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**2025
Annual
Meeting
June 7**

**CONGRATULATIONS
2024 FISHING CHALLENGE
MASTERS!**

12 & UNDER

Bass	17"	Lucas Thompson
Crappie	10"	Aubrey Fehn
Dogfish	28"	Joey Fehn
Northern Pike	27.5"	Joey Fehn
Sunfish	9"	Aubrey Fehn

13 & OVER

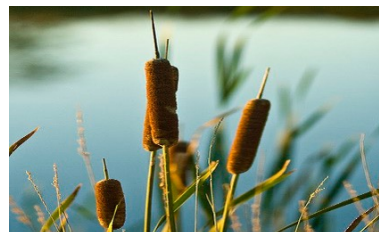
Bass	18"	Joe Fehn
Crappie	10.5"	Joe Fehn
Sunfish	9"	Joe Fehn
Walleye	21.5"	Joe Fehn

GOOD OR BAD?

This summer a CLC property owner asked if cattails were considered an aquatic invasive species. And, if so, what could be done about them. The species found on his property was a hybrid, *Typha x glauca*, and is a cross between the native *T. latifolia* (Broad-leaved Cattail) and non-native *T. angustifolia* (Narrow-leaved Cattail). It is not uncommon in Minnesota and is not a species the DNR is trying to control. That is not to say it doesn't spread rapidly.

Cattails do best in quiet bays; rarely grow on the east side of a lake where wave action can be severe. Muskrats will uproot cattails and dine on the starchy tubers.

The best control method recommended is cutting the entire plant, leaves and stocks below the water level and allowing water to drain in, which can drown and kill the plant. It is difficult to control the spread due to the massive number of seeds from nearby or surrounding areas that the cattail inhabits.



More information on cattails can be found here:

https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/aquatic_plants/emergent_plants/cattails.html#:~:text=

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

I started writing this the first week of September, when you would expect to see a hint of fall among the maples and sumac trees. What I didn’t expect was the alert from my Weather Channel phone app for a frost advisory for south Aitkin County. That was followed by a news story from the *Old Farmer’s Almanac* announcing news from NOAA that “we are in for an ultra-snowy winter in the Northland.” This is due to a La Niña winter this season, meaning a colder and wetter than usual winter. Almost time to get the long johns out and bring in some firewood. Mid October I captured the picture below from my deck looking to the northeast. Stunning colors!

Now that we are past the Conservancy events for this year, I would like to again thank the committee chairs and volunteers for all the time and planning that is required for the annual meeting and picnic. Many thanks to the County Road 28 cleanup crew, the shoreline stewards’ AIS inspections, water clarity observations, zebra mussels monitoring, loon counting and working towards a loon-friendly lake. We especially owe our gratitude to Debra Campbell for the spectacular newsletters and Lanae and Yoerg Paaverud for a magnificent website.

All of this can’t happen without the funds raised from our member’s dues and additional donations. A hearty thanks to all our dues-paying members, the backbone of the Cedar Lake Conservancy.

Finally, on November 5th a question to renew the dedication of a portion of Minnesota State Lottery proceeds to conservation will be on the front of every Minnesotan’s ballot. Over 30 years ago 77% of Minnesotans voted in favor of using a portion of the Lottery proceeds to build the Environment & Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF). Since then over \$900 million has been invested to help protect our great outdoors, natural areas, wildlife habitat, lakes and rivers. To ensure this critical funding source remains available, over 50% of voters must vote “YES”. Leaving the question blank counts as a “NO” vote and the constitutional protection for this important conservation funding will expire. Please consider voting YES to renew the funding for the ENRTF through December 31, 2050.



In Remembrance

**Bernie Brand
Jim Sable**

CONSERVATION

Bob Karls

Kelsey Klucas

As we wrap up the boating season and get everything tucked away for the winter, we thought we would cling to the season just a little bit by talking about boats in the water.

First, a little Boats 101. In general, most boats use a propellor, which is a series of specially curved blades that rotate around a shaft. As the motor spins the shaft, the force and curve of the propellor pushing against the water is what creates thrust, which drives the boat forward, and ultimately casts a wake. The size, shape, weight, position, and speed of the boat all contribute to the size and shape of the wake. These wakes are often harnessed for various water sports such as tubing, skiing, wakeboarding, and wake surfing.

As the technology behind advanced wake generation has improved, gradually so too, has our understanding of the impacts of wave action on lakes. In the last five years, there have been several studies specifically investigating the effects on lakes from large wave action boating activities. In general, we've learned that when these large waves occur near shore or in shallower water, they can cause:

- Shoreline erosion
- Sediment resuspension
- Reductions in aquatic plants
- An increase in aquatic invasive species (AIS)

Links to these studies can be found at: <https://lastwildernessalliance.org/wake-surfing-ballast-tanks-copy>

Of these impacts, sediment resuspension is one we are honing on a little bit further here as it may have less obvious impacts than the others listed. As we dig a little deeper into this topic, we find that sediment resuspension decreases water clarity in lakes and increases nutrient availability. If you recall the spring edition of “The Cedar Log”, we discussed how phosphorus is the “limited ingredient” in the recipe for algae blooms. Phosphorus is sequestered in the sediment in our lake and is unavailable for plants or algae – unless it is stirred up by deep propeller wash.

