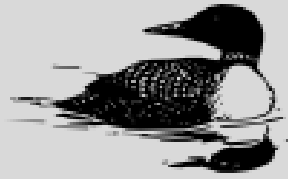


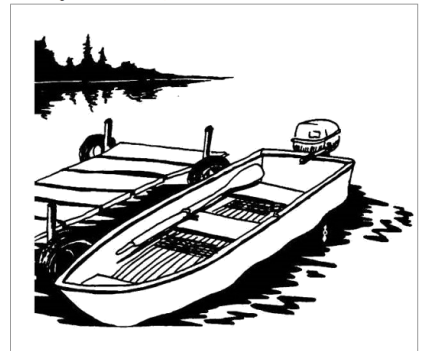
THE LAKE LINK



Volume 33, Issue 2

Fall 2023

Baby, Kerr, Kid, Lost, Man & McKeown



Lakes Association

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - *RANDY TURNACLIFF*



A tangerine sunset with smoke, giving trees across the shoreline a blue-gray tint on July 7, 2023. Submitted by Karen Hollanitsch

Fall is right around the corner and is one of my favorite times of the year. The air is cool and sleeping with the windows open a joy! But it's also a time to wrap up the summer activities, put our boats and sporting equipment into storage for the winter and cleanup for the winter season that is fast approaching. Summer as always is just way too short, but I look forward to the upcoming ice fishing season and the fun that brings!

My time on the board has flown by and my two-year term as your President will conclude at the end of this year. I hope that I leave this organization in a positive position to flourish and continue to grow and that the foundation of the organization is strong and secure for the incoming leadership. It's been my pleasure to continue to foster and strengthen

our 501(c)(3) designation; we've taken action to improve our signage promoting Clean, Drain & Dry education. We sponsored a DNR fisheries education seminar for our young adults and we continue to work our water quality testing to ensure our watershed is healthy for our current users and the next generation to come. It's been my great pleasure to be your representative these last few years. I've enjoyed being a steward for our 6 lakes and it's been wonderful working with a great group of people in support of the efforts we undertake for all of our benefit.

My successor as President is Connie Johnson-Schmitt who has been our secretary for the last few years! Connie and her husband Mike (new Vice-President) live on the west side of Baby Lake and both have been, and will continue to be, great assets to the association as they have shown with their commitment, enthusiasm and positive energy in the building and support of the Our 6 Lakes Association.

As always, we hope you enjoy what we provide for you and ask that you volunteer when and where possible as the association is only as strong as the people involved.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your President. It has been my pleasure and I wish you and your families a wonderful fall season!

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Save the Date!

2024 Annual Meeting
Saturday, July 27th

Questions?

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

Association News

Connie Johnson-Schmitt, New President in 2024

Loving northern Minnesota, I have been coming up to the area since 1984, to Baby Lake since 2012. The peacefulness and wildlife have always been a big draw. Growing up in Iowa, you don't get to see the eagles, deer and loons as up close as I do today.

We began work on our home in 2014, doing all of the interior work ourselves. Lots of DIY and This Old House helped educate me in the ways of insulation, plumbing and electrical. Several broken nails and one sprained ankle later, we unofficially moved in as just weekenders in 2017. With Covid, we found ourselves making the jump to full-timers in 2021. Being here year round, folks back home worried about what we would do, but this area is just as beautiful in the winter as it is in the summer.

I currently work remotely from our lake home as a project manager. Clients and co-workers are jealous of my views. :) We enjoy being on the lake and having family visit, especially the grandson. Seeing it all through his eyes is the best.

Laura and Randy did a spectacular job of getting the association updated and within the guidelines for a nonprofit. We hope to keep the momentum going and work on getting the technology we work with up to date as well.

Looking forward to seeing you around the lakes.



Mike Schmitt, New Vice-President in 2024

My first visit to Baby Lake was an invitation from Lynn Graham (Kumpula) back in 1999. The long weekend with the Kumpulas was very memorable. It seemed like every summer thereafter was some attempt to visit for a long weekend. In 2006, the Watson

place was purchased and the term "Weekend Warriors" became a part of our vocabulary. In 2011, the Davis place, across the street, came up for sale and the opportunity was too good to pass up. After many hours of house design planning (more like dreaming), a house plan came together and in 2014 the Davis cabin was replaced with a modern vacation lake home nicknamed the "Loon's Nest." Along came Covid and, along with everyone else, we started spending more and more days at the lake and less and less in the Twin Cities. Then in 2021 we made the leap and the Loon's Nest became our full-time residence.

