



Clearwater Lake

Property Owners Association

2024 Spring Newsletter



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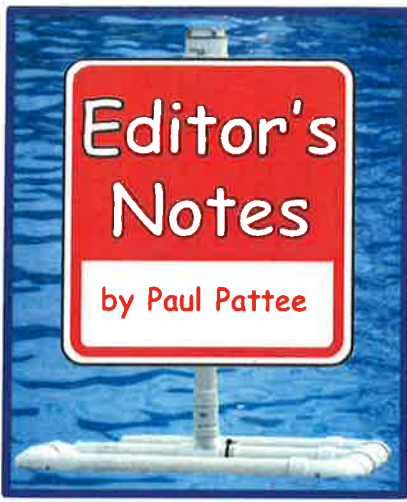
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Event Calendar

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|-------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| May 4, Saturday | Wisconsin Fishing Opener |
| May 11, Saturday | Minnesota Fishing Opener |
| May 12, Sunday | Mother's Day |
| May 23, Thursday | Full Moon (Flower Moon) |
| May 27, Monday | Memorial Day |
| June 1, Saturday 9-10:30am | CLPO Annual Meeting
Corinna TWN Hall |
| June 16, Sunday | Father's Day |
| June 22, Saturday | Full Moon (Strawberry Moon) |
| July 4, Thursday | 4th of July |
| July 6, Saturday 1:00-5pm | Music @ the Sandbar |
| July 21, Sunday | Full Moon (Buck Moon) |
| July 27, Saturday 7:30am-Noon | Junk Clean-up Day
Corinna TWN Hall |
| July 27, Saturday 1:00-5pm | Music @ the Sandbar |
| August 4, Sunday 11am-1pm | CLPO Picnic The Boathouse
at 'tween Lakes |
| August 19, Monday | Full Moon (Sturgeon Moon) |
| September 2, Monday | Labor Day |
| September 18, Wednesday | Full Moon (Harvest Moon) |





I believe the most important newsletter in any given year is the Spring newsletter. Contained in its pages are announcements about upcoming events, AIS plans for management of invasive threats and informational pieces feeding the curiosity about our most prized habitat & asset, Clearwater Lake. The Summer & Fall newsletters backfill with information on how the AIS programs are performing and whether or not new threats have forced an 'action-plan' adjustment. Last years find of starry stonewort cemented a dominance in all future CLPO AIS planning projects given its potential for habitat & recreational Armageddon while constantly drawing on limited resources for control.

In the Spring newsletter, you'll find a listing of the AIS programs for 2024 (page 8). Unlike years past, there will be a sharing of the cost for these programs, with projected costs for 2024 at almost \$130,000. Limited

funding is made available to us by our applications for grant money from the Mn DNR, Stearns County, Wright Soil & Water District (WSWD) and a public tax supported AIS Fund administered to us by the Clearwater River Watershed District (CRWD).

Of the over 500 lake property owners, only about half exercise the option to submit the \$50 fee to join the CLPO. Membership dues contribute about \$12,500 to our bottom line. Roughly, half of that amount is spent sending the newsletter to **all** property owners, the greatest expense being postage for mailing.

This issue of the newsletter will feature an article written by Steve McComas titled, 'Investigating the Lake Continuum', recently published in *Outdoor News Minnesota*. Steve, who is our survey diver for Bluewater Science and scheduled guest speaker at our Annual Meeting on June 1st, writes about the Lake Ice Continuum Concept which speaks to some of the consequences a mild winter may have on fish populations and vegetative plant growth. The subject is most appropriate when considering the extremely mild winter we've had with records set for late ice-in & early ice-out.

Walker Nelson
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The CLPO Annual Meeting will be held Saturday, June 1st at the Corinna Township Hall from 9am - 10:30am. As in years past, there will be a social hour beginning at 8am before the meeting with coffee & donuts served. Given the discovery of starry stonewort (SS) in our lake, I thought it most appropriate that we invite Steve McComas of Bluewater Science and Paul Kretsch of Lakeshore Restoration to speak & take questions from property owners on our programs for control of the SS and other AIS threats.

This year, I would also like to see the start of our own loon monitor program. I introduce the program on page 15 with monitoring tips on page 16. I proposed the start of such a program in last year's Fall newsletter. I've outlined in more detail how such a program might look. CLPO board member, **Steve Monson**, has agreed to lead the program.

If wanting to participate, contact Steve by phone at 651-343-7139 or email scandiastone1@gmail.com



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BINGO
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Annual CLPO Meeting

Saturday, June 1
Corinna Township Hall

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

Guest Speakers:
Steve McComas
 Blue Water Science
 &
Paul Kretsch
 Lake Restoration

Coffee, beverages, and pastries served.

