



SPRING 2021

THE CEDAR LOG

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.

WELCOME TO SPRING!

By Aitkin County Sheriff Dan Guida

I hope this finds all of you in the Cedar Lake Conservancy safe, happy and healthy! The Sheriff's office has been busy with the largest construction project in the northern part of Aitkin County. Anticipated completion is before this fall. Time will tell!

The Aitkin County secure Judicial Center project is complete and staff is in place. The first "in person" jury trial started, and I am happy to say we are now screening everyone coming into the Judicial Center.

Last summer was a safe season but that does not mean we cannot expect improvements. One area of rising issues on our lakes is with wakeboard boats. If you witness violations, please attempt to capture a good description of the boat, its occupants and report the violation to us right away. If you are a boat owner/operator, I would like to take this chance to remind you of the responsibility you have for your boat's wash or wake. The following is taken from the MN DNR Boating Safety Manual and directly states the law.

MN 6110.1200 NAVIGATION OF WATERCRAFT ON THE WATERS OF THE STATE; SAFETY EQUIPMENT.

SUB. 2. Mode of operation of watercraft. Mode of operation:

A. No person shall operate a watercraft in such a manner that its wash or wake will endanger, harass or unnecessarily interfere with any other person or property.

This means if your boat's wake or wash causes any sort of damage, you could be cited. In 2020 we received many complaints of this, and we responded with some education and enforcement. There are many areas of Cedar Lake everyone can enjoy without violating this rule; please operate in those areas.

Another frequent complaint that directly relates to safety is the discharge of firearms. Many people have shown interest in this activity, and it can be done completely safely or it can be done recklessly. One of the "Golden Rules" of gun safety is to always know your target and beyond. Bullets can travel over and through backstops so please ensure the ground behind the backstop is suitable for shooting whatever caliber you might have. When we get these calls, we look for demonstrated safe practices. Unsafe actions with a gun very quickly can result in felony level charges or worse; please use excessive caution. If there is doubt about safety, consider using one of our many local gun ranges, as they are designed with strict guidelines for safety and usually have a safety officer present for the duration of your stay. Another thing to consider is to ALWAYS have adult supervision during any youth shooting activities.

I want to thank everyone for a great winter. Your calls are always welcome. If you see something, say something, and we will do our best to solve the problems!

THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

By Debbie Campbell



This past year time either flew by or dragged on. While the winter was not interminable, I'm happy it's spring. But, my favorite time of year is taking every ounce of willpower I have to not purchase flowers to plant or start outdoor yard work on these nice 40-70 degree days. Instead, I sit on our deck in a sunny spot outside of the wind and peruse gardening magazines looking for the perfect arrangements to drop in my pots. Trumpeter swans/geese honk as they fly over, chipmunks/squirrels scamper around, chickadees/blue jays are at the bird feeder, loons are back and the ice is gone. Spring has sprung!

You'll see in this edition of The Cedar Log the energy of the Board continued throughout the winter. No spoiler alerts here except to say thanks to Bob, Jon, Dan, Mark, Steve, Dave and Kelsey. Their continued efforts along with those of our other volunteers indicate a strong commitment that is right in line to the CLC's mission statement.

The CLC appreciates and depends on its volunteers. As you know, we are short some this year. If you can share just a bit of your time, please contact the Committee Chairs. I guaranty you'll find it rewarding in more ways than one.

We have a number of new property owners this year. Be sure to give them a warm welcome, if any are near you!

Normally a chatty Kathy, I will close this short epistle with some record-breaking news. The CLC ended 2020 with 201 paid membership dues! That's quite an increase from 2012 when we slipped to 26 paid members. There is power in numbers, and numbers can yield influence and results. Let's do it again this year!

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In Remembrance

Ardith Kane
 Douglas Krafty
 Bob LaRue
 David Strand
 Barbara Watkins

CONSERVATION

By Bob Karls

Records indicate there 700 inspections were completed at the Cedar Lake public landing of boats entering the lake in 2020. Inspections were completed by Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) trained inspectors provided through the Aitkin County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD). The inspectors were staffed on weekends and inspections were done between May 8th and September 7th. Due to a limited number of trained inspectors it was tough for SWCD to find enough inspectors last summer, but thanks to their good work we had coverage of 52 days out of the requested 54. That is outstanding; we really appreciate their recruiting, training and staffing of the public landing.

