



# THE CEDAR LOG

Summer 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 and life experiences in and around Cedar Lake.

“A lake is the landscape’s most beautiful and expressive feature. It is the earth’s eye; looking into which the beholder measures the depth of his own nature.”

Henry David Thoreau



Greetings from your Sheriff,

If you are a boat owner/operator, I would like to take this chance to remind you of the responsibility you have for your boat’s wash or wake. MN 6110.1200 NAVIGATION OF WATERCRAFT ON THE WATERS OF THE STATE; SAFETY EQUIPMENT.

Subp. 2. Mode of operation of watercraft. Mode of operation:

- A. No person shall operate a watercraft in such a manner that its wash or wake will endanger, harass, or unnecessarily interfere with any other person or property.

This means that if your wake causes any sort of damage you could be cited. In 2019, we received many complaints of this and we hope to curb those for 2020. I would prefer doing this with some education but the enforcement piece is an option. There are many areas of the lake we can enjoy without violating this rule; please encourage spending time in those areas. I would also like to encourage people with concerns of the wake issues to capture the event on video. Using your cell phone to record the boat activity, the wake (in action) damaging your shore and the suspects operating the boat will be a huge benefit to my Officers. It is really easy to educate when we have the proof.

I want to thank all of you for a great winter. Your calls are always welcome, and if you see something, say something. We will do our best to solve the problems!

Sheriff Dan Guida 218-927-7435

THE PRESIDENT’S PAGE

By Debbie Campbell

Hello Cedar Lakers! Never did I dream I’d ever be giving a “State of the Lake” address since our annual meeting was canceled. I’m still in awe over how our lives have changed since the last newsletter. But, I won’t digress. The CLC is good; end of a address! Joking aside, you’ll see from the various committee reports we are riding the wave on a positive note. Here are some highlights.

Our Bylaws call for a minimum of five and a maximum of nine directors. We currently have eight. Nothing tough or time consuming about being a director, and you don’t have to live on the lake full time. Please consider joining the Board and if interested, contact me. A new voice brings fresh ideas and keeps the CLC vibrant! My three-year term as a Board director expired this year, and I agreed to stay on for another three-year term.



As mentioned in the spring newsletter, we changed our accounting year to a calendar basis versus fiscal. Calendar year 2019 is a “short year” (June through December). Let me know if you’d like a copy of that statement. Also mentioned in the spring issue was how we use our AIS donations. AIS donations are accounted for separately in the financial statement and currently are to be used only for eradication. I asked for your thoughts on using 2020 and future years’ AIS donations for preventative measures (public access monitoring, water testing, etc.). AIS education/prevention expenses now come out of our general fund. Preventative measures are expensive and would deplete our general fund in a short period of time. There were no objections to making this change.

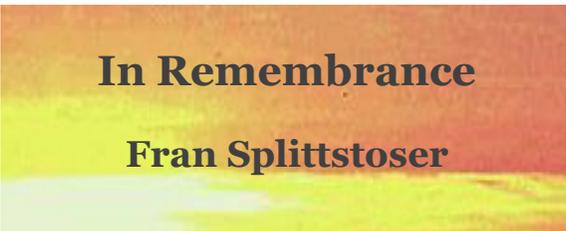
In conjunction with the Northern Waters Land Trust and the Lessard Sams Outdoor Heritage Council, the closing of the Tuthill Trust parcel purchase is in sight. There were lots of Ts to cross and Is to dot, not to mention a test of patience, to get this accomplished. A heartfelt thanks to Bob Karls for spearheading this project and the CLC donors for raising the required \$70,000 for our part!

The front-page newsletter statement by Aitkin County Sheriff Dan Guida was sent to all lake associations in May. Sheriff Guida asked that it be shared with the associations’ membership. If you’re on a jet ski or power boat, please be mindful of your distance from the shoreline ***no matter where you are on the water.***

The Aitkin Area Fisheries June Newsletter (full of interesting information) can be found on our website and here: <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/areas/fisheries/aitkin/index.html>. Also, check out the Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center’s (MAISRC) June newsletter at <http://maisrc.umn.edu/june20-newsletter> It, too, contains useful information. Subscribe to their email list to get updates and newsletters.

