



Blackwater Burb



<http://blackwaterlake.mnlakesandrivers.org>

Fall/Winter 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...

- Our Forest Treasures
- Treating Sewage: Everyone's Responsibility
- 4th July Boat Parade
- Meet Your Lake Neighbor
- Your Blackwater Lake Association at Work

Mark your Calendar...

- 2024 Board Meetings 5/5, 6/23, 9/22
- 2024 Annual Meeting & Silent Auction 7/20

Cabin Coffees on Blackwater!!

It's a great way to meet and visit with Lake neighbors and see Cabins from the inside out.

Dates for 2024—Held the 2nd Friday in the month from 10-11am

June 14, July 12, Aug 9

Plan Ahead... please consider hosting a Cabin Coffee in 2024 by contacting Becky Seemann 651-245-6436

OUR FOREST TREASURES

by **Becky Seemann** (compiled from the MN DNR)

How do trees keep growing new wood every year? Most trees in North America add new wood to their girth each year in a regular, predictable way. The new tissue is added right inside the bark by a thin layer of cells called the cambium. With the warmth in spring, cambium cells begin to divide. The cambium cells on the outside become part of the tree's phloem, a band of inner bark through which the tree's food supply moves. The cambium cells on the inside become the xylem, a system of tiny tubelike cells that carry the tree's water supply. These xylem layers give us the annual rings.

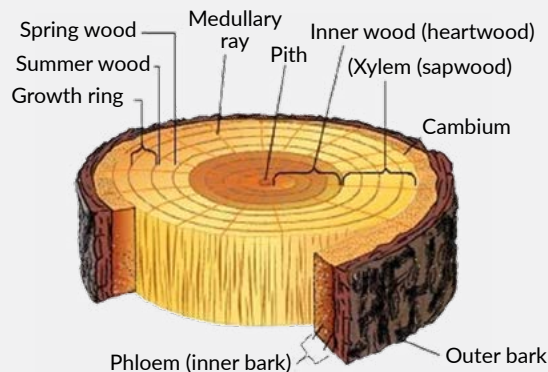
Read the Rings. Best known is the relationship between weather, growing conditions, and the width of the rings. Wide, light rings mean spring weather was good. Warm days, lots of rain makes for good growing conditions. Narrower rings mean spring was probably cold or dry resulting in stressed growing conditions. Or perhaps the tree was crowded by others, shaded or stressed by insect pests. Consequently, tree growth was limited.

The USA's largest living thing is a General Sherman Tree, a giant sequoia in Sequoia National Park in California. It is more than 272 feet tall and has a trunk about 36 feet wide. That means it's as tall as a 20-story building and it's probably almost 3,000 years old.