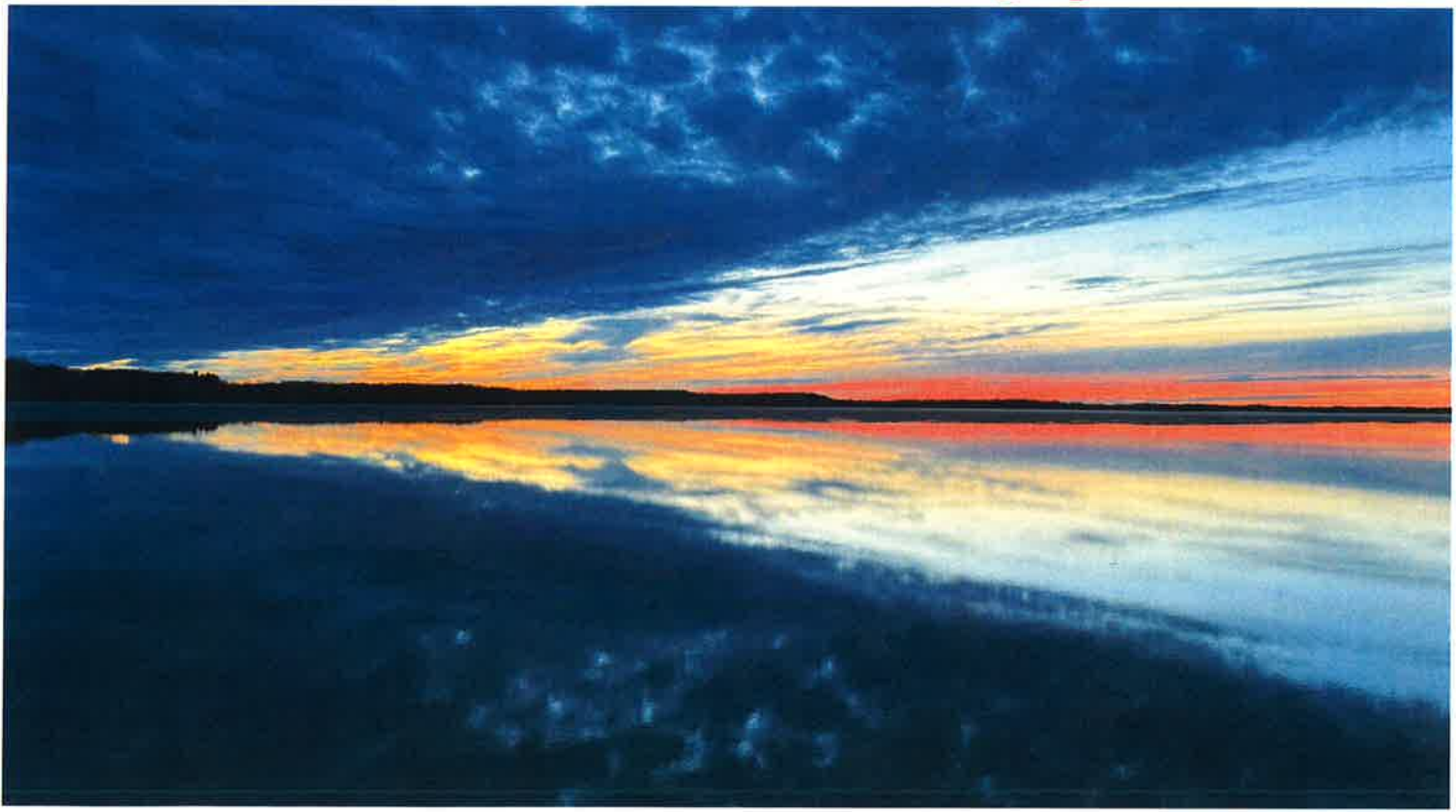



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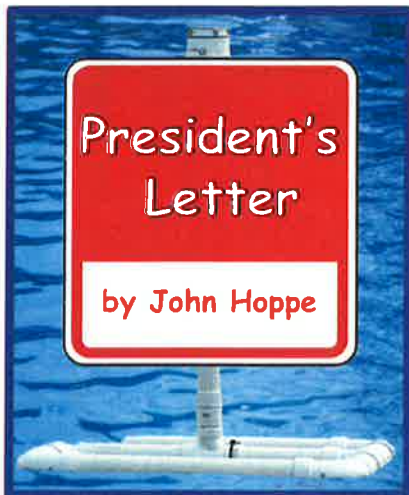
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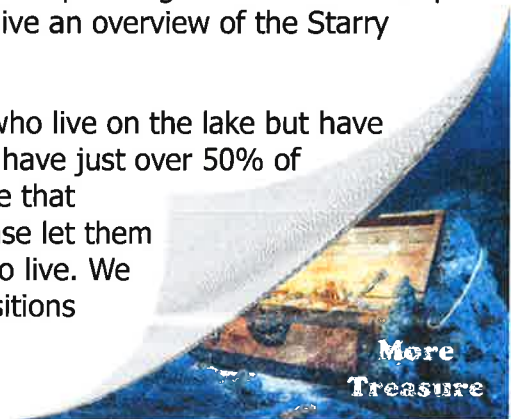


