



Clearwater Lake Property Owners Association

2021 Summer Newsletter



Great Blue Heron

Save the Date

Early & Late June, 2021: Sandbar Treatment for Weed Itch

Saturday, July 3, 2021: Annual Clearwater Lake Sandbar July 4th Celebration

Saturday, August 7, 2021: 10:30 AM - 1:00 PM Annual CLPO Picnic: Annandale Pavillion Lower Level

Saturday, August 21, 2021: Starry Trek contact info Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center



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by Paul Pattee,
CLPO Board Member

I'm happy to announce that with the relaxing of COVID restrictions, **the CLPO Picnic is on again, Saturday August 7 at the Annandale Pavillion Lower Level!** Another opportunity for celebration after a challenging, even tragic, year for many in our lake community. Lets get together!

For the Summer newsletter, I've featured another recognizable native water bird, the Great Blue Heron, *Ardea herodias* . . . I think I'll stay with just, "heron". Although not a favorite of mine because of what it does in my pontoon boat when I'm not looking, it's very adept at fishing the lake; one of the better known native anglers. According to Wikipedia, "The primary food for the great blue heron is small fish but is also known to opportunistically feed on a wide range of other things like aquatic insects, rodents, other small mammals, and birds, especially ducklings" . . . oh no, say it ain't so!



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Also in this issue of the newsletter, I've decided to dedicate some content to the pandemic as we emerge from the many restrictions placed upon us. "The Rookie Corner" has my opinion as a physician on the guidance being offered as we enter the summer with fewer restrictions.

On another note, I didn't want to overlook the importance of one's faith in feeding the much needed sense of hope which has been tested by the COVID pandemic in the last year and a half. There has been many innovative ways for people of faith to get together whether it be by virtual or other means. One of these was made known to me by an article published in the Lake Life - Summer Guide 2021 called "Sundays on Sylvia" (SOS). Written by Tom Westman, it describes an initiative for the Lake Sylvia faith community to come together Sundays, on the lake, when services are lacking or skipped altogether because of distracting summer activities. They've listed four 2021 SOS services, attended by boat, on the following Sundays; Memorial Day May 30th, 4th of July on July 4th, August 1st and Labor Day September 5th. Though not Lake Sylvia association sponsored . . . and not wishing to petition the CLPO for sponsorship of a similar program on Clearwater Lake . . . I wanted to mention it here because I was moved by the motivation for action, in coming together, during a time of want or need.

Not wishing to editorialize any further in the Editor's Notes, other newsletter topics include information on a do-it-yourself (DIY) outdoor cooking apparatus, a recipe for coffee cake (that is not dry like most) and my failed, though innovative attempts on a subject near and dear to all of us . . . goose control. Check it out.

Also, want to offer a warm welcome to our two new board members, Steve Hurt and Tom Midas. A special thanks to Jeff Golden who has left the board having served as our excellent CLPO Treasurer. His quality work and advice will be missed. Thanks, Jeff.



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by Jim Kutzner, CLPO President

It's been hot! Summer is in full swing. The early part of June saw temperatures well above normal and weeks ahead of the usual summer blast. Climate change isn't something that will happen in the future – it's here now. Over time the lakes will undergo change in both plant and animal species. The cold water fish and plants will, over time, give way to warm water species. Putting the lakes in the best position ecologically will ensure that even as they change, the lakes will survive and thrive well.

The first thing I want to say is thank you! Thank you to our members and to our sponsors. We appreciate your continued support, and we'll do the best we can to serve the lake and honor your support.


CLPO is having its annual Picnic after all! Earlier this spring in keeping with the state's emergency orders we canceled the picnic. Then, things quickly reopened and we decided to hold the picnic after all. See details elsewhere in this newsletter. This has been a very good year for lake weeds. Thanks in part to the zebra mussels, the water clarity is the highest it's been in decades allowing sunlight to reach further down. And the water level is low. These two factors have stimulated plant growth where we haven't seen it before. The littoral depth, the maximum depth at which submerged plants exist, has increased by two feet over the past few years, which is substantial over a relatively short time. Chara, a native alga and the most prominent plant in the lake, is growing deeper and more widespread. A number of lake residents have mentioned the high densities of the invasive Curlyleaf pondweed (CLP) near their shores, especially in the west basin but also in other spots. CLPO began CLP treatment last year in select areas and that has continued this year. CLP is widespread but in many areas not high enough in density to justify putting chemicals in the lake. In order to secure a treatment permit from the DNR we have to demonstrate a large enough area and at sufficient density, and then we need to





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consider the total amount of chemicals applied across the lake. Furthermore, unlike Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM) where treatment attacks the current year's growth, treatment of CLP is a multi-year process where the treatment is attacking the turions, or seed pods. This means that in developing a treatment strategy we need to anticipate where next year's growth might be greatest. This summer we plan to look at the reported areas of CLP and focus on where best to look next spring.

