

Vol. 36, Issue 1 · Spring 2026

THE LAKE LINK

Six Lakes Association Newsletter

President's Message

BY MIKE SCHMITT

Stepping into this role as your new lake association president, I want to begin by saying how grateful I am for this community. These lakes have been part of our life for many years, and like many of you, we've built memories here with family, friends and neighbors that I deeply value. It's an honor to help support and protect a place that means so much to all of us. As we look ahead to another season on our 6 lakes, I'm reminded how fortunate we are to share such a remarkable place—and how important it is that we care for it together.

Our 6 lakes are among the greatest assets in our community—but they don't stay healthy and enjoyable on their own. Your support makes it possible to protect water quality, strengthen fish habitat, watch for invasive species, maintain navigation markers, and respond to wildlife impacts that can damage shorelines, trees, and habitat. Your involvement also gives us a strong, unified voice when decisions are made about development, regulations, and environmental protection, and helps us stay connected and informed through updates, shared information, and community events. This work is sustained by active members whose engagement and financial support keep all 6 lakes healthy, protected, and moving in the right direction—now is the time to stay involved, strengthen your support, or join as a new member at our6Lakes.org/Membership.

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, share your ideas, and stay connected by following us on Facebook. And as always, feel free to reach out to your lake representative or to me directly at President@Our6Lakes.org.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!! Our annual meeting is on Saturday, July 25 at 9:00 AM at the UCC Church in Hackensack. Would love to see you and hear what you have to share.



Become a member

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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 questions or concerns about your lake, please contact your lake representative listed within this newsletter.

Association News

We remember and celebrate Alkis who was a past president of our lake association.

Alkis Michaelides, 69, passed away on October 23rd, 2025 at his home surrounded by family and friends after a long battle with a brain tumor. He is survived by his best friend and wife of 43 years, Denise; children Andrew (Alexandra) & Alexi; grandchildren Rio & Louka; sister Nedie; nieces and nephews Melina, Alexandros, Angie, Jake & Josh. Alkis was born 1/18/1956 in Nicosia, Cyprus, the son of Androulla Petevi and Andreas Michaelides. He graduated from the English School where he was the leader of the Orchestra and a Track and Field star. He served in the Cyprus military before coming to Minnesota to study architecture at the U of M. Alkis became a US citizen on 7/1/1992. Alkis was a financial advisor for 40 years. He served on the Board of Directors of Children's Home Society & Family Services from 1998-2009. He was also a member of the Rotary Club. Alkis was an accomplished violinist - he played at many weddings of friends and family. Alkis loved taking canoe trips with his friends in the Boundary Waters. He also loved spending time at the cabin in Hackensack, MN hunting in the north woods with his beloved dog, Asti. He loved to show up at neighbors cabins unannounced (he would call it trespassing) with Jade Miller on the 4-wheeler. Alkis lived loud and proud and his larger than life presence will be missed.



Alkis Michaelides

January 18, 1956 - October 23, 2025

2026 Board Members & Lake Representatives

Executive Committee

Mike Schmitt – President
Open Position – Vice President
Lynn Graham – Secretary
Gary Rueter – Treasurer
Joan Kumpula – Membership

Lake Representatives

Rob Chapman – Baby Lake
Greg Olund – Baby Lake
Open Position – Kerr Lake
Brian & Monica Laudenschach – Kid Lake
Gary Rueter – Lost Lake
Gary Guttormson – Man Lake
Lois Anderson – Man Lake
Laura Turnacliff - McKeown Lake
Doug Dyer – McKeown Lake

Standing Committees

Connie Johnson-Schmitt – 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 Dyer – Fisheries Team Lead

Email Questions To:

our6lakespresident@outlook.com

Nominate your neighbor!

Your lake association will thank you!

- Vice President
- AIS Coordinator
- Kerr Lake Rep
- Historian

(Just kidding. But really. Please contact Our 6 Lakes Association President at our6lakespresident@outlook.com if you would like to learn more.)


We're Searching for Volunteers

Our 6 Lakes Mission Statement

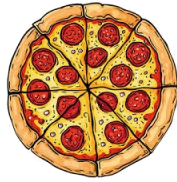
To preserve and improve water quality, fish habitat, and the well-being of wildlife in our lakes and the watershed of which our lakes are a part.

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.

