

# FALL 2012 PORTAGE LAKE NEWSLETTER



## ANNUAL PORTAGE LAKE ASSOCIATION MEETING HELD JUNE 23, 2012

Thirty-seven adults and four kids attended the pot luck picnic meeting at the Jeanne Thayer residence. Association members always appreciate meeting at her residence with plenty of parking space and room for residents to gather during any type of weather. I wish to thank residents for bringing the food and beverages we all enjoyed. Also thanks to Linda Harless for printing our Portage Lake Directories that were distributed to residents who attended. Remaining directories were distributed by volunteers on each side of the lake or mailed to those living out of town. Before the meeting commenced, we paused to remember the residents who had died in the past year—June Skaar and Roger Clark. Since then, in August, two more residents have passed away—Denise Flynn and Carole Westra. I also learned that two Far Portage residents passed away, Arvid Dittbenner, sometime this past year and Wilfred Reimann, this November just a few days ago.

### Discussion Items During the Meeting

- 1. TIP (Turn in Poachers) number is printed inside the directory cover. (800-652-9093)**  
I'd like to add the number to reach an **available game warden in the Park Rapids area (218-828-2230)** as the number printed in the directory is actually for the Detroit Lakes area. Residents are encouraged to call these numbers with information regarding license numbers, make of vehicle, type of violation, if you observe ice fishermen taking more than their limit of fish or returning several times a day to take another limit.
- 2. Are regulation changes needed due to increased winter fishing pressure?**  
In an e-mail last spring (3/23/12) Area Fisheries Supervisor, Doug Kingsley stated, "Sampling results of the last few years suggest that higher winter fishing pressure is NOT having a negative effect on panfish population in Portage Lake, so I would have a hard time justifying a change in fishing regulations for Portage Lake at this time. We will be doing additional sampling this summer, and can evaluate results of that sampling and consider whether a regulation change might be necessary based on this."  
**Kingsley also described the process for changing regulations.** "If we think that there would be benefits of a regulation change and if we think it would be supported by a majority of the general public, we would have to write a proposal, done in late fall and the proposal would be reviewed at the Region (Bemidji) and St. Paul. If approved, signs would be posted at the lake the following spring to advise the public that we are considering a regulation change & public input meetings will be held that fall. We would advertise and hold public input meetings probably in Sept. Based on results of these meetings and any other public input by phone, e-mail, or in writing, we would make a recommendation whether to proceed with a regulation change. That would be reviewed at the Region and at St. Paul and the regulation change would either be approved or not. If approved, the regulation change would go into effect the following spring."
- 3. Getting a dock at the public access** was discussed at our 2011 meeting and members voted to try to obtain a dock. Hubbard County has a dock available taken from Heartland Park, but it needs an extension in order to be usable at a shallow lake situation. The county would maintain it, put it in in the spring, and pull it out in the fall. The dock would not be put in this summer due to paving of 210th St. and reconstruction and paving of the public access. A dock would be usable by swimmers, fishermen and several residents

who said it would be easier to launch if there were a dock at the access. Others said it would bring too many people to Portage. Bob Keezer made a motion, seconded by Nancy Welch, to rescind getting a dock. Voting by a show of hands, the motion was defeated —7 voted to rescind getting a dock, 20 voted against rescinding last year’s decision to try to obtain a dock.

After the vote, things got interesting when people started to ask who would be liable and if there would be liability insurance. Jerry Knoblich & I said that we’d investigate and determine who would be liable and **if it came down to the lake association being held liable, we would then NOT get the dock.**

**Update:** Jerry Knoblich and I went to talk with Greg Hensel, Hubbard County Parks Supervisor in July. Hensel asked for a legal opinion from Hubbard County Attorney, Don Dearstyne, without telling him that it was the Portage Lake Association that was inquiring if they would incur any liability when getting the dock. **NO, the association would not be held liable if a donation is made to the Hubbard County Parks & Recreation Fund.** The association “would not be buying a dock”—just making a donation (approximately \$300) with no ties to a dock being indicated on the memo line. Hubbard County does carry liability insurance covering this sort of thing.