Of the 700 completed inspections on boats arriving at our landing, 315 of them had last been in our own Cedar Lake. That is great since if they came out of our lake, they shouldn't have any AIS issues.

However, of the remaining 385 inspected launches at our landing over 110 arrived from a lake that has one or more AIS issues. Please remember this was only measured/recorded on days when inspectors were at the landing 52 out of 120 days during that period (principally Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays when the boat launch is most heavily used). Thirty-three people either refused to answer this question or replied that they "didn't remember" what lake the boat was last in before arriving at Cedar Lake.

Of the over 110 boats being launched from a known AIS impacted lake, 41 were coming from Mille Lacs which has several AIS – zebra mussels, spiny water flea and Eurasian milfoil. In most cases these boats left Mille Lacs less than an hour before being launched in our lake. The inspectors were attempting to determine whether the boat was "Clean, Drained, and Dry" before going into our lake. Suspect locations include live wells, bilges, bait buckets, anchors (clumps of weeds) and the trailers themselves. Other known AIS impacted lakes the boats came from included 19 from Farm Island (which was found to have zebra mussels just last year), Minnetonka, Serpent, Bay Lake, Alexander, Big Sandy and several others.

Used boat lifts and docks came to Cedar from other lakes and some with AIS. PLEASE remember used docks and boat lifts MUST be out of the water for 21 days before being put into another lake. This dries them out and kills zebra mussels and other AIS. Remind your neighbors, be helpful and protective of our lake.

Minnows and bait buckets are also an issue. There is a large body of evidence that spiny water flea and other invasive species can be transferred from lake to lake by the water in bait buckets and by releasing your unused bait into a lake. Please don't do that! Change out the water between lakes, and when you don't need any remaining minnows, please pour them out away from any lake. You don't need nor want to be the one who dumped an AIS into our lake and caused an outbreak.

Thank you all for your continued support, care and attention to keeping Cedar Lake AIS free.

BE SAFE ON THE WATER

By Dan Yentes

With boating season right around the corner, we wanted to provide some helpful boater safety resources and links.

The **MN Boating Safety Course** is an online course that costs \$24.95 and is required for operators 12 to 17 years old who wish to receive a youth Minnesota water operator's permit. It is also a good resource for adults wanting to learn more about boating safety (and may make you eligible for a discount on boat insurance):

<https://www.boaterexam.com/usa/minnesota/>

MN DNR Boat & Water Safety Page:

<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/safety/boatwater/index.html>

MN DNR 2021 Boating Guide:

<https://files.dnr.state.mn.us/rlp/regulations/boatwater/boatingguide.pdf>

Thank you for your continued efforts to safely enjoy the waters of Cedar Lake!

SHORE LAND

By Susan Nielsen

Your Cedar Lake depends on 28 couples tireless searching once each year for aquatic invasive species. Along with their searches I suggest ALL landowners check their shoreline, boat lift, trailers and swim platforms for AIS (Eurasian milfoil, starry stonewort, zebra mussels, purple loosestrife and curly pondweed) during the month of August. Don't hesitate to let me know if you find anything suspect. We want to find these at an early stage. For good information about AIS, Jeff Forester is a trusted advocate and advisor to Minnesota lakes and rivers communities. Email him at Jeff@mnlakesandrivers.org

Thank you, Lake Stewards, for all you do for our lake! Please check your area including islands between August 1st and the 14th. Let me know asap your results. If you are unable to search this year, PLEASE let me know so your area can be covered.

I need four new searchers along with some substitutes. Please call me at 612-247-4174.

