

# The Blackwater Blurb

**Blackwater Lake Newsletter** Volume 16 Number 3 Spring/Summer 2020

*Blackwater Lake Association's mission is to preserve the resources we have for future generations by undertaking necessary actions and providing a forum for ongoing education.*

## Life's A Hoot!!

by Becky Seemann

With 225 different species of owls worldwide including 19 species in the U.S., we have generally five species in Cass County. Thankfully owls may not be shot, captured, transported or owned without a permit. To discover more about their unique world, google owls at Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.



### *Wise Owls of Northern Minnesota*



**Great Horned Owl.** Nicknamed the tiger with wings, the great horned owl is a fearless bird of prey. It will kill a skunk and may eat more than 4,000 mice a year. With a wingspan of more than 4-feet and weighing 3-5 pounds, they are unique in having long eyelashes. They do not migrate and can be found in remote wilderness areas as well as in cities.



**Barred Owl.** A Barred Owl's right ear is higher than its left ear. Hearing from two different angles helps it pinpoint the location of prey they hunt including mice, squirrels, rabbits, birds, frogs, fish and crayfish. A grayish-brown bird, it weighs 1-2 pounds and is 17-20 inches tall.



**Northern Saw-whet Owl.** The smallest owl weighing only about 4-ounces with a length of 7-8 inches lives in evergreen forests and is named for one of its calls that sounds like a saw being whetted. With white belly stripes and no ear tufts, some migrate but many stay in Minnesota each winter.



**Long-Eared Owl.** A medium-size bird weighing about 10-ounces with a wingspan of 3-feet and 12-15 inches tall, this owl's mottled-brown coloring blends into tree bark. The protrusions on its head aren't really ears, but rather feathers. It is known for a variety of hoots, shrieks, whistles and alarm calls.



**Snowy Owl.** Harry Potter's owl Hedwig is a female Snowy Owl. Living in the arctic tundra of Canada and Alaska and weighing up to 5-pounds, this large white raptor comes to northern Minnesota during some winters to hunt voles and other small animals.



Photo by Judy Leeds

## ***Greetings to All Blackwater Friends and Neighbors!***

I hope this newsletter finds everyone healthy and happy. It has been very challenging the last few months and things are going to be very different for your lake association.

- ☞ First, let's all extend an open invitation to help anyone anywhere during these tough times. Feel free to contact any of our Board members to ask for help or to share your concerns. We are happy to help however we can!
- ☞ The Board of Directors are now meeting online and rather than in person. We have also canceled the annual meeting. It is with heavy hearts but it's better to be safe than sorry. We will miss the opportunity to spend time with all of you!
- ☞ Our Cabin Coffees have been a great success over the last two years but will not take place this year for the same reasons as we canceled the annual meeting. We look forward to seeing you next season.
- ☞ Our 4th of July parade is a "go" this year. However, there will be no contact for safety reasons. Consequently, that means no \$100.00 prize. Please see more details on page 3.
- ☞ We will continue to do the water testing and clarity readings as we have in the past.
- ☞ We encourage everyone to sign up and pay your dues by mail as you won't have the opportunity to bring them to the annual meeting this year. We will also miss our silent auction fundraiser, so please consider giving a little extra on your membership application as it is greatly needed to support our Lake Protection Fund.



Photo by Judy Leeds



Photo by Nate Anderson



Photo courtesy of Pinterist

***See you on the water!!***

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Lloyd". The signature is fluid and stylized, with a long, sweeping underline.





*Social distancing didn't stop the Blackwater Tree Seedling program, now in it's 11 year. Thanks to Pat McKee for coordinating the distribution of 300 seedlings, and to all who helped improve our lake and environment by planting a tree.*

## GO Paperless!!

**Blackwater Blurb** now available via email. Help save postage and read your **Blackwater Blurb** on your cell phone, tablet or computer. Just provide your email address to Lloyd Thielmann and request to "GO PAPERLESS!"



## Staying Safe in 2020

For the protection of our members, the Annual Meeting and Cabin Coffee gatherings have been canceled for 2020, due to safety concerns with COVID-19. Additionally, all Board of Director Meetings will be held online.

