

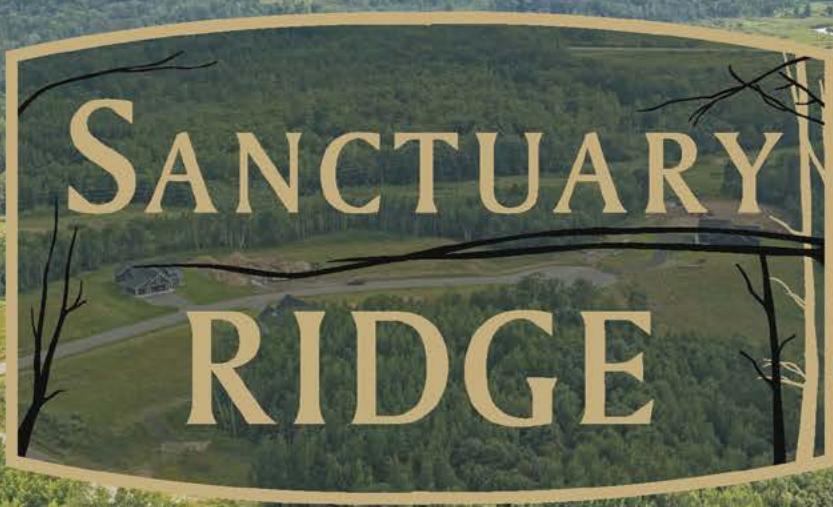
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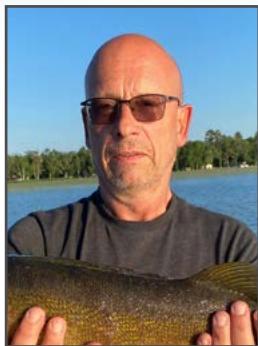
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# President's Message | Round Lake

Terry Waagmeester | President



Hello fellow Round Lake residents.

I trust you all enjoyed the summer on the lake as much as we did. I hope you were able to meet some of your fellow round lake neighbors at the annual meeting on June 21st or at the Sale around round on June 7th. We are currently experiencing some beautiful fall weather and the activity on the lake is changing in preparation for the season ahead (i.e., storing boats, pontoons, jet skis and removal of docks/lifts).

We engaged Freshwater Scientific Services to perform an early spring assessment for curly leaf pondweed on May 8th. They identified 13 acres for treatment, so we contracted with PLM Lake and Land Management Corporation to treat the 13 acres on May 14th. Freshwater Scientific Services performed a post treatment reassessment on June 5th and identified an additional 28.6 acres of curly leaf pond weed to treat however it was too late in the year for treatment. We plan to engage Freshwater Scientific Services to perform another survey earlier

next year and leverage PLM Lake and Land Management Corporation for a treatment plan. I would like to extend a special thank you to Mark Parrish for coordinating the assessment and treatment plans.

