

THE RIPPLES.....



June 2014

Eagle Lake Property Owners Improvement Assoc.

Don Hermes honored by ELPOIA

"This bench is dedicated to Don Hermes, in recognition of his tireless efforts to promote and improve Eagle Lake." 2014



Don Hermes, longtime ELPOIA and ELMD board member, was honored at a surprise ceremony on May 17th at the Zinnen Boat Launch site. Several of his many contributions to the lake include: Helped build a barge so ELPOIA could do spraying of weeds years ago, monitored the Dam flow and carp trying to get into the lake, monitored water clarity via Secchi Disk, organized the annual Fireworks and "Ring of Fire" displays since inception, organized the now annual

Boat Tie-up in the middle of the lake and organized the selling of flags for piers and boats.

Most recently, Don has been the supervisor of the harvester crew, spending countless hours on the lake each summer to make sure the harvester crew was doing their job. While a new person has been hired full-time to supervise the crew, you can bet that Don will continue to keep a close eye on the weed conditions and the harvesting operations.

We all owe Don a TREMENDOUS amount of thanks for his many years of hard work to make Eagle Lake a better place for all. Be sure to say "Thank you" when you see him. Or better yet, buy him a drink.

Many of Don's friends and neighbors turned out to surprise Don. Dover Town Chair Tom Lembcke also spoke at the ceremony. People needing to be thanked for their work on site preparation and bench installation are pictured at the top of the page and include: Mark Schmidt and Bill Umnus from the Town of Dover (they installed the cement footing for the bench, put together the bench and bolted it to the cement), Clay Mar-

quardt and Dan Amundsen for installing the pavers leading to the bench and Judy Amundsen for chairing the project.



Above, ELPOIA President Clay Marquardt (Left) and Vice-President Brian Younger (right) share a laugh with Don during the presentation ceremony.



Left, Don reflects on his years of service to Eagle Lake before leading the crowd in singing a song he composed for Eagle Lake. The song is sung to the tune of "God Bless America" and mentions all areas of the lake.

Ask Don to sing it for you!

Lake Conditions



It is just the beginning of June, but lake conditions are already less than ideal. The Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) and Curly-Leaf Pondweed have made a spectacular appearance and most shorelines are struggling with filamentous algae--a.k.a. "pea soup ala shoreline". The Eagle Lake Management District (ELMD) is very aware of these problems and is working hard to solve them.

The East Shore, which presents as the most in need of weed relief, has been sprayed for weeds. Several areas of the shoreline are being sprayed to reduce the filamentous algae (along North Shore Drive, the Condos and along Peninsula Drive and the southern part of Lakeshore Drive in the Manor.)

ELMD is looking at expanding the areas to be treated if it can find additional monies in their budget that might not be absolutely needed during the year. They already have doubled what they had planned to spend after discussions with lake residents at their Annual Meeting on May 24th.

Lake residents are able to individually spray their own shorelines **PROVIDING** that they obtain a permit from the DNR and use approved treatment products. They also are able to rake up weeds within a 30 foot wide path from the shoreline out beyond their piers. If they place their weed piles on the shore or on their piers, the harvesting crew will pick them up.

The harvesting crew will again be opening up boating lanes in front of piers around the lake (see map above). Boaters are asked to look for colored flags on designated piers around the lake and follow a straight path out to the corresponding buoys with flag markers. A path 30 feet wide will be cut on both sides of the buoys and the paths going around the lake. Boats should be able to get to the center of the lake without problems to enjoy skiing or swimming.

ELPOIA PROJECTS NEED HELP



Lake residents should have received a letter from the Eagle Lake Property Owners Improvement Association (ELPOIA) outlining the 2014 projects that will be beneficial to our community, the lake and the people who use the lake. Besides continuing projects such as our native plant demonstration project at the Zinnen Boat Launch, the purple loosestrife eradication project, the Clean Boats --Clean Waters project, Welcome New neighbor program, new construction monitoring program and the sale of flags for piers and boats, five new major projects are being developed. These projects need volunteer people power and financial resources.

THANK YOU to all who have sent in your 2014 voluntary dues payment. **MANY** around the lake contributed more than the \$15 minimum and this will help us to fund our projects. We still need the rest of you to help by sending in your dues money.

Pictured (left) is Jan White, Judi McNamara's sister (North Shore) volunteering at the Zinnen Demonstration Garden. We are looking for more volunteers for this project and our other projects this summer. If you can spare 2 hours this summer to help with lake improvement projects, please contact Judy Amundsen at (262) 878-2195 or jwamundsen@aol.com. Volunteering is a great way to improve our lake and also meet other people who live around the lake.

Clean Boats~~Clean Waters Program



ELPOIA and/or ELMD has been running some form of the CBCW program on Eagle Lake since 2004. For the past two years, both organizations have teamed up to make sure boats/other water crafts are not bringing aquatic invasives into/out of the lake. With the help of a DNR grant to fund the program, we now have a paid, trained staff inspecting boats/water crafts on weekends and holidays.

This program focuses on prevention as the key strategy for limiting the impacts of aquatic invasive species (AIS) by controlling the initial introduction and subsequent transfer from one water body to another. Perhaps if this program had been in place years ago, Eagle Lake would not be suffering from Eurasian Water Milfoil and Curly Leaf Pondweed! While we already have these invasives, we are helping to make sure our invasives are not being transported to other lakes. Likewise, we are trying to ensure that invasives presently not in our lake, i.e. Zebra Mussels and Quagga Mussels,

for example, are not going to be transported into our lake. Even though the majority of our lake residents do not put in/take our boats more than once a year, it is important that all of us carefully inspect our boats and piers for any evidence of Zebra Mussels. Please take the time to inspect your boat throughout the summer months for any evidence of this invasive. We do NOT want them in our lake.