## 4th July Boat Parade by Cindy Larson



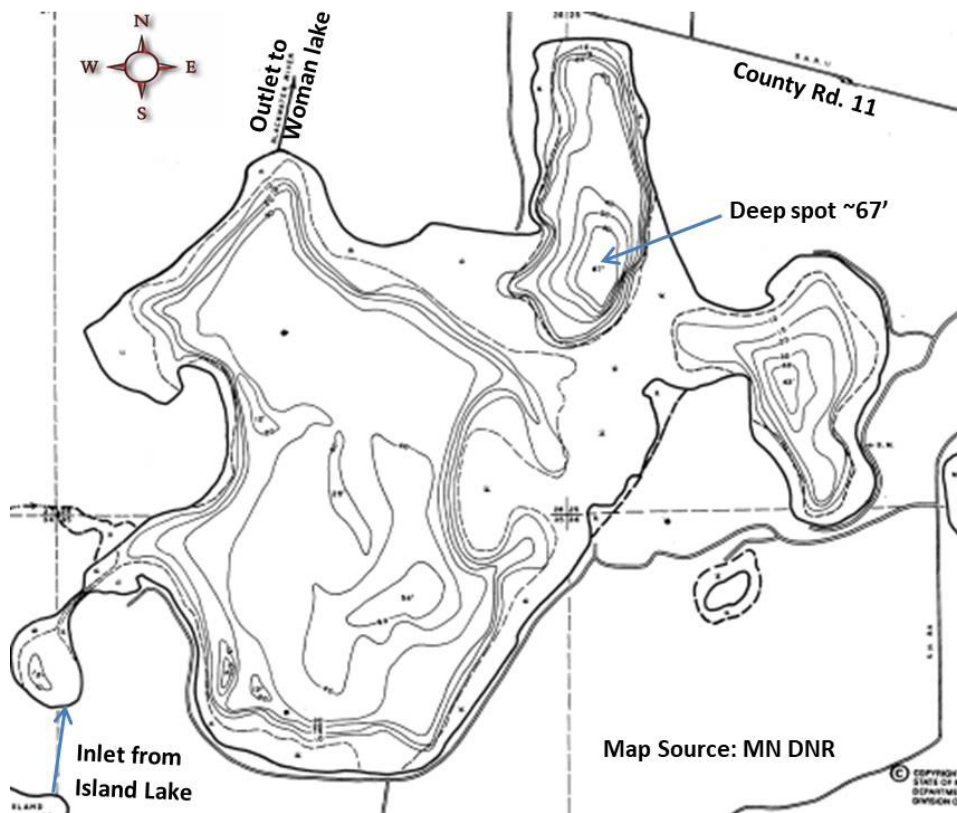
Help celebrate Independence Day by joining in the 4th of July Boat Parade around Blackwater Lake. Boats should gather near the entrance to Little Blackwater Lake between 1:45 and 2:00 pm on July 4. The Larsons and the Skalickys will start leading the parade at 2:00 pm going clockwise around the lake. This year the Board has decided that passing of numbers and ballots between boats is not safe with regard to COVID-19, and so unfortunately this year there will be no voting or prizes. This does not mean, however, that you should show your patriotism or creativity any less!!

We hope you are healthy and are able to join us either in the parade or waving from your shoreline.

# Blackwater Lake Facts

by Carolyn Dindorf

Blackwater Lake is one of about 520 lakes in Cass County that are 10 acres or larger. It is 767 acres with 336 acres of littoral area (15 feet deep or less and the approximate area of submerged plant growth). In its deepest spot it is 67+ feet deep. With the unusual shape and bays, we have 7.6 miles of shoreline. The lake receives water from Island Lake as well as surrounding land and flows to Woman Lake under County Road 11 on the north side. (Source: DNR Lakefinder)



Our volunteers collect water samples and conduct searches for aquatic invasive species (AIS) to keep track of the condition of our lake. This monitoring allows us to react if we see declines in water quality or if an AIS is found. We are fortunate to have great water quality. At an average of 15 feet transparency in 2019, our lake is clearer than  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the lakes in the Leech Lake Watershed. Lake transparency (clarity) has gradually improved since it was first monitored in the mid-1980s. We can all do our part to keep it that way by using best management practices such as not applying fertilizers near the lake, leaving a buffer of natural vegetation on the shoreline, regularly maintaining your septic system, and using clean-drain-dry practices to prevent introduction and spread of AIS when launching or removing boats from the lake. Enjoy the lake and treat it well so we can continue to enjoy it well into the future.





## **Recycling Refresher**

There's a good chance you're recycling wrong. But it's not necessarily your fault. There are tons of rules to follow. Because it's so complicated, people often end up falling short despite having the best intentions. To help out, here are highlights of the *Cass County Recycling Guidelines*:



*by Becky Seemann*

### **Plastics**

Cass County ONLY accepts bottles, jars, tubs & lids. NO PLASTIC BAGS. NO styrofoam or shrink wrap. NO food packaging or film. NO plastic cups, plates or utensils. NO automotive containers. NO pesticide containers.

