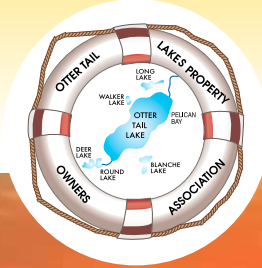


Lakeshore News

The Official Newspaper of Otter Tail Lakes Property Owners Association



June 2023
Vol. 53, No. 3



Otter Tail Lakes Property Owners Association's

ANNUAL MEETING

Will Hold Their Annual Meeting

Saturday, June 24th

at Zion Luthern Church Of Amor

**36051 County Hwy. 74,
Battle Lake, MN**

**Coffee, Juice and Rolls
Served at 8:30am**

Meeting Starts at 9am

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Lakeshore News

The Official Newspaper of Otter Tail Lakes Property Owners Association

Volume 53, No. 3 | June 2023 | Battle Lake, MN 56515

OTTER TAIL LAKES PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION (OTLPOA) MISSION STATEMENT

The object and purpose of this corporation shall be to promote the community welfare and civic development of all areas of Otter Tail County bordering on or approximate to the shoreline of Otter Tail Lake and such other land areas further removed therefrom as its members shall from time to time determine, and to assist the property owners within said area in the preservation of their civic areas and those of Otter Tail Lake itself, including the planting and promulgation of fish therein and the protection and preservation of wildlife on the land areas adjacent to Otter Tail Lake as may be determined by the members, to promote and develop the horticultural development of the areas described, to promote the cultural and social lives of the inhabitants of said area and to provide a vehicle by which legal or political problems common to the areas and the inhabitants thereof, including tax problems, may be resolved in any manner provided by law for the common welfare of the members of this corporation; and to that and this corporation may acquire by purchase or other means such real or personal property as may be necessary in carrying out its stated objectives and to mortgage or sell or exchange the same and to do any and all other acts permitted by the laws of the State of Minnesota in furtherance of its stated purposes.

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president's corner

Roger Anderson | Ottertail Lakes Property Owners Association (OTLPOA) President



Hello OTLPOA members!

Welcome to sunshine, beautiful days and fun times on our lakes!

This month's President's Corner is dedicated to responding to comments and concerns from the most recent membership letter. We want to thank all of you for your membership in our association. The more members that join add to the base of people that believe in our mission of water quality, preventing

the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS), boating, fishing and promoting our communities. We are all in this together, so let's all do our part to keep our lakes clean and clear.

YOUR CONCERNS

Swimmers itch in our lakes:

Swimmers itch by definition is an allergic reactions to certain parasites that are spread by infected water fowl. These parasites are released by infected snails. The suggested treatment is to towel off immediately and shower after swimming. Swimmers itch is most prevalent in shallow water. For more information, visit their website at <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/swimming/swimmersitch.html>

Low lake levels on Ottertail Lake:

The water level on Ottertail Lake is controlled by the DNR of Otter Tail County. Members of our board have had many conversations with the DNR concerning water levels. I would encourage you to direct your concerns to Howard Full-

hart at the DNR. His email address is: HowardFullhart@state.mn.us. A new spillway is scheduled to be installed in September of this year. This will help to control the water levels on Ottertail Lake.

Inlets and Canal into Ottertail Lake:

OTLPOA is in support of ongoing efforts to clean up the Ottertail River canal from Rush Lake into Ottertail Lake. Members of OTLPOA will be attending a meeting on Friday, June 9 at Thumper Pond. Interested parties have been invited and encouraged to attend as well. Otter Tail River Management Association is looking at several options to move this project forward.

Walkway path on Hwy 78 to Pelican Access:

A grant has been awarded for this project to be completed in the spring of 2024.

Walleye Stocking in area lakes:

OTLPOA has been working with Jim Wolters of the DNR Fisheries Manage-

ment on this issue. Last year they completed a walleye survey with positive results. Just last week they put millions of walleye fry into area lakes. We've heard that fishing has been very good since the opener!

Property Taxes on Ottertail Lake:

Unfortunately, OTLPOA cannot dictate or influence the county regarding property taxes. The best recourse would be to contact the Ottertail County assessor's office to clarify your concerns.

I received many comments and concerns as you all renewed your memberships. I will continue to address these concerns in future newsletters. As summer kicks into full gear, I urge you to be safe on the lakes. Be mindful of other boats, jet skis, pontoons and especially swimmers as you enjoy the lakes. If your pleasure is fishing, please remember to clean, drain, and dry your boat.

Let's all continue to do our part in keeping area lakes clean and clear and enjoy your days on the lakes!

MARK YOUR calendars OTLPOA MEETING

**2023
Board
Meeting
Dates**

June 22nd | July 27th | Aug. 24th | Sept. 28th | Oct 26th

OTTERTAIL CITY COMMUNITY CENTER Meeting at 6:30pm

2023 Calendar of Events

June 9	Hazardous waste mobile collection (Ottertail City)
June 9-10	Summerfest (Fergus Falls)
June 10	Running Wild Trail Run, Maplewood State Park
June 14	18th Turtle Fest (Perham)
June 22	OTLPOA Board Meeting
July 7	Lund Mania Fishing Tournament 8am-5pm
July 7-8	Pelican Fest
July 7-9	Henning Festival
July 8-9	Phelps Mill Arts Festival
July 14	Relay for Life of East Otter Tail County (Perham)
July 13	Shop Move'n Groove (Downtown Fergus Falls)
July 15	Ottertail Annual Auction
July 15	Ottertail Business & Community Association Annual Auction
July 19-22	West Ottertail County Fair (Fergus Falls)
July 20-23	East Ottertail County Fair (Perham)
July 21-23	Wenonga days
July 27	OTLPOA Board Meeting
Aug. 3-5	WE Fest (Detroit Lakes)
Aug. 4-6	Parkers Prairie Falls Festival and Bull Ride
Aug. 5-6	Perham Crazy Days
Aug. 11-13	Vergas Loony Days
Aug. 11	Rod and Gun Club Demo Derby (Ottertail City)
Aug. 12	Otter Fest (Ottertail City)
Aug. 24	OTLPOA Board Meeting
Aug. 25-26	Barnsville Potato Days
Sept. 28	OTLPOA Board Meeting

EVENTS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

To submit an event, please contact us at: results@themidweek.com



On a quiet night on an Ottertail County area lake, you may get lucky and see a hobbyist taking advantage of the calm conditions and flying a RC float plane. Fantastic fun. Another example of ways folks enjoy the lakes.

Photos Submitted By: Mark Long



**HELP US GROW OUR WALLEYE
POPULATION BY ONLY KEEPING
14"-19" WALLEYES.**

PLEASE RELEASE SMALLER/LARGER FISH.

**ALSO, LIMIT YOUR BAG TO
4 FISH RATHER THAN 6 FISH**



Thank You
**OTTER TAIL LAKES
PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION**



**STOP AQUATIC
HITCHHIKERS!™**

Be A Good Steward.
Clean. Drain. Dry.

StopAquaticHitchhikers.org

Water Connects Us All - The Work You and Your Lake Association Does Benefits Us All

By Jeff Forester, Executive Director, Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates

The 2019 MLR annual meeting in Cass County was our first Water Connects Us All™ conference. That same year we also began publishing the Water Connects Us All™ monthly e-newsletter.

But what does it mean when we say Water Connects Us All™? This phrase is both aspirational and hydrologically accurate.



