



Vol. 35, Issue 2 • Fall 2025

THE LAKE LINK

Six Lakes Association Newsletter

President's Message

BY CONNIE JOHNSON-SCHMITT

Happy Fall to One and All!

Hard to believe another summer has flown by—it seems like we just put the dock in, and now we're ready to take it out. Cabins are being shut down, and friends are preparing to head south. For those of us who stay year-round, it's time to start raking leaves, cutting firewood, and digging out the snow shovels. So goes the circle of life here in lake country.

The phrase "busy as a beaver" has never been more fitting. Several areas have been affected by those pesky creatures. Special thanks to the neighbors who've helped manage our trouble spots:

- **Gary Rueter and Dave Nieman** for keeping the crossover between Kid and Baby clear.
- **Randy & Laura Turnacliiff and Doug Dyar** for their work on the McKeown Dam.
- **Gary Guttormson and Jen Fraser from Camp Holiday**, who have been out there daily clearing the crossover between Baby and Man.

Trapping season opens on October 25th. If you're dealing with beaver issues, please let me know.

To keep the summer spirit alive, don't forget to review the new boating laws. Starting in **July 2026**, anyone born after **June 30, 2000**, will need an operator's permit to drive any watercraft. You can find more details here: [New Boater Education Law | Minnesota DNR](#)

As winter settles in, don't forget about your lakeshore. At our annual meeting, we had a fantastic presentation by Ryan Carlson, Resource Conservationist for the Cass County Soil & Water Conservation District. Ryan described himself as "the boots on the ground" for conservation efforts. He's available to help us strike the perfect balance between preserving and enjoying our land. He

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Save the Date
2026 Annual Meeting
Saturday, July 25th, 9am
Stay up to date with association
projects and bylaws. Your
involvement matters!

Questions?

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

Association News

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 this website, to ask questions or request a Zoom meeting link and connection instructions. Thank you.

2026 BOARD MEETINGS

Tues. April 14, 2026 @7:00 PM (Zoom Meeting)

Tues. June 9, 2026 @7:00 PM (Zoom Meeting)

Tues. July 7, 2026 @7:00 PM (Zoom Meeting)

Tues. Aug 18, 2026 @7:00 PM (Zoom Meeting)

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



2026 ANNUAL MEETING

Sat. July 25 @ 9:00AM – 11:00AM at the UC Church in Hackensack.

Registration and networking starts at 8:30AM. Please join us for the Baby, Kerr, Kid, Lost, Man & McKeown Lakes Association Annual Meeting! We would love to see you!



Thank you, Connie, for your dedicated service to our 6 lakes association serving as president, helping the community grow and thrive. Welcome Mike Schmitt, new president, January 1.

President's Message *(Continued from page 1)*

offers a variety of tools to manage lakeshores and watersheds. For more information, visit the SWCD website or reach out to Ryan directly at ryan.carlson@casscountymn.gov.

Lastly, the association thrives because of its volunteers. At the end of the year, we say goodbye to **Karla Lutterman**, who has served as our treasurer for over eight years. A huge thank you to Karla for all she's done to keep the association moving forward! We're excited to welcome **Gary Rueter** as our incoming treasurer—thank you, Gary, for stepping up. We're always looking for fresh perspectives, so please let me know if you're interested in getting involved.

As for me, it's been an honor to serve as your president for the past two years. I've enjoyed meeting new folks and working to make our lakes a better place. I leave you in good hands—**Mike Schmitt** will take over as president for 2026–2027.

Hope to see you around the lake!

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

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.

Kid & Lost Lake Walleye Stocking Update

BY BRIAN LAUDENBACH

The DNR has issued the permit for stocking this fall so it's definitely on. Bosc Bait will provide the fingerlings and we're hoping for the delivery around the first week of November.

Thanks so much for the donations thus far. Anyone interested can send a check or contact me at (laudenbach.brian@gmail.com)

I will keep records on all donations received. Please include your email address if you would like a video of the release.

