THE LAKE LINK



Volume 30, Issue 2

Fall 2020

Lakes Association

Baby, Kerr, Kid, Lost, Man & McKeown

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE -BY LAURA PALMER-TURNACLIFF

into late summer and the fall months, I hope that this edition concern. Our lake association is of the newsletter finds each of you and your families doing well. I hope that you Minnesota in early detection testing for were able to enjoy the lakes and escape the stress of these difficult times with some swimming, hiking and fishing or just observing nature in all of its beauty!

The first virtual annual meeting was hosted by the board on August 1, 2020 on Zoom. Key highlights from the meeting include approval by the membership of an expanded mission statement in anticipation of obtaining our 501(c)3 tax exempt designation from the IRS. Additionally, the membership approved the revised bylaws and articles of incorporation and are proceeding with the 501(c)3 application process. The lake association applied for, and was awarded, a pro-bono attorney through Legal CORPS, a nonprofit organization that assists other nonprofits in obtaining a 501(c)3. A few days before the Annual Meeting, attorney Tom Triplet volunteered to help us review all documents and make recommendations to the board. Any additional changes the board wants to move forward with will be presented for approval by the membership prior to the documents being executed with state and federal agencies. Obtaining a 501(c)3 status will open doors for greater gifting opportunities and grants as we anticipate a potential AIS in the future.

As COVID-19 concerns continue The spread of AIS (Aquatic Invasive Species) continues to be a growing partnering with the University of traces of zebra mussel DNA in our waters through the Genomics Center at the U of M. Each of our six lakes will provide water samples for testing through eDNA methods. If an AIS is found within the samplings, we hope to be able to address the issue before it becomes expansive. Of course, we hope it all comes back negative!

> We need your continued partnership and help throughout the fall months for AIS prevention. Please continue to be diligent to clean, drain and dry all watercraft entering our six lakes. Everyone's help is required to prevent an AIS in one of our lakes. Remember, any type of watercraft can transmit an AIS including docks or boat lifts, paddle boards, jet skis, canoes, kayaks, fishing boats, etc. Please consider joining your lake's AIS prevention team by contacting Dick Bottorff at dick.bottorff@gmail.com. We hope to have at least one person per lake join the team.

Thank you again for being a member of our association! It has been my pleasure to serve as your president this year. I look forward to the beauty of leaves turning color this fall and the cool breezes as we enter my favorite time of the year!

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Ouestions?

If you have any questions or concerns about your lake, please contact your lake representative listed within this newsletter.

Association News

Lake Association Pursues 501(c)3 Status by Gary Rueter

At our annual meeting in 2019, it was decided to pursue 501(c)3 tax exempt status. Our Board of Directors started a subcommittee with Laura Palmer-Turnacliff, Brian Laudenbach, Stan Kumpula, Nick Neuman, and Gary Rueter, to start the process. This subcommittee started working in September of 2019 to revise our articles of incorporation and our bylaws. As a point of reference, our lake association has always been registered as a non-profit organization with the state of Minnesota.

We are in the process of amending our articles of incorporation. These articles of incorporation are a formal document submitted to the state of Minnesota to create or amend a corporation. This document becomes a public record with the Secretary of State. We will also apply to the Internal Revenue Service to obtain our tax exempt status with the federal government.

By accomplishing this, we will be able to accept charitable donations without needing to pay taxes on the income. This will also allow people or organizations to contribute to the lake association and use those donations as a tax deduction. These contributions could be monetary or in-kind gifts. Please review with your accountant whether a gift to our lake association is tax deductible.

Our subcommittee decided to have our articles of incorporation and our bylaws reviewed by an attorney before submitting to the state of Minnesota and IRS. We applied for free legal consultation through Legal Corps and were put in touch with Tom Triplett, an attorney that specializes in non-profit corporations. Unfortunately, we only met with Tom days before our annual meeting. Mr. Triplett suggested that we expand our mission statement in our articles of incorporation



Mission Statement – Revised and Approved by the Membership on 08-01-2020

- To preserve and improve water quality, fish habitat, and the well-being of wildlife in our lakes and the watershed of which our lakes are a part.
- To encourage and participate in activities intended to prevent the emergence of aquatic invasive species in our lakes and the watershed and, if such emergence occurs, to control the growth and expansion of such species.
- To educate our members and other members of the public on proper conservation practices relating to the above purposes.

and bylaws to more clearly show the educational component of our lake association. This new mission statement was presented to, and approved by, our members.

