Hi Lone Lakers,

What a great and fun summer it has been on Lone Lake. The Annual Meeting on Saturday, July 22nd was a wonderful event with 55 members turning out for the potluck lunch and guest speaker Chris Perrine, as he discussed the new line clearing right-of-way policy, safety reminders, and fiber Internet availability. (See story on page 3). Chris urged members to sign up at the meeting or as soon as possible, which will entitle them to the access line to their home free (normal charge after this fall will be $3-$8/foot) during Phase I and a one-time installation fee of $50.

During the LLPOA business meeting, members re-elected the current board of directors and Maureen Sanford was named as a new director to fill the vacant seat on the board. Welcome Maureen! We also took a moment to honor Mary Hoeve’s passing for her wonderful work on the History of Lone Lake book and our LLPOA Lake Management Plan.

As we look towards fall on Lone Lake we have two more events. First is the Labor Day AIS Boat Inspections. Coordinator Linda Szymanski has indicated that LLPOA volunteers have filled all shifts. The last event of the 2017 season is the Fall Road Clean-up on Saturday, September 9th at the public beach at 9 a.m. Come early for coffee and rolls and meet with friends! It’s easy way to get to know your neighbors and keep our environment clean and healthy.

Thanks for another great year and your support and membership in the LLPOA. If you haven’t had a chance to turn in your dues please do so as we end our summer season.

See you on the lake...Steve Frazier, president
Roland Zacharias accepted the award on behalf of his family for LLPOA's annual Independence Day boat parade “best decorated speedboat” entry.

Chris Perrine of Mille Lacs Electric Co-op talked about the new fiber optic service coming to Lone Lake (see page 3 for full story), their tree-trimming program and the importance of safety around electrical wires.

See more photos and add your own on our Facebook page: Search for Lone Lake POA & like us!


No annual meeting is complete without a singing of “Lone Lake - That’s Where I Want to Be” by the Lone Lake Singers. (L to R) Steve Frazier, Elaine Palthe and Karen Frazier led the voices of the association.

The meeting was a family event!
FINDING FIBER....

A new form of Internet technology heads to Lone Lake

For quite a while now, state and federal governments have been working hard to “connect” rural areas (like Lone Lake) with more sophisticated forms of internet connections. This was one of the topics presented by Chris Perrine of Mille Lacs Electric Cooperative (MLEC) at our LLPOA Annual Meeting held July 22. Thanks to a cooperative venture between MLEC and Consolidated Telecommunications Company (CTC) of Brainerd, a new service will be coming to the Lone Lake area beginning later this fall and on into the spring of 2018. The new technology will deploy fiber optic cable that is buried in the ground. This cable has numerous advantages over other available sources of internet connectivity including increased internet bandwidths, increased upload/download speeds, greater reliability and stronger security.

Chris presented the story to a group of very interested folks who had a lot of questions....so here’s what Chris presented in short form....

1) The state of Minnesota has provided a grant to help pay for the installation of 106 miles of fiber cables encompassing 880 members in and around Aitkin County with the first phase of the project including the Lone Lake area. The total cost of the implementation is $3.5 million. The grant covers $1.75 million and the remaining $1.75 million is being covered by MLEC.

2) The new service will be called XStream Fiber. In cooperation with CTC, MLEC will own the fiber that goes in the ground and will offer Internet services. CTC will offer voice services initially. Additional future services are being reviewed and evaluated right now.

3) Chris showed a map of the project area (above), which is also available on the MLEC website.

4) Many opportunities are available to subscribers of fiber optics, said Chris, noting that Aitkin County is the most underserved county in the entire state right now. The fiber will enhance economic development allowing the infrastructure that businesses need to be productive; it will allow people to study and work from home; and, it will enable home medical services, allowing people to stay in their homes longer. Chris shared the proposed cost structure (right). (Go to page 8)
Water quality depends on what happens on the land along the lake....

Community comes out to restore shorelines

Lone Lake is one of the clearest lakes in Minnesota – that’s a boast we Lone Lakers love to make. It means our property values stay strong, our water is safe and swimmable, and wildlife – like the two loon families that had chicks this year – can thrive.

Keeping our water clean is everyone's responsibility. And, as an objective of the Lone Lake Property Owners Association, we strive to create and promote programs and practices that help lake property owners become more knowledgeable about how to maintain excellent lake health.