LOON WATCH

By Frank Simon

Most people look for robins as the first sign of spring. I look for loons. There are five types of loons. We all know the Common Loon that frequents Minnesota. The Yellow-bellied Loon nests high in the Arctic tundra. They spend the winter on coastal waters and bays on the west coast. The Pacific Loon spends winter on open water along the Pacific Coast. They exist on large, deep tundra lakes. The Arctic Loon breeds across Eurasia with small populations in western Alaska. They winter coastally as far as China and the Mediterranean. The Red Throated Loon spends summers on small ponds in the tundra. In the winter they spend most of their time in protected ocean bays. They are the only loon that can take off from land and water without a running start.

If you would like to help with the loon count or if you spot a nest this spring, please call me at 612-616-3737.

MEMBERSHIP

by Dave Mackaman

It's time to renew your Cedar Lake Conservancy membership or, if you're not currently a member, perhaps it's time for you to become one. While considering that request, give some thought to the words of David Attenborough mined from his 2007 patron message to the World Land Trust,

"It seems to me that the natural world is the greatest source of excitement; the greatest source of visual beauty; the greatest source of intellectual interest. It is the greatest source of so much in life that makes life worth living."

You might come to agree that the best version of yourself lives here at the lake. And why might that be true? Whether you're with family, with friends or all alone, the lake has an exceptional ability to both draw us out of the confinement of our bodies and connect us to each other, to nature's creatures, to the land, to the water, and to the heavens while at the same time, in quiet moments, focusing our thoughts inwardly to the deepest notions of the meaning and purpose of our lives.

The decision to support the conservation of Cedar Lake is at one level a selfish one; is it worth protecting the lake for my own enjoyment and to enhance my own sense of self (not to mention to support my own property value)? At another level, perhaps a more important question emerges; is it my responsibility to steward the lake not only for my own sake but for nature's sake and for the sake of those who will follow? At both levels the answer to the question is yes. It is to our benefit and it is also our responsibility to protect the lake. And that is, after all, the Conservancy's purpose – to protect, preserve, and enhance the quality of the environment in and around Cedar Lake.

The bottom line is that we need you. Your patronage is critical. Membership information is outlined on the last page of the newsletter. Thanks for your support!

SHORELINE RESTORATION

By Kelsey Klucas

Greetings! It is hard to believe we are coming up on another ice-out, but we are rapidly headed in that direction (recent snow events aside). With this annual milestone approaching us, I wanted to remind everyone that 2021 will mark another year for landowners to take part in a three-year project (2020-2022) partnering with the Aitkin County Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) to protect and restore shoreline on Cedar Lake.

As you may remember from previous newsletter articles, there are many unavoidable challenges for maintaining healthy shorelines. However, through prevention and restoration projects, as pictured in the flyer below, there are ways of bringing them back to natural and resilient states. Not only are healthy shorelines important for lakeshore integrity but also for the sustainability of our fishery through improved water quality.

Last year, Cedar Lake had three landowners sign cost-share contracts. These projects accounted for one-third of the \$18,750 allocated for our lake. For those interested in pursuing projects this summer, the remaining two-thirds of funds are still available for cost-share contracts. Please review the flyer on page 7 for more information and contact the SWCD office if interested!

SOCIAL

By Steve Haasl & Mark Miller

After a forgettable, lamentable 2020, 2021 is here and full of promise!

The great CLC Fishing Challenge will again offer prizes for various categories along with local notoriety. Get those licenses ready; ice-out will be soon, if it isn't already gone when you're reading this.

The CLC's annual golf tournament is scheduled for early summer. Start planning your teams now and watch for more information as to date and time.

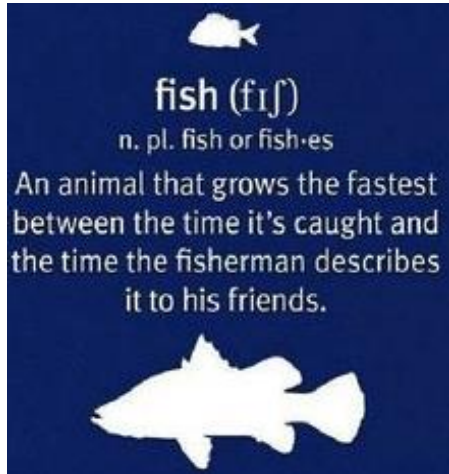
Following last year's success, we will again be holding the July 4th Boat Parade (weather permitting) on Sunday, July 4th! Participation, enthusiasm, costumes and decorations were amazing last year. Dig out the bunting and stay tuned for starting time and location on the south end of Cedar.

