



The Scoop At Grand Lake

Issue 6

April 2008

Special points of interest:

- Plan on attending the joint meeting of Grand and Pleasant Lake Associations
- Update from Minnesota Waters on shoreland legislation
- Please return your lake association membership if you have not already done so

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Mark your calendar for our annual spring Grand Lake Association meeting.

Saturday, May 24th
9:00 am
Grand View Resort

Coffee, juice, donuts, information and the chance to greet your neighbors!

President's Message

We look forward to a beautiful 2008 summer at Grand Lake. The birds are returning, the days are getting longer and the ice is getting thinner with each passing day.

I would like to provide a few updates since we met last fall. One piece of exciting news is that the Lake Improvement District was accepted by resolution at the September meeting of the Rockville City Council. This is critically important for Grand Lake as it provides an ongoing source of funding for lake improvement projects that will help us fulfill our mission adopted by the Grand Lake Area Association:

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 addition, the first board of the Lake Improvement District

(LID) was appointed by the City Council. Your LID board members are Dan Klein, Paul Ludwig, Jim Hall, Terry Rothstein, Bob White, Georjean Fabel and me.

The board has established three subcommittees for the LID:

1. Aquatic Vegetation
 2. Shoreland Management
 3. Grand Lake Watershed
- Please let me know if you would like to help with one of these subcommittees by contacting me at sspalmer@clearwire.net or by calling at 320-253-8191.

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 phosphorus. 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. This past fall, a large wetlands restoration project was completed in the hills.

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

Proposed New Shoreland Standards to be Presented at Joint Meeting of Grand and Pleasant Lake Associations

Please plan on attending this important meeting on **Saturday, April 26 from 9:00 to 10:30 am** at Rockville City Hall .

Is it worth your time to attend? Definitely! As we know, shoreline development has increasingly impacted shoreline habitat,

water quality, and the ability to preserve our lakes for future generations.

The quality of a lake depends primarily on what happens on the land around the lake and in its watershed. Land use is decided locally, by individuals and local governments, whose land-

use choices now will determine the future of Minnesota's lakes. Healthy lakes are important to everyone—our quality of life, recreational enjoyment, and the economy of our communities and state. Minnesota's lakes are indeed at risk. We need to act now...before it's too late.

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continued Proposed New Shoreland Standards

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The City of Rockville has taken these threats and concerns to our lakes and rivers seriously and has appointed a subcommittee to study the Alternative Shoreland Standards and propose a new ordinance for the city. They have been meeting and working over the past two years to develop a shoreland ordinance for Rockville that will improve stormwater management and the water quality in Rockville for future generations.

Why should I attend? The shoreland overlay includes land

that is within 1000 feet of the ordinary high water level of a lake or 300 feet from the river. A shoreland overlay regulates shoreline setbacks, lot size, lot width, shoreland vegetation, stormwater management, recreational areas, and lake access lots. The intent and purpose is to protect and enhance the quality of surface waters by promoting the wise utilization of public waters and related land resources. *This ordinance is in a draft stage at this time, and we are at a point where we would like your input.*

If you would like to learn more about the proposed new stan-

dards, plan to attend this meeting. The Planning Commission and the City Council have reviewed the proposed ordinance and provided feedback to the subcommittee.

We are at the next stage in this process, which involves review and input from the Lake Associations and other interested parties. Once this feedback is received, the City will conduct public hearing(s) for the entire city before the City Council considers adoption of the proposed ordinance.

Effective Shoreland Management: An Update from Minnesota Waters

“The DNR plans to use a three-phase process of public participation to develop preliminary rule revisions to the statewide minimum standards for shoreland development.”

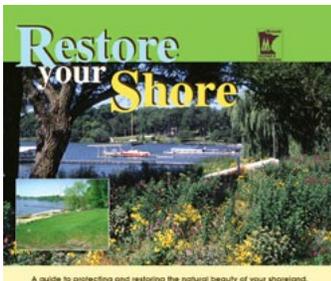
Background: Minnesota’s shoreland management rules are very outdated, last updated in 1989, and do not adequately protect Minnesota’s lakes and rivers from the increased development along their shores. The Alternative Standards were created as part of the update process. Minnesota Waters, along with the Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy, 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 plans to use a three-phase process of public participation to develop preliminary rule revisions to the statewide minimum standards for shoreland development. This process includes: Phase I—issue identification (January-July

2008); Phase 2—policy and options and recommendations (August 2008—February 2009); and Phase 3—preliminary rule revisions (March—June 2009). Phase I is well underway with both A Statewide External Advisory Committee and Local Government Unit Advisory Committee memberships finalized and initial scheduled.