**4. Checking Account Financial Report for Portage Lake Association (July 1,2011-June 1, 2012)**

**Balance as of July 1,2011** \_\_\_\_\_ \$1883.46

**Income:**

Membership Dues \_\_\_\_\_ \$1142.50  
 Total Income \_\_\_\_\_ \$1142.50

**Expenses:**

\* Annual Meeting \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 54.07  
 \* Marilyn Peterson reimbursement  
 For PLA misc. expenses \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 44.74  
 \* Lake water monitoring 2012 \_\_\_\_\_ \$175.00  
 \*COLA membership dues for  
 Sept. 2011-Aug. 2012 \_\_\_\_\_ \$368.00  
 \*Memorials, get well cards, flowers  
 for Portage L. Assoc. members \_\_\_\_\_ \$175.65  
 \* Newsletter/Directory printing  
 & postage \_\_\_\_\_ \$149.80  
 \* Freshwater Festival (2012) \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 50.00  
 \*Repair of public access  
 box \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 15.04

**Total Expenses** \_\_\_\_\_ \$1032.30

**Checking account balance as of June 1, 2012** \_\_\_\_\_ \$1993.66

Jerry Knoblich—6/23/2012

## 5. Curly leaf pondweed (CLP)

On 5/16/12, 52.5 acres of CLP were treated with Aquathol in open water & small areas down to .1 acre in size @ the rate of \$285/acre, totaling \$14,962.50. On 6/25/12, spot treatment of 1.4865 acres of CLP in near shore areas, around homeowner's docks and boat-lifts, within 100' from shore was done @ the rate of \$285/acre for a total of \$423.65. The pre-treatment delineation or survey done by PLM Lake & Land Management to determine how much CLP was in Portage waters cost \$400. The DNR native weed treatment permits needed for treatment at the later date, cost a total of \$750. \$750 is the maximum permit charge per lake—otherwise a native weed treatment permit costs \$35 each. 34 native weed treatment permits were issued, including both those who paid to have their frontages treated for native weeds, and for people needing only spot CLP treatment. These permits would have cost a total of \$1190, saving residents \$440. In past years, later spot treatment of near shore CLP, using an herbicide containing diquat dibromide such as Tribune or Reward has been more effective. During the early cool water treatment, CLP may not have been up yet near shore or some CLP might have escaped treatment. However, treating later requires homeowners to get native weed treatment permits as the native weeds are up.

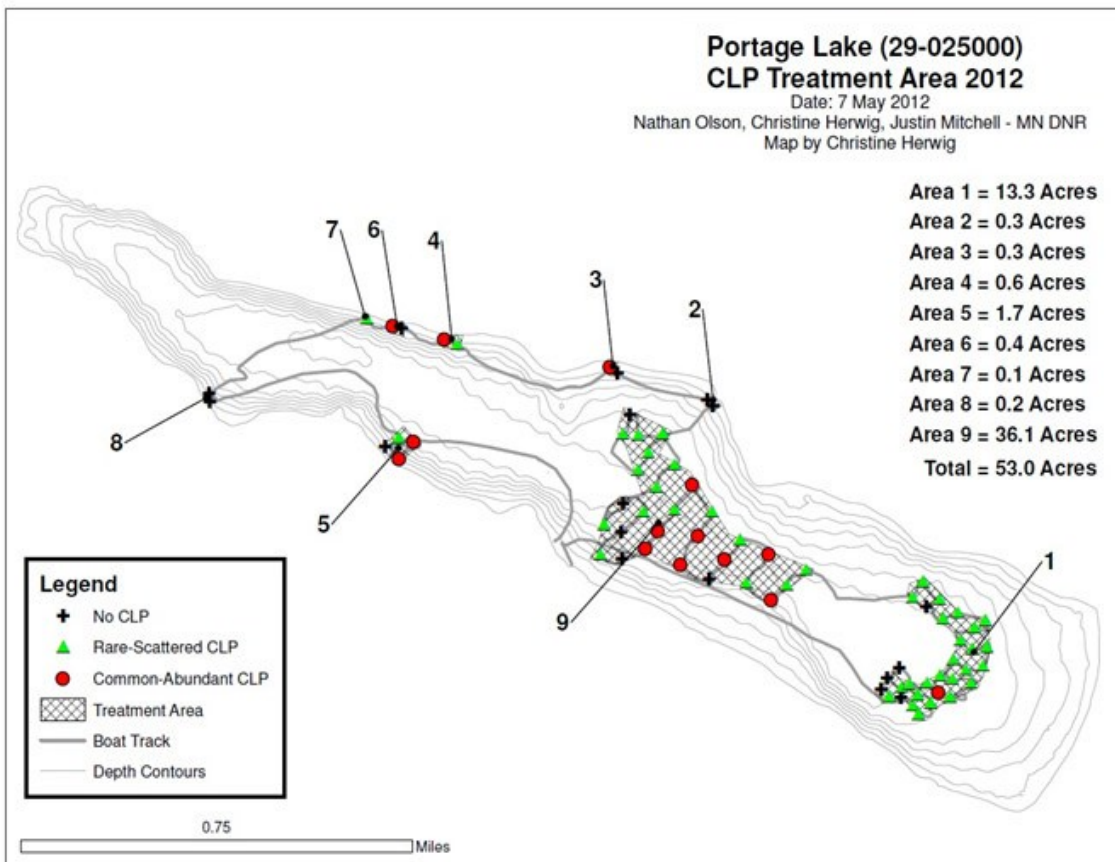
**This year the Portage Lake Association was fortunate to receive a grant from the DNR reimbursing \$150 per treated acre for the early treatment done @55-60F in open water and this amounted to \$7,875.**

\$14,962.50— treatment of 52.5 acres CLP in open water & small areas down to .1 acre size  
 423.65—near shore spot treatment of CLP (1.4865 acres)  
 400.00—Pre-treatment Delineation  
 750.00—DNR native weed treatment permits-(issued all together to the lake assoc.)