We presented our revised bylaws at the 2020 annual meeting. These bylaws set out the rules and procedures for how we govern our corporation. These bylaws were presented and approved by the members of the lake association that were in attendance at the annual meeting.

We will continue to work with Mr. Triplett this fall to finalize our articles of incorporation and bylaws with the goal of obtaining our 501(c)3 status before the end of this year. As noted in Article VII of our bylaws, any revisions that are suggested by Mr. Triplett and incorporated into our bylaws by our subcommittee will need to be approved by our members. This approval by members, if needed, will occur either with a special membership meeting or special membership ballot.

(Continued on page 3)

2021 Board of Directors Meetings, 9:00 AM - open to all members

(Please check the Our6lakes.org website for meeting notifications or changes.)

April 17, 2021

June 12, 2021

Board Meeting

Virtual

July 11, 2021

Prep for Annual

Virtual

Virtual

July 31, 2021

Annual Meeting

TBA

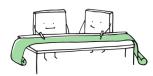
August 21, 2021

Board Meeting

Virtual

Agenda items due to the president one week prior to board meetings or bring to meeting.

Association News



Your Lake Association At Work For You

by Laura Palmer-Turnacliff, President

I want to share with you some of the highlights of the work our lake association has been doing over the past year and why your membership is so important. Our association represents our six lakes and shares the McKeown Creek Watershed, covering an area of about 9 square miles or 5,793 acres. That's a big area and there is a lot going on! Your lake association membership is probably the *greatest return on investmen*t you could ever receive! Your \$25 annual membership fee is going a very long way! Thank you for being a member of our organization and for your support!



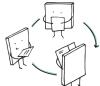
Multi-Pronged Environmental Education Initiatives:

• We work with MN DNR to get AIS inspectors staffed at the public boat landing almost every weekend this summer and on high

traffic holidays. AIS inspectors don't just "inspect," they "educate" everyone that puts in and pulls out!

- I-LIDS camera system is installed at the Baby Lake Boat Launch – it's automated voice reminders are set to help prevent an AIS and reminds us to clean, drain and dry. Photos of violators are forwarded to Cass County Sheriff for enforcement or citations.
- A letter was sent to members and non-members in our database this spring just before fishing opener. It included four AIS Brochures/Fact Sheets and a reminder to be cognizant of AIS to prevent transmission.
- The newsletter is sent 2-3 times a year and includes educational articles on environmental issues and AIS prevention.
- Social Media/Facebook environmental information and educational links are posted regularly, along with opportunities for members to connect.
- We offer signage and chain barriers to property owners to restrict open access at any private boat launch sites on our lakes. The lake association picks up the majority of the cost (up to \$60) per property for this project.

- Lake representatives have one-on-on conversations with property owners and the public about environment issues and AIS prevention.
- Additionally, we track and document ice on/ice off dates, loon counts, place buoys in/out, etc.
- Water quality testing is done with RMB Labs every 2 years.
 Results are published in our newsletter and on our website.
- Secchi disc readings taken on all six lakes for depth clarity throughout the summer months. Results are tracked and submitted annually to the DNR.
- We coordinate activities to eliminate blockage at waterways including at the creeks and channels.
- Many other environmental and educational initiatives too many to mention.



Working Partnerships:

 Legal CORPS – Our lake association applied for, and was awarded, a pro-bono attorney to assist us in revising our bylaws, mission statement and articles of incorporation in

preparation for applying for a 501(c)3 tax exempt status.

- MN DNR AIS prevention initiatives. Two of our board members have completed AIS Monitor Training through the DNR. By next year we hope to have all board members attend training (maybe offered online if COVID-19 restrictions still apply). If you would like to join us please contact your lake rep.
- U of M Genomic Center Study: eDNA testing will be done on all six lakes in 2020, where water samples are submitted to the U of M to test for early detection of potential zebra mussel DNA.
- We are a member of the Association of Cass County Lakes (ACCL) and attend regular meetings so that we build partnerships and strategies for issues currently at hand.
- Many other partnerships to protect the environment too many to mention.





