



THE CEDAR LOG

Summer 2019

The Cedar Log is published by the Cedar Lake Conservancy. The Conservancy is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting, preserving and enhancing the quality of the environment and life experiences in and around Cedar Lake.

MEET THE NEW BOARD MEMBERS

2019 AIS CHALLENGE

You donate; it's matched **once** again this year!

Double the impact!

Support our AIS Fund! Make a donation prior to December 1 and it will automatically be matched dollar for dollar up to \$10,000. Your contribution is tax deductible!



Cedar Lake Conservancy
Box 152
Aitkin, MN 56431



Dan Yentes and his wife, Kristin, purchased their cabin on south Cedar in 2013. Prior to that, Dan grew up going to family cabins on Sunset Bay. Dan has a bachelor's degree in finance and risk management from the University of Minnesota and is a Vice President and Senior Audit Manager at U.S. Bank in Minneapolis.



Kelsey Klucas and her family have been enjoying Cedar Lake since her grandparents' purchased their lake lot in 1968. Kelsey grew up in Aitkin and has a bachelor's degree in environmental science, policy, and management. Her master's degree is in environmental engineering. Kelsey did an internship during her undergrad at the Aitkin County Soil and Water Conservation District and has been at 3M since 2012.

THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

By Debbie Campbell

Well, following those who have come before me, I've got some pretty big shoes to fill! Hard to believe July 4th has passed and the days have started to get shorter. Did you know the month of July was Lake Association Appreciation Month? Deemed so by the North American Lake Management Society. Their mission is similar to ours and other lake associations..."To forge partnerships among citizens, scientists and professionals to foster the management and protection of lakes and reservoirs for today and tomorrow."



Along that line, how very fortunate is the CLC to have the members and volunteers we do (including those who work behind the scenes and go unmentioned). We would not be the organization we are or have the quality of lake we do without everyone's participation and dedication. Thank you! Want to be part of the action? Contact any Board member or Committee Chair to see what you can do.

The annual meeting had the best attendance yet on June 22 and donations to the Aitkin Area Food Shelf surpassed prior years by a landslide; so appreciated! If you missed it, Bob Karls' presentation is on the CLC's website under its own tab titled "2019 Presentation by Bob Karls". It's chock-full of information on AIS, different synopses on our public launch, etc. Definitely a worthwhile read. Spoiler alert...to date Cedar is free of any AIS!!! Shelly Larson, Shoreline Restoration Consultant for Hayland Woods, presented a very interesting program on saving/maintaining shorelines, various ways to do so and included native plants that do well. If you're interested in the program, contact Board members Bob Karls or Kelsey Klucas.

Once again we are so blessed to have the generosity of an anonymous donor who will match, dollar for dollar, any AIS donations given to the CLC up to \$10,000. Currently, we are halfway there. Let's not let this opportunity pass us by! Send in your tax-deductible donation today.

A request was made to circulate a map of the lake with the various bays' names, as many members do not know where others are referring to when these spots are mentioned in the newsletter or on our Facebook page. So, let's get that accomplished. Send me your bay's name and where it is by August 31 and we'll get

a map done. There may be many different references for one bay but so be it!

The Fishing Challenge pictures for this year are on the website. You'll also find some fish pictures on our Facebook page. Sad face here...some on Facebook forgot to take a photo of the fish against a measuring device, which is required for the Challenge. Plenty of fishing season left to catch a big one and submit your entry! The Challenge runs through Labor Day and the rules can be found under the Fishing Challenge tab on the website.

