Golf in Fifty Lakes
Take a Swing into Spring

Although it is believe that the Dutch created golf, the modern game of golf we play today is generally considered to be a Scottish invention.

Evidence of early golf in the United States includes a 1739 record for a shipment of golf equipment to a William Wallace in Charleston, South Carolina, an advertisement published in the Royal Gazette of New York City in 1779 for golf clubs and balls, and the establishment of the South Carolina Golf Club in 1787 in Charleston.

However, as in England, it was not until the late 19th century that golf started to become firmly established in the USA.

Continued on 7

President’s Post
Learn about accomplishments and future plans for the Fifty Lakes Property Owners Association.

Spring Family Fun
It is a sunny day and the breeze is blowing. Time to get out and go fly a kite!

Cabin Tech
Changes in the weather are important to boating, gardening and safety. Find out about personal weather stations.
President’s Post

By Fred Strohmeier

We have another winter season behind us, and just enough warm spikes to melt the snow and get us looking forward to the summer season. At the bare minimum, we should far exceed our late spring of last year. I would also like to welcome back all of you who escape to warmer climates.

As everyone gears up for spring projects and summer preparation, it will be the same for us at the Fifty Lakes Property Owners Association. Over the winter months, FLPOA was able to pre-establish 600 hours of DNR trained inspections at our four boat accesses. We will discuss adding additional hours at our May 2nd meeting. As part of a Curly Leaf Pondweed (CLP) awareness program, we have AIS flyers ready for distribution in May to the property owners on Mitchell Lake. CLP was reported in a July inspection in 2014. We also have scheduled a DNR whole lake survey in Mitchell Lake around the first week of June to see if any early growth can be found. We have put together a mass mailing to all property owners in Fifty Lakes outlining some of FLPOA’s recent activities and monitoring/test results for our lakes over the last five years. FLPOA feels it is very important to continue to monitor and protect one of our most important natural resources, our lakes. This has gotten to be more challenging and more expensive in recent years and we hope more people will help by taking an “active” role. Your membership is one way to do that. Another activity we have been following involves a county clear cut logging program in sections 9, 10, 11, and 12, which could affect the north shores of Kego and Mitchell Lakes. We have been in contact with the Crow Wing County Forestry Department and are hoping that CW County and the loggers adhere (at minimum) to the new 1000-foot shoreline impact zone guidelines.

In other news, we received the resignation of our newsletter editor, Carrie Bell. She has done a fantastic job for us, with both the newsletter and our website. We extend our gratitude and sincere thanks for a job well done, and we will miss her greatly. If any of you are interested in filling this vacancy, please let us know.

We hope this keeps you up to date as we all look forward to another summer in “God’s Country”. Enjoy!

Sincerely,
Fred Strohmeier, FLPOA President
Kites have been around a very long time. Amazingly, the earliest known kites date back more than 2000 years. Though the exact origin is debated, it’s believed the home of the first kite was Shandong, the eastern most province of China. One legend suggests a Chinese farmer tied a string to his hat to keep it from blowing away in strong winds, and from this concept the first kite was born. The first kites were constructed from common yet durable materials, such as bamboo for the framing covered by silk and paper.

In 1295, European explorer Marco Polo was among the first people to document the construction of kites and how to fly them. By the 16th century, the popularity of kites grew exponentially because books and other literature publicized kites as children's toys. As the 18th century approached and the initial novelty of kites was wearing off, kites were made useful in a new arena: the field of science.

In 1749, a Scottish meteorologist named Alexander Wilson used a kite with a thermometer attached to measure air temperatures at 3000 feet. This marked the beginning of kites aiding in the study and recording of the Earth and weather forecasting by the U.S. Weather Service.

Three years later in 1752, Ben Franklin and his son William conducted their famous experiment designed to prove that lightning was indeed electricity. Kites were also instrumental in the research and development of the Wright brothers when building the first airplane in the late 1800's.

Beside all the incredible ways kites have helped us over the years, flying them is still a fun way to spend an afternoon with family and friends.

Submitted by Carrie Bell
Another main impact by motors is churning up the lake bottom in shallow areas. This action stirs up the lake sediment, re-suspending nutrients (phosphorus) that are at the lake's bottom. When these nutrients reach the surface of the water where the algae are, they can feed algae and cause and algal bloom. This stirring can also decrease the water clarity because of additional particles suspended in the water column.

So what can you do to protect your lake?

1) Establish no-wake zones in shallow areas with waterfowl nesting and bulrush stands. "Slow no wake" means operation of a watercraft at the slowest possible speed necessary to maintain steerage, but in no case greater than 5 miles per hour.

2) Educate lake users to avoid sensitive areas and drive slowly through shallow areas.

3) Upgrade your boat motor from an old two-stroke engine to a four-stroke engine. Four-stroke engines use fuel more efficiently, produce cleaner exhaust, and run more quietly than traditional two-stroke engines.

To reduce your impact while boating, there are other easy changes in behavior we can all practice.

1) Keep your boat property trimmed – an engine in the water makes much less noise and creates less wake.

