

BURNTSIDE PROPERTY OWNERS' ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 81 ELY, MINNESOTA 55731

Volume XIV, Spring 2006

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From the President ...by Ward T. Nelson

As I write this note our beloved lake and shared treasure is still covered with sparkling white snow resting on top of a solid support structure of ice. The fish houses have been removed. Snowmobilers are still cruising the lake but the warm sun is taking its toll on the trails. All thoughts are turning to the much anticipated Spring and Summer and all the wonders that nature brings with the changing of the seasons.

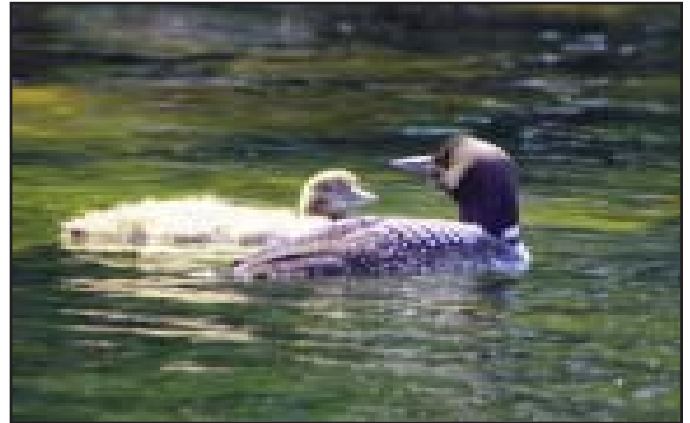
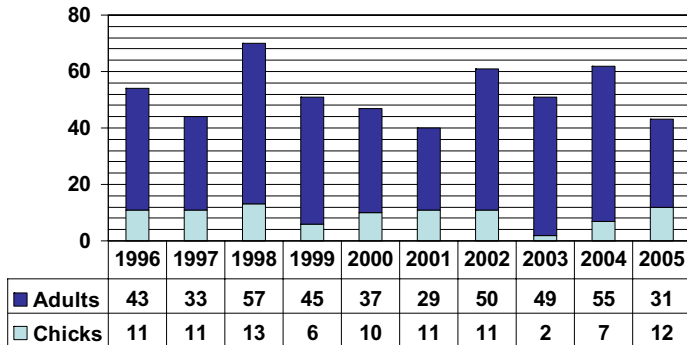
The threat of fire is probably one of the most frightening things we can think of which could destroy our pristine Northwoods environment and our properties. Last summer a fire singed about one quarter of Ripple Island on Sunday, July 24, 2005, a dry, windy day. No one was injured and the cabins on the island were saved thanks to the professional coordinated efforts of the U.S. Forest Service, Pilots, First Responders, the Fire Departments from Ely and Morse-Fall Lake Township and some quick acting folks on the lake. We extend our "Thank You" to all who contributed to containing the fire. An important lesson to be learned from the fire is that spectators must stay far, far away from the fire area. Pilots have many variables to worry about in making a "Water Bombing Run" – flames, structures, speed, smoke, altitude, winds, etc. and don't need the added problem of people in boats too close to the drop area. Even the most skilled pilots can miss the target. If a water bomb landed on people in a boat it could be catastrophic. Stay clear.

As your "Lighting Rod President" (that is, I don't go looking for trouble, but potential problems seem to find their way to me) I will report that the three top issues of concern around the lake are jet ski noise, swim platforms that remain anchored all summer, and a new one – large yard lights. There appears to be less concern over jet skis than a few years ago. Riders have become more considerate. In this issue (page 8) we have reprinted the rules for personal watercraft from the 2005 DNR Minnesota Boat Guide for all to read and help enforce. There seems to be a consensus that it would be appreciated if brightly colored inflatable swim platforms could be stored on shore when not in use. Wooden swim platforms are to have reflectors and should not be permanently moored in navigable waters. It appears that large yard lights mounted high on power poles are becoming more prevalent around the lake. Concern has been expressed that these lights, which are quite bright and shine all night, negatively affect the serenity of the night sky for many. I mention these issues in a non-threatening way; please give consideration to these issues if they pertain to you.

