

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Seeing the ice disappear is great for the soul and reassures us that warmer temperatures and summer fun on the lake is coming soon. Like the seasons change, your RCCCLA board has met and refocused its attention on lake stewardship for the coming year and beyond. Your personal Lake stewardship is important as we all leave a footprint by the actions/activities we choose. RCCCLA membership is a low price cost to help preserve your investment and pledge your support for the health of the lake you enjoy. If you haven't renewed or started your membership, please make a point to do so shortly.

I hope you keep up with the activities of the RCCCLA board through our two Newsletters and our web page at Minnesota Waters <http://minnesotawaters.org/rabbitlake/>.

Rad Royer

## HIGHWAY 6 CLEAN-UP

Saturday, May 6  
9AM

The association takes responsibility for cleaning up the right of way on two miles of Highway 6 each spring and fall. Cleanup will begin at 9 AM at the Clinker Lake Landing. Coffee and donuts will be served. Bags and safety vests will be provided.

Evening gathering will be decided day of the cleanup. Open for suggestions.

## 2017 ANNUAL MEETING AND PICNIC

Saturday, July 15

10:30 am – Annual meeting

12:00 – Lunch

Location: Rabbit Lake Township Hall

25553 County Road 32

Aitkin, MN 56431

The meeting will be followed with lunch. Hamburger, brats and drinks will be provided. Please bring a dish to share.

~ DOOR PRIZES ~

We need volunteers for a planning committee. If interested, please call

Ejje at 952.334.5849 or 218.527.0014

Rabbit Lake T-shirts for sale

\$15.00

Will be available for purchase at the picnic

## PARADE OF BOATS

Saturday, July 1

12:00 pm



Meet at the boat landing or join in when it is convenient.

Route: East Rabbit Lake going clockwise then West Rabbit Lake going clockwise

# RCCCLA BOARD MEETING MINUTES

April 1, 2017

9:00 am Woodtick Inn

Present: Jon Wittnebel, Tom Hintz, Carol Engebret, John Wojciak, Jim Marr, Nancy Erickson, Ejie and Jay Hanson, Rick West, Rad Royer and Tom Wierzbicki

1. Call to order
2. Approval of last minutes – Approved
3. Treasurer Report - \$2458.74 in checking with \$8666.31 in C.D. (paid membership at 104)  
Motion by Jon seconded by Jay to change banks to Deerwood (does our newsletter printing) – Approved

## Old Business

4. Update on the Aquatic Invaders Summit II - Jon & Tom, who attended, will further summarize for the fall newsletter
5. Committee chair reports/Updates/changes
  - a. AIS – Jon & Jay will do zebra mussel testing in June
  - b. Boat landing – Gordy & Rad report DNR has already set-up a summer schedule at our access for Friday through Sundays
  - c. Lake Level – Jay will monitor and record lake level (measured at the bridge)
  - d. Secci disk – Jon will do it and send in recordings to the MPCA
  - e. Lake map with owners / board lists – Rad handed board lists with about 12 property owners on it and reminded all to visit the names on their list
  - f. Buoys – Rick has been in contact with Oars-n-Mine and asked them to add whatever hardware is needed for this season
  - g. Loon nests –Rick has them set to be put out
  - h. Annual Meeting - will look at doing it at the Rabbit Lake town hall building
  - i. Newsletter/publication date/ – Ejie said spring newsletter will go out mid-April
  - j. Loon count – Pete & Jan Backlin will do survey
  - k. Hwy 6 road side clean-up will meet on May 6 at the Clinker access at 9 am – more in Newsletter
  - l. Winter Social – Ejie reported over 70 in attendance last January and will again have the Social at the Bridge Tavern next year
  - m. Fish – Jay reported new Northern regulations will not go into effect this year
  - n. Beavers / Water Control – Motioned by Rick, seconded by Ejie to spend \$500 on beaver control at Carlson outlet, W Rabbit outlet and W Rabbit Northwest bay this spring – Approved

## New Business

6. Tent worms – Jon will coordinate payment for those interested in pursuing potential eradication in late May/early June
7. July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration – RCCCLA will have a lake parade on Saturday starting at the bridge. Details in spring newsletter
8. RCCCLA Apparel – Motioned by Ejie, seconded by John to order 3 dozen T-shirts for sale at Annual meeting – Approved
9. Next meeting dates - May 20, 2017 (week after fish opener)  
July 16, 2017 Annual Meeting (3<sup>rd</sup> weekend of July)
10. Meeting Adjourned motioned by John, seconded by Rick - Approved at 10:55 a.m.  
Submitted by Rad Royer

