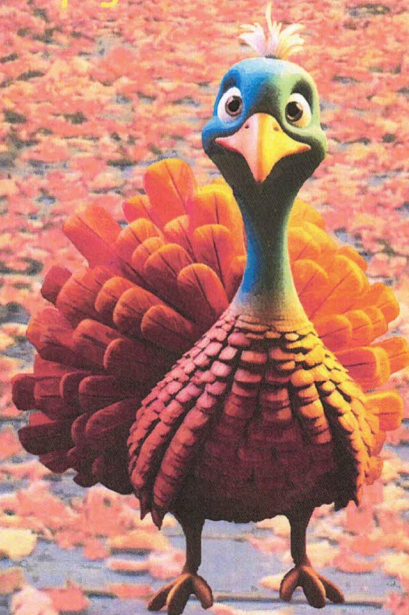


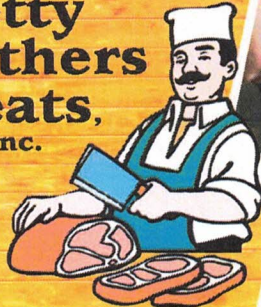
Clearwater Lake Property Owners Association

2024 Fall Newsletter

| | | | |
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| Editor's Notes | page 3 | Bog Report 2024 | page 15 |
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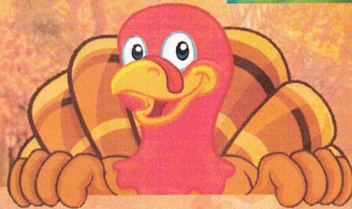
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Event Calendar

October 17, Thursday
October 31, Thursday
November 3, Saturday
November 5, Tuesday
November 11, Monday
November 15, Friday
November 28, Thursday
December 7, Saturday
December 15, Sunday
December 24, Tuesday
December 25, Wednesday
December 31, Tuesday

Full Moon (Hunters Moon)
Halloween
Daylight Saving Time Ends
Election Day
Veterans Day
Full Moon (Beaver Moon)
Thanksgiving Day
Pearl Harbor Day Remembered
Full Moon (Cold Moon)
Christmas Eve
Christmas Day
New Years Eve



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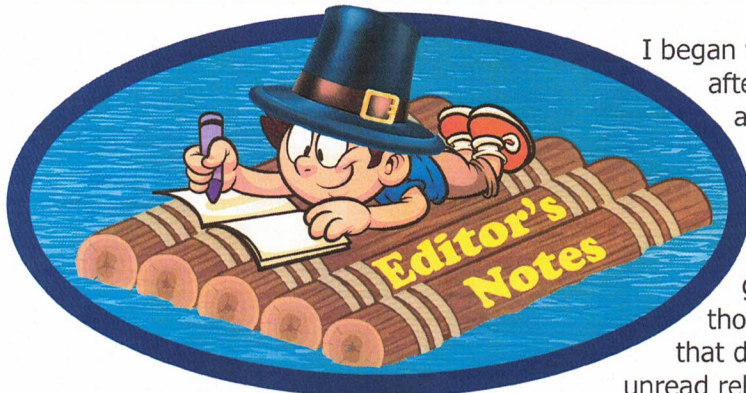
-Susan Rose

"My lakeshore has never been clearer."

-Paul Ramseth

"They are knowledgeable and work hard to help us manage our lake"

-Peter Davis

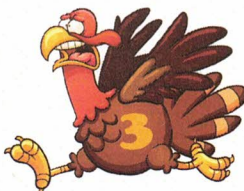


I began writing the newsletter in the spring of 2021 and now, after 12 publications, have come to the realization that at \$4000 per publication, \$12,000 per year, the newsletter is unsustainable. Even with the editor being a volunteer position, the costs have become hard to justify. Are we getting value for all the expense? Who actually reads the newsletter? I greatly appreciate the compliments and support from those that read the newsletter but what about those that don't? Of the 725 printed newsletters, how many go unread relegated to the trash as mailbox fodder or just another

mailing? What happens to all the printed content and information once the newsletter is discarded? Does it just become another crafted piece of trash for the landfill? Can't we do better?

The board & I have decided that this may well be the last newsletter as we work toward transitioning to a more fiscally responsible information platform. My goal is to help design something that would have more content offerings year around, not just 3 times per year as with the newsletter. Ideally, such a design would not only be dynamic in content but offer new & different ways for us to connect with one another. You'll have to admit that with the newsletter, I've been the one doing all the talking.

Currently, much of the focus is on our CLPO website. Do we try and make changes to the current site or model a new design from the ground up? A complete redesign would bring a greater opportunity for control of content & change, no longer having to work through an offsite webmaster.



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My apologies to those who've liked the published newsletter and are perhaps troubled, as myself, by e-readers replacing paperback books or the loss of the morning newspaper on the doorstep. I have to restate a favorite truism of mine, 'if all you ever do is all you've ever done, then all you'll ever get is what you've ever gotten'. All I can say as we move forward is that it will be different and hopefully, something of value.

Lastly, my sincere gratitude to the CLPO, & you our readers, for the free rein opportunity given me in the writing & formatting of the CLPO newsletter.

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because goodbye means
going away and going away
means forgetting."**




— Peter Pan

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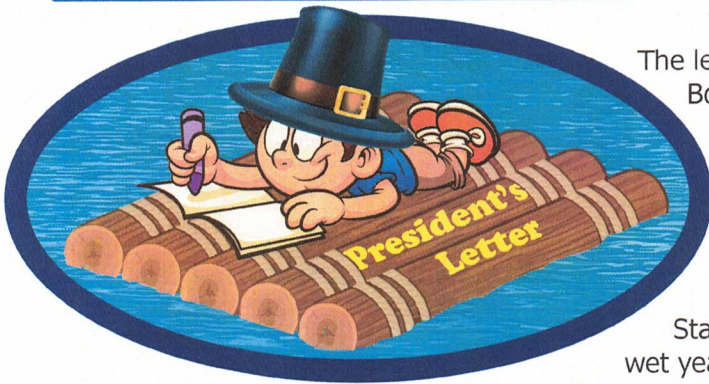
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The leaves have begun to turn color and fall is in the air! Boat traffic has slowed and folks are starting to put lakeshore equipment away for the season. Most of the adult loons have left, leaving the young ones who will head south later in the season. The walleyes are beginning their fall bite season and soon the ice fishing season will be here!