Our speaker’s topic at the annual meeting was going to be about mercury in the lake. Cedar has had a mercury advisory since 1998. You’ll find some brief information on this subject further in the newsletter.

My favorite sound of summer is the excitement and laughter of kids playing in the water, tubing or waterskiing. May the sun shine brightly on you and your families this summer and the joys of lake life be plentiful. See you on the lake!



<p><b>CLC BOARD OF DIRECTORS</b>  <b>Debbie Campbell, President</b>  <a href="mailto:jackpine@aol.com">jackpine@aol.com</a>                  952-240-3772</p>	
<p><b>Debbie Campbell, Treasurer</b>  <a href="mailto:jackpine@aol.com">jackpine@aol.com</a>                  952-240-3772</p>	<p><b>Jon Campbell, Director</b>  <a href="mailto:campbelljon807@gmail.com">campbelljon807@gmail.com</a>                  612-849-3232</p>
<p><b>Steve Haas, Director</b>  <a href="mailto:stevenhaas1@gmail.com">stevenhaas1@gmail.com</a>                  612-386-4352</p>	<p><b>Bob Karls, Director</b>  <a href="mailto:bkarls58@gmail.com">bkarls58@gmail.com</a>                  612-850-3811</p>
<p><b>Kelsey Klucas, Director</b>  <a href="mailto:kelseyklucas@gmail.com">kelseyklucas@gmail.com</a>                  218-839-0992</p>	<p><b>David Mackaman, Director</b>  <a href="mailto:mackaman33@gmail.com">mackaman33@gmail.com</a>                  515-314-8059</p>
<p><b>Mark Miller, Director</b>  <a href="mailto:markm.hirsh@gmail.com">markm.hirsh@gmail.com</a>                  763-486-7985</p>	<p><b>Dan Yentes, Secretary</b>  <a href="mailto:danyentes@gmail.com">danyentes@gmail.com</a>                  651-216-9161</p>

## CONSERVATION

By Bob Karls, [bkarls58@gmail.com](mailto:bkarls58@gmail.com)**Aquatic Invasive Species Update**

On June 17 we sampled three locations on Cedar Lake and three locations on Little Cedar for zebra mussel veligers, the microscopic zebra mussel larvae, that are normally present when the water temperatures warm enough for the eggs to hatch and release the larvae (veligers). I am very happy to tell you that no larvae of zebra mussels were found!

Why do we sample for veligers? There are two principal reasons:

1. **They are an excellent indicator of whether or not a lake has zebra mussels.** Not to get too biology 101 or too X-rated for you... but if you have two zebra mussels in a lake it seems that they will find each other and start making babies. That is pretty inevitable. Females release 30,000 to 1,000,000 eggs each year into the water, males release sperm and fertilization occurs after they are released. The larvae hatch and the free-swimming microscopic larvae, called veligers, *drift in the water for several weeks* and then settle onto any hard surface they can find. While in a lake the size of Cedar or Little Cedar trying to find a very small initial population of adult zebra mussels is near impossible. There is the couple-week period typically in June-July in Minnesota that the larvae are present in the water column. With each female releasing up to a million eggs the likelihood that the fine mesh net we use to sample multiple locations will find just one of them is pretty good.
2. **To be protective of other lakes.** Hmmmm....that seems a little strange.
  - a. If we ever do find zebra mussels in our lake, it means we have a breeding population. If it is in just one sample from one of the six locations we sampled this year, there is a slim chance it might be local enough to implement a response action to kill them. The only method known to eliminate them is a poison that will likely also kill other things in the immediate area. But, I have to be honest, with the geometry of Cedar that is unlikely to be effective. The poison has been used on some lakes with a public access in a narrow long channel with an initial infestation where they can cordon off the channel and treat just that area.
  - b. The analogy I would use is that many of us who are on the older side of average get cancer screenings routinely for various kinds. If they find cancer, you have to deal with it; you already have it. It is too late to *prevent it*. Sampling for veligers is similar – if you find breeding populations of zebra mussels, it is too late to prevent them from getting in our lake. Hence why we incessantly educate and advocate for Cleaned, Drain, Dry and no docks or lifts moved to our lake from *another lake* unless they have been out of the water for 21 days. This is the prevention which helps keep us free of zebra mussels and a myriad of other AIS.
  - c. When a lake has zebra mussels, signs are put up at the accesses, notices are placed on the internet and elsewhere so all boaters and lake users know and extra precaution is used for boats or lake equipment going into or out of that lake. Everyone needs to protect against the spread of zebra mussels and their veligers to other lakes.



