

THE SIBLEY STEWARD

Summer 2011

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE SIBLEY LAKE ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE SIBLEY LAKE ASSOCIATION & SIBLEY LAKE IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

Saturday, July 9th, 2011 @ 10:30am
Sibley Lake Park Pavilion

You are cordially welcomed to attend the Sibley Lake Association's Annual meeting. This year's agenda includes:

1. Introduction of the Board and members in attendance
2. Review of 2010-2011 Association activities and projects
3. Treasurer's Report
4. Secretary's Report
5. Election of Officers
6. Open Forum for questions and comments from our membership.

Immediately following the Association meeting, we will hold our annual Sibley Lake Improvement District meeting. Included in the agenda:

1. Introduction of Board
2. Review of financial activity for 2010-2011
3. Election of Officers
4. Set the Levy for our next fiscal and levy year

The meetings will be followed by our traditional raffle and the annual picnic which is hosted by your Association. We look forward to seeing you at the annual meetings!

LAKE IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT (LID) UPDATE

The Sibley Lake Improvement District held their spring meeting and voted to authorize the treatment of approximately 14 acres of Sibley Lake for 2011. The cost to treat the curly leaf pondweed is approximately \$8,500.00. The treatment will be located in various areas of our lake based on samples and mapping that the DNR did last summer. The DNR indicated this spring that they are considering mapping Sibley Lake again this summer at no cost to the Association.

Last year, at the Sibley Lake Improvement District's annual meeting, our property owners in attendance voted to maintain the current levy for the coming taxing year at \$108.40 per property owner. Our LID will continue to explore various ways to improve water quality in Sibley Lake. Any questions or concerns please contact a board member or Dave Lind at 218-341-2853.

The LID will hold its 2011 annual meeting following the Sibley Lake Association annual meeting on Saturday, July 9th, 2011 at the Sibley Lake Park Shelter.

LAKE MANAGEMENT; WORK THAT IS NEVER DONE

As I reflect on the time I have spent over the last few years working with all of you on managing our lake, it occurs to me one lesson I have learned is that like tending our lawns, maintaining our cabins, or even washing dishes, our lake management efforts are an ongoing and constant effort that in truth will never really be done.

At the same time what makes lake management hard is that while ongoing, it is often an excruciatingly slow process. Like most people, I find it is so much easier to spend time on things that provide immediate return. Like mowing the lawn and in an hour being able to sit back and admire the fruits of my labors. But the lake has both year to year natural fluctuations and artificial impacts caused by our normal use that make assessing quality trends difficult. Some years it feels like we take a step backwards, and other years it seems like we are finally starting to see some results for all of our hard work. Either way we need to keep in mind that it took at least a hundred years of recreational use and land development for us to get where we are today, and it could realistically take many more years for us to see improvements in our overall lake quality. In truth, it's possible that the best we will be able to do is to maintain where we are at now which, while disappointing for many of us, would in fact be its own kind of victory.

So the question is why should we bother continuing to spend time and resources on something that sometimes seems to provide small tangible results especially in the short term? For me the answer lies in recognizing that unlike maintaining our lawns or homes, our lake cannot just be replaced if we let it deteriorate too far. It isn't a matter of not wanting to spend some huge sum of money to replace it. It simply cannot be done at any cost! For me that is a sobering reality. We get one chance to do the best we can with what we have been given. Do we really have the choice to just decide it is too hard and stop trying? The answer for me is a resounding NO!

Recognizing that our work is never done, I would like to wholeheartedly thank you all for your continued support. Especially those of you currently serving on the Lake Association and LID Boards, as well as the many of you that have served in the past and helped lay the foundation for the things we are able to do today. I admire your continued commitment and determination to make a difference in order to preserve our beautiful lake for generations to come.

SLA President
Kirby Koster



SLA - 2010 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

The Sibley Lake Association held its annual meeting on Saturday, July 17th, 2010, beginning at 10:03AM. The meeting was called to order by President Bill Triplett. The Board of Directors was introduced followed by self-introductions of members present at the meeting.

Jeff Benson presented the treasurer's report. The Association has total funds of \$10,960.17 in all accounts. He shared that 10 years ago the fund balance was \$10,990. Motion was made to approve and seconded. Motion carried.

Secretary Mark Jurchen presented the minutes which were approved by a motion from the floor and seconded.

Dave Lind led a discussion on the status and activities of the Sibley Lake Improvement District. The five year program to control curly leaf pondweed has been a success. He reported that only 2 ½ acres were treated in 2010. Further discussion ensued on other invasive species that may need to be addressed and controlled. Other projects such as improving watershed, septic inspections, and enhancing shoreline were discussed. It was the general consensus of the members present to continue to build a fund in the LID and maintain the current tax levy.