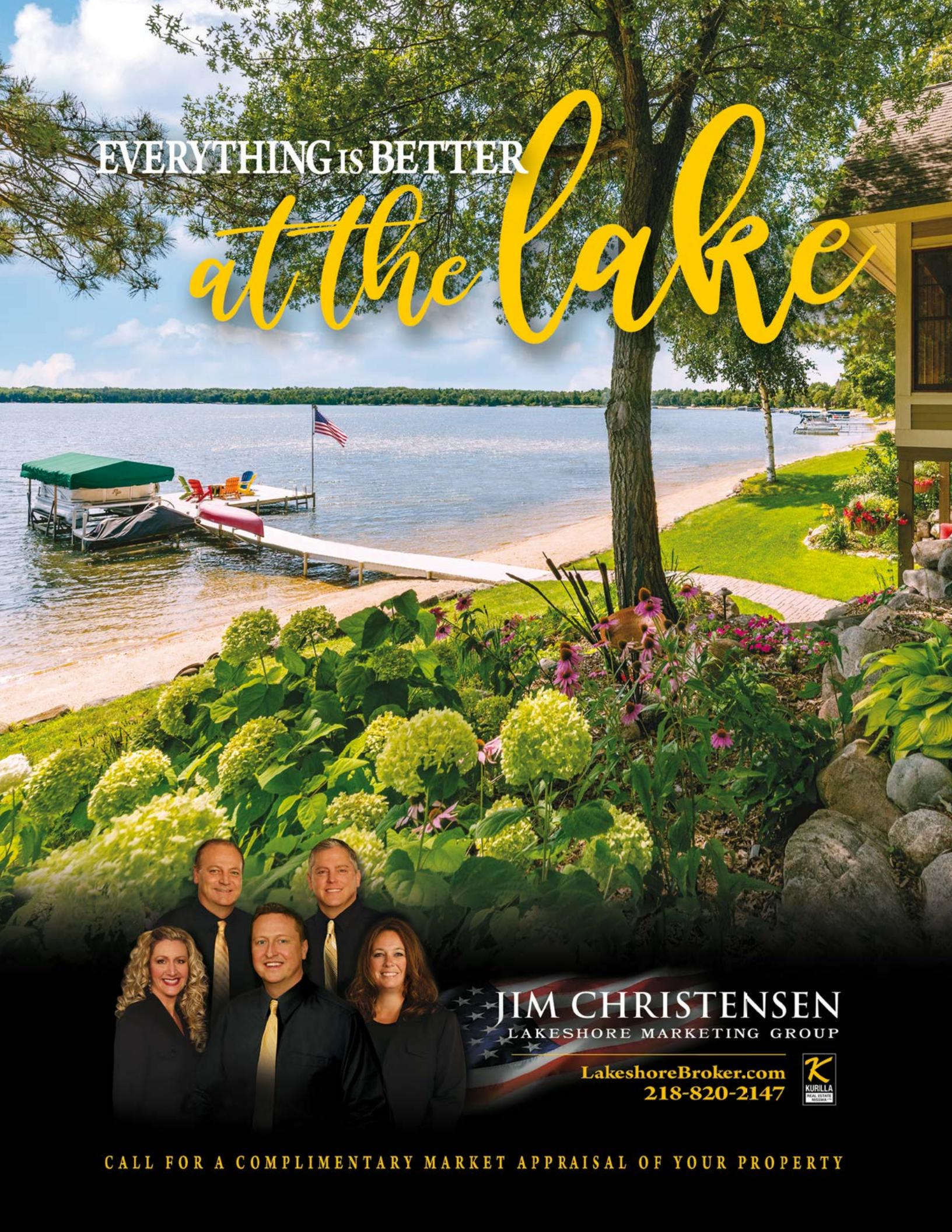
For those of you who use the boat access you may have noticed a couple of changes this year. The board approved a lawn service to maintain the area. We also approved red buoys to mark the channel to help with the low water level around the access. I would like to thank Scott Fisher for setting up the lawn service along with John Just and Luke Vander Aarde for installing\removing the hazard and channel buoys. I would also like to thank the individual(s) who removed the tree that was partially blocking Bishops creek after the storms in late spring.

An additional positive note to wrap up with, the lake level remained normal this summer allowing Bishops Creek to be easily navigable.

Do not forget to check out our website: [www.round-lakebrainerd.com](http://www.round-lakebrainerd.com) for more details.



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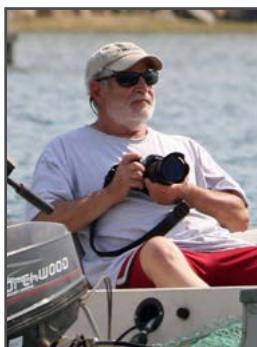
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# President's Message | North Long Lake

Harris Goldstein | President



First, I'd like to introduce myself. We came to the lake in 2001 and my wife and I enjoyed the life here enough to rebuild our retirement home in 2008. We joined the association in 2002 and were pretty passive members for years. I volunteered to take over as newsletter editor in 2014 and in 2015 I joined the board. So I've had the opportunity to enjoy an

insider's view of our association and see how our past presidents have ably led our board. I plan to draw on that experience as well as add some new ideas into the mix. My philosophy is that if we aren't moving forward, we're falling behind. And to move forward we have to be open to new ideas and be willing to try new things.

