



Blackwater Burb



<http://blackwaterlake.mnlakesandrivers.org>

Spring/Summer 2023

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.

In this Issue...

- Raven or Crow?
- Fish Spawning in the Spring
- Lake-Friendly Lawn Care
- Meet Your Lake Neighbor
- Your Blackwater Lake Association at Work

Mark your Calendar...

- 2023 Board Meetings 5/7, 6/25, 10/1
- 2023 Annual Meeting & Silent Auction 7/15

Cabin Coffees on Blackwater!!

It's time to meet and visit with Lake neighbors and see Cabins from the inside out. Bring your own coffee cup. 10-11am on Fridays.

June 9th. Lloyd & Terry Thielmann :

On Blackwater's North Side, 3058 4th Ave NW. RSVP to 763-226-4945 or lloydterry@aol.com

August 11th. Dave & Taimi Liepert :

On the Southwest Side, 2718 Blackwater Road NW. RSVP to 612-991-3041 or ttliepert@gmail.com



IS IT A RAVEN OR A CROW?

Common Ravens and American Crows look similar, but there are several characteristics that distinguish one from the other. With completely black features, the two may appear confusingly similar, but they are far from identical.

When compared side-by-side, the Raven is noticeably larger. You can typically find the Crow traveling in large groups. And Ravens tend to be more solitary often traveling alone or in pairs. Because a Raven's tail feathers are slightly longer in the middle, it's tail looks wedge-shaped or triangular when in flight.

Crows have straight beaks while Ravens have bigger and curvier beaks. Ravens have a shaggy set of feathers on it's throat. The Crow lacks shaggy feathers. Crows caw or purr while Raven calls are harsh and croaky. Ravens often communicate through gestures. Much like the hand gestures of humans, these birds use their wings and beaks to call attention to things.

You can find Crows in cities, towns and farm country across North America as they have adapted to urban life. In flight, Ravens ride thermals and soar while Crows do more flapping to fly. Both songbirds are highly intelligent! Crows have the ability to recall human faces--and remember which faces pose a threat. And Ravens have been known to actively pre-plan tasks and show impulse control.

by **Becky Seemann**

(compiled from the National Audubon Society)



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



Greetings to All Blackwater Lake Neighbors and Friends

It takes a village to help keep this lake the gem that it is. Did you know that we are in 27th year as an Association? We continue to do well thanks to us all.



Working together, we can make things happen!
All the best and see you on the water,



We continue to try to **control Aquatic Invasive Species/AIS problems** with diligent watching and many education processes, so keep your eyes and ears open. Thanks to our Early Detection Team! And please consider volunteering for this important work. Big time thanks to **Pat McKee for running the Seedling Program.**

Also many thanks to **Linda Burns for serving as treasurer for all these years.** We are also grateful to **Brian Roos for stepping up to volunteer as our new treasurer.**

A special thanks to everyone that donated to the Lake Protection Fund and the Walleye Fund.

The **DNR stocked our lake with Walleye** in Fall 2022. Consequently, now in 2023 we will need to stock on our own. You may recall, Walleye from the DNR are provided every other year.

We currently have about \$3,000 in this fund. We are in the process of applying for permits and obtaining purchases.

Our goals include **keeping the lake in the best shape that we can** so as usual if you have any questions or issues please contact any of our board members and we will discuss it. Lets do our very best to keep our lake as clean and pristine as possible. If you see something not right, please do something or say something. As we have said before, we can't always fix the problems but we definitely discuss them.

Mark Your Calendars...

- Boat Parade: Tuesday, July 4th
- Annual Meeting & Lunch: Saturday, July 15th
- Summer Cabin Coffees held the second Friday of the month in June and August

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 (through June 30, 2023)	burns.linda3@gmail.com	612-869-3542
Treasurer	Brian Roos (beginning July 2, 2023)	roosbk@gmail.com	713-306-3760
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



MEET YOUR LAKE NEIGHBORS: BRIAN AND SHARON ROOS

From the Twin Cities, Brian and Sharon Roos purchased their lake place on Blackwater's west side in the summer of 2003. They were delighted and planned to spend many long weekends and summer stretches at the lake.

