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The Christmas Lake Home Owner's Association Newsletter  
Spring 2006

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### **From the President**

Even though we have had a rainy spring, summer is finally on the horizon and the start of another great Christmas Lake boating season.

It appears that Eurasian milfoil is a problem that will be with us for a very long time. There is no known permanent removal solution. The Board has considered options for the short and long terms – harvesting and herbicide approaches. Since we do not have a recent and thorough Lake Vegetation Management Plan (LVMP), the only option available for this summer is harvesting. We will develop a LVMP during the summer of 2006 and make a long term recommendation at the 2007 Annual Meeting for a vote by the membership.

The association has become a Minnesota 501(c)3 corporation in 2006. We have applied for tax-exempt status under the IRS rules which we should hear about in the next 6 – 9 months.

The association has a website at [www.christmaslake.org](http://www.christmaslake.org). If you would like to be notified by email when there is a major update to the site, please send your email address to me at [president@christmaslake.org](mailto:president@christmaslake.org).

If you need to contact me, you can call at (952) 470-1915. Here's hoping that everyone has a pleasant and enjoyable summer on Christmas Lake.

*Harley Feldman*

### **Annual Meeting**

The Christmas Lake Homeowners Association Annual Meeting was held on May 10 at the Excelsior Elementary School. About 45 residents attended.

Last fall, the runoff from The Curry Creek Farms was so severe that the Bretton Woods Pond on the South end of the lake failed. The City of Chanhassen did some repair and prevention work at that time. However, the resolution of the drainage problem has not moved forward due to the Bowen family wanting the City of Chanhassen to lead the project, not the association. We have no prediction as to when this project might be attempted.

The other big issue that is still with us is Eurasian Milfoil. Last year's cuttings were able to open up the lake for use just before the 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend. This summer the Board has decided to cut twice, once in mid-June and again in late July or early August. The estimated cost of two cuttings is \$18,000 - \$20,000. The cuttings will come to within 150 feet of the shore which is a DNR restriction under the harvesting permit. Homeowners who desire to cut closer to their shoreline can contact Rick Thompson of Midwest Weed Harvesting at (763) 238-1012.

To begin the discussion of the long term strategy for milfoil, the meeting hosted, Wendy Crowell-DNR, Dick Osgood-Osgood Consulting and Tom Smoot-Lake Restoration. Under current DNR rules, there

is a limit of harvesting of 50% of the lake's littoral area and a limit of 15% of the littoral area to be treated by herbicides. By developing a LVMP and working with the DNR, a variance can be granted to these limits. Harvesting and herbicides were both discussed as to their benefits and risks. The DNR has a grant program for helping defer the cost of lake treatments for lakes that they select (eight lakes chosen for 2006 grants). The Board recommended that a LVMP at a cost of \$6,000 will be completed in 2006. Additional research and consultation with the DNR will result in a long term recommendation to the membership at the 2007 annual meeting.

Maureen Bruce is looking for people to contribute time and money for a project to document the history of Christmas Lake. Please contact Maureen if you are interested in helping.

All of the information covered at the annual meeting is contained in the PowerPoint slides available at the website.

### **8<sup>th</sup> Annual Christmas Lake Run/Walk**

The 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Christmas Lake Fun Run/Walk will be held on Memorial Day at 9:00. Last year, we contributed \$2395 to Intercongregational Communities Food Shelf for food and housing.

This is a great opportunity to see friends and neighbors after the long winter. The proceeds will be sent to a deserving charity chosen by the Association Board members. Suggestions are welcome.

### **Annual Dues**

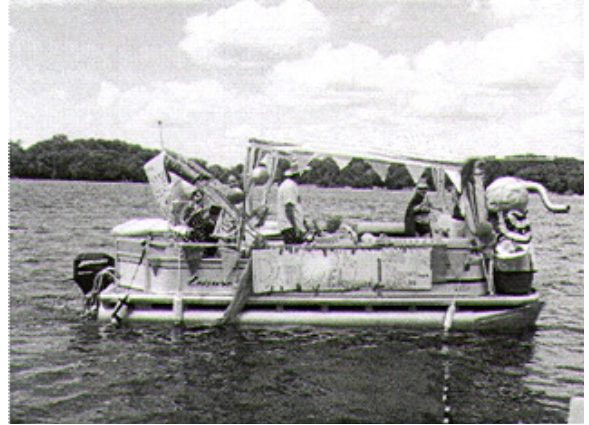
This year's dues are based on two milfoil harvestings and the cost of creating the LVMP. The dues associated with milfoil harvesting are \$250 per household and the LVMP will be assessed at \$50 per household for a total of \$300. This level of funding should keep the association reserve at \$30,000 in preparation for the possibility of the Curry Creek Farms project. Please remit your check for \$300 to the Association Treasurer, Doug Punke, 20695 Radisson Inn Road, Shorewood, MN 55331. Since we would all like the milfoil problem to be minimized, the Board is shooting for 100% dues collection. All households with fully paid dues will receive a copy of "Christmas Lake: An Album".

### **July 4<sup>th</sup> Activities**

Last year's theme for the parade and dock contest was "Animated Movies". There were many outstanding entries. Below are pictures of the winning entries and the annual poem. The 2006 theme is "Disney Movies". Please let me know if you would like to volunteer to host the after parade party.



**Eagle Dock – “Snow White” (Raineys, Johnsons, and Roths)**



**Shark – “Dumbo” (Szalpskis)**



**Eagle Boat – “Scooby Doo” (Hawks)**



**“Snow White” (Masons)**



**Eager Beaver – “Fish” (Cunninghams)**



**“Pinocchio” (Punks)**