

# Lake News

2018 Fall Issue 98

Child, Girl, and Woman Lakes Area Association



## Woman Lake is Critical Habitat

When very young, I was told by my grandmother that a *National Geographic* magazine article from the 1930's stated Woman Lake was one of the most beautiful lakes in Minnesota. I never questioned that fact and believe it after decades of experiences on other Minnesota waters. The first eagle sightings of the year; return of our loons; sunrises over Horseshoe Island, Broadwater or Lantern Bays; or first swim in the spring simply reaffirms that belief.

Having worked for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR) for 42 years, I know most Minnesotans and visitors feel the same way about "their lake" too. These positive feelings are channeled into essential volunteer networks by lake associations to protect lakes from invasive species, monitor shoreline alterations and erosion, measure water levels, check on vegetation removal, and seek conformance with zoning, water quality, septic systems, and water safety regulations. All of these actions contribute to protecting values of the lake.

In matters that influence spending for long-term conservation practices, and in addition to the need for public support for the project, it is critical that sound biological information be used to address highest needs and assure that results are achieved.

Thankfully, the DNR conducted an extensive assessment in 2008 that documented what many of us know - Woman Lake is one of the most biological rich lakes in Minnesota. Its waters, shorelands, including very diverse riparian habitats, and lake characteristics support an amazing variety and abundance of bird, plant, and fish species. Many factors contribute to this, but certain critical or highly sensitive shore lands support the bulk of this richness. It is

the less developed bays and shallow areas of Woman Lake that serve as the vault to its richness.

Previous land and water protection projects on Woman Lake such as in Broadwater and Lantern Bays have con-



tributed to the protection of these "riches." However, more areas have been identified that are also critical to maintaining the species richness and water quality of Woman Lake, Girl, and Child Lakes.

Maintaining high water quality on sensitive lakes such as Woman Lake requires that no more than 25 percent of contributing watershed be developed. This means that in addition to the protection of immediate shoreline, riparian wetland habitat areas, and littoral zones, more of the lands contributing runoff to these lakes that are more distant must be protected from development.

The Northern Waters Land Trust (formally the Leech Lake Watershed Foundation) remains committed to working with the Girl, Child, and Woman Lakes Area Association to protect the riches we enjoy.

*Tim Bremicker, Lake Association Member*

## Krusin' with Don



Leaves have changed color and fallen to the ground, the water temperature has taken a dive towards the frozen stage, and water sport folks have put away their toys. These are all sure signs that the winter season will soon be upon us.

Our annual tree and shrub program is changing to a shoreline buffer improvement and restoration program. This new program will benefit all members, and **FREE** plants are still available. More information along with an order form is contained in this newsletter.

The Association was started in 1976 and is now 42 years strong. Some of the original name signs on the road standards were looking pretty worn. We have replaced all the original signs with new ones. Thank you to those 32 members for being part of our association for all of those years.



With the new public access ramp in Longville, we contacted the DNR about putting up a kiosk to distribute information. Along with the new kiosk, there is also a bin to dispose of used fishing line. A second kiosk and bin was built and installed at the Woman Lake public access. Information cards are available at both sites, so boaters will know where they can get their boats decontaminated.

The Lake Management Plan has been updated and is now available at [www.womanlakechain.org](http://www.womanlakechain.org)

under Publications. This plan creates a record of historic and existing conditions and influences on Child, Girl, and Woman Lakes to identify goals of our community. Please feel free to take a look at the plan.

A big "thank you" goes out to all the volunteers that help make things happen. Without your efforts, our Association could not do the things that we do. Thanks to all!

*Don Kruse, President*

## Fishing with Bill

Growing up our family vacation destination was Ten Mile Lake. I still look back on those days as some of the most memorable of my life. It was there that I discovered my passion for walleye fishing. When my family returned to Iowa, we showed our relatives pictures and shared our fishing stories. One of my relatives, Great Uncle Tom, was never as impressed as everyone else. He had spent time on Woman Lake in the '50s and '60s, and he always had wild walleye stories to tell about Woman Lake and how much better the fishing was. Now after living on the Woman Lake Chain since 2013 full-time, I regret not taking the time to listen to those wild fishing stories.



