



Vol. 35, Issue 1 · Spring 2025

# THE LAKE LINK

Six Lakes Association Newsletter

## President's Message

BY CONNIE JOHNSON-SCHMITT

Happy Spring to You All!

I believe spring has finally arrived. I spotted my first robin at the end of March, only to see 7 inches of snow during the first week of April. This week, we saw our first loon—it greeted us this morning as we walked in the yard. It was wonderful to see one back; I'm sure more are on the way!

Hopefully, snow and winter are behind us now. The days are getting longer and warmer, with plenty of sunshine. Soon, the lakes will be bustling with boats full of people fishing, water skiing, tubing, and simply relaxing.

The board has seen a few changes. We're excited to welcome a new lake representative, Gary Guttormson, for Man Lake. Gary will assist Lois with the buoys and water testing, as well as serve as the voice for Man Lake. At the same time, we are bidding farewell to Mike Gulbrandson. Mike has held many positions and worked tirelessly to make our lakes safer and cleaner. Thank you, Mike, for everything you've done. Enjoy your travels!

We've been updating some of our technology to improve efficiency and save resources—not the most thrilling changes, but you should see some of the improvements soon.

The heart of our lake association is you! As a member and/or volunteer, we couldn't do this without you. I encourage each of you to get involved or share your ideas. Feel free to reach out to your lake representative or to me directly at [our6lakespresident@outlook.com](mailto:our6lakespresident@outlook.com).

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!** Our annual meeting is on **Saturday, July 26 at 9:00 AM** at the UCC Church in Hackensack. Would love to see you and hear what you have to share.

Have a wonderful summer—see you around the lake!

**VOLUNTEERS  
NEEDED!**

Kerr Lake Rep  
McKeown Lake Rep  
AIS Team Leader  
Historian

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2025 Board Representatives

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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

## Gary Rueter

### Lost Lake Representative

My parents started coming to the Hackensack area in 1970. I will never forget those drives up from Saint Cloud on Friday nights following a slow-moving military convoy on what was then a 2-lane highway. Everyone hates road construction in Minnesota but Highway 371 and the Brainerd bypass was welcomed.

Our family with 6 kids stayed at Interlachen Resort along with Uncle Jack and Aunt Dorine Laudenbach and their 7 kids. All of us cousins always found lots of activities to pass the time. Most of it was good clean fun!

My Mom was canoeing on Lost Lake in the summer of 1977 and saw a for sale sign on a lot on the south side of the lake with a small mobile home on it. That was all she needed to realize a family cabin. I think my Dad was almost more excited to own some north country real estate.

Since the fall of 1977, our family made the trip from Saint Cloud at least twice a month to the family cabin. Winters were spent snowshoeing or cross country skiing and summers always included fishing and floating on the lake. I was in high school at the time and my buddies and I started coming up for a weekend in January. We have continued this tradition now for 48 years straight with one of the fellas coming every year from Florida. You just can't mess with traditions.

In 2010, my wife, Jdee and I were living in Rochester, Minnesota. We purchased a lot on the east side of Lost Lake and built our lake home. We made the trip up most weekends until our retirement in April 2018 and have been living here full time since then. We don't miss the weekend drives through the Cities, but do miss our family and friends in Rochester.

*(Continued on page 5)*



## 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  
Gary Guttormson – Man Lake  
Laura Turnacliff – McKeown Lake  
**Open Position – McKeown Lake**

### Standing Committees

Randy Turnacliff – 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  
**Open Position – Historian**  
Sue Ready – Newsletter  
Doug Dyar – Fisheries Team Lead

### Email Questions To:

[our6lakespresident@outlook.com](mailto: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.



## 4th of July Boat Parades

**11am, Baby Lake** Meet at Partridge Point and join your lake neighbors for some 4th of July fun.

**1pm, Kid & Lost Lakes** Meet in front of old Interlachen resort. Decorating a boat is optional join the fun anyway. It's a great way to meet your lake neighbor. Touring both lakes.

**3pm, Man Lake** Meet in the center of the lake with flags, decorations, and horns!



## Around the Lakes

## Man Lake Pizza Party

**Camp Holiday, June 21 @ 11:30 AM**

All Man Lake lakeshore owners and their families are invited to a pizza party on **Saturday, June 21, at 11:30 a.m., rain or shine.** We will provide pizza crusts, red sauce, salads, water, lemonade, and desserts. Please bring your preferred pizza toppings and lawn chairs for your family.

Once again, Jenn and Jeff have graciously agreed to share Camp Holiday with us and cook the pizza you prepare in their wood-fired brick oven. We will have a brief meeting when we are done eating to share concerns and news. Please RSVP to Lois Anderson at 612-275-8806 (phone or text) to let us know how many will be coming so we can have enough pizza crusts ready. We look forward to seeing you!

