

Lake News

2020 Spring Issue 101

Child, Girl, and Woman Lakes Area Association



Communications of the Loon

In early spring, I await the first call of the loon. As soon as there is an opening on the lake large enough for a loon to land, they arrive. The sounds evoke strong feelings of emotion, an eerie sound on the lake. These calls will be heard throughout the summer, and no matter how many times I hear them, I stop to listen.

The loon has a basic repertoire of four calls, which can be given individually or combined to signify the response to conflicting emotions and are often accompanied by displays of physical activity that reflect stress, distress, and excitement. The four basic calls are the Wail, Yodel, Tremolo, and Hoot.

Wail: The wail is a melancholy, drawn-out sound that rises and falls in pitch and is often compared to the howl of a wolf. It carries further on the wind than other calls and is the first vocalization of the loon chick. The chick can peep while in the egg and when hatched will peep to beg for food, but it will wail as a more intense begging for food.

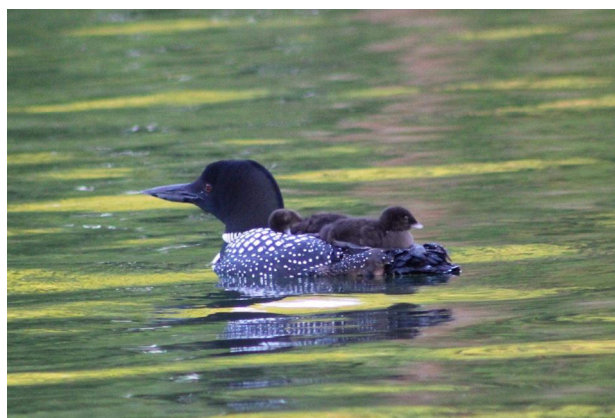
For the adult loon, the wail is given in a variety of situations such as when interaction is desired or while searching for a mate or chick. The more intense the wail, the more urgent the need is to come together. The female will wail when her mate is having an aggressive encounter with an intruder while he is giving the yodel. A pair may begin a wail duet and be answered with wails from a pair in neighboring territory. The wail can be a one-note, single unbroken note; two-note, begins on one note quickly moves to a second note; or three-note, adding a third higher pitch note to the two-note wail.

Yodel: It is believed that only males use the yodel when establishing or defending territories, an aggressive call. The yodel can be from 1 to 9 repeat phrases; the greater the number, the greater the agitation. It is given as a danger or warning call when an eagle flies over or when people come too close to an individual, young, or nest. One loon may begin a yodel after an earlier aggressive interaction, and loons in surrounding areas or lakes may pick up the call in a symphony of an excited wild chorus.

Tremolo: The tremolo is described as "wild laughter," the most common call people hear. It can be a distress call given in a variety of situations: an approaching boat, eagle flying over, nearby rouge loon. If a loon is disturbed while on the nest, they will leave the nest running on the surface

of the water giving the tremolo call. Mated pairs can perform the tremolo in a duet if there is a nearing threat as part of a distraction display. It is the only call given in flight and made while flying over the territory of a loon.

Hoot: The hoot is a softer, monosyllabic note, a short single note. It is a contact call given by a loon approaching a group for a social gathering. It may also be given when surfacing with food for a chick or to keep in contact with a chick or nearby loons. The chick will hoot while begging for food or to locate a parent.



Two new loon chicks in the bay by Keeneemoosha

There are many websites, apps, and CDs that give you the sound with descriptions to help you identify these calls. Please be aware of the loons and their nests, and do not approach or separate families while boating. You now have some basic understanding for these calls, but even if you cannot identify the individual call, be aware of the loons so as not to cause stressful situations. Enjoy their vocalizing sounds.

Sue Meyer, Girl Lake Representative

Sources:

Voices of the Loon (CD) by William Buklow, narrated by Robert J Lurtsema

Loon Summer by Sandy Gollum

Love of Loons by Kate Crowley & Mike Link

Fascinating Loons by Stan Tekiela

All About Loons by Sheila Johnston

Krusin' with Don



John Gundale made up "Krusin' with Don" when he was editor of this newsletter. This will be the last time you go "Krusin' with Don." Over the past winter, I had some health issues. I made the decision to step down from the role of President of this fine organization. It was 17 years ago that they said, "It is only a two year commitment." I guess it was a little longer than that...

There are so many people I want to thank including the current Board, our Standing and Task Committee Chair-

persons, Roadside Cleanup members, Water Patrol members, Water Testing members, and the 27 past members of the Board that I worked with. Without you I could not have done the job that I did. You are all **very** important to this organization - thank you!