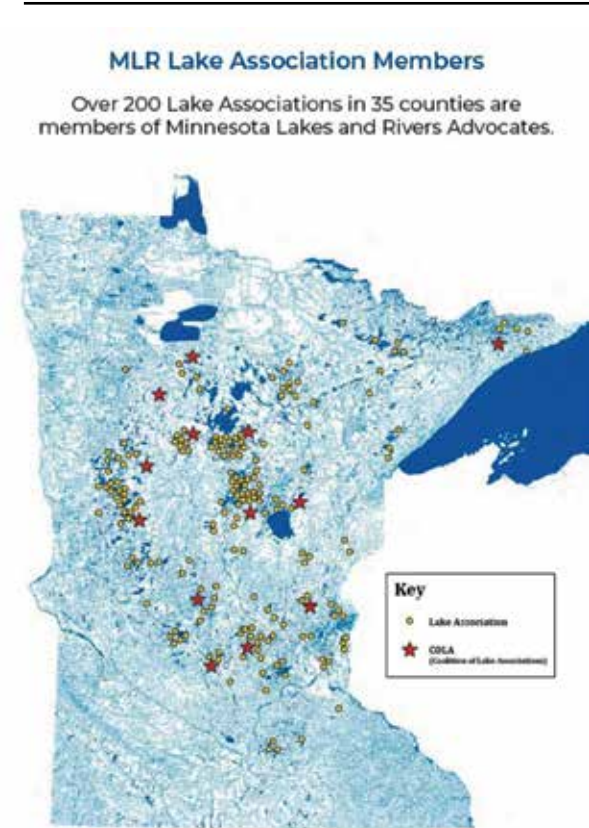
Celebrating my daughter's 12th birthday with blueberry pancakes in the blueberry patch.

Water is personal. Some of my most cherished memories are buoyed by a Minnesota lake. I remember early mornings rowing my mother over a reef while she jigged for breakfast walleye and crappies. I remember a day spent at the headwaters of the Mississippi with my two young daughters, now grown, the wedding of my niece on a bluff overlooking Lake Vermilion, four generations gathered to celebrate. I remember falling asleep to the call of loons. I remember standing in waist deep water after a sauna with my father, steam rising off our bodies, and watching the northern lights paint the sky.

I'll bet you have similar memories. Water connects us all™.

Most of us see our lake homes or cabins as heirlooms, not assets and want to leave them to children and grandchildren and even great grandchildren. Water connects our pasts with our futures.

As lake association members, we work to protect water in the lakes we love. But water percolates into groundwater reservoirs or flows downstream to other lakes. The work you do to protect or improve water quality, prevent aquatic invasive species spread and runoff phosphorus or sulfate pollution benefits everyone downstream. For Minnesotans that means most of the eastern half of North America. Minnesota is the headwaters of three continental sized watersheds, the Mississippi River to Gulf of Mexico, the North Shore through the Great Lakes to Montreal, and from the Red River up to the Arctic Circle. The work Lake Associations do benefits everyone in the northeastern part of North America.



and funding that will move the needle on lake protection," said Jeff Forester, Executive Director of MLR.

Minnesota has more lake associations than any other state. Collectively, the 500+ Minnesota lake associations donate about \$6.25 million, annually, to the care of Minnesota's lakes in direct philanthropic giving. Lake Association members contribute about 1.2 million volunteer hours annually to lake conservation activities, including AIS inspection, lake surveys, attendance of meetings, water quality testing, and community education/outreach activities.

There are over 300,000 lake home and cabin owners in Minnesota. If this group of people came together we would have a major impact on water quality in Minnesota. Unfortunately MLR, as the statewide lake association organization, struggles to maintain a large enough membership base to meet the challenges our lakes face. "Politics and advocacy is a numbers game. More members make us more successful in advocating for policy

We are all so busy, it is hard to find the time to stay current on Minnesota's lake and river issues. It is a full time job to attend the many seminars, symposiums and public policy forums about water that occur throughout the year, track lake and river related legislation, participate in working groups, task forces and hearings, read all the articles and papers that come out of our research institutions.

Yet all of these are important if we are to be proactive instead of reactive in our lake protection efforts.

MLR does this work so that you do not have to do it. MLR has your back. But we can only do this work with your support. Currently less than 1/10th of 1% of lake home and cabin owners are members of MLR.

As one long time member, John Lunde, from Kabegan Lake said to me recently, "You're (MLR) the ones that are lobbying to protect our investment. Even a 1/10th of 1% of the value of my place as a membership contribution is well worth the price."

The threats to our lakes and lake heritage continue to grow. During the many policy meetings, showcases, seminars and presentations I attend, I hear much about the problems facing our state's waters. It would be easy to despair:

- AIS continue to spread and new AIS are inbound from other states,
- Loons are dying from lead poisoning, entanglement in discarded fishing line, or killed as chicks when they are washed out of their nests by boat wakes,
- Fishery biomass is declining despite intensive fish stocking programs,
- Algae blooms are increasing in duration, intensity, distribution and scale,
- Poor shoreline development continues, with more than half the state's shoreline compromised,
- Industrial animal feedlot operations, AFOs are moving into Minnesota, largely due to clean water supplies. In 2018, Minnesota became the third largest hog producing state. Today Minnesota is second only behind Iowa, and is quickly closing the gap. These operations generate hundreds of thousands of gallons of manure. In 2020, 67% of Iowa's surface waters were impaired.
- In 2018, the MN Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) listed 40% of MN's surface water as impaired. Today the MPCA lists 56% of Minnesota's waters as impaired.

The trends are troubling.

Still I do not despair. I have hope, and it is not a false or naive hope. I have hope for two reasons:

- 1) there are practical solutions to all of these problems,
- 2) there are 300,000 lake home and cabin owners in Minnesota, an advocacy base large enough to counter the interests who benefit from actions that degrade the lakes we love.

In order to protect the lakes we love from AIS, runoff pollution, poor development, destructive boater behavior and other threats, we must build an advocacy force equal to this moment.

With bigger numbers we can push back on these special interests. MLR has the experience and capacity to mount a vigorous campaign that is worthy of Minnesota's iconic lakes.

To protect our lake heritage we must build a membership base large enough to support the work it will take:

- Media campaigns to educate the public about lake issues and frame solutions,
- Organizers to support and coordinate local groups, advocacy, and programs,
- Resource professionals to support local group's on the ground projects and efforts,
- Increased lobbying hours,
- Event planning to bring lake association leaders, academics, elected officials and agency staff together regularly to share knowledge and build relationships,
- Increased services like detailed property tax information, water quality analysis, aquatic plant inventories, and watershed hydrological studies for every lake association.

Many assume that if their lake association is a member of MLR, then they do not need to join. This could not be further from the truth. The power of an advocacy group depends on the number of members it has.

MLR will do the work to protect our lakes that your busy life prevents you from doing, but we do need your help promoting MLR membership to your family, friends and lake association partners.

We MUST increase the base of MLR members. Without a large statewide professional advocacy organization on the scale of Pheasants Forever or Ducks Unlimited, lakes simply cannot compete in the press of interests that converge to use and impact our waters.

Together we will build an organization that can meet this incredible moment.

MN Lakes & Rivers Advocates ~ PO Box 22262 ~ St. Paul, MN 55122
www.mnlakesandrivers.org ~ 952-854-1317 ~ jeff@mnlakesandrivers.org

WHAT DOES A MEMBERSHIP INCLUDE?



