

Lake News

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Child, Girl, and Woman Lakes Area Association



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CGWLAA 2021 Annual Meeting

The 45th annual meeting of the CGWLAA was held on August 14, 2021, at Salem Lutheran Church in Longville, MN. There were 9 board members and 55 association members in attendance. An annual report for 2021 with committee reports was distributed at the meeting and can be found on our website under Publications/Meeting and Agenda Minutes/Annual Meeting. The proposed budget for 2021-2022 of \$15,125 was reviewed and approved. Nomination and election for open offices occurred. Rich Hess was elected as President, and Gwen Lappin was elected as Secretary. These positions are for a two-year term.

Historically, the Association has distributed member directories in print or electronic form (based on member preference). Due to privacy concerns, pros and cons of printed directories and online secured access directories were discussed. A decision was made to distribute the current directory as has been done in the past with a future move to online, password protected access as soon as this capability is available.

There was follow-up discussion on a suggestion from 2019 to consider raising membership dues. The Board reviewed this suggestion in 2019, chose not to increase dues at that time, and added an AIS and/or general fund donation option to the membership renewal form. Members raised concerns about escalating costs, growing AIS concerns, and no dues changes for many years. As a result, members voted to increase the annual dues from \$25 to \$35 per year effective January 1, 2022.

After the formal meeting was adjourned, Meg Duhr, Research Outreach Specialist from the Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center, University of Minnesota, provided an informative presentation about AIS. This included discussion about an online dashboard - AIS Explorer - that both forecasts the introduction risk of aquatic invasive species (AIS) to individual waterbodies and provides decision-making support for optimizing watercraft inspection efficacy.

After 5 years of development, the project team established a robust lake-connectivity network. With over 1.6 million data points of reported boater movements and a complex array of river connections, thousands of simulations were done to test the accuracy of the model and create the AIS Explorer.

AIS Explorer provides guidance on two key prevention methods:

Surveillance: Modeling the likelihood of new infestations

Watercraft Inspections: Prioritization of physical intervention at the riskiest lakes

The AIS Explorer dashboard (aisexplorer.umn.edu) is free and open to the public. Users can focus on any lake in Minnesota or view model results on a county level. To stay current, the underlying models update weekly to account for new infestations and changing risk dynamics.

The date of the 2022 annual meeting will be announced in the spring. 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. Please plan to attend and stay involved with your Lake Association.

Linda Kane, Editor

Get the Lead Out



Loons are poisoned when they swallow lead tackle that anglers have lost. One lead sinker will kill a loon. One-in-five loons die a slow and painful death of lead poisoning from fishing tackle, and it is not just loons. Lead poisons eagles, swans, and even some mammals as well.

How lead tackle ends up inside a loon:

- Loons eat a fish with ingested or attached tackle.
- Loons grab your bait or fish from your fishing line.
- Loons scoop up lead sinkers at the bottom of the lake when gathering pebbles to aid in their digestion.

How to know if your tackle is lead:

The packaging will have a lead warning. If you no longer have the packaging, following are tips to help.

- Most fishing tackle with any density to it, especially older tackle, contains lead, based on current and historic trends in the tackle industry.

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) News

The first zebra mussel verified in Woman Lake was found in July 2020 on the west shore north of the Boy River. A total of 4 zebra mussels (3 adults and 1 young) have been found this year on the southeast and east shores. Although a zebra mussel veliger (larvae) survey was conducted in Child, Girl, and Woman Lake on August 3, 2021, no veligers were collected. However, the presence of the adults and one young suggests that the population is increasing and at least some veligers were produced.

Statewide there have been a total of 1,224 infestations of water bodies with 24 of these occurring in Cass County. In 2021 zebra mussels were verified in Pine Mountain Lake, and starry stonewort was verified in Leech Lake. We expect that by next year, Woman Lake will be posted as infested by the DNR.

We again treated the Eurasian watermilfoil in Girl Lake at the city docks, but none was found anywhere else in Girl Lake during a survey of the entire littoral zone on July 24, 2021. Thus far we have spent \$3,139.25 for zebra mussel monitoring and Eurasian watermilfoil survey and treatment and received grants totaling \$2,694.25.

