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org/membership/
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CEDAR LAKE, AITKIN MN

**The sun sets majestic on the
western shore
In shades of pink, fuchsia and
orange
I watch as the twinkling vastness
descends
I breath it in
Lying awake, listening
A cacophony of sound and
silence
A tree falls, an owl hoots, a
lonesome loon calls
It calms me, I sleep
Daybreak - An eagle's flight casts
a shadow on the lake
where the mist has risen
An artist's canvas in my mind's
eye
Fantasy, but alas reality
Welcome to Cedar Lake**

-Andria Klucas

Reprinted from 1999 Newsletter

HAPPY 30th ANNIVERSARY, CEDAR LAKE CONSERVANCY!

Robin Keyworth

Cedar Lake has been around since the glaciers, enjoyed by generations of all kinds of people for all kinds of reasons. But, for the last 30 years it's been shown special care through your Cedar Lake Conservancy.

It's easy, sometimes, not to be aware of the value of a clean, clear, beautiful lake. One that is ready for fishing, boating, ice fishing, swimming, boarding, kayaking, canoeing, rowing, water and snow skiing, floating and just plain watching.

CLC is your steward. From counting loons, monitoring water clarity, helping homeowners protect shoreline from erosion and participating with other organizations like MN Lakes & Rivers, MN DNR, Northern Waters Land Trust, National Loon Center and ACLARA to stay up on best practices, all help sustain Cedar Lake for your benefit and that of future generations.

One of CLC's meaningful achievements over its 30-year history has been to create a sense of community among lake lovers through our annual meeting with its great speakers, our popular annual picnic with its generous hosts, the fishing contest and festive July 4th boat parade. If you haven't participated in any of these, consider doing so.

Thirty years as an all-volunteer organization...that's something to celebrate! Thanks for being a member. Become a member if you aren't. Recruit your neighbors, volunteer to count loons, monitor shoreline, help with the County Road 28 cleanup and annual picnic. Attend the annual meeting to add your voice, decorate your boat for July 4th and join the parade (or cheer from the shore) and feast with us at the picnic. Cedar Lake is ours to enjoy and sustain. CLC brings it all together for us as a community; happy 30th!

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.



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THE PRESIDENT'S MUSINGS
Jon Campbell

Spring is truly the season of renewal. After our cold, snowy, harsh winter nothing lifts my spirit like seeing early spring woodland flowers popping up around Cedar Lake. As the weather warms and the days get longer, my whole perspective shifts. It won't be long before we will hear the yodel of the loons announcing their territory like "this is MY lake." And, a few weeks later it will be a real treat to see a chick catching a ride on a parent's back to retain its body heat.

It is also a time to congratulate Cedar Lake Conservancy on reaching another milestone--30 years of protecting and preserving the freshwaters of Cedar Lake. This work is critical to protecting the health and well-being of our ecosystem. We actively work to fight invasive species, promote habitat restoration and championing freshwater conservation. The hard work and commitment of many people over these thirty years have not gone unnoticed. Happy Anniversary! And here's to many more years of growth, success and all the great things CLC will bring to Cedar Lake.

Consistent with past stewardship your Board has been working through the winter on actions to conserve loons and our freshwater ecosystem through two of our important programs: Shore Land Stewards and "Loon Friendly Lake." Threats to our favorite state bird, the Common Loon, include water quality, contamination, shoreline development and lead poisoning. Our work as a part of the DNR's voluntary "Loon Friendly Lake" Registry Program is our way to make a commitment to loons on Cedar Lake. We are documenting the history of loons and considering changes that have happened on the lake over the past years including water clarity and transparency. We are also assessing nesting, rearing and foraging opportunities for our loons. In addition, we made a commitment to the MPCA's "Get The Lead Out" to assist in reducing lead poisoning. The real challenge is balancing human lake usage and the needs of the loons and other wildlife. Our Shore Land Steward program is an important part of our mission and directly connected to protecting our loons. We are in the process of adding vigor to the Shore Land Steward activities under the leadership of Joe Klucas. Stewardship is the job of taking care of something, and that is our goal of this program by searching for invasive plant life, encouraging shoreline restoration projects and to help all of us learn more about sustainable land management as it relates to our water quality.

As you read this issue, you'll see it will be a busy and fun summer on Cedar Lake. Thanks for your support of CLC and the Cedar Lake ecosystem. We always need more volunteers to carry out our stewardship so let us know if you would like to help out. Be safe and have a great summer.



