

Lake Detroiters

ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, June 10

4PM (Social Hour following)

Holiday Inn (Pelican Room)



May 25, 2007

Dear Neighbors,

I would like to welcome our members and any lake residents to summer and the annual meeting of the Lake Detroiters Association. A special thank you to our retiring board members Cookie Friesen, Opal Rogstad and Bob Nelson. Curt Almlie has moved off the lake.

Our annual meeting and social will be June 10 at 4 PM in the Holiday Inn's Pelican Room with a social to follow in the Tamarac Room from 5 to 7 with a cash bar and hors d' oeuvres.

Dick Hecock is heading something new for the LDA. He is starting a history of the Detroit lakes area. We would appreciate anyone who has old pictures or memorabilia of the area to the annual meeting. We will have scanners there to make copies of photos.

In closing, I look forward to seeing you at the annual meeting. The association is all of us on the lakes and we would appreciate any help from you all. If you have any concerns talk to any board member.

Sincerely,

Dick Alsop
President

Annual Meeting Agenda

Approval of Agenda

Minutes from June 17, 2006

Treasurer's Report

Reports

Pelican River Watershed District – Hecock

Highway 10 Project –

City Council - Alsop

Weed Harvesting and Flowering Rush Control – Imholte

Old Business

History Project – Hecock

New Business

Election of Board Members and Officers

Comments, Announcements

Adjourn

Mission Statement: *The Lake Detroiters Association shall have as its overall purpose, the promotion, education , beautification and protection of the water quality of Big and Little Detroit Lakes, including waters running into and therefrom. This nonprofit association shall work to monitor and report water quality conditions, as well as participate as a member of the Becker County Coalition of Lake Associations. The Lake Detroiters Association strongly supports the city and county enforcement of laws, ordinances and regulations.*

2006-2007 Board of Directors

President: Dick Alsop 847-3790

Vice President: Bob Nelson 847 7539

Secretary: Ruth Olson

Treasurer: Renee Alsop 847-3790

COLA Rep: Dick Alsop

Board Members: Carl Fingalson, Ginny Imholte, Scott Mehlhaff, Opal Rogstad, Bev Dobrenski, Curt Almlie, Laurie Olson, Wayne Olson, Dick Hecock

Join Lake Detroiters Today! Dues are \$25 per year!



Detroit Lakes



Noteworthy Websites:

- City of Detroit Lakes: www.ci.detroit-lakes.mn.us/
- Becker County www.co.becker.mn.us; for airphoto and tax parcel maps: <http://gis-server.co.becker.mn.us>
- Minnesota Department of Natural Resources: <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/index.html>
- Pelican River Watershed District: [www. Prwd.org](http://www.Prwd.org)
 - Make this site a “favorite” for info on...
 - Flowering Rush spraying schedule
 - Ice damage info and permits
 - Water quality data
 - Road side pickup schedule
 - Rain garden fact sheet
 - Use the District’s aerial map to zoom in on your neighborhood.

Rice Lake Project Update:

As early as the 1970’s the PRWD has been aware that elevated nutrient levels are being discharged from the ditched wetland located on the Pelican River about 2.5 miles north of Big Detroit. Nutrient problems are known to be associated with ditched wetlands in other parts of the state, having to do with complicated chemical interactions between the water, oxygen and sediments in the drained wetland areas, and the flushing effects promoted by the ditching.

For several years the PRWD has conducted studies of the area. Recently it was decided to proceed with some measures that will retard flows through the wetland system, and spread water more broadly into the adjacent wetlands. It is believed that this approach will significantly reduce downstream discharges of ortho-phosphorus, an important culprit in causing deteriorated water quality.

While now timetable has been set, the District has begun work on obtaining easements from property owners in the Rice Lake area.

Boating Checklist:

(check to make sure you are in compliance – DNR does!)

- Current license placed correctly on boat/pontoon
- Boat lights - must be used between sunset and sunrise
- horns that work (boats over 16 feet)
- Throw cushion required in each boat
- Life jackets for each passenger in the boat (recent regulatory change allows use of inflatable life-jackets in some instances) – life jackets must be “accessible” (not in bags or in storage lockers)
- Fire extinguisher – required on boats longer than 16 feet
- Licensed boat trailer, with lights that work.

See the DNR Boating Rules for full details (they are on the DNR website).

*Rules for Personal Watercraft are complicated, and very strictly enforced; owners and users should be very familiar with them.
Hint: pay special attention to the evening curfew.*

Dying Fish?

Recently the PRWD has had numerous calls about dead fish. Callers have reported large numbers of panfish, and even some northern pike accumulating along shorelines on several local lakes.