Starting with a high water spring, it has been a generally wet year and the resulting high water has put the lake in an enforced wake restriction 300' from any shore for most of the open water season. While this does not normally cause many issues there are some areas, like the 350' wide south narrows channel, where we need to be considerate of adjacent shore owners. As of September 17 the restriction has officially been removed, most likely for the rest of the season. If you want to keep track of water levels we have added a tab to our website that goes to a water level chart. The tab is in the upper right corner on our front page.

The Starry Stonewort did come back somewhat this year, and we are continuing to treat it to keep it in check. Lake Restoration will spray several times this year, and Blue Water Science will be doing dives to validate the results. This will be a continuing process through the coming years and we will work diligently to keep it in check. This year's high water did see some bog movement activity, but overall we were lucky in that there were no large property threatening bogs that had to be addressed. Thanks to our DNR permits and the CLPO policies on bogs we remain ready to address those issues as they arise in the future.



As you read through this newsletter keep in mind that Paul Pattee who does all of the content and layout is stepping down as editor. He has done an amazing job on our newsletter and we will miss his expertise, devotion to the articles, and overall artistry. Going forward our newsletter will change and we are working on how we can continue to bring you information in a format that will be both helpful and enjoyable to read. If anyone would be interested in volunteering to help with our newsletter we would greatly appreciate the help!

In closing I want to thank all who have decided to join the CLPO and help us maintain the health, the overall condition, and the friendly environment of our lake. There is a lot of work done in the background to keep this lake a wonderful place to play, fish, and to just enjoy. Have a great winter!



With Halloween fast approaching, I thought it might be fun to share some little known, or 'who cares', facts about the holiday.

Travis Gienger of Anoka MN is the world record holder for the largest jack-o'-lantern that

weighed 2,560 pounds at the 2022 World Championship Pumpkin Weigh-Off in Half Moon Bay, California. On average, each Halloween-celebrating American will spend about \$110 on costumes, candy, decorations and greeting cards with Halloween spending in the U.S. reaching as much as \$10 billion.

Trick-or-treating became a widespread practice in the 1930s, providing a fun and a structured way for communities to celebrate the holiday. About 73.1 million American children under age 18 celebrated Halloween in 2020, according to an estimate published by the U.S. Census Bureau. Halloween is a "very popular" celebration in the U.S., U.K. and Canada.

Americans purchase around 600 million pounds of candy. The top three Halloween treats that are beloved by Americans are chocolate, candy corn and gummy candy.



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~ Paul Pattee



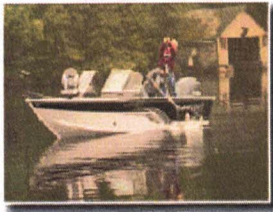
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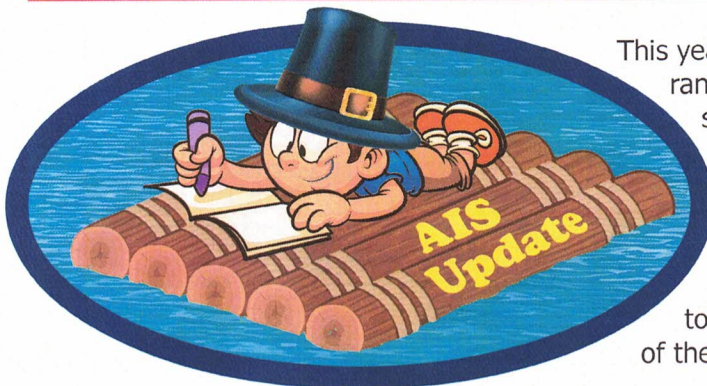
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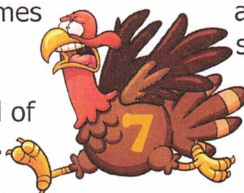
HONDA
MARINE



This years AIS season has had a variety of challenges ranging from best practices in the management of starry stonewort (SSW) to perceived barriers in being able to achieve success once our plan is in motion. I have been reassured that our strategies have been in line with evidence based practices in mitigating the SSW menace. I want to offer some thoughts on the perceived barriers that seem to threaten our best efforts given the inherent authority of the DNR & the citizen's right to public waters access.

One question generating a lot of discussion is if a treatment works, perhaps more might even be better. The authority of the DNR to regulate and enforce Minnesota environmental and public safety laws was established by the Minnesota state legislature. A perspective on the working relationship between the DNR & public citizens was offered in a 2022 fall newsletter article written by Jim Kutzner titled **'Floating Bogs . . . A Commentary'**. He pointed out the differences in viewpoint between local lake associations, many times feeling an urgent call to action, and the DNR, seeming to drag it's feet with protocols that at times can come across as at odds with the desires of property owners. The reality is the DNR, overwhelmed in its responsibilities to the public, is environmentally and ecology focused. They rely on a permitting process to draw focus for effort & applied resources using the petitions to keep abreast of what's happening 'in-the-field'. The DNR is well networked with 'academics' who help shape 'best-practice' protocols. The at times competing interests can mask the fundamental desire of all participants to do what's right.

I've entertained the thought myself of exercising the 'nuclear option' of putting so much copper based product in our SSW infested area that it assumes come to the conclusion that this is wrong on concentrations is environmental polluting and Also as CLPO stewards, spending a great deal of without proven benefit, is irresponsible



almost a patina glow. I've several levels. High chemical ecologically damaging. money for more product, **not the right thing to do.**

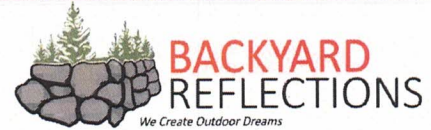




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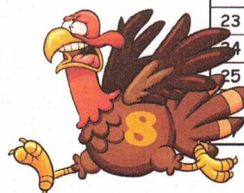
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Another source of frustration has been the presence of anglers, though infrequent, in the marked quarantine SSW area. It's believed that the SSW was introduced by an angler, either by anchor-on-a-rope or bass boat's shallow anchor system, given the pattern of infestation & popularity of the site for some anglers. From the beginning, signage marking the quarantine area asked for voluntary cooperation to 'not enter' while we set about identifying the scope of the problem & begin treatment. The interest and degree of public cooperation initially seemed to match the interest & efforts of those delivering on treatment protocols. My hopes & expectations have been tempered a bit as people's right to access has been tested as public patience with the process has begun to wane.