2) Keep your engine well-tuned so that it runs more efficiently, pollutes less and is quieter.

3) Remember that swimmers, canoeists, kayakers, sailboats and other non-motorized users always have the right-of-way.

Continued on Page 10.
Choosing a Personal Weather Station

Submitted by Dianne Bell

Now that the long winter is over our thoughts turn to getting back up to the cabin, putting the dock in, getting ready for summer and fishing, boating, golfing, etc.

To help us plan these activities as best as possible we’ll want to know what the weather is going to be like. Or maybe we just want to know what the weather will be because we’re Minnesotans. According to my brother-in-law in Chicago, we Minnesotans are obsessed with the weather! Maybe it’s because we have historically harsh and extreme weather that we want to know what’s going to be coming our way so we can be prepared.

There are a lot of different personal weather stations on the market today, including wired and wireless (meaning you don’t need to drill holes!! Always a plus!) as well as solar-powered, meaning you don’t have to replace batteries all the time.

However, there does still seem to be a correlation between quality and price. You get what you pay for still pertains here. Prices can range from $150 - $2,500 depending on features and construction. A good weather station, i.e. one that is accurate, reliable and durable, will cost around $500, according to Raleigh, NC meteorologist George Bridgers. Beware of poorly shielded thermometers, inaccurate humidity sensors, and rain gauges that are too small. Those tend to be more common on the cheaper models and will impact the accuracy and durability of your PWS.

And, even with a good weather station, it’s location, location, location! You need to be mindful of its location and orientation for best data collection.

Key points and features to consider when purchasing a personal weather station (PWS) are its ability to record

- Temperature
- Humidity (Dewpoint)
- Wind
- Precipitation
- Barometric Pressure

Some stations may include options for solar radiation, soil temperature and soil moisture, and multiple temperature and humidity sensors.

Popular weather monitoring systems include Davis Instruments, Oregon Scientific, Peet Bros. and RainWise. If you want professional-grade equipment comparable to what is found at airports, check out more expensive rigs by Campbell Scientific, MetOne, Vaisala and Young.

Regardless of price, look for sturdy construction and materials; you want a unit that will survive foul as well as fair weather.

Continued on Page 6.
Another nice feature is a receiver, or console, that will upload your weather data either directly to the Internet or to a home computer with a broadband connection.

A good PWS will generate a lot of weather data. You'll need software to help translate that data into information you can actually use. Among the many choices of software for interpreting and displaying data transmitted from weather stations are WeatherLink, Weather Display, Cumulus and WeatherSnoop. The dashboards, color displays and arrangements vary and are very much a matter of taste if not budget, since prices range from free to $300.

Finally, consider whether you’ll want your weather station just for your own personal use or if you’ll be using your data for any other purposes. Many hobby weather enthusiasts participate in NOAA’s (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) Citizen Weather Observer Program (CWOP) where citizens contribute to weather data collection. If you’re interested in this, you’ll want to invest in a reliable PWS.

For more information on choosing a Personal Weather Station, check out these additional resources:

**NOAA’s Guide to Choosing a PWS**

**New York Times Guide to Personal Weather Stations**
http://www.nytimes.com/2013/07/11/technology/personaltech/a-guide-to-personal-weather-stations.html?_r=0

**Weather Shack.com’s Guide to Best Weather Stations**
http://www.weathershack.com
Golf in Fifty Lakes Continued

In 1894, the result of two competing "National Amateur Championships", which included delegates from the Newport Country Club, Saint Andrew's Golf Club, Yonkers, New York, The Country Club, Chicago Golf Club, and Shinnecock Hills Golf Club met in New York City to form what was to become the United States Golf Association (USGA). By 1910 there were 267 clubs.

During the Roaring Twenties the game expanded greatly in popularity and by 1932 there were over 1,100 golf clubs affiliated to the USGA. In 1922 the great Walter Hagen became the first native born American to win the British Open Championship.

The expansion of the game was halted by the Great Depression and World War II, but continued in the post war years. By 1980 there were over 5,908 USGA affiliated clubs. That figure grew to over 10,600 by 2013.

The history of golf is preserved and represented at several golf museums around the world, notably the British Golf Museum in the town of St Andrews in Fife, Scotland, which is the home of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews. The United States Golf Association Museum and Arnold Mongool Center for Golf History is located alongside the United States Golf Association headquarters in Far Hills, New Jersey, and is another fine golf museum.

Golf is a game of patience, precision and passion. It combines skill with physical fitness, and it is directly tied to the beautiful land we love so much. We are fortunate to have so many courses available in the Fifty Lakes area.

Submitted by Carrie Bell

The 18th Hole at the Golden Eagle Golf Club in Fifty Lakes.

