

Lake News

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Child, Girl, and Woman Lakes Area Association



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Annual Meeting

The 47th annual meeting of the CGWLAA was held on August 5, 2023, at Woodrow Town Hall. There were 11 board members and 55 association members in attendance. An Annual Report for 2023 that included committee reports was distributed at the meeting and can be found on our website under Publications/ Meeting and Agenda Minutes/ Annual Meeting Notes and Draft Budget dated August 5, 2023. The proposed budget for 2023-2024 of \$17,300 was reviewed and approved.

Nominations and elections for the positions of president and secretary occurred. Since there were no nominees for president, our outgoing President, Rich Hess, provided an overview of responsibilities that was followed by group discussion. Members in attendance were asked to think about their potential interest and step up for consideration in the near future. Gwen Lappin, running unopposed, was re-elected as secretary. Both of these positions are for a two-year term.

Rich Hess was thanked for his recent role as president along with his long-term commitment to the Board. Rich is remaining on the Board and will continue leading the AI Species and Fisheries Committees.

After the meeting was adjourned, representatives from the Minnesota DNR Loon Restoration Project, the National Loon Center, and CGWLAA Loon Liaison, provided informative presentations.

Jaden Jech, Loon Specialist - Minnesota DNR Loon Restoration Project, discussed objectives of the project: 1) acquire loon habitat, 2) augment natural nesting habitat with artificial nesting platforms, 3) promote stewardship with the Loon-Friendly Lake Registry Program, and 4) monitor efforts and loon activity. Visit the DNR - Minnesota Loon Restoration Project website for more information.

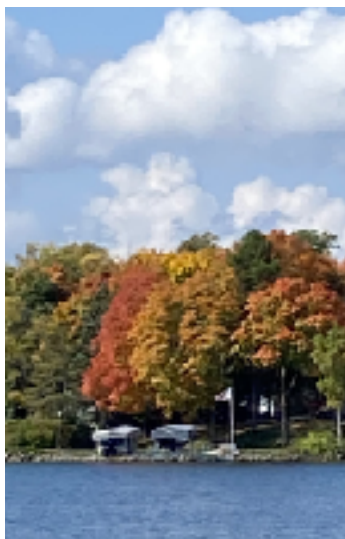
Natasha Bartalotta, Stewardship and Outreach Manager - National Loon Center, Crosslake, discussed loon mortality factors, shoreline restoration project, loon calls, nesting, and diet. Visit the National Loon Center website for details.

Jenny Wuebker Chapman, CGWLAA Loon Liaison, provided information on her role as Loon Liaison and shared data about our local loon population.

The date of the 2024 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 be involved with your Lake Association.

Update:

After the annual meeting, two association members, Deb Scheibel and Neal Scharmer, expressed their interest in the vacant position of president. Neal and Deb attended the Board meeting on August 17. They introduced themselves, provided a short biography, and stated their interest in leading the Association. There were 12 voting board members present, and a private ballot vote was conducted. The vote resulted in Neal Scharmer being elected as the new CGWLAA President. Special thanks from the Board to Deb and Neal for considering this position and responding with their interest!



President Introduction



Please allow me to introduce myself as the newly elected President of the CGWLAA.

My wife, Kathy, and I purchased a cabin on Girl Lake in early 2015 and have enjoyed the beauty and year-round recreational opportunities that come with “lake life.”

I am a native of Litchfield, Minnesota, and graduated from Gustavus Adolphus College and later the University of Minnesota. I retired in 2022.

I have previously served on other non-profit boards in a leadership role. I believe that the Association plays an

important role in preserving and improving the natural resources we are so fortunate to enjoy. I am committed to leadership with cordiality and transparency.

The backbone of the Association is its many committed volunteers, and I appreciate their investment of time and energy, along with the efforts of the Association’s past and present board members.

I invite each of you to consider a new or renewed commitment as a volunteer and to reach out to me with your concerns. You can reach me at president@womanlakechain.org.

Neal Scharmer, President

Membership

As of mid-September, the Association had 549 paid members. There were 24 members who paid dues in 2022 that have not responded for 2023. If 2023 dues are not paid by November 1, membership information will be removed from the database, and road signs will be taken down.

Watch for 2024 membership renewal notices approximately mid-March. Corrections or updates to member information are sincerely appreciated and allow us to keep the database current. Reminder and final notices will be sent at the end of May, and by the end of July, members with unpaid 2024 dues will have their road signs removed.

There are many reasons why dues are often not paid including: owner sale of property, ownership change within the family, family member(s) unaware the dues need to be paid, and people forget for various reasons - life can be busy!

In any case, we would like all lake owners to be CGWLAA members. Please talk to your friends and neighbors, and if they are not members, encourage them to join. We can work more effectively together to support and maintain our beautiful lakes!

