

# WINDEMERE LAKE AND LANDOWNERS ASSOCIATION



# WINDOW

“if you want information, just open a window”

FEBRUARY 2009

Winter is on the way to ending. I promise, SPRING is on the way!

## Why Plant a Buffer?

*by Sam Martin, Pine SWCD*

People often say, “This is my land that I paid a lot of money for and I can do what I want with it.” This is true to some extent. Think about some of the benefits that planting a buffer can do for you. Do you enjoy the quality of the water that you now have or wish it would be better? Do you hope it stays that way for a long time? If you are planning to pass the cabin or home on to your children and grandchildren, do you want them to be able to enjoy the lake with the same or better water quality that you enjoy? Do you want to spend more time enjoying your leisure activities and less time mowing the grass? Do you want to see more wildlife on your property and have better fishing? These are all benefits of having a buffer on your property.

Taller vegetation will slow down the water coming off your property and running into the lake. This will filter out nutrients, sediment and pollutants before they get to the lake. The long roots of native vegetation will help stabilize your shoreline. Leaving the vegetation in the water will create habitat for fish and the rest of the food chain.

Buffers can be created in different ways. One way would be to stop mowing and see what grows. Sometimes there are seeds in the soil that are just not allowed to grow since the grass is always mowed. Plant plugs and/or seeds could be added to the buffer to compliment it. Another way would to spray existing vegetation. Let it die and then plant grass and flower plugs. You could also lightly till the area and plant seed alone or also add plant plugs, too. 25 feet is the recommended buffer width on 75 % of your shoreline. If you cannot do this, even 5 to 15 feet would be better than nothing.

Being right next to the lake, everything you do affects the lake. If you are interested in having people in the greater watershed like livestock owners do projects on their property, the best way to convince them is to do a project on your property. If they see, that you, the people that live right next to the lake are doing things to improve the water quality of the lake, this will be a big encouragement for them to make water quality improvements to their property.

## Milfoil Update

Again last September, Steve Kozak and Mike Vogel surveyed Sand Lake, using the GPS the association purchased for use in locating milfoil. After checking the off-shore areas that received treatment last summer, they also checked many on-shore locations and found NO visible milfoil anywhere. This seemed strange, but we must remember weather and water depth are factors in the growth of the plant. Who knows what spring will bring? The DNR states that milfoil cannot be eradicated, so we'll wait and see. Let's keep our fingers crossed.

## IMPORTANT: MEETING DATES AND PROGRAMS

**Board Meeting: May 16**

**General Meeting Dates:**

**June 13-Richard Rezanka, Evasive Species Specialist (DNR Grand Rapids)**

**July 18-Julie Olson, Wetlands Conservation Officer**

**August 15-Elections and "What's on your mind" (Q&A)**

**Thanks to the WONDERFUL volunteers, we couldn't do it without you!**

**"GET THE LEAD OUT" Again this year we will be collecting your lead fishing tackle for proper disposal. ☺**

## MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Enclosed with this newsletter is a 2009 membership form. If you do not receive a membership form, it means you have already paid for 2009. We are thankful for your financial contributions in 2008 and support from the DNR, Windemere Township and Moose Lake Township.

## Windemere Lake and Landowners Association

### **Board of Directors**

<b>Sturgeon Lake</b>	<b>Island Lake</b>	<b>Sand Lake</b>	<b>Rush/Johnson/Passenger Lakes</b>
<b>Sandy Schumann</b> 372-4403	<b>Chuck Erickson</b> 485-8651	<b>Pauline Dee</b> 485-8578	<b>Need Board Members</b>
<b>Tom Landsberger</b> 372-3358 or 651-770-3067	<b>David Stark</b> 651-778-8568	<b>Steve Kozak</b> 485-8974	
<b>Dennis Huddleston</b> 372-3005 or 651-704-9606	<b>Shirley Arnold</b> 372-4209	<b>Janette Muller</b> 485-8048	
<b>Ron Goetsch</b> 651-423-1991	<b>Ron Hansen</b> 485-8567	<b>Barbara Krig</b> 952-474-2041 <b>Greg Carlson</b> 485-5784 <b>Arnie Tuomi</b> 485-4063	