

The Ripple

Newsletter of the Fifty Lakes Property Owners Association

ANNUAL MEETING August 13, 2011 • 8:30 AM Fifty Lakes Foundation Please Join Us!!

8:30am – 9:00am: Coffee and refreshments.

9:00: Meeting Begins

Come check out our new annual meeting format!

NEW!! NEW!! NEW!!
New Annual Meeting Format,
New Website and
New Newsletter Look

New Annual Meeting Format

The FLPOA board has suggested a new streamlined approach to the business part of our annual meeting which will allow more time for members who attend to share thoughts and concerns and also to ask questions.

We have agreed to deliver more concise reports from the president, treasurer and any other board member who has official business to convey. Each report from a board member will be limited to 5 minutes or less. Yes, 5 minutes or less! We feel this will open the floor to more discussion from all who attend. One concern the board thinks people may have is that if they come to the meeting and say something to the group, they will be automatically signed up for the board or some other job for our association. We guarantee that this is not the case!

We want to hear from you, we need to hear from you, and you need to be able to speak freely. Please plan to attend this year's meeting. We hope you will find this new approach different, new, and improved! 💧

New Website

<http://minnesotawaters.org/group/fiftylakes/welcome>

Our association's new website is up and running. Please take a minute or two to check out all of the information and links Carrie Bell has put together for us. The website is hosted by the Minnesota Waters Organization. As we are members of that association, they will host our site for a mere \$100 per year. This is where FLPOA intends to publish the newsletter that currently comes in the mail or by email. All of the specific details are being worked out but our association's hope is that by the end of 2011, all information can be delivered to FLPOA members through the website. That may mean an email blast type of email to let you know when the latest version of a newsletter has been made live. Be sure to bookmark the [FLPOA website](#) or save it to your favorites for easy and quick access. 💧

New Newsletter Look

You will also see a new and improved look to FLPOA's newsletter, now called, The Ripple. To coincide with the launching of our website Carrie Bell also took time to revamp our newsletter look. We hope you like it! 💧

FLPOA President's Message Lake Management Plans (LMP)

Great news from the Lake Management Team, we are in the process of completing two drafts of our lake management plans for three of our lakes. Two people have begun the process of organizing all the information that has been submitted by individuals and groups of people into draft LMPs. Mark Johnson is working on a draft for Eagle Lake and Bob Stancer is working

on a draft for East and West Fox Lakes. We hope to have the draft ready to submit in June. After submitting the drafts we will be able to apply for a \$5000.00 dollar MATCHING GRANT. Your board is in the process of exploring ways to raise the money to match this grant. We are also putting together a list of possible projects where this money could be spent. Anyone interested in helping us with this fundraiser, please contact me.

Web Site

Everyone needs to check out new web site. The site is loaded with current information from the area and contains useful information on a variety of topics that should be helpful for all property owners. Our web master has done a superb job!! <http://minnesotawaters.org/group/fiftylakes/welcome>

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)

We will again have four of our public boat accesses checked for aquatic invasive species. Two surveys, one in June and the other in August, will be conducted at each boat access. On April 23, 2011 Keri Hull from the DNR conducted AIS Watercraft Inspection Training for 14 people at the Fifty Lakes Foundation Building. Later in the year we will begin random boat inspections at our four public boat access sites.

We also won another Public Awareness Grant from the DNR for another set of "Burma Shave" signs. See the other article in this newsletter for more information about this grant.

Water Quality

We again will continue our two monitoring programs in our six lakes. One program is conducted by the Whitefish Property Owners Association and is conducted monthly from May to September. The other program is called The Citizen's Monitoring Program. This is a statewide program that is conducted by The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

Shoreline Restoration

Restoration grants are still available for property owners on East and West Fox Lakes from the Crow Wing Soil and Water Conservation district. There are other grants available for all our lakes in the city from the DNR. There is also a contest that is being conducted by the Whitefish Property Owners Association (WAPOA) for all lakes that participate in the WAPOA water quality-monitoring program. A total of six lakes in our city participate in the program. If anyone has any questions please call or email me.

Annual Meeting

The annual meeting will be conducted on Saturday, August 13, 2011. Mark that date on your calendar and plan to join us!!

Fifty Lakes Days

Fifty Lakes Days will be held on Saturday June 25, 2011 in beautiful downtown Fifty Lakes. We will again have a booth, stop by and catch up on the latest news and pick up some printed educational materials that we will have on hand.

Membership

Please check to see if your membership is current. We are still one of the best shows in town for \$15.00. Please consider volunteering for one or more of the programs the association is involved in. WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!!

County Timber Harvest

Did you know that approximately 25% of the property in Fifty Lakes is tax forfeiture property? This land is controlled by Crow Wing County. The county has been harvesting the timber from this land. I have been told that the county intends to manage this land to produce a more health forest. I agree with that but the county must find ways to maintain the natural beauty or aesthetic value of our forestland in their management plan.