In this issue we have enclosed two brochures which we hope you will find informative; A fire protection piece, "How to Protect Your Home – Wildfire Strikes Home!" and a drug awareness piece published by the Ely Meth Community Action Team (EMCAT) which includes a Tip Line number. Fire and drugs can destroy. Meth's long-lasting, ultra-addictive highs and toxic by-products slowly take the lives or souls of its users and those who love them. And yes, it is in our community. It is estimated that 85 to 90% of all crimes in St. Louis County are related in one way or another to Meth. By acting together maybe we can contain this blaze.

2005 Loon Count

Burntside Lake Loon Count



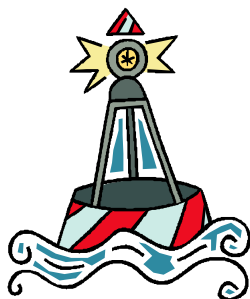
Picture taken by Victoria Miller

Special thanks to Tim Riley and his crew who preformed the 2005 Loon Count on a very windy day in August. The weather conditions could have contributed to the low number of adults counted but these results are rather consistent with the loon counts on Ely area lakes. This is the tenth year we have counted the loons on Burntside Lake.

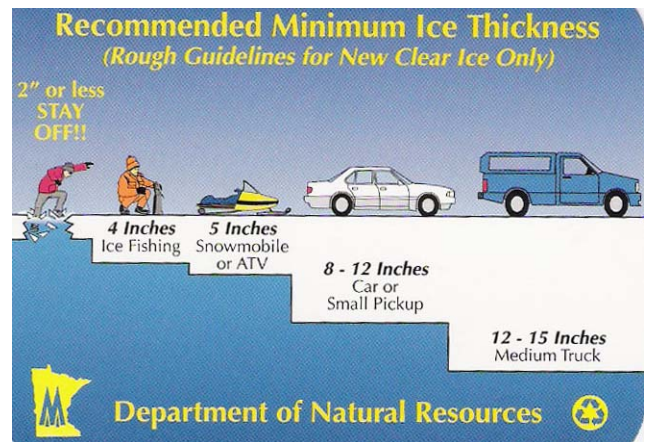
Buoy Placement Alert

We all know how critically important the buoy markers are to safety on Burntside Lake. The buoys are now placed with the assistance of GPS. If you ever see that a buoy has been moved or you discover a hidden rock or obstacle that should be marked by a buoy, please immediately call:

Mark Eyre at 218-666-2758
He is extremely responsive.



Recommended Minimum Ice Thickness



- * Many ice drownings involve children. When your child is near the ice, you should be near your child.
- * Avoid alcoholic beverages when you're on the ice. They can make you feel colder and slow down your reaction time in case of an ice emergency.
- * Carry two large nails to use as ice picks to pull yourself out if you fall through the thin ice.
- * Never drive on the ice at night.
- * Avoid pressure ridges and areas with current if you do choose to drive on the ice.
- * Drive with your windows down and doors partially open to avoid becoming trapped if your car breaks through.

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Boat & Water Safety Section

Blastomycosis Infecting Area Dogs!

Burntside Lake and the Ely area are experiencing cases of Blastomycosis, an uncommon infectious disease caused by a fungus which lives in the soil. Most mammals including humans are susceptible to the disease. Young male large breed hunting dogs are most often infected. The most common route of infection is by inhalation of infective spores from soil.

Typical Symptoms:

- 1) Cough – usually mild, moist and persistent
- 2) Loss of good appetite
- 3) Moist sores anywhere on the body which do not heal
- 4) Red and swollen eyes
- 5) Lameness on one or more limbs

Confirming a diagnosis of this disease is best done by your vet identifying the organism using a microscope. Blood tests are also available but are less reliable and generally take longer to get results.

