



Blackwater Blurb



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.

<http://blackwaterlake.mnlakesanddrivers.org>

SPRING/SUMMER 2026

In this Issue...

- Protect Our Loons
- Junior Woodchuck Camp
- Are You a Lake Steward?
- AIS Early Detection Team
- Your Blackwater Lake Association at Work

Mark your 2026 Calendar...

- Board Meetings
5/2, 6/20, 9/19
- Annual Meeting & Silent Auction Sat. 7/18

Celebrate July Lakes Appreciation Month at the Longville Library !!!

Throughout July, the library will host lake-focused activities as part of the **Libraries Love Lakes** program.

July 2, 1-2pm don't miss an aquatic invasive species/AIS workshop led by Carolyn Dindorf. Also in July, story times & activities for young children; education events with Deep Portage Conservation Reserve & others. See full event schedule at the library or visit their website: <https://krls.org-margaret-welch-memorial-library/>.

Protect Our Loons!!!

by Becky Seemann (compiled from the MN DNR)

Key Actions Include:

Keep your Distance—Observe loons from at least 200 feet away to avoid causing distress or forcing them to abandon nests, which leaves eggs vulnerable to predators and temperature changes.



Boating Safety—Maintain slow—no-wake speeds near shorelines to prevent swamping nests. Avoid nesting islands before July 15 as that is peak breeding time.



Protect Shorelines—Maintain natural vegetation on waterfront properties to provide safe nesting habitats and reduce chemical runoff into the lake.

Switch to Non-Lead Tackle—*Lead poisoning from swallowing sinkers and jigs is the leading cause of adult loon mortality.* Use tin, bismuth, titanium, or steel tackle instead. And recycle old lead tackle at county hazardous waste facilities.



Clean Up Trash—Dispose of fishing line, hooks and general trash to prevent entanglement.

Lastly, experts say if a loon shows signs of distress—like raising its wings, calling or diving repeatedly—back away!

Celebrate America's 250th Anniversary!!!!

- 2:00 pm, Saturday, July 4
- Starts at Little Blackwater, travel clockwise around the lake
- Lady Liberty will lead the Parade!!

by Barbie Laughlin

Join the 27th Annual Blackwater Lake 4th of July Boat Parade:

Boat owners are encouraged to decorate in red, white and blue to help celebrate America's 250th Anniversary (non-partisan, please). For questions, call 612-875-1005

Greetings to all Blackwater Lake Association members, neighbors and friends

Advice from a Lake:

Be clear. Make positive ripples. Look beneath the surface. Stay calm. Shore up friendships. Take time to reflect. Be full of life!

—Ilan Shamir



It is with both sadness and gratitude that I step into the role of Chair following the passing of our former leader, Shannon Klundt. Shannon's dedication and love for the lake was evident as he led the association since 2023, and we honor his legacy with deep appreciation.

Many of you know me from my time as Vice President and as a long standing board member. My family has enjoyed a cabin on the north side of the lake near the outlet for nearly 60 years. From May through October, I spend long weekends, and a few treasured weeks, at Blackwater with friends, family, and my little dog, Jasper. Like many of you, this lake is my place of peace.

Professionally, I've spent four decades studying and protecting lakes and streams. I hold a master's degree in limnology, the science of lakes and fresh water. Although I'm still working, I'm doing my best to carve out more time to be here, where my passion for lakes began.

I want to extend heartfelt thanks to our Board of Directors for their ongoing

commitment, and to all of you who volunteer—whether monitoring for invasive species, helping with the annual meeting, or supporting other association needs. This year, Barbie Laughlin has been appointed Vice Chair, and Pat Horan has joined the board to fill the open seat. Special thanks to Lloyd Thielmann for sharing his knowledge from many years as Chairman. In honor of Shannon's years of service, the walleye-stocking fund has been renamed the **Shannon Klundt Walleye Stocking Fund**. Thank you to everyone who has already contributed to this fund and to the Lake Protection Fund.

Cass County SWCD recently mailed a **Lakeshed Plan** to all property owners. This plan provides valuable information about Blackwater Lake, its watershed, and the practices that help preserve the great water quality we enjoy. If you own acreage, you'll also find guidance on land management and conservation options that can benefit both the lake and local wildlife. I encourage you to take time to read through it. Ryan Carlson from Cass SWCD will be our speaker at the annual meeting. As always, I'm happy to share

my knowledge and help the association make informed decisions that protect our lake for generations to come.