Have you seen the CLC's Facebook page? It's a great way to stay up to date on what's happening on the lake! Our page was created by Dar Heino in June, 2013. There are 168 following the Conservancy including property owners and their extended families. Dar and Lanae Paaverud monitor the page and its posts; thank you very much! It is a perfect way for Cedar Lake families to share pictures of lake life (sunrises, sunsets, fish, family, critters, etc.), ask questions and to inform others. If you are already going to do that Instagram post, just copy/share your Cedar Lake life on the CLC's page, too! Here's the link: <https://www.facebook.com/CedarLakeConservancy>

Enjoy this wonderful time of year and all that lake life offers. Jump off the boat or dock and get a bit of water up your nose. Sit around the campfire telling tall tales of any kind. Eat that last s'more. Remember to be respectful of your neighbors and the shoreline when boating. Be safe. Laugh. **Happy summer!**

Dear Cedar Lake Conservancy Members,

Thank you very much for continuing to support the Aitkin Area Food Shelf. Your donations of food and cash help provide food during the critical summer months when donations are low and need is high. Thank you again!

AAFS Volunteers

In Remembrance

Gerry Delaney
Phyllis & Ray Sigurdson

WATER QUALITY

By Bob Karls

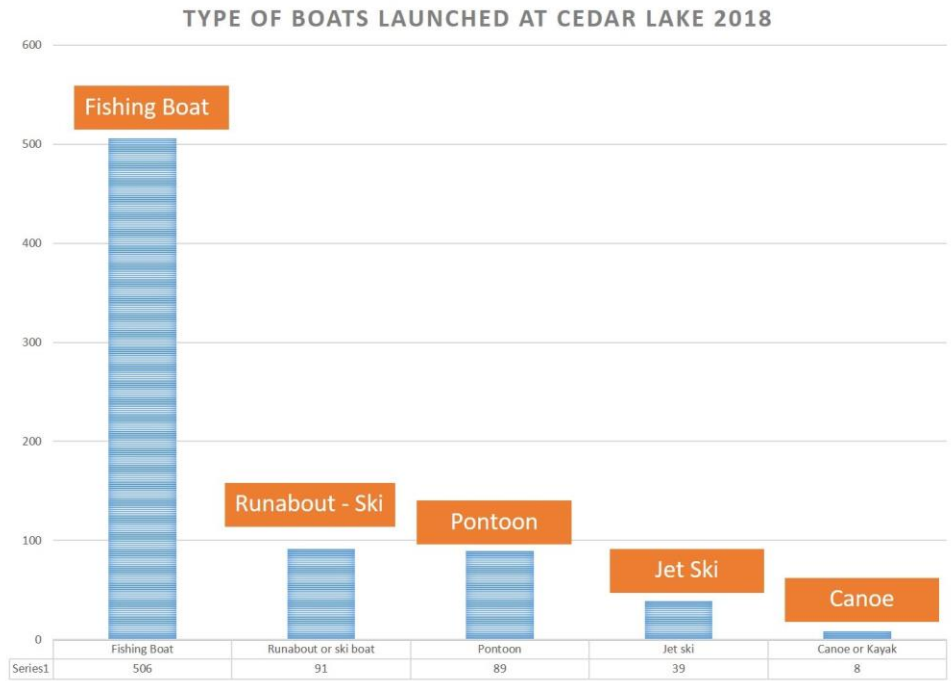
AIS

On July 1 we sampled four locations for zebra mussel veligers, the microscopic larvae of zebra mussels that are normally present when the water temperatures reach the 70s. During the sampling, water temperatures at three feet below the surface were measured between 73 and 75 degrees F. We sampled in Little Cedar, near the public access, the very east end of the lake in Sunset Bay and the very north end near the outflow from our lake to the Mississippi.

“We are very pleased to tell you that no larvae of zebra mussels were found!”

Please make sure if you are installing a used dock or boatlift that it has been out of the water for the required 21 days. Minnesota law requires docks and boatlifts to be out of the water for at least 21 days before putting them in another body of water.

We get a variety of information that has been compiled by the public access monitors’ reports. Example...lakes with AIS that were “last visited” before entering Cedar included Mille Lacs, Minnetonka, Big Sandy, Serpent, Clearwater, Pokegama, Bay, Alexander, Gull and the Mississippi River. In addition, above is a chart showing what watercraft types that were launched in 2018.