In Remembrance
Elaine Smoter

CLC ANNUAL MEETING
SATURDAY, JUNE 24
2023

CONSERVATION

Bob Karls
Kelsey Klucas

When many of us go to launch our boats on the Cedar Lake Public Access, we will see that portions of the Wildlife Management Area (WMA) that surrounds our access have been logged over this past fall and winter. You might wonder "...why would they cut down trees in an area they are managing for wildlife?" Good question!

Breathing the clean air provided by the trees helps to recharge your batteries for a week of hard work. Trees also host a variety of wildlife that we enjoy viewing or for some hunting mainly in the fall. For this and many other reasons, forests are essential for humans and the rest of the planet.

When a forest becomes mature, all large trees with a canopy that shades out the forest floor decreases the biodiversity of the forest. Most of us have walked through an open forest floor where a combination of low sunlight and heavy grazing by deer have made the forest almost devoid of any vegetation other than trees with trunks 2 to 3 feet in diameter.

Sustainable forests are managed to encourage the conservation of biodiversity by acting as a home to numerous species. They provide a multitude of essential resources for the daily activities of human beings. They help to combat climate change by acting as carbon sinks and regulating the climate. They facilitate soil formation and prevent soil erosion.

What is sustainable forest management? Forest management is "a process of planning and implementing practices for the management and use of forests to meet specific environmental, economic, social and cultural objectives". In nature naturally occurring wildfires would periodically clear patches of forest and allow regeneration. For many good reasons we suppress forest fires in areas like Cedar Lake to protect our cabins and homes. Forest management will allow regeneration of the forest and more habitat for a diversity of wildlife. It also allows the forest products industry in our area to have a source of timber for the products that we all depend on. Managing the forest sustainably, using the forest products we all use responsibly, and enjoying the wildlife in a diverse forest are all interrelated.

MEMBERSHIP

Heather Rykhus

"Even a pebble cast in the middle of the lake creates ripples that eventually reach the shore." – Jeffrey G. Duarte

We hope you will be that pebble that keeps the ripples going! It's time to join or renew your CLC membership for 2023. Almost half the Cedar Lake landowners (229) were members in 2022, and we'd like to see that increase this year. Relatives, friends, anyone who enjoys Cedar Lake and all it has to offer are encouraged to join as well. Check it off your to-do list!

Annual dues are \$25. Become a Loon level member for \$50, take flight as a Heron at the \$75 level or soar to the Eagle level for \$100. The additional donations beyond annual dues go to our dedicated AIS fund. Mail a check with the membership form found on the last page of this newsletter to Cedar Lake Conservancy, P.O. Box 152, Aitkin, MN 56431.

Even easier - more and more members are using the electronic PayPal option. Use the following link to the CLC website: <https://cedarlakeconservancy.org/membership/#payonline> The PayPal option is at the bottom. The mail-in membership form can also be downloaded from this page. When you're on the website, take a minute to read the membership section. It says it all - what we do and why.

Be sure your email address is current so we can send you newsletters and updates during the course of the year.

Thank you for your support of Cedar Lake!

SHORE LAND

Joe Klucas

My name is Joe Klucas and our family has been on Cedar Lake for over 50 years. I have the opportunity to coordinate this program for 2023 and I am very excited about many of the new activities we will be doing. I am working with Bob Karls and Kelsey Klucas (my daughter) to continue to improve our AIS surveillance activities.

Our strength in our monitoring program is our membership. Volunteers being on watch for any potential risks to the lake is a huge factor. A special thanks goes to our Lake Stewards (over 30 of us) who spent their time getting trained and being part of our annual inspection programs. This year our monitoring program is enhanced with professional contractors providing training and lake inspection. While we will continue to be cautious of all AIS, a special focus this year is Eurasian milfoil and Starry Stonewort .

We have received new identification material from the DNR which will be available at our annual meeting. Additionally, there are phone apps that can be used to help in your identification. A review of these apps is at <https://extension.umn.edu/natural-resources-news/do-plant-id-apps-work-aquatic-plants> Any lake user can flag suspicious vegetation samples. Please note and photograph where in the lake the sample is located. If you can, collect the sample, confine it to a sealed Ziplock bag and contact me or any Board member.

The best defense against AIS is early identification with follow-up management. Your support is very much appreciated and a vital link in maintaining the health of our lake.

