

Clearwater Lake Property

Owners Association

2019 Spring Newsletter

Save the date:

Friday, May 3, 2019: 5:30 PM – 8:00 PM; Spring Steak Fry-Support True Friends (see the clpo.org calendar for additional information)

Saturday, June 1, 2019: 9 AM – 10:30 AM; Annual CLPO Meeting at Corinna Town Hall

Saturday, July 6, 2019: 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM; Band at the Point – Sponsored & Hosted by Dingmann Marine

Friday, August 2, 2019: 2:00 PM; CLPO Golf Outing/Dinner: Whispering Pines

Saturday, August 3, 2019: 10:30 AM-1 PM; Annual CLPO Picnic: Lower level of the Annandale City Park



CLPO Annual Meeting:

Saturday, June 1st at Corinna Town Hall: 8 a.m. Coffee & Rolls; 9 a. m. Meeting

Meeting Agenda Items:

- 2019 Membership: Join/Renew
- Stearns & Wright Cty Sherriff's: Update on their work
- Board Member Nominations
- Clearwater Lake Real Estate update courtesy of Joy Carlson

We hope to see you there!

Membership:

2019 Dues are \$50 and go to support many lake benefits. You may pay your dues via check (a Dues form is attached), on our website at www.clpo.org, or at the Annual Meeting. All donations are tax deductible and if you pay on-line, PayPal will issue you a receipt. Please remember that the activities of the Lake Association benefit everyone! If you have paid your dues already, we've noted this on the last page by the mailing address with a paid thru date.

Also, please make sure we have your current contact information, especially your email address. We send many updates throughout the year and it helps us save on postage. To update your information, please complete the membership form attached and check the box that your information has changed or send us an email at clpomn@gmail.com. Thank you!

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A word from our president...

Ice-out is coming!

Greetings to all on this early spring day. We had an unusually harsh winter but the snow is melting, the ice is quickly retreating following an abrupt change in the weather, and we're all getting ready for another summer season on the lake. There is considerable behind the scenes work with respect to the lake. The Clearwater Lake Property Owners Association (CLPO) is preparing for another year of lake management work, including watercraft inspections and other AIS prevention and management activities.

Annual Meeting: Please plan to attend the Annual Meeting where we will present and discuss many of these issues. The Annual Meeting will feature Sheriffs Sean Deringer of Wright County and Sheriff Steve Soyka of Stearns County to discuss their work and answer your questions. We will also hold the election for the CLPO Board of Directors, more on that below. The Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, June 1st at 9:00 – 10:30 AM at the Corinna Town Hall (same location as last year).

Addressing AIS on the Lake: We continue this year with our regimen of activities that include both AIS prevention and AIS management. In this edition Mark Bertelsen, CLPO VP, and Tim Isle, CLPO AIS Manager, report on the AIS work planned for the year. The CLPO has again secured grants from both Wright and Stearns counties to conduct boat inspections at the two DNR ramps on the west end of the lake and we appreciate their generosity. Inspections are planned for weekends, some weekdays, holidays and other very special days (e.g., around fishing opener).

We will continue rake tossing at the top five popular ramps around the lake. Every week or so volunteers (your neighbors!) go to their assigned ramps and toss rakes in a distributed pattern to see what comes up. Suspicious weeds are brought to experts to find out what it is, and when necessary samples can be sent on to labs for a more expert determination. It's not a lot of work because we divide up the responsibilities among the group. If you want to help out please contact Tim Isle, our AIS manager, or me.

But all of this work does not mean we can take our collective feet off the gas. There is a new AIS species in Wright County. Flowering Rush has been found in Maple Lake and others. (For more information see <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/terrestrialplants/herbaceous/floweringrush.html>.) For the past three years we have been introduced to Starry Stonewort, which was first discovered in Minnesota on Lake Koronis but is now in Lake Sylvia, Pleasant Lake, and about 13 other lakes in the state. We knew that Starry Stonewort was only the first of many new AIS species to be concerned about and now we have another. This means that we, the CLPO board and all of us, need to be more aware of what's out there and what we can do to prevent or minimize its impact. The first thing is simple: **clean, drain, and dry** your boat and motor before you take it to another lake. Avoiding AIS spread in the first place is the easiest thing to do, and it's essentially cost-free.