- Five issues of Lakeshore News
- Lakeshore directory that is published every two years
- Continental breakfast at the Annual Meetings
- Representation at Minnesota Lakes & Rivers -& Coalition of Lake Associations (which includes water testing of our lakes)
- Establishment of AIS monitoring system (ILIDS)



Share Your Memories!



Submit your photos to Lakeshore News!

Email OFFICE@THEMIDWEEK.COM with a brief description.

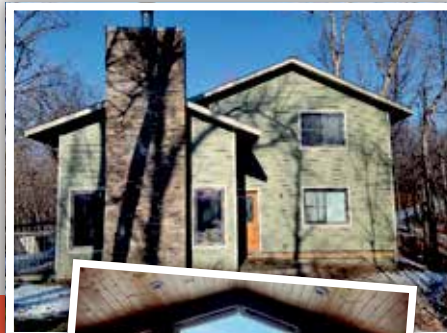


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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Otter Tail Lakes Property Owners Association Inc.

2023 Membership (Check one)

Property Owner Member: _____ **Associate Member:** _____
(Owners Lake Property) (Does not own lake property or shares ownership)

Name of Property Owner living

at lake property address: _____

Address of Property _____
(this is the blue house number/street for your lake home) House/Street # _____
City/State Zip _____

Summer "mailing" address (5/15 – 8/30): _____
(must be valid US Postal deliverable address) House/Street # _____
City/State Zip _____

Winter mailing address (9/1-5/15): _____
House/Street # _____
City/State Zip _____

Email: (please print legibly) _____
Notification of date for tent caterpillar/worm spraying, updates of possible lake changing issues, etc. (If you don't personally have an email address, you can substitute one for a family member who will let you know of these notifications).

Annual Dues (Jan.-Dec.)

- Membership \$35.00
- Foundation \$10.00
- Worm Payment \$30.00
- Includes \$10 donation to OTLPOA Foundation* **\$ 75.00**

Additional support for the Foundation (tax deductible)

\$10.00 _____ **\$20.00** _____ **\$50.00** _____ **Other** _____ **\$** _____

The OTLPOA Foundation was established to obtain financial resources to maintain water quality for recreation, fishing, and enjoyment when Government resources are not provided.

(Total enclosed) **\$** _____

Make check payable to: OTLPOA and mail to: PO Box 21, Battle Lake, MN 56515
Or visit www.OTLPOA.com to pay by credit card (under the membership section)

How can the association better serve you? (On another sheet of paper)
What lake related topic or issue is most important to you? How do you think our Association can help?



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Sat. 8am-5pm

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Legislative Update from Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates

By Jeff Forester, Executive Director, Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates

All politics may be local, but water is not. It moves through and across our communities, our state, and our continent.

The Legislature began on January 3, 2023 and is scheduled to end on May 22, 2023. For the first time in many years they seem likely to finish their work on-time.

In years past the committee work began with topic overviews, particularly after an election and even more so following a once a decade redistricting. Many of the legislative old guard retired or lost their primary races. About a third of the legislature is serving in a new role or is newly elected.

But this year the committees began hearing bills straightaway. In the 30 years I have been with Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates I have never seen a legislature move so quickly.

Currently MLR is tracking over 25 separate bills. At this writing we do not know final outcomes, but MLR will be putting out action alerts and blog posts to keep you up-to-date on outcomes. You can sign up for our Citizens Action Network (CAN) at www.mnlakesandrivers.org.

On the CAN page you can see a partial list of all of the bills that are currently moving through the legislative process. These will be combined into an Omnibus bill for each committee. The MN House Environment and Natural Resources Policy and Finance Committee, chaired by Rep. Rick Hansen, released its Omnibus package, HF 2310, shortly before Easter/Passover break.

The legislature began with an almost \$18 billion budget surplus, the largest in state history. HF 2310 makes the largest investment in our outdoors, including lake priorities, in state history. The House Environment Omnibus addresses a backlog of capital improvement projects and needs that have been languishing for decades, including updating fish hatcheries, some of which are almost a century old. It funds improvements to boat access sites to include Aquatic Invasive Species prevention efforts, improve traffic flow and replace dilapidated piers.

In 2013, when MLR worked with Dr. Peter Sorensen to create the Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center, Dr. Sorensen predicted that it would take ten years to develop new solutions to Aquatic Invasive Species prevention and management. His predictions were prescient. It has been a decade since the MAISRC was created, and they have a number of applied science solutions that are ready to be implemented. HF 2310 funds these on the ground programs in an effort being called “Lab to Lakes.”

For many years MLR has lobbied to increase the AIS surcharge on three year boat registrations so that AIS programs and grants have reliable and ongoing support. In addition to significant one-time investments in lake and river protection and improvement, HF 2310 provides reliable and ongoing funding for these critical programs.

HF 2310 contains significant proposals-both policy proposals and funding proposals.

Policy proposals:

- Creates a Boaters Education and Certification program for MN Boaters,
- Invests \$1 million for a lead fishing tackle reduction program at the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) and puts a lead sinker ban in place on designated swan protection areas within the 7 county metro area,
- Funds the University of Minnesota to study trends to discern the quantity and quality of Minnesota waters, and make a recommendation on future areas of inquiry and coordinate efforts 50 years ahead,
- Requires the MN DNR to work with partners (counties, lake associations and others) to write and implement a 5 year comprehensive and coordinated statewide plan to prevent the spread of AIS,
- Report on “Rough” fish to learn the ecological roles of previously misunderstood or disregarded fish like the Big-mouth Buffalo,
- Reinstate the Legislative Water Commission,
- Implement the “Keep It Clean” program to prevent waste left on lake ice following ice fishing season,
- Create sustainable Diversion Limits on Groundwater Appropriations,
- Increase DNR Enforcement Authority for Water Laws,
- End Commercial Turtle Harvest in MN,
- Remove County Board Approval requirements for Land Acquisitions,
- Establish Salt applicators training program.

Funding proposals:

- Ongoing funding for the MN Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center (MAISRC) funded with proceeds from an enhanced AIS surcharge on boater registration,
- \$10 million in program funding for Lab to Lakes implementation of MAISRC solutions,
- \$1.4 million AIS Management Grants for Lake Associations Established,
- Enhanced Funding for SWCD,
- Increased funding for Subsurface Sewage Treatment Systems (septic) monitoring and improvement,
- Appropriates Funding for Invasive Carp Deterrents in Mississippi River,



House Environment and Natural Resources Policy and Funding Committee Chair Rep. Rick Hansen, said as he recently described HF 2310, the environment budget bill, *“This is a problem solving bill, solving problems that have accumulated over many years.”*

In addition, the bill to renew Minnesota lottery funding to protect our air, water, land, and wildlife before it sunsets in 2025, is still moving through the legislative process too. This funding is the source for MLR’s Stop Starry program, which is putting boat cleaning equipment on the accesses of lakes infested with starry stonewort. This containment strategy provides protection for all other lakes in Minnesota.

MN Lakes & Rivers Advocates ~ PO Box 22262 ~ St. Paul, MN 55122
www.mnlakesandrivers.org ~ 952-854-1317 ~ jeff@mnlakesandrivers.org



**Hey folks,
check out what will be
at the Deer Lake public
access! We want to
provide tubers and other
people enjoying the
Ottertail River between
Ottertail Lake and Deer
Lake a trash can to
dispose of litter at the
takeout. Please take
advantage**

Photos Submitted By: Mark Long



Swimming Lessons Taught by YMCA Instructors

Swimming lessons will meet five times for 45 minutes each time. (Preschool lessons are 30 minutes each.) Instructors will not have much time between lessons, so swimmers are asked to be ready to begin their lesson immediately at their start time. Parents are encouraged to stay and watch lessons. If parents leave the swimming area during lessons, they are asked to be back promptly at the end of the lesson. Instructors will not be able to supervise swimmers in the water who are not in a lesson. Swimming lessons meet regardless of weather. If it is unsafe to swim due to weather, safety skills will be taught in the shelter located near each beach.