SOCIAL

Steve Haasl

Mark Miller

Welcome to 2023 and the promise of Spring. It does always come, right? We have another full lineup of social opportunities this year so get out your pencils and mark you calendars.

The Annual Fishing Contest is underway. Prizes will be awarded in the following categories: Bass (large and smallmouth), Crappie, Dogfish, Muskie, Northern, Sun Fish and Walleye. Make plans now.

Speaking of fishing, CLC is continuing to promote the elimination of lead in our watershed through the Get The Lead Out Program. You'll hear more about this, and a tackle exchange, at the 2023 Annual Meeting, to be held Saturday, June 24 at 9 a.m. Location is the same as last year, Aitkin American Legion, 20 First Avenue NE, Aitkin. Presenting this year, in addition to our regulars and some general business items, will be a representative of the Loon Restoration Program, working in conjunction with CLC's committee. And, the ever-popular food drive will continue. You will want to be there.

Before that, though, we have the C.R. 28 Annual Clean Up on May 6th. Plan to meet, 9 a.m., at Braten's Farm. Besides being a good service, it's a chance to catch up with friends and neighbors after a long winter.

The 4th of July will bring the Annual Boat Parade, which was rained out last year. It will be on Tuesday, July 4th. Time and route will be announced later. Our Facebook public page is the official place to check for any rainout information.

Also back is the Annual CLC Picnic on August 12th, and will be on Big Cedar for a change. Location and time to be announced later.

Watch your for more information on all these events, or feel free to contact either of us with questions or to volunteer.

LOON WATCH

Frank Simon

With spring not faraway the loons will soon be returning from their winter locations. Loons need open water. Last spring we saw large groups of loons visit our lake while waiting for their lakes further north to open. Loons usually return to the same lake every year and nest in the same area. They spend their entire life on the water and only come on land to nest. If you find a nest give them plenty of room. Don't boat close to loons and their new chicks. Waves from your boat can knock the chicks off making them vulnerable to muskies and northerns. Loons also fall prey to eagles and ospreys. A big threat for the loons is lead fishing tackle and loose fishing line. If you find a dead loon report it to the DNR. And, if you would like to assist with the loon count, you can do your area of the lake or a larger area. Counts are done every three or four weeks May through October. We have maps and instructions on how to do the count. Contact me, if interested.



AITKIN AREA FISHERIES

Greg Berg, Assistant Fisheries Supervisor

In celebration of Cedar Lake Conservancy's 30th anniversary, here is the history of fisheries management for Cedar Lake. Monitoring fish development/movement and water profiles by AAF, along with the dedicated works of the Conservancy, will ensure Cedar continues to be a premier lake in Aitkin County. Congratulations!

Fisheries assessments have been conducted in the following years: 1959, 1977, 1981, 1997, 1987, 1992, 2002, 2007, 2011, 2014, 2017 and 2021; natural reproduction field checks in 1950 and 1964; spring trap netting in 1993; spring electrofishing for bass was conducted in 1991, 1997, 2002, 2011, 2017 and 2021 in conjunction with the netting surveys. Surveys targeting Muskellunge have been done in 2000, 2004, 2007, 2011, and 2017, they are currently scheduled every six years in conjunction with every other lake survey. Note that the 2011 population assessment had first been scheduled as a full lake survey, but due to a state government shutdown in July 2011, aspects of the re-survey could not be completed and only the fish population assessment was completed. Scap net (looks like a badminton net but with smaller mesh) egg deposition checks were done in the early 1990s. An IBI (Index of Biotic Integrity) survey was done to assess the nearshore fish community and overall ecosystem health in 2014. A quantitative open water creel survey was also conducted in 1994, and some creel data were collected in summer 1946 and winter 1942. Annual surveys of Tullibee (Northern Cisco) habitat using summer temperature/dissolved oxygen (TDO) profiles have been conducted since 2009. Although 2009 was in general a cool summer, the month of September was unusually warm causing hypolimnetic (bottom layer of water) oxygen depletion and above normal epilimnetic (surface layer water) temperatures. These conditions resulted in a substantial Tullibee die off. Despite the large kill in 2009, suspended gillnets (GSUs) indicated normal levels in a 2011 survey, and the population continues to flourish.