Then life changed. It was 2004 and for career reasons they relocated to Fairbanks, Alaska. In the subsequent 15 years, they moved along with their son Alex to cities in Texas, Kansas, Michigan. Brian enjoyed a career in the petroleum & energy field and Sharon was in education, teaching math and coaching volleyball. Their son Alex is now 20 and currently in his third-year at West Point US Military Academy studying Physics.

Thankfully, they were able to keep the Blackwater Lake Cabin through all the moves. Living distantly from Minnesota presented many challenges. Between family, very close friends and lake neighbors, the cabin received great care. When the Roos would return to the lake, more than half of that time was spent on projects and upkeep. As two of them say, "You all know the drill."

Brian and Sharon retired three years ago and live full time at Blackwater Lake. "There are not enough hours in the day to do all the things we want to do," according to the pair.

What are "all the things?" Fishing—both summer and winter, gardening, playing cards, cooking on the grill and smoker, exercising, taking long walks with neighbors and their dogs, reading, hunting and pontoon riding. And most importantly traveling, especially out East to see their son Alex at West Point.

To help Blackwater Lake friends and neighbors, Brian has recently volunteered to serve on the Board of the Blackwater Lake Association as treasurer.

Participate in the 4th of July Boat Parade!

- 2:00 pm, Tuesday, July 4
- Starts at Little Blackwater, going clockwise
- Follow Skalicky and Larson boats

All boats are welcome, but to **compete for \$100--Best Decorated Boat:**

1. TEXT Cindy at 763-760-3145--Family Name, Phone number, Theme
2. Cindy will reply with your ENTRY NUMBER
3. You create sign displaying your entry number, visible to those on shore

EVERYONE CAN VOTE FOR A WINNER!

1. Text your vote to Cindy at 763-760-3145 (list boat ENTRY NUMBER and number of votes)
2. One vote per person, either on shore or boat
3. One text per household—can contain multiple votes
4. Voting open 15 minutes following end of parade
5. Winner will be notified after votes are tabulated





FISH SPAWNING IN THE SPRING

by Shannon Klundt
(compiled from the MN DNR)

It's finally spring, and all of us who enjoy fishing are itching to get in the boat on open water again after a long winter. Like all animals, spring is when fish spawn and try to perpetuate their blood lines to future offspring. Spawning season is particularly important because it is when fish naturally repopulate our lake.

I personally am hopeful for an abundant Northern Pike and Walleye spawn this year. Both fish species spawn while lake temperatures are still low, with peak spawn occurring at temperatures in the low 40s for Northern Pike and between 42 and 50 degrees for Walleye. Northern Pike and Walleye move to shallow water and tributary streams to spawn with the Northern Pike spreading eggs among vegetation while Walleye prefer rock or gravel substrate. After fertilization, neither parent stays to care for the eggs. As the fry hatch and grow, they begin to move back into deeper waters and prey on smaller fish, particularly Perch, in order to grow into the trophy fish we all love to reel into the boat.

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August. Males of these species create the nests. Bass prefer a firm lake bottom surrounded by cover. Bluegills thrash in shallow sandy or gravelly water to create a bowl-shaped nest. The best locations for finding spawning Crappies are adjacent to old bullrush stand and deep-water cabbage beds.

Perhaps the most important fish in maintaining the predator-prey balance of our beloved lake is the Yellow Perch. Like Bass, Bluegills and Crappie, the Perch spawn occurs in warmer water temperatures, typically between 45 and 52 degrees in April through early May. Newly hatched perch are very small—only 4-7 millimeters, so they are less of a thrill to reel in. However, many fish such as Northern Pike, Walleye, Bass and Crappie as well as several bird species rely on Perch as a food source. Strong cohorts of perch generally align with abundant predator fish of the same age group, but an overabundance of forage-size Perch can lead to poorer fishing conditions because Walleye and other prey fish are well fed.