The election of officers was held. Elected to new 3 year terms were Kirby Koster, Jeff Benson, Mark Jurchen, Bruce Kuehn, Greg Karr, Mimi Swanson, Joe Peterson, and John Fontecchio.

Meeting was adjourned, followed by the annual meeting of the Lake Improvement District, raffle, and annual picnic.

Respectfully submitted,
Mark Jurchen, Secretary

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Our Annual Membership Drive kicked off June 1st. You'll find a return envelope accompanying this newsletter to make it easy to submit your membership dues. The annual membership is only \$25.00, and the proceeds go towards funding our annual July picnic, post office box fee, mailing costs, association liability insurance fees, subscription fees (such as Minnesota Waters) and miscellaneous expenses.

In the past, we have had over 50% of our lake owner's support our membership drive. This year our goal is to surpass last year's membership quota, so we will need your support! Please encourage your neighbors to support the Sibley Lake Association. Sibley Lake is the "Best Kept Secret" in the Brainerd Lakes Area and we all strive to keep it that way! Have a great summer and we hope to see you at the Annual Picnic!

WATER QUALITY TESTING

As outlined in our 2009 Newsletter, Sibley Lake has been participating in monitoring our water quality in conjunction with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. The cost for the program had been born by the MPCA for 2008 and 2009. The Board of Directors voted to continue the program for this year at a cost of \$200. This will allow for further accumulation of data regarding water clarity, phosphorus, and chlorophyll readings. Trends and current conditions of water quality will be available for coordinating Association and LID efforts with Professional Lake Management, Crow Wing County and other organizations in our effort to improve the health of Sibley Lake. RBM Environmental Laboratories will continue the analysis of samples collected through the summer. Reports are available on their web site at www.rmbel.info. Steve Caouette and Sean Kaneski are co-chairing this project.

IT'S PARADE TIME!

For all of you who love a parade, we will have our annual pontoon and boat parade Sunday evening, July 3rd beginning at 7:00PM. Get out the red, white, and blue and meet your fellow boaters near the island just south of the Mayo Creek inlet. The parade will also end at that location so all are ready for an evening of fireworks for those who wish to observe them from the lake.

BOB JOHNSON MEMORIAL FISHING PIER

The Sibley Lake Association, through the generous donations of the family members of Bob Johnson, members of our association, and various groups in our community, undertook the purchase and placement of the Sibley Lake Fishing Pier in 2002. The project was completed in August of 2003 and was dedicated at the annual meeting in 2004. The pier is still in excellent condition and is providing countless hours of fishing and relaxation for visitors and residents. Thank you again to all who contributed.



TREASURER'S REPORT - AS OF MAY 1, 2011

BY JEFF BENSON

Hello Sibley Lake Enthusiasts! First order of business is to thank all of you who have contributed to our Lake Association with your time and money. Last year's operating cost was \$1,461.67. This included \$256.67 for our annual picnic, annual insurance premiums of \$989.00, and postal fees of \$216.00. The 2010 annual membership drive generated \$2,800.00, of which 104 members contributed.

Account Balances as of June 1, 2011

Checking	\$3,094.93
Savings*	\$4,848.99
Weed Control	\$3,027.53
Total	\$10,971.45

* Savings includes \$1,884.09 designated for Bob Johnson Memorial Pier

Once again, thank you Sibley Lake Association members for your generosity, your efforts have enabled us to enjoy a pleasant lake area experience!

THE LOONS ARE BACK!

It is the season for baby loon chicks. There will surely be lots of activity on our Sibley Lake with fishermen, water skiers and other boaters - all things our loons have to be aware of and watch out for. Just as a reminder, our chicks are not able to effectively dive to get away from danger. So they are very vulnerable to fast boats and unobservant drivers. Each day that goes by increases their chances of surviving dramatically. In that spirit, please watch with diligence, especially in the North Bay, for our precious loon chicks and their parents.

PLEASE KEEP US POSTED!

If you sell your lake property, please let the Sibley Lake Association know who the new owners are, and tell them about us! Also, if a new neighbor moves in near you, introduce yourself and be neighborly! We would appreciate it if you would contact us, Sibley Lake Association, so we can welcome newcomers with a welcome packet. As lake ownership changes frequently, the only way we learn of new owners is through word of mouth from people like you. Therefore, we would really appreciate your assistance! Please mail correspondence to: Sibley Lake Association, PO Box 83, Pequot Lakes, MN 56472 or email: jjeben1@tds.net

SIBLEY LAKE WEBSITE

Information on activities, board minutes, and various projects for our Lake Association can be accessed on our web site hosted by Minnesota Waters. Thanks to President Kirby Koster for maintaining the site. The Sibley Lake Association address is www.minnesotawaters.org/group/sibley/welcome. It may also be accessed at www.minnesotawaters.org and then follow the prompts to our site.

