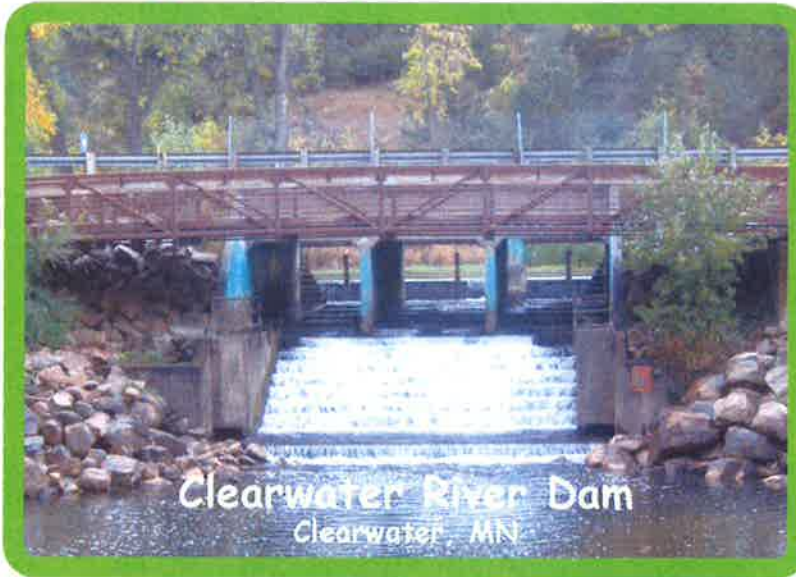


Clearwater Lake

Property Owners Association

2023 Spring Newsletter



Clearwater River Dam
Clearwater, MN

Explore

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- Sunday, May 6th:** Wisconsin Fishing Opener
- Saturday, May 11th:** Minnesota Statehood 1858
- Saturday, May 13th:** Minnesota Fishing Opener
- Sunday, May 14th:** Mother's Day
- Monday, May 29th:** Memorial Day
- Saturday, June 3rd:** Annual CLPO Meeting, 9AM-10:30AM,
Social Hour Coffee & Pastries, 8AM-9AM
Corinna Township Hall
- Sunday, June 18th:** Father's Day
- Saturday, July 1st:** 1PM-5PM Annual Clearwater Lake
Sandbar July 4th Celebration
- Tuesday, July 4th:** Fourth of July, Independence Day
- Saturday, July 29th:** 7:30AM-Noon, Clean-up Day
Corinna Township Hall
- Sunday, August 6th:** 11AM-1PM, CLPO Picnic,
The Boathouse at 'tween Lakes
- Mid - Late August, TBD:** Starry Trek, Minnesota Aquatic
Invasive Species Research Center



Annual CLPO Meeting

Saturday, June 3
Corinna
Township Hall

Meeting
9am - 10:30am
Social Hour
8am - 9am

Guest Speaker
Steve McComas
Blue Water Science

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CLPO Picnic 2023

Where: The Boathouse at 'tween Lakes
When: Sunday, August 6 from 11AM - 1PM

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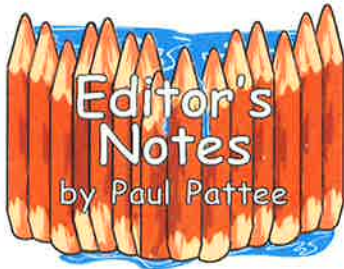
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Welcome to spring . . . what a winter! I don't know about you but I spent a lot more time clearing snow from my driveway than my skating rink on the lake. We were able to use the rink for about 2 weeks before being hit with snow so heavy that the thin ice sheet sank under the weight causing water to bubble up through cracks in the ice. As a result we had a layer of snow insulating a layer of water covering the layer of ice, pretty much all winter long. Because of the water layer, snow could not be cleared from the rink which I then abandoned hoping for perhaps better conditions next year.

The layering effect winter had on lake ice affected not only the rink but those trying to access their fish shacks. Vehicle traffic on the lake was scant throughout the winter with many people getting stuck in the lake slush. Early in the season, the moisture content of the snow compacted snow around stalled vehicles adding to the challenge.

Every winter presents a different look making each season unique in its own way. The spring thaw has me wondering about lake water levels as we go into the open water season, a subject of great interest given the drought years we've had. In this issue of the newsletter, I explore a nagging question some people have had about the use of dams on the Clearwater River to adjust lake water levels during times of drought. A farming friend of mine said the insulating blanket of snow prevented a deep ground freeze so that come the spring thaw, soil will take up much of the moisture with less water run-off into streams, rivers and lakes. Area fields and ground water stand to gain for perhaps a better growing season with lake property owners maybe at a reduced risk for area flooding.

We'll see! It's confusing. So much so, I plan to wait a week or two before putting my docks in. The other variable in all this is the potential for a significant amount of spring rain like the time 9.19 inches fell on June 21, 1983. I'll have more to say about the **flood of the century** later in the newsletter.



There's
more . . .

The spring newsletter tends to be the largest of the three yearly publications because we have a lot of information to share. This year is no exception. A happy item of interest for 2023 is the resurrection of the CLPO Picnic taking place on Sunday, August 6th made possible by the generosity of Bob & Char Shadduck. They are donating the use of their event center, *The Boathouse at 'tween Lakes*. I also want to thank Joy Carlson for her work in organizing the picnic. I anticipate it will be an event you wouldn't want to miss especially since it is the first time since the Truman's Point events that the picnic will be held on Clearwater Lake. See the picnic details on *page 3* of the newsletter.

Perhaps of less interest to you, is the growing list of sponsors who advertise with us in the newsletter. The 9-1/2 pages of newsletter ad space contributes financially to our operating bottom line while also, by their advertising in the newsletter, acknowledge the growing value of the CLPO in our lake community. Mark Wilkins, CLPO board member and sales representative, is the one responsible for the generous number of contributing sponsors.



Jim Kutzner

A big shout-out to Brian Tommerdahl, a CLPO board member and our Social Media Manager, who was recently selected to join the Clearwater River Watershed District (CRWD) board. The importance of his capable representation can't be overstated given the governance of the CRWD over the entire watershed district including our own Clearwater Lake. Thanks Brian for your time, talent, & representation!