If you're not yet a member of the Blackwater Lake Association, I warmly invite you to join us this year. Membership is just **\$40**, and it supports the work that keeps Blackwater Lake healthy, vibrant, and beautiful. Plus, our annual meeting is a great chance to meet your lake neighbors.



Let's continue to enjoy—and protect—our remarkable lake

Warm regards,

Carolyn Dindorf

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	Carolyn Dindorf	612-220-4999
Vice-Chairperson	Barb Laughlin	612-875-1005
Secretary	Dodi Sletten	612-991-3041
Treasurer	Brian Roos	713-306-3760
Director	Becky Seemann	651-245-6436
Director	Pat McKee	612-508-8480
Director	Scott Agre	913-219-5021
Director	Rick Zbikowski	612-357-3099
Director	Pat Horan	612-280-0277

Water Quality & Healthy Lakes Committee:

Scott Agre, Carolyn Dindorf, Pat McKee, Brian Roos, Rick Zibikowski and Pat Horan

Membership & Communications: Becky Seemann, Brian Roos and Dodi Sletten

Fish Management: Scott Agre, Brian Roos and Rick Zbikowski

New Members Packet: Becky Seemann

Web Master: Scott Agre

Junior Woodchuck Camp on Blackwater Lake.

What fun!

By Becky Seemann and Becca Aaker

On Blackwater's south side, every summer going on eight years Doug and Becky Aaker host Junior Woodchuck Camp for their grandkids. So many exciting and learning moments throughout the week—everything from swimming across the lake to crocheting, beading, art projects, fishing and horse back riding. A highlight is an evening burrito dinner cruise across the lake which includes imaginary pirates who will sometimes have everyone “walk the plank.” Another favorite is their daily water “couch surfing” which is tubing behind the boat.

One of last year's best events was when the kids joined forces and wrote, directed and filmed a home movie starring the family dog. The plot of the movie revolves around a mysterious invitation to a gala event hosted by an unknown “Miss Piper.” In the end, they learn that Miss Piper is really just a silly dog that loves to play with kids in the water. The name Junior Woodchuck Camp references the Disney cartoon characters of Scrooge, McDuck and his nephews Huey, Duey and Luey. In this cartoon there is a rare camp survival manual that the nephews often refer to as a means to find their way to get out of many troublesome situations.

The five grandchildren ages 6 to 15 will be at the Aaker cabin from July 15-22. If you are on the lake, please swing by and say hello.



2026 Annual Meeting

IT'S A GREAT TIME TOGETHER!

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

WHEN: Saturday, July 18th, 9:00-12:00

WHERE: Woodrow Township Hall



Silent Auction at July 18th Annual Meeting

We will hold a Silent Auction at our July 18th 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.



Are You a Lake Steward?

by Carolyn Dindorf, Limnologist

Blackwater Lake is a beautiful, healthy lake—and it's up to all of us to keep it that way. Even small actions on our own properties can have big impacts on water quality. Here's how every lakeshore owner can help protect the lake we love.

Create a Shoreline Buffer

A natural shoreline is one of the most effective tools for keeping pollutants out of the lake—

- Avoid mowing to the water's edge.
- Maintain a 25 foot vegetated buffer between your lawn and the lake, with a path or area for lake access. Mow less of your property and gain time to enjoy the lake.
- Use grasses, wildflowers, shrubs, and trees native to Cass County.



Photo courtesy of Clemson.edu

Practice Lake-Friendly Lawn Care

- If mowing near the lake, direct clippings back onto the lawn, not into the water.
- Avoid fertilizing near the shoreline. Follow University of Minnesota and MPCA recommendations for responsible lawn care.

Maintain Your Septic System

A failing septic system can release nutrients and bacteria into the lake—

- Have your system inspected and pumped every three years.
- If you notice unusual surface discharge, contact a professional immediately.



Repair Eroded Areas

- Plant exposed soil to prevent it from washing into the lake during storms.
- For more serious erosion, consider erosion control blankets or rock check dams.
- Larger issues may require professional help—Cass County Soil & Water Conservation District is a great resource.



Reduce Impacts from Boat Motors and Wakes

Wake-enhanced boating can significantly affect shorelines and lake bottoms—

- Wake boats generate strong propeller wash near the bottom and create waves 1.4 to 2.3 times higher than typical ski boats, with energy that persists 500–1,000 feet.
- University of Minnesota research recommends operating wake boats at least 500 feet from shore and only in water 20 feet deep or more.

Are You a Lake Steward?

