

# Blackwater Blurb



http://blackwaterlake.mnlakesandrivers.org

SPRING/SUMMER 2025

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...

- Swim Like an Otter
- Youth Fishing Day
- Turtles—Protect, Enhance & Restore Their Habitats
- Your Blackwater Lake Association at Work

### Mark your 2025 Calendar...

- Board Meetings 5/3, 6/21, 9/20
- Annual Meeting & Silent Auction 7/19

### Cabin Coffees on Blackwater!!

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

### July 11<sup>th</sup>: Pat McKee & Doug Meisner.

On Blackwater's South Side, 2642 6<sup>th</sup> Ave, NW. RSVP to 612-508-8480 or email *mcKeep@gmail.com* 

Aug 8<sup>th</sup>: Brian & Sharon Roos. On Blackwater's West Side, 729 28<sup>th</sup> Street NW RSVP to 713-306-3760 or email *roosbk@gmail.com* 

# Would You Like to Swim Like an Otter??

by Shannon Klundt (compiled from the MN Conservation Volunteer magazine)

"If you're lucky, you will occasionally see the Otters that make Blackwater Lake part of their home area. I usually see them 2-3 times a year when I'm fishing."

The River Otter known as Contra Canadensis, is born to swim. It can dive deep and stay underwater for about 8 minutes and 60 feet. This furry, seldom seen animal can swim faster than some fish. Its body is like a long



tube made of muscle with its four-short legs ending in wide, webbed feet-each with five-toes tipped with sharp claws. With its long tail working like a boat rudder steering underwater, it is extremely nimble. The Otter is a mammal and breathes air like humans. It usually swims with the top of its head above water. It can close its ears and nostrils to keep out water.



"I have lost a few minnow buckets full of minnows before I bought a minnow bucket with a locking door. If your minnows mysteriously disappear, there is a good chance you fed the Otters!"

# Participate in the 4th of July Boat Parade!

2:00 pm, Friday, July 4
Starts at Little Blackwater, going clockwine
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 closes 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 30<sup>th</sup> 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.

would like to thank all of you who have become members of the Blackwater Lake Association. And I would also like to thank those of you who have contributed to the Lake Protection Fund and the Walleye Stocking Fund. I would like to remind you that last year the board decided to change our fiscal year t o align with the actual year of January 1 to December 31. This means that all of you have been so kind to become members of our association to help keep our lake the pristine waters that it is. The next time we ask and hope that you will continue to support our lake will be January 2, 2026.

We continue trying 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!

On the topic of walleye stocking, thanks to all that have donated to this fund. Sometime within days of this date, 336 pounds of walleyes measuring 6 to 12 inches will be placed into Blackwater Lake at the public landing by a company located near Alexandria. The Board of Directors Fishing Committee decided to purchase larger stocked walleyes rather than feeding the bass fry-sized fish. The cost for this walleye stocking was \$6,720, and was totally funded by those of you who donated to the walleye stocking fund. This leaves \$3,385 in the walleye stocking fund to be used for future stocking in two years. We all hope that this effort, along with past years stocking will improve the walleye fishing in our great lake.

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 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 can discuss them.



#### Mark Your Calendars...

- Boat Parade: Friday, July 4th, 2pm
- Annual Meeting & Lunch: Sat., July 19th, 9am
- Summer Cabin Coffees held the second Friday of the month in June, July and August

We have an opening for hosting the June Cabin Coffee. If you are interested in hosting, it's a great opportunity to meet your neighbors. We typically get between 20-25 people attending. Please contact me if you're interested.



Let's 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	Water Quality & Healthy Lakes Committee:
Vice-Chairperson	Carolyn Dindorf	763-537-9077	Lloyd Thielmann, Scott Agre, Carolyn
Secretary	Dodi Sletten	612-991-3041	Dindorf, Pat McKee, Brian Roos and Rick Zibikowski
Treasurer	Brian Roos	713-306-3760	Membership & Communications: Becky
Director	Becky Seemann	651-245-6436	Seemann, Brian Roos, Dodi Sletten and
Director	Barb Laughlin	612-875-1005	Shannon Klundt
Director	Pat McKee	612-508-8480	<b>Fish Management:</b> Shannon Klundt, Lloyd Thielmann, Scott Agre, Brian Roos, Rick
Director	Scott Agre	913-219-5021	Zbikowski
Director-at-Large	Rick Zbikowski	612-357-3099	New Members Packet: Becky Seemann
Director-Past Chair	Lloyd Thielmann	763-226-4945	Web Master: Scott Agre