There is no denying that all public waters are in the public domain and citizen's have their right to access. Common sense & even the DNR, with powers of regulation and enforcement, can't prevent citizens from exercising the right to access even AIS infested public waters. The DNR operates approximately 3000 public water access sites. I decided to tabulate (table at the right) the number of DNR boat ramps offering access to SSW infested waters. A lot of infestation . . . a lot of access!

Much like the DNR, the best we can do while combating our own SSW infestation is to educate & inform the public on status and precautions hoping people take such information to heart. **Clean, Drain, Dry.**



Starry Stonewort Infested Lakes MN

| | Lake/River | County | Year Found | DNR/City Boat Ramp/Landing |
|----|-------------------|-------------|------------|----------------------------|
| 1 | Beltrami | Beltrami | 2019 | 1 |
| 2 | Bemidji | Beltrami | 2022 | 6 |
| 3 | Blackduck | Beltrami | 2023 | 2 |
| 4 | Bowen | Cass | 2022 | 1 |
| 5 | Carnelian | Stearns | 2020 | 1 |
| 6 | Cass | Beltrami | 2016 | 1 |
| 7 | Clearwater | Wright | 2023 | 2 |
| 8 | Dora | Itasca | 2023 | 1 |
| 9 | Koronis | Stearns | 2015 | 3 |
| 10 | Leech | Cass | 2021 | 9 |
| 11 | Long | Kandiyohi | 2023 | 1 |
| 12 | Medicine | Hennepin | 2018 | 2 |
| 13 | Minnewaska | Pope | 2017 | 3 |
| 14 | Mississippi R. | Beltrami | 2021 | 5 |
| 15 | Moose | Beltrami | 2016 | 1 |
| 16 | North Twin | Beltrami | 2023 | 1 |
| 17 | Pimushe | Beltrami | 2021 | 1 |
| 18 | Pleasant | Wright | 2018 | 2 |
| 19 | Rice | Stearns | 2016 | 2 |
| 20 | Thunder | Cass | 2022 | 1 |
| 21 | Big Turtle | Beltrami | 2016 | 1 |
| 22 | Turtle River Lake | Beltrami | 2022 | 2 |
| 23 | Middle Cullen | Crow Wing | 2024 | 1 |
| 24 | Pokegama | Itasca | 2024 | 8 |
| 25 | West Sylvia | Wright | 2016 | 1 |
| | Winnibigoshish | Cass/Itasca | 2016 | 1 |
| | Big Wolf | Beltrami | 2018 | 1 |

Updated August 2024



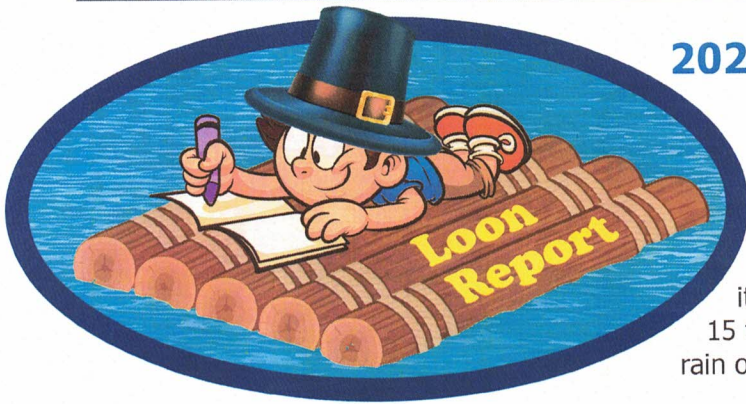
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2024 Clearwater Lake Loon Count

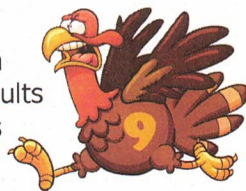
Hey everybody! The results are in!!

Our intrepid group of brave loon counters fought the wind, waves and rain showers to complete the Loon Count on Saturday June 29, 2024. What a day it was! The wind was blowing out of the northwest at 15 to 20 mph. Some storm clouds were kind enough to rain on us a few times too.

Two of our volunteers were unable to assist either due to family matters and an injury. We had to redraw the zones in the western basin from 3 down to 2 zones to make a total of 4 zones for the 4 teams. We had Mike Campbell in his pontoon boat taking the East half of the East Basin (Zone 1). I, Steve Monson, took my trusty Lund fishing boat and worked the western section of the East Basin (Zone 2) Liz Glunz and her family in their speedboat worked the Western section of the West Basin (Zone 4) . Dan Averbeck started out in a kayak to work the East side on the West Basin (Zone 3). Unfortunately, the wind and waves were too dangerous so he and I completed the count together from my boat.

The weather didn't seem to be bothering the loons. Although they were hard to see in the large waves and whitecaps, both adults and juveniles were observed out in the middle of the lake. Very few were sheltering in the weed beds.

You may remember that using the Minnesota statistics, we were expecting a total of 16 adults the entire lake. As we all know, Clearwater is



Loon Monitoring Program and 4 juveniles for not your average lake.



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Loon Count 2024

These totals are amazing! We have more than double the expected adults and more than three times the expected number of Loonlets. This is a great testament to Clearwater's habitat and water quality. If we can continue to keep Clearwater a Loon friendly lake, maybe some of the Loonlets will return to live and breed here and add to our existing population.

| Zone | Adults | Loonlets | Total |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Zone 1 | 9 | 2 | 11 |
| Zone 2 | 11 | 5 | 16 |
| Zone 3 | 10 | 5 | 15 |
| Zone 4 | 9 | 2 | 11 |
| Total | 39 | 14 | 53 |

Dan Averbeck, (our Zone 3 Observer) is an avid nature photographer and took several pictures of loons during the count and is willing to share them with us. Thanks to Dan, Mark, and Liz for their help in completing the count. I look forward to doing the count again in 2025. Anyone else who would like to be added to our Loon count Volunteer List, please contact me, Steve Monson, and I will gladly add you to our group.

