



FALL 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.

CONSERVATION

By Kelsey Klucas

On October 5 the CLC received the final report from the Zebra Mussel Rapid Response Assessment conducted on September 7 by Blue Water Science. You can find the report on the CLC's website. The report summarized the results of the physical inspection and water samples taken during the inspection. There are two main sections of the report summarizing the likelihood of eradication in Cedar Lake and the suitability of the lake for zebra mussels.

The likelihood of eradication was calculated using the Zebra Mussel Eradication Index which has a score range of 0-1000. A score of 1000 indicates the highest likelihood of successful eradication. Scores less than 800 indicate a low likelihood of successful eradication. **The score for Cedar Lake was 210.** The recommended action is to continue lake monitoring and conduct small scale zebra mussel control projects in the future. Small scale control projects means collecting zebra mussels along the shoreline using some type of rake or other tool and then disposing of the mussels.

The Water Column Zebra Mussel Suitability Criteria map out criteria for Shell Formation Factors and Food Factors. Across all criteria, Cedar Lake water column conditions were **Moderate to High** for growth and survival of zebra mussels. There is, however, low amounts of optimal substrate for zebra mussels to adhere – only 5% of Cedar Lake is comprised of such substrate (rocks, branches, docks, and boat lifts). The conditions on the lake suggest that zebra mussels will likely peak in six to eight years and then the densities will decrease due to lack of food (algae). After that, they will still be present, but at low densities.

CLC will continue to pursue next steps and learn more about small scale zebra mussel control projects that can be performed in the future. We will continue to communicate updates as we learn them and will be monitoring the conditions of the lake.

Remember, Cedar Lake is still a healthy and vibrant lake. Zebra mussels will change the lake, but they will not destroy it. As we navigate this next chapter, it remains our responsibility to be good stewards of our lake and our surrounding neighbor lakes. It is imperative that we continue to be diligent about any introduction of watercraft, docks, and lifts both in and out of Cedar Lake. Zebra mussels are only one invasive species of a very long list of threats. Each of you are our best defense against additional or hastened infestations.

THE PRESIDENT’S PAGE

By Jon Campbell



Our beautiful weather continues but we could certainly use some fall rains to give our trees moisture for the long winter and add some water for our low lake levels. I appreciate the

lovely weather for those last boat rides, Octoberfest events and getting my fall chores complete.

In my first President’s column I want to lead off thanking all our members who actively give of their time to our various association activities. Without these volunteers we would not accomplish everything we do to benefit our enjoyment of Cedar Lake. I want to personally thank my fellow Board members who dedicate many hours leading the CLC. I have worked with this group for a number of years, and they are just great people who bring various skills to our organization and are the reason I am excited to serve as your President—in short, they make my job so much easier.

I do want to add a special thank you to our former President, Debbie Campbell. Debbie (no relation) is my neighbor on Little Cedar. That clarified, she is a remarkable leader who has so much passion and commitment for our association. She was one of a small group that has led the CLC since it had dwindled down to only 26 members. Her efforts have helped build us back to 225 members (a new record number) as of this writing. We all owe her so much for her efforts. The good news is she continues on the Board leading our communication efforts and passes on knowledge/experience to the Board on matters she has familiarity with. Thanks again to all volunteers for your efforts!

Our annual meeting was held on September 18 after not having one last year due to Covid protocols. The meeting was well attended, and the presentations by the Board members on our various work projects very informative. The highlight for me was a presentation by Master Naturalist, Mary Leisten, a resident of Little Cedar.

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In Remembrance
John Solien



SHORE LAND

By Susan Nielsen

Cedar Lake Conservancy sends a big thank you to the Stewards for completing the annual AIS search in August. Other than Purple Loosestrife being found in the same sites as 2020, no other species were found.

Some Stewards also searched using goggles for zebra mussels. Be sure to check out Blue Water Science's report on their results of the visual inspection done September 7 on the CLC's website.

Also completed in August was Starry Trek 2021 (statewide check at public landings by county volunteers for Starry Stonewort). All plants recovered from Cedar were native species. Searchers discovered a banded mystery snail, a new species for our lake. Information on this snail can be found here: <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/aquaticanimals/banded-mystery-snail/index.html>

A few property owners have found a new, native plant along their shoreline called a Water Marigold. Check it out: <https://www.minnesotawildflowers.info/flower/water-marigold>

Tim Gurr, Mary Lynn and Terry Wickman and Ann and Lester Hughes searched for the last time this year. Special thanks to them for searching for so many years! This is also my last column for the newsletter. It has been my pleasure to serve as committee Chair for the last 20+ years, and I have so appreciated everyone's efforts to keep our beloved lake as pristine as possible. Kelly Klinepier is taking over and will be in touch with everyone next spring.