\$16,536.15— Total cost of 2012 CLP treatment

—7,875.00—Grant amount (reimbursing @ \$150/acre X 52.5 treated acres of CLP)

\$ 8,661.15— Total amount the Portage Lake Association paid for 2012 CLP control



### Small area homeowners

- Area 2: J. Bushy
- Area 3: Rose Johnson
- Area 4: S. Totushek & S.Huss
- Area 5: J. Westra & Dennis L. Anderson
- Area 6: C. Allison & Sonja Anderson
- Area 7: C. Wettlaufer & W. Reimann
- Area 8: S. Foster

**CONTRIBUTIONS FOR 2012 CURLY LEAF PONDWEED TREATMENT IN PORTAGE LAKE**

For 2012, the suggested contribution amount was \$50 , and **71 Portage residents contributed a total of \$4,235**. The CLP savings account started out with \$9,207 in Jan. 2012 so the association had \$13,442 to work with. THANK YOU everyone, for making the treatment possible! **The lake association was able to treat all the curly leaf because the association received a \$7,875 reimbursement grant from the DNR (DNR reimbursed @ \$150/treated acre) covering almost half the treatment cost.** Currently there is only \$4,781 in the savings account allocated towards the 2013 CLP treatment. Patrick Selter of PLM Lake & Land Management said plan to treat 52.5 acres again so expect to make a larger donation in 2013 between \$100 & \$200. Receiving a grant is not for sure either. This past spring, the CLP savings account still had money allocated for the 2011 treatment that did not take place. No open water treatment was allowed in 2011 since CLP came up later, at the same time as the native weeds so treatment would kill too many natives. However, **the amount of CLP doubled in one year without treatment.** I have no idea how much CLP will come up in 2013, and we won't know till a delineation or survey is done in early May to determine how many acres of CLP are present.

1. Darrel & Sonja Adams.....	\$35	37. Jerry & Joanne Knoblich .....	\$50
2. Kevin, Amy, & Carol Allin.....	\$100	38. Kent & Darcy Kollodge.....	\$85
3. Chuck & Carol Allison.....	\$50	39. Alan Kriz & MJ Lentsch .....	\$50
4. Dennis L. Anderson.....	\$42.50	40. Richard & Bev Kvamme .....	\$50
5. Fred & Charisse Atton.....	\$50	41. Mark & Kathy Loomis.....	\$50
6. Beth Baker-Knuttila.....	\$50	42. Rick & Susan Ludwig .....	\$50
7. Ron & Gloria Blesi.....	\$50	43. Tom & Joanne Mercil .....	\$50
8. Richard & Elizabeth Bonham.....	\$50	44. Ron & Donna Mohr .....	\$100
9. Jack & Tricia Brann.....	\$50	45. Roy & Colleen Mueller .....	\$50
10. Terry & Mary Buell.....	\$50	46. Tom & Joan Musil .....	\$50
11. Joe & Carol Bushy.....	\$50	47. Dennis & Carmen Nielsen .....	\$50
12. Jim & Gail Chisholm .....	\$50	48. Mike & Diane Olson .....	\$85
13. Chet & Bonnie Clark.....	\$50	49. Paul & Marilyn Peterson .....	\$60
14. Patti Clark.....	\$100	50. Charlie & Connie Pieper.....	\$50
15. Geff & June Cooper, Lon & Linda Johnson.....	\$100	51. Donald & Karen Poirot .....	\$50
16. Mike & Cathy Davis.....	\$50	52. Greg & Camille Remus .....	\$50
17. Don & Marie Dearstyne .....	\$100	53. Mike & Kim Schackman .....	\$120
18. Susan Erickson .....	\$100	54. Don & Clarice Schieck .....	\$50
19. Larry & Julie Fleisher .....	\$50	55. Frank & Ann Schneider .....	\$50
20. Brian & Denise Flynn.....	\$50	56. Mike & Jan Simon .....	\$50
21. Steve & Hathy Foster .....	\$50	57. Ken & Lisa Smith .....	\$50
22. Ed & Marilyn Gilman .....	\$50	58. Bev Steenson .....	\$50
23. Scott, Amy, Todd & Jen Gohman .....	\$50	59. Tom & Judy Stennes .....	\$50
24. Mel & Candy Gulsvig .....	\$100	60. Jeanne Thayer .....	\$50
25. Martin & Sandy Gyllander .....	\$85	61. Bob & Jane Tolbert .....	\$50
26. Charles & Rebecca Hanisch .....	\$50	62. Scott & Kathy Totushek .....	\$100
27. Lloyd & Linda Harless .....	\$50	63. Tom & Tami Turnquist .....	\$50
28. Mike & Cleo Hartung .....	\$50	64. Don & Linda Van Gorkom .....	\$85
29. Rich & Georgia Hetland .....	\$50	65. Linda Ware .....	\$50
30. Steve & Laura Huss .....	\$50	66. Nancy Welch .....	\$50
31. Jim & Helen Johnson .....	\$77.50	67. Don, Jeanne & David Wermager .....	\$50
32. Rosemary Johnson & Pat Crowell .....	\$50	68. Jim & Carole Westra .....	\$50
33. Steve Jones .....	\$100	69. Carl & Helen Wettlaufer .....	\$60
34. Larry & Ruth Jurgensen.....	\$50	70. Roger & Sharon Winter .....	\$50
35. Bob & Helen Keezer .....	\$50	71. Rick & Audrey Zeller .....	\$50
36. Ken & Sue Keller .....	\$50		