The time between spore inhalation and clinical confirmation of the disease may be a few weeks to several months. Very rarely will a dog show signs of the disease and spontaneously recover. 95% of infected animals will die if they do not receive treatment. Typically a course of drug treatment will take four months for a complete cure. Dogs that do receive proper treatment will recover 80% or more of the time. Once the animal has completely recovered it is thought that they are immune to future infections caused by Blastomycosis spores.

Many veterinarians practicing outside of infected regions may not correctly diagnose Blastomycosis. There is no way to prevent the disease except to limit exposure to areas which are known to have high densities of the fungus. Research is currently underway to find a vaccine for Blastomycosis.

Contact Dr. R. E. Hanson or Dr. Peter Hughes at the Ely Veterinary Clinic at 365-5911 if you would like more information.

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Lake Water Level Report

Water Level Data

Period of record: 09/13/1939 to 11/24/2005

of readings: 502

Highest recorded: 1374.83 ft (09/29/1948)

Lowest recorded: 1370.07 ft (10/26/1997)

Recorded range: 4.76 ft

Average water level: 1371.22 ft

Last reading: 1370.98 ft (11/24/2005)

OHW elevation: 1371.9 ft

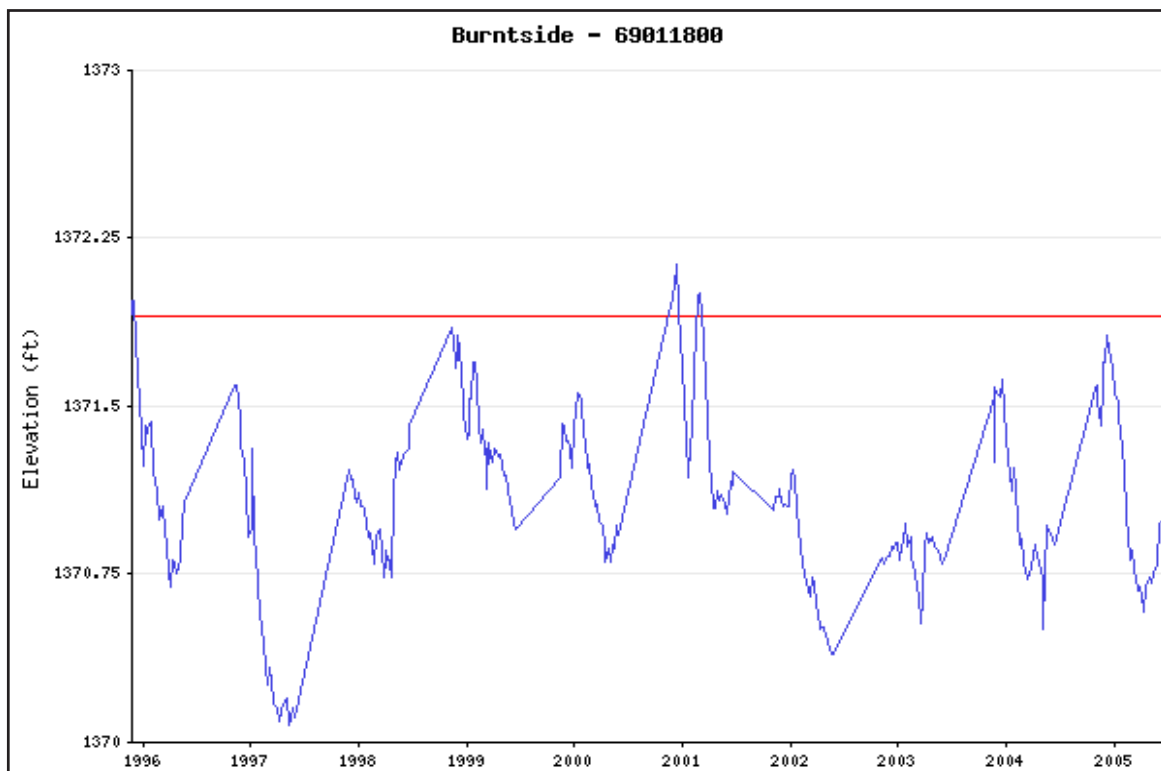
Datum: 1929 (ft)