WATER CLARITY

By Jon Campbell

It is time to put the Secchi discs away for another year! We are just beginning to collect all the data from this summer so we can submit it to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency for history and analysis.

Our dedicated team of volunteers continued to monitor all ten of our sampling sites every couple of weeks all summer long. We are very fortunate to have this group, and I want to personally thank all of them for their time.

In visiting with the team I suspect our data from this summer's samplings are going to show improved clarity. As a recent example, I monitor one of the ten sites. And a couple of weeks ago, I got a measurement of 14.5' of clarity. In over three years I had never seen clarity deeper than 13'. That is a big improvement. While not a scientist, I assume the lack of rain and sediment flowing into the lake was the main contributor to this improvement.

With the confirmation of zebra mussels in Cedar Lake, having all the historical information we have collected over the years will be most helpful. It is possible that one of the changes we will see over time is continued improved water clarity as zebra mussels feed on algae, which is one of the factors that decreases water clarity.

Thanks again to all our volunteers, and once we see all of this summer's data we will provide an update to all our members.

MEMBERSHIP

by Dave Mackaman

*Gone is the whiteness
of snow -
green returns
in the grass of the fields,
in the canopies of trees,
and the airy grace of spring
is with us again.
Thus time revolves,
the passing hour that steals
the light
brings a message:
immortality, for us, is impossible.
Warm winds will be followed by cold.
- Horace's Odes (The Lesson of Spring's Return)*

This short verse says so much about the experience of being human, the transitory nature of time and the unending cycles of nature. The passage of each season at the lake can be a beautiful opportunity to reflect on the joy of this year's experiences, but also reminds us that we are all only briefly here.

With this thought in mind we want to thank you, our members. Your support of the Conservancy, together with your individual acts of conservation and stewardship, are invaluable as we cultivate our common interest to enhance and protect Cedar Lake's environment. Protecting the lake is in each of our own best interests, for sure. But your support more importantly brings the promise of spring to nature's creatures and to future generations. So, this thank you comes not just from us, but from our constituencies without a voice, nature and those who will follow.

On behalf of the Cedar Lake Conservancy Board, thank you!

SOCIAL

By Steve Haasl & Mark Miller

With another unusual year behind us, our wrap up of social activities is predictably brief. While notable for what we *did not* have – the annual picnic, a paddle on the Mississippi, the annual golf tourney – we were able to enjoy a hot 4th of July boat parade (attended by a flotilla of over 40+ vessels), the annual Fishing Challenge, and most recently, the annual membership meeting which was attended by 43 members. Frankly, we were pretty concerned about attendance after cancelling last year and moving the meeting to early Fall, but were more than gratified by the turn-out.

2022 will see a return of the annual picnic; we already have a volunteer host. Other events are being considered, and if you have any ideas how to improve what we're providing, please get in contact with Mark Miller or myself.

LOON REPORT

by Frank Simon

It was a busy summer for us. We tore down our cabin and are in the middle of constructing a new lake home. Consequently, we're only at the lake minimal days at a time. We did manage to get three counts in, as did Heather and Bob Rykhus. The counts varied from 15 to 29 adults and one to six babies. There were some lake areas where the water was too low and counts couldn't be done.

When we did our first count the end of May, we found two loons behaving strange. They had balance issues, flipped onto their backs and count not dive. We were unable to catch them. If you come across a sick or injured loon and can capture it, take it to Wild and Free in Garrison. If you find a fresh, dead loon, contact the DNR and they will tell you what to do.

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Mary demonstrated her passion for growing Yellow Lady Slippers. She even shared some of her own seeds that she painstakingly harvests so those who attended could attempt to propagate these amazing orchids. But, patience is required, as it takes seven years for the seeds to germinate—nature is so remarkable. Thanks to all who presented and attended!

I shouldn't wrap up my column without mentioning our collective disappointment that zebra mussels arrived at our lake. Kelsey Klucas and Bob Karls will continue to keep everyone updated on moving forward. Be sure to read the report from Blue Water Science on the CLC's website. So, rather than repeating what Kelsey, Bob and Blue Water Science say, I will mention the best summary of the potential impact of the infestation I heard from the leader of Blue Water Science. He said, "Zebra Mussels aren't good for the lake, aren't bad for the lake, but they will change the lake." With that in mind your Board will be working to do all we can to cope with the potential impacts and we will keep you fully informed.

Have a great remainder of autumn. Fingers are crossed your outdoor chores get wrapped up so you are ready for the cold and snow that is around the corner. I hope to see you around the lake. Don't hesitate to reach out to myself or any Board Member with questions or suggestions.