Other management on Cedar Lake has included fish stocking and fish removal. Various species including Trout, Sunfish, Largemouth Bass, Black Crappie and Walleye were stocked from 1908 to 1943. Northern Pike were stocked from 1947 to 1972 and Yellow Perch were stocked for three years (1981 - 1983). Walleye fingerlings were stocked in various years from 1949 to 1969. From 1970 to 1978 four Walleye fry and one Walleye fingerling stocking took place. Evaluation of the 1981 survey indicated poor recruitment of stocked fry. Walleye fingerlings were stocked at a rate of 1 pound per littoral acre (LA) in four of the five years from 1983 to 1987, and then were stocked annually at 0.5 pounds per LA beginning in 1989. Since 2005, Walleye fingerlings have been stocked annually at 1 pound per LA as per guidelines of the accelerated Walleye program. Fingerling or juvenile Muskellunge have been stocked annually since 1994 at a rate of one fish per LA. Various rough fish species, including Bullhead and Bigmouth Buffalo, were removed from 1965 to 1967.

Early surveys indicate that Cedar Lake historically had a Walleye population, likely due to its connection to the Mississippi River, early stocking efforts and/or natural reproduction. Walleye abundance appears to be limited by either unsuitable spawning habitat or low survival of fry. Natural reproduction, while not able to sustain the fishery, does contribute to the population in some years. The Walleye abundance index increased from 0.3 fish per gill net in 1981 to a level near 3.0 fish per gill net lift from 1992 through 2007, which is the median rate for lake class 25 lakes, which is the median rate for lakes comparable to Cedar. Fingerling stocking appeared to be successful during this time. In the 2011 population assessment, Walleye catch rates declined to 1.1/net for unknown reasons. With the exception of 2002 (4.4/net), the Yellow Perch abundance index has declined from 14.4 fish per gill net lift in 1959 to less than or near 1.0 fish per lift since 1977. Tullibee, which can be found throughout the lake seasonally, tend to concentrate in the deep main basin during the summer months. Deep water suspended gill nets were set to sample Tullibee in 1987, 1992, 1997, 2007, 2011, 2014 and 2017. These sets typically catch 100 or more cisco/net except for in 2007, when the sets may have been biased by depth or other variables. The length distribution for cisco in all gill nets decreased in 1997. Only one percent of the Tullibee sampled in 1997 were over 11 inches, compared to at least 10 percent in each of the previous surveys. In 2007 and 2011, only 3 to 4 percent were 11 inches or longer. Slower growth and small average size are typical of lakes with sufficient hypolimnetic oxygen concentrations such as Cedar. Watershed influences from run-off can have adverse effects on hypolimnetic oxygen.

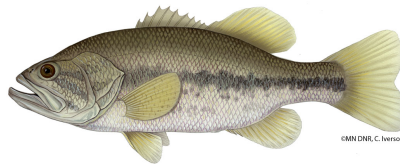
"Remember when your GPS and a fish finder were rolled into one trusty unit called Grandpa?"

- Anonymous

HOOK, LINE & SINKER

In the 2022 fall issue of The Cedar Log, Greg Berg from Aitkin Area Fisheries confirmed smallmouth bass were found in Cedar. Here's a brief guide to tell the difference.

- They are different colors. Smallmouth are known as Brown Bass, largemouth are nicknamed Green Bass.
- The average smallmouth weighs from two to six pounds depending on sex, largemouth from two to ten pounds.
- Largemouth have dark, horizontal lines while smallmouth have vertical stripes.
- Largemouth have larger mouths. Their upper jaw extends past the eye. Smallmouth's are usually in line with it.
- Largemouth have a break between their dorsal fins; smallmouth do not.
- Both species love cover. Smallmouth do not enter it. They prefer to hunt around cover, particularly deep, rocky structure. They will chase bait fish out in open water. Because of this, it's much easier to find them in clear water than in the murky shallows around docks, tree stumps and weed beds that largemouth love.
- Smallmouth prefer deep, cold water. Largemouth are happy in warm, shallow water.
- While largemouth grow bigger, smallmouth are more acrobatic and put up a bigger fight pound for pound. Largemouth don't usually jump more than once.



