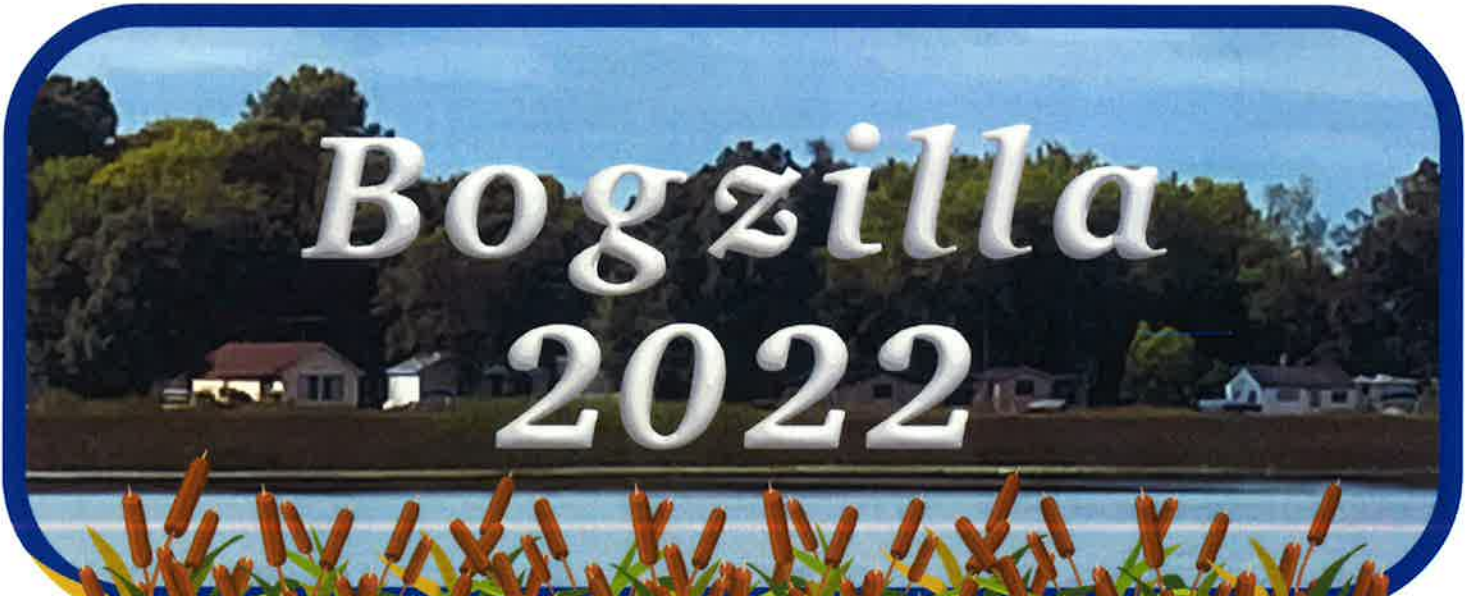




Clearwater Lake

Property Owners Association

2022 Fall Newsletter



Bogzilla 2022



Coming to a shoreline near you?

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Event Calendar 2022-23

Thursday thru Sunday, December 1-4th: St. Paul Ice Fishing & . . . at the St. Paul RiverCenter

Thursday, November 24th: Thanksgiving Day

Sunday, December 25th: Christmas Day

Sunday, January 1st: New Years Day

Wednesday thru Sunday, January 11-15th: Minnesota Sportsmens Boat Camping & Vacation Show
St. Paul RiverCenter

Wednesday thru Sunday, January 18-22nd: Boat Show at the Minneapolis Convention Center

Thursday thru Sunday, February 9-12th: Annual St Cloud Sportsmens Show
St. Cloud River's Edge Convention Center

Wednesday thru Sunday, March 1-5th: Minneapolis Home & Garden Show
Minneapolis Convention Center

Wednesday thru Sunday, March 8-12th: Northwest Sportshow at the Minneapolis Convention Center

Saturday, June 3rd: 9 AM - 10:30 AM Annual CLPO Meeting at Corinna Town Hall



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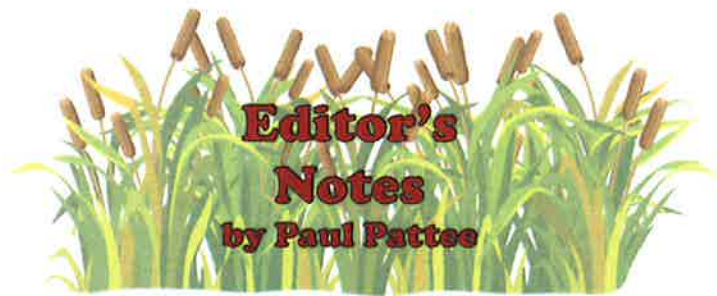
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**Editor's
Notes
by Paul Pattes**

Ominous looking cover to the final newsletter in 2022 but then, for some, a year when worst fears were realized. 'Bogzilla' is a monster bog, approximately 7000 sq ft in size, weighing in at anyone's best guess, that moved onto the shores of property owners near the Grass Lake bridge. Local property owners have named this the 'Rhode Island' bog. Set into motion by the high waters of spring, predominant flow of the Clearwater River thru the West Basin, and winds out of the west, many issues were brought to a head beyond just the destructive effects. Board member Liz Leitch-Sell, in her article beginning on page 8, addresses the many issues encountered when trying to solve a problem the size of the 'Rhode Island' bog. As a lake association, we want to mobilize all available resources in solving the current bog problem as we also work toward an action plan benefiting all lake property owners in dealing with future threats.