6. **Zebra Mussel Monitoring:** Lake associations could sign up for training to gather water samples using a special net to gather zebra mussel veligers (microscopic young). Training session plus the net costs \$400, plus \$90 for lab analysis of each sample. Some of the bigger lakes such as Potato and Big Mantrap are doing this. Tom Stennes suggested that Portage L. wait and see how this goes for other lakes and after discussion, the membership present agreed by taking a voice vote approving that we wait—especially because of the cost. However, 5 cinder blocks have been suspended from docks at several locations around the lake to observe if adult zebra mussels appear on them. I have one, as do Allison, Knoblich, Kriz, and Kellers. Of course, zebra mussels can easily attach to dock and boatlift posts as well and would be visible on these.

#### 7. **Children's Freshwater Festival held in May:**

The Portage Lake Association contributes \$50 towards this festival every year and someone questioned what this was. Over 270 6th graders from Hubbard County schools in surrounding towns are bussed to Camp Wilderness for one day in order to participate in a learning opportunity concerning many water issues and to attend several presentations by experts in their fields. Activities are coordinated by the Hubbard County SWCD and many volunteers from area lake associations. The kids and volunteers enjoy it as many of the presenters mix in a bit of humor, but donations are needed for lunch, refreshments and supplies.

8. **Watercraft Inspections at the Public Access by Volunteers:** Inspect for vegetation, water in the boat, any invasive species on trailers & boats, boat plugs out, no lake water in bait buckets or livewells when leaving etc. **Volunteers cannot deny launch due to noncompliance as Inspector Level 1 (who are paid) can, but volunteers can call the sheriff or game warden. Level 1 inspectors have taken a more intensive course –7 or 8 hours of training.**

**Portage needs more volunteers to sign up for the classes to become volunteer watercraft inspectors.** So far, Tom Stennes and Lynda Rogers have attended the 3 hour class to become certified volunteer watercraft inspectors in 2012 and have the certificate. Mike & Diane Olson and I took the course in 2011 but it is recommended we take it again due to law changes and now one gets a certificate. We need volunteers (several pairs) to step up and take the course (it's free) next year when it is offered. It is better to have 2 volunteers down there at a time and no woman should do this alone in this secluded area. **If you are interested in donating some hours of boat inspecting in order to protect your lake, let me know so when the time and location of the classes are announced next year, I can contact you.** Many lakes use only certified volunteer watercraft inspectors, but some of the bigger lakes who can afford it, hire Level 1 inspectors @ \$15/hr., 8 hours a day, several days a week!

9. **Restore the shore:** Jerry Knoblich handed out order forms for ordering young tree and shrub seedlings, to be ordered in multiples of 5, with delivery in early May. If you didn't already order, perhaps you may be able to obtain an order blank from the SWCD office.

10. **Discussion concerning the paving of the public access road(210th St.) and the access:** I understand that some people were upset about losing several of the beautiful, big trees along the road or not pleased with the arrangement of the planned parking area. However, residents who are property owners living along 210th St. have wanted the road tarred for many years, but the cost was pretty high. Don Dearstyne, Hubbard County Attorney, who is a resident living along 210th St., started pursuing a DNR grant in 2010. DNR grant funds were available to improve and pave township roads leading to public accesses but also required the public access be improved and updated with sufficient parking area. **Applying for the grant was discussed during both the 2010 and 2011 lake association meetings. UPDATE: The initial grant was for \$250,000, but over two years time, costs rose, so an additional \$120,000 was requested by the engineers and received. Agreement was reached between Todd township, the DNR, and individual property owners. Road construction began after July 4; the road and access were tarred on Sept. 10 –11, with shoulders, painting parking spaces, center and fog lines on the road, signage, culverts, seeding the ditches etc. completed by Oct. 1.**