Please check our website for lists of officers and directors

<http://minnesotawaters.org/rabbitlake>

## TREASURER'S REPORT



Starting Balance (9/01/16)	\$1840.42
Deposits	\$2930.00
Expenses	\$2351.68
Ending Balance (3/1/17)	\$2418.74
Certificate of Deposit:	\$8666.31
	(Maturity date is 3/13/17)
	104 paid memberships

Nancy Erickson  
Treasurer

## FERTILIZING

For the sake of the lake:  
If/when you fertilize,  
Please be sure to use a non-phosphorus fertilizer.  
This is available at the local hardware stores



# RABBIT LAKE T-SHIRTS

We are selling t-shirts for \$15 as a fundraising project for the Association.

Light gray with black lettering or dark gray with white lettering.



The t-shirts will be available for purchase at the summer picnic in July.

Please call Ejie to order or for more information

952.334.5849

218.527.0014



[www.jacobsrealtymn.com](http://www.jacobsrealtymn.com)



## Oars-N-Mine Bait & Tackle

22640 Highway 6 North

Crosby, MN 56441

218 546-6912

*Oars-N-Mine Bait and Tackle has volunteered to remove and install our safety buoys.*

**Please thank them for helping us with this project, by using their products and services.**

Besides bait and tackle, they sell licenses, boat lifts and docks. They also fill propane tanks and provide boat storage.

## ART LESSONS

Come join the watercolor art lessons taught at Donna Maves' studio at 21423 Cottontail Drive on Clinker Lake. Lessons are on Mondays and Tuesdays. Beginner, intermediate and advanced students. Please call for an appointment to see the studio. For more information call 218.330.8946.



## Welcome to the Finest Premium Wood Products!

Experience the incredible selection of custom wood products and stop in our showroom just four miles west of Aitkin on Highway 210 between Aitkin and Deerwood, Minnesota.

### Hours

M - F: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Sat. by Appointment

888-927-6515



21236 Archibald Rd  
Deerwood, MN 56444

*~Our thanks to Deerwood Bank for  
printing this newsletter~*



**Stan Nagorski**  
Financial Advisor

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MN ID # 4005730  
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**Address:**  
21642 N Raider Ct  
Crosby, Minnesota 56441

### ICE OUT DATES FOR RABBIT LAKE

2007.	April 20
2008.	May 2
2009.	April 22
2010.	April 2
2011.	April 24
2012.	March 24
2013.	May 13
2014.	April 28
2015.	April 11
2016.	April 5
2017.	April 7

Preserving our Past Building our Future

### SOO LINE DEPOT MUSEUM

The place to be on the Cuyuna Range is the legendary Soo Line Depot Museum. Explore the rich history of the area through pictures and artifacts. The museum is open Tuesday through Saturday, 10:00 AM TO 4:00 PM. Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day. The museum is located at 101 1st Street NE behind the Super One Grocery Store in Crosby.

Visit the Cuyuna Iron Range Heritage Network Research Center open year round. It is located in the lower level of the Unity Bank building on Main Street.

WEBSITE: [cuyunahistory.org](http://cuyunahistory.org) | Office phone: 218-545-1966 | Museum phone: 218-546-6103



### Holmvg Excavating, LLC

**For all of your excavation service needs, contact Holmvg Excavating, LLC in Crosby, MN.** Our services range from basements and driveways to site prep. We are licensed, bonded, and insured for your protection. Contact Holmvg Excavating, LLC today at 218-546-6103 for more information. You may also contact us at 218-820-2447 (Cell) for more information.

If you have any questions/concerns or would like to submit an article for the RCCC Lake Association Newsletter, please contact:

Ejje Hanson at: 952.334.5849 ~ 218.527.0014  
~ 952. 831.7615

We take ads and service announcements from members at no cost.

The deadline for the Fall Newsletter is  
September 1, 2017

### WEBSITE FOR TRAVEL INFORMATION

To find out up-to-date road condition information, visit [www.511mn.org](http://www.511mn.org). Conditions are reported on segments of stretches of specific roads (US routes, interstates highways and state highways).

