

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

### President's Note

Another winter is behind us, spring is here and we get to turn our attention in earnest to the summer activities we cherish. Your RCCCLA board met in April to plan for this year's goals and activities in supporting the mission of the association: "to promote environmental stewardship for preserving and enhancing the quality" of the lakes we enjoy. The RCCCLA's 2019 direction is outlined in the April meeting minutes (inside this newsletter), so please take a few minutes to go over the association's goals and direction this year.

Another note from your board is a renewed interest in promoting the "Neighborhood Watch" program with the help of the Crow Wing County Sheriff's department. You'll see an article in the Newsletter by Jon Williams summarizing strategies we can implement to minimize the risk of burglary.

Please remember, our lakes stewardship is all of our responsibility. Being part of RCCCLA is a way to promote our lakes' continued health and a mechanism to get to know those neighbors around you. If you haven't yet sent in your 2019 membership, I ask you to take a minute and fill out our membership form included in this Newsletter.

Best wishes,

Rad Royer

RCCLA President

## HIGHWAY 6 CLEAN-UP Saturday, May 4 9 AM

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 10 AM at the Clinker Lake Landing. Coffee and donuts will be served. Bags and safety vests will be provided. Evening gathering at 6:00 PM at the Woodtick.

## PARADE OF BOATS

SATURDAY, July 6  
2:00 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

### Crow Wing County Sheriff to Speak at Wolford Town Board Meeting

The Wolford Town Board has scheduled the Crow Wing County Sheriff to provide a law enforcement update, and discuss issues on home / cabin breakins. The Sheriff will be at the township hall June 3, 2019. The meeting begins at 6 00 pm. You do not need to be a Wolford resident to attend, but all attendees will be asked to sign in.

## 2019 ANNUAL MEETING AND PICNIC

Saturday, July 20

10:30 am - Annual meeting

12:00 - Lunch

Location: Rabbit Lake Township Hall  
24958 Town Hall Road  
Aitkin, MN 56431

The meeting will be followed with lunch. Pulled pork 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 and placements are available for purchase at the picnic.

If you have any questions/concerns or would like to submit an article for the RCCCL 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, 2019

# RCCCLA BOARD MEETING MINUTES

April 6, 2019 - 9:00 am Woodtick Inn

Present: Rad Royer, Jon Williams, Jon Wittnebel, Nancy Erickson, Ejie Hanson, Jay Hanson, Gordy Lusian, Scott Ruffing, Ed Laughton, Kim Sandstrom, Tom Hintz and Rick West

1. At 9:00 a.m., President Rad Royer called the Meeting to order.
2. **Approval of last minutes.** Minutes from the last meeting were approved without modification.
3. **Treasurer Report.**
  - a. The September 2018 Bank Account's opening balance was 13,093.13, expenses were \$1,218.50 and the closing balance was \$11,874.63. Expenses consisted of West Bend Liability Insurance of \$889, T-shirts and stamps. The possibility for less expensive insurance should be investigated. 2018 Membership was 123.
  - b. The Bank Account's March 2019 ending balance is \$15,486.21. Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) makes up \$8,487.57 of the total account's balance. 2019 Membership is currently at 97 members.

