



CURRENT



Keeping Clearwater Lake property owners updated for over 25 years

A More Intentional Approach to Lake Stewardship

By Amy Kay, CLPO Volunteer

The Clearwater Lake Property Owners Association has engaged AKA Collaborative to support and strengthen the long-term management of Clearwater Lake—and we're honored to be part of this work.

AKA Collaborative was founded by Amy Kay, a seasoned aquatic resource professional with nearly two decades of experience leading large-scale AIS management programs, water quality initiatives, and lake management efforts across the upper Midwest and beyond. Amy built AKA Collaborative on a straightforward but often overlooked principle: that the best outcomes for lakes happen when associations and districts, lake management firms, regulatory partners, and scientific expertise are working in genuine coordination—not in parallel silos.

Many lake groups share a familiar story. Leadership changes. Conditions evolve. Well-intentioned efforts be-

come fragmented. Institutional knowledge walks out the door with outgoing board members. The result is often reactive decision-making, inconsistent outcomes, and a lake management program that lacks the continuity it needs to succeed over the long term.

The Clearwater Lake board recognized this dynamic and chose to get ahead of it—making a proactive decision to pursue a more structured, strategic approach to stewardship. That kind of forward-thinking leadership is exactly what this work is designed to support.

AKA Collaborative brings a coordinated framework that connects lake assessment, planning, implementation, and oversight into a unified effort. Rather than treating these as separate functions, we work to align them—ensuring that every decision is informed by a clear understanding of lake conditions, historical management, and long-term goals.

Key areas of focus for Clearwater Lake include establish-

ing a thorough understanding of current lake conditions and management history, aligning contractor strategies and communication, strengthening governance practices, and building a defined, adaptable multi-year roadmap. This roadmap will guide aquatic invasive species management, support long-term ecological condition, and create more consistent, informed decision-making for years to come.

Underpinning all of this is the AKA Standard™—a framework built on excellence, collaboration, and measurable outcomes. It's how we ensure that the work happening on Clearwater Lake is not only well-intentioned, but coordinated, accountable, and built to last.

We look forward to earning the trust of this community and working alongside the board, contractors, regulatory partners, and membership to make Clearwater Lake a model of what thoughtful, integrated stewardship can look like.

Inside

Presidents Letter	2
Board Members	2
Starry Stonewort	2
Sponsors	3, 4, 5, 6
Steve's Nature Corner	6
Important Updates	7
Membership Form	Cover

Lake Levels

Start Elevation above sea level	End	Gain / Loss
APRIL 2025		
991.14'	991.12'	-.24"
MAY 2025		
991.12'	991.32'	2.4"
JUNE 2025		
991.30'	992.52'	14.4"
JULY 2025		
992.58'	992.17'	-4.08"
AUGUST 2025		
992.16'	991.82'	-3.72"
SEPTEMBER 2025		
991.78'	991.32'	-6"
OCTOBER 2025		
991.30'	989.62'	-3.12"
NOVEMBER (Oct. 16)		
991.04'	991.00'	-.24"

*No wake restrictions in place when water is above 992.10'

Ice in/Ice Out

IN December 5, 2025
OUT April 1, 2026

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

CLPO ANNUAL MEETING · JUNE 6TH, 2026
CORINNA TOWNSHIP HALL
8:00 am-9:00am - Coffee and Pastries.
9:00am - Meeting.

CLPO ANNUAL PICNIC
AUGUST 2ND, 2026 · 11:00 am-1:00 pm
THE BOATHOUSE AT "TWEEN LAKES".
Pork Chop Feed (The Butchery), Live Music (Under Cover Band),
Ice Cream (Sweet Escape), Soft Drinks and Cash Bar
Reservations Required: RSVP (250 Capacity)
Registration is open! Go to clpo.org to register.

President's Notes

by John Hoppe, *President*

As I sit in my office it is early March and the signs of Spring are all around us. The days are getting longer, the snow is melting, and there is warmth in the sunshine. Soon there will be open water and the Summer season will be upon us.

Over the Winter I have been busy working with Roy Martin and Tom Midas to recruit a professional service to assist us in combating the Starry Stonewort and other invasive lake vegetation threats. We have retained Amy Kay and her company The Amy Kay Collaborative. Amy comes to us with a wealth of experience working with lake associations in to control AIS and she will be a powerful asset going forward. You will get to meet her at our annual meeting where she will present the program we have been busy assembling.