The decrease in water clarity can lead to the reduced 1) ability of fish to find food, 2) depth to which aquatic plants can grow, and 3) dissolved oxygen content within the water column. Similarly, as nutrients become more available as they are mixed through the water column, this can lead to excessive algae growth.

Of course, this sounds like unwelcome news for us and the lake, but there is a lot we can do with this information. We have all seen the days when the lake is choppy and cloudy. Many times, this is just due to a bad storm. But other times we know it is from a busy boat day on the lake. We also now know that when the sediment is being stirred up, it can lead to many negative issues that we would all like to prevent. So, how do we “control our controllables” and reduce the frequency of these sediment events?

- 1) Take note of your wake, no matter the size of your boat. As you’re driving near shore or in shallow water, consider slowing down to reduce your wake.
- 2) Consider the size and shape of the wake generated by your boat. For many wake boats, a big wake comes with the territory, and it can be very difficult to manage your wake in sensitive areas. If you have one of these boats, consider limiting the area that you’re operating in. As much as possible, try to stay in deep water, well away from shore. Many studies suggest staying 500’ from shore, and no less than 20’ water depth.
- 3) Monitor boat traffic and weather conditions. As waves and boat traffic create waves, consider whether you can take your boat out at another time.
- 4) Avoid installing shoreline armoring such as riprap. These hard surfaces can reflect wave action back into the lake, furthering the impacts of the initial waves.

CLC is not anti-wakeboat, just recommending the activity be done on the area distant from shore and in deeper water as discussed above. If you are interested in learning more about “prop wash” (the name for this resuspension), we recommend checking out this YouTube video to learn more:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DPhdLGrWX0Y&t=333s>



MEMBERSHIP

Cindy Sykes

CLC membership facts:

- Approximately 390 property owners
- Membership dues are paid annually
- You are a member when you pay dues
- 220 dues-paying members over the last four years
- 36% of members pay dues online using PayPal
- CLC is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization
- 62% of members include a donation to the Environmental Stewardship Fund (ESF)
- The average total donated to the ESF is \$9,007 over five years
- Newsletters are emailed to 350
- 140 are snail mailed

As of October 15, we have 194 paid members. It's not too late to reach or exceed our average of 220 members! Many CLC members work hard to monitor and mitigate any AIS to keep our lake as clean and natural as possible. Please consider including a donation to the ESF with your CLC dues.

LOON PRESERVATION

Jon Campbell

Loons migrate in the fall because ponds and lakes freeze over, making their food inaccessible. They really have no choice. Migrate and live, remain and die. Nearly all loons choose the former, but each year a few immature loons remain into December. This is not a wise choice. They will get iced in and fall victim to a bald eagle or a coyote. The great majority of loons make the right decision in the fall leave before the ice settles in. That is what was happening on Cedar Lake as I wrote this.

Our summer had a good number of loons on the lake.. In July we counted 23 adults and three chicks, and in August we counted 30 adults (we think a group of five were actually visitors) and five chicks. The lower number of chicks observed after the early summer hatch has been confusing for us. We will be completing at least one more count this fall; this will help us get a better count on chicks as the adults will most likely have left.

Some other "fun facts" courtesy of "Loon Lessons" by James Paruk about loon migration include:

1. By the end of August, most loon chicks are competent swimmers and adept at catching their own food.
2. Loons with young stay longer on their breeding lake due to their parental responsibilities.
3. It seems that males depart three to six weeks sooner than females.
4. Wind direction and air pressure shape actual departure dates. Conditions on some days are better for flying than others. That means flying with a tailwind (out of the north or west) rather than into a strong headwind. They leave in the morning and never in the afternoon.
5. Loons fly between 2,700 and 6,200 feet above ground level.
6. Maintaining a speed of 70 to 75 miles per hour, a loon can fly between 560 and 600 miles a day, if it flies for eight hours.

Loons migrate out of necessity, but they will be back before we know it. If you love the birds as much as I do, I encourage you to protect them. A clean Cedar Lake is vital to maintaining our robust loon population. Fly safe!!

SOCIAL

Steve Haasl & John McIntosh

Sunday, September 22, was the autumn equinox and days have gotten appreciably shorter. But summer, while brief, was warm and well watered; a nice change after two years of drought.

Your Social Committee had a busy 2024, starting with the Annual Fishing Challenge (while there was still ice on the lake), then the CR 28 Roadside Cleanup followed by an interesting, informative, well attended Annual Meeting. The July 4th Boat Parade was finally done under blue skies. The Annual Picnic, graciously hosted again by John McIntosh and catered by the Deerstand, was a breezy, sunny event, helped along by a host of volunteers.