On a sadder note, On the morning of June 30th I received a call from some Clearwater cabin owners who had found an injured loonlet on their beach. We both made some calls to try to find help for the poor little guy. I went to their cabin and found the poor thing had already died.

Please remember that any sick or injured animal is not a domesticated pet. They are wild animal and can be dangerous. If they are injured, they may be in pain and may try to protect themselves. If they are sick, the disease may be transferable to humans or pets. The best response is to not touch them and to keep other people and pets away from them.

If you find an injured or sick bird or other wild animal, you should contact the Wildlife Rehabilitation Center in Roseville, Minnesota. This is an animal hospital only and is not able to pick up the animal of concern. They will instruct you on how to handle the situation.

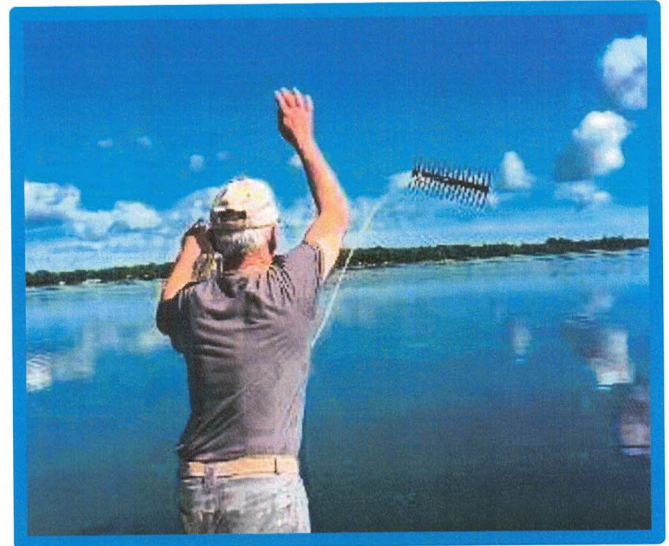
Go to Page 18



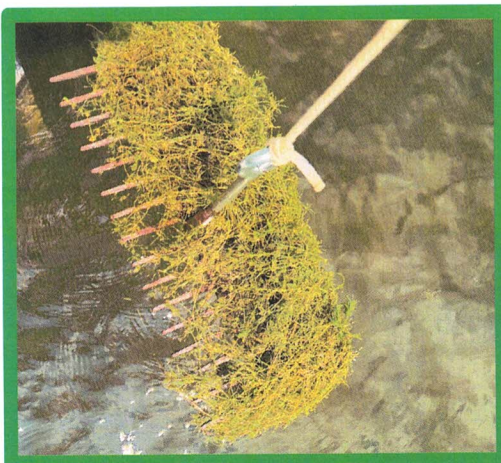
Starry Stonewort Raking Volunteers

by Tim Ilse

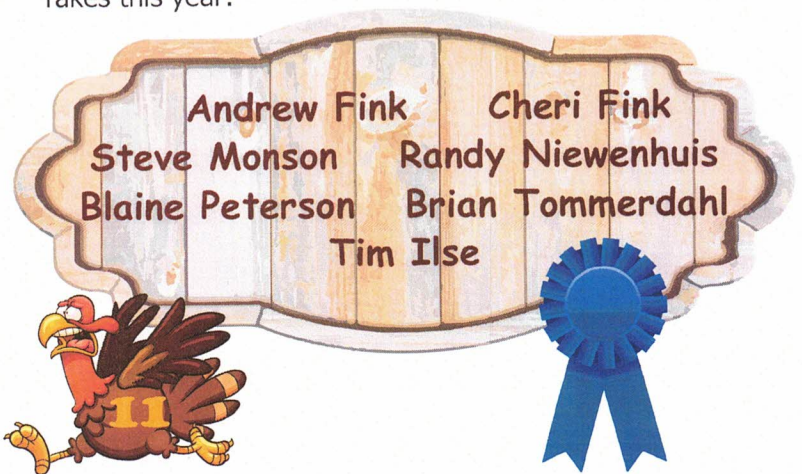
For the past seven years, volunteer members of the CLPO have been hunting for starry stonewort (SSW) at various landing sites around the lake. Precipitated by the discovery of SSW in Lake Sylvia and the fact that almost all SSW discoveries in the State of Minnesota were located close to landings, the CLPO Board made the decision in 2018 to recruit volunteers to search for SSW at highly used public and private landings around the lake.

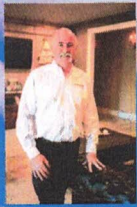


These searches involve throwing Wes Nelson's carefully designed two-sided rakes into the water at multiple points around each of the targeted landings. These rakes pull up all types of matter that make contact with the rake when it is pulled in. Fortunately, during the last seven years, there has been no evidence of SSW at the landings. But, the vigilant work of our volunteer rakers continues in order to optimize the opportunity to locate the SSW as soon as possible.



Many thanks to our CLPO volunteers who are throwing out rakes this year:





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Today's Recipe

Cheesey Potatoes

| | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 2 lbs. hash browns | 1 tsp. salt |
| 1/2 cup milk | 1/4 tsp pepper |
| 1 can cream of chicken soup | 2 cups grated cheddar |
| 1 pint sour cream | 1/2 cup margarine, melted |
| 1/2 cup chopped onions | 2 cups crushed cornflakes |

Mix together and put in a greased 9 x 13 baking dish: hash browns, milk, cream of chicken soup, sour cream, chopped onions, salt, pepper, and grated cheddar. Melt margarine and add crushed corn flakes. Mix and top the potatoes with this mixture. Bake at 350° for 45 minutes.