### **Fluorescent Bulbs**

Dispose at any Cass County transfer station and not in your recycling bin.

### **Batteries**

1) Alkaline batteries should be thrown into the trash as they no longer contain mercury, 2) Lead acid from automotive, marine and some computer batteries can be taken to Cass County solid waste transfer site, and 3) Button and rechargeable batteries may have mercury or other metals and should be dropped at special boxes at a solid waste transfer station or participating pharmacy or retail stores.

### **E-Waste, Appliances & Tires (off-rim)**

Bring computer & electronics to Pine River, Walker-Hackensack and May Township transfer sites.

### **Furniture**

DONATE working and useable appliances or furniture.

### **Hazardous Waste/Paint**

Take to the Pine River Transfer Station. Good used paint and other products may be stored at the transfer station and given away.

### **Sharps/Pharmaceuticals**

Must be disposed of in household garbage, inside of puncture-resistant containers such as coffee cans, detergent bottles or containers designed for such use. These cannot be disposed of in pharmaceutical drop boxes. Special labels are available from the county public health and environmental services departments.

### **Unneeded Medications**

Can be dropped off in "Take-it-to-the-Box" drop-off sites at the Cass County Sheriff's Office and other locations.

### **Motor Oil & Antifreeze**

Cass County offers disposal of used motor oil, antifreeze and oil filters at all locations except Crooked Lake Township. Do NOT mix motor oil and antifreeze. Antifreeze has its own disposal container.

*To learn more, go online to Cass County Solid Waste & Recycling*

# Membership/Treasurer Reports *Linda Burns, Treasurer*

**Membership.** Our current membership stands at 137, a little less than last year's record number 142. There are several new owners on Blackwater Lake; we distributed Welcome Packets and a few have joined our ranks.

**Welcome to Blackwater Lake!** Annual membership dues remain \$30 and are due by July 1; please mail the membership form and check to the address on the form. Please consider adding a donation toward the Lake Protection Fund.

**Treasury Report.** Following Association of Cass County Lake's (ACCL) recommendation, we created a second bank account to document expenses and credits associated with lake protection activities, including efforts to combat AIS. I'll refer to our original checking account as our General account and to the new as the Lake Protection Fund (LPF).

The LPF account was opened with \$2,187 transferred from the General account—the balance from prior years (donations minus AIS expenses 2016–June 30, 2019). Additional income of \$2,958 from donations, silent auction, Blackwater Lake wear, and interest was added. Expenses for AIS monitoring tools and bank fees were \$87. The LPF current balance is \$5,061.

The General account beginning balance was \$5,658. Additional income of \$7,068 from dues, donations, silent auction, and Blackwater Lake wear was added. Expenses totaled \$9,548, including a \$5,145 transfer to the LPF (per above), beaver control, BLURB, seedlings, dues to affiliate organizations, and refreshments. Current balance is \$3,178. The combined total of both accounts is \$8,239.

Since July 1, members have donated \$2,010 to the AIS/Lake Protection fund, bringing the total to \$6,219 since 2016. We are very grateful for the generosity of the members who donated since last Spring's BLURB (listed below).

## 2019/2020 AIS Lake Protection Fund Donors

Aaker, Douglas & Rebecca  
Branca, Lou & Millie  
Brochhagen, Craig  
Clough, Dick & Marjorie  
Collins, Mary & Suhl, Joel  
Davis, Darwin  
Dindorf, Carolyn  
Doneux, Mark & Brenda  
Duppong, Mike & Barb  
Eller, Jim & Burns, Linda  
English, Jean  
Goers, Bill & Vicky  
Grapentin, Auggie & Colleen  
Hatch, Ken & LaVonne  
Huso, Nathan & Trocke, Theresa  
Jacobson, Tom & Nadeen  
Jarboe, Randy & Judy  
Johnson, Mark & Ingrid  
Keaveny, Thomas & Janet  
Kludt, Shannon & Cathy  
Langston, Howard & Carol  
Laughlin, Craig & Barbie  
Lemke, Rein & Lorraine  
Liepert, Doug & Taimi  
Marcellus, Duane  
Martell, Sandra  
Meyer, Richard & Karen  
Minge, David & Karen