I've been giving some thought to the issues we face, both from a lakeshore owners perspective and an association perspective. First and foremost is Aquatic Invasive Species. So much of our effort – and our dollars – goes to preventing new invasive species from entering the lake and mitigating the impact of those that are already here. We spend a lot of time and money making sure we catch any infestation early, when it can be addressed at reasonable cost. We employ specialists to provide the data we need to support our treatment permit requests. And board members are out on the lake frequently looking for invasive species. I wish I could say that we could absolutely prevent the introduction of invasives like Spiny Water Flea - we can't. But we can delay their introduction until solutions are found.

Some invasives, like Curly Leaf Pondweed and Eurasian Water Milfoil, can be treated effectively. We are paying particular attention to the areas around the boat landings to catch any introduction early. As you'll see elsewhere in the newsletter, we are treating a larger area of Eurasian Water Milfoil this fall and expect to treat a much larger area for Curly Leaf Pondweed next spring. While these treatments are expensive, they are necessary. Untreated, these invasives will take over.

Which brings me to one of our challenges as an association. The effort (and expense) of what we do to improve and protect the lake benefits all our lakeshore owners whether they are association members or not. In fact, some of what we do benefits the public at large

who use the lake. I believe we need to do a better job communicating what we do and why to all North Long Lake property owners, not just members. Our ability to protect the lake is dependent on our membership base, so one of my personal goals as president is to see our membership grow from the current level of 373 member properties.

We will be reaching out to new residents on our lake to make sure they know about our work as an association. We will be making it easier for members to join (and renew) with online payments. And we will be conducting more social and educational events to bring value to our members and foster a sense of community. So please, as a member, encourage your neighbors and friends on the lake to be a part of our association. And to be active.

It's been a privilege to be the newsletter editor for the past 10 years but it's time to turn that over and have new talent in that role. Board member Susan Arntz is taking over as the NLLA newsletter editor and, as you can see from this issue, is off to a great start. I look forward to seeing what a fresh perspective can do. I would be remiss if I failed to mention the time and effort your board members devote to our association efforts. Whether it's AIS, water quality, social events, fishery improvement, or the day-to-day operation of the association, nothing happens without them. They deserve our thanks.

Finally, I welcome your comments and suggestions. Let me know what we can do as an association to make your lakeshore experience even more enjoyable. Email me at [president@northlong.org](mailto:president@northlong.org).



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With a deep appreciation for the Brainerd Lakes Area and a commitment to excellence, Rod is uniquely positioned to represent both buyers and sellers seeking the lakefront experience. His dedication extends beyond real estate, reflecting a genuine investment in preserving and celebrating the beauty of North Long Lake for generations to come.



University of Minnesota PhD student Amanda Schuermann collects snail samples at a private beach on Pleasant Lake in North Oaks, Minn., on Sept. 15. Schuermann is studying whether there's a connection between aquatic invasive species and an increase in swimmer's itch cases.

Ben Hovland  
MPR News

# Scientists Look For Cause Of Spike In Swimmer's Itch Plaguing Minnesota Lakes

Printed with permission from MPR Environmental News | Kirsti Marohn

Marjorie Mathison Hance's five grandchildren love spending time in the water at her place on Pelican Lake in Otter Tail County. But she said one summer day in 2020, they emerged from the water, their skin blistering with hundreds of itchy, red welts. It took six weeks for one of the children's sores to clear up. "They were crying and really agitated, because it's a very painful and very aggressively itchy swimmer's itch," Hance said. Her grandchildren no longer want to go in the water, she said.

When Hance talked to other Pelican Lake residents, they reported similar experiences. Swimmer's itch had a profound impact on people's ability to enjoy the lake, she said. "Kids are scared of it. Adults are scared of it," she said. "It's really had a very dramatic effect."