Fall is the time when everything needs to be moved/removed from the lake and put into storage. To safeguard against the spread of AIS, FiveStar is an initiative created as a positive, trust-based relationship between shoreline property owners and Lake Service Providers (LSPs) where AIS prevention safeguards are practiced. FiveStar LSPs are DNR-certified and sign a commitment agreeing to apply AIS safeguards when moving from one lake or river to another. For example, the use of dedicated equipment for the removal, trailoring & storage of lifts & boats reduces the risk of cross contamination when equipment is immersed in multiple lakes on any given day. We'll have more to say about the FiveStar Lake Service Provider Program in the Spring 2023 newsletter. For now, more can be learned by going to the Stearns County website: <https://www.stearnscountymn.gov/1512/FiveStar-Lake-Service-Provider-Initiative>.

Believing that history repeats, I enjoy reading about people who lead during difficult times. I have my favorites and since I need some content fillers for the newsletter, I've randomly placed some quotes from my current read on Theodore Roosevelt our 26th president. He came to office when as vice-president, then president William McKinley was assassinated by an anarchist. I've learned he had more to say than "speak softly & carry a big stick; you will go far", making him my source for pithy fillers.

Late August, I started putting together the newsletter by drawing a map of Clearwater Lake, labeling places of interest (pages 18 & 19). Any attempt to achieve some consensus on a common lake nomenclature can certainly invite criticism & disagreement. Let me know about my errors & omissions.



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Also in August, I was at a wine tasting event on Maple Lake with friends from Vancouver, BC. Conversation turned to descriptions of their lake, a 300 mile long 250 foot deep behemoth. Unable to boast about anything remotely similar, I decided to research things about our own watery playground and how our lake compares to others in the area. I've included a table on page 19 where you'll find comparisons made on things like amount of shoreline, acreage, average & maximum water depth. I found the variations interesting. Take a look.

Steve McComas of Blue Water Science, our guest speaker at the Annual Meeting in June, had mentioned that it's possible for one or more of our own native fish species to begin consuming zebra mussels as a desired food source. Curious about what species of fish in our lake might follow through on such a 'deliverance', I listed the many species of fish that populate our lake on page 18. Most of our fish are termed 'omnivores' meaning they'll feed on almost anything including crustaceans such as snails. We have several species capable of relieving us from this AIS menace. Going one step farther, I began to wonder if it would be possible to open a fish farm, raise a variety of fish species found mainly in littoral areas (less than 15 feet of water), and feed them nothing but zebra mussels. The fish that adopt such a diet would then be bred for later release into the zebra mussel infested lake. On the face of it, may seem to make sense but probably not to practical. Who is to say that such fish wouldn't just revert back to consuming easier sources of food once reintroduced to the lake. I know for myself, when ordering food at a restaurant, I'll take a nice walleye filet or tender beef steak before tackling a dish of 'crack-your-own' crab legs. **Bon appétit!**

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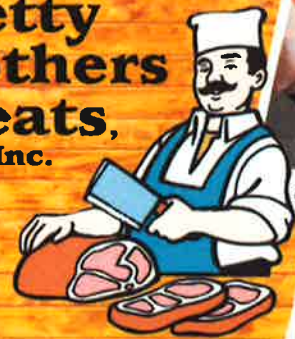
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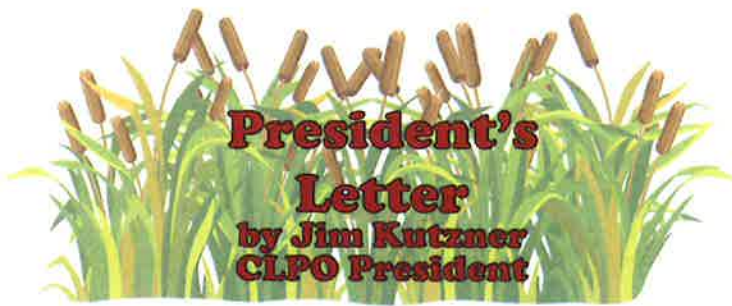
Innovation:

Young Minds at Work on Clearwater Lake



Luke





President's Letter

by Jim Kutzner
CLPO President

I don't thank people enough. It's my nature but that doesn't mean it's right. So, the first thing I want to do is thank you. The CLPO's success is largely based on the members who support us, which is you. So, thank you for your support! The other and equally important group is our sponsors, the folks that give us some of their hard-earned profits. Thank you sponsors, for your continued support! Clearwater Lake wouldn't be the success it is without all of your support.

It's fall and once again time for the annual hauling in of the boats and docks. Same thing every year, but this year just feels different. Perhaps it's world and national events, perhaps it's our post-Covid world and all of the fallout, or perhaps it's the uncertain economy. One thing that seems to be certain, the climate is changing. Spring weather was unusual with the excessive rain and wind, followed by a continued drought. The early season high water may have been part of the cause of fewer lake weeds. We inspected the lake over the summer but did not find enough Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM) or Curlyleaf Pondweed (CLP) to justify treatment of either. This is a substantial savings to CLPO and its members, but multiple years of little to no treatment needed signals a changing environment. We need to be alert to future changes and determine the best response on our part. I'm also pleased to report that no Starry Stonewort was found in the lake this year, but we will continue with our searches. The annual Starry Trek search event held in August across the state led to the discovery of a few more Starry Stonewort infested lakes in Minnesota, but not here. Please continue to do your part and clean, drain and dry your boats and equipment when it leaves the water.

