

The Blackwater Blurb

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



In This Issue...

- ▶ *Cass County Search & Rescue*
- ▶ *Exciting Fishing News*
- ▶ *Loons & Lead—Deadly Mix*
- ▶ *Tree Seedling Success*
- ▶ *4th of July Parade*
- ▶ *Dragonflies: Flight-Masters*
- ▶ *Blackwater Lake Memories*



Mark Your Calendar

2021 Board Meetings—5/2, 6/27 & 9/26
2021 Annual Meeting—7/17

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The Blackwater Blurb

Blackwater Lake Newsletter Volume 18 Number 5 Spring 2021

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.

Cass County Search and Rescue

by Scott and Elizabeth Agre

In 2015 the Woodtick Wheelers ATV Club partnered with the Cass County Sheriff's Dept (CCSD) to form the Cass County Search and Rescue Team (SAR). The partnership seemed a logical fit since the ATV club members had the equipment and volunteers to assist in large area remote searches.

The S&R team has three primary responsibilities, directed and coordinated by Sheriff Tom Burch and Deputy Chad Emery—

- ▶ Search & Rescue
- ▶ ATV trail monitoring
- ▶ Festival monitoring

After an application process including a background check, we joined SAR in the Spring of 2019. The SAR group consists of three teams each with a leader and 6 members. If the Sheriff's Dept determines a search is needed, they will contact one or more team leaders who will in turn contact their team members with logistics.

SAR training includes simulated search and first aid/CPR instruction. The CCSD coordinates all training. We completed the last search training during the summer of 2019 near Outing (all training and other SAR activities were put on hold through 2020 due to Covid-19). The CCSD directs active and simulated search's using their mobile command center (think refitted travel trailer with GPS, mapping, and communication technology with a huge monitor tracking and coordinating all team member activities). During search training we were divided into teams of 2 ATVs each with a radio and GPS device. After GPS device and radio training, each team of 2 ATVs was given initial GPS coordinates. We drove to the coordinates and completed a foot search of the area. When we completed our search of the area, we radioed in and were given new coordinates. This continued until the overall search area was complete. After the ATV portion of the search was finished, we simulated a large area dense forest foot search which included all team members. The CCSD also demonstrated their infrared equipped Yuneec H-520 drone used for missing person searches.

The CCSD also uses the SAR team for trail and festival monitoring. This helps to support and provide a presence for the CCSD. We worked the Moondance Rock Festival in 2019. We patrolled the festival grounds using the CCSD's military surplus MRZR-4 Polaris ATV. We had a radio to call in any concerning activity although it primarily consisted of driving around and waving, answering questions, and posing for pictures with the military ATV—it's a pretty cool rig. We also patrol the North Soo Line ATV trail using the CCSD ATV. The trail runs for 52 miles through Cass County going through Cass Lake, Federal Dam, and Remer, with the most ATV activity around the Remer area.

Normally most searches are resolved within the CCSD, but it's good to know that the SAR team is trained and ready when needed.



*"We joined the **Woodtick Wheelers and Search and Rescue** because we like to stay active, enjoy meeting new people, and help the community when needed," said Blackwater neighbors Scott and Elizabeth Agre.*



Greetings to All Neighbors, Families and Friends of Blackwater Lake!

It has been a very unusual year to say the least. Yet, many more people have enjoyed the opportunity to use our great lake and we do have a beautiful one. Please keep working to keep it that way for all to share and even in the future generations.



☞ As you will see in the Treasurers' Report our membership this last year was slightly down. Please keep in mind that your dues and application need to be sent to our Treasurer Linda Burns.

☞ We look forward to reconnecting with you at our upcoming Annual Meeting on Saturday, July 17 (see page 5 for more details). There will be no Cabin Coffees in 2021.



☞ Special thanks to Scott and Karen Carpenter at the 1Stop and a number of lake neighbors for their generous donations to our walleye stocking program.

☞ Please feel free to contact any of our Board members to ask for help regarding any health or other issues.

☞ Our goals are to continue to focus on keeping

our lake in the best shape that we can! When you have questions or concerns, please contact any of our board members and we will discuss it. As we have said before, we can't always fix the problems but we definitely will consider them. Be well and see you on the water!!