Benchmarks

Elevation: 1374.83 ft Datum: 1929 (ft) Date Set: 11/07/1990

Benchmark Location Township: 63 Range: 13 Section: 23

Description: USGS "TT29 S"; Chiseled square, (approx. 3") on top of a large rock ledge, 30' SW of the SE corner of boathouse, on N. side of a small rocky point. At Burntside Lodge on south side of lake.



URL for the lake water level

<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/lakefind/showlevel.html?id=6901180>



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With sadness we report that three former board members of the Burntside Property Owners' Association have passed away this winter. We extend our condolences and heart-felt sympathy to the families and friends of John Anderson, Jim Baxter, and Les Deppe.

BPOA 2005 Donations

It has been the practice of the Burntside Property Owners' Association Board of Directors to make contributions to local Ely community organizations and/or causes that are considered to provide direct benefit to Burntside Lake property owners.

2005 donations were as follows:

Ely Bloomenson Community Hospital - \$250.00

Ely Meth Community Action Team (EMCAT) - \$500.00

First Responders - \$250.00

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The Savvy Secchi

History

For all its simplicity, the Secchi Disk is the most economical, quickest, easiest and most widely used tool to measure water quality. It may even be the oldest monitoring tool still being used. It dates back to 1865 when Fr. Pietro Angelo Secchi was asked by Commander Cialdi, head of the Papal Navy, to measure transparency in the Mediterranean Sea. Fr. Secchi was an astrophysicist and scientific advisor to the Pope.

Since 1865 various sizes and colors have been used. The two most commonly used variations are an all-white metal disk and a disk painted in black and white quadrants. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) uses an all-white, 8-inch diameter notched metal disk. The notched sides are for rope storage when the disk is not in use. The attached waterproof rope is marked in meters or feet for easier reading.

What does a Secchi Disk Measure?

Simply put, a Secchi disk measures how far down into the water a person can see, or how much light passes through the water. This is called water transparency. It provides an indirect measure of the suspended particles in the water. In many cases this is an indication of the amount of algae in the water.

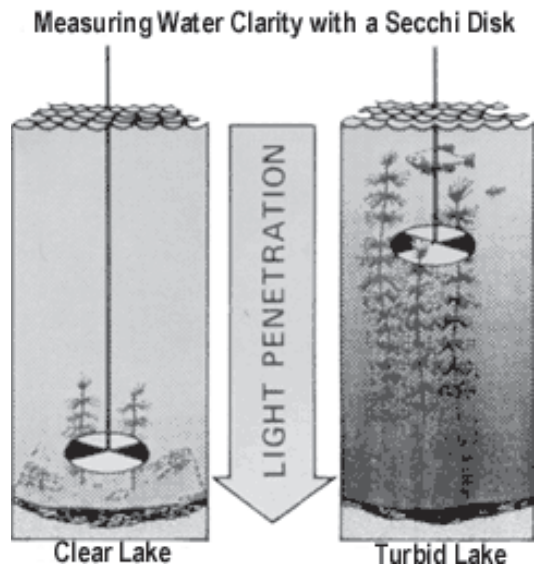
The three environmental factors causing decreasing Secchi disk measurements are quantity and type of algae, quantity and type of other suspended materials such as soil particles and color of the water. Algae abundance is related to the amount of nutrients present, especially phosphorus and nitrogen. Nutrients may reach the lake from sources such as sewage treatment plants, septic tanks and lawn and agricultural fertilizer. Suspended particles may come from sources such as resuspension from the lake bottom, construction sites, agricultural fields, and urban storm runoff.

Transparency serves as an early warning that activities on the land are affecting the lake.

