



Citizen Lake Monitoring Program  
Winter 2008

# Secchi Reader



Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

## CLMP celebrates its 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary

The 2008 monitoring season marks an important date for the Citizen Lake Monitoring Program — the program’s 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary. This issue of the *Secchi Reader* honors the volunteers who make this program possible. Due to the dedication of the program’s volunteers, the CLMP is still the longest-running volunteer lake monitoring program in the nation. In 2007, there were 1,187 volunteers at 2,207 sites on 1,263 lakes. MPCA would like to thank all of the CLMP volunteers that keep the program in existence!

The 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary is especially important for two CLMP volunteers. Chuck Taylor and Dick Duerre have been involved in the program since its inception. The MPCA is proud to recognize their achievement with their personal stories in this issue (see page 5).

### Volunteer Recognition

In 2007, 170 volunteers reached long-term milestones in their monitoring work. For each five-year milestone,

volunteers receive a recognition award. This year, 57 volunteers received five-year CLMP coffee mugs, 47 received the 10-year lapel pin, 37 received the 15-year certificate and restoration project donation, 23 received the 20-year certificate and restoration project donation, three received the 25-year gold coin clock and one person received the 30-year boat cushion. Two people received the 35-year award, which has never been awarded before. They received an engraved wooden plaque with a photograph of the Mississippi River headwaters at Lake Itasca.

Thanks to all of those who sent in photos. Included in this issue is a list of volunteers, their lakes and counties, who recently reached long-term milestones.

*Congratulations and thank you  
for your participation!*

## Volunteer award recipients

### 35 years

**Dick Duerre**, Silver, Crow Wing.  
**Charles W. Taylor**, Jane, Washington.

### 30 years

**Curtis Sparks**, Halfbreed (Sylvan), Washington.

### 25 years

**Dorothy J. & Robert Kelly**, Little Hanging Horn, Carlton. **Robert Link**, Turtle, Becker. **Everett Miller**, Spider (East Bay) and Spider (NE/SW Bay), Hubbard.



*Dick Duerre*  
35 years



*Curtis and Julie Sparks*  
30 years

### 20 years

**Ione Altobelli**, Sand, Itasca. **Ralph P. Bachmeier**, Rush (West Bay), Chisago. **Dan & Sheri Berg**, Long, Becker. **Dale Blosberg**, Velvet, Crow Wing. **Donald A. Dahl**, Duck, Blue Earth. **Carolyn Dindorf**, Blackwater, Cass. **Rick Ekstrand**, Green (Main Basin) and Green (Little

Green), Chisago. **Paul Fors**, Long, Washington. **Kathryn Francy-Payton**, Long, Washington. **Bud Hendrickson**, Johnson, Itasca. **Michael Hermanson**, Big Pine, Otter Tail.

**Carole Holten**, Rat, Aitkin. **Norman Howell**, George, Kandiyohi. **James E. Kastl**, Sugar, Wright. **Edsel Kercher**, Little Toad, Becker. **Thomas C. Kishel**, Long, Saint Louis. **Pete Leschak**, South Sturgeon, Itasca. **Pete Onstad**, Lobster (East Bay) and Lobster (West Bay), Douglas. **Debbie & Kim Pearson**, Tamarack, Pine. **Hap Raabe**, Stella, Meeker. **Julia Sherburne**, Long, Washington. **Gregg Struss**, Gull, Cass. **David Trampe**, Hunter, Cass. **Warren 'Buster' West**, East Jefferson, West Jefferson, West Swede's Bay, and Middle Jefferson, Le Sueur.