As many of you know this was a red-letter year for bogs. The high water in the spring lifted and loosened many bogs, the high winds then broke a few off and set them free, and away they went. A two-home-wide bog broke off and floated into docks and lifts near the Grass Lake bridge. Residents have been dealing with that bog all summer and it looks like portions will still be



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waiting for us in the spring. Another smaller bog managed to lodge itself into the channel into Glendale Bay. Dealing with bogs has been an ad hoc process. The CLPO is looking into what can be done to manage the bog problem and become a little more anticipatory and less reactive. We have been working with the Clearwater River Watershed District, who manages the bog funds that we pay into, with the DNR, who permits bog actions, and with our neighboring lake associations, who share in the problems. There must be a better way to approach bogs and we'll be working next year to develop it. Part of the solution will be the assistance provided by lake residents who volunteer to help out with floating bogs, so please look for and consider the requests.

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Have a great fall and winter!



Did You Know?

One of the world's most beloved toys was named in honor of President Theodore Roosevelt. During a Mississippi hunting trip in November 1902, guides had clubbed a bear and tied it to a tree inviting the president to shoot it. Roosevelt, an avid outdoorsman and hunter, declined saying it would be unsportsmanlike to kill a defenseless animal in such a way. The incident generated national attention and was depicted in a popular political cartoon by Clifford Berryman.

Inspired by the cartoon, Brooklyn, NY shopkeeper Morris Michtom and his wife Rose made a stuffed fabric bear in honor of the president, displaying it with a sign, "Teddy's bear," in their store window. The president never liked the birth of the iconic toy in his name.



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Bogzilla 2022



by Liz Leitch-Sell



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After very low lake levels in 2021, the high water this spring was a huge relief for most lakeshore owners in the area. However, high water on Clearwater means the risk of bogs letting loose and dancing their way around the lake. Such was the case this spring when one particularly large bog let loose around the area at the end of Bungalow Island and Minneapolis Point and headed downriver toward the Grass Lake bridge. A sudden switch of the wind sent the bog toward shore just south of Maple Hill Resort. After hitting a few docks on the way, it stopped in front of two homeowners' properties and wedged up against their docks and lifts. The bog, larger than a football field, totally impeded their access to the lake. For the bog location, see the lake map on page 18.

The homeowners contacted Clearwater Lake Property Owner's Association (CLPO) for advice and CLPO facilitated contact with the Clearwater River Watershed District (CRWD) administrator and the DNR office that issues the permits to move bogs. Both CLPO and the homeowners wanted to follow policies, but the following weeks resulted in much frustration and disappointment for everyone involved. The bog could have been moved while the water was high, but while waiting for permits and direction from CRWD, the water level decreased and the bog was no longer moveable.

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The homeowners were devastated that this massive bog, that they named 'Rhode Island', was now stuck in front of their homes changing their view, their access to the lake and their property value.

The situation was discussed at the CLPO Board meeting in June and a subcommittee consisting of Board members John Hoppe, Brian Tommerdahl and myself was formed. The goals of the committee were to understand the constraints and funding of the Clearwater/Grass bog fund, to understand the CRWD's policies regarding bogs and attempt to influence change to those policies, and also to consider changes to CLPO's procedures regarding bogs.





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Clearwater/Grass Bog Fund

Some of you may be unaware of the history that resulted in the creation of the bog fund on Clearwater. In 1983 record rainfall caused high water that released many bogs on Augusta, Clearwater and Grass lakes resulting in flooding, damage to homeowner property and blockage of bridges and waterflow. Excavators worked the entire summer removing bogs from the Grass Lake bridge. As a result, in 1985 projects were put in place to create a fund to pay for emergency bog removal for bogs that affected the flow of water in the watershed. Funds are collected via property tax payments and the watershed district sets the assessment annually. Lake Augusta shore-owners pay into a fund for bog removal on their lake, and Clearwater and Grass Lake shore-owners pay into a fund for bog removal on our lakes. Bogs that end up on the Grass Lake dam, which is owned by the DNR, are removed and paid for by the DNR.

The subcommittee wanted to better understand the financial history of the fund, the annual operating costs of the fund and any restrictions on how much CRWD could assess. The cost to remove a bog has increased substantially since 1985 and the subcommittee was concerned that the current project might not allow for sufficient dollars to cover bog removal costs today.

As the watershed district supervisors researched our questions, they realized the 1985 project was written in a rather unique manner and felt the needed to get an opinion from their attorney. After review, the attorney for the watershed reported he believed there probably was no clear upper limit on the amount the watershed could assess if needed, within reason, but that CRWD absolutely could not assess anything until the balance in the fund went below \$1800. This is good news/bad news for shoreland owners. The good news is that hopefully this project won't have to be rewritten to fund future bog issues as long as we don't have too many changes in the frequency and amount of bog movement on the lake. It also means shoreland owners won't be assessed unless there is a real need. However, because of the way the project is written, it will be difficult to continue to keep the tax rates of this fund as flat as would be desired, and we will never really be able to have much of a fund balance to work with when bog emergencies occur. Rather, we will likely have to rely on borrowing from the watershed and then reimbursing them in subsequent years. The watershed will float those loans at no cost.