Getting the Best Secchi Disk Measurements

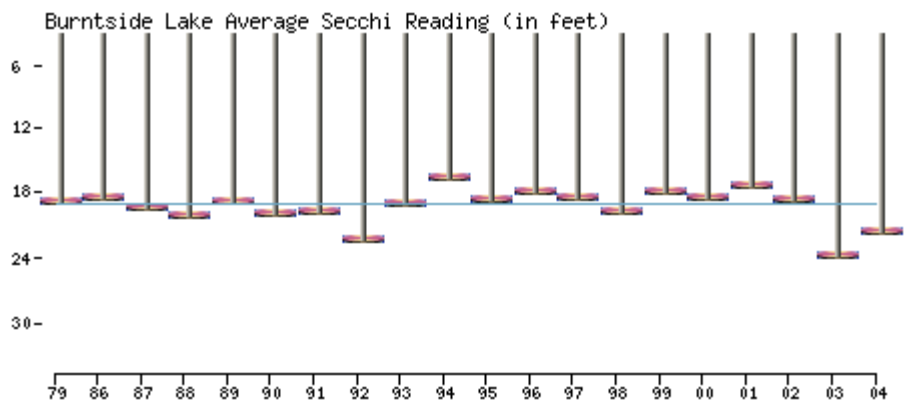
Despite its long use, there is no universally accepted protocol for taking measurements. In some cases Secchi depth is where the disk is just visible, while in others it is the depth where it disappears. The most commonly recommended Secchi reading is the average of the depth at which the disk disappears and then reappears.

We appreciate the dedication of volunteers on Burntside Lake who have taken Secchi Disk Readings for many years. Heading the list is Milt Stenlund who has been monitoring the central part of the lake for over 22 years. He is now being assisted by his son, Brian Stenlund and son-in-law, Walt Plude. Special thanks also go to George Nyman, Gordon Reabe, the late Les Deppe and Dave Bahnemann for their efforts.



Average Secchi Reading
YEAR
FEET

<u>1979</u>	<u>1992</u>	<u>1999</u>
20.1	23.6	19.1
<u>1986</u>	<u>1993</u>	<u>2000</u>
19.8	20.3	20.1
<u>1987</u>	<u>1994</u>	<u>2001</u>
20.6	17.8	18.7
<u>1988</u>	<u>1995</u>	<u>2002</u>
21.4	19.8	20.0
<u>1989</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>2003</u>
20.1	19.3	25.5
<u>1990</u>	<u>1997</u>	<u>2004</u>
21.4	19.7	23.0
<u>1991</u>	<u>1998</u>	
21.1	21.1	



Personal Watercraft ~ Jet Skis

(reprinted from the DNR Minnesota Boat Guide 2005)
Personal watercrafts are considered motorboats and therefore, any regulations that govern other motorboats (such as fishing boats, cabin cruisers, etc.) also govern personal watercraft.

Rules for personal watercraft are as follows:
Personal Watercraft Operator Age Restrictions regardless of horsepower:

*Less than 13 years of age can not operate, even with adult on board.

* 13 year of age must either have someone at least 21 on board or a watercraft operator's permit and be in visual supervision by someone at least 21.

* 14-17 years of age must either have a watercraft operator's permit or someone at least 21 on board.

Personal Watercraft Laws

In summary, the law requires that:

1. Anyone operating or riding on a personal watercraft must wear a U.S. Coast Guard approved Type 1, 11, 111 or V personal flotation device (PFD or life jacket).

2. Personal watercraft must travel at slow – no wake speed (5 mph or less) within 150 feet of non-motorized boats, shore (unless launching or landing skiers directly to or from open water), docks, swim rafts, swimmers, or any moored or anchored boat.