I want to thank Tim Bruhjell for the time he serviced as one of the Woman Lake representatives and Water Patrol Chairperson.

Have a safe summer and enjoy our pristine lakes. Hope to see you on the water. Again, thank you all!

Don Kruse, Retired President - Spring 2020

Message from the Vice President

As we all know, this has been a rough year due to COVID-19; our focus is on keeping members safe. Some of our Association activities like Boat Patrol are on hold, and the Longville 4th of July parade has been cancelled. At this time, the annual meeting and appreciation dinner are uncertain as well. Monthly board meetings are currently occurring at 6:30 PM using Zoom videoconferencing.

Following is a list of meeting dates and events:

May 21

June 18

July 16

August 1 (Annual Meeting - TBD)

August 20

September 3 (Recognition Dinner - TBD)

September 17

October 7 (meeting on Wednesday)

You can access updated information about the meeting schedule and meeting minutes on the website. If you missed it, the 2019 annual report is posted on the website, and includes reports from all committees.

Don Kruse, President of the CGWLAA for 17 years, retired this spring. His leadership and guidance have been amazing. Don's efforts on lake conservation and land preservation continue to help our lakes. The public landing kiosks that include the wooden lake maps were designed and constructed by Don, as well as the floating buoy signs and road sign standards. He has worked to improve our association membership software. Don's ability to relate and communicate with everyone has been extremely beneficial. He has helped maintain our lakes, water quality, and water recreation safety. With Don's retirement, I am leading the board while we search for a new president.

Tom Jansen, Treasurer, retired May 31. He served on the board for 18 years providing dedicated service. In addition to managing finances, Tom was involved with the Lantern Bay project, Individual Sewage Treatment System (ISTS)

Compliance Inspection, and participated in meetings with DNR fisheries for the 2016 Woman Lake Fisheries Management Plan. Terry Fay, recently retired after 30 years professional experience in senior housing, has been elected by the Board to replace Tom. Terry's education and experience will allow her to step in and immediately contribute.

Activities that will continue during 2020 include: newsletter, fisheries, aquatic invasive species, road signs, water quality testing, social media/Facebook, stewardship/conservation, tree program, and road clean up. Other items will be handled on an as needed basis.

Your association is involved in many projects, which could not be accomplished without enthusiastic help from our faithful volunteers. Their responsibilities include water patrol, roadside cleanup, water samples for testing, to mention a few. We are in need of water patrol leadership and volunteers for the summer of 2021. If you are interested in joining our volunteer corps or need more information please contact me, Jon Stevenson, 763-226-6509, or email me at j.a.stevenson@usfamily.net.

Please remember our association has a great website frequently updated by Carole Houghton. Check it for the latest monthly meeting minutes, association newsletters, and other information: www.womanlakechain.org. We also have our own Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/womanlakechain/>. Kathy Scharmer updates Facebook and handles social media.

When on the water be safe and wear your life jackets - make sure to always have them readily accessible. We are so fortunate to enjoy this beautiful environment and clear, clean water!

Jon Stevenson, Vice President

Minnesota COVID-19 Resources:

<https://staysafe.mn.gov>

<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/covid-19>

Fisheries and Aquatic Invasive Species Update

Boy River Egg-Take: The Minnesota DNR has announced that there will be no egg-takes this year statewide due to corona virus concerns and working at close quarters with several employees.

Woman Lake Gill Net Assessment: There was no fall gill net assessment in Woman Lake last year. Currently fall assessments are done every other year in even years only.

Stocking: There will be no fry or fingerling stocking in Child, Girl, or Woman Lake in 2020.

Regulations: The northern pike sport fishing regulation will remain unchanged for 2020 to allow for a further review by the DNR. The regulation remains at a possession limit of three; all pike from 24-36 inches must be released, and only one pike over 36 inches may be kept in Child, Girl, and Woman Lakes.

Aquatic Invasive Species:

New Infestations - No new infestations were reported for Cass County as of April 8, 2020.

Eurasian Watermilfoil - This invasive plant recurred at the city docks and was also discovered in the harbor at Long Birch Lodge last year. Both areas were treated on September 11, 2019: city docks 0.34 acres and Long Birch Lodge 0.40 acres. The cost of this treatment was \$998.98, and the CGWLAA received donations of \$250 each from the City of Longville and Nathan and Mandy Tabaka to help pay for the treatments.