Happy Spring everyone! As I write this in early March the sun is shining, birds are chirping, maple sap is flowing, and the ice is rapidly receding. It really has been an unusual winter thanks to the El Nino currents in the Pacific keeping us much warmer and drier than usual. There was not much ice and many of us didn't get the ice fishing in that we had planned. Hopefully we get back to a more normal weather pattern in the coming months and that we get enough rain to bring the lake level back up to float our boats!

My first year as President started out rather calmly but soon ended up with issues that we had never had to address before. In the spring we purchased and installed several channel marker buoys to make navigation easier and are continuing to improve on those locations. In August we moved our picnic to a new location and the event was a big success. Then we were

notified of the discovery of starry stonewort. The news was a shock but thanks to a capable Board of Directors, several energetic volunteers, Blue Water Science's survey efforts, and Lake Restoration's chemical treatment we appear to have a good handle on containing this threat. At our upcoming annual membership meeting on June 1st we will have Steve McComas of Blue Water Science give an overview of the Starry Stonewort status and the ongoing remediation plan.

We will be doing a membership drive throughout the year to recruit folks who live on the lake but have not joined the Clearwater Lake Property Owners Association. Presently we have just over 50% of the lakeshore properties in our organization and I would like to see us raise that percentage significantly. If you know neighbors who are not members please let them know that we need their participation to keep this lake a wonderful place to live. We also need to recruit new members for our board of directors to replace positions



that folks are leaving open at the end of their terms. In particular we need someone able and willing to work on the grants that provide us with the cash flow to staff our boat landings with inspectors and to fund our fight against starry stonewort.

The winter of '22/'23 had a large amount of snow melt and we started out with very high water levels. This created a lot of floating bog movement early on but we dodged a bullet when the water went down quickly, locking several very large bogs in place and out of the way. The ensuing low water over the summer and continuing through fall and winter has kept those bogs from moving. They are still out there and the next high water we get will float them free again. As such we need folks willing to help push the large bogs to extraction points so that we can permanently remove them from the lake. Fortunately we have two existing DNR permits in place, one to move bogs on the north bay that threaten the water outflow to Grass Lake, and one that is lake wide allowing shore owners to remove small bogs from their shore and dispose of properly. Remember, the small bog permit is only available to due paying CLPO members and there is no association money available for extraction costs.

As of March 1st, our lake and several more in the area have been added to the DNR's special "Quality Sunfish Initiative" list to protect our populations of sunfish and crappies. The new limits allow for 5 crappies daily and 10 in possession, and for 10 sunfish daily and 20 in possession. There was considerable empirical research presented by the DNR at open meetings last fall as to how and why this works. If you are interested in learning more about this, just look up the "Minnesota DNR Quality Sunfish Initiative" online.

In retrospect, I am honored to be a part of the Clearwater Lake Property Owners Association and thankful that we have such a talented, hardworking board of directors. It is because of this teamwork that we have been and will continue to be able to keep our lake a fine place to live. I ask that you all support us in that effort and that you all have an amazing summer enjoying the lake!



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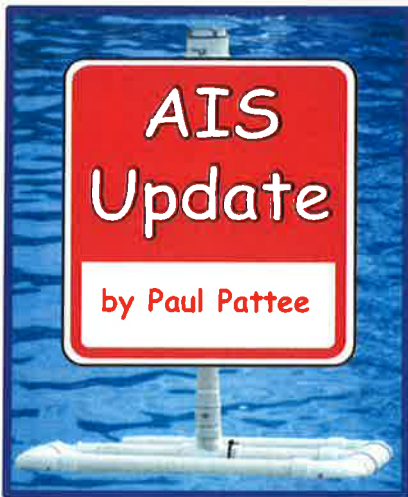
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The late ice-in date of January 17th broke the previous record in 2020 by 24 days for ice cover. The extra days of open water allowed for longer periods of light exposure & water oxygen mixing which can't help but have some effect on lake vegetative growth & fish populations. As Steve McComas covers in his article beginning on page 11, winter ecology as well as weather events of autumn, affect lake conditions in summer referred to as the "Lake Ice Continuum Concept." The science of such a concept needs to be considered when developing strategies for the upcoming season of plant growth, especially AIS species known to exist in Clearwater Lake. Of particular interest are the growth cycles of three bad actors, Curly-leaf pondweed (CLP), Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM) and of course, starry stonewort (SS).

