

# LAKE NEWS

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## Septic inspections will continue thanks to matching grant from Cass County

Like most of us, you probably don't spend much time thinking about the condition of your septic system. However, that could prove to be a messy mistake, with far-reaching consequences. We asked Ken Kostial, vice president of the Lake Association board, to explain those consequences and what the Lake Association is doing to help maintain water quality in the Woman Lake chain through this septic inspection initiative, a Lake Association program that recently received a big boost by virtue of a \$5,000 matching grant from Cass County's Environmental Trust Fund.

**Lake News:** If an owner's septic system seems to be working fine, why should it be inspected?

**Kostial:** Without regular inspection, a septic system may have failed, or be in danger of failing, well before any visual sign or odor indicates failure, such as a back-up into your house, over-

flowing tanks or stopped-up drain fields. By the time these symptoms are evident, pollutants may already be making their way into surface water and ground waters – including your well water.

**Lake News:** Specifically, what are the immediate or potential risks to water quality of a non-compliant septic system?

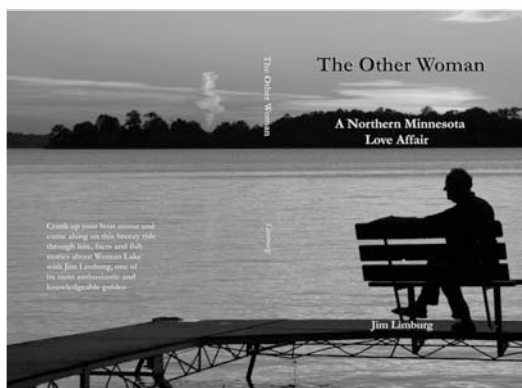
**Kostial:** The immediate effects on our waters from failed septic systems include high suspended solids, a higher five-day biochemical oxygen demand, as well as nitrate and fecal matter contamination. Ultimately, these contaminants could pose a potential serious health risk, a long-term degradation of surface water quality with an attendant negative impact on water clarity, noxious organic proliferation, and a decline in the productive capacity of fisheries, water fowl habitat and reproduction.

**Lake News:** What's the urgency? ... is there any clear evidence of widespread septic system failure?

**Kostial:** There is little doubt that efforts to maintain or improve water quality by upgrading failing septic systems are urgently needed. According to the MPCA's 2004 Report to the Legislature, statewide studies have concluded that approximately 39% of all on-site septic systems in Minnesota are either currently polluting or at risk of contaminating our water. Also, of the 123 systems inspected on Woman Lake in 2005 (as part of the Association's project) more than 20% were found to be failing and/or non-compliant. This percentage would likely have been quite a bit higher except that a number of residents unfortunately chose to

*(Continued on page 5)*

## New book about Woman Lake now available



**The Other Woman: A Northern Minnesota Love Affair**, is a wonderful new book by Jim Limburg. He and his wife, Martha, have been summer residents on Woman Lake since they first rented a cabin in 1969. Jim has been collecting stories (some of which have appeared in *Lake News*), photographs and brochures about Woman Lake since that time and has

now gathered those materials into a book. Following is a selection from Chapter 6, entitled "How's Fishing?"

### A Top Ten List of Excuses for Getting Skunked

Listen in on some Minnesota lake conversations during fishing season and you'll hear a marvelous collection

*Continued on page 3*

## Krusin' with Don

### Walleye slot limit on hold for this year



In our newsletter last Fall I reported that the Child, Girl and Woman Lake Association was discussing with the DNR a Walleye slot limit which would be posted on the Woman Lake chain this spring, becoming fully effective in 2007. According to that proposed slot limit, all 17 to 26-inch walleyes caught would have to be released. At that time,

the DNR believed that a protected slot limit would result in a greater number of larger walleyes—a goal most of us walleye anglers would heartily applaud.

However it now appears that old data supporting the effectiveness of a slot limit of the type proposed is rather weak. As a result we're exploring with the DNR other means of bolstering our walleye population in the Woman Lake chain.

During discussions this past winter with the DNR, and through our new association with the Walker Area Walleye Coalition (WAWC), we have had an opportunity to learn more about Walleye stocking in our lakes. We learned, for example, that the DNR's fish "census" each fall, carried out through electro-shocking in Woman Lake and other area lakes, indicates that Woman Lake's egg hatch rate is very good, but that many of the newly hatched fry don't survive winter because there may not be enough food in the lake to sustain them (too much competition for available food).