Over the past several years we have kept in routine contact with the DNR AIS specialists. In part through that routine contact (being active in education, sponsoring our AIS monitors at the landing and being an AIS free lake in an area where various AIS are present in other lakes around us), the DNR made the decision this summer to do an AIS inspection in Cedar Lake. Using scuba gear at several locations they did visual underwater inspections for zebra mussels, milfoil and other visually identifiable AIS species. They dove the lake on June 24. We are happy to report that they found no AIS through that visual underwater inspection. They also sampled for veligers, and we are awaiting the results of their samples. Hopefully, they will confirm the samples we took a week earlier.

Please keep up the good work! Prevention is key and to this date you have been doing a great job.

## COMMITTEE NEWS

### CITIZENS LAKE MONITORING PROGRAM

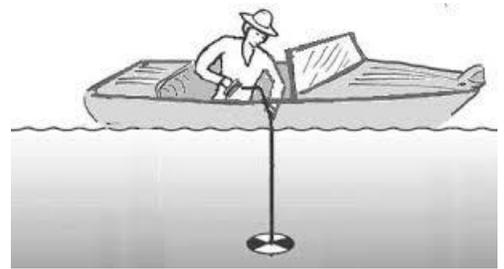
By Jon Campbell, [campbelljon807@gmail.com](mailto:campbelljon807@gmail.com)

Tracking water clarity here on Cedar Lake is like monitoring your blood pressure - it tells us about the health of our lake. Low clarity readings would reflect excess algae. Consistently low clarity readings would indicate poor water quality that can affect plant, insect, and fish communities and reduce recreational opportunities. Long-term water clarity data collected by our monitoring team helps us detect signs of degradation to Cedar Lake.

Our great team of volunteers who measure our water clarity all summer long include: Mark Miller, the Rykus', Frank Parisi, the Mitchells, Bill Stein, Ron Nelson, Leo Rehmann, and Herb Schoon. We owe them a huge thanks as they measure water quality at ten sites around the lake every two weeks. Our team takes readings by lowering a Secchi disk (8", circular, all white metal plate attached to a calibrated rope) into the lake and finding the disappearance/reappearance point of the disk as it descends into the water and records the reading in feet. A high Secchi disk reading reflects better water quality.

So how is Cedar Lake doing? The data on our lake has been collected since 1981. The good news is our lake is performing better than our peers in our watershed. In the main basin our mean reading for 2019 was 11', just a slight improvement over 2018 and continues a very gradual improving trend since 2009. In the northeast arm of the lake our mean reading for 2019 was 10.7', again continuing the improvement since 2010. Finally, in Little Cedar last year the mean reading was almost 12', continuing a gradual improvement since 2005. So, all in all we are better than our peers in the water shed by almost 1' and moving very slowly in a good direction. But we can't be lax. We all need to continue to watch for runoff on our properties especially phosphorus. Hence the importance of the shoreline restoration work that was just announced recently and not using fertilizers with phosphorus in them.

Thanks again to our great volunteers. Next time I will say more about what we can all do to keep our trend line moving in the right direction.



