

# Lake News

2019 Fall Issue 100

Child, Girl, and Woman Lakes Area Association



## Loon Migration

Minnesota has the largest population of common loons estimated between 10,000 and 15,000 over the years. Their breeding grounds are our lakes, and in winter they are in the Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic Ocean. Loons can tolerate cold weather, so migration is due to the ice on our lakes. We have often wondered, "where do they go each winter" and "how do they know the way"? The innate ability of animals has always been a mystery to me. Loon chicks must determine when to leave - never having experienced ice freeze-up - travel to oceans they have never seen, and go without an adult to guide them.

You may see loons in small numbers gathering on lakes during the summer for socializing, but it is in the fall, sometime in September, that loons begin gathering on lakes in preparation to migrate. In Minnesota, Lake Mille Lacs is a gathering place for loons with sightings of hundreds and even thousands of loons. Lake Huron and Lake Michigan are two known areas for loons resting and feeding along the migration route. Loons take several days up to a week to rest and feed along the way. There are two known distinct migration routes: Illinois, Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama to the Gulf of Mexico; and Ohio, West Virginia, Virginia, South Carolina to the Atlanta Ocean.

Loons can travel a distance of 1,170 to 1,570 miles during migration. With banding and tracking monitors, loons have been recorded to travel 360 to 505 miles over two consecutive days. One loon was recorded to have flown 670 miles in a 24-hour period. Loons fly during the day, rarely at night. They leave in first light, fly throughout the day, and land just before it gets dark after sunset. At night Loons sleep over deep water away from land and predators. Loons can fly up to 75-110 mph at elevations between 4,900-8,800 feet. These high elevations mean less air density, which adds around 10% to their flight speed. It also means less air turbulence, and the air is cooler which helps decrease overheating or heat stress. Due to prevailing winds from the west and northwest, fall migration speeds average higher than when returning in the spring; average spring migration speed is 90 mph.

Adult loons leave earlier than the young - generally three weeks to a month; however, in some cases it can be just days. Loons may gather up in preparation for migration but usually migrate individually or in pairs. Mated pairs do not always migrate together. There can be a two or three day intervals of departure time.

Loons molt in winter shedding their color to a basic gray and white plumage rendering them nearly flightless. Replacement feathers take 3 to 4 weeks to develop, which begins prior to their migration north. Juveniles replace feathers summer and winter as they remain in their southern habitat from three to five years before migrating back to the lake or within 50 miles of where they were hatched - now a mature adult ready to claim their territory, mate, and nest.



It is not really known how the loon makes the change from a fresh water to salt water diet. Robert Storer in Michigan found that the loon has salt glands located in the fleshy part of the head above the nostrils. The salt is eliminated in liquid form that drips out the nostril and flows out on the grooves of their bill.

Loons are not vocal during the winter; it is not until they have returned north that they begin to vocalize. You will hear the call of the male as he returns flying over his territory. We are fortunate to see their beautiful color and hear their melodic sounds during our Minnesota spring and summer. Watch for a Loon Vocalization article in the spring newsletter.

*Sue Meyer, Girl Lake Representative*

Sources: Minnesota DNR  
Upper Midwest Environmental Science Center  
Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology  
*Love of Loons* by Kate Crowley and Mike Link  
*Fascinating Loons* by Stan Tekiela  
Map from [borealbirds.org](http://borealbirds.org)



## Krusin' with Don



We have numerous volunteers that make things happen for your association. Without them we could not do the many things we do from patrolling our water, picking up trash from the ditches, to taking water samples during the summer. Thank you for doing this for our association.

Vic Rinke has been the chairperson for our Conservation/Stewardship program since 2009. This year he decided it was time to step down. We appreciate all the time Vic spent leading this program. Our new chairperson is Bill Pilacinski. Bill has extensive experience with plants and will be a good addition for our shoreline restoration program. The list of plants available for next spring is in the newsletter, so check it out.

Kathy Scharmer is the administrator for our Facebook page. This past summer the board moved this program from a task committee to a standing committee and changed the name to Social Media. Our Facebook page has grown over the last two years, and the board sees this as a great place to post announcements and keep you informed. Take a look, and if you have photos, please submit them to Kathy.