As a result, the DNR may cut back on the percent of walleye fry put back

in Woman Lake from 20% to 10% while several other area lakes will receive increased stocking of walleye fry. Future DNR surveys will indicate whether or not the impact is positive for Woman Lake.

Your Lake Association believes that increasing Woman Lake's walleye population should be a top DNR priority because it is one of their Mother Lakes, a premier Minnesota lake.

Be assured that your Lake Association will continue to work with the DNR and other organizations to do everything it can to maintain and improve fishing on Child, Woman and Girl lakes. Our goal, quite frankly, is to see gill net numbers return to where they were in the mid 1990's.

I hope this informs you as to what has been happening this winter in regards to our association with the Walleye Coalition and improving our walleye fishing. If you have other thoughts on how we can accomplish this goal, please give me a call. I'd love to hear from you.

Don Kruse

Lake Association President

## Annual Meeting

**Date: Aug. 5<sup>th</sup>**

**Time: 7:00 pm**

**Place: Longville School  
Gym**

*You are cordially invited to attend. Hear reports on what your Child, Girl and Woman Lake Property Owner's Association is doing on your behalf to preserve and protect the quality of our lakes and environment.*



## Membership dues to increase

Your Lake Association will increase membership dues to \$25 this year to help offset the rising cost of carrying out Lake Association programs. According to Don Kruse, Lake Association president, our Lake Association dues have not increased since the mid-1980s. In the meantime, program costs have continued to climb, he said.

"For years our Lake Association dues have been much lower than most other Minnesota lake associations. This increase will place us closer to the average and, most importantly, allow us to continue the programs we're carrying out on behalf of lakeshore owners on Child, Woman and Girl Lakes," he added.

In addition to providing programs to improve water quality, boat safety, and fishing, the Lake Association distributes two newsletters each year plus a membership directory.

## Editorial

### Our Lake Association – Preserving a legacy

Thirty-one years ago this summer, my wife, Marlene, and I looked at a piece of property on the north end of Child Lake. It had been part of a small resort called Huckleberry Finn. Impulsively, we told the realtor “We’ll take it.” It was one of the best decisions we’ve ever made.

Child Lake became a place of adventure for our four-year-old toddler, David, who could barely climb the hill from the lake up to our small cabin on his own steam. Our youngest son, Michael, was only a year old then and has never known a time when we didn’t head “up north” to our cabin during the summer.

Those days were a magical time for them: catching frogs, racing turtles, fishing and swimming on those hot summer days, and playing “Sentry” with our neighbor’s kids in the evening until it was time for bed. They learned to love and respect nature, to throw

back what you don’t need for dinner, to keep the water clean and if you caught a butterfly, the kindest thing was to let it be free again.

The years have flown by and now both boys are married and parents of small children. And they’re starting to teach the same lessons about nature and life on the lake. As grandparents it’s a thrill all over again to see our grandchildren run up the hill from the lake, like our own boys did years ago, excited about a bug or frog they’d found or begging to go out in the boat. Some day, when my wife and I are gone, they will continue our traditions, and enjoy fishing, swimming and the call of the loons at night while falling asleep.

Since I retired about a year ago, I’ve volunteered to become a more active member of our Lake Association. It’s been a privilege to work with others on the board who I believe truly care about our lakes and who are working on be-

half of everyone to preserve the beauty and the natural environment that makes our lakes so special. It’s a legacy our Lake Association is working to preserve. I, for one, feel fortunate to have an Association that can help us accomplish collectively what we cannot achieve individually, not only for us now but for generations to come.

John Gundale, Editor




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#### *(Woman Lake Book - Continued from page 1)*

of excuses for not catching fish. It might be helpful to have these at the ready. I suggest you tear out this list and tape it to the inside of your tackle box, or fold it up and put it in your wallet. You may need some of these excuses when you pull up to the dock after being out on the lake for four hours and getting skunked, or when you get back to the office after vacation. I offer this “Top Ten” list of excuses for not catching any fish:

#### **10. It’s the wrong time.**

“They were hitting like crazy last week; but of course we didn’t get up here ‘til yesterday.”

#### **9. It’s the wrong place.**

“I hear the walleyes are hitting over on Mule...but of course I don’t have a boat trailer...”

#### **8. It’s the mayflies.**

(This one sets you up as somewhat of an aquatic biologist, who probably

subscribes to *In-Fisherman* magazine) “Well, we just had the mayfly hatch (if it’s June or July, you can add that the hatch was late this year). And you know what that does to fishing...”