## Kid & Lost Lake 2026 Walleye Stocking Fundraiser

Hello to all of the property owners on Kid and Lost lakes. As the Kid Lake Rep I will once again head up the efforts for another walleye stocking late this fall. But we need your help to make this happen!

We successfully stocked our two lakes with walleyes in 2015, 2016, 2017, 2019, and 2022, and we're hoping to do it again this fall. The DNR allows 80 pounds (now every other year), and these cost us \$1600 in 2021.

If you're able to help us out with this cause please send a check to my name and address below along with your email contact info. I will keep tight records on these donations as they come in. I will also keep those folks abreast on the release date if you want to come see it. This typically happens early November. The walleye enthusiasts certainly appreciate any donation you can consider.

**Please send donations to:**

Brian Laudenbach  
4167 Cedar Trail NW  
Hackensack, MN 56452



NORTHWOODS ARTS COUNCIL PRESENTS 2025

## SUMMER EVENTS

### LAKESIDE CONCERTS

Fridays, June 13 - August 29 • 5 - 7 PM • Birch Lake Park Pavilion

### RON SCHARA

Saturday, June 14 • 1 PM • Hackensack Community Center

30TH ANNIVERSARY

## NORTHWOODS ART & BOOK FESTIVAL

Saturday, August 9 • 9 AM - 3 PM • 3rd Street and Lake Avenue

  
northwoodsartscouncil.org | nachackensack@gmail.com

# Lake News

## Aquatic Invasive Species Update

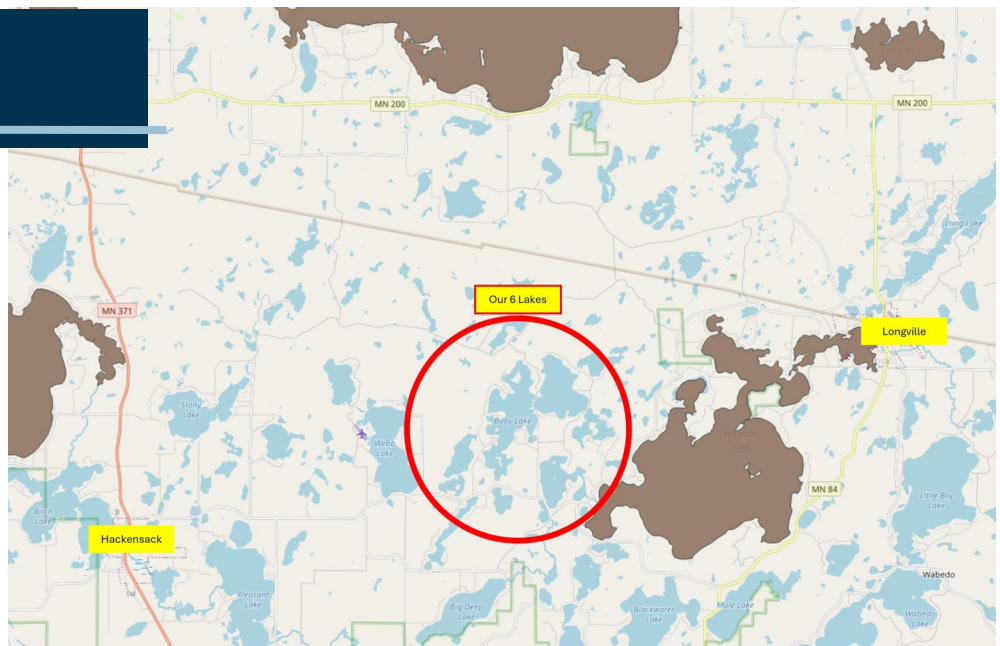
BY LAURA TURNACLIFF, MCKEOWN LAKE

### What are the latest statistics?

As of April 1, 2025, there are 25 reported lakes or streams in Cass County that contain an AIS. With confirmed AIS (Aquatic Invasive Species) in Leech Lake, Ten Mile, the Woman Lake chain (Girl), Gull Lake, Winni, Cass Lake, Washburn, and many others, it is important to continue our efforts to prevent the spread of AIS to our six lakes chain.