We are most likely facing a repetitive annual treatment of this invasive plant. Hopefully, this will control its abun-

dance 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 equipment. A single plant fragment can start a new population. Eurasian watermilfoil can form dense mats at the surface that inhibit the movement of watercraft. 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.

Zebra Mussels - Were confirmed in Ten Mile Lake last year. They were detected as veligers (free swimming microscopic larvae) by the DNR in sufficient quantities that the DNR is confident of the presence of adult zebra mussels. Over the winter, Ten Mile Lake Association was developing an education and response plan that will communicate soon. 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.

Rich Hess, Fisheries & AIS

Fishing Opener 2020

All anglers will remember the Minnesota walleye opener of 2020 for a number of reasons. There is little doubt that anyone who fished in the blizzard-like conditions, with hands so cold they could not feel them hours after they had stopped fishing, questioned if the elusive walleye was really worth it. As I sat in the snow-covered boat with my nephew who was experiencing his first opener, the answer for me was, "yes it is worth it."

Tate, my nephew, is a graduating senior and has missed out on so many of life's early memories. It is important for all of us to remember the sacrifices we are making during these times of social distancing. Sports seasons, proms, and graduations become less important as we



get older, but at the time, they mark major milestones of life.

Every time I get into the boat, whether I am fishing with my dog, my dad, or by myself, I want to make a memory. I will take many memories away from our day on the water. It will not be the number of Woman Lake walleyes we caught or who caught the most fish, but it will be time spent together with those people who are truly important.

On that day, as giant snowflakes fell and walleyes came over the side of the boat, Tate and I made a memory. Stay safe and make memories.

Bill Hornung, Child Lake Representative

Shoreline Buffer & Restoration Program Update

The quality of the trees and shrubs from the Crow Wing Soil & Conservation District this year was very good. Flats of deer resistant plants and a woodland selection, which I purchased, were also of high quality, and we should consider a selection of plants for next year.

It was a double whammy for the first day of the tree/shrub distribution on Saturday, May 9. COVID-19 made the distribution process difficult. Then, Minnesota weather did its thing - a snow squall that began about 10 AM when the distribution started and then slowly ended afterwards. However, the second distribution on Saturday, May 16, went well.

Overall, I think the process went as smoothly as it could despite the situation, and I thank the members for their thoughtfulness throughout the process. There were a few extra plants that were given to those members who had requested them.

Moving forward with the program, I plan to focus on a few efforts. Much of our program has to do with plants, and I will work to keep them healthy and report on these

efforts. This includes the status of plants from distribution the previous year and my efforts to keep them healthy along with efforts to control deer feeding.

I purchased a flat of deer resistant (not deer proof) plants and have planted them throughout my property. I have also kept records of deer feeding (or not) over the years and plan to share this information, along with experiences with various treatments to prevent deer feeding. This spring I tried grafting branches, which I had collected in the area last fall, from the more beautiful, red maple trees, onto some maple saplings on my property and will report on those efforts. Additionally, I plan to look beyond the shoreline in efforts to keep our lake healthy. The shoreline is the last defense to prevent erosion and pollutants from entering our lakes. Berms, swales, or other landscaping methods could be used to delay the movement of water over our properties and allow it to soak through the ground rather than dump directly into the lake water.

Bill Pilacinski, Conservation/Stewardship

Facebook - Did you know?

Did you know that you do not need a Facebook profile in order to view our Lake Association Facebook page? Access the following site, and you will be able to view and interact with our Facebook page as a website: <https://www.facebook.com/womanlakechain/>.

Our page currently has 522 followers. The most popular post was about the loon rescue from fishing line on Woman Lake last summer, over 5,700 people were reached. Many members use the direct messaging function to ask questions or voice concerns about issues on our lake chain, but you may also post photos and comments as a visitor.

We post information specific to our lake chain as well as shared posts from Minnesota Lakes and Rivers, the Minnesota DNR, and other sources of information pertinent to our lakes. Facebook is a great community forum. We have had some very spirited discussions on our page concerning boats, jet skis, loons, and a variety of other topics. If you have a concern and would like opinions from others, the Child, Girl, Woman Lakes page is a valuable tool. Please direct message us or comment if there are topics you would like to see covered on our Facebook page.

Kathy Scharmer, Social Media

CGWLAA Services for Members

Navigational Safety installs and removes the hazard buoys every year.

Aquatic Invasive Species Program (AIS) monitors the chain for presence of zebra mussels, Eurasian watermilfoil, and other invasive species.

Fisheries Program works in coordination with the DNR to monitor the spring Boy River egg take, stocking of walleye fry, assessment of walleye young-of-the-year and the fish population.