- Lead is a dense but soft metal that is easy to mold and shape. Using pliers is a good way to test this out.
- Lead is gray and dull. It will leave a gray mark if you scratch it on paper. If there is paint, it will still leave a gray mark after the paint layer is scratched.

What you can do:

- Find lead-free fishing tackle in the manufacturer's directory on the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency site.
- Do not throw old fishing gear into the water or shore. Properly dispose of unwanted lead tackle at your local household hazardous waste collection site.
- Do not put a lead sinker in your mouth. Use pliers to attach sinkers to your fishing line.
- Wash your hands after handling lead sinkers.
- Spread the word by telling your friends about the problem. Encourage switching to lead-free sinkers and jigs.
- Ask your favorite retailers to stock lead-free fishing tackle.

Make a difference by choosing lead-free materials when shopping for fishing tackle. Lead-free alternatives are available and perform as well as traditional tackle.

Source: pca.state.mn.us

We anticipate spending an additional \$824.00 and receiving additional grants of \$412.00.



Please be vigilant now when using watercraft in our chain of lakes. Have them decontaminated before using them in another body of water. Also check your docks and lifts when removed from the lakes this year for zebra mussels. Please report any found to the Lake Association for follow up and documentation. We thank you for being members and responsible water users.

Rich Hess, AIS

Starry Stonewort

Starry stonewort is a bushy, bright green macro-algae. It produces a characteristic star-shaped bulbil. Bulbils are present throughout the growing season but are most obvious and plentiful in late summer. Starry stonewort may form a dense carpet of material in shallow areas.

Starry stonewort is native to Eurasia, from the west coast of Europe to Japan. The species was unintentionally introduced into the United States' Great Lakes through the discharge of contaminated cargo ship ballast water. The first occurrence in the US was in 1978 along the St. Lawrence River. It was first confirmed in Minnesota in August 2015 in Lake Koronis and connected Mud Lake (Stearns County).

It looks similar to many native, beneficial grass-like algae, such as other stoneworts and musk grasses found in Minnesota lakes and rivers, but it can be distinguished based on its star-shaped bulbils.

Starry stonewort is a prohibited invasive species in Minnesota. Invasive species cause recreational, economic, and ecological damage. Impacts include:

- Dense mats at the water's surface that inhibit water recreation.
- Overtakes habitat and outcompetes native aquatic plants, potentially lowering diversity.



- Provides unsuitable shelter, food, and nesting habitat for nature animals.

People spread starry stonewort primarily through movement of watercraft and related equipment. Fragments can get tangled in trailers, motors, anchors, ropes, etc. Also, bulbils, which may be hidden in mud and debris, can stick to surfaces. A small fragment or bulbil can start a new population.

Starry stonewort management involves either hand/mechanical removal of plants or application of herbicides the damage or kill parts of plants with which they come into contact. The most important action you can take to limit the spread is:

- **Clean** watercraft of all aquatic plants and prohibited invasive species.
- **Drain** all water by removing drain plugs and keeping them out during transport.
- **Dispose of** unwanted bait in the trash.
- **Dry** docks, lifts, swim rafts, and other equipment at least 21 days before placing in another water body.

When moving among lakes, have your watercraft decontaminated.

Source: dnr.state.mn.us

Membership Update

The CGWLAA continues to grow its membership. We are currently 568 members strong, with 423 members receiving communication via email and 145 members receiving communication through the USPS. There are advantages to both the member and the Association when email is the preferred method. It saves the Association costs associated with printing and postage, and it provides the member with more frequent communication including AIS updates, annual membership meeting invitation, annual volunteer dinner invitation, etc.

Two years ago, the Association offered members an opportunity to donate money toward AIS or the general fund when renewing their membership. The membership has responded very generously. This year, 74 members made donations. Your generosity is very much appreciated!

This year the CGWLAA member directory was updated in early August and sent out to members. The directory is updated every 3 years and includes names, addresses, phone contacts, and email addresses.

Members currently have the option to have their information included or excluded from the directory. Four of 568 members declined to include their information.

The Association is currently working on providing members with an electronic option when updating contact information and paying annual dues. We are working with Pay Pal for electronic dues payment and hope to have the electronic option available in the coming year. Payment by check will remain an option.

