



Clearwater Lake Property Owners Association

2023 Fall Newsletter



Loons

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Event Calendar

Thursday, November 23rd: Thanksgiving Day

Monday, December 25th: Christmas Day

Monday, January 1st, 2024: New Years Day

Thursday thru Sunday, January 18-21, 2024:

Minneapolis Boat Show,

Minneapolis Convention Center

Wednesday thru Sunday, February 21-25, 2024:

Minneapolis Home & Garden Show,

Minneapolis Convention Center

Saturday, June 1st, 2024: 9 AM - 10:30 AM

Annual CLPO Meeting at Corinna Town Hall

Intro

Meet **Becky the Loon** from the movie *Finding Dori* & **HeiHei** (pronounced Hay-Hay) from the movie *Moana* both character creations and property of Pixar Animation Studios and Walt Disney Pictures. As favorites of mine, they'll be helping to begin and end the articles in this issue of the newsletter.



'Becky the Loon'



'HeiHei'





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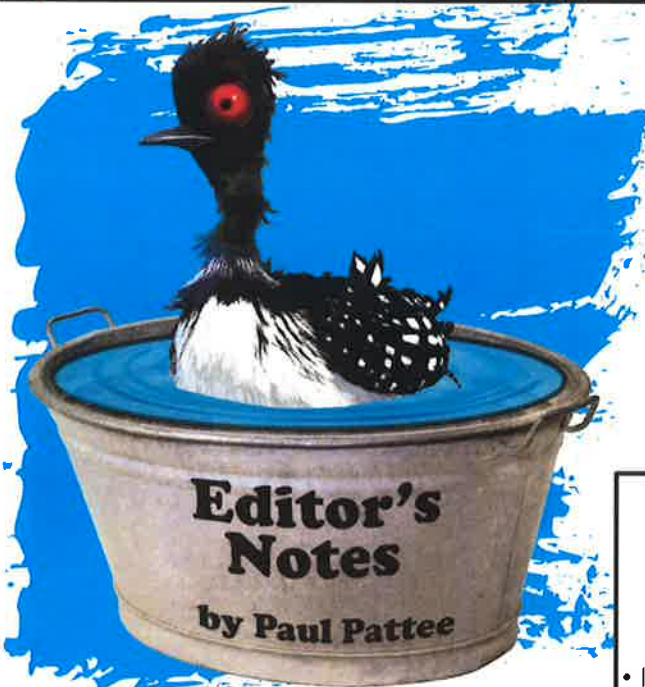
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Like all issues of the newsletter, the planning for the Fall newsletter began many weeks ago in an effort to offer things of value and items of interest for you the reader. Originally, I had intended to offer a primer on everyone's consensus favorite water bird, the loon. Things changed a bit with the discovery of starry stonewort in our lake on August 21st. Like a slap in the face, it brought home some of the realities challenging lake associations for an appropriate & rapid response to AIS threats. In this newsletter, I'd like to update everyone on the more serious issues we face with starry stonewort and, in doing so, hopefully replace any sense of doom & gloom with a confidence & reassurance in the actions we've taken. Not able to resist, though . . . I'm still going to talk about loons.

The property owners have been kept abreast of our activities in battling starry stonewort through the CLPO website & email updates. A brief summary of actions taken can be found on page 21 which will free me to share some personal reflections in the 'AIS Update'. The gut hit of starry stonewort has instilled in many of us a sense of loss and dread. As one of many boots-on-the-ground and witness to the CLPO's AIS strategy in action, I can say point and responsive to this and the many other in the design & execution of our programs, I find the course.



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our program continues to be on threats to our lake. With optimism little need for change as we stay



On a much lighter note, the CLPO picnic was an unequivocal success and will be brought back in 2024. Contributing much to that success was the venue 'The Boathouse at 'tween Lakes' which will once again house the event next summer. We've been in discussion on some changes to make things even better. Pictures of the picnic can be found on page 20. Look for an announcement in the 2024 Spring newsletter for more details.

I've wanted to write about the loon for some time tweaking not only my own interest but yours as well. I finally came upon a source of information my wife Melanie had received on Mother's Day, a book titled *Loons The Iconic Waterbirds* by Stan Tekiela. It's very well written and illustrated, a source of information for my writing. The author is not foreign to me having purchased several editions of his bird field guide, *Birds of Minnesota*; books that have suffered mutilation at the little hands of many curious grandchildren who would rather tear than turn pages, rifling through bird pictures.

