

# THE CEDAR LOG

SPRING 2020

The Cedar Log is published by the Cedar Lake Conservancy. The Conservancy is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting, preserving and enhancing the quality of the environment around Cedar Lake.

## CLC ONLINE STORE OPEN

JUNE 13 – 30

[shirtsplusofaitkin.com](http://shirtsplusofaitkin.com)

Go to the website above. On the tool bar is a menu tab titled “Online Stores”. Below that you’ll find Cedar Lake. Click on that link and it will bring you to the store. Turnaround time for items ordered is approximately two weeks.

## TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

“Landscape is not all external; some has crept inside the soul. Human presence is infused with landscape.” – *Anam Ćara* by John O’Donahoe, Irish poet, philosopher, and scholar.

Let’s pause for a moment to consider that notion. Is it possible that Cedar Lake has become part of who you are? Has the lake and its landscape caused you to be more joyous, more reflective, more connected to family, to yourself, to nature? Has the lake in some way or ways changed you, caused you to become a different, perhaps better person?

A broader question, how important is Cedar Lake? Is this place worth protecting, not only for our enjoyment today and tomorrow, but for those who will follow? Is it of consequence that future generations have the same opportunity to benefit from Cedar Lake’s solitude and natural beauty that we have enjoyed?

That is the purpose of your Cedar Lake Conservancy, to preserve and protect Cedar Lake and its resources for the quiet enjoyment of all of its creatures, including us humans, now and forever. It is time to renew your annual membership so that the Conservancy can continue its work. Membership levels are noted on the membership form found on the last page of this newsletter. We need and appreciate your support!

You’ll notice a brief member survey in this issue of the newsletter. We need your input in order to better serve our community of lakeshore owners. Please take a moment to complete and return the survey along with your membership form and check. If you’d like to learn more about our work or have ideas about how we can better go about our work, contact us! Board member contact information is included in this newsletter. We’d love to hear from you!

David Mackaman, Membership Committee Chair  
[mackaman33@gmail.com](mailto:mackaman33@gmail.com)



### ON THE CALENDAR!

- May 2 County Road 28 Semi-annual Cleanup
- May 9 ACLARA Meeting
- June 6 CLC Annual Golf Tournament
- June 13 ACLARA Meeting
- June 13 Annual Meeting - CANCELED
- June 13-
- June 30 CLC Online Store Open
- June 20 Aitkin County Lakes & Rivers Fair
- July 4 Boat Parade
- July 8-
- July 11 Aitkin County Fair
- July 11 ACLARA Meeting
- July 31-
- August 2 Aitkin River Boat Days
- August 1 Annual Picnic



- May 9 Walleye, Sauger & Pike
- May 9 Small & Largemouth Bass  
(Catch and Release only until May 22)
- June 6 Muskie

**THE PRESIDENT’S PAGE**  
**Debbie Campbell**

Happy Spring! Spring is my favorite time of year. The flora, fauna and various sounds of our local dock installer confirm that lake time is right around the corner! And, hopefully, we’ll be able to enjoy this time as we normally do. Dealing with COVID-19 and its constraints has changed many things in our lives. Good judgement benefits all and, as a result, the Board has decided to cancel the annual membership meeting, which was scheduled for June 13. These are unprecedented times and the decision to cancel was not lightly made. Our summer newsletter will include a special section devoted to bringing you up to date on topics we cover at the annual meeting. If you’ve got a question or concern you were going to bring up at that time, please don’t hesitate to email it to the Board’s attention now. We’ll get a reply back to you asap. And, if you typically pay your membership dues at the annual meeting, mailing them in now will be greatly appreciated. Finally, no meeting means no food collection for the Aitkin Area Food Shelf. The last few months have been especially hard, and they are in need of the usual canned/dry staples. Contact Lee Pierce at 612-803-1839 to arrange to drop off your donations. Checks may be sent to Aitkin Area Food Shelf, 32351–395<sup>th</sup> Place, Aitkin, MN 56431.

As you read the various committee reports and articles in this issue, you’ll see the CLC Board has been busy over the winter months. I’m not letting any “minnows out of the bucket” in this column except to mention the least interesting task accomplished. We filed the required forms with the IRS to change our accounting period from a fiscal year (June – May) to a calendar year (January – December). Doing so makes it easier for recordkeeping purposes.

Over the last few years the CLC has continued to raise funds for AIS, and those funds have been accounted for separately in the financial statements to be used only for eradication. The CLC continues to be grateful to the very generous donors who contribute to this fund. Fortunately, we have not faced the challenge of actually fighting AIS to date, which we know is a never-ending endeavor. Prevention is the only strategy.