Man Lake Pizza Party

Camp Holiday, June 21 @ 11:30 AM



All lakeshore owners on Man Lake are invited to our annual pizza party on **SATURDAY, JUNE 20 at 11:30 AM**. Once again, Jenn and Jeff have kindly agreed to host us at Camp Holiday. We will gather by the dining hall between Man and Baby. Watch for the parking area signs. Please bring lawn chairs and pizza toppings for your group. We will provide premade pizza crusts, pizza sauce, salads, utensils, plates, lemonade and desserts. You will create your own pizzas and Jenn will bake them in their wood-fired brick oven. Please come to see old friends and meet new neighbors. We will have a brief meeting to introduce everyone and share lake information. **RSVP by phone, text or email to Lois Anderson at 612-275-8806 or loiseveritt@gmail.com** to let us know how many will be coming by June 12. We look forward to seeing you and catching up on what is happening on the lake.

- Man Lake Reps Lois Anderson & Gary Guttormson

Neighborhood News



4th of July Boat Parades

11:00 am, Baby Lake - Meet at Partridge Point and join your lake neighbors for some 4th of July fun.

11:30 am, McKeown Lake - Neighbors will meet at the culvert.

1:00 pm, 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.

3:00 pm, Man Lake - Meet up with the other boats in the middle of the lake at 3 PM. We encourage you to decorate your boat with flags and red, white and/or blue. Circle the lake, or if you prefer, cheer the boats from your dock. Happy Fourth!



Westside Neighborhood Monthly Baby Lake Coffee Gathering - All welcome!

2nd Wednesday of each month at 9:00 AM. New location each month. Check with Joni Kumpula, 651-470-1487

East Meets West Neighborhoods Coffee Gathering

July 8th 9:00 AM @ 4168 Interlachen

Hosted by Joni Kumpula

RSVP 651-470-1487

All are welcome from both areas.

2026 BOARD MEET-

- 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.

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 Annual Meeting

Saturday, July 25

9:00AM – 11:00AM

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!

Lake News

AIS Spread Continues Nearby

BY LAURA TURNACLIFF, MCKEOWN LAKE REP

The Latest Statistics

Since last year's Lake Association Spring newsletter edition, there were (7) lakes in Cass County - Bowen*, Boy, Ingaudona, Little Thunder, Portage, Pug Hole, and Roosevelt* - added to the list of confirmed AIS infested bodies of water. It is extremely important to continue our efforts to prevent the spread of AIS to protect our six lakes chain.

Cabin Owners & Visitors Take Steps to Help Prevent the Spread of AIS

- Always **CLEAN, DRAIN, and DRY** for at least 5 days.
- Decontaminate lake equipment at a certified hot water decontamination site

Equipment Types

- Boats, jet skis, canoes, kayaks, paddleboards, paddle boats, floats
- Docks, boat lifts, diving docks
- Anything that goes into the water

If you suspect an AIS

- Take a photo and report any suspicious lake weed, snail, mussel or other possible AIS 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.

What is the law? You may not...