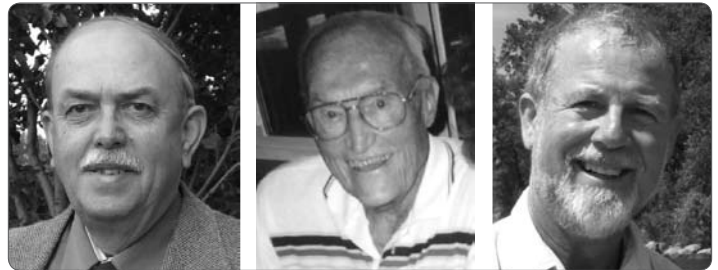


20 years:  
*Dale Blosberg*

*David Trampe*

## 15 years

**Joanne Alt**, Thomas, Dakota. **Vern Beckerman**, Sauk (SW Bay), Todd. **George Bedard**, Clark, Crow Wing. **William E. Berg**, Trout, Itasca. **Sherrill Bley**, Skogman, Isanti. **George Borgerding**, Big McDonald #2, Otter Tail. **Peg Campbell**, Pike, Saint Louis. **Robert Cashman**, O'Leary, Dakota. **Diane Coderre**, Sunset, Washington. **Pat Davis**, Pokegama (Main Basin), Itasca. **James H. DeWenter**, Little Bass, Beltrami. **Mark Geihl**, Floyd (Mud) and Floyd (Main Basin), Becker. **Leonard Hains**, Geneva, Douglas. **Norley Hansen**, Loon, Itasca. **Diane Hipsher**, Cooper, Cass. **Wayne Hoshal**, Pokegama (Wendigo), Itasca. **Bob Johnson**, Cedar, Wright. **Jim Kanwischer**, Ida, Douglas. **Ethel Kelleher**, Caribou, Cook. **Cheryl L. Larson**, Schultz, Saint Louis. **Perry C. & Shirley Loegering**, Leighton, Smith, Cowhorn, Little Split Hand, and Little Cowhorn, Itasca. **Karin & George Marjanen**, Vermilion, Saint Louis. **Mike Mason**, Minnetonka (Upper Lake), Hennepin. **Maurice McKay**, Big Carnelian, Washington. **Julie Mutchler**, Bass, Itasca. **Mary Jean Pearson**, Crooked, Itasca. **Tim Robb**, East Lake Sylvia, Wright. **Radburn & Tina Royerm**, Elym Saint Louis. **Thomas Ryan**, Grave and Boy, Itasca. **Edward J. Schotzko**, Sleepy Eye, Brown. **Larry E. Seeley**, Minnetonka (Halsteds Bay), Hennepin. **Tom Skramstad**, Minnetonka (Upper Lake), Hennepin. **Dr. Gerald D. Smieja**, Pelican, Crow Wing. **Greg Swartz**, Hoff, Pope. **Sue Thompson**, Little Sand, Saint Louis. **Al Westberg**, Ten Mile, Otter Tail. **Evert B. Wickstrom**, Turtle River, Beltrami.



*Rick Ekstrand*

*James E. Kastle*

*Warren 'Buster' West*



15 years:  
*Peg Campbell*



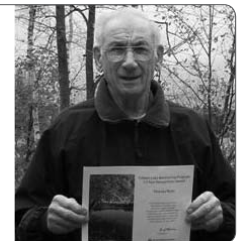
*Leonard Hains*



*Ethel Kelleher*



*Maurice McKay*



*Tom Ryan*

## 10 years

**Paul A. Anderson**, Rainy, Saint Louis. **Al Bosn**, Platte, Crow Wing. **Richard Brown**, Roy (Simon), Mahanomen. **Leland G. Coe**, Dark, Beltrami. **James Cress**, Moses, Douglas. **Eagle Lake Assoc.**, Eagle, Kandiyohi. **Gene Eblen**, Elk, Grant. **Don & Yvonne Erstad**, Ida, Douglas. **Carl J. Genz**, Elysian, Waseca. **Tom Giefer**, Moran, Hubbard. **Caroline Gilbert**, Johanna, Ramsey. **Marvin L. Groth**, Bass, Hennepin. **Ken Habisch**, Little Waverly, Wright. **Owen A. Hagen**, Turtle (Big Turtle), Itasca. **Curtis Hall**, Long, Itasca. **Larry Helsene**, Bass and Unnamed, Crow Wing. **Holly Hinnenkamp**, Big Birch (North Basin), Todd. **Peggy & Eugene Huerstel**, Halfbreed (Sylvan), Washington. **Tom Hugdahl**, East Smith, Itasca. **Itasca State**

**Park**, Mary, Hubbard Co., Itasca and Elk, Clearwater Co. **Maynard J. Kelsey**, McDonald, Washington. **Jeff Kittelsen**, Minnetonka (Upper Lake), Hennepin. **Dick Kohnen**, Ida, Douglas. **Stan M. Koich**, Osakis, Todd. **Alan Kretzschmar**, Reeds, Waseca. **Corey Loney**, North Long, Crow Wing. **Vic & Betty Lynne**, Turtle (Big Turtle), Beltrami. **Charlotte Maki**, Buck, Itasca. **John Martin**, Bad Axe, Hubbard. **David Maschwitz**, Gunn (South Lake), Gunn (Big Lake), Second Chain Lake (Gunn), Gum (Third Chain, Gunn), First Chain Lake (Gunn), and Fifth Chain Lake (Gunn), Itasca. **Arlan Mercil**, Coon, Anoka. **W. Dustin Mirick**, Hand, Cass. **Trudi Olmanson**, Unnamed (Hallet), Nicollet. **Greg Overland**,



10 years:  
Don Erstad

Peggy & Eugene Huerstel



Maynard J. Kelsey

Vic & Betty Lynne



5 years: Jon Hafner

Douglas Hall

Ernest Hand



Linus Koopeiners

Loren & Kay Larson  
(Allysa and Courtney  
Larson pictured)

John Murphy



Ron Reich

Jerome Vanek

Scalp (Lake Seven), Otter Tail. **Roger Pyle**, Beebe, Wright. **Richard A. Reese**, Wilkins, Aitkin. **Delores Roeder**, Clearwater, Wright. **Kenneth Rush**, North Long, Crow Wing. **Ron "Red" Saurdiff**, Brophy, Douglas. **Ellsworth Stein**, Augusta, Dakota. **Dick Stenerson**, Siseebakwet (Sugar), Itasca. **Jeff Stocco**, Spring, Saint Louis. **Ed Strohmeier**, Bad Medicine, Becker. **Dave Stuhr**, Big Kandiyohi, Kandiyohi. **Jim Sundstrom**, Potato, Hubbard. **Paul A. Swenson**, Latimer, Todd. **Jim & Joann Weil**, Eighth Crow Wing and Ninth Crow Wing, Hubbard.

## 5 years

**Mary Adkins**, Loon, Cook. **Dick Barbari**, Cotton, Becker. **Paul Beaudry**, Pine Island, Todd. **Lawrence Blackmer**, Battle, Itasca. **Donald Blanding**, Rock, Becker. **Jim Brewer**, Five Island, Itasca. **Kevin Condon**, West McDonald, Otter Tail. **Jerome Derosier**, Grass, Wright. **Ron Dick**, Emily, Crow Wing. **Roland Ebert**, Koronis (Main Basin), Stearns. **Ed Fussy**, Pimushe, Beltrami. **James Garbarini**, Miller (Almond), Crow Wing. **Greg Grazzini**, Traverse, Traverse. **Ed Haefner**, Birch, Cass. **Jon Hafner**, Bone, Washington. **Douglas Hall**, Turtle and Bald Eagle, Ramsey Co. and George, Anoka Co. **Ernest Hand**, South Silver, Martin. **Roger Hanson**, Long, Meeker. **Mark Hepokoski**, Stocking, Wadena. **Dan Houlihan**, Frances, Le Sueur. **Paul Jensen**, Upper Hay, Crow Wing. **Greg Johnson**, Hattie and Little Sand, Cass. **John Kaye**, Norway, Kandiyohi. **Linus Koopeiners**, Pelican, Stearns. **Steve & Helen Kuryatnik**, Island, Saint Louis. **Loren & Kay Larson**, Jail (Big Rice) and Unnamed, Crow Wing. **Paul Lysen**, Union, Wright. **Ken Magnuson**, Eunice, Becker. **Scott, Phyl, & Forest Mead**, Pequaywan, Saint Louis. **Glenn Meyer**, Big Birch (South Basin), Todd. **Gary Morgan**, Quigley (Carlson), Dakota. **John Murphy**, Forest, Washington. **Duane Nemmers**, Camp, Swift. **Charles & Jaye Olson**, Side, Saint Louis. **Sylvia Peterson**, Johnson, Cass. **Jim Peterson**, Pleasant, Wright. **Patrick Plant**, Orono, Sherburne. **Mike Plotnik**, Wabedo (SW Bay), Cass. **Joan Ratzlaff**, Deer, Itasca. **Ron Reich**, Washburn, Cass. **Bill Sandstrom**, Ida, Douglas. **Patti Sausser**, Silver, Ramsey. **David Scepaniak**, Arvilla and Spring, Meeker. **Herm Schley**, Gull, Cass. **Wally & Connie Shaver**, Shetek, Murray Co. and Lac Lavon, Dakota Co. **Greg Solie**, Unnamed (LP-39), Dakota. **Ron Spong**, Grindstone, Pine. **Homer Stensrud**, Pickerel, Itasca. **Howard Stewart**, Bamber, Olmsted. **Dennis Tack**, Hubert, Crow Wing. **Jerome Vanek**, Beltrami (Gnat), Beltrami. **James Vojta**, Bello, Itasca. **Roy Wangen**, Tetonka, Le Sueur. **John Wurm**, Mary, Wright. **Greg & Rhett Yeo**, Norway, Kandiyohi. **Eric Young**, Camp, Wright. **Jim Zweerink**, Juggler, Becker.

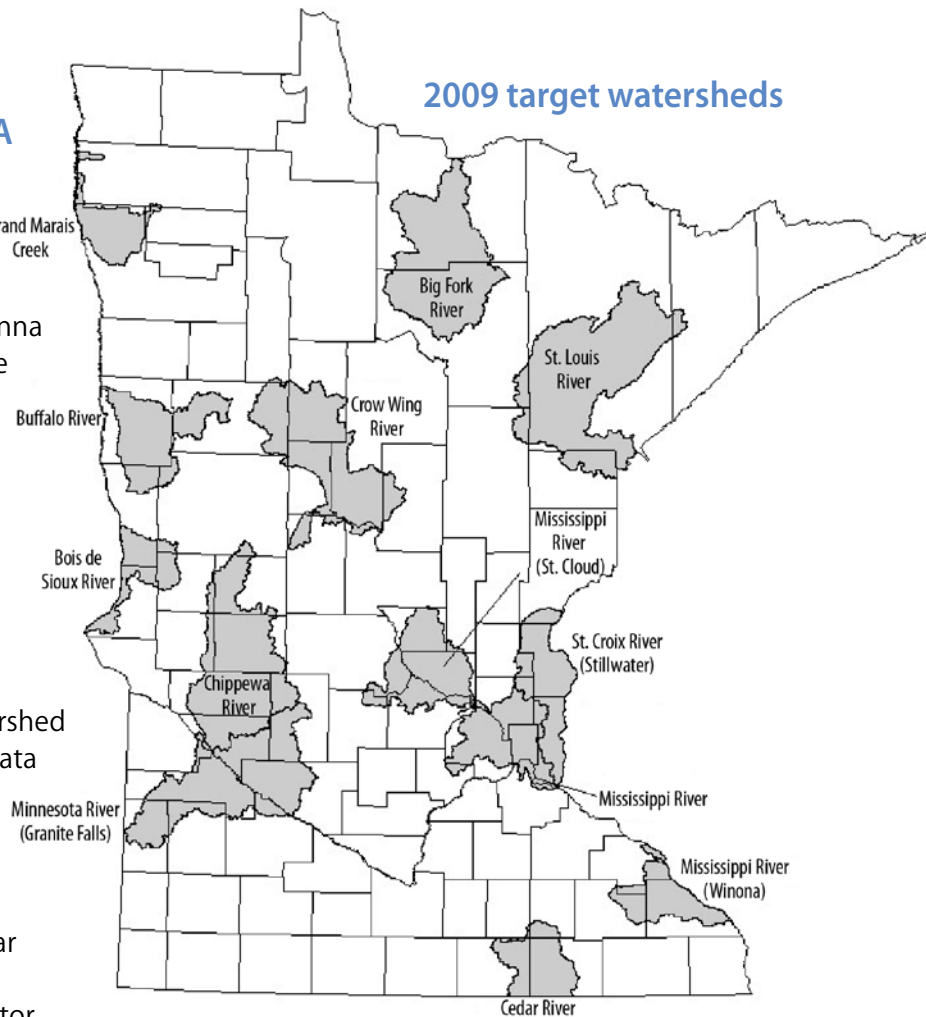
## News and Notes

### New telephone numbers at the MPCA

Telephone numbers for individuals at the MPCA will be changing after November 20. The Agency's main line (651-296-6300) and toll-free line (800-657-3864) will remain unchanged. If you need to reach Johanna or other MPCA staff after November 20, please use the main or toll-free telephone numbers listed above or Johanna's new phone number: 651-757-2705.

### Volunteers needed in specific watersheds

The MPCA will begin conducting intensive watershed studies, starting in 2009. Over the course of the next ten years, each major watershed in Minnesota will be monitored and specific data will be gathered. The MPCA is looking for more volunteers in specific areas to supplement the data that the agency and other local partners will be collecting. If you know of people who live in or have cabins near the following areas (see map on right), please encourage them to become a volunteer monitor.



### If you're burning garbage, you're making poison

Burning your household garbage is dangerous to your health and our environment, and generally against the law in Minnesota. If you're still using a burn barrel, wood stove, or fire-pit for your trash, it's time for a change. What can you do to help? Don't burn garbage. Use recycling and garbage services or drop-off sites and encourage your neighbors to do the same. To find out more information about local recycling and disposal options at home or at the cabin, call your solid waste or environmental officer or visit: [www.pca.state.mn.us/burnbarrel](http://www.pca.state.mn.us/burnbarrel) for contact information for all 87 counties in Minnesota.

### Tips for closing up your cabin this fall

As the weather turns cooler and leaves are changing from bright green to shades of gold and red, many Minnesotans begin the process of closing the cabin for the winter. The MPCA has developed a list of tips that will help save energy and can prevent costly problems.

**Furnace tips:** Vacuum the furnace interior, change the air filter and check any belts for wear.

**Septic tank maintenance:** To help prevent septic systems from freezing, put straw bales over the system to provide insulation.

**Winterize plumbing:** If you are going to completely close the cabin, you can shut off the water and winterize the plumbing. Bleed pipes and water heater lines completely and use recreational vehicle antifreeze, which is rated for potable water lines and is not as toxic as regular antifreeze.

**Sealing windows and air leaks:** Going through the cabin and sealing windows and air-leaks will help conserve energy and save dollars for those who heat a cabin year-round. While you check for air leaks you may also want to have some steel wool on hand to plug any holes large enough to invite critters into the cabin while you are away. Mothballs or dryer sheets around the cabin also to keep unwanted pests out.

## Meet the CLMP's 35-year volunteers

### Chuck Taylor

Chuck Taylor is a man who defines the words dedication and commitment. For the past 35 years, Chuck has been very involved in the water resources around his neighborhood in Lake Elmo. In addition to being one of only two 35-year CLMP volunteers, he also takes lake level readings on up to a dozen lakes at a time and submits the data to the Valley Branch Watershed District.

Chuck and his wife live on Lake Jane, and he first became interested in the lake back in 1973 when there were high-water problems. Since then, he's faithfully turned in his Secchi readings every year to the MPCA and he is known as the man to ask for information about lake levels in the watershed district.

"Chuck has been providing year-round detailed data since 1979," said Lincoln Fetcher, Valley Branch Watershed District President. "He comes to our monthly watershed meetings and his data helps the board make policy decisions. Chuck is invaluable, truly inspirational and a man about the environment."

Year round, you can find Chuck out on the lakes to take his readings, though the work is not always easy. Chuck doesn't have a motorboat, so taking his Secchi readings can sometimes be difficult with only a canoe at his service.

"Last winter, I had to drill through a lot of ice to get down to the water," he said. "Sunfish Lake has a 30-foot embankment, so getting down to the lake can be a chore." Chuck added that his wife now makes him take a cell phone with when he's out monitoring in case he runs into any trouble.

For the most part, Chuck said people are very supportive of his work. His favorite part of monitoring is seeing the changes from year to year, enjoying the wildlife and just having the chance to get outdoors.

The MPCA thanks Chuck for his dedication and for his years of service.

### Dick Duerre

Thirty-five years ago, Dick Duerre was reading the paper and saw an article looking for lake volunteers. He decided to get involved. One of only two 35-year volunteers, Dick has been a citizen lake volunteer in three different locations — Crystal Lake in Dakota County and Gladstone and Silver Lakes in Crow Wing County.

Dick likes that monitoring gives him an excuse to get out on the lake and he takes satisfaction in doing something to help the environment and the individual lake. "I like to make the people who live around the lake aware and involved in what's happening to the water quality — knowing what's going on gives them an opportunity to get involved," Dick said.

Parts of Silver Lake were really low this summer, forcing Dick to take out his kayak instead of his normal boat, but he can still see the disk at 15 or 16 feet at deepest point, noting that it's a very clear lake.

Dick said he keeps on monitoring because he's concerned about the future of the environment for his children and grandchildren.

"People should get involved. If we can talk people into not destroying their shoreline and follow better policies like not fertilizing, and having a natural barrier, it will help improve our water quality," Dick said. "We need to educate people out of thinking they can't hurt the lake."

MPCA is not the only agency that recognizes Dick's volunteerism. In 2007, Minnesota Waters honored Dick with the "Volunteer of the Year" award.

Courtney Kowalczak, Program Director at Minnesota Waters, said Dick is someone who has demonstrated talent, time, and commitment to improving and protecting lakes and streams in his community. "He is an inspiration to citizen volunteers across Minnesota," Kowalczak said.

The MPCA thanks Dick for his dedication and for his years of service.

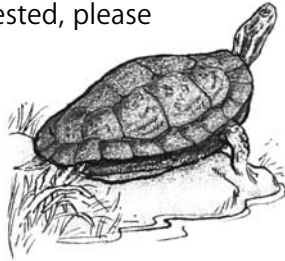


# Help promote CLMP

With more than 12,200 lakes in the state, many more volunteers are needed to gather statewide data. In continuing recruitment efforts, the MPCA is looking for volunteers to help promote the program. Here are a few examples of how you can get involved:

## Serve as a spokesperson.

There are a lot of media opportunities and volunteers can choose what they are comfortable doing. You could be interviewed by an MPCA staff member for a press release or magazine article. You could write a letter to the editor for your hometown newspaper about being a monitor. You could do a radio or TV interview about your monitoring experiences. You could volunteer to work at an agency booth or at the MPCA's state fair exhibit, the *Eco Experience*. If you are interested, please call or email Jennifer Maleitzke at 651-296-6300, 800-657-3864 or [jennifer.maleitzke@state.mn.us](mailto:jennifer.maleitzke@state.mn.us).



## Send in a photograph

MPCA has a limited number of photographs of volunteers on the lake monitoring. Take a picture the next time you are out monitoring and send it to the agency with your name and monitoring location. Electronic images are acceptable (high resolution — 300 dpi are best) and can be emailed to: [clmp@pca.state.mn.us](mailto:clmp@pca.state.mn.us). Pictures may be used on the Web site, in reports, and in other promotional pieces.

## Tell your family and friends about the program.

The program's best advocates are the volunteers already involved. Do you ever talk about your monitoring experience with others? Help us promote the program by talking to your friends and family about what you do and encouraging others to get involved. Monitoring a lake can be shared with friends, scout or church groups, etc. Please contact Johanna Schussler for supplies and promotional materials at 651-296-6300, 800-657-3864 or [johanna.schussler@state.mn.us](mailto:johanna.schussler@state.mn.us).

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