be great.

We have a number of residents who have not submitted their annual dues to Bonnie so please make sure you are current with your dues. The dues are quite low, at \$20/year, but do assist in mailings costs, annual meeting expenses, provides a source for matching funds with our Healthy Lakes Initiative, supports area organizations like Association for Cass County Lakes, etc. If you are unsure of your status, please contact Bonnie directly.

Our annual meeting is an excellent opportunity to help understand the direction of initiatives supporting Mule Lake. Also Bev Peterson, Barb Schachtschneider and Ernie Larsen's terms are expiring this year so I thank them for serving on the board over the past years. When you see them, thank them for their service.

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Fishing Committee Update

The walleye stocking plan for Mule Lake has been revised effective 2010. Since 2006, Mule Lake was categorized as a contingency lake within the Walker Area. This meant the lake will be stocked with fry every other year beginning in 2007 and every subsequent odd number year. The success of the fry stocking would be determined in the fall and, if fry survival targets were not met, the lake would be stocked with fingerlings in the fall (364 pounds with approximately 20 – 30 fingerlings per pound). The walleye stocking plan for Mule Lake was a failure as the netting surveys saw little change over those years.

Therefore, the DNR has implemented a revision to the Mule Lake Fish Management Plan covering the stocking of walleyes. With the revision effective in 2010, the DNR is implementing (moved up a year from our past stocking schedule in odd numbered years) stocking 482 pounds of large (5-10 fish per pound) fingerlings during even numbered years. This amount is approximately a 30% increase in the poundage but will end up with less fingerlings being stocked. It is hoped that the larger size fingerlings will have a better opportunity of survival given the population of small northern pike present in Mule Lake. The stocking will be implemented this fall.

The fishing committee is also initiating a "catch my limit of northern pike" plan. The committee would target the two weeks wrapping around the 4th of July (beginning June 26) to catch enough northern pike to be able to host a fish fry later this summer for all lake residents and their guests. Of course it is acceptable to use northern pike you caught earlier in the year. Hopefully, we will be able to fill all lake residents fishing licenses for northern pike during this period. The fishing committee will identify fish cleaning assistants for those in need. If you have a license but have not caught any northern pike, let one of the

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President's Comments - continued from page 1

In 2010, the MLPOA board will continue our efforts in the Healthy Lakes Initiatives and improving Mule Lake fishing. You will be seeing more information on these initiatives during the year. The projects are as follows:

A. Healthy Lakes

- 1) Continue with our water quality program by continuing the water monitoring process,
- 2) Finalize and distribute a property owner's handbook,
- 3) Increase our membership in MLPOA and the involvement of Mule Lake residents,
- 4) Identify additional opportunities for matching funds within our Healthy Lakes program.

B. Mule Lake fishing

Continue to work with the DNR Fisheries as the revised stocking plan is implemented this fall.

As most of you know, I created an email list of many resident addresses on Mule Lake. It is the easiest and quickest way to share information. Please provide Bonnie your email address so we are able to communicate more effectively moving forward. For additional communication and information about the Mule Lake Property Owners Association you can also connect to our website which is mulelake.org. Please provide feedback as to what you like and what you feel is missing. We are looking for someone to assume responsibility for managing our website. Please contact me if you are interested.

Have a Great summer at Mule Lake - Al.

School Supplies

It's time again for my annual appeal on behalf of the children of our area who are in need. For several years now, we have collected funds, shopped for school supplies, and delivered them to the Northland Area Family Center for distribution. As we did last year, we are asking you to please send your donation to our treasurer, Bonnie Anderson, especially if you cannot attend our annual picnic, where we are always happy to accept your financial gifts for this worthwhile endeavor. The Center and its clients are extremely grateful for our help, which is needed this year more than ever. This effort is coordinated by Ernie and Carol Larsen.

Minnesota Waters Update on 2010 Minnesota AIS Legislation

Responding to citizen concern about the spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS), the MN State legislature addressed a number of AIS-related pieces of legislation put forward by the DNR and citizen groups during the 2010 session.

MN Waters is happy to report that MN state statute was amended to require draining of all boats and equipment before transporting them on public roads, and requires that all drains must remain open during transport. In addition, that amendment requires the DNR commissioner to advise the legislature by January 15 of every odd-numbered year of additional measures required to protect public waters from the human transport of AIS.

