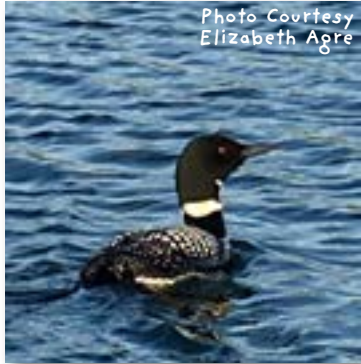


The Blackwater Blurb

Blackwater Lake Newsletter

Fall/Winter 2022

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.



It's Never Too Late to Love a Loon!

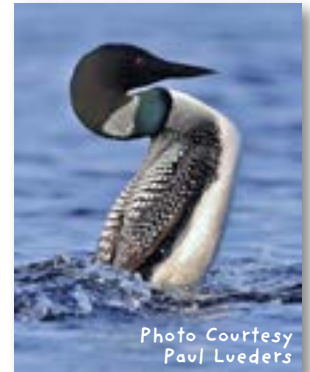
Compiled by Becky Seemann from the MN DNR

Did you know that Minnesota has more common loons than any other state except Alaska?? Learning about loon behavior can help us enjoy these spectacular birds without causing them distress.

Circle Dance. The circle dance is a low-level territorial interaction during which rival loons slowly swim in circles around each other and evaluate their opponent's fitness. One or more of the loons involved may periodically dive underwater, and in response its rivals will either dip their heads underwater to track its movements or dive after it. This helps them to ensure that they will not be stabbed from below. Circle dances generally do not involve physical contact between rival loons, but they may escalate to physical fights.



Penguin Dance. If a boat, predator, or intruding loon is too close, a loon may perform a distraction display called a "penguin dance"—rearing up in the water with its wings either spread out or clasped against its body and rapidly paddling its feet. Loons performing this display are experiencing extreme stress, in some cases because humans are too close. If you see a loon penguin dancing, please leave the area!



Wing Rowing. When swimming, loons typically rely solely on their feet for propulsion; however, they may use their wings as paddles to help 'row' themselves across the water when they need to escape a situation quickly. Depending on the level of the threat perceived, loons may continue wing rowing for great distances. Loons may wing row away whenever they perceive a threat, including when they are closely approached by humans or predators or when they lose a territorial battle with another loon.

Sleeping. Because they are not well built for life on land, loons typically sleep in the water. They take short naps of about 15 minutes. To sleep, a loon turns its neck and folds its head down to rest on its back. During the nesting period, loons may sleep while incubating.

To learn more about loons, search go to MN DNR or to loon.org



Chairman's Update



by Lloyd Thielmann

Greetings to all friends on our great lake and all lake associations!

We are currently behind on our membership drive for the current year and ask everyone to join the **Blackwater Lake Association**. Our membership is currently at 99 paid members. In years past, we have had numbers in the 130s+. We sent out an ask letter in mid-September and ask you to please respond. We understand that it is harder to remember to join with electronic Blurb newsletters and no annual meeting this year. So—Please join!

- ☞ **Our #1 goal is to preserve the water quality.** We have done a great job with our early response team headed by Carolyn Dindorf. Thanks to all of them. As you all can see in reading local publications, Aquatic Invasive Species/AIS are knocking on our doors. Lakes near us currently have a number of infestations. So let's keep up our great work.
- ☞ Looking to **Cabin Coffees in 2023**, please let us know if you would like to be a host. The 2022 season was great as we were able to meet and share with our neighbors. **The dates for 2023 are June 9, July 14 and August 11.** Please contact me and we will get you on the schedule. The first to respond get the date slots—so don't hesitate.
- ☞ We received our **semiannual stocking of 335 pounds of walleye** from the MN DNR in October. We receive walleye stocking in even-numbered years. Keep in mind that in 2023 if we have funds earmarked for stocking we will try to purchase more. The fund currently has \$2,250 designated. In 2021, we spent around \$3,500 thanks to some very generous donations.
- ☞ Our beaver dam problem will be solved by the time you receive this newsletter and the water level will go back down to its Fall level as in years past.
- ☞ Regarding the **2023 Tree Seedling Program**, I will be sending out via email the sign-up information sometime this winter. Please keep your eyes open for it and be sure to respond to me or Pat McKee at mckee@gmail.com

Thanks to all and we will see you on the water!!

List of Officers

Blackwater Lake Association, Inc. is a member of ACCL (the Association of Cass County Lakes), Minnesota Coalition of Lake Associations (COLA), 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	612-991-0341
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

4th of July Boat Parade 2022 by Cindy Larson & Craig Laughlin



Congratulations on the Best Decorated Boat competition winners with their entry called Margaritaville! It took home \$100 with 41 votes to win the competition.

It was a rainy and windy Independence Day morning, but everyone's wishes to have clear skies by the time the parade began came true, as the winds calmed down and the sun came out by 2pm. It was a beautiful afternoon to cruise around the lake and see everyone on their docks or shoreline waving as we went by. We even had some very patriotic paddle-boarders greeting us as we navigated through the channel. A total of 15 boats were in the parade, and 5 boats were entered into the \$100 Best Decorated Boat competition.

The new system of vote texting to be entered into the competition went well. The texting of votes was a little overwhelming at first, but it turned out to be manageable. It was exciting to include spectators in the voting this year. A total of 123 votes were texted from boats and shore!

