



Blackwater Burb



<http://blackwaterlake.mnlakesanddrivers.org>

Spring/Summer 2024

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.

HELP PROTECT OUR STATE BIRD

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

Did you know?

- Minnesota has more common loons than any other state except Alaska
- Loons can fly more than 75 miles per hour and weight between 8-12 pounds
- They can stay under water for up to five minutes
- Scientists think loons can live for 30 years or more

Let's keep the call of the loons echoing across Blackwater!

In this Issue...

- Protect Our State Bird
- Meet Your Lake Neighbor
- Living with Wildlife—Minnesota's Woodpeckers
- Your Blackwater Lake Association at Work

Mark your 2024 Calendar...

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

Cabin Coffees on Blackwater!!

Meet and visit with your Lake Neighbors and see cabins from the inside out. *Bring your own mug.* 2nd Friday of the month 10:00am-11:00am.



June 14th: Please Consider Hosting. Contact Shannon Klundt at 320-333-0663 if you're interested.

July 12th: Bob & Becky Seemann. On Blackwater's South Side, 2608 6th Ave, NW. RSVP to 651-245-6436/email becky.seemann@icloud.com

Aug 9th: Tom & Robin Shannon. On Blackwater's West Side, 2689 Blackwater Road NW. RSVP: rspnp@comcast.net



Participate in the 4th of July Boat Parade!

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

by **Cindy Larson**

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

1. TEXT Cindy at 763-760-3145—include Family Name, Phone number, Theme
2. Cindy will reply with your ENTRY NUMBER
3. You create signs 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)
2. One vote per person, either on shore or boat; One text per household—can contain multiple votes
3. Voting opens 15 minutes following end of parade
4. Winner will be notified after votes are tabulated

Greetings to all owners and friends of Blackwater Lake Association

We are doing well in our 28th year as an Association. It takes a village to help keep this lake the gem that it is. I hope your winter has gone well and you are as excited as I am to get back to spending time on our Great Lake.

The first thing I would like to bring to your attention is that the Board has decided to change our fiscal year to align with the actual calendar year of January 1 to December 31. This means that all of you that have been so kind to become members of our Association to help keep our lake the pristine waters that it is—will be asked to support our lake with your membership dues of \$40 on January 1, 2025.

We have an opening for hosting the June Cabin Coffee. If you are interested in hosting, it's a great opportunity to meet people on the lake. Please contact me if you're interested.

We continue to work 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. Please consider volunteering for this important work.



Regarding Fish Stocking, thanks to all who have donated to this fund. This year the DNR is stocking as this year 2024 is an even number. That means we are not allowed to stock as an association. Last year, the Fishing Committee on the Board decided to wait until 2025 to use our Walleye Stocking Funds to purchase larger stocking walleyes rather than feeding fry to the bass. Currently, we have \$6,020 in our Walleye Stocking Fund. We will make sure those dollars are spent in the most logical way possible to achieve our goal as an Association that the walleyes we stock have the best chance of surviving.

Our goals as an 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 and we will discuss it. See names and contact information below. Let's try our very best to keep our lake as clean and pristine as possible. If you see something that concerns you, please let us

know. As we have said, we can't always fix the problems, but we can discuss them.

Mark Your Calendars...

- Boat Parade: Thursday, July 4th, 2pm
- Annual Meeting & Lunch: Sat., July 20th, 9am
- Summer Cabin Coffees held the second Friday of the month in June, July and August



Lets try our very best to keep our lake as clean and pristine as possible.

Be well and see you on the water!!

