

**JOIN THE CLC OR
RENEW YOUR
MEMBERSHIP HERE:**

[https://
cedarlakeconservancy.
org/membership/
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ANNUAL PICNIC

SATURDAY,

AUGUST 10

CHECK THIS OUT!

[https://files.dnr.state.mn.us/
education_safety/safety/
boatwater/pwc-brochure.pdf](https://files.dnr.state.mn.us/education_safety/safety/boatwater/pwc-brochure.pdf)

**PWC (jet skis) hours are between
9:30 am and one hour before
sunset.**

**PWC must travel at slow-no wake
speed (5 mph or less WITHIN
150') of shore, docks, swimmers,
swimming rafts, any moored or
anchored watercraft or non
motorized watercraft. The ONLY
exception is when a PWC is
launching or landing a water
skier by the most direct route to**

**WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS
CINDY SYKES AND CHUCK TIMMERS!**



My husband, Randy, and I have lived on Cedar Lake for seven years, the last four year-round. I enjoy quilting, reading, watching the wildlife activity on the lake and most importantly spending time with our two children and four grandchildren. I appreciate the work the CLC Board does to keep our lake healthy and look forward to serving on it.



My wife, Michaela, and I have been on Cedar Lake (Sawmill Bay) nine years, the last two years full time. One of our main family activities for the past 30 years has been fishing. Our two kids and their expanding families are up most weekends continuing the tradition. My family and I look forward to helping the CLC continue with its excellent work and traditions!

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

Mark Miller

Here I was thinking I had completed an article for the newsletter. Suddenly, our life was turned upside down, and I was looking at new subject matter. A tornado blew through the neighborhood on June 12. Before reaching us, it roared through Little Cedar devastating trees, docks, boats and some lake homes.



In minutes hundreds of trees were uprooted or snapped off leaving our road impassible. I could hear trees just outside our home snapping off while it seemed that we were about to have the windows blown out, or worse. We lost a dozen large trees and one landed on top of my car. It may be totaled. Luckily there was no damage to the house. Some neighbors fared worse. Trees on roofs, boats/ docks flipped over and power lines/poles on the ground.

The worst damage I saw was at Todd and Jan Warner's home. Part of their roof blew off and landed on the other side of the road. Their pontoon and lift were upside down on top of their fishing boat. Many trees destroyed with some twisted around others demonstrating the power of the tornado's rotation.

We can be very thankful for the way neighbors, family, friends and contractors pulled together to begin the massive cleanup and the ongoing work to repair damaged property. While most of us were sleeping, Mark Ritter and Travis Ruschmeier brought in a large front-end loader and opened the road enough to allow Mille Lacs Energy to bring in an impressive amount of equipment and crews. They restored power by noon. Liljenquist Excavating arrived with a large backhoe and dump truck to begin removing the downed trees on a quarter mile stretch of road that is our only access. Even the U. S. Forest Service assisted with the tree removal. At least four tree service contractors came quickly and began taking trees off houses and garages. Stevo's and FIRM were busy hauling away mangled lifts and damaged boats. We can't thank all of these people enough.

So, now back to the shortened version of the original subject I was writing about...why is it important to pay CLC dues and where does the money go? Looking at the 2023 financial report that was available at the recent annual meeting, I was pleased to see that other than for AIS, the expenses are very modest. Included were association dues, insurance, meeting expenses, the annual picnic, printing/postage and website maintenance. A little more than \$5,000. The largest expense was for monitoring and mitigating AIS by contracting with a specialist who surveyed the entire shoreline including Little Cedar. The same AIS biologist provided training to our volunteer Shore Land monitors. Unfortunately, the biologist from Freshwater Science discovered Curly-leaf Pondweed in three locations. This year we will be using approximately \$14,000 from our AIS fund, along with government grants, to treat the Curly-leaf Pondweed and to provide additional training to our volunteers. We currently have about \$100,000 in the AIS accounts.

Finally, To keep you informed on their efforts, the CLC has purchased a one-year subscription of Minnesota Lakes & Rivers' newsletter (aka MLR) for all Cedar Lake property owners in hopes that you will want to renew next year. Please provide them with your email address when renewing to avoid printing and postage costs.



CONSERVATION

Bob Karls

Kelsey Klucas

"Water levels will be low," they said. "Only heavy rains will overcome the deficit," they said. "Hold my drink," Mother Nature said. While well-reasoned, our predictions have obviously been proven false, and we are dealing with another set of challenges as greater than average precipitation continues. Does this mean we should get out of the fortune telling business...? Perhaps. But does this mean we should avoid planning for potential challenges ahead? Not at all!