Cost: \$60 Levels 1-6 (5 lessons of 45 minutes). **Cost:** \$50 Preschool (5 lessons of 30 minutes).

Locations: Ottertail Lake at Amor Park Beach and West Battle Lake across from Lions Park in Battle Lake Advance registrations only. No registrations at the beach. *Spots held only upon payment*

Preschool

(approximate ages 2 1/2 to 5 years): Learn water adjustment skills, front and back float. Learn to move in the water on front and back. Learn to be comfortable in the water. Lessons meet Monday through Friday, five lessons of 30 minutes each. Limited enrollment; register early.

Level 1:

Introduction to Water Skills (approximate ages 5-7): This level is ideal for the child who has not had previous swim instruction or is unable or uncomfortable with putting their entire face in the water. The purpose of this level is for students to become more comfortable in the water. Students will become proficient in skills such as entering and exiting the water safely, submerging entire face, using a life jacket, and beginning front and back float.

Level 2:

Fundamental Aquatic Skills (approximate ages 7 & 8): This level is ideal for the child who is able to put their face in the water but is unable to independently float on their front and back. The purpose of this level is for students to begin to develop fundamental water skills. In this level, students will learn to swim unaided 15 feet on either their front or back as well as entering the water by jumping or stepping from the side, treading water, roll over from back to front and front to back.

Level 3:

Stroke Development (approximate ages 8 & 9): In this level, students will continue to build on the fundamentals learned in the previous levels. The skills mastered in this level include rotary breathing, front and back crawl, butterfly kick and body motion, standing or kneeling dive, survival float, tread water for 30 seconds, as well as emergency situation Check Call Care.

Level 4:

Stroke Improvement (approximate ages 9 & 10): In this level, students develop confidence in the skills learned in previous levels as well as improve other aquatic skills. The skills mastered in this level include swimming 25 yards of front and back crawl as well as 15 yards of butterfly, breaststroke, and elementary backstroke. In addition to these skills, water safety will also be implemented through the learning of a throwing assist, safe diving rules, and how to care for a choking victim.

Level 5:

Stroke Refinement (approximate ages 9-12): In this level, students will further coordinate and refine skills they have learned in past levels. Students will master the following skills: front and back crawl, side stroke, breaststroke, front flip turn, and elementary backstroke.

Level 6:

Swimming and Skill Proficiency (approximate ages 11-13): In this level, students will focus on endurance and stroke technique. The purpose of this level is for students to refine strokes and be able to swim with ease, efficiency, power and effectiveness over great distances. Some skills for lifeguarding and fitness will be taught.

Red Cross Swimming Lessons Fergus Falls Area Family YMCA Staff

Please check one in the column below and please circle the level.

July 10-14: Ottertail Lake, Amor Park
____ 3:15-4:00pm Level 1 2 3
____ 4:05-4:50pm Level 1 4/5
____ 4:05-4:35pm Level Preschool

July 17-21: Ottertail Lake, Amor Park
____ 3:15-4:00pm Level 2 3
____ 3:15-3:45pm Level Preschool
____ 4:05-4:50pm Level 1 4 5/6

July 24-28 West Battle Lake
____ 3:15-4:00pm Level 1 2 3
____ 4:05-4:50pm Level 2 3
____ 4:05-4:35pm Level Preschool

July 31-Aug 4 West Battle Lake
____ 1:00-1:45pm Level 1 2 3
____ 1:50-2:35pm Level 2 4 5/6
____ 2:50-3:35pm Level 1 2
____ 2:50-3:20pm Level Preschool
____ 3:40-4:25pm Level 1 2 3

Questions regarding location, registration, and/or if you need to know which level your child needs this year, please call Tanya at 218-862-4603. Questions about specific swimming skills please contact Emily at 218-739-4489 ext. 204.

Registration Fee: \$60.00
(Preschool lessons are \$50.00)

**NO REGISTRATIONS AT THE BEACH.
PLEASE REGISTER IN ADVANCE.
SPOTS HELD ONLY UPON PAYMENT.**

*Ottertail Lake lessons are at Amor Park
*West Battle Lake lessons are across from Lions Park in Battle Lake



Name _____ Age _____

Address _____

Email _____

Emergency Contact Information

Parent _____ Cell _____
work _____

2nd Contact _____ Cell _____
work _____

Please attach payment. Checks can be made payable to Battle Lake Community Education and mailed to Battle Lake Community Education, 402 W. Summit, Battle Lake, MN 56515.

YMCA staff and Battle Lake Public School will take every step possible to provide adequate supervision. However, as with any physical activity, there is a certain amount of risk of injury. The participating individual, parent, or guardian agrees not to hold the YMCA, Battle Lake School, employees, contractors, and volunteers responsible for claims resulting from training, attendance in, or participation in swimming lessons.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

For Office Use Only

\$ _____ Cash _____ Check # _____ Online _____ Spreadsheet

Animal Control

Source: <https://www.ci.fergus-falls.mn.us/>

Contact Animal Control
 Animal Control can be reached at 218-332-5862 during normal business hours.

Licensing
 All cats and dogs over the age of 6 months must be licensed. You can either license your pet online or in person at City Hall Mon-Fri 8:00 am-4:30 pm. A dog or cat licenses for spayed or neutered animals is \$10.00 for a two year license. The license fee for a pets that is not spayed or neutered is \$20.00 for a two year license. There is no fee for pet owners age 65+. However, we still require you to register your dog or cat. Proof of vaccination is required to license your pet.



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Be a Good Pet Owner

- Pets must be on a leash or under the control of a responsible person at all times.
- All animals shall be provided sanitary housing with clean and proper food and water available at all times.
- It is unlawful for any person to keep or harbor a dog which habitually barks or cries. Habitual barking shall be defined as barking for repeated intervals of at least five minutes with less than one minute of interruption. The barking must also be audible off of the owner's or caretaker's premises.

- It shall be unlawful for any person's dog or other animal to damage any lawn, garden, or other property, whether or not the owner has knowledge of the damage.
- The owner of any animal or person having the custody or control of any animal shall be responsible for cleaning up any feces of the animal and disposing of the feces in a sanitary manner whether on their own property, on the property of others or on public property.
- Know the rules City Code 91: Animals

Running at Large/Animal Recovery Fee
 Again, please be sure your dog or cat is on a leash. Animals found running at large will be brought to the Otter Tail County Humane Society. Beginning October 1, 2021, owners of animals that reside in the city limits of Fergus Falls will be required to provide record of current rabies vaccinations and current City of Fergus Falls licensing before an animal can be released from the Otter Tail County Humane Society. If the animal is not current, or documentation is not available, the Humane Society will hold the animal until a veterinarian is available to vaccinate, or until the owner can provide a current rabies vaccination record.

There will also be an additional release fee to be paid to the City (City Hall) before the animal can be released. City Hall hours are Monday-Friday 8:00 am-4:30 pm. The release charge is \$25.00 for the first release, \$50.00 for the second release and the fee will continue to raise by \$25.00 each time your pet needs to be released.