While I am partial to fishing the Northern Pike and Walleye on Blackwater Lake, spawning season can be especially fun to track down Bass, Bluegills and Crappie. Spawning for all three of these fish species typically occurs in warmer waters in May and June. Although if conditions are just right, Bluegills may spawn all the way to

Silent Auction at July 15th Annual Meeting

We will hold a Silent Auction at our July 15th Annual Meeting. Donated items are truly appreciated as we continue to raise money to protect our beautiful lake. To donate please contact Barbie Laughlin at 612-875-1005; Dodi Sletten at 619-913-3041 or Kathy Zbikowski at 612-961-8957.

2023 Annual Meeting

Let's have some fun and reconnect! Place your bids for the Silent Auction. Coffee and lunch provided.

WHEN: Saturday, July 15th, 9:00-12:00

WHERE: Woodrow Township Hall

LAKE-FRIENDLY LAWN CARE

by Carolyn Dindorf

Most of us enjoy having a nice lawn area for sitting outside or recreating. If your yard was seeded or sodded with a common lawn mix, it requires input such as regular mowing, fertilizer, and water. The same fertilizer we use on our lawns will fertilize the plants and algae in the lake. Do your part to help keep Blackwater Lake clean by following these lake friendly tips.

1. Consider the lake when you determine what quality of lawn you need. A lawn that looks like a golf course requires a lot of fertilizer, pesticides, mowing, and irrigation. The more input, the more likely your lawn will add harmful pollutants to the lake.
2. Leave clippings on your lawn. They are a natural fertilizer and add organic matter to your soil.
3. Before adding fertilizer, test your soil to determine what type and amount of fertilizer is needed and follow the instructions provided. Without a soil test, use a fertilizer with a 2-0-1 (nitrogen-phosphorus-potassium) ratio such as a 20-0-10. Many lawns require only 0.5 to 1 lb. of nitrogen per 1000 square foot per year, especially if you leave clippings on the lawn. It is illegal to use a fertilizer containing phosphorus (middle number) unless you have a recent soil test showing a need or are starting a new lawn. The University of Minnesota Soils Lab will analyze your soil sample for \$19. For more information, visit <https://soiltest.cfans.umn.edu/>.
4. The best time to fertilize is in the fall, around Labor Day. Don't apply fertilizer after October 15. If you apply 1 lb. or less nitrogen per 1000 square feet, you can apply it all in one fall application. Don't follow the instructions on the fertilizer bag as far as how often to fertilize. You will be applying much more than needed and it may end up in the lake.
5. When mowing, direct the clippings away from the water. Better yet, leave an area of native vegetation between the lawn and lake to prevent grass clippings, fertilizer, and nutrient-rich runoff from making its way to the lake.



6. Mow high. Mow your lawn at a height of 3" to 4". Taller grass means deeper roots that mine water and nutrients from the soil better, resulting in healthier grass that can shade out weeds. Shorter grass can't absorb as much sunlight and requires more water and fertilizer to survive.

Native grasses and wildflowers require much less input. Consider converting or leaving part of your lawn natural. We can all help manage our property to protect Blackwater Lake

Treasurer/Membership Reports

by Linda Burns

The General account started July 1, 2022 with \$4,106 and now stands at \$7,984. The balance includes \$,3005 in accumulated donations for private walleye-stocking the odd years DNR doesn't stock our lake, meaning the walleye funds will be spent this Fall 2023. The Lake Protection Fund (LPF) started with \$11,886 and now stands at \$14,984, thanks to 70 donations amounting to over \$3,440 designated for the LPF (see following page).

Our current membership, 114, is the lowest in ten years! The past 4 years membership totals were 131, 117, 138 and 142. Please use the attached form to mail dues and donations, or bring your checkbook to the Annual Meeting, July 15!

I conclude this article by saying it will be my last as we have sold our lake place. It's been an honor to serve on the Board as the Treasurer for the past 12 years. Many thanks to the current and past Board members and to the Blackwater Lake Association members for your support in attaining our goals. A big Thank You goes to Brian Roos who will take on the Treasurer duties in the new year. Linda Burns, Treasurer.



