



THE PELICAN BRIEF

A summer newsletter for the residents of Pelican Lake, Little Pelican, Fish and Bass Lakes • Aug 2007



Ottertail County: ONE OF THE TEN BEST PLACES TO LIVE & BOAT

Ottertail County MN has been named one of the top ten “Best Places to Live and Boat” by *Boating Life* magazine. The July issue of the publication which boasts that it is the authority on recreational boating, names the lakes of Ottertail County as one of the areas where people who like to boat might want to live.

Ottertail County is in pretty impressive company. Waterfronts in Seattle, Fort Lauderdale, Tampa Bay, and San Diego were also named to the top ten list of best places to live and boat. The remaining

five are Benton County Arkansas, Knoxville Tennessee, Finger Lakes New York, Austin Texas and Oconee County South Carolina.

The criteria the magazine used to choose its top ten included boating opportunities, boat friendly regulations, water access, availability of waterfront homes, health of the local economy and overall lifestyle for boaters.

To read the entire article, check out the magazine’s web page: www.boatinglife.com.

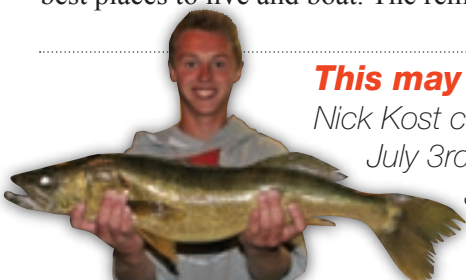
Increasing the Value of Your Property

The same magazine that rated the lakes of Ottertail County in the “Best Places to Live and Boat” had an article suggesting three ways to increase the value of your waterfront home. According to *Boating Life* magazine the following three will have the biggest impact on the value of your lake front property:

-  Expand your dock size to accommodate bigger boats.
-  Add a sun deck to your dock creating more “living space” near the water.
-  Create a path from your lake home to your dock by adding lights, installing trees or other landscape features.

Local realtors have added a few more suggestions:

-  Put a fresh coat of paint on your home and out buildings.
-  Keep windows sparkling clean.
-  Trim trees and bushes.
-  Add a few pots of flowers to brighten property.
-  Keep property “clutter-free.”



This may also be one of the best places to fish!

Nick Kost caught this 9 lb 2 oz walleye at 9 PM on July 3rd while fishing in Pelican Lake with his cousin, Jake Kaeding (Oak Grove Beach).

President's Pen



by **Dave Majkrzak**,
president of PLPOA,
shown here with a 43"
Northern Pike he caught in
Manitoba last month.

The summer is rapidly winding down, and it has been another great year at the lake. The weather the week of July 4th was as good as it gets. It was fun to see the decorated boats, and the excitement of the kids and adults who took part in this annual event.

The fireworks on the evening of the 4th drew a big land and water crowd, and the size and quality of the show continues to be "bigger than ever." Many thanks to the parade and fireworks organizers and workers, who year after year pull this celebration together.

Recent articles about natural arsenic in water wells in our area remind me to caution lake property owners "don't drink the water" without first testing and confirming it is safe for human consumption. Many cities and local labs can check your well water samples for arsenic and other health issues.

Finally, after two years of being your PLPOA President, it is time to pass the gavel on to Rocky Swanson, effective Jan 1. Please continue to volunteer and to support the PLPOA. Our lakes are a very precious and valuable resource and we need to continue to work hard to protect them for future generations.

Celebrating Independence Day on the Lake

Each of the entries in the 4th of July boat parade was spectacular this year, providing so much fun for lake residents who gathered on their docks to wave and cheer. This year the parade was dubbed *Circus on the Water*, and each boat float carried out the theme in its own special way.

Check the Pelican Lake website (www.pelicanlakemn.org) for more photos and other winners in the parade.



Wacky Winners: The first place award went to the boat titled "Circus of the Loons." It was lovingly prepared by the Foss/Furr family from Senn's Beach. This was their 6th consecutive win!

PGOLID Election Scheduled

Cast your ballot at the annual meeting

On August 18th property owners from the Pelican Group of Lakes Improvement District will elect three people to the Board of Directors. The election will be at the PGOLID annual meeting, 8 AM, August 18 at Fair Hills Resort. The announced candidates are Denny Tollefson, and incumbents Mike Ostbye and Skip Duemeland.

