

NORTH & SOUTH TWIN LAKES

ESTABLISHED 1964

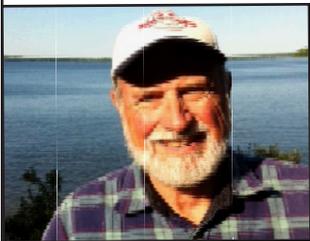


NEWSLETTER

VOL 17 No. 1

P.O. BOX 163 • PHELPS, WI 54554 <www.nstrla.org>

SPRING 2012



President's Message...

Isn't it a pleasure to see spring moving to summer on North and South Twin Lakes? Piers and boat ramps are in with boats and motors ready to go. We see the eagles, hear the loons, and some of us find the bass among the rocky shorelines. Marti Primich will soon start telling us his fish stories while Tom Hickson gets the award for the first sailboat on the lake in 2012.

Your lake association does the "heavy lifting" to keep our lakes clean and safe. That means we rely on many volunteers to do a variety of tasks to make it all possible. We are recruiting for board and committee positions, including directors, Treasurer, and chair of Recreation and Safety and the Clean Boats Clean Waters monitoring program. We need the next generation of leaders to step up and do their part like Cap and Denise Pedersen have done.

Then there is Laura Babe who, with her entire family, initiates and supports the NSTLRA merchandising program. For many years, every spring Ben and Priscilla Vanden Heuvel have made Hwy K looking fresh by cleaning the road side in the name of NSTLRA.

We thank Mike Schindler for his many years of service as Treasurer and Tom Hickson who was responsible for navigation buoys and lake water testing for seventeen years. We take many of the responsibilities and tasks supporting North and South Twin Lakes for granted. The fact is that your neighbors are behind the scenes making sure things are getting done.

In addition to the satisfaction of knowing you are helping your neighbors enjoy and protect our lakes volunteering and participating in NSTLRA activities introduces you to a whole new community of friends and fun activities. Friends like Jim and Jackie Fruth organize our annual Poker Run where literally boat loads of people can meet neighbors around the lake. We noticed a lot of sail boats "in dry dock", how about getting

them in the water in 2012? Maybe we could do a sailing party around rafting martini boats? We welcome your suggestions!

Sounds like fun, doesn't it? Help us make it happen - join, volunteer, and participate. It will reap many rewards.

To get more information about the board of directors and volunteering contact Roger Ganser (715 545-3650 or roger@ventureinvestors.com) or Ginny Parker (715-545-2496 or ginnyparker.parker@gmail.com).

Have a great summer and we look forward to seeing you on the lake and at NSTLRA events.

18th ANNUAL PICNIC AND MEMBERSHIP MEETING ON SATURDAY, JULY 7TH 2012 AT NOON AT WAVERING PARK, PHELPS...

Bring the whole family for fun and games after we share a meal. Our meeting is going to be brief. We will vote for board members for the 2012 to 2014 years.

POTLUCK ASSIGNMENTS:

- A-I DESSERTS
- J-R MEAT OR CASSEROLE
- S-Z VEGGIES OR SALAD

CARRIE MIJAL HAS OFFERED TO WORK THE PICNIC. SHE WILL NEED HELPERS. <cammie383@aol.com> or 715-477-0334

You should have received a membership application in the mail. If you need another, check out page 5. Please fill out and send in with your donation as soon as possible. Looking forward to seeing all of you at the park in Phelps!!!!