3. Operation of personal watercraft is allowed only from 9:30 am to 1 hour before sunset.

4. If you tow a person on water skis, or any other device, there must be an additional person on board the personal watercraft to act as an observer. (The observer does not have to be facing backward.) The skier/kneeboarder etc. must also be wearing a PFD or there must be one on board the personal watercraft for the skier.

a. Factory installed or factory specified wide field rearview mirrors are allowed instead of an observer when pulling a skier or other device (tube, kneeboard, etc.) The mirrors must be specified by the personal watercraft manufacturer. After market mirrors, stick-on mirrors, motorcycle mirrors etc., do not qualify for the observer exemption.

5. If the machine is equipped by the manufacturer with a lanyard-type engine cutoff switch, it must be attached to the person, life jacket or clothing of the operator when underway.

6. You may not operate a personal watercraft if any part of the spring-loaded throttle system has been removed or tampered with so it interferes with the return-to-idle system.

7. You may not chase or harass wildlife.

8. You may not travel through emergent or floating vegetation at greater than slow – no wake speed.

9. You may not operate a personal watercraft in a manner that unreasonably or unnecessarily endangers life, limb or property.

10. You may not weave through congested watercraft traffic, or jump the wake of another watercraft within 150 feet of the other watercraft. This includes other personal watercraft.

11. A personal watercraft rules decal issued by the DNR needs to be on the craft in full view of the operator.

12. You may not operate a personal watercraft while facing backward.

It is unlawful for the owner of the personal watercraft to permit its operation in violation of age restrictions.

Selling and Renting Personal Watercraft

- Personal watercraft dealers are required to distribute a summary of the laws and rules governing personal watercraft. Upon request by a purchaser, they must provide instruction regarding laws governing personal watercraft, as well as safe operation of the craft.
- Rental operators must provide required safety equipment and a copy of the personal watercraft laws free of charge, as well as instruction on laws and operation of the craft.
- Both personal watercraft dealers and rental operations must keep a signature record of all persons who buy or rent personal watercraft. This record is to indicate that the buyer or renter has been provided with a copy of the personal watercraft laws and has read them. In addition, those persons less than 18 years of age must show their watercraft operator's permit before renting a personal watercraft, and the permit number must be recorded on the form by the rental agent. These forms are available from the DNR Boat & Water Safety Section, must be retained for at least six months, and must be available for inspection by DNR conservation officers or county sheriff's deputies during normal business hours.

Some of the General Watercraft Laws That Apply to Personal Watercraft

- All personal watercraft must display valid registration decals and registration (MN) numbers on the forward half of both sides of the craft.
- Your watercraft license card must be kept on board your craft when it's in use.

- All personal watercraft with enclosed engine or fuel compartments (almost all personal watercraft fall into one or the other category) must carry a fully charged, readily accessible, U.S. Coast Guard approved fire extinguisher.
- Personal watercraft may not exceed the maximum watercraft noise levels. Also, you may not modify any motorboat (including personal watercraft) in a way that amplifies or increases the noise it emits above watercraft noise limits. No person shall operate or sell a motorboat so modified.
- No person shall sell or offer for sale replacement or additional parts for a motorboat which when installed in the motorboat will amplify or increase the noise emitted above the noise limit. No person shall operate a motorboat incorporating such parts.
- It is unlawful to operate a personal watercraft while intoxicated.

Personal Watercraft Concerns

Unfortunately, along with the growth in the number of personal watercraft have come accidents and complaints from lakeshore residents, other boaters and water recreation enthusiasts.

Ride with Pride

Many water scooter accidents involve new and inexperienced riders who haven't received adequate training. If you or your family own a personal watercraft or are going to purchase one, be sure to ask the dealer to provide you with any safety information they may have for your craft. All machines are supplied with an owner's manual and many come equipped with a safety video. Be sure everyone who operates the machine (including friends and guests) watches the video and reads the safety information and knows all the special laws that regulate personal watercraft before they are allowed to operate the scooter.