### What can we do to help?

- Always **CLEAN, DRAIN, and DRY** any watercraft before launching. The recommendation is to dry for at least 5 days. This includes drying the bilge where unfortunately the smallest of invasive species such as Zebra Mussel veligers may reside. Veligers are about the size of a grain of sand or smaller.
- Ask your visitors to CLEAN, DRAIN, and DRY their boats, jet skis, canoes, kayaks, paddleboards, paddle boats, floats, etc. they bring to the lake because these additional watercrafts could transport veligers or other types of invasive species.
- Take a photo and report any suspicious lake weed, snail, mussel or other possible AIS (such as spiny waterflea, starry stonewort, rusty crayfish, etc.) to the DNR for them to confirm by calling 888-MINN-DNR or Gina Kemper in the DNR's Northwest Region at 218-537-6100.
- Make sure your provider of lake services such as dock installation, maintenance, dock moving, is certified by first checking on the DNR website before they are hired. Docks and lifts must be decontaminated before being moved. [Certified providers](#) are responsible and trained in preventing infestations when providing their services.



CASS COUNTY AIS (as of 4-1-2025)

LAKE NAME (or stream)	TYPE	YEAR
Bass (or Ray)	zebra mussel	2010
Bowen	starry stonewort	2022
Dade	zebra mussel	2020
Girl	Eurasian watermilfoil	2017
Girl	zebra mussel	2021
Green's	zebra mussel	2010
Gull	zebra mussel	2010
Gull River	zebra mussel	2010
Hand	zebra mussel	2019
Lawrence	Eurasian watermilfoil	2023
Leech	starry stonewort	2021
Leech	Eurasian watermilfoil	2005
Leech	zebra mussel	2016
Leech Lake River between Mud Lake and Mississippi River	faucet snail	2010
Little Red Sand	zebra mussel	2020
Margaret	zebra mussel	2010
Pike Bay	zebra mussel	2014
Pine Mountain	zebra mussel	2021
Spider	zebra mussel	2010
Sylvan	zebra mussel	2020
Ten Mile	zebra mussel	2019
Thunder	zebra mussel	2022
Thunder	starry stonewort	2022
Town Line	Eurasian watermilfoil	2009
Unnamed stream connecting Pike Bay and Cass Lakes	zebra mussel	2014
Upper Gull	zebra mussel	2010
Washburn	Eurasian watermilfoil	2009
Winnibigoshish	zebra mussel	2013
Winnibigoshish	faucet snail	2009
Woman	zebra mussel	2021

Source: <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/ais/infested.html>

### What is the law? You may not...

- Transport watercraft without removing the drain plug.
- Arrive at lake access with drain plug in place.
- Transport aquatic plants, zebra mussels, or other prohibited species on any roadway.
- Launch a watercraft with prohibited species attached.
- Transport water from Minnesota lakes or rivers.
- Release bait into the water.

### What are the penalties?

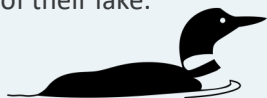
- Violators may receive a citation from Cass County authorities and/or a hefty fine.
- Anyone convicted of or subject to a final order for a violation of Minnesota Statute 84D (Aquatic Invasive Species law) involving water-related equipment must successfully complete an online class before continuing to operate or use water-related equipment.



## 2025 Annual Meeting

UCC Hackensack, July 26 @ 9:00 - 11:00 AM

Please join us for the Baby, Kerr, Kid, Lost, Man & McKeown Lakes Association Annual Meeting! Registration and networking starts at 8:30AM. Guest speaker Ryan Carlson, Cass County Cass County SWCD Resource Conservationist, will explain where the water in the Man Lake Watershed comes from and where it flows after leaving your lakes. He'll also share eight key steps landowners can take to significantly improve the water quality of their lake.



## 2025 Board of Directors Meetings

**7:00 PM - Open to all Members**

Members of the public are welcome to attend. Please check the [our6lakes.org](http://our6lakes.org) webpage for meeting changes and notifications. Use the "Contact Us" option in the upper right corner of the webpage, to request a Zoom meeting link and ask questions.

June 10, 2025

Board Meeting

July 8, 2025

Prep for Annual Meeting

**Annual Meeting 9AM**

July 26, 2025

Union Congregational Church,  
Hackensack

August 19, 2025

Board Meeting

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

## It's Good to Know

### Minnesota Waterway Markers



Channel lies between green and red markers



Do not pass between buoy and shore



Mid-Channel pass close on either side



Diver below - stay 150' away



Controlled Area



Danger



Mooring Buoy



Boats Keep Out



Information



[mndnr.gov/boatingsafety](http://mndnr.gov/boatingsafety)



BAW\_278\_20

## Gary Rueter: Lost Lake Rep *(Continued from page 2)*

My parents stayed in their lake home until 2021 when they realized lake life was getting too tough and moved back to Saint Cloud. They always commented that the view from their place would never change and in the 44 years they had here, it never did. Many of our family traditions have run their course in the North Country and my siblings have taken over my parents property. We are seeing development happening and new neighbors are starting to create their own memories. This is a wonderful place to call home.