In the spring when the lakes are free of hard water, our water patrol program led by Tim Bruhjell will be up and running again. Volunteers are needed for this important program, so please contact Tim at 651-368-5402 or [timaliceb@gmail.com](mailto:timaliceb@gmail.com) to learn more about the opportunity and how you can support our association.

You should have received a new directory either by email or mail. We publish a new directory every three years. In going through it, I was wondering how many states are represented. Of course Minnesota leads the way with 455 members. Three other states are in double figures: Iowa, Arizona, and Illinois. There are a total of 21 states represented on our lakes. Have a good winter, stay safe and healthy, and we will talk again in the spring.

*Don Kruse, President*

## Fishing with Bill

If you are fortunate enough to stay "Up North" year-round, you know how harsh our winters can be. The idea of sitting on a five gallon bucket ice fishing does not appeal to everyone, but ice fishing can be a great activity that gets you out of the house and out on your favorite lake. Ice fishing requires some specific gear, but you do not need to spend thousands of dollars to experience this fantastic sport. Just like any other Minnesota activity, you must dress appropriately to ensure a pleasant experience.

Dressing in layers is important because it can take a lot of work to reach your spot and get set up. Being able to shed clothing and add clothing is important. An auger is also a must! Sure you can use a pickaxe and shovel, but when the ice is over 30 inches thick those are not realistic options. Today augers come in all shapes and sizes; your local bait shops will be happy to point you in the right direction. Fishing rods can be purchased for as little as \$7. One way to save a few dollars is to use your summer reels on ice fishing rods. You may need to change the line on those rods for ice season.

A great place to start looking for walleye on Woman Lake is the Government Point area. It is a popular fishing

spot and offers easy access to the lake. Often walleye move



shallow in the evenings, and this area of the lake provides the sand and gravel that attract walleye. The bays of the Woman Lake Chain are often harder to access, but if you are able to get to them, they offer some of the best panfishing in the area.

One of the biggest keys to ice fishing is to stay safe. No ice is ever considered 100% safe. It is always a good idea to constantly be checking the ice as you venture out. Ice fishing will provide you with a different perspective of the lake, and this will help as the water warms and open water fishing season begins.

*Bill Horning, Child Lake Representative*

## Eurasian Watermilfoil Update

PLM Lake and Land Management treated Girl Lake again in 2019 for Eurasian watermilfoil. The invasive plant recurred at the city docks and was also discovered in the harbor at Long Birch Lodge. Both areas were treated on September 11: city docks 0.34 acres and Long Birch Lodge 0.40 acres as indicated on the map.

The cost of this treatment was \$998.98, and the CG-WLAA received donations of \$250 each from the City of Longville and Nathan and Mandy Tabaka to help pay for the treatments. A grant request has also been submitted to the Longville Area Community Foundation for \$500 to help us cover the costs. We thank them all for their assistance and support.

We are most likely facing a repetitive annual treatment of this invasive plant. Hopefully, this will control its abundance and spread to other areas on Girl Lake and in our chain. Eurasian watermilfoil is primarily spread through the movement of water-related equipment. Plant fragments can get tangled on boats, trailers, motors, anchors and other water-related equipment. All it takes is a single plant fragment to start a new population. Eurasian watermilfoil can form dense mats at the surface that inhibit the movement of watercraft users. It also can outcompete native aquatic plants and reduce plant diversity.

If you would like to make a voluntary donation for AIS, there is a space on your annual membership renewal form.



*Rich Hess, AIS and Fisheries*

## Zebra Mussels in Ten Mile Lake

Zebra mussels have been confirmed in Ten Mile Lake. They were detected as veligers (free swimming microscopic larva) by the DNR in sufficient quantities that the DNR is confident of the presence of adult zebra mussels.

Many on Ten Mile Lake have already removed docks, lifts, and boats, but for those still at the lake, it is important to take time to inspect for the presence of adult mussels, which can be quite small and report any found to the Ten Mile Lake Association.

Over the winter, Ten Mile Lake Association will be developing an education and response plan and will communicate it before spring. The effects of zebra mussels varies significantly from lake to lake, so it is unknown what will happen to Ten Mile or how extensive the infestation will be. Right now the most important steps that can be taken are Clean, Drain, and Dry. If you will be taking any watercraft from Ten Mile to another lake or river, it is important to get an inspection and, if necessary, decontamination.