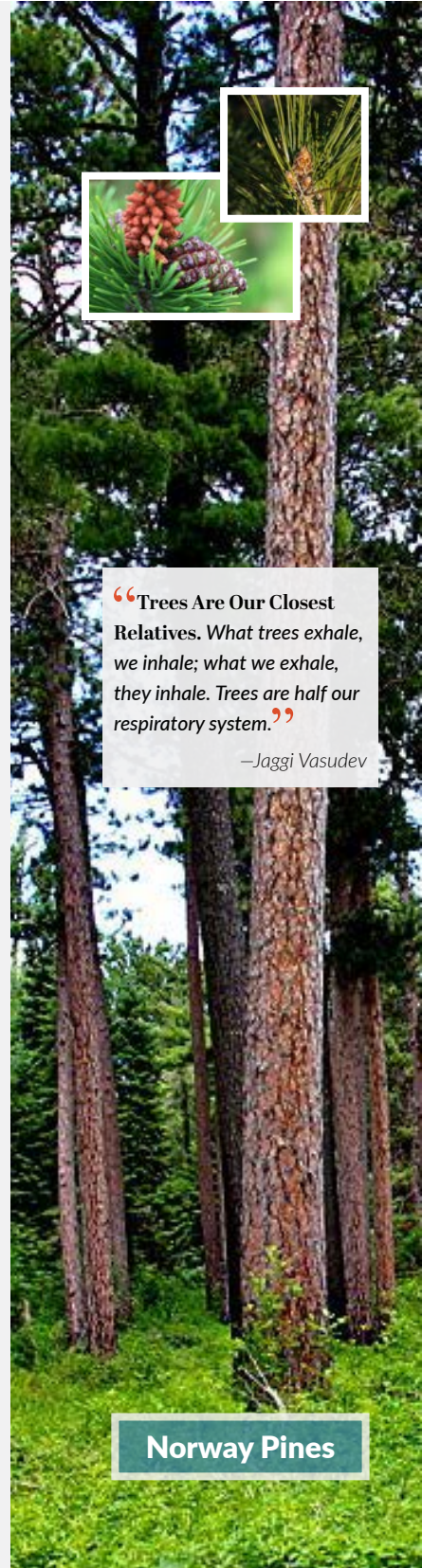
Minnesota's state tree the Norway Pine has nothing to do with Norway. In most places this species is called the red pine. It may have been given its "Minnesota" name by English settlers, who thought it resembled the Norwegian scotch pine.

Minnesota is the proud home of one of the rare exceptions to the "rule" that conifers are also evergreens. The Tamarack, found in the sprawling peat bogs cones but sheds all of its needles in the winter.

Did you know that Minnesota is home to 52 species of native trees? To learn more, go online to mndnr.gov website and search Minnesota Native Trees.



Continued on page 7...



“Trees Are Our Closest Relatives. What trees exhale, we inhale; what we exhale, they inhale. Trees are half our respiratory system.”
—Jaggi Vasudev

Norway Pines

CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE FALL 2023



Lloyd Thielmann (Past Chair) and Shannon Klundt (New Chair)

Greetings to all owners and friends of the Blackwater Lake Association. We are in year 28 as an association and doing well. It takes a village to help keep this lake the gem that it is.

This update is coming from someone you are likely not familiar with. My name is Shannon Klundt, my wife Cathy and I live in Sartell, MN. I have been a resident of Lake Haven Acres for around 15 years. If you are interested in more about us, please see the Meet Your Neighbors portion of this Blurb.

I have the honor of taking over the Chairman of the Board position from Lloyd. He has been a great mentor and will help me to become as good of a Steward of the lake as he has been for all his many years of service. All of us on the board are very grateful for his service and as a shining example of a leader of the board of our great lake.

We are planning ahead for the annual meeting on July 20, 2024, the July 4th boat parade and the cabin coffee events this coming summer. Thank you to Lloyd and Terry Thielmann and Doug and Taimi Liepert who hosted the cabin coffee events this summer. We had between 20 and 25 people attend both events. If you are interested in hosting, it's a great opportunity to meet your neighbors. The cabin coffees will be June 14th, July 12th and August 9th.

As you can see, we are trying to control the AIS problems with diligent watching and many educational processes so keep your eyes and ears open. Many thanks to our early detection team! Big thanks to Pat McKee for running the seedling program in the past years. Because of a few different circumstances we have decided to suspend the program.

On the topic of fish stocking, this was the off year of DNR stocking. This means we were allowed to stock as an association. We contacted the company we bought our walleyes from in 2021 and were told they may only have fry (very small fish) available but did not have any larger, stockable fish available. The fishing committee on the board decided to wait until 2025 to use our walleye stocking fund to purchase larger stocking walleyes rather than feeding fry to the bass. I am an avid walleye fisherman (not to be confused with a walleye catcher) who is extremely interested in making our lake a valid walleye fishery. We currently have \$5,220 dollars in our walleye stocking fund and we will make sure those dollars are spent in the most logical way possible to achieve our goal.

