

The Sibley Steward

SPRING
2005

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE SIBLEY LAKE ASSOCIATION



Robert Johnson Memorial Pier ...

The fishing pier was dedicated on July 17th, 2004, at the annual general membership meeting last year. The dedication was well attended by the Johnson family and we again wish to express the gratitude of the Lake Association and the community for the contributions from the family, members, local residents, and service organizations in Pequot Lakes.

The pier has weathered two winters and is in excellent condition. Since it is a floating structure and designed to withstand the winter months, the shifting ice has had no detrimental effect on the pier. This spring the pier shifted due to the wind pushing the ice against the pier, but thanks to Robert Swanson, Rob LaRose, and Mark Jurchen, the pier was reset at the bottom of Sibley Park and is ready for the season.

According to Mark Jurchen, committee chairman, the pier has been utilized by both fishing enthusiasts and those who just enjoy the beauty and serenity of Sibley Lake. The pier is a wonderful tribute to Bob Johnson and a contribution to our lake and community which is deeply appreciated.



Do you have a need? ...

Mechanical Weed Harvesting

...see page 4

2004-2005 SIBLEY LAKE ASSOCIATION

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Come to the
**Sibley Lake Association
Annual Meeting & Picnic**

...food and refreshments provided!

**Saturday, July 16th, 2005, 10:30 AM
Sibley Lake Park**

Continued on page 4

Shoreland Management ...

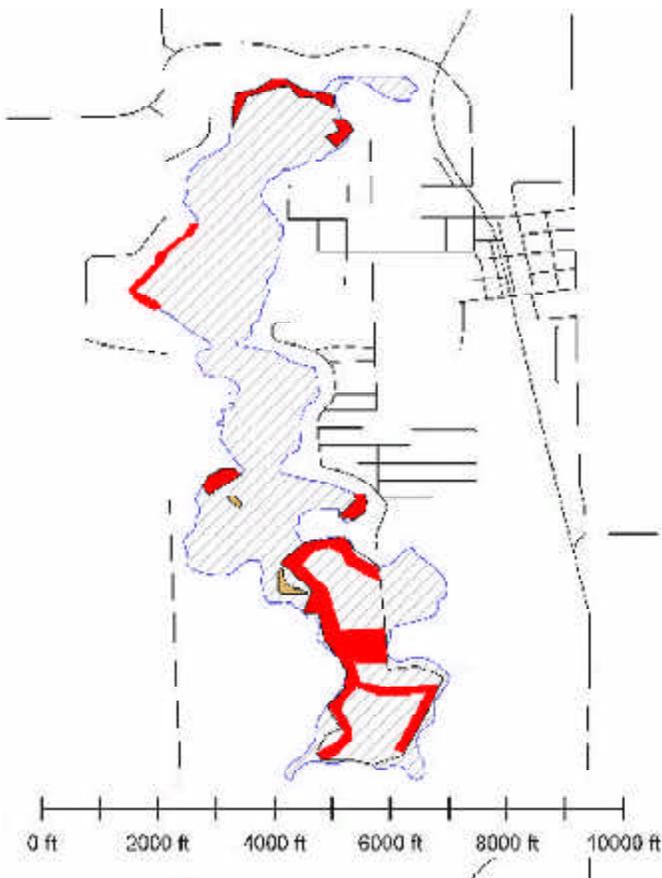
NUISANCE AQUATIC PLANTS

As of the publication of this newsletter, Dave Lind, who also serves as committee chairman for the curly leaf pondweed eradication project, reports that the Aquatic Plant Management plan is in its first phase. Our permit has been approved by the DNR to allow application of the maximum acres of 60 acres this year. Please refer to the map below illustrating the treatment area.

This year's application will cost approximately \$17,000, which is a major portion of the funds that were contributed by our members and property owners. We wish to extend our gratitude to all of you who gave monies to this project.

Professional Lakes Management has been contracted to apply the treatment late May or early June. The timing of the application depends on the growth and maturity of the curly leaf pondweed.

We anticipate that additional funds will be necessary to continue the management plan over the next couple of years. Your continued support of this project is vital to insure the success of eradicating or controlling this exotic species. If you have questions or wish to have additional information on the program, please contact Dave Linda t 218-568-6715.



LAKE MAPPING

Bob Becker, committee chairman for the mapping project, is in the process of updating the list of property owners for Sibley Lake this spring. He informed the board that he hopes to have an updated list prior to the annual meeting July 16th. As in past, spring real estate sales result in new property owners around the lake. He is currently coordinating his efforts with the City of Pequot Lakes to provide an accurate listing.