Sadly, with our Annual CLPO Meeting Saturday, June 3rd, we'll see Jim Kutzner stepping down from his position as CLPO President. Under Jim's leadership, the CLPO has grown into a strong conservation voice not only within our lake community but the state of Minnesota as well. He will continue on as a contributing board member, having been a member since June 2016. His time and talents will be drawn on by other organizations projecting an even more broad influence, such as MN COLA, in the preservation of our treasured Minnesota waters and wildlife. Thank you for your guidance, support, and willingness to continue as a CLPO board member.

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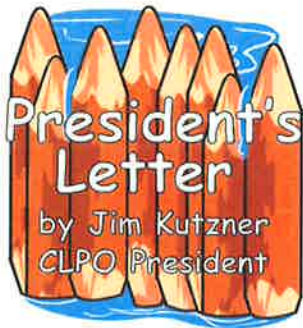
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Our brutal winter continues! At this time in a few recent years we've already been boating for a couple of weeks, but this year it's snowmobiles and cross-country skiing across the lake. Fear not! Summer is coming... one of these years!

Thanks to all of you for your continued support. CLPO's continuing success is largely based on the members and sponsors who support us, which is you. Clearwater Lake wouldn't be the success it is without all of your support.

Bogs are on the calendar this year. The high water and high winds last spring set free a number of small and large bogs that became troublesome for much of the season. While many bogs were removed from the lake, many remain. These loose bogs drift around and land on beaches, run into docks and lifts, and the larger ones simply trap boats at the docks and can cause damage. Bogs are especially troublesome for the folks on the west basin where there are considerably more cattails, and there's the water flow running from Augusta to Grass Lake to help push the floating bog around but generally north. Many end up under the bridge. Last spring one of the large bogs landed on the shore of two homes. After obtaining permits and organizing crews, it was partially cut up and removed last year but the bulk of it remains. If the high water returns as expected that bog will refloat and drift somewhere, and consequently it needs to be removed. Recognizing the need

for a solid plan to be in place before the season begins, the CLPO bog subcommittee is preparing for the year. Liz Leitch-Sell, John Hoppe and Brian Tommerdahl, together, are working with the DNR and the CRWD to coordinate proper permitting, as well as organizing a bog team to have a rapid response capability when that becomes necessary. They are looking for volunteers, especially those with pontoon boats, who can be called upon to quickly join with others to run out and lasso a bog and deal with it. Since not everyone will be available every time it's important to have a long list. The bog subcommittee is also developing a list of contractors for removal, and with people with available disposal locations. If you have the time this summer please contact any of them directly, or me at contact@clpo.org.

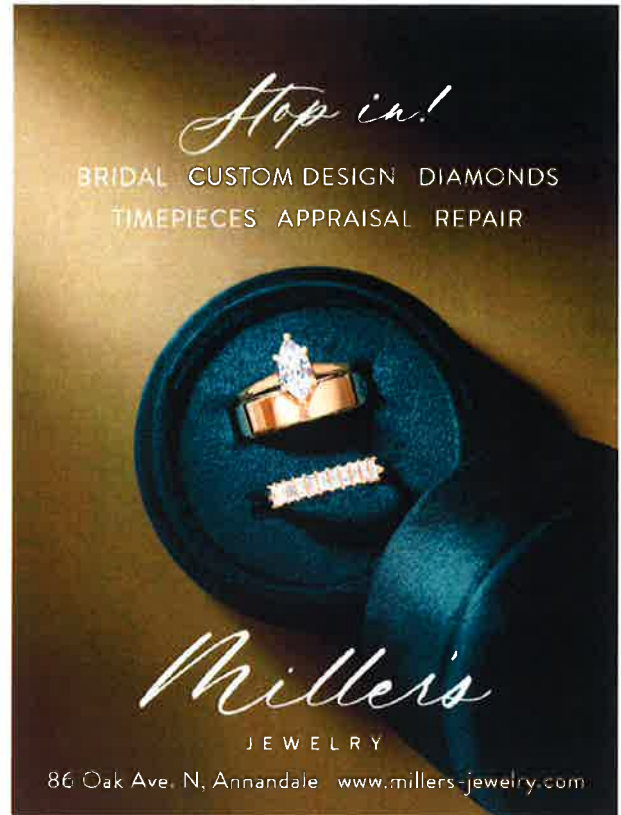


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One thing that seems to be certain, the climate is changing. Last spring the weather was unusual with excessive rain and wind, followed by drought. The early season high water likely was the cause of generally fewer lake weeds last year. But one concern we have is the tremendous growth of curlyleaf pondweed throughout the lake, especially in the west basin. Treatment for curlyleaf pondweed is a multi-year effort where results may not be seen for a few years, unlike Eurasian Watermilfoil. Speaking of milfoil, it was down again last year. Was this due to our ongoing control efforts or was this due to a long-term change in the environment? Are we taking more credit than is due, or are we on the money with our approach? (Likely both.) Another major concern is the large uptick in wild rice on the west side. On the one hand wild rice is the official State Grain and elsewhere is a multi-million-dollar cash crop ('manoomin'). On the other hand, it's a nuisance to boaters. Wild rice grains or 'seeds' can sit in the sediment for years before germinating. Boat traffic can disturb the sediment allowing seeds to reach the top of the sediment and begin germination. Is this new growth due to old seeds that have now emerged, or is it something else?

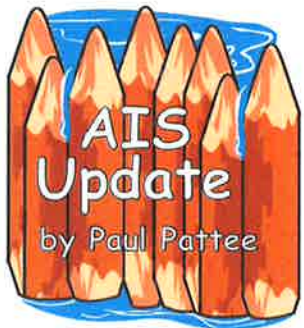
As for Starry Stonewort, none was found in the lake last year. We'll continue our program of vigilance with our rakers and divers throughout the season searching for it. The fact that none continues to be found is due in part to you doing your part by cleaning, draining and drying your boats and equipment before anything enters and leaves the water. Thank you!

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I will be stepping down as president of CLPO after the Annual Meeting. I've had a great time for the past six years but my terms are up and it's time to hand the reins to someone else. We have a very good Board of Directors, but we need more help. If you're interested in joining the Board or you want to learn more about it, please contact any Board member, or contact me at contact@clpo.org. See you at the Annual Meeting on June 3rd at 9 AM at the Corinna Town Hall. Have a great summer!

