

# CARIBOU LAKE: Current News Spring 2008



## BRING US YOUR BRUSH!

To help Caribou Lake property owners protect their home from forest fires, the Caribou Lake Property Owner's Association (CLPOA) arranged for a Firewise Brush Pit to be available in the Caribou Lake Gravel pit this year.

**The Brush Pit will accept forest debris and yard waste including:**

**Dead Trees  
Pruned Tree limbs  
Brush and sticks  
Leaf litter**

The service will be available free of charge to CLPOA members from May 1 to Nov. 1 from dawn until dusk. The pit will be a "self service" facility. There will be no staff to assist in unloading vehicles or piling brush. Signs will indicate where the brush is to be deposited. Those using the pit are expected to follow all posted rules. CLPOA members will be monitoring the pit on a regular basis.

**Dumping of materials other than brush (including but not limited to appliances, garbage, construction debris, demolition debris etc) is PROHIBITED.** If dumping of prohibited materials occurs, the site will be closed.

CLPOA has set up the brush pit in cooperation with Cook

County and the U.S. Forest Service to encourage property owners to clean up forestry debris from their properties. This is one of the easiest and most important things we can do to prevent property damage should a forest fire occur.

The pit is located on the Caribou Trail about 5 miles north of Highway 61. After crossing Caribou Creek, the gravel pit entrance is the first left (directly across from Evergreen Road). Proceed on the gravel pit access road and look for the signs marking the Firewise Brush Pit within the gravel pit area.

Property owners who would like assistance clearing and/or hauling forestry debris should check the Cook County Firewise website ([www.boreal.org/fireinfo](http://www.boreal.org/fireinfo)) for the names of companies providing these services or the local newspapers.

Questions regarding the brush pit? Contact CLPOA Vice President, Sally Westby at 218-663-0197, 612 374-2245 ([salwestby@aol.com](mailto:salwestby@aol.com)) or Sharon Hexum-Platzer@218-663-7305 ([slhexum@frontiernet.net](mailto:slhexum@frontiernet.net).)



## SAIL INTO SUMMER

Annual Caribou Lake Flotilla  
Saturday July 5, 2008

The 5<sup>th</sup> annual Caribou Lake Boat Flotilla and Regatta will be held on Saturday July 5<sup>th</sup> beginning at 2 p.m. at the public access of Caribou Lake.

All watercraft are welcome as long as they can go no-wake. The flotilla will parade around the northwest bay of Caribou Lake and then return to the Public Access for a Potluck Picnic. Bring an appetizer or dessert to share and your own drinks.

Meet at the public access or simply join the parade as it nears your cabin. Decoration of watercraft is encouraged.

The 2007 best decorated "float" prize goes to the Peacha and Palmquist families for a pontoon full of bubbles, dogs, pinwheels and red and silver hair. We hear most of the creative was done by Emma and Clare Peacha and the Palmquist girls. Congratulations!!!

Questions about the regatta? Call Captain Jon Westby 663-0197 or 612 374-2245.



## FISHING WORDS OF WISDOM

Fishing on Caribou Lake begins again in May. Here are some words of wisdom from our resident fishing experts:

- Caribou Lake has big walleye, northerns, crappies and the ever present small mouth bass
- Big northerns, either chasing or actually holding onto the tail of walleye, have followed

hooked walleye up to boats. Have you ever tried to net a fish that isn't hooked?

- Fishermen and women have competition from the bald eagles and osprey that live around the lake
- When asked, "Where did you get those fish?" an angler will probably respond "In the lake".



## GET FIREWISE

The Caribou Lake area was spared fire damage last year while other parts of the county were not so lucky. To help prepare residents in case of a major fire, CLPOA is making a major effort to encourage members to look at their properties this spring and make changes to prevent property damage from fire.

There are a number of relatively simple and inexpensive things that residents can do to have a major impact on "fireproofing" their properties.

### 1. Review your 2007 Firewise Assessment.

All residents should have received a Firewise assessment of their property by Cook County last year. Now is a good time to review that assessment and make as many changes as you can. (If you did not receive an assessment or have lost yours, check the county Firewise website at [www.boreal.org/fireinfo](http://www.boreal.org/fireinfo)).

### 2. Remove Forest Debris from your property (sticks, leaves, dead trees and bushes) that

### can accelerate a fire should one reach your property.

To assist residents in this endeavor, CLPOA is operating a Forest Debris (slash) pit this year for all CLPOA members (see previous article).

3. **Trim trees/bushes that overhang or come close to your cabin.**
4. **Put a hose (at least 100 ft. long) on a rack and attach it to an outside faucet.**

These are just a few of the many things you can do. For more information, go to the Firewise website at [www.boreal.org/fireinfo](http://www.boreal.org/fireinfo).

## AN OLD ORANGE PONTOON and



## SCHOOL TRUST FUND LANDS

Many of us who cruise the Caribou shores have wondered whether the decrepit orange pontoon, abandoned years ago on the northwest end of the public landing bay, would be there forever. Maybe not. What was once public state land and the orange pontoon's resting place was sold by the DNR to a private party on October 24, 2007 at a public auction. The 1.02 acre lot with 260 feet of shoreline located at the very end of White Sky Trail and accessed from Caribou Trail was sold for the minimum bid of \$222,790.

Proceeds from the auction went to the state of Minnesota

Permanent School Fund which manages revenue from Minnesota school trust lands and distributes funds to school districts throughout the state. Other Caribou shoreline is also state school trust land and is commonly referred to as section 36. Section 36 is located on a pristine and undeveloped part of the north shore of the lake.

The state of Minnesota owns 2.5 million acres of school trust land and an additional one million acres of mineral rights. All revenues produced from these lands through mineral leases, timber sales, land sales and leasing activities are dedicated to school funding.

Recent pressure on Minnesota school budgets has resulted in legislation demanding more aggressive pursuit of revenues from trust lands including greater emphasis on land sales - thus the auction of Caribou land last fall.

For many of us, this activity raises deep concerns about what can be done to protect the magnificent shoreline of Caribou, for what once seemed like it would be there forever, may not be. As an old orange pontoon becomes a faint memory - a fragment of Caribou history - so may go the pristine shoreline. However, if we work to find possibilities, we may be able to preserve the public lands of Caribou Lake. Please come to the spring meeting to share and discuss what may be possible.

By Diana Kamp