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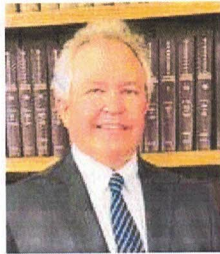
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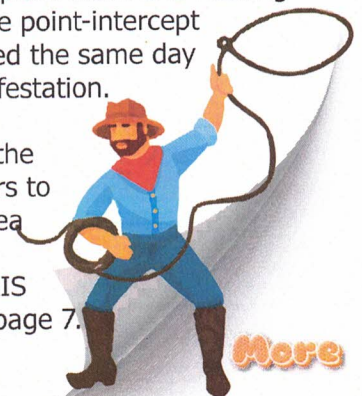
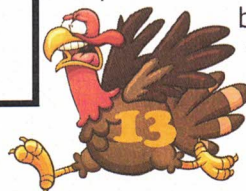
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Generally speaking, 2024 was not a bad year for us with regard to the starry stonewort (SSW) infestation. To date, it has remained restricted to the bay where it was originally discovered in 2023, Area 23. At the beginning of the SSW growing season in July, we were disappointed with the discovery of a larger area of infestation, an increase from 3.1 acres to 4.4 acres. At the time, there were mats of growth up to 3 feet thick, coming within inches of the water surface. Steve McComas' survey dive of August 15th, following the second chemical treatment on August 9th, showed a significant reduction in plant mass and nothing outside the containment area. The point-intercept survey of the entire lake conducted the same day did not show any areas of new infestation.

We've had some frustration with the expressed interest of some anglers to begin fishing the area which I've tried to address with my AIS Update article on page 7.



More



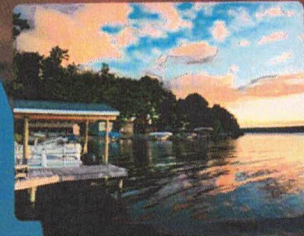
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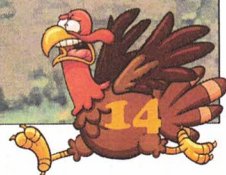
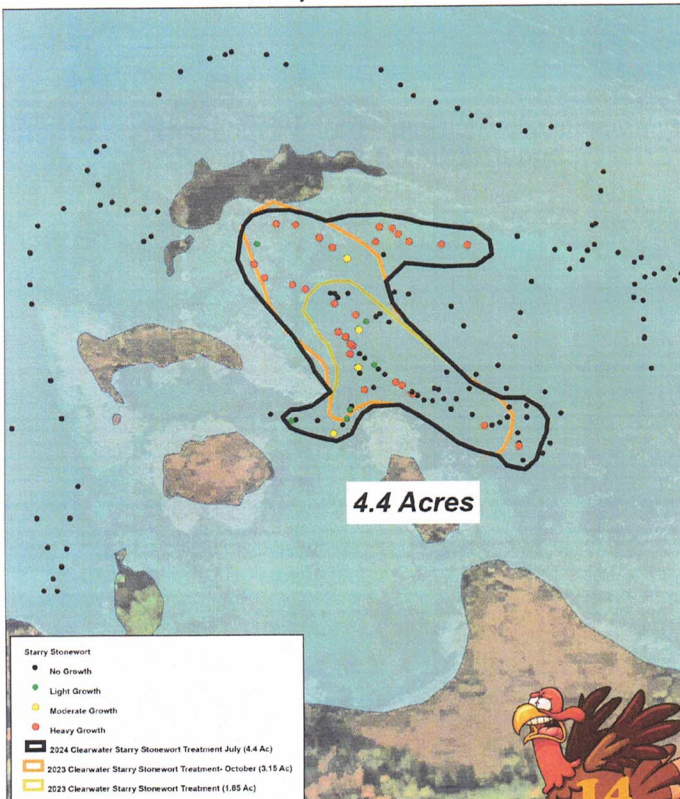
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Shape Files

Clearwater Lake Starry Stonewort Growth and Treatment Area
July 18, 2024



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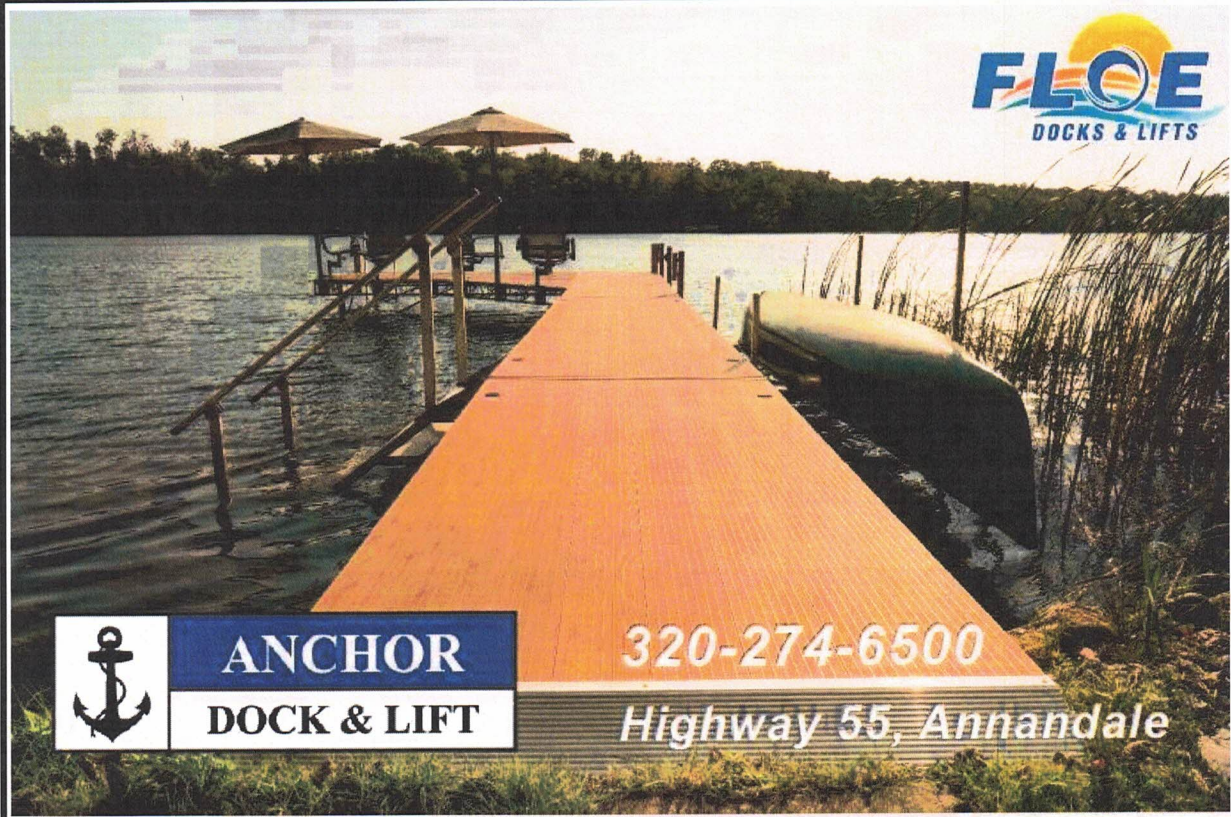
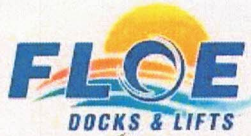
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Treatment Timeline 2024

