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Reprinted From 2013 Newsletter

Water clarity has remained very good throughout summer and fall. There are many reasons this can occur such as lower algae levels from reduced phosphate being washed into the lake. Another reason can be the result of a zebra mussel invasion. The CLC has done additional water testing and found phosphate levels are running about half what they were six years ago. These reduced phosphate levels are great news. The efforts by many of you to put in shoreline buffers and water gardens seems to be paying off. Keep up the good work.

**Les Martin
Water Quality**

**GREETINGS,
CEDAR LAKE CONSERVANCY!
Dan Guida, Aitkin County Sheriff**

The summer heat has many of us in or close to the water and so far we have had a safe, uneventful time. The boat and water patrol has been on Cedar many times and the overall report is that most folks are doing a great job with following the rules on the water. Thank you all for that!

The Sheriff's Office is almost fully staffed, and you can expect to see white cars patrolling your area. Contrary to several areas in the state, Aitkin County still patrols and enforces misdemeanor offenses, as that is the best way to keep our residents safe. Last year I predicted a busy year on the lake and it was, and no doubt, this year will be the same. Please ensure that anyone operating a boat or PWC is familiar with the MN Boating Guide. An online copy is available at <https://files.dnr.state.mn.us/rlp/regulations/boatwater/boatingguide.pdf> or you can pick one up at my office.

Thank you for being good neighbors. Remember that your calls are always welcome (218-927-2138); if you see something, say something and we will do our best to solve the problems!

**New Cedar Lake Wildlife
Management Area sign at
the public landing
showing map that
includes the Tuthill
property addition.**



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

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THE PRESIDENT'S MUSINGS
Mark Miller

At the CLC Board meeting that followed the June 24 annual meeting, I was elected President to serve a two-year term. Before I provide a short introduction of myself, I want to express my gratitude to Jon Campbell for his just-completed, two-year term as President. His energy, creativity and organizational skills leave some big shoes for me to fill. I would also like to welcome Bob Hakes to the Board, having been elected at the annual meeting to fill a vacancy on our nine-member Board.

I am a lifetime resident of Minnesota and after a 37-year career with Hirshfield's, the paint/decorating company, Paulette and I retired in 2014 and moved to the lake full-time. Our home is on the very south end of the lake just to the east of the channel to Little Cedar. We are here year-round hiking, golfing, gardening and putting up firewood.

Should you have questions or concerns to present to the Board, please contact me. Hope to see everyone at the picnic in August!

MEET NEW BOARD MEMBER, BOB HAKES!



My wife Gretchen and I became your Cedar Lake neighbor when we purchased a cabin in Saw Mill Bay in 2020. Though we are new to the lake, I have been coming up to the Aitkin area lakes for over 60 years. There are Hakes all over Aitkin and Crow Wing Counties; without doubt we're all related.

I can't think of a better way to get involved than to help preserve what my family has enjoyed for decades. Applying for, and joining, the Board was a simple decision for me. I feel a deep connection to the Aitkin area and am honored to serve.

Gretchen and I both grew up in Austin, MN. We moved to Minneapolis when we married. I was general manager at Kemps for 30 years. We have two grown children and two granddaughters. The granddaughters live out of state and show up in July. Never enough time for Gigi and Bobo.

I'll close by giving my definition of what it means to be a grandparent. A grandparent spends weeks preparing fishing poles, boats, and floating devices as they wait for the arrival of their grandchildren, only to see them use it for a day, maybe two. And the kicker is, you still feel it was worth every minute you spent preparing for their arrival.

See you around the lake!



In Remembrance
Marilyn Moga
Bob Rodenborn

CONSERVATION

Bob Karls

Kelsey Klucas

During our annual meeting on June 24th, there was considerable discussion on the water level of Cedar Lake. This year we have had very little rain between early May and mid-June, and the lake has been dropping steadily. Some of us even have lifts that are close to stranding our boats and pontoons.

