

2025 Annual Meeting June 7

.....
**If we had no winter,
spring could not be
so pleasant!**

- Anne Bradstreet



BYE WINTER, HELLO SPRING!

Aitkin County Sheriff Dan Guida

It was a busy winter for the Sheriff's Office; thank you all for remaining diligent to your neighbors. The violent crimes enforcement team has been very effective and your streets are safer because of the hard work they are doing. Unfortunately I do not see the end of criminal activity anytime soon, but we will continue to be proactive with a dream that maybe someday.....

In 2025 the Sheriff's office hired a second full-time boat and water/recreation person to assist with the difficult task of patrolling the fun activities. The side-by-side and boat traffic continue to be on the rise, and the best way to keep those activities safe is to provide education and enforcement. This will allow for extra patrol on Cedar Lake. The things we look for on patrol are related to public safety. My staff will be monitoring boat wakes for possible damage, safe boating conduct, personal floatation devices (worn for under 10 years old), and operation distances for PWC as well as age of operators and many other things that you can find in the state boating laws pamphlets.

Remember, your calls are always welcome. The TIP line is 218-927-7449. And, you can remain anonymous. If you see something, say something and we will do our best to help with the problems!

[https://
files.dnr.state.mn.us/rlp/
regulations/boatwater/
boatingguide.pdf](https://files.dnr.state.mn.us/rlp/regulations/boatwater/boatingguide.pdf)



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/

CLC BOARD OF DIRECTORS, OFFICERS
AND COMMITTEES

Mark Miller, President
markm.hirsh@gmail.com
763-486-7985

Bob Karls, Vice President
bkarls58@gmail.com
612-850-3811

Dan Yentes, Secretary/Treasurer
danyentes@gmail.com
651-216-9161

Debbie Campbell, Director
jackpine@aol.com
952-240-3772

Cindy Sykes, Director
rc_sykes@hotmail.com
612-532-7484

Steve Haasl, Director
stevenhaasl1@gmail.com
612-386-4352

Bob Hakes, Director
bobhakes14@gmail.com
612-685-2816

Kelsey Klucas, Director
kelseyklucas@gmail.com
218-839-0992

Chuck Timmers, Director
c_timmers@comcast.net
651-621-4530

Communications Chair
Debbie Campbell
jackpine@aol.com

Database
Dan Yentes
danyentes@gmail.com

Facebook-Private
Lanae Paaverud
lpaaverud@gmail.com

Facebook-Public
Dar Heino
live4678@aol.com

Website
Lanae & Yoerg Paaverud
lpaaverud@gmail.com
ypaaverud@gmail.com

Conservation Chair
Bob Karls
bkarls58@gmail.com

Shore Land
Joe Klucas
joe.klucas1024@gmail.com

Water Clarity
Bob Hakes
bobhakes14@gmail.com

Water Level
Bruce Bogema
bogy@usfamily.net

Loon Preservation
Jon Campbell
campbelljon807@gmail.com

Membership Chair
Cindy Sykes
rc_sykes@hotmail.com

Road Cleanup Chair
Mary Braton
marybraton@yahoo.com

Social CoChairs
Steve Haasl
stevenhaasl1@gmail.com
John McIntosh
john@mcintoshlaw.net

THE PRESIDENT'S MUSINGS

Mark Miller

As my term as President comes to an end in June, I want to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude to each of you. To our incredible volunteers, your dedication, enthusiasm, and tireless efforts in preserving the beauty of our beloved lake is so appreciated. To our dues-paying members and donors, your contributions have been vital in supporting our initiatives and ensuring the maintenance of our natural surroundings. Together we have made a significant impact promoting sustainability and protecting our lake community for generations to come.

While we've accomplished much, I urge everyone to remain vigilant—not only regarding AIS but also concerning the health of the land around our water. We must continue to monitor the presence of invasive species like buckthorn, which can threaten our native habitats if left unchecked. I've recently learned that Aitkin County Soil and Water has discovered Emerald Ash Borer in our County. This invasive pest is a significant threat to our ash trees and can create a ripple effect on the broader ecological balance as well. Regularly inspecting your septic systems, old cars or mechanical equipment on the property for potential leakages is equally important, as these could harm our lake's ecosystem.