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Moving forward it is likely there will be years of no assessment and other years where \$12,000 (such as this year) or even more may be assessed. Realize this amount is divided between all shoreland taxpayers and is a very, very small amount of your tax bill. The new legal interpretation of the fund means that instead of being assessed about the same amount of bog tax each year, some years you will pay more and some less. People don't like to see big variation in taxes from year to year, but this project is written in such a way that gives the watershed district little choice.



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Reviewing past financials, we also estimate that operating costs of the fund run between \$2200-\$2500 annually in years where there is no bog activity.

Revision of CRWD Bog Policy and Procedures

The subcommittee spent the summer conversing with many people, but most of their time was spent working with Dale Homuth, a CRWD Board supervisor and former DNR hydrologist. Together they attempted to make changes to the CRWD Bog policy that governs procedures to follow when a bog becomes an issue in Augusta, Clearwater or Grass Lakes. The watershed district supervisors were very willing to make some adjustments to the policy and a final draft was submitted to the board in August which will likely be voted on in September. The previous policy only let CLPO use bog funds if a bog was lodged at the Grass Lake bridge and was stopping water flow. Upon review of the original project documents, we realized the parameters allowed were much broader, so the procedures were rewritten to give CLPO a bit more latitude to use funds for bogs that are moving toward the bridge and in limited cases, bogs that are affecting property access, usually in that general area. The fund is meant to be used for bogs larger than 600 sq ft. that both CLPO and CRWD deem eligible for removal. Only a limited number of problem bogs will be able to be funded due to expense and policy guidelines. Smaller bogs are the responsibility of individual property owners who must obtain a DNR permit to move or remove them.

The updated policy should also allow for us to move faster when a problem bog surfaces. CLPO hopes to mirror procedures Lake Augusta has used for a number of years. Our plan is to apply for an emergency permit from the DNR each year so we have a permit in hand that can be activated with a phone call if we need to remove a bog. CLPO also now has an agreement with the CRWD that we only need call their administrator and inform her we are activating the bog permit. Previously we had to wait for a site visit from the administrator and wait for a permit from the DNR before we could act. Since water levels can decrease so quickly in spring, these new procedures will greatly increase the chance we can move or remove a problem bog while it is still floating. Also, this should make the total cost of bog removal somewhat cheaper as we won't be paying for site visits from the CRWD administrator. Further savings should occur since CLPO will be doing more of the communication with the DNR and contractors-activities for which the bog fund was charged by CRWD up to now. Note that this plan is contingent on the DNR approving an emergency permit for Clearwater Lake which we have not yet applied for. We are hopeful that will not be a major hurdle.



There's more . . . 

Bog Disposal Sites

One hurdle that was expected to be a major task for the subcommittee was finding a disposal site for the bog material that is removed from Clearwater. This spring CLPO was surprised to find CRWD had no arranged disposal site for bog material. We were told that CRWD could work on finding a disposal site, but our bog fund would be charged for all the time that process took and it could be very expensive. Dale Homuth suggested we try to find a location ourselves. Brian Tommerdahl made a few contacts and at this writing we have 2 property owners that are willing to take our bog material. We think there is potential for more disposal locations and will continue to work on expanding that list in coming months.

Easement Near Grass Lake Bridge

The CRWD policy states that problem bogs on Clearwater Lake be taken out at the landing immediately north of the Grass Lake bridge. At the time the policy was written, Boots Froyen was owner of that landing and on the CRWD board. No formal easement was written and now Paul Schneider owns that landing. Both CRWD and CLPO have approached Paul about a written easement to use the landing for bog removal. Paul graciously has agreed to an easement and documents are being drawn up so that both CRWD and CLPO will have an easement in place.

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Permits

The subcommittee will also be working with the DNR permitting office on options to expedite permitting for CLPO and possibly lakeshore owners. We have no information to share on this topic at this time.

Emergency Team of "Bog Movers"

The CRWD will not move bogs to landing sites for removal. Therefore, we need a team of people that would be willing to respond in an emergency to corral and temporarily stake a bog that is endanger of approaching the bridge or threatening property. If removal is warranted, we will contact a contractor. At that time the team would move the bog to the landing for removal. This allows for a more controlled response and helps to keep the bog in locations that are better for removal. If you would be willing to be on a call or email chain to help escort bogs, please contact any of the following CLPO board members:

John Hoppe at jhoppe99@gmail.com

Elizabeth Leitch-Sell at sellcrew4@gmail.com

Brian Tommerdahl at tommerdahl.brian@gmail.com

*This plan cannot be successful without willing
volunteers.*



There's
more . . .



Communication with Neighbors on Lake Augusta and Grass Lake

A positive outcome of the subcommittee's research has been improved communication and information sharing between neighboring lakes. We have learned techniques and permitting processes from Lake Augusta Lake Association and in turn have been asked to attend one of their board meetings to share our findings. We have also had communication with the Grass Lake HOA president and boaters from both lakes worked together to move bogs at the bridge in order to open the waterway for the 4th of July weekend. There is better understanding of the issues important to each lake and we hope to continue to improve these partnerships.



