

2021 Annual Report of the Child, Girl, Woman Lakes Area Association

Your association is deeply involved in many projects, none of which could be accomplished without enthusiastic help from our faithful volunteers. Their responsibilities include water patrol, roadside clean-up, and taking water samples for testing to mention a few. If you are interested in joining our volunteer corps or need more information, please contact the association. Thank you!

Please remember that our association has a very good website which is frequently updated by Carole Houghton. The website includes the latest monthly meeting minutes, association newsletters and other information. Check it often at www.womanlakechain.org. As a reminder, we also have our own Facebook page. Check it out at www.facebook.com/womanlakechain. Kathy Scharmer is the administrator for our Facebook site.

The following reports by our program chairpersons provide a review of what your board has been doing on your behalf during the past year.

Rich Hess, Chairperson of Aquatic Invasive Species

As of July 9th, the following bodies of water were added to the infested waters list: Pine Mountain, Cass, Big Lake, Beltrami – zebra mussels, and Pimushe and Beltrami for starry stonewort. On June 30th, PLM surveyed the four launch ramps on our chain and found no AIS. AIS Consultants surveyed the littoral zone (15 feet and less) of Girl Lake on July 15th for AIS. No new AIS or Eurasian watermilfoil was found based on survey.

The Minnesota DNR lists a total of approximately **1,200** infestations in approximately 880 bodies of water statewide through July 6, 2021. The invasive species in Cass County include *zebra mussels*, *Eurasian watermilfoil*, and *faucet snails*.

Please visit the Minnesota DNR website at www.mndnr.gov/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, trailers and lower units for invasive species before we launch them into a waterbody. Bait buckets must either be emptied in the trash or have water exchanged with non-lake water prior to leaving any waterbody, and drain plugs must be removed from all watercraft and all boating related equipment prior to transporting.

In Longville, decontaminations are provided by Musky House one mile north of town on highway 84 and there is no charge for decontamination. Cass County pays the cost.

Rich Hess, Chairperson of Fisheries

Boy River Egg Take

365 quarts of eggs were taken from the Boy River spring project. Unmarked walleye fry have been distributed as follows: Child received 79,000, Girl received 136,000 and Woman received 976,500.

Woman Lake Gill Net Assessment and Electrofishing results

The 2021 fall index survey has not been conducted yet. A comprehensive summary of the 2020 results is on the following pages.

Child Lake Index Survey

Northern Pike were moderately abundant. The Northern Pike gill net catch rate of 7.7 fish per net was within the management goal of between 5 and 10 fish per net. Northern Pike averaged 18 inches long with fish up to 32 inches long in the sample.

Walleye are present in low numbers and an angler may catch one on occasion. The Walleye gill net catch rate of 1.5 fish per net was below the management goal of four fish per gill net. Walleye gill net catch rates in Child Lake have never exceeded three fish per net and have not increased in response to Walleye fry stocking.

Yellow Perch numbers have dropped from near 12 fish per gill net in 2008 to a historic low of one fish per gill net in 2020, which was below the management goal of five fish per net.

Child Lake is best known for **Black Crappie, Bluegill, and Largemouth Bass**. Small Black Crappie were present in good numbers from the 2020 gill nets. In two to three years these fish will reach 10 inches in length and provide good angling opportunities. Other species sampled were **Bowfin** (dogfish), **Brown Bullhead, Pumpkinseed, Rock Bass, Tullibee** (Cisco), **White Sucker, and Yellow Bullhead**.

Girl Lake Index Survey

Bluegill gill net catch rate was 6.22 (n=56) fish per net. Bluegill mean length was 5.55 inches and the lengths ranged from 3.5 to 8.6 inches.

Black Crappie gill net catch rate of 7.89 fish per net. Mean length of Black Crappie was 7.66 inches and the lengths ranged from 4.7 to 11.2 inches. A total of six consecutive year-classes were represented in the sample. Growth was below average.

Largemouth Bass gill net catch rate of 2.67 fish per net. The mean length was 12.1 inches, respectively and lengths ranged from 9.1 to 14.8 inches.

Northern Pike gill net catch rate of 8.67 fish per net was within the management goal of 5.00 to 10.00 fish per net. Historically, gill net catch rates ranged from 5.80 (1982) to 18.33 (2012) fish per net. Northern pike mean length was 17.96 inches and the lengths ranged from 9.9 to 33.0 inches.

Walleye gill net catch rate of 2.78 fish per net was below the long-range management minimum goal of 4.00 fish per net. Walleye mean length was 19.66 inches and the lengths ranged from 13.8 to 24.4 inches. A total of nine year-classes were represented in the sample. Growth was above average.

Woman Lake Index Survey

Northern Pike gill net CPUE of 6.33 fish per net, was within the management goal (5.00 to 8.00 fish per net). Northern Pike CPUE has remained below eight fish per net since 1987. Lengths ranged from 16.9 to 32.2 inches with a mean length and weight of 22.38 inches and 2.46 pounds.

Walleye gill net CPUE of 13.00 fish per net exceeded the long-range management goal (6.00-10.00 fish per net). Walleye lengths ranged from 9.4 to 23.9 inches, with a mean length and weight of 14.72 inches and 1.16 pounds.

