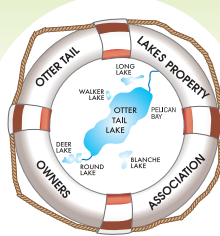


# Lakeshore News

The Official Newspaper of Otter Tail Lakes Property Owners Association



August 2023  
Vol. 53, No. 5

## Introducing Our NEW BOARD MEMBERS

### Julie Swanson



"In 2013 Julie came back to the Land of Ten Thousand Lakes after working in the real estate sector in and around the Chicago area for more than twenty years. In addition to being a licensed Real Estate Appraiser and full time mom to four, she also owned and managed residential rental properties in Chicago, as well as rehabbed several of them. Previous to that she lived in the St. Cloud area and worked at the St. Cloud Times in advertising as well as owned and managed a tanning salon.

While appreciating all that the Windy City had to offer, she missed the pristine and abundant lakes of West Central Minnesota and was excited to spend much more time with family that live in this area after moving back to rural Underwood.

Julie was born in Seattle but her family moved back to Minnesota in the early '70's and she spent most of that time on

Little Pleasant Lake north of Underwood. Having spent much of her childhood here she has a deep understanding of the "lake life" and rural way of life. Julie graduated from Underwood High School and also attended college in Fergus Falls and Moorhead.

Julie and her husband Paul also spent weekends on Heilberger Lake north of Fergus Falls but decided they wanted to live full time on the lake so moved to Otter Tail Lake in 2019. They are "empty nesters" with adult children in Minnesota, Colorado and Illinois and like to travel, fish, snowmobile, scuba dive and love spending time with family and friends on the pontoon whenever possible."

### Duane Hanson



Betty and I have been married for 40 years. We have two daughters and son in laws and 5 grandchildren. We live in West Fargo but have a home on Ottetail Lake since 2018. We go there year round and love it. I enjoy the outdoors. Fishing, hunting, playing golf, time on the pontoon and spending as much time as possible with our grandchildren. Betty is retired and I am almost there. I am looking forward to my new responsibilities as a member of the OTLPOA board.

## Water Testing Clarity Readings

Blanche lake 12 1/2 feet  
Deer Lake 11 1/2 feet  
Walker Lake 6 1/2 feet  
Long Lake 3 1/2 feet



## Summer Fun

Photo Submitted By: Dar Medcalf

### Beth Madson



I grew up on Otter Tail lake. My grandparents and aunt/uncle had neighboring cabins on Hwy 1 near Blue Heron Loop, the place with the totem pole. In fact my first bed at my grandma's cabin was a banana box on my grandma's bookshelf! When I was 7 my parents bought a cabin on Clearmont Rd through a silent auction at their attorney's office for 17K! We spent nearly every summer weekend at the lake. In 1997 my husband Scott and I purchased Moe's Otter Tail Beach Resort across from Balmoral Golf Course. I traded a week's stay at our resort for the giant walleye at the resort's entrance! A pretty good trade.

We sold the resort in 2021 and now live on Augustana Loop on the NW shore of OT.

Our cabin was moved in from Fish lake in the early 1930's and split between 2 neighboring lots. My neighbors live in the other half of my house....or do I live in theirs?

You'd be hard pressed to find someone who loves Otter Tail Lake more than me.

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# Lakeshore News

The Official Newspaper of Otter Tail Lakes Property Owners Association

Volume 53, No. 5 | August 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.

President | Roger Anderson • roger.anderson0515@yahoo.com • 651.301.3616

Vice President | Eric Gerken • egerken31@gmail.com • 320.491.1277

Secretary | secretary@otlpoa.com • Becky Kemling • beckykemling@msn.com • 218.371.9095

Treasurer | Pat Hunke • phunke@hunkestransfer.com • 218.639.4910

## DIRECTORS

### Blanche Lake

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### Long Lake

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### Deer Lake

Mark Long, mdlongmark@outlook.com, 701.640.1033

### Round Lake

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### Ottertail River North

Becky Kemling, beckykemling@msn.com , 218.371.9095

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Jerame Tysdal, otproperties@arvig.net

# president's corner

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



## Hello OTLPOA members!

The sultry “dog days” of summer are upon us. As I write this month’s President’s Corner, it is 90+ degrees outside. With the hot summer weather, we have gotten some spotty rain, but not enough to keep up with the runoff and evaporation on the lakes. We

are all very frustrated with the low water levels in most of the area lakes. As the water levels get critical, we are already seeing folks moving their boats and pontoons into deeper water. If you move your equipment out to deeper water, please be sure to put out markers and a flashing light on each watercraft and lifts. Water safety is one of our major concerns – we want to keep everyone safe!

July’s Lakeshore News included a page on Minnesota Watercraft Laws. This is always an important topic, especially as our kids and grandchildren want to drive boats, pontoons, and jet skis. Youth aged thirteen to seventeen years old can complete the online boating safety course to receive a youth Minnesota water operator’s

permit. Also, adults wishing to learn more about boating safety are encouraged to take the course and may be eligible for a discount on boat insurance – check with your insurance agent. Go to www.boaterexam.com/usa/minnesota/ to learn more.

Also related to safety on our lakes, we hope you had your kids and grandkids attend our free swimming lessons this summer. Knowing how to swim can save a life.

Even though the water is low and warm, I’m hearing that fishing has been very good on our lakes. Always remember to clean, drain and dry your watercraft before moving to a different lake. It is the best way we know how to avoid

the spread of invasive species.

We’ve still got plenty of summer left to fish, swim, jet ski, boat, pontoon, ski and enjoy our lakes! Be safe and have fun with your family and friends!

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



# MARK YOUR Calendars

## OTLPOA MEETING

Aug. 24<sup>th</sup> | Sept. 28<sup>th</sup> | Oct 26<sup>th</sup>

OTTERTAIL CITY COMMUNITY CENTER Meeting at 6:30pm

### 2023 Board Meeting Dates

## 2023 Calendar of Events

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](mailto:results@themidweek.com)

## Milk Jug Boat Race

The inaugural art of the lakes, milk jug boat race on West Battle Lake at the public access across from Lyons Park on Saturday, which was part of the Wenonga days celebration in Battle Lake.




**This fella was the winner of the first annual milk jug boat race**

Photo Submitted By: Ken Wentz



On July 13 around 6 o'clock in the evening a storm with Highwinds and hail came through only lasting less than 10 minutes. Did major damage to many neighbors on Blanche Lake. Many without electricity for up to five hours.