Contact the Cass County AIS Technician, Levy Bergstrom at 218-547-1256 with questions.

Please visit the Minnesota DNR website at [www.mnd-nr.bof/ais](http://www.mnd-nr.bof/ais) for more information on aquatic invasive species and a list of infested waters.

As watercraft users we must all be careful to check our watercraft for invasive specifics before we launch them into a waterbody. Bait buckets must either be emptied in the trash or have water exchanged prior to leaving any waterbody, and drain plugs must be removed from all watercraft and all boating related equipment prior to transporting. There are now watercraft decontamination facilities in Cass County, and there is no charge for decontamination. Cass County will pay the facility. Information can be found on the website.

[www.womanlakechain.org/Lake Management Program/Aquatic Invasive Species](http://www.womanlakechain.org/Lake%20Management%20Program/Aquatic%20Invasive%20Species), Carole Houghton - Webmaster

## CGWLAA Annual Meeting

The 43rd annual meeting of the CGWLAA was held on August 4, 2019, at Woodrow Township Hall. There were a total of eight board members and 49 association members in attendance.

An annual report for 2019 was distributed at the meeting and can be found on the website at [www.woman-lakechain.org](http://www.woman-lakechain.org) under Publications / Meeting Minutes / Annual Meeting - August 2019. Committee members provided reports on Membership, Roadside Cleanup, Conservation/Stewardship, Water Patrol, Road Signs, Water Quality, Aquatic Invasive Species, Fisheries, Newsletter, and Social Media.

The proposed budget for 2019-2020 of \$12,825 was reviewed and approved. Nomination and election for open offices occurred. Don Kruse was elected as President, and Joyce Humphreys as elected as Secretary. These positions are for a two-year term.

After the formal meeting was adjourned, we were fortunate to have a guest speaker. Jody Dirks, Assistant Supervisor from the Walker DNR, gave a presentation on local fish that included information about habitat, netting results, sizes, and population. We appreciate Jody's support of the association and thank him for providing this informative presentation.

If you were unable to attend the meeting, minutes are posted with the annual report for 2019 at the website listed earlier in this article. The date of the 2020 annual meeting is August 1, 2020. A reminder about the date and time will be published in the spring newsletter, included on our website, announced on Facebook, and listed in the local newspaper.

*Linda Kane, Editor*

## Adapting to Climate Change - Part 1

### What is climate change and what are the causes?

First of all, the earth's climate has never been completely static, and in the past the climate has changed due to natural causes. Natural processes such as volcanic eruptions, variations in the earth's orbit, or changes in the sun's intensity are possible causes. Climate change is said to be occurring when the average long-term weather patterns of a region are altered for an extended period of time, typically decades or longer. These changes include shifts in wind patterns, the average temperature, or the amount of precipitation. Human activities can also cause changes to the climate by creating greenhouse gas emissions or cutting down forests.

Global warming and the climate changes seen today are being caused by the increase of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and other greenhouse gas emissions by humans such as water vapor, methane, nitrous oxide, and hydrofluorocarbons. These emissions include the burning of fossil fuels and industrial production. This traps more heat in our atmosphere, which drives global warming and climate change. While CO<sub>2</sub> and other greenhouse gases are naturally present in the atmosphere, emissions from human activities have greatly amplified the natural greenhouse effect. Computer modeling, evidence from ice cores as well as fossilized land, and marine samples show that CO<sub>2</sub> is at its highest level in the last three million years and that CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations have increased because of human activities like fossil fuel use and deforestation. Trees play a role in the carbon cycle. The mass of a tree is primarily carbon. Trees capture CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere that is used in the processes of photosynthesis as the tree grows.

Although not everyone is convinced that climate change is real, there is substantial scientific evidence that our cli-

mate is already changing not only globally but also in Minnesota. In Minnesota we are getting both warmer and wetter. We are experiencing more damaging rains, and cold weather is warming. Annual temperatures have been increasing with warming rates averaging nearly half a degree Fahrenheit per decade since 1970. In the northern third of the state where we live or spend our vacations, the annual average has increased 2.3°F. Winter lows have increased by 4.8°F. In addition, annual precipitation totals have been increasing at an average rate of just over a quarter inch per decade since 1895. You may be surprised to learn that the temperature increase has not resulted from more warm weather but instead from major reductions in cool and cold weather. The majority of warming has taken place when it is usually the coldest - namely during winter, at night, and especially in the northern parts of the state.