In writing about the loon, I also wanted to introduce a potential new field of interest in measuring the health of our lake, loon counting. It's not a new idea having been adopted by several lake associations across Minnesota. The Minnesota DNR started The Minnesota Loon Monitoring Program (MLMP) in 1994 to detect changes in Minnesota's Common Loon population as a measure of lake habitat health. It is a long-term study of the loon populations in six distinct regions across the state. Volunteers visit their assigned lake one morning during a 10-day period in mid-summer and count the number of adult and juvenile loons. The MN DNR has forged relationships with 100 lake associations entering them in a registry program. My suggestion for the CLPO is to consider the start of our own counting program using some of the techniques of the MLMP and for now, not committing to any statewide registry participation. I'll have more information listed later in the newsletter (page 19) for those interested in starting such a program.

Lastly, I mentioned earlier that the CLPO will continue to act on your behalf staying focused and aggressive in achieving measured outcomes that benefit the lake and, in the end, us as property owners. Now more than ever the volunteers serving on the CLPO need the support that comes with your participation in membership and donations. If you would like to join or update your dues online, visit www.clpo.org. It is also important that all members and non-members keep us up-to-date on correct email addresses for receiving the status updates on starry stonewort as well as other important lake messaging.

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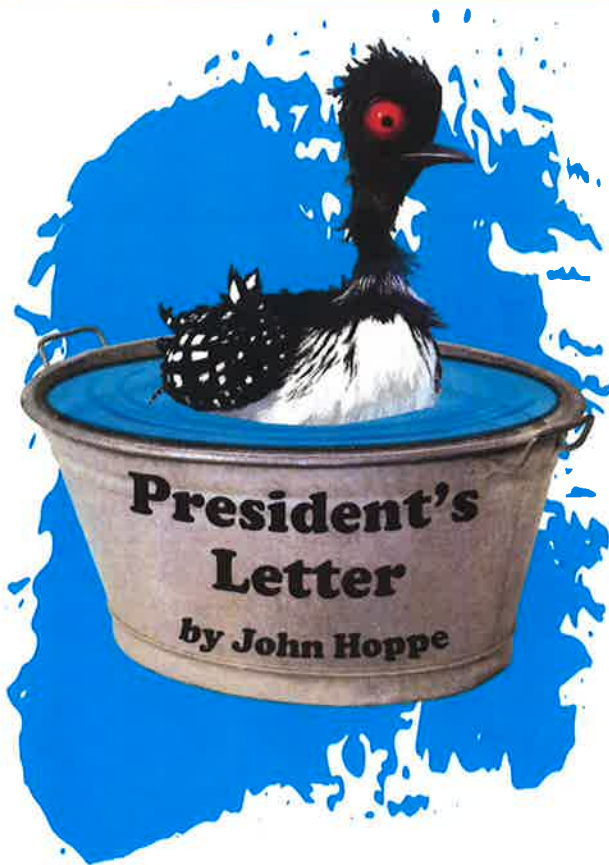
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As our summer winds to a close, there are a lot of new things happening and some changes that we will be working with into the future. First, I would like to introduce myself as the new President. I was elected last June and will work to the best of my abilities to follow in Jim Kutzner's capable footsteps. I have been around and involved with Clearwater Lake for most of my life, spending time at our family's Narrows Resort for many years, spent a few years away living in Buffalo but fishing here often, and then moving back in 2017. I live on the north shore of the lake with my wife Sarah, near the bridge to Grass Lake. We are happy to have made it back to the lake that has been such a large part of my life. I am looking forward to contributing to the wellbeing of our lake over the next several years.

As I work into the responsibilities of being the CLPO President I am faced with several challenges. Over the last few years we have seen some very wide fluctuations in water levels with high water that allows bogs to float about, and then drought induced low water that encourages weed growth and makes navigation through the shallows difficult.

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Conditions are out of our control but can affect other issues that we will have to deal with into the future. I have been asked if the dams upstream at Fairhaven and downstream at Grass Lake can be manipulated to moderate this but unfortunately they are static and cannot be adjusted. We will just have to live with water level fluctuations as part of the nature of Clearwater Lake.

You may also have seen my name as "the bog guy" as I have been very involved with the issues surrounding management of the floating bogs that we see during high water periods. I am still involved with this, along with Brian Tommerdahl and Liz Leitch-Sell. With the low water this summer we have been in coast mode but we are ready to jump into action the next time bogs are on the move. We have permits in place with the DNR to allow shore owners to move/remove small bogs up to 225 square feet, and to remove bogs in the north bay that threaten to block water flow through the bridge to Grass Lake. We will be renewing these permits next year and will continue to address these issues as they arise. With upcoming changes in the CLPO board personnel we are actively looking for anyone interested in joining us to contribute to this effort!