Photo Submitted By: Ken Wentz

## Share Your Memories!





**Submit your photos to Lakeshore News!**

Email [OFFICE@THEMIDWEEK.COM](mailto:OFFICE@THEMIDWEEK.COM) with a brief description.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE:

# [www.otlpoa.com](http://www.otlpoa.com)



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# 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)



## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

### Otter Tail Lakes Property Owners Association Inc.

### 2023 Membership (Check one)

Property Owner Member: _____ <small>(Owners Lake Property)</small>	Associate Member: _____ <small>(Does <u>not</u> own lake property or shares ownership)</small>
---	---

Name of Property Owner living at lake property address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Summer "mailing" address (5/15 – 8/30): <small>(must be valid US Postal deliverable address)</small>	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	
<i>Includes \$10 donation to OTLPOA Foundation</i>	\$ <u>75.00</u>

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](http://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?

LAND TRANSFERS

JUNE 1, 2023 THROUGH JULY 28, 2023

Name	Description	DNR ID	Sale Date	Seller	Buyer	Sale Amount	Adj Sales Amount	Property Type
Amor Twp	560242 - OTTERTAIL-FF		6/28/23	MARC A & KATHLEEN GRUENENWALD	MELISSA JOHNSON	\$137,500	\$136,000	Seasonal Rec
Amor Twp	560242 - OTTERTAIL-FF	56024200	7/10/23	LINDA L MELLON REV LIV TST	BARBARA HILBERT	\$825,000	\$817,000	Residential
Amor Twp	560242 - OTTERTAIL-FF	56024200	7/25/23	DEAN W & JULIANNE D GUTZMER	JAMES & JILL IVERSON	\$22,500,015	\$22,497,715	Seasonal Rec
Amor Twp	560310 - WALKER-FF	56031000	7/11/23	HEATHER STEFANI & M KOTHE	DAVID & JESSICA MACDONALD	\$450,000	\$437,000	Seasonal Rec
Everts Twp	004710 - OTTERTAIL RIVER-FF	00471000	7/14/23	ROBERT F & KATHLEEN A MISKE	MANSOUR AFZALI	\$290,000	\$278,000	Residential
Everts Twp	560242 - OTTERTAIL-FF	56024200	7/13/23	EUGENE B III & KRISTI FLOERSCH	ALLAN & KAREN BRENNAN	\$235,000	\$235,000	Seasonal Rec
Everts Twp	560297 - ROUND (EVERTS)-FF	00471000	7/14/23	ROBERT F & KATHLEEN A MISKE	MANSOUR AFZALI	\$290,000	\$278,000	Residential
Everts Twp	560298 - DEER-FF	56029800	6/23/23	JOEL S & SHARON R DOTZENROD	ZACKERY & SARA WEBER	\$159,500	\$159,500	Seasonal Rec
Everts Twp	560302 - SILVER(EVERTS)-FF	56030200	6/15/23	LARRY MATHISON	JASON & CONNIE OLDFATHER	\$859,000	\$851,100	Residential
Everts Twp	560302 - SILVER(EVERTS)-FF	56030200	6/30/23	STACY J CANNADY	JOSEPH & ROXANNE ANDERSON	\$520,000	\$515,000	Seasonal Rec
Everts Twp	560302 - SILVER(EVERTS)-FF	56030200	7/10/23	RONALD A & FRANCES MORTON	JODI PFINGSTEN & MICHAEL KOSSAN	\$544,000	\$533,000	Residential
Everts Twp	560302 - SILVER(EVERTS)-FF	56030200	7/20/23	DONALD H STUEVE	DAVID & TAMARA WOODARD	\$425,000	\$424,300	Residential
Girard Twp	560239 - W BATTLE-FF	56023900	7/11/23	SODAK HOUSING LLC	JEAN & ROBERT BROAD	\$810,000	\$805,600	Residential
Otter Tail Twp	004712 - OTTERTAIL RIVER(OT)-F		6/16/23	DENNIS K DAHL	DALE & JODI RANNO	\$229,900	\$229,600	Residential
Otter Tail Twp	004712 - OTTERTAIL RIVER(OT)-F		6/23/23	SMART INVESTMENT GROUP LLC	JEROME & MARY BRISTOL	\$375,000	\$373,000	Seasonal Rec
Otter Tail Twp	004712 - OTTERTAIL RIVER(OT)-F		7/3/23	DENNIS K DAHL	PATRICIA S ERICKSON	\$260,000	\$256,500	Residential
Otter Tail Twp	560209 - BUCHANAN-FF	56020900	7/21/23	HAROLD & LYNN CULLOM	DIAMOND CONSTRUCTION OF FARGO LLC	\$260,000	\$260,000	Seasonal Rec
Otter Tail Twp	560242 - OTTERTAIL-FF	56024200	6/27/23	OTTERTAIL PROPERTY LLC	ELLEN VOGELS & JAMES PATTISON	\$1,529,500	\$1,529,500	Seasonal Rec
Ottertail City	560209 - BUCHANAN-FF	56020900	6/23/23	TIMM GRABE	UMI & PEEPS LLC	\$445,000	\$436,800	Seasonal Rec
Ottertail City	560209 - BUCHANAN-FF	56020900	7/13/23	JOHN M & MARY JO MATTSON	BRENT & JOLEEN SODERBERG	\$573,000	\$573,000	Seasonal Rec
Ottertail City	560242 - OTTERTAIL-FF	56024200	6/19/23	MYKLESTAD LIVING TST	DANIEL & CHEKSEY STEINLICHT	\$677,000	\$677,000	Residential
Ottertail City	560242 - OTTERTAIL-FF	56024200	6/26/23	SAMUELSON FAMILY REV LVG TST	RICHARD G RANKKA JR	\$705,000	\$705,000	Residential
Ottertail City	560242 - OTTERTAIL-FF	56024200	6/29/23	DUSTIN LUHNING	BURR OAK HOLDINGS LLC	\$320,000	\$320,000	Seasonal Rec

Board Meeting Minutes

OTTER TAIL LAKE’S PROPERTY OWNER’S ASSOC. INC.

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

June 22nd, 2023 6:30PM

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Meeting was called to order by President Anderson. Members present: Kemling, Oxberry, Tysdal, Gerken, Long, Ness, Mouritsen, Snyder, Rizk, Kuder, and Swanson Absent: Madson

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

**Presidents Report** – President Anderson discussed comments and concerns received from membership renewal forms. He will address these in the Presidents corner in the upcoming Lake Shore News.

Committee Reports

**Membership** – Wentz reported we have 975 members at this time. Ongoing discussion regarding hiring someone to take over membership duties. Board will look into hiring someone to take over for next year.