Yellow Perch gill net CPUE of 12.00 fish per net was below the management goal (13.00 fish per net). Yellow Perch catch rates decreased substantially in 2007 and have remained below the management goal since 2016. This change in mean catch rate may be attributed to seasonal effect, as survey timing was changed from August to September. Perch ranged in length from 4.7 to 10.2 inches with an average length of 6.61 inches.

Black Crappie gill net catch per unit effort (CPUE) was 1.13 fish per net. Lengths ranged from 4.5 to 10.7 inches with a mean length and weight of 6.36 inches and 0.2 pounds.

Bluegill gill net CPUE was 0.93 fish per net. Lengths ranged from 3.7 to 9.6 inches, with a mean length of 6.74 inches.

No **Muskellunge** were sampled during the 2020 fall gill net survey.

Smallmouth Bass gill net CPUE was 1.13 fish per net. Lengths ranged from 7.3 to 18.6 inches, with a mean length and weight of 12.76 inches and 1.83 pounds.

Tullibee (Cisco) gill net CPUE of 4.80 fish per net exceeds the lake specific management goal (2.00 fish per net). Lengths ranged from 8.1 to 18.2 inches with a mean length and weight of 14.45 inches and 1.3 pounds.

Other species sampled included **Black Bullhead, Bowfin, Brown Bullhead, Greater Redhorse, Pumpkinseed, Rock Bass, and White Sucker.**

Northern Pike Regulations: The northern pike sport fishing regulation have remained unchanged for 2021 to allow for a further evaluation 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.**

Cindy and Bob Hankey, Co-Chairpersons of Membership

We currently have 553 lake association members. We continue to slowly add to our membership; welcoming 27 new members this year. We are pleased with our database software and are thankful to our membership for helping to keep it as current as possible. The ability to purchase multi-year memberships and receive CGWLAA communications through email remains popular and reduces mailing costs. Over four hundred of our 533 members receive communication through email. In 2022 we hope to add an electronic dues payment option.

Linda Kane, Newsletter editor

The newsletter is used to communicate with lake association members. This year we are distributing a spring and fall newsletter that includes articles on lake and environment concerns, recreation, and various topics of interest. Most members are receiving the newsletter electronically, which reduces costs and helps our environment. If you are receiving a paper copy, please consider switching to electronic distribution. You can make this change by contacting the membership chairs. Copies of newsletters are posted on the website at womanlakechain.org under Publications.

Please contact the newsletter editor, lkane@live.com, with suggestions on topics, to contribute an article or picture, or express interest in volunteering for the newsletter committee. Let's work together to make use of this valuable communication tool!

Jon Stevenson, Chairperson of Road Signs

There are 44 standards around the chain of lakes that display the names of our members. If you know of a name that should not be on the standard, please let us know. The member may have sold and moved. Twenty-two new member name signs have been put up so far this year. This year we will have replaced 11 old signs. Eleven members moved and signs were removed. In addition, we removed fourteen non-member signs.

If you have new neighbors, you can tell them how to get a road sign by using this process:

1. Join the Association by contacting Bob and Cindy Hankey; our Membership Committee Co-Chairs.
2. They will contact Jon Stevenson to order the sign.
3. When it is finished it will be put up by Jon Stevenson. If the sign is ordered during the winter, it will be installed in the spring.

Kathy Scharmer, Chairperson of Facebook Administrator

CGWLA has recently formed a communications and technology committee that will study technology issues that effect our association's communication with members and will make recommendations to the board based on our findings. The committee consists of four board members representing social media, newsletters, membership, and two association members. Some of the topics we hope to study include, but not limited to:

- Member directory security
- On-line payments
- Member surveys
- Facebook donations
- Digital newsletters

The committee is open to new members. If interested, please contact me at kscharmer@scharmermail.com.

Gordie Hess, Chairperson of Water Patrol

This report presents a summary of the 2021 Woman and Girl Lake Water Patrol activity through the end of July. After the 2020 season of no patrol actions due to Covid Restrictions the Cass County Sheriff authorized the resumption of water patrol activities for the 2021 season. Due to the uncertainty of patrol actions resuming, on the water efforts got a later start than usual, the first patrol actions were conducted on May 29th. A total of 21 patrol days have been completed since the initial patrol date with 102-man hours of volunteer time. Eighteen Association members have volunteered their time to help assure safe activities on our lakes. Even with a delayed start, total patrol activities for the season should be comparable with previous year efforts.

The patrol boat was pulled from the lake in preparation for the 4th of July parade by Dennis Sawyer (All Season Resort owner). The boat appeared in the Longville Parade on behalf of the Child, Girl, Woman Lake Area Association. After the parade the boat was returned to its position on Woman Lake and was used by the Cass County Sheriff in support of the 4th of July fireworks on Girl Lake.