And for our new neighbors wanting to make connections, joining the Lake Association ranks right up there with pickleball.

As the Lost Lake Rep, I will volunteer to help out with special projects such as rewriting our charter for 501(c)3 status, remaking the signs, etc. I want to be a welcoming landowner to the next group of people moving into our area but want to make sure they respect the lands and waters as a valuable resource.



# Foraging Nearby

BY MICHAEL GULBRANDSON, HISTORIAN

For me, I simply like the idea of spending more time in the outdoors. Foraging for edibles sustains that aim. Generally speaking, foraging isn't an equipment-intensive behavior, needing small shovels, scissors and bags for carrying your bounty. While my wife Cindy cultivates her

garden, I go afield for the wild treats. Most of us have fairly easy access to wild Raspberries and wild strawberries. There are also blueberries, found around Jack and Red Pines, as well as where there have been fires.

I thought I would report on the more overlooked forest foods.

A short walk behind my home, in a sunlit area by a pond, there are abundant **hazelnut bushes**. The variety I found are the "Beaked" hazelnuts. In earlier years, I read that the best time to harvest is September. But don't follow that advice, by mid-August, the deer and birds have picked them clean. They are smaller than the hazelnuts found in commercial mixes, much the same as wild berries tend to be smaller. Dry them indoors, or hang them in the old Fish Baskets outdoors (so squirrels don't get them).

**Elderberries** can be found along our roadsides. You can make elderberry wine or jellies from them. I have made both. We decided to grow them in our garden to protect them from birds with netting.

I noticed **wild grapes** near our driveway, was able to gather 4 lbs of grapes to make 5 bottles of wine. I have harvested them twice, both times September 15. Weather appears to decide if the yield is heavy enough to harvest. While I am generally reluctant to report specifically where certain wild foods can be found, I will say I have seen wild grape vines along Interlochen.

I have located **wild plums**, in an old overgrown farm hedgerow. From these wife Cindy have made a plum jelly.

Many of you know I collect **maple sap** in March/April and make many gallons of maple syrup. This does require some investment in equipment.

Some folks I am acquainted with report finding **Morel mushrooms** around Aspen and apple trees, and along low wet areas. I can say I have roamed about near home, in the spring, but have yet to find Morels. And the folks "in the know" are secretive, as if you were to ask where to find 1-pound crappies on Baby Lake.

There are some **Rose Hips** in certain places, generally near water. These are fun to collect to make a Tea.

**Chaga** is a fungus that grows on Birch trees. It has traditionally been used for medicinal purposes, including boosting immunity and overall health. Ascending the tree may require having a ladder or means to ascend it, as it is often out of reach. Bring a small hand saw. We Grind it up to make a tea.

A friend harvests **Fiddlehead ferns** regularly April / May after the snow melts when they are still tightly coiled and tender.

Lastly, we make **crab apple** sauce from a tree near our garden, and **apple wine** from trees at the back of an old cemetery.

This is not an exhaustive list, but just a list I have been involved in with friends and relatives on a more local basis. As a child living in South Central

Minnesota, my mother would send me out to pick **wild asparagus** coming up in the spring. As a Boy Scout, I dug up and boiled young **cattail roots**.

**Wild mint** is around us, **stinging nettle** for salads, and even **acorns** can be leached in boiling water to remove the bitterness.

**Happy foraging!**







## Berry Caprese Salad

SUBMITTED BY SUE READY

*The perfect side to a BBQ meal and holiday entertaining.*

### Ingredients:

Diced strawberries  
Raspberries  
Blueberries  
Mozzarella Pearls (found in deli)  
Dark Balsamic Vinegar, good quality  
Fresh basil leaves

**Directions:** Refrigerate mixed fruits in a bowl until ready to serve. Add mozzarella pearls and drizzle with balsamic just before serving. Garnish with fresh basil.

### *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](mailto:suready@yahoo.com)



### RESCUE & RESORT

2949 State Hwy 371 NW  
PO Box 175  
Hackensack, MN 56452  
218-675-7297

[www.pawsandclawsrr.org](http://www.pawsandclawsrr.org)



## Share the Best of Lake Life!

Thank you to Sue Ready for her stunning nesting loon from Baby Lake on the shoreline of the island (cover) and Linda Beasley for this gorgeous eagle shot. We are looking forward to submissions for the Fall *Lake Link* cover. The winning photo receives a \$25.00 gift card to a local business of your choice.

Email your submission to [suready@yahoo.com](mailto:suready@yahoo.com).

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Our 6 Lakes  
P.O. Box 86  
Hackensack, MN 56452

**Lakes Association**



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

**Remember to renew your membership!**