**Auditing/Finance** – Anderson will look into having our books audited.

**DNR/GOV’T** – Nothing at this time.

**Water Testing** – Long reported at 6 ½ ft., Round 14 ft.

**COLA** – The June, 2023 Otter Tail County Lake Property Owner meeting was held June 15, 2023 at the Ottertail Community Center. The featured speaker for the evening was Jim Wolters, DNR Area Fisheries Supervisor. Jim’s presentation focused on fish populations in Otter Tail County lakes. He talked on the Fisheries Surveys program and how they contribute to lake management plans. He also addressed the fish winter kill experienced this year and what Fisheries were doing to reestablish populations.

**Communications/Lakeshore News** – Discussed the contract with Midweek/Lakeshore News, we have not received a contract proposal from LSN as of this meeting. Board discussed the late delivery of LSN and lack of communication from LSN. The board feels it’s important to have delivery by 10th- 15th of the

month. Board discussed and will look at options including requesting bids for the printing and distribution of LSN.

**Facebook** – Board will continue to post information from OTLPOA on Ottertail Connections Facebook page.

**Website** – Kuder suggested different ideas on how to update and improve our website. The committee will meet to discuss and present ideas to the board.

**Worm** – Spraying was completed June 1st. Gerken talked to some homeowners that did not want to be sprayed. He said they appreciated him reaching out and answering their concerns.

**Foundation** – New lights were added to buoy’s.

**Social** - Discussed annual meeting to be held June 24th at Zion Lutheran Church in Amor, details about agenda was discussed.

**Old Business** - Long discussed trash bin at Deer Lake access. He was told it needed to be a state owned bin, he will look into why and how we can get one at this access.

Board members that are up for reelection, Gerken, Swanson, Hunke and Wentz all agreed to serve again. They will be voted on at the Annual meeting June 24th.

Anderson discussed filling Linda Snyder’s open board seat, Duane Hanson was nominated and was unanimously approved by the board to fill this open seat.

Hunke asked about our safety deposit box, is it needed? Anderson and Hunke will visit bank and report back to board.

Anderson reported on the Otter Tail River Management meeting held at Thumper Pond June 9th.Approx. 100+ people attended, discussed concerns and will continue to look for solutions. Another meeting will be held July 27th 6:30PM at Thumper Pond.

**New Business** – Articles and pictures needed for August edition of Lake Shore News.

**Adjournment** – Meeting adjourned at 8:33 PM

**Next meeting is August 24th 2023 at 6:30pm**



# “Take A Kid Fishing”



Photos Submitted By: Pat Hunke

- Take a Kid Fishing in MN is June 9-11 this year, I think it should be all year.
- You don't need a big boat, in fact a smaller boat will be easier to get into small lakes.
- Don't go after hard to catch fish, kids are happy to catch anything; sunfish, bass, crappie, perch, etc.
- Take the kids to the bait store, the owner will probably hate you, but the kids love to pick out the worms.
- Go to a smaller lake with less traffic and wave action, much more enjoyable for kids and adults.
- Be patient and prepared for a thousand questions and requests. I don't even bring a rod if there is more than one kid, I bait hooks, tie hooks, untangle lines, run the motor, get the snacks out, put bobbers on, take bobbers off, and try to keep the boat in some semblance of order.
- If you know anything about fishing, teach the kids, but don't restrict them, let them experiment.
- When done, teach them about picking up the boat and making sure all weeds are removed and all wet compartments drained, it's going to be part of their future.
- When they get home let them tell Mom and/or Grandma tall stories, it's part of the fishing world.
- Have fun!





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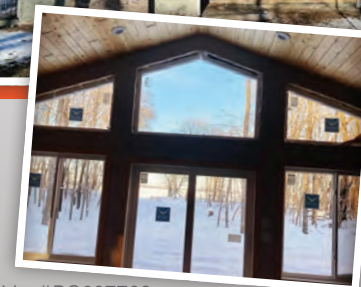
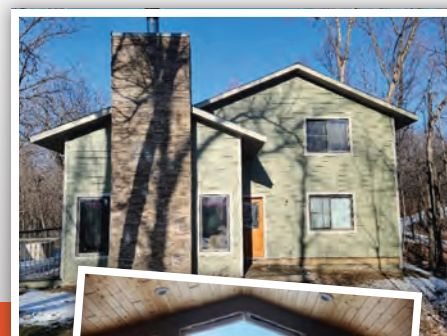
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## Maplewood State Park



### PARK HIGHLIGHTS

- Camping
- Fishing
- Hiking
- Horseback Trails

### HORSE CAMPING:

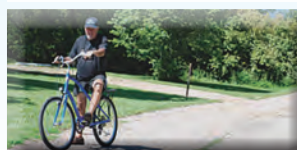
Campsites in the equestrian campgrounds can be reserved by phone or online. Some sites are able to accommodate additional campers (up to three). Please contact the park for approval. To reserve by phone, call 866-85PARKS.

### 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.



- The maple forest turns brilliant shades of orange, gold, and red in the fall.
- Eight major lakes and many ponds offer water lovers places to swim, fish, boat, and simply relax.
- Lake Lida has a sandy beach and large picnic areas for visitors.
- Drive along the scenic route to observe the wildlife: the park is host to 150 bird species and 50 species of mammals.
- The extensive trail system attracts hikers, horseback riders, and cross-country skiers.
- The only entrance to the park is located off highway 108 east of Pelican Rapids.

### 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

### 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.**

39721 Park Entrance Rd., Pelican Rapids, MN 56572

E-mail: [maplewood.statepark@state.mn.us](mailto:maplewood.statepark@state.mn.us)

218-863-8383 • [www.dnr.state.mn.us/state\\_parks/maplewood](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/state_parks/maplewood)

The park entrance is located 7 mi. east of Pelican Rapids on State Hwy 108.



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## Proud Of His Catch!!!

Photo Submitted By: Ken Wentz



## 11 Tips For Cooking Fish

Fish and other seafood may not be part of individuals' normal dietary routines, which can lead to uncertainty regarding how to prepare and cook the ingredients they find at the supermarket or local fishmonger. These tips can set the course for success when cooking fish.

1. Seafood should have a mild, fishy aroma. If it is overpowering, the fish may be spoiled. It's acceptable to ask the person at the fish counter how long the fish has been there. In regions where fish has to be transported inland great distances, it may be best to purchase frozen fish so it's less likely to be past its prime.
2. Most fish is cooked when the center is opaque and the fish flakes easily with a fork. Fish can be fried, poached, steamed, baked, or grilled.
3. Baking fish is one of the easier methods to master, particularly if you're prone to overcooking fish. Set the oven to 450 F to cook the fish fast and evenly. Thin fillets need around 8 minutes, while thicker cuts may require 15 to 20 minutes.
4. Resist the urge to manipulate the fish too much; otherwise, it will fall apart since it is very delicate. Try to flip only once.
5. Pat the fish dry before cooking, as extra moisture can cause the fish to steam instead of sear, resulting in a

marshy final product.