Our lake benefits from actions many homeowners now take on a regular basis, such as not mowing all the way to the shore, installing rain gardens and rain barrels to capture run-off, and maintaining household septic systems. However, high water levels and wave action from wind and large-wave wake boats have caused the urgent need for people to do more to protect their land from disappearing into the lake.

To that end, LLPOA launched a “lakeshore protection initiative” in 2015 -2017 to build community knowledge and help fund homeowners’ shoreline projects, using county Community Partners grant funds and volunteer assistance. LLPOA conducted two community-wide workshops to inform homeowners about using inexpensive techniques to stabilize shorelines and about using native plants to build back shorelines, to improve habitat and to prevent upland erosion.

The advantage of their actions will be many: owners will actually re-gain lost shoreline. Nutrients that create algae bloom will not run into the lake. Habitat for loons’ nests will be preserved. Important habitat for native waterfowl, shorebirds and fish will be maintained – even improved. Where shorelines were steep and inaccessible, a more gentle natural access can be obtained.

On Aug. 15, thirteen Lone Lake volunteers, assisted by shoreline preservation expert Shelley Larson, rolled up their leg pants and went to work along the shorelines of three properties along the lake. It took only about 1-2 hours at each home, required basic tools, a few stakes, twine, and a few trays of native( Go to Page 5)
Basic techniques preserve shoreline, keep water clean

(From Page 4) plants that can be purchased by local suppliers. Here are some lessons the volunteers learned that shoreland homeowners can apply to improve and build back property at the water’s edge:

Use Willow Wattle

To create a buffer to absorb the energy of the waves and collect lake sediment over time, the volunteers constructed “willow wattles,” which are a sausage-like bundle of scruffy, small trees, such as willow, alder and maple, that can generally be cut along township roads or in swampy areas (check with the property owners first). Left to dry a few days, the 1/2”-2” diameter trees are bundled together, wrapped with twine and staked into the lake right up close to the shoreline or rip-rap. Although the natural materials will eventually decompose, before then lake sediment will be trapped behind them, creating a zone for native plants to be established and set deep, soil-holding roots. Willow wattles can also be used on the slope of land coming down to the lake, where erosion is occurring.

Plant Native Plants

Plant native plants into and behind the willow wattle, as well as up the bank or slope — anywhere the land is eroding. “These are plants that are adapted to being wet and dry,” explained Shelley Larson. She recommends using a combination of sedges, rushes and flowering plants. At Bob Kosloski’s residence, for example, the volunteers planted Swamp milkweed, Bottlebrush sedge, Wood sedge, Blue Flag iris, and Blue vervain — over 300 plant plugs in all. Plants will send down deep roots and hold the soil, unlike rocks of “rip-rap” that heave and collapse from ice movement. Two informative plant guides: see http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/rys/pg/index.html, or http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/eco/mcbs/plant_lists.html. For a list of native plant suppliers, refer to http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/gardens/nativeplants/suppliers.html.

Look up slope

Shelley invited the homeowners to look “up slope” to figure out where water might be running from the land into the lake. She advised people to plant rain gardens, to construct soil berms to deflect run-off into native plantings that will filter the water, and to decrease the amount of hard surfaces on the property.
Local residents begin to re-claim shoreline along point

Before Julie and Jerry Nelson (Lot 25) lived on Lone Lake, a boat-width channel was dug between two points to allow fishermen to reach their docks on the northeast side of the lake. Over time, the channel opening grew bigger and bigger. “The year [2013] when we had high water, the shoreline eroded,” Jerry Nelson explained. “We lost 3 feet of shoreline. The point kept coming back and back. When we got a prevailing west or northwest wind and had wakes from boats, the water went over the top of the grass. We were going to rip-rap but that’s not done anymore.”

So, three years ago Jerry and Julie turned to Aitkin County Soil and Water Conservation for help, and embarked on a project to build back their shoreline and protect it from further erosion. The first year they installed 120 ft. of willow wattle and 37 different kinds of plants, Jerry said. With the shoreline project plus an upland rain garden, they planted 1,262 plants the first year.

While the plants do most of the work, shoreline restoration takes some ongoing human intervention! For example, a high water event in 2015 caused Julie and Jerry to supplement the first woody barrier and add more plants the second year. They also work diligently to eliminate non-native, shallow-rooted species such as Reed Canary grass, which stubbornly persists in our landscapes.