**TYLER HENDRICKSON**  
REALTOR  
EXIT LAKES REALTY PREMIER  
(218)546-3162  
[TylerHendricksonExit@gmail.com](mailto:TylerHendricksonExit@gmail.com)

EXIT LAKES REALTY PREMIER - 7153 FORTHUN ROAD SUITE 120 BAXTER MN 56425 FAX: 218-454-3949

**Free**

Homemade diving raft free  
to a good home.  
Please call 651.210.6139

# AERIAL SPRAYING FOR FOREST TENT CATERPILLARS (ARMY WORMS)

By Jon Wittnebel

It has been a few years since we last sprayed for Forest Tent Caterpillars (FTC). Because of this, many areas of the RCCCLA had pretty significant presence of the FTC. So the RCCCLA Board has decided to offer spraying again.

The FTC is a native defoliator of a wide variety of hardwood trees and shrubs and can be found throughout the range of all hardwood forests in North America. They primarily feed on: aspen, birch, basswood and oak.

The spraying will be conducted by an aerial crop spraying company certified and approved by the FAA and Department of Agriculture. The company has sprayed in 4 counties in central Minnesota. The insecticide used is a BT product called Dipel ES. It is effective only on worms that eat leaves and will not harm fish, animals, or wildlife. It is often used by the Minnesota DNR. It is also used on organic crops.

The fee for the spraying will be \$65.00 for up to the first one acre of property. The second and subsequent acres will be \$60.00 per acre or fraction of acre. Example: John Q Public has 1.1 acres of property so his fee will be \$125.00. John Q Public II has 3.01 acres so his fee will be \$185.00. The aerial spray will be conducted along the shoreline of the lake(s).

Please complete the enclosed form to indicate your participation. Please make the check payable to: "Central Planes Aviation". The **check will be held and not cashed until the spraying is completed**. Previous years the spraying was completed the first part of June. You may send the form and check to the RCCCLA address. Be certain to indicate your lake property address. A greater number of participants will result in more successful control of the pesky worms. Remember (no pay – no spray).

**Please send the completed form and check to this address by May 20, 2017**

RCCC Lake Association  
PO Box 212  
Crosby, MN 56441

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## RCCCLA ARMY WORM SPRAY FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Lake address:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Home address:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Contact information:

Phone 1 \_\_\_\_\_

Phone 2 \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Cost:

\$65 per first lot up to 1 acre

\$60 per acre or fraction after first lot

Area contact \_\_\_\_\_

Make check to: Central Planes Aviation

Number of acres \_\_\_\_\_

Total paid \_\_\_\_\_

# The Good Life

By Jesse Williams

We hear it quite often from out-of-towners. We even say it in discussion. But how often do we actually listen to our own words or the words of others and appreciate the content? I'll put it simply; we have a good life here in Lake Country. Whether we live on "the lake" or just in the area, we are incredibly blessed to just be where we are. It's often easy to take it for granted, but in my two jobs I am constantly reminded of how good we have it here.

As manager of Oars-n-Mine, I am constantly reminded of it; vacationing anglers that stop for fresh bait tell us how much they like the area and how they would love to have property here, and no matter how many times we hear that, it still feels good. As a fishing guide with very similar clientele, I hear it even more, mostly because we are in it when they bring it up. A beautiful sunrise, a blue bird day on crystal-clear water or a sunset fit for a painting is often encountered in my line of work and will almost always bring about a conversation regarding just how good we have it here. But some of my customer's favorites have little to do with the weather conditions, rather the abundant wildlife and even more so how they have adapted to outdoor enthusiasts crowding their "turf".

For example, a few years back I had an early-morning trout excursion on one of our many mine pit lakes. The morning started off exactly how we had hoped; a dense fog was lifting as a gorgeous sunrise warmed the lakes glassy surface where the trout were ferociously feeding, breaking the surface in all directions and smashing our offerings at a rapid pace. We were exchanging stories of past fishing trips, and as my clients were telling me of how the mine pits reminded them of being in the Boundary Waters of northern Minnesota there was a sudden explosion onto the water roughly 100 yards off the starboard side of the boat. Startled, we all watched as an osprey lunged out of the water with a trout entangled in its' claws. Several times more we watched as ospreys would circle the water roughly 75 yards in the air, hone in on a school of surfacing trout, fold their wings and like a speeding bullet smash into the water, nearly always emerging with food in hand. Soon one of the guys had a fish on, and about mid-battle started screaming, "Look at that! Look at that! Oh my gosh, look!" Assuming he was just talking about the fish's fighting abilities (trout are quite acrobatic and spend much of their fight jumping out of the water) I kept the boat going and reached for the net, ready to land his feisty catch. As I turned around I suddenly realized there was a much different reason he was so excited; one of the ospreys had seen the fish he had on fighting near the surface and was fixated on stealing it. The thought of hooking an osprey didn't sound appealing for any of the parties involved, so all of us started yelling at the osprey as we frantically tried to get the fish in the boat. Every time the fish came near the surface the osprey would dive down and luckily miss its' target, and did so right up to the back of the boat until we got the fish in the net and the bird finally gave up. He continued to follow us, in hopes for an easy meal. It was a tense moment for sure, but we all got a good laugh at it and decided from there on out we would stop the boat and try to let the fish stay deeper and out of harm's way until they were boat side. Clearly, that bird had done this before and wasn't afraid to be an opportunist.