When necessary, AIS education/prevention expenses have come out of our general fund. There are many preventative things the CLC can do to catch any AIS in the beginning stages, such as more detailed water testing, divers surveying the lake, etc. These efforts are costly and would deplete our general fund in a short period of time. The Board would like to hear from you on using 2020’s AIS donations for prevention versus eradication. Please email your thoughts to any Board member.

As I first mentioned, being on the lake is soon upon us. Let it be fun while safe for all! I encourage everyone to read the MN DNR’s page on “Boating Etiquette – the unspoken rules of the water”. It can be found here:

<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/safety/boatwater/boating-etiquette.html>

Can’t end without giving thanks to all our volunteers who continue to make our organization successful again this year. Their efforts are so appreciated! Special shout out to John Menge and Andrea Tysdal for their continued support of the newsletter and mailings!

<p><b>CLC BOARD OF DIRECTORS</b>                  Debbie Campbell, President  <a href="mailto:jackpine@aol.com">jackpine@aol.com</a>                  952-240-3772</p>	
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**IN REMEMBRANCE**  
 Don Matteson, CLC Founding Member  
 Ted Nelson

**First call heard on Little Cedar on April 6!**



<b>REPORTED ICE OUT DATES:</b>	<b>Bell Bay</b>	<b>April 12</b>
	<b>Little Cedar</b>	<b>April 10</b>
	<b>Main Basin</b>	<b>April 18</b>

# COMMITTEE NEWS

## CONSERVATION

### Shoreline Restoration Project Update - Kelsey Klucas, [kelseyklucas@gmail.com](mailto:kelseyklucas@gmail.com)

Hello all! As we usher in spring, many of us are also ushering in ideas for new projects and initiatives. If you've been tuning in to previous editions of the newsletter, you may recall that we were in the early stages of securing funding for shoreline restoration projects on the lake earlier last fall through the Aitkin County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD). Since then, we have received word that the overall grant funding for the projects that Aitkin County SWCD applied for has been approved. This is a positive first step, but as with most grants, there are a few different steps before funding can be distributed and used. The last update we received on the project is that the County is awaiting contract approval from the state, and following this, a Project Workplan will need to be submitted and approved. Based on our last discussions with the County, these milestones were tentatively anticipated to coincide with ice-out timing (approximately mid-spring) which would be followed up with meetings with the County to begin to develop project plans.

As you might imagine, the recent events with COVID-19 have introduced uncertainty with any work outside of mission critical for many State and local agencies. Taking this into account, we will continue to work with the County to address next steps but acknowledge there could be significant challenges from both administrative and implementation standpoints in the months to come. With this in mind, please continue to reach out to me with any questions. For those that have expressed interest so far, we will provide direct updates as they occur. Thank you and take care.

### Tuthill Property Update – Bob Karls, [bkarls58@gmail.com](mailto:bkarls58@gmail.com)

The acquisition of the land adjacent to the public land continues to move forward. Certain legal requirements necessary to complete the acquisition by Northern Waters Land Trust are being worked on by the current owner. We anticipate a closing early summer, Covid-19 notwithstanding!

### AITKIN AREA FISHERIES

#### Greg Berg, Assistant Fisheries Supervisor

We are planning our regularly-scheduled lake survey on Cedar Lake this summer. Typically, we survey the lake in early to mid-August. This will be a standard survey using gill nets and trap nets to monitor and assess the current status of the fish populations. We will not be sampling the Muskie population this year, as we do that every other survey in the spring which equates to every six years. We will also be doing a spring night electrofishing survey for largemouth bass. This will be done in May sometime during the early evening hours up until about midnight. This boat has crazy bright lights and we often get called in to the Sheriff's office or Conservation Officers. You may want to let your readers know they may see us out there this year. Also, a special Index of Biotic Integrity (IBI) assessment targeting near-shore fish species will be done this summer. This survey will be completed in addition to the standard resurvey. Sampling sites will be evenly spaced around the lake and each will be sampled by backpack electrofishing and/or seining with a 50-foot or 15-foot seine, where possible. Species information is being gathered as part of a statewide project to evaluate the fish Index of Biotic Integrity (IBI) for Minnesota lakes.