11. **DOORPRIZE DRAWINGS:** Portage L. T-shirts: Tom Mercil & Rick Ludwig; Picture frame: Joanne Mercil; Coasters: Chuck Allison; Flag: Gary Schnieder; Basket of Mary Kay products: Carol Allison; Candle holder: Joanne Knoblich; Loon Call: Doug Kummer; Can Cooler: Paul Peterson; No Bite-Me: Linda Johnson; Aloe Vera Plants: Alan Kriz, Ben Drabant, & Lynda Rogers

## UPDATED PORTAGE LAKE PUBLIC ACCESS

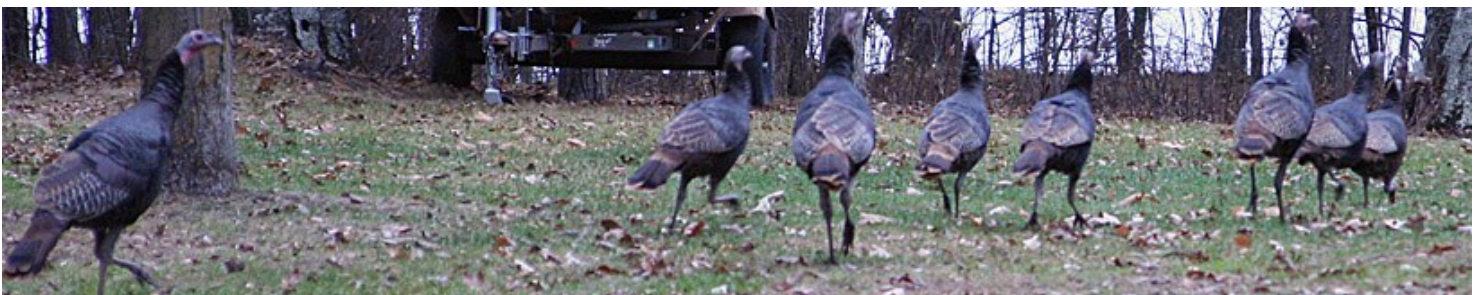


8 parking places in the center of the circle drive

5 parking places on the upward slope to the south, making a total of 13 parking spaces for vehicles with trailers



210th St. , looking to the west—up the Thayer hill, with Fisherman's Drive to the left and the driveway to the Stennes estate to the right



When I went to the public access to take pictures, eight wild turkeys were on 210th St. where it starts to curve to the right. After getting my camera out of the bag and stepping out of the car, the turkeys scurried away into the Stennes driveway.

## RECENT UPDATES

### WOMEN'S LUNCH AT SUMMERHILL FARM

Thirteen Portage Lake women met for lunch at 11:30 on July 11 at Summerhill Farm. I treated Jeanne Thayer to lunch as a thank you for hosting our annual meeting in June. Each woman introduced herself by telling where each lived on the lake, for how long, if they were retired or not. Three relatively new residents attended, Joanne Mercil, Linda Johnson and June Cooper. It was interesting to learn that Linda Johnson and June Cooper are sisters, who along with their husbands, purchased the Rossman home on the south side of the lake.

### CARDS OF THANKS

Thank you cards have been received from the families of June Skaar, Roger Clark, Denise Flynn, and Carole Westra who passed away this year. The lake association sent memorials to each of the families of these Portage residents. Jeanne Thayer also sent a thank you for her lunch at Summerhill Farm.

### TODD TOWNSHIP MEETING: OCT. 9, 2012

Jerry Knoblich, Lynda Rogers, & I, plus four representatives from Fish Hook Lake and Ken Grob attended this meeting. Fish Hook L. Assoc. allocated \$2,000, from contributions, to be used for paid watercraft inspectors in 2013 and requested a match from Todd township. A township cannot donate directly to a lake association but can donate to a local government unit (LGU) which in this case would be the Hubbard County SWCD (soil & water conservation district). Fish Hook Lake & Portage Lake are the only 2 lakes in Todd township and Portage is part of the Fish Hook chain and watershed. **Jerry Knoblich said the Portage Lake Assoc. could afford to put up \$500 and ask for a match of \$500 at the same time as Fish Hook was making a request from Todd township. This lets Fish Hook residents know that Portage residents realize the problem if Portage got zebra mussels, Fish Hook would be next in line.** Paid watercraft inspectors (level 1) would be paid \$15/hr and hired by the SWCD. \$500 would pay for 33 hrs., \$1,000 would pay for 66 hrs. Several other townships have contributed funds to be used for paid watercraft inspectors in the past couple of years. Portage could afford to try a few paid inspector hours for a year. Ken Grob spoke up, supporting both Fish Hook and Portage requests for matching funds. The township officials at least listened and will hold a financial planning meeting on Nov. 13. I don't know if they will reach a decision by then or not. In the meantime, **I'm hoping some Portage residents sign up to take the 3 hour volunteer watercraft inspector course offered in the spring, in order to volunteer some hours of watercraft inspection next summer. Portage residents are also urged to send in donations to the lake association in order to fund some hours of paid watercraft inspection if they don't care to volunteer their time.**

**Lynda Rogers requested that calcium chloride be applied to Finch and Fisher Drive but that was denied.** Conditions are too dry I guess and they'd spent a lot on gravel this year.