And so on, through the list of ten. The chapter continues with a summary of the most recent DNR report on fish in Woman Lake as well as interviews with Harlan Fierstine, DNR Area Fisheries Supervisor, and with fishing guide Dan Krone.

Other chapters deal with the origins of the names of Woman, Child and Girl lakes, as well as some of the history of the area, beginning with the Dakota and Ojibway tribes, some thoughts about water quality and the environment, and a number of stories resulting from forty interviews with lake and area residents.

A special feature of the book is a color centerfold photograph of the lake, supplied by the EROS Data Center in

Sioux Falls, South Dakota. “It’s been a fun project,” says Jim, “and I think anyone interested in our lakes will enjoy reading the book.”

*The Other Woman: A Northern Minnesota Love Affair* will be available after June 1 in local shops and resorts and will sell for \$10.95 plus tax. To order by mail, contact Jim Limburg at 3785 Pikie Point Drive NE, Longville, 56655, or [jlimburg@luthersem.edu](mailto:jlimburg@luthersem.edu). Mail order cost is \$13.95, which includes shipping, handling and tax.

**Editor’s Note:** This 120-page book provides a fascinating cross section of information and lore about Woman Lake that is hard to put down. It would make a wonderful gift for anyone on your shopping list, whether for Father’s Day, a birthday or Christmas.

# Lantern Bay property purchase to be completed this summer

Lake Association working with partners to make it happen



The "Save Lantern Bay" project is bearing excellent results! After several successful legal challenges during the past three years regarding the proposed development on Woman Lake's Lantern Bay, we are seeing progress! Your Lake Association, along with the Leech Lake Area Watershed Foundation, Nature Conservancy, the DNR, and hundreds of concerned individuals are working diligently to acquire more than 5,000 feet of shoreline in the environmentally-sensitive, shallow area on the northeast side of Woman Lake known as "Lantern Bay."

Property closings currently scheduled to take place this coming July, 2006 will protect approximately 1,500 feet. By the end of the summer, with your

continued support and help, we hope to acquire an additional 3,700 feet, including the 2,200 feet currently held by Thousand Acre Development. As a result, more than 5,000 feet of sensitive shoreline will be protected, enabling the shallow Lantern Bay to be our lake's filter and fish nursery for future generations. Under public ownership through the Department of Natural Resources, the land will be designated an Aquatic Management Area to protect the water, woods and wildlife that attract us to Child, Girl and Woman Lakes.

How is this happening? In a few words: persistence, teamwork and **YOUR** help! During the past couple of years more than 300 people have made cash and stock donations totaling approximately \$70 thousand and our Lake Association donated \$10 thousand last fall. This money has demonstrated widespread support of this critical effort and has provided the "seed money" with which to leverage additional dollars and initiate purchases.

Critical to this success has been the Leech Lake Area Watershed Foundation's contributions of resources and the DNR's ability and willingness to match contributions through its RIM program (Re-Invest in Minnesota) which is raised in part through the sale of special license plates.

We hope you are energized by this success and will join us now for one final push to secure the additional 3,700 feet described above. The best way to help is to join us now with significant donations of money, stock and property.

The remaining purchases of land will need everyone's participation! **Yes**, the Leech Lake Area Watershed Foundation will work with DNR/RIM matching funds program to double your contribution. **Yes**, your donation is tax deductible. **Yes**, you can make a lasting difference.

Send previously pledged money and current donations to:

**Leech Lake Area Watershed Foundation**  
**P.O. Box 455**  
**Hackensack, MN. 56452**

LLAWF is a non-profit entity. Donations of cash, stock and land are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law. Federal Id. # 41-1887906

For further information contact: Dick Kruger 218- 682-3300, Doug Payne 682-2714, Gary Lyall 682-2955, or Ted Melby at 675-6911.

## Roadside cleanup crews will soon swing into action

All 16 sections of road that the Lake Association has agreed to clean currently have volunteers assigned and there are three people on the waiting list. However, we may still need additional volunteers because we don't yet

know if all those who participated last year will be back. If you would like to volunteer for a section or two, please call Tom Vind at 982-6629.

### When walleyes are caught...

Around 40 percent of the annual walleye harvest is taken during the first two weeks of the season.