The membership year will continue to run from January 1 to December 31 with renewals generally going out in late winter. As before, members will have the option to pay for 1-, 2-, 3-, or 4-year memberships.

At the 2021 annual meeting, members in attendance initiated and voted for an annual dues increase - from \$25/year to \$35/year effective January 1, 2022. This is the first increase of dues in many years.

Cindy and Bob Hankey, Membership

Water Patrol

After a year on hold due to COVID limitations, the Water Patrol completed another summer with boat safety checks along with monitoring buoys and markers on our chain of lakes. We had fire (hot days), we had wind (more windy days than I can recall in a long time), we had rain (but not much), and I hope the volunteers had some fun times as well. Eight new volunteers joined a core of experienced patrol members and contributed more than 200 hours of volunteer time to help keep on- the-water experiences safe and enjoyable.

In preparation for the season, patrol volunteers met with Cass County Sheriff Deputy, Bob Landerville, to further identify the role we play in keeping our lakes safe. Cass County values our presence on the lakes. Just being on the water and visible is an important part of our patrol function. In addition, volunteers learned about new rules and regulations and received good advice on conducting patrol activities in a safe, effective, and enjoyable manner.

The warm temperatures and sunny days made for comfortable on- and in-the-water activities. There were kids excited to see us as many knew a voucher for ice cream at Frosty's was coming their way if they were wearing their life jackets. Some folks encountered on the lake were from outside the area or out of state, and they often queried patrol volunteers as to where the hot fishing spots were. We didn't tell them where all of them were!

The low water levels encountered later in the season made the role of warning buoys and markers very important. Observation and monitoring of buoys was

added to water patrol duties by the Association. A new marker was added at the mouth of the Boy River channel on the west end of Woman Lake.

The patrol boat was entered in the Longville 4th of July Parade representing the Association. Riding in the boat were: President - Jon Stevenson, Secretary - Nancy Schuelke, and Girl Lake Representative - Sue Meyer. They perfected the parade wave and greeted the large crowd along the route.

As the water cools, fall colors begin to appear, and some make plans to head to warmer places, water patrol members hope that some of you will consider joining us next year as volunteers. Volunteers are typically scheduled for only one weekend day a month for a 2-3 hour period.

We try to start patrol activities around the fishing opener and operate through Labor Day or perhaps a bit after. It would be wonderful to add a few weekdays during the peak summer period of July and August, and with a few new volunteers, we could accomplish this goal. If you have any interest in joining the patrol, please contact Gordie Hess at 651-402-6258 or waterpatrol@womanlakechain.org.

A sincere thank you from the CGWLAA and water patrol volunteers to Dennis and Angie Sawyers at All Seasons Resort for the vital role they play in our activities! The patrol boat is maintained at the All Seasons Resort and kept fueled and ready to go. Dennis also provides the occasional battery boost and pulled the boat/prepared it for the 4th of July parade.

Gordie Hess, Water Patrol

Membership Dues

Member dues support a volunteer board and committees that work with/for you to promote improvement of living, recreational, environmental, and ecological conditions on our lakes and waterways. Dues are critical for this mission and used for:

- Aquatic Invasive Species Detection & Treatment
- Water Quality Testing
- Water Safety & Patrol
- Road Signs
- Navigational Safety (Hazard Buoys)
- Adopt-a-Highway Roadside Cleanup
- Public Relations & Membership Administration
- Shoreline Buffer/Restoration
- Communications: Newsletter, Facebook, Website
- Annual Meeting & Volunteer appreciation
- Technology Maintenance
- Administrative Costs including Insurance Policies

Please volunteer where you can!

Rich Hess, President



Living with Beavers

The beaver, largest North American rodent, is an active woodcutter and dam builder. Beavers are known for their large orange teeth and flat paddle-shaped tail. The pelt of a beaver is composed of long, coarse hairs over a thick wooly undercoat. It is a luxury pelt that lured trappers and voyageurs to Minnesota and led to early exploration and settlement of the state.

Length: 35 to 40 inches typical

Weight: 40 to 50 pounds average

Color: Various shades of brown

Sounds: Churrs, mumbles, whines, snorts, hisses and tail slapping against water (alarm sound)

The beaver is a water conservationist and land and wildlife manager. Many biologists believe the beaver pond supports a greater variety and abundance of wildlife than any other ecosystem in the forest. The ponds also control spring runoff, thus lessening the possibility of downstream flooding.