The Minnesota DNR says that the die-off is quite a normal phenomenon which occurs on many lakes. It seems that a bacteria, *Chondrococcus columnaris*, is widespread and persistent among fish populations in our area. A disease, called Columnaris, mostly affects fish in the spring, when water temperatures rise quickly and the fish are spawning. There is no practical cure for the disease.

While it may appear that huge numbers of fish have died, fish populations are usually not significantly depleted from Columnaris. Gamefish from a lake which has experienced die-offs may be eaten so long as they are normal in appearance and behavior, according to the DNR.

Lake Friendly Highway Construction

In the next few months many Lake Detroiters will be inconvenienced by the construction projects on Highway 10 and 59. The inconvenience may be worth it. Aside from the improved traffic flow and safety, it seems that the changes will be lake-friendly too.

Numerous measures have been incorporated into the highway designs that are specifically aimed at protecting the Lake Detroit and the streams which lead to it. As a result of the project much more of the City of Detroit Lakes stormwater runoff will be detained and treated prior to discharge to the Pelican River or other waterways leading to the lake. Similarly, there will be important stormwater detention/treatment devices next to the lake, on either end of the Highway 10 lake Overlook, adjacent to the Holiday Inn and the Lodge-on-the-Lake.

During construction considerable care will be given to reduce erosion and contain sediment. Silt fences and floating debris curtains are among the measures employed.

In addition to reduced lanes, lane diversions, lower speed limits, lake residents will be affected by detours. The most troublesome will be the result of summer-long closures of two railroad crossings at Roosevelt Ave and Kris Street. After these crossings are re-opened in September, there will be other minor detours.

2006 Water Quality Overview

Most lakes in the Detroit Lakes region experienced poorer water quality in 2006. The main culprit seems to be the very warm weather beginning in May. Water temperatures in area lakes increased almost 10 degrees in about a week in mid-June, reaching nearly 80 degrees in mid-July, higher than any year in the last six. The persistence of these warm water temperatures over so many weeks also was noteworthy.

These conditions set the scene for algae blooms which began in most lakes by the second week in June; most lakes responded with a rapid deterioration in clarity; the blooms continued into mid-September.

Season-long clarity was a foot or more under the 10-year average for most lakes, including Big and Little Detroit. Phosphorus levels deviated much less from previous trends but were still too high.

Last year's conditions should not be viewed as a major setback. The trends on most lakes, including Big and Little Detroit, over the last ten years have been favorable in water quality terms. And certainly when compared to conditions in the 1960's and 1970's there has been enormous improvement. Lake-lovers should be aware that year-to-year fluctuations in water quality are normal, and long-term trends are more important (for more details on these, and other aspects of lake conditions, see the website: www.PRWD.org.)