ANNUAL PONTOON PARADE

The Sibley Lake Association will once again hold its annual pontoon flotilla for the 4th of July holiday. This year's event will take place Sunday, July 3rd, beginning at 7:00PM at the south end of Sibley Lake. The Pequot Lakes fireworks will follow the parade after dusk. Event Chairman, Robert Becker, can be contacted at 218-568-4302 if you have any questions.



One of the nicer corners of the world is right here on Sibley Lake.

Life is not about how fast you run, or about how high you climb, but about how well you bounce.

More on the Lakes Country Environment ...

2005 BEAVER CONTROL ...

As reported in our 2004 Newsletter, it is not the objective or policy of the Sibley Lake Association nor its board to eliminate the beaver population in the Sibley Lake area. The control of the exploding population is the primary goal.

Population control of the beaver is necessary to reduce damage to trees and vegetation along the lake, maintain a more stable lake level due to dams on inlets and outlets, and as we have come to understand, assist in the stocking efforts of the DNR and Association of walleye in our lake.

Walleye spawn in areas that are the furthest north on bodies of water. Since Sibley is the northern headwaters for the Gull Lake Chain, beaver dams in channels and streams prohibit the natural migration of the walleye for spawning, thus reducing the opportunity for a stable or increased number of this fish species in our lake.

Jeff and Todd Roggenkamp have been contracted by the Board of Directors to continue their efforts in beaver control. John Oxborough continues to serve as chairman of this committee. If you have questions or wish to discuss the Association's efforts in this area, please feel free to contact him at 218-568-4509.

OLE'S OBITUARY ...

Ole died, so Lena went to the local paper to put a notice in the obituaries. The gentleman at the counter, after offering his condolences, asked Lena what she would like to say about Ole. Lena replied, "You just put 'Ole died.'"

The gentleman, somewhat perplexed, said, "That's it? Just 'Ole died?' Surely there must be something more you'd like to say about Ole. If it is the money you are concerned about, the first five words are free. We must say something more."

So, Lena pondered for a few minutes and finally said, "O.K., you just put 'Ole died, boat for sale.'"

BE CAREFUL OUT THERE!

As boat traffic and lake usage increase on Sibley Lake, there is an ever-increasing danger of boating mishaps. The Sibley Lake Board of Directors encourages all boating enthusiasts to watch for skiers, tubers, swimmers, and wildlife and give all a wide berth to allow a safe passing distance. It's the safe and courteous thing to do!

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NEW CITY OF PEQUOT LAKES ORDINANCES

The Planning and Zoning Commission for the City of Pequot Lakes is the final stages of zoning and ordinance revisions. The group, along with representatives of various organizations interested citizens, has been meeting on a regular basis for the past several months to give careful consideration in updating these rules and regulations for our community. Included are revised ordinances concerning placement and length of docks, shoreline alteration, and repair of shoreline structures such as boathouses and storage sheds.

The city has recently conducted an aerial survey of the lake for unauthorized structures, failing septic systems, and shoreline alteration. The Board of Directors encourages lake residents to contact the Zoning Administrator, Dawn Bittner, at City Hall, if you have any questions concerning the new ordinances or are planning any construction projects or shoreline alteration. Her phone number is 218-568-5222.

Our Annual Meeting

The Association's 2005 Annual Meeting will be held at 10:30 AM, Saturday, July 16th at Sibley Lake Park.

— AGENDA —

General Business Meeting begins at 10:30 and will include:

Board Elections

Review of 2004 Activities

We invite you to attend our Annual Meeting, which provides us all with an opportunity to renew old friendships and develop new ones. It is also a great way to receive updates on Sibley Lake Association's recent accomplishments and upcoming activities. For your own comfort, we recommend bring a lawn chair or two, and a neighbor! We look forward to seeing you there!

Sibley Lake Association News ...

MEMBERSHIP

Our annual membership dues have been coming in, but membership chairman, Mel Granos reported that 72 members have not renewed. We hope that our efforts warrant the investment of \$15 in your lake association and ask that you consider renewing your membership. We trust that the efforts of the Board and other active members have made a difference in the quality of life on Sibley Lake.

At our May meeting, the Board of Directors discussed a possible dues increase to \$25 per membership. The present dues structure, \$10 for the individual and \$15 per family, would be replaced by the single fee per membership. The cost of the various programs the Association is undertaking will place a heavy demand on Association funds. This proposed dues increase will be discussed at the annual meeting in July.