## OLD BUSINESS:

4. Committee Reports:
  - a. AIS – Jon & Jay. No new information was available and reported.
  - b. Boat landing inspection – Rad Royer - The Rabbit Lake Access has been allocated 300 hours of AIS Inspector hours in 2019. This is the same allocation as 2018 but is 100 hours lower than the allocation in 2017. All 300-hour landings will be staffed from 9:00am to 5:00pm (8 hour shifts), Saturday and Sunday, from Walleye opener through the 1<sup>st</sup> weekend in September. Tom Hintz and Gordy took AIS inspector training in May of 2018.
  - c. Lake level – Jay Hanson – no information was reported.
  - d. SECCHI Disk – Jon Wittnebel. Rabbit Lake Secchi disk readings in 2018 ranged from 11-17 feet. The average was 13-13.5 feet. The lower readings were in August. Lake clarity has stayed consistent.
  - e. Lake map with owners / board lists – New members - Rad Royer. Rad broke up landowners map/list into 7 lists and teams. Team Captains were assigned with Board Members assigned to each captain. Each team is responsible to canvass their list for new members for 2019 and/or to sign-up past members who have yet not paid for 2019. Rad will bring this owners/board list to the July 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Membership Meeting.
  - f. Buoys – Rick West. Three new buoys were received from Crow Wing County. We were short two buoys and one was bad. The new buoys all contain new chains and weights. Oars and Mine will put all of the buoys in as they have done historically.
  - g. Loon nests/put away– W –Dick Johnson – E – Rick West. Rick reported that the nests are ready for installation in the East Basin when the ice is out. Dick Johnson was not in attendance but he historically has taken care of installing the nests in the West Basin.
  - h. Annual Meeting – July 20, 2019 – Ejie Hanson - working on a menu change for this meeting (e.g. pulled pork sandwiches).
  - i. **Newsletters/publication date/ – Ejie Hanson** - Reports/information due to Ejie by Wednesday, April 10, 2019.
  - j. **Loon count – given at Annual meeting - Pete & Jan Backlin** - No action was taken or discussion was had.
  - k. **Road side cleanup -May 4<sup>th</sup> -9 am – Rick West** - Rick will be unavailable. Kim Sandstrom volunteered to replace Rick for the cleanup coordination activities.
  - l. **Winter social 2019 report – Ejie Hanson.** Ejie reported that 53 people attended.A Crow Wing County Sheriff attended to answer questions about recent burglaries and steps homeowners can take to prevent future ones.
  - m. **Fish/past survey – Stan Nagorski** - Stan was not present so no report was made. Members can access the DNR website and the Lake Surveys tab there for Rabbit Lake Survey information.
  - n. **Beavers / Water Control – Tom Hintz** - Tom Hintz reported that at this point in time we don't need a permit to trap beavers. We are currently in the Open Season which is October 27-May 15. We will need a permit starting May 15 which Tom will get. Tom will instruct Jim Hiller to monitor/go into Clunker Lake and the Carlson Creek to trap beaver when, and as is, needed. The usual \$1,000 Budget was approved for Tom to use for Beaver Trapping Fees. It was recommended, and agreed, to invite Don Nyvold to the next meeting to talk about the Beaver Dam removal work that he has undertaken.
  - o. **Tent worm/spraying – Jon Wittnebel** - The fee for spraying will be \$65 again for up to 1 acre of spraying. Jon will coordinate this again this year. It was discussed, and agreed, that payment before Monday, May 13<sup>th</sup> will be \$65. Payment May 13<sup>th</sup> and later will be \$75. This step is being implemented in an attempt to get payment earlier so it is easier to coordinate spraying with the pilot.
  - p. **July 4<sup>th</sup> (is on Thursday in 2019) Lake Activities/ parade of boats what day?** - The Boat Parade will be on Saturday, July 6<sup>th</sup>, at 2:00 p.m.
  - q. **RCCCLA Apparel-Ejie Hanson**
  - r. **RCCCLA Facebook page Ejie Hanson** – Ejie reported that we have had a good amount of traffic on our Facebook page.
  - s. **AIS Detector Training** – if anyone is interested in being trained as an AIS Detector, let Rad Royer know.
  - t. **Water Testing – Rad Royer** – Rad will check with A.W. Research Laboratories Inc on getting the lake water tested.
  - u. **Other - Law Enforcement Update (including break-ins).** Jon Wittnebel noted that the Crow Wing County Sheriff will be at the Wolford Town Board Meeting at the Town Hall at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> to provide a Law Enforcement Update including recent break-ins in the area.
  - v. Adjourn.

## NEXT MEETINGS:

- May 18, 2019 Board Meeting at 9:00 a.m. (8:30 social time) at the Woodtick
- July 20, 2019 Annual Meeting: 10:30 a.m. at the Rabbit Lake Township Hall

Submitted by Jon Williams

## Rabbit, Clinker, Carlson, Cuyuna Lake Association (RCCCLA)

In the last six months, there have been at least three confirmed burglaries on the two Rabbit Lake Basins. The RCCCLA has held two separate meetings with the Crow Wing County Sheriff's Office to discuss tips and recommendations for what lake residence owners can do to help make their residences less appealing to would be burglars. Below is a summary of Sheriff Office recommendations from those meetings.