Thank You for Linda Burns!

We are grateful for your leadership and excellent work effort over the last 12 years serving as Treasurer. You will be missed!

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 2023-2024.

LAKE PROTECTION FUND DONORS

Aaker, Steve & Geeg
Alton, Ann - Judge, Retired
Bahr, Ben & Jean
Brochhagen, Craig
Collins, Mary & Suhl, Joel
Davis, Darwin
Davis, Darwin *imo Fred Nutz*
Dindorf, Carolyn
Doneux, Mark & Brenda
Duppong, Mike & Barb
Eller, Jim & Burns, Linda
Eller, Jim & Burns, Linda *imo Court Lechert*
English, Jean *imo Court Lechert*
Fleigle, Mark & Connie
Freiderich, Loretta
Gamrath, Tim & Kristin
Goers, Bill & Vicky
Gothier, Kelly & Pam
Grapentin, Auggie & Colleen
Hannay, Philip & Katherine; Kubal, Katheryn
Hatch Family Cabin
Hunter, Carol
Huso, Nathan & Trocke, Theresa

Jarboe, Randy & Judy
Karpinsky, Herbert & Joan
Langston, Howard & Carole
Laughlin, Craig & Barbie
Laughlin, Craig & Barbie *imo Court Lechert*
Lemke, Rein & Lorraine
Liepert, Doug & Taimi
Marcellus, Duane
Mathiowetz, Brian & Ronda
McKee, Pat & Meisner, Douglas
Medley, Rob & Cheryl
Meyer, Richard & Karen
Minge, David & Karen
Mohr, Stephen & Laurel
Monroe, Jan
Moren, Jess & Raneyl
Moriarty, Pat & Carol
Nyquist, Jeffrey & Roberta
Oestreich, Duane
Peterson, Al & Susan
Peterson, Ron
Pfutzenreuter, Andrea Burg
Redmann, Eldred & Harriet

Reinert, Jason & Abbie
Reinert, Roger & Nancy
Roos, Brian & Sharon
Rupp, Greg & DuBé, Linda
Schmokel, Eileen
Schmokel, Paul & Keri
Seemann, Bob & Becky *imo Court Lechert*
Shaner, Troy & Suzanne
Sletten, Dan & Jen
Sletten, Jim & Dodi
Sletten, Jim & Dodi *imo Court Lechert*
Sletten, Wayne & Jackie
Sorenson, Mark & Sharon
Staley, Tom & Geri
Stocker, Glenn & Marlys
Stracke, Edward & Kristin
Swanson, David & Janice
Thielmann, Lloyd & Terry
Van Kley, Doug & Michelle
Voeller, Larry & Susie
Wahlstrom, Keith & Carolyn
Weber, Kevin & Sharon

Our sincere apology if your name was omitted or misspelled. Please let us know and it will be corrected in future issues.

MEMBERS 2022-2023

Aaker, Doug & Rebecca
Aaker, Steve & Geeg
Alton, Ann - Judge, Ret.
Bahr, Ben & Jean
Bahr, Gary & Linda
Bangasser, Tim & Maggie
Brochhagen, Craig
Davis, Darwin
Delaney, Mike & Westerdahl-Delaney, Elaine
Dindorf, Carolyn
Doneux, Mark & Brenda
Duppong, Mike & Barb
Ellefsen, Tom & Vanessa
Eller, Jim & Burns, Linda
English, Jean
Fleigle, Mark & Connie
Fortman, Mike & Mary
Freiderich, Loretta
Gamrath, Tim & Kristin
Gardell, Richard
Goers, Bill & Vicky
Gothier, Kelly & Pam
Grapentin, Auggie & Colleen
Hannay, Philip & Katherine Kubal, Kathryn
Hatch Family Cabin
Hunt, Larry & Carla
Hunter, Carol
Huso, Nathan & Trocke, Theresa
Jarboe, Randy & Judith
Jerry's One Stop, Scott & Karen Carpenter
Johnson, Jack & Ruth
Karpinsky, Herbert & Joan
Keaveny, Tom & Jan
Klundt, Shannon & Cathy
Kramer, Gerald & Elaine
Kujath, Sara & Hanf, Jesse
Langston, Howard & Carole
Larson, Brandon & Cindy