**I informed the township board that the Portage Public Access needs a toilet facility.** Ice fishermen have been defecating on the ice and on land at the access, as well, making a mess for volunteers to clean up. I always thought the access was a county access, but Greg Hensel, Hubbard County Parks & Recreation Supervisor, informed me that the Portage access is a township access. The public access used to have an out-house, but it was removed by the township a few years ago because it had been vandalized, was in bad shape, and was located so close to the lake and to the wetland to the south that it did not meet current requirements. The township board didn't promise anything, but at least now they are aware of the problem and that residents would appreciate a rest room facility.

### TRASH PICK UP AT THE PUBLIC ACCESS

Just a reminder to residents that starting in November, till next May, Hubbard County workers will no longer be emptying the garbage can at the public access. So, any time you're at the public access, please pick up any litter you might see and put it in the garbage can.

It seems that from ice on, usually in late November or early December, the trash starts to pile up. I hope residents who volunteered last year: A. Kriz, R. Blesi, J. Knoblich, C. Pieper, Fleishers, L. Rogers, and G. & C. Remus can continue to monitor the access again this year. Call each other and work out some sort of schedule. Discuss and plan who can cover you if you go on vacation. Please check each side of the road down to the water. This is where many people throw their trash, especially the plastic minnow bags, cans, and bottles. The garbage can may not need emptying every time, but if you need more bags, please call Jerry Knoblich or me. Let's work to keep the updated access neat and clean. Your volunteering is appreciated. THANK YOU!

## 2012 PORTAGE LAKE FISH SAMPLING RESULTS by Doug Kingsley 10/23/2012 e-mail

Black crappie abundance in this summer's sampling declined somewhat since last summer, but crappie abundance has been declining since 2009. That may just be a natural fluctuation. **There is NO negative relationship between crappie abundance and number of fish houses during the preceding winter. Bluegill abundance increased remarkably and was the highest we've ever seen at Portage Lake. There actually appears to be a positive relationship between bluegill abundance and the number of fish houses the winter before.**

There were too few crappie sampled this summer to accurately estimate size structure indices. **Based on previous years' sampling, there was NO negative relationship between sizes of crappie and the number of fish houses the previous winter. In fact, there seemed to be a positive relationship.**

**The large increase in bluegill abundance was mostly due to very high numbers of fish less than 6 inches. As a result, proportions of bluegill larger than 6 to 8 inches declined substantially. There seemed to be a weak negative relationship between the proportion of bluegill larger than 8 inches and the number of fish houses the previous winter, but there was no relationship between the proportion of the bluegill larger than 6 inches and the number of fish houses the winter before. And, there seemed to be positive relationships between the abundance of bluegill larger than 6 or 8 inches and the number of fish houses the preceding winter.**

In summary, **I can't find any negative effects on panfish populations in Portage Lake that might be linked to higher winter fishing pressure in recent years, so I cannot justify a change in regulations.** As you suggested in your previous e-mail, it is good to encourage residents to give a conservation officer or the TIP line a call if they know of someone violating. "

In an additional e-mail (11/5/12) Kingsley said, " There could be other factors in the decline of crappie abundance other than fishing pressure—like water quality, temperature, habitat, or competition/predation with other fish having an effect. For example, statewide we have seen a negative relationship between walleye abundance and crappie abundance. When walleyes increase, crappies declined and vice versa. We haven't used gill nets in Portage the last three years so don't have walleye abundance info for those years, but **there was a negative relationship between walleye abundance and crappie abundance in previous samples of Portage.**"

### MEMBERSHIP

Currently, 87 residents are members of the Portage Lake Association, out of approximately 112 lakeside parcels. I may have missed a few parcels, but there are probably not more than 120 and several do not have buildings. I did not count people living across the road from the lake if they did not own lakeshore, but these people as well as all new Portage residents are very welcome to join. I think the Portage Lake Association membership is doing pretty well, considering that the Fish Hook Lake Association has 82 members out of 320 parcels. If you'd like to join and keep informed about lake issues, please write your check out to the Portage Lake Assoc. for either: \$15 membership dues for a couple or multi-party ownership, or \$7.50 dues for a single person. Please send your check to: Marilyn Peterson, 12651 Far Portage Dr., Park Rapids, MN 56470.

