



The Christmas Lake Home Owner's Association Newsletter
Spring 2007

From the President

Another boating and recreation season is beginning on Christmas Lake. The big concerns for the Christmas Lake Homeowner's Association (CLHA) Board have been boating safety and Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM).

As reviewed at the annual meeting (slides attached), the density of boats on the lake in the past twenty-one years has gone from 6.1 acres/boat to 1.3 acres/boat just for the watercraft owned by the homeowners. This means that boating awareness and courtesy on the lake is much more important than in the past. Boat safety classes for the young people on the lake will be offered this summer (details on the website).

EWM is a problem that will be with us for a very long time. While there is a nuisance issue with EWM, studies of plant density taken three times over the past six years show that EWM is crowding out many of the native species of water plants in the lake. Since there is no known permanent removal solution, the Board has considered options for the short and long terms – harvesting and herbicide approaches. We began development of a Lake Vegetation Management Plan to provide the vehicle to develop a long term plan in association with the DNR. After reviewing the data and working with the DNR, a decision to harvest the EWM in the lake will be done again this summer. Data will continue to be collected and analyzed for potential future treatments.

The association has a website at 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.

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 8 at the Excelsior Elementary School. About 45 residents attended. The PowerPoint slides used at the meeting are attached to this newsletter and are available on the website.

No progress has been made on the runoff from The Curry Creek Farms. We will continue to attempt to contact the property owner for resolution of this issue.

The other big issue that is still with us is EWM. 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 \$20,000 - \$21,000. 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. Please do not call Steve Midthun for your own harvesting needs – deal directly with Rick.

The DNR's conclusions based on plant sample data from Christmas Lake are as follows: 1) EWM in Christmas Lake is increasing and causing ecological impacts that include a reduction in the frequency of occurrence of native plants, 2) that if uncontrolled, EWM would probably continue to increase and native plants would probably continue to decrease, and 3) that if EWM was controlled, meaning a reduction in its frequency of occurrence, native plants would probably increase.

Given these conclusions, the Board looked at data from three sample herbicide treatments sites on Lake Minnetonka, treatment data from the Michigan Governor's study of Sonar, feedback from 33 Michigan treated lakes and discussions with the DNR (details on website). While the herbicide results are encouraging, the Board recognizes that there is risk associated with any herbicidal treatment and chose to continue harvesting for at least this summer.

Patti Feeney suggested a lake clean-up day for May 19, the same day as the Shorewood Annual Clean-up Day. It is suggested that we all take a little time to clean around the roads that encircle the lake.

9th Annual Christmas Lake Run/Walk

The 9th Annual Christmas Lake Fun Run/Walk will be held on Memorial Day, May 28, at 9:00. Last year, we contributed \$2,800 to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation and the Cossette family who also contributed their portion to the Foundation.

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 EWM harvestings. The dues were voted to be set at \$200 per household. This level of funding should keep the association reserve at \$38,000 in preparation for the possibility of the Curry Creek Farms project. Please remit your check for \$200 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.

Boating Safety Classes

Dave Schultz is sponsoring boating safety classes for children of boating age. The first class will be held on Saturday, June 2 from 2 – 6 pm. This first class will hold ten students. If you would like to register your child, please email Dave at dave@tolijama.com or call him at (952) 470-4040.

July 4th 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 2007 theme is "Inventors and Their Inventions: 1900 - 1930". Please let Harley know if you would like to volunteer to host the after parade party.



**Eagle Dock – “Alice in Wonderland”
(Beddors)**



Shark – “Lying King” (Meyers)



**Eagle Boat – “Snow White”
(Fagerlees and Saunders)**



“Little Mermaids” (Fields)



**Eager Beaver – “101 Dalmations”
(Meiosis, Nazarians, Larsons)**



“Disney Buffet” (Hawks)