The growth of CLP begins in early spring with plant die-off in July. The lack of significant snow & ice cover, as well as early ice-out, has a priming effect on the growth of CLP. The DNR has recommended that any treatment of CLP be completed by May 15th this year. As a result, planning is well underway for early delineation surveys to be conducted by Bluewater Science in support of any permit to treat should there be significant growth. The process of renewing the treatment permit with the DNR began in early March when the lake was still covered in ice.

The growth of starry stonewort, a macro-algae, differs than that of CLP. Studies have shown the growth of SS follows a pattern of accelerated phosphorous uptake beginning in July and running into October/November. Even though we were able to get in 3 treatments of copper sulfate (Mizzen[®]) last autumn, the late formation of ice may have facilitated a partial recovery from the algicide along with the reduced seasonal stressor, ice.



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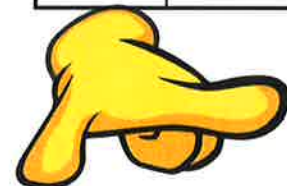
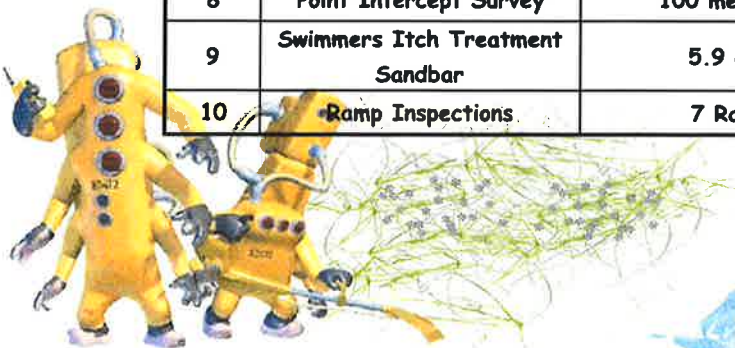
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Survey dives of the SS treatment area (Area 23) in June/July will answer some of these questions. As promised, here is a list of our AIS programs in 2024 including projected costs.

AIS Programs 2024

	Program	Description	Unit Cost	Number	Seasonal Program Cost
1	CLP Delineation	Meandering Survey	\$1,100	1	\$1,100
2	CLP Treatment	40 acres	\$1,182	1	\$47,280
3	EWM Delineation & CLP Survey	Meandering Survey	\$1,600	1	\$1,600
4	EWM Treatment	5 acres	\$1,326	1	\$6,630
5	SS Dive Surveys	7 Ramp Sites	\$1,700	3	\$5,100
6	SS Surveys Infected Site	3.9 acres	\$1,700	3	\$5,100
7	SS Treatment	3.15 acres	\$3,195	3	\$9,585
8	Point Intercept Survey	100 meter grid	\$5,100	1	\$5,100
9	Swimmers Itch Treatment Sandbar	5.9 acres	\$259	2	\$3,056
10	Ramp Inspections	7 Ramp	\$30.50/hr	1460 hrs	\$44,530
				Total	\$129,081



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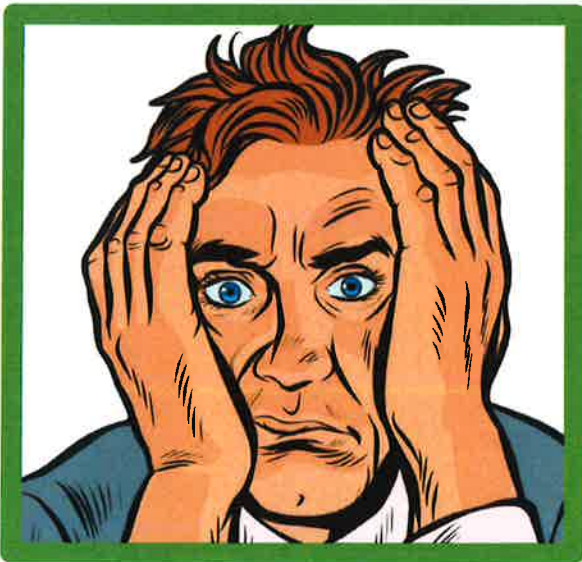


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Fred

Fred looks worried but, don't you worry to much. We don't have anyone named "Fred" on the CLPO board. However, I believe it's important that we share the numbers driving the CLPO members toward more responsive & effective AIS programs. As always, we ask you to tumble these figures while considering ways to support the programs by donating your time, talent, or treasure as a member or volunteer.

