

Vol. 34, Issue 2 • Fall 2024

THE LAKE LINK

Six Lakes Association Newsletter

President's Message

BY CONNIE JOHNSON-SCHMITT

I hope this message finds you well and enjoying the beautiful fall season. It's hard to believe that another summer has come to an end, and as we bid farewell to warm days and lake activities, I wanted to take a moment to touch base with all of you.

First and foremost, I want to express my gratitude for your continued support and participation in our association. The summer months were filled with family fun, sunburns, and pesky mosquitoes, and I hope you all had a chance to make lasting memories by the lake.

I would like to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of Sue Ready and her team in producing our newsletter. We tried a new format this year, and I hope you enjoyed it. The newsletter is a valuable resource, and we appreciate the effort that goes into creating a quality publication.

Additionally, I want to highlight the significant progress we have made in migrating to our new membership database. This has involved cleaning up and consolidating our data, and we are grateful to everyone who took the time to return their membership forms with updates. As we move forward, you can expect to see the benefits of this improved system during next year's membership drive and communications.

Speaking of memberships, I want to address the fact that our numbers have declined this year. While much of the work done by the board is volunteer-based, there are essential activities such as bi-annual RMB water testing, electronic monitoring at the boat landing, youth education programs, beaver trapping, website maintenance, and newsletter production that rely on your membership dues and donations. These funds also contribute to preventing aquatic invasive species (AIS) in our lakes. Fortunately, we have been fortunate to have only encountered rusty crayfish so far, unlike many other lakes in our vicinity. However, we must remain vigilant and prepared for any potential future discoveries. Should an AIS be found, the

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You're Invited!
2025 Annual Meeting
Saturday, July 26th

Questions?

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

Association News

Your Membership & Generosity Count

BY KARLA LETTERMAN, TREASURER

As treasurer of Our 6 lakes for the past 8 years, I would like to share some information with you. The records I have go back to 2013 and at that time our lake dues were \$25. Our bank balance slowly grew so that in 2017 we had a balance of \$18,260.90 with 227 property owners paying, our best year to date in terms of memberships paid.

Since then, our paying memberships have slowly declined. As of this writing we only have 173 paid memberships. We have over 300 lake owners. Our bank account balance has stayed at just over \$20,000. Our current membership dues are \$35. While we do not wish to raise our dues, we do want to be building our reserve funds so that if (or when) we have an AIS or related issue we will have the financial means to look at options to keep our lakes clean. We also need to keep up with our annual bills, which are always increasing. With that being said, two things,

1. If you have not paid your yearly membership dues, please do. If you are willing and able, please consider an extra donation to the general fund. We do have 501c3 status.
2. Please continue to follow the DNR's rules on keeping our boats, canoes, kayaks, etc. clean, drained and dry for at least 5 days when coming or going to other lakes as well as reminding others to do the same.

We are always looking for new people to participate at our board meetings and get involved. We would love to hear from you – it's only 5 meetings a year.

THANK YOU!

Thank you to all who contributed the wonderful door prizes for the annual meeting. Seven lucky members left the meeting with these donated items. Congratulations to the winners of the drawings and thanks again to the donors of the prizes.

- **Crow Wing Power:** umbrellas, a step stool, a water jug, lidded cups, garden tools and a cooler bag
- **Randy & Laura Turnacliiff:** drink koozies and wine
- **Rob & Julie Chapman:** a large jug of root beer
- **Mike & Connie Johnson:** stemless decorated wine glasses & wine
- **Sue & Charley Ready:** colorful Tote bags and coffee
- **Mike Gulbrandson:** home-processed maple syrup
- **Gary Reuter:** six Swanson's gift certificates.
- **Additional Board Members:** bottles of wine

2025 Board Members & Lake Representatives

Executive Committee

Connie Johnson-Schmitt– President
Mike Schmitt – Vice President
Lynn Graham – Secretary
Karla Lutterman – Treasurer
Joan Kumpula – Membership

Lake Representatives

Rob Chapman – Baby Lake
Greg Olund – Baby Lake
Open Position – Kerr Lake
Brian & Monica Laudenbach – Kid Lake
Gary Rueter – Lost Lake
Lois Anderson – Man Lake
Laura Turnacliiff – McKeown Lake

Standing Committees

Randy Turnacliiff – Past President, Advisory
Open Position – AIS Team Leader
Stan Kumpula – Lakes Mgmt. Plan Leader
Mike Schmitt – Water Quality Team
Coordinator & Co-Webmaster
Charley Ready – Co-Webmaster
Mike Gulbrandson – Historian
Sue Ready – Newsletter
Doug Dyar – Fisheries Team Lead

Email Questions To:

our6lakespresident@outlook.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.

