

LHA History 2010

January 2010

- In January of 2010 Dr. Laura Triplett and Gustavus students taking the J-Term class 'Paleolimnology' conducted research on the sedimentary history of Lake Hallett. With the help of researchers from the University of Minnesota, they extracted multiple sediment cores from the lake. They attempted to assign dates to different depths of sediment and draw conclusions about changes in water quality.

Three cores were taken from different areas of the lake, varying from 0.75 meters to almost 2 meters long. Dating the cores proved to be fairly difficult for two reasons. First, the sedimentation rate varied greatly in different parts of the lake. Second, there were very few benchmarks that could be used in trying to assign specific dates to different sediment depths. Lead isotope concentration was the primary proxy that was used to date the cores. Diatom concentrations were also examined to attempt to understand the environmental history of the lake.

The class thinks they have correctly dated the cores, but in order to be certain, more research is needed. More cores need to be taken to get a better understanding of the varying sedimentation rates in the lake. Dr. Triplett hopes to be able to continue this research with another class next January.

February 2010:

- Polar Plunge gets bigger every year as does the kids ice fishing contest on the lake.
- Once again mulch is left on the lake. This is not good for the lake and again we request that it be removed after the event.

April 2010

- **Protecting Lake Hallett: A story of passion and persistence**

The Lake Hallett Association is honored to be featured in the Environmental Protection Agency's 2010 Spring edition of the Volunteer Monitor, a national newsletter printed since 1989. Minnesota Water's Courtney Kowalczak authored the article reprinted starting on Page two of this newsletter. The entire article can be read on the website.

- The usual green herons, kingfishers, shy great blue herons, orioles, feisty hummingbirds, rose-breasted grosbeaks, the ever chatty catbird and others can be found hanging around the lake most days. We've had a very elusive group of ducklings that have been sighted a few times. Mama duck is so good at hiding them we don't know for sure what kind they are.

May 2010:

- Algae blooms arise where the mulch was left on the lake and is now in the lake from the Polar Plunge. Pictures are sent to Dave Lange (Sheriff who arranges the event), Lou Giesking (City Public Works who provides the mulch) and Leo Getsfried (DNR area hydrologist) of the algae blooms and again we request cleaning up the mulch or not using it at all. We are hoping a picture showing the detrimental affect of the mulch on the lake will help.
- Lake cleanup went well with some new faces!

July 2010

- The neighbor kids have put up a bigger & better rope swing this year and it is getting lots of use. The high water has the tree floating from one side of the lake to the other and the kids are having fun playing on it. The water clarity has been pretty good and snorkeling has been great.
- Lake Hallett has become quite a destination for area kids. Old Minnesota Avenue is lined with cars most days as the kids trespass across private property to get to the lake. Dozens of kids are on the lake everyday.
- Despite the storm water overflow, which began June 1st and has been pretty continuous with all the rain we've had, the algae blooms have been minimal and water clarity has remained pretty good – it is still 8.5 feet.
- The new storm sewer system is not perfect but is a big improvement and was a huge accomplishment for the Lake Hallett Association. We have field tested for e.coli after rain events and the levels seem to be lower (although still potentially dangerous) but unless official (and expensive) lab tests are run it is difficult to know for sure.

August 2010

- Despite many requests because of problems in the last decade: a stolen car, dozens of stolen bikes, underage drinking, drug use, homeless people, vandalism, trespassing, theft and homemade bombs, there continues to be little or no police presence here. A homeless person who lived here for several months claimed it was the only place she could go where the police didn't bother her. The teenagers are well aware of this too!
- We have really been diligent this summer about reminding the kids to take care of the lake and pick up after themselves. It's been amazing! For the most part the kids have been great and really care about the lake.
- A group of high school kids started the Hallett's Conservationists. We're not sure what they are doing but we directed them to ask Mr. Prafke the answers to their questions and offered any assistance the Lake Hallett Association can give.