Shoreland Buffer Zones: Important Component of a Healthy Lake



A guide to protecting and restoring the natural beauty of your shoreland.

Our shoreline is part of a large community which can have impacts far and wide. Maintaining or restoring your shoreline is essential for our water’s health and to providing fish and wildlife habitat. This concept, often referred to as shoreland buffers or lakescaping, extends both lakeward and landward from the water’s edge. Generally, a natural buffer strip at least 25 feet landward is preferred, but any unmowed or undisturbed

areas provides benefits.

Lakescaping benefits:

1. Controls shoreline erosion with deep rooted plants
2. Protects water quality by filtering runoff
3. Reduces flooding
4. Creates fish and wildlife habitat
5. Discourages nuisance geese
6. Low maintenance
7. Provides privacy

Our *The Restore Your Shore* CD is a powerful multimedia program for shoreland owners to use in implementing shoreland restoration and protection projects.

The Grand Lake Area Association purchased 5 copies of the *Restore Your Shore* CD with funding from the Initiative Foundation. If you would like to use a copy, please contact Scott Palmer at 253-8191.

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continued Shoreland Buffer Zones

In addition, if you are interested in a lakescaping or shoreline erosion control project, contact the Stearns County Soil and Water Conversation District (320-251-7800). They are available to assist you with technical information, design, cost share and implementation of your project.



Two examples of attractive lakeshore restoration projects

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 and the management of curlyleaf pondweed. In 2009, our Lake Improvement District will be a source of funding for these projects. Until this happens, we absolutely need your membership dues.

Grand Lake Area Association – 2008 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): _____

Loony Tunes

April is a busy time in Minnesota. The ice is disappearing from long-frozen waters. Leaf buds are swelling on trees. High overhead, a few silhouettes dot the sky. Common loons are starting to arrive after a long flight from wintering areas near the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico. Few birds use sound to communicate in as many different ways as loons do. Scientists have categorized common loon

calls into four main types. Each conveys a unique message.

HOOT: A loon gives a hoot -- a soft, short call -- to let other loons know where it is or to ask another loon

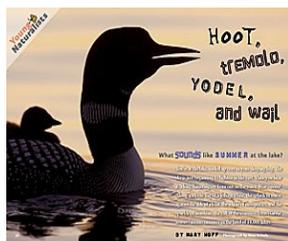
where it is. A parent might hoot to its chick, or one of a pair to another.

TREMOLO: The wavering tremolo call -- sometimes called the loon laugh -- means a loon is excited or alarmed. Loons also use the tremolo when they fly over a lake to announce their presence to any loons there.

YODEL: Only male loons make this loud sound, which starts with three notes and ends with a couple of swing-

ing phrases. They use it to defend their territory. Each male has a -"signature" yodel. Some people can recognize a specific loon by his yodel.

WAIL: The high, haunting wail helps loons to figure out where they are relative to each other. They call back and forth, using the location of the sound to move closer together. Listen for the sounds of the loons as they return to Grand Lake!





The Name Game

(from Minnesota Department of Natural Resources article by Janice Welsh)

Most people know that fish hang out in schools and sheep gather in flocks. But have you heard of a bed of clams or a skulk of foxes? The names for groups of fish and wildlife date back to the Middle Ages, when knights and lords on horseback chased all kinds of animals. Many of the words used to describe groups of animals were hunting terms. Many names are inspired by the animal's action, the sound it makes or the animal's home. Can you match up the following? Visit the Grand Lake website for the answers.

Scott Palmer, President
Jeff Hagen, Past President
Bob White, Vice President
Sue Palmer, Secretary
Jim Hall, Treasurer
Paul Ludwig, Board Member
Jim Pflapsen, Board Member
Dan Klein, Board Member

Enjoy ...
Explore ...
Protect ...
Preserve ...

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| 1. Army of | Teal |
| 2. Bed of | Ducks (on water) |
| 3. Bivy of | Eagles |
| 4. Cloud of | Trout |
| 5. Convocation of | Hawks |
| 6. Raft of | Geese |
| 7. Hover of | Frogs |
| 8. Cast of | Clams |
| 9. Gaggle of | Gnats |
| 10. Spring of | Quail |

The Scoop
At Grand Lake