Lake News, our bi-annual newsletter, provides information about CGWLAA topics of interest and events.

Social Media Committee maintains, edits, and posts the CGWLAA Facebook page.

Adopt-A-Highway keeps supplies for our roadside cleanup volunteers.

Water Patrol conducts safety patrols in a boat provided by the Cass County Sheriff's Office.

Water Quality samples four sites/ five times each in summertime to monitor water quality in all lakes.

Road Signs provides nameplates placed on CGWLAA road standards.

Stewardship/Conservation reviews and promotes issues affecting land and water management changes.

Tree Program provides free native trees and shrubs to encourage shoreline protection.

Adapting to Climate Change - Part 2

As noted in Part 1, the effects of climate change have already become evident in Minnesota. Part 2 presents some snapshots of what may happen to our waterways, forests, and wildlife as future climate change continues.

Fish and Waterways: Minnesota is blessed with many bodies of water. Likely impacts could include earlier ice out dates and less ice cover in winter. Warmwater fish such as panfish and bass species may be favored as compared to coldwater species such as ciscoes and trout whose coldwater habitats may decline. There will be increases in algal blooms and changes to the aquatic food web potentially affecting the abundance and composition of invertebrates, prey fish, and predators. Our wetland habitats and species dependent upon them such as amphibians, turtles, and snakes may be impacted. Recent studies in Wisconsin suggest that higher temperatures could lead to a loss of natural walleye reproduction. Walleye may even disappear from smaller, warmer lakes.

Forests: It appears likely that climate change will shift the ranges of tree species as well as the composition. Species such as fir, aspen, and spruce could become rare. Hardwood trees such as oak and hickory may become dominant. Invasive vegetation, tree diseases, and insect pests may increase. An increase in the eastern larch beetle could kill large numbers of tamarack.

Wildlife: Shrinking wetlands may impact waterfowl breeding areas in remaining prairie potholes. Potentially, the Minnesota "duck factory" may largely disappear. Further declines could also occur in the moose population, which has already experienced declines in abundance in recent years. Warmer winters may allow the winter tick

populations to increase. At high enough levels, their infestations can kill moose. Declines in moose abundance may result in increases in deer populations in some areas with potential associated impacts on local vegetation. A decline in fir and evergreen species may impact birds and animals dependent upon them for food and shelter.

Economic Impacts: Minnesota relies heavily on outdoor recreation and tourism to support the state economy. Impacts on lakes and rivers could effectuate shorter ice fishing seasons and safe snowmobiling. Walleye anglers could decline and may have to switch to warmwater species such as bass and panfish. This will affect tackle shops and bait dealers. More severe and frequent algal blooms could impede enjoyment of summer tourism and watercraft activities such as boating, water skiing, etc. Angler demands for walleye stocking and rearing could influence license fees and hatchery production costs and capabilities.

Changes in forest tree species and temperatures may impact moose and deer abundance, associated hunting seasons, participation, and license fees. Forest products from fir and evergreen trees could also decline. Overall, the Minnesota economy supported by fishing, hunting, boating, and other outdoor activities as well as products from various natural resources such as furbearers and forest trees may also decline.

This article is not intended to provide an in depth analysis of potential climate change impacts but a generalized list of what may occur here in Minnesota. Further information can be found on the World Wide Web and Minnesota DNR website.

Rich Hess, Fisheries and AIS

Distressed Loon Rescued from Fishing Line

On July 12, 2019, in the late night hours on Woman Lake, a heroic effort was successful in rescuing a distressed loon and releasing her of fishing line that was wrapped around her bill and neck, hampering her ability to dive and feed herself and two chicks.

In collaboration with the DNR, several members of the CGWLAA board participated in a DNR sanctioned rescue by boat. It took several hours to locate the loon, capture and safely remove the fishing line, before returning her to the lake to rejoin her family. This dangerous process was DNR sanctioned and handled by trained people. It is illegal to capture and possess wildlife even if your desire is to help them.

This is a situation where the DNR nongame wildlife program utilizes their funding. Eighty percent of their program is funded by donations, and you can help by using the nongame donation line on your tax form and/or donating on the DNR website.

The fishing line that was removed did not have a sinker or hook attached. If the loon ingested a sinker and it was a lead sinker, the loon would not survive. It only takes minimal parts per million of lead to cause death. We advocate recycling your fishing line and not using lead sinkers. A fishing line recycle tube is available at all of the CGWLAA boat launches - please use them!



Lake News



Child, Girl and Woman Lakes
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Child, Girl, and Woman Lakes Area Association

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