Nonprofit Status Update (Continued from page 2) -

On behalf of our subcommittee, I want to thank all of you for your support of these changes. This 501 (c)3 tax exempt status will help solidify our lake association and put us in a better financial position to handle AIS in our future.

Neighborhood News



Celebrity Sighting

by Rob Chapman (Baby Lake)

On June 5th my wife and I were at the public access on Baby Lake putting our boat in the water. I was talking with the AIS Inspector at the launch when a boat was coming off the lake as we were putting in. It was Ron Schara from KARE 11's MN Bound! I waved him down and said I was a big fan! He was very friendly and he talked with us for about 20

minutes. We showed him some pictures of muskies that we had recently caught on Baby. He said it was his first time fishing Baby Lake and that he caught a 19" walleye and released it. Very fun experience and he was very nice!

Man Lake 4th of July Boat Parade

The Man Lake 4th of July boat parade was a little down in numbers this year, but what we lacked in numbers was more than made up for in enthusiasm! Lots of flag waving and shouting hello to neighbors. Boats and passengers were all decked out in their 4th of July regalia. A first this year was one boat threw freeze pops to the cheering parade viewers most of whom were lounging in the lake. We are all about making memories and creating community!





Missing Buoy Replaced

This summer Buoy Master Chuck Millberg replaced a buoy in Tusler's Bay that had gone missing. This is the new one the association purchased. Thanks, Chuck, for the installation.





Roxie says, "Mask up, Minnesota!"



Thanks for a great summer!

Check out all the wonderful memories and share your own photos on <u>Our 6 Lakes</u>
<u>Association MN</u> Facebook page!

It's Good to Know



Settling plate

AIS Fall Update

by Dick Bottorff

Greetings from your AIS team! We've been busy this summer. The newest project is under way. It is the testing of each of our 6 lakes for any genetic material from two species of invasive mussels. In partnership with the University

of Minnesota Genomics Lab, your lake reps are taking water samples that will be given to the Lab for analysis. The University is developing a low cost and effective test for zebra and quagga mussel DNA, for eventual rollout nationwide. Thank you to our lake reps for conducting the sampling! In addition, we dropped a settling plate into the water beside the Baby Lake DNR boat launch. The purpose is to spot any invasive species that might attach to the plates. And, we continue to advocate for inspections of all boats on high traffic days at the Baby Lake launch by trained County inspectors. And of course, we monitor by camera the activity at the launch through the ILIDS monitoring system. Thanks to everyone for your support!



I-LIDS Fall Update

by Randy Turnacliff

The I-LIDS system at the Baby Lake public access has been functioning normally this year (2020) after a rough start in 2019 due to

some technical difficulties with Verizon signal and the solar/ battery charging. Those issues have been dealt with and we've had a solid year of monitoring via the I-LIDS system. So far we've had 275 launches monitored by the system in April and May, 690 in June and 194 in July as of the third week. The videos have been reviewed and reporting has been received by the lake association. Most issues found appear to be with expired boat licenses. We did have a couple of reported weeds not being removed for boats being retrieved. Along with the actions of the AIS monitoring inspector at the launch, it appears we're acting upon and identifying all issues that we can. As always, it comes down to the owners and guests to our lakes to make sure to clean, drain and dry to prevent the spread of AIS. Let's all take those extra minutes to ensure we're doing our part to keep our lakes AIS free! Please hold our friends and visitors to these standards as well.



Fire & Rescue

The lake association has proudly supported both the Hackensack and Longville Fire Departments by allowing pass-through donations from lake for many years. In order to simplify our accounting

members for many years. In order to simplify our accounting process in preparation for the 501(c)3 application, the Board of Directors unanimously voted on April 18, 2020 to discontinue this practice effective December 31, 2020. We want our members to know that we appreciate the work and sacrifice of the men and women on our local fire and rescue departments and we plan to continue to feature and support our fire and rescue departments in other ways. We encourage our members to continue to support them directly as well.