Land Preservation

As discussed at the 2018 and recently the 2019 CLC Annual Meetings, we worked with the Northern Waters Land Trust to apply for Lessard - Sams Outdoor Heritage Council Funds to acquire 46 acres and its 1,500 feet of shoreline just north of the public landing and existing Wildlife Management Area (WMA) outlined in blue below. This property will attach to the adjacent DNR Wildlife Management Area, which is 54 acres, making the preserved area a total of about 100 acres. The biological quality of this stretch of shoreline, the fact that it is adjacent to an existing WMA, a very unique opportunity to acquire the intact parcel and our successful effort to secure 90% of the funding from the Outdoor Heritage Council make this an incredible opportunity.

To complete this transaction we need to raise about \$70,000 as a part of our local match of 10%. The grant from the Lessard - Sams Outdoor Heritage Council Funds will provide the other approximately \$650,000 necessary to complete the purchase. We have a start at fund raising but need your help to get to the target. Please help us raise the money to preserve this shoreline and the acreage that is within the watershed of our lake.



Biologists and fisheries specialists have identified this shoreline as very sensitive to development as it is in a very natural condition right now. This area of lake shore scored very high on the DNR scoring system – the highest of any parcel yet evaluated with the DNR Aquatic Management Area Prioritization System. If we do not complete the purchase, it has the potential to be developed into ten additional lakeshore parcels increasing the density of development on Cedar Lake, if sold to a developer.

All donations for the protection and preservation of this parcel are tax deductible, charitable donations. Money donated is kept in a segregated account by the CLC until the transaction closes. If closing does not happen due to us not meeting the fundraising goal, the funds will be returned to donors. Please contact me to discuss how you can help or if you have any questions. Donations for this match can be sent to the CLC, P. O. Box 152, Aitkin, MN 56431. Please put “Land Match” in the memo area.

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651-216-9161

TIDBITS

August 5	Run to the Dump
August 9 - 10	Deerwood Summerfest
August 10	ACLARA Meeting
August 22 – Sep. 2	Minnesota State Fair
September 2	Fishing Challenge Ends
September 14	ACLARA Meeting
September 28	Semi-Annual County Road 28 Cleanup
October 12	ACLARA Meeting
November 29	Aitkin Fish House Parade

COMMITTEE NEWS

CITIZEN’S LAKE MONITORING PROGRAM

With summer comes the work of our great water clarity volunteers officially known as the “Citizens Monitoring Program”. Our ten water clarity stewards equipped with their Secchi discs are launching their canoes, kayaks, fishing boats and pontoons to measure the clarity of Cedar twice a month from June until August. The work of this team is very important and we collect data allowing us to monitor the quality of Cedar Lake over the years.

Last year the team did a great job in collecting our measurements which we submitted to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency for permanent retention and analysis. Last year’s results on Cedar show the continuance of a recent trend of increasing clarity of our lake (approximately 10’). Early reports from our volunteers this year are also quite encouraging.

While all ten of our measuring sites are currently covered on Cedar Lake, if you are interested in joining us in this program, contact me for future opportunities.

Jon Campbell

campbelljon807@gmail.com

612-849-3232

COMMUNICATIONS

Lanae and Yoerg Paaverud have joined the committee. They will oversee the website and help with the newsletter! Along with Dar Heino, Lanae is also one of our Facebook administrators. Be sure to bookmark both sites to stay on top of what’s happening on the lake.

Debbie Campbell

jackpine@aol.com

952-240-3772

COUNTY ROAD 28 SEMI-ANNUAL CLEANUP

Cedar Lake Conservancy members and friends will meet on Saturday, September 28 at 9 am for our semi-annual roadside cleanup along the edges of County Road 28. Everyone is invited to join in this effort. The staging point is Braton's "farm" at 33476 County Road 28. Any questions, call me otherwise we'll see you there!