The PGOLID board has the authority to spend property tax dollars for such things as mosquito abatement, water quality monitoring and weed control in our lakes. It has a \$120,000 annual budget.

Brief candidate biographies are included on the back page of the newsletter insert.

You've got questions?

She's Got Answers!

Water Resources Coordinator Moriya Rufer knows about lakes. Hired by PGOLID, she monitors the water quality of lakes and inlets in our area. Rufer is available to answer questions you may have. You can reach her at 846-1465 or by e-mailing your questions to lakes.rmbel@eot.com.

Here's a sample of the questions she's been asked:
What causes the foam that forms along the shoreline on a wavy day?

Most foam, if it is fishy smelling, is natural and is made up of natural organic compounds. As aquatic organisms decompose (fish and algae), they release these

organic compounds, which mix with the air during wave action and form foam along the shoreline. If you see foam that smells perfumed or soapy, it could be from detergent or soap.

What causes algae blooms? It is typical that in late summer there are more algae in the lake. Algae need warmth, sunlight and nutrients to grow, which are plentiful in lakes in August. The main nutrient that fuels their growth is phosphorus, so usually the more phosphorus in the lake, the more algae there will be.

Algae are a natural part of a lake's ecosystem. They are food for many aquatic organisms and they produce

oxygen in the water. Algae become a nuisance when they form dense mats and smell as they decompose. The decomposition process also uses up oxygen, which other aquatic organisms such as fish need for survival.

You can decrease the amount of phosphorus in the lake by making sure your septic system is properly maintained, not fertilizing your lawn, and constructing a buffer of native plants along the shoreline to filter and absorb runoff.



It's Harvest Time at:

The harvest has actually been underway for a couple of months at the hobby farm of Wes and Blanche Nelson. The family grows and harvests fruits and vegetables and then sells them along the shaded roadside of their home just off County Hwy 20 east of Pelican Lake.

Nelson's Market is a treasure. For 30 years this family has provided fresh corn, zucchini, potatoes, onions, squash, herbs, and fabulous strawberries, raspberries, fresh flowers and much more to area lake families. If you've never been there, ask your lake neighbor how to find it. Nelson's Market is open 10 AM to 6 PM every day but Saturdays, until the end of September.

NELSON'S MARKET



Six Ways to Be a Good Lake Neighbor

Let's face it, we live close to people down here at the lakes. Here are some tips for being pleasant and appreciated by those next to you.

- 1** If you have a dog, try to keep the barking to a minimum and please clean up any "gifts" left in their yards. 
- 2** Everyone loves a good time but keep the music at a decent decibel and make sure the party ends at an appropriate time.
- 3** Yes, people love a well manicured lawn but no one appreciates hearing a mower at 7:30 on a Saturday morning. 
- 4** Follow boating rules. Especially be aware of no wake zones, designated swimming areas, and the noise made by jet skis and boats operating too close to shore.
- 5** If you borrow a tool or a cup of sugar, make sure you return or replace the item in a timely manner.
- 6** If you have goofed-up over time and relationships have become strained, bake your neighbors some cookies or bring them a basket of fresh vegetables or fruit.



Spreading the Gospel

Hundreds of kids from all over the country come to Pelican Lake each summer to spend a week learning about Jesus Christ at the Castaway Club on the east end of the lake. The Castaway Club is one of 25 camps in the US and Canada owned and operated by Young Life, a non-denominational Christian organization committed to spreading the gospel to high school and middle school kids around the world.

Billed as "the best week of their lives" the young campers spend their days parasailing, waterskiing, wakeboarding, sailing, playing golf, soccer and much more while learning gratitude, caring, sharing and other lessons of Christian living.

The Castaway Club has a great website with lots more info. Check it out at www.castaway.younglife.org or call 532-2662.



This is a familiar sight on Pelican Lake. Almost daily, teens visiting the castaway club are in the sky!

PELICAN PARADISE: One of 38 finally revealed!