I am semi-retired following a 30 year career in Information Technology, specializing in call center automation and corporate communication. Yes, I am a "Phone Guy" that specializes in developing solutions that can turn a phone call into an automated ordering experience, or answering your questions, or even getting you to the right person! You know, "Press 1 for this, press 2 for that...". Today, I enjoy helping people and businesses with technology issues and implementation challenges.

(Continued on page 3)

2024 Board of Directors Meetings, 7:00 PM - open to all members

Due to COVID-19 restrictions and concerns, please check the Our6lakes.org website often for meeting changes and notifications. We will most likely continue to host these in the Zoom virtual platform. Members of the public are welcome to attend. Please submit your name through the "Contact Us" page to ask questions or request a meeting link and login instructions. Thank you.

April 16, 2024	Board Meeting	Virtual (Zoom)
June 11, 2024	Board Meeting	Virtual (Zoom)
July 9, 2024	Prep for Annual	Virtual (Zoom)
July 27, 2024	Annual Meeting—9AM	Union Congregational Church, Hackensack
August 20, 2024	Board Meeting	Virtual (Zoom)

Please provide agenda items to the President a few days prior to a board meeting.

Neighborhood News

A Little Snippet of Baby Lake Trivia

by Karen Hollanitsch

Many of you probably know the public water access on Baby Lake is named Tusler's Landing. Land was sold to the State of Minnesota by that family - who had, in the early 1900s, platted out the area for individually-owned cabins (complete with streets and alleys), and also built a resort on the site. Pictured here, on the left is Ernie Tusler, and on the right his stepson, Bill Huffman. This was in 1961 when Ernie and Bill cut down some very big trees so we could establish a driveway into our lake property.



A North Country Lake Throughout the Seasons



Bruce M. Carlson

Local Author Presentation

by Randy Turnacliff

It was with great pleasure we invited Bruce Carlson of Ten Mile Lake to join the 2023 annual meeting and present excerpts from his book, *A North Country Lake Throughout the Seasons*.

The presentation included a general discussion on what makes our lakes and area special in regards to water clarity, fish habitat and the general variables that make our areas waters a unique environment for all to enjoy. Bruce also presented many underwater videos taken during his gathering of content for his book. The information provided was extremely interesting and the members in attendance had quite a few questions regarding the information presented. The videos were a wonderful underwater exploration of Ten Mile Lake which in many ways duplicates the environment we all enjoy within our 6 lakes. All in all I believe the presentation and content was well received and members enjoyed the information and discussion immensely. I'd like to thank Bruce Carlson for his time and effort in presenting!



Our 6 Lakes Loon Count

by Lois Anderson

	2022	2023
Baby	11 adults, 2 chicks	14 adults, 3 chicks
Kid	4 adults, 3 chicks	3 adults
Lost	2 adults, 1 chick	3 adults
Man	11 adults, 2 chicks	10 adults, 1 chick
McKeown	2 adults, 1 chick	4 adults
Totals:	39	38

(Continued from page 2)

Believe it or not, I'm not so keen on fishing. I love to cast a lure, but never seem to catch a fish. I would rather be flying remote control airplanes and drones or setting up a model railroad. I enjoy building things and the accomplishment of a project well done.

Over the last 4 years, we have seen some amazing updates and improvements to the lake association's charter, mission statement, leadership roles and ongoing procedures to drive this updated non-profit, 501(c)(3) corporation. Their many hours and detailed activities have set the foundation to keep this ship on course for what might be next to come. As Connie has mentioned, our goal is to keep the momentum going and work on getting the association's technology updated and improved.

DNR Wins Kids Over

DNR Kids Presentation for Our 6 Lakes

by Mike Gulbrandson, Historian

On June 10, 2023, on behalf of the Lake Association, Lois Anderson arranged for a children's clinic for environmentally friendly and responsible fishing. Many people donated their time and efforts to make this an interesting and educational moment.

The One Stop in Longville, provided a generous donation in support of a public education service and Camp Holiday provided the space on the shores of Baby Lake. Carl Pedersen and Erin Haws of the DNR provided their professional expertise. Some 22 children were in attendance as well as many adults.

