

CLC ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, June 11

Postcards with details will be sent out early May. Come meet new neighbors and learn what's happening on the lake.

WATER SAFETY AND BOATING LINKS

- <https://www.boaterexam.com/usa/minnesota/>
- <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/safety/boatwater/index.html>
- <https://files.dnr.state.mn.us/rlp/regulations/boatwater/boatingguide.pdf>

SOBER BOATING SAVES LIVES



WELCOME SPRING!

Aitkin County Sheriff Dan Guida

Hope everyone on Cedar Lake is safe, happy and healthy! It sure feels like there are a lot more people enjoying our resources, and I wonder how long before we run out of space.

Thanks for a great winter. Snowmobiling had a resurgence and the trails were reminiscent of the early 90s when sleds were everywhere. I predict another busy season on our lakes as well.

The the last three summers we saw an increase in lake users with wake board boats leading the trend. To help reduce conflicts on the water I have been working with our local wake boat dealers to provide some free education to new owners. This has been well received, but the owner of the boat is not always the operator of the boat. To be effective every operator needs to understand and follow safe boating guidelines. Once again I want to remind every boat owner/operator of their responsibility for their boat's wash or wake. MN law states:

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 you may be cited if your boat's wake or wash causes any damage. There are many sections of Cedar you can enjoy without violating this law; please operate in those areas. Wake responsibly - 1) stay at least 200' from shore; 2) keep music at a reasonable level (if you can hear it at 80' behind the boat so can everyone on the shoreline); 3) minimize repetitive passes.

If you witness violations, please attempt to capture a good description of the boat, its occupants and report the violation to us right away. Using your cell phone to do so is beneficial to my Officers.

Don't hesitate to contact us at 218-927-7417; your calls are always welcome. We will do our best to solve any problem.

Who We Are

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.



Get In Touch

- cedarlakeaitkin@gmail.com
- cedarlakeconservancy.org/
- facebook.com/cedarlakeconservancy
- facebook.com/groups/CLCNeighbors/

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THE PRESIDENT'S MUSINGS

Jon Campbell

As the famous Austrian composer and conductor Gustav Mahler said, "Spring won't let me stay in this house any longer. I must get out and breathe the air again." Today I know exactly what he meant as I send everyone an update from the Cedar Lake Conservancy. As soon as I finish this update, I am on my way for a long walk in the bright, spring sunshine.

Your Board of Directors have been committed to their work this past winter preparing for another summer at Cedar Lake. We are very excited that the DNR has accepted our application to become a Loon Friendly Lake. Our efforts with the DNR on this important work are just beginning. There is another article in this edition that will tell you more about the project. We will keep you informed as we learn more. Helping protect our loons feels so right as they are an important part of the Cedar Lake experience.

On my trips around the lake this past winter I saw plenty of ice houses. I hope the anglers had a successful hard water fishing experience. If you were successful, don't forget to enter your big catches in our fishing contest that will continue through Labor Day, September 5. We always enjoy hearing the stories of the big ones and seeing the proof in the pictures. Rumor on the ice on Little Cedar was that it was a good crappie season. Before we know it, the summer fishing season will open.

Our annual meeting will be held the morning of June 11. Postcards with the details will be sent out early May. We had a good turnout last year, and we hope to see many of you again this year to get an update on all the CLC's activities.

We are very excited to announce there will be a CLC picnic this year! With Covid we have missed this social activity for a couple of years so expect a big turnout.

As the ice goes out and we get our docks and boats back into the lake, it is a good reminder to all be good stewards of the lake by preventing invasive aquatic vegetation from infesting our lake. If you move your boat to and from Cedar Lake, be sure to always check it carefully as you come and go removing all plant life from your boat and trailer. Always empty your live wells. If you are moving a lift or dock from another lake, remember that it must be out of the water for at least 21 days before you can place it in the lake. Finally, remind your guests who bring a boat in to Cedar Lake to follow the same common-sense rules. We will have the inspectors at the public access as often as Aitkin County can provide them.

Please pay your \$25 dues. It is now so easy to go to our website and renew online: <https://cedarlakeconservancy.org/membership/>

As winter fades away from us, don't forget to send ice out dates to Lanae Paaverud, lpaaverud@gmail.com for posting on our website.