List of Officers & Committees

Blackwater Lake Association, Inc. is a member of ACCL (the Association of Cass County Lakes), Conservation Minnesota (formerly Minnesota Waters), NWLT (Northern Waters Land Trust) and Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocate.

Chairperson:	Lloyd Thielmann	lloydterryt@aol.com	763-226-4945
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



Photo courtesy of DNR

Big news! Blackwater Lake was due to receive walleye in 2020 but because of the Covid pandemic the DNR did not strip any eggs last spring. Typically, we receive walleye stocking every other year. Consequently, we were going to be shorted to the point of 0 fish, but Walker Area Fisheries came through for us again. On Oct. 19, 2020, we received 339 pounds of mature walleye stock up to 12-inches in length delivered to our public access.

And another piece of big news! We are most grateful to receive a large donation of \$1,950 to purchase walleye for stocking from Scott & Karen Carpenter of Longville's 1Stop. We also received generous donations designated to purchase walleye for this fall or spring from Blackwater Lake Association members as follows—

Scott & Elizabeth Agre
Doug Bakker
Jack Johnson
Shannon & Cathy Klundt
Tom & Sally Mazacek
Duane Oestrich

James & Rachel Pringnitz
Jim & Sherry Richardson
Robert & Lisa Shubert
Bob & Jo Siebenaler
Bruce & Patti Stensrud
Chuck & Kris Thorn

We thank each and every one of you! This is all very exciting! On another note, the DNR lifted all special regulations on slot limits for large mouth & small mouth bass. It now returns to the State rules of six-fish daily with no size limitations. Lastly, many people have concerns about the spring harvesting of panfish so remember to stay within the limits and try to return the larger female fish so our kids and grandkids can enjoy them in the future. Again, many thanks to all! See you on the water!

Loons & Lead—Deadly Mix by Minnesota DNR & Becky Seemann



Photo courtesy of Becky Seemann

Unable to move, a loon was found entangled in fishing line with the sinker wrapped inside its' beak and twisted around its' wing on Blackwater's' southside. Its' partner, screeching loudly nearby, alerted the Sorenson and Seemann families who contacted the DNR for a midnight rescue. Thankfully the lead and line were successfully removed.

A sinker is a weight attached to fishing line that forces a hook with bait to sink near the lake bottom where most fish swim. Traditionally, sinkers have been made of lead because it is inexpensive and dense. When sinkers are lost through broken lines or other means, birds can inadvertently eat them.

Loons, swans and other water birds often swallow lead sinkers when they scoop up pebbles from the bottom of the lake. Eagles ingest lead by eating fish which have themselves swallowed sinkers. Lead has been proven to be toxic when ingested by humans, water fowl and other aquatic animals. It takes only one lead sinker or jig to terminally poison a loon.

Instead—use inexpensive and safer alternatives to lead sinkers available at many fishing equipment stores made from other materials such as tin, bismuth, steel, ceramic and tungsten-nickel alloy. To help anglers clean out their tackle boxes and make the switch, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and Minnesota DNR have partnered with retailers, lake associations and conservation groups to offer lead tackle exchanges across the state. For more information go to MN DNR and search non-game lead out projects.

Free Seedling Program Big Success by Pat McKee

Now in its eleventh year, the Free Tree Seedling program has been an unqualified success. This spring, 19 members will plant over 300 trees to benefit all by improving the lake and environment we love.

The Crow Wing County Soil and Water Conservation District sells BLA the seedlings for \$36 per bundle of 25. This year, our original order of over \$600 had to be “pruned” to meet the program’s annual budget of about \$400. Each member may order up to 40 plants from among the eight rotating species of trees and shrubs offered. Hazelnut, paper birch, and red pine were popular picks for 2021.

Pat McKee, who recently took over management of the program from Court Lechert, made two changes to the program this year. Members may now order a maximum of ten of each species (up from five), to provide more flexibility. Also, members may order photo-degradable tree tubes with bamboo stakes to protect their seedlings from wildlife browsing, and make them easier to locate for watering.