Minge, Olaf & Amy  
Mohr, Stephen & Laurel  
Monroe, Jan  
Moriarty, Pat & Carol  
Oestreich, Duane  
Peterson, Al & Susan  
Peterson, Ron  
Rishavy, Marjorie  
Roos, Brian & Sharon  
Rosenbush, Jerry  
Rupp, Greg & DuBé, Linda  
Rynning, Tim & Lisa  
Schmokel, Shelley & Joscher, Allen  
Schmokel, Eileen  
Seemann, Bob & Becky  
Shaner, Troy & Suzanne  
Shannon, Tom & Robin  
Sletten, Dan & Jen  
Sletten, Wayne & Jackie  
Staley, Tom & Geri  
Stocker, Glenn & Marlys  
Stracke, Ed & Kris  
Thielmann, Lloyd & Terry  
Van Kley, Doug & Michelle  
Voeller, Larry & Susie  
Wahlstrom, Keith & Carolyn  
Weber, Kevin & Sharon

*Every effort was made for accuracy in recognizing our Patrons and Members. Please contact Becky Seemann at (651) 245-6436 in case of errors or omissions.*

# 2019/2020 Membership

Aaker, Doug & Rebecca  
Aaker, Steve & Geeg  
Adams, Irene  
Agre, Scott & Elizabeth  
Alton, Hon Ann  
Amy, Brian & Theresa  
Bahr, Gary & Linda  
Bakke, Steven & Patricia  
Bangasser, Tim & Maggie  
Becker, Tom & Kelly  
Branca, Lou & Mildred  
Brochhagen, Craig  
Burtzel, Denny & Jan  
Clough, Richard & Marjorie  
Collins, Mary & Suhl, Joel  
Davis, Darwin  
Davis, Wilmer & Faris, Terri  
Dindorf, Carolyn  
Dokman, Tom  
Doneux, Mark & Brenda  
Duppong, Mike & Barb  
Elbers, Dan & Kristi  
Ellefsen, Tom & Vanessa  
Eller, Jim & Burns, Linda  
English, Jean  
Farland, Jon  
Fleigle, Mark & Connie  
Franke, Jerry & Yvonne  
Freiderich, Loretta  
Gardell, Richard  
Ginder, Gary & Judith  
Goers, Bill & Vicky  
Grapentin, Auggie & Colleen  
Hannay, Philip & Kubal,  
Katherine  
Hartlage, Nick & Theresa  
Hatch, Ken & LaVonne  
Hokr, Paul & Laurie  
Hunt, Larry & Carla  
Huso, Nathan & Trocke,  
Theresa  
Hyde, Peter & Val  
Jacobson, Tom & Nadeen  
Jarboe, Randy & Judy  
Johnson, Doug & Chris  
Johnson, Jack & Ruth  
Johnson, Mark & Ingrid  
Karpinsky, Herbert & Joan  
Keaveny, Thomas & Jan

Klundt, Shannon & Catherine  
Krementz, David &  
McLachlin, Jeanne  
Langston, Howard & Carole  
Larson, Brandon & Cindy  
Laughlin, Craig & Barb  
Lechert, Court  
Lemke, Rein & Lorraine  
Liepert, Doug & Tami  
Lohnes, Kirk & Tania  
Marcellus, Duane  
Marr, Tim & Jan  
Martell, Sandra  
McKague, Brian & Stacey  
Meyer, Richard & Karen  
Miller, James & Carolyn  
Minge, David & Karen  
Minge, Erik & Tazia  
Minge, Olaf & Amy  
Moeller, Pete & Shawn  
Mohr, Stephen & Laurel  
Monroe, Jan  
Moren, Jess & Raneyl  
Moriarty, Pat & Carol  
Mouw, Rodney & Harriet  
Norman, Paul & Patricia  
Nutz, Fred & Kaye  
Nyquist, Jeff & Roberta  
Oestrich, Duane  
Ostby, Ray & Jill  
Otto, David & Peggy  
Otto, Duane & Gloria  
Peterson, Alwyn & Susan  
Peterson, Ron  
Peukert, Claus & Diane  
Pfutzenreuter, Richard &  
Burg, Andrea  
Piehl, Russel & Barb  
Pringnitz, Jim & Rachel  
Redmann, Eldred & Harriet  
Reinert, Roger & Nancy  
Reinert, Terry  
Richardson, Jim & Sherry  
Rishavy, Marjorie  
Roos, Brian & Sharon  
Rosenbush, Jerry  
Running, Tim & Lisa  
Rupp, Greg & DuBé, Linda  
Rynning, Kathryn & Langen,