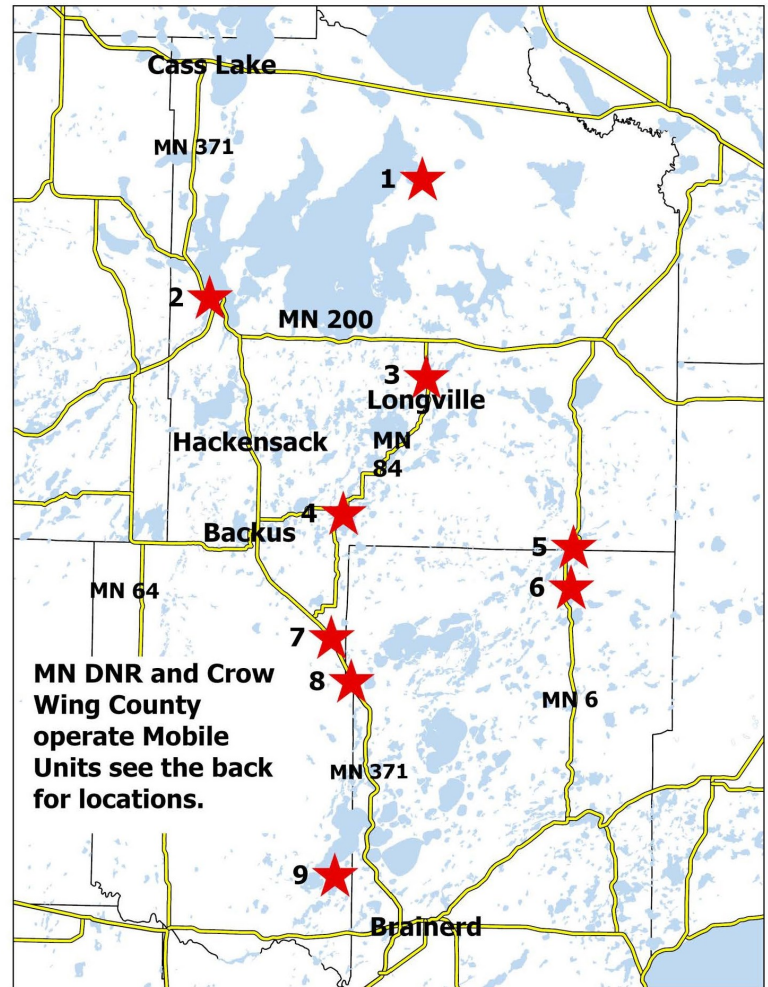
- Transport watercraft without removing the drain plug.
- Arrive at lake access with drain plug in place.
- Transport aquatic plants, zebra mussels, or other prohibited species on any roadway.
- Launch a watercraft with prohibited species attached.
- Transport water from Minnesota lakes or rivers. Release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

Penalty for Violations

- 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.

**Already on the list for previous AIS infestations of starry stonewort and Eurasian watermilfoil respectively.*

Help Stop Invasive Species Free Watercraft Decontaminations



Visit one of our partner sites 7 days a week.
Call 218-536-0584 or see the back for more info.

Service Provider Training & Certification

Make sure your lake service provider, such as a dock installer, dock maintenance or removal, boat lift installer, etc. is certified by checking the [List of Permitted Lake Service Providers](#) on the DNR website before hiring. Docks and lifts must be decontaminated before being moved. Certified providers are responsible and trained in how to prevent

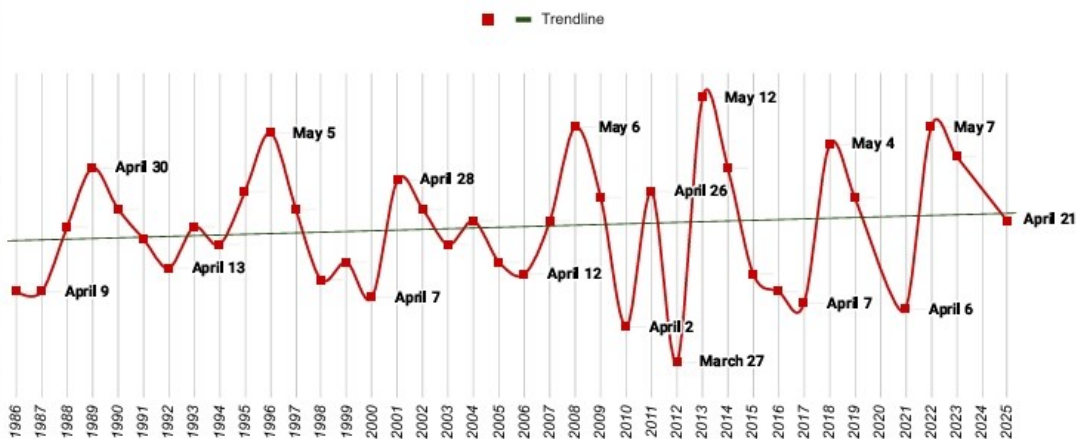
New Boater Education Law --Starting on July 1, 2025, a new law requires some adults and youth who operate motorboats—including personal watercraft—to have a valid watercraft operator's permit (commonly also known as a boater safety certificate). People who already have a watercraft operator's permit are not affected by the law, which is designed to make boating safer by ensuring everyone operating a motorized watercraft knows the rules and is properly trained.