Congratulations to Karen de Boer

Finalist for Lake Country Journal Magazine Poetry Contest

Karen was recently named a finalist for the Lake Country Journal Magazine Poetry Contest 2024 for her poem "Goodbye To The Old Vending Machine." Her poem can be found in the 2024 October/November issue. Karen's parents Pete and Gail, live on Man Lake but she was born and raised on Baby Lake, where the family owned Sunset Bay Camp (now resort) for 27 years. Karen owns an undeveloped lot with shoreline on Tusler's Bay of Baby Lake.



In Case Of A Serious Health Emergency, Know Your Options

Helicopter Landing Pad on Buxton Road
BY LOIS ANDERSON, MAN LAKE

While we all hope this never happens, it is good to know what to do if a friend or family member suffers a life threatening emergency while at the lake. Thanks to several of our neighbors, we now have an additional potentially lifesaving air ambulance option. Previously, if an air evacuation was deemed necessary, air landing pads were not close to many of our lake homes. We now have a pilot approved helicopter landing pad on Buxton Road between 46th St NW and the T at Barnum. Please see Our6Lakes.org website for additional information.

Annual Meeting Saturday, July 26th, 2025

8:30 AM - Registration & Networking
9:00 - 11 00 AM - Meeting

Union Congregational Church
Hackensack

Please join us ! We would love to see you!

Around the Lakes

President's Message

(Continued from page 1)

containment or eradication process would be costly. Your support through dues and donations is greatly appreciated, and I encourage you to consider joining the association to help us be prepared for any challenges that may arise.

As you prepare to close down your cabins and head to warmer climates, I urge you to take a moment to appreciate the changes happening around our lakes during this beautiful fall season. Embrace the pumpkin spice hot drinks, cozy sweaters, and the vibrant colors of autumn. And for those of you who stay and enjoy the winter, please share your experiences and pictures on our Facebook page.

Safe travels to all, and we look forward to seeing you next spring as we embark on another exciting year together!



2025 Board of Directors Meetings 7:00 PM - Open to all Members

Please check the our6lakes.org webpage for meeting changes and notifications. We will continue to host general board meetings using Zoom. Members of the public are welcome to attend. Please use the "Contact Us" option, in the upper right corner of the website, to ask questions or request a Zoom meeting link and connection instructions. Thank you.

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| April 15, 2025 | Board Meeting |
| June 10, 2025 | Board Meeting |
| July 8, 2025 | Prep for Annual Meeting |
| July 26, 2025 | Annual Meeting 9AM Union Congregational Church, Hackensack |
| August 19, 2025 | Board Meeting |

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

Lake News

McKeown Lake Stocking Effort Update

BY DOUG DYAR, FISHERIES TEAM LEAD

We have much progress to report since the last Lakes Association newsletter. Our funding goal has been fully met! Enough donors stepped forward to make the first step a reality in what we hope is a long-term effort. If you missed out on this round, don't worry, we're already starting to collect funds and fundraising ideas for the next stocking in 2026.

The Minnesota DNR has officially approved our permit application. We are allowed to introduce baby walleyes into McKeown Lake at roughly the same time as the DNR's planned Fall stocking of Baby Lake. We are pleased that, by meeting our fundraising goal, we are able to purchase 128 pounds of baby walleyes, the maximum amount that we are allowed to stock.

The hatchery is already on board, busily raising our walleyes, with the actual stocking of our fingerlings scheduled to occur in late September or sometime in October. The fingerling size was selected because it represents the best bang-for-the-buck when evaluating the number of fish stocked vs their expected survivability.

It's a bit early to get out the frying pan, but these fish can grow rapidly. Fingerlings typically grow 3-6 inches or more per year. It will take patience on our part, but if we can continue the semi-annual stocking plan, there's a good chance that, in a few short years, we could end up with some fresh-caught McKeown walleyes on our dinner tables!

I'd like to give a special THANK YOU shout-out to those owners who chose to help financially. You know who you are, and without you, none of this would be happening.



KID LAKE CULVERT

Take a Load Off

BY BRIAN LAUDENBACH, KID LAKE

Many people find themselves on a walk occasionally down Interlachen Drive. Brian and Monica Laudenbach thought they would provide a resting spot for those interested to sit awhile and enjoy some moments surrounded by nature. They installed a log swing on what once was the service road leading north. That road once had a small bridge which was directly in front of where the swing is located and in the early 1970s the bridge was pulled and replaced with the new road and culvert to the east.

So next time you're out on a long walk, feel free to take a load off and enjoy what once was the main road. The swing is on the left side of Evergreen right by the channel.