Chuck Miotke, Membership

Water Patrol - Needs You!

Can you spare two to three hours a month to join the Water Patrol in monitoring boating activities on our chain of lakes?

Several long-standing volunteers have stepped down or reduced their hours for water patrol activities. We need to add a minimum of 8 to 10 additional personnel to cover patrol scheduling.

Typically, volunteers work one or two patrol shifts a month for a few of hours. We usually begin shifts mid-morning and wrap up early afternoon, but there are no absolute time requirements. Weekends are usually patrol days, but this summer we had several weekdays scheduled. Nice summer days in peak season may lead to a two- or three-hour shift, while cool, windy days



with little boat traffic could shorten time on the water to an hour.

New volunteers initially go out with an experienced patrol member to “learn the ropes” and become familiar with the boat and patrol procedures. Patrol shifts are then assigned based on an individual availability. Volunteers not comfortable operating the boat can be paired with someone who is at ease with these duties.

We do not have the authority to write citations. Our role is to provide boaters with friendly awareness about regulations and safety requirements. This season, we encountered several instances of vacation rental guests who were not familiar with safety requirements while operating their host’s boat on the water, and some needed navigational assistance.

Consider joining us in 2024 to help ensure everyone on our lakes has a safe and enjoyable experience. Please contact me at drgado@comcast.net or 651-402-6258.

Gordie Hess, Water Patrol

Lead Fishing Tackle Kills

Lead fishing tackle is killing loons, raptors, swans, and other mammals.

Did you know... Loons ingest small pebbles from the bottom of the lake to aid in digestion. By mistakenly picking up a small lead sinker, the lead sinker is ingested, broken down into the gizzard, and then passed through the bloodstream and organs. This x-ray of a dead loon shows that the bird injected lead fishing tackle. The loon will suffer a slow and painful death within two to four weeks. One small lead sinker (the size of a pea) can kill a loon.



Did you know... Seven states, including Washington and New Hampshire, have passed laws banning lead jigs and sinkers. Washington and New Hampshire saw a decline in their loon population from lead poisoning. In New Hampshire, lead jigs and sinkers accounted for 48.6% of mortalities among adult loons, which is the largest single cause of adult common loon mortalities.

Washington accounted for 31%, but when restrictions went in place, the loon morality from lead poisoning was ZERO!

Did you know... Despite Minnesota being home to more than 12,000 loons, exceeding every other state in the continental US, Minnesota still has not passed any bills to ban lead fishing tackle. They say the loon population in Minnesota is holding steady, but 25% of injured or dead loons in the state did have lead poisoning. The percentage might be higher if we could count the numbers not reported or loons never found.

When we can learn from other states on how best to protect our loons, why should we wait until we see Minnesota's loon population decline before we try to do something about it? We need to prevent the decline from ever happening.

IT'S TIME TO ACT NOW!

Switch over to lead-free fishing tackle by trading in your lead fishing jigs or sinkers, 2.5" or less in length and weighing 1 oz or less. Please ask your local bait shop to help in the efforts. They can visit the following website to learn more about the Retail Rebate Program. The deadline to apply is March 29, 2024.

For more information, please visit: www.pca.state.mn.us/air-water-land-climate/getting-lead-out-of-fishing-tackle

Jenny Wuebker Chapman, Loon Liaison

AIS Cleaning Station & Tools

The CGWLAA has placed cleaning stations with tools on the kiosks at the Woman Lake launch ramp on County Road 5 and the Girl Lake launch ramp in Longville. These self-service tool stations were made available by the Association of Cass County Lakes (ACCL) in cooperation with the Minnesota DNR and the Cass County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD).



These tools are conveniently located and easy to use. There is a brush for the boat hull and lower unit, a reacher/grabber for pulling vegetation from the trailer under the boat, another longer weed hook, and a wrench for pulling the boat plug to drain the water in the bilge.

We hope that watercraft operators will take advantage of these tools and return them to the kiosk for others to use. We thank the ACCL for providing signs and tools at a nominal cost. When we all work together, we can make a difference!

Rich Hess, AIS



Fall Fishing & Loon Safety

The upcoming months are great for fishing on our lakes, but it is also a dangerous time for juvenile loons. They are learning to forage on their own with or without the help of their parents. Over the years, Minnesota has seen an increase of juveniles being hooked and entangled when they go for any easy meal, such as a minnow on a hook or a spoon looking like a minnow.

PLEASE be extra vigilant when out on the lakes this time of year near any loons in the area while fishing. If a loon takes interest in your bait, please pull your lines in, and stop fishing until the loon leaves the area. If the loon does not leave, please move to a different area.