Number of Allowed Pets
 City Code allows a maximum of four pets. This can be three dogs and one cat, three cats and one dog or two cats and two dogs. Pet licenses are \$20 and are good for two years. In addition to filling out an application, proof of vaccination is required as is proof the pet has been spayed or neutered.

Chicken Permits
 City residents who live in R-1 and R-1 zones can apply for a license to keep chickens on their property. A maximum of 4 chickens (no roosters) are allowed. Licenses are \$20 and are good for two years. In addition to filling out an application, chicken coops and runs must be inspected by Animal Control and the written consent of all adjacent property owners must be obtained. The inspection and paperwork must be completed and approved by the city PRIOR to getting chickens.



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PARK HIGHLIGHTS

- Camping
- Fishing
- Hiking
- Horseback Trails

HORSE CAMPING:
 Campsites in the equestrian campgrounds can be reserved by phone or online. Some sites are able to accommodate additional campers (up to three). Please contact the park for approval. To reserve by phone, call 866-85PARKS.

FIREWOOD RESTRICTIONS INFORMATION:
 Minnesota has enacted legislation that restricts firewood being brought to or used on DNR lands. Complete information and lists of vendors and locations where approved firewood is available are posted on the DNR Web site.

BIRDERS:
 Bird Checklist available on our website for Maplewood State Park.

Camping

- Drive-in Sites, 71 sites
- Electric Sites, 32 sites
- RV Length Limit 50' Length is measured from front of tow vehicle to rear of vehicle being towed.
- Backpack Sites, 3 sites
- Horse Camp, 24 sites, 200 Maximum Capacity. For reservations, contact the state park reservation service by phone or online. Some sites are available on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Group Camp, 1 Site - Accommodates up to 30 people. Site located in a remote, semi-wooded area between Bass and Beers Lakes. Vault toilets available. Water is approximately ½ mile away. Drive-in site that will accommodate tents, small trailers, or campers.

When staff are present, the Ranger Station will be open intermittently open for window service. No official office hours currently available. Use the self-registration kiosk at the park office. Leave a message if you get our voicemail, and we'll call you back.

Lodging

- Camper Cabins, 5 cabins. Three year-round cabins with electricity; one of these is wheelchair accessible. Also one seasonal cabin with electricity and one seasonal cabin without electricity. The accessible cabin sleeps 5; the other four cabins sleep 6. Pets not allowed. More information on camper cabins.

Recreation Facilities

- Picnic Area with picnic shelter
- Picnic Shelter Open Shelter Available for rent.
- Golf Course 3 within 10 miles



39721 Park Entrance Rd., Pelican Rapids, MN 56572
 E-mail: maplewood.statepark@state.mn.us
 218-863-8383 • www.dnr.state.mn.us/state_parks/maplewood
 The park entrance is located 7 mi. east of Pelican Rapids on State Hwy 108.

2022 Lake Steward Outcomes – Remarkable Results

By Jeff Forester, Executive Director, Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates

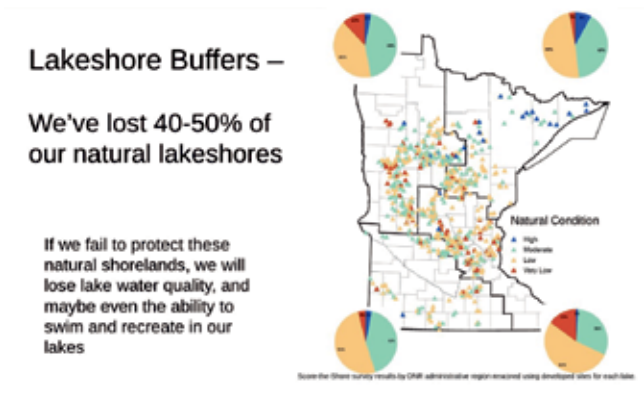
The MPCA reports that 56% of the lakes and rivers in Minnesota are impaired. The sources and reasons for water degradation are both plentiful and complex, but degraded shoreline is a contributor. The simple fact is that if we want to improve water, we must improve land management. Unfortunately, the trends are towards more development of the shoreline. Across the state, we have already lost approximately half our natural shorelines on Minnesota lakes. Degraded shoreline is a problem that we can address



The state’s agencies, like the MN DNR, are very limited in their ability to address the problem. The Shoreland Management Act of 1969 set the minimum standards for the counties. Very little has changed since then, and even these standards are often undone by the local variance process.

In 2020, Minnesota’s counties issued 8,846 land use permits on shoreline property. That was 6,797 higher than in 2019. For comparison, in 2012 there were 1,207 permits issued for new development on undeveloped shoreline lots. In 2020 there were 2,220 permits issued for new development on shoreline lots. In 2020 the counties created 1,187 new shoreland lots, the majority by lot splits. This is the highest number since 2012.

This means that the best way to protect shorelines and improve the water quality dependent upon them is for citizens to decide to change their management of the shorelines in their care. Top down laws, regulations or permits will not meet the increasing need.



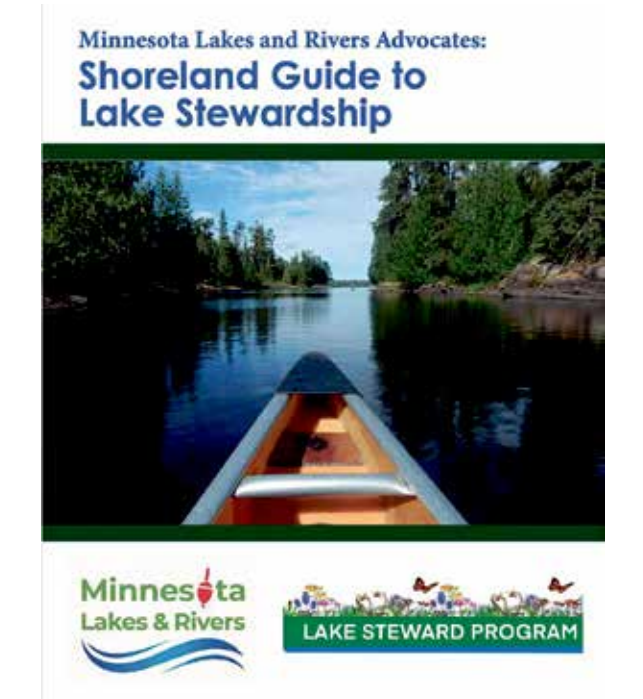
When MLR learned of Gull Lake’s Lake Steward program we saw an opportunity to have a statewide impact in reducing nutrient pollution in our lakes and rivers. Working with the Gull Lake Association, we took the Lake Steward program statewide. In 2021, COVID 19 limited the state-wide rollout of Lake Steward, but in 2022 we saw remarkable growth of Lake Steward.

Lake Steward is a partial solution to reducing nutrient loading, particularly phosphorus, into our lakes and rivers. Reducing phosphorus will reduce excessive aquatic plant growth and algae blooms

This is because phosphorus is a “limiting” nutrient in Minnesota, phosphorus exists in limited amounts in Minnesota’s soils and lakes, and so restricts the growth of plants, including algae, in our ecosystems. Add more phosphorus to a lake and plants and algae will respond quickly. Rainwater and snowmelt can carry phosphorus from soils and im-

permeable surfaces into lakes and rivers. When a shoreline property owner reduces runoff on their property they can have a significant impact on both excessive aquatic plant growth and frequency and intensity of algae blooms in the lakes they love.

