

THE CEDAR LOG

Fall 2020

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 in and around Cedar Lake.

MEMBERSHIP SALUTE!

Dave Mackaman at mackaman33@gmail.com

Andy Warhol once said, "They always say time changes things, but you actually have to change them yourself." It's true. Our world doesn't simply get better on its own. Nature is resilient, but human intervention sets the course, the course for improvement or the course for degradation. You have made a choice, a choice to support a cause that you care deeply about, Cedar Lake. We know you aren't looking for recognition or thanks, but we are in fact recognizing and thanking you.

The Conservancy exists in order to protect, preserve and enhance the quality of the environment in and around Cedar Lake. With your membership support we are proactively working to protect and improve the lake's environment rather than to leave those matters to chance and the passage of time. It's important work. And we couldn't do it without you, our members and our volunteers. We thank you; the loons, herons, and eagles thank you; the walleyes, bass, and sunfish thank you; a multitude of generations yet to come thank you; and in some difficult to discern but important way the stars, moon, and northern lights thank you. That small chorus of boos is coming from the milfoil and zebra mussels.

And, we'll leave it at that. This standing ovation is for you. THANK YOU!

PS...If for some reason or circumstance you forgot to renew your 2020 membership, it's not too late. We welcome you back with open arms and all of the foregoing rose petals of appreciation belong to you!

THANK YOU FOR VOLUNTEERING

"VOLUNTEERS DO NOT NECESSARILY HAVE THE TIME; THEY JUST HAVE THE HEART." - ELIZABETH ANDREW

Bruce & Rebecca Bogema Jerry & Mary Braton Jim & Debbie Campbell Jon Campbell Don & Linda Carlisle Bob & Thea Dahleen Warren & Kathy Docken LeRoy Gielser Tim Gurr Dar Heino & Katie Kraft Dennis & Allison Hippen Rob & Karn Jameson Stan & Barb Jones Bob Karls & Bonnie Joe & Andria Klucas Kelsey Klucas Steve Haasl Dan Mackaman Dave Mackaman Les & Marty Martin John Menge

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Dan Yentes

THE CEDAR LOG

THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Debbie Campbell at jackpine@aol.com



And, in the blink of an eye autumn came. When Covid and its restrictions hit last spring, being confined to our apartment or cabin sounded fun. Challenging? Heck no, I'm easily entertained! Clean, organize, do hobbies, check in with friends and family, repeat not necessarily in that order. Repeat again, again and again while the seasons continued to change.

Summer, in full swing, brought lots of water activity on the lake. All of it sounding fun from my chair on the cabin deck while watching the otters playing on our shoreline a few times. Fishing wasn't so good to this Campbell family but congratulations to the winners of this year's Fishing Challenge! Now it's autumn. Stevo's busy taking out docks/lifts, leaves are falling and there's a chill in the air.

With a cup of coffee in hand, I recently read through all the newsletters of the CLC including those when it was called the Cedar Lake Owners Association in 1993 (name officially changed in 2002 when we received nonprofit status). I so appreciate the foresight our founding fathers had! In 1995 the late Tom Eberhardt was the Water Quality Chair overseeing Eurasian water milfoil searches and organizing the Citizen Lake Monitoring Program (water clarity). In 2002 Sarah Magnuson took over the Milfoil Search Project, which is now our Shore Land Committee that has long been led by Susan Nielsen. Some of the original searchers are still doing inspections today but have decided to retire. Susan is in need of replacements; please help her out on this once-a-year search. The late Phil Rzeszutek oversaw the water level of the lake; Bruce Bogema now diligently reports Cedar's readings to the State on a regular basis.

Membership dues in 1993 were \$20 per family and is only \$25 now. Paid membership numbers have been up and down since inception. In 2004 the paid membership goal was 200. With approximately 450 property owners today, we're not at that number yet. To quote Jim Larson, President, and the late Jim Spaeth, Treasurer, in 1995, "If you can't volunteer your time, at least join our association. A large membership base will provide us with a loud voice pertaining to matters involving our mutual benefits of lakeshore ownership". These words hold true today! If you haven't joined, please do so in 2021.