### LOON REPORT

By Frank Simon, [frank@optimum-ts.com](mailto:frank@optimum-ts.com)

We spotted the first loon on Little Cedar April 8<sup>th</sup>. Our first count was done on May 24<sup>th</sup>. We managed to count about three-fourths of the lake before the rain started. We spotted 21 adult loons. Heather Rykhus did a count on May 31<sup>st</sup> and spotted 29 adults. We did our second count on June 19<sup>th</sup> and found 23 adult loons and one active nest. On June 28<sup>th</sup> Heather counted 12 adults with six chicks.

Did you know there are four types of loon calls?

**Hoot:** Used to communicate with rival loons during low level territorial interaction.

**Wail:** One wail is to alert others of trouble or to tell others to regroup. Two wails warn of bald eagles.

**Yodel:** Male loon territorial claim.

**Tremolo:** Wavering given when loon in alarmed or to announce its presence at the lake.

### COUNTY ROAD 28 SEMI-ANNUAL CLEAN UP

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

The CLC will meet on Saturday morning, September 26, @ 9 a.m. at Braton's Farm, 33476 County Road 28. Everyone is welcome to join in this effort. Contact me if you need more information. See you there!

**SOCIAL**

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

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

**“Summer afternoon—summer afternoon; to me those have always been the two most beautiful words in the English language.” – Henry James**

What a strange and unexpected summer in Minnesota. Between the pandemic and Twin Cities unrest, we've been very fortunate to have a haven on Cedar Lake. Weather wise, it's been an iconic hot, dry summer season. While the lake is low, so is the mosquito count. Mixed blessings.

Under the “Man plans, God laughs” category, we watched the annual meeting, picnic and Mississippi Paddle evaporate along with the Aitkin County Fair, Riverboat Days, Deerwood Summerfest and so much else. But, the annual Golf Outing did take place (congratulations to winners Debbie and Jim Campbell and Mark Miller). The CR28 Semi-Annual Roadside Spring Cleanup was well attended and will repeat September 26<sup>th</sup>.

More than 40 watercraft, from pontoons to fishing boats, participated in the newly-revived July 4th Boat Parade in beautiful warm weather. Many thanks to the Grand Marshal who led us off! Boats, and even some participants, were dressed for the occasion in red/white/blue finery, flags/bunting waving in the breeze cheered on by dock and beachside wellwishers. It was an amazing turnout by people eager to connect and enjoy one another. I hope you were able to participate and plan to join us next year.

Finally, the 2020 Fishing Contest is in full swing and looks very competitive. Check out the website for all the latest photos and join the fun. Don't hesitate to send your info and pictures to Lanae Paaverud at [lpaaverud@gmail.com](mailto:lpaaverud@gmail.com) Remember, last year there were no entries for bass or sunfish!

While having no crystal ball, your board will be working on a full slate of 2021 activities to ensure our members have every opportunity to stay engaged with the CLC and your neighbors. As always, stay safe and stay in touch.

**KEEPING YOU IN THE KNOW**

**By Bob Mlynar, Aitkin Area Conservation Officer**

I am happy to report we have a new Crosby Conservation Officer. Anthony Flerlage transferred to us recently from southern Minnesota. Our work areas follow the county line so Anthony will now be meeting some of you on the water.

A few boating reminders while we are in that busy season. I have included wording I think is a very important safety law (MN Statute 86B.311 Subd.5): A person may not ride or sit and a person may not operate a motorboat while a person is riding or sitting on (i) the starboard or port gunwales; (ii) the decking over the bow, sides or stern; or (iii) the transom, of a motorboat while underway unless the motorboat is provided with adequate guards or railing to prevent passengers from falling overboard. I most often see issues with this on the rear portion of wake boats and the bow of pontoons. Paddleboards are gaining in popularity and are not exempt from the wearable lifejacket law. Most often I see the lifejacket resting on the paddleboard, which meets the requirement. Also, if the paddleboard is over 10' long it needs to be registered.