			
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It's been a busy time for AIS management starting at the end of 2022, projecting through 2023. The CLPO sent out a request for proposal (RFP) on 22 October, 2022 to five licensed AIS contract applicators, requesting bids on a 3-year proposal for treatment of Clearwater's submersible AIS plants. Two companies submitted bids, Lake Restoration and Clarke, now known as SOLitude Lake Management Company. Both companies have long histories of private contracting with property owners. The 3-year general contract for AIS treatment was awarded to Lake Restoration, but both companies will continue their private contracting with individuals wanting weed control in riparian areas of the lake, defined as waters from the owners shoreline out to a distance of 150 feet.

There are to be a total of three lake surveys in 2023 conducted by Blue Water Science. By law, the survey contractor cannot be the same as the treatment contractor. Two delineation surveys, one in mid-May & another in late-June, are necessary in support of our permit application for treatment to the DNR of Curly-leaf Pondweed (CLP) in May and Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) in June. The third survey is a point intercept survey, last completed in July 2020, which needs updating every 3 years. This survey offers a more detailed, in-depth study of our lake plant growth & general lake health.

Last year, there wasn't any treatment for either CLP or EWM due in part to the late ice-out of April 23, 2022 having a delayed or stunting growth effect on non-native AIS weeds, especially CLP. Should treatment be necessary, the CLPO is required to serve a 'Public Notice of AIS Treatment'. The notice is printed on page 27 of the newsletter and will also be on our website and in the local newspaper, Annandale Advocate.



Again, we will continue to survey for the presence of starry stonewort (SS) at seven of our landing sites (see page 25) which will include dives by Blue Water Science and rake tosses. The 3 dives will be in May, late-August, and October. Six rake tosses by lake volunteers begin in early June and runs thru August.

Our action plan, should SS be detected, is the immediate notification of the DNR, Lake Restoration (i.e. our treatment applicator), Clearwater River Watershed District (CRWD), Wright Soil & Water Conservation District (WSWCD) and you the property owners. Early detection & treatment is the key to successful management as has been proven by our friends on Lake Sylvania. I'm pleased to have, as part of our management team, Lake Restoration and Blue Water Science who have been the 'boots-on-the-ground' for SS treatment on Lakes Koronis and Sylvania. The algaecide Mizzen, a product manufactured by Lake Restoration since the 1970s, has been found to be the most effective algaecide against SS by research at the University of Clemson in South Carolina.

Boat ramp inspections will continue to be an important strategy in preventing the infestation of AIS vegetation. The cost, number & quality of inspectors is once again a challenge in 2023 especially since there aren't many companies wanting to bid for the work that is required. The cost of the program in 2023 is \$40,887 for 1460 inspection hours at \$28/hour. As with everything, this is an increase from last year's cost of \$24/hour. Funding for the program is made possible by a Stearns County AIS Committee grant of \$29,743, a Wright County SWCD grant of \$3,000 and the CLPO making up the difference of \$8144.

Swimmer's itch treatment will be done by Lake Restoration at the sandbar leading up to the Annual Sandbar July 4th Celebration, taking place on Saturday, July 1st. The Celebration is on Saturday because the 4th of July falls on a Tuesday this year. Weather permitting, the plan is for 2 applications of copper sulfate within two weeks of the event.

The Annual CLPO Meeting is on Saturday, June 3rd at the Corinna Township Hall from 9AM-10:30AM. Our guest speaker will be Steve McComas of Blue Water Science whose talks, question & answer sessions on AIS have been very informative and engaging. There will be a social hour from 8AM until the start of the meeting at 9 o'clock. Coffee, beverages, and pastries will be served. Hope to see you then!



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Steve McComas writes a column for the Outdoor News and can be heard on Joe Soucheray's Garage Logic podcast as the Lake Detective.



Stearns County FiveStar Lake Service Provider Initiative

Helping keep new aquatic invasive species out of Clearwater

by Liz Leitch-Sell

Stearns County recently created an initiative that has been successful in many other counties in Minnesota called the FiveStar Program. Its goal is to promote and support local lake service provider businesses (LSP's) who follow safe practices in regard to aquatic invasive species. Participation is voluntary. There is no fee to participate. In return for an LSP to agree to implement safeguards, Stearns County and partnering lake associations will promote their businesses using various mediums such as website, media accounts, mailings and events.

The county has also asked local lake associations to participate and sign on to the initiative. The role the associations play is to inform membership about FiveStar companies and to put pressure on local LSP's to join and commit to the FiveStar guidelines. Those guidelines can be found online here:

<https://content.civicplus.com/api/assets/54eada7a-33a1-4172-8e07-3a157dcf7670>. Clearwater Lake

Property Owner's Association (CLPO) voted to participate last fall, and since, Mark Wilkins and Liz Leitch-Sell have been working to encourage local LSP's to sign on to the program. As of this writing, local businesses that have committed to participate are:

Anchor Dock and Lift

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We want to encourage you to use one of these providers for your lake needs. If you use a provider that is not on this list, please encourage them to join the FiveStar Program and commit to practices that keep our lakes safe. We will post a list of FiveStar Providers biannually in our newsletters, so if others join, they will be added to the list. Be respectful, but insistent. If a provider moves from lake to lake in the spring or fall delivering boats or lifts, and does not follow safe practices, it is very easy to carry an invasive such as Starry Stonewort onto our lake. With a number of area lakes now infested with Starry Stonewort, we want to make sure we hire competent LSP's who are committed to practices that minimize spread.

Remember that you as a property owner are responsible to determine whether the lake service provider has the skills and capabilities necessary to deliver the product or service you require and are purchasing. Stearns County, nor CLPO are party to these transactions and make no warranty for the provider's services.

Stearns County is simply listing lake service providers that signed an agreement describing and promising to employ AIS safeguards, as well as lake associations that signed an agreement describing and promising to promote said lake service providers.

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Who or What Determines Lake Water Levels?

by Paul Pattee

Changing water levels on Clearwater Lake creates unique challenges for property owners and recreationists year around. Property owners go from chasing floating dock sections and bogs in the spring to tilling the lake bottom with boat propellers, adjusting dock levels & moving boat lifts in late summer. There was a swing of 27.4" of water depth between May 19th & October 23rd in 2022 . During one of the 'lows', I was asked why we don't adjust water levels using controls available to us at one of the Clearwater River dams? It certainly makes sense . . . less water flowing into the Mississippi River would translate into more water for our use on Clearwater Lake. I decided to do some research in answer to the question. The complexities I stumbled on, though convoluted at times, did have within it, threads of rational thought I'd like to share.