Wayne  
Rynning, Rob & Darlene  
Santa, John & Penny  
Schmidberger, Rich & Barb  
Schmokel, Shelley & Joscher,  
Allen  
Schmocket, Eileen  
Schwerin, Elmer & Patricia  
Seemann, Bob & Becky  
Shaner, Joel & Kathy  
Shaner, Trent & Becky  
Shaner, Trevor & Heidi  
Shaner, Troy & Suzanne  
Shannon, Tom & Robin  
Siebenaler, Bob & Jo  
Skalicky, Travis  
Sleight, Scott  
Sletten, Dan & Jen  
Sletten, Jim & Dodi  
Sletten, Wayne & Jackie  
Sonnenberg, Ron & Corrine  
Sorenson, Doug & Jody  
Sorenson, Solveig  
Sposito, Sal & Carrie  
Spurrier, James & Ristau,  
Suzanne  
Staley, Tom & Geri  
Stocker, Glenn & Marlys  
Stokke, Bill & Lynn  
Stracke, Ed & Kris  
Swanson, David & Janice  
Thielmann, Lloyd & Terry  
Thompson, Barbara  
Tiemens, Tom & Karen  
Van Kley, Doug & Michelle  
Voeller, Larry & Susie  
Wahlstrom, Keith & Carolyn  
Weber, Kevin & Sharon  
Weinmann, Robert & Barbara  
Wermerskirchen, Tom &  
Anita  
Whebbe, Ed & Stephanie  
Wheeler, Todd & Laura  
Wibeto, Jeff & Alane  
Wickett, John & Nancy  
Zahn, Chad & Koerner, Tricia  
Zbikowski, Rick & Kathy

Thank You

# Your Blackwater Lake Association at Work

**Thanks to your volunteer help, donations and dues, we work together to support:**

- ▶ Membership in important organizations focused on protecting water—The Association of Cass County Lakes, Minnesota Lakes & Rivers Advocates, Conservation Minnesota, Leech Lake Area Watershed foundation
- ▶ AIS Early Detection Volunteer Monitoring Program
- ▶ AIS inspections at our public access through Cass County soil and Water Division
- ▶ AIS signs at public access
- ▶ Lake water testing samples collected
- ▶ Water quality monitoring program, lake levels, clarity and rainfall through Minnesota Waters website [www.minnesotawaters.org](http://www.minnesotawaters.org)
- ▶ Bog monitoring and removal
- ▶ Beaver control to keep waterway open
- ▶ Tree Seedling Program
- ▶ Welcome Program for new property owners

- ▶ *The Blackwater Blurb* bi-annual newsletter
- ▶ Support for First Responder Program
- ▶ Participate in Area of Cass County Lakes ACCL monthly meetings
- ▶ 4<sup>th</sup> of July Lake Parade
- ▶ Blackwater Lake annual meeting and luncheon
- ▶ Purchase of the Eagles Nest Land in collaboration with Leech Lake Area Watershed Foundation
- ▶ Drinking Water Testing

## **Areas of Continued Concern:**

- ▶ Combat Aquatic Invasive Species AIS
- ▶ Protection of sensitive shoreline properties
- ▶ Lake fishery-stocked and habitat improvement
- ▶ Lake water quality
- ▶ Shoreline run-off and reconstruction
- ▶ Destroying shoreline vegetation
- ▶ Lake phosphorus levels

**Working together, everyone benefits! Please become a member for 2020-2021.**

MEMBERSHIP FORM July 1, 2020–June 30, 2021. Dues \$30.00

NAME: (please print) \_\_\_\_\_ SPOUSE: \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Ph. (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_, Bus Ph.(\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_, Cell. Ph.(\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

*Lake Address if not your permanent residence:*

Street: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Phone numbers (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Interests/Concerns \_\_\_\_\_

I/WE are interested in helping protect Blackwater Lake by: volunteering on the AIS Committee \_\_\_\_\_ serving on the Association Board \_\_\_\_\_ other \_\_\_\_\_

I/WE are interested in hosting cabin coffee at our home. Please call one of our board members

Included is my Blackwater Lake Membership dues of \$30 \_\_\_\_\_

And an additional donation to support Lake Protection Fund/AIS efforts on Blackwater Lake for \$20 \_\_\_\_\_  
\$30 \_\_\_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_\_\_ Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total \_\_\_\_\_

Membership is due July 1 or at the annual meeting on July 1, 2020

*Please send your completed form along with your check for dues and donations to: BLA, Inc Treasurer, Linda Burns, 6015-11th Ave South, Minneapolis, MN 55417*

**THANK YOU!**



# List of Officers & Committees

Blackwater Lake Association, Inc. is a member of ACCL (the Association of Cass County Lakes), Conservation Minnesota (formerly Minnesota Waters), LLAWF (Leech Lake Water Shed Foundation) and Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocate.