Thanks to everyone. Hopefully, this will help our future generations catch more walleyes in Kid and Lost Lakes.

Thank You, Karla Lutterman!



Our 6 Lakes appreciates the 8 years of dedicated service Karla has given to the organization as treasurer. She will be retiring on January 1. Her position will be filled by board member Gary Rueter. We wish Karla the best.

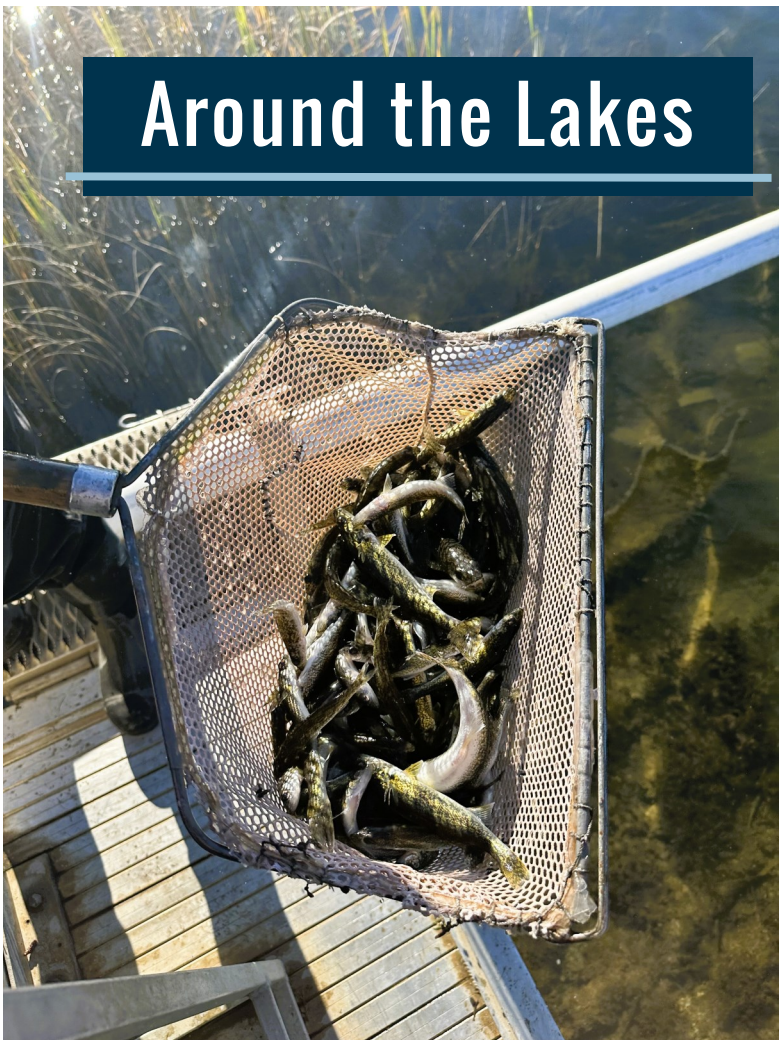
HELP IS NEEDED!

Preserve Our Lakes - Our team of dedicated lake lovers and advocates are seeking a leader to support our efforts against Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS).

Preserve Our History - If you enjoy reading the newsletter feature articles about our association's history, considering trying on the historian role. A curious mind and a love of collecting peoples' stories will make this position a joy.

All lake association positions are volunteer. Contact the President at our6lakespresident@outlook.com if you are available.