- June 1 - Survey dive, no growth
- July 18 - Survey dive, heavy growth, 4.4 acres
- July 26 - First chemical treatment (Mizzen®)
- August 9 - Second chemical treatment
- August 15 - Rake survey Area 23, min. growth
- August 15 - Point Intercept survey entire lake
- August 30 - Third chemical treatment
- October 2 - Survey inspection, min./less growth
- Early October - Fourth chemical treatment

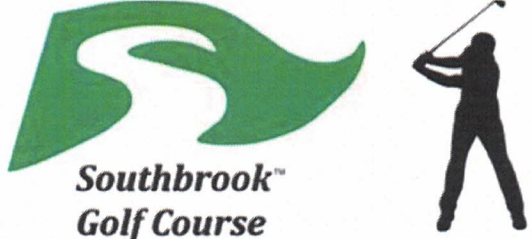
Four treatments the first couple years after discovery is common. I'm told less frequent treatments are needed in subsequent years. We'll see.



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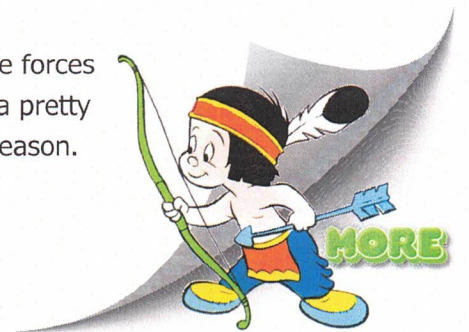
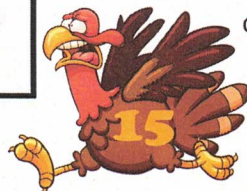
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Bog Report 2024

Bog season on Clearwater Lake runs from early spring with the snow/ice melt, into June/July when lake water levels begin to recede. Add in some blustery rainy days and people's bog anxieties peak with the water levels.

2024 had winds about as strong as in years past but high water levels peaked twice during the season for extended periods of time. Using the 'no-wake' water level (i.e. 992.1 feet above sea level) as the definition of 'high-water', there were 2 such periods.

Surprisingly, in spite of the forces at work, we experienced a pretty quiet bog season.



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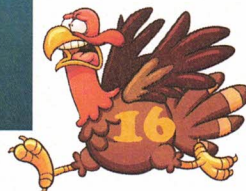
The four bog captains that administer Clearwater's bog program, reported a total of 11 calls for permit to move bogs. Surprisingly, 7 of those requests were on the East Basin, one of which fell outside the permit range of 15' x 15' (225 sq ft). They were given contact information to the DNR in applying for a removal permit.

Bog Captains

Brian Tommerdahl

Deb Flygare Tim Isle

Chuck Sell



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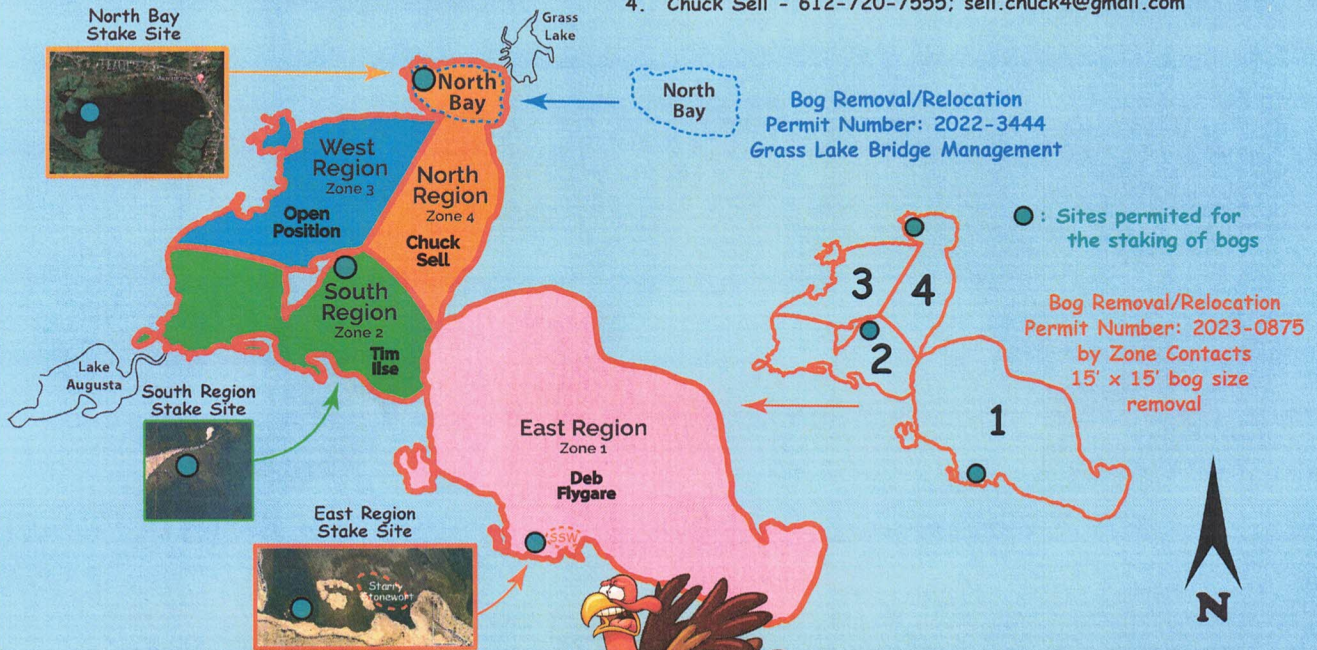
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Clearwater Lake