Swimmer's itch is caused by microscopic parasites in the water. When those parasites come into contact with people, they can burrow into their skin, causing an allergic reaction, also called cercarial dermatitis. It's not a



*A laminated sign warning of swimmers itch is taped to the back of a lifeguard stand at a private beach on Pleasant Lake in North Oaks. Ben Hovland | MPR News*

new phenomenon in Minnesota lakes, and the rash usually goes away within a week. But in the past few years, reports of severe cases of swimmer's itch have been on



This 2018 photo shows a common merganser and a large group of ducklings following her on Lake Bemidji in Minnesota. Brent Cizek | brentcizekphoto.com via AP

the rise. Scientists are working to figure out what factors are driving the increase, and whether anything can be done to prevent it. People often think of swimmer's itch as a nuisance rash, comparable to a mosquito bite, said Curt Blankespoor, a biology professor at Jackson College in Michigan, who studies swimmer's itch. But there are more than 20 different parasite species that cause the condition, and some cause much worse reactions, he said. "It's not uncommon for kids and young adults who get severely infected with swimmer's itch to have to go to the ER, because they just can't deal with the itching and the pain," Blankespoor said.

Before microscopic parasites infect swimmers, they pass through two different kinds of hosts. The parasites infect ducks, geese and some mammals. Their eggs get

into the water through the animals' waste. Those eggs hatch, and the larvae then infect certain types of aquatic snails. The snails, in turn, release a different type of larvae called cercaria — the one known to penetrate humans' skin. Blanckespoor thinks the rise of severe cases in Pelican and some other lakes can be traced to the common merganser, a species of duck that prefers to raise its young next to clear, sandy lakes. "Unfortunately, folks that vacation like clear lakes and sandy bottoms," he said. "That's where you get the overlap between mergansers and humans. You're going to get lots of swimmer's itch in those places."

This summer, the Pelican Lake Property Owners Association asked Blanckespoor to assess the lake. He found high levels of swimmer's itch in snails in Pelican and other nearby lakes.



*University of Minnesota PhD student Amanda Schuermann uses a tweezers to scan a log for snail specimens at a private beach on Pleasant Lake in North Oaks. Ben Hovland | MPR News*

Blanckespoor proposed capturing mergansers and relocating them to the Great Lakes area, where there isn't the right type of snail to host the parasites. But he said the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service wouldn't approve the permit, because the agency was concerned that moving the birds could spread avian influenza.

The Fish and Wildlife Service didn't make anyone available for an interview. In an emailed statement, a spokesperson said it's "continuing to work with partners to evaluate options" to address swimmer's itch concerns, including those that directly involve common mergansers or other migratory birds. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources also declined to approve a permit to capture and euthanize mergansers on Pelican Lake and Bay Lake in Crow Wing County. "Scientific consensus does not support the removal of common mergansers or other waterfowl to mitigate swimmer's itch, and there could be significant ecological harm from doing so," DNR spokesperson David Tauchen stated in an email. The agency "cannot set the



*University of Minnesota PhD student Amanda Schuermann holds up an example of an invasive Chinese mystery snail that she collected in Pleasant Lake in North Oaks.*

*Ben Hovland | MPR News*

precedent of wide-scale removal of wildlife from natural habitats," he stated. Tauchen said the DNR recognizes that people experience swimmer's itch in varying degrees depending on their sensitivity, and it can be very uncomfortable for some. But he noted that the Minnesota Department of Health does not consider it a public health threat, because it doesn't spread from person to person. Blanckespoor said he's now hoping to catch mergansers from Pelican Lake and treat them for the parasite, then release them back into the wild. That plan is awaiting the DNR's approval. In the meantime, scientists are looking for other possible causes contributing to the rise of swimmer's itch reports.



*University of Minnesota PhD student Amanda Schuermann uses a zooplankton net to catch cercariae parasites that can cause swimmers itch at a private beach on Pleasant Lake in North Oaks. Ben Hovland | MPR News*

This past summer, the University of Minnesota's Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center launched a study to look for any link between invasive species in Minnesota lakes and the itchy condition. "We're hearing anecdotaly that it's getting a lot worse, and that people are seeing it the entire summer," said Amanda Schuermann, a research scholar at the center. "We know invasives are becoming more and more of a problem. So let's see if there's a connection."