Enjoy the upcoming lake season; see you on the water!



CONSERVATION

Bob Karls
Kelsey Klucas

When you are at the lake, do you enjoy watching and listening for the loons from your dock with your favorite beverage in the morning, noon or night? The Cedar Lake Conservancy (CLC), with the assistance of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR), and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) have agreed to work together to conserve loon populations on Cedar Lake in Aitkin County Minnesota. By way of this plan, the CLC is enrolled in the MN DNR RCLMP Loon Friendly Lake Registry (LFLR). Cedar Lake has been a part of the Loon Watcher Survey (LWS) since 1980 with just a couple of years missed in that span.

Minnesota has more loons (roughly 12,000) than any other state except Alaska. Some Minnesota loons winter off the Atlantic coast from North Carolina southward to Florida, but more winter along the Gulf coast from Alabama and the Florida panhandle southward along the western coast of Florida to the Florida Keys. Loons were impacted by the 2010 Deep Horizon BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, and as part of the restoration associated with that spill, BP contributed to a fund to study and preserve migratory waterfowl including loons. The State of Minnesota is working on this with partners like the CLC who step forward and agree to participate. In addition to board member involvement and our ever diligent loon watcher and counter Frank Simon, CLC member John Kohner has stepped forward to be our Liaison with the DNR and MPCA in this program. Thanks John and Frank for volunteering your time and talent!

Creating a Cedar Lake Loon Management Plan is one of several goals that our CLC needs to achieve in the journey to be part of the MN LFLR. We will update you on some of the various elements of this plan in our newsletters and website as we move through the process.

Another element of participating in the LFLR is working with MPCA on the "Get Out the Lead" project that aims to protect loons and other wildlife from the dangerous impacts of lead fishing tackle. Many of us likely grew up using lead weights and it's natural there are questions as to why it's harmful. To level set us, here are a few of the most common questions folks have when it comes to lead and our loons:

Q: How do loons ingest lead fishing tackle?

A: The majority of loons that die from ingested lead tackle acquire it as a result of current fishing activity. They may 1) strike at bait as it is being retrieved through the water; 2) strike at a fish that is being reeled in by an angler; or 3) ingest a fish that has broken a line and has ingested or attached tackle. In some cases, loons may also pick up small pieces of lead tackle from the lake bottom. Loons normally ingest small pebbles as grit, and they may mistake a split shot or other piece of tackle for a small pebble.

Q: How does lead tackle kill loons?

A: Once ingested, the lead tackle goes into the loon's gizzard. The acid and grinding action of the gizzard erodes the lead, which then passes into the bloodstream and organs and poisons the loon. Even a single small lead split shot sinker is fatal to loons, which will die within 2-4 weeks of ingesting a piece of lead fishing tackle. While some might assume that ingestion of fish hooks might cause loons to die, in fact only a small number of loons die from injuries resulting from swallowing hooks. Loons have evolved to swallow spiny fish so they are able to deal with fish hooks. In the vast majority of loons, the hooks (either hooks on jigs or separate hooks) are very rapidly broken down in the gizzard.

Q: Once a loon has ingested lead tackle, can it be saved?

A: Only a few loons have been successfully treated for lead poisoning and released. Usually, loons do not display symptoms until lead is already at toxic levels in their bloodstream. At that point, the only option is to humanely euthanize the loon. This upsetting outcome is why we all need to work together to remove sources of lead from our tackle boxes.

Be sure to attend the June annual meeting. The CLC will be sponsoring a lead tackle exchange this year with additional details to come at a closer date.

As you read this, we know what many are thinking (and understand the sentiments) ... "none of the substitutes work as well as lead and they cost a little more..." But we have to ask - What is it worth to us to see a loon parent with its baby on its back while you are sitting on the end of the dock? Or to hear the symphony of calls at sundown when all the loon pairs from the various bays all sound off to serenade us? We'll give up our lead split shots to see and hear those any day.