New AIS project: As I previously reported the new AIS project for Clearwater Lake was approved last fall by the Clearwater River Watershed District Board of Managers (CRWD). The Clearwater Lake Aquatic Invasive Species Management Project begins this year and in future years will incorporate activities currently under the EWM project. The EWM project began decades ago and even though funds are no longer levied the program will continue until funds are fully spent (it's your money). Because of the manner in which the old EWM project was written funds collected under that project can only be used to treat EWM. This means that we don't have to spend new project money on EWM and the new project balance can rise allowing more money to be immediately available should a rapid response be required to address a new AIS infestation if any is discovered.

Wright Regional Inspection Pilot Program (WRIP): You've likely heard of the regional inspection program and the watercraft inspection station in Annandale. This program began in late 2017 and continued through last year with three lakes (Pleasant Lake, Lake John, and east and west Lake Sylvia). This is a pilot program of the three lake associations, the Wright County board and the Minnesota DNR. While the program had its ups and downs in 2018 it demonstrated sufficient success and promise such that six more lakes in Wright County are joining the program this year and a separate non-profit organization was created to manage the program and funds from the lakes standpoint. As of this writing the Wright County board approved the program but included a requirement for the Minnesota DNR to approve the program by April 15th. The CLPO Board of Directors unanimously supports this program but Clearwater Lake suffers a complication in that the lake straddles two counties, meaning we would need a future agreement between Wright and Stearns counties in order to proceed. In the absence of that we are watching the progress of the program to see where it goes.

Nominations to the CLPO Board: Our board is a great group of hard-working individuals and we're always looking for people willing to step up and contribute to the community. Board elections take place at the annual meeting on June 1st, and elsewhere in this edition you will find a detailed Call for Nominations to the CLPO Board of Directors. Please consider nominating yourself or another for this important role. Nominations are

due no later than May 21st. We are also always on the hunt for volunteers willing to spend a few hours a month. Just contact any of us – contact info is on our website at www.clpo.org.

That's it for now. We'll see you on the lake! Have a great season and stay safe! And remember:

Jim Kutzner, CLPO President

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Sandbar Treatment for Swimmers Itch:

We will again be treating the sandbar for Swimmers Itch. Treatment will be sometime around the first week of June and again a few weeks later. The dates are dependent on the water temperature. Check the website "News" for an update of the treatment dates. Please also remember that this does not eliminate swimmers itch, but helps reduce it.



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2019 AIS Ramp Inspections County: by Mark Bertelsen, V.P.

In February, the CLPO boards of directors were notified that Clearwater Lake was awarded \$22,000 from Stearns County for AIS Ramp Inspections. This will be the fifth year since the inception of the program giving us the opportunity to supply weekend ramp inspections at our two public ramps. **Note:** Public ramp access to Lake Augusta, Otter Lake and Grass Lake in Stearns County, is provided by **the two ramps proposed in this application.**

Inspections are recognized in the county's AIS plan as one of the best tools we have in order to prevent the spread of AIS. Clearwater Lake is currently infested with Curly-leaf Pondweed, Zebra Mussels and Eurasian Watermilfoil. As such, inspection services will serve a dual-purpose: both to lower the risk of a new AIS infestation to Clearwater Lake (creating a new source of infestation to other state waters) and to lower the risk of spreading these AIS to other state waters. Users of Clearwater Lake will continue to enjoy its many beneficial uses, and the portion of the local tourism economy related to said uses will remain healthy. All lake users, including riparian land over, will benefit from this project, which is focused on preserving the lakes' beneficial uses and ecological health

Work actually started last November when the board applied for the grant competing with all other lake associations in Stearns County. We worked closely with the county early in the year to finalize the proposed inspection schedule, with the goal of having 10 hour shifts on Fri-Sun from May 1st to Oct. 13th, with additional 10 hours shifts the week prior to the fishing opener and the week of the 4th of July Holiday, Memorial and Labor Day. Reporting to the county is usually completed by the end of October.

In addition, to the funding from Stearns County, we were award an additional \$1,500 from Wright County. This money will be used to purchase additional inspection hours. In total we are planning on providing almost 1,500 hours of public ramp inspections this season.