Clearwater Lake Bog Regional Map

Zone Contacts:

1. Deb Flygare - 320-980-0645; debflygare@gmail.com
2. Tim Ilse - 651-231-9377; t_ilse@yahoo.com
3. Open Position
4. Chuck Sell - 612-720-7555; sell.chuck4@gmail.com





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 651-486-9543 info@wrcmn.org <https://wrcmn.org>

If you find an injured or sick raptor, the Gabbert Raptor Center located in the University of Minnesota, St. Paul campus is who you should contact. They specialize in raptors which include eagles, hawks, falcons, osprey and vultures. They are available to pick up the animal from your location.

Gabbert Raptor Center
 1920 Fitch Ave., St. Paul, MN 55108 www.raptor.umn.edu
 raptor@umn.edu
 612-624-4745

Let's hope we don't need to use these services.

Currently, the loons have begun to migrate south for the winter. Most of the mature adults have already left the area. The now fully grown Loonlets are still on the lake and some adults from further north may stop in Clearwater for a rest and a meal. You may notice that they are now grayer than the darker black seen earlier in the summer. The darker coloring is their mating season plumage and fades during non-mating periods. Let's hope they have a pleasant migration and make it back safely next spring.




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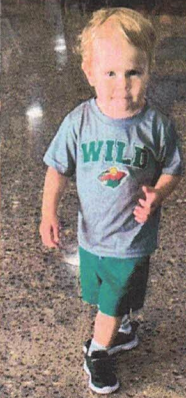
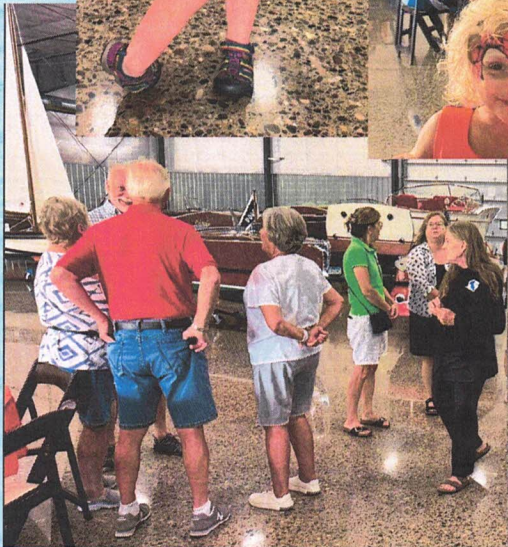
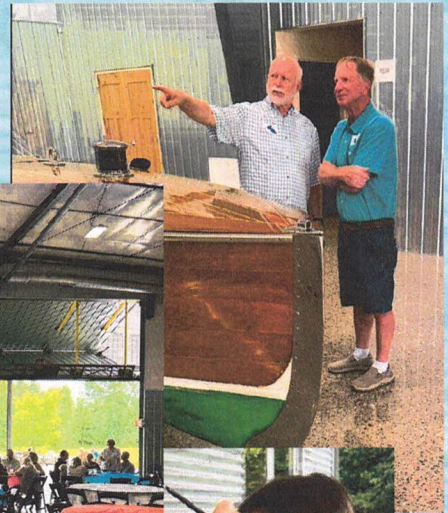
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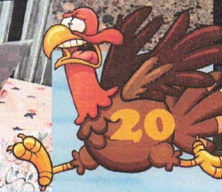
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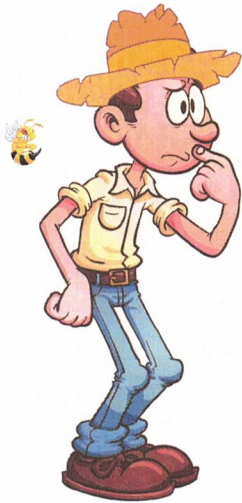
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BEES

by Paul Pattee

I was in the garden recently wondering about a subject for write-up in the newsletter when I was 'stung' with an idea. You guessed it . . . bees!!

Bees begin to build their nests in the spring, becoming essential pollinators in the growth of crops & wildflowers. There are more than four hundred native bee species in Minnesota, which includes twenty-three native bumble bee species.

Nest size depends on species of bumble bee. Most form colonies of between 50 and 400 individuals but colonies have been documented as small as ~20 individuals and as large as 1700. The nests are small compared to honeybee hives, which hold about 50,000 bees. Many species nest underground or, around my house, within landscape retaining walls.

A fertilized queen bee will hibernate in the winter and begin searching for a nesting site in spring. As the queen begins to lay eggs, she selectively chooses to fertilize eggs from a gland containing sperm. Fertilized eggs become potential queen bees, which suppress their own ovary function allowing for only one queen per nest. Such suppressed ovary female bees become worker-female bees. Unfertilized eggs layed by the queen bee become worker-male bees. Only female bees have the ability to sting.



Common Eastern Bumble Bee



Western Honey Bee

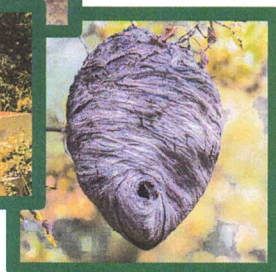
As the colony grows, worker bees both female & male, gather pollen & nectar to feed the developing larvae in the nest. As homeowners, we witness the increase in bee population during late summer & early fall especially when visiting apple orchards. Frequently, I've had to remove my nectar feeders for hummingbirds and orioles long before their migration because of swarming bees.

Yellow jackets, though having color similar to bumble bees, are not bees but wasps. Wasps are not pollinators since they lack the body hair bees use in carrying pollen. Unlike bumble bees, they have the ability to sting repeatedly and can be more aggressive in defending the hive. The wasp's hive paper appearance comes from wood fiber chewed into a paper-like pulp mixed with saliva. The mouthparts of wasps are well-developed with strong mandibles for capturing and chewing insects.