I have also been working with the DNR to see if we can find additional agreed upon solutions to our periodic floating

bog issues. We currently have the ability to address smaller bogs anywhere on the lake without obtaining specific permits, and there is a possibility that we can amend that permit to allow us to move bogs of any size anywhere they are moving on the lake, without taking critical time to obtain new permits. I should have more information on this at the annual meeting in June.

As always, I am looking for folks willing to volunteer to participate in the activities of the Board managing things around the lake. This does not need to be a full time Board commitment and you will be able to see what we are working on and have the opportunity to contribute as you wish. Please consider stepping forward to assist us with what we need to do to keep our lake a wonderful place to live.

In closing I want to wish everyone a Summer filled with fun activities on the water. Enjoy our lake!

Starry Stonewort Roundtable Meeting

by Roy Martin, *AIS Manager*

"Starry stonewort is a persistent invasive species. We just need to be more persistent" Dr John Rodgers Jr; Clemson University

A Roundtable discussion was hosted by the Clearwater Lake Property Owners Association on March 7th at Annandale City Hall. The meeting was organized to bring regional lake association representatives together to discuss comparative Starry stonewort management practices and experiences at lakes with or at high risk for Starry stonewort. The goals of the meeting were to network, share, learn and plan for best practices concerning this invasive species.

The meeting was well attended with representatives from academic, regulatory, professional contractors and area lake associations. Amy Kay from AKA Collaborative moderated the event and presented important background information. Steve McComas from Blue Water Science presented comparative and historical regional lakes Starry growth patterns and survey methods used. Codey Barby from Lake Restoration Inc. presented research data and field results from algaecide treatments (Mizzen) performed by their firm as well as results seen in area lakes. Amy Kay also presented on a broader perspective including treatment data from Minnesota and other northern states utilizing a newer algaecide product (Komeen Descend) and was able to present some preliminary data from MDNR on this product. Alicia Ohara from Wright County Soil and Water Conservation District led discussions concerning prevention tools,

available historical data and grant opportunities and strategies. Maddie Hayden shared academic programs and collaboration opportunities available through the University of Minnesota's Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center (MAISRC) and Christine Hokkala-Kuhns with Traci Eichholz shared some perspective from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. Lake Associations attending included Sauk River Chain of Lakes Association, Bass Lake Association of Wright County, Carnelian Lake Association, Pleasant Lake Improvement Association, Buffalo Lake Association, Greater Lake Sylvania Association and many board members from the Clearwater Lake Property Owners Association. Members from Koronis Lake Association, Cedar Lake Conservation Club's Water Quality Committee and Grand Lake Area Association expressed interest but could not attend on the chosen date.

Extensive background information on the history and biology of Starry stonewort was presented, highlights included

- Starry stonewort has never been eradicated in any US lake. It has, however, been successfully managed and contained in most lakes.
- 38 Minnesota lakes now have been infested. There were 8 new lakes discovered just in 2025!
- Only male plants have been documented in North America. US Starry does not reproduce sexually here, instead relying solely on vegetative asexual reproduction via bulbils. Because of this, genetic diversity and the potential

Stonewort - See Page 3

We need volunteers! See the back cover!

WE'RE ON FACEBOOK!

Follow our page to stay informed of important updates!



ARE YOU A MEMBER YET?

If the answer is no, you should be!

Fill out the form on the back and join your neighbors in protecting the lake we all know and love today!

Clearwater Lake Property Owners Board

President: John Hoppe, Contact@clpo.org
Vice President: Steve Monson
Secretary: Marci Segner
Treasurer: Tom Midas

Board Members: Jim Kutzner, Joy Carlson, Wendy Nelson, Deb Flygare, Roy Martin
AIS Manager: Roy Martin —
Email: AIS@CLPO.org

Stonewort

From Page 2

for hybrids is not possible. If female plants ever arrived, this would change.

- Humans provide the primary means to spread these algae. Propeller wash from “Power Loading” at boat ramps, extensive propeller wash from wake board boats and incursion by fishing boats into Starry “mats” are all especially involved. Inspection and cleaning are especially important to limit the spread to new lakes.

Attendees at this meeting shared lake statuses that ranged from no infestation to extensive spread. Levels of Starry stonewort are classified as **No infestation**, **Level 1** – infested but contained, **Level 2** – expanding yet still all treatable, **Level 3** – widespread and not feasible to treat everywhere.

Most lakes represented have only recently identified Starry stonewort and are considered level 1 with slowly expanding infestations that have been contained. Clearwater Lake is an example where Starry stonewort has been contained within a back bay in the lake. It has, however, experienced slow expansion in a linear manner of approximately 2 acres per year. Last season treatments were increased from 3 to 5 applications and results will be seen in the new season.