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CLPO Website & Newsletter

We have decided to eliminate the login button and make every page available on our website. We have also decided that going forward, we will email the newsletters to everyone we have an email address on file for and mail to the members that we only have an address for. If we have your email address and you would still like to receive a paper copy, please let us know and we'll add you to the mailing list. Also, if you are interested in submitting an article of interest for our up-coming newsletters or pictures to post to the website, please email them to: clpomn@gmail.com.

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Treasures Report: by Debbie Flygare, Treasurer

This year we have increased our cash reserves by about \$14,000. Most of our increased revenue has come from increased sponsorship revenue. We've stepped up efforts to communicate with all our lake owners via our newsletter and subsequently we've been able to offer advertising in the newsletter and on our website which pays for the increased costs. Other expenses and revenues have remained about the same.

Recall that our new AIS project was created at the end of 2018 and going forward the CRWD will now pay for expenses to combat all Aquatic Invasive Species, not just milfoil. Our association's reserve fund will allow us to act quickly in case of an emergency on the lake and also to provide other member benefits such as treating for Swimmer's Itch at the Sandbar.

The detailed financial reports will be available at our annual meeting. I look forward to seeing you there!



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Lake Property Weed Control

Many have inquired about who to contact in regards to have their lake weeds commercially treated. It does take some time to get through the permit process, but there still is time to apply for permits. Below are the website addresses for additional info. You can also find the links on our website under AIS.

DNR approved Aquatic pesticide companies:

https://files.dnr.state.mn.us/fisheries/apm/commercial_aquatic_pesticide_applicators.pdf

DNR Permitted Commercial Mechanical Control Companies:

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Wild Rice Removal: by Tim Isle, AIS Committee

Last year's wild rice crop has, for whatever reason, enjoyed a very successful germination that has resulted in many questions about what can be done to remove wild rice from the lake.

First, it is illegal to remove, either by manual or chemical means, wild rice without a permit from the DNR. A failure to get a permit prior to removing the wild rice plants can cause liability issues for the persons doing so.

It is possible to apply for a permit for either opening the water around a dock and/or to develop a channel to open water. One can apply for a permit to remove the wild rice by either manual or chemical means. You can complete an online application at <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/mpars/index.html>. If you need assistance with this process, it is also possible to email Audrey Kuchinski at Audrey.kuchinski@state.mn.us. Once the application is received, a DNR representative will come out to assess the situation and either deny the request or develop the parameters of the treatment.

Call for Nominations to the Board of Directors:

The CLPO is an active lake association who constantly works to improve and protect this beautiful resource we all have the privilege to enjoy. We are seeking nominations for association members to join our Board of Directors.

Overall Responsibility:

Board members of the CLPO manage the affairs and budgets of the association.

Operational:

Board members are elected to three-year terms and may serve up to a maximum of two consecutive terms. Board members are expected to attend CLPO board meetings and other meetings held throughout the year. Board members represent the organization in dealings with CLPO members and the public.

Specific Duties:

Management of the affairs of the association includes but is not limited to the following tasks and activities:

- Management and oversight of the association's budget and expenditures
- Leading and/or participation in aquatic invasive species management in the lake
- Leading or participation in various selected committees and other subgroups of the association
- Represent the association at public and private events and meetings
- Attendance and participation in periodic and other board meetings, which are typically monthly during the high seasons and lower during the low seasons
- Elect officers of the organization

If you have interest in becoming a Board Member or if you know of someone who is willing to serve, please email or write to the CLPO by May 21, 2019 and the nominating committee will contact you.

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Stearns County Aquatic Invasive Species: by Liz Leitch-Sell, Board Member

Just over a year ago I made a phone call to the Stearns County Soil and Water District Supervisor to ask some questions about naturalizing the hillside at our Clearwater Lake home. Somehow, by the end of that conversation, I was asked to serve on the Stearns County Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Committee. So much for what seemed like a benign phone call! Since joining the committee, I have been amazed at the level of commitment and knowledge represented and the endless volunteer hours given on behalf of our lakes and waterways. Stearns is the only county in Minnesota where the county commissioners have entrusted the lion's share of responsibility for decisions on how to manage and fund AIS in county waters to a committee made up of lake association stakeholders, watershed supervisors, and county environmental services staff. By all accounts the results have been very successful.