Joe Klucas, Shore Land Committee Chair, is looking for some volunteers. Please be sure to read his column on page three to see what is involved.

Let's keep our collective efforts strong as we work towards maintaining the beauty and health of our lake and its surrounding environment. Enjoy getting your waterfront set up for the season, the boats in and fishing poles equipped with new line while taking a moment to relax and savor the beauty of Cedar Lake!

WATER LEVELS

Bruce Bogema

Last year the first open water measurement was 1199.90' on March 24. On July 8 we showed a high water reading of 1201.09' and our lowest was October 18 at 1199.28'. Readings on January 9, 2025 showed the frozen lake level at 1199.70'. These numbers are pretty much in the normal range. And, as every spring, fingers are crossed for some nice spring rain.

COUNTY ROAD 28 CLEAN UP

Mary Braton

The CLC will meet on Saturday morning, May 3, @ 9 a.m. at our farm (33476 County Road 28) for our semi-annual roadside clean up. All Cedar Lake residents, friends and Conservancy members are invited to join in this effort. Contact me if you need more information.



CONSERVATION

Bob Karls & Kelsey Klucas

As we approach another ice out, it's time to begin thinking about open water activities. Of course, one of the most beloved activities many of us look forward to is fishing. If you're like either of us, the likelihood of catching enough fish to think about our consumption habits has likely put the topic out of your mind. However, Cedar Lake does in fact have a fish consumption advisory, as does much of Minnesota, and we'll be going a bit into this in this article.

As a starting point, these guidelines can be found on the MN DNR websites below.

[MN DNR LakeFinder - Cedar \(01020900\)](#)

When eating fish from Cedar, follow the MDH [Statewide Fish Consumption Guidelines](#). Fish from this lake have been tested for contaminants. Specific guideline links:

- <https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/fish/index.html#statewide>
- <https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/fish/docs/pregntstateguide.pdf>
- <https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/fish/docs/menstateguide.pdf>

As you can see from the webpage snippets above, Cedar Lake is tested for contaminants, but who does this monitoring and testing? Why do they do it? How do they do it? And, what should you know or might consider when frying up that recent catch? We will discuss some of that here and present more data and information at our annual meeting in June.

Who? The DNR works with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) and the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) to assess the contamination of fish in our lake and most of the major lakes in our area. The DNR monitors fish for mercury and other chemicals that may be harmful to human health. Mercury is an established concern and has been known for many years to pose a potential health risk. They also test for polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and in some waterbodies for PFAS compounds and microplastics. This remainder of this article will focus on mercury, and we can discuss some of the other contaminants in June.

Why? The DNR monitors fish to help protect human health and to track the trend of some chemicals and the success of efforts to reduce pollution.

How? The DNR uses gill nets and trap nets to sample fish populations in lakes. The DNR may also use electrofishing to stun fish so they can be scooped up. The DNR sends fish samples to a lab for analysis. They measure the length of the fish, and for walleye and northern, they usually also weigh them. The DNR sampled fish in Cedar Lake for mercury and limited PCB analysis in 1992, 2014 and 2021.

Using this data, they determined several years ago that Cedar Lake, like almost all lakes in our area, should have a fish consumption advisory. This information isn't really news and has been communicated to us over the years and available on the MN DNR website, but is worth sharing again. If you're like us, you may not have been too aware of these guidelines...or, similarly, if you have our fishing skills and success... you don't feel it is something to worry about!

Poor fishing skills aside, we have obtained the data from the 1992, 2014, and 2021 sampling events and will be prepared to present that data at the annual meeting. We hope that you will join us to learn more about this and encourage you to use the data to make your own informed decisions for you and your family.

On a related note, a recent study has begun to show that zebra mussel infestations appear to be correlated with increasing mercury levels in fish tissue. This study found that mercury levels in walleyes were found to be on average 72% higher than in walleyes from uninvaded lakes. For perch, the number is an astonishing 157%.

(<https://www.minnpost.com/environment/2025/01/zebra-mussels-and-mercury-in-fish-why-a-new-studys-findings-are-alarming-for-minnesota/>).