Other fun facts: Annual July 4th picnic started in 1994 and first mention of a boat parade was in 2002. Semi-annual County Road 28 roadside clean up started in 2005.

Like my Covid entertainment and the seasons, since its inception the CLC continues to repeat again and again its efforts to ensure future generations will enjoy lake life as we do today. This couldn't be done without all the past volunteers, those who give their time today and our dues-paying membership. On behalf of the CLC Board, a heartfelt thanks to all.

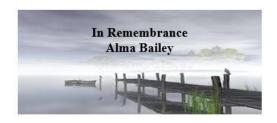
Before I close, I want to extend the CLC's best wishes to Conservation Officer, Bob Mlynar, on his upcoming retirement. Bob has been covering Cedar for approximately 20 years. Job well done!

May the winter season be peaceful and healthy for all. Be safe on the ice!

WELCOME 2020 NEW PROPERTY OWNERS

Troy & Patricia Barrow
Randy & Jackie Bilderback
Don & Linda Dzuba
Dale & Peggy Forsythe
Robert Hakes
Beau & Amy Hanson
Tom & Sarah Burdick-Hirsch
Chad & Katherine Koenen

Daniel Leonard & Pam Schlagel Brian Norelius Larry & Jennifer Palm Ben & Kassi Peterson Keith & Jody Radtke Tim Steffen & Lori Greenberg Ryan & Stacy Zachman



"October, the extravagant sister, has ordered an immense amount of the most gorgeous forest tapestry for her grand reception."

- Oliver Wendell Holmes

COMMITTEE NEWS

CONSERVATION

Bob Karls at bkarls58@gmail.com

The Cedar Lake Watershed - Protecting "the Sponge"

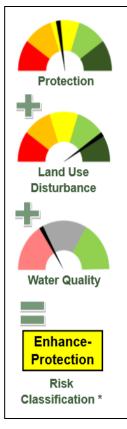
The land and forests and soils in the area around Cedar Lake can be thought of in some ways like a sponge many of us use every day. If we use it carefully and appropriately it can last us a very long time (some dispute between my wife and I on just how long that is, but that is a different discussion). If we rough it up and abrade it, it must be replaced. If we use it to soak up inks or oils, it must be replaced. Our watershed is similar. If we treat the forest and the soils in the watershed with care and good stewardship our water quality and the fish, birds, and clarity will be preserved. If we treat it roughly with chemicals, uses that promote erosion, surfaces that promote rapid runoff to the lake – it will be degraded or ruined. The BIG difference is we cannot replace it, and restoration is far more difficult than protection.

Modeling of over 1,300 lakes by the Minnesota DNR Fisheries Research Unit has revealed that water quality in lakes are directly related to land use disturbance in the watershed. Phosphorus concentrations become elevated, water clarity decreases, and overall water quality decreases when land use disturbance reaches 25% of a lake's watershed and are greatly impacted when land use disturbances exceed 60%. These thresholds set the foundation for identifying appropriate water quality management strategies for lakes. Lakes with relatively undisturbed watersheds need protection, while lakes with heavily disturbed watersheds need restoration. Lakes with undisturbed watersheds, with high levels of protection, should maintain good water quality. Cedar Lake needs protection and a little restoration to get to 75%. We are a bit below 75% in undisturbed landscape in the watershed, but the actual <u>protection</u> which is through conservation easements, sustainable forestry enrollment, or public protection is at about 48%. Changes in land use or development can threaten that 28% margin.

It is important to understand that this is referring to the "watershed" of a lake, not just the shoreline. The watershed is the entire area surrounding a lake where surface or ground water would be expected to eventually reach the lake. Cedar Lake itself is about 1,700 acres. The watersheds surrounding Cedar that "feed" water into the lake are more than 15,000 acres.