The main topic of the discussion related to the configuration of the lake outlet and whether the depth is adjustable. There were several individuals under the impression that the DNR had some ability to control the lake level. We promised to check into this and report back. Following the meeting, I contacted Heidi Lindgren, one of the DNR Area Hydrologists in Brainerd. We have worked together on water issues in Cedar Lake before. She is an Aitkin native and quite familiar with Cedar having dealt with quite a few issues regarding our lake.

For those of you who have not had the opportunity to look into this, our lake has two major and several minor incoming streams. The larger two flow into Little Cedar and then into Cedar through the narrows between the lakes. There is one outlet from the lake which is on the very northern most part, just south of Highway 210 and the railroad track that parallels the highway.

Water comes into the lake largely 4 ways: 1) rainfall that falls directly into the lake, 2) direct runoff over land from our woods, lawns and gardens, 3) via the streams that extend throughout the watershed of our lake, and 4) which is slightly less obvious; the groundwater recharge that seeps into the lake through the shoreline and lakebed. This last way is most obvious through the springs that you can see around the edges of the lake when it is frozen. Similarly of note, Cedar Lake's watershed is about 4 times the size of the actual lake, which makes #3 a significant source.

One obvious way that water leaves the lake is through the stream to the Mississippi to the north. Like the less obvious groundwater inflow, Cedar Lake also has a less obvious outflow that we often don't think of - evaporation! Evaporation varies throughout the year due to temperature and wind, but an open water surface in our area of Minnesota will lose between 26" to 32" of water a year! That is a HUGE amount of water - over the entire area of our lake, evaporation leads to over 15 million cubic feet of water being lost per year.

Related to the questions regarding DNR's control over the water level, here is the information I learned. DNR's understanding indicates that an original dam on the stream leaving our lake was put in on the outlet to in an area similar to where the existing structure is in the 1930s. The DNR did not exist as an organization then and so they are a little bit unsure who put the dam in and why. Heidi thought the railroad had installed it to control the water flow under and through the railroad trestle to control spring flows and protect the trestle from washing out. Accordingly, the use of the term "dam" may be generous as it was described as a structure that had limited ability to be adjusted.

Regardless of who installed the original structure, it deteriorated with the concrete piers on the banks crumbling and in disrepair. Due to its condition, in 1985, the DNR removed the old structure replaced it with new concrete piers on each side of the stream and a level concrete "lip" that water from the lake must flow over to reach Cedar Creek which flows north to the Mississippi River. There is currently about 6" of water flowing over the concrete outflow. As you can see from the picture, the overflow structure does not have a gate, adjustable boards or other components. It cannot be physically altered by the DNR or public.



As of this writing at the end of June, we have received about 1.5" of rain in the past week. Hopefully, we will continue to get some rainfall for the farmers in the area and some to keep the lake at the level that allows us to keep our boats and pontoons operating and us all to enjoy all of the great things about Cedar Lake.

SHORE LAND

Joe Klucas

July and August are busy months with the search for any AIS in our lake. As discussed earlier, we have engaged with Freshwater Science, a professional survey firm, to provide additional resources for our Lake Stewards program. Additionally, Freshwater Science will be providing on-site training for our Lake Stewards (or any CLC member) to assist in the identification of AIS on Saturday, August 5th @ 9:30 a.m. at the public landing.

Our Lake Stewards will be monitoring their assigned lake zones during the first two weeks of August. As always, their support is greatly appreciated. In addition to the Lake Stewards, all members are encouraged to keep a watch out for AIS while out enjoying our lake.

I am in need of additional volunteers to be Lake Stewards. Please contact me with an email if you are willing to assist.

An excellent website for AIS information and identification is: <https://maisrc.umn.edu/about-ais> You will find pictures and identification aids on this site.

Our focus this year is Eurasian Watermilfoil, Starry Stonewort and Curly-leaf Pondweed. If you do find suspicious water plants, take pictures of the sample with a size comparison (like a coin), include general information including where found, address, name of bay, water depth and date. Email this information (including photos) to Bob Karls, Kelsey Klucas and Joe Klucas. Keeping samples in a ziplock bag/wet paper towel are helpful to keep the sample fresh. We will let you know next steps.