Local Golf Courses

Golden Eagle Golf Club (Public)  
18 holes over 6,712 yards with a par of 72  
16146 West Eagle Lake Rd  
Fifty Lakes, MN 56448  
(866) 316-4653

Fairways at Howard's Barn (Public)  
9 holes  
16711 County Road 1  
Fifty Lakes, MN 56448  
(218) 763-2038

Emily Greens Golf Course (Public)  
9 holes  
39966 Refuge Rd  
Emily, MN 56447-2025  
(218) 763-2169

Crosswoods Golf Course (Public)  
18 holes over 6,113 yards with a par of 71  
35878 County Road 3  
Crosslake, MN 56442-3010  
(218) 692-4653

Whistling Wolf/Dark Moon Mini Golf  
36006 County Road 66  
Crosslake, MN 56442-2500  
(218) 692-7888
Water pollution is a scary word. All it tells us is that there is something in the water that’s not naturally there. The problem is that the word “pollution” is general and doesn’t tell you anything specific about what’s in the water or how it got there. Water pollution is easier to understand and prevent when we break it down into types.

There are two overall types of pollution: point source pollution and non-point source pollution. Point source pollution comes from a distinct source such as a discharge pipe. Non-point source pollution comes from diffuse sources including runoff and atmospheric deposition.

Since we could fill a whole newspaper issue with information on pollution, I will limit this article to the types of non-point source pollution that are common in runoff to our lakes and streams. These pollutants can be divided into categories: nutrients, oil and grease, bacteria, and toxic chemicals.

Nutrients are the most common impact to lakes in Minnesota. Nutrients come from fertilizers, detergents and soil and the most common are phosphorus and nitrogen. These nutrients wash off the land during spring thaw and rainstorms and end up running into our rivers and lakes. When in our lakes and rivers, they fuel plant and algae growth that can be undesirable for lake recreation.

Oil and grease come from boat motors and wash off roads and driveways into lakes and streams. Oil forms a film on top of the water that often shows rainbow colors. This oil interferes with the surface tension of the water. Insects such as water striders that skate along the top of the water rely on surface tension to stay afloat. When there is oil or soap at the top of the water, they sink and drown.

Bacteria enters our waters from animal and human feces. Sometimes after large rainstorms, swimming beaches close due to unsafe bacteria levels. Human sources of bacteria can be failing septic systems and outhouses. Animal sources of bacteria include pets, waterfowl and animal feedlots. What you can do is keep your septic system maintained and clean up after your pets.

Toxic chemicals include herbicides, pesticides, paint and solvents. These chemicals effect fish, frogs, insects and aquatic plants. These chemicals should not be poured into the storm sewers. Check your garage, many of us have chemicals just sitting around because we don’t know how to dispose of them. The Becker County Regional Household Hazardous Waste facility is available for disposal of many of these chemicals. Check their website for a list of acceptable items: http://www.co.becker.mn.us/dept/environmental_services/hhw.aspx.

To prevent these pollutants from running into our lakes and streams, be mindful of what you apply on your lawn, leave out in your yard and street, and how you dispose of chemicals.

You can also be proactive and construct areas for rainwater to collect in your yard and get filtered such as rain gardens and wetlands. A rain garden is a depression that

Continued on Page 9.
Water Pollution and Spring Runoff Continued

contains native plants and shrubs designed to collect and filter rainwater. It is both beautiful and functional.

A buffer of plants along the shoreline of lakes and streams will also filter runoff and other nutrients that might otherwise reach your lake. Here is a great web site about building your own rain garden:

http://www.raingardennetwork.com/about.htm

A beautiful rain garden.

FLPOA Board Meeting

The next Fifty Lakes Property Owners Association (FLPOA) meeting is scheduled for Saturday, May 2, 2015, at 9am. The meeting will be held at the Fifty Lakes Fire Hall. Some agenda items include:

• AIS Inspection
• Sandpiper Pipeline
• Timber Harvest
• Mitchell Lake AIS/CLP
• Annual Meeting Planning

Everyone is welcome and we hope to see you there!

Submit a Newsletter Story

We hope you enjoy the FLPOA Newsletter, The Ripple. Your comments and story ideas are most welcome! Please get in touch with us by emailing: flpoamn@gmail.com.

Fifty Lakes Day

Join us on Saturday, June 27th, from 10am to 10pm for the fun of Fifty Lakes Day at the Town Hall! The Fifty Lakes Property Owners Association will once again have a booth where current members can find out what is new and renew their dues, and prospective members can learn about our fantastic organization.
FLPOA • minnesotawaters.org/fiftylakespropertyowners/  
Spring 2015

FLPOA Membership Form

Membership Fee/Dues are $20 per year. Please make checks payable to FLPOA, and mail to: P.O. Box 206, Fifty Lakes, MN 56448

Name:___________________________________________________________
Address:_________________________________________________________
City:__________________________ State:_________ Zip Code:__________
Home Phone:____________________ Lake Phone:____________________
Cell Phone:____________________
Email:__________________________

I am interested in helping the FLPOA with the following projects/activities/events:

____________________________________________________________________

Boat Motors & Water Quality Continued

4) Be respectful to wildlife and loons, keeping a distance of at least 200 feet away at all times.

5) Consider the size of your boat and motor when choosing a lake for recreation – smaller lakes are not appropriate for large boats or engines.

To read more about the Wisconsin DNR boating impact study visit:


A boat docked on Mitchell Lake.