Creation of this year's 4th of July Boat Parade winner was a group effort. Robin and Tom Shannon supplied the boat, while Joannie Wangen—sister of the Boat Parade founder Barbie Laughlin—who took a break from her annual Lady Liberty role—spent most of the past year scouring 2nd-hand stores, consignment shops, and garage sales throughout the Upper Midwest for props to enhance the Margaritaville party theme. Tom and Robin, their son Christian and his fiancée Alex, their daughter Amelia and her husband Alex, Craig and Barbie, and Joanie and Rom, all dressed up for the party.

“Thanks to everyone for making this a fun annual event,” said Cindy Larson, Parade Coordinator. “A good time was had by all,” said Craig Laughlin.

The Ole' Days!! by Becky Seemann

101 Years: The Seemann Family on Blackwater Lake

It was 1921 when Louie Brochhagen told Florenz Seemann about “The Government 40” whereby the government would sell 40 acres of land for \$1,000.

Back then, no one wanted to buy lakeshore property because you couldn’t farm or log it. Grandpa Florenz drove from Gaylord in Western Minnesota to Blackwater Lake. Then, he and Louie pulled a rowboat down the logging road to the lake. The two paddled around the entire lake and finally decided on 40 acres on the south side. The Seemann family paid \$200 and took out a \$800 mortgage. Back then \$1,000 was big money.

For the Seemann family, the 1920s was a time for fishing, playing music and family being together at beautiful Blackwater.



Lake Time for the Aaker Family

In their 1951 Mercury, the Aakers drove 5-hours on pot-holed roads to “The Lake.” Included are Mom Aaker in her pearl-necklace along with Grandma, 4 kids, a dog and groceries for a week. The car was jam-packed in the days of no phones, computers or televisions at the lake.

It’s exciting in 1954 when the Aaker family installs their first electric refrigerator. Before that, food was kept in the “ice-box.” Neighbor Louie Brochhagen would cut huge blocks of ice from the lake in the winter, bury them in sawdust to be stored in the Ice House through spring, summer and fall.



Hunting for grouse in 1967—it’s Ted Aaker along with kids Doug and Steve with the dog Peggy Sue. According to Steve Aaker, he never remembers them shooting anything.

The Ole' Days (cont'd)



Life at Pine Haven Resort

Pine Haven Resort opened on Blackwater Lake in 1938, and today still offers a northern Minnesota summer resort vacation experience to the public. Initially owned by Norman DeYoung, the resort recorded many “mom and pop” owners through 2005.



In April 2006, the resort became a Cooperative Association owned by 18 membership shares, each owning one cabin, and still operating as a summer rental resort. All in all, a good vacation time for everyone! www.pinehavenresort.com

Lake Haven Resort Life

The resort was started by Paul Norman's grandfather in late 1940 and cabins were built with logs cut from the property. Dave Norman took over and built 18 cabins with 4 campsites. When Dave died, Paul Norman took over. Next, the Mason family purchased the camp in 1996. After that, Mouw Rental properties purchased the camp in 1998, and at that time 30 campsites, swimming pool, hot tub and laundry facilities were added. Jump to 2005 when Lake Haven Owner's Association was formed when individual properties were purchased by former guests. Today there are 14 cabins, 30 campsites, 2 homes and 2 vacant lots, which are currently for sale.



Great times for the Marr and Peukert families enjoying the 4th of July Parade in 2016!

Meet Your Lake Neighbors



Jeff & Alane Wibeto

In 1998, Jeff and Alane Wibeto purchased a lot on Blackwater's northeast side. The two discovered Blackwater Lake thanks to friends on nearby Man Lake.

Next the fun began for Jeff and Alane. Alane designed the cabin with her son, then hired a contractor to build the exterior framing. After that, this do-it-yourself action pair tackled roughing in and finishing the interior tongue-and-groove themselves. It was quite a project with stunning results. At the time of the cabin project, they lived in Ramsey, Minnesota.

They also enjoyed life in Punta Gorda, Florida and would come to Blackwater in Minnesota's warm season. About two years ago, they decided it was time for a change and made Blackwater their year around home.

Now days, it's wonderful when their two kids and five grandkids come to visit. It's the best when Jordy, their son's dog comes to Blackwater. The dog fishes for sunfish 11-hours a day, only leaving the water to eat or go for a walk. Blackwater is Jordy's happy place. Jeff and Alane like to fish too, including ice fishing. They also enjoy 4-wheeling and Jeff is a hunter. And of course, they love projects—recently Jeff refinished the cabin's interior window woodwork.

Before retirement, Jeff was a self-employed concrete/masonry contractor in the Twin Cities and Alane was the business bookkeeper and a cleaner.

Lastly, what do they like best about Blackwater Lake life? It's about being out in nature and being with family. 4th of July is the summer's highlight.

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, Minnesota Coalition of Lake Associations, and 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 2022-2023.

MEMBERSHIP FORM July 1, 2022–June 30, 2023. Dues \$40.00

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 \$40 ____. Please, please donate any extra to help support Lake Protection Fund/AIS efforts on Blackwater. We have one of the cleanest lakes in the area, but who knows what the future holds. Lake Protection Fund for \$20 ____ \$30 ____ \$50 ____ \$100 ____ Other \$ ____
Walleye Stocking Fund for \$ ____ Total \$ ____

Membership is due July 1, 2022. 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!!!**

The Blackwater Blurb

Blackwater Lake Association Newsletter
3058 4th Avenue NW
Longville, MN 56655



In This Issue...

- *In Love with a Loon??*
- *Margaritaville*
- *The Ole' Days*
- *Meet Your Lake Neighbors*
- ***Please JOIN!!!***



Mark Your Calendar

Board meetings 2023: May 7, June 25,
September 24. Annual Meeting: Sat, July 15

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://blackwaterlakemnlikesanddrivers.org>



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