Around the Lakes



Thank You, Annual Meeting Donors

Thank you, donors, for gifts to the July Annual Our 6 Lakes Meeting

- Gary Rueter - Swanson's gift certificates
- Laura Turnacliiff - Honey, dish towels, hot pad
- Stan & Joni Kumpala - Bottles of wine
- Sue & Charley Ready - Wine and tote bags for prizes
- Lynn Graham - Various 3M products
- Mike & Cindy Gulbrandsons - Jars of homemade maple syrup
- Lois Anderson - Emergency s'more kits
- Sue Ready - Blue Ox gift certificate

Other donated items included:

- Swedish dishcloths
- Swanson's koozies
- Refrigerator magnets



Lake News



Water Quality Sampling Season Wrap-Up

BY MIKE SCHMITT

As the 2025 water quality sampling season concludes, we want to extend our sincere gratitude to the volunteers who made this vital work possible. Special thanks go to Brian Laudenbach (Kid Lake), Gary Rueter and Kobe Pozzani (Lost Lake), Randy Turnacli (McKeown Lake), Jo and Gary Guttormson, Pam and Todd Willis (Man Lake), and Mike Schmitt (Baby Lake). Your dedication to monitoring and protecting our lakes' health is truly invaluable.

Between June and September, the team collected five water samples from each lake, along with Secchi disk readings to measure water clarity (pictured right). All samples were promptly delivered to RMB Labs for analysis. This testing occurs every other year as part of the lake association's ongoing effort to monitor and preserve the quality and health of our lakes.



The samples are tested for essential indicators such as phosphorus levels, chlorophyll-a concentration, visual depth, and overall water clarity. These factors help us understand the ecological balance and detect any early signs of environmental stress. Although weather conditions were challenging at times, the team's perseverance ensured a successful sampling season.

We were also excited to welcome new volunteers this year. They quickly learned important sampling procedures, including the critical task of properly labeling sample bottles—an essential step that ensures accurate identification and reliable results throughout the testing process.

RMB Labs is currently processing this year's samples. The results will be available on the Lake Association website at www.our6lakes.org. The report will provide valuable insights to guide our ongoing lake conservation efforts and inform future initiatives.

Thank you once again to everyone involved this year and past years. Your hard work and commitment has helped safeguard the natural beauty and ecological health of our lakes for generations to come.

Pumpkin Cranberry Bread

BY SUE READY

Cook's Notes: Pumpkin bread or cranberry bread? What's your craving? How about the best of both worlds with this pumpkin cranberry bread with walnuts? Moist and tender, and not too sweet, it's the perfect accompaniment to a cup of coffee or tea or as an afternoon snack. The recipe is adapted from [whatagirleats](https://whatagirleats.com).

Ingredients

1-1/2 cups all-purpose flour (gluten-free flour may be substituted)
1 teaspoon baking soda
1/4 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon baking powder
2 teaspoons pumpkin pie spice mix
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon or 1/2 teaspoon Saigon cinnamon
1/4 cup sugar
1/4 cup dark brown sugar, packed
1 cup canned **pumpkin purée** not pie filling
1/2 cup buttermilk
2 tablespoons vegetable oil, coconut oil, or another neutral oil such as canola
2 large eggs
1 cup frozen cranberries, halved
3/4 cup chopped walnuts



Directions

Preheat oven to 375 degrees.
Grease with PAM a 10" loaf pan.
Mix all the dry ingredients in a large bowl using a whisk.
Mix the following ingredients (white sugar through eggs) together in a mixer until well blended.
Add flour mixture to the pumpkin mixture. Stir just until blended. Avoid overmixing the batter.
Mix in halved cranberries and walnuts. Pour the batter into the prepared pan.
Bake the bread in the center of the oven at 375 degrees for 45-50 minutes for the loaf pan or until a toothpick inserted into the center of the loaf comes out clean.
Allow the loaf to cool completely on a wire rack. Wrap extra bread in plastic wrap and refrigerate until needed.

As nature's 'ecosystem engineers,' beavers could help fight effects of climate change

Beavers, as "ecosystem engineers," offer significant environmental benefits that can help combat climate change, despite often being seen as pests in Minnesota. Their dams slow water flow, reduce flooding, improve water quality, and create biodiverse wetlands that can even resist wildfires due to their constant moisture.

Emily Fairfax, a University of Minnesota beaver researcher, highlights beavers' powerful ability to reshape landscapes, second only to humans, and their tireless dam maintenance driven by survival. Beaver-created wetlands also provide crucial habitat and increase water storage, enhancing resilience to droughts and floods.