Unfortunately, other critical AIS-related legislation was defeated at the last minute by the governor's veto of the omnibus fish and game bill on May 25. The omnibus bill included provisions that would have:

- Made it a misdemeanor for aquatic plant transport (up from a civil penalty)
- Required certification and training about AIS for all lake service providers
- Required all youth boater safety training to include AIS identification and prevention training
- Clarified that minnow harvest equipment used in certain infested waters may not be used in any other waters.

The governor said that several provisions of the omnibus bill reflected "legislative overreach" and that legislators tried to set "arbitrary hunting and fishing management policy" that conflicted with DNR experts. The controversial parts of the wide-ranging bill did NOT include AIS-related provisions. "The AIS provisions in the bill were well supported," said Luke Skinner, supervisor of the DNR's Invasive Species program. Now that the session is closed, there are no more opportunities to push AIS legislation forward in 2010. "But those provisions will be re-introduced in 2011, and should have an easier time next year," said Skinner. Minnesota Waters will continue to work with citizen leaders to promote the adoption of a more proactive response to aquatic invasive species and their threat to our state's water quality.

Calendar of Events

4TH OF JULY FLOTILLA, 2 P.M., OLD NORTH ACCESS

Remember to mark your calendar for the annual Mule Lake Flotilla which is scheduled for July 4 at 2 p.m. Last year we had approximately 25 entries (some were quite creative) so bring your watercraft entry to the old north access just before 2 p.m.

ANNUAL MEETING - SATURDAY, JULY 31 @ THE CORRAL (WEATHER PERMITTING)

9:00 A.M. (SOCIAL TIME); 9:30 A.M. MEETING

We are trying to set a time with the least scheduling conflicts so we are leaving the meeting set for the last Saturday in July but changing the time to 9:30 a.m., with social time beginning at 9:00 a.m.

The association will provide coffee, juice, rolls and fruit for everyone beginning at 9:00 a.m. Your family and guests are welcome to join us as well. We will provide board reports, have the election of new board members and provide updates on the Healthy Lakes Initiatives, etc. The meeting should be over by 11:00 a.m.

Although the Corral does have some picnic tables we can use, consider bringing a chair. The meeting will be outside, weather permitting.

BERNIE BLACKMAN GOLF SCRAMBLE

SEPTEMBER 9 - WILDERNESS TRAIL GOLF COURSE

Dick Loughren has asked you to reserve September 9 for our Bernie Blackman golf scramble at Wilderness Trail golf course.

Bernie was a long term resident here at Mule Lake (Frances, his wife, continues to live here). He was a golf instructor who had many Mule Lake residents as his students. Dick will provide more information at our annual meeting, but if you have questions please contact him in the meantime.

ACCL MEETINGS - 9:30 A.M. AT THE HACKENSACK SENIOR CENTER

June 25 Paul Radomski - DNR Shoreland standards
July 30 Speaker not identified
August 27 Marian Bender of Minnesota Waters

Fishing Committee Update - continued from page 1

fishing committee know so someone can fill your limit. We want to make sure we are following the state regulations by limiting our northern pike possession limit to three per license. An update to this effort will be provided at our annual meeting. The fishing committee is: Tom Buss, Phil Dukes, Dick Dahlager, Matt Krueger, Rick Ohnesorge, Gary Smith and Allan Zahn.

Water Quality Update

The 2010 season for checking water quality has begun. June 3 was the first day I was able to get out to check the water quality. The secchi disk was visible at 20 feet. June 7 was the first collection date to test for algae and phosphorus in the lake. The second secchi disk reading was 20.5 feet. This is a fairly good start but not quite as good as last year. There was a fair amount of algae and tree debris which may account for some variation. Lake residents may access results for water quality on Mule Lake by going to the website <http://www.rmbel.info>. The past several years, thru the ACCL organization, Mule Lake and other lake associations received funding for Water Quality testing but that funding is no longer available. Therefore, MLPOA will need to pay for continuing the testing at the cost of approximately \$250.

WHAT DOES THE SECCHI DISK MEASURE?

