

2022 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, taking water samples for testing to mention a few. If you are interested in joining our volunteer corps or need more information please contact our Member Chairpersons, Bob and Cindy Hankey at membership@womanlakechain.org. Thank you!

Please remember that our association has a very good website which is frequently updated by Carole Houghton. Check it often for the latest monthly meeting minutes, association newsletters and information: www.womanlakechain.org. Do not forget that we have our own Facebook page. Check it out: www.facebook.com/womanlakechain. Kathy Scharmer is the administrator for our Facebook.

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

Aquatic Invasive Species – Rich Hess, Chairman

No new infestations in Cass County as of July 5, 2022.

Zebra mussel settlement plates were distributed to CGWLAA members at 2 locations in Broadwater Bay and at 4 locations in Girl Lake. This was done to monitor the downstream drift of zebra mussel veligers (larvae) in the Boy River.

Communication/Technology – Kathleen Scharmer, Chairwoman

Fisheries – Rich Hess, Chairman

Rich reported that 365 quarts of eggs were collected from the Boy River spring egg-take. Unmarked walleye fry have been distributed as follows: Child received 79,000, Girl received 136,000 and Woman received 976,500.

Fall electrofishing for young-of-the-year Walleye was completed 9/27/2021. A total of 316 YOY were captured for a catch rate of 139.14 fish/hour. Mean length was 6.68 inches.

Membership – Bob and Cindy Hankey, Chairpersons

The lake association membership currently stands at 548 members: holding steady with last year's numbers. We welcomed 12 new members this year. If you know of someone who is new to our lake chain, please invite them to join the association by perusing our website. They can find a membership application there by clicking on membership.

We have a growing number of members who use the multi-year option for dues payment. We are also continuing to pursue adding an electronic dues payment option. To have this option, we need to move our database over to a different server and this has proven to be time consuming.

We remain appreciative of those members who are able to receive communications through email, as this is an easier and less expensive option than postal. Of our 548 members, 451 receive communications via email and 97 through the postal service.

Newsletter – Linda Kane, Chairwoman/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!

Adopt-a-Highway Task Team – Ken Hanson, Leader

Our volunteers are responsible for road cleanup on the following roadways or areas:

- On County 11 from Sunny Acres to the junctions of 11 and 5.
- on County 5 from junction at County 11 to 14th Ave
- also on County 5 from the old public boat landing (where the fire water hydrant is located now) to Shangri-La Drive.

Road Signs – Jon Stevenson, Chairman

Installed eleven new member signs, replaced three broken signs, removed two signs they moved. Repaired a standard at Maple Crest Drive and Timber Drive. Added bracing to Hillerman and 14th Ave with 2x4's.

There are 44 standards around the chain of lakes that display the names of our members. If you know of a name sign on the standard that the member has sold and move away, please let Jon Stevenson know at roadsigns@womanlakechain.org.

If you find you have new neighbors, you can tell them how to get a road sign by using this process. Join the Association by contacting Membership. They will contact Jon Stevenson who will order the sign.

When it is finished it will be put up by Jon Stevenson. If the sign is ordered during the winter, then it will be put up in the spring.

Water Patrol – Gordie Hess, Chairman

Wow, where has the summer gone. After a late ice out and less than good weather, the patrol season finally got going in earnest the first weekend in June. Weather has continued to impact patrol sessions throughout the last two months with storms limiting several days of activities. To date, through the end of July, patrol volunteers have devoted 88 hours to help make the time on the lakes safe and enjoyable for everyone. Many youngsters have been rewarded with coupons for ice cream at Frosty's in Longville by having appropriate life jackets on. Handing out those coupons is probably one of the most enjoyable aspects of water patrol. The grin on a youngster's face when they learn they have earned an ice cream treat can really brighten the day. In addition to safety checks, patrol volunteers monitor the condition of warning buoys, place buoys and channel markers, warn of weather conditions, and occasionally offer assistance to boaters out of fuel.

Perhaps the biggest news for the season was the long-anticipated arrival of the new motor on the patrol boat. A shiny new 200HP Mercury outboard now propels the boat around the chain of lakes. Everyone loves the smooth and quiet idle that facilitates contact and communication with boaters and eliminates smokey exhaust. Plus the motor is very easy on gas compared to the previous two stroke motor.

The patrol boat was entered in the Longville 4th of July parade on behalf of the Association. Cass County deputies also used the boat in support of the fireworks on Girl Lake.

I am grateful for the volunteers that provide me monthly reports of their availability for patrol duties. Their willingness to devote a few hours a month to enhance the experience of boater, kayakers, paddleboarders, and swimmers is a very significant aspect of the Association's functions. We can always use additional volunteers to facilitate more patrol hours on busy summer days. For more information and details please do not hesitate to contact me (651-402-6258) or email drgordo@comcast.net.

Water Quality – Ann Stevenson, Chairwoman

We continue to collect water samples at four locations five times throughout our season. The lake locations are Child, Girl, Woman 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 excess 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. Thanks to our water monitor volunteers: Amy Tuqua, Ed Odeen, Gordy Hess and Jon Stevenson for volunteering to help our lakes

Loon Task Team - Kathleen Scharmer, Leader

Navigational Safety Task Team – Jon Stevenson, Leader

The association installs and maintains sixteen buoys that identify hazardous boating areas in the Woman Lake Chain. This is especially beneficial if you are unfamiliar with the topography of our lakes or are boating after dark. The buoys are put in before the fishing opener and taken out sometime after October 15th each year.

Shoreline Buffer & Restoration Task Team – Bill Pilacinski, Leader

As in past years, the 2022 tree and shrub distribution program offered five free plants to association members. Species offered this year were Black Chokeberry, False Indigo, Highbush Cranberry, Mountain Ash, Red Osier Dogwood, and Staghorn Sumac. All were purchased from the Crow Wing County Soil and Conservation District. An initial program announcement was made in the Fall 2021 newsletter. Orders were requested by early January 2022, with pickups at the Woodrow Town Hall on the Saturdays of 14 and 21 May from 9AM until noon.

Perhaps because of unseasonably cold weather, a number of orders were not picked up on the two announced pickup dates. Additionally, there are always a few extra plants because orders must be made in bundles of 25 plants; thus, it was decided to have an additional pickup on Saturday, 28 May, from 10AM until noon. An email was sent to all members offering these extra plants, 5 free to any member who had not already received theirs, first come, first served. This was very successful and all extra plants were gone within 10 minutes.

Fifty-nine members in total took part in this year's program, up a bit from last year's fifty-seven. In addition to the trees and shrubs, copies of the Cass County [Shoreland Homeowner's Guide to Lake Stewardship](#) were offered, along with information on Longville's garden club, the Petal Pushers. I also had distributed 20 or so milkweed seedlings, from seeds I had collected in the fall along highway 5. Milkweed species are the sole host plant for Monarch butterfly caterpillars and northern Minnesota is a prime breeding area for the last generation of Monarchs that migrate to Mexico in the fall.

Webmaster – Carole Houghton