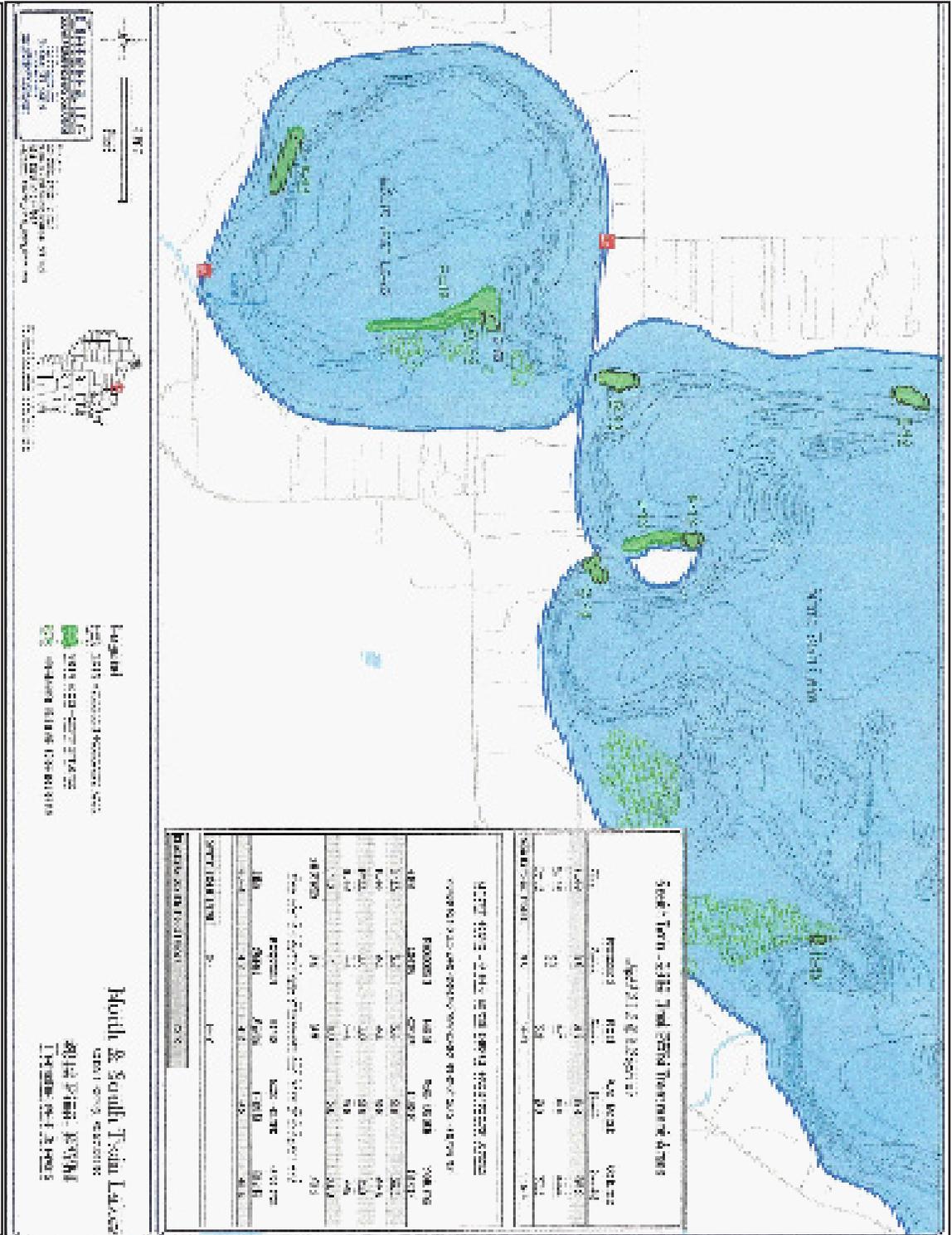
NSTLRA BOARD AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

GRANT NEWS

The treatment of North Twin was accomplished on the morning of May 23rd. It became too windy to treat South Twin that day as scheduled. Two additional dates were abandoned because of the windy conditions. South Twin is now being treated this morning, May 31, 2012. I will be taking water samples at the treatment sites today and tomorrow May 31 and June 1, 2012, on South Twin, and forwarding the samples to a FL lab for analyzing. North Twin water sampling was handled by the chemical supplier.

See map opposite indicating treatment sites.

There are no restrictions for water activity.



A TRIBUTE TO TOM HICKSON

by Ginny Parker

Tom was a charter member of the NSTLRA Board as a director back in August 1995. A quote from our first newsletter that year states: "Tom Hickson, chairman of the Recreation and Safety Committee got his group together on his pontoon boat one fine hot, sunny, clear day last week to check out hazardous places on North and South Twin needing marker buoys. They concluded that buoys would be beneficial at the channel between North and South Twin, the rock piles and the area between the point and island. Tom will be meeting with the Town Boards of Phelps and Conover and the DNR within the next weeks to gain permission to proceed." And, guess what, he took care of those marker buoys, installing, removing, repairing, ordering, placing anchors and chain, for the next 17 years. He retired this spring. Thank You Tom!!!