Due to Covid last year we regrettably had to cancel both the annual meeting and the annual picnic. Your Board is actively considering ways and locations for these events this year. At press time we don't have a clear way forward for either gathering. But, reading the tea leaves and listening to Dr. Fauci, it seems we have a good chance to hold them individually or perhaps in combination later in summer. Restrictions are changing daily. We all want to be safe; we will continue to monitor the situation and act in the best interest of all.



COUNTY ROAD 28 SEMI-ANNUAL CLEAN UP SATURDAY, MAY 1 9 A.M.

Meet at Jerry & Mary Braton's farm.
33476 County Road 28.
Everyone is welcome!
Questions?
Contact Mary at 218-670-0497



2021 FISHING OPENERS

- May 15 Walleye, Sauger, Pike
- May 15 Bass (catch & release only)
- May 29 Bass
- June 05 Muskie

SHARE TALL TALES WITH OTHER LAKE ASSOCIATIONS' MEMBERS

Ruttgers is looking for golfers interested in participating in either senior (55+) men's or women's informal golf groups during the 2021 season. Ruttgers' membership and regular attendance is not required. Men play Tuesday/Thursday mornings and women play on Tuesday mornings. Focus is more on the one that got away than competition!

For more information email: golfatruttgers@gmail.com for men or vidaleklungness@hotmail.com for women.

CLC ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

Saturday, June 5
 @ Cuyuna Rolling Hills
 \$40+ tax for 18 holes (includes cart)
 Sign up by May 15
 Contact:
 Mary Braton
marybraton@yahoo.com

AITKIN AREA FISHERIES

By Greg Berg, Assistant Fisheries Supervisor

We were scheduled to do a fish survey on the lake last summer but had to postpone because of COVID regulations, prioritizing workloads and not having enough staff available. We do have a standard fisheries assessment scheduled for the week of August 16th so hopefully we can complete that this year. We were able to complete temperature and oxygen checks, as we have been doing annually for some time now. I have analyzed that data and everything was normal and comparable to previous years. We stocked walleye last fall but not as many as normal due to the fact that no egg-take stations were operated by the State last spring. We were, however, able to purchase and stock about 75% of what we normally would (300 lbs. compared to 400 lbs). No muskie were able to be stocked in 2020. This will not have any long-term effects on either of the fisheries. Stocking both walleye and muskie will be back to normal for the fall of 2021.

I've heard some good reports on black crappie fishing this winter. May that be the same this summer. And, in case you were wondering, there are no new fishing regulations for Cedar Lake this year.

SAVE THE DATE

- May 01 Semi-annual County Road 28 Clean Up
- May 08 ACLARA Meeting
- June 05 CLC Golf Tournament
- June 12-26 CLC Online Store Open
- June 19 Aitkin County Lakes & Rivers Fair
- July 04 CLC Boat Parade
- July 07-10 Aitkin County Fair
- July 10 ACLARA Meeting

"In the spring, I have counted 136 different kinds of weather inside of 24 hours."

- Mark Twain



A change is in effect this year if you purchase a married combination fishing license. If buying **in person**, both you and your spouse must be present to purchase. All licenses may be purchased online, in person or by telephone. Details on this change and what documentation is required to purchase any license can be found here:

<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/licenses/combo.html>

This summer MNDOT is working on Highway 210 Aitkin to Deerwood. Work should start after July 5th and go through some time in October. Expect one-way traffic and detours. More details can be found here:

<http://www.dot.state.mn.us/d3/projects/2021/h210/index.html>

The CLC Online Store will be open June 12 - 26. Go to the website below. Click on the Online Stores tab. Below that you'll find Cedar Lake. Click on that link and you'll be brought to the store. Turnaround time for items ordered is approximately two weeks from June 26, not the date you place your order.