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Status of the "Rhode Island" Bog

The saga of Rhode Island continued for most of the summer and is destined to a second chapter in 2023. After weeks of confused conversation with the CRWD, it was decided that the bog should be removed at an old boat landing on the property of one of the affected landowners' instead of using the bridge landing. CRWD said we could use bog funds to pay for removal. Since it was not being removed at the Grass Lake bridge landing, CLPO had to submit a permit application for removal at the new location. While waiting for CRWD to find a contractor, volunteers cut off, moved and staked some bog sections so the homeowners could get to their boats. Ultimately some of those pieces did block the channel, and with permission from CRWD, a team of boaters worked to push the bog through to Grass Lake so residents there would have access to Clearwater for the 4th of July weekend. That material was removed at the Grass Lake dam.

There's more . . .



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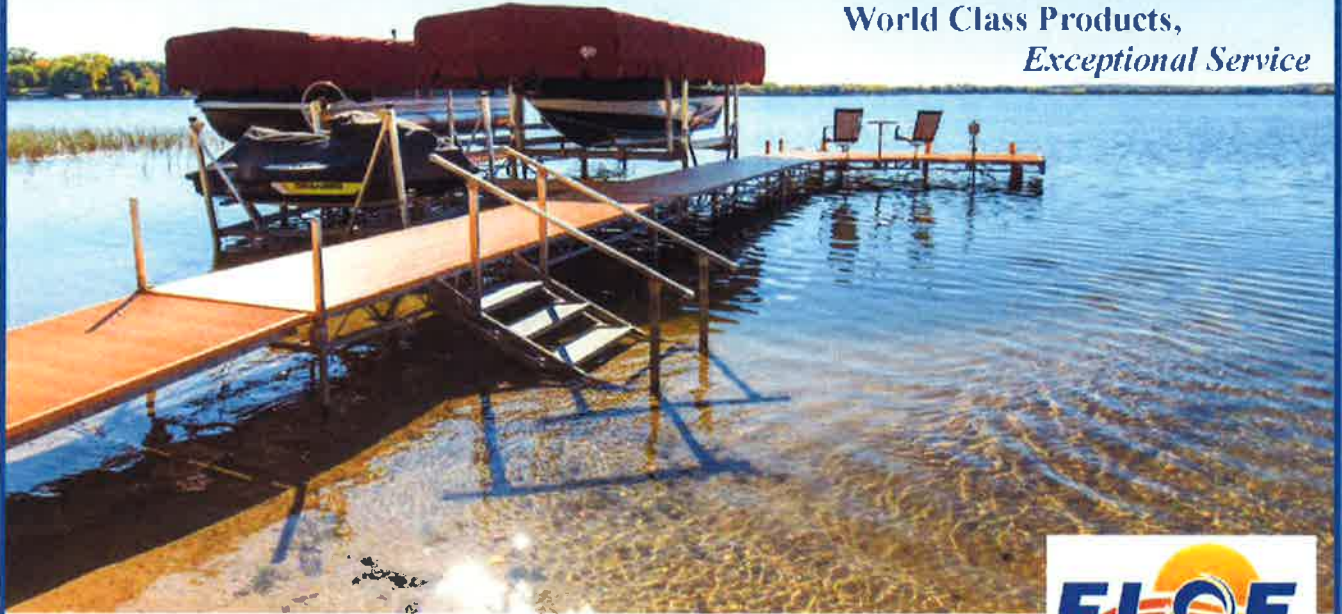
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Eventually Blackstone Contractors were chosen to do the removal of the main bog as they had a disposal site available. They came in July and worked in the water and removed about 2/3rds of the bog before they needed to go finish another project. Blackstone said they could come back at a later date to finish and gave an estimate to do the remaining work. CRWD thought we should get another bid and we did get 2 more bids. One was higher and one (Mares) lower. The remaining bog material was out from shore and stuck on a sand ridge. Mares did not want to go in the water to get the bog. John Hoppe and Jim Kutzner tried to push it with pontoons and also tried to winch it in, but to no avail. It was decided that it was financially and practically best to wait to remove it next spring when water levels would make it easier to move.

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One 600 sq ft piece of the Rhode Island bog was cut off and staked on the north side of Minneapolis Point in July. The plan was to float it back when the contractor returned and remove it. At the end of August, that piece of bog let loose in a storm and landed on the end of Maple Hill Resort's docks. Since we had an active permit for that bog we were able to do a trial run of our new procedures and the bog was moved to the landing, staked and then removed by Mares' Excavating. From its landing on the dock to removal took a total of 8 days. This process proved to be less complicated, much faster and cheaper than our bog experience in May.

We estimate removal of the entire bog will be in the area of \$25,000. Not an insignificant sum. CLPO will have to be wise in determining which floating bogs warrant removal and which will have to



There's
more . . .





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info@backyardmn.com
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be moved and staked. It is important to understand that only naturally floating bogs are considered in the policy. Homeowners that purposely cut and move bogs off their shoreline without DNR permits can be fined and can cause issues for other property owners. The CLPO will not remove such bogs.

Work Continues

The Bog Subcommittee will continue to work on the goals outlined earlier in this article. As new information is discovered, we will report it in future newsletters. Bogs will continue to be an irritant to shore-owners on the lake, and we will have to continue to adjust to the situations that arise. At a minimum, this year CLPO has taken a big step in learning more about bog policies and procedures and is more prepared to take action when a problem arises.