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 ~ Benjamin Franklin**



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Changing Bag Limit for Sunfish

Since the 1980s, surveys of anglers have shown satisfaction with the number of sunfish being caught but disappointment with the diminishing size of their catches. The DNR fishery managers, after hearing the complaints of anglers, began a long scientific study of the problem and came away with some interesting findings and possible 'fixes'. One such fix was the start of the 'Quality Sunfish Initiative' to add back the quality catches absent in recent decades.

The initiative set daily limits of five or 10 sunfish to protect and improve sunfish quality on selected lakes having both the biological potential to produce large sunfish and strong public support. The number of lakes with reduced bag limits has grown over time from 60 in 2020 to 225 in 2022.

This year, Clearwater, Augusta and Grass Lakes will participate in the Quality Sunfish Initiative, adopting a bag limit of 10 sunfish in the boat with 20 in possession (both boat & home in the freezer) or 5 crappies in the boat, with 10 in possession. The prior limit was 20 sunfish and 10 crappies in the boat.

Why or for what reason is such a limit necessary?

Sunfish, though small, continue to be a favorite among anglers for consumption. Dave Weitzel, MN DNR Grand Rapids Area Fisheries Supervisor states that over 16 million sunfish are harvested from Minnesota waters every year. That's a big number! The DNR has been able to study the adaptive behavior of Bluegill sunfish when exposed to such heavy predation. So, what did they find?

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When large Bluegills are taken, the missing fish weight is replaced with an increased survival of young fish the following spring. Young fish begin to compete with one another slowing their growth rate. Instead of growing perhaps one inch per year, energies are diverted from growth to reproduction which has a stunting effect on the sunfish populations. The number of slow growing fish increases each year. Reintroducing a greater number of large Bluegills through programs of selective harvesting/catch & release reverses the trend. Smaller fish begin to adapt to the presence of larger fish by funnel energies into increasing size so as to compete with other large fish for spawning habitat.

Reducing the bag limit for large fish allows for an ever growing number of larger fish which have been shown to survive better than small fish in programs of catch and release. A large fish may be caught several times by different anglers enhancing the fishing experience for many.

Even though it may take 8 years for a Bluegill to grow 8", a program of catch and release would allow for an ever improving fishing experience each year under the program.



Paul Pattee

Sunfish Family



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Bluegill



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Small Mouth Bass

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Investigating the Lake Continuum



Lake ice came late this winter, and snow cover is almost nonexistent at the end of January. So I began to investigate what might be the effects on the lake biota for this summer. I started with the list of the usual lake suspects, including algae, zooplankton, plants, and fish.

The easy answer was a late lake ice-up gives sight-feeding fish an edge because without ice cover, there is a better light field and forage fish are sitting ducks. Predators such as bass, walleyes, and northern pike gained another month to put on extra bulk and should be in good spawning condition come spring.




Also, without ice for much of December, lake waters were mixed and well-oxygenated longer compared with an early-season ice-up. The oxygen concentration in lakes should hold until ice-out, and fish winter kills could be minor this winter.

In addition, with a light snowpack, run-off will be at a low level, and fewer nutrients will enter lakes. Algal growth should be less than normal in spring, and plant growth could be more abundant in summer.

But those were the easy ones. When I started to dig a little deeper, I realized that my first take on predicting summer conditions had some problems. It isn't that simple.



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Winter ecology needs to be considered. Recent research has shown that what occurs in autumn and winter affects lake conditions in summer. It is referred to as the "Lake Ice Continuum Concept".

So I considered algae. They are single-celled. How complicated can they be? Turns out they have more weapons than I realized.

First, the algal community is composed of dozens of species, and just about any one of them can produce heavy algal blooms under the right conditions. For example, a few species thrive in cold water while others dominate in warmer water. Many can easily withstand a range of temps. Therefore, a variety of algal species can produce nuisance populations depending on lake temperatures.

Water temperatures are a factor, but algae are also affected by the intensity of sunlight. And not only the intensity, but they're also sensitive to specific sunlight wavelengths. With heavy snow cover, long wavelengths have maximum penetration, and cyanobacteria are favored. In lakes without snow cover, intense short wavelengths actually can photo inhibit algal growth.

Without testing, it's tough to guess which species will thrive based on the winter conditions. But as ice goes out, algae that are present have a jump start heading into spring and summer.