### Recommendations from Meetings With Crow Wing County Sheriff Personnel

- **Vacant residences.** It is important to take steps to make it look like there is on-going activity at your residence. During the winter, especially, it is important to make arrangements to have snow removed from your driveway and sidewalks. Standing snow, more than a day or two, is a strong indicator that there is no one home at the residence. Even after minimal snow falls, arrange to have a neighbor drive in and out of your driveway and walk back and forth a few times to your door(s) from a vehicle.
- **Cameras/Security Systems.** Security cameras can be very helpful in recording activity and in initiating a response, if/when needed, from the Crow Wing County Sheriff's Office. These can range from monitored systems by vendors to consumer owned and operated systems. There are many camera options and related phone software applications a consumer can purchase that can be helpful. Trail cameras placed in strategic locations can also be very helpful. Even just a security system sign can be helpful in making would be burglars wary of breaking in.
- **Potential burglars do not like light.** It was suggested that exterior lighting such as residence motion detector lights or security lights (e.g., provided by the power company) are very helpful. It can also be helpful to have an interior light(s) on a timer. However, it was mentioned that if someone is watching a residence, the recurring nature of timers can potentially be observed and predictable.
- **Garbage cans.** A garbage can left at a roadside at the end of a weekend that sits there for days, or weeks, is another strong indicator that there is no one home at the residence. Arrange for a neighbor to take your garbage can to the curb the night before garbage pickup and remove from the curb the day of pickup.
- **Mail boxes.** Arrange for a neighbor to remove advertisement type mail/papers from your mail box on a weekly basis. A mail box containing multiple weeks of advertisements is a strong indicator that there is no one home at the residence.
- **Activity Reporting.** Report all suspicious activity and break-ins to the Crow Wing County Sheriff's Office.
- **Neighborhood Watch Stickers.** Neighborhood Watch stickers can be obtained from the Crow Wing County Sheriff's Office. Stickers should/can be located on or near entrance doors of residences and garages.
- **Neighborhood Watch Road Signs.** Neighborhood Watch Road signs can be purchased and installed on the entry and exit points of roads. Metal signs may be more durable with the varying types of weather we can have in this area.

The RCCCLA Board

Submitted by Jon Williams



EST. 1910  
**DEERWOOD  
BANK**

21236 Archibald Rd  
Deerwood, MN 56444

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

### TREASURER'S REPORT



Starting Balance (9/01/18)	\$13,093.13
Deposits	\$4,160.00
Expenses	\$1,766.92
Ending Balance (3/31/19)	\$15,486.21
Aquatic Invasive Fund	\$8,487.50

97 paid memberships

Nancy Erickson  
Treasurer

### 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


### ICE OUT DATES FOR RABBIT LAKE

2009.	April 22
2010.	April 2
2011.	April 24
2012.	March 22
2013.	May 13
2014.	April 28
2015.	April 11
2016.	April 5
2017.	April 7
2018.	May 1
2019	Before the July 6 boat parade

### ICE OUT DATES PER DNR FOR RABBIT LAKE

Median ice out date:	April 16
Earliest ice out date:	March 22, 2012
Latest ice out date:	May 4, 2008
Period of record:	1995 - 2017

## SOO LINE DEPOT MUSEUM



Explore the rich history of the Cuyuna Range through pictures and artifacts. Located at 101 St. NE, Crosby MN. (behind Super One grocery store). Open Memorial Day weekend thru Labor Day weekend Tuesday thru Saturday: 10 AM - 4PM

Learn about the worst mining disaster in Minnesota history when 41 lives were lost when water flooded the Millford Mine.

View the life sized replica of the space capsule that was launched from Portsmouth Open Pit Mine and which carried Dr. David Simons into space in 1957.

WEBSITE: [cuyunahistory.org](http://cuyunahistory.org) | Office phone: 218-545-1166 | Museum phone: 218-546-6178



Open daily at 10:00am  
Saturday at 8:00am

Meat raffles:  
SAT 2:00pm SUN 3:30pm  
Trivia Monday at 6:30pm  
Pizza. Pull tabs. Game Room

Woodtick Races June 8, 2019  
Manna for Malawi June 23, 2019  
Featuring: The Johnny Holm Band

## 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.



## Crosby Mattress

209 Minnesota Ave N 14370 Dellwood Drive  
Aitkin, Minnesota 56431 Baxter, MN 56425  
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- \*Free delivery and Set-Up
- \*Financing Available
- \*Great Customer Service

If you would like to order Rabbit Lake T-shirts in colors other than gray, please call:  
952.334.5849 or 218.527.0014



**Stan Nagorski**  
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21642 North Raider Court  
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## 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.



# TO BASS, OR NOT TO BASS

By Jesse Williams

If we compared fishing to music, what genre would each species line up with best? Crappies and sunfish would probably be a good country song; aggressive but not overbearing, can be enjoyed at a high volume, but are usually best while relaxing with a cold beverage in hand, sometimes makes a person want to dance and can be enjoyed by the entire family. Northern pike are like a Warped Tour punk rock festival; hyper and aggressive, sometimes to the point of being annoying. Sometimes they produce a good hit and can be a lot of fun but unless you get a real good one now and then it gets monotonous. Walleyes are like a really great rock band with a handsome lead; they're fun while being serious, they can get your heart pounding and adrenaline rushing, are a bit moody at times, they can attract a crowd and nearly everyone can appreciate their good looks. Rock bass are the equivalent to pop music; unless you're a kid, you should maybe change the channel. Now that we have most of the bases covered, where do bass fit on this list?