Tom N Gary's
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**Volunteers
Needed**

Bog Emergency Response Team

The CLPO is establishing a list of volunteers willing to dedicate some of their time, talent and equipment in helping to move large bogs for either staking to a secure location or landing site for contractor removal.

**Your Help is Desperately Needed
and
Would Be Greatly Appreciated**

Contact:
John Hoppe
jhoppagg@gmail.com

Elizabeth Leitch-Sell
sellcrew4@gmail.com

Brian Tommerdahl
tommerdahl.brian@gmail.com

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Ingredients:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| 8 ounces rotini pasta | 4 ounces sliced |
| 1 pound lean ground beef | pepperoni sausage |
| 1 small onion, diced | 2 cups shredded |
| 1 (28 ounce) jar spaghetti sauce | mozzarella cheese |

Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 350° F
2. Bring a large pot of lightly salted water to a boil. Add pasta & cook for 8-10 minutes or until al dente, then drain.
3. In a medium skillet over medium-high heat, cook beef with onion until beef is brown. Drain.
4. Combine beef mixture with spaghetti sauce, pepperoni and cooked pasta, pouring into a 9 x 13 inch baking dish. Top with mozzarella cheese.
5. Bake in preheated oven for 30 minutes, until cheese is melted and golden.

Servings: 6



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GIVE WATER LIFE



Most lake people are quite familiar with bogs. Bogs grow from shorelines, and portions of them, especially near the edges, float. One can walk across the firm portions of a bog field, but only the cautious person will make it to the other side. I recently became aware that some lake people, including some lake professionals, were unaware of the mischief that floating bogs can create. These floating portions can break off in high winds and waves and drift

around the lake driven by wind and current. These floating bogs don't care about your property. They catch the current and head downstream hitting or hanging up on anything they encounter. Heavy wind will force those bogs into shorelines, docks, boats, and anything else in their way. While most floating bogs are small and relatively harmless, a few years ago I witnessed a massive floating bog more than three homesites wide crush docks and lifts as the wind pushed it merrily on its way. As I boated around the mass, I saw shiny bent metal emerging from its side as the bog proudly presented its prize. Bogs are also known to drift into bridges and narrow streams and block navigation and/or water flow. People cannot get to where they need to be and the upstream lakes and streams quickly rise.

Floating bogs are not a universal problem in Minnesota because most lake people don't have problems caused by the presence of bogs. Understandably, not much effort is made at the state level to find comprehensive solutions or to even clarify the problems. Floating bog situations tend to be unique to themselves, meaning broad solutions don't always work or are not applicable. Solutions that are found are very local and grassroots in origin. A local lake association or group of shore owners will get together with their pontoon boats, lasso the bog, and float it back to where it came from and stake it down, or float it to a location where an easy extraction can occur. Action is often needed almost immediately to minimize and prevent future damage. An organized local rapid-response effort may include identified leadership with calling trees of volunteers.



Floating bog blocking the Clearwater Lake outlet to Grass Lake at the bridge.

The state's perspective is a bit different. A floating bog is a piece of nature, a floating ecosystem in and of itself. Part of the DNR's role is to protect the ecosystem, including floating bogs. The DNR wants to stay abreast of what's happening in the field and so a permit is required to relocate or remove a floating bog. The application process is quite simple and quick – five minutes or less – but the approval process can take a few days, to a long time, to never. Because of the need for a rapid response, coupled with the uncertainty that a permit may be days to weeks away (if ever), permits are often not sought and local action is taken quietly, sometimes in the middle of the night. Both sides are doing what they feel is required to meet the needs of the situation.

This is a great illustration of the wide differences in viewpoints among the caregivers of lakes. Each side is focused on what they feel is important from their perspectives. What's needed is an understanding by each side of the goals of the other. People who live on lakes consider the lake an extension of their home and part of their community. They consider themselves part of the natural system and they support local efforts to maintain the lakes. They believe they are doing the right thing. The DNR has its permit process, its cadre of field personnel, and its mission to protect the environment. The DNR believes it's doing the right thing.

So, here we are – two conflicting sides, each with a legitimate argument to support their goals. Lake associations and local residents versus the DNR is not where we should be headed. The cat and mouse scenarios have gone on long enough. We need both sides to begin not just talking but listening. ***We need a dialogue.***



Know Your Lake

by Paul Pattee

Total Area: 3186.89 acres
Littoral Area*: 1595.6 acres
Shore Length: 34.83 miles
Mean Depth: 19.2 feet
Maximum Depth: 73 feet in the East Basin

Fish Species: black bullhead, black crappie, bluegill, brown bullhead, green sunfish, hybrid sunfish, largemouth bass, northern pike, pumpkinseed, rock bass, tullibee (cisco), walleye, yellow bullhead, yellow perch, bowfin (dogfish), common carp, shorthead redhorse, white sucker, banded killifish, blackchin shiner, blacknose shiner, bluntnose minnow, brook silverside, brook stickleback, central mudminnow, fathead minnow, golden shiner, Iowa darter, Johnny darter, least darter, logperch, pugnose shiner, spottail shiner, tadpole madtom.

* Littoral Area is where the water depth is less than 15 feet.