We are also now challenged with the recent discovery of Starry Stonewort in our lake, and thankfully we have a great team on our board and a group of capable resources to address this threat. Our AIS manager Paul Pattee has been diligently working with Blue Water Science, the DNR, the Clearwater River Watershed District, and Lake Restoration to identify, map out, and generate an aggressive treatment plan to keep this threat contained. We have marked the area of the infestation with signs warning boaters to keep out and there will be spray treatments with a very effective algaecide. The first treatment has been applied as of September 5, and we hope to get one more treatment in yet this fall. We will be closely monitoring the site and will be working to continue treatment into 2024. While Starry Stonewort has never been completely

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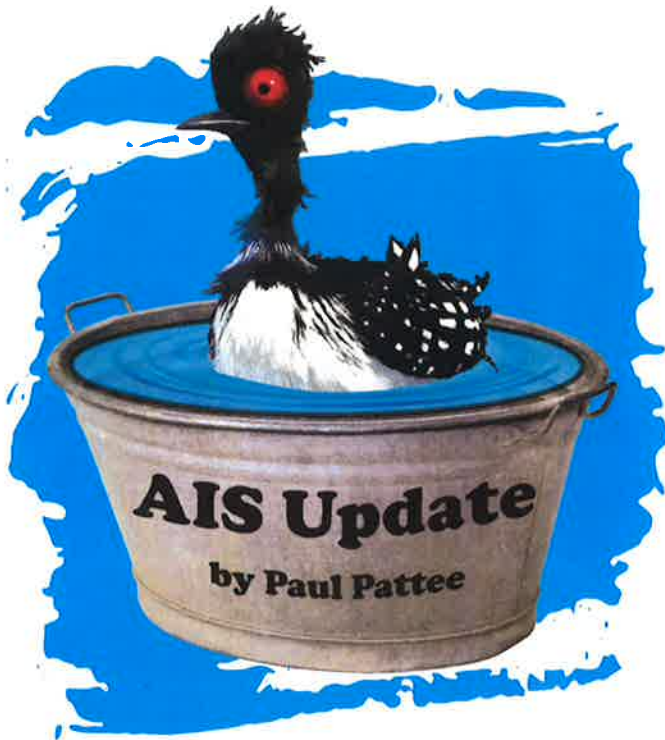
eradicated from any lake, with early detection and aggressive treatment it can be contained very effectively.

As we move into the winter months things typically slow down with management of the lake and the frozen water season. This is a good time to consider what you as lakeshore owners can contribute to managing the beautiful resource that we live on. We always need folks to help out with the bog team, and multiple other activities. Getting involved in the lake management through the CLPO is a great way to get to know your neighbors and to make a difference in the health of our lake.

In closing, I am honored to have been voted in as President and for the opportunity to work with an enthusiastic and capable team on the CLPO board. I assure you all that I will do my best to move us forward into the future. I hope to see many of you at our annual meeting and at the CLPO picnic next year!

~ John Hoppe





The publication of the newsletter was delayed a month so as to have in it the most up to date information on the management of the newly discovered starry stonewort. That information can be found on page 21 of the newsletter and we will continue updates as appropriate through emails and the website.

The gut punch I felt with the finding of starry stonewort was much like the feeling I would get as a physician when one of my patients would be found to have cancer. Quite suddenly, similarities between my role as a practicing physician & current AIS Manager blended in ways that seemed very familiar &, in that way, reassuring knowing that grounded, properly focused efforts stand a good chance for achieving success.



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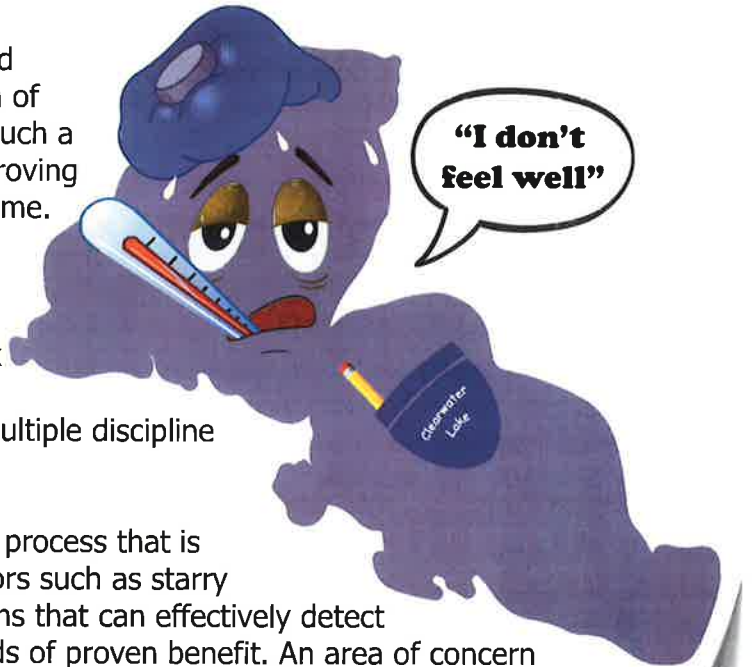