### NEW PORTAGE LAKE RESIDENTS

1. **Trent & Rebecca Amundsen** who reside in Fargo, ND, bought the Bruckelmyer home on Forest Park Drive on the south side of the lake last winter. Trent is a fire fighter in Moorhead and Rebecca is an administrator at Concordia College. They have two kids, Kelsey (14) and Reese (8) and a puppy named Cooper. They are all enjoying time at the lake as often as they can throughout the year. Trent's hobbies include snowmobiling, fishing, and taking the kids tubing as well as DIY projects around the house and yard. Rebecca's hobbies include outdoor activities in the summer and quilting or scrapbooking in the winter. The kids are looking forward to bringing their friends for lake time and camp fires.
2. **Tom & Joanne Mercil** purchased the Gulsvig home on Forest Park Drive on the south side of the lake over a year and a half ago, but made it their permanent residence in April 2012. Both Tom & Joanne are retired from the Monticello, MN school district where Tom was a custodian and Joanne taught special education. Together, the two put in almost 50 years of service at the Monticello schools, Joanne retiring most recently on Oct. 1. They enjoy living in the beautiful Park Rapids area and their interests are fishing, four wheeling, reading and traveling. They hope to do more cross country skiing and snowshoeing this winter if there is more snow., and Joanne may try some creative writing. They have two grown children and three granddaughters.

3. **Rick & Susie Ludwig** bought the Galloway property, next to Highway 71, at the east end of Far Portage Dr. almost two years ago. They have lived in the Fargo/West Fargo area most of their 30 years together with two year commitments in LaBaule, France and Sioux City, Iowa. They spent over 20 years camping at Vagabond Village on Potato Lake so they knew they wanted to be in this area when they retired. Rick has been employed at Cargill for over 30 years and Susie is semi-retired, working at Rae-Bon Quilt and Sewing Center in Fargo a couple days a week. They are blessed with three children, Joshua (34) married to Molly and their first grandchild Ella Sophia reside in St. Louis Park, MN. Son Jared is 27 and recently relocated from Duluth to Fargo. Daughter Jenna is 26 and lives in Boulder, Colorado. Rick loves to hunt and fish and looks forward to restoring/building some old cars/hot rods in his retirement. Susie enjoys entertaining, quilting, gardening, and making greeting cards.
4. **Eric & Char Pueppke** (pronounced pep-key) bought the Bliss home on Far Portage Drive. They live and farm 40 miles west of Fargo at Amenia, ND and are at Portage Lake as often as possible. They have two grown sons, Christopher and Matthew. Christopher is currently in MI taking mechanical engineering masters classes and works for Chrysler. Matthew is in school at NDSU and intends to farm. They grow wheat, soybeans and corn on the farm Eric grew up on, and he now farms with his dad and brother, though his dad is mostly retired. When not farming, Eric spends time as a coach trainer and assistant National Coach for USA Shooting, working with Olympic style competition pistol. Char works as a part-time relief Post-master and her hobbies include quilting, gardening, scrapbooking and genealogy.
5. **Donna & Jon Nestoss** recently retired and moved here in August, from Bismarck, ND after they purchased the Elders home on Far Portage Drive, located between Bev Steenson and Mike & Diane Olson. Jon was a civil engineer for the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and Donna was a second grade teacher. They have two grown sons. Erik is married to Sarah and has two children. He works as a chemical engineer in San Diego. Pete, engaged to Staci, is a mechanical engineer for Bobcat Manufacturing and lives in Gwinner, ND. Now that they're retired, they hope to find time for lots of old and new hobbies. Jon enjoys woodworking, golfing, and working in the yard. Donna likes quilting, music, art, and gardening. They are enjoying the beauty of the surroundings and Portage Lake and will be year round residents.

#### WATER QUALITY MONITORING

Since 1997 Jerry Knoblich, my husband Paul, and I have taken Portage Lake water samples once a month, May through September for analysis at RMB Lab in Detroit Lakes. Each time we also take a secchi disk reading by recording the depth at which we can just barely see a white disk we lower down into the water, indicating clarity. The samples are analyzed for the amount of phosphorus and chlorophyll-a (green pigment)—indicating the presence of algae. These three parameters are interrelated as the phosphorus and chlorophyll-a increase, the secchi disk reading decreases. **Phosphorus is the “cause” parameter while the chlorophyll-a and secchi depth are the “effect” parameters.** When the total phosphorus (TP) increases, there is more food available for the algae so the algae concentration increases. This year dense plant growth locked in the nutrients so there was less algae. However, when the plants die, nutrients are released back into the water.