Thank You!

The board would like to thank Angler Printing for their quick help on our roadside signs announcing the Zoom Annual Our 6 Lakes meeting. Angler was very accommodating particularly to our tight time schedule.



It's Good to Know

McKeown Lake Dam Report

by Randy Turnacliff

Message regarding the McKeown Lake Dam

- On behalf of the Lake Association we would like to send out

a standing ovation and a sincere and appreciative **Thank You!** to the Michels family —Ralph, Sue and son Ben—for their efforts and hard work in keeping the McKeown Rock dam/spillway open to allow the continued flow of water from our lakes/watershed.

Recently a beaver had decided that 50 feet upstream of the spillway would be a good place for a self-engineered dam which, by mid-June, blocked all flow of water to the dam. It was noticed and reported by Linnea Dietrich of Man Lake. I contacted the Michels to ask for permission to look into the problem from their property



Our 6 Lakes association continues to support trapping beavers to maintain our water tables. If we don't control beavers, our group of lakes won't flow as Mother Nature intended. The beavers can back up water so badly, many property owners' docks and shorelines could be under water.

and potentially take action to remove the beaver dam and get water flowing again. However, by the time we had contacted the family, Ben had already cleared a 10 ft-wide section of the dam and water was flowing furiously over the dam. This action helped lower the lake level on McKeown almost 3 inches in a

matter of days. While we didn't measure water upstream, we were informed after the fact that water levels were a bit higher on Man and Baby and that this was being attributed to the recent rain in the area and not the beaver dam downstream.

Thanks again to the Michels and son Ben for their hard work on keeping the water flowing. Rest assured that the lake association will take action to actively engage a trapper again in the spring in that area (among others) during the normal trapping season to ensure water levels stay consistent and that your waterfront property is not impacted or washed away by higher lake water levels.

Jill Adelman-Weis, Stacy Bray, Laura Palmer-Turnacliff, and Jill

Adelman-Weis.



Cabin Cooking

Chicken Sausage, Sweet Potatoes, Apples and Brussels Sprouts Sheet Pan Dinner

by Sue Ready

Cook's Notes: A healthy easy dinner that makes clean up a breeze using just one sheet pan. Chicken Apple Sausages, Sweet Potatoes, Apples, Brussels Sprouts are roasted in Maple Dijon Sauce with Cranberries and Pecans. Pair the meal with a nutritious serving of couscous. I used a box of Near East Roasted Garlic and Olive Oil Couscous. Recipe serves 2 but can easily be increased for more just double the sauce.

Sauce Ingredients:

2-1/2 tablespoons lemon olive oil or olive oil

2-1/2 tablespoons maple syrup

1 teaspoon cinnamon

1 teaspoon Dijon mustard

1 tsp. dried thyme

Main Dish Ingredients:

½ 12 oz. package chicken apple sausages (cut each link into fourths)

3 cups Brussels Sprouts, stems cut and sprouts halved

1 large firm apple, cut in chunks (I used Honey Crisp)

3 cups diced sweet potatoes

1 cup red onion slices

1/3 cup dried cranberries

1/4 cup chopped pecans

Directions:

Preheat oven to 425 degrees. Line a baking sheet with a silicone pad or parchment paper.

In a large bowl mix the sauce. Add in diced sweet potatoes, Brussels Sprouts, red onion slices and apple chunks. Coat well and spread mixture out on baking sheet. Roast 15 minutes. Add in chicken sausage chunks, cranberries and pecans. Mix all ingredients on baking sheet. Roast veggie sausage mixture 10 minutes more until sausages are warmed and sweet potatoes are softened.