COMMUNICATIONS

by Debbie Campbell

Tip your hats to Lanae and Yoerg Paaverud and website developer, Terry, for the fabulous looking website the CLC now has. Sleek, modern and concise, it rivals any other out there. You may have tried Googling Cedar Lake Conservancy and found the first hit is for the old website, which is unable to be opened. Our old host, MN Waters, has been around for years and considered very recognized in Google's eyes. The more everyone uses <http://cedarlakeconservancy.org/> to get directly to the site, the more Google recognizes its value, and, hopefully, moves us up the list. Mark the new site as a favorite and check it out for updates on a regular basis!

2021 FISHING CHALLENGE MASTER ANGLERS

Ages 12 and Under

29" Dogfish
29" Dogfish
8" Sunfish

Mark Stephney
Castiel Klinepier
Joey Fehn

Ages 13 & Over

12" Crappie
26.75" Dogfish
17" Large Mouth Bass
33" Northern
8.5" Sunfish

Dylan Weller
Jeremy Allen
Paul TenEyck
Tom Johnson
Nikki Fehn



AITKIN AREA FISHERIES
by Greg Berg, Assistant Fisheries Supervisor

Even though we are still short on staff we were able to complete all components of a standard fisheries survey for 2021. Our intern and I completed the survey over the course of a two-week period beginning August 16. Typically, we would do this in one week, if staff are available. The first week we did the nearshore sampling with trap nets; the second week we did the gill net portion of the survey. Cedar Lake is a large survey and in total we set and lifted 24 trap nets and 20 gill nets in that two-week span. Additionally, bass electrofishing was also completed earlier this year in May. A full analysis of the survey will be written up later this winter including age and growth data. Overall, based on my initial first-hand observations I feel the lake is in great shape with walleye numbers comparable to previous surveys (around two per net, which isn't super high but it's never been able to produce more than about three per net). The population has maintained a reputable size structure. We typically sample some large walleye during surveys and this survey was no different with a couple of walleye topping the 30" mark. Northern pike numbers were stable as well but their size structure isn't as good when compared to walleye. Black crappie numbers tend to cycle on many lakes including Cedar and they are pretty high right now when compared to the historical averages (seven per gill net). There is also what appears to be a few different sizes present in the lake right now which should make for some good fishing the next few winters. We did sample a nearly 50" muskie as well. It's always impressive to see a fish that big in that type of lake. In general, it was a great survey with a lot of nice fish caught indicating a healthy lake.

**WHAT DO KIDS 13 AND UNDER LIKE TO DO
 AT CEDAR LAKE?**

- Peter, 3 "Ummmmm", play in mud
- Ellie, 3-1/2 "Because", swim, play with toys and games
- Felicity, 4 Fish, have pancakes and Gator rides
- London, 5 Play on the beach, swim, fish and swing
- Roxy, 5 Swim with Mommy and walk on the slack line between trees
- Matthew, 6 Swim and catch "little" big fish
- Lucas, 8 Fish, knee boarding, jumping off the pontoon to swim
- Castiel, 8 Fish while trolling in Papa's boat, building a campfire and making S'mores is the best
- Amiah, 9 Fish, cook good food and spend time with my family
- Taylor, 10 Reading, swimming, water skiing and tubing



**County Road 28 Fall
 Clean Up Crew**

Back LtoR: Jerry Braton, Jeff Schneider, Bob Karls, Jim Campbell, Rob Jameson
 Front LtoR: Mary Braton, Linda Schneider, Heather Rykhus, Dennis Nielsen, Karn Jameson, Jon Campbell
 Not pictured: Debbie Campbell

Aitkin Minnesota
 Home
 of the
**Fish House
 Parade!**



Friday, November 26

Thank You, Volunteers!
Not Shown on Page 7

- Tim Gurr
- Stan & Barb Jones
- Kelsey Klucas
- Dan Mackaman
- Issac Nadeau
- Terry & Marylynn Wickman
- Mindy Woods

THANK YOU MEMBERS, DONORS AND VOLUTEERS!

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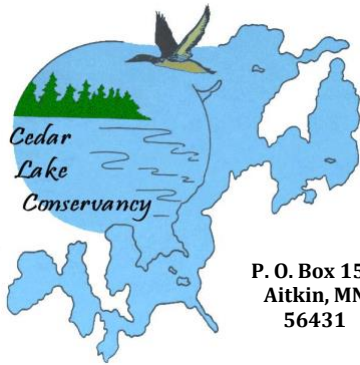


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Lake Address (street, city, state, zip)

Preferred Telephone Number to Reach You

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Email Address - please print clearly

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