The DNR had set out a fish trap in the shallows in front of Camp Holiday the previous day and all were interested in what would be found. It was an awesome experience to see our fisheries in action! Out of the trap came Northern Pike, Walleye, Sunfish, Perch, crayfish, frogs and even a Painted Turtle. Children were given the chance to see these close up. All creatures survived and were returned to the waters.

A demonstration was held with a jug of water to show graphically how our actions could contribute bit by bit, turning clear waters to a turbid polluted state. Games were played to demonstrate how the littoral food supply affects aquatic populations, as well as a coloring contest for the various age groups.

The professionalism and dynamic interaction with the children and adults in attendance was fantastic and Our6Lakes heard nothing but rave reviews of the content and personal interaction. We thank all that participated and hope to facilitate another clinic in the coming years.



Kids Fishing Coloring Contest

Congratulations to Seannah (11), Jacob (9), and Brielle (8), for their winning entries in the Kids Fishing Coloring Contest. The special DNR kids presentation was organized by Lois Anderson of Man Lake and funded by a generous donation from One Stop in Longville. Each coloring contest winner won a fishing rod. Wow!

Flight of the Loons

A Pre-Flight Gathering, Feast: *Though usually territorial, loons congregate now to locate food before migrating,* by Greg Stanley, Star Tribune Staff

Peter Jacobson was studying a particular kind of oily white fish when he started noticing the loons. The birds, which in Minnesota are almost only ever seen in pairs or small family units, were gathering by the dozens, forming groups of more than 100 on a handful of Minnesota's deepest and clearest lakes.

The loons didn't spend much time in shallow waters, Jacobson noticed. They rafted together over the deepest parts of the lakes — directly over the schools of cisco that the now-retired fisheries expert for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources was studying. "That raised my suspicion," Jacobson said.

He spoke with Kevin Kenow, a loon expert with the U.S. Geological Survey. Kenow led a study published this spring that confirmed Jacobson's hunch: Loons start to converge in the late summer on Minnesota's cisco lakes, just before their migration. They give up fighting each other for territory and prey, and fish as a group. And what they primarily fish for is cisco. "They are a grade A forage fish," Jacobson said. "They're high-energy, high-fat, very oily, so it made sense that loons would want to go after them before they migrate."

The annual phenomenon typically begins in late August. Loons show up in pairs or alone, building up larger and larger numbers on waters such as Upper and Lower Whitefish lakes, on Lower Hay and Kabekona lakes, on Ten Mile Lake and dozens of others across central and northern Minnesota. Adult loons will continue gathering on the lakes until they leave the state in early October.

Cooperation can seem like odd behavior for the highly territorial birds, who spend so much of their time in spring and summer alone with their mate and offspring. But now is the time they need to focus on a common goal — building up energy for their trek to southern Florida, Kenow said. "It seems like finding the school of cisco and keeping up with it is easier to do with a larger number of birds foraging together."

While cisco are rarely sought out by anglers, they have long been known to have an outsized impact on the quality of fishing in Minnesota. The state historically had about 650 cisco lakes.

The DNR expects that to fall to fewer than 200. Rising

temperatures, less ice coverage and more nutrients from agricultural runoff are starving many of the state's lakes of oxygen, killing off coldwater-loving fish like cisco and lake trout. Those lakes that still have cisco also have bigger, stronger and healthier walleye, muskie and lake trout populations. Cisco, the new study shows, are highly beneficial to the state's most beloved bird as well.

The seasonal phenomenon also sheds new light on one of the strangest migration paths of any Minnesota animal. Soon, adult loons will depart the state's cisco lakes, leaving their young offspring behind. The adults will head to Lake Michigan, where they will gather by the thousands with other loons from Canada and the Upper Midwest. They'll spend about 28 days on the Great Lake, feasting on invasive round gobies and other small fish, Kenow said. Then they'll shoot off together for their wintering grounds either on the Gulf of Mexico or Florida's Atlantic coast. Young loons will stay in the lakes where they were born.

While their parents pack on needed calories on Lake Michigan, the juveniles get their first chance to enjoy a lake to themselves. They seem to know those waters well enough by then to forage on their own, Kenow said. Then something will click, right around November in the yearling birds. Nobody teaches them where to fly, but they all head straight for southern Florida.

"I've radio marked loon chicks that were 10 weeks old and I was able to see their location every morning," Kenow said. "I felt like a dad waiting for his teenagers to come home at night. It was getting into November and they weren't leaving." Finally, just before the lake iced over, the young birds left. "It's just innate," he said. "They have this compass bearing in mind, and that's what they seem to follow."