Shannon

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
Vice-Chairperson	Carolyn Dindorf	763-537-9077
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	218-682-3007
Director	Scott Agre	913-219-5021
Director-at-Large	Rick Zbikowski	612-357-3099
Director-Past Chair	Lloyd Thielmann	763-226-4945

Healthy Lakes Committee: Lloyd Thielmann, Scott Agre, Carolyn Dindorf and Pat McKee

Secchi Disk Readings: Jim Sletten, Carolyn Dindorf, 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



Meet Your Lake Neighbors: Matt and Ann Lamb

by Becky Seemann

Living in Colorado for the last 26 years, Matt and Ann Lamb decided to relocate to Northern Minnesota to be closer to Ann’s parents who are 89 and 92 years old. As soon as they discovered Blackwater Lake thanks to a realtor, they fell in love with the amazing lake and their cabin. And it’s been a year now that they’ve been living full-time on Blackwater’s southwest side.

Ann grew up in small towns across the Northwoods and Matt grew up in Asia, but enjoyed spending vacations on his grandparent’s remote island in northern Wisconsin. They’ve always dreamed of owning a lake home in the forest. “This is a dream come true,” they said.

The two say that living on Blackwater is life in full-time vacation mode. They love everything about Blackwater—

from sitting on the dock watching the world go by to boating on the lake. Or relaxing on the porch with a cup of tea or glass of wine while enjoying the variety of visiting birds, listening to the calls of the loons and enjoying the wildlife parading past.

“The wildlife here is amazing. From the loons and bald eagles, to all of the other animals we’ve seen this past year: deer, chipmunks, raccoons, woodchucks, fox, coyotes, wolves, bear, beaver, muskrats, and lots of squirrels. Most recently, we saw a fisher dash across our property and a snapping turtle swim past our dock.”

Matt continues to travel for his work in the retail banking industry and says it’s hard to leave Blackwater. Ann is delighted to be retired and living at the lake full-time after enjoying a career

in insurance customer service and marketing. She spends fun times with their four charming yet sometimes mischievous cats named Emma, Carson, Gordon and Tucker. Like most folks, there are always cabin projects. What’s on their list: repair the driveway, get a new roof and clean up dead trees. But mostly they are just enjoying life and one of these days they’ll get to the projects.

Best of all, they are grateful for all the kind and caring neighbors who have welcomed them so warmly to the Blackwater Lake community.



2024 Annual Meeting

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

WHEN: Saturday, July 20th, 9:00-12:00

WHERE: Woodrow Township Hall

Silent Auction at July 20th Annual Meeting

We will hold a Silent Auction at our July 20th 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 612-991-3041 or Kathy Zbikowski at 612-961-8957.

Living With Wildlife—Minnesota's Woodpeckers

by **Becky Seemann** (compiled from the Minnesota DNR & Wild Bird Scoop/Minnesota Woodpeckers)

Some Minnesota birds are inclined to migrate south for the winter. They risk their lives undertaking perilous journeys across states, countries, and entire continents and oceans. Yet nine woodpeckers stick it out in our winters. No fair-weather fans, these creatures rival and even surpass the hardest of humans as we await the coming of spring. How many of these unique creatures do you occasionally see or hear?



Pileated Woodpecker

Roughly the size of a crow, the pileated woodpecker is a showstopper. With a flaming red crest, dagger-like peak and jet-black body with white racing stripes, this bird really stands out.

It's voice is just as exuberant, characterized by a loud, ringing series of keek notes or singular chicken-like clucks. When it drums, the powerful knocks can be heard from a distance and can be mistaken for construction equipment. The cavities that it drills tend to have a rectangular shape. If you're eager to spot a pileated woodpecker, take a stroll through mature, coniferous woodlands and take a look up at the sky. You never know what might be soaring above you.

Downy Woodpecker

Reaching a length of under 7" as an adult, the downy woodpecker is the smallest. A common winter visitor to suet feeders, it also forages for natural food sources for insects and larvae in tree trunks and thicker branches. Males can be separated from females by the color of the back of the head. In males, there is a bright red patch, whereas in females this same area is black. Both sexes frequently give sharp, emphatic chin notes or a longer series of descending notes.



Hairy Woodpecker

The hairy woodpecker is basically a larger version of the downy. Although the size difference is significant, telling these two species apart can be difficult when they are not near each other. The hairy woodpecker has a longer beak. The outer tail feathers of hairy are completely white, whereas the downy are spotted with black. The hairy woodpecker isn't a migratory bird, so if you're in Minnesota year-round, you'll likely catch a glimpse of one. But if the weather begins to reach bitterly cold temperatures, expect the hairy to head south until it's warm again.