I recently chatted with a gentleman at our annual association dinner who has been coming to Woman Lake for over 70 years. Being a history teacher and a fisherman, especially the history of fishing on Woman Lake, it is fascinating to get the perspectives of people who have spent so many years on the lake. I love

to hear about how and where they caught fish and the techniques they used to put fish in the boat. During our conversation, we talked about how the number of bass in the lake has increased, how fishing pressure keeps going up, and how possession limits have impacted the lake. I am always curious to hear about change. I asked, "What is the biggest change you have seen on the lake in 70 years?" The answer was "invasive species." Where there were once large flats of weeds, today those weed flats are gone. Fish and fishermen have had to adjust tactics over time to consistently put walleye in the boat. As our conversation wound down, we both agreed that Woman Lake is still a tremendous fishing lake.

I wish I could take Great Uncle Tom fishing today. I cannot imagine what he would think about boats controlled by 250 horsepower motors, touch screen electronics with 360 degree imaging, remote controlled trolling motors, and all the other tools anglers today depend on. Pretty sure he would laugh and say, "you do not need all that stuff to catch fish on Woman Lake!"

*Bill Hornung, Child Lake Representative*



## Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Update

The threat of an infestation of an aquatic invasive species (AIS) remains strong throughout Minnesota. Locally, Eurasian watermilfoil was discovered at the city ramp and dock area in Longville last summer. As more bodies of water become infested, the potential for their introduction to other waters increases. There is also the repeated cost of treatment for those species that can be treated successfully and safely. At the end of 2017, the Minnesota DNR reported 993 infested bodies of water statewide. As of October 1, 2018, they were reporting 1,011 such bodies of water, with more likely to be discovered before the end of this year.

Minnesota residents and businesses have become more aware of the threat of AIS in recent years and have engaged in recommended measures to help combat their spread. Watercraft users are checking their watercraft, trailers, lower units, and other equipment and removing visible plants, zebra mussels, and other AIS. They are draining water from their bilges, live wells, baitwells, and keeping drain plus out while transporting watercraft. They are disposing of unwanted bait in the trash and replacing lake water in bait buckets with clean water brought with them. Watercraft operators are also using decontamination facilities (many of which require no



charge in Case County), cleaning watercraft at home, and drying watercraft for five days or longer before launching again.

Owners of commercial lake service businesses have been required to take DNR training and must secure a permit every three years to address installation, removal, and decontamination of infested watercraft and related equipment. Their employees must also taking training to secure a certificate. Decontamination training for lake service providers is also offered by the DNR. Clean in, clean out training (online and home study) is offered free by the DNR to anyone interested in learning about AIS laws. Anyone convicted of a violation of AIS laws is required to complete this training.

We have come a long way in Minnesota to help prevent introductions of AIS, but we all must continue to be diligent. One area of perceived weakness is non-residents who bring watercraft to Minnesota. Residents and resort owners can help greatly by reminding non-residents of preventative measures and AIS laws. We hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable watercraft season in 2018 and practiced recommended actions to help protect our beautiful waters from AIS.

*Rich Hess, AIS*

## Child, Girl, Woman Lake Area Association Annual Meeting

The 42nd annual meeting of the CGWLAA was held on August 4, 2018, at Woodrow Township Hall. There were a total of 12 board members and 61 association members in attendance.

An annual report for 2018 was distributed at the meeting and can be found on the website at [www.womanlake.org](http://www.womanlake.org) under Publications - Annual Report. Committee members provided reports on AIS, Fisheries, Water Patrol, Stewardship/Conservation, Road Signs, Water Quality, Newsletter, Membership, and Roadside Cleanup.

The proposed 2018-2019 budget of \$12,575 was reviewed and approved. Nomination and election of officers occurred. John Stevenson was elected as Vice President, and Tom Jansen was elected as Treasurer.

We were fortunate to have two presenters at the meeting. Doug Shultz from the Walker DNR talked about fisheries. Christine Herwig from the Bemidji DNR gave a presentation on Loons. The Association appreciated their participation at the meeting.

If you were unable to attend the meeting, minutes are posted at [www.womanlake.org](http://www.womanlake.org) under Publications - Meeting Minutes. The date of the annual meeting is the first Saturday of August each year. A notice of the date and time will be published in the spring newsletter, on our website, Facebook, and the local newspaper prior to the meeting.