Photo courtesy of Pat McKee

Ordering is closed for this year. All members on the BLA mailing list will receive an email in January 2022 with instructions for ordering for next spring. Seedlings must be picked up at Pat’s cabin in early May, and planted within two days. Planting instructions are provided. The small seedlings are easy to plant, but the larger transplants (pines and spruce) require some digging. Plants should be watered weekly throughout the first summer. Please contact Pat if you have questions about which plants are appropriate for your site. A good supply of sunshine is best, but many will grow in some shade. Questions/suggestions are welcome. Reach Pat at mckee@patmckee.com

In Memoriam

We extend our sympathy and support to the families of loved ones who have passed away:

Kathy Bakker at age 74 on November 7, 2019

Ron Martell at age 83 on February 25, 2019

Craig Stempf at age 69 on June 8, 2020

Richard “Fitz” Pfutzenreuter at age 68 on January 24, 2021

Leona Stulen, special companion to Dale Carlson, at age 77 on January 19, 2021

Gerald Vanek at age 81 on May 3, 2020

*“Perhaps they are not stars in the sky,
But rather openings where our loved ones shine down
To let us know that they are happy”
—Unknown*

Blackwater Lake's 2021 Annual Meeting

Let's reconnect after a very unusual year!

When: The Third Saturday in July
July 17th from 9 to 11am

Where: Woodrow Township Hall

Please note for safety and health: *No lunch; no silent auction; bring a mask and your own beverage.*

Please consider a donation to Blackwater Lake's General Fund to support important projects focused on protecting water, our most valuable resource. Your gift is vital since we will not host a Silent Auction due to concerns about health.

Working together we can make a difference!

4th July Boat Parade

by Cindy Larson

Time to celebrate! It's the 4th of July Boat Parade on Blackwater.

- ▶ **When:** Gather at 2:00pm on Sunday, July 4
- ▶ **Where:** Near the entrance of Little Blackwater—we'll be heading clockwise
- ▶ **Why:** Celebrate Independence Day and Connect Together on the Lake
- ▶ **\$100 Prize for Best Decorated Boat!!!**

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



Dragonflies: Flight-Masters

By Becky Seemann with thanks to the MN DNR.

Dragonflies and damselflies are the helicopters of the insect world. They look like helicopters with their bulging eyes, long tails and tapered wings. They can fly backwards and change direction in just one body length of air space. Some can fly up to 35 miles per hour. Of the 5,500 species of dragonflies worldwide, 86 are known to live in Minnesota.

Did you know that they do not bite or sting? And did you know that the dragonfly bends its legs to form a basket to catch food? Their favorites are mosquitoes, black flies, gnats, bees and beetles. How many kinds of dragonflies will you see this spring and summer? Take a picture and share with your family and friends!



Membership Report

Linda Burns, Treasurer

117 property owners join our association this past year. Many thanks to all who supported the association during the Covid pandemic! Our numbers are down from the past two years, 137 and 142 respectfully, but will hopefully rebound this upcoming year.

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.

Aaker, Doug & Rebecca
Aaker, Steve & Geeg
Agre, Scott & Elizabeth
Alton, Ann
Bahr, Gary & Linda
Bakke, Steven & Pat
Bangasser, Tim & Maggie
Becker, Tom & Kelly
Branca, Lou & Mildred
Brochhagen, Craig
Collins, Mary & Suhl, Joel
Davis, Darwin
Dindorf, Carolyn
Duppong, Mike & Barb
Elbers, Dan & Kristi
Ellefsen, Tom & Vanessa
Eller, Jim & Burns, Linda
English, Jean
Farland, Jon
Fleigle, Mark & Connie
Gardell, Richard
Ginder, Gary & Judy
Goers, Bill & Vicky
Gothier, Kelly & Pam
Grapentin, Auggie & Colleen
Hannay, Philip & Katherine
Hartlage, Nick & Theresa
Heaney, Dwight & Beth
Hiemenz, Duane & Melinda
Hokr, Paul & Laurie
Hunter, Carol
Huso, Nathan & Trocke, Theresa
Jarboe, Randy & Judith
Johnson, Doug & Chris
Karpinsky, Herbert & Joan
Keaveny, Tom & Jan
Klundt, Shannon & Catherine
Koegel, Steve & Erin
Kremetz, David & McLachlin,
Jeanne
Langston, Howard & Carole