KID LAKE SWING

Backstory Information on Kid Lake Culvert

SUPPLIED BY STAN KUMPULA, LAKE MGMT PLAN LEADER

A DNR hydrographic work report dated May 10th, 1979, stated that the wooden bridge was removed prior to 1971 and a 24" culvert was put in at the old road site. In 1971, an additional 48" culvert was added. In the fall of 1978, the current road was built with a 48" culvert installed. The two culverts in the old road were removed and the channel widened at that point. Then the owner of Interlachen Resort (Dick Spear) complained that the Kid Lake water surface elevation was too high and that resulted in this hydrographic work report which determined the elevations of the lakes at that time. It also determined that the culvert in the new road was put in too high and should be lowered. Another DNR letter dated October 17, 1979 gave details that the culvert under the new road should be lowered 1.1 feet which would match the original stream gradient and alleviate the high water problem on Kid Lake.

Be Winter Ready

Septic System Maintenance

Common cause of septic system freezing during the winter can be lack of snow cover, extreme cold, compacted snow, irregular use of the system, leaking plumbing fixtures, pipes not draining properly, or a waterlogged system.

To prevent freezing follow these general guidelines:

- Fix any leaking plumbing or appliances prior to winter.
- In the fall, leave the grass longer over the tank and drain field for better insulation.
- Add a layer of straw or hay mulch (8-12 inches) over the pipes, tank and soil treatment area.
- Keep ATVs and snowmobiles off the drain field.
- Spread hot water use (laundry, showers, dishwasher) out over the day and week. If you are gone for an extended period, consider having someone stop by to run hot water regularly.
- High efficiency furnaces, water softeners, and iron filters have the potential to cause problems in the winter because of slow and/or periodic discharges of water.
- Talk with a professional before installing heat tapes or tank heaters.

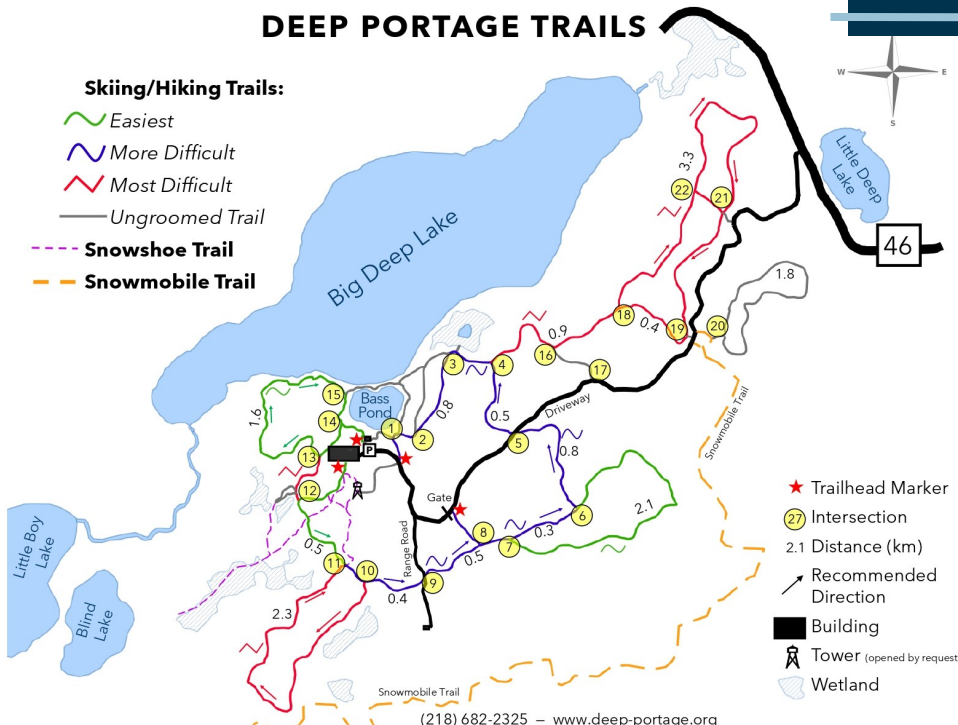
If the septic system freezes - Unplug your pump and call a septic system professional. Do not add antifreeze, additives, or continuously run water to try to thaw out system.

(Information from Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates Shoreland Guide to Lake Stewardship.) Photo: Mike Gulbrandson



Winter Fun

DEEP PORTAGE TRAILS



Deep Portage maintains nearly eleven miles of trails for public use. During the winter, they groom many of them for cross-country skiing. The trails vary in difficulty, with more difficult trails featuring frequent steep hills.

NEW! Deep Portage maps are available to download as GeoPDFs. This means you can use them on your phone to find your exact location, even without cell phone service! *Internet service is required for initial download.

Snowmobile the Brainerd Lakes Area with the Brainerd.com Snowmobile Trails Maps featuring Hackensack MN.