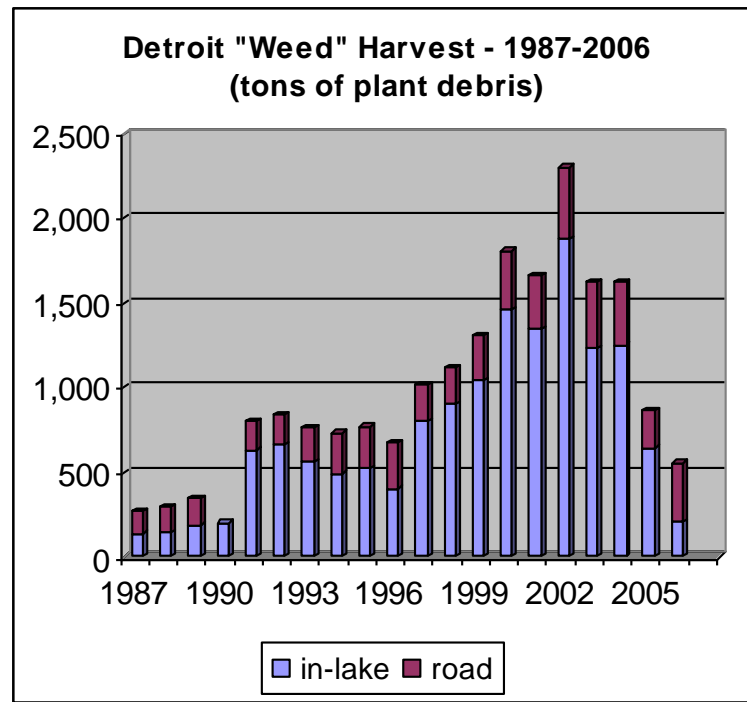
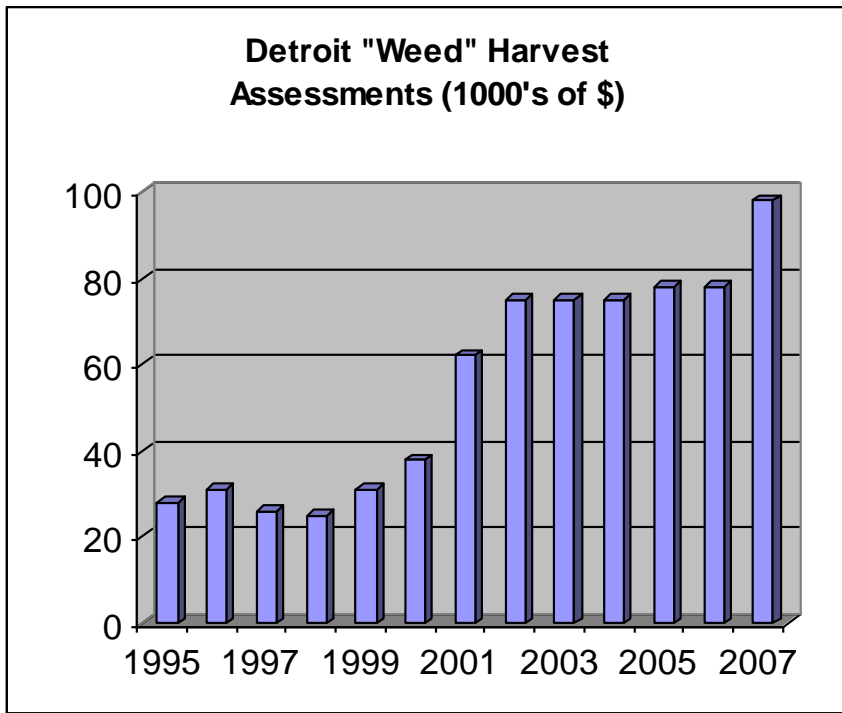
On the other hand, phosphorus levels in most PRWD lakes, are too high. This excess phosphorus is the result of poor shoreline practices (especially those which promote runoff of nutrients from impervious surfaces and lawns), as well as some upstream sources. PRWD has worked to reduce the upstream sources and will continue to do so. Lakeshore residents must also play a role by reducing impervious surfaces, reducing lawn areas which drain to the lakes and exercising great care with fertilizers.

Widely predicted climate changes will provide extra challenges to maintain and improve water quality. For more information on this subject see www.Prwd.org.

Dick Hecock

PRWD HARVEST PROJECT 1-C - DETROIT LAKES HISTORY

	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Aquatic Plant Removal (in tons)																					
In Lake	135	145	186	200	630	660	560	490	520	402	802	900	1,040	1,458	1,348	1,878	1,232	1250	641	208	
Roadside	135	150	160		170	180	200	240	250	275	215	220	264	348	311	424	395	374	225	344	
Shoreline												10	7	4	5	7	7	5	4	56	
Total		950	942	800	1,516	1,590	1,446	1,895	1,812	1,242	1,548	1,218	1,896	1,810	1,664	2,309	1,634	1,629	870	608	
Assessment - 75 lot with cottage										41	\$39	\$49	\$59	\$48	\$88	\$80	\$96	\$96	\$101	100	\$125
Assessment total (1000's of \$'s)									28	31	26	25	31	38	62	75	75	75	78	78	98



Water Watchers Needed!

Assessing water quality and other aspects of Detroit Lakes requires equipment, money and manpower. Because it is not possible for the Pelican River Watershed District to be everywhere all the time, volunteers are important part of the reporting process. In the case of Detroit Lake, John Emery, Ginny Imholte, Dick Alsop and Dick Hecock are among the Lake Detroiters who have assisted with the data collection process. The District would like to encourage two or three other Lake Detroiters to join the "team" in this effort. In particular we need somebody to take some secchi readings. These measurements of clarity are a critical component of the data base used to assess the lake.

If you can help, please contact Dick Hecock at 846-0436.

Scan your pics for the Lake Detroit History Project

As the Lake Detroiters Board of Directors planned the 2006 Directory, several indicated their interest in putting together a separate document that recounts the interesting history of the lakes, events, people, etc.

It was noted that other area lake associations, including Cormorant, Sallie, Melissa, and Cotton have undertaken such projects, and have been rewarded with an increased sense of community and interest in the lake.

Topics mentioned at that time included the ox cart route, French fur-trading, logging, ice-cutting, steamboating, The Sportsman's Club, the Spa, the Yakety-Yacht Club, Pokegama spring, as well as information about early lake residents.