*Linda Kane, Editor*

## Shoreline Buffer Improvement and Restoration Program

For the past five years, our Lake Association has offered a free tree and shrub program. This program is changing to a shoreline buffer program to help with erosion problems. Plants will be short in height, to avoid blocking lake views, with deep roots and sturdy stems. CGWLAA will provide six **FREE** plants each year to association members. We hope all plants ordered will find homes lakeside to reduce nutrients entering the lake. They will be native Minnesota plants that require some care in their early years. **All orders must be placed by the first week of January.**

Orders sent by e-mail are easier to process and provide ongoing communication. If you do not have e-mail, please be sure to include your name and phone number on the order form. Please e-mail your order to:

[cjsteffen@aol.com](mailto:cjsteffen@aol.com) (no order form necessary), or mail the order form to:

**Maggie Steffen**  
**PO Box 4311**  
**Tubac, AZ, 85646**

Members who place orders will be contacted in late April with pick up information. For information about plants being offered, visit [www.prairieresto.com](http://www.prairieresto.com), locate Products, select On-Line Catalog, and enter the species name in the product search box. Please contact Vic Rinke at 218-820-7500 or [vicrinke@gmail.com](mailto:vicrinke@gmail.com) with questions about the program, to discuss planting, or request a shoreline visit.

*Vic Rinke, Conservation/Stewardship*



**Giant Hyssop**



**Blue-eyed Grass**



**Pennsylvania Sedge**

**Print Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone #:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

| <u>Species</u>     | <u>Height</u>   | <u>Flower Color</u> | <u>Quantity</u> |
|--------------------|-----------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| Giant Hyssop       | 2 feet          | Purple/Lavender     | _____           |
| Northern Bedstraw  | 1 to 3 feet     | White               | _____           |
| Long-leaved Bluets | 4 to 10 inches  | White/Blue          | _____           |
| Rough Blazing Star | 1 to 4 feet     | Pink/Lavender       | _____           |
| Obedient Plant     | 2 to 4 feet     | Pink                | _____           |
| Blue-eyed Grass    | 4 to 16 inches  | Blue                | _____           |
| Calico Aster       | 18 to 24 inches | Multi Blues/Whites  | _____           |
| Poverty Oat Grass  | 16 to 24 inches |                     | _____           |
| Flowered Wood Rush | 20 to 28 inches | White               | _____           |
| Pennsylvania Sedge | 16 to 20 inches |                     | _____           |

**Total (6 Maximum)** \_\_\_\_\_

## Meet a Neighbor - Tim & Lori Swenson

Tim and Lori Swenson live on Bungy Bay and are retired. Following are responses they have provided to share their story with all of you.



**Occupations:** Tim - 3M HVAC technician, and Lori - banker.

**How did you learn about Woman Lake?** Tim started coming to the Green Roof Lodge on Woman Lake as a small child. His parents owned the resort in the '70s, selling it in the '80s when the "free" help graduated from high school and moved away. Tim remembers coming to Woman Lake when County Road 5 was still gravel, and there was a wood bridge, not a culvert, going into Squaw Bay (now known as Little Woman). He has fond memories of growing up at the resort, especially as a teenage boy (new girls every week) and going by boat to the A&W in Longville.

As a couple, we started staying at Woman Lake Lodge when our kids were young. We dreamed of owning our own cabin and realized that dream in 1997. We hoped to install our love of the lake in our kids. Both of our children love the lake and now have families of their own. We are just starting to introduce our grand babies (Quinn, age 3, and Holly, 10 months) to lake life.

**Activities we enjoy:** Tim loves to walleye fish. Lori likes floating on an air mattress on a hot summer day and hosting family get togethers. Our happy place is sitting on our dock or in our screen porch looking at the lake!

**Favorite season:** Summer at the lake is the BEST because you can be outside enjoying the water, but now that we are retired, fall and the slower pace of life might be a close second (except this year with all the rain).

**Traditions:** Fishing Opener is a tradition that Tim, our son, and his friends do not miss. When they catch fish, we have our annual Memorial Day fish fry. Another tradition is going into Longville with the cousins to visit

Frosty's - still enjoyed even though they are all adults now.

