

VERGAS LONG LAKE ASSOCIATION SPRING 2003 NEWSLETTER

I have yet to observe any Forest Tent Caterpillars this spring, nor have there been any reported from other areas of the lake. We have no plan to spray, but could make an attempt if needed.

The first water testing date is May 18th. I expect, due to minimum spring run-off, our readings should be better than normal. Spring run-off is a major source of added phosphorus to the lake. (There is enough phosphorus in one box of Cascade dishwashing detergent to grow 500 lbs. of algae). That statistic, from the MN Pollution Control Agency, gives you an idea of how sensitive our lakes are. Last year's testing results did not trend for either better or worse. We can discuss any questions at our summer picnic meeting.

The state and the county are looking at ways to protect our lakes. The state restricted phosphorus levels to 3% or less in lawn fertilizer. Minnesota soil already has adequate phosphate needed for healthy lawns. (Make sure the middle number on your fertilizer bag is 3 or less). Both the state and county are looking at full disclosure of septic systems before a property title transfer. Non-compliance septic systems are a major phosphorus contributor to our lake. Long Lake is still scheduled for a septic system survey this summer according to last year's plan.

Put the date of Wednesday, June 25, on your calendar. A Hazardous Waste Collection is scheduled for Vergas. Watch your local paper for time and place.

Our picnic meeting will be Saturday, July 12, at 5 P.M. It will be at the Vergas Park next to the Loon. Bring your own lawn chairs. Mary Montgomery and Joan Bohlig are planning the menu. This year the food will be purchased from the Association treasury. Soft drinks will be provided, also. These ladies asked for people to bring a form of desert to share while we socialize. Remember, we expect you to be a paid member of the Association to participate. We will collect your dues there if you have not already mailed them in.

We are planning to have nitrate water testing available at the picnic meeting. Mr. Donald Sircek, Ag Chemical Advisor, should be available to accomplish this. Take your sample ahead of your softener, if you have one. If you have a reverse osmosis system, take a sample from that, also. You can use a new zip-lock bag that will hold about one cup of water. Your results will be available while you wait.

Jerry Bennett has been our representative to the Interlake Watershed Task Force. The goal is to develop a Lake Management Plan in conjunction with our chain of lakes. Hope he can be available to provide us an update on that.

At our business meeting last summer there was a discussion about our Association planting walleye. Rick Lewis gave me a DNR report off the Internet on how many fish were stocked in Long Lake:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Number</u>
1997	Walleye	Fry	530,000
1998	Walleye	Fingerling	5,415
2000	Walleye	Fingerling	11,998
2000	Walleye	Adult	32

The report goes on to say that the DNR will stock walleye fingerlings on a biennial basis, to supplement natural reproduction. They say that other fish species present in the lake are able to sustain their levels without stocking.

We need your participation and membership in our Association. Included is an addressed stamped envelope for your convenience. Please provide us your address and phone numbers to help us update the directory.

See you at the Picnic!

Wally Hegg

Name _____

Lake Address _____

Phone #'s _____

Permanent Address _____

\$15.00 dues included Yes _____ No _____

Comments welcome: