

Chapter 9. Ongoing Educational Programs

Summary

As a recommendation from the 2004 PGOLID Lake Management Plan, prepared by Blue Water Science, PGOLID hired a Water Resource Coordinator in 2005. This position started out as a full-time seasonal position covering just the summer months. Jordan Ornquist served as the PGOLID Water Resource Coordinator for the summers of 2005-2006. In 2006, the position changed to a part-time, year-round position. In December of 2006, Moriya Rufer was hired and has been the PGOLID Water Resource Coordinator from December 2006 to present (March 2016).

The PGOLID Water Resource Coordinator's responsibilities include water quality monitoring and planning, data assessment and interpretation, problem identification and mitigation, grant writing for new lake projects and educational programs.

These educational programs have included:

- Educational seminars for lake residents in the summer.
- Articles in the Pelican Brief (Pelican Lake Property Owners Association [PLPOA] Newsletter).
- Educational presentations at PGOLID and PLPOA meetings.
- Maintenance of the PGOLID website.
- Act as a contact and resource for community education and outreach and availability to PGOLID residents for any questions (calls, emails, visits).
- Keep abreast of new state/county/local government lake regulations and disseminate the information in an understandable way to PGOLID residents.
- Work with upstream landowners, farmers, ranchers, and other lake associations to act in a proactive manner in the protection of the water quality that flows into the PGOLID.

Education has focused on the following topics:

- Water quality
- Invasive species
- Shoreline restoration
- Septic system and holding tank maintenance
- Aquatic plants and algae
- The importance of maintaining native aquatic plants such as bulrush
- Boater stewardship
- DNR regulations

These educational programs have been deemed successful, and it is important to continue them into the future.