DID YOU KNOW???????

--Eurasian Water-Milfoil can grow two inches per day and can fragment into hundreds of new plants within hours.

--The DNR is going to be stocking large fingerling walleyes (6-8") in Eagle Lake this summer.

--The Dover Town Hall is only open on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

--ELMD has purchased two GPS units to help the harvesting crew accurately cut the weeds.

--The annual Fireworks display will again be in the ELMD budget this year, as voted on by residents present at the Annual Meeting on May 24th. The fireworks will follow the Kansasville Hometown Picnic and Venetian Night on Saturday, August 23rd. Mark this event on your calendar now.

--ELPOIA is looking for interested volunteers to measure water clarity (using a Secchi Disk), and collect chemistry, temperature and dissolved oxygen data. Please contact us if you would like to be trained.



DNR Fisheries Biologist, Doug Welch, to retire.

Doug Welch (on the right), long-time DNR employee and friend of Eagle Lake, is retiring in September. Among other things, he has been instrumental in recommending needed fish kills to correct fish imbalances in the lake and has brought needed restocking of fish to our lake. He has bravely faced Eagle Lake residents at the annual ELMD and ELPOIA meetings to report on the status of our fisheries and our lake problems. His replacement, Luke Roffler (on the left), was introduced at the recent ELMD Annual Meeting. Doug handed out the reports from the 2013 fish surveys done for Eagle Lake. Interesting lake characteristics reported were: Acres -- 515; Shoreline miles -- 4.8; Maximum Depth -- 12 feet; Lake type -- Shallow Lowland Drainage; Fish species found -- brown bullhead, pumpkinseed, yellow perch, bluegill, largemouth bass, northern pike, green sunfish and yellow bullhead. We all wish you a great and relaxing retirement, Doug! Thanks for all your hard work!

PLEASE REMEMBER TO KEEP ELPOIA UPDATED WITH YOUR CURRENT HOME AND EMAIL ADDRESS. Send any changes to Secretary Judy Amundsen at jwamundsen@aol.com or 878-2195. :-)

ELMD BOARD MEMBERS



Current ELMD board members (from left) in back row: Tom Roanhouse, newly elected County Board Supervisor for our area and rep to the ELMD board, Don Hermes, Mario Denoto and Brian Younger. Front Row: Ed Furey, Chair, Donna Prochaacka, newly appointed administrative secretary/treasurer, and Tony Mirabelli. We will feature the ELPOIA board in the next issue. All of these volunteers deserve our thanks!

Guide to a Healthy Lake

Here are easy ways to keep your lake healthy:

Create a Buffer Strip at Water's Edge: Leaving a strip of natural vegetation at the water's edge pays huge benefits. This vegetation serves as an excellent natural filter for runoff from your property and serves as quality habitat for a variety of living creatures that are vital to a healthy natural environment.

Improve Privacy: Natural vegetation at water's edge increases privacy by helping to screen homes from boaters, anglers, water skiers, and jet skiers. Shoreland vegetation can also help reduce noise from boats and jet skis on the water.

Avoid Shoreline Erosion: Removing shoreland vegetation, i.e. clear cutting your lake bank, mowing right down to the water, can destabilize

OPENING DAY 2014



By 9:00 am on opening day, May 3rd, there were over 16 boat trailers parked at the Eagle Lake County Park Boat Launch and many more cars from people fishing the lakeshore and lagoon areas. Fisherman Bill Wendorf, Racine, says he likes to come out to Eagle Lake to fish because the fishing is good, the lake is shallow and it is easy to fish from the shore, and the atmosphere and park facilities are great.

shoreline and lead to loss of land. Shorelines must stand up to wind-driven waves, boat wakes, fluctuating water levels, moving ice, flooding and surface runoff erosion. A well-vegetated shoreline will help you keep land in place.

An Excuse to stop mowing: If you have lawn to the water's edge, a simple, no-cost way to start restoring your shoreland is to stop mowing next to the water. Seeds in the soil will germinate and valuable native plants will begin to appear.

Fallen Trees Create Baby Fish Nurseries: Trees that fall into the water create the perfect habitat for baby fish to feed and hide from predators, giving them the chance to grow up to be big fish. This twiggy underwater environment benefits many other species that are vital to the food chain both below and above the water.

Purple Loosestrife



By the end of June, the highly invasive purple loosestrife plant will be in full bloom and easy to spot. We are asking all lake residents to be on the lookout for PL and to report it to Marie Frederick (pictured above). She is in charge of identifying areas around that lake that are infested and rounding up a crew to help remove it. Call her at (262) 497-3270 or email her at frankie@wi.rr.com.

Shoreland property owners are strongly encouraged to leave fallen trees in the water.

Lawns and Lakes: There is a good chance that a portion of any chemicals you apply to your lawn will end up in the lake. This goes for fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides--all of which are damaging to a lake ecosystem. Vegetative buffer strips at the shoreline go a long way in stopping these chemicals from reaching the lake. If chemicals are used, they should not be applied with 40 feet of the waterline.

Healthy Lakes = Higher Property Values: Remember, properties on healthy lakes with good water quality command significantly higher property prices. What you and your neighbors do to sustain or improve lake health will improve resale potential. *Information taken from "Lake Property Owners' Guide to a Healthy Lake" published by the Crescent, Julia, and Squash Lake Associations.*