# **Blackwater Lake Youth Fishing Day**

Featured on the first page of the Pine Cone Press-Citizen, Longville

he Youth Fishing Setup Giveaway on Blackwater Lake for children and grandchildren of cabin owners was held on August 10th, 2024—an event hosted by the Blackwater Lake Association.

Thirty fishing rods, poles, tackle boxes and an assortment of tackle was given to the kids. They were all excited to call this equipment their own. Kids and adults were also told how to identify aquatic invasive species/AIS and how to protect our lakes from AIS spread.

**One Stop** in Longville donated money, with a matching amount from the Blackwater Lake Association Board of Directors.



"My Grandson's success!!"

# Volunteers Needed!!



Anticipating the fishing tackle give-away.



quatic Invasive species/AIS are all around us in nearby lakes. Please consider becoming an AIS volunteer to help us keep an eye out for them. The role includes checking a designated area twice per year. Training and equipment are provided. You will have an opportunity to bring samples to Carolyn Dindorf, Limnologist, who is located on Blackwater for identification..

# In Memorial...

**Herbert J. Karpinsky**, age 89, of Mankato, MN died June 16, 2024.

**Joan C. Karpinsky**, age 89, of Mankato, MN died September 13, 2024.





# 2025 Annual Meeting



**IT'S A GREAT TIME TOGETHER!** 

Place your bids for the Silent Auction. Coffee and lunch provided.

WHEN: Saturday, July 19th, 9:00-12:00

WHERE: Woodrow Township Hall

### Silent Auction at July 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting

We will hold a Silent Auction at our July 19th 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.

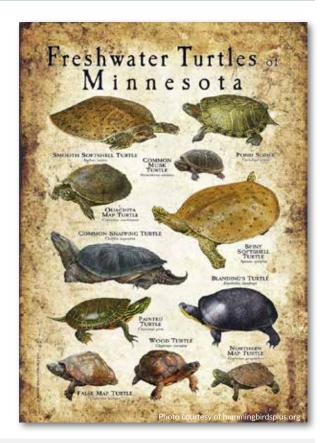
# Turtles–Protect, Enhance & Restore Their Habitats

by Becky Seemann (compiled from the Minnesota DNR

# Did You Know???

- The USA has more native turtle species than any country on Earth.
- Some Minnesota turtles can live to be 85 years old.
- A female turtle may produce as many as 500 eggs during her life.
- More than 50,000 Painted Turtles have been harvested annually in Minnesota.
- All turtles lay their eggs on land, which makes them vulnerable to human activity and predators.
- All turtles are "protected wild animals" under Minnesota state law.

In Minnesota, 44% of turtle species are listed as threatened or species of special concern. The majority of threats to turtles are caused by humans, which also means that we can work together to address turtle conservation issues and help to ensure the continued survival of these important animals. With careful stewardship we will help protect these remarkable, long-living creatures!







## **Major Cause of Turtle Decline**

#### Habitat Loss and Degradation-

Habitat of turtles includes the water where they live and the surrounding land where they nest. Often turtles do not travel far from these home ranges. These areas can be negatively affected by human shoreline alteration, wetland loss and development of habitat for homes or agriculture. Turtles need sunny, open areas to lay their eggs. Planting sod or trees along shorelines can force females to travel further to lay their eggs or near unsuitable sites such as along roads or in crop fields.

#### **Protecting Turtle Nests-**

Attacking or plundering turtle nests usually occurs within 48 hours after the eggs are laid. Most eggs are eaten by predators or occasionally nests are lost to flooding. Nests more than a week old probably do not need additional protection, unless they are in a particularly vulnerable spot.

Turtles lay their eggs in May and June. Turtle egg incubation takes 2-3 months and some hatchlings will not come out until the following spring. For more information on protecting turtle nests: contact *mndnr. gov/reptiles\_amphibians/turtles*.