(cont'd)



- For all other boats, MNDNR guidelines recommend 100–200 feet from shore.

Together, We Protect Blackwater Lake

Every lakeshore owner plays a role in preserving water quality. By making thoughtful choices on our properties and on the water, we ensure that Blackwater Lake remains clean, healthy, and beautiful for generations to come.



Volunteers Please Help!!



Aquatic Invasive species/AIS are all around us in nearby lakes. Please consider becoming an AIS volunteer to help us protect our lake. The role includes checking a designated area twice a year. Training and equipment are provided. You can bring samples to Carolyn Dindorf, Limnologist, who is located on Blackwater.

*Those we love don't go away. They walk beside us everyday.
Unseen, unheard but always near. Still loved, still missed and very dear.*



Elizabeth M. Agre, age 62, of Longville, MN died January 30, 2026

Shannon W. Klundt, age 63, of Sartell, MN died December 25, 2025

Eldred Redmann, age 85, of Winthrop, MN died October 20, 2025

Ron Sonnenberg, age 84, of Brooklyn Park, MN died February 6, 2026

Sylvia Geraldine "Geri" Staley, age 90, of Longville and St. Paul, MN died February 21, 2026

Lloyd Thielmann, age 78, of Longville, MN died June 2, 2026

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 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 2026.



TREASURER/MEMBERSHIP REPORT

by **Brian Roos** Treasurer

Treasury: Our Blackwater Lake Association's financial health is solid. We have \$8,030 currently in our general checking account. This will fund known activities and obligations through the end of 2026. 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 continue to build up a nice reserve in the Lake Protection Fund. The total of the LPF accounts is \$31,042. With current interest rates, we 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 encounter a major challenge. We have an \$8,822 balance in our Shannon Klundt Walleye Stocking accounts. Over \$8,100 of this is invested in CD's. Per our plan, we will stock walleye again in calendar year 2027, alternating years with the DNR. For reference, we spent \$6,720 on 2025 stocking.

Finally, a huge note of appreciation to all the extra donations that have been made in memory of loved ones no longer with us. We will truly miss them all!

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

Membership: Our current 2026 paid membership to date is 114. For reference, the past five-year membership totals were 126, 124, 114, 131, and 117 ('20 -'21). If you haven't renewed your membership, we would love to have your support. Please see the list of current members included herein. You can find a membership form on the BLA website and on the mailing page of this newsletter. 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 Generous Members & Donors in 2026!!!

Paid Memberships thru 5/8/26

- Aaker, Steve & Janine
- Ahlberg, Diane
- Alton, Hon Ann L.
- Amy, Brian & Theresa
- Bahr, Benjamin & Jean
- Bahr, Gary & Linda
- Bakke, Steven & Patricia
- Bakker, Douglas & Absolon, Mary
- Bangasser, Timothy & Margaret
- Becker, Thomas & Kelly
- Bergman, Andy & Vicky
- Branca, Dennis & Emilie
- Brandt, Kara & Shawn
- Brochhagen, Craig
- Burg-Pfutzenreuter, Andrea
- Collins, Mary & Suhl, Joel
- Davis, Darwin
- Dindorf, Carolyn
- Dingman, Dale & Donna
- Doneux, Mark & Brenda
- Duppong, Mike & Barb
- Ellefsen, Tom & Vanessa
- English, Jean
- Evenson, Jeffery & Heather
- Farland, Jon
- Fleigle, Mark & Connie
- Fortman, Michael & Mary
- Gamrath, Timothy & Kristin
- Goers, William & Vicky
- Grapentin, Linda & Kelly
- Hatch Family Cabin LLC/Tracy Davis, Kellie Lewis, Michelle Hatch
- Horan, Patrick & Michele
- Howden, William, Bill & Jessica
- Hunt, Larry & Carla
- Hunter, Carol Beth
- Huso, Nathan & Trocke, Theresa
- Jansen, Michael & Carrie
- Jarboe, Randy & Judith
- Johnson, Jack
- Johnson, Terry
- Johnson, Trent & Stephanie
- Juetten, Brad & Heather
- Klundt, Cathy
- Koegel, Steven & Erin
- Kremitz, David & McLachlin, Jeanne
- Kress, William
- Kujath, Sara & Hanf, Jesse
- Lamb, Matt & Ann
- Langston, Howard & Carole
- Larson, Brandon & Cindy
- Laughlin, Craig & Barbie
- Lemke, Reinhold & Lorraine
- Liepert, Doug & Taimi
- Loucks, David & Janet
- Lovgren, Lee & Ann
- Mazacek, Thomas & Sally
- Meisner, Douglas & McKey, Pat
- Meyer, Richard & Karen
- Miller, Jim & Carolyn
- Mills, Don & Lisa
- Minge, David & Karen