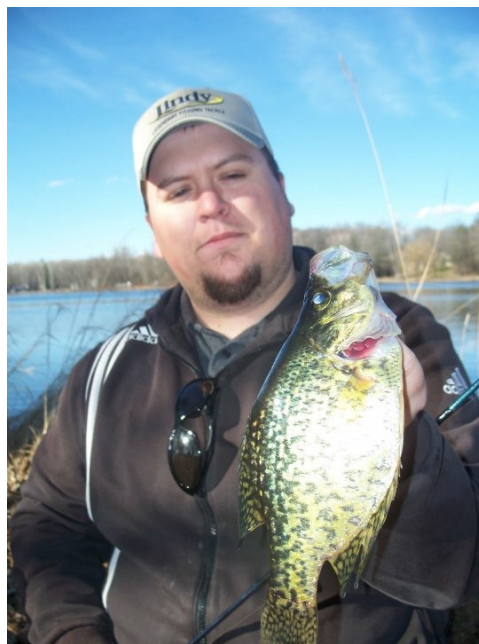
Although there are some loon stories around very similar to the osprey encounter we had, some other encounters we have had on the water involve more than just a bird chasing fish. Many times while in the boat, we have seen deer, usually drinking along a shoreline edge, and oftentimes, particularly mid-summer when it's downright hot, it will be an adult doe with twin or even triplet fawns. The fawn's awkward prancing is accented even more when they are in shallow water, either caused by their tiny hooves sticking in the bottom or maybe because they don't know what exactly is in the water where they are walking. Regardless, it's a treat to watch. Occasionally though the deer don't stay where they should. On a cold July day in the summer of 2015, I was on a trip on Crooked Lake just south of Deerwood when we crossed paths with a deer that wanted to be on the opposite side of the lake and apparently didn't want to walk around to get there. As we fished along a shoreline point, there was a loud crashing coming down through the woods and a young buck hit the water wide open as he started swimming across the lake. We followed him with the trolling motor for a little ways before going back to fishing and letting him be, watching as his fuzzy, velvet rack moved across the water like a couple of sticks in the breeze. Not long after, as we were still there on the point, he returned, swimming past the boat only maybe 50-75 yards away and directly back to the shore where he originally began his journey, maybe after discovering that the grass wasn't actually greener on the other side. That or maybe he was training for some deer triathlon? I guess we will never know.

These are just a couple of examples of encounters I have had that put things in perspective a bit. You see, for many it is more than just what fish the lakes have to offer. Sure, catching a 10 pound walleye or a 15" crappie is a memory that won't soon be forgotten, but for so many fish like that are just fuel for the fire, or a bonus for the experience as a whole. As fishermen we often get tangled up in the numbers; 10"+ bluegills, 2-pound crappies, 30" walleyes, etc. To be truly honest though, none of that matters, and to be brutally honest a lot of anglers stretch the truth so you can bet half of it is far-fetched anyways! My point is, sometimes we just need to step back and take a good long look around at what we have and what has afforded us such views, and it's funny that the people that seem to appreciate it the most are the ones that pay to enjoy it. I have even had guide clients that wanted to just take time away from fishing and cruise the lake a bit looking for wildlife or beautiful scenery. Don't worry, you won't see me in the boat without rods, just cruising anytime soon, but instead of blasting full-throttle to the landing to beat the dark maybe I'll stroll along and take more of it in.

Even as of this typing, the lake's ice is starting to peel away from the shorelines, opening up enough opportunities for waterfowl to rest as they push north to their breeding grounds, and all we have to do to enjoy watching Mother Nature replenish herself, is step outside and listen for the honks of geese, the quacks of mallards and the brassy notes of trumpeter swans. Soon, blackbirds will flood the marshy backwater cattails and will be pleasant company while casting for crappies from shore. Not far past that, loon calls will echo throughout Lake Country. Don't just focus on the moments, focus on the experiences and life will be that much richer. So, this summer when you are out on the boat, taking a ride on one of the bike trails in the CCSRA or just sitting on the deck with the grill going open your eyes and ears a bit more and take in some of the amazing things our life here offers us.