# Helping Turtles Cross the Road

Turtle mortality is most commonly seen on roads. However, that is not the only place they are inadvertently killed. Turtles are victims of agricultural machinery and fishing practices. Also, predators such as raccoons and skunks go after turtle nests.

- Leave them alone if they are not in danger. Turtles crossing roads in late-May and June are often moving to familiar nesting locations. They know where they are going.
- Don't put yourself or others in danger. Simply pulling off the road and turning your hazard lights may alert other drivers to slow down.
- If you decide to help the turtle cross the road, turn on your signal, slowly pull off the road, turn on your hazard lights and watch for approaching traffic.
- Pick up the turtle by the back of its shell, not by the tail because picking up a turtle by the tail can damage their spinal cord.
- Use caution when handling turtles. All turtles can bite, but Snapping Turtles and Spiny Softshells bit harder and more often.
- Snapping Turtles can be moved with a snow shovel. Other options include picking them up by their hind legs or having them bite down on a stick and carefully dragging them to safety.
- Move the turtle in the direction it is heading. Do not relocate the turtle to a new area, even if the habitat seems unsuitable.
- Wash your hands after handling a turtle.

### **Actions We Can Take**

- Protect nesting areas such as sandbars and upland nesting sites.
- Minimize mowing until late summer, especially at known nesting sites.
- Avoid use of riprap and retaining walls, as these are major turtle barriers.
- Protect water quality by reducing chemical usage, choose least toxic chemicals and avoid drift.
- Reduce stormwater runoff by installing rain gardens, storm water retention ponds, or landscaping with natural vegetation.
- Stop aquatic hitchhikers-drain, inspect boats and equipment, remove invasive species.



Painted Turtle–ranges from black to dark olive green with a smooth and shiny upper shell. The belly surface varies from red to orange and legs and head are black with yellow stripes.

© MNDNR









Snapping Turtle–with a large head, long-ridged tail, powerful jaws, and a small under shell, they have a beak-like mouth instead of teeth. Snapping turtles are known for their aggressive temperament and can reach up to 19 inches and weigh over 85 pounds.







Spiny Softshell Turtle–with a brown to olive-green upper shell, the females are blotched and the males are uniformly colored with dark spots. The shell is round and leathery and the belly surface is white to cream.

# 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 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 2025.



### **TREASURER/MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

by Brian Roos Treasurer

**reasury:** Our Blackwater Lake Association's financial health is solid. We have \$6,334 currently in our general checking account. This will fund known activities and obligations through the end of 2025. We have some large expenses coming up, including the design, printing and mailing of this Blurb.

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 of the LPF accounts is \$25,195. With higher interest rates, we continue to have most of this invested in 7-9 month CD's. This will build additional resources to help ensure we are ready for that inevitable need. While this seems like a large amount, other lake associations have greatly exceeded this amount once they have a major challenge.

Finally, we have a \$10,105 balance in our Walleye Stocking accounts. \$6,720 of this is now committed for walleye stocking this quarter. This will leave us with a little over \$3,000 to again invest in 7-9 month CD's. Per our plan, we will stock walleye again in calendar year 2027, alternating years with the DNR.

Thanks again to all our members and friends for your support of our wonderful lake! Brian Roos, Treasurer, 713-306-3760

**embership:** Our current paid membership to date is 116. For reference, the past five-year membership totals were 124, 114, 131, 117, and 138 (2019-2020). If you haven't renewed your membership, we would love to have your support. Please see the list of current members included herein. Thank you for your 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**