Clearwater Lake
(3,188 Acres)

West Basin
(1543 Acres)

Maple Hill West Private Water Access
North Bay
Minneapolis Point
Black Pool
Black Pool Public Water Access
Clearwater Forest
WATERFRONT Lakeside Grille
Bi's
Clearwater Forest Private Water Access
Bungalow Island (29 Acres)
Turtle Bay
Bob's Bay Public Water Access
Truman's Point
Clearwater Lake Sandbar July 4th Celebration
Sand Bar

Maple Hill Resorts
'Road Island' Bog (Bogzilla)

Latitude: 45.305
Longitude: -94.1185

This Way to the East Basin!

18



Annandale Area Lake Comparison

Lake	Area (acres)	Littoral Area (acres)	Littoral Percent	Shore Length (miles)	Mean Depth (feet)	Maximum Depth (feet)
Clearwater Lake	3188	1596	50.0%	34.83	19.2	73
Lake Augusta	187	65	34.8%	4.76	24.9	82
Bass Lake	223	96	43.0%	3.02	19.9	34
Cedar Lake	790	315	39.9%	7.23	29.5	108
Grass Lake	71	62	87.3%	2.23	9.9	35
Lake John	398	353	88.7%	5.1	12.9	28
Maple Lake	739	396	53.6%	9.32	18.8	76
Pleasant Lake	597	260	43.6%	4.17	16	74
Sugar Lake	1014	357	35.2%	10.63	25.1	69
Lake Sylvia	1574	414	26.3%	18.67	36.9	97



Stocking Fish on Clearwater Lake

by Paul Pattee

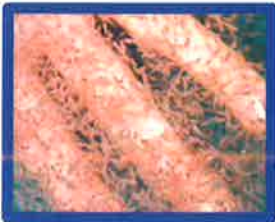
Clearwater Lake was stocked in 2021 with 1,500,000 Walleye fry weighing a total of 16.2 pounds. Most lakes that are stocked receive an average of 1,000 fry or 1 pound of fingerlings per littoral acre (a surface area less than 15 feet deep). Clearwater Lake has about 1595 littoral acres. Sometimes a fisheries manager will stock fry in the spring and check back in the fall to see what proportion survived to fingerling size. If not enough survived, supplemental fingerlings may be stocked in the fall.

A generation of walleyes stocked or hatched one year (called a year class) will eat much of the food needed by the next year class, a phenomenon called **year class suppression**. For that reason, stocking is done only every other year.

The DNR maintains hatcheries scattered throughout the state. There are 12 warm-water hatcheries rearing walleyes, catfish, muskellunge, and smallmouth bass with 5 cold-water hatcheries rearing stream trout, lake trout, and salmon.

Warm-water hatchery work begins in April, when DNR workers net spawning walleyes, strip the eggs and milt (sperm) then mix the two together. The fertilized eggs are taken to the hatcheries, incubated, and hatched. About two-thirds of the tiny fry are stocked a few days after hatching. The rest are reared over the summer to fingerling size (4-6 inches) in more that 200 rearing ponds. In the fall they are netted and taken to lakes for stocking.

Coldwater hatchery work goes on year-round. Spawning occurs in the fall, when eggs and milt are taken from brown trout, brook trout, and lake trout. The fertilized eggs are incubated through the winter. Young fish are then stocked in the spring or following fall. Stocking has helped restore the native lake trout population on Lake Superior and new trout fishing opportunities in the Arrowhead Region of lakes. Stages of development for fish stocking include:



Fry: newly hatched ready to be stocked called "swim-ups". Walleye fry are 1/3 of an inch or around 8 mm in size. Only about 2% of the stocked fry survive longer than 18 months because of hungry minnows, perch and sunfish. By 18 months, a walleye has matured into a fast swimmer and is too big to fit inside the mouth of such small predators.

Fingerling: 1-6 months old ranging in size from 1-12 inches depending on species with Walleye ranging 1-8". Of the approximately 3.5 million walleyes harvested every year by anglers, only about half-a-million were stocked with the rest being of native origin.



Yearling: one-year-old fish can range from 3-12" depending on species with Walleye averaging 6-12".

Adult: fish that have reached maturity. Depending on the species, maturity can be reached at two years of age. Walleye reach maturity between the ages of four and six years.



This article contains excerpts taken directly from the DNR website.



The title of this article, a comment made to me half in jest and half to disparage, was referencing my participation in the CLPO. I'll be using it for talking-points aimed at correcting some misconceptions about the CLPO and will finish with a challenge to all lake property owners. First, lets clarify:

- 1) **The CLPO as a Club.** No, it's much more than that. The CLPO is a lobbying voice tasked with the conservation and preservation of our 'crown-jewel', Clearwater Lake. The threats to our lake are real and of great consequence. As a community voice, the CLPO speaks to all state organizations holding the power and money necessary for preserving, and improving, all that we have. Minnesota has over 500 lake associations of which, we are but one voice. Teddy Roosevelt our 26th president used to say, "Do what you can, with what you have, where you are". Without the CLPO, we as a lake community, wouldn't know where we are when it comes to threats let alone knowing what's needed or how to acquire the assets to preserve & protect that which we have.
- 2) **The CLPO is only about controlling aquatic invasive species (AIS).** Wrong! The CLPO mission extends well beyond the lake to include community threats beyond the water's edge. Newer uses of lake-owned property such as VRBOs, has been a concern for some in the community. This year's bog threat to property owners in the North Bay and the role of the CLPO in working toward relief including algorithms for addressing future threats, is well documented by Elizabeth Leitch-Sell's article in this Fall's newsletter. For many reasons, we have witnessed a steady migration of city/suburban dwellers to rural areas. Anyone doubting the migration, whether it be due to COVID, crime or other safety concerns, has only to try and merge onto one of our rural roads during rush hour or a Friday afternoon. Development of lands around the lake, especially at the hands of speculators, is a threat to our lake community as developments move west from The Twin Cities. A case in point, a 1509-acre lake located in southern Stearns County saw a high-density living development spring up on acreage adjacent to the lake's northeast shore. An enticement for the development was lake access as shown in the picture below.