“I’m a believer,” he said. Already they are seeing more shoreline, plus more minnows and frequent visits from Great Blue heron, and other shoreline birds.

Jerry and Julie Nelson.
Purple Martin enthusiasts are wondering ....

**Top 10 reasons why the Martins are avoiding them**

By Marty Cook, LLPOA Fish and Wildlife team leader

At our annual LLPOA meeting, I was asked by one of our members if I had any information about why his Purple Martin house is not being inhabited this year. While I certainly don't qualify as an expert, here is what I found out about how to attract martins...thanks to the Purple Martin Conservation Association and their article.

Martins are highly desirable backyard birds because they eat thousands of insects each day, don't require bird feeders and can nest in compact colonies. You only have to take a few steps to make their backyard suitable as martin habitat.

Like all birds, martins require four things for a suitable habitat: food (so if you want Purple Martins, DO NOT fog for bugs), water (but it doesn't have to be directly on the water), shelter (without close proximity to trees, shrubs and other habitat that can harbor predators) and nesting site (white houses with 6"X 6" compartments seem to work best). By creating a bird-friendly habitat with these swallows in mind, attracting martins can be simple.

In answer to our member's question, here are 10 reasons why martins might not choose your yard/birdhouse this year:

1. Housing placed too close to tall trees or in yards that are too enclosed
2. You've allowed other bird species to claim the housing first
3. Housing placed too far FROM human housing
4. Housing not painted white
5. Housing opened up too early or too late
6. Martins need a strong food source
7. Vines and shrubs are allowed to grow up under the housing
8. Housing not really 'built to specifications'
9. Housing attached to wires, or placed too close to wires
10. Landlords buy or build housing that can't be easily managed

If you are having difficulties getting Purple Martins into your bird house and want more information on reasons why they are not moving in, check out the full article from the Purple Martin Conservation Association by entering “why purple martins are not inhabiting my bird house” in your browser’ search engine and go to the article entitled Ten Reasons Why People Fail to Attract Purple Martins.
Finding Fiber... (Cont.)

5) MLEC is asking members to pre-sign a contract for the XStream Fiber, which will allow MLEC to know where to build during construction using the grant dollars. If a member chooses not to pre-sign, the fiber will not be built to their house in the initial pass and if they decide later to sign up for the service, there will be a per-foot charge for connecting the fiber to the home.

6) Chris suggested getting in touch with MLEC by calling their main number, finding them on Facebook or connecting via their website at WWW.MLECMN.NET

New LLPOA Board of Directors - 2017-2018

Steve Frazier - President
Karen Frazier - Treasurer - Membership
Marty Cook - Secretary/Association History and Fish and Wildlife Team Leader
Jennifer O’Neill - Communications Director
Bev Napurski - Director and Social Media Leader
Dave Scott - Water Quality Team Leader - ACLARA Rep
David Wilke - Land Use and Zoning Team Leader
Linda Szymanski - AIS Team Leader and Inspection Coordinator
Bob Kosloski - Director
Beth-Anne Rowe - Director
Maureen Sanford - Director

Lone Lake Property Owners Association - LLPOA
P.O. Box 10
Aitkin, MN 56431
Visit our web site at www.lonelake.org
Feel free to email us at lonelakepoa@gmail.com
Or “like us” on Facebook.com/lonelakepoa.

What causes shoreline erosion?
It occurs when land at the water’s edge is eroded by wave action. It is primarily due to wind-driven or boat-driven wave action and is especially a problem during high water as we experienced last year. With the recent introduction of boats designed specifically to create large waves for surfing and wake boarding -- especially on our relatively small lake -- the risk of erosion has increased significantly. Nationwide, it has become a topic of significant discussion with some lakes and rivers authorities placing restrictions on wake/surf boating.

How can it be prevented?
Filter rain by planting native flowers, grasses and shrubs along the shoreline.
Absorb rain by installing rain gardens.
Capture rain in barrels.
Prevent the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species when using the waterways.
Boat responsibly by following watercraft rules.

How can I get involved to preserve my shoreline?
Contact Dave Scott at 218-927-2967 or Jennifer O’Neill at 218-839-6825. Or call the Aitkin County Soil and Water Conservation District at 218-927-6565.

SHORTS

What causes shoreline erosion?

How can it be prevented?

How can I get involved to preserve my shoreline?