SIBLEY LAKE ASSOCIATION - BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers:

President: Kirby Koster
2313 Iverson Ct., Lino Lakes, MN 55038
651-484-6820. kkoster@visi.com

Vice President: Mike Ridgley
30949 Pequot Blvd., Pequot Lakes, MN 56472
218-568-8562. mridgley@q.com

Treasurer: Jeff Benson
30515 Pequot Blvd. Pequot Lakes, MN 56472
218-251-6321. jjeben1@tds.net

Secretary: Mark Jurchen
31378 Lakeside Ave. Pequot Lakes, MN 56472
218-568-4167. lowhat@tds.net

Board Members:

Steve Caouette
14426 190th Ave. N.W., Elk River, MN 55330
763-441-4793. steve@signaturestucco.com

Sean Kaneski
Sibley Lake Road, Pequot Lakes, MN 56472
218-330-9205. skaneski@kuepers.com

Greg Karr
3359 Livingston, Wayzata, MN 55391
612-232-9465 (Cell). kgkarr@msn.com

Bruce Kuehn
2420 Aldrich Ave. So. Minneapolis, MN 55405
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Dave Lind
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Tim Paulus
2990 Ontario Road, Little Canada, MN 55117
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Joe Peterson
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Ray Smith
2133 South Lincoln Ave. Springfield, IL. 62704
217-787-5686. ray.smith@llcc.edu

Mimi Swanson
3929 Cty Rd 17 Pequot Lakes, MN 56472.
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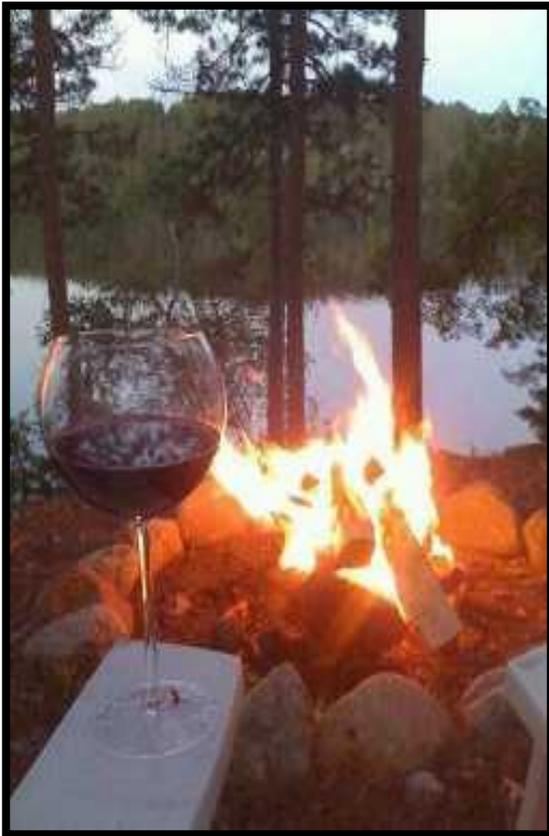
ANNUAL MEETING SATURDAY, JULY 9TH

SIBLEY LAKE ASSOCIATION
P.O. BOX 88
PEQUOT LAKES, MN 56472

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE SIBLEY LAKE ASSOCIATION
THE SIBLEY STEWARD



KEEPING OUR LAKE BEAUTIFUL!



*What life is about on Sibley Lake.
Photo by Sean Kaneski*

Water quality in Sibley Lake is an ongoing priority. There are both internal and external sources that affect our lake and both must be analyzed to ensure we are doing everything we can to protect our beautiful resource.

For example, the Secchi disk measure, conducted every spring, summer and fall, helps us understand water quality by how deep a person can see in the water.

Sources contributing to water quality issues include sediment and plant matter that has been submerged or deposited on the lake bottom. Nutrients like phosphorus from watershed run-off are also a contributor to water quality issues and represent part of the external sources affecting Sibley Lake.

The Sibley Lake Association and the Lake Improvement District continue to work with the counties and State to improve water quality in Sibley Lake. Part of our plan is to continue to analyze and control the external sources of phosphorus and run-off. This includes using phosphorus free fertilizers; improving agricultural practices to minimize farm run-off, moving cattle feedlots away from the creek, reducing urban run-off from the city, and maintaining buffers around the lake such as shrubs, grassy areas and trees.

We are also looking at other forms of treatment including ALUM, which is used to reduce the amount of nutrients in the water. Aeration is another technique we are evaluating. This will increase circulation and oxygen supply, therefore improving quality and clarity.

We will continue evaluating these and other means to improve water quality in the lake.