Before you go saying something like they are only a southern thing like blues, think again; bass are far and away the most sought-after species in the entire nation. In fact, nearly twice as many hours are put in by American anglers targeting bass than the 2<sup>nd</sup> favorite fish, crappies. Think about that for a second. Then couple in the fact that bass are the fastest-growing segment of fishing in the Midwest. There are a lot of reasons for this, but I'll just give a few examples. 1) They are readily available. 2) They are willing to bite nearly any time of the day. 3) Bass, particularly smallmouth bass, are pound-for-pound some of the hardest fighting fish in freshwater. 4) Bass inhabit all types of water from shallow to deep, meaning regardless of whether you're in a boat or on shore there are probably some nearby. 5) In the world of fishing bass are a relatively cheap species to target since you don't need special equipment, plastic worms are cheap and the worms that you dig from your garden that they love are even cheaper.

If you are to compare bass to the other species listed above, with the exception of rock bass, you will see that bass have nearly all of the positive characteristics that walleyes, panfish and pike do plus more. When it comes to eating, I much prefer walleyes, panfish and pike over bass, but that is just my preference and shouldn't take away from their ability to make for some exciting fishing. Furthermore, while some walleye and panfish lakes decline in production, opportunities to catch bass are improving. Largemouth bass inhabit nearly every lake around and smallmouth bass populations are steadily increasing in most lakes that they are present and in some cases they are newly-discovered, offering anglers more chances to tie into one of these never-say-die aqua acrobats. The fishing season for bass in Minnesota was also extended a few years back, allowing anglers to target bass on a catch-and-release basis on walleye opener.

Did I mention they also eat just about anything? Bass feed heavily on bugs, crayfish, frogs, minnows, other fish and will even eat small snakes if given the chance. This means that when it comes to the best method of catching them there really isn't one, they all work!

All things considered I believe we have figured out where bass fit in the musical world of fish species; American Idol. Some people refuse to tune in but even though they might not admit it out loud or to their friends most know it's good. The experience covers all genres and can be enjoyed by everyone regardless of age. While some performances are just OK very few are bad, and some are so good they will give you chills. Sometimes you crave it and other times you partake just because it's what is on. The best part? If you thought the last season was good, there's always another one on its way very soon!

So this summer let the wonderful tunes of smallmouth and largemouth bass roar. Whether it's country, rock or somewhere between, it may be your favorite performance yet. Just remember, the only time you should be singing the blues is if you lose the big one.

## 21890 COTTONTAIL DRIVE

Wooded lot of nearly an acre with 136' of hard shoreline on 1252 acre Rabbit Lake. Great for swimming and fishing off a dock! This lot is on the south side of the west Bowl. Location is within 5 miles of Crosby, MN and in close proximity to golf, hunting, fishing, scuba diving, mountain biking, snowmobiling, and more.

Ideal walkout home location!

CONTACT: MAY CUSTOM REALTY, 218.820.3350

Additional lot available directly across road on Lake Cuyuna /aka Mud Lake



Rabbit Lake Sweatshirts for sale  
Sizes S to XL \$55.00  
To order please call or text:  
218.251.3320

# AERIAL SPRAYING FOR FOREST TENT CATERPILLARS (ARMY WORMS)

By Jon Wittnebel

The RCCC Lake Association has decided to offer spraying again this year.

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 \$70.00 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 \$130.00. John Q Public II has 3.01 acres so his fee will be \$190.00. 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 15, 2019 (THIS DEADLINE IS FIRM)**

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:

\$70 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 \_\_\_\_\_

**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	Boat Parade

**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 2019 \_\_\_\_\_ 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 \$30.00** (January 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019)

Membership fee \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Donation to AIS fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_



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

Help keep Rabbit, Carlson, Clinker and Cuyuna Lakes the best that they can be! Send in your membership application today!



<https://minnesotawaters.org/rabbitlake/>

# RCCCLA Newsletter



(Rabbit, Clinker, Cuyuna, Carlson Lake Association)

No. 49

Spring 2019

**facebook**

RCCCLA is now on Facebook! Be sure to like our page! Search for Rabbit, Clinker, Cuyuna, Carlson Lakes Association or go to this link:

<https://www.facebook.com/Rabbit-Clinker-Cuyuna-Carlson-Lakes-Association-480901561967654/>