2023 FISHING OPENERS

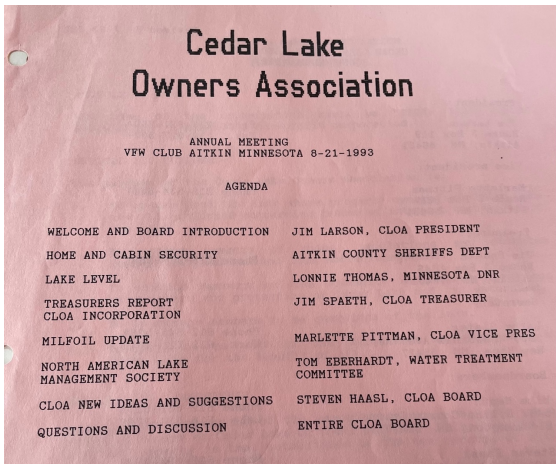
May 13	Walleye, Sauger, Pike
May 13 - 26	Bass (catch & release only)
May 27	Bass
June 03	Muskie

May 06	County Road 28 Cleanup - Meet at Braton's Farm, 33476 County Road 28 at 9 a.m.
May 13	ACLARA Meeting
June 10	ACLARA Meeting
June 17	Aitkin County Lakes & Rivers Fair
June 24	CLC Annual Meeting - Bring your lead tackle!
June 24 - July 8	CLC Online Store Open
July 04	Boat Parade
July 05 - 08	Aitkin County Fair
July 08	ACLARA Meeting

*"Spring is when you feel like whistling,
even with a shoe full of slush."*

-Anonymous

CLC THROUGH THE YEARS 1993 - 2002

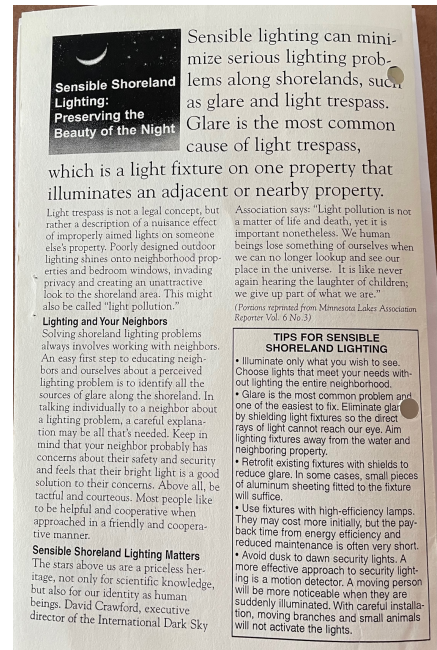


First Meeting Agenda

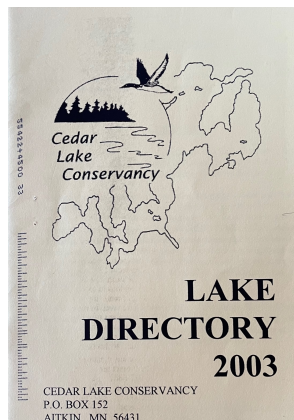
Highlights

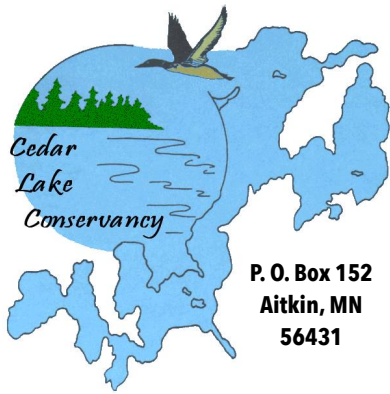
Dues were \$20 each year during this time period.

- 1993 There were 185 paid members.
- 1994 Initial stocking of muskie fingerlings and yearlings was completed by Aitkin Area Fisheries.
- 1995 Bylaws were adopted for the Cedar Lake Owners' Association at the annual meeting.
- 1996 Elinor Eberhardt and Sandy Larson took on the newsletters.
- 1997 There were 159 paid members.
- 1998 The logo, designed by Larry McKenzie, debuted.
- 1999 Andria Klucas replaced Elinor Eberhardt as editor of the newsletter. Thirty lake stewards searched for Eurasian milfoil and purple loosestrife.
- 2000 There was a 2'-3' loss in water quality over the last five years. Water sampling and phosphorous testing plans were approved by the BOD.
- 2001 Obtained nonprofit status and changed name from Cedar Lake Owners' Association to Cedar Lake Conservancy. Jim Spaeth started the first lakeshore restoration project.
- 2002 There were 158 paid members. First website was developed and address was www.cedarlake.info. Water quality still a concerning issue.



From 2002 Newsletter





**P. O. Box 152
Aitkin, MN
56431**



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.

Click here to pay online: <https://cedarlakeconservancy.org/membership/#payonline>

Name(s)

Mailing Address

Lake Address

Preferred Telephone Number to Reach You

Email Address - please print clearly

I/We are the property owners Yes No

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