Enjoy the summer on the lake.

LOON WATCH

Frank Simon

On May 23rd we did our first loon count. It took about three hours to cover the entire lake. We found four active nests and 21 adult loons. Our next count was done on June 15th. We found one additional nest, 26 adult loons and one loonlet (baby loon). There should be more loonlets on the lake now so it is important to keep watch for them when boating. Loonlets do not know how to swim when they hatch. Mom and Dad teach them. Until they master the skill, they ride on Mom's back. Boat strikes are the biggest threat to loons, especially the loonlets. Your wake can knock them off Mom's back making them vulnerable to predators. Getting too close can be detrimental. Please be loon friendly and give them space.

SOCIAL

Steve Haasl

Mark Miller

Welcome to Summer, 2023! The Annual Fishing Contest continues. Get those lines in the water, lunger pictures and info to Lanae Paaverud; prizes will be awarded!

The Spring County Road 28 Roadside Cleanup, hosted by Mary and Jerry Braten, had a big turnout and little trash. This has become something of a social outing and a chance to catch up with neighbors after winter. Many thanks to the Braton family, Dave Wieber, Dennis Nielson, Joe Klucas, Mark Miller, Steve Haasl, Bob Karls, John McIntosh, Heather Rykhus, Dan Yentes, the TenEycks, Bilderbacks, Jamesons, and Carlises. Come join us September 30th for the fall cleanup. Watch for more information.

Recapping the Annual Meeting on June 24th nearly 60 members were in attendance. Thanks for coming out! In addition to the CLC presenters, DNR representative Rob Robasco, Program Coordinator for the MN Loon Restoration Program, shared an interesting and informative recap of MN's and CLC's efforts at loon preservation. New Board member, Bob Hakes, was elected, along with Debbie Campbell signing on for another term. And, at the organizational Board meeting held after the annual, Board member Mark Miller was elected CLC President. Congrats to them all.

Finally, the Annual CLC Picnic will be held on August 12th. Our gracious host this year is Trudy Anderson. For you Cedar Lake veterans, her property is part of the old Edgewater Resort on the north end of the lake. If I can digress – our family first visited Cedar Lake in 1962, looking for property. We stayed at the Edgewater for a week. It was heaven for a preteen city kid. Great memories, and we've been on the lake since. Catering this year will be provided by CLC to help celebrate our 30th anniversary. We hope to see you there. Watch for announcements as the date approaches.

MEMBERSHIP

Heather Rykhus

Your support and interest in Cedar Lake and the Conservancy is valuable and appreciated. To date we have 165 paid members! If you are reading this and haven't joined or renewed, please take a moment to do so and mail the membership form with a check or use the PayPal option. Both are on the last page of the newsletter. They are also available on the CLC website at cedarlakeconservancy.org Simply click on the box Join/Renew/Donate on the home page. Please encourage your neighbors, as well as family or friends who enjoy Cedar Lake, to join or renew as well. The basic membership dues are \$25 and there are additional tiered categories with donations going to the dedicated AIS fund.

At the annual meeting on June 24th I introduced a new donation fund that will be available in 2024 for additional contributions beyond the basic \$25 membership fee. More information on this fund will be in the fall newsletter.

WATER CLARITY

Jon Campbell

The data from the 2022 monitoring is now compiled and Cedar Lake's clarity was down a bit but remains statistically stable at 10'.38" The clearest measurement points on the lake were over 11' while we had one site at around 8'. The slight decline in clarity in 2022 could have been caused by the higher precipitation in 2022 in comparison to 2021. Our data shows that the clarity of our lake can vary by 4-5' over the season, with the biggest drops in clarity following rainfall. Little Cedar is less clear than the main basin but its clarity continues to improve year to year.

In comparison to our total watershed, our lake's clarity is about 1' less. Interestingly, Little Cedar's clarity is almost 3' less than the median clarity for our watershed.