Woodpecker Control

Several tactics may be used to discourage woodpeckers from damaging your house. Plug and camouflage existing holes with rope caulk, silly putty, floral clay or similar material. Be sure to seal tunnels used by leaf-cutting bees to exclude them.

Visual or sound repellents should be used ASAP before the birds territories become well established. Visual repellents include plastic toy twirlers (whirligigs), windmills, hanging pie pans, hanging aluminum foil steamers, and Bird Scare reflecting tape.

Bird Scare Balloons—Place balloon in front of the affected area. Leave balloon up for a week. Balloons are reusable. Please ensure they are well-tied and don't end up a wildlife hazard.

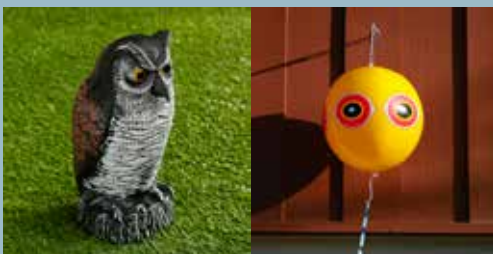
Bird Scare Tape—Tack and suspend several long streamers above the affected surface about a foot apart. It's important that they move in the wind.

Fake Owls—Place 10-15" high in a visible spot on the edge of house roof, upper deck railing, etc.

Pie Tins and CDs—Attach pie tins or old CDs to a string and hang in front of affected areas. Tins and discs should spin in the wind.

Linseed oil—Best for small pea-sized holes. Fill a hand-held oil can with linseed oil, an oil base for wood stains. Squirt a small amount of the oil in each opening. This kills the insects that are attracting the woodpeckers. Fill in hole with color-matched wood putty.

Suet—Using suet as an alternative food to lure woodpeckers away from the house is a real gamble, but sometimes it works. Suet is not a natural food for woodpeckers, but they may respond to it. However, it could backfire by attracting additional woodpeckers, especially in winter.





Red-Bellied Woodpecker

Bird names don't always seem to make sense, and the red-bellied woodpecker is an example. It's obvious trait is the thick red stripe that continues from its back, over its head, and down its hind neck to where the black/white barring of its back begins. One would think it should be called a red-headed woodpecker, but that name is reserved for a different species that has an entirely red head. Instead the red-bellied woodpecker is named for the pinkish-patch of feathers in the center of its belly.

Northern Flicker

Our 2nd largest woodpecker, the northern flicker has one of the longest tongues in the bird world and uses it to lap up ants off the ground like an anteater. This is why you'll more often see flickers hopping around lawns and gardens. Oddly enough for a woodpecker, they're not quite fond of hammering away at trees; instead, they prefer to look for food on the ground.

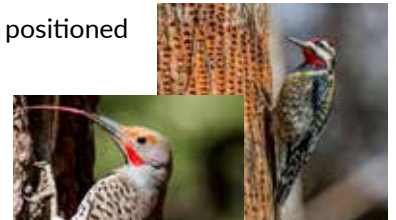


Red-Headed Woodpecker

It's head is entirely crimson-red. This striking feature and contrasting pattern of black & white body plumage make this bird one of our most visually distinctive woodpeckers. These medium-sized woodpeckers prefer to spend their days in Minnesota's woodlands, and its diet consists of mostly insects and a few fruits, like berries.

Yellow-Bellied Sapsucker

This bird drills holes in tree trunks and feeds on the sap that flows out of them. These holes are positioned so uniformly that the bark of a tree can appear to be punctured like a peg board, a sure sign that a sapsucker has been there. The thing about the Yellow-Bellied Sapsucker is that they can only be found in Minnesota during their migration and breeding seasons. During such seasons, these woodpeckers are likely to be east of the state. They tend to nest in forested areas, but they change places depending on the season. As you've probably guessed by its name, this bird feeds on sap, but it also likes insects and fruits.



