



**Left to right front row Scott Hanson, Barb, Joe, Jodi Kleinjan, Julie Blackburn**

**Back Row left to right Marion Bender, Steve Bartz, Lorin, and Willis Kleinjan**

## **2009 Minnesota Waters Awards Winners**

### **LAKE ASSOCIATION OF THE YEAR**

### **PELICAN LAKE ASSOCIATION OF ST.ANNA**

#### **\*A NEW STAR LAKE GROUP\***

**On August 19<sup>th</sup> Pelican Lake Association of St. Anna was honored by Minnesota Waters as Lake Association of the Year. Receiving the award for the group were Joe & Barb Lang. The entire lake association board was in attendance at the award ceremony at Harriett Island and the Mississippi River cruise that followed. Minnesota Waters decision to select Pelican Lake Association of St. Anna for this award was stated as follows:**

**This award is given to a lake association who is committed and enterprising members achieve successful outcomes in lake management while forging productive connections with the surrounding community and government agencies.**

**This association was also given the first Star Lake Designation in Stearns County and is officially designated in the first group of Star Lakes of MN in 2009.**

**Organized in 2003 and comprising 90 members, equaling 90 percent of the lake's property owners the Pelican Lake Association of St. Anna funds its projects with membership dues, contributions of money and materials, fundraiser proceeds cost share partnerships, and volunteer labor.**

**The association partnered with the Minnesota Control Agency to complete an assessment of Pelican Lake and its watershed and participated in the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources' pilot program for developing a citizen volunteer water monitoring manual. The association is guided by a comprehensive lake management plan, done in partnership with the Initiative Foundation and developed in 2005, which set up six committees to work on lake protection and improvement projects, land use and runoff, fisheries, water monitoring, aquatic vegetation and swimmers itch, membership and public access. Committees have partnered with a wide range of individuals and organizations, such as agricultural property owners, the Initiative Foundation, the Stearns County Soil and Water Conservation District, the Minnesota DNR, the Holdingford Sno Flyers and the Avon Sportsmans Club, and the Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers program. Projects accomplished include the construction of sediment ponds, assistance with installing CRP measures, the development of walleye spawning beds, the improvement and repair of a public access, and community outreach and education on aquatic invasive species. The association also arranged for lake assessment and aerial lakeshore analysis to determine nutrient loading.**

**This assessment further reiterated the need for buffering near ditches that drain to a lake, the need to do some damming in areas, it pointed out culverts near the lake that drain field runoff directly into the lake and the need for ponds in other areas as well as CRP native vegetation, septic system certifications, increased education, rain gardens and native vegetation planting, which together will all continue to improve Secchi disk readings and nutrient levels when monitoring.**

**Pelican Lake Association of St. Anna is grateful for the acknowledgement and recognition it received from Minnesota Waters for its efforts to safeguard and improve the quality of water in this area.**