Mary Braton

marybraton@yahoo.com

218-670-0497

SHORE LAND

Cedar Lake Stewards reminder – search your area sometime between August 1 – 14 and let me know your search results ASAP! There’s an app for your phone called Picture This. It is free. Take a picture, and it will then tell you what it is. Be sure to have it in focus and within the lines on your phone. Thank you for all you do for our lake!

Susan Nielsen

cedarlakesunsent@gmail.com

612-247-4174

Social

Summer is very much upon us! The **2019 Annual Meeting** is long past and was a success. Watch for it again in 2020. The **2019 Golf Tourney** is over but will be held again in 2020. Watch for it and get your putters ready. By the time you read this the annual **Paddle on the Mighty Mississippi** will (for better or worse) be history. The **2019 Fishing Challenge** is in full swing. Very competitive already and the whole family can take part. Take a look at current photos on

<https://minnesotawaters.org/cedarlakeconservancy/>

Aitkin Riverboat Days Dump Run will be on Saturday, August 3rd. I’ll be there representing CLC with my official t-shirt and hat, bringing up the rear. Hope to see you there! The **2019 annual picnic** is on hold for this year, as we explore an exciting new idea we hope you’ll want to be a part of next season. Watch for more information in the fall newsletter. And, as always, check out the calendar on the website for additional items.

Mark Miller and I have been designated **Social Directors** for the coming year and will be looking for any other ideas you may have or ways to improve the events we do. We understand the lake season is short and respect there are many demands on your time, but please feel free to contact either of us, as we look forward to 2020!

Steve Haasl

stevenhaasl1@gmail.com markm.hirsh@gmail.com

612-386-4352

Mark Miller

763-486-7985

MEMBERSHIP

By Dave Mackaman, Committee Chair

Close your eyes and visualize your favorite outdoor place. Hold it in your mind. What does it look like? How does it make you feel? Who is there with you? What close relationships do you associate with this place? For many of us this place is Cedar Lake.

Perhaps it's the scent of pine, the quaking aspens in the breeze, the myriad wildlife, loon calls echoing through the night, a fish on the end of the line, the sound of waves timelessly lapping against the shoreline, a bracing morning plunge from the dock, thunder as a storm rolls in, the splendor of today's sunset or the promise of tomorrow's sunrise, gazing with wonder at the Milky Way and beyond, or (on those special nights) the Northern Lights. Perhaps it's our families, grandparents, parents, or children. Maybe it's not one but all of these things.

The question is this. Is this place worth preserving and protecting, protecting for nature's sake, protecting for our sake, protecting for those who will follow?



If you agree that it is, please continue to support our Conservancy. **Better yet, convince your neighbors to do the same!** Currently there are 437 properties on Cedar Lake and 186 Conservancy members on record during 2018. Our membership is strong and growing, but it is critical that we gather all the support we can. Purchasing a gift membership for a child or grandchild is a great way to support the Conservancy. We also revere memorial contributions honoring loved ones who held Cedar Lake close to their hearts.

You may wonder if the Conservancy's work matters. It does! Here are but a few examples of how the Conservancy's work is protecting the lake's environment:

- The Conservancy is in the process of coordinating acquisition of 46 acres of environmentally sensitive land near the public access. This land will be deeded over to the Minnesota DNR for stewardship which will protect that portion of the shoreline for generations to come thereby enhancing the lake's natural beauty, wildlife habitat, and water quality.
- The Conservancy coordinates and participates in funding the cost of an inspector at the public access. This person is there to educate lake users about invasive species and to serve as first line of defense against invasive species gaining a toehold in our lake.
- Throughout the summer Conservancy volunteers scout for Eurasian milfoil, zebra mussels and other invasive species. Early detection is critical as are the close working relationships that the Conservancy has established with the DNR and County Conservation Districts. In the event invasive species are detected, we have a very short window to react before the problem spreads and is no longer manageable. Timing and funding will be critical, which is why we have established an AIS Fund (Aquatic Invasive Species). We're far more likely to secure the DNR and County support we will need if we stand ready with funds and demonstrated commitment to doing our part to protect the lake.