To begin with, I need to dispel the hope of ever being able to make fine adjustments to lake water levels during any given year. Adjustment to water levels is made nearly impossible by the rigorous process of arguing for change, usually before the courts, state legislature or DNR. I would like to take a different approach to the topic, one that may lead to a better understanding, focusing instead on 'the science' that established lake water levels in the first place.

The science of water flow is called hydrology and when applied to our watershed, is under the purview of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The Corps maintains a branch office in St. Paul who has, as one of its many tasks, the sustained preservation of the Mississippi River headwaters. Within the Corps, is The Hydrologic Engineering Center located in Davis, California, formed in 1964 to institutionalize the technical expertise of what is now known as **hydrologic engineering**. The DNR maintains its own complement of hydraulic engineers working in concert with those of the Corps.

The Hydrologic Engineering Center in Davis developed a computer modeling program called the HEC-1 Hydrograph Modeling Package that simulates the water-runoff within a watershed area or district. The variables influencing the movement of water through a watershed include geography (lay



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of the land) & topography (elevations). Computer modeling generates a **hydrograph profile** that helps in the development of roads, bridges, dams, and ditches as well as guiding governance for the responsible, sustainable use by all interests including municipalities, industry, agriculture, environmentalists, property owners and recreationists. Understandably, with all such interests in play, the wheels of regulation and change are painfully slow or not moving at all.

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An important contribution of the hydrograph is to help mitigate against the damaging effects of flooding within the watershed. There are two water level values that act as the functioning calibration for any hydrograph profile. These levels are the **Ordinary High-Water Level (OHWL)** and the **runout-level**, set by either the Commissioner of Natural Resources or the courts after public hearings. The Commissioner of Natural Resources is a governor appointed position, within the DNR.

The OHWL delineates the highest water level sufficiently maintained so that a line of delineation is evident where native vegetation transitions from aquatic to predominantly terrestrial types. To guard against the destructive effects of flooding in the watershed, a U.S. Geological Survey measured peak water flow of the Clearwater River upstream of Lake Louisa following a storm that produced 9.19 inches of rain on June 21, 1983. The OHWL for Clearwater Lake is set at 991.3 feet above sea level. Another function of the OHWL, beyond the mitigation of flooding, is to define the jurisdiction of the DNR where lands below the OHWL are defined as **lakebed**, subject to DNR public water permitting, while lands above the elevation, **riparian land**, is not.



The runout-level is the elevation at which water begins to run out of a lake. The runout can be the crest of a dam or the high point of water flowage from a lake. In the case of Clearwater Lake, the runout-level is the crest of the Grass Lake dam, at an elevation of 990.7 feet above sea level. Runout-levels, especially as it relates to dams, are under the strict control of the DNR. Because changing runout-levels can directly impact private property and other interests, there are strict statutes and regulations having to do with any petition for change.

An interesting drama that plays out all too frequently on Clearwater Lake is the impact bogs can have on the runout-level when flow is blocked at the bridge leading to Grass Lake or at the Grass Lake dam itself. Jurisdiction issues around bog removal and the high cost in time, money, and equipment, continue to play out between the Clearwater River Watershed District (CRWD) leadership, the DNR and property owners **without** guidance from the hydrograph model.

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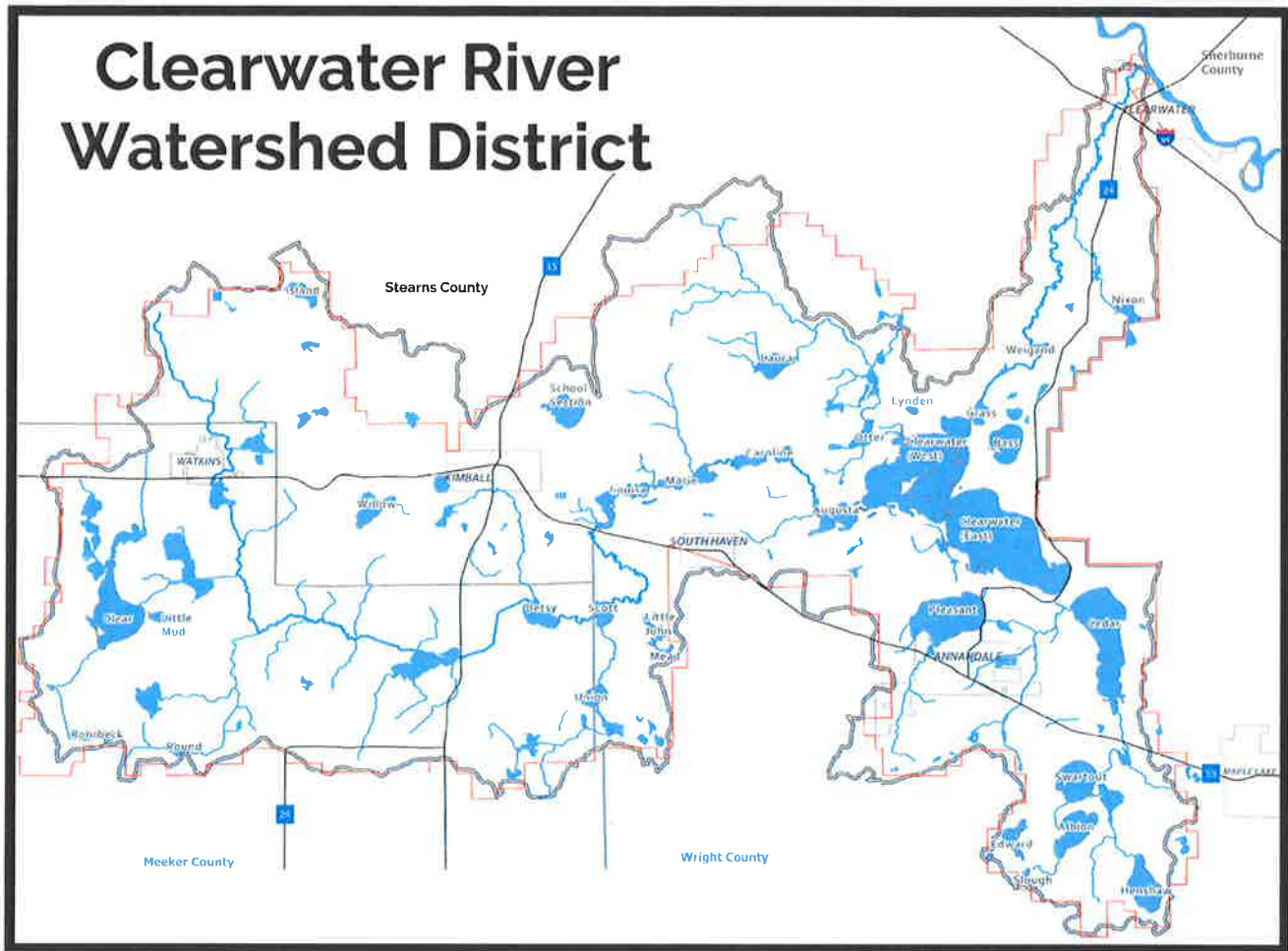
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Clearwater River Watershed District



