

Pequawaywan Lakes Association News

Spring 2011

Dear Neighbors,

The Association decided to mail this spring newsletter to all property owners on Big and Little Pequawaywan Lakes because of the importance of the topic we want to discuss — Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS). This topic has been on our radar for a while because of the DNR's plan to put a public boat access on the Big Lake and the threat of the introduction of AIS due to that access.

But, that is not the only way these can get into our lake. If you take your boat to other lakes, including Lake Superior, St. Louis River, and nearby Fish Lake, Island Lake or Pike Lake, or if you let friends bring their boats to our lake, you could introduce zebra mussels, milfoil, spiny water fleas or other invasives into our clean waters.

Once introduced, these invasives are difficult, if not impossible, to get rid of. ***And the cost of doing so would be born by property owners*** — US! They cling to boat, docks, rafts, and, in the case of motors, make them inoperable. They destroy native fish, make swimming impossible, and lower property values.

The US Fish and Wildlife Service lists these impacts:

- Reduce game fish populations
- Ruin boat engines and jam steering equipment
- Make lakes unusable by boaters and swimmers
- Reduce native species
- Reduce property values

These invasive species can hide in bait buckets, boat trailers, wheel wells, etc. And some like Spiny water fleas or Zebra Mussels can travel when they are in a microscopic stage and impossible to see, so a visual examination of your boat is not going to be enough. And boat washes have not been found to be totally affective.

Existing law prevents the

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Motor covered with Zebra Mussels

Calendar of Events

Lake Association Meetings: Meetings start at 10 am at the Fire Hall on #44.

May 14 General information, committee reports, planning of summer activities

June 11 Tentatively DNR

July 9 Program TBA

Aug. 13 Annual meeting, election,

Sept. 3 Program TBA

Association committees will present information throughout the summer. Visit the Association's website at <http://www.pequawaywanlakes.com> for updates.

Road Cleanup: Monday, May 16. Meet at the Fire Hall at 9 am for coffee and rolls, followed by the cleanup.

Yard Waste Day: Saturday, May 28. 9 am to 1 pm. At the gravel pit near the south end of the Big Lake. No branches larger than 8 inches in diameter.

Trash/Dumpster Day: Saturday, June 18, 9 am to 1. Association members only. Tentative pending Association approval.

Fire Department Pancake Breakfast: Sunday, July 3, from 8 a.m. to noon at the Fire Hall.

Yard Waste Day: Saturday, Sept. 17, 9 am to 1 pm. At the gravel pit near the south end of the Big Lake.

**Be a Facebook fan of
Pequawaywan Lakes Association
Facebook Page. Keep up-to-date
on lake news**

We all play a part in keeping our lakes free of Aquatic Invasive Species

harvest of minnows or fish as bait from any Minnesota water designated as “infested waters.” Lake Superior has been in that category for several years.

You can make a difference

Rather than let friends put their boats in, let them use yours. And if you travel from lake to lake, please take precautions. We have listed the DNR requirements below. And these things also apply to jet skis, and other watercraft.

According to Minnesota Law, it is unlawful to...

- transport aquatic plants, round goby, zebra mussels, or other prohibited species on public roads
- launch a watercraft with aquatic plants, zebra mussels, or prohibited/regulated invasive species attached
- transport water from infested waters in boats, livewells, and bait containers
- transport watercraft without removing the drain plug and opening water-draining devices

Required actions

- Inspect all watercraft, trailers, and equipment; remove any visible aquatic plants, zebra mussels, and other prohibited invasives species before leaving any water access.
- Drain water from boat, livewell, bilge, and impeller before leaving any water access. Also, drain bait containers at infested waters. If you want to keep your live bait when leaving infested waters, you must replace water in bait containers with tap or spring water.
- Dispose of unwanted bait in the trash. It is illegal to release live bait into a waterbody or release aquatic animals from one waterbody into another.

Recommended actions

Some species are small and difficult to see at the access, so to remove or kill them before transporting

your watercraft to other waters, either:

- Rinse your boat and boating equipment with hot tap water (over 120° F); or
- Spray your boat and trailer with a high pressure sprayer. (The hot water sprayers at a car wash can be used); or
- Dry your boat and equipment *for at least 5 days*.

Recommended for the following activities:

- **Shore and fly-fishing:** Remove aquatic plants, animals, and mud from waders and hip boots. Drain water from bait containers.
- **Personal watercraft:** Avoid running engine through aquatic plants. Run engine for 5-10 seconds on the trailer to blow out excess water and vegetation from internal drive, then turn off engine. Remove aquatic plants and animals from water intake grate, steering nozzle, watercraft hull, and trailer.
- **Sailing:** Remove aquatic plants and animals from hull, centerboard or bilgeboard wells, rudderpost area, and trailer.
- **Scuba diving:** Remove aquatic plants, animals, and mud from equipment. Drain water from buoyancy compensator (bc), regulator, tank boot, and other containers. Rinse suit and inside of bc with hot water.

Fines can range from \$50 to \$1,000, and DNR conservation officers do patrol both of our lakes.

