

Welcome New Lake Neighbors at Park Estates!

Brenda Nord, one of our new neighbors, has graciously put together the following great article to share details of all our new Park Estates neighbors. Thank you Brenda!

Although winter may be a quieter season at the lake, new activity has been happening at the Park Estates.

After the David Nord family closed in May on the first townhouse sold, and Rick and Mary Kuehlwein closed on the second townhouse in June, sales of the remaining 8 units were quiet until November. Three more townhouses sold and were moved into around Thanksgiving. The three newest owners closing in November are John Smalkoski and Leta Fox, Greg and Christine Barnard, and Shane and Lisa Demarais.

- **David and Brenda Nord** have three grown children and 2 younger children still living at home. They intend to use their townhome as a weekend and vacation property.
- **Rick and Mary Kuehlwein** are empty nesters with one of their daughters and her family living in the Brainerd area. At this time, Rick and Mary plan to use their townhome for weekends and vacations.
- **John Smalkoski** is a retired banker. He and his wife, Leta Fox, plan to winter in Texas and spend their summers at their townhouse.
- **Greg and Christine Barnard** are also empty nesters with three grown children and plan to use their townhouse for weekend getaways.
- **Shane and Lisa Demarais** say they also plan to use their lake property mainly for weekends and vacations.
- **Ernest and Mary Yanez** are from North Dakota and plan to close on an unfinished townhouse in December and complete the finish work themselves.

- **Brian and Natalie Shovelain** plan to close on their townhouse in mid-January.
- Two other units are expected to close in the next month or two. The remaining three townhouses yet to be sold are all partially finished units.

As the first owners and speaking for my family, David and I have truly enjoyed the peacefulness and beauty of the Clearwater Lake and surrounding area. We have had a chance to meet about a half dozen of the families that are our new lake neighbors outside of the Park Estates and have found most of the people to be welcoming and friendly. We look forward to becoming an active member of our lake community.

Like many other lake property owners, we are concerned about protecting the health and beauty of the lakes and woods that make Minnesota so special. Our concern for our lakes, and Clearwater in particular, is to help stop or slow the spread of invasive, non-native species like Eurasian milfoil and zebra mussels in the water and buckthorn in the woods and to protect the lakes from fertilizer and chemical run-off from surrounding yards and farmland and septic leakage from systems that may be too old or too close to the lakes.

We look forward to meeting more of our neighbors and working together with you to preserve and protect the natural beauty of Clearwater and its surrounding area so it can remain a quiet treasure for generations to come.

Respectfully Submitted, Brenda Nord

Offer for Wood Duck Houses

How would you like to add a wood duck house on your property at the Lake, thanks to a scouting group lead by our new Park Estates neighbors, David and Brenda Nord? Here are the details -

David and Brenda Nord lead and organize a metro Christian scouting group for over 80 grade school boys and girls. Their groups are part of the national organizations, Lutheran Pioneers and Lutheran Girl Pioneers. (For more info on the Pioneers organizations, go to www.lutheranpioneers.org or www.lgp.org.)

As a service project, the older boys will be building wood duck houses this winter and are donating them to any interested residents of Clearwater Lake. It is hoped that this will increase the wood duck population in the Clearwater area.

The boys plan to build about 13 houses and expect them to be complete and ready to install before the wood ducks migrate back to this area in the spring.



Those interested in placing a wood duck house on their property should note that the houses will require you to do some minimal annual maintenance each spring of cleaning out the old nesting materials and installing new bedding. Ideally, wood duck houses should be placed as close to the water as possible and about 6 to 8 feet from the ground. They will need to be attached to a sturdy tree or post.

If you are interested in obtaining a free wood duck house for your Clearwater Lake property, please contact David Nord at 612-559-3331. Houses are available on a first come, first served basis.

2010 Loon Report

2010 was our best year ever for chick hatching and survival in the 15 years we have been setting nesting platforms!

