



The Christmas Lake Home Owner's Association Newsletter

Spring 2003

by Harley Feldman

From the President

Greetings to all my Christmas Lake neighbors. I'd like to introduce myself as you new lake President. My name is Greg Swirtz. My family and I live on Ridge Road, property we acquired in 1998. We feel very fortunate to be living here on Christmas Lake, taking part in the lake traditions started by many of the long time residents; traditions kept alive over the years by those of you willing to put forth the time and effort to help make this a great community.

Now for some serious matters. Our thanks to Deanne Sheeley for her work as Secretary these past several years and a job well done. As she steps down, there exists an opportunity for someone new to fill this position. Please contact me if you'd like to lend a hand.

For you folks who have lived here for several years, you'll remember that lake dues were collected annually. After a two year respite from dues, we again find it necessary to ask lake residents to contribute dues in the amount of \$100.

The board would also like to remind residents of the potential damage done to our lake when individuals chemically treat their lakeshore, as this action can kill off healthy, native aquatic plants. This will cause potential further spreading of Eurasian milfoil. Therefore, please do not use chemicals.

We're in the process of putting together a task force to explore the options available to correct the Curry Farms runoff situation. The goal is to reduce the amount of phosphorous and silt running into the south west corner of Christmas Lake. Anyone interested in helping with this issue please contact me at (952) 380-1440.

Greg Swirtz

Annual Meeting

The Christmas Lake Homeowners Association Annual Meeting was held on May 6 at the Excelsior Elementary School. About 50 residents attended.

Our new president is Greg Swirtz taking over from Steve Midthun who has done an outstanding job. Thanks to Steve and good luck to Greg.

An unofficial clean-up day is scheduled for May 17. As residents travel around the lake, please pick up any trash or debris seen.

While it appears to be spring, there were a few winter announcements. Steve Midthun would like it known that the cross-country track maker is available at his house for anyone to use in creating tracks in fresh snow in the winter. Also, Ron Mason will be organizing a winter party on the lake. Finally, Jack Fess is attempting to organize a lakeshore cleanup where a trash truck would drive the lakeshore and collect debris that is

too difficult to move up the hills. Please call Jack if you have an interest in this service.

Fred Bruno will be looking at the public landing this spring to determine if it needs repair from the past few low water summers.

Jack Fess is willing to put on a boat and lake safety clinic for kids on a Saturday morning. Please call Jack if you have kids and are interested. A new law this year requires wake boarders to wear ski vests. Also, remember the 300 feet from shore rule for the operation of jet skis.

If anyone on the lake notices illegal or abusive behavior, they should call 911. Even though this is an emergency number, the Hennepin County water patrol suggests reporting problems this way. Since there are a small number of officers, they may not always be able to respond. However, getting a boat license or other evidence and passing the information along will aid in finding the perpetrators.

A goose round-up will be held in early June by Dr. Tim Cooper, the only person in the state who is DNR sanctioned for goose removal. The young geese at that time will not have imprinted as to where they were born – the spot they return three years later to breed. Dr. Cooper will transport the geese to Iowa where they have been requested. After the next three years of the round-up, there should be significantly less geese on the lake. Thanks to Ron Zenk and friends who are financing this project.

Maureen Bruce talked about the Christmas Lake book and brought a video of some of the pictures from the book – they are quite impressive. Due to a production cost savings of \$20,000 by having the books printed in Hong Kong, copies of the book will be available for \$175. Please call Maureen if interested. Maureen is also attempting to put together a tour of older Christmas Lake home in the June timeframe.

Dennis Jabs will be hosting a clinic for kids on the lake and their friends. It will be

held on six Thursdays this summer from 2:30 until 5:30 pm. The clinic will include lessons in skiing and driving a boat. Near the end of the summer, a morning ski technique clinic will be hosted by Christy Overton. Please talk to Dennis if interested.

The big issue that is still with us is Eurasian Milfoil. It continues to expand from the south end of the lake. There are two major issues that the association board is addressing in order to control the milfoil growth - restriction of nutrient to the lake and removal of the milfoil.

The nutrient flow is the worst in the south corner of the lake due to runoff from Curry Farms. After many years of discussion, Mr. Bowen is interested in allowing the association to rip-rap the creek from Curry Farms to prevent erosion and slow the addition of nutrient to the lake via the creek. The estimate to fix the creek is \$50,000-65,000 for dredging and rip-rap. Since this is a major source of nutrient to the lake, the board will be addressing this issue shortly.

Steve Mikomas from Blue Water Science gave an update on milfoil and Christmas Lake. The good news is that the lake water clarity is holding and is slightly better than 15 years ago.

The board considered two methods to limit the growth of milfoil; chemical treatment and harvesting. Chemical treatments in the past have not worked, in fact, just the opposite has occurred. Where the lake has been treated, the plants, including milfoil, have grown back even thicker than before. This is due to the fact that nitrogen is the nutrient which enhances Eurasian milfoil growth. The plants that die from the chemical treatment fall to the bottom, decay, and provide additional nitrogen for enhanced milfoil growth. All residents should understand that spraying the lake is counter-productive to the health of the lake. The board strongly recommends

that residents restrict spraying to prevent plants in the lake.

Harvesting provides a better method of milfoil control. By cutting the top 5 feet of the plants, and hauling the cut plant material away, the milfoil is forced to use even more nitrogen to re-grow, thereby depleting the nitrogen-rich environment. By harvesting over a two or three year period, the canopy that milfoil forms to tangle the lake's surface should disappear, and the milfoil will become just another native plant with single runners to the surface. The association approved the harvesting of milfoil by the Shorewood Yacht Club. It will likely be done three times this summer at a cost of \$2-3,000 per time.

5th Annual Bill Newhouse Walk/Run

The run/walk will be held on Memorial Day, May 26. This is a great opportunity to see friends and neighbors after the long winter. The application form is included. The proceeds will be sent to a deserving charity chosen by the Newhouse family. Thanks to Keith Harrison for all of his efforts.

Annual Dues

Due to the decision to harvest milfoil, the association is requesting \$100 in dues from each home this season in order to hire the harvesters. The first harvest will be in early to mid-June. Please remit your check to the association Treasurer, Joe Shnieder, 1035 Holly Lane, Chanhassen, MN 55317

July 4th Activities

Last year's theme for the parade and dock contest was "Animated Children's Movies". There were many outstanding entries. Attached is the poem summarizing the entrants and the results. The 2003 theme

is "Broadway Plays". It should be another great event.

The after parade party will be hosted by the Fagerlee's. We thank Dawn and David in advance.