*Snail specimens that were collected at a private beach on Pleasant Lake in North Oaks are sorted into jars by University of Minnesota researcher Amanda Schuermann. Ben Hovland | MPR News*

This weekend, Schuermann is wrapping up visits to a dozen lakes across Minnesota, including Leech Lake, Lake Minnetonka and Detroit Lake in Becker County.

On Monday, she visited Pleasant Lake in the wealthy, woodsy suburb of North Oaks, northeast of St. Paul. Wearing chest-high waders, Schuermann sloshed through the water at a popular public beach, searching for any snails lying on the sandy bottom or clinging to the dock, debris or floating weeds. She found plenty of zebra mussels, which were first discovered in Pleasant Lake in 2007, and some larger Chinese mystery snails. Native to Asia, the snails were brought to the U.S. by the aquarium trade, then released into the wild. They were first found in Minnesota in the early 2000s.

It's possible zebra mussels or another invasive species are altering the lake, creating a better environment for native snails or waterfowl that carry the parasite to thrive, Schuermann said. "We also believe that maybe mystery snails are acting as a host in some small way," she said. "So we're collecting those to see if they are containing the parasite that causes swimmer's itch." Schuermann dropped the snails into containers to take back to the lab, where she will monitor them to see if they release the parasite. Then she dragged a fine-mesh net through the water, looking for the microscopic larvae.

Schuermann also takes measurements of the lake's temperature and the amount of light penetrating the water. It's possible that lakes that are getting clearer because of filter-feeding zebra mussels are contributing to the parasites' success, she said. "But if we find that that's not the case, it could be a different pathway," Schuermann said. "Their presence is very determined by their environmental conditions. So it could be changing water temperatures, changing air temperatures, that drives

it." The research center plans to sample several dozen lakes across the state next summer, aiming to provide some answers to the itchy plague that's keeping swimmers from enjoying Minnesota waters.



*North Oaks resident Susan Miller, who is on the natural environment committee for the North Oaks homeowners association, looks out over a private beach on Pleasant Lake.*  
Ben Hovland | MPR News

Susan Miller, a North Oaks resident who lives near Pleasant Lake, hopes the research study brings some explanation. She said the lake is one of the community's premier summer recreation spots. "People are just really angry that they're not able to take their kids down to the beach for a quick dip without coming home with red welts all over themselves," Miller said. "So there's just a lot of community interest in getting to the bottom of why this might have changed."

Even with more information about the cause of the itch, there's no easy solution. Copper sulfate has been used to treat swimmer's itch in some Minnesota lakes, because it kills snails. But its effectiveness in controlling the parasite is questionable. And its long-term effects on the lake's ecology are unclear, Blankespoor said.

There are a few things people can do to reduce their likelihood of getting swimmer's itch. Blankespoor recommends swimming later in the day, in deep areas and when there's an offshore wind to reduce exposure to the parasites. In the past, common advice was to apply a waterproof cream or lotion on your skin before swimming, and shower or towel off quickly after getting out of the water. However, the type of parasite carried by mergansers can infect humans while they're in the lake, so those remedies aren't as effective, Blankespoor said. "You're not going to prevent parasites that have already penetrated your skin since you've been in the water," he said.

# Annual RLIA / RLID Meeting and Picnic is set for June 20, 2026

Mark your calendar for the annual RLIA / RLID meeting and picnic to be held at noon June 20th, 2026 at the Nisswa Community Center. Each year the association hosts this event for networking and information involving Round Lake topics plus free food, beer and lots of prizes.

The 2025 picnic was attended by many Round Lake neighbors / association members. The guest speaker was Gary Griffin from Crow Wing County Land Services who discussed in detail the short-term rental ordinance currently in effect for Round and North Long Lake. (If you missed the meeting, check out the article in this issue based off his presentation). The picnic is a fun forum to bring up topics for the board and its members to discuss and possibly act on. The picnic is short and time worthy. We hope to see you there next year.