### COUNTY ROAD 28 SEMI-ANNUAL CLEANUP

#### Mary Braton, [marybraton@yahoo.com](mailto:marybraton@yahoo.com)

We will meet on Saturday, May 2 at 9 a.m. to cleanup along the edges of County Road 28. Everyone is invited to join in this effort. The staging point is Braton's farm at 33476 County Road 28. Any questions, call me at 218-670-0497. See you there!



### GOLF FOR FUN WITH OTHER LAKE ASSOCIATIONS' MEMBERS

Ruttger's is looking for golfers interested in participating in either senior (55+) men's or women's informal golf groups during the 2020 season. Ruttger's membership and regular attendance is not required. Focus is more on the shot that got away than competition! For more information email:

[Golfatruttgers@gmail.com](mailto:Golfatruttgers@gmail.com) for men or [vidaleklungness@hotmail.com](mailto:vidaleklungness@hotmail.com) for women

### TIDBITS

- Install a solar light on your swimming raft to reduce the risk of a night-time boating accident.
- Don't forget to send your membership survey in along with your dues check!

**"MMMMM...MOTORBOATIN"**

**SOCIAL COMMITTEE**

**Steve Haasl** [stevenhaasl@gmail.com](mailto:stevenhaasl@gmail.com)

**Mark Miller** [markm.hirsh@gmail.com](mailto:markm.hirsh@gmail.com)

Although Spring comes grudgingly to the Northland, two steps forward and one step back, it does come. And, with it the sounds of the first loons on Cedar, redwing blackbirds trilling along the shoreline, and the plop of small bobbers and lures chasing early season crappies. You may think that's enough after a MN winter, but your Board has been busy organizing social opportunities for your enjoyment and engagement. Of course, protective steps for the prevention of COVID-19 may shape our social activities.

**Fishing Contest** – underway! While the Governor's Opener has an award for, *merely*, the biggest walleye, your contest goes much further, offering awards for the biggest fish in multiple categories. Check out last year's winners and get ready.

**County Road 28 Clean-Up** - May 2<sup>nd</sup>. This is a good way to give a bit back to the neighborhood, meet a few neighbors, and you may keep any treasures you find! Watch for more information.

**Annual Golf Tournament** - June 6<sup>th</sup>. Polish up your putters for this legendary competition.

**July 4<sup>th</sup> Boat Parade** - You asked for it so we're bringing back the July 4<sup>th</sup> Tour d' Cedar Boat Parade. What better way to celebrate summer than with friends and neighbors on the lake we love. Meet us at 1 pm, July 4th, at the north end of the big lake in Edgewater Bay. Weather permitting, hope to see you there.

**Annual Paddle** will be held in July, hopefully from the Ripple River Motel to the Aitkin public access on the Mississippi. Much of the Ripple runs through a large wetland with abundant wildlife, some through town with maybe even a stop at the Dairy Queen. This will be our inaugural event on the Ripple, if water levels allow. Watch for more info.

The **Annual Picnic** is back and tentatively scheduled for Saturday, August 1<sup>st</sup>. Location will be on Little Cedar. Address and further information will be forthcoming soon. Pencil it in on your calendars.

Finally, your social committee, consisting of Mark Miller and Steve Haasl, is always open to gentle suggestions on how we might do more, or less, or better. And, if you have any interest in taking part, please let us know.

**CLC 3<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT**

Saturday, June 6 @ Cuyuna Rolling Hills Golf Club

New 18-hole format details to come!

\$39 green fee per person, includes tax and cart.

To sign up contact:

Mary Braton ([marybraton@yahoo.com](mailto:marybraton@yahoo.com))

or Debbie Campbell ([debrazmn@aol.com](mailto:debrazmn@aol.com))

"The only for sure rule in golf is he who has the fastest cart never has to play the bad lie."

-Mickey Mantle

**KEEPING YOU IN THE KNOW**

**Bob Mlynar, Aitkin Area Conservation Officer**

Debbie has asked me to submit information for the CLC's newsletters that is important to you as lakeshore owners. For those who don't know me, or haven't seen me on the lake, I am the Conservation Officer for Cedar. What do I do? I am certified to help enforce local, state, and national laws that protect natural resources including plant life and animals.

We are now without a Crosby Officer, as Karl Hadrits recently retired. Karl's area included Little Cedar in Crow Wing County. Since we are short approximately 15 officers, the station may or may not be filled.