6. Choose the right fish for the recipe. For example, a chowder or paella will require a more sturdy fish, such as cod, while a more delicate fish will fall apart if simmered.
7. If you want crispy skin on fish, start it in the pan with the skin side up. Afterwards when you flip the fillet, it will crisp nicely.
8. Choosing a variety of seafood in a recipe might mean managing different cooking times. Investigate your ingredients and figure out when to add them to the mix. Shrimp or mussels, for example, cook rather quickly, so they tend to be added during the final phase.
9. If you will be frying fish, make sure not to overcrowd the pan so that the temperature remains consistent and will produce crispy results.
10. Watch for bones. Some fish, including trout and salmon, have a double rib cage, and that means small pin bones. Remove the bones by pressing the flesh with your fingers and using a tweezer to grab the pin bones.
11. For more professional flipping results, purchase a fish spatula, which can get underneath fillets without tearing them apart.

This advice can put anyone on the road to successful fish preparation.

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- Battle Lake Alliance**  
401 W. Gilbertson St., Battle Lake  
Derek Mansker, Pastor • Church—218-864-5539  
Sunday Worship Service 10:00 am  
Fellowship & refreshments after service  
Find us on the web at battlelake.org

### BAPTIST

- Basswood Baptist Church B.G.C.**  
38188 340th St., Richville, MN 56576  
Bert Holmquist, Pastor—218-495-3800  
Church—218-495-3771  
Sunday School 9:30 am, refreshments following  
Worship Service 10:45 am  
Bible Study, Youth Group & Kids Club - Wednesday 7:00 pm  
Ladies' Bible Study - 3rd Thursday  
Men's Prayer Breakfast - 1st Saturday 7:00 am  
Potluck Dinner - 2nd Sunday
- First Baptist (ABC) - Battle Lake**  
"The Little Brown Church on the Hill"  
Church—218-862-5319  
Terry, Contact—218-535-1186  
www.firstbaptistbattlelake.org  
Sunday Worship 9:30 am

### CATHOLIC

- Father Leroy Schik, Pastor  
Office—218-864-5619  
www.ollsj.org
- St. James** - Maine Township  
Saturday Mass 5:00 pm, October - April  
Sunday Mass 8:30am, May - September
- Saint Edward** - Henning  
Saturday Mass 5:00pm, May - September  
Sunday Mass 8:30 am - October-April
- Our Lady of the Lake** - Battle Lake  
Sunday Mass 10:30 am

### LUTHERAN

- Bethel Lutheran Church**  
Battle Lake Campus:  
Meets at Lakes Area Community Center  
112 West Main St., Battle Lake  
218-862-4903  
Sunday School 9:00 am  
(no Sunday School during summer months)  
Worship: 9:00am & 10:30 am  
Website: bethellutheran.church
- First Lutheran - ELCA**  
505 W. Holdt St., Battle Lake  
Lynn Melchior, Pastor  
blfirstlutheran.org  
Church—218-864-5686  
Coffee Fellowship: 9:00 am  
Worship: 10:00 am  
Communion 1st & 3rd Sundays
- Sverdrup Lutheran Church**  
PO Box 70  
209 Southern Ave. E., Underwood  
Tammy Jacobson, Pastor  
Church—218-826-6919  
Worship 9:00 am

#### Tingvold Lutheran Church

6 miles north of Underwood, Co. 1 & Co. 35  
Martha Halls, Pastor  
Church—218-826-6487  
September 1-May 31: Service 11:00 am  
Fellowship 10:00 am  
June 1-August 31: Service 10:30 am  
Fellowship 9:30am

#### Zion Lutheran Amor ELCA

Interim Pastor Doug Stave  
36051 Co. Hwy. 74  
Hwy. 1 & 74, 10 miles north of Battle Lake  
Church office 218-495-2563  
Email: office@zionamor.org  
Summer Worship: May 28th-August 27th @ 9 a.m.  
Fellowship: 10:00 am  
Communion: 1st & 3rd Sundays  
Services live streamed on our website:  
www.zionamor.org  
Bible Study, Tuesdays @ 10:00 a.m.  
Check the website for all events.

Fellowship and refreshments between services.  
Services are live streamed on our website and  
Facebook- Zion Amor. Check our website for any  
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# LAKES AREA Church Directory 2023

### METHODIST

- Ottertail United Methodist Church**  
104 Shores Drive, Ottertail  
Ricardo Alcoser, Pastor  
Church—218-367-2270  
Worship 8:45 am  
Coffee Fellowship following Worship
- Richville United Methodist Church**  
130 SW 1st Ave., Richville  
Rod Turnquist, Pastor  
Church—218-346-5656  
Worship 10:30 am  
Coffee Fellowship following Worship 2nd & 4th Sunday  
Wednesday School 6:00 pm

### PRESBYTERIAN

- Maine Presbyterian**  
30761 Co. Hwy. 45, Maine Township  
2 miles north of Phelps Mill  
Bob Kersten, Pastor  
Website: mainepresbyterianchurch.org  
Church—218-495-2539  
Summer - Worship 9:30 am (Thru August)  
Coffee Following Worship Service  
Winter - Worship 10:00 am



# 10 Ways to Prepare Your Garden for Winter

Source: <https://learn.eartheasy.com/articles/ten-ways-to-prepare-your-garden-for-winter/>

Steps taken now can make springtime even easier.

*This article has been updated from its original text.*

Fall is here, and with it comes the inevitable slowing of activity in the garden. Depending on your location, perennials may be blushing with color or starting to drop their leaves.

*After the rush of spring planting and the peak of summer's harvest, it's tempting to shut the garden gate and let nature take its course.*

Annual vegetables are nearing the end of their lifespan and are starting to succumb to the nip of successively heavier frosts. After the rush of spring planting and the peak of summer's harvest, it's tempting to shut the garden gate and let nature take its course. After all, you've done the heavy spring lifting and reaped summer's benefits. What more is needed now that fall is here?

The answer depends on how much easier you'd like things to be when spring rolls around. A few careful steps executed now will save you effort in the long run. If you would like to reduce the amount of work facing you during next year's spring frenzy, consider some of these suggestions for putting your garden to bed.

## 1. Clean up diseased plants. Leave the rest in place.

While many spent plants can be left in place to rot and add nutrients to the soil, some may harbor disease, pests and funguses. If you noticed any signs of disease during the growing season but didn't have the time to act, now is the time to remove them. The rest of your spent crops will provide protection for the soil, reducing erosion if left in place through the winter. They can also provide homes for overwintering pollinators.