Lake Protection Fund Donors

Aaker, Steve and Geeg

Branca, Dennis and Emilie

Brochhagen, Craig Burg-Pfutzenreuter, Andrea

Collins, Mary and Suhl, Joel

Westerdahl-Delaney, Elaine

Dingman, Dale and Donna Doneux, Mark and Brenda

Duppong, Mike and Barb Ellefsen, Tom and Vanessa

Gaspord, Dennis and Dot Goers, Bill and Vicky

Grapentin, Linda and Kelly

Gustafson, Jay and Missy Hatch Family Cabin LLC

Jansen, Michael and Carrie

Jarboe, Randy and Judith

Lemke, Rein and Lorraine

Mathiowetz, Brian & Ronda

Meisner, Douglas and McKee, Pat Meyer, Richard and Karen

Minge, David and Karen Mohr, Steve and Laurel

O'Grady, Jeff and Lynn

Reinert, Jason and Abbie

Reinert, Roger and Nancy

Roos, Brian and Sharon Rosenbush, Jerry

Peterson, Al and Sue

Moriarity, Pat and Carol Nyquist, Jeffrey and Roberta

Redmann, Eldred and Harriet

Rynning, Kathryn & Timothy Schmokel, Paul and Keri Schmokel, Scott and June Seemann, Bob and Becky

Shannon, Thomas and Robin Skalicky, Travis Sletten, Wayne and Jackie

Spilman, Neil and Lucinda Stracke, Edward and Kristin

Thielmann, Lloyd and Terry

Trettel, Mark and Johnson,

Voeller, Larry and Susie Wahlstrom, Keith and

Weber, Sharon and Kevin

Wethe, Brad and Marilyn

Zbikowski, Rick and Kathy

Van Kley, Doug and Michelle

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Elizabeth

Carolyn

Shaner, Troy and Suzanne

Mills, Don and Lisa

Monroe, Jan

Liepert, Doug and Taimi Marcellus, Duane

Koegel, Erin and Steve

Langston, Howard and

Lamb, Matt and Ann

Gothier, Kelly and Pam

Bahr, Ben and Jean

Bakker, Douglas

Davis, Darwin Delaney, Mike &

Dindorf, Carolyn

Dube', Linda L

English, Jean

Howden, Bill

Carole

2025 (65 Total)

Walleye Stocking Donors

Aaker, Steve and Janine

Amy, Brian and Theresa

Burg-Pfutzenreuter, Andrea Carpenter, Scott and Karen

Collins, Mary and Suhl, Joel

Davis, Darwin Dingman, Donna and Dale

Doneux, Mark and Brenda

Duppong, Mike and Barb Ellefsen, Tom and Vanessa

Farland, Jon Gustafson, Jay and Missy

Huso, Nathan and Trocke,

Jansen, Michael and Carrie

Jarboe, Randy and Judith Johnson, Jack and Ruth

Juetten, Brad and Heather

Meyer, Richard and Karen

Moriarity, Pat and Carol Nyquist, Jeffrey and Roberta

Koegel, Erin and Steve Lamb, Matt and Ann

Moren, Jess and Raneyl

O'Grady, Jeff and Lynn Reinert, Jason and Abbie

Reinert, Roger and Nancy

Reinert, Terry Reis, Joeseph and Jessica

Richardson, James and

Roos, Brian and Sharon

Schmokel, Paul and Keri Skalicky, Travis Sletten, Dan and Jen Sletten, Wayne and Jackie

Snetsinger, Gordon and

Spilman, Neil and Lucinda

Swanson, David and Janice

Thielmann, Lloyd and Terry

Wethe, Brad and Marilyn

Zbikowski, Rick and Kathy

Our sincere apology if

vour name was omitted

or misspelled. Please let

us know and it will be

corrected in future issues.

Thank You!

Van Kley, Doug and Michelle Wahlstrom, Keith and

Sheryl

Janice

Carolyn

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Oestreich, Duane

Hatch Family Cabin

2025 (49 Total)

