

VERGAS LONG LAKE ASSOCIATION
OCTOBER, 2000

Your response to the last newsletter about membership and the election was great. To date we have 47 household memberships and the proposed slate of officers was confirmed.

As per the by-laws we will have two meetings next year. One in June, probably at the Loon picnic area that will be more social, but issues will be discussed. A second business meeting will be in August. That meeting will cover results of our efforts from the year and be a good forum for your inputs and concerns.

Next year prior to the August meeting, we may ask our Beach Captains to try and make face-to-face contact with everyone on their beaches. They could explain the benefits of belonging to our association and gather your ideas first hand.

Our water quality testing results for this year showed the lake quality to be the best since testing started in 1997. Secchi disk readings again started out low in May at 14 feet then went to 20 feet in both June and July. Then in August during the bloom it went to 14 feet and in September it went down to 16 feet. The Secchi readings in 1997, our poorest year, were 7', 15', 8', 7', and 8'. It would appear that our low Secchi readings might be caused, in large part, to sediment because our Chlorophyll A readings have been quite low. The lack of spring run-off really showed up this year, plus the lake level at that time was lower causing less shore erosion. Lake water levels have been kept since 1934. Highest recorded: 1348.8 above sea level in 1993. Lowest recorded: 1342.6 in 1934. That is a range of 6.2 feet. Average level is 1346.19 feet and the last reading in May, 2000, was 1347.95.

My conclusions on our water testing results track with conclusions from a very in-depth study done on five lakes in Minnesota. In 1997 the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources awarded the M.L.A. \$270,000 for the purpose of conducting a Sustainable Lakes Project. The goal was to develop a model that could be used throughout the state. They concluded: What happens within one mile of our shorelines impacts our lakes the most. How does that translate to us as small parcel property owners? They concluded that the most important decisions affecting lake quality are made by the property owner. They stress a shoreline vegetation buffer to filter run-off as first priority.

The M.L.A. is even attempting to get the legislature to provide a tax break if a buffer next to the shoreline is established. That is how important this issue is to our lake quality. Naturally, effective septic systems are a must and every method to prevent or restrict direct run-off is important. Everyone should evaluate their properties to determine how we can help and support our quality of life on this beautiful lake.

Since the leaves are mostly off, it is a good time to check for egg masses from the Forest Tent Caterpillar. I have received no reports of any on our lake. They have shown up close by, but it would appear we wouldn't need to spray next spring. We should be prepared to do so in the spring of 2002 if necessary.

Have a good winter and don't forget the anonymous polluter tip line number 218-739-2271 ext. 225.

Wally Hegg
VLLLA President

P.S. Those with Internet access, you can find a wealth of information on our lake and others in the area. Deb Moltzan provided me with a great packet. The main web address is: www.dnr.state.mn.us.