

The Blackwater Blurb

Blackwater Lake Newsletter

Fall 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.



Minnesota Fun Fish Facts

by Becky Seemann from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources MN DNR

There are more than 27,000 living species of fish worldwide. Minnesota is home to approximately 162 species. Fish scales are laid down in rings each year—like tree rings. They can be used to determine the age of the fish. All fish are vertebrates—meaning that they have backbones and they breathe through their gills. Most fish lack eyelids—although some saltwater sharks have a blinking-like membrane that acts as an eyelid.

Did you know?

The **Walleye** was designated Minnesota's state fish in 1965. The name "Walleye" refers to its large milky pupils. The inner part of the eye reflects light, allowing the fish to see in dark or murky water. A female Walleye produces 40,000 to 250,000 eggs per season, depending on her size and condition. Studies have shown that Walleye can live as long as 29 years.



Did you know that largemouth bass and smallmouth bass are included in the **Sunfish** Family along with bluegill, pumpkinseed and crappies? Bluegill spawning beds from 6 to 12 inches in diameter are found in shallow water—so they are perfect fish for our kids and grandkids to catch off the dock. Spawning Bluegills aggressively protect their spawning beds and will attack anything that comes near them—even a hook. This makes them easy to catch during the spring.

The **Minnow** Family has 48 species existing in the state and is Minnesota's largest fish family. Minnows aren't necessarily small, and small fish aren't necessarily minnows. Minnows are a very important link in the aquatic food chain because they're a food source for many larger fish. Carp are the largest members of the Minnow Family in Minnesota waters and are also the strongest swimmers of Minnesota's warm water species.

Did you know that Blackwater Lake is home to about 25 species of fish? How many of them can you identify?

Chairman's Update



by Lloyd Thielmann

*Greetings to all members and owners
on our "Great Lake!"*

Your Lake Association is doing fine yet our membership is down considerably as you will see in the Treasurer's Report. Please check your records to see if you are current or call me or Linda Burns to check your status. We are no longer able to put the "Please Join" reminder on the cover of the Fall Blurb since we are electronically emailing many of them out.

🐣 We are grateful for the many fantastic donations to our Lake Protection Fun and our newest Walleye Stocking Fund. We thank you very much!

🐣 As you are aware our lake water level is very low and very warm this year. So pray for rain and snow. If not, we will want to hire beavers back to dam things back up.

🐣 We hope that next year we will be back to normal with our annual meeting, luncheon, coffee and donuts and a silent auction. In the spring and summer we will decide about these activities.

🐣 Keep your eyes open in January for the email announcement from Pat McKee concerning the yearly Seedling Program.

🐣 Please remember to sign up for the Blackwater Blurb newsletter electronically if you haven't done so already. Feel free to message me and I will make it happen.

🐣 Lastly, please consider talking about the Blackwater Lake Association with your friends and neighbors to encourage them to join. Word of mouth is the best way to promote our organization that benefits all on our lake.

It takes a village and we are the village!

*All the best to you over the holidays
and the coming year,*

2021 Blackwater Lake AIS Volunteers

- Mary Collins & Joel Suhl
- Randy Jarboe
- Tim Marr
- Bob Seemann & Jean English
- Rick & Kathy Zbikowske

- Brandon & Cindy Larson
- Chad Zahn & Tricia Koerner
- Jeff Wibeto
- Shannon Klundt
- Carolyn Dindorf, Chair

Blackwater Memories & Highlights from Norman Bay

by Duane Oestreich

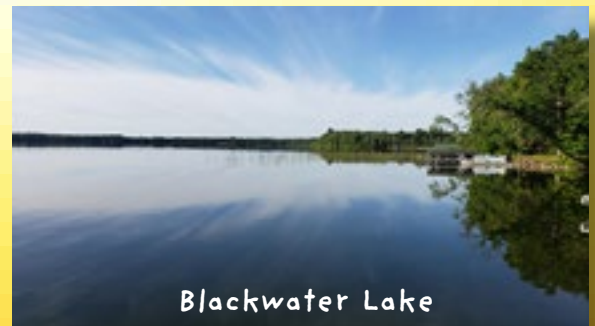


Omer and Hilma Oestreich

It's the mid-1980s and I remember an Apache pop-up camper weekend looking at lake properties with my father and brother. We ended up near the Wheeler Marine corner on Highway 84. We set up at a small clearing in the woods and camped for an evening. A few months later, my parents Omer and Hilma Oestreich purchased the lot we had camped on. The next year included staying in a travel-trailer on the land while planning "The Cabin" that we started building the following spring. Dad had retired and stayed at the lake. Mom came up from Golden Valley on the weekends. I came up to help too along with going fishing and exploring the lake.

A few more memories include:

- My first trip into Little Blackwater when I sighted a really large fish—probably a pike going to dine on crappies and sunfish that spring day.
- My mom always enjoyed decorating the pontoon for the 4th of July Parade. While driving the pontoon to Little Blackwater to get in line in about 2007, I asked her to steer the boat. She did with a smile. Later that day she shared, "That's the first time I ever drove a boat." Dad quickly replied, "You use to row the rowboat." We all had a good laugh on that one.
- One winter while ice fishing with dad, we watched a guy fishing and sitting on a bucket a few hundred yards away. He was pulling in a large number of fish. It was Paul Norman who was catching Tulibee for smoking. He kindly showed me what he was using and encouraged me to try to hook one. Finally, I did after many attempts. Years later, a young family with 2 young ones, ages 5 and 7, were visiting us and we went ice fishing. Again, we watched Paul tending the Tulibee net. The girls still talk about "the guy who was netting." Thank you Paul Norman!
- We enjoyed many family holiday gatherings including my folks 60th wedding anniversary in 2006. We've made many friendships with neighbors on the lake that still continue on today. Sadly, my parents have passed on. I bought "The Cabin" in 2014, and have enjoyed fostering so many memories and still finding items that make me smile.