Our goals as leaders of our Association are to keep the lake in the best shape that we can. If you have any questions or issues please contact any of our board members (names and contact information provided) and we will discuss it. Let's try our very best to keep our lake as clean and pristine as possible. If you see something that concerns you or something not right, either do something, say something or contact a board member. As we have said before, we can't always fix the problems, but we discuss them.

See you on the water,
Shannon Klundt
Chairman Blackwater Lake Association

Shannon

I just want to thank all of you for the privilege and honor to serve as treasurer and then chairman of the board for all these years



LIST OF OFFICERS & COMMITTEES

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

Chairperson	Shannon Klundt	320-333-0663	Healthy Lakes Committee: Becky Seemann, Lloyd Thielmann, Scott Agre, Carolyn Dindorf and Pat McKee Secchi Disk Readings: Jim Sletten, Carolyn Dindorf, Bob Seemann and Lloyd Thielmann Membership: Becky Seemann, Brian Roos, Dodi Sletten and Shannon Klundt Reporter and Communications: Becky Seemann Web Master: Scott Agre New Members Packet: Becky Seemann
Vice-Chairperson	Carolyn Dindorf	612-220-4989	
Secretary	Dodi Sletten	612-991-3041	
Treasurer	Brian Roos	713-306-3760	
Director	Becky Seemann	651-245-6436	
Director	Barb Laughlin	612-875-1005	
Director	Tim Marr	612-616-8232	
Director	Scott Agre	913-219-5021	
Director-at-Large	Rick Zbikowski	612-357-3099	
Past Chair	Lloyd Thielmann	763-226-4945	

MEET YOUR LAKE NEIGHBORS: SHANNON AND CATHY KLUNDT

by Becky Seemann

Shannon and Cathy Klundt bought a lot at Lake Haven Acres on Blackwater in 2008. Previously they'd been leasing camper space at Big Portage Resort in Backus for 6 years.

And how they love lake life!

When Shannon isn't fishing—which isn't often—he enjoys connecting with the wonderful Lake Haven Acres community of neighbors and friends. Both Shannon and Cathy are active residents in the resort. Shannon previously served on the Lake Haven Acres Homeowners' Association board as secretary and Cathy is currently the co-treasurer. They both volunteer for painting, grounds cleanup and other maintenance projects around the association and enjoy participating in the delicious potluck dinners which occur just about every weekend, usually followed by a campfire or a group game of some sort. Shannon is an excellent cook and often grills, fries or smokes something to share. They both look forward to meeting more Blackwater neighbors outside their Lake

Haven community through their involvement with the Blackwater Lake Association.

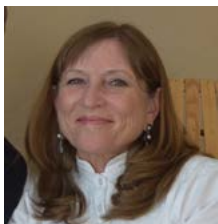
The Klundts are from Sartell, MN. Shannon is a land surveyor of wind and solar farms throughout the country. He plans to retire later in 2023. Cathy does payroll and accounts receivable for a manufacturer of stainless-steel storage and processing vessels for pharmaceutical, chemical and dairy & beverage companies worldwide, and hasn't decided when she will retire. They have one adult daughter, Haley, who is an economist for the US Government and enjoys visiting occasionally to fish Blackwater with her dad and spend time with her Lake Haven "family". Their 5-year-old energetic doodle Bogey enjoys swimming in Blackwater Lake.

All of us are grateful for Shannon taking over the Blackwater Lake Association's leadership position as Chairman. Shannon looks to Lloyd Thielmann for guidance and the mentorship he has given to take over his position.

Many thanks Shannon!!



Shannon and Cathy Klundt with their doodle-dog Bogey.



Contact Becky Seemann with news, events, announcements or photographs

FOURTH OF JULY BOAT PARADE!

by Cindy Larson

It wasn't the best day for a boat parade this 4th of July, and with drizzle hours before parade time, hopes were fading fast for good parade weather. But, we persevered and started the parade around Blackwater with on and off sprinkles, and finished up the parade in a downpour!