Black-Backed and American Three-Toed Woodpeckers

The most northerly of our woodpeckers are bog birds and are often found drilling into the wood of spruces, tamaracks and other lowland conifers in search of beetle larvae. They almost never visit feeders. Both species are attracted to recently burned forests where they feed on abundant invertebrates and make their nesting cavities.



*Death leaves heartaches
No one can heal.
Memories are treasures
No one can steal.*

—Anonymous

In Memorial...

Louis F. Branca, age 94, of Rochester, MN died January 6, 2023.

Colleen K. Grapentin, age 84, of St. Cloud, MN passed away peacefully surrounded by her family on January 20, 2024.

Wayne Langen, age 84, of Kennedy, MN died February 6, 2024.

Paul Isak Norman, age 84, of Longville, MN died February 29, 2024.

Carl W. Seemann, DVM, age 100 and 1 day short of turning 101, from Bemidji, MN, died January 4, 2024.

Your Blackwater Lake Association At Work

Many Thanks!

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 2024-2025.

TREASURER/MEMBERSHIP REPORT

by Brian Roos *Treasurer*

Treasury: Our Blackwater Lake Association's financial health is solid. We have \$6,133 currently in our general account to fund known activities and obligations through the end of 2024. This will support the change to the calendar year accounting going forward.

With the stability of the lake and status of our Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) management, we have built up a nice reserve in the Lake Protection Fund. The total LPF account is \$20,321. With higher interest rates, we now have over \$19,000 of this invested in 7-9 month CD's. This will build additional resources to help ensure we are ready for that inevitable need.

In addition, we have \$6,020 earmarked for walleye stocking. No fingerlings were available to purchase last fall. Therefore, we also invested \$5,000 of the walleye account into a CD to support future stocking. Much more to come here. Thanks again to all our members and friends for their support of our wonderful lake.

Membership: The Blackwater Lake Association is switching to Calendar Year Memberships and Accounting. This year we are transitioning from our fiscal year (July 1st-June 30th) accounting to the calendar year for both memberships and our financial process. Tactically, this means any current 2023-2024 memberships will be extended beyond June 30th to December 31st, 2024. We're excited about this change that will simplify the tracking of our membership process and financial reporting!

This change will eliminate a significant source of duplicate membership submittals and the extra efforts to clean these up. In the past, some members have renewed their active membership unnecessarily after the new year turns. By aligning our membership cycle with the calendar year, this will be consistent with how most of us view our annual activities.

Our current membership is 119. For reference, the past five year membership totals were 114, 131, 117, 138 and 142 (2018-2019). If you haven't renewed your membership, we would love to have your support. Please see the list of current members on page 7.

We understand that any change can take some adjustment. We will be providing reminders throughout the year. In the meantime, please don't hesitate to reach out to me with any questions. Again, thank you for your understanding and continued support! Please send your membership dues of \$40 to BLA, Inc., Attn: Brian Roos, Treasurer, 729 28th Street NW, Hackensack, MN 56452. Sincerely, Brian Roos, Treasurer, Blackwater Lake Association, roosbk@gmail.com

Thank You To Our Generous Members & Donors

Association Members 2023-2024 (extended through the end of 2024)