## 2. Remove invasive weeds that may have taken hold over the growing season.

Remember the bindweed that colonized your raspberry patch? Or the Himalayan blackberry encroaching from your garden's borders? Now is the time to deal with those renegades. Dig them up and place them in the trash or smother them underneath tarps or garden cloth.

Most invasive weeds remain viable in a compost heap or weed pile, so resist the urge to simply shift them to another part of your garden. Re-

moving invasive plants completely is the only way to prevent those plants from sprouting all over again and disrupting next year's crop.

## 3. Amend your soil for spring.

Despite the fact that most people reserve this activity for spring, fall is a great time to add soil amendments like manure and compost, or organic fertilizers such as bone meal, kelp and rock phosphate. In most climates, adding nutrients at this time of year means they have time to start breaking down, enriching your soil, and becoming biologically active.

Amending soil now also means you'll have already done some of the work when the busy season hits.

Once you've sprinkled on your amendments, you can mulch your soil or sow a cover crop (see below) to prevent winter rains from washing the amendments below the active root zone; this applies especially to raised beds since they drain more readily than in-ground beds. Remove the mulch in early spring in advance of new planting.

## 4. Plant cover crops.

In many climates, late summer or early fall is a good time to sow cover crops like rye, vetch or clover. These crops help prevent soil erosion, break up compacted areas and increase levels of organic matter in garden beds. Cover crops also add nutrients and help your soil draw carbon into the soil from the atmosphere.

Planting legumes in your garden such as clover or field peas can increase the levels of available nitrogen for garden vegetables. While a general guideline is to plant cover crops approximately one month before your first killing frost, some cover crops are hardier than others. Consult your local extension agent or seed provider to identify the best fall cover crop for your region.



To learn more, read our article: [Plant a Fall Cover Crop to Improve Your Garden Soil](#)

## 5. Prune perennials with care.

Fall is a good time to trim some perennial garden plants, though take care to ensure you choose the right ones. Although plants like fennel benefit from a fall pruning, research shows that spent raspberry canes continue to nourish the plant's crown into the winter.

Blueberries also prefer a spring pruning, which helps safeguard the plant from exposure to dis-

ease and stress. Focus fall pruning efforts on flowers like roses; herbs like rosemary, thyme and sage; and vegetables like asparagus and rhubarb. Blackberries also benefit from a fall clean up. Remove spent or crossing canes to help control the plant's vigorous spread.

Resist the urge to cut back your perennial flowering plants, particularly those covered in seed heads. These will make excellent meals for overwintering birds in your neighborhood and add interest to the winter garden. Stalks and leaves also provide winter protection for a plant's tender crowns.

## 6. Divide and plant bulbs.

Although spring bulbs have long since flowered and died back, other flowering bulbs like lilies bloomed more recently. Three to four weeks after that glorious display, it's time to dig up and divide any plants that appeared crowded or straggly during the growing season.

For spring bulbs, this might mean some guesswork to determine location. Other plants will be more obvious. Dig 4-8 inches away from the plant's growing stalk, carefully loosening the soil. Lift bulbs gently and separate bulblets for immediate transplanting elsewhere in the garden.

If you previously dug up your spring bulbs for dividing, now is the time to plant them again. Daffodils, tulips and crocuses are all ready to go back into the soil for another year.

## 7. Harvest and regenerate your compost.

Now that the heat of summer is over and nature's microbes are settling in for their winter's nap, you may be tempted to ignore your compost heap. This would be a missed opportunity in two ways. First, material composted over the summer is probably finished and ready to go. Using this rich material to top up garden beds, amend deficient soils or fertilize lawns and landscaping will nourish your soil and jumpstart growth come springtime.

Second, cleaning out finished compost means making way for another batch, which—in most areas—can be insulated against winter's chill. To keep those microbes working a little bit longer, build your fall compost heap with plenty of autumn leaves, straw, or sawdust layered with kitchen scraps and other active, green matter. For more information, read our article about successful winter composting. You can also find the basics of composting in our comprehensive composting guide.



## 8. Replenish mulch.

Mulching in winter has many of the same benefits as summer mulching. These include reducing water loss, protecting the soil from erosion and inhibiting weeds. But winter mulching has other benefits as well: as the soil transitions to colder weather, the freezing and thawing of the earth can adversely affect garden plants, whose roots suffer from all that churning and heaving.

Adding a thick layer of mulch to the soil surface helps regulate soil temperatures and moisture and ease the transition into winter. A thick layer of mulch around root vegetables left in the garden for your fall and winter harvest can also

buffer against hard frosts and prolong your crop. And as the mulch breaks down it incorporates fresh organic material into your soil.

For more information read our article: [Fall is the Season for Mulching with Leaves!](#)

## 9. Review the plants in your garden and assess your growing season.

Did the varieties of fruits and vegetables planted this season perform adequately in your garden? Now is the time to reconsider under-performing plants and find out if a better variety exists for your location.

If your plants are performing adequately, consider extending your harvest by adding varieties that ripen earlier or later in the season. When considering vegetable performance, take careful notes for next season about what worked and what didn't. Some of the season's successes and failures can be chalked up to weather, but others are within your control.

Soil fertility, moisture levels and plant placement can all be adjusted. Although you might think you'll remember the highs and lows of summer come springtime, recording a short list of lessons learned now will provide more information in the end.

## 10. Clean and sharpen tools.

Although most gardeners know they should keep tools clean and well oiled throughout the year, it's difficult to keep up with this task when gardening is in full swing. Fall is a great time to rejuvenate your tools' lifespan by giving them some attention.

Begin by washing tools to remove dirt and debris. If rust is present, remove with sandpaper or a wire brush. Sharpen hoes and shovels with a basic mill file. A whetstone works well for pruners.



Finally, rub the surfaces of your tools with an oiled rag coated in light machine oil. This will help seal the metal from oxygen and extend your tools' lives for another year.

## Thinking ahead

Wherever you live, there are always steps you can take to prepare for next year's gardening season. Taken now, these steps will not only help your spring and summer run more smoothly, they can also improve your yields over the long term.





## Sunset on Ottertail Lake 8.2.23

Photo Submitted By: Dar Medcalf



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.

Migrating monarchs should be highly visible along the Prairie Hill Trail from mid-August through Labor Day. Vehicle permits are required and can be purchased at the park. For more information, call the park at 218-864-0110.