Congratulations to the Gardell family and their boat celebrating Hockey!! They came away with the Best Decorated Boat Award and \$100 cash.

A total of 10 boats joined in the parade, and only one boat entered the Best Decorated Boat competition.

Thanks to the boaters who braved the weather to make the parade happen, and thanks to those on shore (many dressed in rain gear) who came out to show their support and celebrate Independence Day!



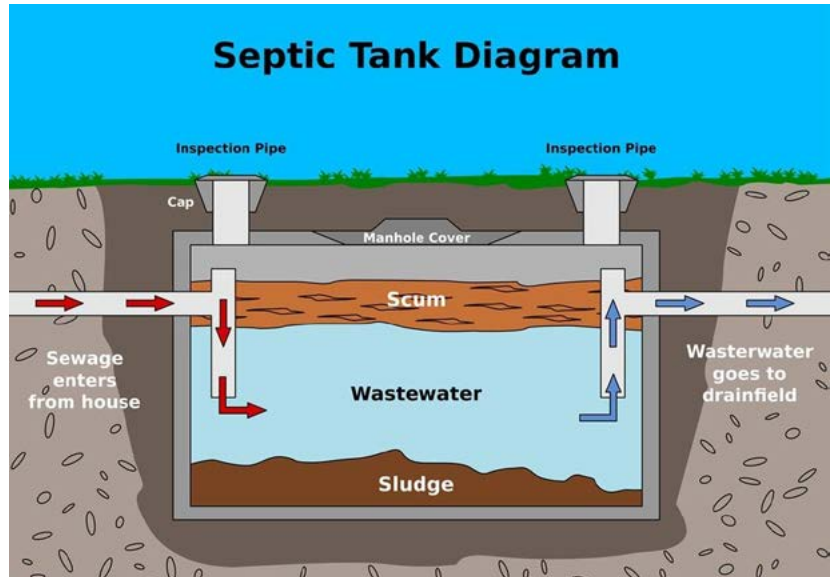
TREATING SEWAGE IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY

by **Becky Seemann** (and Cass County Environmental Services)

Proper treatment of sewage recycles water back into the natural environment with reduced health risks and prevents surface and ground water contamination. In areas without access to municipal treatment plants—we use our own septic systems.

Your Septic Tank

The septic tank has an important job. It prepares sewage for final treatment. Using excessive cleaning compounds, flushing medications, or disposing inappropriate materials down the drain can paralyze your septic tank and may cause irreparable damage to your soil treatment area.



A properly designed and installed soil treatment area will destroy pathogens and filter out the fine solids contained in the effluent. Phosphorus is chemically attached to soil particles and remains near the soil treatment area. Nitrogen treatment under a soil treatment area can also occur. Shallow systems enhance evaporation and interaction with plants. Nitrogen that remains in the downward percolating water may be diluted by ground water. Required setbacks are intended to ensure that the effluent has been fully treated before it reached surface water through ground water flow.

Not All Septic Systems Provide Treatment

Many Septic systems owners incorrectly assume that as long as their used water “goes away,” their system must be working properly. However, poorly designed, installed, outdated, or malfunctioning septic systems are actually a threat to water quality.

Many people live in homes or cabins built before standards for sewage treatment were enforced. The presence of straight-pipe discharges, surfacing systems, cesspools, drywells, other non-watertight tanks, or systems without the necessary aerobic conditions for final treatment continues to threaten water quality. Effluent from these systems entering surface or ground water before final treatment is a problem that should be addressed. To make matters more challenging, lots around lakes are often very small, and soil conditions can have a high water table requiring special design considerations.



Septic/Drain Field Landscaping



Septic drain fields pose a difficult landscaping question. They often cover a large area of land that would look strange uncultivated. On a shady piece of property, it might be the only sunny patch available. In a dry climate, it might be the only moist patch. On the other hand, not just anything is safe to grow on a septic drain field.