- Aaker, Douglas and Rebecca
- Aaker, Steve and Janine
- Agre, Scott and Elizabeth
- Alton, Ann - Judge, Ret.
- Bahr, Ben and Jean
- Bakker, Douglas
- Bangasser, Timothy and Maggie
- Brochhagen, Craig
- Burg, Andrea
- Davis, Darwin
- Dindorf, Carolyn
- Dingman, Dale and Donna
- Doneux, Mark and Brenda
- Duppong, Mike and Barb
- Ellefsen, Tom and Vanessa
- English, Jean
- Farland, Jon
- Fortman, Mike and Mary
- Franke, Jerry and Yvonne
- Freiderich, Lorretta and Michelle
- Gamrath, Tim and Kristin
- Gaspord, Dennis and Dot
- Goers, Bill and Vicky
- Gothier, Kelly and Pam
- Hatch Family Cabin
- Hiemenz, Duane and Melinda
- Hunt, Larry and Carla
- Hunter, Carol Beth
- Huso, Nathan and Trocke, Theresa
- Jacobson, Tom and Nadeen
- Jarboe, Randy and Judith
- Jerry's One Stop, Scott and Karen Carpenter
- Johnson, Jack and Ruth
- Karpinsky, Herbert and Joan
- Keaveny, Jan
- Klundt, Shannon and Cathy
- Kujath, Sara and Hanf, Jesse
- Lamb, Matt and Ann
- Larson, Brandon and Cindy
- Laughlin, Craig and Barbie
- Lemke, Reinhold and Lorraine
- Liepert, Doug and Taimi
- Lohnes, Kirk and Tania
- Loucks, David and Janet
- Lovgren, Lee and Ann
- Marcellus, Duane
- Marr, Tim and Jan
- Martell, Sandra
- Mathiowetz, Brian and Ronda
- McKague, Brian and Stacey
- McKee, Pat and Meisner, Douglas
- Meyer, Richard and Karen
- Miller, Jim and Carolyn
- Mills, Don and Lisa
- Minge, David and Karen
- Minge, Erik and Brunetti, Tazia
- Minge, Olaf and Amy
- Mohr, Steve and Laurel
- Monroe, Jan
- Moren, Jess and Raneyl
- Moriarity, Pat and Carol
- Mutchler, Mike and Angie
- Norman, Paul
- Nutz, Kaye
- Nyquist, Jeffrey and Roberta
- Oestreich, Duane
- O'Grady, Jeff and Lynn
- Ostby, Ray and Jill; Johnson, Doug and Chris
- Otto, Duane and Gloria
- Peterson, Alwyn and Susan
- Peukert, Diane
- Poolman, Mark and LeAnne
- Preble, Jason and Jaime
- Redmann, Eldred and Harriet
- Reinert, Jason and Abbie
- Reinert, Roger and Nancy
- Reinert, Terry
- Richardson, James and Sheryl
- Rishavy, Marjorie
- Roos, Brian and Sharon
- Rosenbush, Jerry
- Rousselow, David
- Rupp, Greg and DuBé, Linda
- Rynning, Kathryn and Langen, Wayne
- Santa, John and Penny
- Schmidberger, Richard and Barbara
- Schmokel, Eileen
- Schmokel, Paul and Keri
- Schuler, Janice
- Schwerin, Elmer and Pat
- Seemann, Bob and Becky
- Shaner, Troy and Suzanne
- Shannon, Thomas and Robin
- Skalicky, Travis
- Sletten, Dan and Jen
- Sletten, Jim and Dodi
- Sletten, Wayne and Jackie
- Snetsinger, Gordon and Jan
- Spilman, Neil and Lucinda
- Sposito, Sal and Carrie
- Spurrier, James and Ristau, Suzanne
- Stalboerger, Douglas and Ann
- Staley, Tom and Geri
- Stracke, Edward and Kristin
- Suhl, Joel and Collins, Mary
- Swanson, David and Janice
- Thielmann, Lloyd and Terry
- Van Kley, Doug and Michelle
- Voeller, Larry and Susie
- Wahlstrom, Keith and Carolyn
- Weber, Sharon and Kevin
- West, Ruth
- Wethe, Brad and Marilyn
- Whebbe, Edward and Stephanie
- Wheeler, Todd and Laura
- Wibeto, Jeff and Alane
- Wink-Weinmann, Lori Ann
- Zbikowski, Rick and Kathy
- Zhan, Chad