As we look ahead to identify potential threats, there is one that creeps ever closer to Cedar Lake – Starry Stonewort. Starry Stonewort is an invasive algae that was first found in Lake Koronis in 2015 and has since spread to nineteen Minnesota lakes. It is particularly invasive and currently impossible to eradicate. It can be recognized by its bright green branchlets and star-shaped bulbils attached to clear root-like filaments. Once Starry Stonewort takes hold, it creates dense mats that outcompetes native species and overtakes the natural ecological habitats that native animals rely on for food and shelter. It is spread primarily by fragments of the algae getting tangled in, and spread by, trailers, motors, anchors, and watercrafts.

We recently learned that it was found in Middle Cullen Lake five miles north of Nisswa in Crow Wing County and Lake Pokegama near Grand Rapids in Itasca County. While this is not immediately next door, it is, like all AIS, only one contaminated boat away from reaching Cedar Lake. As mentioned above, right now, Starry Stonewort has yet to be eradicated from any infested waterbody where it has taken hold. While this is disheartening to hear, there are means of managing its spread if identified early. With this in mind, we ask that, like all AIS, if you see something that you suspect to be invasive, please report it to us and/or Joe Klucas, Shore Land Chair. Our contact information is found on page two of the newsletter. This will allow us to address and coordinate any potential treatment responses.

We will be learning more about the many AIS to watch for at a training session from Freshwater Science on Saturday, July 27. As we say repeatedly, thank you for your help and dedication in helping prevent the spread of AIS. It really is thanks to the dedication of our lakeshore owners and guests that Cedar Lake remains the healthy, vibrant lake that it is.

More information on Starry Stonewort can be found here:

<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/aquaticplants/starrystonewort/index.html>

<https://maisrc.umn.edu/starrytrek>



MEMBERSHIP

Heather Rykhus

How many property owners are there on Cedar Lake? Around 460! How many are Conservancy members? Most recently 130! We would like all Cedar Lake property owners to be members. Your membership keeps the Conservancy strong. It keeps people connected socially as well as knowledgeable about the issues affecting Cedar Lake.

The additional donations beyond annual dues go to our Environmental Stewardship Fund (ESF). These funds are used for conservation and education efforts consistent with CLC's mission to protect the shoreline and continue our work to identify, treat, and help prevent AIS as well as any emergent issues that may arise on Cedar Lake.

Be sure your email address is current so we can send you newsletters and updates during the course of the year. Receiving communications electronically helps us save postal and printing costs.

Thank you to those who have joined or renewed their membership. We appreciate your financial support as well as your time spent in volunteering for various committee needs.

WATER CLARITY

Bob Hakes

When Jon Campbell approached me about taking over as water clarity coordinator, I hesitated until he mentioned the Secchi disc. What a cool thing to talk about over a beer or summer cookout. The Secchi disc has actually been around since the 19th century. The plain white disc is connected to a tape measure. It's lowered down into the water until it is no longer visible. Secchi disc measurements have been a key component of Minnesota's lake water quality assessments for some time. Volunteers take two measurements a month in 10 different spots around Cedar Lake. Measurements are then submitted to the state for recording. Our trend is unchanged or stable on Cedar Lake.

Thank you to Mark Miller, Jon Campbell, Chuck Timmers, Heather Rykhus, Teri Rehmann, Jeff and Heidi Mitchell, Bill Stein, Jon Apold and Frank Parisi for volunteering to take measurements this year.

Measuring water quality is just one way to get involved in the health of our lake. Volunteering is educational. And, in addition to learning a lot, you will meet some interesting people along the way. Please reach out to one of our Board members if you have any interest in helping out. Have a great summer!

SOCIAL

Steve Haasl & John McIntosh

Welcome to summer, and what a wet start it has been. We have to use a step stool get up onto our pontoon!

The Annual Fishing Contest continues. Prizes will be awarded in the following categories: Bass (both Large, Rock and Smallmouth), Crappie, Dogfish, Muskie, Northern, Sunfish and Walleye. Get those lines in the water, and please remember to keep the lead out.