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In the new role of AIS Manager, I've found my lone adopted patient, Clearwater Lake, has acquired a 'cancer' in the form of starry stonewort. Fortunately, our screening programs for such a bad actor were effective in securing an early detection improving our odds tremendously in achieving a most favorable outcome.

Standards of proven treatment have been applied in the form of a chemical agent, Mizzen® (i.e. copper sulfate). Surveillance dives have shown that the biomass has shrunk significantly and that mechanical pulling of vegetation, the equivalent of surgical removal, will be added soon to our multiple discipline approach as we target for best outcome.

Like patients in general, the lake is going through an aging process that is progressive and at risk for a more rapid decline by bad actors such as starry stonewort. The role of the CLPO is to have in place programs that can effectively detect such AIS threats & be responsive with conservation methods of proven benefit. An area of concern that perhaps rivals starry stonewort as a threat is the long term presence of the invasive plant, hybrid narrowleaf cattail. In the west basin, hybrid stands that were 10 square feet last year now exceed 40 square feet in dimension. In numerous areas where rushes are of a key ecological benefit, large beds of hybrid narrowleaf cattail have taken hold. The rapid growth of this invasive is responsible for the loss of fish spawning areas & healthy native stands of bulrushes. The hybrid narrowleaf cattail, because of its poor rooting characteristics, favors a more lateral pattern of growth, giving rise to large masses prone to fragmentation, of high winds and water.



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As a lake association, what is to be our response to such a menace that is taking over the healthy ecology of the West Basin? Unlike starry stonewort which is an algae, controlled by the application of chemical algaecides leaving native plants relatively unaffected, the chemical control of the hybrid narrowleaf cattail requires use of a herbicide which is destructive to native plant species. The DNR will not issue permits for chemical treatments that risk harming native vegetation. Not having protocols for treatment can lead to inaction and years of accumulated overgrowth contributing to a loss of fish spawning areas, massive bogs and diminished healthy shorelines.

Believe it or not, both the DNR & your CLPO are advocates for a healthy lake but differ in focus. The DNR has a weighted environmental focus that seeks to minimize any human intervention including chemical applications. The CLPO on the other hand embraces not only responsible environmental stewardship but also interventions aimed at enhancing & preserving a healthy ecology-of-use by property owners and recreationalists. In the case of the invasive hybrid narrowleaf cattail, a targeted intervention seems to be lacking but living a strategy of **'do nothing'** leaves us with consequences that are untenable both now & in the future. Your CLPO will continue to engage the DNR for a consensus on responsible alternatives to **'do nothing'**, that satisfy all interests.



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~ Author Unknown



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Loons

...Range & Size

There are five species of loons with the Common Loon the only type that nests in the lower 48 states. Minnesota has more loons than any other state with approximately 12,000 individuals. Maine is second with 4,100.

The adult loon can have a wingspan up to 5-feet & measure 3-feet in length. Males are generally larger than females by as much as 20% weighing from 7-17 pounds, while adult females weigh from 5.5-14 pounds. Variation in size can be difficult to

appreciate unless they are seen swimming side by side.



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...Amazing Eyes & Markings

The adult loon is not a colorful bird but has distinctive white on black markings, a necklace of white plumage and deep red eyes that contrast sharply against its black head & bill. The eye color remains red during the winter even though the plumage changes from the bold black & white to a gray & white pattern. Chicks & juvenile loons have dull red-to-brown eyes that change to a deep red when they reach adulthood at 3 years of age. When under water, the light filtering effect of water turns the red eyes to black making the eyes invisible to prey camouflaging their presence.



There's
More!



...Gizzard, Hunting & Feeding

That's right. Just like the turkey, the loon has a gizzard allowing them to digest the bones and shells of fish they've eaten which would otherwise have to be regurgitated. The gizzard of the loon is a muscular sack lined with keratin, similar in hardness to a fingernail, that allows ingested stones from the lake bottom to grind away bones and shells for digestion.