Any comments, suggestion, or questions you might have please call or email me. 💧

Ken Neihart, *FLPOA President*

Fifty Lakes Days

The Fifty Lakes Day Celebration is held every year on the 4th Saturday in June. This celebration includes a large raffle, live music, vendor booths, food booths, bar bingo, meat raffle, kid's games and many more events. Music by Paradise and Regular Crowd during the day and by D B Cooper in the evening. Kids games and pork on a stick by Lions. 1pm horse shoe tournament and bingo at 3pm. Air care helicopter and vendor booths. Meat raffle at 5pm and pig roast at 6pm put on by the fire department and first responders. Prize raffle at 9pm. Prizes include a 46" HD TV, Remington model 770, bikes, Holiday gas cards and many more. The 2011 celebration will be held on June 25th with festivities beginning at 11am. 💧

FLPOA Wins Grant To Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers

FLPOA has won a matching grant of \$1,350 from the DNR to install a second set of Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers signs along a road in Fifty Lakes. This project will build on the success of the radio contest and "Burma Shave" signs with a Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers theme that were installed along highway #1 last year. The radio contest received more than 420 entries and included the participation of three high schools. One of the winning slogans will be used for the set of signs to be installed this year. The city of Fifty Lakes has agreed to help by providing sign posts and installing the signs. The exact location will be determined in June and announced in the next newsletter. FLPOA also assisted the Kimble Lake Association in obtaining a DNR grant for a similar program. 💧

Mark Johnson, *FLPOA Vice President*

Swimmers Itch Guard

<http://www.swimmersitchguard.com>

Swimmer's Itch Guard is a very water resistant cream that contains a 30 SPF sunscreen and a natural plant chemical that prevents the parasite from penetrating the skin. Applied properly and before entering the water, Swimmer's Itch Guard is 100% effective in preventing swimmer's itch. (Info from the website listed.) We have yet to test this product, as the water is still a little chilly! So, if you decide to try Swimmer's Itch Guard, please let us know what you think. The website has a little more information about ingredients and how to obtain the product. FLPOA brings this information to you only as something to consider, not as an endorsement. 💧

Notes from the Boathouse

Somewhere, somewhere, there is a guy. Every morning that this guy wakes up, it is his job to say, "The Price of Gasoline Today shall be \$XXX.9 per gallon". Wouldn't it be great if we could kidnap him and replace him with "OUR GUY"? Can you say \$1.29.9 per gallon? Can you remember 100 Octane Premium? Without moonshine in it? Can you remember saying (to the FULL SERVICE ATTENDANT) "Fill her up" and then handing him a five? Pretty sure those days are gone forever. I guess we just need to adapt and overcome.

Speaking of overcoming, I just returned from Outboard Fuel School. What follows are some highlights and pointers about how to overcome fuel problems. This is not an exhaustive tome on the subject but just a few facts and tips.

Facts

1. Fuel octane DOES NOT equate to power. It is a rating of resistance to knock.
2. Alcohol has 30% less power in it than gasoline emissions and help farmers.

3. Alcohol is added to gasoline to oxygenate it, lower emissions and help farmers.
4. Alcohol molecules are much smaller than gasoline molecules, allowing it to permeate and damage materials that are not resistant to it
5. Current law allows for 10% ethanol in oxygenated fuels (15% or E-15 is being considered)
6. Alcohol has an affinity for water
7. Current alcohol fuels will “phase separate” in a very short period of time if water is present in the tank (the alcohol separates from the gasoline and takes any water with it to the bottom of the tank)
8. If you are running mixed gas, the alcohol phase will NOT contain any oil.
9. Gas station pumps with ONE NOZZLE and several fuel grade selections may have as much as 3 GALLONS of what the guy before you bought, in the lines between the pump and the nozzle.
10. Alcohol based “fuel drying additives”, when added to ethanol fuel will only make it worse!
11. Winter and summer grades of fuel are not created equal.
12. The presence of alcohol in fuel lowers its boiling point, making it more susceptible to vapor lock.

Tips

1. Whenever possible, buy NON-OXYGENATED premium fuel. Use it in every gas engine you have except your daily driver.
2. If you must buy your Non Ox premium from a “1 nozzle pump”, pump the first 3 gallons into the tank of your road vehicle (thus insuring you have received a tank of actual non ethanol fuel for your boat).
3. Test your favorite gas station’s fuel occasionally for alcohol. Test kits are available locally and inexpensively.
4. Never fill the tank of your boat in Minnesota, for storage, after October 1st or before May 1st with ethanol fuel. These are winter blend fuels with lower vapor pressures (making engines easier to start in colder weather but easier to vapor lock in warm weather).

5. Non-ox premium is no longer being blended differently for winter and summer, making it safe to buy anytime (per our local distributor).
6. Use a fuel-stabilizing additive regularly with all marine and small engine fuel being stored in your tank (read the fine print: if the filler agent in the additive is alcohol, don’t buy it!)
7. If your tank has a manual vent, close it after every use to prevent water invasion and condensation.
8. If you have had issues with water in your fuel, consider installing a water separating fuel filter.

So, just a few thoughts about fuel for the upcoming season. Hope the price of gas comes down soon (yeah, right). Boat Safe, Happy Landings. ♦

By Kirk Smith Land O' Lakes Marine PS
Anyone knowing the whereabouts of the guy who sets the gas price, call me. ☺

July 2nd Membership Drive Free Ice Cream Cones!