We can all contribute to the preservation of our Cedar Lake in several ways:

- 1. Be good stewards of the land that we each own and control.
 - a. manage any chemical use on your property carefully
 - b. minimize erosion and slow or eliminate direct runoff directly to the lake
 - manage your on-site septic system through regular maintenance and replacement or upgrades as necessary.
- 2. Support outreach, education and preservation through the CLC, Aitkin County Soil and Water Conservation District, the DNR and the Northern Waters Land Trust.



Be good neighbors and stewards of our irreplaceable Cedar Lake watershed. Seek to educate yourself, understand and learn what you can do and how you can help.

SOCIAL

Steve Haasl at <u>stevenhaasl1@gmail.com</u> Mark Miller at markm.hirsh@gmail.com

 $2020\,$ is wrapping up on a quiet note. The Golf Challenge, the festive, reborn 4^{th} of July Boat Parade and well-attended fall roadside cleanup gave us great ways to be together. Be sure to check out this year's fish entries for the Fishing Challenge under the Fishing tab on the website, another CLC custom. Thanks to all who helped organize and all who took part in these activities. While we missed the annual meeting and annual picnic, we know better times are ahead.

Watch for a slate of activities in 2021 tailored to engage and inform. Your Board is already looking at topics and presenters for the annual meeting. Stay tuned to newsletters and the website for updates. Meantime, we hope you all are enjoying Cedar Lake and the environs as the seasons change.

Stay well, stay safe, stay involved and active.

SHORE LAND

Susan Nielsen at cedarlakesunset@gmail.com

Thank you again, Stewards, for searching in August. No aquatic invasive species were found except purple loosestrife in areas 14 and 20. There were lots of weeds, lily pads and cattails. Next year I will try to find an easier way to have samples looked at by the DNR.

This year's search was done by the same Stewards in 2019. Some of these Stewards have been volunteering for many, many years and have decided to retire from the job. Consequently, we need four new Stewards for next year in addition to increasing the sub list. Please consider joining the team. It's an easy job that doesn't take long. Don't hesitate to contact me, if you have any questions or to add your name to the list.

LAKE LEVELS

Bruce Bogema at bogy@usfamily.net

Season ice out on my end of the lake (north arm) was April 13 and at that time the lake level was 1200.34'. As I write this (October 3), the level is 1199.47'. Those measurements calculated below is the difference from spring to fall this year: 1200.34' - 1199.47' = 0.87' then 0.87' x 12" = 10.44". This number is pretty normal until the fall rains start.

For those with a thirst for more data, the DNR Lake Finder website is the best means for the public to access available data on more than 4,500 Minnesota lakes relating to fisheries information, lake area and maximum depth, depth maps, lake water levels, air photos and topographic maps. About 1,450 of the lakes have a historical record of more than 100 water level elevations. After searching by county, lake name, or eight-digit identification number (Cedar's is 01020900), click on the lake in the Search Results. On the next page, click on Water Levels report in the left-hand column. https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/lakefind/index.html

The Lake Water Level report page contains a plethora of information from reported data including historical and current lake levels, highest and lowest levels, ordinary high water level, etc. Check it out! If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact me.

CITIZENS LAKE MONITORING PROGRAM (WATER CLARITY)

Jon Campbell at campbelljon807@gmail.com

2020 Secchi data wanted! The monitoring season just ended with final readings taken in the last week of September on Cedar Lake. With that, yet another Secchi season comes to a close.

This year was a strange one. With the delayed start of our monitoring season due to stay-athome orders and then needing to socially distance while monitoring, it's been a season like no other. We are so grateful for the lake monitoring our team of ten did this summer in spite of it all. We hope it even brought some normality back into their daily lives.

I will be submitting our aggregate 2020 Secchi data to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) during October. With the season over and our data submitted, now what? During the fall and winter the MPCA staff review, proof and upload the data collected by our volunteers in the State water quality database. The staff then creates individual, online monitoring site reports summarizing Secchi transparency data submitted by

LOON REPORT

Frank Simon at frank@optimum-ts.com

Since the last newsletter we have done two additional counts. On July 14th we counted 31 adult loons and six juvenile loons. There was one group of six loons which were probably young single loons that, like teenagers, enjoy hanging out and were starting to prepare for the fall of the year. Our next count was done August 29th. We counted 17 adults and three juveniles.