A Century with the Lore and Lure of Baby Lake

BY JANAN BERGSTROM



In 1923 when my grandfather, Grover Garrett, purchased a 50-foot lot from Ernie and Gladys Tusler, he probably had little idea that he was starting a century long family tradition. Grover was a train engineer which was much akin to a present-day airline pilot. He came to know Baby Lake in his work as he traveled the rail in Minnesota and to his home in Manly, Iowa. He and a friend hand built the cabin that stands today using 2 x 4's that measure 2 inches by 4 inches. The cabin had amenities including an ice box, kerosene lamps, a pot belly wood stove, a well with a hand pump and a nearby "biffy."

My parent's generation were teachers, so summers were synonymous with Baby Lake which was always referred to as "Up North." Trips from our home in Mason City, Iowa included a seemingly endless highway journey with many stoplights on the trip through Brainerd that were softened by my dad's requisite stop at the local bakery for coffee and a sweet roll. Near the end of our journey, we traveled the dusty gravel Woman Lake Road with windows down in cars that were years away from air conditioning.

Fishing, swimming, fishing, berry picking, fishing, hiking, fishing and of course fishing were summer highlights. Routinely our 18' x 36' cabin accommodated my grandparents, aunt and uncle, and our family of five. My grandmother's cinnamon rolls and pancake eating contests with my brothers and uncle are happy memories. Dinner was always deliciously prepared fresh fish. The large round oak dining table still holds a place of honor in the cabin today. After dinner, the dishes were washed in a pan with water heated from the stove. That dining table then became the site of often raucous card games involving the whole family. My grandmother's favorite being Spite and Malice. The radio played in the background to catch the weather forecast and fishing reports.

The cabin has been owned by various combinations of family members for 100 years. My husband and I have owned the cabin for the last 35 years, but longer visits had to wait until retirement. When we acquired the cabin we installed a conforming septic system, but the commode remained in the biffy. When we were about to spend more time at Baby Lake, my husband generously offered to have the biffy moved closer to the cabin. It was decided to out the outhouse and a bathroom addition was added to the back of the cabin.

This past century has seen 5 generations of our family enjoying the cabin and Baby Lake. It is indeed humbling to realize that we are only temporary stewards of this wonderful God given planet we call Earth. We support the conservation efforts of the Lakes Association and the Lake Link. It is imperative that we all strive to keep these beautiful Minnesota lakes clean and pristine so they may be enjoyed for centuries to come by future generations of our family and yours.



Gone Fishin' Cupcakes

A batch of cupcakes (doesn't matter what flavor you use)

A batch of buttercream icing

Blue food coloring

Pretzel sticks

Goldfish crackers

A small round pastry tip

1. Make your batch of cupcakes and allow them to cool entirely.
2. Make a batch of icing. Leave about a cup of icing aside. Dye the rest of the icing blue.
3. Fit a pastry bag with the round tip — and pipe the blue icing onto each cupcake.
4. Place a pretzel rod on each cupcake.
5. Using a different pastry bag fitted with the small round pastry tip, pipe a curvy line of white icing onto each cupcake — starting at the rod.
6. Place a Goldfish cracker at the end of your curved line of white icing.

Note: if you don't own pastry tips, it's OK! You can spread the blue icing onto the cupcakes with a knife — and you can just snip the end off of a pastry bag with a scissors for the white icing step.



Share the Best of Lake Life!

Thank you to **Karen Hollitsch** for her stunning submission "Cotton Candy Sky" at Baby Lake for our cover photo contest. Be looking ahead! Submit your best photos from lake life to be featured on the cover of the Spring 2025 issue of *The Lake Link* and win a \$25.00 gift card to a local business of your choice. Email your submission to suready@yahoo.com by March 31st.



Paws+Claws

RESCUE & RESORT

2949 State Hwy 371 NW
PO Box 175

Hackensack, MN 56452
218-675-7297

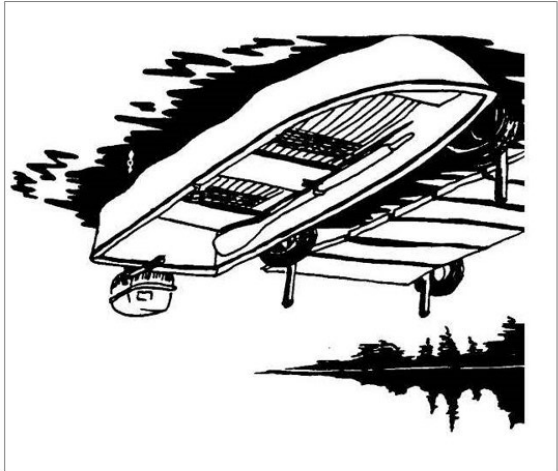
www.pawsandclawsrr.org

***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. 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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Baby, Kerr, Kid, Lost, Man & McKeown

Lakes Association

Remember to renew your membership!