- Minge, Erik & Brunetti, Tazia
- Moeller, Peter & Shawn
- Mohr, Steve & Laurel
- Monroe, Jan
- Moren, Jess & Raneyl
- Moriarity, Pat & Carol
- Nutz, Mary Kaye
- Nyquist, Jeffrey & Roberta
- Oestreich, Duane
- O'Grady, Jeff & Lynn
- Otto, Duane & Gloria
- Peterson, Al & Sue
- Poolmann, Mark & LeAnne
- Pringnitz, Jim & Rachel
- Provo, John & Susan
- Reinert, Jason & Abbie
- Reinert, Roger & Nancy
- Reinert, Terry
- Richardson, James & Sheryl
- Roos, Brian & Sharon
- Rosenbush, Jerry
- Rupp, Greg & DuBe', Linda
- Rynning, Robert & Darlene
- Santa, John & Patrice
- Schmokel, Eileen
- Schmokel, Paul & Keri
- Schmokel, Scott & June
- Schmokel, Shelley & Joscher, Allen
- Seemann, Bob & Becky
- Shaner, Joel & Kathy
- Shaner, Trevor & Heidi
- Shaner, Troy & Suzanne
- Skalicky, Travis
- Sletten, Daniel & Jennifer
- Sletten, James & Dorilyn
- Sletten, Wayne & Jacquelyn
- Snetsinger, Gordon & Jan
- Spilman, Neil & Lucinda
- Staley, Phillip & Marcene
- Stokke, Bill & Lynn
- Stracke, Ed & Kris
- Swanson, David & Janice
- Thielmann, Lloyd & Terry
- Thorn, Chuck & Kris
- VanKley, Doug & Michelle
- Voeller, Larry & Susie
- Wahlstrom, Keith & Carolyn
- Weber, Sharon & Kevin
- Wermerskirchen, Thomas & Anita
- Whebbe, Edward & Stephanie
- Wheeler, Todd & Laura
- Wiberto, Jeff & Alane
- Zbikowski, Rick & Kathy

Lake Protection Fund Donations

- Aaker, Steve and Janine
- Ahlberg, Diane
- Alton, Hon Ann L.
- Bahr, Benjamin & Jean
- Becker, Thomas & Kelly
- Bergman, Andy & Vicky
- Brandt, Kara & Shawn
- Brochhagen, Craig
- Burg-Pfutzenreuter, Andrea
- Collins, Mary & Suhl, Joel
- Davis, Darwin

- Dindorf, Carolyn
- Dingman, Dale & Donna
- Doneux, Mark & Brenda
- Duppong, Mike & Barb
- English, Jean
- Evenson, Jeffery & Heather
- Fleigle, Mark & Connie
- Grapentin, Linda & Kelly
- Howden, Bill
- Hunter, Carol Beth
- Huso, Nathan & Trocke, Theresa
- Jarboe, Randy & Judith
- Koegel, Erin & Steve
- Kujath, Sara & Hanf, Jesse
- Lamb, Matt & Ann
- Langston, Howard & Carole
- Lemke, Rein & Lorraine
- Liepert, Doug & Taimi
- Loucks, David & Janet
- Meyer, Richard & Karen
- Monroe, Jan
- Moriarity, Pat & Carol
- Nyquist, Jeffrey & Roberta
- Oestreich, Duane
- Peterson, Al & Sue
- Poolmann, Mark & LeAnne
- Pringnitz, Jim & Rachel
- Provo, John & Susan
- Reinert, Jason & Abbie
- Roos, Brian & Sharon
- Rosenbush, Jerry
- Rupp, Greg & DuBe', Linda
- Schmokel, Paul & Keri
- Skalicky, Travis
- Sletten, Daniel & Jennifer
- Sletten, Wayne & Jacquelyn
- Staley, Phillip & Marcene
- Thielmann, Lloyd & Terry
- Van Kley, Doug & Michelle
- Voeller, Larry & Susie
- Wahlstrom, Keith & Carolyn, Dan & Amy
- Weber, Sharon & Kevin
- Zbikowski, Rick & Kathy