The Stearns AIS Committee creates the County's AIS Plan, awards bids for inspection and decontamination services, works with lake owners and associations to provide education and direction in dealing with invasive species, and attends many trainings and educational sessions to keep abreast on current issues and treatments associated with AIS.

Clearwater Lake Property Owner's Association (CLPO) applies to the Stearns County AIS Committee each year for dollars to fund inspectors at its two DNR public accesses. Mark Bertelsen, CLPO Vice Pres., writes and submits the RFP, and this year Clearwater was awarded all of the \$22,000 it requested.

Memorial Weekend Pilot Program

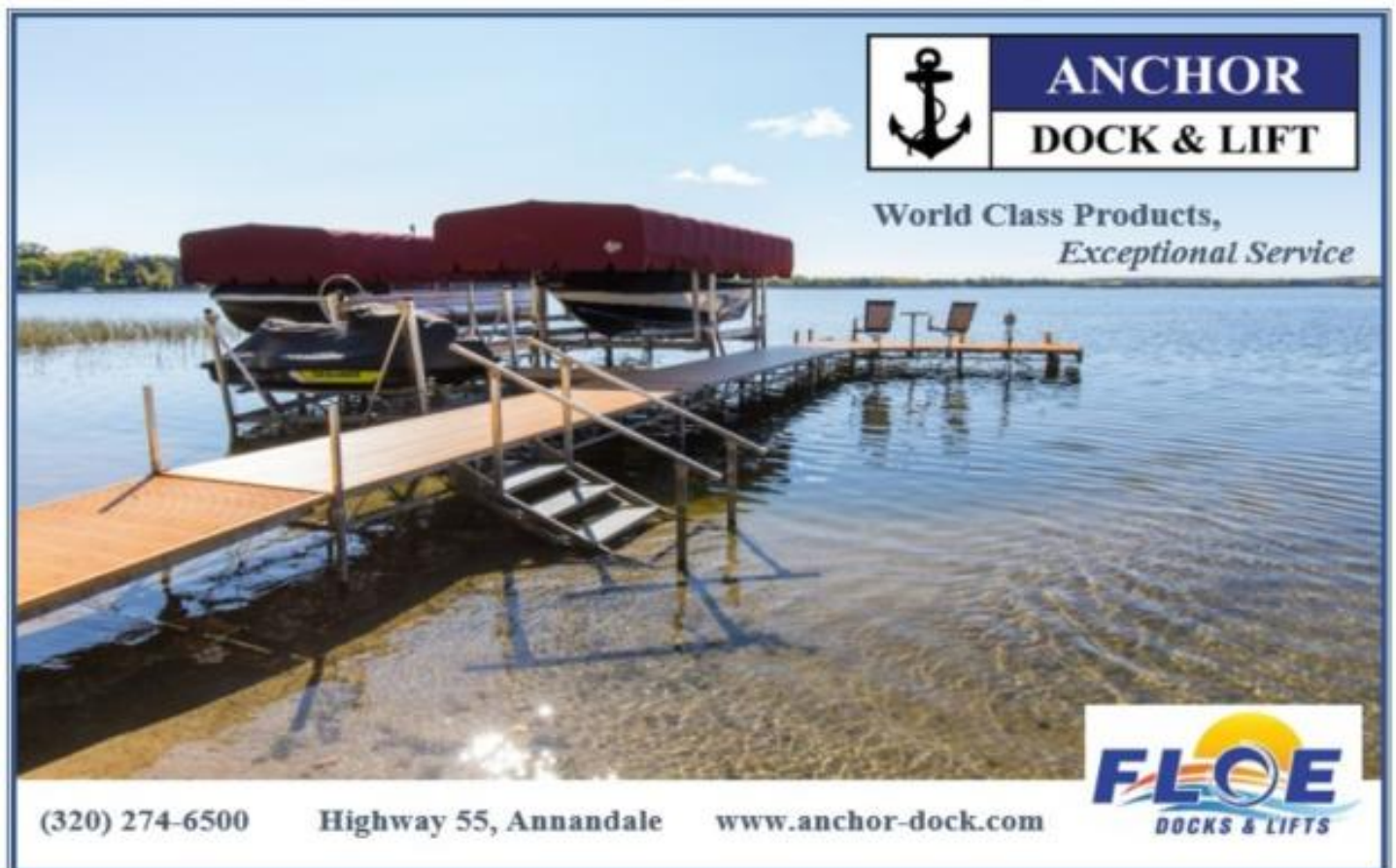
As the committee sees an issue that needs addressing, we also work with the DNR to write and execute pilot projects. Last year we conducted a pilot on Two Rivers Lake to attempt to increase decontaminations of boats that were coming into the lake for fishing tournaments. Across Minnesota, decontamination units are very underused, which is frustrating, as there is probably no greater tool in slowing the spread of AIS in our waters. This year, we are running a pilot to try to understand if a coupon incentive will encourage boaters to get their boats decontaminated. A secondary goal of the pilot is to understand if such an incentive helps improve the educational quality of conversations inspectors have with boaters at the accesses.