**VIRTUAL TOUR** Take a panoramic virtual tour of Glendalough State Park. Peek inside the Glendalough Lodge, marvel at a vibrant prairie sunset, check out the unique canoe-in group campsite, and more. It's a great tool to help you plan your next trip to the park! Take the high speed panoramic tour or the low speed/accessible tour. [www.dnr.state.mn.us/state\\_parks/glendalough](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/state_parks/glendalough) click on the Panoramic Tour or the Snapshot Tour under Park Notes.

**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](mailto:glendalough.statepark@state.mn.us)

25287 Whitetail Lane, Battle Lake, MN 56515

[www.dnr.state.mn.us/state\\_parks/glendalough](http://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.

### 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:

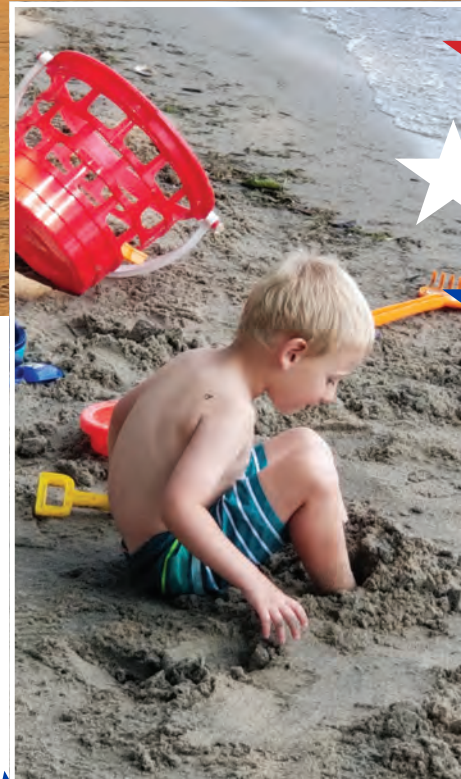
There is no RV camping in park in summer. Private RV campground is nearby.

**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.



## Sand Castles and Grandson

Photo Submitted By: Dar Medcalf

## July 4th Celebration

Photo Submitted By: Dar Medcalf



OTLPOA Foundation purchased replacement solar lights for Otter Tail Lake's 9 hazard buoys again this year. Lights have a 1 mile radius. These buoys mark shallow waters and rocky areas. Thanks to Steve Mouritsen and Dalton Mouritsen for maintaining, placing, and removing these both spring and fall. We appreciate your efforts to keep boaters safe.



# Safe and Effective Ways To Clean Up Leaves



Removing leaves from the yard is a task that homeowners must perform each fall. Thousands upon thousands of leaves can drop from a single tree. Multiply that by the number of trees on a property, and it's no surprise the task of leaf cleanup can seem so daunting. Furthermore, not all leaves are shed at the same time, so several cleanup sessions may be necessary before the last leaf is banished from the yard.

Just like removing snow, leaf cleanup can be a taxing job if done by hand. For people unaccustomed to exercise, cleaning up leaves can turn into quite a workout. According to the Discovery Health Calorie Counter, raking leaves for one hour can burn nearly 292 calories. Shoulders and arms will feel the burn. Raking leaves is considered moderate physical activity, similar to

brisk walking. Those who find themselves straining or out of breath should take a break, and these tips also make the job safer and easier.

• Wear layers when cleaning up leaves. It may be cool at first, but it's easy to work up a sweat after raking for awhile. Layers can be peeled off so as not to get overheated or risk hypothermia from sweating in chilly temps.

• Pay attention to your posture while raking. James Weinstein, chairman of the Department of Orthopedics at Dartmouth Medical School, recommends forming a wide base with the feet and holding the rake slightly toward the end of the handle with one hand three-quarters of the way down the handle from the other. Do not twist the spine; move your entire body. Avoid overuse of muscles on one side of the body by switching sides periodically.

• Do not try to rake or blow leaves on windy days. Wind will only make the task that much more difficult, which could lead to overworking oneself.

• Avoid overfilling bags. For those who

plan to mulch and bag leaves, remember that compressed leaves can get heavy pretty quickly. Do not over-fill bags, as they can be hard to move or bring to a recycling center.

Using a leaf blower to push leaves into piles will reduce the strenuousness of the task, but leaf blowers can be heavy and noisy and gas-powered blowers can produce a considerable amount of exhaust.

Raking leaves can be quite a chore. It is important that homeowners take steps to prevent injury while cleaning up leaves in their yards.


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# Watering The Yard And Garden In Extreme Drought



Use raked leaves as mulch around trees, shrubs and perennials. Save time later this fall by cleaning empty rain barrels now.

Basic practices like watering in the morning and using mulches to keep the soil moist remain very important. Prioritizing what to water and reusing water safely will also help keep our landscapes healthy during extreme drought conditions.

## An inch per week? Choosing what to water

Due to watering restrictions, fears of wells running dry, and simply wanting to conserve water, you may need to prioritize plants that need water the most.

The common saying that gardens need an inch of water per week is a good rule of thumb. But which plants actually need an inch per week and which plants can get by with less?

Here's a quick guide to help you prioritize.

## Water trees young and old - and shrubs too!

Mature trees need water yet they are some of the last plants we think about due to their size and the fact most leaves are well above our eye level.

Saturate the top 6-9 inches of soil with water to ensure those important feeder roots are well-watered. Most tree roots are located in the top 18-20 inches of soil and spread far beyond the tree's dripline (canopy edge). Small, effective feeder roots deliver much of the water and nutrients to the tree from the soil.

Late summer and early fall can be a good time to plant new trees and shrubs. Again, be sure to water them. Note that daily watering of 1 to 1.5 gallons per inch of trunk diameter is required for the first two weeks after planting.

Evergreens need moist soil as we move into winter in order to reduce needles drying out. Think of each needle as a leaf. Deciduous trees and shrubs drop their leaves, but evergreens have to hang onto them through the winter and spring. Adequate water helps.

## Focus on perennial flowers

Are you getting tired of watering your containers every day? Annual flowers are wrapping up their life-cycles for this year, so concentrate your water resources and effort on your perennials and bulbs that will be there next year.

September is a good month to plant spring bulbs like crocus, glory-of-the-snow (chionodoxa), daffodils, tulips and garlic. Be sure to plant in well-drained soil and water bulbs like you water your perennials.

Wondering if your perennials are dry? Get your hands in the soil and water if the top 6 inches of soil are dry.

As you start raking leaves, put them around your perennials, trees and shrubs as a mulch. Mulch holds in soil moisture while protecting roots, moderating soil temperatures, and overall reducing stress on landscape plants.

## Don't overwater vegetable gardens

Often, due to concern over the drought, many gardeners may be overwatering their vegetables.

Some vegetables are hardier than others, and each vegetable has a critical period when consistent water is especially important for high-quality fruit, root, tuber, or bulb set. Usually, this period falls between flowering and fruit maturation.