Matthew Brown



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Although sunlight is essential, nutrients are critical. Algae have special tools for acquiring their phosphorus needs. If run-off brings in excess phosphorus, the stock of algae present in the water column gobble it up. However, if there is inadequate water-column phosphorus, then algal-resting cells in the sediments soak up phosphorus from the sediments and migrate into the water column.

This algal translocation is another cyanobacteria trick, but is also used by other algae. If there is not enough water-column phosphorus and if sediment conditions are not just right, the cyanos just sit out a year. No algal blooms appear for a summer. However, the resting cells can sit for decades and will come roaring back when conditions are right again. What does this mean?

Because algae are at the base of the food web, they impact all the biota in the food web. Zooplankton will react to lake thermal and nutrient conditions as well. They also graze on algae, so the algal community composition dictates zooplankton abundance. What happens to fish?

Everything affects them, including temperatures, nutrients, aquatic plant composition, and forage availability. Ultimately, the fish community structure is influenced by physical and chemical conditions along with their food sources. For fishing success in the summer, the wild card is weather conditions that occurred in autumn and winter. The lake continuum starts in autumn, goes into winter, and sets the stage for spring and summer conditions.

So, how will the situation unfold this summer? There are two distinct possibilities: either above-normal action or below normal. I feel strongly both ways.



This article is reprinted by permission from Steve McComas with the original write-up appearing in the publication Outdoor News Minnesota, 01-31-2024.

<div data-bbox="203 1144 738 1375" style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> <h2 style="margin: 0;">BILLY D'S</h2> <p style="margin: 0;">CROOKED TAVERN EST. 1979</p> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-top: 10px;"> <div data-bbox="175 1407 470 1564" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <p>MEAT RAFFLE FRIDAYS Begins at 6pm</p> </div> <div data-bbox="490 1407 779 1564" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <p>MEAT RAFFLE Sundays Starts at 4pm</p> </div> </div> <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 20px;">  <p>HOME OF THE ULTIMATE BLOODY MARY</p> </div> <p style="text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;">34 OAK AVE N ANNANDALE 320-274-6184 CHECK US OUT ON FACEBOOK HOURS—MENU—SPECIAL EVENTS</p>	<div style="text-align: center; margin-bottom: 10px;">  </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div data-bbox="852 1459 1120 1543" style="text-align: center;"> <p>FRIDAY NIGHTS FISH FRY</p>  </div> <div data-bbox="1161 1459 1461 1795" style="text-align: center;">  <p>SATURDAY NIGHTS</p> </div> </div> <p style="text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;">511 MORRISON AVE S 320-274-6181 WWW.SOUTHBROOKEGRILLEMN.COM</p>
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The Loon Monitor Program an Introduction

It's 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 2-3 loon pairs likely attracted to Clearwater Lake 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 having moderate to heavy intermittent recreational activity. Several factors including the dramatic lake level changes of spring into early summer, can threaten loon nesting sites. Documenting stability of our loon population would be a good measure of nesting habitat health & the ability to raise young while coexisting with human and predator influences. Preserving natural nesting habitat has been proven in studies to be preferred over man-made nests.

I introduced the idea for such a program in the newsletter last fall. Volunteers would go out on the lake one morning between June 30th and July 10th from the hours of 5 a.m. to noon and count the number of adult and baby loons in an assigned area. To avoid duplication in counting, I thought it best to divide the lake into areas as shown on the following page (page 16). I decided to modify the regional bog map by dividing the East Basin into two regions with Rocky Point as a boarder reference. Equipment needed for the count would be a boat, binoculars (or telescope), paper & pencil. Pretty easy! A record of the count would be kept & shared on both the CLPO website and in the newsletter.

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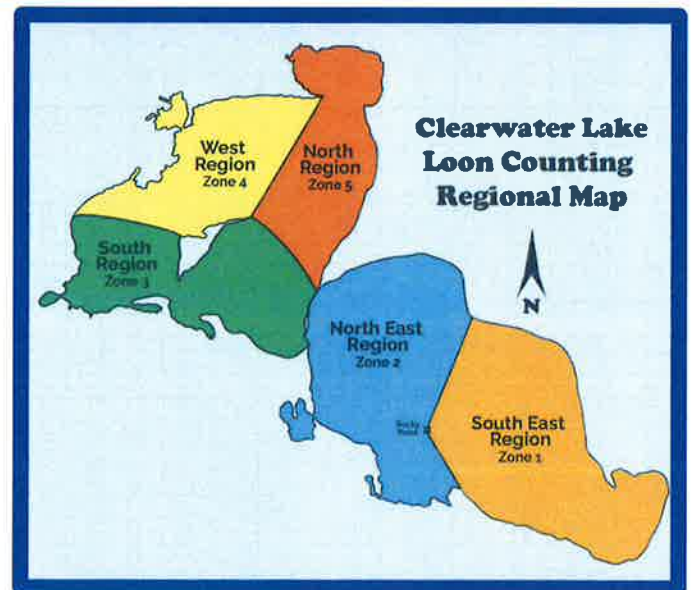
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Loon Counting Tips:

1. Schedule a day to count when winds are calm, usually in the morning, between June 30th and July 10th.
2. Count loons only in the water & not flying over head.
3. Take the time to be sure the bird being observed is a loon & not a loon look-alike i.e. cormorant.
4. Make observations while on the water rather than counting from land. Roads & private property may not be inviting or friendly.
5. Observe loons at a distance of about 200 feet.
6. When a loon is seen, observe for several minutes for an accompanying adult that may be feeding underwater.
7. Male & female adult loons have similar black & white markings with the male perhaps a bit larger.
8. Young chicks may be hard to see next to an adult, under a wing or riding on the back.
9. Most breeding loon pairs will have 0 - 2 young.
10. Be conservative. If you think you may have already counted a loon, do not count it again.
11. Adult loons have the iconic black and white plumage with young juveniles having a drab gray to brown coloring.
12. Designate loons with the letter 'A' for adults, 'J' for juveniles & 'C' for chicks on a lake map when counting.



Contact: **Steve Monson**

phone - 651-343-7139 or

email - scandiastone1@gmail.com





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Water Safety in Review

- Minnesota law requires a properly fitted U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jacket to be worn by children less than 10 years old when aboard any watercraft while underway. An **exception** to the wear law for children is when on a boat anchored for the purpose of swimming or diving.
- Operation of personal watercraft (PWC) such as Jet Skis or Wave Runners, is allowed from **9:30AM to 1 hour before sunset**.
- Standup paddle (SUP) boards and other non-lighted watercraft should be off the lake **1 hour prior to sunset**.
- When standup paddle boarding, an appropriate U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jacket must be with you, on the board, even if not worn.
- Operation Dry Water (ODW) is a year-round boating, under the influence awareness and enforcement campaign involving law enforcement agencies throughout the state. The mission of ODW is to reduce the number of alcohol and drug-related accidents when on the water. Operation Dry Water's (ODW) heightened awareness and enforcement weekend, takes place July 4th thru July 6th.



They offer 2 programs: Do It Yourself or Full Service. They will donate 5% of every dollar you spend to the CLPO. Just mention you're a member of the CLPO or download the form on our website under "Lake Info".

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I called Wednesday, March 13th as ice-out date on Clearwater Lake. Looking at records I keep for lake ice transitions dating back to 1980, here are some 'eye poppers'.

- 1) March 13th is the earliest ice-out date with the previous records March 16th, both in 2016 & 1987.
- 2) The latest ice-in date was just this January 17th, 2024. Previous record was December 24th, 2020 ... a difference of 25 days!!
- 3) As a result, a record was set this year for the fewest ice-days at only **56 days!**
- 4) In contrast, the longest ice-days were 154 in back-to-back years of 1995-96 & 1996-97.
- 5) The previous shortest ice-days record was in 2021-22 with ice-in December 24th, 2020 & ice-out April 1st, 2021 for a total of 98 ice-days.

-- Paul Pattee

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Boat Cleaning Station Instruments

Clean, Drain, Dry

The "Clean, Drain, Dry" campaign started as a national initiative in 2012, with the Northern Forest Canoe Trail (NFCT) playing a significant role in its inception. The slogan was adopted by the group, and others, including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the American Boat and Yacht Council (ABYC), and BoatUS to promote the practice of cleaning off visible aquatic plants, animals, and mud from all equipment before leaving a water access. Doing so would prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS). One of the barriers for effective implementation of the practice has been the lack of available cleaning instruments at water access sites.

In 2017, a Minnesota based company called CD3, began marketing a variety of boat cleaning stations with the tools needed to help *Clean, Drain and Dry*. They ranged in size from the 'Roadside' unit with 2 tools costing \$2500 to the much larger 'Wayside' power units costing tens of thousands of dollars to install and maintain. In 2021, the Lake Leelanau Lake Association in Michigan installed a 'Wayside' unit at one of their 11 boat ramp locations at a cost of \$43,000. Anyone wanting to see one of these units locally can go to the Cedar Lake west side water access, just off County Road 6.

A few years ago, the Association of Cass County Lakes (ACCL) in Cass County, Minnesota began exploring the option of producing their own roadside cleaning station at a reduced cost. They developed a DNR approved sign (Figure 1) making available 6 or more boat cleaning tools (Figure 2) hung on 3/8" eye bolts. The two center eye bolts secure the sign to a ground driven, heavy metal fence post.

