

Helpful Hints to Improve Our Lake Water Quality

Caribou Lake Association members who attended last year's Spring and Fall meetings heard good information and some bad news about the water quality in Caribou Lake. A study undertaken last year by the MN Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) found that the water quality in Caribou Lake is not appreciably worse now than it was ten years ago. That is the good news. However, the bad news is that Caribou Lake has the worst water quality of any lake in Cook County and is on the brink of being so bad that it could be listed in the future on the state's impaired water list. To keep our lake from getting worse and to hopefully improve its water quality, here are some things each of us can do:

1. Watch Boat Use – Try “no wake” in the shallow parts of the lake. On Caribou Lake these include the area near the public access (the northwest bay), the bay outside the Cathedral of the Pines and Sawmill Bay. Big wakes in shallow areas contribute to



shore-line erosion and stir up sediment in lake bottoms, increasing pollution.

2. Buy a 4cycle rather than 2 cycle motor engine – A 2-cycle engine loses about 30% of its gasoline to the air and water. 4cycle engines are much more efficient, quieter and less polluting.

3. Don't wash in the Lake – All soaps and shampoos contain harmful nutrients and pollutants.

4. Don't let your septic system pollute the lake – If problems are identified with your septic, get them rectified as soon as possible.

5. Think twice before planting a lawn - Minimize the amount of turf that you have and minimize the use of pesticides and fertilizers. Plant more of your property with wildflowers, native grasses, trees and shrubs.

6. Refrain from cutting down trees and vegetation near the shoreline – If your shoreline has been dwindling over the years, consider replanting. You can still have a nice view of the lake through some well-placed trees. Trees have proven to add value and privacy to your home.

7. Limit the amount of impervious surfaces - (e.g. sidewalks, patios, asphalt driveways) on your property and direct drainage flow away from the lake. Gutters can be very effective.

8. After sunset – Please remember that both sound and night lighting carry across the lake. Help make the lake peaceful for all to enjoy.

These suggestions are taken from the PCA's Guide to Lake Protection Management. For more suggestions and some pretty interesting diagrams go to:

http://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/lake_protection.html



3rd

CARIBOU LAKE

BOAT FLOTILLA & REGATTA

Saturday July 8, 2006 2:00 PM

Meet at the boat landing.



Words from our President...

Welcome to our first newsletter!

Membership in the Caribou Lake Property Owners Association (CLPOA) is open to all property owners in the Caribou Lake watershed. The CLPOA was one of the first Minnesota lake associations formed over 25 years ago (now the state has over 700 lake associations) to promote good environmental stewardship of the Caribou Lake area. Over its long history, CLPOA has worked hard to educate landowners on best shoreland and watershed management practices, promote responsible development, improve water quality, promote boating safety, and enhance the Caribou Lake fishing experience. The organization has been an effective lobbying force with Cook County government and through its participation in the Coalition of Cook County Lakes Associations and the Minnesota Lakes Association work on state-wide lake water quality issues.

CLPOA can only continue to be effective if it represents a significant majority of landowners in the watershed. Currently we believe that approximately 50 - 60% of landowners in our service area are members. As you read this newsletter and learn about the work we are doing, please consider supporting our mission by joining. Membership is only \$20 per year. We would welcome your input on

our initiatives, and your participation in our meetings which are held twice a year, on Memorial Day weekend and Labor Day weekend. Check out our website at

<http://www.mnlakes.org/caribou/>
or just Google Caribou Lake Property Owners Association.



Caribou Lake Alternative Urban Areawide Review (AUAR) Study Update:

This study was commissioned by Cook County in response to a developer's proposal to develop a 38 lot second tier development on the east ridge of the Caribou Lake watershed. An environmental impact statement (EIS) was ordered on the project, but this quickly transitioned in to an environmental analysis of the area to determine among other things, its overall capacity for further development. This alternative form of an EIS is an AUAR. It was completed in 2004 and adopted by the county board. Recommendations in the mitigation plan for the area were many. The most significant were more frequent water quality monitoring, thorough septic system monitoring, and a recommendation that the access to the original development be from the east side off Ward Lake Road.

As a result of this study, the county hired an outside inspection firm to

test all septic systems on Caribou Lake, which was completed last summer. The failure rate was high and owners of failed septic systems have two years to bring their systems into compliance. A subordinate service district was formed for the Caribou Lake watershed. This district is controlled by the county board, but has an advisory board of local residents. Through this district, the county can make special assessments to raise money to implement AUAR

recommendations. It already made some assessments to pay for the study itself. CLPOA, through its representation on the advisory board, is advocating for resources to do more regular and more complete water quality monitoring of Caribou Lake. The county board, using the AUAR as justification, petitioned the forest service for a 900-foot easement across forest service land to allow eastern access from Ward Lake road for the original proposed development. Unfortunately the forest service recently rejected this request and it is likely the developer will now proceed with a request for plat approval with road access from Sawmill Drive along the east shore of Caribou Lake, albeit for a smaller development. This may result in a widening of that road and negative impacts on the lake's second largest wetland buffer. The CLPOA will continue to oppose approval of such a plat request as it would violate one of the AUAR mitigation plan's most significant lake protection provisions.