- Pay extra attention to vegetables that are flowering and fruiting. These vegetables need consistent moisture. Watering a little bit every day or two is better than watering all at once.
- Storage crops reaching their time of harvest like potatoes and onions can be cut off from water at this point in the season if you plan to harvest in the next few weeks.
- Deep-rooted vegetables like tomatoes, squash and melons can pull moisture from deep in the soil, so they tend to be hardier than other vegetables.
- Sweet corn has very shallow roots and needs water more frequently.
- Cool-season crops like lettuce, broccoli and turnips need frequent water throughout the summer.
- Vegetables grown in pots need to be watered every day.

## Reuse water

While most of our rain barrels have been pretty empty this summer, there are other ways to conserve and reuse water, such as using dishwater, water from coolers, and even capturing water from the shower in buckets to water your plants.

• Avoid reusing dishwater that contains a lot of soap as it can burn foliage, especially when applied in hot sun.

- Don't reuse water that has had meat or bones cooked in it as the fat residue can attract animals.
- You can reuse water used to cook vegetables, just let it cool down first before applying.

Take advantage of your empty rain barrels to clean and disinfect them for next year.



## Whatcha Catching Papa?

*Photo Submitted By: Dar Medcalf*



## Everyone Loves A Boat Ride

*Photo Submitted By: Dar Medcalf*

## lost & found

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# Safety Tips For Riding Off-Highway Vehicles

With thousands of miles of trails throughout Minnesota available for riding, off-highway vehicles continue to grow in popularity as a way for people of all ages to experience the outdoors. For some folks, an OHV is a convenient means for getting from Point A to Point B. The journey itself is the goal for other riders, who simply enjoy riding through the fields and woods.

Whatever the reason for riding, there are a variety of steps OHV riders can take to reduce the potential for accidents or injuries and ensure a safe and successful ride.

## The golden rules of OHV safety

Ride only on designated trails and at a safe speed.  
 Ride on the right.  
 Wear goggles, long sleeves, long pants, over-the-ankle boots, gloves and DOT-compliant helmets.  
 Avoid riding on paved roads except to cross when done safely and permitted by law.  
**Ride sober.**  
 Carry no more than one passenger on an OHV specifically designed for two people, and never carry a passenger on a single-rider OHV.  
 Ride an OHV that's right for your size.  
 Actively supervise younger riders. OHVs are not toys.  
 If an OHV comes factory-installed with seatbelts, wear them.  
 Take a hands-on and online safety course.  
 Keys for youth ATV safety

## Active supervision – set the ground rules

If a child can control a bike without any problems, it may be a good time to try an OHV.

Youth under age 16 must have permission from their parent or guardian to operate an OHV. Even when permission is granted, active supervision is a must. Youth riders may be able to start and stop an OHV, but lack the experience to respond to something unexpected. Setting ground rules reinforces the serious nature and responsibility that comes with operating an OHV. Allow youth to ride only after they demonstrate they can

follow directions and wear their protective gear.

**OHV fit – one size does not fit all**  
 OHVs intended for use by adults (16 years and older) are larger, heavier and have greater speed and performance capabilities than youth models. Children under 16 and capable of driving OHVs should ride a smaller model, with speeds limited accordingly.

Youths age 16 and under must fit the OHV they operate.

They should be able to reach the foot pegs while sitting upright on the machine, and be able to reach and control the handlebars. This means they must be able to grip the handlebars and have the ability to move them to the left and right, in addition to operating the throttle and brake lever with one hand. Youth riders also must be able to shift their weight from side to side and from front to back while maintain their balance.

## Helmet use and safety gear

Protective gear is a must while operating OHVs. Whatever size machine they're riding, all operators and passengers under the age of 18 must wear DOT-certified helmets. One of the most common violations conservation officers see is people under 18 not wearing helmets, particularly on the larger, Class 2 vehicles.

Full face shield helmets that fit snugly and securely offer most protection. Eye protection is recommended, especially in a wooded areas. Over-the-ankle shoes with sturdy, non-slip heels and soles should be worn. Long-sleeved shirts or jackets, long pants and gloves all afford protection. We recommend everyone riding an OHV wear a helmet.

Training and trail safety  
 Take an ATV safety course (required for riders born after July 1, 1987).  
 Take an OHM safety course (required for OHM riders under age 16).  
 Take an ORV safety course.  
 Trail Ambassador program.

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**OTTER TAIL COUNTY - MINNESOTA**  
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# Winterize An Outboard Motor

**Knowing how to winterize an outboard motor is essential for the overall health and performance of your boat. Proper winterization protects against corrosion and freeze damage that can occur while your motor is in winter storage.**

Here's everything you need to know about how to winterize an outboard motor.

## 1. CHANGE THE CRANKCASE OIL

If you have a four-stroke engine, it's important to change the oil before you store your motor for the winter. The oil will be dirty and full of contaminants after summer use, and over the course of the winter months, these contaminants can corrode your engine. This can shorten the engine's life and leave you with repairs to make in the spring.

## 2. CHANGE THE GEAR OIL

The gear oil needs to be changed before winter for the same reason as the crankcase oil: There are contaminants in it. Drain the old gear oil, and replace it with fresh oil before you store the motor.

## 3. STABILIZE THE FUEL

Cold weather is hard on fuel. To keep your fuel from going bad over the winter, treat it with a stabilizer that will prevent it from getting gummy. Once you add the stabilizer, be sure to circulate it through your engine by attaching flushing muffs with a hose to provide water. Make sure you let the motor run for 10 minutes when you add stabilizer.

## 4. FOG THE ENGINE

Treating the engine with fogging oil helps prevent engine corrosion. Ideally, this is done while the engine is still warm and involves spraying fogging oil directly into each cylinder of a four-stroke engine. If you have a two-stroke engine, instead of fogging oil you'll use outboard oil, but the process is the same either way.

## 5. CHECK THE PROPELLER

This is a great time to remove the propeller and check for damage. If you need to repair or replace it, you'll have plenty of time. You should also inspect the shaft to be sure there's nothing wrapped around it, like a monofilament fishing line. Lubricate the shaft and then reinstall the propeller.

## 6. STORE THE MOTOR UPRIGHT

Make sure you store the motor in an upright position. This will ensure that water drains out instead of collecting and freezing.

Now that you know how to winterize an outboard motor, be sure to repeat this process every year. If you spend some time taking care of your motor before winter arrives, you'll be ready for the water when the sunny weather returns.



## Mixing pleasure with work on Blanche Lake at the inlet. Artwork by Mary Jo Wentz.

Photo Submitted By: Ken Wentz

# How To Make Outdoor Living Spaces More Comfortable



Private backyards are now go-to spaces for recreation and entertainment and great places to recharge the body and mind.

