



Lake Hanska Support Group Chairman, Loren Brekke, poses proudly in front of Lake Hanska.

## Lake Hanska Support Group Recognized as 1994 Conservation Cooperators

Lake Hanska, 1844 acres, located in Southeastern Brown County, is the County's largest

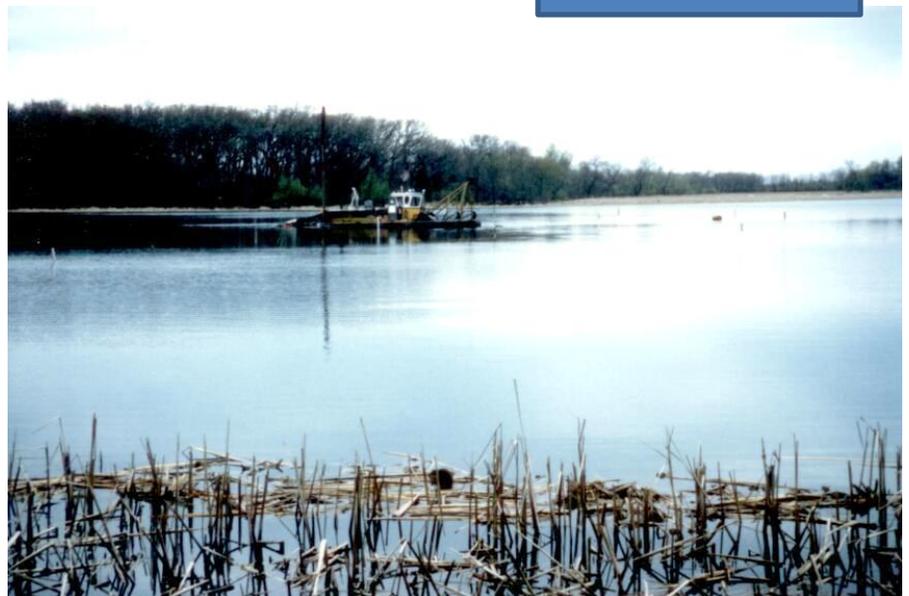
lake. Various organizations and groups of concerned citizens have been working for many years to maintain and improve the lakes viability. One of these, the Lake Hanska Support Group, is being recognized by the Brown Soil and Water Conservation District as the 1994 Cooperator of the Year. The award recognizes the conservation contributions of the recipients. Brown County Commissioners appointed the group in 1985 to represent the various citizen groups and agencies with the goal of restoring the lake for all purposes including but not limited to fishing, boating, hunting and sailing. Officers are Loren Brekke, Chairman, Wally Schmeising, Secretary and Oyler Brundelie, Treasurer. Meetings are held on an as needed basis.

Water clarity and quality were improved when recent group support resulted in the dredging of 270 acres in the southeastern bay of the 1844 acres of the lake. Plans are prepared to dredge another 150 acres on the western end and locate an

Dredging Lake Hanska

additional access on the North end to accommodate the increased traffic. Also, slated for installation are sediment ponds on two of the incoming ditches.

The lake was drawn down in 1988 and



treated with Retenone in October of 1989. The lake was restocked in 1990 with walleye, northern, bass, crappie, bluegills and perch. A variable crest dam was also installed in spring of 1989. The drawdown was to increase the vegetative growth on the shoreline and create habitat for waterfowl.

The Lake Hanska Support Group encourages persons to restore small wetlands near the Lake Hanska area and to retire marginal land near the lake through the Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Program or other available programs.

Representatives of the group will be guests of the Brown SWCD at the Minnesota Association of Conservation Districts Annual Convention in Bloomington in December. A luncheon will be held at the Convention to honor the Lake Hanska Support Group and other state recognized Outstanding Conservation Cooperators.



Lake Hanska Support Group Chairman, Loren Brekke, along with his wife, accept a Certificate of Merit from the MASWCD and "The Farmer" magazine on behalf of the group.