Our own CRWD is situated in northeastern Meeker County, southeastern Stearns County, and northern Wright County. The area of the district is 158.8 square miles extending 22.5 miles from east to west and 16.5 miles from north to south. The headwaters of the Clearwater River are in Meeker County which includes Clear Lake, a 530-acre lake at an elevation of about 1,160 feet. The flow is generally easterly and northeasterly to Clearwater Lake, then onto the Mississippi River outlet in the town of Clearwater. The river is about 39 miles long with a channel gradient of 10 feet per mile between Clear Lake and Betsy Lake in Meeker County with a gradient change to 3.8 feet per mile from Betsy Lake to the Mississippi River outlet.

There are five principal tributaries of the Clearwater River which include County Ditch 20, passing through Watkins; Willow Creek, passing through Kimball; an unnamed creek from Union Lake; Three Mile Creek and Warner Creek that flow directly into Clearwater Lake. There are several lakes through which the Clearwater River flows including Louisa, Marie, Caroline, Augusta, Clearwater, Grass and Wiegand. Much of the Clearwater River has little or no flow during the summer months because of diminished weather-related groundwater runoff and the concomitant minimal outflow from area lakes. The river tributaries are often dry.



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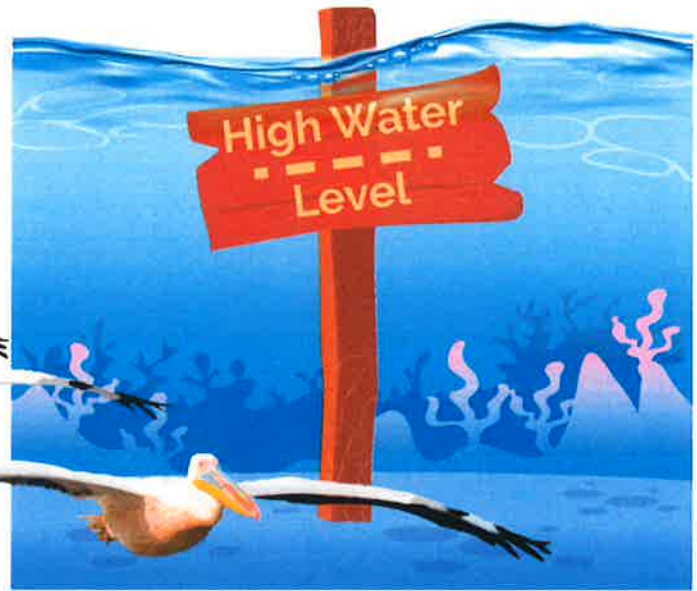
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Runout-levels along the Clearwater River are set by three dams which include the Fairhaven, Grass Lake, and Clearwater Dams. As mentioned earlier, the runout-level of Clearwater Lake is set by the Grass Lake Dam. What follows are maps, pictures and a brief description for each of the dams on the Clearwater River.



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Grass Lake Dam



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Dam Information

Dam Name	Grass Lake
County	Wright
Dam Owner	MN DNR
Year Built	1941
Inspection Frequency	Every 8 years
Next Inspection	2023
Dam Height	5 feet

15



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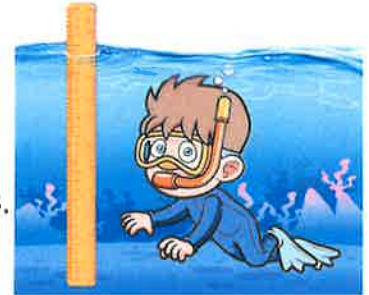
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The highest recorded water level on Clearwater Lake was 996' and Grass Lake 995.23' both occurring 6 days after the big storm of June 21, 1983.



Much like 1983, the rains of mid-May 2022 caused water levels to rise rapidly but to a reduced high of 993.00' when compared to 1983. On May 18, 2022, water levels began to recede. Floating bogs caused reduced flowage at the Grass Lake Dam necessitating their removal by the CWRD & DNR. Low weather precipitation kept lake levels right around the OHWL beginning in mid-July.

The water level at the Grass Lake Dam site is monitored continuously from May to October. A device called a **pressure transducer** is hooked up to an antenna which transmits data every hour.



16

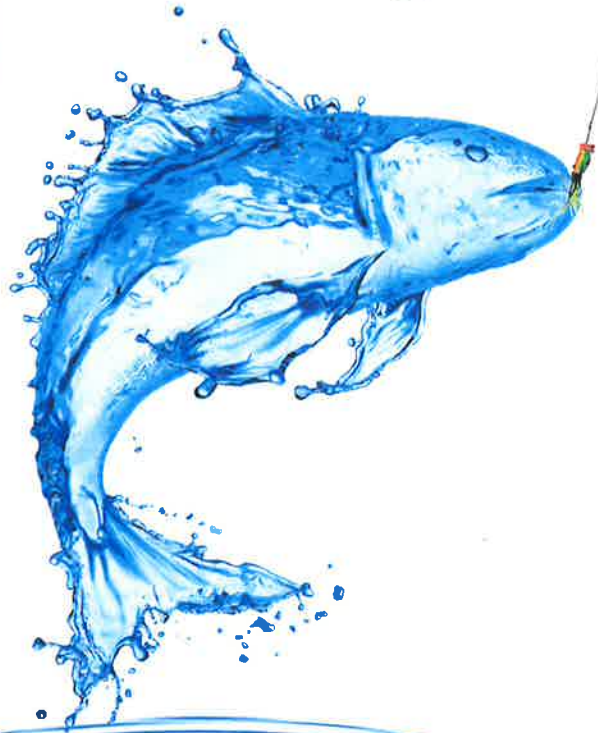
There's more . . .