In Fashion at the Picnic ...

The ever popular Sibley Lake T shirts and caps will be available for sale at the annual picnic. The price is \$10 for either item. You can also obtain one of these special items from Mel Granos by contacting him at (218)568-5192.

Water Quality Program ...

At the May 14th Board of Directors Meeting, Professional Lake Management was also contracted to perform a water quality-monitoring program on Sibley Lake. The process consists of 4 sample sites, occurring in spring, early summer and late summer each season. Parameters such as Secchi disc, ph, D.O., conductivity, alkalinity, and nutrient sampling of total nitrogen and total phosphorus will allow us to identify lake trends more efficiently. The program will also test our water for fecal bacteria (E. Coli) in midsummer, which will determine if the lake is suitable for swimming. Reports will be issued annually in the fall. Cost of the program is \$1,300.

Mechanical Weed Harvesting ...

Committee chairman, Dave Lind, received information from the new owner of the weed harvester that Jerry Gibbons owned. In order for the new owner to serve our lake, we would need 30 property owners to contract with him. The cost is \$135 per hour, one hour minimum, plus a \$20 per property owner fuel surcharge. An area of 2500 square feet, 50 by 50, may be cleared by such means. Anyone interested should contact Randy at (218) 851-7383. Dave is also checking with another contractor who may be willing to work with the Sibley Lake property owners.

Treasurer's Report

June 14, 2005

Balances on 05/14/2005			
Checking	\$496.01		
Savings	\$9,145.57		
Pier Fund	\$2,380.26		
Exotic Species Control Fund	\$20,189.18		
Total			\$32,211.02
Activity since 5/14/2005			
Checking:			
Credits			
Deposit from Savings	\$500.00		
Total			\$500.00
Debits:			
Professional Lake Management			
Water Quality Testing	\$650.00		
Total			(\$650.00)
Savings:			
Deposits			
Interest	\$1.81		
Dues & Gen. Fund	\$195.00		
Total			\$196.81
Withdrawals			
To Checking	\$500.00		
Total			(\$500.00)
Robt. Johnson Memorial Fund			
Deposits:			
Interest	\$0.30		
Total			\$0.30
Withdrawals			
None			
Exotic Species Control Fund			
Debits:			
Professional Lake Management			
Permits	\$750.00		
Application	\$16,200.00		
Total			(\$16,950.00)
Fund Totals as of 06/14/2005			
Checking	\$346.01		
Savings	\$8,842.38		
Robt. Johnson Memorial	\$2,380.56		
Exotic Species Fund	\$3,239.18		
Total			<u>\$14,808.13</u>
Submitted by Mel Granos, Treasurer 6/14/2005			

www.mnlakes.org/sibley

Thanks again this year to Paul Meehl, Mayo Lake resident and Sibley Association member, our website listed in the headline for this article continues to provide valuable information for Sibley Association members and others interested in the activities of our organization. Included on the website are valuable links to various topics concerning environmental issues and activities associated with lake living. A directory of the Sibley Lake Association Board of Directors along with the minutes of the board meeting is also included on the web site.

If you haven't made a visit to the site as of yet, we invite you to do so. We also invite you to send us any news items you may have such as pictures, editorials, or interesting stories about Sibley Lake and its residents. You may email them to lowhat@tds.net.

Bits & Pieces from Around the Neighborhood

Mayo Lake Association ...

Sibley's "sister" lake, Mayo Lake, recently underwent the second year of chemical treatment for Curly Leaf Pondweed and Coontail. Mayo Lake Association, under the supervision of the Minnesota DNR, applied Aquathol K using a hand-cranked fertilizer spreader from a pontoon. Mayo Lake Association president Ed Freiermuth and John and Jane Erickson spearheaded the treatment effort. After the 2004 treatment, Mayo Lake residents enjoyed one of the most weed-free summers in recent memory, and there is optimism that 2005 will be as good or better. Recent reports are that the spring weed crop is already in remission.

Mayo's annual meeting and picnic will be on July 23rd, 1-4pm, at the Sibley Lake park pavilion. Sibley Lake members are invited to stop by and mingle with your neighbors to the south.

The Mayo Lake Association is in its third year since being "reborn" under Ed Freiermuth's leadership. The association's primary activity so far has been to work with the DNR on developing a 5-year aquatic vegetation management plan and begin treatments to reduce the invasive weeds. The association also hopes to involve Mayo property owners in all facets of the lake's health and use.

For more information, please visit the association's website at www.mnlakes.org/mayolake.