SHORE LAND

Kelly Klinepier

Hello to all my fellow CLC members, I would like to introduce myself! I'm Kelly Klinepier and some of you may remember me from the committee that organized our previous annual CLC picnics. I'm taking over for Susan Nielsen who has worked tirelessly for over 20 years along with 28 volunteers watching over our shore lands for any AIS that might harm our beautiful lake. Please, if anyone is interested in helping with this task, contact me at kklinepier@gmail.com. It's a small commitment of time where you search a site of shore land between August 1-14 and report your findings back to me. I can arrange to have an experienced searcher show you how it is done and supply identification material to you.

I will be reaching out to all our volunteers later this spring

LOON WATCH

Frank Simon

Just a few tidbits about loons:

- A loon's lifespan is estimated to be 20 to 30 years
- Loons reach reproductive maturity after 6 to 7 years
- The loon became Minnesota's state bird in 1961
- Loons have a wingspan up to 5' and body length up to 3'
- There are about 12,000 loons that make their home in Minnesota
- Loons return to same lake every year with the males returning first

To help with the annual loon count, contact me at frank@optimum-ts.com

SOCIAL

Steve Haasl

Mark Miller

Welcome to 2022, and the promise of spring, ice-out and docks-in. We have a full calendar of social opportunities this year.

As you no doubt know from our newly redesigned website <https://cedarlakeconservancy.org> the Annual Fishing Contest is well underway. Prizes will be awarded in the following categories: Bass, Crappie, Dogfish, Muskie, Northern, Sun Fish and Walleye. Make plans now to be sure to send in your pictures and details to Lanae Paaverud at lpaaeverud@gmail.com

Speaking of which, CLC is promoting the elimination of lead in our watershed through a Get The Lead Out Program. You'll hear more about this, and a tackle exchange, at the Annual Meeting, to be held Saturday, June 11th at 9 a.m. More details coming to you in May. Presenting this year, in addition to our regulars, will be a representative of MN Lakes and Rivers Advocates. They represent our interests at the Minnesota Legislature. Their efforts include property tax efforts, creating a boat operator's certificate to teach boaters not only public safety, but how to prevent AIS spread and not damage lake ecology by washing out shoreline or churning up lake sediments. They also work on getting grant funds for lake association aquatic invasive species management. You will want to be there.

Before that, though, we have the C.R. 28 Annual Clean Up on May 7th. Plan to meet at 9 a.m. at Braton's Farm. Besides being a good service and a chance to catch up with friends and neighbors after a long winter, you get to keep any treasures you find along the roadside. We found a cassette tape a couple of years ago; still looking for a player, though.

July 4th brings the Annual Boat Parade, which was quite a success last year, even with the scorching weather, drought and imperfect direction by the lead boat (Steve's). Time and route will be announced later.

Also back after a short hiatus, the annual CLC Picnic will be held on August 13th. Our hosts this year are Sue and Pete Rowland. It will be your chance to visit Little Cedar! More details will come at a later date. We're delighted to be able to hold the picnic in person again. Doing it on Zoom was just not the same.

Watch your mailbox/email for more information on all these events. Feel free to contact Mark or Steve with questions or to volunteer.

ADOPT A HIGHWAY
NEXT 2 MILES
AITKIN COUNTY THANKS
**Cedar Lake
Conservancy**

COUNTY ROAD 28
**Semi-Annual
Cleanup**
Saturday, May 7
9 a.m.

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

MEMBERSHIP

Dave Mackaman

It's time to join/renew your membership! As Warren Buffett once said, "Someone's sitting in the shade today because someone planted a tree there 20 years ago." Extending the essence of that quotation and by applying it to your Cedar Lake Conservancy membership, someone's enjoying Cedar Lake's shores and waters today because someone cared to preserve and protect the lake 20 years ago. And 20 years from today that someone may well be someone else. We share an important responsibility. Together we have forged a community of common purpose...to both enjoy and steward our lake for future generations.

Annual dues are \$25, and the membership level options are found on the last page of the newsletter. You can join or renew by mailing a check to Cedar Lake Conservancy, P.O. Box 152, Aitkin, MN 56431. Payment can also be made electronically via PayPal using the following link to the CLC website, <https://cedarlakeconservancy.org/membership/> Be sure your email address is current so we can send you newsletters and updates during the course of the year.

On behalf of the CLC Board and its membership, THANK YOU! We appreciate your joining or renewing your membership for the 2022 season. Your continued support is important so that we can keep the effort going.