Lake Protection Fund Donors 2023-2024

- Aaker, Douglas and Rebecca
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- Alton, Ann - Judge, Ret.
- Bahr, Ben and Jean
- Brochhagen, Craig
- Burg, Andrea
- Davis, Darwin
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- Mathiowetz, Brian and Ronda
- McKee, Pat and Meisner, Douglas
- Meyer, Richard and Karen
- Mills, Don and Lisa
- Minge, David and Karen
- Mohr, Steve and Laurel
- Monroe, Jan
- Moriarity, Pat and Carol
- Nyquist, Jeffrey and Roberta
- Oestreich, Duane
- Ostby, Ray and Jill; Johnson, Doug and Chris
- Redmann, Eldred and Harriet
- Reinert, Jason and Abbie
- Reinert, Terry
- Roos, Brian and Sharon
- Rosenbush, Jerry
- Rynning, Kathryn and Langen, Wayne
- Seemann, Bob and Becky
- Shaner, Troy and Suzanne
- Shannon, Thomas and Robin
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- Sletten, Jim and Dodi
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- Weber, Sharon and Kevin
- Zbikowski, Rick and Kathy

Walleye Stocking Donors 2023-2024

- Aaker, Steve and Janine
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- Moriarity, Pat and Carol
- Nyquist, Jeffrey and Roberta
- Oestreich, Duane
- O'Grady, Jeff and Lynn
- Poolman, Mark and LeAnne
- Preble, Jason and Jaime
- Reinert, Jason and Abbie
- Reinert, Roger and Nancy
- Richardson, James and Sheryl
- Roos, Brian and Sharon
- Rupp, Greg and DuBé, Linda
- Sletten, Dan and Jen
- Staley, Tom and Geri
- Suhl, Joel and Collins, Mary
- Swanson, David and Janice
- Thielmann, Lloyd and Terry
- Van Kley, Doug and Michelle
- Wahlstrom, Keith and Carolyn
- Zbikowski, Rick and Kathy

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

thank you!

The Blackwater Blurb

Blackwater Lake Association Newsletter

3058 4th Avenue NW

Longville, MN 56655

In This Issue...

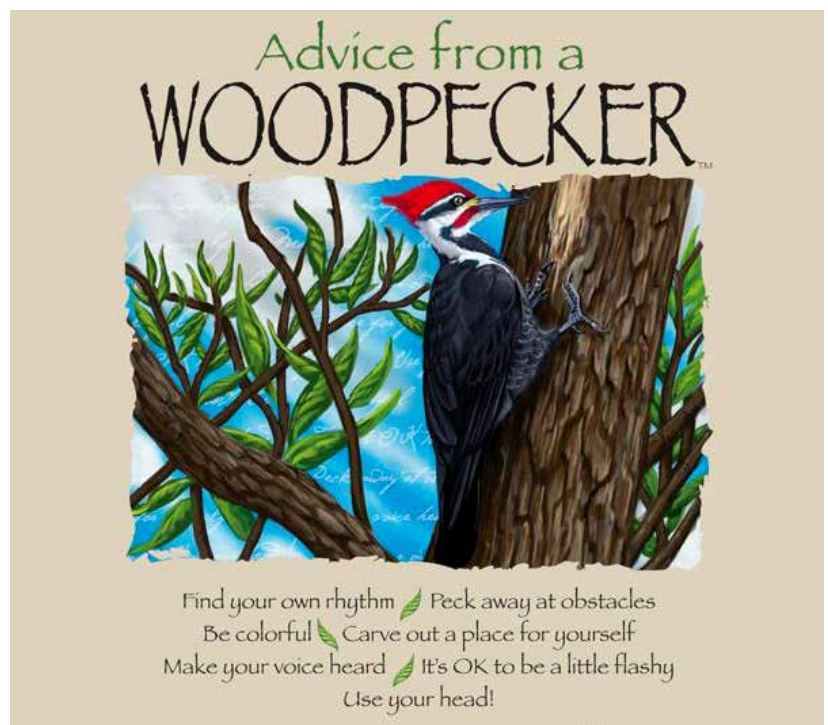
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Visit our website at: <http://blackwaterlakemnlakesanddrivers.org>

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