Ingested stones for the gizzard can be contaminated with lead fishing sinkers causing lead poisoning and death within just a few days. A study looking at the cause of death in loons found 52% had died from lead poisoning. Just a single split shot sinker can kill a loon.

Loons feed on fresh water fish in the summer and saltwater fish in the winter after migrating to the Gulf of Mexico, Pacific & Atlantic Oceans. The extra salt ingested during winter feeding is excreted as a concentrated salty solution near the eyes.

Like most birds, loons have an additional set of eyelids that keeps the eyes clean by blinking.

Their nostrils have a flap or valve that closes during dives to keep water out. The flap causes a reduced sense of smell when on the hunt but then keen under water vision, not smell, is the primary way of finding prey. For that reason, a significant decline in water clarity can adversely affect loon populations on some lakes. Loons rely on excellent underwater sight for their hunting & survival.

When loons are hunting for fish, dives will last from 30-90 seconds but they are able to stay under water for up to 3 minutes diving as far down as 150 feet. Most dives for food are much shallower averaging 30 feet or less when feeding on minnows or crayfish.

Before diving, loons compress their body feathers squeezing out trapped air from specialized air sacs within their bodies and in doing so, adjusting buoyancy. This also allows them to swim while just breaking the surface of the water much like a submarine.

When diving, the heart & central nervous system of the loon go into a diving reflex that lowers heart rate to about half while muscles convert to less oxygen consumption.



Matthew Brown



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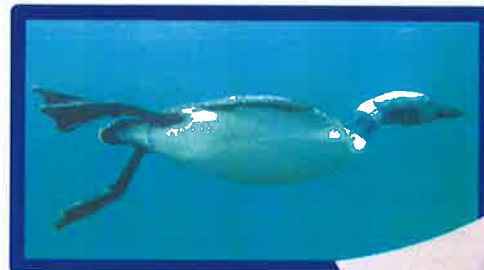
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...Eggs, Incubation & Chicks

Loons lay two large, thick-shelled eggs 1-2 days apart so that most clutches of eggs hatch within 24 hours of each other. Both adults incubate the eggs an equal amount of time over the 27-30 day incubation time period.

Most chicks leave the nest within 12-24 hours of hatching and enter the water. Chicks that hatch in the afternoon will stay in the nest overnight.

Once in the water, chicks will not touch land again for 5-6 years which is when they themselves typically start breeding.

During the first few weeks of life, the female adult stays on the surface of the water with the chicks while the male dives for food. For the first seven days of life, chicks can be seen riding on the backs of their parents protecting them from predators such as Northern Pike, Muskie and Snapping Turtles.

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...Loony Behavior

Loon adults will adopt the young of other loons if in a rare instance both loon parents are lost. In very rare instances, loon pairs may adopt a chick of a different species seen here when a loon pair took in a duck chick. Most chicks will stop riding on the back of adults after 2-3 weeks. Apparently not here though!



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...Foot Wagging

Foot wagging is when one foot is raised up and waved about which is believed to be a behavior that helps regulate body temperature. If the loon is cold, the leg can be raised and tucked under a wing for warmth, much like putting ones cold hands into pockets. In a less likely senario where the loon is too warm, evaporation of water from the raised leg can help cool.



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...The Wail

The wail of the loon is truly the call of the wild used to communicate everything from a desire for family members to come together to expressing feelings of anxiety or threat. Wails are generally of three forms; one note, two note & three note.

The male loon will wail to females to come ashore and mate. Adults will wail to chicks as a call to leave an area when threatened or to come out of hiding.

Families will use the one note wail, a "mew" or "ma" call, for location or coming together. After hearing a wail, loons will often be seen swimming toward each other.



So when do chicks start talking back to their parents? Good question! Baby loons will start chirping while still in the egg and will continue to chirp after hatching for several days begging for food. Loon chicks will start wailing as early as 1 week of age. At 3-4 months, the wailing of chicks is indistinguishable from those of the adults and can use a constant wheezing sound as a way of begging for food even though they are quite capable of hunting for food on their own.



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- *LAKESHORE WINTER PROJECTS
- *SHORELINE RESTORATION
- *STEEP SLOPE PROJECTS

LANDSCAPE SERVICES

- *IRRIGATION
- *LANDSCAPE DESIGN
- *LANDSCAPE LIGHTING
- *PAVER PATIOS/WALKWAYS/DRIVEWAYS
- *OUTDOOR LIVING
- *RETAINING WALLS
- *TREES/SHRUBS/PERENNIALS

...Peering

While float on the surface of the water, loons will be seen frequently putting their heads under water looking into the depths for food or to locate family members. Peering is an important way chicks & juveniles can learn how to hunt fish by watching their skilled adults.