Recognizing these advantages, states like Minnesota are slowly shifting towards beaver restoration and nonlethal management, moving away from trapping and killing problem beavers. The St. Anthony Falls Laboratory is opening an outdoor stream channel for research on beaver dam hydraulics and their response to environmental stresses, fostering coexistence strategies. Fairfax believes that by understanding and strategically working alongside beavers, rather than clashing, we can leverage their natural abilities as a hopeful and effective solution to climate challenges.

(Note: This is an AI-generated summary of an article written by Kirsti Marohn published September 11, 2025 of the same title. To read the full article, visit [MPR News](https://mprnews.org).)



Annual Meeting

Ryan Carlson, Cass County SWCD Resource Conservationist, presented a lakeshed plan as well as best practices for maintaining a healthy lake environment.

Goal	Baby, Kerr, Kid, Lost, Man, & McKeown Implementation Action	Minimum 10-yr Goal
Phosphorus Reduction	Install rain gardens & implement storm water management practices to capture rainwater and let it infiltrate instead of running into the lake.	Reduce phosphorus input by 5%. (46lb / yr)
Shoreline Protection	Install shoreline buffers of native plants to protect the shoreline from erosion and provide habitat for fish and wildlife.	Work to develop 75% shoreline protection by developing 25ft buffers along lake.
	Plant trees along the shoreline and upland zone.	1,464 trees
Shoreline & Land Protection	Develop a Forest Stewardship Plan (min. 20 acres)	Work to protect 1,150 acres.
	Sign up for Sustainable Forest Incentive Act (SFIA) to receive payments to keep wooded areas undeveloped. (min. 20 acres)	Work to protect 1,150 acres.
	Permanently protect undeveloped land and shoreline with conservation easements.	Work to protect 1,150 acres.
Monitoring	Continue to implement county AIS plan.	Continue data collection to monitor lake trends.
	Continue to collect and process water samples & monitor Secchi depth.	
Groundwater	Have subsurface sewage treatment systems maintained / pumped every 3 years	Develop septic system monitoring schedule. Pump every 3 years.
	Seal unused wells in the shoreland zone.	Seal 2 wells per year or as needed.
	Minimize chloride use on driveway & sidewalks. Install and use only high efficiency water softeners.	Education & outreach to lake associations once every 3 years.
Education	Partner with Lake Association and partners to deliver sustained, consistent messaging about protecting and restoring natural shorelines.	Provide guidance, tools, and support to lake association.

\$ = money available



= Cass SWCD cost share available



Share the Best of Lake Life!

Our cover winner is Kristin Rahrig for the photo of her father Jim Carlson catching a largemouth bass on Kid Lake. The winning photo receives a \$25.00 gift card to a local business of your choice. Thank you to Kathleen Millberg for submitting her autumn scene (left). We are looking forward to submissions for the Spring 2026 *Lake Link* cover. Email your submission to suready@yahoo.com.