Paul Meehl

Don't miss the parade! ...

Put it on your calendar! ...

The Annual "3rd" of July Sibley Lake Water Parade

7:00 PM start time. Please note that our parade is scheduled for Sunday, July 3rd. We'll meet at the island on the south end of the lake. Everyone is invited! The parade route is illustrated to the right.



Sibley Lake Association Membership Application

P.O. Box 83, Pequot Lakes, Minnesota 56472

(Share this application with a nonmember!)

Name: _____

Local Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Local Phone: _____ Fire #: _____

Do you own property on Sibley Lake? Yes No

Nonresident address:

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (____) _____ Email: _____

Please check below if you can volunteer to help the SLA in any way ...

Membership Drive

Attend SLA meetings throughout the year

Attend meetings of other association or alliances

Serve on an SLA committee

Serve on the Board of Directors

Other

Single membership (one vote), \$10.00

Family Membership (2 votes), \$15.00

Minutes (& Seconds) of the Annual Meeting – July 17th, 2004

The Sibley Lake Association Annual Meeting was called to order by President, Greg Karr, at 10:50AM at the Sibley Lake Park in Pequot lakes, Minnesota. Introduction of the current board members and self-introductions of attendees followed.

Secretary's Report: The minutes were provided in writing and sent out before the meeting in the Sibley Steward Newsletter. No corrections were noted.

Treasurers Report: Mel Granos reported a balance of approximately \$28,768.03 in all accounts including Checking \$491.15, Savings \$9,664.62, R. Johnson Memorial Fund \$2,375.25 and Pondweed Control Fund \$16,237.03.

Website: President Karr informed the general membership that thanks to Paul Meehl, Sibley Lake has a Webb Site Address: www.mnlakes.org/sibley/ also

Email address: sibleylake@mnlakes.org.

Water Quality: Jeff Walden worked on this project and is going off the board. Dick and Bob Becker have volunteer for this project, looking for more people to help with testing the water quality.

Shoreline Development: President Karr said will be a major push for the board member for next year.

Lake Management Plan: The first meeting of the Lake Management plan with the DNR was July 16, 2004. President Karr said an application for a permit was submitted to the DNR in February 2004. In May 2004 the DNR informed Sibley Lake Association that a project as large as ours required a "Lake Management Plan" and without a plan we were unable to treat curly leaf pondweed to the extent that we anticipated.

Fish Stocking: Mel Granos talked about fish stocking, DNR stocked 6,090 fingerling and 300 yearling this spring. DNR would like to hear what fish are being caught on Lake Sibley. The channel between Sibley Lake and Gull Lake needs to stay open as fish lay eggs in the north end of the chain. Beaver have been a problem on Sibley Lake, this past winter 25 Beaver were removed by two local trappers Jeff and Todd Roggenkamp that assisted in the Lake Association's efforts.

Lake Mapping: Bob Becker has work on this project and makes updates on new names of owners of lake property once a year to the map. Bob has laminated maps available for sale at \$10.00 each. See him after the meeting to buy your map.

Guest Speaker Patrick Selter. Patrick Selter talked on Professional Lake Management and how to treat curlyleaf pondweed. He provided a hand out from the Minnesota

Lakes Association Reporter that has an article on Curlyleaf Pondweed. Patrick Selter stressed that Sibley Lake Association should have a plan ready, treat early work with the DNR and members of the Sibley Lake Association to get this curlyleaf pondweed under control.

Election of Officers: President Karr presented the slate of name for the board election. Dick Becker made a motion to vote for all the people presented, Everett Johnson second. Motion carried. Board members are as follows: Dick Becker, Mel Granos, Everett Johnson, Mark Jurchen, John Oxborough, Greg Karr, Bruce Kuehn, Bill Triplett, Bob Swanson, Garry Grewe, David Lind, Rob Larose and Dan Jurek.

Dedication of New "Robert Johnson Pier": Committee Chairman, Mark Jurchen reported that the association wanted to have this dedication of the Robert Johnson New Pier in July of 2003 but due to the design difficulties of putting the dock together, some missing parts it was delayed a year. Mark had the Robert Johnson family introduce themselves to everyone at the picnic; Mark presented the Robert Johnson family with an engraved plaque that will be put on the dock as a Memorial to Robert Johnson. The lake association members and the Robert Johnson family observe a "Moment of Silence in honor of Robert Johnson". Robert Johnson's son extended a family thank you to everyone for the donations that made this memorial to his father possible.