Conservation continued

With the discovery of zebra mussels in our lake 4 years ago some people have questioned what that means for us on Cedar Lake. We will discuss what we do and don't know about that and what we are planning to do at the annual meeting. A preview to this discussion is don't panic! Cedar Lake has only recently become infested with zebra mussels. 2024 was the first year we saw widespread increases in zebra mussels across the main body of Cedar Lake. There are still none identified in Little Cedar. We will also be encouraging the DNR to monitor fish tissue for mercury in coming periods to track any change in fish tissue concentrations. So far, the consumption guidance remains the same as it was BEFORE zebra mussels were identified in Cedar Lake.

Key points regarding fish consumption: 1) Put fish on your plate - follow the Safe-Eating Guidelines to choose fish low in mercury and other contaminants; 2) Eating fish is good for you - benefits outweigh risks when eating fish low in mercury and other contaminants.

SHORE LAND

Joe Klucas

Welcome to Spring 2025! A few updates on 2025 AIS in Cedar Lake. We continue to focus our efforts on prevention and early identification of AIS. Our best prevention is to ensure any equipment moving from lake to lake is dry and clean. State law requires that docks, lifts, swim rafts and similar equipment must be out of the water for at least 21 days before being placed into another body of water. This drying period ensures that any invasive species die off before the equipment is moved. Additionally, all boats and pontoons need to be cleaned, drained, and dried prior to launching. This is important at both the public landing and any private landings. There is a cleaning station/equipment at the public landing to assist in this cleaning.

This year we are continuing our monitoring system with a three-prong approach:

- 1) All CLC members are encouraged to watch their shoreline for any potential AIS. Just watching from the shore and your docks is of great assistance.
- 2) Our Lakeshore Stewards continue to monitor the lake throughout the year with a specific search completed during late summer.
- 3) External lakeshore consultants to monitor, train and answer any questions that come up during the season.



In the spring the Curly-leaf Pondweed is most active and visible so please be particularly watchful for this AIS. It is a rooted, submersed aquatic plant. Its coloration varies from olive-green to reddish-brown. Wavy, lasagna-like leaves grow approximately 1/2" wide and 2-3" long. Leaves have an obvious mid-vein, "toothed" or serrated edges and blunt tips. Leaves are arranged alternately, are directly attached to the stem and become denser toward the end of the stem. The main stem can be various colors including white, green, brown, and red, and tends to branch multiple times near the top of the plant. The plant may mat at the surface but does not have true floating leaves. The flower stalk grows up above the water surface, typically in June. It grows to about 1" tall and appears reddish-brown in the water but is actually green when examined closely. We found and managed Curly-leaf Pondweed by having it hand pulled and treated with herbicides in 2024. This year we will use herbicides again.

There will be an AIS training session in late July to help any interested CLC members in gaining AIS knowledge. These training sessions have been very well attended in the past and have been positively reviewed. Training time and location will be communicated later.

Please let me know if you would be interested in becoming part of the Lake Steward Program. Training is provided. Your assistance is very much appreciated.

If you have any specific questions or concerning observations please send those to me along with a photo at joe.klucas1024@gmail.com Enjoy the summer at the lake!

MEMBERSHIP
Cindy Sykes

How many property owners are there on Cedar Lake? Around 460! How many are Conservancy members? When this issue went to print, there were 52 paid members this year, and it would be great to surpass last year's 202 paid memberships! We would like all Cedar Lake property owners to be members because your membership keeps the Conservancy strong. It keeps people connected socially as well as knowledgeable about the issues affecting Cedar Lake. Check page seven to see if you have not yet paid your dues this year. Remember, you can pay your dues via check or we also have a PayPal option for those who would like to use a credit card.

Cedar Lake, like many other area lakes, is feeling the impact of environmental and invasive species. 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/mitigate 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 support as well as your time spent in volunteering for various committee needs.



BUILDING OR REMODELING?
KNOW THE CODE!