We have all become familiar with the term climate change. Information and updates have been in the news almost daily for the past number of years. This article is intended to be a brief introduction to climate change and what is occurring in our state and area. In the next issue of Lake News we will present Part 2, which will describe the effects of climate change on our lakes and waterways, on the land, and in our forests. Potential effects of climate change on vegetation, trees, fish, and wildlife will also be discussed. We hope you find this information interesting as well as educational. Part 3 will begin to describe what we as a lake association and as property owners can do to help mitigate the negative effects of climate change.

*Rich Hess, AIS and Fisheries*

## Order Trees or Shrubs for Spring Planting

The CGWLAA is once again offering five **FREE** trees or shrubs to encourage shoreline naturalization as a buffer between lawns and the lakes. As in the past, you can order any combination of five trees or shrubs from the list. Additional trees or shrubs can be ordered for \$1 each. Payment for any additional items must be made when your order is mailed or placed online. **All orders must be placed by the first week of January.**

E-mail your order to Bill Pilacinski at wppila@gmail.com or Don Kruse at krusedj@arvig.net (no order form necessary). Please send mail orders and payment by check to: **Bill Pilacinski at 3295 - 124th Lane NE Unit C, Blaine, MN 55449.**

Trees and shrubs can be picked up on May 9 or May 16 at Woodrow Township Hall from 9 AM until noon. You will receive a reminder when your order is available. If you prefer to order additional plants that are not on the order form, visit the Crow Wing Soil and Water Conservation District website to see what else is avail-

able (<https://crowwingswcd.org/annual-tree-plant-sale/>).

The CWSWCD offers a broader selection, but you need to order an entire bundle or kit. You can also send this additional order with payment, and we will include it in our order, which may then qualify for a discount. Most of the trees and shrubs are bare root 8 to 24 inches in size. Please call Bill Pilacinski at 314-541-0396 with any questions. We look forward to another successful year of spring planting.

Bill will be exploring other options for future years, including perennial plants and seeds, and your feedback on what has worked well, or not so well, in the past is welcomed. He also has quite a bit of experience in keeping his plants, including ornamentals and vegetables, from becoming deer fodder, both here in Minnesota as well as in Missouri, and plans to put together a database of information to help us keep our plants from becoming critter food.

### Who is Bill Pilacinski?

Bill will be taking responsibility for the shoreline protection program of our lake association. He and his wife, Peggy, have been long time (mostly seasonal) residents and members of our lake association having purchased a cabin on Broadwater Bay of Woman Lake in 1987. The cabin was replaced with a year-round home in 2005. Bill is a retired plant molecular biologist (aka plant genetic engineer) and had a 30+ year career developing genetically engineered crops and food. Bill and Peggy are native Minnesotans but lived in St. Louis for 18 years returning in 2016. Their home on Woman Lake is their residence, but they spend much of the colder winter months in Blaine, Minnesota, nearer their three children and six grandchildren.

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### Order Form

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

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

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

Species	Mature Height (ft)	Soil Type	Number
Mountain Ash	30 to 40	Dry-Wet	_____
Staghorn Sumac	12 to 24	Dry-Wet	_____
Nannyberry	7 to 16	Dry-Wet	_____
Highbush Cranberry	8 to 16	Dry-Wet	_____
Elderberry	5 to 12	Moist-Wet	_____
Red Dosier Dogwood	5 to 10	Sandy	_____
Black Chokeberry	3 to 6	Moist-West	_____

# 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	Tim Bruhjell	timaliceb@gmail.com	651-368-5402
Water Quality	Ann Stevenson	astevenson@usfamily.net	612-490-5990
Newsletter	Linda Kane	lckane@live.com	612-327-4964
Social Media	Kathy Scharmer	kscharmer@mchsi.com	319-361-1443

### **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
Conservation/Stewardship	Bill Pilacinski	wpilla@gmail.com	314-541-0396

### **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			Zone 9	Peter Zenk	218-363-3445
Zone 5	John Lange	218-682-3119	Zone 10	Vacant Position	