Fairhaven Dam

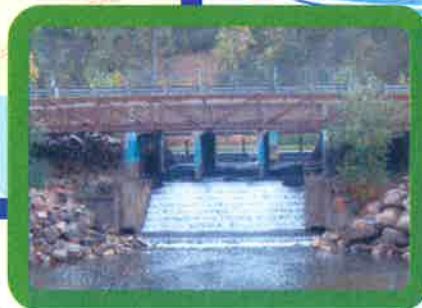


Dam Information

Dam Name	Fairhaven
County	Wright
Dam Owner	Stearns & Wright County
Year Built	1974
Inspection Frequency	Every 8 years
Next Inspection	2030
Dam Height	16 feet



Clearwater Dam



Dam Information

Dam Name	Clearwater River
County	Stearns
Dam Owner	Stearns & Wright County
Year Built	1937
Inspection Frequency	Every 8 years
Next Inspection	2030
Dam Height	15 feet





Matthew Brown



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In closing . . . if you're still with me . . . following the 1983 storm, a problem developed within the watershed district involving School Section Lake, a 210-acre land-locked lake in Stearns County, located northeast of Kimball. Water levels increased approximately seven feet, causing 14 houses and cabins around the lake to flood. Lakeshore property owners petitioned the Clearwater River Watershed District to install an outlet which was completed in September 1984 at a cost of \$155,000. The School Section Lake Outlet Project, undertaken to alleviate flooding, is worth mentioning for a couple of reasons. First, as an example that the hydrograph modeling of the watershed can be challenged and amended. Second, there can be a cooperative effort for successful outcomes between District leadership, the DNR and property owners. Put another way, redress & change are possible within the watershed but usually in response to an extreme event, in this case, the storm of the century.

Bottom line, best to keep outboard trim motors in working order, prop repair services on speed-dial and the equipment for dock & lift adjustments at the ready as water levels change during the summer months on Clearwater Lake.





Old-Fashioned Potato Salad

by Nicole Byars

This potato salad recipe is for the traditional creamy type of potato salad, with eggs, celery, and relish. It's perfect for making ahead to let the flavors develop.

Ingredients:

- 5 potatoes
- 3 eggs
- 1 cup chopped celery
- ½ cup chopped onion
- ½ cup sweet pickle relish
- ¼ cup mayonnaise
- 1 tablespoon prepared mustard
- ¼ teaspoon garlic salt
- ¼ teaspoon celery salt
- ground black pepper to taste

Directions:

Step 1 Gather all ingredients.

Step 2 Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil. Add potatoes and cook until tender but still firm, about 15 minutes.

Step 3 Drain, cool, peel, and chop potatoes.

Step 4 While potatoes cook, place eggs in a saucepan and cover with cold water. Bring water to a boil; cover, remove from heat, and let eggs stand in hot water for 10 to 12 minutes.

Step 5 Remove from hot water, cool, peel, and chop eggs.

Step 6 Combine the potatoes, eggs, celery, onion, relish, mayonnaise, mustard, garlic salt, celery salt, and pepper in a large bowl. Mix together well and refrigerate until chilled.



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Lincoln

by Paul Pattee

Abraham Lincoln, our 16th president, had a poetic way of writing & speaking that would captivate & convince his audience of the basic thoughts he was trying to convey. Much of what Lincoln had to say was a result of his own long hours of reflection on complex issues of the day, then being able to put into words, the fundamental idea everyone would understand & appreciate. His was not a simple regurgitation of something he had read or been taught like so many other 'educated' people of the day. Fewer, simpler words, as a self made man of the wilderness with original thought, reached the hearts & minds of a nation more effectively than any amount of bombastic rhetoric.

The most available books of Lincoln's day were books on grammar because it was believed the best way to improve ones position in the world, when not born into privilege, was to be able to communicate effectively. Lincoln's primary focus as a young man was to study and perfect grammar as a way out of the wilderness and into his place in history.

In my opinion, the best speech ever given in all of history is the 271 word, Gettysburg Address. Look it up.

"The true rule, in determining to embrace, or reject anything, is not whether it have any evil in it; but whether it have more of evil, than of good. There are few things wholly evil, or wholly good. Almost everything . . . is an inseparable compound of the two; so that our best judgement of the preponderance between them is continually demanded."

~Abraham Lincoln



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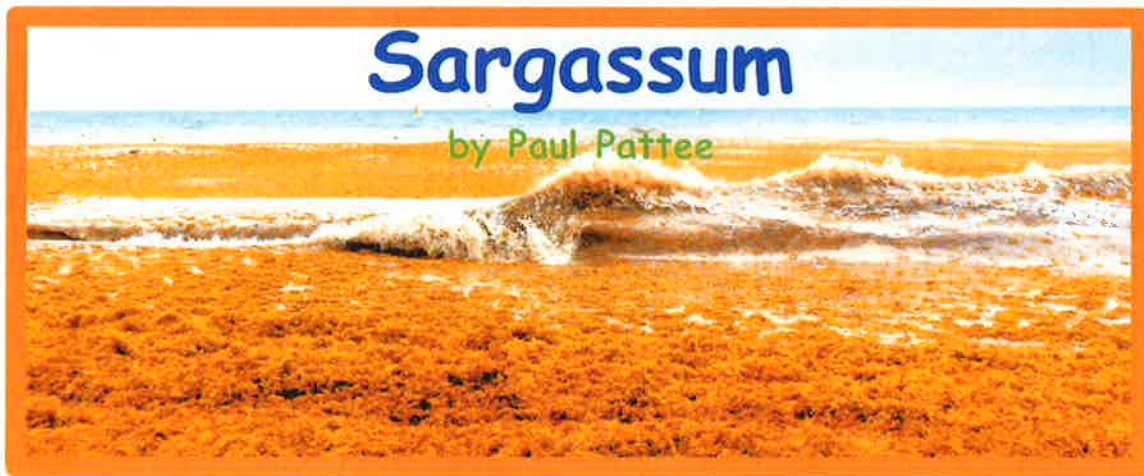
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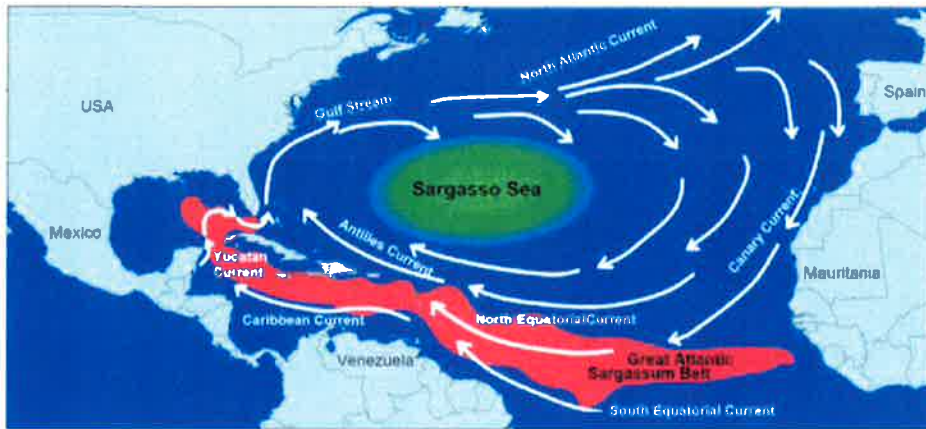
Interesting word! On hearing it for the first time when visiting the U.S. Virgin Islands, I thought perhaps someone was being called out for a bad attitude or offensive behavior only to find it is an ocean macroalgae, or surface seaweed, floating in the Atlantic Ocean driven by currents around the Sargasso Sea. Although not an AIS plant, it resembles one of our AIS threats starry stonewort, also classified as a macroalgae.