Benefits of Lake Membership Dues

- Provides a website with information on individual lakes, our Lake Management Plan, and general information on activities happening in our lake neighborhood
- Bi-annual water testing by RMB Labs to maintain water quality
- Limit or control AIS with education about AIS and paying for and maintaining the I-LIDS system at the public access on Baby Lake
- Fund periodic aquatic vegetation/AIS surveys
- Fund the placement and maintenance of buoys
- Fund the control of the beaver population to maintain our lake levels, shoreline, and trees
- Lake level issues addressed through coordinating removal of beaver dams and maintenance of the Clemson leveler
- Coordination and communication with Woodrow township
- Coordination and communication with the DNR on fisheries and wildlife management issues
- Applications for grants benefiting all six lakes







Feature Stories: Wheezer's Song

Note: The following article was written by Man Lake resident Gail DeBoer, staff and proofreader for Pilot Independent. It first appeared in The Pilot Independent on May 29, 1997. The article was written during the time Gail and her family owned and operated Sunset Bay Camp (now Sunset Bay Resort).

Wheezer's Song

by Gail DeBoer

In the cool spring twilight, a loon swims back and forth, vigilantly patrolling the bay where its mate sits, incubating two eggs on a nesting platform in the reed bed.

Hoots and calls reverberate up and down the lake. I listen,

then turn away, resigned to the fact that something is missing Wheezer's song.

It is clear by now that Wheezer, our lake's senior loon for at least 15 years, did not return this spring. His adenoidal hoots and yodels, easy to distinguish amid the cacophony of other calls, have not been heard since the loons arrived in mid-April.

We can't tell whether his mate, Wheezette, is half of the

happy couple now using the nesting platform in front of our resort. And we know we may have misassigned genders years ago when we dubbed the loon with the strange nasal twang as male.

But whichever was which, Wheezer and Wheezette had a long, successful history on our lake. For many years they raised twin chicks to adulthood in the shadow of our resort; building nests and incubating eggs stoically, despite our commotion; and later, providing priceless photo-ops to our guests, while teaching the chicks proper feather-grooming techniques and how to thin the sunfish schooled under our docks.

Every year, we named the chicks: Ebb and Flo; Flora and Fauna; Flotsam and Jetsam; Schlogg and Foam; Frick and Frack; Click and Clack; Solo; Chicklet (singles, those last two).

Chicklet died of unknown causes in mid-August, 1990, when almost full-grown. I learned of it while cleaning a shower in a cabin one Saturday morning. Despite my best efforts to stifle

them, tears splished onto the shower floor, mixing with Soft Scrub and scouring powder residue.

Several years of nesting failure followed, probably due to human disturbance, predators (raccoons, otters, bald eagles), and high water. Last spring, we put a nesting platform in the reed bed and watched.

Within hours, Wheezer and Wheezette climbed aboard and a few days later, laid two eggs. But another loon couple challenged them and the four chased and fought, up and down the lake for half a day. Meanwhile, the eggs cooled and died on the nest.



"In the cool spring twilight, a loon swims back and forth ... "

They were gone for almost a week. Finally we canoed out to the nest and nudged the addled eggs into the water. Two days later, Wheezer and Wheezette returned and renested. We watched and waited; warned guests; fended off anglers, jet skiers and camera buffs with warning whistles and banshee-like yells.

Twenty-nine days later, the morning of July 1, we heard

unusual hoots and calls coming from the reed bed. "That sounds like a birth announcement," a guest remarked.

Out of the reeds swam Wheezer, Wheezette and one baby loon, glued close to their sides. Checking the nest later, it turned out they'd only laid one egg the second time.

The chick was christened "Blue," because its egg was laid, incubated and hatched under last June's blue moon. "Blue," Wheezer's last chick, grew to adulthood and migrated south successfully last fall.

Our best guess is that Wheezer was close to 20 years old; loons can live to 25 or more, I've been told.

He was just a bird, a wild animal; not a pet, not a human. But he was our neighbor, and we'll miss him, It'll probably take weeks, maybe all summer, before we break ourselves of the habit of listening to every loon call, straining to hear one final refrain —of Wheezer's song.

Feature Stories: Celebrating 30 Years

30 years of Community Service

by Mike Gulbrandson, Historian

It has been 30 years since the birth of our organization and time to reflect. In the coming newsletters we will comment on each decade, today it is 1990 to 1999:

1990: In the summer of 1990, Jim and Liz Swanson (Baby Lake property owners) held two meetings with some of the other property owners to discuss concerns of those times. One of the major items was poor walleye fishing in the lakes. The meetings resulted in a letter being produced to all property owners in our 6 lakes with an invitation to join in the formation of a lake association. A \$10 membership fee was established.

