

## LAKESCAPING IS CATCHING ON

Lee and Ella Ostendorf are joining the growing number of lakeshore owners who are Lakescaping their property to help protect and improve our water quality. They want to turn back the hands of time and create a more natural look. Lakescaping is an opportunity to restore and preserve natural shorelines for today and future generations. Transforming their shoreline into a garden of wildflowers and native grasses will improve water quality by filtering runoff, preventing soil erosion, provide needed natural wildlife habitat, and eliminate the need for mowing and fertilizing. Design resources and recommendations are readily available from the Soil and Water Conservation District, Douglas County Land Resource Management, and the Department of Natural Resources. While out for a springtime boat ride, check out the progress of their shoreline conversion from riprap to natural beauty. If you have any questions about this wonderful project, give Lee a call at 762-8540. He would love to talk with you about it. You can also reach him at ([lostend@charter.net](mailto:lostend@charter.net)). Who knows, you may decide to do the same.

Jim Scott, President

## PRESIDENTS QUARTERLY REPORT

In the last newsletter I listed many of the highlights from the previous year. In this issue I would like to share with you what the board has been working on for the last 3 months.

1. January 9, 2003 several of your board members attended the public informational meeting regarding the Douglas County Comprehensive Local Water Plan. The purpose of the Water Plan is:
  - A. To continue to identify existing and potential problems or opportunities for protection, management, and development of water resources and related land resources in the county.
  - B. To continue to develop, update, and implement a plan of action to promote sound hydrologic management of water and related land resources in the county through the use of Best Management Practices.
  - C. To intensify work aimed at effective environmental protection and management in the county by addressing existing and potential problems on a watershed basis.
2. The Shoreland and Sub Division Ordinances were reviewed at the February 11 meeting of the Douglas County Land & Resource Management Department. Your board has gone on record in support of keeping the present ordinances and not going back to the old ones. The new ordinances are water quality friendly and deserve all our support.
3. By now everyone is aware of the benefit to our lakes from using 0% phosphorous fertilizer on your lawns. But have you heard about all the phosphorous in automatic dish washing detergent? Most of them are loaded with it. Karen Cook has been researching this issue and working with our local stores to start carrying the brands that have very little phosphorous or none at all. One additional benefit to using little or no phosphorous automatic dish washing detergent is your

- glassware will not become etched and cloudy over time. Phosphorous will actually eat away at the surface of your glassware and ruin them.
4. Your board has been working with the LaGrande Township Board to bring to resolution the issue of which governmental entity will shoulder the responsibility for the ongoing maintenance of retention ponds. These ponds are built to stem the flow of erosion runoff into our lakes as a result of development within our watershed. We are hopeful that progress can be made toward resolution. This is a complex issue that has not gotten the attention it deserves.
  5. Ellsworth Holm has been keeping tabs on the paving and landscaping project proposed for the north public access. Bruce Winterfeldt (DNR Fergus Falls) has informed us that funds are still available for the blacktopping and landscaping project. Work is scheduled to start on the curbing and blacktop very soon. To help insure completion of the landscaping portion of the project, your association has pledged \$1,000.00 toward the purchase of trees and shrubs. This will bring to conclusion several years of effort to enhance the function and beauty of our north access.

Jim Scott, President

#### FOND FAIRWELL TERRY and WELCOME BACK MORRIE

We lost one of our board members this past February with the resignation of Terry Van Ahn. The Van Ahn family will be moving off the lake this spring and we will miss them all. Thank you Terry for your dedication and contributions as a board member.

Like an old fire horse answering the bell, Morrie Haugee has graciously volunteered to finish out the remainder of this year for Terry. What a relief to have an experienced person like Morrie available to step right in and pick up the ball.

What an opportunity for one of our property owners. We now have a vacancy on the board to fill this June. For more information please give any board member a call.

Jim Scott, President

#### ANOTHER VOLUNTEER

Wayne and Jan Siffing are new residents of Lake Latoka as of last November. Wayne had expressed a desire to do something for the lake and has volunteered to assist Rick Braun with the water quality testing program. This includes recording Secchi disc water clarity depth readings and temperature readings at various times and places on our lake. Thank you for your willingness to help. Its residents like you and your wife that make this lake such a wonderful place to live.

Jim Scott, President

## **WANTED DEAD OR ALIVE**

### **PREFERABLY DEAD**

Be on the look out for the notorious armyworm gang. They are wanted for the destruction and defoliation of neighborhood trees. Known to hang out around Basswood trees but can be found most anywhere. If sighted, do not try to apprehend by your self. Immediately call your nearest association board member to give the exact location of this outlaw gang. After confirmation of the worm's hide out, appropriate measures will be taken to send these pests to boot hill. Remember; don't take the law into your own hands. These guys can get real messy.

Jim Scott, President

## **LAKE LATOKA GARAGE SALE**

THE LAKE LATOKA GARAGE SALE will be held on Friday and Saturday, June 27&28. Anyone on the lake, off the lake, both sides of the street, North, South, East, and West sides of both Big and Little Latoka may participate. Do some spring-cleaning, clear out the clutter, and make some cash at the same time. The Lake Association will do the general advertising. All you have to do is put up your sign and set up your tables. Advertised hours will be from 8 am to 4pm both days. You may set your own time as needed. If you plan to participate, please call Jeanne Nelsen at 763-3355 or Ann Branch at 763-6893 so we can better coordinate the advertising.

Thank you so much,  
Garage Sale Committee