LAKE SERVICE PROVIDERS

Scott Boyd, F.I.R.M. Owner
Steve May, STEVO'S Owner

With zebra mussels and other AIS of great concern to Minnesota lakes, we thought we'd take this opportunity to fill you in on our responsibilities as licensed Lake Service Providers.

We are required to follow the rules found under Aquatic Invasive Species on the DNR'S website, www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/laws.html As business owners, we must complete training and pass a test every three years to qualify as a Lake Service Provider. Our employees are obligated to do training and pass a separate test. We are then included in the State's list of Permitted Lake Service Providers, which can be found on the DNR's website.

A hot water pressure washer is used for cleaning boats/trailers, lifts and docks. The water temp must be a minimum of 140 degrees and the pressure level is 2500 psi. No chemicals are used. The entire surface of a boat/trailer, dock or lift is sprayed with the hot water including every crevice. There is an attachment to flush out boat motor cooling lines.

Our barges are clean going into a lake. State law permits us to move between AIS-free lakes without cleaning them in-between. We may also move from a clean lake to a "dirty" lake without cleaning. We may not move our barges between dirty lakes or dirty to clean lakes without cleaning each time.

At the end of every day our barges are thoroughly cleaned using the hot water pressure washer. In addition, any gear, wetsuits or waders worn are also cleaned.

It is Minnesota law that any dock or lift brought in on trade must be decontaminated and quarantined for 21 days before it can be installed. That law does not apply if we are moving a piece of equipment between Cedar Lake property owners.

If you are bringing a boat/trailer from another lake to Cedar, there are four decontamination units available in Aitkin County to clean your equipment free of charge. This year they can be found at Lake Minnewawa, Spirit Lake, Mille Lacs Lake (one mile west of Malmo on Highway 18) and Big Sandy Lake.

AITKIN AREA FISHERIES

Greg Berg, Assistant Fisheries Supervisor

Currently, I am working on the draft copy of Cedar Lake survey report from our work done last summer. The final should be approved in April. Due to retirements and organization changes up the chain in our department, it is taking a long time to process survey reports and get them on Lake Finder. If anyone wants up to date information, they should call our office (218-429-3031).

Here's a very brief summarization of the status of the fishery based on last year's survey. While Walleye may not be overly abundant, their population has a quality size component with fish over 30" sampled on a regular basis. We have documented Walleye to live as long as 20 years in Cedar. Muskellunge were not surveyed in 2021 as that survey is conducted every other survey. They were not stocked in 2020 due to Department Covid-19 protocols prohibiting egg-take activities nor were they stocked in 2021 due to a statewide fingerling shortage. Largemouth Bass were evaluated using nighttime electrofishing. Electrofishing yielded a catch rate similar to what was observed in previous surveys. The average size was 13" and fish up to 17.6" was observed. Cedar has a decent size structure of Northern Pike. A good majority of the fish were under 22" while about seven percent were greater than the 22-26" protected slot. Black Crappie size averaged 7.2" with fish up to 11.9" in the sample. Age analysis revealed a good proportion of young ages coming up and some older ages mixed in, too. Cedar continues to have an abundant Tullibee/Cisco population.

2022 Fishing Openers

**May 14 Walleye,
Sauger,
Pike, Bass**

June 4 Muskellunge



UMN BOAT-GENERATED WAVES REPORT NOW AVAILABLE

The full report can be found here: <https://conservancy.umn.edu/handle/11299/226190> Once on this site, click on View/Download File.

Here is a portion from the Research Brief that summarizes the Report:

- “When researchers compared the wake waves of the four boats during their most typical mode of operations, the data indicated that wakesurf boats require distances greater than 500 feet from the shoreline/docks and other boats (or the distance of a little less than 1.5 football fields) to decrease their wake wave characteristics to levels similar to the non-wakesurf boats.
- When researchers compared the wake waves of the four boats under conditions that generated the largest wake wave, the data indicated that wakesurf boats require distances greater than 425 feet from the shoreline/docks and other boats to decrease their wake wave characteristics to levels similar to the non-wakesurf boats.
- In both modes of operation, the suggested distance from shoreline/docks for wakesurf boats is more than twice the distance of the 200 feet currently recommended by Minnesota guidelines for common recreational boats.
- Under both slow and fast speed conditions, the wakesurf boats produced the largest waves in terms of height, energy, and power when compared to the non-wakesurf boats.
- Larger, more energetic waves need to travel a greater distance to decrease in wave height, energy, and power.