About six years ago I started seeing devices on the market to move lake water, similar to an electric trolling motor. I was concerned they would be used contrary to what lakebed and vegetation removal law allows. The devices are designed to be mounted on docks with adjustments for depth. They don't require a permit, as long as it moves only water and not bottom sediment or growing plants. From what I have seen, many times these devices are moving the lake bottom, sediment or living plants. This is illegal. If you are considering purchasing one of these units, I suggest contacting Kevin Martini at our Brainerd Office to be sure it will be a legal option for your needs. His number is 218-203-4344.

Excessive spring rains can mean high lake levels and floating debris including bogs. Did you know it is against the law to relocate or remove a bog without a permit? The fine for doing so is \$200 plus court fees. Permits are available through Kevin Martini (contact info mentioned in previous paragraph). He also determines the appropriate location. Do call him if a bog needs replacement.

If you're in need of my services, I can be reached at 218-768-3274.

**SHORE LAND COMMITTEE**

**Susan Nielsen, [cedarlakesunset@gmail.com](mailto:cedarlakesunset@gmail.com)**

Spring has sprung, and once again I'm depending on my usual volunteers to do the annual search this summer for aquatic invasive species. As it draws near, I'll let you know the date. If you are unable to search, please let me know ASAP. My "sub" list could use more volunteers. After brief training, stewards look for Eurasian milfoil, starry stonewort, zebra mussels, purple loosestrife and curly pondweed. Join the team! I encourage all shore landowners to inspect their boatlifts, boats, trailers, swim platforms and shoreline for anything questionable. If you find something, don't hesitate to contact me.

## Cedar Lake Conservancy Survey

The Cedar Lake Conservancy Board would like your input! Please take a moment to let us know how we can better serve you.

- 1. What are the Conservancy’s most important functions?** (Please rank - #1 being most important, #2 less important, and so on)

	<b><u>Ranking</u></b>
Protect the lake from invasive species (milfoil, zebra mussels, etc.)	_____
Safeguard the lake’s water quality, wildlife and fishing experiences	_____
Coordinate social activities	_____
Provide conservation related education to landowners	_____
Advocate conservation issues with County, DNR, and State Legislators	_____
Other (please specify) _____	_____

- 2. The Conservancy sponsors a variety of social activities. Please indicate which activities interest you.**

Golf Outing at Cuyuna Country Club	_____
Highway 28 Semi-Annual Cleanup	_____
Mississippi River Paddle	_____
Annual Member Picnic	_____
Fishing Contest	_____
Are there other activities that you would like to see or help organize?	
_____	
_____	

- 3. Is there anything about the Conservancy that you would like to see change, something we should start doing, do more or less of, or stop doing all together?**

\_\_\_\_\_

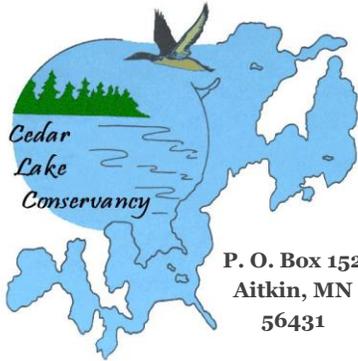
\_\_\_\_\_

- 4. The Conservancy operates exclusively with volunteers. Would you like to receive a phone call from a Board member to discuss your interests and how you can become involved?**

Yes (phone # \_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Not at this time \_\_\_\_\_

**Please complete and mail your survey along with your membership renewal to the CLC, P. O. Box 152, Aitkin, MN 56431 by Friday, May 20th. Results will be published in the summer newsletter.**



# STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!™

Find Us At:  
[CedarLakeConservancy.org](http://CedarLakeConservancy.org)  
[Facebook.com/CedarLakeConservancy](https://Facebook.com/CedarLakeConservancy)

### JOIN/RENEW TODAY!

Basic	\$ 25	\$25 dues
Loon	\$ 50	\$25 dues plus \$25 tax-deductible donation to AIS Fund
Heron	\$ 75	\$25 dues plus \$50 tax-deductible donation to AIS Fund
Eagle	\$100	\$25 dues plus \$75 tax-deductible donation to AIS Fund

Your check and this form should be mailed to Cedar Lake Conservancy, P. O. Box 152, Aitkin, MN 56431

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address (street, city, state, zip) \_\_\_\_\_

Lake Address (street, city, state, zip) \_\_\_\_\_

Location of Property on Lake (Name of Bay, Island, Point or Subdivision) \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

I/We are the property owners  Yes  No

I/We prefer to receive any information via email  Yes  No

Email Address – please print clearly \_\_\_\_\_

I/We are making an additional, tax-deductible donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to the CLC Aquatic Invasive Species Fund.