We had six nesting pairs (all of our platforms), we hatched 12 chicks and had 10 survive to fall. The chicks we lost (#3 on separate map provided) did not survive a full week and more then likely fell prey to Eagles (our biggest nemesis) or a storm. This is one of the few years we did not lose any chicks to boat traffic in the water-ski season. **The Statewide tabulation will not be out until spring but we expect Clearwater to lead the county and possibly the state in loon chick counts.**



The map included (attached in e-mail) shows the location of our 6 nesting platforms, and the summer range of the loons and chicks. Please pay attention to this when boating in these areas. We plan to try a 7th platform in 2011.

The DNR is asking our help in their Loon Mortality study. If you see any dead loons, please call Jeff or Paulette so we can collect the specimen and get it to the DNR for study.

Clearwater Forest – A Great Camp to Recommend

Another way to share our Lake with family and friends is to let them know about Clearwater Forest's great programs. Registration is going on right now – go to www.clearwaterforest.org.



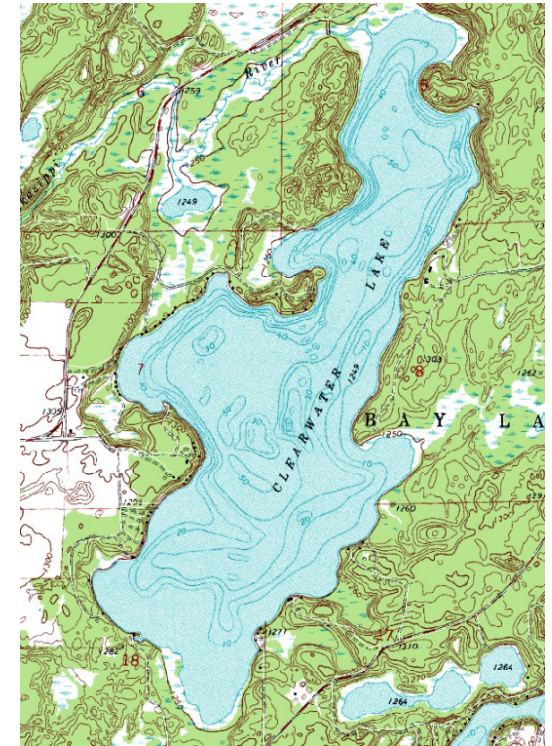
Winter Crappie Fishing

Phil Turnquist reports having spoken with a Game Warden parked on the crown of Clearwater Point Road, observing the north end of the lake with high-powered binoculars. Apparently the DNR had ticketed a number of individuals for over limit (both lake residents and non-lake residents). Clearwater is known throughout the region for the easy fall and winter crappie fishing. The unfortunate part of this type fishing is that they come out of water as deep as 45 feet. At that depth the airbladder of the fish is compressed almost 250%. When the fish are brought to the surface the air expands putting severe pressure on the internal organs, which is commonly fatal. Numerous dead fish can be seen floating when anglers release small ones hoping to catch bigger fish. The DNR has indicated they will pay special attention to winter fishing. The Crappie possession limit is 10. To report game violations call the local Game Warden, Greg Verkuilen at 320-692-5777.

Annual Association Due \$50 - Thanks to all of you who have already contributed their annual dues. If we all contribute our \$50 each year, we will be able to build a fund gradually to take care of the eventual bigger issues that may arise. Please make your check payable to Clearwater Lake Homeowners' Assn. and send to our treasurer: - Louise Seliski, 19254 Dancing Dragon Lane, Ironton, MN 56455

Roster - Please review the enclosed/attached Roster to ensure accuracy of names, addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses. This includes helping us get information on new lake neighbors and adult children. Please email or send new (or corrected) information to Gary Perkins at giperkins2@comcast.net or 4600 Hibiscus Ave, Edina, MN 55435.

Clearwater Lake Homeowners' Assn January 2011



Co-Chairs – Gary Perkins and Jeff Zernov

Now on the Web – Through Facebook

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In Facebook just search
Clearwater Lake Homeowner's Association.

Become a Friend of our Facebook group to keep updated on what is going on at "the Lake", and to share photos and information with our lake association neighbors.