Conversely, the EWM population continues to be low. Two years ago we did not treat for EWM because there wasn't enough of it to warrant the chemicals. Last year, we did treat but only in a few small areas. The decline in EWM coupled with the rise in Chara, CLP and other plants may indicate a possible major shift in the ecology of the lake. Time will tell but we are monitoring it. We also see changes in the fish populations. The walleye population is down and the northern pike population is up. Anyone who fishes Clearwater knows this all too well, but this was confirmed by Joe Stewig, Area Fisheries Manager for the DNR, during his excellent presentation at the CLPO Annual Meeting. Stewig reported that the northern pike population has for decades remained well above what would normally be expected in a mid-sized lake such as Clearwater. However, most northern pike caught have been the small "hammer handles" – one pounders that aren't worth catching. There are large northern pike but they are few and far between. The relatively new northern pike size regulations that require you to toss back northern pike in the 22"-26" is driven by the effort to allow these mid-sized northern pike to grow into big fish.

On the other hand, the walleye population is below what is expected for Clearwater and has been for decades, and, unfortunately, the population continues to sink further. To counter the drop the DNR stocks walleye every other year to every year depending on the fall survival rate. The DNR will stock 1.5 million walleye fry early this summer and then the DNR will continue with available fingerlings in the fall. Stewig is inviting lake residents to tag along whenever the DNR is working on Clearwater. Feel free to contact him at joe.stewig@state.mn.us or at 320-223-7867.

The good news on fish is that the bass, crappie and bluegill populations are all doing reasonably well. The bass population is slightly above expectation for a similarly sized lake, but there is a wide range of sizes and no cause for concern over bass. Because the larger sizes of crappies and bluegills are somewhat low in population, Stewig recommended that bag limits on those two species be reduced from 10 to 5 crappies and from 20 to 10 bluegills. This will allow more of each species to grow in size. During his presentation, he suggested that lake residents and the CLPO consider these questions and get back to him with any recommendations. If you have an opinion on these suggested bag limit changes please send it to us at contact@clpo.org. We want to know what you think. Whether you fish, swim, boat, or just hang around, have a fine summer and we'll see you on the lake! **(and at the picnic!)**

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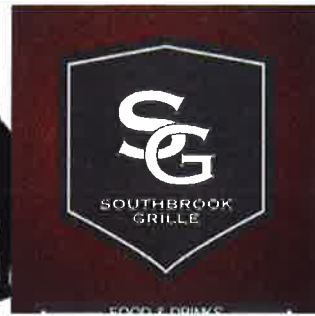
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by **Tim Ilse, AIS Manager**

This summer, the lower water level and the impact of the zebra mussels have contributed to a bumper crop of aquatic plants, both native and invasive, in Clearwater Lake. The zebra mussels have improved the water clarity giving plants more sunlight to grow.

The zebra mussels' influence can be noted in our point intercept surveys which are done every three years. In 2017, the maximum depth of the plant growth was 15 feet but in 2020, this growth extended down to 17 feet. Also, in 2017, 53% of the rake tosses yielded plant growth while in 2020, the rake tosses collected plant growth 62% of the time.

This year, we had curly-leaf pondweed (CLP) treatments done on 23 acres in early May and we have Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM) treatments scheduled for late July or early August. The EWM has been significantly reduced over the past several years and we are expecting to treat less than ten acres of the plant this year.

We are continuing to monitor and inspect for starry stonewort (SS). We have CLPO members who have graciously volunteered to do searches via rake tosses at several highly used landings around the lake. Our CLPO members who deserve our thanks are Cheri/Andrew Fink, Blaine Peterson, and Brian Tommerdahl. In late July and September, Blue Water Science has been hired to do SS searches using scuba/snorkeling as well as rake tosses to check for starry stonewort at the following: Bob's Bay Landing, Black Pool Landing, Clearwater Forest landing, Maple Hill landing, the private boat launch landing on the east end of the lake and the private community landing on the south-east porting of the east end of the lake. We still have one opening for a SS searcher. If you would be willing to take on this responsibility, please contact me at t_ilse@yahoo.com.