Only two lakes are part of this pilot and I'm pleased to share that Clearwater is one of them! Clearwater will participate over the extended Memorial Day weekend (May 23rd-27th). The Hitching Post has agreed to be our coupon sponsor, for which we are very grateful. Please be sure to thank them for their generosity when you stop in, as we could not participate in the pilot without their support.

On the five days of the pilot, inspectors at both Bob's Bay and Blackpool landings will hand out an educational Clean, Drain, Dispose brochure, along with a coupon for **"buy one drink and get a second of equal value free"** at the Hitching Post. Inspectors will offer a second coupon for a **"free cheeseburger basket"** at the Hitching Post to boaters who agree to get a decontamination either before or after boating. As Stearns County only has one decontamination unit, all decontaminations will take place at Bob's Bay.

Data will be collected at the landings, and inspectors will be surveyed after the pilot. Grand Lake will conduct a similar pilot over the 4th of July weekend. Results of both pilots will be shared with the DNR and evaluated to see if there is evidence that an incentive helps motivate boaters to decontaminate. Those results will, of course, be shared with you in a future newsletter.

Changing attitudes about our personal responsibility in fighting the spread of AIS is difficult and will take multi-faceted approaches. Both the Stearns County AIS Committee and CLPO are committed to continue to investigate ways we can protect our lakes and stop the spread of invasive species.




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Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Update: by Tim Isle, Board Member/AIS Committee

As most of our CLPO members know, the Clearwater River Watershed District, upon the recommendation of the CLPO Board, has established an AIS Fund. This fund replaces the previous Eurasian Water Milfoil Fund and allows for the treatment of a variety of invasive species while the previous fund was limited to funding only the treatment of Eurasian Water Milfoil. The original purpose of the new AIS Fund has been focused on starry stonewort but the new fund has the ability to treat any other types of aquatic invasive species that might threaten the well-being of the waters of Clearwater Lake.

During 2018, the CLPO Board was active in a variety of preventative and proactive activities that were undertaken to protect the lake.

Education/Contacts: Board members have attended local, regional and state meetings addressing various AIS issues; developed strong working connections with other lake associations that are currently dealing with a variety of AIS issues; and have obtained a clear idea, including costs, of the methods being used to treat the various aquatic invasive species, especially starry stonewort. We also have a clear understanding of a rapid response plan to implement in case of an invasive species, again most likely starry stonewort, arriving in Clearwater Lake.

Identification of Aquatic Invasive Species: Since starry stonewort is the most pressing AIS issue confronting our lake at the current time, many of our efforts have been focused on it. One of the key factors in limiting the spread of starry stonewort is the identification of its presence in the lake as quickly as possible. Since we know that almost all starry stonewort is first detected near landings, we have a group of dedicated volunteers who do rake tosses near seven key landings in an attempt to find any early examples of starry stonewort. In addition, we have a scuba diver who comes in to dive at four of our most commonly used landings at three different times during the summer. Fortunately, neither of these detection practices has revealed any evidence of starry stonewort in the lake in 2018.

Prevention: Thanks to a ramp inspection grant from Stearns County and a supplemental grant from Wright County, we will again have monitors at the DNR landing sites during the upcoming summer. The inspectors will be on duty at those times when the historical records of ramp usage are highest and do boat inspections to ensure that no materials are attached to boats prior to being launched into the lake. The Wright County Soil and Water has also confirmed the approval of a grant to assist in the treatment of Eurasian Water Milfoil.