Laughlin, Craig & Barbie
Lemke, Reinhold & Lorraine
Lohnes, Kirk & Tania
Lovgren, Lee & Ann
Marcellus, Duane
Marr, Tim & Jan
Martell, Sandra
Mathiowetz, Brian & Ronda
McKee, Pat & Meisner, Douglas
Medley, Rob & Cheryl
Meyer, Richard & Karen
Miller, Jim & Carolyn
Minge, David & Karen
Minge, Erik & Brunetti, Tazia
Mohr, Stephen & Laurel
Monroe, Jan
Moran, Jess & Raneyl & Jacob
Moriarty, Pat & Carol
Muer, Michael & Lora
Murphy, Matt & Bobbi
Nutz, Kaye
Nyquist, Jeff & Roberta
O'Grady, Jeff & Lynn
Oestreich, Duane
Ostby, Ray & Jill; Johnson, Doug & Chris
Otto, Duane & Gloria, Dave & Peg
Peterson, Alwyn & Susan
Peterson, Ron
Pfutzenreuter, Andrea Burg
Piehl, Russel & Barb
Redmann, Eldred & Harriet
Reinert, Jason & Abbie
Reinert, Roger & Nancy
Reinert, Terry
Richardson, Jim & Sherry
Roos, Brian & Sharon
Rosenbush, Jerry
Rupp, Greg & Dubé, Linda

Rynning, Kathryn & Langen, Wayne
Santa, John & Penny
Schmidberger, Richard & Babara
Schmokel, Eileen
Schmokel, Paul & Kari
Schmokel, Scott & June
Schmokel, Shelley & Joscher, Allen
Schuler, Janice
Schwerin, Elmer & Pat
Seemann, Bob & Becky
Shaner, Joel & Kathy
Shaner, Troy & Suzanne
Sletten, Dan & Jen
Sletten, Jim & Dodi
Sletten, Wayne & Jackie
Snetsinger, Gordon & Jan
Sorenson, Doug & Jody
Sorenson, Mark & Sharon
Sposito, Sal & Carrie
Spurrier, James & Rislau, Sue
Staley, Tom & Geri
Stocker, Glenn & Marlys
Stracke, Edward & Kristin
Suhl, Joel & Collins, Mary
Swanson, David & Janice
Thielmann, Lloyd & Terry
Van Kley, Doug & Michelle
Voeller, Larry & Susie
Wahlstrom, Keith & Carolyn
Weber, Kevin & Sharon
Weinmann, Bob & Barb
Wethe, Brad & Marilyn
Whebbe, Ed & Stephanie
Wibeto, Jeff & Alane
Zahn, Chad & Koerner, Tricia
Zbikowski, Rick & Kathy



Get Your Blurb in FULL-COLOR

When you go "Paperless!" Sign up to receive your Blackwater Blurb via email and save the association postage and time. Then receive a full-color version PDF that you can read online with your phone, tablet, computer or other media device. Please provide your email address to Lloyd Thielmann and request to "Go Paperless."

Design courtesy of Jasmine Graphics & Design; judy@jasmine-graphics.com

The Blackwater Blurb

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

MEMBERSHIP FORM July 2, 2023–June 30, 2024. Dues \$40.00

NAME: (please print) _____ SPOUSE: _____ OTHER: _____

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 \$ _____

DONATION IN MEMORY OF: _____ Total \$ _____

Membership is due July 1, 2023. Please send your completed form along with your check for dues and donations to:
BLA, Inc Treasurer, Brian Roos, 729 28th Street NW, Hackensack, MN 56452.

THANK YOU!!!