Source: *Minnesota Conservation Volunteer*

### Where loons grow up

After their parents head to the Gulf Coast, young loons stay another month to eat and grow before the long journey. The young loons live in southern waters for four or five years, until breeding age. Then, amazingly, they find their way back to the Minnesota lake where they were raised.



Source: *Minnesota Conservation Volunteer*

*(Septic Inspections - Continued from page 1)*

“opt out” and not have their system inspected.

**Lake News: What were the results of the Septic Inspection Project sponsored by the Association in 2005?**

**Kostial:** Your Association took a major step toward achieving water quality objectives in 2005 when it developed a Healthy Lake Management Plan. This plan, done in cooperation with Cass County Environmental Services Department and the Initiative Foundation, concluded that our water quality objectives could be accomplished in part by promoting safe, effective and compliant septic systems.

With the support of a one-time grant from the Initiative Foundation, the Association was able to pay for the services of a licensed septic inspection contractor who audited 123 systems. Of the systems actually inspected (mainly on the westerly side of Woman Lake) approximately 25 were found to be non-compliant and referred by the contractor to Cass County ESD for information on required remedial steps.

Based on available county records, the septic contractor tried not to schedule inspections of newer systems or those that had been recently inspected.

**Lake News: What is the Association's plan for completing the project?**

**Kostial:** We have secured a matching grant of \$5,000 from Cass County to partially cover the costs of the 2006 inspections. The Association has also applied for a grant from the Anderson Brothers Foundation. A donation from Woodrow Township was recently received and modest donations from the City of Longville and other townships may be forthcoming. Bottom line, from grants, donations and other CGWLPOA funds we will have at least \$10,000 available this year which will pay for approximately 167 inspections at \$60 each. In general, the plan is to resume inspections near the southwest end of Woman Lake, moving in both directions towards Broadwater Bay and Hunter's Bay, respectively. Inspections will also be offered

to property owners on Little Woman and Child Lakes. How far up either side of Woman Lake inspections are carried out this year will depend on funding and rate of participation.

We hope to complete the septic audit project in 2007, based on the availability of additional grant and/or donation funds. This summer, property owners in the area to be inspected will be notified in writing and will have the ability to “opt out.” Other “ground rules” established in 2005, such as not inspecting newer or recently inspected systems, will continue to apply in 2006-2007.

**Lake News: Why is it in everyone's best interest to have this septic inspection, particularly if an owner's system fails the inspection and is required to pay for repair, upgrade or replacement?**

**Kostial:** In addition to the obvious benefits of a reduction in pollution, cleaner lakes and healthy drinking water, consider the following:

1. If your system is failing and/or non-compliant, it is not a matter of **if** your system will be inspected and brought up to standard, but **when**. As you may know, if you sell your property or apply for a building permit (for an addition, a deck, a garage, shoreline alteration, etc.), you are required by the county to have a compliance inspection. If your system is not compliant, you must agree to necessary repairs or replacement before a permit will be issued or a sale recorded.
2. If such a required inspection is performed, the cost will be entirely out of your own pocket rather than essentially free, as in the case of the inspections being done as part of this project. Such private, individual inspections usually cost somewhere in the range of \$150 - \$250.
3. With a voluntary inspection, you may have somewhat more flexibility in scheduling the repair or replacement of your system, if this is necessary, than would be possible

if such work was driven by an application for a permit or a sale transaction. This greater flexibility may allow more time to secure competitive bids and possibly investigate a special low-interest loan program for septic system replacement offered by Region 5. Anyone interested in learning more about these loans should contact the Cass County Environmental Services Department. As of this month, \$24,000 in special loan funding is available.

**Lake News: If someone declined having a septic inspection last year, but now wants to have it done, can the owner be included in this year's schedule?**

**Kostial:** Yes. Call Keith Lorensen, chair of the Water Quality Committee and coordinator of the Association's new septic inspection project, and ask that you be placed on the contractor's schedule. Keith's number is (218) 363-2281. We should be able to accommodate most such requests.

**Lake News: If a person's property is not scheduled for an inspection until next year is it possible to get on this year's schedule?**

**Kostial:** Yes. We should be able to accommodate at least a limited number of such requests. Again, contact Keith at the number above to be moved up on the schedule.

Finally, remember the book “The Grass is Always Greener Over the Septic Tank” by the late humorist Erma Bombeck? Perhaps Bombeck could just as easily and accurately have written books with titles such as, “The Lake is Always Greener if Your Septic System Fails” or “Your Kid's Complexion May Get Greener if They Drink Contaminated Water.” A failing septic system is serious business. We hope you will do everything you can to support this important Lake Association initiative for a more healthy lake, for all of us and our children.