**Favorite lure:** A hook! (A true fisherman never tells...)

**Favorite memory:** The first year we had our cabin, we shoveled off a skating rink during the holidays. We skated at night with the kids and remember the quiet, peacefulness thinking "this is what it is all about."

**Other:** We both graduated from Walker-Hackensack High School and have always considered Hackensack as "home." During high school we worked at several different places. Tim at Woman Lake Inn, Channel 12 TV Station, and Happiness Resort. Lori at the Snack N Shack and Jerry's Red Owl. Having grown up in Hackensack, we both have many family connections in the area. Our parents, several siblings, aunts, and uncles live in Hackensack, Walker, and Pine River.

Tim started working for 3M in Hutchinson in 1981. We were married in 1983 - lived, worked, and raised our fam-



ily in Hutchinson. We retired this past summer. We always knew we would move back to Hackensack and Woman Lake when we retired. We are finally home again!





# Lake News



Child, Girl and Woman Lakes  
Area Association  
PO 335, Longville, MN 56655

Website addresses:  
www.womanlakechain.org  
www.facebook.com/  
womanlakechain  
info@womanlakechain.org



## Child, Girl, and Woman Lakes Area Association

|                |                 |                            |              |
|----------------|-----------------|----------------------------|--------------|
| President      | Don Kruse       | krusedj@arvig.net          | 218-363-2580 |
| Vice President | Jon Stevenson   | j.a.stevenson@usfamily.net | 763-226-6509 |
| Treasurer      | Tom Jansen      | trjansen@tds.net           | 218-682-2306 |
| Secretary      | Joyce Humphreys | joyjac22@gmail.com         | 218-682-2607 |

### Directors at Large

|                |              |                         |              |
|----------------|--------------|-------------------------|--------------|
| Woman Lake Rep | Gary Knox    | gary@minneteepee.com    | 218-682-2485 |
| Woman Lake Rep | Jim Limburg  | jlimburg@luthernsem.edu | 218-363-2589 |
| Woman Lake Rep | Tim Bruhjell | timaliceb@gmail.com     | 651-368-5402 |
| Girl Lake Rep  | Sue Meyer    | gsmeyer@arvig.net       | 218-363-3659 |
| Child Lake     | Bill Hornung | hornungbill@gmail.com   | 218-507-0904 |

### Standing Committees

|                     |                    |                            |              |
|---------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|--------------|
| Membership          | Cindy & Bob Hankey | cahankey@gmail.com         | 218-682-2370 |
| Road Signs          | Jon Stevenson      | J.A.Stevenson@usfamily.net | 763-226-6509 |
| AI Species          | Rich Hess          | rhess48@arvig.net          | 218-363-2282 |
| Fisheries           | Rich Hess          | rhess48@arvig.net          | 218-363-2282 |
| Water Patrol        |                    |                            |              |
| Conserv/Stewardship | Vic Rinke          | vicrinke@gmail.com         | 218-682-2866 |
| Newsletter          | Linda Kane         | lckane@live.com            | 612-327-4964 |
| Water Quality       | Ann Stevenson      | astevens@usfamily.net      | 612-490-5990 |

### Task Committees

|                     |                 |                       |              |
|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| Adopt-A-Highway     | Ken Hanson      | klhanson03@gmail.com  | 218-682-2045 |
| Navigational Safety | Dwayne Waldera  | noisytoys@hotmail.com | 218-363-2030 |
| Webmaster           | Carole Houghton | mchcah@arvig.net      | 218-363-2286 |
| Facebook Manager    | Kathy Scharmer  | kscharmer@mchsi.com   | 319-361-1443 |

### Lake Representatives

|        |                 |              |         |                 |              |
|--------|-----------------|--------------|---------|-----------------|--------------|
| Zone 1 | Andrew Benjamin | 218-682-2513 | Zone 6  | Vacant Position |              |
| Zone 2 | Vacant Position |              | Zone 7  | Kenneth Hanson  | 218-682-2045 |
| Zone 3 | Jim Limburg     | 218-363-2589 | Zone 8  | Vacant Position |              |
| Zone 4 | Dave Brown      | 218-682-2309 | Zone 9  | Peter Zenk      | 218-363-3445 |
| Zone 5 | John Lange      | 218-682-3119 | Zone 10 | Vacant Position |              |