- Consider that:
- 1 lb of Phosphorus produces 500 lbs of algae in a lake.
 - Lots with a lawn that runs down to the water’s edge contribute about 0.2 lbs Phosphorus/lot per summer, or about 100 lbs of algae. The cumulative effect is significant. On a lake with 100 lawn to lake lots, this results in about 10,000 lbs of algae.
 - Simple strategies, like maintaining at least a 25 foot buffer of deep rooted native plants, directing runoff from impervious surfaces like roofs, patios and driveways away from the lake can reduce phosphorus runoff to 0.03 lbs per lot, or 15 lbs of algae. Cumulatively a lake that converts 100 lots to Lake Steward standards can reduce algae production from 10,000 lbs to 1,500 lbs.



Lake Steward helps a lake association volunteer learn how to assess the amount of Phosphorus a lot is contributing to the lake. MLR’s Shoreland Guide to Lake Stewardship, available on Amazon, is a solid how-to manual for shoreline owners who want to help protect water quality.

One MLR member wrote about the Shoreland Guide to Lake Stewardship, “Well written and easy to understand and implement. We bought 10 for our lake association and gave them away. Heard great reviews from those who got one and they plan on implementing the shoreline ideas on their property.”

We created a phone-based App that leads evaluators through the process and captures the data they collect, giving us a statewide database of shoreline conditions.

MLR has been meeting with state policy makers regarding shoreland protection, and funding mechanisms or policies that will drive changes to shoreland management and improve water quality.

Lake Steward Program had significant growth in 2022

In 2022 Lake Steward experienced remarkable growth and has received a great deal of attention from policy makers. State shoreland standards have not been updated since the late 1960s.

- 259 Lake Steward quizzes taken,
- 238 site visits,
- 19 lake associations engaged,
- 6.3 Miles of shoreline Impacted,
- A potential of 28,209 lbs of phosphorus sequestered on shore,
- More than 14 tons of algae prevented,
- More than 1 mile of shoreline restored with more than 1 mile in the planning stages of restoration.



Some of Lake Washburn Association Lake Stewards gathered to celebrate achieving Lake Steward status.

MLR will work to expand the Lake Steward program to more lake associations. Many who carried the Lake Steward program last season reported that Lake Steward not only increased awareness and further education, but brought new members into the association.

“I am hopeful that in 2023, MLR’s lobbyist will be able to convince legislators to provide some state support for our Lake Steward efforts,” said Jeff Forester, Executive Director of MLR. If you or your lake association is interested in reducing the Phosphorus entering the lake you love, and reducing the size, intensity and duration of algae blooms in your lake, contact Jeff Forester at jeff@mnlakesandrivers.org or go to MLR’s website.

MN Lakes & Rivers Advocates ~ PO Box 22262 ~ St. Paul, MN 55122
www.mnlakesandrivers.org ~ 952-854-1317 ~ jeff@mnlakesandrivers.org

lost & found

Have you lost something?
Have you found something in your yard or on your shoreline that wasn’t yours? If you have been unable to locate your lost items, or are unable to return a found item to the rightful owner, email photo or description to

secretary@otlpoa.com

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Releasing Big Sunfish Helps Protect Against Stunted Population

Source: From Cola Newsletter /mndnr.gov/fish/sunfish



Minnesota anglers harvest around 16 million sunfish each year, making them the state's most harvested fish. To protect big sunfish and avoid stunted populations of sunfish, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is encouraging anglers to release large sunfish, and keep smaller fish for eating.

Sunfish spawn in large nesting colonies during the spring and early summer. Parental male sunfish build and defend nests. Females will select a male, lay eggs, and leave them for the male to protect and fan with his fins. These

nest-building male sunfish play an important role in repopulation with the largest sunfish often getting the best spawning sites.

When anglers keep only the largest sunfish, which are usually males guarding nests, the remaining small males don't need to compete with larger males to spawn. Instead of growing, they devote their energy to spawning at younger ages and smaller sizes.

Spawning sunfish are particularly prone to over harvest because they are very aggressive while defending a nest. Anglers can help by releasing spawning sunfish, especially large, nesting males. Released fish have a high survival rate and will typically return to their nests to complete the spawning cycle.

Minnesota angler attitude surveys between 1987 and 2017 found that anglers were generally satisfied with the number of sunfish they caught, but were often dissatisfied with fish size.

"To maintain a high quality fishery, it's important that anglers, guides and resort owners, all understand the important role these large nesting fish play, and that we all work together to exercise a conservation ethic that ensures these fish thrive," said Grand Rapids area fisheries supervisor Dave Weitzel.

Protecting larger spawning sunfish is supported by a study of the Fuller Tackle Contest in the Park Rapids area. The study found that until 1953, mean weight of entered bluegills fluctuated around 1.3 pounds; after 1953, mean weight declined. The change in fish weight coincides well with the 1954 regulation change that allowed for year around sunfish angling, and no longer protected the spawning season.

Since the 1954 regulation change, sunfish numbers have generally increased in DNR lake surveys, suggesting an overall increase in sunfish densities – a trend often linked to a decline in size.

More information about sunfish biology and management can be found at mndnr.gov/fish/sunfish.

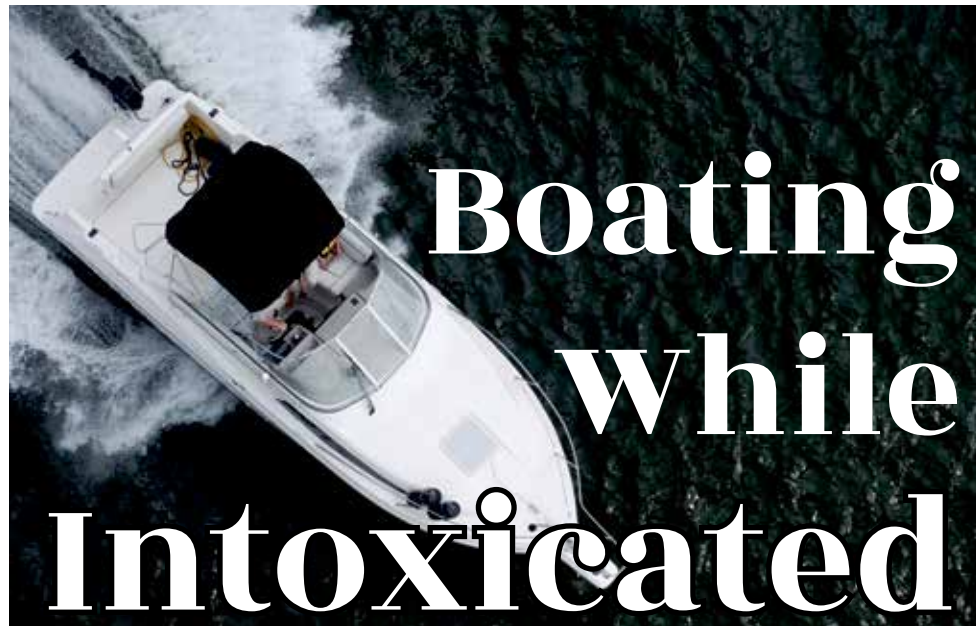


Lake buoys being installed on Otter Tail Lake

Photos Submitted By: Steve Mouritsen

Erik Gerken taking a selfie with a buoy on Otter Tail Lake

Photos Submitted By: Steve Mouritsen



The Legal Limit

The alcohol concentration for impaired operation is .08. Operating a motorboat while under the influence of alcohol, a controlled substance (or its metabolite), or other illegal chemical is unlawful.