One ripple effect of the COVID-19 pandemic was more time spent outdoors, even if it was predominantly on one's own property. OnePoll, in conjunction with the lawn care company TruGreen, surveyed 2,000 American homeowners and found participants spent 14 hours outside every week in 2021, which was three hours more than prior to the pandemic. In addition, respondents admitted that time spent outdoors was therapeutic. A separate survey conducted for the International Casual Furnishings Association found that people now spend more time relaxing, gardening, exercising, dining, and entertaining outside than in years past. Though COVID-19 may no longer dominate headlines, the desire to enjoy outdoor spaces has not waned. While enjoying outdoor living areas, homeowners can do all they can to make these spaces comfortable and welcoming. The following are some good starting points.

## Get all lit up

Outdoor spaces can be enjoyed no matter the hour when there is ample lighting. That could be why the International Casual Furnishings Association reports those who plan to renovate their outdoor spaces list outdoor lighting as a priority. Outdoor lighting not only sheds light on entertaining spaces, but also makes spaces safer

and more secure.

## Increase privacy

No matter how friendly homeowners are with their neighbors, there comes a time when privacy is paramount. Fencing, whether it is wood or vinyl, or even a natural fence made from closely planted hedges, can ensure residents feel comfortable venturing outdoors to swim, take a cat nap or even star gaze in private.

## Address the elements

Homeowners should note the direction their backyard faces and the typical daily conditions of the space. For example, a yard that faces southwest may get plenty of strong sun during the day, requiring the addition of shade trees, covered patios or arbors to cut down on the glare and heat. If the yard is often hit by winds, trees or bushes planted strategically as windbreaks can help.

## Sit comfortably

High-quality comfortable seating increases the likelihood that homeowners will want to stay awhile in their outdoor spaces. A deep seating set complete with plush chairs, outdoor sofa or love seat and chaise lounge chairs gives people more opportunity to sit and stay awhile.

## Take a dip

A pool can be the perfect gathering spot on a warm day, while a spa/hot tub can bridge the gap to cooler weather. According to the Family Handyman, soaking in hot tubs can relax tired muscles after a long day, loosen up stiff joints, improve cardiovascular health, and reduce the time it takes to fall asleep.

## Bite back at bugs

Homeowners may want to consider using a professional exterminator to get rid of ticks, mosquitoes and other nuisance insects from outdoor spaces. As people spend more time enjoying their properties, they can consider the many ways to make outdoor living spaces more comfortable.



## We discovered who was raiding all of our suet and birdfeeders.

Photo Submitted By: Ken Wentz





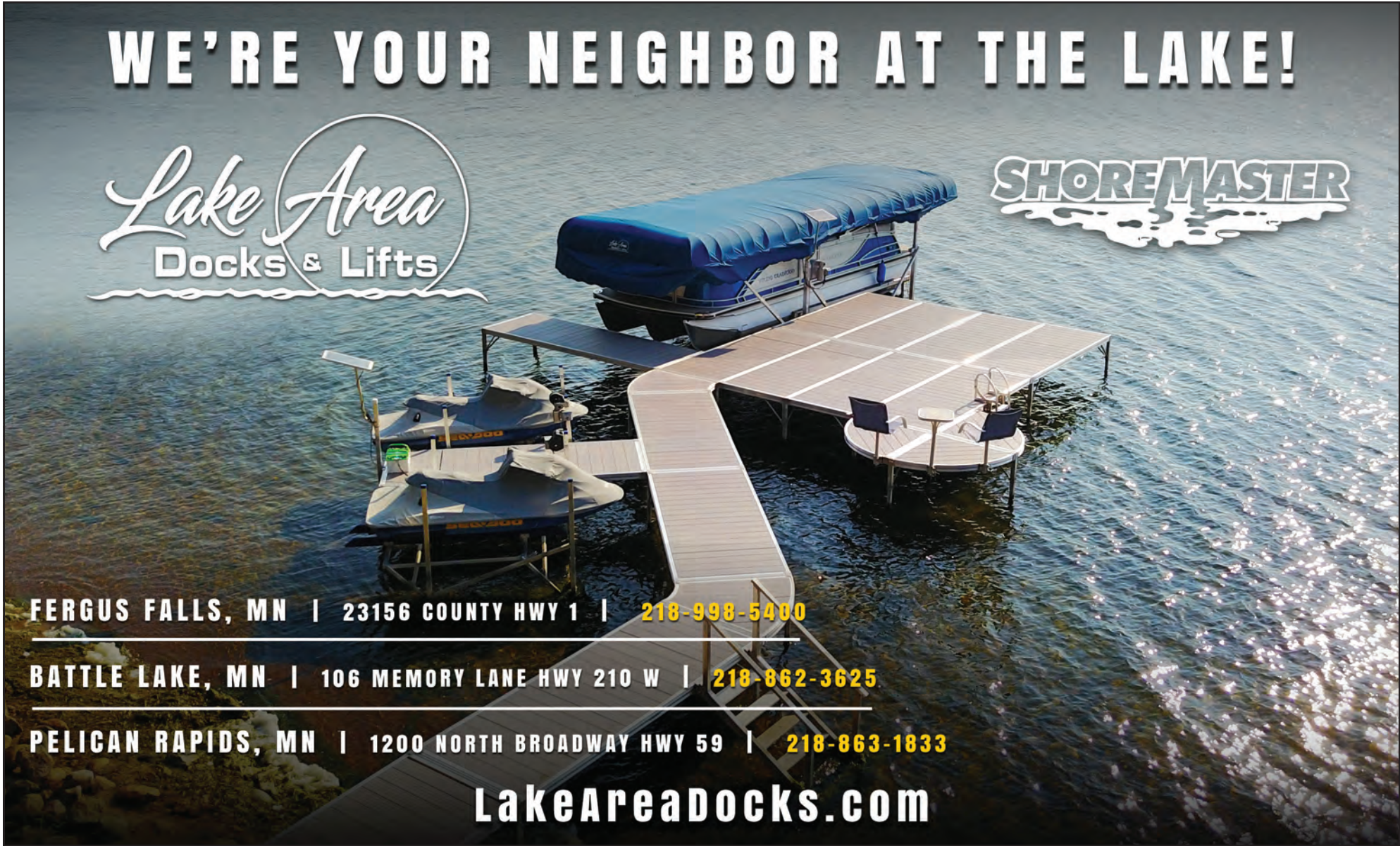
## Enjoying Vacation Time On Blanche Lake

Photo Submitted By: Ken Wentz



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