I would like to thank Heather and Bob Rykhus, and my wife, Bev, for their efforts in counting and reporting.

As we enter October, the loons will soon be leaving for warmer temps. Bev and I usually do, too, but for the first time in 15 years we are staying put!

COUNTY ROAD 28 FALL CLEANUP

Mary Braton at marybraton@yahoo.com



LtoR Back: Dale Moselle, Bonnie Girard, Joe Klucas, Bob Karls, Jim Campbell, Pete Rowland, Don Carlisle, Jerry Braton. LtoR Front: DeAnna Moselle, Judy Patterson, Linda Carlisle, Mary Braton. Not pictured: Kim Tillmann, Larry & Jennifer Palm, Debbie Campbell

each volunteer. These annual reports are available by late winter. The MPCA staff also compiles annual statewide results on program participation and Secchi transparency. We will let you know how our 2020 results compare to our historic trends in the spring of 2021.

Meanwhile, we all can impact our water quality on Cedar Lake. Proper management of our privately-held shore land is critical to the long-term health of our lake. Native vegetation and buffers prevent nutrients and sediment from reaching lake waters in addition to providing quality habitat for wildlife. Consider restoring your shoreline vegetation through funding Aitkin County has secured from the State. Contact Janet Smude at smude.aitkinswed@gmail.com or 218-927-7284 for further details.

THE CEDAR LOG



Lanae Paaverud at lpaaverud@gmail.com

I am excited that we now have a private Facebook group! Why you ask? Good question! The main benefit of our private group is that only Cedar Lake property owners or their family members will be allowed into the group, and only members of the group will see anything posted there. We have topics of discussion categories for Buy/Sell/Trade, Who do I call?, Lost/Found, etc.

We are keeping our amazing Facebook page, as there are still great benefits with it including being able to share the beauty of our lake with anyone who wants to be a fan of the page. In the private group we also hope to have dialogue between property owners, members sharing pictures (that they may not want shared on the public CLC FB page), fun and more.

Following is how it will work. Go to http://www.facebook.com/groups/CLCNeighbors/ Once there answer a few questions. Your property ownership or connection to a property owner will be verified by one of the administrators (Dar Heino, Debbie Campbell or me). When confirmed, you're in. Questions or suggestions? Please send me a note!

AITKIN AREA FISHERIES

Greg Berg, Assistant Fisheries Supervisor

We were scheduled to do a fish survey on the lake this summer but had to postpone because of all the different issues with Covid regulations, prioritizing workloads and not having enough staff available. Hopefully, we will get out there next field season. We did complete temperature and oxygen checks, as we have done annually in the past. We will still stock walleye fingerlings sometime this fall. Speaking of which, I heard good reports on the walleye fishing this summer!

KEEPING YOU IN THE KNOW

Bob Mlynar, Aitkin Area Conservation Officer

Waterfowl season is now in full swing and Conservation Officers often get questions from lakeshore owners regarding shooting distance from homes and cabins. Our outdoor trespass law is covered in MN Statute 97B.001. Many people believe the legal distance is 500°, but this only pertains to when a person is shooting from another person's private land. When the hunter is on public water, they are legal. MN Statute 609.66 covers recklessly using a gun but the hunter would normally be shooting toward the water so this normally isn't applicable either.

As always, feel free to call me with questions at

218-768-3274.

FISHING CHALLENGE MASTER ANGLERS

Thanks to all for participating!

Ages 12 & Under

17" Large Mouth Bass Ambrose Karls
9" Sunfish Aubrey Fehn
9" Sunfish Castiel Klinepier
9" Sunfish Miles Rorvig
24" Walleye Lucas Thompson

Honorable Mention

9" Sunfish Taylor Thompson

Ages 13 & Over

17" Large Mouth BassJon Campbell13" CrappieBrian Johnson45.75" MuskieDave Sdano38" Northern PikeJeremy Allen26" WalleyeKatie Kraft

Honorable Mention

9.5" Crappie Adam Campbell



"What do you mean it doesn't get any better than this?"

