

Windemere Lake and Landowners Association



Fall 2011

WINDOW

'If you want information, just open your window'



A letter from our President, Barb Krig

Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM), an exotic plant species, began to invade Minnesota lakes 20 years ago and is still continuing to spread causing significant problems in our lakes and streams. As early as 2006 our Windemere Lake and Landowners Association chose to control the growth of this plant with chemicals sprayed during the summer months, both in Sand and Sturgeon Lake by a legitimate lake management company. Lake residents have been fairly pleased with the results, but we have continued to search for safer and more efficient ways to combat this problem.

In the last few years we have been aware of a new method of control known as Milfoil Solution developed by aquatic biologists working at Envirosience, Inc. in Stowe, Ohio. Established in 1989 they produce a commercially available, environmentally responsible, and cost effective solution known as Milfoil Solution. A tiny beetle known as a weevil, a species native to the northern United States and Canada was introduced in 1998 to affected lakes and streams in Ohio, Michigan, New Jersey, and Wisconsin with positive results. We began to hear about the weevil several years ago by reading about it on the Internet and hearing about it by word of mouth. Since then we have become aware of the possibility of using it in our lakes in Minnesota.

This past summer, Len Hansmeyer, President of the Chub Lake Association in Carlton County, contacted Pauline Dee regarding several water issues. At their meeting in August, he asked if our lake association would be interested in sponsoring a visit from Marty Hilovsky, a research scientist with Envirosience, Inc. to study three bodies of water: Chub, Sand, and Sturgeon Lake to determine whether or not it would be practical to use Milfoil Solution, the weevil treatment in these lakes. For the cost of \$630. in travel expenses, two-thirds of which we agreed to pay, Marty Hilovsky traveled here on Thursday, October 13th and examined each of the three named lakes on a pontoon boat to determine the feasibility of this plan. Early that evening he met with the members of the executive boards from both lake associations, a few interested members, and Rich Rezanka, representative of the DNR, to share his results and recommendations, answer questions, explain procedural steps, and estimate cost.

His remarks were very positive and now we await the cost of using this plan. It would be our hope that we could begin the weevil treatment in the summer of 2012 if all details seem satisfactory. The Board will not make a final decision without a majority vote from the association members. We will keep the membership informed of progress.

The Windemere Lake and Landowners Association would like to thank George Leach and Jim Lehet for offering their pontoons for the cruise around Sturgeon and Sand Lake on October 13th with Envirosience, Inc. Volunteers are our richest assets! Thank you, Thank you!

Potential PICKM Alliance

Lake and river associations from Pine, Isanti, Chisago, Kanabec, and Mille Lacs counties met at the Pokegama Lake Association building on October 6, 2011 to discuss the interest of forming a coalition. Currently there are about twelve Coalitions of Lake Associations (COLAs) in Minnesota. The name "PICKM" comes from the first letter of each county in the group. The possible benefits of an association could be: share success stories and lessons learned with peers; obtain state or federal funds to tackle large projects; pool funds for larger projects that benefit all; form a strong, unified voice to advocate for lake/stream protection. All groups present agreed to move forward by forming a steering committee to draft a mission and bylaws. More information will be available in the spring.

This Year's Recap.....

- ✚ Fresh Water Ecology Project for Moose Lake 5th Grades. They also attended the Fresh Water Fair in Pine City in May
- ✚ Road Trash Pick-up-8.5 miles of roads three times a year
- ✚ Brush collection at quarry-six times in the summer
- ✚ Treated Sturgeon Lake-10.68 acres for Eurasian Water Milfoil
- ✚ Sent out 2 Windemere Lake and Landowners Association newsletters
- ✚ Survey of Sand Lake in September
- ✚ Held Board elections
- ✚ Two PICKM meetings attended by Ron Hansen in March and Chip Wells in October
- ✚ In conjunction with the Chub Lake Association, we began to pursue the idea of weevils controlling the EWM.

Buffers, Rain Gutters and Natural Shoreline Restoration Projects for 2012-2013

Shoreline washing away? Leaves and grass washing into the lake? You need help with your lakeshore? Sam Martin of the SWCD is applying for a grant, which if granted will allow lakeshore property owners to get in on the clean water Legacy Grant. The grant pays 75% of the project and the property owner pays 25 %. Plus, a native vegetation person designs the project for you. This takes place over a 2 year period. Please let Sam or your lake association representative know you are interested. You can e-mail Sam at: Samuel.Martin@co.pine.mn.us

Board of Directors

Sturgeon Lake

Sandy Schumann
218-390-1141
Tom Landsberger
372-3358 or 651-770-3067
Dennis Huddleston
372-3005 or 651-704-9606
Ron Goettsch
651-423-1991

Island Lake

Chip Wells
485-8254 or 218-380-0409
David Stark
651-778-8568
Shirley LaFond
372-4209
Ron Hansen
485-8567

Sand Lake

Pauline Dee
485-8578
Steve Kozak
485-8974
Janette Muller
485-8048
Barbara Krig
952-474-2041
Greg Carlson
485-5784
Jerry Blazevic
218-429-3700

Passenger/Rush/Johnson Lakes/Lake Eleven

Laurie Patrick
651-429-3700