Give it the Gas

Many accidents have occurred because the operators forgot (or never learned) that a water scooter will not turn unless you apply the throttle. There is no rudder, so the only way it will turn is if there is water spraying out the steering nozzle. This seems simple, but it's amazing how easy it can be to forget when you are hurtling towards some fixed object. A normal reaction might be to cut the power and then turn the handlebars. This can be a mistake! Remember, to make a turn, keep the throttle pressed as you move the handlebars.

Use Sound Judgment

Personal watercraft noise complaints are one of the most common types of calls received by water safety officials. Although the sound emitted by water scooters is generally less than the legal noise limit for motorboats, the way that some people operate their machines causes a great deal of concern among other people on the lake.

Some personal watercraft riders tend to run their machines for long periods of time in a relatively small area. Many of their neighbors find that having to listen to one or more water scooters buzzing around for several hours in front of their property is very disturbing. In fact, the problem became so severe on one Minnesota Lake; local authorities banned personal watercraft operation for more than 30 minutes in one area. Jumping personal watercraft out of the water causes an increase in noise levels which can also be irritating to people.

Be a Good Neighbor

It's not a bad idea to talk to your neighbors before you bring your new machine home. Tell them to feel free to let you know if the noise from the machine is disturbing them and that you'll try to not operate in the same area for a long period of time. If you're going to jump waves, you had best do it far enough out in the lake so the noise won't bother people trying to enjoy a day of quiet relaxation. You might also offer to take them for a ride too! It's amazing how understanding people become after they experience the fun of riding a water scooter.

Protect Your Riding Privileges

Water scooters can be safe and enjoyable as long as enthusiasts learn how to operate their machine carefully, become familiar with Minnesota's personal watercraft laws, and respect their neighbor's peace and quiet by moving around the lake rather than operating in just one small area. Personal watercraft riders will continue to be able to enjoy their sport without further regulation as long as they obey the laws and ride responsibly.



In Your Corner

Greetings. I am Jeff Forester, and it has been my honor to serve as the Minnesota Seasonal Recreational Property Owners, MSRPO's Executive Director since May 2003. I have a long association with MSRPO, and began serving on the Board of Directors in 1994, the year after MSRPO was formed.

I am a writer by training. My last book, Forest for the Trees, How Humans Shaped the Northwoods, was released last June, and it was with great pleasure that I read from this book at the 2005 Burntside Lake Association Meeting this August.

Doing the research for that book, I quickly came to the conclusion that in addition to logging, converting forest to farmland, and fire suppression, Minnesota's property tax code has had the most far-reaching impact on our environment. Our issue is an issue of fairness and equity, but there are critical environmental and ecological implications in taxing Minnesota's forestlands and lakeshore more aggressively than any other property type. The state often tries to force zoning and building regulations on lakeshore, but then taxes the land so high they force the sale and development of those critical lots. They spend hundreds of millions of dollars trying to improve water quality in the state, yet force the rapid development and redevelopment of our lakeshores. The DNR reports that one of the biggest sources of surface water contamination in the state is shoreline development.

The average size of a seasonal recreational parcel has shrunk in recent years from almost 80 acres to just under sixty. More than 80% of the cabin owners in the state do not want to sell their land. They did not buy it as an investment and would rather hold onto it for their families. Yet many of these are afraid they will not be able to stand against the outrageous tax and market pressures they face today. Better to provide incentive (more equitable taxation) and include seasonal property owners in the local process (i.e. no taxation without representation) so that people can preserve their land themselves rather than regulate the development as it occurs. This interest and realization led me to MSRPO more than ten years ago.