Current treatment options for Starry stonewort include mechanical and hand removal and ongoing applications of algae-cides that share a common active ingredient- copper. Formulations of copper algaecide that are chemically chelated have proven most effective based on scientific studies. Evolving chelation formulations appear to improve penetration and contact with the algae. New-

er formulations will hopefully provide more effective treatments. Application methods also greatly impact treatment effectiveness

Funding for AIS prevention and treatment comes from a variety of traditional and novel sources. These sources include Lake associations member dues Grants from Clearwater River Watershed District, Wright Soil and Water Conservation and the Department of Natural Resources, Special

events such as golf tournaments and proceeds shared from charitable gambling revenue were also shared.

Going forward, the group committed to collaboration and sharing experiences. The group consensus was that this and future meetings would be very useful in our fight against Starry stonewort.

Steve's Nature Corner

by Steve Monson, Vice President-Clearwater Lake Property Owners Association

Yellow-Headed Blackbird

Clearwater Lake is a fascinating place. Ever since I was young, I have enjoyed exploring its wide variety of habitats and the wildlife which call them home. Sometimes I will take my kayak out and park among the cattails and bullrushes and sit quietly. Soon the wildlife will come out and reveal their presence.

I recall a time when I was sitting there and heard a strange sound. It sounded like the opening of the hinge on a rusty gate. I could see movement in the weeds but couldn't identify the source of the sound. Soon, however, I saw a flash of bright yellow rise above the top of the cattails, grab a passing insect and retreat back into the weeds and out of sight. Soon more of them started calling out and flying around. I had

discovered a nesting colony of yellow-headed blackbirds.

https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Yellow-headed_Blackbird/photo-gallery

Description

The **yellow-headed blackbird** (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*) is a medium-sized blackbird with a yellow head. It's the only member of the genus **Xanthocephalus**. Their scientific name derives from the Greek word for yellow, xanthous, and the word for head, cephalus. They measure 8.3–10.2 in (21–26 cm) in length, have a wingspan of 16.5–17.3 in (42–44 cm) and weigh 1.6–3.5 oz (44–100 g).

Adults have a pointed bill. The adult male is mainly black with a yellow head and breast; they have a white wing patch sometimes only visible in flight. The adult female is mainly brown

with a dull yellow throat and breast. Immature members of both sexes are brown with duller yellow plumage compared to adult males. Immature males also have some white patches on the wing.

Migration, habitat, and breeding

These birds migrate in the winter to the southwestern United States and Mexico. They often migrate in huge

flocks with other species of birds. When migrating, males and females travel separately. Males typically arrive in Minnesota at the breeding marshes 2–3 weeks before females. Research suggests that females choose breeding sites based on the reproductive success (number of young per breeding female) of the site in previous years.

In 1998, it was documented a total of 42 counties where Yellow-headed Blackbirds had been confirmed nesting in Minnesota since 1970. The species' breeding range seems relatively unchanged in the past 100 years. Although the species is well distributed across western and southern Minnesota, the core of its breeding range is found just to the west in central North Dakota.

Productive, high-quality wetlands with dense stands of emergent vegetation (cattails or bulrushes), interspersed with channels of open water, are generally preferred. The open cup type nest is built with and attached to marsh vegetation and is constructed over open water. They nest in colonies, often sharing their

Nature- See Page 7

We Wanted to Share a Couple of Important Updates With You

First, we will be sending newsletters via email throughout this year and will re-evaluate this approach again next year. Please make sure we have your current email address on file so you don't miss any updates or important notifications. If you are not currently receiving emails from us, please contact us at clpo@clpo.org and include your lake address along with your email address.

Additionally, we've introduced a new and more convenient way to renew your dues online. We no longer need to create an optional invoice to make a payment. Simply log

The member's area is not only full of member only information but also gives you the opportunity to update your profile and renew your membership online. Please browse through the information. If you have any questions or comments, please contact us.

RESOURCES	MEMBERSHIP	DIRECTORIES
Members Make A Donation Update Password Photo Gallery - Manage Photo Gallery - Upload Past Meetings Update Profile Classified Ads Manage Classified Ads Add New Log Off Members Main Make A Donation Renew my Dues - General Payments	Member Type: Lake Member Account Number: CLPO-000 Status: Member Contact Persons (0): Manage/Add Membership Expires: 1/1/2024 Pay Portal: View All	Name-Only Directory: HTML

into your member account, navigate to "Resources," select "General Payments," and follow the prompts. We hope you

find this new process easier and more efficient. Thank you for your continued support.

Thank you for your continued support.