Walker Nelson
Owner

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Stadium Bar & Grill

Monday
\$3 Pounders till close

Tuesday
70cent wings dine in

Wednesday
Bingo starts at 6:30 pm

Thursday
Beer & Pizza Night
\$20 for 42oz. Light tap beer & 2 topping pizza
\$22 with Specialty tap

Friday
Happy Hour 4pm to 6pm

Saturday
Lions Charitable Meat Raffle starts at 5:30 pm Lic# 02921-008

Sunday
\$4 Bloody Marys All day

Happy Hour
Monday - Friday 4pm - 6pm
.50c off all drinks

• Homemade Pizza
• Appetizers • Burgers
• Wraps • Sandwiches

We have multiple Pull Tab boxes & E tabs available

Charitable Meat Raffle
Saturdays, Starts at 5:30pm

BINGO Wednesdays
Starts at 8:30pm

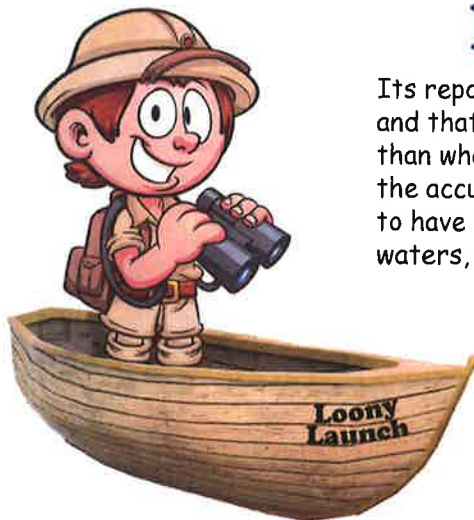
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Loon Monitor Program

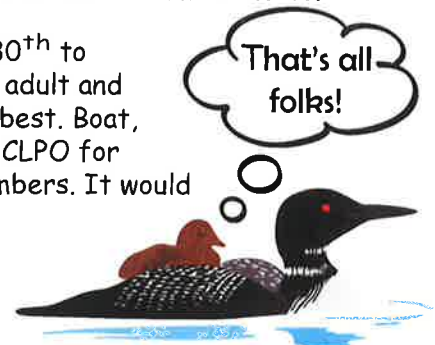
Its reported that 1-2 loon pairs occupy about 2 square miles of lake habitat and that defending their territories limit their growth in numbers, different than what is seen with Canadian Geese, Seagulls or the Cormorant. I question the accuracy of that number since our 3200 acre lake, 5 square miles, seems to have more than 10 loon pairs perhaps attracted here by our clear hunting waters, abundant fish populations & 1600 acres of littoral lake bottom.

Clearwater Lake is a perfect example of loons being able to successfully nest and raise their young on populated lakes with moderate to heavy intermittent recreational activity. Documenting stability of our loon population would be a good measure of nesting habitat health & ability to raise young while coexisting with human and predator influences. Preserving natural nesting habitat has been proven in studies to be preferred over manmade nests.

I'm looking for volunteers to go out on the lake one morning from June 30th to July 10th between the hours of 5 a.m. and noon to count the number of adult and baby loons on the lake. 4-6 volunteers (2-3/lake basin) I think would be best. Boat, binoculars or scope would be needed. A record would be kept within the CLPO for year-to-year comparison. Participants are not expected to be board members. It would be nice to have someone lead & develop the program.