High density, permanent lake access can contribute to an increase in the rate of decline, common to all environmental assets, as they age. As a lake association of property owners, we can't be caught sleeping at the wheel when it comes to the development of lands around Clearwater Lake.



3) **The CLPO is a good activity for old folks and those with nothing else better to do.**

Wrong again. As a community, we have our share of seniors but don't be naive to think that with over 500 lake property owners, we haven't our own mix of young families and those remaining career active. The premium we all pay to live on the lake, and a major portion of our property value, is not the nice lawn, boulder wall or fancy boathouse . . . it's the 'crown jewel', Clearwater Lake. We all have a stake in its health and preservation. Volunteering through the CLPO helps funnel the effort needed for maximum impact in preserving & protecting our common interest which is Clearwater Lake.

4) **Old man.** Well . . . we'll skip that one.

Anyway, supporting the CLPO through membership & volunteer participation are the only ways our lake community can recognize and respond to the threats we face. As an aside in helping to drive home a point, draftees during the Civil War were chosen by lottery and once conscripted, service could be avoided by either paying a \$300 commutation fee or hiring a substitute to take ones place. In a similar way, membership fees paid to the CLPO, always welcomed and much appreciated, don't replace the added value of volunteering ones time and talent in protecting & preserving that which we have. The CLPO is always in need of help from its members including volunteers for the bog emergency response, board participation & other service opportunities. Not all sevice positions have a board requirement. For example, the position of AIS Manager or Financial Manager need not be on the board. In the words of Teddy Roosevelt, "When you are asked if you can do a job, tell 'em, 'Certainly I can!' Then get busy and find out how to do it" and " In any moment of decision, the best thing you can do is the right thing, the next best thing is the wrong thing, and the worst thing you can do is nothing".

For any lake association to succeed in keeping its chartered commitments to the lake community, there needs to be a healthy contribution from the members in time, talent & treasure. We do pretty well with 'treasure' (e.g. membership fees, donations & sponsors) and can do better on 'time' (volunteering) & 'talent' (the courage to volunteer). For those interested in considering their volunteer opportunities, please contact us at either clpo@clpo.org or myself at p_pattee@msn.com .



The 'Danger' buoy placed at Rocky Point this last Summer. Applied for and donated by your CLPO.



**. . . on
Difficult
Days:**

**Don't let yesterday
take up too much
of today. Bad
days will pass like
kidney stones, but
. . . they will pass.**



A special shoutout to all our CLPO sponsors in 2022. Please consider engaging their businesses in support of the entrepreneurial commitment they have in offering local services and taking on the role of environmental stewards as sponsors of the CLPO.

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"Far and away the best prize that life has to offer is the chance to work hard at work worth doing".

~Theodore Roosevelt

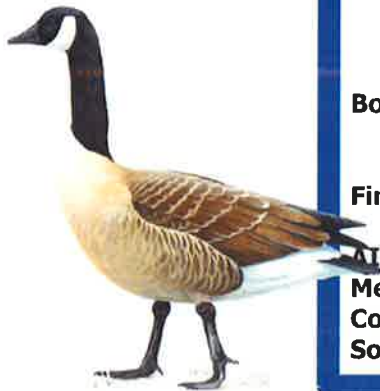


Volunteers Needed

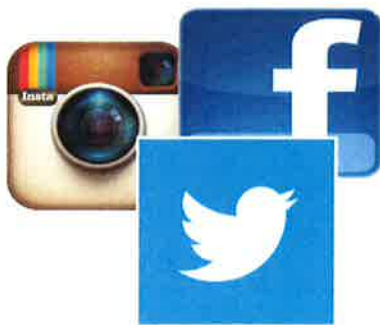
Bog Emergency Response Team

The CLPO is establishing a list of volunteers willing to dedicate some of their time, talent and equipment in helping to move large bogs for either staking to a secure location or landing site for contractor removal.

Your Help is Desperately Needed and Would Be Greatly Appreciated



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CLPO Social Media

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Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ClearwaterLakePropertyOwnersAssociation/>
Twitter: [@lake_clearwater](https://twitter.com/@lake_clearwater)
Instagram: [CLPOA](https://www.instagram.com/CLPOA)



No more 'til next Spring





Clearwater Lake

Property Owners Association

2022 CLPO Member Form

Please encourage your neighbors to do the same and join. We have made a big difference in the lake quality in the past 17 years and will be able to continue in the years to come if we get your support. Thank you!

2022 CLPO Annual Membership Dues Payment: **\$50.00**
Yes, I'd like to give an additional donation: \$ _____
Total: \$ _____

Check the box if you'd like to have the additional donation kept anonymous:
Check the box if your information has changed and needs to be updated:

Name: _____

Lake Address: _____

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Please include this form if paying by check and make checks payable to: CLPO
Online dues payment is available at www.clpo.org

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Total: \$ _____

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