The boat was also pulled from the lake by the Cass County sheriff for repairs to the steering system. In addition, the boat is scheduled to be fitted with a new motor before the end of the season, replacing the existing 2-stroke outboard with a 200HP 4-stroke motor. Even though we are having a successful season, we can always use more volunteers for the Water Patrol. We would love to have enough people to allow a few weekday patrols during the busiest summer days. For more information and details about patrol volunteer opportunities, contact me at 651-402-6258 or email drgordo@comcast.net.

Ann Stevenson, Chairperson of Water Quality

We continue to collect water samples at four locations five times throughout our season. The locations are Child, Girl, Woman Lakes and Broadwater Bay. This is part of a study through RMBEL (RMB Environmental Laboratories Inc.). Reports show levels of Phosphorus, Chlorophyll-a and Secchi disk readings. Chlorophyll-a is influenced by nitrogen and phosphorus which are essential for plant growth. But when excessive nitrogen and phosphorus levels enter our water supply, they tend to promote algae growth which reduces water clarity and visibility. By practicing good stewardship, we hope to have a good future. To see the data reports, go to www.rmbel.info/data. Our trend readings are stable for all our lakes for the last ten years. Thanks to our water monitor volunteers: Amy Tuqua, Keith Lorensen, Jon Stevenson, and Ed Odeen for volunteering to help our lakes.

Kenny Hanson, Chairperson of Adopt-A Highway

The association is responsible for cleaning 8.1 miles along county roads 5 and 11. Those 8.1 miles have been divided into 16 sections of .3 to .6 miles each. At present time we have the following confirmed volunteers: Keith and Jackie Lorensen, Egon and Carol Overguard, John and Pat Halverson, Steve and Gayle Hornung, Steve and Lynn Dittbenner, Kenny and Laura Hanson, Darrell and Mona Bratvold, Neal and Suzie Mandsager, Steve and Sharon Hanson, Joseph and Diane Karst, James and Colleen Moravek, Gordie and Pat Hess, Matt and Bonnie Burks, Lee and Cheryl Reiter, Myles Wagner, Micheal and Sally French, Gail and Bob Sankey.

If you want to become a volunteer and be on the list for roadside cleanup when openings occur, please contact Kenny Hanson at 218-682-2045. If you volunteered and are not on this list, please contact Kenny Hanson. **A BIG THANK YOU** to all who volunteer their time.

Bill Pilacinski, Lead of Shoreline Buffer & Restoration Program

The Program's 2021 tree/shrub distribution program offered five free plants to association members. Species offered were American Plum, America Hazelnut, False Indigo, Nannyberry, Red Osier Dogwood, and Staghorn Sumac. Fifty-seven members took part in this year's program and were also offered copies of the Cass County Shoreland Homeowner's Guide to Lake Stewardship. Twenty plants, not picked up by a member, were donated to the Petal Pushers, Longville's Garden club; and fifteen extra plants were donated and planted on the grounds of the Woodrow Township Hall property for allowing the use of their parking lot for plant distribution. An article titled "The shoreline is a lake's last line of defense", providing advice on reducing rainwater run-off into our lakes, was published in the Spring 2021 Newsletter.

Lake representatives: Contact your lake representatives if you have any questions, concerns, or ideas to help benefit our ongoing CGWLAA mission.

Child Lake:	Bill Hornung	hornungbill@gmail.com
Girl Lake:	Sue Meyer	gsmeyer@arvig.net
Woman Lake:	Janis Kelley	kelley0930@msn.com
Woman Lake:	Gary Knox	gary@minneteepee.com
Woman Lake:	Nancy Schuelke	ntschuelke5950@gmail.com

CHILD, GIRL, WOMAN LAKES AREA ASSOCIATION

Proposed BUDGET FOR 2022

Newsletter.....	\$2,500.00
(Publishing, mailing)	
Water Safety & Patrol.....	\$1400.00
(Buoy placement & removal, PFD reward coupons, Spring meeting)	
Road Signs.....	\$1100.00
(New names, repair of damage posts, Mileage)	
Water Quality.....	\$1,500.00
(Water Sampling-4 sites-5 times each)	
Annual Meeting.....	\$300.00
(Newspaper adds, coffee, donuts, supplies)	
Public Relations/Membership.....	\$1250.00
(4th of July parade, Longville Chamber of Commerce, Mail dues Statements/reminders, maintain directory of members)	
Adm. & Travel.....	\$1,275.00
(Insurance policy, mileage, office expense, rental of Woodrow Township for meetings, donation for location for other meetings)	
Technology Maintenance.....	\$1,000.00
(Computer, printer, supplies, web fees, website design stipend)	
Shoreline Buffer/Restoration.....	\$700.00
(Education, tree and shrubbery program)	
Contingency Fund	\$1,100.00
(Unplanned/unexpected expenses)	
Aquatic Invasive Species.....	\$3,000.00
(Tracking new invasions and conducting preventative and educational measures)	
 TOTAL.....	 \$15,125.00

Projected membership income.....	\$13,800.00
Projected AIS donation income.....	\$2500.00
Projected total income.....	\$16,300.00

BALLOT – AUGUST 2021

Election for Officers

ALL TERMS 2 – YEARS

President – Nominate Rich Hess

Secretary – Nominate Gwen Lappin

Nominations are open for President and Secretary