## Stop aquatic hitchhikers!

During the boating season here are some reminders to help prevent the spread of invasive exotic species into our lake waters:

- Inspect your boat, trailer, and equipment and remove visible aquatic plants, zebra mussels, other animals, and mud before leaving a water access.

- Drain water from bait buckets, live well, bilge, transom, and motor before leaving a water access.
- Dispose of unwanted live bait and worms in the trash.
- Spray/wash your boat, trailer, and equipment with high pressure or hot water before going to other waters, OR
- Dry everything for at least five days.

For more information on harmful aquatic invaders in Minnesota, please call the Minnesota DNR Invasive Species Program at 651-297-1464 or the Minnesota Sea Grant Aquatic Invasive Species Information Center at 218-726-8712.



### Question: A deer's fur coat changes color depending on the time of year - a reddish color in the spring and brown in the fall. Why?



**Answer:** The deer's coat is designed to provide both a means for thermoregulation and camouflage. Summer coats appear reddish and are thin, allowing deer to better cope with heat stress. In the fall, deer begin a process of molting, which is triggered by hormonal changes that reflect the changing seasons. The reddish summer coat turns into a faded gray or brown color as the new winter coat begins to grow. The new coat is comprised of two layers. The outer guard hairs are hollow, stiff and grow about two inches longer than the undercoat. The inner layer is soft and dense, which

insulates deer from the cold weather and snow. Coat color, regardless of the season, tends to be darker in forested areas and lighter in agricultural areas where deer are exposed to more direct sunlight.

Michelle Carstensen Powell, DNR Natural Resource Specialist-CWD

### Question: Weedrollers have become a popular tool for eliminating unwanted vegetation along the shoreline, especially in the Brainerd Lakes area. What sort of problems do they cause for fish and water quality?

**Answer:** Mechanical devices, such as weedrollers, are commonly used to control aquatic vegetation in public waters and their use is regulated by the DNR through the issuing of permits. Not all sites are suitable for the operation of these devices, however. Although they can be an effective method of controlling vegetation,

these machines can have a negative impact on lakes, which is an area of concern when it comes to lake management. The potentially harmful affects of the loss of aquatic plants are felt by a wide variety of species, including waterfowl, invertebrates, amphibians and fish. Specifically, weedrollers can decrease water clarity by displacing sediment and destroy fish spawning beds and nursery areas, and potentially impact recreational activities. Lakeshore owners should be aware of these tradeoffs when considering using such devices. A proper permit should be obtained before using any mechanical vegetation removal device.

Wayne Mueller, DNR Aquatic Plant specialist

### Do you love Wood Ducks?

To learn how to build wood-duck houses and how to join the Wood Duck Society, visit [www.woodducksociety.com](http://www.woodducksociety.com).

## Fish have sixth sense

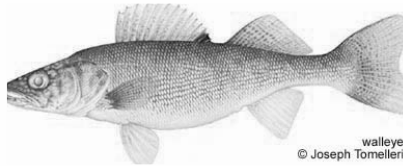
**Question:** Humans and fish are similar in that they rely on the senses of taste, smell, sight, hearing and touch to live and cope with their surroundings.

However, fish also have a sixth sense. What is it?

**Answer:** Fish have a built in motion detector called the lateral line, a row of tiny holes that run along each side of the body. The sensitive hairs inside each hole help detect the location and direction of vibrations in the water.

This is especially important to anglers. The sound and movement of bait in the water attracts attention. Once at an angler's lure, fish will use their other five senses to determine if the bait is something that sounds like, feels like, looks like, smells like and tastes like something they might usually eat.

# Prizes offered in Walleye Catch and Release contest



Spring fishing has arrived and the 2006 Walleye Catch and Release (C & R) Contest is now underway, one way your Lake Association promotes the voluntary release of walleyes 18 inches and longer. For this year's contest anglers will receive a free C & R Cap for releasing eligible fish. In addition, each participating angler will be eligible for a prize drawing held at the end of the contest. Anglers should register fish at area resorts or bait and tackle shops.

- Releasing fish is a good idea because
- Fish are a valuable resource and should be caught more than once.
  - Personal efforts to enhance conservation make fishing more fun.
  - Sometimes, releasing fish is mandatory because they are undersized or you have already caught your limit.
  - Releasing fish helps with population recovery for heavily fished species.
  - It's a great opportunity to pass along good fishing practices to the next generation.