Although beavers provide many positive environmental values, they can also be a nuisance in the wrong place causing damage. Some methods for damage prevention follow.

- Water levels in the beaver pond may be controlled by special devices in some situations. For information and technical assistance, contact the local DNR area wildlife office.
- Protect individual trees in your yard by placing hard cloth cylinders at least 30" tall around the tree, use trunk guards made of galvanized welded wire, or finer-mesh screening.
- Discourage chewing of trees by painting their base with a mixture of course mason's sand (30-70 mil) and exterior latex paint (ratio of 20 ounces sand to one gallon paint). (Select a paint color that matches tree trunk.)
- Install three to four-foot-high fencing to block access to larger groves because beavers are not good climbers. Another option is energized fencing.
- Plant native evergreens such as common juniper that beaver do not like or that regrow after some beaver damage.
- Create a buffer strip of native vegetation suited to your location. Visit dnr.state.mn.us and search for "natural shorelines" to get information on maintaining and restoring nature shorelines.



In many cases, beaver damage cannot be effectively managed without removing the offending beavers. Removing a dam without removing the resident beavers results in the dam being immediately rebuilt. A beaver dam that is causing flooding can be removed without a permit if:

- Removal of the dam does not constitute work in Public Waters (contact your local DNR area hydrologist for a determination).
- The dam is located on land owned or managed by the individual experiencing the flooding.
- If the dam is NOT on land owned or managed by the individual experiencing flooding and permission is granted by the land owner or manager.

The DNR encourages property owners to work with local trappers to take beaver causing damage during open trapping season. No permit is needed for a licensed trapper during the regular beaver season. Check with your local conservation office or area wildlife office for names of local experienced trappers.

Minnesota Statute 97B.655 allows a landowner, legal occupant, or their authorized agent to trap or shoot beaver that are causing damage **on their property only** **IF** certain conditions are met. Refer to the dnr.state.mn.us website for information on these conditions along with mandatory reporting requirements.

Predators of the beaver include coyote, wolf, bobcat, cougar, and bear.

Fun Fact:

With their strong jaws and teeth, beavers can chew through a six-inch tree in 15 minutes!



Nancy Coughlin & Linda Kane, Woman Lake

Sources: DNR.state.mn.us. & humanesociety.org

Order Trees/Shrubs for Spring Planting

Our Lake Association is 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 \$1.50 each. Payment for any additional items must be made at the time your order is sent or placed online, with a check to follow shortly. **All orders must be placed by the first week of January.**

Please email your order to Bill Pilacinski at **shoreline@womanlakechain.org** (no order form necessary if by email), or mail the order form provided below to **Bill Pilacinski at 3295 - 124th Lane NE, Unit C, Blaine, MN 55449.**

Pick up of the trees and shrubs will be in the spring at Woodrow Township Hall off County Road #11. Orders can be picked up the first two Saturdays in May - May 7 or May 14 - from 9 AM through noon. You will receive a reminder when your order is available.

Orders sent by email are easier to process and provide ongoing communication. If you do not have email, please be sure to include your name and phone number on the order form. If you wish to order additional plants or other materials that are not on the order form, visit the Crow Wing Soil and Water Conservation District website to see what else is available (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 to me, and I will include it in our order. The trees and shrubs are bare root and 8 to 24 inches in height.

The trees/shrubs for this year have been selected based on soil type and height. The majority will do well in a wide range of moisture conditions, but two (Nannyberry and Red Osier Dogwood) prefer a moist/wet soil. Mountain Ash, Staghorn Sumac and Highbush Cranberry may grow above 10' and, if provided with feeding protection early, will grow to a height beyond the reach of feeding deer.

If you do not have a deer feeding issue, and desire a plant with shorter stature, select one or more of the others; but note that in my experience, False Indigo appears to have some deer resistance. More information on these and other native plants can be found at www.minnesotawildflowers.info.

CWSWCD has advised that because of the drought this summer, some of the plants they normally have may not be available for 2022. I will provide updates as they more information is available to me. Please call Bill Pilacinski (314-541-0396) or respond by email with any questions. We look forward to another successful year of spring planting!