Often bugs, bats and sunburns are our great risks

when you are up north, but crime does happen even on Caribou Lake. There are many things we can do together and as individuals that are not expensive or time-consuming to better protect our cabins against crime. Over the years, Cook County has not experienced significant crime issues. Still, simple things can be done to avoid future problems.

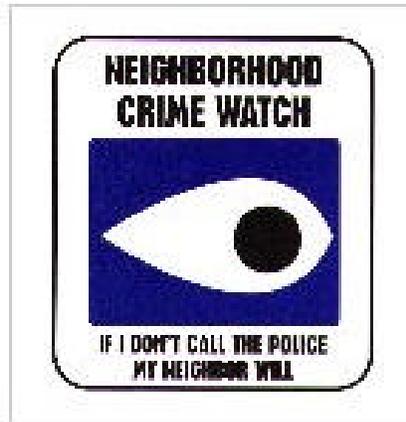
- Step 1:** Join program at a meeting, on-line or by postal.
- Step 2:** Take a simple step or two – see sidebar.
- Step 3:** Post a driveway sign.
- Step 4:** Be alert and aware and report suspicious activities to the authorities and the Caribou Crime Watch Captain in your area.

Highlights:

1. Cook County Sheriff's office purchased six highway signs in spring of 2006.
2. A phone and e-mail alert network is being set up. (Volunteer captains are badly needed for certain areas.)

Next edition:

- energy saving tips
- winterizing tips for the cabin



Individual driveway signs will be for sale at the Spring Information Meeting on Sat. May 27, 2006 at 10 AM for

Cost = \$10.00
(includes mounting screws)

9 Simple Steps:

1. Join the CLPOA Crime Watch Program
2. Secure all windows and doors
3. Lock doors at night
4. Mark your items with an engraver pen
5. Consider a modern home security system or other options
6. Turn your phone ringer on low
7. Neat and tidy home and yard – helps to know if anything has been moved or is missing
8. Make sure lawn is mowed, walks & driveways shoveled, newspapers and mail collected
9. Always be alert and aware – report any suspicious activities to the authorities

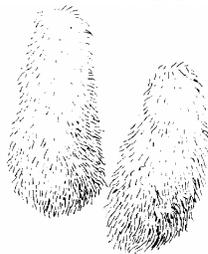
The Caribou Lake Property Owners Association established a Crime Watch Program in 2005.

Gypsy Moths Zero in on Cook County

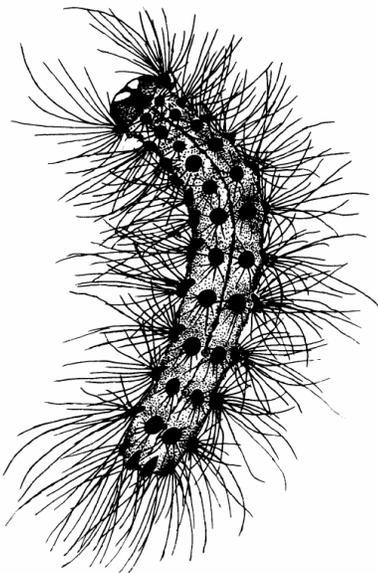
A new invasive species is moving in... Learn what is being done at the Spring Information Meeting!



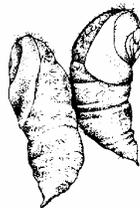
Male Moth



Egg Mass



Larva



Pupae

In 2005, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) monitoring program detected an increase in numbers of gypsy moths, a potentially damaging tree pest in Cook

County. Gypsy moth caterpillars (larvae) can feed on more than 300 species of trees and shrubs. Since the 1920s, millions of acres of forests have been stripped of their leaves by this insect pest as it has spread from New England to Wisconsin and now Caribou.

Birch and aspen are among the favored tree species of gypsy moth.

Firewood and other outdoor articles brought from gypsy moth infested areas can transport egg masses.

As part of its gypsy moth management, MDA is proposing to treat the North Shore in late July-early Aug. of 2006. This effort will include aerial spraying of confetti sized flakes that contain a synthetic pheromone (called "disparlure"). This is used to mimic the natural sex-attractant produced by the female gypsy moth. Due to strict editorial guidelines on such topics ~ let us summarize ~ male moths get confused and the cycle is broken.

A very simple strategy. Let's hope it works!!!

Caribou Lake Property Owners Association (CLPOA) is a non-profit, non-partisan organization working for the benefit of our watershed for almost 40 years.

CARIBOU LAKE: Current News
Edition #1- 2006:

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Comments are always welcome!

More information:

<http://www.mda.state.mn.us/invasives/gypsymoth/northshore.htm?SEARCH.X=8&SEARCH.Y=7> or the hotline 1-888-545-MOTH