But as we said before, the really important thing is to keep our lakes free of invasives so we can continue to enjoy the waters we love.

You can find more photos that show the hazards of these species on the township website at <http://pequaywantownship.org> and more information about how to fight this threat at: <http://pequaywanlakes.com/stophespread/index.html>

Please do your part to protect our lakes!

Pequawaywan Lakes Association Membership Dues



Please send this form or bring it to an Association meeting along with your \$10 check (made out to Pequawaywan Lakes Association) to: Jim Guldseth
14550 Beverley Lane
Savage, MN 55378

Even if you pay in person, please attach this form to your payment. It makes it easier for Jim to match payment to name.

Your Name: _____

Cabin Address: _____

Note: You only have include information that has changed from last year.

New members – please complete the entire form.

Cabin Phone _____ Home Phone _____

Mailing Address: _____

Email: _____

Corrections or additions to your listing in the Lake Directory _____

Please include your email if you have not provided it. Sending communications electronically helps keep printing and mailing costs down. One newsletter can cost \$1 between printing and postage.

Do your part to protect loons

- Avoid use of islands before July 15 of each year. Loons prefer islands for nesting. While baby loons are cute to look at, keep a good distance away to avoid stressing baby and parents.
- Protect native vegetation on all shores. Loons often nest on natural shorelines and use natural materials to build nests.
- Conserve electricity. Mercury emissions contaminate lakes and loon food.
- Dispose of household garbage properly. Garbage draws raccoons, foxes, gulls and eagles which prey on loon eggs.
- Be an ethical angler. Never fish or cast near loon nests or swimming loons and properly dispose of extra bait and trash.
- Keep dogs and cats away from loon and nests. Pets disturb nesting loons and destroy loon eggs.
- Use only Phosphorus-free fertilizer. Fertilizer can run off into lakes increasing aquatic (weed) growth, making it difficult for loons to swim and find food.

Valley Homemakers — The annual first gathering of **Valley Homemakers** will be cleaning of Lakeside Chapel Thursday, May 26, at 6 p.m. After the cleaning, the group will meet for supper at the Pequawaywan Inn. Meetings continue into December on the 3rd Thursday of the month.

Lakeside Chapel — Services begin Sunday, May 29, at 10 a.m., 8905 Pequawaywan Lake Road, and continue through Labor Day.

Recycling — North Star Recycling Center is open Saturdays, 9 a.m. to noon, accepting cans, glass, plastic, paper, and cardboard.

Township — Congratulations to Rick Fry who was re-elected to a three-year term as township supervisor. Township meetings are the second Tuesday of each month 7:30 p.m. at the Fire Hall. Minutes and other information can be found on the township's web site at <http://pequawaywantownship.org>.

Pequaywan Lakes Association
9130 West Branch Road
Duluth, MN 55803

Association Minutes September 2010

The Sept. 4 meeting of Pequaywan Lakes Association was called to order by President Phyllis Mead at 10:02 a.m. with 36 members present.

The minutes of the Aug. 14, 2010 meeting were presented. Minor spelling corrections noted. Motion by Ray Barnes, second by Lorene Sorlien, to approve the minutes. Motion passed.

Due to a travel commitment the treasurer was not present to present his report.

OLD BUSINESS:

MSRPO MEMBERSHIP - Ray Barnes made a motion to join MSRPO at a cost of \$150. Second by Jan Kolehmainen. Motion passed.

Program suggestions for next year: CLP representative on electric power issues. MSRPO representative on issues at state legislature on issues of interest to cabin owners.

NEW BUSINESS:

Road clean-up scheduled for Monday, Sept. 13, 2010, Meet at Firehall at 9 a.m.

Yard waste day - Sat. Sept. 11, 2010, 9-1 pm. No limbs over 8 inches diameter.

Dumpster (for Trash Day) will be scheduled for year 2011.

Loon report by Lorene Sorlien: 3 adults, one baby

on Big Lake with as many as five seen at one time. three adults on Little Lake. It was suggested that three nesting platforms be obtained/made for Little Lake to encourage nesting.

WATER CLARITY:

Little Lake

May 31 - 20'
June 20 - 17'
July 11 - 17'
August 6 - 20'
August 19 - 21'

Big Lake

July 2 - 8.5'
July 7 - 10.5'
July 26 - 9.5'
August 10 - 12.5'
August 28 - 8.5'

Motion by Richard Arndt, second by Scott Mead that we donate the amount we did last year for use of Fire-hall Community Room.

Thanks expressed to Arndts and others for keeping entrance signs attractive. Also thanks to Donna Johnson for arranging for food for Association meetings.

Discussion about possible uses for land Association once owned and Community Center. No action taken.

Road construction in Duluth... again

For those of you who come north on 35W, note that road construction began again in Duluth on April 4. The major construction for 2011 is from Central to Garfield Avenues.

You can find the various schedule and closures at <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/duluthmegaproject>.

One alternative route is to take Midway Road to Martin Road to Rice Lake Road and then north to catch #44. There is no truck detour on Midway this year.