Remember, a released fish has an excellent chance of survival when handled correctly. Good luck fishing!

## May I drive the boat, Dad?

Minnesota law states that there are no age restrictions for operating boats of 25 hp or less. **Those age 12 or under** wishing to drive boats with 25 – 75 hp must have someone at least 21

years of age on board within reach of the controls, but are prohibited from driving in any case if the boat motor is over 75 hp.

Those **12 – 17 years of age** have no restrictions if the boat motor is less than 25 hp. If boat motor is over 25 hp the driver must either have a watercraft operator's permit or someone at least 21 on board within reach of the controls.

Those 12-17 years of age can obtain a watercraft operator's certificate/permit, by taking the DNR's home study boating course, available by calling or e-mailing the DNR's Information Center. Adults who take the course can broaden their boating knowledge and receive a certificate that may allow them to obtain a discount on their boat insurance.

Those who pass the final exam can print out a temporary Watercraft Operator's Permit (age 12-17) or Adult Certificate of Completion (18 years and over) right away. The course is free but there is a \$15 charge each time you take the final test. To check it out on the web, go to [www.dnr.state.mn.us/boating](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/boating) and click on "Boating Safety Certification."

## All children must wear life jackets

Beginning May 6, 2006, all children under ten years of age must wear life jackets on all boats while underway, according to a new Minnesota law. Underway means not attached to a permanent mooring or tied to a dock. Exceptions: 1) children who are below the top deck or in an enclosed cabin, 2) children aboard passenger vessels being operated by a licensed captain and 3)



children engaged in swimming or diving activities from an anchored boat.

New boating laws recently passed also set higher boat registration fees and change the level for impaired boat operation to an alcohol blood level of .08.

Other key boating laws:

- Any boat with an enclosed engine or fuel tank must carry a size B-1 fire extinguisher.
- Navigation lights must be on from sunset to sunrise.
- Any boat 16 feet or longer, except canoes and kayaks must carry an immediately-available, throwable device, such as a buoyant cushion. Boats **SHORTER** than 16 feet must carry a readily-accessible life jacket for each person in the boat.

Remember these boating safety tips:

- Wear your personal flotation device (PFD), especially in small boats. It's the best "life insurance" policy afloat.
- Don't stand up. If you must move around, keep your weight low and close to the center of the craft. Falls overboard and capsizing are the leading cause of boating deaths.
- Before you leave on a boating or fishing trip, let someone know where you are going and when you will return. If you run into trouble, this will assist authorities in finding you.
- If someone is in trouble in the water, use elementary rescue methods first, such as throwing something that floats to the victim. Only as a last resort should you ever enter the water to save someone. Even then, take a buoyant object like a PFD with you.
- If you fall out of your boat into cold water, immediately attempt to re-board your craft to avoid hypothermia, an insidious killer that causes half of Minnesota's boating deaths each year. If you can't right the boat, climb on top and hang on. Most small craft have built-in flotation that will support the weight of its occupants, even after capsizing or swamping.

### Child, Girl, and Woman Lake Association Leadership Team

<b>President</b>	<b>Don Kruse</b>	krusedj@arvig.net	363-2580
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<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	<b>John Gundale</b>	johngundale@tds.net	682-2093

**Lake Representatives**

<b>Zone 1</b>	Dick Grattidge	363-2245	<b>Zone 5</b>	John Lange	682-3119
<b>Zone 2</b>	Ed Olson	363-3292	<b>Zone 6</b>	Dick Sampson	363-2872
<b>Zone 3</b>	Jim Limburg	363-2589	<b>Zone 7</b>	Denny Ploeger	363-2560
<b>Zone 3</b>	Bernie Huenecke	363-2701	<b>Zone 8</b>	Arlan Schires	682-3307
<b>Zone 4</b>	Dave Brown	682-2062	<b>Zone 9</b>	Position Vacant	
<b>Zone 5</b>	Roger Schaffler	682-2277			



CHILD, GIRL AND WOMAN LAKE  
 PROPERTY OWNER'S ASSOCIATION  
 PO 335, LONGVILLE, MN 56655

Website: [www.mnlakes.org/cgwlpoa](http://www.mnlakes.org/cgwlpoa)  
 Email: [cgwlpoa@mnlakes.org](mailto:cgwlpoa@mnlakes.org)

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