PLPOA secretary Aldie Kelsven, artist Linda Gaugert and PLPOA president Dave Majkrzak look over the pelican created by Linda at a ceremony at Pelican Rapids High School in July. The pelican is one of 38 that will be on display in and around Pelican Rapids beginning August 18th. This one, purchased by the PLPOA, will be a "traveling piece of art" for the time being. It will be on display at the lake homes of PLPOA presidents until a permanent home is decided on. Anyone with ideas about a permanent home should contact any PLPOA board member.





**Pelican Lake
Property Owners Association**

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The Pelican Brief is published during the summer months by a volunteer team of lake residents. If you have comments about the publication, story ideas or pictures, contact editor Claudia Danovic at danovic1@aol.com

Additional information is available at the Pelican Lake web site at www.pelicanlakemn.org

LATE SUMMER 2007 • Calendar of Events

Aug 3-5		PLYC Wallwork Regatta
Aug 18	8:00 am	PGOLID Annual Meeting (Fair Hills)
Aug 24	4:00 pm	PLPOA Board Meeting (Fair Hills)
Aug 24	5:30 pm	PLPOA Appreciation Dinner (Fair Hills)
Sept 2	11:00 am	PLYC Labor Day Cup Race
Sept 8	9:00 am	PLPOA Executive Board Meeting (Fair Hills)
Sept 29	8:00 am	PGOLID Board Meeting (Cormorant Hall)
Dec 8	8:00 am	PGOLID Board Meeting (Cormorant Hall)



PELICAN GROUP OF LAKES IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING

June 2, 2007 8:00 am
CORMORANT TOWN HALL

Directors Present : Ostbye, Peltier, Jenkins, Stueness, Manuel, Wheeler, Poolman, Duemeland,

Directors Absent: Uglem

Others Present: Vic Horne, Moriya Rufer, Rocky Swanson

Ostbye call the meeting to Order at 8:04 AM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The minutes from the May 5, 2007 meeting were reviewed and Poolman moved that they be approved. The motion was seconded by Peltier and passed.

Manuel presented the financial report. Duemeland moved that it be accepted, Stueness seconded the motion and it was accepted.

Moriya Rufer presented the summer seminar series. Discussion regarding the a possible DNR grant to develop shoreline habitat, beaver damns, stream and lake monitoring and Ida and Cormorant Lake levels followed.

Wheeler reported that Advertising Marketing is handling the election requirements.

Manuel presented the 2008 budget.

Poolman reported on the buoys.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 and the Mosquito Abatement meeting was convened. Spraying will continue on Thursday nights and a contract will be secured for spraying at the fireworks show. The Mosquito Abatement meeting was adjourned at 9:38AM.

The PGOLID meeting was reconvened and subsequently adjourned by motion from Duemeland, seconded by Wheeler.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa J. Wheeler

PGOLID Board of Director Candidates

Election held August 18 at Fair Hills Resort

MIKE OSTBYE is currently chairman of the PGOLID Board. A permanent resident of Pelican Lake, he is also chairman of the Scambler Township Zoning & Planning Agency. As a PGOLID Board member Ostbye says his goal is to improve the quality of life and the environment both above the water and below the surface. He and his wife live on Lakeview Beach.

SKIP DUEMELAND, who is completing his first term on the board, initiated the five year program to control Curly Leaf Pond Weed which has become a problem on our lakes. He also works with the lake coordinator to monitor lake quality, serves on the Pelican Lake Property Owners Association Board and this year led the 4th of July parade committee. Duemeland and his family have a summer home on Pelican Point Beach.

DENNY TOLLEFSON is a full time resident of Pelican Lake. Retired after a 40-year business career in the dairy industry, Tollefson says his background, leadership and consensus-building skills will be useful to the PGOLID Board. He said, "I want to do my part to maintain and enhance the beauty and quality of our lakes for generations to come." Tollefson and his wife live on Pelican Beach.

MEMBERSHIP MEMO 2007

Membership in the Pelican Lake Property Owners Association is now just over 800, but about 25 fewer than a year ago. The Beach Captains have their folders and are encouraging all to join the Association. Please make any corrections in your personal information for next year's Directory. Corrections can be made with your Beach Captain or by calling or mailing the information to Membership Chair Helen DeHollander at 532-7254 or 24366 Killarney Road. Detroit Lakes, MN 56501.