If interested, contact me: p_pattee@msn.com

~ Paul Pattee



CLPO Picnic 2023

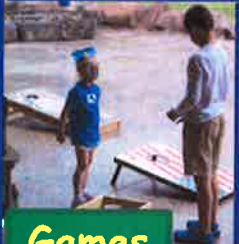
AUGUST 6TH



Classic Boats



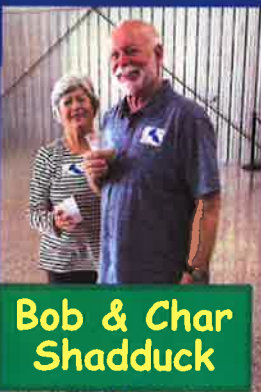
Fan Gazing



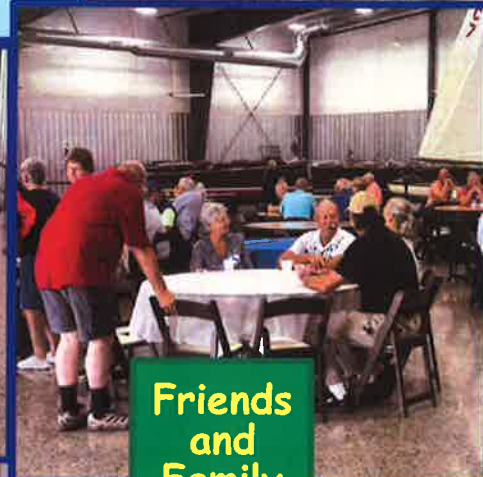
Games



Face Painting



Bob & Char
Shadduck



Friends
and
Family



Food



August 21st, 2023

The discovery of starry stonewort (SS) in Clearwater Lake happened during a scheduled point intercept survey of lake vegetation by Blue Water Science on August 21st. Below is the 2 week timeline of activity from discovery to first treatment, a rapid response by any standard when considering the many resources to be notified and mobilized.

The Clearwater River Watershed District had surveys done of the waterways between Pleasant and Clearwater Lakes looking for the possible source of our SS infestation. Pleasant Lake has had a known but controlled infestation of SS since 2018. No SS was found casting doubt on them as the source. Fortunately, all 3 dives at the seven boat ramps on Clearwater Lake were free of SS.

The following page contains maps of the infested area identified as Area 23 including pre & post treatment surveys in support of our requests for permits to chemically treat. At the time of printing, the DNR has approved our third and final request for treatment based on the survey dive of October 17th. The cost for this last treatment is more given the larger shape file of 3.15 acres compared to the previous 1.85 acres even though we are dealing with a significantly reduced plant mass compared to what we had at the start.

Timeline to Treatment

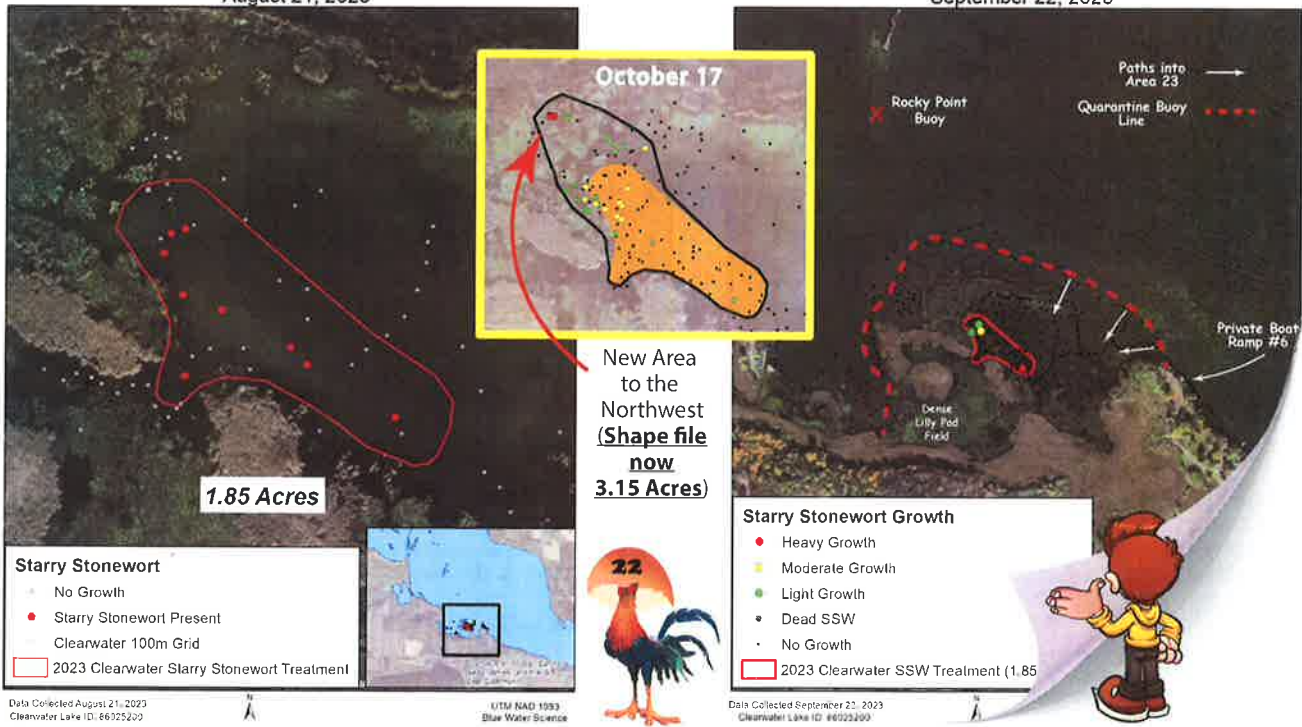
1. **Late night August 21st:** Bluewater Science contacted the CLPO AIS Manager with the discovery of SS in Clearwater Lake, East Basin. The area, since designated as Area 23, is a protected bay bordered by a dense growth of bulrushes & lilly pads. It is also the water inlet from Pleasant Lake, at an elevation 120 feet above Clearwater, known to have an infestation of SS since 2018.
2. **August 22nd:** Notification is sent to our treatment contractor, Lake Restoration, about the find as well as state agencies including MN DNR, Clearwater River Watershed District (CRWD), Wright Soil & Water District (WSWD) and the CLPO board.
3. **August 22nd:** The CLPO is notified by Blue Water Science that the point intercept survey is complete and no more SS was found in the lake.
4. **August 22nd & 23rd:** After CLPO board discussion, a decision is made to quarantine the area with signs in an effort to keep the infestation contained. Marking such areas is not something done by the DNR or treating contractor.
5. **August 24th:** Steve McComas of Blue Water Science shares maps & shapefiles of the infested area which measures to be 1.85 acres in size at an average depth of 5 feet.
6. **August 28th:** The CLPO and DNR make a public announcement about the presence of SS in Clearwater Lake following verification of the find by the DNR specialist, one week after discovery.
7. **August 29th:** The CLPO board expresses concern to the Clearwater River Watershed District (CRWD) as to possible SS infestation in the canal waterways connecting Pleasant Lake and Clearwater Lake.
8. **August 30th:** CRWD contracts with Blue Water science for surveys of the connecting canals.
9. **August 31st:** 14 floating signs marking Area 23 are placed in advance of the Labor Day holiday weekend establishing quarantine.
10. **September 1st:** Notification from Lake Restoration that the shapefiles measuring the presence of 1.8 acres of SS have been verified by the DNR. After a mandatory 48 hour wait period as stipulated by the DNR, chemical treatment can begin.
11. **September 5th:** Notification of first treatment by Lake Restoration.