Bill Pilacinski, Shoreline Restoration

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	_____
Highbush Cranberry	8 to 16	Dry-Wet	_____
Nannyberry	7 to 16	Moist-Wet	_____
Red Osier Dogwood	5 to 10	Moist-Wet	_____
False Indigo	6 to 9	Dry-Wet	_____
Black Chokeberry	3 to 6	Dry-Wet	_____

Financial Statement through June 30, 2021

Budget Line	July 2021 Expense	Budget	Expense YTD	Remaining Budget Balance
Newsletter		\$ 2,500.00		\$ 2,500.00
Water Patrol	\$ 41.75	\$ 1,400.00	\$ 541.75	\$ 858.25
Road Signs	\$ 261.49	\$ 800.00	\$ 595.85	\$ 204.15
Water Quality		\$ 1,500.00		\$ 1,500.00
Annual Meeting		\$ 300.00		\$ 300.00
Public Relations & Membership		\$ 1,250.00	\$ 906.51	\$ 343.49
Admin & Travel	\$ 1,149.74	\$ 1,275.00	\$ 1,149.74	\$ 125.26
Technology Maintenance		\$ 1,000.00	\$ 270.00	\$ 730.00
Shoreline Restoration		\$ 700.00	\$ 505.50	\$ 194.50
Contingency Fund		\$ 1,100.00		\$ 1,100.00
Aquatic Invasive Species	\$ 150.00	\$ 5,090.00	\$ 150.00	\$ 4,940.00
Total	\$ 1,602.98	\$ 16,915.00	\$ 4,119.35	\$ 12,795.65

Previous Month Checking Balance	Current Month Income	Current Month Expenses	Current Month Balance	Endowment Account
\$ 38,303.79	\$ 2,286.70	\$ (1,602.98)	\$ 38,987.51	\$ 24,767.39

Total Accounts

\$ 63,754.39



**STOP AQUATIC
HITCHHIKERS!™**

Be A Good Steward. Clean. Drain. Dry.

StopAquaticHitchhikers.org

Volunteers Welcome and Appreciated!

Please Contact Committee Chair,
Lake Rep, or Board Officer



Lake News

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



Website: www.womanlakechain.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/womanlakechain
Email: info@womanlakechain.org

Child, Girl, and Woman Lakes Area Association

President	Rich Hess	president@womanlakechain.org	218-363-2282
Vice President	Jon Stevenson	vp@womanlakechain.org	763-226-6509
Treasurer	Terry Fay	treasurer@womanlakechain.org	
Secretary	Gwen Lappin	secretary@womanlakechain.org	952-239-4057
Directors at Large			
Woman Lake Rep	Nancy Schuelke	womanrep@womanlakechain.org	952-303-9988
Woman Lake Rep	Gary Knox	womanrep@womanlakechain.org	763-229-3948
Woman Lake Rep	Janis Kelley	womanrep@womanlakechain.org	218-682-3855
Girl Lake Rep	Sue Meyer	girlrep@womanlakechain.org	218-363-3659
Child Lake Rep	Bill Hornung	childrep@womanlakechain.org	218-507-0904
Standing Committees			
Membership	Cindy & Bob Hankey	membership@womanlakechain.org	218-682-2370
Road Signs	Jon Stevenson	roadsigns@womanlakechain.org	763-226-6509
AI Species	Rich Hess	ais@womanlakechain.org	218-363-2282
Fisheries	Rich Hess	fisheries@womanlakechain.org	218-363-2282
Water Patrol	Gordie Hess	waterpatrol@womanlakechain.org	218-363-2921
Water Quality	Ann Stevenson	waterquality@womanlakechain.org	612-490-5990
Newsletter	Linda Kane	newsletter@womanlakechain.org	612-327-4964
Communication & Tech	Kathy Scharmer	commtech@womanlakechain.org	
Task Committees			
Adopt-A-Highway	Ken Hanson	highway@womanlakechain.org	218-682-2045
Navigational Safety	Jon Stevenson	navigation@womanlakechain.org	763-226-6509
Webmaster	Carole Houghton	webmaster@womanlakechain.org	218-363-2286
Shoreline Restoration	Bill Pilacinski	shoreline@womanlakechain.org	314-541-0396