One of the outcomes of the Directory project was that several Lake Detroiters identified themselves as interested in such a project. We think that there are other members who share this interest.

Accordingly the Board has decided to focus on local lake history during the next year or so. To kick off this initiative, this year's party will have a history theme, and members are urged to bring pictures and documents that relate to the "olden" days around Detroit Lakes.

We will have scanning devices on hand to make electronic copies of any documents that are brought, so that the owners will not have to part with their treasures.

2007 Harvest Plans for Detroit Lakes

Weeds have been perceived as a problem on Detroit Lakes for many decades and various forms of treatment have been tried. For many years aquatic plant removal on Big Detroit Lake was a part of the ice-harvest operations which ended in the late 1960's. In the early 1950's Lake Detroiters Association paid for mechanical harvesting of lake weeds. In the mid-1950's, the association began to use chemicals (sodium arsenite and copper sulfate) to control rooted plants and algae.

Between 1987 and 1989, PRWD contracted with lake shore owners on Deadshot Bay and Little Detroit for some mechanical harvesting operations, mainly aimed at Flowering Rush control. Following a petition by Detroit Lake residents, in 1990 the Pelican River watershed District began mechanical harvesting and roadside pickup on Big and Little Detroit. The Project grew out of concerns about the rapid spread of Flowering Rush.

The Minnesota DNR is responsible for protecting aquatic plants in lakes; generally speaking it takes the view that aquatic plant populations are critical to the health of lake ecosystems. Over the years, the DNR has increased its scrutiny, and limitations placed upon harvesting activities by PRWD. Coincidentally it was determined that mechanical harvesting, the DNR recommended method of Flowering Rush control, is not effective (and may even contribute to its spread). Accordingly, starting in 2003 the District's use of mechanical harvesting equipment has been severely curtailed, but the DNR authorized the use of herbicides to control the exotic species, Flowering Rush

Beginning in 2002, the District began experimenting with various herbicides to control Flowering Rush. Based upon results in 2004, one herbicide, Habitat was selected for further testing in 2005, and for full-scale applications in 2006. One of the important attributes of this particular chemical is that it does not affect native submerged plants. The District's expectation is for partial control in any given season, in large part because submerged (young) Flowering Rush plants also are unaffected by the herbicide treatment. Winds, waves, boating activities and other factors diminish the effectiveness of control too. Under the best of circumstances, several years of treatment will greatly reduce population of flowering rush, but total elimination is not anticipated, not least because it is often found mixed with desirable and protected species.

In 2007, the District is permitted to apply habitat to Flowering Rush plants on Detroit Lake, and will do so mainly in July and late August. Mechanical Harvesting on Detroit is allowed in spring and early summer to remove the exotic plant, Curley-Leafed pondweed, and later in the summer for very selected, DNR-approved areas of the lake. The District may seek specific permission for mechanical harvesting in a few other areas. Overall, lakeshore residents will see less harvester activity on the lake. Roadside pickup will continue as before.

Dick Hecock, May 2007

FLOWERING RUSH TIPS

- When installing water pumps for irrigation, make sure the intake is not sitting in a patch of Flowering Rush! If it is, the herbicide applicators will not spray.
- Check the back of your boat – has your propeller brought home some flowering rush? If so, you can be pretty sure that there will be a patch of Flowering Rush on your beach next year.

Problems with Roadside Lake Weed Pickup

The collection of raked up aquatics will continue as previous years, BUT there is still the continuing problem of residents placing the piles on the roadway or bike path causing unsightly traffic hazards for other roadway users. Be considerate of non-lake residents.

Create a pile on your very own property, not across the road on the Becker County right of way, accessible to a Bobcat, away from plantings and poles. The lawn will get damaged, so plan accordingly. Consider sharing a common area with a neighbor.

Please talk to your new neighbors. The Pelican River Watershed District only picks up washed up aquatics – 344 tons in the summer of 2006. Bullrush, Cattail, and Reeds are protected from removal. Garden wastes, branches, etc. are not picked up by the Watershed or by the City of DL. It is the responsibility of each homeowner to haul these items to the appropriate site north or south of DL:

- South of Big Detroit and Senical Lake – Lakeview Township Compost Site on 125th Street between 280th and 290th Avenue.
- North of Detroit Lakes – drive one mile north on Hwy 59, watch for yard waste sign, turn West on Stoney Road.

Aquatic Plants, Native plants, Shoreline Plantings

We live on a natural body of water, complete with a life cycle of its own. Aquatic plants and algae growth follow a weather related relationship with the available nutrients. We can all learn so much through observing the natural growth patterns of the lakes plants and organisms.