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by Paul Pattee, CLPO Board Member

The *Today's Recipe* article in the Spring newsletter had the promise of a design-for-build apparatus for outdoor cooking over an open fire. As primitive as it may look, it works surprisingly well. The components are standard pipe fittings available in any hardware or home improvement supply store.

If wanting to do this D.I.Y build, there are some things to consider not the least of which is the cost of materials. Believe it or not, there is a more expensive build using Kee Klamp compression-type fittings from Simplified Building (simplifiedbuilding.com), a favorite supplier for some of my lake projects requiring the joining of pipe without welding which, as many of you know, always presents a challenge.

Make sure that all fittings are tight to one another with the use of pipe wrenches. Nothing would be more embarrassing than to have this thing fall apart while cooking, suffering the loss of everything in the pot, your fire, your fun and perhaps reputation as a cuisine, do-it-yourself aficionado.

The 1-1/4" Galv verticle pipes needs to be long enough for in-the-ground support with enough above-the-ground clearance for pot movement up & down. The first time I made one of these things, the pipes were too short making temperature control a challenge. Another thing about driving these supports into the ground . . . don't ruin the threaded end otherwise you'll be visiting the Simplified Building website. Cover the end with a 1-1/4" cap for driving the pipe if not digging them into the ground. For those with *disposable* income, a ground sleeve using Gator pipe would be an option or Simplified Building has you covered with 1-1/4" Ground Sockets, for imbedding in concrete, at \$59.60 a piece last time I looked.

Should you decide to build & use the device, send me pictures along with your story on "how things worked out" to edits@clpo.org . I'll use your story in the Fall newsletter. Bon appetit!



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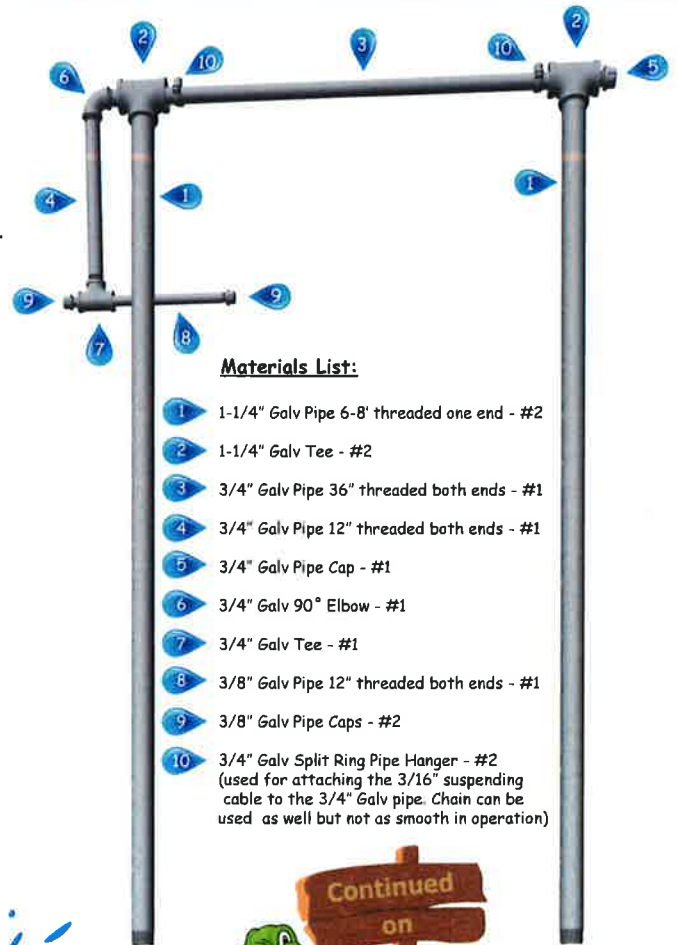
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- 2 1-1/4" Galv Tee - #2
- 3 3/4" Galv Pipe 36" threaded both ends - #1
- 4 3/4" Galv Pipe 12" threaded both ends - #1
- 5 3/4" Galv Pipe Cap - #1
- 6 3/4" Galv 90° Elbow - #1
- 7 3/4" Galv Tee - #1
- 8 3/8" Galv Pipe 12" threaded both ends - #1
- 9 3/8" Galv Pipe Caps - #2
- 10 3/4" Galv Split Ring Pipe Hanger - #2 (used for attaching the 3/16" suspending cable to the 3/4" Galv pipe. Chain can be used as well but not as smooth in operation)