I believe that my role as Executive Director is first and foremost to serve you, (Seasonal Recreational Property Owners statewide) our members, and your interests. My biggest job is communication, and to that end I initiated our broadcast email system last year. This allows me to communicate with our members very quickly and inexpensively. It also provides members with a good opportunity to respond. By corresponding with the MSRPO membership I will get a better understanding of our member's needs and concerns, and be able to better represent them at the Legislature. I personally answer every letter or email I receive as quickly as I can. You can reach me at jeff@msrpo.org. If we do not have an email address for you, please send it along so that you can be more informed and involved in our work. With over six thousand members, electronic communication saves us tens of thousands of dollars a year in mailing costs, and allows us to get the word out about upcoming events in a matter of minutes rather than days. In addition, these emails usually contain links to news articles, government sites, on-line reports and web pages important to our members. The MSRPO web site is www.msrpo.org. It is a secure site, and you can join up online. Or call our office at 952-854-1317, and we can send out some more materials on our organization, our achievements thus far, future agendas, and activities. We need everyone who cares about the future of Minnesota's privately held forest and lakeshore land, to join us. (Almost half the forest land and lakeshore in the state is privately held, so we can have a huge impact on environmental quality.)

The best way to communicate is directly, face to face. Last summer I spoke at fifteen lake Association meetings, and got a good understanding of the issues lakeshore owners face in Minnesota. Members of our Board made presentations at a number of other local lake association meetings, and many of our members distributed literature at their groups. I encourage you to get involved. Please call if you would like me to make a presentation at your Lake Association meeting or other group. I value the opportunity.

Thanks again for the opportunity to speak at your annual meeting. I look forward to meeting you again soon.

Jeff Forester

Canadair CL-215

The Canadair CL-215 was the first aircraft ever designed specifically for Water Bombing. While the PBY Canso was modified from its role as a military submarine patrol aircraft, the CL-215 was created as an actual Water Bomber.

After departing the airport, the CL-215 crew of two heads directly for a suitable 'scooping' lake as close to the forest fire as possible. An inspection run is made on the lake to insure that it is of suitable length and has no obstructions which could hamper the safety of the aircraft and flight crew. The aircraft then touches down on the lake and 'scoops' 12000 lbs of water into the internal tanks within ten seconds. At this point the water pickup probes are retracted and the aircraft leaps into the air, heading towards the fire. The Air Attack Officer on board the birddog aircraft instructs the water bomber flight crew where and how to drop the load. He may ask that the crew inject a harmless soap-like solution into the water tanks through an onboard computer. This will give the water a foam-like consistency to help increase its holding time at the fire. As there are two water tanks onboard the aircraft, both loads of water may either be dropped together or separately as the fire conditions dictate.

With the ability to scoop in close proximity to the fire, the CL-215 is able to deliver an enormous amount of water within a very short time. This provides excellent Initial Attack and Sustained Action support for ground crews on the fire line.



Scooping 12,000 lbs. of water



Water Bombing Ripple Island



From the Treasurer's Desk...

From the BY-LAWS dated 9/10/76, the purpose of the BURNTSIDE PROPERTY OWNERS' ASSOCIATION is to "enhance, promote and protect the interest of property owners on Burntside Lake and the immediate watershed thereof." As a property owner, that's your interest! There is no political agenda. Wouldn't you like to join?

We send the newsletter to all property owners, members of the BPOA or not, with the hope that many more property owners will send in the \$12.00 dues. We are able to keep dues low because of the advertising in the newsletter. We encourage you to patronize the businesses that advertise here.

Please send your \$12.00 for 2006 dues along with the form below to: BPOA, P.O. Box 81, Ely, MN 55731.
Thank You



(Clip and Send) Send to: BPOA, P.O. Box 81, Ely, MN 55731

2006 Property Owner Dues and/or Address Change Notication

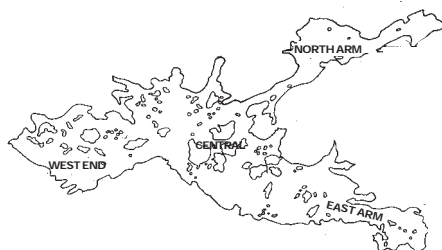
Name (Please Print): _____

Mailing Address (include only if changed): _____

Enclosed are 2006 Dues of \$12.00

Please note my change of address.

Please remove me from the mailing list.



Burntside Property Owners' Association
P.O. Box 81
Ely, MN 55731