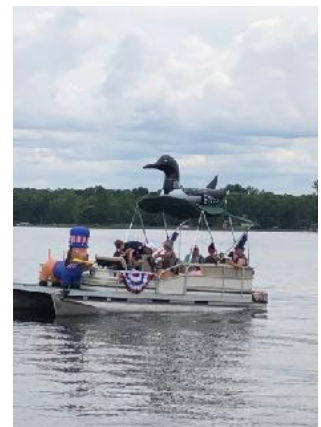
The spring CR 28 Roadside Cleanup, hosted by Mary and Jerry Braton, had a big turnout. This has become something of a social outing and a chance to catch up with neighbors after winter. The Fall Cleanup will be September 28th. Watch for more information.

The Annual Meeting was June 8th with nearly 50 members in attendance. In addition to the CLC presenters, Aitkin County Soil and Water representative, Veronica Lundquist, shared programs and resources for shore land, property stabilization and protection. New board members, Cindy Sykes and Chuck Timmers, were elected. Congrats to them and thanks to all who attended the meeting.

The July 4th boat parade saw a great turnout with 33 decorated vessels following our intrepid President, Mark Miller. While prizes for decorations were not handed out, there were some creative and imaginative productions. Check out the photos on the CLC's Facebook pages. Mercifully, the rain held off until all were safely docked. It's a fun tradition. We hope you enjoyed it as much as we did.

Finally, the annual CLC Picnic will be held on August 10th, and will be on the grounds of John McIntosh, who is graciously hosting again. Many thanks to him for volunteering. Catering will again be provided by CLC. We hope to see you there. Keep your eyes open for more information as the date approaches.

See you on the lake!



LOON PRESERVATION

Jon Campbell

Be loon aware! Our loons, the Minnesota State Bird, are back on Cedar Lake along with their chicks. Since loons only have one or two chicks per year, every chick counts. Loon chicks are extremely vulnerable until they are strong enough to fledge and fly south in late October through November.

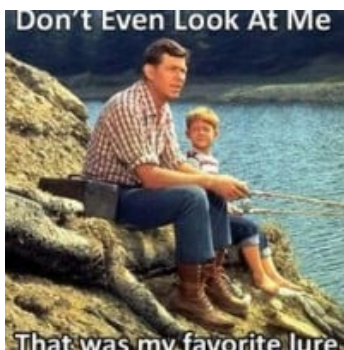
In mid-May our loon count found 22 adults loons on the lake, with one noted on a nest. The next count on June 7th, found 18 adults and 10 chicks. The number of chicks is very encouraging.

During the summer months when you and your guests are out enjoying Cedar Lake, remember we share the water with a variety of wildlife, including the loons. Time spent learning their behaviors and habits from a respectable distance benefit both human and wildlife. Young chicks are very vulnerable. They need to be able to climb on their parents' back to stay warm and dry. When a watercraft comes too close, loon parents may leave their chicks to defend their territory. Young chicks can't dive like their parents. Young chicks are very buoyant and can't dive very quickly or very deep. This makes them particularly vulnerable to being run over by watercraft. Chicks tire easily. The presence of watercraft causes chicks to keep swimming instead of feeding and resting. This can weaken them, affecting the ability to survive. Chicks frequent open water. Loon parents frequently move their chicks away from their nesting environment out into deeper water. Unfortunately, this often puts them into direct conflict with watercraft—particularly personal watercraft and boats pulling water skiers and tubers.

Personal watercraft and motorboat operators can help significantly by staying away from the shoreline, and also keeping a sharp eye out for loons and other wildlife while on Cedar Lake, giving them a wide distance to feed and care for their young.

Later this year we plan to construct some new loon nesting platforms for next year, and we will be looking for volunteers to assist with the construction. So, keep your eyes open for that date this fall.

Enjoy our loons lovely haunting calls and view them from a distance while giving them their space and solitude.



SHORELAND

Joe Klucas

Hope the summer is treating you well. For those impacted by our recent tornado I trust you are recovering and will be able to enjoy the remainder of our summer.

As I reported earlier, last year Curley-Leaf Pondweed (an invasive water plant) was found in three locations on the lake. This spring we completed the removal by both hand pulling (scuba divers) and herbicide treatment.

One CLC member located an additional site of Curley-Leaf Pondweed in Little Cedar (western most area by the incoming stream). This identified area has been added to our management activities for 2025. The member provided us this photo allowing us to confirm it as AIS. If you see any suspected AIS, please use this as an example of a picture that can be sent to me for identification.



We will be holding an AIS identification training session for anyone interested on Saturday, July 27th, at the public boat landing. This year's training will focus on the best process for a search from the end of your dock or from your boat. The training will be provided by James Johnson, from Freshwater Science.

As a reminder, our annual AIS search by our Lake Stewards will occur in August. If any members would like to become part of the Lake Stewards program please reach out to me, all assistance is appreciated.

