

Lake group planning ahead

By Lynn Woolhouse
Staff Writer

An estimated 80 lake owners attended the 2nd annual Big Lake Community Lake Association meeting Saturday, all concerned about their lakes and ready to take the next steps to save them.

"The lake is one of the main things Big Lake offers," said Larry Pattee. Along with neighbor Harold McWilliams, the two attended the meeting concerned about lake quality.

One of five association directors elected Saturday, Sanford Smith, constructed

visual displays of treatments the lakes have undergone in the past year since the re-starting of the association.

With the work of Patrick Seltzer of Professional Lakes Management, the association and Mark Bassiletti of Sherburne County, the lakes underwent two vegetation assessments in May and August.

As a result, 8.88 acres were permitted by the DNR for curly pond weed control and 4.52 acres treated for Eurasian water milfoil and 1.25 acres of spot treatments.

The association is presently planning and preparing for

2009 applications of treatments to the DNR and are in the process of compiling data of the vegetation assessments into reports for the management plan from September to December.

The association also plans to begin their lake shore restoration project at this time.

Additional elected directors for new terms include Jane Ramunno, Bill Jones, Ken Warner and Robert Eddy.

Attendees also participated in a property owners' survey about their own lake land.

"Yes, I have seen a lot of

weed growth this year," said Theresa Klatt who along with her mom, Betty Wheeler, care for the family lake property and annual duties. "Especially when we were putting the dock in, definite growth," says Klatt.

Recently returning to Big Lake after 20 years in California, Jane Schioda also attended Saturday to learn more about the treatment of the lakes.

Others like Donna Panayotoff had concerns of her property located off Nicollet and Lake Shore Drive.

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THERESA KLATT ATTENDED the meeting as part of her annual duties to care for the family lake property. (Photo by Lynn Woolhouse.)

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Panayotoff voiced her frustrations of her own lake land being used for lake access by vehicles every winter.

"People assume it's public," she says.

Presenting a timeline, updates and future plans of the association, Jim Ridgeway thanked members

for their attendance and input. "Our first year was one of organization, discerning our position and establishing objectives," he says. "We plan to have a complete lake assessment this fall and hope the DNR allows us to fully treat our invasive plant populations in 2009."