1991: The Lake association was officially formed with a board composed of officers and lake representatives. The first annual meeting was held in August of 1991 and has continued to be held annually. Subjects at that time were fish migration by opening a fish ladder at the dam on McKeown Lake, opening beaver dams, pursuing stocking of walleyes. It was learned stocking would only occur by the DNR if there was a public access. But coincidently the DNR was looking for property to buy to install a public access. The DNR agreed to start fish surveys in anticipation of said public access.

1992: The association continued to pursue walleye stocking. They developed bylaws and committees and registered with the state as a nonprofit organization.

1993: Launched "The Lake Link" newsletter which has been a significant cost to the association. It was decided to send it to all property owners, not just members of the association. We became involved in water testing with equipment from Cass County.

1994: The association volunteers opened up the (Beaver Dams) downstream of McKeown and between Baby & Kid.

Weekly water clarity measurements with Secchi Disks began in the summer. The DNR acquired an option to purchase property on Baby Lake for the purpose of a public access.

1995: In the fall the DNR completed acquisition of the property for a public access. The lake association provided comments for plans citing traffic safety and property owner concerns. Plans were modified to reflect the concerns of our members. The McKeown Dam fish ladder permit was obtained (since modified by the Rock Wier Dam). Four loon platforms were built headed by Peter DeBoer (Sunset Bay Resort). Jim Cummings, association member, helped the DNR for 10 days taking fish surveys. The association became involved in the proposed gravel pit on the south end of Baby Lake and were influential in obtaining significant

conditions for the operation of the gravel pit.

1996: Graphs of the water quality testing were developed. Kerr lake officially joined the Association so the entire watershed was now represented as a whole unit. Public access began construction in October. We were on hand for the DNR stocking of 5,000 Walleye fingerlings.

1997: Survey to members was completed with 93 responses concerning the lakes' top uses and directing of the association efforts. Two more loon platforms were placed. Included with the public boat access, was the paving of 14th avenue and Lake Street.

1998: The DNR developed landscape plans for the boat landing. The association developed our mission statement. Fisherman were seeing increases in small walleyes being caught. The association purchased and installed the "No Wake Buoys" near the public access. Membership to the association had been growing and stood at 165.

1999: The county wetland ordinance of 1998 was adopted. A sign was installed at the public access to remind users to respect the quietness of adjacent neighborhoods. Two buoys were purchased and installed by the association (annually installed and removed) to mark shallows and hazardous rocks.





Who Ya Gonna Call?

2020 Board Members & Lake Representatives

Lake Representative Board Members

BABY LAKE Rob Chapman

Lake: 218-682-3461 Home: 651-463-4720 rjgbcha@aol.com

Chuck & Kathleen Millberg

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KERR LAKE

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MAN LAKE Lois Anderson

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MCKEOWN LAKE Norm Wieland 218-682-2352

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Executive Committee of the Board

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Randy Turnacliff - Vice President 612-412-7054

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Brian Laudenbach - Past President 320-248-4907

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The Lake Link Submittal Policy —

Stories, articles and comments submitted by members are strongly encouraged and welcomed. They may be printed in the newsletter depending on available space and the appropriateness of the subject matter and content. The submitted material may be edited to fit the available space and will be attributed to the person submitting the material. The editor makes the final decision as to whether or not the submitted material will be published in the newsletter. No politically oriented content will be published. Opinions or positions contained in submitted articles do not reflect the association's policies or points of view.

Our 6 Lakes Mission Statement

- To preserve and improve water quality, fish habitat, and the wellbeing of wildlife in our lakes and the watershed of which our lakes are a part.
- To encourage and participate in activities intended to prevent the emergence of aquatic invasive species in our lakes and the watershed and, if such emergence occurs, to control the growth and expansion of such species.
- To educate our members and other members of the public on proper conservation practices relating to the above purposes.

Classifieds







All Lake Association members can advertise in the Lake Link free of charge. Submit ads for upcoming issues by email to: suready@yahoo.com

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Nick Neuman Owner



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