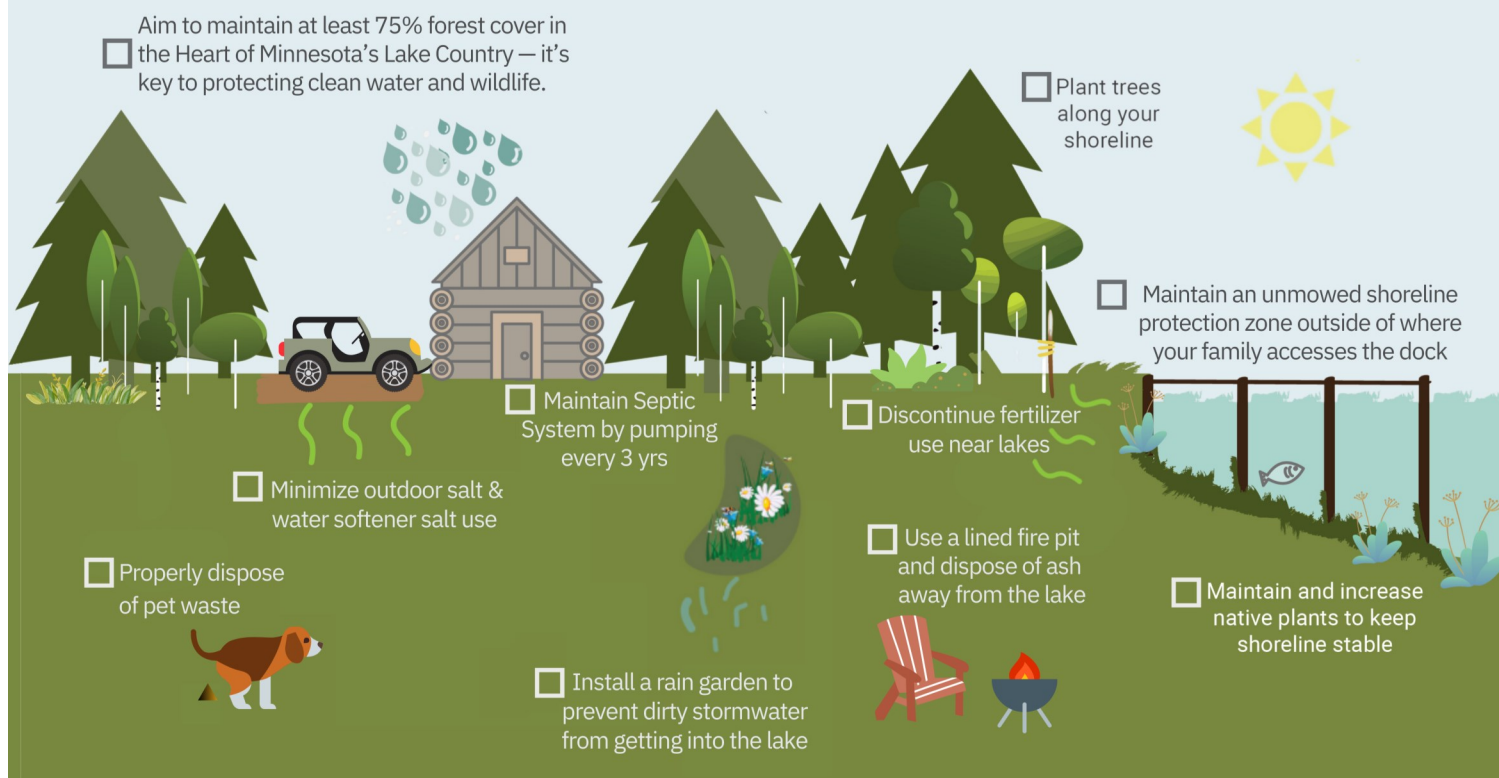
The Lake Link Submittal Policy

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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Best Practices for Maintaining a Healthy Lake Environment



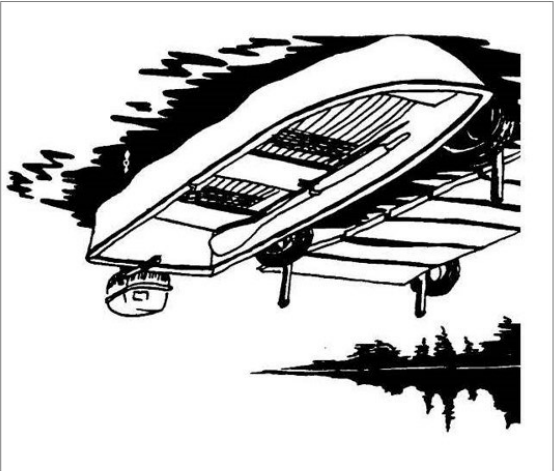
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Baby, Kerr, Kid, Lost, Man & McKeown

Lakes Association



Remember to renew your membership!