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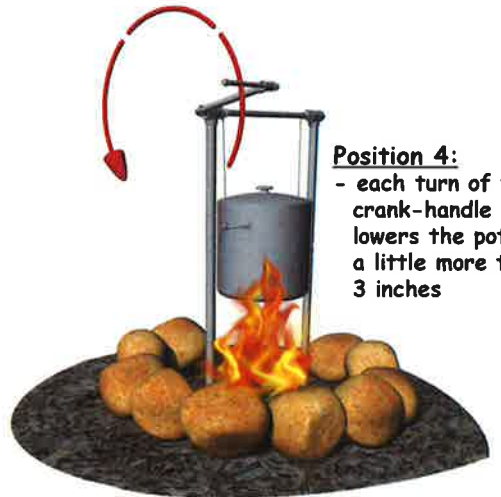
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 - ready to lower



Position 3:
 - crank-handle counter clockwise to lower the pot



Position 4:
 - each turn of the crank-handle lowers the pot a little more than 3 inches



Position 5:
 - once desired cooking temp reached, re-lock the crank-handle -adjust as needed.

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by Paul Pattee, MD

I thought I would shake things up a bit and offer some perspectives on the recent pandemic that by all appearances seems to be on the way out. I say this because, as in the past, all pandemics are eventually over leaving behind feelings of loss, change and questions on how to avoid or prevent such events in the future.

COVID-19 is going the way of past pandemics for a number of reasons. Early on, the more infectious and deadly strains of virus were removed from the viral pool with the death of those infected. Strains of the virus began going through a normal mutation process as viral replication created variants that were less infectious or lethal.

There has also been several factors, beyond viral replicating behavior, that has impacted the virus' ability to infect and spread. Social distancing, self quarantine and face masks have perhaps offered some physical barriers to transmission of the virus. Developing our own antibodies to combat the virus begins early on in any pandemic. Active immunity happens when the body immune system begins manufacturing antibodies to combat any active disease while also offering some protection against future infection. Herd immunity occurs when a large population of people have reached a level of immunity by such a process. Another type of immunity called passive immunity, occurs when fragmented viral proteins are injected into the body in the form of a vaccine which triggers the bodies immune antibody process. Active, herd & passive immunity take time to happen. In the case of passive immunity, the development, approval, manufacture and distribution of a vaccine can take a long time. Even once a vaccine has been made available, public acceptance of the safety or effectiveness of the vaccine, or even the benefit of vaccines in general, can enter the public debate.

There has been a significant public debate about "the science of COVID" portrayed as an oracle passed on to privileged few who rain down the power of policy in politics and government. Mandates have been created calling on us to surrender ourselves to this knowledge with significant implications for families and careers. In my opinion, "the science of COVID" doesn't exist and may not be known for some time. Scientific knowledge gained on anything is a laborous, time dependent process. Studies are generated which are heavily funded & defined. There are protracted periods of observation, data collection, data analysis, and peer review before "the science" on anything is known, let alone accepted. In the case of COVID-19, not enough time has passed for any established science. The effectiveness or wisdom of face masks, or even isolation, have yet to be studied. Proclaiming the existence of science about COVID when it doesn't exist, is not without consequences.

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I fear that the politics of COVID-19 has eroded the trust we would normally have in our institutions of education, journalism, medical science and government. Without such guidance, the stress of COVID has been made worse by hearing from those that shout the loudest or threaten the most. Guidance has been dished out along tribal or party lines creating a fall-out that further slows the recovery as we sort out what is to be believed & in whom do we trust. The self proclaimed guardians of truth, knowledge and good judgement have, on a daily basis, betrayed the public trust. So, what are we as individuals left to do?

Most of us, I believe, want to do the right thing. Do I mask or don't I? Should I get vaccinated? Can I enter a gathering of people without risk to myself or others? As individuals, the conditioning effects of the pandemic with all the mandates, cancel culture and loss on several levels has us cautious and confused.

In my opinion, what one does, or should ultimately do, is what has always been done . . . we make a choice. We live in a time when the fundamental right of choice, though challenged, still exists. What you choose to do on a personal level is more valid than any guidance coming from elsewhere. The divisive politics of COVID and the lack of true science makes anyone's thoughtful choice valid. Like all other choices in life, being the primary stakeholder of any outcome, whether it be good or bad, outdistances anything coming from elsewhere at this point. It is also something not to be judged, condemned or shouted down.