Tom planned recreational events for the lake all these years. He wrote articles faithfully for the newsletter and when Ginny would beg, he would also write on fishing and other items of interest. He also reminded us to wear life jackets and to stay away from folks playing at the channel. His favorite admonishment: Let's be safe out there.

In 2002 our Lake Association was made aware of Eurasian Water Milfoil presence on South Twin. Tom took a lead role in milfoil eradication for NSTLRA, again working with the DNR and WI lake personnel. We tried many different approaches with varying amounts of success....Does this sound familiar? Our initial response was to aggressively fight this nasty weed and our motto was Aggressive Milfoil Eradication Now or AMEN. This program continues, but it had its maiden voyage with Tom at the helm. Ten years later, we continue to have invasive milfoil, but thanks to Tom's early leadership we have programs in place to help manage it.

When we had our Adopt -a -Lake program with the school children, Tom would offer his resort for a meeting place. He would be on his pontoon with other lake members and their pontoons for a morning, lunch and afternoon. He would draw pictures and maps in the sand to show the kids where we would be looking for aquatic plants. He would build the bonfire and cook the hotdogs. Tom and

his wife, Kay, have hosted a variety of meetings and parties.

In the winter, Tom was invaluable as a resource for ice fishing and safety. He also wrote some articles about burbot, also called lawyers, even bringing one over to my kitchen to show me what the fish looks like. They are ugly. And all the time he was talking about the Ozark Bar, I didn't realize he was talking about a fishing bar. I thought I was missing a good beer bar in town. But he would just smile and gently correct me.

Tom was involved in the fish stocking of our lakes back when we were able to do that. Any fishing issue that came up, Tom would be a part of the solution. He volunteered for Clean Boats/Clean Waters and Adopt -A -Hwy. When we had a distressed loon on the lake, he went along to capture it and remove the musky lure that had attached to the loon's leg preventing it from being able to dive to fish. When a bunch of muskies went over the dam one spring, he was down at the dam with others catching them in nets and returning them to South Twin.

Tom loves to play his accordion and get folks to sing. He would entertain us at meetings. He also planned games and activities that the whole family could enjoy. Everything Tom did, whether it was preserving these unspoiled waters, advocating for safe enjoyment of the lakes, teaching children to understand and appreciate the lakes, rescuing wildlife, or playing a tune for the enjoyment of guests, his motivation was to share his love of this great place and to pass along to the next generation the knowledge and passion to continue its care.

Tom is retired from all lake association activity, and after seventeen years of unselfish service, he deserves it. Please thank Tom for all his work keeping our lakes as pristine as they are.





LOON NOTES

-Ginny Parker, reporting:

Well, I saw my first loon on April 21, 2012. In fact, it was a pair of loons, and my son spotted them first.. Maybe someone else saw some loons earlier. I always wondered about loon arrivals on our lake. I had heard that they arrive as soon as the ice goes out.

Of course, as you all know, the ice went off South Twin March 21 and on North Twin March 22, 2012. This was the earliest since anyone kept records. It was also after a week of temps in the 70s and 80s. Mergansers were here. Mating male mergansers look very similar to loons, but do not have the same mating white spots on black on their backs as loons.

I know many other snowbirds had a similar experience, but I went to Tucson, AZ to visit friends on March 12, leaving mounds of snow and a frozen lake. When I returned March 21st the snow was gone and so was the ice! A very early spring, indeed.

Remember to continue your loon watch and report any sightings to Elisabeth Sutton, Chair
<esutton@wi.rr.com>

AMEN NEWS:

Even with this Grant, which ended in 2011, we will need the generosity of all our Lake Owners and your donations to our AMEN FUND. This grant is a 50/50 which means that 50% of the project cost is our responsibility. We appreciate all your help in the past and are hopeful you will continue with that stewardship for the health and beauty of our Twin Lakes.