We know accidents happen, but if you do hook a loon, please do not cut the line. It is a death sentence, especially if they are unable to be captured to get the tackle released. Please land the loon in your boat or to shore. If you feel comfortable removing an externally hooked loon, remove the hook by cutting the barb and backing the hook out. Remove any line around the loon, and double check before releasing back in the lake.

If the loon swallowed the hook, it would need to be carefully transported to the Garrison Animal Hospital or Wild and Free Wildlife Rehabilitation Organization, which is associated with the Garrison Animal Hospital. Leave at least two feet of line out of the loon's mouth, as this will help aid with removal of a swallowed hook. Even tying a washer or nut to the end of the line will prevent the line from going down the loon's throat.

If the line breaks while trying to land the loon, for advice, call Loon Rescue Inc. at 715-966-5415 or 715-453-2916. For more information visit Loon Rescue on Facebook.

What is the correct way to transport an injured loon?

A loon that could be rehabilitated may need to be put down if not transported properly. The best way to

transport a loon without any added injury is in a plastic bin with holes, so the loon can breathe. There needs to be 4 to 5" of crumpled newspaper on the bottom with a towel placed over the papers. The newspaper allows a loon's keel to sink into the soft cushion of newspaper and helps prevent keel sores. Cover the loon with a light sheet and secure with clips (not clothespins). The loon must be kept in a cool place while being transported, such as inside a vehicle with the air conditioner on, but not in the back of a truck.



If you find a loon that has been injured and want to talk with a loon rescue expert, call Sheila at 612-226-6571, Julie at 816-516-0759, or Terri at 612-360-3580.

If a dead loon is found, the National Loon Center in Cross Lake will take the loon to the University of Minnesota in St. Paul for testing. The loon is usually double-bagged and placed in a freezer if not transported immediately. For more information, please visit the National Loon Center Foundation at www.nationallooncenter.org or call 218-692-5666.

Jenny Wuebker Chapman, Loon Liaison

Adopt a Highway

The CGWLAA previously adopted the following highway segments through the Minnesota Department of Transportation: Adopt a Highway Program.

- County Road 11 from Sunny Acres Drive to the junction of 11 and County Road 5
- County Road 5 from the junction of 11 and 5 to 14th Avenue
- County Road 5 from the old public boat landing (fire hydrant) to Shangri-La Drive



This activity helps keep roadsides beautiful and free of litter. It is a great public service that shows we care about our state and saves taxpayers money.

Thanks to Ken Hanson and his team for contributing to a cleaner environment!

If you are interested in joining the team, please contact highway@womanlakechain.org.

Shoreline Restoration - Woman Lake Lodge

Alex and Lindsey Haagensen have been the owners of Woman Lake Lodge since 2022. This was their second summer as owners. I had the opportunity to speak with Lindsey regarding their shoreline restoration project.

After the Haagensen's purchased the property, they noticed how eroded the shoreline looked. The land was falling into the lake due to wind, waves, ice movement, and increased boat traffic. There was no grass, rocks, or weeds to keep the shoreline intact. It reached a point where campfires from some cabins were too close to the water as the land was literally disappearing. There was also a rain water pipe that was sticking out by about 8 feet. The Haagensen's were told by guests, who had been coming there for decades, that the pipe used to be covered by land.

The Haagensen's are members of the Community of Minnesota Resorts (CMR) that exists to help family-owned and operated resorts. One benefit of CMR is continuing education. They attended a presentation by the DNR and University of Minnesota that discussed the benefits and process of natural shoreline restoration.

The DNR's preference over rip rap (large rocks placed along the shoreline) is to restore the shoreline naturally. Due to gaps in rocks with rip rap, erosion can continue with rocks eventually falling into the water.

Initially, the Haagensen's were concerned about having less beach space for their guests. However, they were able to maintain a section of beach for children to play and for water toys.

Prairie Restorations completed the shoreline project at Woman Lake Lodge. Cass County was notified about this work, and a permit was not required in this case to naturally restore shoreline with native plants.

It will take a year or two for growth of the beautiful wild flowers and native plants of Minnesota to progress.

Thanks to the Haagensen's for helping keep our beautiful lake healthy!

Nancy Coughlin, Woman Lake Representative



Before



Planting



Projected Growth

Note about Shoreline Alterations

Property owners sometimes wish to make alterations to the shoreline of a public water body. Most of these projects are regulated by the Minnesota DNR. However, if certain conditions are met, some minimal impact projects can proceed without a permit from the DNR. Keep in mind that project permits may be required from local government units and other agencies of the state or federal government. Information sheets discussing common shoreline alteration projects have been prepared and are available at: www.dnr.state.mn.us/publications/waters/shoreline_alteration.html.