<http://shirtsplusofaitkin.com/>

Looking to buy/sell/trade, for a reference or have you lost or found something on your shoreline? Check out the CLC's private Facebook group:

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/CLCNeighbors/>

Reported Ice Out Dates

Bay Park	April 5
Bell Bay	April 4
Edgewater Bay	April 4
Little Cedar	April 4
Sawmill Bay	April 4
Sunset Bay	April 5



**BUILDING OR REMODELING?
KNOW THE CODE!**

Aitkin County 218-927-7342
<http://www.aitkinpz@co.aitkin.mn.us>
 Crow Wing County 218-824-1125
<http://www.crowwing.us/>

Cedar Lake Protecting High Quality Cisco Lakes

The Aitkin County SWCD is partnering with landowners on Cedar Lake to protect the lake. Financial and technical assistance for projects that control shoreline erosion, restore native vegetation, and manage stormwater runoff is available. 2021 is the second year of this three-year project. **There's still time to learn more and take steps to protect your shoreline and the lake!**



2020 activities undertaken:

- 205' of eroding shoreline was protected with willow wattles and a native plant buffer.
- Installation began on a second project – 40' of raw bank was protected with coir logs.
- In 2021 – 230' of eroding shoreline will be protected with willow wattles and a native plant buffer. Buckthorn and Reed Canary Grass – both aggressive invasive species - will be removed on this site.
- The project began in 2020 will be completed by adding native vegetation to enhance an existing buffer.
- Project plans were developed for 4 additional landowners that are considering potential projects.
- One site was visited and recommendations provided to the property owner.

Photos – Above: Coir logs protect the shoreline.
Left: Willow wattles placed at the raw bank



A wide variety of projects are eligible for financial and technical assistance including stabilization with willow wattles (fascines), coir logs, and native vegetation as well as rain gardens to capture runoff. These practices will protect the water quality of the lake, which preserves the cool, well-oxygenated water needed to sustain the cisco fishery.

Cisco depend on deep, cold water habitat. These fish provide a high-energy food source for other game fish. Changes in land use and the addition of nutrients to these lakes threaten the critical habitat needed to sustain cisco populations.



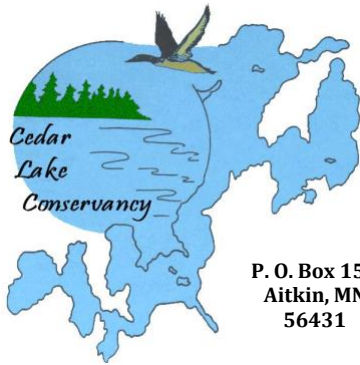
Plans will be developed through cooperation between property owners and the Aitkin County Soil and Water Conservation District. Cost share funding may be offered at a 75% cost share rate – meaning the grant would pay 75% of the costs, with the landowner responsible for 25%. Landowner labor can be used as part or all of the match. For example, if the project includes a native plant buffer, the landowner could include their time for reviewing and developing a plant list, going to the nursery to pick up the plants, and planting the vegetation as their portion of the project.



Interested in learning more? Call the Aitkin County SWCD office at (218) 927-7284.

We can visit with you at your property, and work with you to determine what options are available for stabilizing your shoreline, controlling stormwater runoff, and protecting your lake.





P. O. Box 152
Aitkin, MN
56431

STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!™

Find Us At:

cedarlakeconservancy.org/
facebook.com/cedarlakeconservancy
facebook.com/groups/CLCNeighbors/

JOIN/RENEW TODAY!

Basic	\$ 25	\$25 dues
Loon	\$ 50	\$25 dues plus \$25 tax-deductible donation to AIS Fund
Heron	\$ 75	\$25 dues plus \$50 tax-deductible donation to AIS Fund
Eagle	\$100	\$25 dues plus \$75 tax-deductible donation to AIS Fund

Your check and this form should be mailed 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) _____

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.