About the author: Jesse is full-time manager of Oars-n-Mine Bait and Tackle, a sporting goods store in Crosby. He was born and raised on the shores of Upper Mission Lake northwest of Crosby, graduated from Crosby in 2003 and have not found a place he'd rather live! In the summer of 2004, he started the adventure of being a fishing guide and have since done this on a part-time basis in the Lakes Area and beyond. With the support of his wife and 2 children, he continues to spend as much time in the outdoors as possible and expect to have more great experiences with his family on the water and in the woods in the years to come.

Jesse's Guide Service – 218-831-0267 or [www.anglersnorth.com](http://www.anglersnorth.com)



**RCCCLA Mission Statement**

**The Association will promote environmental stewardship for preserving and enhancing the quality of Rabbit, Clinker, Cuyuna, and Carlson Lakes.**

**Membership dues are vital in helping RCCCLA work at our mission statement.**

**Regular committee agenda items include:**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| Aquatic Invasive Species Monitoring and safeguards | Boat landing safeguards for importing AIS |
| Monitor and report Lake Level                      | Continue and report Secci disc readings   |
| Ensure safety buoys are present                    | Provide Loon nesting platforms            |
| Hwy 6 road side cleanup twice a year               | Provide annual loon count                 |
| Fish   | Water quality monitoring                  |
| Open/informative webpage                           | Annual Meeting picnic                     |
| Winter Social                                      |   |

**Your Lake Association volunteers are committed to take on the issues that come forth in the Lakes behalf. Your membership is important, without it we cannot fund the environmental stewardship needed to help preserve and enhance the quality of Rabbit, Clinker, Cuyuna, and Carlson Lakes.**

**It is not too late to be a member. Please complete the attached form**

RCCC Lake Association  
P. O. Box 212  
Crosby, MN 56441

Membership Application 2017 \_\_\_\_\_ New Member \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal of Membership

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

Lake Property Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address (if different from address above) \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Cell phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership fee \$25.00 (January 1 – December 31)**



# RABBIT LAKE

By Sally Mann

The original name for Rabbit Lake was Cedar Lake. It was changed after someone decided there were too many Cedar Lakes. I don't know when that occurred, but I'm sure it was easier to change at that time than the red tape & time now necessary to change the name of Mud Lake to Lake Cuyuna!

The West Bowl of Rabbit Lake was drained in the mid 1940's. During the 1920's, the underground Kennedy Mine in Cuyuna was under the lake. After the Milford Mine disaster the men didn't want to go back under the lake. So it stood idle for a number of years.

Before World War II ended, plans were made to drain the lake & mine out of the former Kennedy Mine iron ore deposit. These plans were fulfilled after the war, when iron ore was needed to get the country back into peacetime steel making.

First, a dam was put in to replace the bridge at the narrows between the east & west bowls. Then, water from the east bowl was pumped north into the Mississippi River to drain the lake. Mining at the Rabbit Lake Mine started in 1947 & ended in the early 1970's.

The water was kept out of the mine by constant pumping. There were 3 pumps that had a total pumping capacity of 20,000 gallons a minute! The mine water was pumped over a dike (still there, under the water) into the lake bed. The drained lake bed also had to be pumped constantly. That water went across the dam into the west bowl & from there to the Mississippi.

The original mining company sold the rights to clear out the bottom of the mine to another company. They "scrammed" out the bottom & when all the iron ore was extracted, the pumps were turned off & the lake was allowed to fill up again. The last mining company agreed to put the lake bed back into its original "condition" when the mining was finished. They were not allowed to burn the trees. That meant that the thousands of trees that had grown up in the 40 years of mining had to be cut down & taken off the property. That turned out to be an impossible job so the company got permission from the state of Minnesota to BURY the cut-off trees. You can imagine what happened when the water began to fill the lake bed. All those trees floated to the surface. Our property is on the northeast "corner" of the lake & the prevailing winds are from the southwest. So you can imagine what happened: thousands of so-called "dead heads" ended up on our lake shore.



Kennedy Mine



East Wing of Rabbit Lake  
Kennedy Mine stripping site



RCCC Lake Association  
P.O. Box 212  
Crosby, MN 56441

# RCCCLA Newsletter



(Rabbit, Clinker, Cuyuna, Carlson Lake Association)

No. 45

Spring 2017