I will close by asking all members to be watchful of any potential AIS. A quick picture sent to me can confirm AIS identification.



AITKIN COUNTY WATER & SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Veronica Lundquist, Soil, Health & Outreach Specialist

When you look at a shoreline what do you see as beautiful? Is it a perfectly laid wall of boulders? Is it a soft sugar sand beach? Is it a stream of colors coming from the crowded vegetation on the bank?

To me the crowded vegetation is beautiful, but beyond the above ground vegetation I see the roots. Now I know you may be wondering, 'how can you see the roots underground?' I suppose I can imagine them; I see the support they provide to the shoreline. When you have a shoreline that is stable, that is where you find beauty, the lack of stress that your shoreline will collapse into the lake.

Natural shorelines are the weakest the day you install them and then increase in stability over time. The reason they are weak on the first day is because the plants are so small when they are first planted and then just get larger over time. As the above ground grows, the below ground grows as well. When the roots grow underground, they create a netting of support for the soil to prevent erosion from continuing. And that vegetation will continue to stabilize and bulk up, making it stronger. Natural shorelines do more than just protect the eroding shoreline. They also help with filtering out pollutants.

Pollutants can cause many issues in a lake, and they can come from multiple sources. One common pollutant concern comes from our lawns. If lawns are fertilized or sprayed for weeds and there is not an adequate buffer, then those chemicals can go directly into the lakes. Another source that pollutants commonly come from are the roads. Salt in the winter and Calcium chloride for dust control in the summer can easily run off into lakes and cause detrimental harm to the water quality and fish and plants in lakes. This is another place where a natural buffer is so important and can really help our lakes.

An adequate buffer can be simply implementing a no-mow buffer or a fully vegetated shoreline with native flowers and grasses. The larger the vegetated buffer the better. The vegetation helps to filter and catch the chemicals that are running off from the lawn. In the long run, natural shorelines are going to be the best option for longevity of the shoreline. Aitkin SWCD can assist in giving advice on what to plant and how to keep your shoreline natural and intact.



Fireflies, a nocturnal beetle, are most active in warm, fairly wet weather months (May, June, July). To attract to your yard, leave the leaves. Firefly eggs and larvae develop in rotten logs and leaf litter. Larvae stay here throughout winter and pupate in spring.

They don't bite and are not toxic. Nor do they carry any disease. Fireflies feed on slugs, snails, nectar or pollen of flowers, worms and other soft-bodied insects including the larva of other bugs like mosquitoes. Adults are not carnivorous at all.

While their flashing is a warning light to predators to stay away, prominent predators are amphibians especially toads or frogs.



Crow Wing County Fair	July 30 - August 3
Aitkin Riverboat Days	August 2 - 4
Deerwood Days	August 9 - 10
CLC Annual Picnic	August 10
ACLARA Meeting	August 10
MN State Fair	August 22 - September 2
CLC Fishing Challenge Ends	September 2
ACLARA Meeting	September 14
County Road 28 Cleanup	September 28
ACLARA Meeting	October 12



Some of the fun from 2023

CEDAR LAKE CONSERVANCY

2024 ANNUAL PICNIC

RSVP by August 1

Steve Haasl
stevenhaasl@gmail.com
John McIntosh
john@mcintoshlaw.net

If questionable weather, check the CLC's Facebook pages for any updates.

Saturday, August 10, 2-5 pm

Your Host: John McIntosh
44228—348th Lane

Food, dessert, soda and water provided by the CLC.

Parking available on 348th Lane.

Boat parking available.

A NOTE FROM THE CLC BOARD

Due to recent rains, Cedar Lake and Little Cedar have risen quite high. Consequently, some docks are under water and water has risen above the shoreline onto property owners' yards.

The CLC does not have the authority to issue an official no-wake zone on the lake. That decision is made by the County Commissioners and enforced by the Sheriff's department. For that reason we ask everyone when power boating or using PWC anywhere on the lake to maintain a minimum wake. Minimum wake means the wake moving from, and trailing behind, a watercraft in a widening "V" is insufficient in size to affect other watercraft or be detrimental to the shoreline. If your wake is hitting the shoreline and structures, please slow down and maintain the appropriate distance from shore or other watercraft. You may recall it is against MN law to operate a watercraft in such a manner that its wash or wake will endanger, harass or unnecessarily interfere with any other person, property or wildlife.





P. O. Box 152
Aitkin, MN
56431

JOIN/RENEW TODAY!

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