Author: I am a CLPO board member and Clearwater Lake property owner serving as newsletter editor and the CLPO Picnic Manager. I'm also a board certified physician of Internal Medicine, having retired in 2017 after 32 years of medical practice.

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Visiting Lake History

by C. B. "Zeke" Koehler
with Paul Pattee

Here are some more excerpts from Zeke's 2010 letter to his family about his experiences as a long time visitor and resident of Clearwater Lake. "Well, now we've arrived at our big cottage (which we call "Kneverdun" for we're never done) . . . each of us had unnamed chores to do, like prime-the-pump . . . someone else would have to start the kerosene stove to heat up water for coffee. While others would take the old wooden wheelbarrow down toward the point to fetch ice at the ice house, where in the winter it was cut from the back bay, and slid into the ice-house and covered with saw dust. Nothing quite compares to going into a cool ice-house on a hot July day, chipping off a piece of ice and sucking on it, better than home-made ice cream -- well almost. Someone would pull up the canvas curtains on our wonderful 12x25 porch with the two swinging beds, hanging on chains from the ceiling (by reaching back and pulling on the chain you could rock yourself to sleep, with the soft summer breezes and the call of the loons). Heaven, must have swinging beds, I'm sure.

"The sounds of summer seem to linger longer than the sights and smells . . . I especially remember the resounding heavy clink of horseshoes when they hit the post and someone saying, "that's a leaner" and then "well, I just have to knock that off and get a ringer" and someone would say, "oh, yeah, well you'll need luck, cuz you don't have enough skill". And in the background would be the sound of the radio with the Miller's baseball team being broadcast by Halsey Hall from the Nicollet Ball Park on Lake Street in Minneapolis.

"But, ah, those peaceful relaxing sounds of the 1920's - 30's while you nap on the porch to the simple clink-clink-clink, of the push lawn mower . . . you could hear the ker-plunk-gurgle-swish of oars as an old-timer persistently, but unhurriedly rows into your home bay to drop anchor at the sunfish hole . . . Now-a-days it's a bass boat with a 115 hsp motor (costing thousands of dollars) screaming into your quiet bay scattering the loon family every which way, taking a few casts, then screaming out again with a six foot tall water plume rooster tail, frantically going to another bay . . . It was such a joy to take a set of oars in my hands and by my own power row out to my favorite fishing hole, or maybe cheat a little and try to rely on a temperamental undependable outboard motor, as you would reach behind you to hold the tiller-handle of a 3 or 4 hsp outboard with open flywheel, that could burn your elbow (by friction) if you got too close - but you learn that pretty quickly.

"I'll never forget the fish fries - with Sunnies (the best tasting fish there is) stacked high on a plate, mixed with some crappies and a few bass, but never any Northern pike, in those days people would catch a Northern and say, "those blankety - blank snakes [or stronger language] . . . Truth be known, when cleaned properly - removing the Y bones, they taste as good, if not better than Walleye to Joni & I.

"Well, this has been a lot of chit chat about a lot of things, but the day is winding down and now we're back to the 1920's-30's and the sun's almost set so it's bedtime for this seven year old, but first I have to get a glass of water, my tooth brush and baking soda and go outside to brush my teeth and toss the water into the garden. If I'm lucky there'll be dozens of fire flies saying "here I am, look at me", or the night time Whip-poor-wills would be flying back and forth just above our heads catching bugs and chirping their name over and over again. Then it's out on our big front porch on a squeaky spring bed, while the older folks would windup the Victrola and put on a heavy (grooved only on one side) plastic-like record of perhaps Enrico Caruso . . . Or the folks would get out the card tables

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and start a game of whist, rummy or bridge by the glow of a kerosene lamp shining only so far, leaving dark scary corners for a 7 year olds imagination to run amok.

"But all good things have to come to an end - even if only temporarily - so we'll close up this bit of heaven for another week and all pile into the old Hupmobile, or Reo, or Case (cars of yore). And sing our way home with grand old songs . . . No car radios then, just the joy of all our voices, not necessarily blending, but singing along anyway.

"These memories keep welling up in my recollection of such good times that my eyes almost flood with tears of joy mingled with sadness for what can never be again and thankfulness to have been alive when a week-end at the lake meant quiet, peaceful, contentment.