**A special formula is used to calculate a TSI or Trophic State Index for each parameter. The overall TSI of a lake is defined as the lake’s condition taking into account all 3 parameters— the average of the TSI for phosphorus, TSI for chlorophyll-a, and the TSI for secchi depth.** A minimum of 8– 10 years of data with 4 or more readings per season are necessary to determine a long-term trend. **Portage has always been in the Eutrophic state with a mean Trophic State Index (TSI) of 57.6 from 1997-2012.** However, **the good news is that total phosphorus and chlorophyll-a have been decreasing, increasing the secchi depth, therefore decreasing the Annual Summer Mean TSI Average for 2012 down to 47.2 —first time ever in the mesotrophic state.** Some lakes may be naturally eutrophic having a TSI of 50 or greater for the last hundred years, but there may not be any data to back this up. Perhaps this could be true for Portage as it used to be more of a swamp before Highway 71 and the dam were constructed. Some lakes have probably increased TSI as a result of human activities.

Date	TPug/L	ChlA-ug/L	Secchi ft	TSI Phos.	TSI ChlA	TSI Secchi ft.	TSI Avg
5/20/2012	25	3	9	51	41	45	46
5/20/2012	23	2	9	49	37	45	44
6/17/2012	22	3	12.5	49	41	41	44
7/15/2012	36	3	11	56	41	43	47
8/18/2012	27	8	9.5	52	51	45	49
9/16/2012	31	13	7	54	56	49	53
<b>Annual</b>							
<b>Summer Mean</b>	<b>27.3</b>	<b>5.3</b>	<b>9.7</b>	<b>51.8</b>	<b>44.5</b>	<b>44.7</b>	<b>47.2</b>

**Eutrophic lakes:** have a TSI of 50—60, chlorophyll-a between 7.3-20; total phosphorus 24-48; and a secchi depth of 3.3-6.6 ft. Warm water fisheries like bass predominate. There may be “green” water most of the year with high density of aquatic plants and algae.

**Mesotrophic lakes:** have a TSI of 40-50; chlorophyll-a of 2.6-7.3; total phosphorus 12-24; and a secchi depth of 6.6—13.1 ft. The water is moderately clear most of the summer but may be greener in late summer. Wall-eye may predominate the fishery.

**Oligotrophic lakes** have a TSI of usually less than 30 but may be 30-40; chlorophyll-a usually less than .95, up to 2.6; total phosphorus usually less than 6, up to 12; secchi depth 13.1- 26.2 ft. or greater. The water is clear, deep and cold, well oxygenated throughout the year at the lake bottom. Trout fisheries predominate.

**In 2012 the Portage summer mean TSI was 47.2— in the high range of the mesotrophic state.** Why? All secchi depths were greater than 3.3 ft. so Portage had better clarity this year than usual. 3 feet of clarity or less used to be common in August and September. **Both the summer mean TSI for chlorophyll-a and the summer mean TSI for secchi depth were below 50. Only the phosphorus summer mean TSI was slightly above 50 as it was 51.8. September was the only month with an average TSI above 50 as it was 53.**

### AQUATIC WEED IDENTIFICATION

Probably some of the newer residents are wondering what **curly leaf pondweed (CLP)** looks like. CLP is the invasive specie that has come to Portage Lake and we’ve spent over \$90,000 to manage and control it since 2002. Once it gets in a lake, it can never be eradicated, just controlled to minimize the problems it causes. Curly leaf is usually the first aquatic plant to emerge in the spring or even emerge through ice fishing holes. It causes problems both near shore and out in the middle, forming surface mats, hampering navigation, swimming and fishing.

During the summer of 2012 a native plant, **Elodea** flourished out in the middle of the lake as well as near shore, having very small, dark green leaves in whorls of 3 or 4 leaves surrounding the stem. It was the weed that grew several feet of long branching strands that were brought up clinging to anchors, particularly after the curly leaf pondweed died off. (See pictures of Elodea and Wild Celery on p. 11.)

**Wild celery**, another native weed, grew very densely near shore in late July through September. It has long green or reddish green ribbon like leaves, with a coiled stalk bearing a white flower coming to the surface, eventually forming a long, slender seed pod containing hundreds of seeds. The swans and waterfowl love to eat its seedpods and the tuberous roots, but its long leaves and flower stalks can wind around boat motors.



Curly leaf pondweed (CLP) as it appears in the water



Close up view of curly leaf pondweed showing the rippled, toothed leaves, alternately arranged around the stem



**Turions**-hard green or brown pine cone like reproductive structures of curly leaf pondweed which germinate into new plants



Elodea



**Wild celery plants**

Photos showing the long ribbon like leaves, coiled flower stalks, and the seed pods that form after flowering.

Visit the Portage Lake Association website at: [www.peteport.com/portage](http://www.peteport.com/portage) for more information on curly leaf pondweed, water monitoring etc.

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