Over the years, Cedar has been a relatively safe place to recreate on the water. Activity has increased with much of it being larger, more powerful watercraft. Hopefully, we can keep it that way with safe, responsible operation. Feel free to contact me with questions, concerns or just to talk.

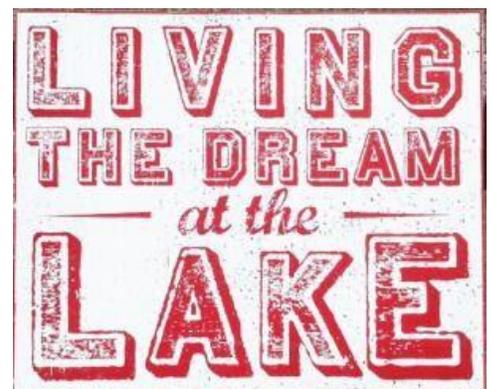
[Bob.mlynar@state.mn.us](mailto:Bob.mlynar@state.mn.us) or 218-768-3274

**AITKIN AREA FISHERIES**

**By Greg Berg**

**Assistant Fisheries Supervisor**

With COVID restrictions we were unable to get out to do our bass electrofishing this spring. We are just barely beginning to be allowed to do field work again and many of us are currently working from home. We do have Cedar Lake on our survey schedule in August. I'm hopeful we will be allowed to do that survey by then as well as continue with our long-term dissolved oxygen monitoring.



MEMBERSHIP

By Dave Mackaman, [mackaman33@gmail.com](mailto:mackaman33@gmail.com)

2020 Member Survey Recap

To be clear, our work only matters to us if it is important to you. That is to say, the Conservancy exists to serve you, and we need your voice to shape our mission. This was the reason for our spring member survey. The response was robust, and we are pleased to share what we heard from our members.

We asked, "What are the Conservancy's most important functions?"

You responded that our efforts to protect the lake from invasive species and to safeguard the lake's water quality were the two most critical functions. With that vote of confidence, we will continue to marshal and build resources to prevent aquatic invasive species and to improve the lake's water quality as our top priorities.

We asked, "What Conservancy sponsored social activities interest you the most?"

You responded that the Annual Picnic and the County Road 28 Semi-annual Cleanup were top of the list. We will get back on track with the Annual Picnic next year! We also heard that social activities are not the Conservancy's highest priority. Most of us come to the lake to relax and enjoy the company of family and friends. We will continue to offer opportunities to meet fellow lakeshore landowners from time to time but agree that this is not central to our purpose.

We asked, "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?"

Your response affirmed our work. Thank you.

We asked, "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?"

We love our volunteers! To all of you - - Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! One idea that came out of the survey was to employ the Next Door App to share information about the lake – wildlife sightings, sunset photographs, services needed, things for sale, etc. Great idea, any volunteers? Let us know if you can help out here!

<b>If you haven't already, it's time to renew your 2020 Membership!</b>		
<b>We need you!</b>		
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
<b>Mailing Address:</b>		<b>Cedar Lake Conservancy</b>
		<b>P. O. Box 152</b>
		<b>Aitkin, MN 56431</b>

SHORE LAND

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

Your Cedar Lake depends on 24 couple's tireless searching once each year for invasive species. In addition to their efforts, it's extremely helpful when ALL property owners check their shoreline during August for invasive species (Eurasian milfoil, starry stonewort, zebra mussels, purple loosestrife, and curly pondweed). When doing so, also check your boat lifts, trailers, and swim platforms. We want to find these at any early stage. If your search turns up anything suspicious, please immediately contact me.