In spring, the adults will try to return to the same lake where they raised their young the previous year. The juveniles, however, will typically fan out across great distances to find breeding lakes of their own, and those born in Minnesota may never return.



Be a Member

Enjoy the Benefits of Being a Lake Association Membership (Cost: \$35/year)

- 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 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

Ready to become a member? For more information on joining, call Joni Kumpula, Membership Chair, at 218- 682- 2026.



Help! Volunteers Needed!

We need volunteers! Join the Lake Association Board and have a say in what happens in our local Lake community! We could be doing so much more to help our environment and one another! We are looking for a Kerr Lake Rep and welcome any ideas you may have. Email our6lakespresident@outlook.com.

Open positions - Kerr Lake Rep

Please join us for the Annual Meeting!

Baby, Kerr, Kid, Lost, Man & McKeown Lakes Association

Saturday, July 27th, 2024

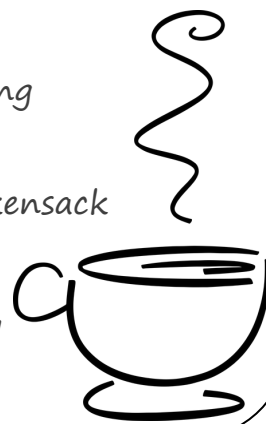
8:30 AM - Registration & Networking

9:00 a.m. - Meeting

Union Congregational Church - Hackensack

Coffee and refreshments provided.

We would love to see you!




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Who Ya Gonna Call?

2023 Board Members & Lake Representatives

Lake Representative Board Members

BABY LAKE

Rob Chapman

Lake: 218-682-3461

Home: 651-463-4720

rjgbcha@aol.com

Greg Olund

952-836-4953

gpolund@gmail.com

KERR LAKE

Open Position (as of 9/2020)

KID LAKE

Brian & Monica Laudenschach

320-248-4907

laudenschach.brian@gmail.com

LOST LAKE

Gary Rueter

218-513-3684

girueter@tds.net

MAN LAKE

Lois Anderson

612-275-8806

loiseveritt@gmail.com

MCKEOWN LAKE

Laura Turnacli

612-709-2248

lodge.life@outlook.com

Executive Committee of the Board

Randy Turnacli - President

612-412-7054

rturnacli@msn.com

Vice President - OPEN

Laura Palmer-Turnacli - Past President

612-709-2248

lodge.life@outlook.com

Connie Johnson-Schmitt - Secretary

515-490-3265

ConnieKJohnson0330@gmail.com

Karla Lutterman - Treasurer

651-214-5827

lutterman20@gmail.com

Our6lakestreasurer@outlook.com

Membership Chair

Joni Kumpula

651-470-1487

our6lakemembership@outlook.com

Send Mail to:

Lake Association

P. O. Box 86

Hackensack, MN 56452

Standing Committees

AIS Team Leader

Open Position (as of 9/2021)

Mike Gulbrandson - Historian

218-682-2760

gulbrandm@aol.com

Fisheries Team Lead

Doug Dyar

515-829-0381

csx4068@gmail.com

Stan Kumpula - Lakes Mgmt.

Plan Leader

218-682-2026

skumpula@tds.net

Mike Schmitt - Water Quality
Team Lead, Co-Webmaster

952-334-0234

mschmitt00@gmail.com

Charley Ready - Co-Webmaster

218-682-2562

ready_c@hotmail.com

Sue Ready - Newsletter

suready@yahoo.com

Our 6 Lakes Mission Statement

- 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.

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.

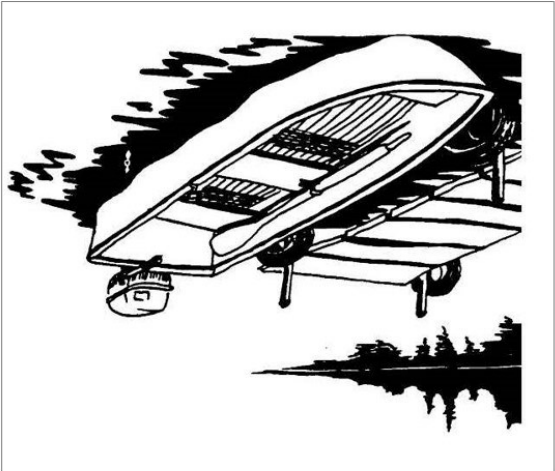
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Lakes Association



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