Ice Out

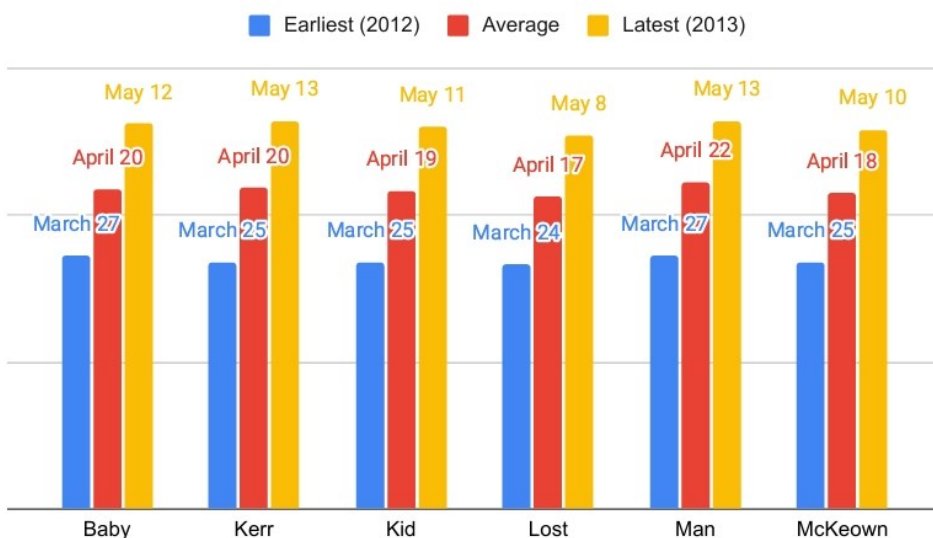
BY DOUG DYAR,
MCKEOWN LAKE REP

As I'm typing this, there's still a foot of snow on the ground. But spring can't be that far off, can it? March always makes me think of spring. Thinking about spring gets me to thinking about the day that the ice melts and we get open water on the lake again. That gets me to thinking about the almost-40-years-worth of ice-out dates for our lakes that Stan Kumpula graciously shared with me recently. Stan has been keeping track of the ice-in and ice-out dates on our lakes for decades. I plugged all that info into my laptop and crunched the numbers. I made a couple of charts to illustrate the findings. I thought some of you might be interested. *Thanks, Stan!*

Baby Lake Ice-Out Dates by Year



Ice-out Dates



McKeown Lake Stocking Effort

BY DOUG DYAR, FISHERIES TEAM LEAD

It's 2026, an even-numbered year. That means the Minnesota DNR will allow us to stock McKeown Lake again this year!

Surprisingly, we have already begun to see positive results from our October 2024 stocking. Thanks to the funding provided by McKeown Lake owners in 2024, walleyes being caught (and released) in McKeown have been reported. That's sooner than expected, given the fingerling size that we introduced. But there were some larger fish put in with the fingerlings, so maybe those are the ones that were caught. Whatever the reason, it is encouraging to see the results. Research shows that repeated stockings are the best way to ensure consistent growth of the introduced fish, and the plan is to continue with semi-annual stockings.

Later this summer I will be mailing out a flyer asking for donations. My initial mailing will be to McKeown Lake owners, but anyone who would like to contribute can contact me directly. I hope that everyone can support this

effort. We can pool our funds, spreading the cost out over many owners, and ensure that we can afford to purchase the full allotment of baby walleyes authorized by our permit. To support the stocking effort, contact Doug Dyar, 4188 McKeown Lake Rd., csx4068@gmail.com or 515-829-0381.



It's Good to Know



Be on the Alert!

BY GAIL DEBOER, MAN LAKE

For eight months, northern Minnesota is a paradise with lakes, woods and trails, one that's also home to ticks and the tick-borne diseases they carry. While Lyme disease may be the most well-known, spread by the Western black-legged (deer) tick, the disease babesiosis/babesia, is a close second. Humans live in the same habitat where ticks “hang out” on grass or twigs, waiting to transfer to humans or pets that pass by.

In July 2024, I came down with a mysterious disease. After fainting twice on night time bathroom runs and hitting my head badly, I ended up at St. Joseph's Hospital, Brainerd, where blood tests showed “babesia” organisms wriggling in my blood sample. After three days, I went home with a 10-day supply of a powerful antibiotic. But it took three weeks to regain my strength. Since then, I've learned of at least two other serious cases of babesiosis in the Baby/Man/McKeown lakes area, and there may be many others.