Larson, Brandon & Cindy
Laughlin, Craig & Barbie
Lechert, Court
Lemke, Rein & Lorraine
Liepert, Doug & Taimi
Loucks, David & Janet
Lovaas, Todd & Karen
Lovgren, Lee & Ann
Marcellus, Duane
Marr, Tim & Jan
McKee, Pat & Meisner, Douglas
Medley, Rob & Cheryl
Miller, Jim & Carolyn
Mills, Donald & Lisa
Minge, Erik & Brunetti, Tazia
Minge, Olaf & Amy
Mohr, Stephen & Laurel
Monroe, Jan
Moren, Jess & Raneyl
Moriarty, Pat & Carol
Mouw, Rod & Harriet
Norberg, Brad & Patty
Norman, Paul & Patricia
Nutz, Fred & Kaye
Nyquist, Jeff & Roberta
Oestreich, Duane
Ostby, Ray & Jill
Otto, Dave & Peg
Otto, Duane & Gloria
Peterson, Alwyn & Susan
Peterson, Ron
Peukert, Claus & Diane
Pfutzenreuter, Richard & Burg,
Andrea
Piehl, Ken & Jennifer
Redmann, Eldred & Harriet
Reinert, Jason & Abbie
Reinert, Terry
Richardson, Jim & Sherry
Rishavy, Marjorie
Roos, Brian & Sharon

Rosenbush, Jerry
Rynning, Kathryn & Langen, Wayne
Rynning, Rob & Darlene
Santa, John & Patrice
Schmidberger, Richard & Barbara
Schmokel, Shelley & Joscher, Allen
Schroeder, Bob & Becky
Schuler, Janice
Seemann, Bob & Becky
Shaner, Joel & Kathy
Shaner, Trent & Becky
Shaner, Trevor & Heidi
Shannon, Tom & Robin
Sleight, Scott
Sletten Jim & Dodi
Sletten, Dan & Jen
Sorenson, Solveig & Ottesen, Gail
Spilman, Neal & Cindy
Sposito, Salvatore & Carrie
Spurrier, James & Rostau, Sue
Staley, Tom & Geri
Stempf, Derek
Stocker, Glenn & Marlys
Stokke, Bill & Lynn
Stracke, Ed & Kris
Swanson, David & Janice
Thielmann, Lloyd & Terry
Thorn, Chuck & Kris
Van Kley, Doug & Michelle
Voeller, Lawrence & Mary
Wahlstrom, Keith & Carolyn
Weber, Kevin & Sharon
Weinmann, Robert & Barbara
Wermerskirchen, Tom & Anita
West, Ruth
Wethe, Brad & Marilyn
Whebbe, Ed & Stephanie
Wheeler, Todd & Laura
Wibeto, Jeff & Alane
Zahn, Chad & Tricia
Zbikowski, Rick & Kathy

Treasurer Report

Linda Burns, Treasurer

The General account started July 1, 2020 with \$4,122 and the Lake Protection fund (LPF) started with \$6,866. The current balance of the General account is \$3,433 and the balance of the LPF is \$7,794.

Since July 1, members have donated \$925 to the Lake Protection fund, bringing the donation total since 2016 to \$8,849. We are very grateful for the generosity of the members who donated since last Spring's BLURB (listed below).