Our ten volunteers are currently on the water measuring clarity at least a couple of times per month. The reports I am getting suggest improved clarity so far this year is probably tied to the lower level of rainfall. A special thanks to all the volunteers.

Remember, we all impact the quality of our lake by reducing runoff from our properties into the lake. Please consider shoreline efforts to reduce and filter runoff. Shoreline buffers versus mowed grass areas at the shoreline are a great way to help protect Cedar's quality. If you have questions on how you can help protect the lake, please let the Board know, and we can offer ideas for you to consider.

AITKIN AREA FISHERIES

Greg Berg, Assistant Fisheries Supervisor

Nothing really too new from a fisheries perspective to report on as this is not a survey year for the lake. The next survey will be summer, 2024. Every other survey (every six years) we do a special assessment on the Muskie population with large frame trap nets and electrofishing. The next survey of the Muskellunge population will be done in conjunction with the standard survey in 2024. We will likely survey the Largemouth Bass population in the spring, too, also via electrofishing at night. The only work we have planned is to continue our long-term collection of data regarding the oxythermal regime for Tullibee. This will happen in the first week or so of August. We're interested to see what will happen with the Smallmouth Bass in the lake and if Channel Catfish from the Mississippi River will eventually become established as well. This has already happened in Big Sandy Lake, and we are closely monitoring that situation. To date we have no reports of Catfish in Cedar. We also plan to stock the lake again in October with 405 pounds of Mississippi strain Walleye fingerlings and 405 individual Leech Lake strain Muskellunge fingerlings.



Many hands made for light work at the spring clean up of County Road 28.



A little rain at times didn't stop CLC President, Mark Miller and wife Paulette, from admirably leading 15 followers in July 4th boat parade. Thanks to all who came out and to those on shore cheering the boats on as they passed by.

Dates to Remember

- August 01-05 Crow Wing County Fair
- August 05 Aitkin Riverboat Days
- August 05 AIS Training at Landing
- August 12 ACLARA Meeting
- August 12 CLC Annual Picnic
- August 11-12 Deerwood Summerfest
- August 24 -
- September 04 MN State Fair
- September 04 CLC Fishing Challenge Ends
- September 09 ACLARA Meeting
- September 30 County Road 28 Cleanup
- October 14 ACLARA Meeting

Cedar Lake Conservancy

Annual Picnic

Saturday, August 12
2 - 5 pm

Your Hostess: Trudy Anderson
45121--350th Street

Food, Dessert, Soda & Water Provided By The CLC

RSVP By August 1 to:
Steve Haasl - stevenhaasl1@gmail.com
Mark Miller - markm.hirsh@gmail.com



BE A MILKY WAY ADVOCATE

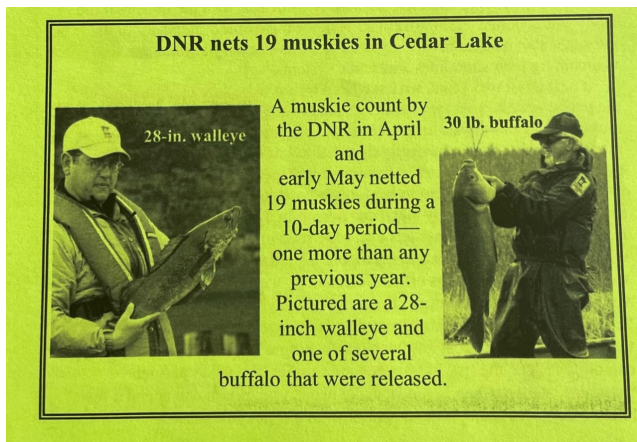
Summertime is the peak season for viewing. The Northern Hemisphere is tilted towards the Milky Way so it is denser and easier to see. What can you do so everyone can see it better? Make the lights around your home/cabin more effective, efficient and night sky friendly.