Conservancy membership levels for this year are as follows:

Loon	\$25.00 (annual membership)
Heron	\$50.00 (\$25.00 annual membership + \$25.00 contribution to the AIS Fund)
Eagle	\$100.00 (\$25.00 annual membership + \$75.00 contribution to AIS Fund)

For the second straight year an anonymous donor is matching your AIS contributions up to \$10,000. How great is that?! If you haven't already, please mail your renewal to: Cedar Lake Conservancy, P.O. Box 152, Aitkin, MN 56431. Thank you!

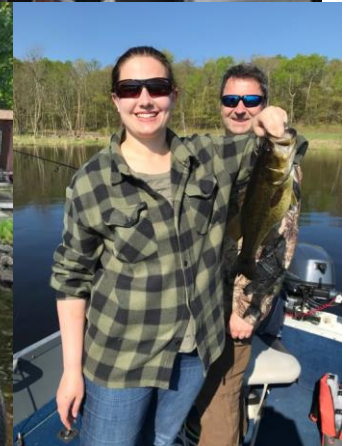
AITKIN AREA FISHERIES

By Greg Berg, Assistant Fisheries Supervisor

Our goals for Cedar are to 1) maintain walleye abundance at or above three fish per gill net lift, 2) maintain muskellunge abundance at catch rates above 0.15/net in spring trap net surveys and 3) maintain largemouth bass catch rates in spring nighttime electrofishing greater than 20 fish per hour with preferred size fish (15") sampled.

We currently stock walleye fingerlings annually at one pound per littoral acre of standard sized Mississippi strain stock (20/lb.) and stock Leech Lake strain muskellunge fingerlings annually at one fish per littoral acre (405 fish). We conduct fisheries assessments every three years with a full resurvey every fourth assessment (next in 2026) and population assessments in the other survey years (next in 2020). We include spring muskellunge trap net assessments every other assessment (next in 2023) and include near shore sampling components every other assessment. As usual, we conduct temperature and dissolved oxygen profiles in August to monitor tullibee (northern cisco) habitat regularly, as staff time permits.

One minor change we made to walleye management was to continue with annual fingerling stocking of walleye (1 lb./littoral acre), but also allow for surplus stocking of older life stages of walleye in fall, up to 1.5 lbs./littoral acre for yearlings or adults not more than once every other year. This essentially gives us the option to stock large walleye in the lake IF and WHEN they are available. In case you're wondering, "littoral acres" is the amount of acreage in a lake that is 15' deep or less and is how we determine the amount of fish to stock in a lake. Our data shows that walleye catches over the last three surveys have been around two per net, which isn't bad by any means. But, we would like to get it back up over three, which is why we made this addition to the plan.



BATTLE OF THE SEXES REMATCH CHAMPIONS!



Please patronize these businesses that continually donate gifts for the CLC's annual meeting raffle

- Beartooth True Value
- Block North
- Coach's Corner
- Cuyuna Rolling Hills
- Deerstand
- Hyytinen Hardware
- Iron Range
- Minnesota Meats
- Paulbeck's
- Ruttger's
- The 40 Club

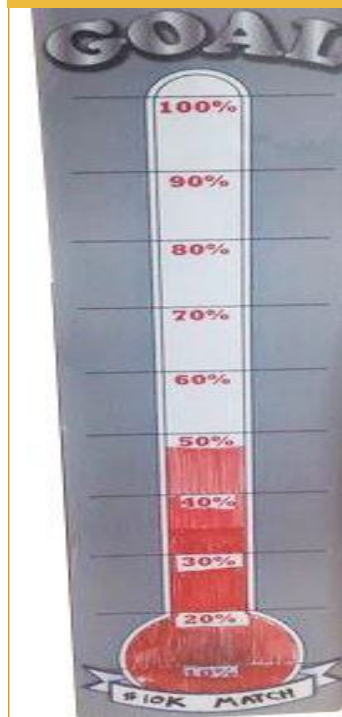
Septic System Replacement/Upgrade Program