On Saturday, July 2, 2011, a few board members will be scooping ice cream cones at the corner of Hwys 1 & 3 from 12-2pm. Our hope is to get many passers-by to stop for a free ice cream cone and sign up to be members of FLPOA. Please grab a friend on July 2nd and come get your own free ice cream cone. Crafts and Cones in Crosslake has agreed to give us a break on the ice cream and cones. We will scoop till 2 or until all the ice cream is gone. Be sure to let your neighbors know! ♦

Bon Fires Cause Lake Problems

If you enjoy a bonfire near the shoreline, remember to grab a shovel after the fire is out and dump the ashes inland to prevent the phosphorus in the ashes from seeping into the lake, according to University of Idaho researchers. Or, better yet, consider moving your fire inland, far away from the shore. Rains, winds and other natural happenings carry the ash

into the waters. An average bonfire containing

into the waters. An average bonfire containing 22 pounds of firewood produces enough phosphorus to raise the phosphorus level 1 part per billion in 350,000 gallons of lake water, a significant amount.

Phosphorus stimulates an overgrowth of algae and aquatic plants, which decompose after they die and in several generations, cause lakes to fill with muck prematurely and become a marsh. ♦

Shoreland Restoration Contest

WAPOA's 2011 Shoreland Restoration Contest is underway. This is a chance for area lake residents to win up to \$5,000 in work and materials to fix a shoreline with problems such as run-off, erosion, or just planting native plant buffers to improve water quality. All landowners, private, commercial, and public who live in the WAPOA area and on all lakes for which we do water quality monitoring are invited to participate. (This includes the lakes associated with FLPOA.)

The format will be much the same as last year with an educational "Social Night" at Moonlight Bay on June 8 at 5 p.m. Snacks will be provided and there will be a cash bar available. Local experts will be on hand to show various techniques to prevent runoff and improve water quality. There will be displays to show before and after pictures of completed projects, native plants, and a chance to ask questions in a casual setting.

Two weeks later, June 22, WAPOA will be asking those who want to participate in the contest itself to join us at the Ideal Community Center to review plans, challenges, and get ideas to solve problems on their own lakeshore. Two important things to remember:

1. Contest "winners" will be partnering with WAPOA to improve water quality and fish and wildlife habitat. Improved water quality is for all of us.
2. Those chosen for a project will get lots of help

2. Those chosen for a project will get lots of help in design and planting in addition to needed plants, etc.

Have you ever seen some bad runoff problems somewhere on the lake? Ask folks if they wouldn't like some help. ♦

Feel free to call with questions. Judy & Jack Wallschlaeger 36024 E. Ruttger Bay Drive Pequot Lakes, MN 56472 (218) 543-6257

Aquatic Invasive Species Training

On a cool, windy Saturday morning of April 23, 2011, Keri Hull, Watercraft Inspection Program Assistant, led 14 people through the training to prepare volunteers to help monitor our public access sites. The training lasted about an hour and included a walk around an actual boat to help us identify some of the tricky parts where those pesky invasives can hide. Thanks to Mike Herman for bringing his boat for us to practice. As you can imagine, we will need lots of help for this volunteer program to be successful. Please consider giving up an hour or two or three to help us keep our lakes free of the invasive species that can have such a damaging effect on our lakes. Contact any of the board members for more information as to who is currently trained for your lake and can give you some more information. Thank you also to Judy Miller for setting up this training. We need you! ♦

Fifty Lakes Shoreline Restoration

In 2010 we had 4 properties on West Fox Lake that qualified for grants and were completed by CWSW along with volunteer help from the property owners and master gardeners from the area. Attached are photos of erosion control water wattles and plantings done at one of the properties.

The willow branches used in the water wattle break down the wave action and the coco log behind the wattle also helps reduce wave action and also absorbs water to sustain the plantings. In time both will disintegrate and by then the plantings should be well established.

plantings should be well established. ♦

Bob Stancer, *FLPOA Board Member*

Wanted

FLPOA is looking for a new newsletter editor. The newsletter is generally published 3 times per year. With the new website in place, the job has become much easier! The biggest part now involves sending an email to our membership notifying all that the website has gone live with the newest publication of the newsletter. Please contact Dan Wright or any board member if interested in helping out your local association.

Email Address—Important!

Please be sure you have a current, valid email address on record with FLPOA. As of the end of 2011, our plan is to stop mailing newsletters to members. All information will be obtained through our new website. Dues may continue to be mailed to the PO Box in town with a renewal form available on the website. If you do not have access to the website, PLEASE contact Dan Wright to work out some other kind of arrangement. Thanks!

Is Your Membership Current?

Your membership expires on December 31st. Dues are \$15 per year payable to “FLPOA”. Your membership is important.

Thank you for your support!

2011 Board Members

- Ken Neihart (W.Fox/Pres)
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- Mark Johnson (Eagle/VP)
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Member Families by Lake

E. Fox	20
W. Fox	51
Eagle	32
Kego	16
Mitchell	45
Butterfield	7
Other	18
Total Members	189

(Only 108 paid through 2011!)
Please renew now!