

WINDEMERE LAKE AND LANDOWNERS ASSOCIATION



WINDOW

Winter 2010-2011

“if you want information, just open your window”

A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT, BARBARA ECKMAN KRIG

In 1943 my father bought our log cabin at Sand Lake. Our family was delighted! It was only an hour from Duluth where we lived, and my parents were acquainted with several families who also were summer residents on the lake. Mother and Dad were golfers, and my brother and I soon started to play too. There were few houses in the woods then, and the sandy “cabin road” that ran along the lakeshore to the west lent its own rustic ambience to the area. Lee Anderson owned the farm along that west shore, and for several years I kept a riding horse in his pasture. Forests of virgin pine dotted the landscape, some still standing today. Most of the dwellings on the lake were seasonal cabins then, and families like ours spent summer months enjoying this beautiful pristine lake, swimming, boating, fishing, and just living by the water. Gradually change took place as it always does. Farms divided and lots were sold; cabins were remodeled into permanent homes. Golf became more popular and attracted enough people to warrant a larger clubhouse and grass greens. Dirt roads were moved and paved. Younger generations “took over” cabin life, boat traffic increased and motors became more powerful, plus good fishing attracted more and more non residents who accessed the public landing. Finally, sewer was proposed by Windemere Township; outhouses and septic tanks, which were causing more pollution, were replaced by a system encompassing the entire lake. This has proven to a “lake-saving” venture.

At this time, various types of pollutants threaten our lakes in Minnesota, including Sand, Island, Sturgeon, and other smaller bodies of water in the area. These threats include run-off from chemicals used to fertilize lawns, farm crops and septic systems not yet replaced or drained regularly into small streams flowing into the lakes carrying pollutants from other waters. The most serious of all is exotic species like Eurasian Water Milfoil. For these reasons our lake association has grown from an infant organization to a much larger, more active organization with determined objectives of keeping our lakes clean and clear as treasures to be used and cherished by generations well into the future. For this reason, I decided to assume a more active role in this well established group. For several years I was a board member, and then I agreed to be president, and have now served in that capacity for one year. What a positive experience that has been! I have learned a great deal about what makes water healthy, about the role of the DNR, about our local lakes and streams and about the people who live and play here. More importantly I have come to understand my spiritual connection with nature and the beauty that is its gift. Finally, I am gratified that I am now learning to be a better steward of my little part of the world.

When I decided to write this article, I had two objectives in mind. First of all, I wanted to introduce myself to all of you and share some of my history at Sand Lake. Secondly, I wanted to urge you to become an active volunteer/member in your lake association, so that together we can return our lakes to their original healthy state and forever enjoy this gift that has been entrusted to us. I hope to get to know more of you, to work with you and to celebrate this great recreational habitat.

President Barbara Eckman Krig, Windemere Lake and Land Owners Association

Did you know?

Island Lake is a 546 acre lake and has a maximum depth of 42'. Secchi disk readings are 6-7'.

Sand Lake is a 516 acre lake and has a maximum depth of 47'. Secchi disk readings are 9-12'.

Sturgeon Lake is a 1705 acre lake and has a maximum depth of 40'. Secchi disk reading are 9-12'

NEWS OF THE LAKES

Sand Lake

Again this summer we were pleased when Rick Rezanka's survey showed two very small spots of Eurasian Water Milfoil. Steve Kozak and Jon Viner dove down and pulled these plants out by the roots. In September, Steve, Jon and Jerry Blazevic surveyed the lake and found 5 areas where plants were growing, all about 90' offshore.

Sturgeon Lake

54 acres of Eurasian Water Milfoil were found this past summer and we were allowed by the DNR to treat 30.94 acres. Along with a \$6,371. grant from the DNR, money from Windemere Township Environmental Fund, money from Northern Pine Riders, and money from our Milfoil Fund (contributed by you), we paid \$13,923. to Lake Management for a treatment. Before July 4th, we did a mailing to all property owners on the lake asking for their help by joining our association and to contribute to our Milfoil Fund.

Island Lake

In early August the association members did a walk-a-round to all properties to talk with owners and leave them a packet of educational information about what they can do on their own to improve the water quality of Island Lake. This lake is in trouble, as it is overloaded with nutrients, such as phosphorus and nitrogen. These nutrients come from failing septic systems, fertilizer, pet waste, grass clippings, leaves, run-off from yards with no buffer zone to catch the chemical between the lawn and the lake, run-off from roads, and careless farming practices, etc. The lake association is very concerned and hopes you are also. We do not want the lake to be put on the "impaired waters" list. It will be re-tested in 2015 by the MPCA. To prevent this from happening, we must be better stewards of the lake.

What is a Secchi Disk?

It is a white disk on a very long rope with markings every 12". Each week during the summer, you, the volunteer goes in a boat to approximately the same location, chosen by you, drop the disk over the side and watch it go down. When you can barely see it, you count on the rope how many feet down it is. You keep track of the numbers and in September you send them to the Citizen Monitoring Program, which is part of the MPCA. There are two people on Island Lake checking the readings, two people on Sturgeon Lake and one on Sand Lake. These readings are very important in telling the health of a lake. We need two more volunteers on Sand Lake. If you would like to be a Secchi Disk volunteer, please ask one of our board members.


Recap of Summer of 2010

- Walk-a-round on Island Lake
- Mailing to all property owners on Sturgeon Lake
- Treatment of 30.94 acres of Eurasian Water Milfoil on Sturgeon Lake
- 3 General meetings
- Use of Secchi Disk on three lakes
- 8.5 miles of trash pick up on our roads
- Divers retrieved Milfoil in Sand Lake
- Held elections:
 - We welcome three new board members: Laurie Patrick-Passenger Lake
 - Chip Wells-Island Lake
 - Jerry Blazevic-Sand Lake
- 5th graders attended the Fresh Water Fair in Pine City in May
- Joined Minnesota Waters
- Set up Water Quality Fund
- Set up Memorial Fund



Thank you to all of our volunteers; we wouldn't be an effective association without you!

You are greatly appreciated!

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Eurasian Milfoil and Water Quality Fund. 

2011 General Meeting Dates

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| JUNE 11 | Rich Rezanka-Evasive Species Specialist |
| JULY 9 | DNR Fisheries |
| AUGUST 13 | Clair Strandlie-Chairman Windemere Township Board
Curt Rossow-Pine County Commissioner |

All general meetings will held at the Hope Lutheran Church, 204 Elm Avenue, Moose Lake at 9:00 a.m. Hope to see you there!



Hooray! We have 188 members

Let's all make an effort to speak with our neighbors and friends about joining the lake association. There is more power in numbers!



Windemere Lake and Landowners Association

Board of Directors

Sturgeon Lake	Island Lake	Sand Lake	Passenger/Rush/Johnson Lakes Lake Eleven
Sandy Schumann 372-4403	Chip Wells 485-8254 or 218-380-0409	Pauline Dee 485-8578	Laurie Patrick 651-429-3700
Tom Landsberger 372-3358 or 651-770-3067	David Stark 651-778-8568	Steve Kozak 485-8974	
Dennis Huddleston 372-3005 or 651-704-9606	Shirley LaFond 372-4209	Janette Muller 485-8048	
Ron Goettsch 651-423-1991	Ron Hansen 485-8567	Barbara Krig 952-474-2041	
		Greg Carlson 485-5784	
		Jerry Blazevic 218-429-3700	