Planting on a septic drain field is a good idea because it helps prevent soil erosion and reduces foot traffic, which can compact the soil and cause problems. Choosing the right plants to grow on a septic system is essential. Opinions differ on whether it’s safe to grow vegetables on a septic field. No matter what, root vegetables should be avoided, and mulch should be put down to prevent wastewater from splashing up on leaves and fruit.

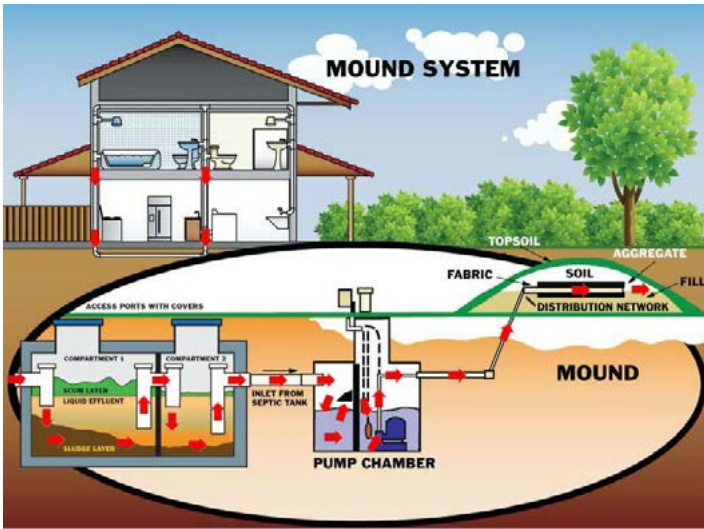
Flowers and grasses are a better choice. Suitable plants for septic systems have shallow roots, since the perforated pipes tend to be about 6 inches (15 cm.) below ground. They do tend to be spaced about 10 feet (3 m.) apart, so if you know their exact location, you have a little more leeway.

Either way, choose plants that require little maintenance and no yearly division—this will help reduce foot traffic. When planting on a septic drain field, keep digging to a minimum and always wear gloves.

Good Septic Field Plant Choices

- Butterfly weed
- Sedum
- Lily of the Nile
- Tulip
- Daffodils
- Hyacinth
- Crocus
- Foxglove
- Black eyed susan
- Primrose

printed from Gardening Know How: <https://www.gardeningknowhow.com>



Improperly Treated Sewage Can Threaten Human Health and the Environment

When septic systems fail, human and environmental health are compromised. System failure most commonly results from:

- Overuse of water in the home
- Lack of proper maintenance
- Improper system design or installation

System failure may be identified by one or more of the following:

- Sewage backup into the house
- Sewage surfacing in the yard or a ditch
- Sewage odors indoors or outdoors
- High levels of nitrates or coliform bacteria in well water tests
- Sounding of system alarms
- Algae blooms and excessive plant growth in nearby ponds or lakes

As our population grows and the demand for natural resources continues to increase, society's expectations that sewage be responsibly treated and clean water returned to the environment also increases.

Find out where your used water goes. Is it out of sight and out of mind? If your system doesn't fully treat effluent, replace it so that sewage is responsibly treated and clean water is returned to the environment.

Maintain, Repair or Replace Your Septic System

Cass County Environmental Services Department staff maintains a list of professionals in the area currently licensed by the state to conduct this specialized work. Consider interviewing your septic system professional. Make sure they are licensed, reputable and reliable by asking for and checking references.