The native plants provide food and shelter for numerous lake creatures, fish and birds. These plants protect the shoreline from erosion and stabilize the bottom sediments, as well as controlling the runoff from our lawns. The lake creates ice ridges to control this run in. Plantings in this lawn buffer zone will catch rain water, phosphorous and nitrogen.

The plentiful weed growth in our lake is a result of an excess of nutrients built up in the lake bottom. When the weather conditions are right, an algae bloom occurs. The native emergent plants: reeds, cattails and bulrush help utilize these nutrient. Detroit Lake has lost much of its native emergent vegetation, but several residents are adding DNR support re-plantings.

The Pelican River Watershed District Harvesting Project strives to keep Detroit Lake usable and “swimable” according to the plan put forth by a committee of lake shore residents :

- The exotic Curlyleaf Pondweed is harvested mid-May to June before it blows up on our beaches or wraps around the docks.
- The exotic Flowering Rush is sprayed when the plants are tall and vigorously growing.
- Harvesting of Flowering Rush is limited to special navigational considerations.
- Large mats of the native Northern Milfoil are hopefully picked up as they float on the water surface early July and August before blowing in.

To join the Harvesting committee call ***Ginny Imholte 847-7236***. This committee considers the requests of numerous lakeshore owners, establishes yearly priorities considering a short ten week growing season, and budgets time and expenses.

Lake Detroiters Association Welcomes Fisherman and Recreational Boaters!

Be considerate and share the lake with recreational boaters and fisherman. *Make an effort to avoid fisherman or skiers that are already in the area of the lake you are on!*

Note: From time to time water skiers and wake boarders have courses set up on the lake. It is legal for temporary buoys to be set up between sunrise and sunset without permits. Minnesota's DNR boating and safety guide points out (Page 49)

Temporary docks and buoys are allowed from sunrise to sunset.

Fishing License Requirements Residents • To qualify as a resident, a person must maintain a legal residence in Minnesota for at least 60 consecutive days before purchasing a license. • A nonresident under age 21 whose parent is a Minnesota resident. • All residents age 15 and younger are allowed to take their own limit of fish without purchasing a license. **Nonresidents** • All nonresidents age 16 and older are required to have an appropriate fishing license while angling. Nonresidents under age 16 don't need a license if an accompanying parent or guardian is licensed. Children of an adult who has a Minnesota nonresident family license may possess their own limit of fish. However, if the adult has an individual license, the child's fish are included in the adult's limit. Nonresidents under age 16 may purchase a license and possess their own limit of fish. **Nonresident Students and Military** • A person in the U.S. Armed Forces who is stationed or training in the state may purchase a resident fishing license. • Students spending the full-term school year may purchase a resident license with proof of student status.

Licenses Issued Without a Fee

- Permanent angling license issued to any Minnesota resident over age 16 who is mentally retarded or a veteran with a 100% service-connected disability. Available only from the DNR License Center.
- Annual angling and/or spearing license may be issued to Minnesota residents who are blind, disabled, receiving a supplemental income (SSI, SSD), receiving worker's compensation for total and permanent disability, ward of the Commissioner of Human Services, a resident of a state institution that has an approved application, or a foreign exchange student attending school in Minnesota. To get SSI or SSD benefit verification, call 1-800-772-1213, visit the following web site www.socialsecurity.gov or visit your local Social Security office.
- Foreign exchange students may receive a free annual angling license with proof of foreign exchange student status.

Exempt from License Requirement

- Minnesota residents in the U.S. Military who are stationed outside the state. Military staff must carry leave or furlough papers.
- Patients of a state hospital or U.S. Veterans Administration hospital, inmates of a state correctional facility, residents of a Minnesota licensed nursing or boarding care home, and residents of a licensed board and lodging facility.
- Persons who are enrolled in and regularly participate in an adult day care program of a Minnesota licensed nursing or boarding care home.
- Residents of a drug or alcohol residential treatment program who are under the age of 20.
- Persons must carry written consent from the superintendent or chief executive of the institution.
- Residents who receive aid under the federal Railroad Retirement Act of 1937 (U.S. Code Title 45, section 228b (a5) or receive U.S. Postal Service disability pay under U.S. Code Title 5, section 8337. Railroad and Postal Service exemptions must carry evidence of disability retirement.

An unlicensed person may assist a disabled angler who has a disability license, provided that only the number of lawful lines are in use.

Turn in Poachers! Call 800-652-9093

Be a sport! Please, don't throw your trash into the lake!



Here are my dues for 2007-08 in the amount of \$25.

Name: _____

Lake Address: _____

Other Address: _____

Telephone: _____

E-Mail: _____



ADDRESS PAGE