CLC THROUGH THE YEARS 2003 - 2012

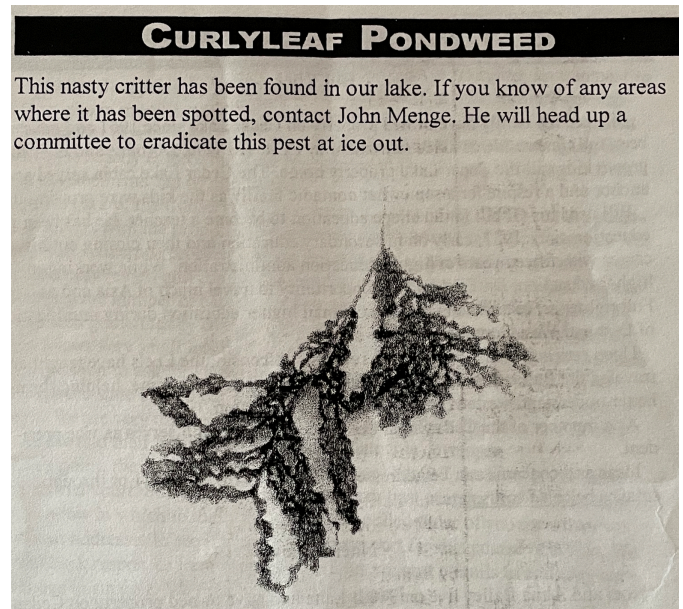
Highlights

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

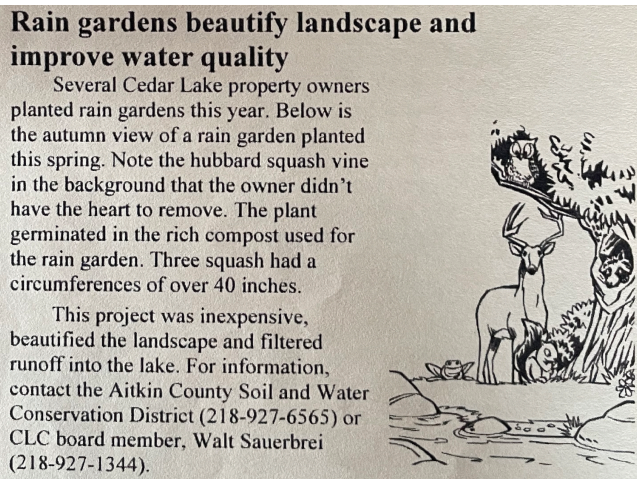
- 2003 MPCA gave the BOD a comprehensive report on the lake's water quality, lake levels and fisheries. There were 182 paid members.
- 2004 Water quality was poor. Membership declined to 136.
- 2005 Les Martin spearheaded the development of an official lake management plan. Steady rains in June lead to poor water quality.
- 2006 Semi-annual cleanup of County Road 28 began.
- 2007 Aitkin Area Fisheries survey showed better than average size and population of walleye and northern. There were 134 paid members.
- 2008 There were 67 paid members.
- 2009 There were 137 paid members.
- 2010 Water quality numbers were some of the best. Zebra mussels started to invade Mille Lacs so efforts were taken to voluntarily monitor the public access for incoming boats that may have any hitchhikers. There were 98 paid members.
- 2011 Paid membership was 97.
- 2012 Paid membership declined to 26.



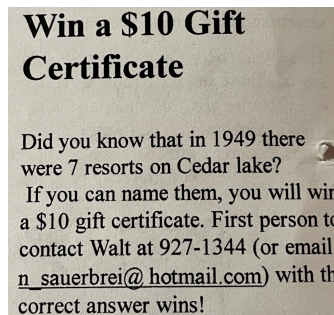
2011



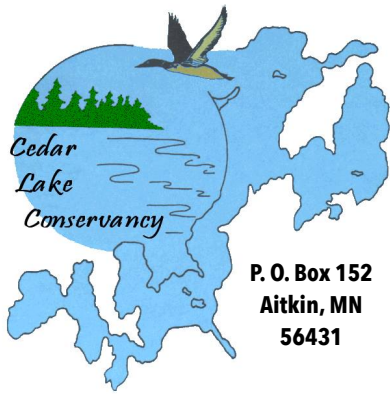
2004



2007



2004



**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.