Aitkin County **218-927-7342**
www.aitkinpz@co.aitkin.mn.us
Crow Wing County **218-824-1125**
www.crowwing.us

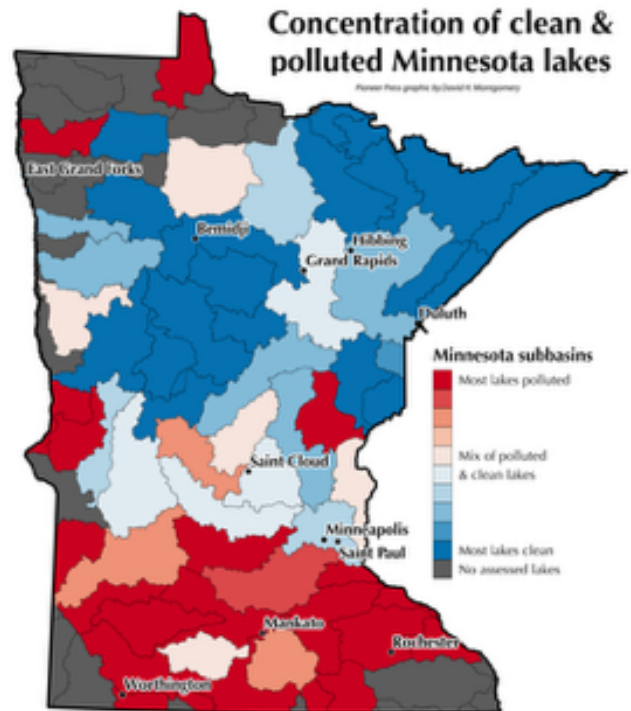
WATER CLARITY
Bob Hakes

Last summer, we again had a dedicated team of 10 volunteers who took Secchi disk readings at 10 different locations on our beautiful lake. In total we collected 68 readings, which averaged just over 10'. Following a wet spring, we observed a slight improvement in our depth readings as the season progressed. These readings are consistent with the readings from prior years.

As a means of comparison, Aitkin County lakes average just over 7' in clarity, and Crow Wing County lake clarity depths range from 8 to 11'. The map below looks at lake cleanliness statewide. We stack up well in both comparisons, but it's up to us to keep it that way.

To maintain the clarity and health of our water, good shoreline stewardship is essential. Proper management of our shorelines such as preserving native vegetation, reducing runoff and minimizing pollution plays a crucial role in keeping our lake's water clear and supporting its overall ecosystem health. By working together, we can ensure that our lake remains a vibrant and beautiful habitat for both wildlife and our community.

I am looking for more volunteers to take Secchi disk readings this summer. Please reach out to me, if you are interested.



SOCIAL

Steve Haasl & John McIntosh

Welcome to 2025! Winter and spring have been a smorgasbord - warm/cold/dry - it's tough to predict what summer will bring, weather-wise, but we can predict CLC's lineup of social opportunities for the year so get out your pencils and mark your calendars.

The annual Fishing Challenge is underway. Check out CLC's website for rules. Prizes are awarded!

The annual meeting will be held Saturday, June 7, at the Aitkin American Legion, same great location as last year. Social starts at 8:30 a.m. and the meeting promptly at 9 a.m. Presenting this year, in addition to our regulars and some general business items, will be Aitkin County Recreational Deputy Dan Asmus, who handles most of the boat and water events. Bring your questions. And, the ever popular food drive will continue. You will want to be there.

July 4 is the boat parade, which was well attended last year. Fingers crossed for good weather. Route will start again at the north end of the main basin; look for the grand marshall's flag. Time will be announced later.

The annual CLC Picnic is August 2, and will be on Little Cedar. CLC members, Greg and Jessica Hansen, have graciously agreed to host the event. Similar to 2024, this will be catered. Address and time to be announced later, but get it on your calendars.

Watch your mailboxes for more information these events. Feel free to contact us or any of the board members with questions or to volunteer. See you at the County Road 28 cleanup on May 3!