This report establishes an important baseline for the study of wake waves produced by wakesurf boats—a topic of growing interest across the country.”

The entire brief can be found here: <https://twin-cities.umn.edu/news-events/university-minnesota-researchers-study-waves-created-recreational-boats>



BE KIND TO YOUR PROP

Boaters unfamiliar with the Cedar may want to refer to a lake-depth counter map available for purchase at various bait and tackle shops in Aitkin. Android and Apple boating lake apps for your phone also provide detailed lake mapping. Water levels change over the season and while these tools are helpful, they may not flag that indiscriminate rock sitting on the lake bottom just waiting for you. Always be alert.

DON'T LET IT LOOSE.

Releasing live bait threatens our environment. Minnows and bait water can harbor fish diseases and aquatic invasive species.

Toss it! Drain water from bait containers on shore, away from water. Dispose of minnows in the compost or trash.

Or, keep it. Drain water from bait containers on shore, away from water. Refill container with bottle or tap water.

Do your part to protect Minnesota lakes and rivers!

**CLEAN
DRAIN
DRY**
INITIATIVE

IT'S THE LAW

HOOK, LINE & SINKER

Cedar Lake is home to approximately 40 species of fish. In its waters you will find black bullhead, black crappie, bluegill, brown bullhead, burbot, green sunfish, hybrid sunfish, largemouth bass, muskellunge, northern pike, pumpkinseed, rock bass, sunfish, tullibee (cisco), walleye, yellow bullhead, yellow perch, bigmouth buffalo, bowfin (dogfish) and 21 minnow varieties.

Whether fishing for sport or for dinner that night, ever seen or caught a burbot? They are found in most Minnesota northern lakes and rivers including Lake Superior but are also found in small numbers in the prairie regions and parts of the lower Mississippi. They are good indicators of a healthy watershed. Burbot (aka ling cod, eelpout or freshwater cod) is commonly described as a cross between a catfish and eel with a long, serpent-like body and easily distinguished by a single barbel on the chin. It's typically less than 28" long and weighs between six and eight pounds. The State record is a little over 19 pounds.

Often found on restaurant menus, burbot has a mild flavor with sweet, subtle undertones resembling haddock or cod. It has no bones make eating more enjoyable. Sometimes this tasty fish is also know as "poor man's lobster".

They are most active in the winter and can live up to 15 years. Effective this year burbot are no longer considered rough fish in the Minnesota fishing regulations and are listed as a game fish. There is no limit to how many you can catch. Release any you don't intend to keep; it is illegal to leave them on the ice.



JOIN THE CLC OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP HERE:
<https://cedarlakeconservancy.org/membership/>

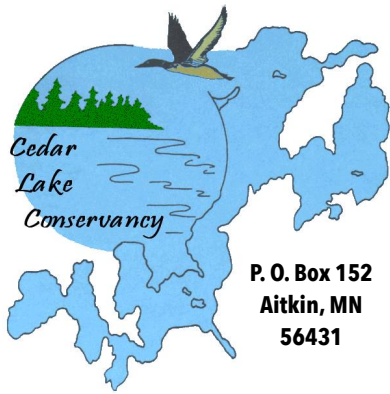
CLC Word Search

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| loon | muskellunge |
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| protect | rapala |
| sunfish | swimming |
| volunteer | walleye |

Upcoming Events

April 09	ACLARA Meeting
April 30	CLC Board Meeting
May 07	County Road 28 Cleanup
May 14	ACLARA Meeting
June 11	ACLARA Meeting
June 11	CLC Annual Meeting
June 18	Aitkin County Lakes & Rivers Fair
July 04	CLC Boat Parade
July 09	ACLARA Meeting
July 06 - 09	Aitkin County Fair



P. O. Box 152
Aitkin, MN
56431

**BE A GOOD
STEWARD**
Clean. Drain. Dry.

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

Lake Address

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.