While protective clothing and powerful sprays can repel the various ticks that live here (black-legged tick, brown dog tick, wood tick), we soon get careless. What we can do is ask a friend or relative to do a “body check” of those overlooked body areas. Personally, I've often had to ask a friend or relative, “Is that a wart or a tick??” before I went to bed. You can't be too careful. FYI, it's the female tick that does the dirty work. You can draw your own conclusions.

Happy tick-checks!

Spring is Here...and So Are the Beavers

BY CONNIE JOHNSON-SCHMITT



As the snow melts and we start seeing (and hearing!) the birds, bears, and all the other signs of spring, we're also welcoming back one of our most industrious neighbors: the beaver.

Beavers are incredible creatures. They're often called nature's original water managers, and for good reason — their ponds create rich habitats that support an amazing variety of wildlife. In the right place, they're a gift to the ecosystem.

But as one biologist put it, “A beaver in the wrong place is a nuisance.” And that's the tricky part. When beavers set up shop where they shouldn't, they can flood roads, damage timber, and chew down trees we'd rather keep standing.

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



DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES



mndnr.gov/boatingsafety

BAW_278_20

If You're Dealing With a Problem Beaver - If you as the landowner, notice beaver activity on your property causing issues, the first step is simple: call our local conservation officer, **Jackie**, at **651-408-4393**. No permit is required, but the state does ask that you keep Jackie in the loop. Most beaver trappers will take care of this for you. Within **24 hours**, you'll need to let her know:

- When traps are set
- How many beavers are trapped
- When traps are removed

Note: You can take action on **dams**, but not on beaver huts. Traps must come out **two weeks before the season opens**. If you notice dams built that involve the restriction of **flowing water**, please contact the lake association and we will arrange to have the blockage cleared and contact a trapper for help.

Lake Life



Strawberry Shortcakes

SUBMITTED BY SUE READY

Savor the flavors of summer with this light dessert. I made my own shortcakes but something from the bakery like sponge cake or pound cake works just as well. It's the filling that's the star attraction.

Strawberry Filling

- 1 package (10 oz.) frozen halved strawberries in syrup, thawed
- 1/4 cup currant jelly
- 1/4 cup of water
- 1/4 cup orange juice
- 3 cups fresh quartered strawberries
- 2 tablespoons cornstarch
- 1 tablespoon orange Cointreau (liqueur)

Directions: Drain berries in a glass measuring cup. On the stove in a saucepan add drained juice, currant jelly, water, orange juice, and strawberries from the box. Add in cornstarch, and whisk to blend. On low heat thicken the sauce and add in fresh strawberries as well as drained strawberries. Remove pan from the stove and stir in Cointreau. Place strawberry mixture in a bowl, cool, cover, and refrigerate until serving.



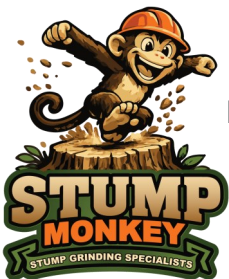
Congratulations!

Our cover winner is Cindy Gulbrandson. The winning photo receives a \$25.00 gift card to a local business of your choice. Thank you to Andrew Gander for submitting his winter sunset scene (above). We are looking forward to submissions for the Fall 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.



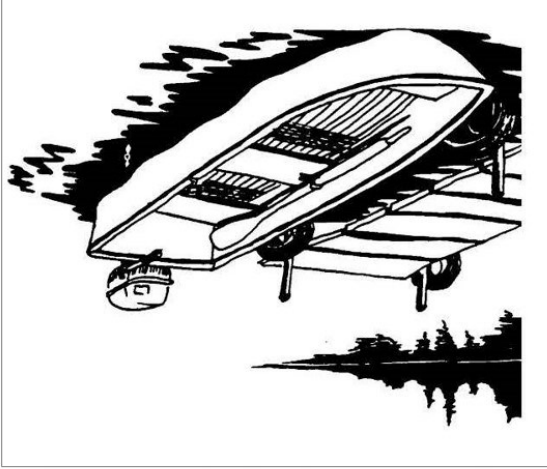
Stump Grinding Specialists
Insured/Local/Call back guaranteed
Bud Lutterman
Cell: 651-274-1435
lutterman20@gmail.com
Facebook: Stump Monkey, LLC



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218-675-7297
www.pawsandclawssr.org

Remember to renew your membership!

Lakes Association



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