In closing, a big thanks to the Lake Association for their good work to keep our lake thriving.

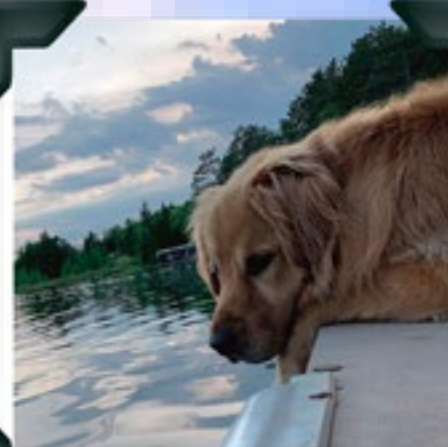
Summer Fun on Blackwater



2021 Boat Parade

The Zbikowski family came up with this creative theme that won them \$100 cash from the Blackwater Lake Association. Their boat was one of 23 that paraded around Blackwater entertaining many that watched from shore.

It was another HOT July day for this year's Fourth Boat Parade. The winning boat entitled "Singin' in the Rain" had the right idea. With their giant squirt-gun filled with lake water, they could act out their theme and cool off at the same time.



Dogs can fish too!!



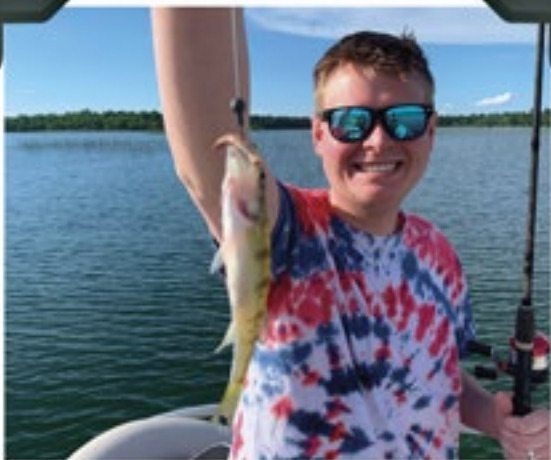
Scott Agre



Lloyd Thielmann

Can you believe that some Blackwater folks actually go to other lakes to fish?!?!

Summer Fun on Blackwater



We have Perch too!!



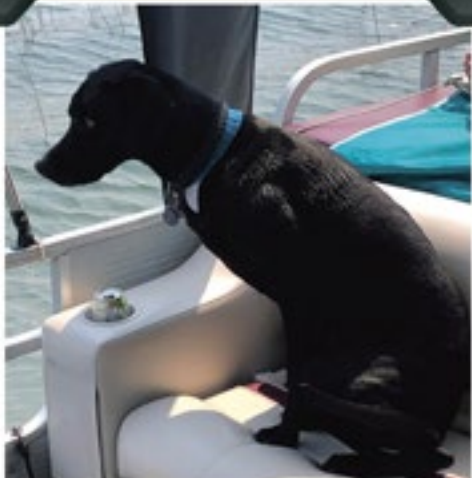
Tenacious Tuber Tots



Collecting 1521 shells from the south shore. At 8 penny a piece, that's \$15.21 for this 13-year old.



"My first time fishing. I'm 3."



Tully's happy place is Blackwater!



The CannonBall Splash Winner for 2021. The Wheelers always make time for water fun!

Membership & Treasurer Report *Linda Burns, Treasurer*

Last year's membership was 117—down from the past two years, 138 and 142. For the current year starting July 1, our membership is 96. Forty-one (41) attended the Annual Meeting on July 17.

Treasury summary of last year, July 1, 2020—June 30, 2021 (amounts rounded to nearest dollar):

The General Fund started with \$4122 and ended with \$3020. Our expenses for the year were \$3502; the largest expenses were beaver control and the Blurb, other expenses included dues and donations to organizations and activities we support. The Blurb expenses have decreased as fewer hard copy Blurbs are mailed—thanks to all who receive theirs by email!

A walleye stocking fund was initiated; \$4100 in donations received, \$3610 paid to stock fish, and a \$490 balance remains. The Lake Protection Fund started with \$6866 and ended with \$8440; the only expense this year was maintenance along the public access road.

The starting balance of the General Fund includes membership dues paid before the start of the fiscal year; in actuality the membership dues for the year just covered our recurring expenses, but with no cushion. This concern was addressed at the Annual Meeting and a raise in dues from \$30 to \$40 for next year was approved.

The combined balance of the General Fund, including walleye stocking, and the Lake Protection Fund was \$11,950; last year's combined balance was \$10,988.

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.klundt@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, Scott Agre, Carolyn Dindorf and 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, Linda Burns, Dodi Sletten and Lloyd Thielmann

Reporter and Communications: Becky Seemann

Web Master: Travis Skalicky

Seedlings and Septic: Pat McKee, Barb Laughlin

New Members Packet: Becky Seemann (becky.seemann@icloud.com) 651-245-6436

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, Northern Waters Land Trust
- 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
\$ _____ 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!!!

It takes a village. We are the village. Please join!



In This Issue...

- *Fantastic Fish Facts*
- *Summertime Fun on Blackwater*
- *Blackwater Lake Memories*
- *Your Blackwater Lake Association at Work*



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

Mark Your Calendar

2022 Board Meetings—5/1, 6/26 & 10/2
2022 Annual Meeting—7/16

Go Paperless!

Blackwater Blurb is now available via email. Help save postage and read it on your phone tablet or computer. Please provide your email address to Lloyd Thielmann and request to “Go Paperless.”

Visit our website at: <http://blackwaterlake.mnlakesandrivers.org/>