



The Scoop At Grand Lake

ISSUE 5

MAY 2007

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Please attend the spring meeting on May 26th
- Nationally renowned conservation designer, Randall Arendt to speak in June
- Please return your lake association membership if you have not already done so.

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President's Message

Welcome everyone to a beautiful 2007 summer at Grand Lake. The eagles are soaring, the sunsets are stunning, and lake activities are increasing each day.

My message this year is clear. I really want us to achieve the mission adopted by Grand Lake Area Association that challenges us to be good stewards of our lake:

The mission of the Grand Lake Area Association is to restore and preserve the Grand Lake watershed, returning Grand Lake to its mesotrophic state, creating the finest lake experience in central Minnesota.

In order to accomplish our mission, there are many things we can do as individual property owners and as a

lake association. As an individual, we can help by establishing rain gardens or buffer zones to filter any storm-water runoff before it reaches our lake. We can



scoop out our campfire pits and get the ashes away from the lake as the ash is rich with nutrients that feed green algae. We can bag our grass clippings on the lake side of our property as the grass clippings are also rich in nutrients, including phosphorous. We can rake up the weeds that wash up on our

shoreline rather than kicking them out when the wind shifts.

As a lake association, we are now working in our Grand Lake watershed to work with property owners in establishing CRP buffer zone projects that will help filter water before it goes into the creeks that feed Grand Lake. Thus far, our efforts have helped enroll or re-enroll 69.9 acres of land into buffer zone projects.

What I ask of you is this. Please enjoy the summer, have fun, and challenge yourself to do at least one thing this year that enhances the water quality at Grand Lake. Let me know what you do!

—Scott Palmer

Spring Meeting

Join us **Saturday, May 26th at 9:00 am** at Grand View Resort for donuts and coffee, conversation and information. Is it worth your time to attend? You Betcha!

(1) Key information and opportunities for discussion will be provided on the proposed Grand Lake Improvement District project, which will provide a funding alternative to replace our

raffle ticket sales.

(2) We are at a point where a draft of the Rockville shoreland ordinance is near completion, and we would like you to hear key features of this proposed ordinance and give you opportunities for input before it is presented to the city council. This proposed ordinance will contain many features of the Alternative Shoreland Stan-

dards that are recommended by the state as a tool to clean up our lakes and rivers.

(3) Additional agenda items include information on July 4th activities, the Hubert Lane Boundary Commission Report, 2006 water quality information, and an update from our city council and planning commission members.



An example of conservation design in a rural development.

As the 32nd state to enter the Union on May 11, 1858, Minnesota borrowed its name from the Dakota word for “sky-tinted waters”; its statehood celebrating the pristine lakes, streams and woodlands as hallmarks of this region.

Rainbow over beautiful Grand Lake



Conservation Designer, Randall Arendt to Speak

Properties near Grand Lake and the Avon Hills area have received significant development pressures in the last 5 years, and many residents have expressed a strong desire to maintain the rural feel of this beautiful part of Stearns County while acknowledging that development is a reality. In response to our concerns, the Initiative Foundation is bringing nationally renowned conservation designer, Randall Arendt, to the area on Thursday, June 28th (regarding Avon Hills) and Friday, June 29th (regarding Rockville). Mr.

Arendt is a landscape planner, site designer, author, lecturer, and an advocate of “conservation planning”. Mr. Arendt is the country’s most sought-after speaker on the topic of creative development design as a conservation tool. He has designed “conservation subdivisions” for a wide variety of clients in 21 states.

He is the author of publications such as, *Rural by Design: Maintaining Small Town Character*, *Conservation Design for Subdivisions: A Practical Guide to Creating Open Space Networks*,

and *Growing Greener: Putting Conservation into Local Plans and Ordinances*.

Thanks to a grant from the Initiative Foundation, Mr. Arendt will use Rockville as a “test case” on Friday morning, June 29th at the St. Cloud Civic Center. He will begin with an introduction to conversation design, followed by a hypothetical design exercise and then address Rockville’s needs and desired outcomes. If you are interested in attending, please contact the Initiative Foundation at 1-877-632-9255.

A Vision for Minnesota’s Lakes and Streams

Reprinted from *Minnesota Waters*

Next year the land of sky-tinted waters will commemorate its 150th year of statehood. Nearly 150 years later, it’s hard to picture the landscape of yesterday’s Minnesota. But perhaps more importantly, we can ask ourselves if the Minnesotans of 1858 would have ever envisioned the waters and woods that we now know? With thousands of miles of natural shorelines,

millions of intact wetland acres and heavily wooded wilderness abounding, could anyone have foreseen the changes afoot? Why consider these questions now as we face such important and challenging issues to address at present? We’re called to do so today, because it’s now

our responsibility to consider the vision for Minnesota—its priceless lakes, streams, and woodlands—for the next 150 years.

Not unlike the experience of our predecessors, we now aim to understand the possibilities for growth, change and pressure in the coming decades. Yet our task is not simply to anticipate, but rather to envision—and ultimately to realize that vision one action, one day, or one generation at a time.