Shannon Klundt Walleye Stocking Fund Donations

- Aaker, Steve & Janine
- Ahlberg, Diane
- Bakker, Douglas & Absolon, Mary
- Becker, Thomas & Kelly
- Bergman, Andy & Vicky
- Brochhagen, Craig
- Burg-Pfutzenreuter, Andrea
- Collins, Mary & Suhl, Joel
- Davis, Darwin
- Dingman, Donna & Dale
- Duppong, Mike & Barb
- Ellefsen, Tom & Vanessa
- English, Jean
- Evenson, Jeffery & Heather
- Farland, Jon
- Fleigle, Mark & Connie
- Gamrath, Timothy & Kristin
- Goers, William & Vicky
- Hatch Family Cabin
- Howden, Bill
- Hunt, Larry & Carla
- Huso, Nathan & Trocke,

- Theresa
- Jansen, Michael & Carrie
- Jarboe, Randy & Judith
- Johnson, Jack
- Koegel, Steven & Erin
- Kujath, Sara & Hanf, Jesse
- Lamb, Matt & Ann
- Laughlin, Craig & Barbie
- Loucks, David & Janet
- Meyer, Richard & Karen
- Mohr, Steve & Laurel
- Moriarity, Pat & Carol
- Nyquist, Jeffrey & Roberta
- Oestreich, Duane
- O'Grady, Jeff & Lynn
- Poolman, Mark & LeAnne
- Pringnitz, Jim & Rachel
- Reinert, Jason & Abbie
- Reinert, Roger & Nancy
- Reinert, Terry
- Richardson, James & Sheryl
- Roos, Brian & Sharon
- Rupp, Greg & DuBe', Linda
- Schmokel, Paul & Keri
- Schmokel, Scott & June
- Seemann, Bob & Becky
- Shaner, Joel & Kathy
- Shaner, Troy & Suzanne
- Skalicky, Travis
- Sletten, Daniel & Jennifer
- Sletten, Wayne & Jacquelyn
- Snetsinger, Gordon & Janice
- Spilman, Neil & Lucinda
- Staley, Phillip & Marcene
- Stracke, Ed & Kris
- Swanson, David & Janice
- Thielmann, Lloyd & Terry
- Thorn, Chuck & Kris
- VanKley, Doug & Michelle
- Wahlstrom, Keith & Carolyn, Dan & Amy
- Weber, Sharon & Kevin
- Whebbe, Edward & Stephanie
- Zbikowski, Rick & Kathy

Memorial Donations

- Aaker, Steve & Janine
- Amy, Brian & Theresa
- Branca, Dennis & Emilie
- Dindorf, Carolyn
- Evenson, Jeffery & Heather
- Hatch Family Cabin LLC / Tracy Davis, Kellie Lewis, Michelle Hatch
- Johnson, Jack
- Laughlin, Craig & Barb
- Mazacek, Thomas & Sally
- Minge, David & Karen
- Mohr, Steven & Laurel
- Pringnitz, Jim & Rachel
- Reinert, Jason & Abbie
- Reinert, Roger & Nancy
- Seemann, Bob & Becky
- Sletten, James & Dorilyn
- Sletten, Wayne & Jacquelyn
- Weber, Sharon & Kevin
- Zbikowski, Rick & Kathy

thank you!

The Blackwater Blurb

Blackwater Lake Association Newsletter

729 28th Street NW

Hackensack, Minnesota 56452



MEMBERSHIP FORM 2026 (JANUARY 1, 2026–DECEMBER 31, 2026). Dues \$40.00.

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

☐ Check if new

MAILING ADDRESS: _____ CITY _____

STATE: _____ ZIP: _____ - _____ E-mail: _____ ☐ Check for E-Blurb via email

Home Ph. (____) _____ - _____, _____ Bus Ph. (____) _____ - _____, _____ Cell. Ph. (____) _____ - _____

Lake Address if not your permanent residence:

Street: _____ City: _____ State: _____

Zip: _____ - _____ Phone numbers (____) _____ - _____

Interests/Concerns _____

☐ Volunteer (committees, services, etc.) ☐ Request contact from Board Member

Please send your completed form and check for dues and donations to: BLA, Inc Treasurer, Brian Roos, 729 28th Street NW, Hackensack, MN 56452.

Payment	1.	Included is my/our Blackwater 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 Shannon Klundt Walleye Stocking	Walleye Stocking Fund	\$
	4.	Donation in Memory of: _____	Memorial Donation	\$
			TOTAL	\$

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

Design by Judy Leeds; judy@jasmine-graphics.com