Chairperson:	Lloyd Thielmann	lloydterryt@aol.com	218-682-2504
Vice-Chairperson:	Carolyn Dindorf	cdindorf@yahoo.com	763-537-9077
Secretary:	Dodi Sletten	dsletten@comcast.net	612-991-3041
Treasurer:	Linda Burns	burns.linda3@gmail.com	612-869-3542
Director:	Becky Seemann	becky.seemann@icloud.com	651-245-6436
Director:	Shannon Klundt	Shannon.kludt@westwoodps.com	320-333-0663
Director:	Barb Laughlin	Barbie-Laughlin@hotmail.com	763-550-1946
Director:	Tim Marr	nonandbop@tds.net	218-682-3007
Director at Large	Scott Agre	scottagre01@gmail.com	913-219-5021

Healthy Lakes Committee:	Linda Burns, Becky Seemann, Lloyd Thielmann, Court Lechert, Carolyn Dindorf, Pat McKee
Secchi Disk Readings:	Jim Sletten, Carolyn Dindorf, Bob Seemann and Lloyd Thielmann
Fish Management:	Tim Marr, Shannon Klundt and Lloyd Thielmann
Membership:	Becky Seemann, Tom Staley, Geri Staley, Linda Burns and Lloyd Thielmann
Reporter & Communications	Becky Seemann
Web Master:	Travis Skalicky
Seedlings & Septic:	Pat McKee and Barb Laughlin
New Members Packet and mailing list:	Tom & Geri Staley: staley@uslink.net, 218-682-2532

## Blackwater Lake Memories

by Becky Seemann

### *The Marr and Peukert Families*

It was 42 years ago when husbands Tim Marr and Claus Peukert asked their wives Jan Marr and Diane Peukert, also known as the Dolly Sisters, if they would be interested in sharing an Up North cabin together. "Sure!" the sisters said. So...the adults and their combined families of five children ranging in ages from 4 to 10 years bought a virgin lot on Blackwater Lake. Together they cleared the land, built a small cabin and docks, and then purchased boats. All this changed their lives forever! Today, both couples live on the lake and are frequently visited by their grown-up children. The two families love to share memories, laughter and all the fun they've had in growing up at the cabin.



### *Bob & Becky Seemann Family*

Flashback to 1986 and a perfect summer Saturday for an outdoor wedding on Blackwater Lake. That is--until a big storm blew through an hour before the ceremony was to begin. Consequently, 30-plus family and friends crammed into the tiny cabin to hear Bob and Becky say their "I do's." The two learned an important life lesson that day: Life is always Plan B.

### *Elmer & Pat Schwerin Family*

We remember looking out our patio door one morning to be surprised by the new piece of property that we had acquired overnight that none of us wanted, even if it was for free. THE BOG WAS LOOSE. It took many truck loads of dirt to haul it away. We staked it down and 2 years later it broke loose and the same dilemma repeated itself.

*Do you have any special memories of our wonderful Blackwater Lake that you'd like to share? Please tell us by contacting becky.seemann@icloud.com or 651-245-6436.*

# ***The Blackwater Blurb***

Blackwater Lake Association Newsletter  
282 Norman Point Road North West  
Longville, MN 56655-3284

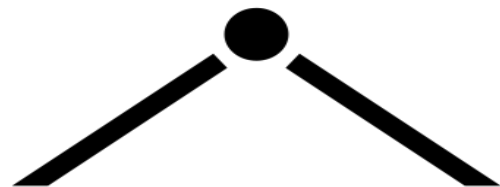


## **In This Issue...**

- ▶ Wise Owls of Minnesota
- ▶ Staying Safe in 2020
- ▶ Blackwater Lake Facts
- ▶ Recycling Refresher

## **Mark Your Calendar**

**Online Board Meetings**  
June 28  
Sept 27



Submit news, events, announcements or photographs to:  
Becky Seemann  
2608 6th Ave NW  
Longville, MN 56655  
[becky.seemann@icloud.com](mailto:becky.seemann@icloud.com)



## **4th July Boat Parade**

Starts at 2pm at Little Blackwater entrance,  
going clockwise