Best Management Practices for your Septic System		
Household Plumbing	Septic Tank	Soil Treatment Area
Control water use—repair leaks, use low-water appliances and fixtures.	Pump/clean solids through tank's maintenance hole regularly (at least every 3 years). Do not remove solids through inspection pipes.	Maintain vegetative cover (turf, grass, native grasses or flowers). Mow, but do not fertilize, water or burn.
Don't overload the system—spread water usage throughout the day or week. If you have high surge use (weekend company) talk to a Septic Professional about options that will help your septic manage your lifestyle.	Install and insulate risers to maintenance hole for improved management access.	Keep heavy vehicles off area (cars, tractors, snowmobiles, boats, etc.).
Minimize use of harsh cleaners, bleach, antibacterial soaps and detergents.	Have baffles inspected when the tank is pumped.	Do not plant trees, shrubs, or deep rooted plants on or near the area.
Do not dispose of paints, medications or chemicals through your septic system.	Install an effluent screen and service as necessary.	Do not grow vegetables or locate playgrounds above the area.
Keep grease, lint, food, feminine hygiene products and plastics out of your septic system.	Do no use tank additives or cleaners.	Help prevent system freezing: inspect for cracked or missing inspection pipe covers annually; place mulch, straw or other insulating cover above soil treatment area for winter; Maintain normal daily water use over the course of winter or pump tank and discontinue use until spring; and consider insulating cold air access points.

Never Enter a Septic Tank!

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
- 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.

Thank you!

TREASURER/MEMBERSHIP REPORT

by **Brian Roos** *Treasurer*

The General Account started our fiscal year on July 1, 2023 with \$7,346 and now stands at \$11,998. The balance includes \$5,220 in accumulated donations for private walleye-stocking the odd years when the DNR doesn't stock our lake. We likely will spend funds to stock the lake this fall if we can locate fingerlings.

The Lake Protection Fund (LPF) started the year with \$15,222 and now stands at \$19,266. Many thanks for the 54 LPF donations so far amounting to \$2,905. This total also includes \$1,191 from the Silent Auction conducted at our annual meeting this summer. Thank You!

Our current membership count is only at 88. We have some work to do here. The past 5 years membership totals were 114, 131, 117, 138 and 142. Please use the attached form to mail dues and donations. Thank you.

In closing, I would like to say it is a privilege to support the Blackwater Lake Association as your Treasurer. I look forward to meeting everyone. My wife Sharon and I are now permanent residents on Blackwater. A big **THANK YOU** goes out to our former treasurer Linda Burns who left very large shoes to fill!

OUR FOREST TREASURES (CONT'D)

When you walk through a forest, you probably see a lot of what's happening at about eye level. But that's just a tiny slice of the picture.

The forest ecosystem stretches all the way from the tops of the highest trees to the tips of their deepest roots. Though the specifics vary from forest to forest, each layer has its own stories to tell.

- The **canopy**, or top layer, is the powerhouse of the forest. Here millions of leaves combine sunlight, carbon dioxide and water to create food for themselves and the rest of the ecosystem. Canopy critters in a northern Minnesota forest may include northern flying squirrels, red-eyed vireos and tent caterpillars.
- In the **understory** (subcanopy), the layer directly beneath the canopy, smaller trees such as balsam fir pick up whatever light trickles through. Here, squirrels and a variety of birds make their homes.
- The **shrub layer**, from about head height on down, is home to small woody plants such as hazel and raspberry, as well as to deer, bears and other animals. Mosquitoes and blackflies may flourish here.
- Closer to the ground, the **herb layer** is the flower garden of the forest. Insects, chipmunks and other ground dwellers thrive among plants such as big-leaved aster and bracken fern that make up this layer.
- The **forest floor** is the domain of decomposers—worms, bacteria, fungi, insects and others. These creatures make their way in life by recycling bits and pieces of once-living things into raw materials that can once again be used to support new life.



FUN FACT

Minnesota is the proud home of one of the rare exceptions to the "rules" that conifers are also evergreens. The Tamarack, found in the sprawling peat bogs of the north, bears its seeds in cones but sheds all of its needles in the winter.



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."

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The Blackwater Blurb

Blackwater Lake Association Newsletter

3058 4th Avenue NW

Longville, MN 56655

MEMBERSHIP FORM July 1, 2023–December 31, 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!!!