Randy Reid spoke at the close of the meeting about scheduling the Aquatic Plant Harvester for next year. The 2005 season schedule was filling up and he wanted cabin owners on Lake Sibley to have a chance to sign up.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:40PM followed by door prizes and annual picnic.

A number of Sibley Lake Association members still need to mail in their membership dues. Please consider this a friendly reminder. Checks may be made out to "Sibley Lake Association", and mailed to: P.O. Box 83, Pequot Lakes, Minnesota 56472. As noted in the membership application below, individual dues are \$10.00. Family memberships are \$15.00.

Another reminder ...do we have your new Enhanced 911 address? How about your email address? This is a great opportunity to bring everything up to date! Don't be a stranger.

Something Fisheries Going On ...

UPDATES FROM TIM BRASTRUP

DNR FISHERIES SUPERVISOR, BRAINERD, MN

The following articles were submitted by Tim Brastrup, our local area Fisheries Supervisor: We wish to extend our appreciation to the work that Tim and his department have accomplished along with the cooperation they extend to our lake association.

Fish Stocking: As some of you may recall, we were going to try to stock walleye fry at a rate of 1,000/littoral acre annually for 10 years and evaluate after that. Walleye fry stocking should have worked, and if it had, the number of walleye in the system would be high. However, fry stocking failed and we discontinued it early on rather than expend time and resources on a lengthy process that showed little promise.

After meeting with the Sibley Lake Association Board of Directors a couple of years ago, we all agreed on an alternate plan. The DNR will stock walleye fingerlings at a rate of 1 lb/littoral acre or 255 lbs. (roughly 4,000 to 7,500 fish depending on their size) once every third year, beginning in 2003. The Sibley Lake Association will fund the removal of beaver and the beaver dams on Mayo Creek during the two-week walleye-spawning period on an annual basis.

The idea is that the good walleye fishing of the early 60's was undoubtedly due to the absence of beaver during that period. This allowed the normal spawning migration of walleye from Gull Lake to Sibley Lake. Stocking walleye fingerlings did not start until 1963, so the presence of large walleye in Sibley Lake could not have been from stocking or natural reproduction in Sibley Lake. Migration accounts for their presence. Now that there are more beaver than you can shake a chewed-off-stick at, the beaver and dams need to be removed during that critical spawning run period. The stocking of fingerling walleyes will be evaluated over time and refined after determining the best strategy. Every-third year stocking works well on lakes such as Sibley, so we will continue to do so. The stocking began in 2003, so the next stocking will be in 2006, 2009, etc. or until some other strategy shows better potential.

Lake Surveys (Test Netting): The last fish netting was in July 1997. The management plan indicates that test netting will be done every 5 years. However, our crew is now smaller and we have far more work and public requests than 8 years ago. As a result, our efforts are behind. We will likely convert our sampling schedule to once every 6 years for problem analysis (such as with Sibley Lake) and every 10 years for normal rotation after that.

So, for the time being, we will try to schedule a fish population assessment netting for the summer of 2006. Other types of assessments were done since the 1997

netting. Night electro-fishing for walleye fingerlings, stocked as fry, was done in September 1999 and October 2001. The results of both surveys were that walleye fry stocking failed to produce a year class. We are all hoping that a combination of fingerling stocking and natural migration from Gull Lake will again provide a suitable walleye fishery in Sibley Lake

CITIZENS' LAKE MONITORING PROGRAM

Tim also encourages our Lake Association to become involved in the Citizens' Lake Monitoring Program in conjunction and cooperation with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. The program directs its focus on water transparency measurements utilizing the Secchi disc. The tests would be performed by Lake Association members throughout the open water season on an annual basis for several years. This would provide valuable long-term data to track trends in lake eutrophication. The board will integrate this program with the water quality-monitoring project contracted with Professional Lake Management.

Words that soak into your ears are whispered, not yelled.

Do you have dues to do?

Catch & Release!

Recycling is good for the environment. Catch & release is good for fishing. Catch a big one? Take a photo and let him live to fight another day.



The Sibley Steward

SPRING
2005

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE SIBLEY LAKE ASSOCIATION

Sibley Lake Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 83
Pequot Lakes, MN 56472

- ... to restore and maintain water purity to Lake Sibley and its tributaries.
- ... to increase the fish population and improve fishing conditions of the lake.
- ... to improve property values and quality of life in the lake neighborhood.
- ... to preserve the natural beauty of the shoreline and nearby wilderness.
- ... to represent the best interests of its members to government and taxing authorities.