The Lawns 2 Legumes program (<https://bwsr.state.mn.us/l2l>) is an option for creating a low growing area of pollinator friendly vegetation. Grants are available to help offset the cost of making the conversion to this type of planting. This innovated concept involves transitioning traditional grass lawns into diverse and beneficial legume-based alternatives. By replacing conventional turf with nitrogen-fixing legumes like clover and alfalfa, Lawns 2 Legumes not only enhances the aesthetic appeal of outdoor spaces but also offers these benefits - reduced water usage, natural fertilization and enhanced soil health. Opting for a legume lawn (or area) is not just a trend but a step towards sustainable landscaping practices. Why not join the legume revolution and transform your lawn into a thriving, eco-friendly oasis?

2025 FISHING OPENERS

May 10	Walleye, Sauger, Pike
May 10 - 24	Bass (catch & release only)
May 25	Bass
June 07	Muskie



- May 3** County Road 28 Clean Up
- May 10** ACLARA Meeting
- June 7** CLC Annual Meeting
- June 7 - 21** CLC Online Store Open
- June 7** Aitkin County Lakes & Rivers Fair
- June 14** ACLARA Meeting
- July 4** Boat Parade
- July 9 - 12** Aitkin County Fair
- July 12** ACLARA Meeting
- July 29 - August 2** Crow Wing County Fair
- August 2** CLC Picnic



Eagle

- Dave & Lyn Anderson
- Jackie & Randy Bilderback
- Zine-Eddine & Julie Boutaghou
- Jim & Debbie Campbell
- Andrew & Holly Frischmon
- John & Kathy Gallatin
- Bob & Gretchen Hakes
- Greg & Jessica Hansen
- Matt Harmann
- Lester & Elizabeth Hughes
- Dan & Barb Johnson
- Bob Karls & Bonnie Girard
- David & Laura Mackaman
- Paul & Paulette Manemann
- Mark Miller & Paulette Anderson
- Lyndon & Lisa Minks
- Janae Nathe
- Tony & Julie Olin
- Walt & Linda Parsons
- Yoerg & Lanae Paaverud
- Andrew & Kelly Priadka
- Rodney & Catherine Rue
- Philip & Kim Tillmann
- Chuck & Michaela Timmers
- Willie & Sarah Wimmer
- Dan & Kristin Yentes
- James Zeese

Heron

- Dennis & Allison Hippen
- Shawn & Christy Holloway
- Ned & Angie Jenks
- Brad & Karen Kanis
- Jerry Quance

Loon

- Dale & Kari Jo Dragovich
- Peter & Amy Gorka
- Ron & Kelly Klinepier
- Jay & Lynn Lammers
- Will Mackaman
- Meredith Stokes
- Randy Thompson
- Mark & Heidi Westerlund

Basic

- Mark Carlson, et al
- Joshua & Jeanne Guse
- Terry & Wendy Johnson
- Terry & Julie Kreeger
- Christopher Lange
- Tate & Lillian Nagengast
- Pete & Sue Rowland
- Scott & Michelle Schnobrich
- Robert & Peggy Schnobrich
- Gregory & Mary Selg
- Pete & Terrie Silbaugh
- Joe & Val Varno



DUES PAYING MEMBERS AS OF

APRIL 1, 2025

**Minnesota Boater Education and Certification
Required for all boaters born after July 1, 1987
Phase in starting in 2025**

Gone are the days when most boats on the lake were a twelve foot fishing boat with a 9-horse Johnson. Today's popular watercraft are large, powerful, and much more complex to safely operate.



Numerous Minnesota lake and river associations have worked for years to pass a require Boater Education and Certification program, and just such a program was passed by the legislature in 2023.

The phase-in begins July 1, 2025, with the first phase requiring those born on or after July 1, 2004 to complete the program.

Goals of the program include:

- Help to calibrate all Minnesota boater's knowledge with current information and research.
- Increase the likelihood of safe, responsible, and respectful operation.

Minnesota joins more than 40 other states that require a Boater Education and Certification Program

✓		
Passed by MN Legislature in 2023	DNR creating and implementing the program	Boats with a 25hp or less do not require Boater Education and Certification to operate
Phase-in starting July 1, 2025	Core safety education in waterway rules, towing Boating manners	
	Lake ecology education (AIS, impact of excessive wakes and prop thrust)	
	Administered electronically or on paper	



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.