Penalty Information

Operators who are impaired may be required to take tests by an enforcement officer. There is a penalty for refusal. BWI convictions and refusals are recorded on the violator's driver's license record. Most of the BWI law is now found in the motor vehicle statutes, and first time violators (no prior DWIs of any kind) who are convicted are subject to:

- Up to a \$1,000 fine plus surcharges
- Possible jail time
- Loss of motorboat operating privileges for 90 days during the boating season, after conviction and written notification by the DNR

In addition to the above penalties, persons who refuse testing will also be subject to a separate and more severe criminal charge for refusal and loss of their motorboat operating privileges for one year, immediately upon refusal.

Elevated Offenses

If any of the following aggravating factors are involved, the offense automatically becomes a gross misdemeanor (a 4th conviction in 10 years can result in a felony penalty):

- An alcohol concentration of .20 or more
- Prior DWI conviction(s) or refusal(s) of any kind in the past 10 years
- There is a child less than 16 years of age on board

Penalties will increase with any of the aggravating factors or a refusal, and can include the following:

- A higher fine
- Mandatory jail time
- Loss of motor vehicle drivers license
- Loss of motor vehicle plates
- Forfeiture of the motorboat and trailer being operated at the time of arrest

Be Responsible

The BWI law does not prohibit drinking alcoholic beverages aboard boats nor having an open bottle. The law applies to operators of motorboats that are not anchored, beached, moored, docked or being rowed or propelled by non-mechanical means at the time of the offense.

Contact Information

County Attorney, Phone: 218-998-8400
County Sheriff, Phone: 218-998-8555 | Ottetail: 218-367-6300 | Email: sheriff@co.ottertail.mn.us

Source: <https://ottertailcounty.gov/public-safety-law/water-safety/boating-while-intoxicated/>



These three guys keep the Rearing pond in great shape.
From left to right, Ken Wentz, Rick Mudge, Bill Ramsey all from Blanche lake

Photos Submitted By: Ken Wentz

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Board Meeting Minutes

OTTER TAIL LAKE’S PROPERTY OWNER’S ASSOC. INC. BOARD MEETING MINUTES

April 27th, 2023 6:30PM

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Meeting was called to order by President Anderson. Members present: Kemling, Oxberry, Tysdal, Gerken, Hunke, Long, and Kuder Absent: Overturf, Mouritsen, Ness, Wentz, Rizk, and Sndyer

Approval of Agenda – Unanimously approved as distributed
Approval of Minutes – Unanimously approved as distributed
Approval of Bills – Approved unanimously

Presidents Report – Arne and Neil Gudmestad from 31196 Oak Ridge Road and others from that area were introduced by President Anderson. They discussed the problem of dirt blowing from 2 fields owned by the Shorma Family Trust. During the time of May 18th- June 29th there were 7 different days of blowing dirt/dust storms from the fields across homeowner’s property into Ottertail Lake. They are requesting input from the board to help resolve this issue. The board requested a letter from this group stating the issues and the board will try to get this to the proper county officials to discuss possible solutions.

Committee Reports

Membership – Wentz reported we have 825 members at this time.

Auditing/Finance – Audit of books will be done by our annual meeting.

DNR/GOV’T – AIS Detectors Course was discussed and information will be sent out to board members.

Water Testing – Water testing kits have been distributed

COLA – Nothing at this time

Communications/Lakeshore News – Discussed our contract with Midweek/Lakeshore News. Details regarding contract will be finalized at May meeting. Gerken discussed the ongoing Facebook issue, the foundation wants to split costs to have a presence on Facebook. This was discussed at our September meeting and the OTLPOA board decided to explore working with Julie Swanson/Ottertail Lakes Area Connections group on Facebook. We can post information for OTLPOA, a motion was made and passed by the board to proceed with this going forward. Gerken will advise Bernie and Lana on the board’s position.

Website – Nothing at this time

Worm – Board discussed who would replace Scott Simdorn on committee, Tysdal will consider taking it over.

Foundation – Discussion of placing warning lights at river opening into Otter-tail Lake. Discussion will continue on what possibilities there are.

Social - Discussed annual meeting to be held June 24th at Zion Lutheran Church in Amor, Steve Nelson will give an update on Glendalough Park. More details will be discussed at May meeting.

Old Business - Discussed hiring someone to do membership duties, will discuss again at May meeting when membership committee members are present.

Board decided to use smaller room at Ottertail Community Center.

OTLPOA donation to Glendalough Park will be presented at our annual meeting.

President Anderson will request letters from the 3 people interested in filling board openings and will discuss at our May meeting

New Business – Lakeshore News contract, this was discussed earlier at committee discussion.

Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 8:45pm

Next meeting is June 22nd 2023 at 6:30pm



Loon on it’s nest in Glendalough state park

Photos Submitted By: Fred Rizk



Nestled in the transition zone between prairie and hardwood forest, Glendalough offers a true respite from civilization. Crystal clear Annie Battle Lake is a 335-acre, non-motorized “Heritage Fishery” that provides a tranquil fishing experience second to none. Special regulations sustain a steady supply of large sunfish, crappie, and the occasional walleye for the frying pan, and large bass for the camera. Near the pristine shores of this lake are a cart-in campground and canoe-in campsites, all free from the traffic and noise of traditional drive-in camping. Annie can also be the starting point for an exploration of the park by canoe or kayak on the connecting creeks. The restored historic Glendalough Lodge on the north side of the lake details the park’s history as a private retreat and game farm for the Minneapolis Tribune. Numerous hiking trails, including two interpretive trails, meander along five lakes, through rich woods and blooming prairies. Wildlife abounds year-round, and there are many observation decks along the trails. Trails are groomed in winter for skiing and snowshoeing. Picnicking and swimming is available on two sandy lakes.

SEASONAL UPDATE

Water: Water is off in the campground for the season until May 12, 2023. Water is available year-round at the park office.

Drinking Water: Water is off in the campground for the season until May 12, 2023. Water is available year-round at the park office.

Bathroom Facilities: Trail center restrooms are open year-round! Modern restroom facilities in the campground are closed for season until May 12, 2023. Vault toilets in the park are open year-round. Facilities are wheelchair accessible.

Showers: Showers are closed for season until May 12, 2023. Showers are wheelchair accessible.

DUMP STATION: NONE

CAMPGROUNDS: Cart-in campground is open year-round. Camper Cabins and Yurts are open year-round, but just weekends between Nov. 1 and March 31. The group camp is closed until May 5, 2023. Canoe sites are closed for season until April 28, 2023.

ELECTRIC SITES: One RV electric site is available after October 3 by calling the park. All camper cabins have electricity.

SPECIAL NOTES FOR RV CAMPERS: There is no RV camping in park in summer. Private RV campground is nearby.

Trail Notes: The park has 11 miles of hiking trail, 5.5 miles of surfaced bike trail and 2.2 miles of mountain bike trails. In winter, park maintains 7 miles of groomed, easy to intermediate, level cross-country ski trails and 1-2 miles of snowshoe trails.

Season Rentals: Bicycle, rowboat, canoe, kayak, paddleboat, and stand up paddleboard rental is closed for season. Winter rentals (cross-country skis and snowshoes) are available when conditions allow.

Naturalist Programs and Park Tours: Check the park Events Calendar on the park web page for more information on programs.