Order Trees, Shrubs, or Plants for Spring Planting

Our Lake Association is once again offering five **FREE** trees or shrubs to encourage shoreline and yard naturalization as a buffer between homes, lawns, and the lakes. As in the past, you can order any combination of five trees or shrubs from the list. Like in previous years, additional trees or shrubs can be ordered for \$1.50 each; payment for any additional trees, shrubs, or plants must be made at the time your order is sent or placed online with a check to follow shortly.

Please email your order to Myles Wagner at silverfox1050@msn.com (no order form necessary), or mail the order form below to Myles Wagner, 4074 Hawk Trail NW, Hackensack, MN 56452. Orders must be placed by the first week of January.

Pick up of the trees or shrubs will be in the spring at the Myles Wagner home at the above address (the blue, two-story house and garage near the old public access on Woman Lake off County Road 5). Orders can be picked up the first or second weekends in May from 9:00 AM until noon. You will be notified as a reminder of when your order can be picked up.

Orders placed by email are easier to process, and email is an effective means for ongoing communications. If you do not have email, please be sure to include your name and phone number on the order form.

If you prefer to order additional plants that are not on the order form, you can do so by going to the Crow Wing Soil and Water Conservation District (CWSWCD) website at www.cwsxcd.org - *Native Plants* section to see what else is available. The CWSWCD offers a broader selection, but you need to order a bundle or kit.

You can also send this order with payment to us, and we will include it in our order, which may then qualify for a discount. Most of the trees and shrubs are bare root and 8 to 24" in size. Please call Myles Wagner at 763-767-6177, with any questions. We look forward to working with you.

Due to availability of the plants during spring time from CWSWCD, there are times that we may need to substitute ordered plants with something similar. Please be understanding of circumstances beyond our control.

Myles Wagner, Shoreline Restoration

Order Form

Name: _____

Email Address or Home Address:

Phone Number: _____

Species	Height	Soil Type	Number Ordered
Red Pine (Norway)	50-80'	Sand/well drained	_____
White Pine	80-100'	Sand/loam/clay	_____
White Cedar	40-50'	Sand/loam/clay	_____
Sugar Maple	50-65'	Moist/wet	_____
Red Splendor Crabapple	10-30'	Dry/wet	_____
False Indigo	6-9'	Any well-drained soil	_____
High Bush Cranberry	8-12'	Dry/wet	_____
Serviceberry/Juneberry	6-9'	Dry/wet	_____
Chokeberry (if available)	6-9'	Any type of soil	_____

Financial Statement through June 30, 2023

Budget Line	Budget	Expense YTD	Reimbursement	Remaining Budget Balance
Newsletter	\$ 600.00	\$ 604.96		\$ (4.96)
Water Patrol	\$ 615.00	\$ 0.00		\$ 615.00
Road Signs	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 287.50		\$ 912.50
Water Quality	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 0.00		\$ 1,500.00
Annual Meeting	\$ 500.00	\$ 0.00		\$ 500.00
Public Relations & Membership	\$ 3,300.00	\$ 525.63		\$ 2,774.37
Admin & Travel	\$ 4,900.00	\$ 2,529.75		\$ 2,370.25
Communication Technology	\$ 300.00	\$ 120.00		\$ 180.00
Shoreline Buffer Restoration	\$ 600.00	\$ 451.50		\$ 148.50
Contingency Fund	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 0.00		\$ 1,000.00
Aquatic Invasive Species	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 54.00		\$ 1,946.00
Navigational Safety	\$ 500.00	\$ 0.00		\$ 500.00
Webmaster	\$ 300.00	\$ 0.00		\$ 300.00
Total	\$ 17,315.00	\$ 4,575.34		\$ 12,741.66

Current Month Balance

\$ 59,211.43

Endowment Account

\$ 25,522.18

Total Assets

\$ 84,733.61

Did You Know...

CGWLAA is on the Loon Friendly Lake Registry Program. Watch for an article in the spring newsletter.



**STOP AQUATIC
HITCHHIKERS!**
Be A Good Steward & Don't Drain The
<http://stopaquaticinvasives.org>

Volunteer and make a difference!

**Please Contact Committee Chair, Lake Rep, or Board Officer
(A contact list is on the last page.)**



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	Neal Scharmer	president@womanlakechain.org	319-361-6139
Vice President	Chuck Miotke	vp@womanlakechain.org	
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	Nancy Coughlin	womanrep@womanlakechain.org	
Girl Lake Rep	Larry Anderson	girlrep@womanlakechain.org	
Child Lake Rep	TBD	childrep@womanlakechain.org	
Standing Committees			
Membership	Chuck Miotke	membership@womanlakechain.org	
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	
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	Myles Wagner	shoreline@womanlakechain.org	763-767-6177