Both Aitkin and Crow Wing Counties are offering access to low interest rate loans to replace or upgrade substandard or failing septic systems. If you are interested in learning more, please contact:

Aitkin: Aitkin Co Environmental Services
(218) 927-7342
aitkinpz@co.aitkin.mn.us

Crow Wing: Region Five Development Commission
Stephanie Barney
(218) 296-5201
<http://www.crowwing.us/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/1929>

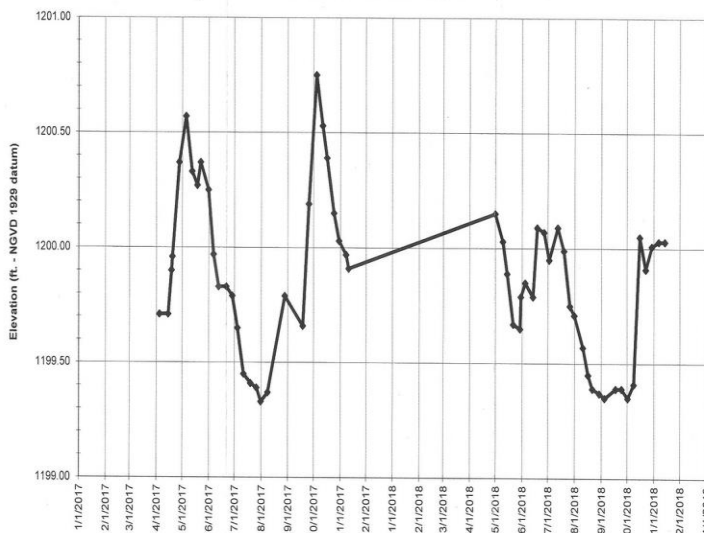
AIS FUND MATCH



Help us **max** out the **\$10,000 MATCH!**

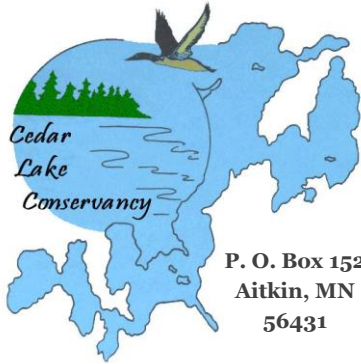
We're just shy of halfway there!

Cedar Lake (01-0209), Aitkin County Reported Water Levels 2017 - 2018



Time wasted at the lake is time well spent.

- Unknown



STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!™

Find Us At:

<http://minnesotawaters.org/cedarlakeconservancy>
<https://www.facebook.com/CedarLakeConservancy>

JOIN/RENEW TODAY!

Preserving the quality of Cedar Lake is paramount to future generations enjoying the lake as we do now. Annual membership levels are \$25 Loon, \$50 Heron (\$25 to AIS Fund and tax deductible) and \$100 Eagle (\$75 to AIS Fund and tax deductible). Your check should be mailed with this application to:

Cedar Lake Conservancy
 P. O. Box 152
 Aitkin, MN 56431

Name(s)

Mailing Address (street, city, state, zip)

Lake Address (street, city, state, zip)

Location of Property on Lake (Name of Bay, Island, Point or Subdivision)

Preferred Telephone Number to Reach You _____ I/We are the property owners ____ Yes ____ No

I/We prefer to receive any information via email ____ Yes ____ No

Email Address – please print clearly

I/We are making an additional, tax-deductible donation of \$ _____ to the CLC Aquatic Invasive Species Fund.