Bakker, Douglas

Brochhagen, Craig

Dokman, Thomas

English, Jean

Howden, Bill

Theresa

#### 2025 Paid BLA Memberships as of May 1, 2025 (116 Total)

- Aaker, Douglas and Rebecca
- Aaker, Steve and Geeg
- Agre, Scott and Elizabeth
- Ahlberg, Diane
- Amy, Brian and Theresa
- Bahr, Benjamin and Jean
- Bahr, Gary and Linda
- Bakker, Douglas
- Bangasser, Timothy and Margaret
- Branca, Dennis and Emilie
- Brandt, Kara and Shawn
- Brochhagen, Craig
- Burg-Pfutzenreuter, Andrea
- Carpenter, Scott and Karen
- Collins, Mary and Suhl, Joel
- Davis, Darwin
- Delaney, Mike and
- Westerdahl-Delaney, Elaine Dindorf, Carolyn
- Dingman, Dale and Donna
- Doneux, Mark and Brenda
- Dube'. Linda L.
- Duppong, Mike and Barb
- Ellefsen, Tom and Vanessa
- English, Jean
- Farland, Jon
- Fleigle, Mark and Connie
- Freiderich, Michelle
- Gardell, Richard
- Gaspord, Dennis and Dot
- Goers, Bill and Vicky
- Gothier, Kelly and Pam
- Grapentin, Linda and Kelly
- Gustafson, Jay and Missy
- Hannay, Phillip and Kubal, Katherine
- Hatch Family Cabin LLC/ Tracy Davis, Kellie Lewis, Michelle Hatch
- Howden, Bill
- Huso, Nathan and Trocke, Theresa
- Jansen, Michael and Carrie
- Jarboe, Randy and Judith
- Johnson, Jack and Ruth
- Juetten, Brad and Heather
- Keaveny, Jan
- Klundt, Shannon and Cathy
- Koegel, Erin and Steve
- Lamb. Matt and Ann
- Langston, Howard Carole
- Larson, Brandon and Cindy
- Laughlin, Craig and Barbie
  - Lemke, Rein and Lorraine
- Liepert, Doug and Taimi
- Lovgren, Lee and Ann
- Marcellus, Duane
- Marr, Tim and Jan
- Mathiowetz, Brian and Rhonda-Jane
- Mazacek, Thomas and Sally
- McKague, Brian and Stacey
- Meisner, Douglas and McKey, Pat
- 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
- Moeller, Peter and Shawn
- Mohr. Steve and Laurel
- Monroe, Jan
- Moren, Jess and Raneyl
- Moriarity, Pat and Carol
- Nyquist, Jeffrey and Roberta
- Oestreich, Duane
- O'Grady, Jeff and Lynn
- Otto, Duane and Gloria
- Peterson, Al and Sue
- Redmann, Eldred and Harriet
- Rehor, Rvan and Rehor, Sara
- Reinert, Jason and Abbie
- Reinert, Roger and Nancy
- Reinert, Terry
- Reis, Joeseph and Jessica
- Richardson, James and
- Sheryl Roos, Brian and Sharon
- Rosenbush, Jerry
- Rynning, Kathryn & Timothy
- Santa, John and Patrice
- Schmokel, Eileen
- Schmokel, Paul and Keri
- Schmokel, Scott and June
- Schmokel, Shelley and
- Joscher, Allen
- Schwerin, Patricia
- Seemann, Bob and Becky
  - Shaner. Joel and Kathy
  - Shaner, Troy and Suzanne
  - Shannon, Thomas and Robin

Snetsinger, Gordon and Jan

Spilman, Neil and Lucinda

Swanson, David and Janice

Thielmann, Lloyd and Terry

Trettel, Mark and Johnson,

Van Kley, Doug and Michelle

Thorn, Chuck and Kris

Voeller, Larry and Susie

Weber, Sharon and Kevin

Wink-Weinmann, Lori Ann

Wermerskirchen, Thomas

Westerberg, Wayne and

Wethe, Brad and Marilyn

Whebbe, Edward and

Wiberto, Jeff and Alane

Zbikowski, Rick and Kathy

Wahlstrom, Keith and

Elizabeth

Carolvn

and Anita

Romona

Stephanie

- Skalicky, Travis
- Sletten, Dan and Jen
- Sletten, Jim and Dodi
- Sletten, Wayne and Jackie

Stokke, Bill and Lynn

Stracke, Ed and Kris

# The Blackwater Blurb

**Blackwater Lake Association Newsletter** 

3058 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW Longville, MN 56655





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			Request contact from Board Me			
Payment	1.	Included is my/our Blackwa	ater Lake Association Membership	Membership Dues (\$40)	\$40.00	
	2.	Please consider a donation	to help protect our beautiful Lake	Lake Protection/AIS Fund	\$	
	3.	Contributions to support B	LA Walleye Stocking	Walleye Stocking Fund	\$	
	4.	Donation in Memory of:		_ Memorial Donation	\$	
				TOTAL	\$	