The secchi disk measures how far down into the water a person can see, or how much light passes through the water. It provides an indirect measure of the suspended particles in the water. In many cases this is an indication of the amount of algae in the water. Algae abundance is related to the amount of nutrients present, especially phosphorus and nitrogen. Nutrients can reach the lake from sources such as septic tanks and lawn fertilizer. Buffer zones along the shore line help control this run off so consider this when mowing. Mule Lake residents have been good stewards of our lake resources. Continue to use good conservation practices.

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Below are some key suggested actions from the MPCA website we can all implement to continue to maintain and hopefully improve our water quality:

Keep a natural shoreline: A shoreline with lots of native trees, shrubs, and other plants will benefit water quality and local wildlife. If your shoreline is already natural, you can selectively trim branches to maintain a view of the lake or a path to the water. If the shoreline needs to be restored, you can do it yourself! Read tips, watch videos, and find plants on the [DNR lakescaping and shoreline restoration](#) or [Blue Thumb](#) websites.

Avoid adding nutrients to the lake: Nutrient runoff is a primary source of water pollution. As nutrient levels rise, algae growth increases. As the algae die and decompose, they lower oxygen levels in the water. This can have a devastating effect on fish. Fertilizer, leaves, grass clippings, soil, and animal waste are sources of nutrients. Use phosphorus free fertilizer if you choose to fertilize. Don't ever let leaves or grass clippings to get into the lake.

Maintain your septic system: It is important to have your septic tank pumped out regularly (frequency depends on how often the cabin is used and by how many people). Septic systems that work properly minimize the risk of leaks and contaminating the groundwater. Learn how your system works and what to do to maintain it on the [U of M Extension's Septic System webpage](#).

Treasurer's Report

Financial Statement as of June 10, 2010:

Healthy Lakes	\$ 1,664.89
MLPOA Operations	\$ 3,012.64

Mule Lake has 81 real estate properties for potential MLPOA membership (property owners owning multiple lots are considered as one). Membership dues of \$20/year are being collected by Bonnie Anderson for the July 2010 – June 2011 time period. If you are unsure of the status of your dues, please contact Bonnie.

In 2009, we had 62 paid memberships. We currently have 54 paid properties to date; the board would like to see the number break 70.

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:

Marj Dahlager (2011)
Phil Dukes (2012)
Dennis Hagman (2012)
Ernie Larsen (2010)
Kathy McMenoman (2011)
Bev Peterson (2010)

Nominating Committee

We have two at-large directors and one officer terms expiring this year. Please consider contacting any one of our nominating committee members of your interest. The nominating committee members are Marj Dahlager (682-3735), Phil Dukes (682-3849) or Dennis Hagman (682-3405). Fresh ideas are good for all organizations and that includes MLPOA so we thank you for considering a role on the board.

Association of Cass County Lakes

At annual meetings and in MLPOA communication I have referenced ACCL. I thought it would be worthwhile to provide some context around that organization. For more information, you can also go out to the ACCL web site which is acclakes.org.

The purpose of this organization shall be to serve the people of Cass County, Minnesota who are interested in the welfare of Cass County lakes, waterways and their environment.

We further the goals and purposes of our organization by:

- facilitating cooperation among member lake associations and assist them in fostering wise use of the lake area;
- encouraging lake residents to form associations and provide them with the necessary information;
- functioning as an umbrella organization where individual lakes associations can exchange information, share ideas and obtain advice for solving problems affecting a specific lake or group of lakes;
- informing and updating members on water quality initiatives, environmental issues, laws and regulations affecting lakes, and any other proposals that promote the health and welfare of the county lakes;
- actively monitoring and participating, as appropriate, in the functions of townships, state agencies such as the DNR and PCA and Cass County Board of Commissioners, Planning Commission, Board of Adjustments, advisory committees, and revision and updating processes to the county Comprehensive Plan and Land Use Ordinances as they pertain to lakes, waterways, watersheds, and related areas such as watershed districts and soil and watershed conservation districts.

You can contact us at: acclakes@hotmail.com

*****Tear here*****

Please tear off this page and send it with your \$20 annual dues or directory updates to:

Bonnie Anderson
2864 State Hwy 84 NW
Longville, MN 56655

_____ Your MLPOA annual dues are current

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

Even if your dues are current, please use this portion to reflect any directory changes and send them to Bonnie Anderson at the address above.

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: _____