CLC Board of Directors Debbie Campbell, President/Treasurer

jackpine@aol.com

952-240-3772

Dan Yentes, Secretary danyentes@gmail.com

651-216-9161

 Jon Campbell, Director
 Steve Haasl, Director

 campbelljon807@gmail.com
 stevenhaasl1@gmail.com

612-849-3232 612-386-4352

Bob Karls, Director Kelsey Klucas, Director bkarls58@gmail.com kelseyklucas@gmail.com

612-850-3811 218-839-0992

Mark Miller, DirectorDavid Mackaman, Directormarkm.hirsh@gmail.commackaman33@gmail.com

763-486-7985 515-314-8059

Communications, Chair **Debbie Campbell** jackpine@aol.com Database **Dan Yentes** danyentes@gmail.com lpaaverud@gmail.com Facebook - Private Lanae Paaverud Dar Heino liv4678@aol.com Facebook - Public vpaaverud@gmail.com Website & Newsletter Yoerg Paaverud bkarls58@gmail.com Conservation, Chair **Bob Karls Shore Land** Susan Nielsen cedarlakesunset@gmail.com Water Clarity Jon Campbell campbelljon807@gmail.com Water Level **Bruce Bogema** bogy@usfamily.net frank@optimum-ts.com Loon Watch, Chair Frank Simon mackaman33@gmail.com Membership, Chair Dave Mackaman Road Cleanup, Chair marybraton@yahoo.com **Mary Braton** Social, Cochairs Steve Haasl steven<u>haasl1@gmail.com</u> Mark Miller markm.hirsh@gmail.com



On October 11 Mark Miller had a bull moose wander through his yard (south end of Cedar near Black Bass Bay). Some fun moose facts...

- MN is home to the "northwestern" moose.
- MN DNR estimates there are about 3,150 in the state.
- They are peaceful animals.
- The male has a dangling flap under the chin.
- They are huge eaters and prefer leaves, bark and twigs from trees and shrubs. Favorite foods are native willow, aspen and balsam fir trees.
- Organisms of all sizes pose a threat.
- They are great swimmers and can dive.
- They can sprint up to 35 mph.
- They usually have just one or two babies.
- They have an average lifespan of 8-12 years in the wild.
- Their home range varies from five to 50 square miles.

REMEMBER!

The Aitkin Fish House Parade is Friday, November 27!

A donation to the CLC in your end-end gift giving!

To give a 2021 CLC membership to a family member or neighbor!

No ice is considered safe. Check out the MN DNR's Ice Thickness Guidelines at: https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/safety/ice/thickness.html

Trash left on the ice from an ice fishing adventure ends up in the lake, can potentially affect our water quality and end up on your shoreline in the spring. Be a true outdoorsman and help keep Cedar clean!

We look out for each other. If your neighbors are seasonal or on vacation, check their place to be sure all is good!

As salt used during the winter on sidewalks, driveways and roadways can reach the lake, please use sparingly!

Think spring!

THANK YOU MEMBERS AND DONORS!

As of October 10, 2020

EAGLE - \$25 Dues + \$75+ Tax-Deductible AIS Donation

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Harold & Lynne Greseth Brad & Karen Kanis Julie Mackaman & Rick Dovey Ron & Pat Nelson Leo & Teri Rehmann Kim & Margaret Zander

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OTHER DONATIONS

Ken & Diane Stinson

BASIC MEMBERSHIP - \$25 Dues

Mark & Sandra Anderson
Jerry & Mary Braton
Leslie & Diane Bursey
Adam Campbell
Jay Cambell
Linda Delaney
Warren & Kathleine Docken
Dale & Kari Dragovich
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STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!

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<u>CedarLakeConservancy.org</u> <u>Facebook.com/CedarLakeConservancy</u>

Basic \$ 25 \$25 dues

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