With the Annual Fishing Challenge and the September 28th CR 28 Roadside Cleanup wrapped up, our 2024 social calendar comes to a close. Please know that without a plethora of members volunteering, these events would not run so smoothly. Many thanks to all who assisted. Your time and effort make it look easy.

Our 2025 calendar looks to repeat much of our favorite events but as always, we're open to suggestions for improving and responding to our members. Please feel free to share any ideas, suggestions, praise or pans, with the social committee. And, if you'd like to be a part of the committee, let us know. New ideas and energy are always welcome.

WATER CLARITY

Bob Hakes

This year's summer season will go down as a year with higher water levels and zebra mussel expansion through the main basin. Water clarity readings improved slightly throughout the summer. However, the majority of readings aren't due until October. A full report will come in the spring newsletter.

Thanks, team, for helping out again this year. Please either email me your final readings or snail mail your hard copy forms to 33753 458th Place, Aitkin 56431.



SHORELAND

Joe Klucas

It has been a busy season with AIS on Cedar Lake. But first, I would like to thank all of our Cedar Lake homeowners for your watchful attention this summer. I continue to receive updates and questions regarding AIS and sightings in our lake. A special thank you to all our Lake Stewards for their annual survey of our lake. The results of the 2024 survey are that no additional AIS have been located. We have been focused on the following:

Curly-Leaf Pondweed was identified in four areas of our lake. In 2024 we began to manage this through the use of both hand removal (scuba divers) and selective herbicides. This management activity will continue in 2025.

Eurasian Watermilfoil has not been seen in our lake.

Starry Stonewort has not been seen in our lake.

Zebra Mussels were first seen several years ago and continue to spread. This year's survey found Zebra Mussels throughout the main portion of the lake, but have not yet been seen in Little Cedar. There are currently no methods to control Zebra Mussels, and we expect to continue to see expanded populations in our lake. We received a report from a resident where the water intake on his boat motor was filled with Zebra Mussels which could cause motor damage due to overheating. It is recommended that motors are completely tilted forward (and out of the water) to minimize this from happening.



Purple Loosestrife is a plant that grows on the shoreline and is considered invasive. This plant has been reported by several homeowners. The following is the management recommendation provided by Kyle Fredrickson, Aitkin County AIS Coordinator: “For small patch control, hand pulling is an option, but not very effective for intense infestations in heavy soil. They will be going to seed very soon, so I recommend removing and destroying any flowers/seed heads. Avoid moving the seeds off site if at all possible. Rodeo is a glyphosate based chemical that is approved for use near water. Use the rubber glove and sock technique to apply in a controlled way. If spraying, avoid over spraying and spray away from the water, if possible.” The rubber glove and sock technique mentioned is simply first putting on a rubber glove and then covering that with a sock to wipe Rodeo on the plant.

Again, thank you for everyone's support. Please feel free to contact me at with questions or comments.

Lawns to Legumes pollinator 2025 habitat grants available

Aitkin Independent Age, June 12, 2024

The Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) is accepting applications for spring 2025 Lawns to Legumes pollinator habitat grants.

The program aims to increase habitat for at-risk pollinators in residential settings across the state by providing people with reimbursement-based funding, workshops, coaching and gardening resources.

Anyone who lives in Minnesota and has a yard, deck or other outdoor space for planting can apply to be reimbursed for up to \$400 in costs associated with establishing new pollinator habitat in their yards. The program is available to both Minnesota homeowners and renters. Applications will be accepted through Nov. 30, 2024. If you previously applied for the program, you will need to reapply to be considered for spring 2025 funding.

Apply online at Blue Thumb's website (<https://bluethumb.org/lawnsto-legumes/apply/>). For more information about Lawns to Legumes, visit BWSR's website at <https://bwsr.state.mn.us/l2l>.



Thanks to the Fall County Road 28 Clean Up Crew!

Back row: John McIntosh, Randy Bilderback, Bob Karls,
Mark Miller, Don Carlisle, Rob Jameson
Front row: Jackie Bilderback, Bonnie Girard, Linda Carlisle,
Karn Jameson
Not pictured: Steve Haasl



Friday, November 29

No autumn joke here to fill this space; you probably wouldn't fall for it anyhow! 😂

WINTER REMINDERS

Be safe on the ice!

<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/safety/ice/thickness.html>

Be nice to Cedar's ice! Please legally contain and dispose of your garbage and waste.

<https://keepitcleanmn.org/>

Please use salt sparingly on your sidewalks and driveways. It does not breakdown when snow melt occurs and is harmful to Cedar's ecosystem.

Cedar neighbors look out for each other. Report anything that appears suspicious.

Spring is right around the corner!

THANK YOU MEMBERS, DONORS AND VOLUNTEERS!

Dues-paying Members, Donors and Volunteers* as of October 15, 2024.

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"In the entire circle of the year, there are no days so delightful as those of a fine October."

- Alexander Smith



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.