This particular seaweed has been in the press recently because of a bloom measuring half the size of the United States threatening coastal waters in the Gulf of Mexico, including Florida. What is this weed and how did it become such a threat?



There's more . . .

Sargassum, not considered an invasive species, offers crucial habitat for over 100 different species of marine life. As a moving ecosystem, it affords protection for fish and young sea turtles who use the sargassum as shelter and a source of food until they reach a size able to survive elsewhere.



Sargassum has many leafy appendages, branches, and round, berry-like structures that are actually gas-filled containing mainly oxygen. These gas-filled "berries", called pneumatocysts, add buoyancy to the plant allowing it to float, while being driven by ocean currents. In limited amounts when washed-ashore, sargassum plays an important role in maintaining Atlantic and Caribbean coastal ecosystems. Once ashore, sargassum provides vital nutrients such as carbon, nitrogen, and phosphorus to coastal ecosystems which border the nutrient-poor waters of the western North Atlantic tropics and subtropics.

Large mats of the seaweed began to appear in 2011 referred to as **inundation events**. The current massive bloom could be the largest on record — spanning more than 5,000 miles from the coast of Africa to the

Gulf of Mexico. Massive amounts of floating sargassum present a physical barrier preventing corals and seagrasses from receiving sufficient light, while also fouling boat propellers, water intakes and entangling marine life. Dying and decaying large mats of weed can create dead zones depleting the water oxygen causing massive fish kills. The great Atlantic Sargassum Belt, is expanding in a seasonal way coinciding with the discharge of major waterways, including the Congo, Amazon and Mississippi rivers. The runoff from these river sources feed the bloom with nitrogen and phosphorus.

The environmental and commercial impact of massive blooms can be devastating. Once ashore, the sargassum begins to die, degrading water quality and polluting beaches.



The camouflaged sargassum fish has adapted to live among drifting sargassum seaweed.





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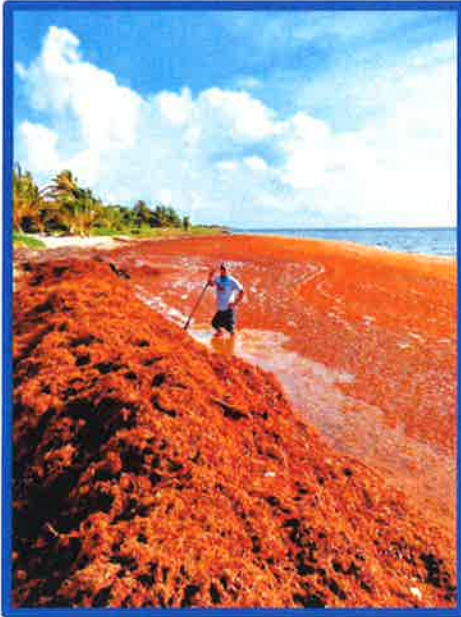
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The decaying algae releases hydrogen sulfide, a colorless gas that smells like rotten eggs, and can cause respiratory problems in humans. Costs for physical removal and the impact to tourism have entrepreneurs thinking of ways to repurpose the seaweed into animal feed, fuel or construction materials. Experimenting with new uses for the seaweed, however, needs to proceed with caution. For example, sargassum contains arsenic, which, if used in fertilizer or feed, could make its way into the food chain.



As mentioned at the beginning of the article, the word 'sargassum' is interesting and perhaps worthy of a repurposing for use. Consider it in the following sentence: "His sargassum had guests on edge and looking for the exits". What do ya think Webster?

Maybe you, the reader, are looking for the exit.