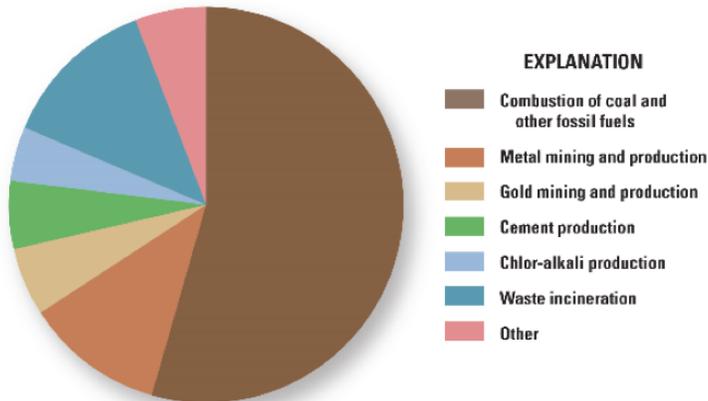
Cedar Lake Stewards please search your area including islands sometime between August 1-14. If you are unable to search this year, PLEASE let me know asap so your area can be covered. Getting your results to me as soon as you have completed your search will be greatly appreciated!

My substitute list could use some more names. Please consider being a backup!

Thank you, Stewards, for all you do for the lake. A special shout out to these families who have been searchers since 2002, which is when my records start: Pat and Ron Nelson, Judy and Nick Priadka, Les and Marty Martin, Dan Mackaman, Davis Strand, Barb and Herb Schoon, Marly and Bill Moga, Steve Seberg, Tim Gurr, Kathy and Warren Docken, Mindy Woods and John Menge.

## MERCURY IN OUR WATER

### Great Lakes Mercury Sources Revealed



Mercury occurs naturally in the earth’s crust but human activities such as mining and fossil fuel combustion, and in particular coal, have led to widespread mercury pollution. Mercury emitted in the air eventually settles in water or onto land where it can be washed into water. Testing has demonstrated that mercury falling in our watershed is due primarily to the atmospheric deposition from coal fired power plants in Minnesota, other states and even other countries.

Predator fish that eat other fish tend to have higher levels of mercury because mercury becomes concentrated inside the bodies of living things and is biomagnified up the food chain. Mercury levels are thus higher in such fish as pike and walleye. Moderate

consumption of fish with low mercury levels is not likely to result in worrying levels of exposure for humans.

Below is the MN Health Department’s fish consumption guidelines for Cedar Lake for women who are or may become pregnant and children under the age of 15. These levels are typical for many lakes throughout central Minnesota.

#### CEDAR, Aitkin County, DOWID: 01020900

Species	Unrestricted	1 meal / week	1 meal / month	Do Not Eat	Contaminants
Cisco	-	All sizes	-	-	Mercury
Crappie	-	All sizes	-	-	Mercury
Northern Pike	-	-	All sizes	-	Mercury
Walleye	-	-	All sizes	-	Mercury

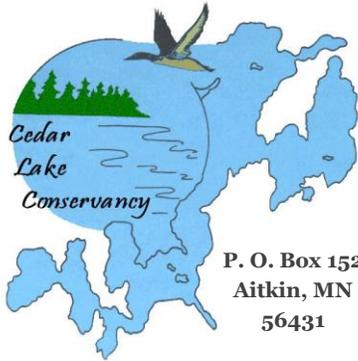
And for the general population:

#### CEDAR, Aitkin County, DOWID: 01020900

Species	Unrestricted	1 meal / week	1 meal / month	Do Not Eat	Contaminants
Cisco	All sizes	-	-	-	-
Crappie	All sizes	-	-	-	-
Northern Pike	-	All sizes	-	-	Mercury
Walleye	-	All sizes	-	-	Mercury

An excellent guide titled “Eat Fish Often” by the MN Department of Health can be found at: <http://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/fish/docs/eatfishoften.pdf> Further information can be found at: <https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/fish/>

What can you do to prevent mercury pollution? Avoid purchasing mercury-containing products and use mercury-free alternatives. Make sure you recycle mercury-containing products and bulk mercury through your county’s household hazardous waste collection program. Consider supporting controls on the largest emitters of mercury. These emissions can be controlled.



# 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.