

VERGAS LONG LAKE ASSOCIATION

This year our Lake Association did not hold their annual business meeting. We decided to use this newsletter as a method to elect new officers for next year. This way members who are unable to attend meetings during the busy summer will have a chance to vote; remember, under our by-laws only paid members are eligible to vote. Included are a ballot for voting and a membership form. You are needed and it is hoped the following information will encourage you to join if you have not done so.

Several people have asked for a financial report. Currently we have \$1184.18 in the account. Remember, all officers serve as volunteers without pay, so money is only used to cover actual expenses. Examples of expenses are: Lake Association dues to both the county and state of \$220 per year, postage, copying, stationary, post office box rent, and water testing fees. Membership dues income has varied widely each year since we organized in 1996, and is our only source of income.

Some things your association has and is doing:

- ❖ Adopted by-laws: each member household should have already received a copy, which is included in the directory.
- ❖ Published a Lake Directory: this will be updated to incorporate our new addresses and to bring names up to date.
- ❖ Variance requests: our association receives copies from Fergus Falls so we can monitor and keep abreast of proposals.
- ❖ Attend County Lake Association and Commission meetings.
- ❖ Continued water quality testing: water samples are taken five times each summer and Lab tested for Phosphorus (primary factor determining plant growth), chlorophyll A (amount of algae) and the Secchi Disk reading to measure clarity. Our lake has poor results when compared to the other 30 plus lakes in Ottertail County being tested. This year's results were much improved, probably due to lack of spring run-off. Testing results will be included in a newsletter at a later date.

Algae is the visual problem, but Phosphorus allows it to grow. We all need to be better stewards and be responsible. Things we can do: use lawn fertilizers low in phosphorus and sparingly close to the lake. Leave a buffer strip next to the lake that will collect and filter run-off. Pump septic systems at least every two years. Collect and compost fall leaves. Install rip-rap or shoreline stabilizing plants. Household population has increased 10% in Ottertail County since 1990, primarily around our lakes.

The return of the Forest Tent Caterpillar (FTC) is predicted for next spring. The last infestation occurred about 1992. These larvae (worms) are the ones that eat the leaves off our trees. The MN DNR says the FTC are not life threatening to our trees, but are a big nuisance and spoil the beauty we enjoy. The worms are best controlled by aerial

spraying of microbial insecticide Bacillus Thuringiensis (BT). BT is very selective to the FTC and is considered safe and non-toxic to humans, pets, birds, fish and other insects.

Our beach Captains either have or will be contacting you this fall about your desire to participate in an aerial spraying next spring. Obviously a spray pilot cannot skip your property if the others along your beach want to be sprayed. We hope that everyone will cooperate with the desires of your beach and it be a unanimous vote to spray or not to spray. The cost of aerial spraying should not exceed \$50 per acre.

Mr. George Borgerding at 218-758-2836 of the MacDonald Lake Association, Route 1 – Box 14, Dent, Mn 56528, is currently negotiating with applicators on price per acre and availability. When the leaves come off this fall, we can each monitor for egg masses. They will be grayish in color and look like a ring on your finger, but will be around small limbs of your trees. Tree of choice will be Basswood. Contact your Beach Captain with your observation result. The best time to spray will be from the end of April to early May when the Basswood leaves are about the size of silver dollars.

Your officers want and need your concerns and ideas. Please return your ballot and membership promptly to P.O. Box 43 in Vergas. If you think someone is polluting, you can anonymously call the Ottertail County Tip Line at 218-739-2271 ext. 225.

By Sept. 30, 2008?

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Household membership dues are \$15.00 per year. You must be a current member to vote on the enclosed slate of officers.

Names: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Lake Address
(if different from above) _____

BALLOT

President:

Vice President:

Secretary/Tres.: Lori Skillings

Beach Captains: East Mary Montgomery

Northeast

Northwest

Southeast George Bohlig

Southwest Rick Lewis

Town

If you have questions, please contact Lori Skillings at 218-342-2642 after 6:00 p.m. Please mail membership/ballot page or any comments or ideas to: Vergas Long Lake Association, P.O. Box 43, Vergas, MN 56587