Nature From Page 6

habitat closely with the red-winged

blackbird. During the breeding and nesting season, the males are very territorial and spend much of their time perched on reed stalks and displaying or chasing off intruders. As we all know, Clearwater Lake has many locations that are ideal nesting grounds for them. Last year I observed a colony in the cattails running northeast of Bungalow Island.

Food

These birds eat seeds for the majority of the year and insects throughout the summer months.[8] They forage in marshes, fields, or on the ground, sometimes catching insects in flight. Sunflowers are fairly popular amongst yellow-headed blackbirds in the Northern Great Plains, with a study indicating that males eat more sunflower than grains

and females more grains than sunflower. Female yellow-headed blackbirds primarily feed their newly hatched young insects including dragonflies and damselflies. Outside the nesting period, they usually feed in flocks, often with related species.

Songs and calls

This bird's song resembles the grating of a rusty hinge. Male yellow-headed blackbirds have been observed to have two types of songs, an "accent song" and a "buzz song". The "buzz songs" have much higher pitch than the accent song, and thus do not echo as well in the dense marshes they live in. For that reason, buzzing songs are typically done when communicating closer whereas accent songs are done to communicate with birds further in the marshes. Female birds have a song that is described to be similar to the male "buzz song", consisting of harsh grating or buzz sounds. Both sexes

are also found to elicit harsh calling notes. Go to the following links to hear their songs:

<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/Vwe13z5yMTM>

Conservation

Because yellow-headed blackbirds typically reside in wetlands, their population

numbers depend on the conditions of the wetlands in which they reside. For instance, drainage projects, herbicides/pesticides, and other crop protection methods have impacts on the health of wetlands, and consequently, cause the bird population to fluctuate in number. The statewide estimate is 549,000 breeding adults. Overall, the Red-winged Blackbird is nearly 16 times more abundant than the Yellow-headed Blackbird.

The Yellow-headed Blackbird is not a high conservation priority at the federal level. Although it is not state listed, it was recognized as a Species in Greatest Conservation Need

because of its declining population and the loss of suitable habitat by the MNDNR in 2015

Like many of Minnesota's wetland species, the future of the Yellow-headed Blackbird is clouded by both habitat and climate concerns. Intensive inter-agency collaboration at the local, state, and federal levels to address these issues is critical to the future of this emblematic wetland species in Minnesota.

I hope you all can find a colony of these beautiful wild residents of Clearwater Lake and enjoy them as much as I do. For more information I suggest you go to the following links:

https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Yellow-headed_Blackbird/lifehistory. www.allaboutbirds.org. Retrieved 10 November 2021.

<https://web.archive.org/web/20130228082508/http://www.mbr-pwrc.usgs.gov/id/framlst/i4970id.html> - USGS Patuxent Bird Identification InfoCenter

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Clearwater Lake
Property Owners
Association

— CLPO —

The Clearwater Lake Property Owners Association is 100% volunteer-run—made up of *neighbors* working together to protect and preserve *Clearwater Lake*.



**ONE-YEAR
COMMITMENT OPTIONS**



**BOARD AND COMMITTEE
OPPORTUNITIES**



**NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED—
JUST BRING YOUR ENTHUSIASM!**

**JUMP IN,
GET INVOLVED,**

**AND HELP SUPPORT AND
CARE FOR CLEARWATER LAKE.**



SCAN THE QR CODE
OR LOG INTO
CLPO.ORG, MEMBERS AREA



questions: contact@clpo.org



Clearwater Lake
Property Owners Association
PO Box 476
Annandale, MN 55302

CLPO Community Register & Membership Form

The CLPO places great importance in being able to communicate to all Clearwater Lake property owners. The contribution made by those choosing to become members is always welcomed & appreciated. Please take the time to complete this form with your contact information in order to receive the lake status updates & event notifications from the CLPO. *The information you share would never be sold or used in any compromising way.*

Name: _____

Lake Address: _____ **Change**

Mailing Address: _____ **No
Change**

(Same as Above)

Email Addresses: _____

Phone Numbers: _____

The CLPO is a 501(c)(3) Organization. All dues and donations are tax-deductible. Please include this form if paying by check payable to: CLPO. Dues payment or donations can be made online at www.clpo.org

CLPO Dues Payment: \$ 50.00
Yes, I'd also like to make a donation: \$ _____
Total: \$ _____



Cut and save for your records

CLPO Dues Payment: \$ 50.00
Yes, I'd also like to make a donation: \$ _____
Total: \$ _____

PO Box 476, Annandale, MN 55302

Property Owners Association

Clearwater Lake



PR SRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO. 8
ANNANDALE, MN
55302