Minnesota Waters envisions an engaged citizenry working to protect and restore Minnesota’s irreplaceable natural assets—our clean and healthy lakes and streams—for current and future generations. Fortunately, the threats now facing Minnesota’s lakes and streams are paralleled by a mobilizing citizenry in communities across the state, poised for stewardship and rising to the

challenge. It is the river groups, lake associations and other individuals—who live near, observe and monitor our lakes and streams regularly—that are Minnesota’s true local water resource managers. And in today’s climate of budget limitations, short-sighted land-use management and the subsequent lack of water resource protection, it’s time to go local, focus on community values, neighborhood resources and citizen-led initiatives for long-term effective protection for Minnesota’s lakes and streams.

What can you do?

Please fill out the membership form on page three to join our lake association and do your part to support the efforts to improve Grand Lake!



Minnesota Waters Legislative Update

With the 2007 legislative session now in full swing, we are providing an update to the Minnesota Waters membership on priority legislation and policy initiatives that impact our lakes and rivers, and Minnesota's natural environment.

Minnesota Waters Public Policy Program and legislative agenda for 2007 is focused on three main issues:

1. Additional funding and solid program development for the Clean Water Legacy Initiative
2. Better shoreland management standards
3. Increased control and prevention of aquatic invasive species.

Clean Water Legacy

Status: In his biennium budget proposal, Governor Pawlenty only proposed \$20 million a year for the Clean Water Legacy—\$40 for the biennium—an amount woefully below the \$100 million needed annually to clean up and test our lakes and rivers within the next 10 years. The \$20 million/year focuses mostly on testing and planning, but little on cleanup. The Legislature will have a difficult challenge in finding the additional funding.

Stronger Shoreland Standards

Minnesota's shoreland management rules are very outdated, last updated in 1989, and do not adequately protect Minnesota's lakes and river from the increasing development along their shores. Minnesota Waters urged the DNR to begin a statewide process of revising the state shoreland standards that all counties and cities with shorelands must meet or exceed in their local ordinances. The DNR is internally developing a plan of how they will proceed with rulemaking. MW and MCEA will continue to monitor the DNR's commitment to statewide shoreland standards revision to insure a process does move forward.

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Control and Management

A very active Minnesota Waters Aquatic Invasive Species Task Force has spent many hours at the Capitol this year lobbying for additional funding for the prevention and management of aquatic invasive species. With the DFL in control of both houses of the legislature and new committee chairs, the Task Force is hopeful that the climate or legislation is good this year after not being able to advance

legislation in the past two years.

The DNR, in the Governor's budget, proposes to raise approximately \$2 million per year additional funds for the management of aquatic invasive species through an increase in the watercraft license surcharge already going to aquatic invasive species, a new \$2 surcharge on non-resident fishing licenses, and a one time surcharge on utility trailers and towed recreational vehicles. The additional funds would be used for local grants to control Eurasian water-milfoil and Curlyleaf pondweed as well as increased inspections and enforcement. While Minnesota Waters supports the Governor's DNR budget proposal, the funding goal is short of the actual need to adequately manage and prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species. Minnesota Waters will introduce an amendment to the budget bill for additional funding for a local prevention grant program, containment of zebra mussels, promotion of lake friendly boating equipment, rapid response treatment, and more research on ecological controls already proposed by the DNR.

Minnesota Waters continues their efforts with priority legislation and policy initiatives that impact our lake and rivers and Minnesota's natural environment.



Grand Lake Area Association Membership Form

Please use this form to pay your dues to the Grand Lake Area Association. All funds go back to Grand Lake for projects that pertain to water clarity, our fisheries, and the management of curlyleaf pondweed.

Grand Lake Area Association – 2007 Dues and Membership Enrollment - \$35.00

Name: _____

Lake Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____

Zip Code: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____

Zip Code: _____

E-mail Address (to receive current information and urgent communications pertaining to Grand Lake): _____

**Please send this registration form (or bring to the spring meeting) and a \$35.00 check payable to the Grand Lake Area Association to:
Jim Hall, Treasurer
Grand Lake Area Association
21443 Agate Beach Road**



Lake Management Board

Scott Palmer, President

Jeff Hagen, Past President

Bob White, Vice President

Sue Palmer, Secretary

Jim Hall, Treasurer

Susan Dean, Board Member

Paul Ludwig, Board Member

Jim Pflapsen, Board Member

Dan Klein, Board Member

Enjoy ...

Explore ...

Protect ...

Preserve ...

Consider that:

- A typical backyard bird doesn't weigh as much as two nickels
- Birds spend most of their waking hours searching for food
- They may consume 15% of their body weight overnight just keeping warm enough to survive
- One-third of the adult population feeds wild birds in their backyards.



Steps you can take to make the future brighter for birds:

1. Put out the welcome mat—landscape with native plants, provide feeders, nest boxes and water.
2. Prepare a proper menu—refill feeders regularly with food desired by birds in our area.
3. Reduce window collisions—attach decorative decals or decorations to the outside surface of glass to reduce reflections.

[http://www/
grandlakeassociation.org/](http://www.grandlakeassociation.org/)

Have a great summer at the lake!