Buildings and Attractions: Historic Lodge and Dining Hall are available to rent year round and can be reserved by calling the park. Discounted winter rates apply from November 1 to April 30. Molly Stark Picnic Shelter is closed for season.

Hours: Best time to contact the park is:
Daily from 1pm - 4pm
218-864-0110 • fax: 218-864-0587
email: glendalough.statepark@state.mn.us
25287 Whitetail Lane, Battle Lake, MN 56515
www.dnr.state.mn.us/state_parks/glendalough
From the town of Battle Lake, go 1.5 miles north on State Hwy. #78 and 1.8 miles east on Otter Tail Co. Hwy #16 to the park entrance.

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Three Kayakers Enjoying The Calm Water On Blanche Lake

Photos Submitted By: Ken Wentz



Blanche Lake Water Testing Site

Photos Submitted By: Ken Wentz

Be Part Of Our Wildlife Team

Source: MN Department of Natural Resources



Count loons one morning: June 30 - July 10

The Minnesota Loon Monitoring Program (MLMP) is a great way to get involved with wildlife on lakes near you.

Visit a lake one morning to count the number of adult and young loons you see and share your observations with the DNR. These numbers give us the ability to detect changes in the adult population and reproductive success of loons and to anticipate any problems that could jeopardize the future of our state bird.

Here's how to get involved!

When do I survey?

- Pick one morning from June 30 to July 10
- Between the hours of 5:00 AM – 12 noon, count the number of adult and baby loons observed on a lake.

How long does it take to do?

Survey time depends on the lake size:

- Small lakes (less than 150 acres) 30 to 60 minutes
- Medium lakes (150-400 acres) 30 minutes to 2 hours
- Large lakes (over 400 acres) 2 to 4 hours

What equipment do I need to count loons?

- Binoculars or a spotting scope
- Some lakes require a boat or canoe to go out on the water, otherwise count from shore

What can I expect to see?

- Larger lakes are more likely to have loons.
- Most breeding pairs will have zero to two young.

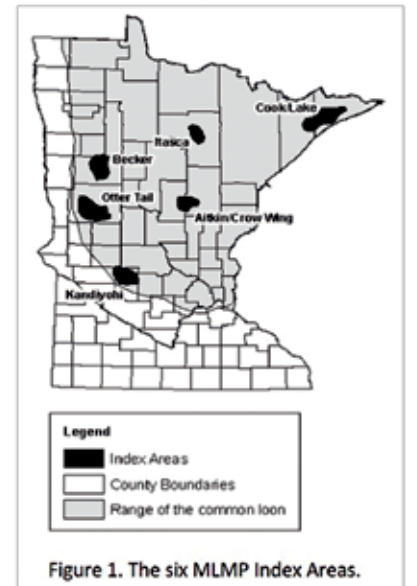
Where can I count loons?

- With over 600 lakes to choose from, go to the Minnesota Loon Monitoring webpage
- Click on the Volunteer Map button under Sign up for a lake. Here you'll find the lakes still needing volunteer monitors.

Questions?

Call or email the following regional loon monitoring coordinators:

- **Aitkin or Crow Wing Counties:** Contact Karen McLennan, Brainerd, 218-203-4352, karen.mclennan@state.mn.us
- **Becker, Cook, Itasca, Lake, or Otter Tail Counties:** Contact Bryonna Persing, Eveleth, 218-735-3962, bryonna.persing@state.mn.us
- **Kandiyohi County:** Contact Dorie Tess, New Ulm, 507-233-1250, dorie.tess@state.mn.us



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MOSQUITOES, West Nile Virus, and You

The "Fight the Bite" campaign championed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has one focus – to eliminate or radically reduce diseases in humans that are carried by mosquitoes. One of those diseases is West Nile Virus (abbreviated WNV), which was first recognized in the United States in 1999. Since then, a lot has been learned about this virus which is thought to have originated in Africa, west Asia and Europe.

Important Facts about WNV

- WNV is spread to humans by the bite of an infected mosquito. The mosquitoes become infected when they bite birds already infected with WNV.
- Horses and other mammals can also be infected by the bite of an infected mosquito but these animals cannot pass the disease to humans.
- You cannot get infected with WNV from contact (includes touching and kissing) with a person who has the disease.
- Even if you get bitten by an infected mosquito, there is only a 20 percent chance that you will have symptoms. This means that four out of five people who have WNV disease have no symptoms. There's an even smaller chance of becoming seriously ill after infection.
- Once you have had the disease, regardless of whether or not you had symptoms, you probably won't get it again.

Symptoms of WNV

- If symptoms develop, they usually include a headache, fever, tiredness, and body aches. Sometimes a skin rash develops as well as swollen lymph glands. These symptoms usually describe what is known as WNV Fever.
- With severe disease, nervous system symptoms appear and usually include a high fever and a severe headache. Neck stiffness, sleepiness, shakiness, muscle weakness, paralysis and coma can also be experienced. These particular symptoms occur because the brain and/or the spinal cord are affected by the infection are named "WNV encephalitis, meningitis, or poliomyelitis".
- When someone is infected with West Nile virus (WNV) they will typically experience one of three outcomes:
 1. No symptoms, which is most likely – remember that four out of five infected people have no symptoms, or;
 2. West Nile Fever with milder symptoms, which occurs in about one out of five infected people, or;
 3. Severe West Nile Disease in which the nervous system is affected, which occurs in less than 1 out of 100 of those who get infected.
- Call your doctor if you have high fever with a severe headache, even if you can't remember getting bit by a mosquito.
- Persons over 50 years of age and those with a weakened immune system are at highest risk for getting the symptoms of severe illness.
- Symptoms usually occur 2-15 days after the mosquito bite.
- There is no way to tell which mosquitoes are infected, but the local health departments do track and report when WNV is circulating in a specific city or area.



How to Prevent WNV

The best way to prevent WNV and other mosquito-associated diseases is to prevent mosquito bites. According to the CDC, these should be your top six strategies to "Fight the Bite":

1. Apply insect repellent containing DEET to your exposed skin before going outdoors
2. Be aware that the early morning and evening hours are peak mosquito hours; try to avoid outside activities during these times.
3. If possible, wear long sleeves, long pants and socks when spending time outdoors, especially during peak mosquito hours. Because mosquitoes can bite through thin clothing, spray clothes with repellent containing permethrin or DEET. However, don't spray permethrin on your skin and don't spray DEET on skin covered by clothing.
4. Reduce the number of mosquitoes on your property by eliminating or reducing standing pools of water, where mosquitoes lay their eggs.
5. Reduce the number of mosquitoes inside your home by patching, repairing or replacing screens with holes or screens that don't fit tightly to the door or window frame. If your outside doors are ever propped open, make sure there is a screen door and that it remains closed.
6. Report dead birds to your local health department or whoever in your community requests this information. Research how best to share this information by accessing the links to your State and Local Government sites. Testing dead birds for WNV is one method used by the public health to determine if WNV is circulating in your community.

During the summer months, most of us spend time outside for long walks, picnics, golf, fishing and volleyball. Some basic mosquito bite prevention strategies can mean the difference between a summer remembered as full of fun or a summer during which the fun was cut short by something as small as the bite of a mosquito.

Additional Resources:

- CDC West Nile Virus Information
- CDC Mosquito Repellent Safety Q&A

Source: https://apic.org/monthly_alerts/mosquitoes-west-nile-virus-and-you/

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