Aaker, Steve & Geeg	• Melinda	• Oestreich, Duane	• Shannon, Tom & Robin
Alton, Ann	• Huso, Nathan & Trocke,	• Peterson, Al & Susan	• Sletten, Dan & Jen
Branca, Lou & Millie	• Theresa	• Peterson, Ron	• Stracke, Ed & Kris
Brochhagen, Craig	• Jarboe, Randy & Judy	• Peukert, Claus & Diane	• Thielmann, Lloyd & Terry
Collins, Mary & Suhl, Joel	• Keaveny, Tom & Jan	• Pfutzenreuter, Richard &	• Thorn, Chuck & Kristi
Davis, Darwin	• Klundt, Shannon & Cathy	• Burg, Andrea	• Van Kley, Doug &
Dindorf, Carolyn	• Koegel, Erin & Steve	• Sletten, Jim & Dodi	• Michelle
Duppong, Mike & Barb	• Langston, Howard &	• Spilman, Neal & Cindy	• Wahlstrom, Keith &
Eller, Jim & Burns, Linda	• Carole	• Stocker, Glenn & Marlys	• Carolyn
English, Jean	• Laughlin, Craig & Barbie	• Reinert,	• Weber, Kevin & Sharon
Farland, Jon	• Liepert, Doug & Taimi	• Jason & Abbie	• Weinmann, Robert &
Fleigle, Mark & Connie	• Marcellus, Duane	• Richardson, Jim & Sherry	• Barbara
Goers, Bill & Vicky	• McKee, Pat & Meisner,	• Rishavy, Marjorie	• West, Ruth
Gothier, Kelly & Pam	• Douglas	• Roos, Brian & Sharon	•
Grapentin, Auggie &	• Medley, Rob & Cheryl	• Schmokel, Shelley &	•
Colleen	• Minge, Olaf & Amy	• Joscher, Allen	•
Hannay, Philip & Kubal,	• Mohr, Stephen & Laurel	• Schroeder, Bob & Becky	•
Katherine	• Moriarty, Pat & Carol	• Schuler, Janice	•
Hiemenz, Duane &	• Nyquist, Jeffrey & Roberta	• Seemann, Bob & Becky	•



Every effort was made to be as accurate as possible in recognizing our members and donors. If you find an error, please let us know by contacting Becky Seemann at 651-245-6436.

New Volunteer Opportunities

As you know, water is our most precious resource. Please consider ways you can help protect our terrific Blackwater Lake now and for future generations. Do you have interest in serving on the Association Board? It takes a village. And we are the village! What committee below would you consider being a part of???

- ▶ Healthy Lakes Committee
- ▶ Seechi Disk Readings
- ▶ Fish Management
- ▶ Membership
- ▶ Communications/Web Master
- ▶ Seedlings
- ▶ Septic

Working together, we can make a difference! Please contact Lloyd Thielmann and/or Becky Seemann to talk more about helping out on a committee or serving on the Board.



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
- ▶ 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
- ▶ 4th 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 2021-2022.

MEMBERSHIP FORM July 1, 2021–June 30, 2022. 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 wish to receive The Blurb via email address(es): _____

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, 2021

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!!!

Blackwater Lake Memories

Glenn & Marlys Stocker Family

After returning home in 2000 following the final-year of a 3-year term as Visiting Professor of Communication Studies at Akita University, Akita City, Japan in the Tohoku Region of northern Honshu, we lived in our lake home on Ossawinnamakee north of Breezy Point. That lake place was nice, but a little too small for us, so we began looking for another. In 2001, we found our new home on the north end of Blackwater Lake. It came with a harbor and a beautiful view out over the lake, along with plenty of space. The move from Ossie was going along nicely until the Day of Infamy—9/11/2001—a day we all remember well.

An additional memory was assisting in the attempt to relieve Blackwater of the many small northern pike rounded up in DNR traps, dumped into a boat, then taken to the landing and hauled away by tanker to their new home. Somehow it appears we missed getting them all. It was interesting to see the other huge fish that we released into the lake, though, and they're still there if anyone is interested! We've never caught any of them.



The past 20 years have given us many pleasant summers and even pleasant winters, and friends and family have helped us enjoy Blackwater, too. We're hoping that our family members living in Japan and Taiwan can visit when the Covid-19 allows them to come home again. Thanks for the memories, Blackwater!



Tom & Geri Staley Family

Sometime in the late 1970s while still living in Illinois, we brought our children up to our one-room cabin for a Spring vacation. We also had our camping trailer with us, because we weren't sure how we would be able to operate in the new cabin. We were sure that the lake would still be iced over, but what we didn't expect was the exceptionally warm weather. It was so hot that the kids were sunbathing on top of the camper on Easter Sunday.

Early morning when we were just finishing packing up the camper to go home, there came a bloodcurdling shriek somewhere in the woods. It sounded like a woman screaming, but not knowing what it could be, all of us quickly jumped in the car and headed out. I guess that we were not all that familiar with what goes on in the Northwoods. We heard that most likely it was an unhappy Bobcat. Here it is, over 40 years later, with almost 27 years as permanent residents, and we are still surviving and thriving.