"Bye for now, Gramps"

I leave Zeke's letter to his family again on somewhat of a sad note but then awashed with a realization that there are many of us in our lake community with similar feelings; a different time, histories and events.

Postscript: Zeke Koehler passed away on December 23, 2020 at the age of 95 and with him, a lot of history once lived. I want to thank him and his family for sharing their memories of time on Clearwater Lake. Zeke was a decorated Navy veteran of World War II having served in several Pacific engagements including Guam, Palau, Leyte, Lingayen Gulf, and Okinawa. For those unfamiliar with these places, or perhaps even World War II . . . Google it . . . *please*. From one Navy veteran to another, thanks for your service during a very troubling time in our nation's history which saw such needless loss of life on both sides of the conflict. Thanks again Gramps, for everything.



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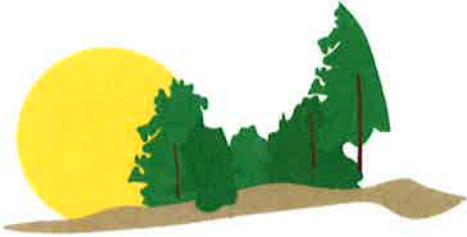
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Did You Know?



Goose patrol at my place equates to "poop" control. I've been told that Canadian Geese have an inefficient digestive system requiring high intake of daily food which in turn leads to high output of, well, you know . . . An early "goosinator" design of mine was the radio controlled, Li battery powered, Red Truck pictured above. The can of Root Beer in the bed of the truck is for scale only & not a refreshing beverage delivered to the geese for their pleasure or consumption. I wanted to harass & scare my unwanted guests. At one point, I removed the truck body and mounted a 1000 lumen flashlight, the brightness equivalent of a car headlight, for those night & early morning goosinator missions. The truck itself had 6" diameter wheels and reached a speed of 45 mph. Although I thought this rather clever on my part, I encountered several problems. Controlling something remotely, traveling at 45 mph, was challenging enough without considering the countless hours of goose surveyance, being ready to spring into action at any moment, day or night, batteries fully charged, ready to go. I used it for two years humoring myself with the mayhem I was causing but to no lasting benefit. Once the steering servo for right-hand turns gave out, probably from hitting so many trees & crashes into the lake, I scuttled the idea since making only left-hand turns seemed to have even less effect on the geese. By the way, my control of this thing was so marginal that no geese were harmed by my antics.

One more idea I tried was from a falconer at a resort in Palm Springs, California who was hired to keep pigeons, ducks and geese away from pool areas using trained falcons. Not wanting to keep, let alone train falcons, the falconer advised me on the use of a green spectrum laser pen light which I saw in use with effectiveness. After searching world markets, I bought a laser pen light only to have it fail like the Red Truck. Maybe California geese differ from our Minnesota geese . . . perhaps more anxious. Again, no geese were harmed, perhaps just humored.

Anyway, send me your recommendations for goose control, if you have any, to edits@clpo.org. I'll share the most interesting ones with our readers so long as they don't include stringing fishing line, with or without foil reflectors . . . doesn't work.



Matthew Brown



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by **Melanie Pattee**

Cinnamon Coffee Cake

Ingredients:

- 1/2 cup butter
- 1/2 cup apple sauce
- 2 3/4 cups white sugar
- 4 large eggs
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup sour cream
- 1 cup low-fat yogurt
- 1 1/2 cups chopped walnuts (optional)
- 2 tablespoons ground cinnamon
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 4 cups all-purpose flour

Directions: Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Lightly grease one 10 inch tube pan. In a large mixing bowl cream together the butter, apple sauce & 2 cups of the sugar until fluffy. Add the vanilla and the eggs one at a time beating mixture well after each egg. Combine flour with baking powder, baking soda, and salt. Add alternately with sour cream & yogurt to egg mixture. Beating just enough after each addition to keep batter smooth. Combine walnuts (optional), cinnamon, and remaining 3/4 cup of sugar. Spoon 1/3 of the batter into prepared pan, sprinkle with 1/3 of the walnut mixture (optional). Repeat layers two more times. Bake at 350 degrees F (175 degrees C) for 70 minutes or until center is done. Let cake cool in pan for 10 minutes then remove pan and let cake continue cooling on a wire rack.

Servings: 14

Yield: 1 -10 inch tube



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"Mom, Maggie rolled in dead fish again!"

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