According to the ACCL, tools of choice, purchased at a fraction of the cost from any local hardware store, can be hung untethered to the sign. Tethering of instruments to protect against theft was considered but entanglements and other limitations would likely discourage or frustrate tool use. By reports, theft has not been an issue and at a small cost for tool replacement, found to be a much more effective & responsible use of resources than trying to incorporate tethering mechanisms.



Figure 1



Figure 2



CD3 'Roadside'

For comparison, the CD3 'Roadside' unit offers the option of 2 tools of choice tethered to lockable reels and a mounted boot cleaning brush at a cost of \$2500. The expense for a single unit modeled after the ACCL station with items priced from Amazon include:

 Sign \$55	 Metal Post \$62	 SS Eye Bolts \$16	 Cleaning Brush \$4
 Boat Plug Tool \$14	 Deck Brush \$40	 Grab Tool \$13	 Hook Tool \$28



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The cost for such a station with 5 tools (I couldn't think of anymore except for perhaps a bucket & sponge) is \$232 or roughly one tenth the cost of the least expensive CD3 'Roadside' unit having but 2 tools.

Stemming the tide in the spread of AIS has always been front & center in the efforts of the CLPO. A key player in that effort has been Elizabeth Leitch-Sell, a sitting board member with the CLPO and very active with the Stearns County AIS Committee. Her efforts in the staffing of Clearwater Lake boat ramps with inspectors has contributed tremendously toward that effort. Over the last couple years, Liz has voiced concern over the rising cost for staffing ramps with inspectors as well as the shrinking pool of workers willing to do the work.

To combat the shortfall, there has been a greater emphasis & interest for alternative ways to prevent the spread of AIS. A recommitment to the *Clean, Drain, Dry* initiative has included ways of making cleaning tools more accessible at the boat ramps as well as educating the public on their presence and use. The discovery of starry stonewort in Clearwater Lake has accelerated our own effort.

Clearwater Lake has two DNR boat ramps, one in the Black Pool & the other at Bob's Bay both located in Stearns County. Liz's work with the Stearns County AIS Committee and Kyle Blazek, their Environmental Specialist, have secured a grant from Stearns County for the installation of a post & sign 'Boat Cleaning Station' at each of our public access sites in spring 2024. Each station will be equipped with 3 tools, for now.

The CLPO board will continue to explore ways on how best to make the necessary cleaning tools available at our water access sites. Such collaborative efforts can include work with yet to be discovered working teams or even those already established in the industry including CD3. Collaboration for compliance with *Clean, Drain, Dry* holds promise for ongoing innovative ways that stem the tide of spreading AIS threats.



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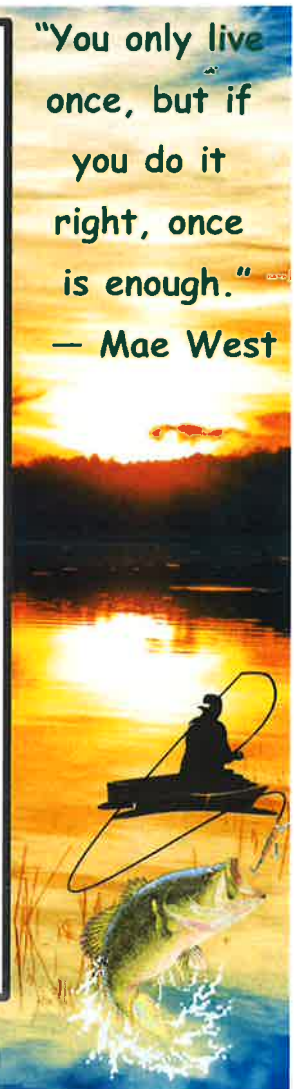
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Public Notice of AIS Treatment

The Clearwater Lake Property Owners Association (CLPO) is hereby giving notice of the impending herbicide treatment of aquatic invasive species in Clearwater Lake during 2024. The CLPO has contracted with a vendor approved by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to treat Eurasian Watermilfoil, Curly-leaf Pondweed & Starry Stonewort during the summer of 2024. 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 Watermilfoil – July 15 to August 15

Starry Stonewort – June 1 to November 15

Swimmer's Itch at the Sandbar – June 15

Only EPA and MDA registered aquatic treatment products will potentially be used in these applications. Products used may include Aquathol K, Dibrox, Chinook, Platoon, Mizzen and copper sulfate.

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, 2024.

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)



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click on the 'Members' tab
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Clearwater Lake Property Owners Association

2024 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 25 years and will be able to continue in the years to come if we get your support. Thank you!

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Yes, I'd like to give an additional donation: \$ _____

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