Clearwater Starry Stonewort Treatment Area
August 21, 2023

Clearwater Starry Stonewort Post-Treatment
September 22, 2023





In trying to prevent the further spread of SS, Area 23 was quarantined with signs which will continue to be in use through the next couple of summers. We appreciate people honoring the quarantine by avoiding the area.

We will continue to update property owners through the CLPO website and direct email. **Make sure we have your correct email address on file for updating announcements.**

~ Paul Pattee
AIS Manager

Here are the reference pages for our sponsors within the newsletter. Please consider engaging their businesses in support of the entrepreneurial commitment to local services and environmental stewardship. Thank you!!

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 BK's Dock Installation & Removal page 4
 The Butchery page 7
 Community Law Care page 15
 Dingman Marine page 6
 Flygare Excavating, Inc page 3
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 Howards Plumbing page 4
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 Young & Brown, LLC page 13
 Z-Marine page 11

Don't forget to join or renew your membership. Members, and those wishing to become members, can go to www.clpo.org, click on the 'Members' tab followed by a click on 'Membership Renewal'.



CLPO Board Officers: President: John Hoppe jhoppe99@gmail.com
Vice President: Steve Monson scandiastone1@gmail.com
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Treasurer: Tom Midas treasurer@clpo.org

Board Members: Jim Kutzner, Mark Wilkins, Wendy Nelson, Joy Carlson, Liz Leitch-Sell, Brian Tommerdahl, Paul Pattee, Walter Byars, Stacy Grega, Peter Schulzetenberg

Finance Committee: Tom Midas, Wendy Nelson, Marci Segner

AIS Manager: AIS@clpo.org
Membership Manager: markclpo@comcast.net
Communication Manager: clpomn@gmail.com
Social Media Manager: clpomn@gmail.com

CLPO Social Media

Social media is a modern source of communication and education. There are direct links to these on the bottom of our homepage at www.clpo.org

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





Clearwater Lake Property Owners Association

2023 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 18 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: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Email Addresses: _____

Phone Number(s): _____

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

Cut below, send this top portion with your payment and keep the bottom portion for your records

✂-----

2023 CLPO Dues Payment: **\$50.00**

Additional Donation: \$ _____

Total: \$ _____

** CLPO is a 501(c)(3) Organization. All dues and donations are tax-deductible. **