Each Of Us Can Help: The key to minimizing any aquatic invasive species impact on Clearwater Lake is for each of us to be vigilant and to follow the mantra, "If you see something, say something." We each have the responsibility to make a point that all boats entering the lake are free from substances from other lakes and we should all be aware of potential aquatic invasive species that we might detect in the water.

If you would like to volunteer to help with our starry stonewort raking program, please contact Tim Ilse by phone at 651-231-9377 or via email at t_ilse@yahoo.com. If you volunteer, you would be expected to do rake tosses at a specific landing on an every other week basis.



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Stearns County Comprehensive

Stearns County has started the process of updating the County's Comprehensive Plan. Please go to <https://shapestearns.com/> for the project website and to participate online and sign up for project updates.

Why should I be interested in the Comprehensive Plan?

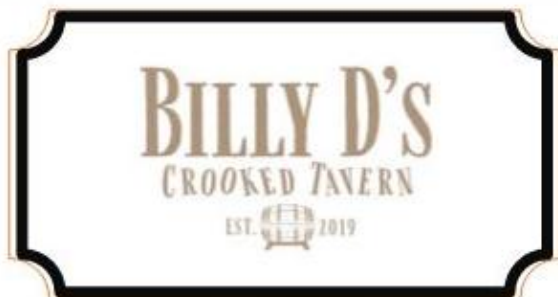
County staff and county leaders consult the plan when:

- A property owner proposes a new development in a township.
- Rebuilding a street or constructing a new roadway.
- Facilitating growth outside of the city boundaries.
- Planning for county facilities and new buildings.
- Preserving and protecting our natural resources.
- Maintaining and investing in the County Park and Trail system.

What are some outcomes from the current Comprehensive Plan?

As part of this effort, we are celebrating some of the successes that have occurred since the last plan was adopted in 2008. The following success stories are a result of the Plan's goals and policies that have helped inform county decisions:

- Preserved over 1,000 acres of natural areas in the Avon Hills/Collegeville area.
- Supported agricultural growth in the approval of over 600 new or expanded feedlot operations.
- Provided landowners and decision makers the tools necessary to protect farmland by conducting hundreds of land assessments.
- Supported areas of opportunity for renewable energy sources, resulting in over 600 megawatts (MW) of solar generating capacity.
- Conducted over 18,000 watercraft inspections in 2018 in an effort to prevent and minimize the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS).
- Constructed park and trail amenities, such as the Lake Wobegon Trail extension into the St. Cloud metro area, a new family-friendly swimming beach at Quarry Park, and the opening of Kraemer Lake Park



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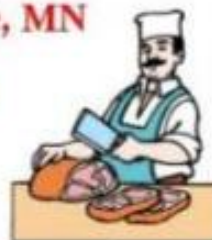
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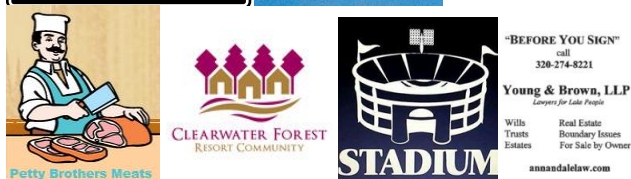
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Also, please thank them for their support of the CLPO!

CLPO Board:

Officers: President: Jim Kutzner
Vice Pres: Mark Bertelsen
Secretary: Joy Carlson
Treasurer: Deb Flygare

jkutzner@mindspring.com
mbertelsen34@gmail.com
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debflygare@gmail.com

Board Members: Dean Flygare, Tim Isle, Joel Dehmer, Mark Wilkins,
Steve Maeyaert, Westin & Wendy Nelson, Liz Leitch-Sell & Jeff Golden

AIS Committee: t_ilse@yahoo.com
Membership Committee: markclpo@comcast.net
Communication Committee: clpomn@gmail.com

Talents

We are always looking for volunteers to help with misc items throughout the year. If you have a talent and/or resource you'd be available to help the CLPO with at some point, please let us know. Send us an email, talk to one of the board members or note it on the Membership form. Thank you!

**** Don't forget to Join or Renew your membership - Thank you! ****