Yellow Jacket Wasp

Back to bees . . . the Common Eastern Bumble Bee is one of the most common bumble bee in Minnesota. They can live in suburbs, urban areas, and in the country. The Western Honey Bee, originally introduced from Europe, is perhaps the most common honey bee in the world. It was one of the first domesticated insects, kept by beekeepers, for making honey and pollination.



To produce 1 pound of honey, a colony of honeybees must fly approximately 55,000 miles & visit around 2 million flowers!

-Fun Factoid

The White Pelican

History in Minnesota

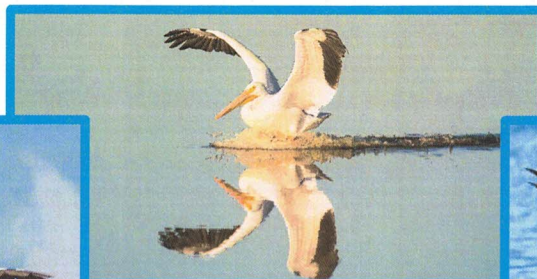
Growing up in Minnesota, there are things I now see in 'the great outdoors' that I either failed to recognize when I was younger or, on closer inspection, are new additions as invasive species to our native landscape. I've had many conversations with people that, like myself, don't recall seeing white pelicans on our lakes before or certainly not in the numbers that are present today. After all, with so many places in Minnesota named in reference to the pelican (i.e. Pelican Rapids, Pelican Lake, Pelican River) you'd expect them to be a native species.



Minnesota is home to about 20% of the North American white pelican population during the summer breeding season making it a crucial state for the species' conservation and reproduction. Minnesota provides ideal nesting conditions for American white pelicans, particularly on isolated islands and shallow bodies of water that offer protection from predators and human disturbance. Breeding colonies are highly sensitive to human disturbance, and pelicans may readily abandon nests if disturbed. Minnesota's lakes and rivers provide abundant fish populations, which are the primary food source for white pelicans. Shallow waters allow pelicans to employ cooperative feeding strategies with either other pelicans or other species of birds including the cormorant.

White pelicans nearly disappeared from Minnesota in the late 19th century due to human predation and habitat loss. Nesting white pelicans were rediscovered in Minnesota in 1968, when 70 nests were found at Marsh Lake in Big Stone county about 130 miles due west of St Cloud. Through conservation efforts, there were 10 nesting colonies by the early 1980s. A statewide survey in 2004 found 16 nesting sites with an estimated 15,824 nesting pairs. The Marsh Lake complex alone had more than 13,000 nesting pairs making it the largest known colony in North America. Recent surveys have found as many as 22,000 nests throughout the state.

White pelicans migrate to Minnesota from their wintering grounds along the Gulf of Mexico, typically arriving in April for the breeding season. During the breeding season, both male and female pelicans develop a pronounced bump on top of their bills, which is shed after breeding. Nests are shallow depressions scraped in the ground, lined with twigs, sticks or reeds. Females usually lay 2-3 eggs, though clutch sizes can range from 1-6 eggs. Both parents incubate the eggs for about one month.



Chicks leave the nest 3-4 weeks after hatching, typically with only one chick per nest surviving. After leaving the nest, young pelicans spend about a month in a creche or "pod" with other young, molting into mature plumage and learning to fly. Parents continue to care for their offspring for about three more weeks after fledging.

. . . and there you have it. Personally, I find the North American white pelican much more attractive than the Brown pelicans found in the Southeastern United States & Caribbean. But you'd have to admit, they are **all** graceful fliers in spite of their somewhat strange appearance.

~ Paul Pattee



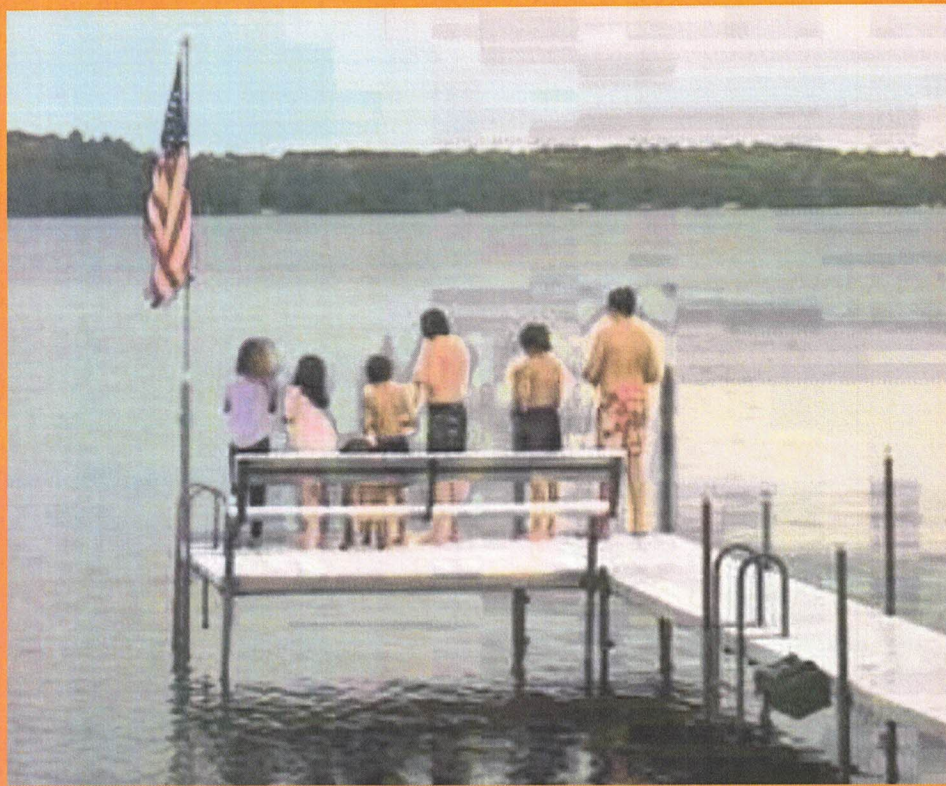
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