We anticipate applying for another grant because the milfoil does not seem to go away and we need to keep it under control. As mentioned above, grants are usually 50/50 so we still need donations.

Thanks
your board

To check out current news, click on our website
<www.nstlra.org> Go to News Flashes and Lake Management for late breaking news.

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY



This Memorial Day weekend, Pam Schmidt picked up three bags of trash from Hwy K. If walkers would take along a plastic bag and collect stray cans and other trash on their walks, our roadways would be beautiful for everyone.

The Adopt-A-Highway crew could use new volunteers. Priscilla and Ben Vanden Huevel are the chairmen for this program. Contact 545- 2283 or email priscillavh_1@hotmail.com

Priscilla and Ben Vanden Huevel

We will be voting for Board Members whose terms expire in 2012. Ballots will be available at the picnic. Plan to attend to have your voice heard. Better yet, offer to serve. Call Roger to express your interest. We need volunteers to show their stewardship for our lakes as board members or committee members. Please consider serving.

Lake Merchandise

Back by popular demand are the North/South Twin Lake sweatshirts. They will be coming back in the same colors as last year: black, mustard, green and ivory.

I'm planning to order mid-May for a Memorial Day weekend delivery, if you're interested in pre-ordering please call me. These sweatshirts have been a great fund raiser for our Lake Association, thanks for all your support and let's keep raising money for a great cause.

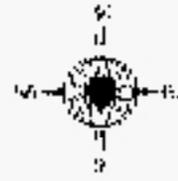
Again, pre-order if possible, however there will be limited stock available throughout the summer.

Laura Babe
414 975-8147



NORTH & SOUTH TWIN LAKES

ESTABLISHED IN 1962



P.O. Box 163 Phelps, WI 54554

www.nstlra.org

There are over four hundred shoreline properties with over 600 owners on North and South Twin Lakes. Over 70% of those property owners ARE NOT members of NSTLRA. That means less than 30% of the owners are paying the bills so that the other 70% owners can enjoy our lakes. This year they will be paying for: treating Eurasian milfoil (total cost of \$30,000, with help from a DNR grant), a new navigation buoy (\$500) for the N-S channel, installing and removing 14 navigation buoys (\$1400), publishing a new owners directory (\$600), the costs for the newsletter, website, etc. We cannot continue to provide this level of support to keep our lakes safe, clean, and healthy when 70% of the owners don't contribute to the costs.

Living on these lakes is a privilege, but also a responsibility. It is up to us to protect the lake and keep it safe for those who use it. We ask all owners to do their share by:

- Joining or renewing their membership in NSTLRA and encouraging their neighbors to join.
- Contributing to our Amen Fund – these funds are dedicated to the Eurasian milfoil treatment program
- Volunteering as a member of the board of directors, on a committee, and at one of the boat ramps for the Clean Boats Clean Waters monitoring program.

We will have treated the lakes for Eurasian milfoil by the end of May, weather permitting. A donation of \$70 or more to the AMEN fund by each property owner will help fund continued treatment. Remember, your dues and donations are tax deductible. Dues continue to be only \$20.00.

This year all NSTLRA members will receive a new owner's directory for the Twin Lakes as part of their membership!

Join your neighbors at the Annual Picnic/Meeting on July 7, 2012, 12:00, Wavering Park, Phelps.

Thank you.
NSTLRA Board of Directors

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NSTLRA Membership Form

Regular membership \$20 – Includes spouse and all family members under 18 (Renewal ___ New ___)

Name: _____ Spouse: _____

Lake Address: _____ Fire #: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City/State: _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____ email address: _____

I agree to the above information being listed in the NSTLRA Lake Owner's Directory to be published by NSTLRA. YES _____
NO _____ Note any information you do not want in the Directory.

AMEN FUND DONATION: \$70 _____ \$100 _____ \$150 _____ Other _____
Please return with check or money order to: NSTLRA * PO Box 163 * Phelps, WI 54554

Annual Picnic/Meeting: Saturday, July 7, 2012 12:00 at Phelps Wavering Park Poker Run Sunday, July 8, 2012

NSTLRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Don Zirbel 715-479-2800

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