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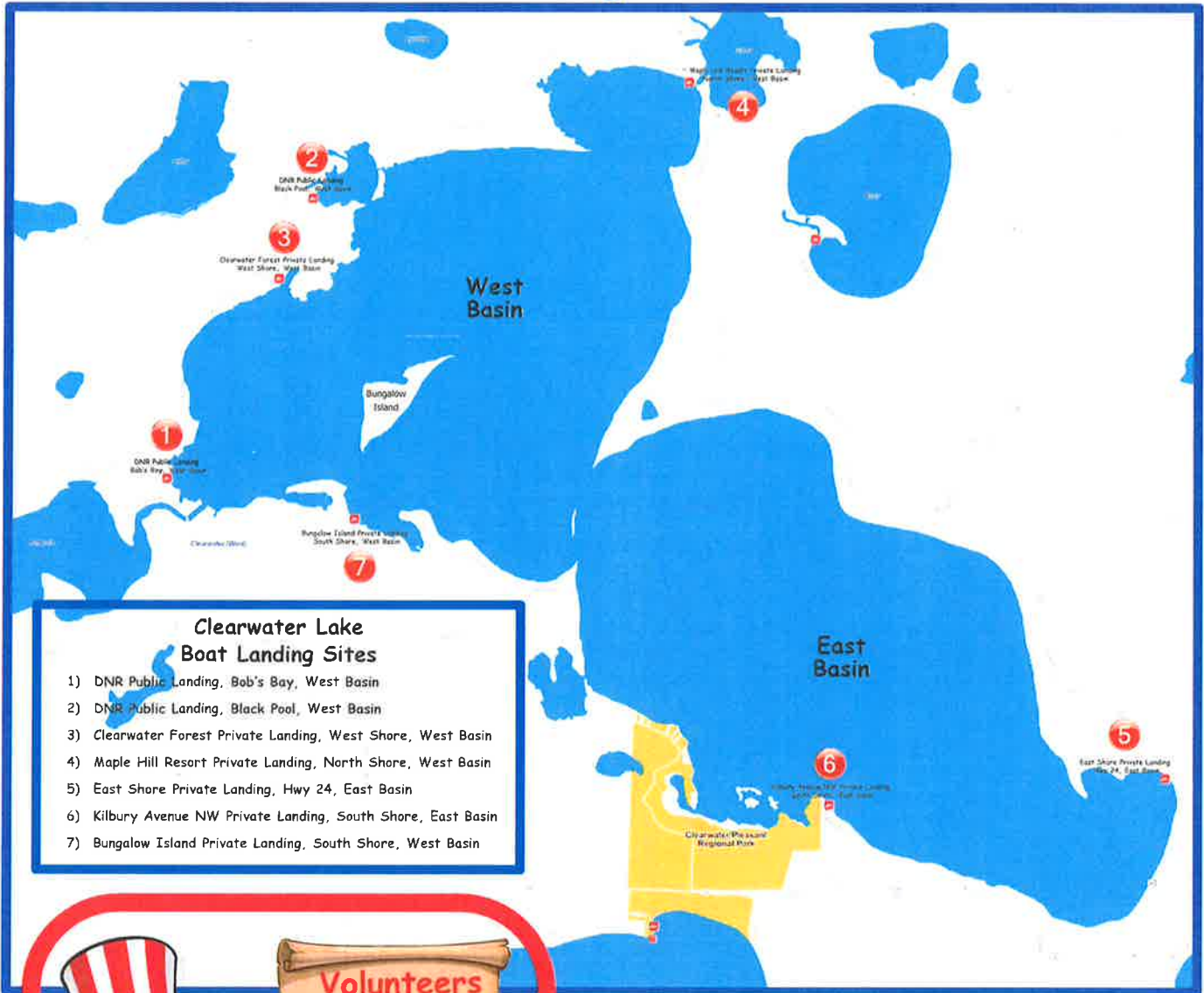
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Points of Sail

Have you ever read some of the old classics such as 'Moby Dick' by Herman Melville or 'Two Years Before the Mast' by R. H. Dana Jr? Much of the nautical text is a language unto itself. Here are some terms related to sailing, using wind direction as the point of reference, still relevant today. When sailing, don't find yourself "in irons", or sailing into the wind, which will get you nowhere but *dead-in-the-water*.



2023 Starry Stonewort Survey Sites



- Clearwater Lake Boat Landing Sites**
- 1) DNR Public Landing, Bob's Bay, West Basin
 - 2) DNR Public Landing, Black Pool, West Basin
 - 3) Clearwater Forest Private Landing, West Shore, West Basin
 - 4) Maple Hill Resort Private Landing, North Shore, West Basin
 - 5) East Shore Private Landing, Hwy 24, East Basin
 - 6) Kilbury Avenue NW Private Landing, South Shore, East Basin
 - 7) Bungalow Island Private Landing, South Shore, West Basin



We will be surveying seven (7) boat landing sites for the presence of starry stonewort (SS) in 2023. The surveys will include 3 scuba dives by Blue Water Science in May, late-August, and October. There will be 6 rake tosses by teams of **CLPO volunteers** during the weeks of June 12, June 26, July 10, July 24, August 7 & August 21.

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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Waterfront Lakeside Grille page 16
Whispering Pines Golf Course page 21
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Public Notice of AIS Treatment

The Clearwater Lake Property Owners Association (CLPO) is hereby giving notice of the impending herbicide treatment of aquatic invasive species in Clearwater Lake during 2023. The CLPO has contracted with a vendor approved by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to treat Eurasian Watermilfoil and Curly Leaf Pondweed during the summer of 2023. Since the CLPO has received a waiver that excludes the need to obtain property owners signatures to approve this treatment, this notice and other forms of communication (the CLPO website and the CLPO's spring newsletter) will also serve to inform lake property owners of the impending treatments.

Those treatments and the proposed dates of application are as follows:

Curly Leaf Pondweed – May 1 to June 1

Eurasian Water Milfoil – July 15 to August 15

Only EPA and MDA registered aquatic herbicides will potentially be used in these treatments. These herbicides may include Aquathol K, Dibrox, Chinook, and Platoon.

Landowners may request that the chemical treatment not occur adjacent to their property by emailing the Clearwater Lake Property Owners' at ais@clpo.org before May 1, 2023.

Clearwater Lake Property Owners' Association will also conduct a public informational meeting on the proposed treatment if five or more individuals, organizations, special units of government, or local units of government request one. The meeting would give citizens a chance to learn more about the proposed treatment from the permit applicant. The Clearwater Lake Property Owners' Association is not required to do so but may change the proposed treatment based on information provided by citizens who attend the meeting. Any request for a public meeting on the proposed treatment must be made within ten days after this notice is published. The request must specify the topics to be discussed at the meeting, including problems and alternatives, and must be sent in writing to the Lake Restoration Inc. 12425 Ironwood Circle, Rogers, MN 55374.

The Clearwater Lake Property Owners Association (CLPO)

CLPO Picnic 2023



Sunday, August 6



CLPO Board Officers: President: Jim Kutzner contact@clpo.org
Vice President: John Hoppe jhoppe99@gmail.com
Secretary: Marci Segner msegner18@gmail.com
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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:
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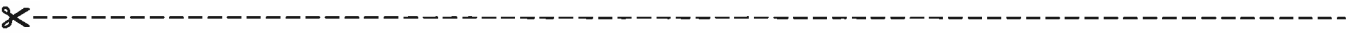
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