Image Copyright Sheila Farrell Johnston

## 2025 Round Lake Loon Report

By Phyllis Trcka

The Round Lake loon chick count has shown another successful year. I counted 1 chick each with loon pairs spotted at WP 008, 0010, 0011, and 2 chicks each with loon pairs seen at WP 009 and in the SW corner (not mapped) for a total of 7 chicks. My observations found pairs residing in the same locations as seen in 2024. I am using the same GPS map.

I also wanted to verify chick survival rate after a busy Fourth of July boating and jet ski weekend as this is a most hazardous time for loon chicks. The second count was taken on August 30<sup>th</sup>. and all 7 chicks were found. Nice work Round Lake users for respecting and protecting these fragile families while enjoying lake life.



## 3rd Annual Round Lake Fourth of July Boat Parade

After three short years, Round Lake has proven they know how to host a boat parade. Once again double the boats and triple the shoreline participants from last year. Hope you all had as much fun in joining in as we did. See you all next year!



## Sale Around Round is set for June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2026

This year's sale was a hit with many must have treasures to buy and sell with many more interested shoppers causing the usual traffic jams. So don't miss out and mark your calendar for June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2026 or as tradition, the first Saturday in June. It's a great way to make cash for your no longer wanted treasures. Plan now and look for the official announcement in the spring 2026 newsletter.

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## C+?!? Round Lake Gets a C+ on the Minnesota Watershed Health Assessment Framework

*Sarah Fogderud, A.W. Research Laboratories, Inc.*

"C+?!? C+?!?!?" For those of you who have seen the holiday movie "A Christmas Story", you might remember Ralphie saying this to himself in disbelief when he sees the grade his teacher gave him on his essay entitled "What I Want for Christmas". The main character of the movie, 9-year-old Ralphie Parker is obsessed with getting a Red Rider BB Gun for Christmas but has been thwarted at every turn. Everyone, even Santa himself, has told Ralphie "You'll shoot your eye out!" He has lost all hope until he gets this latest essay assignment at school. He writes what he thinks to be a brilliant, persuasive essay and he is confident that his teacher will give him an "A+" and help him to convince his parents to get him his longed-for toy rifle. Instead, he finds a large, red "C+" at the top of his paper, along with a note from his teacher: "You'll shoot your eye out!".

It's easy to feel a bit like Ralphie when I look at a beautiful lake like Round being given a C+ for a grade. Round Lake has very good water quality overall and ranks well when compared to other lakes in the area. So, what's going on? How can it be getting this lower-than-expected grade and is there any way to get a better grade?

The Minnesota Watershed Health Assessment Framework (WHAF) is a tool that has been developed by the Minnesota DNR to give lakes a score based on 3 main components:

- 1. Water Quality** – Based on total phosphorus (nutrient) and water transparency (as measured by Secchi disk) and the deviation of these parameters from the water quality goals for the lake and watershed.
- 2. Biology** – Based on the health of the plant and fish communities within the lake.

- 3. Hydrology** – Based on watershed characteristics, percent of disturbed landscape within the watershed, and a rating of the shoreland zone.

The score is a number from 0-100 with a higher score earning a higher grade. Lakes with a score of 81 points or higher receive an A grade, while lakes scoring from 61-80 receive a B grade. Round Lake received a score of 60 points, resulting in a grade of C+. According to the Minnesota DNR, 44% of the almost 3,000 lakes graded using this tool have a grade in the C-D range while most lakes (51%) were given a grade in the A-B range.

If we dig deeper and look at the 3 scoring components for Round Lake, we can better understand how this grade was given and what can be done to improve it. First, Round Lake received a score of 48/100 for water quality. This is based on both the average phosphorus concentration and the average water clarity from 2017 through 2021. The water clarity for this score is measured by satellite; they measured an average of 3 meters (9.8 ft) for this 5-year period on Round Lake. However, the Secchi disk measurements reported by Round Lake volunteers are better than the satellite readings, with an average of 4.5 meters (14.8 feet) for the same period. The WHAF water quality score does not take the actual Secchi readings into account, and therefore the score given is probably a bit lower than it should be simply due to method of measuring water clarity. Despite this difference, Round Lake is currently meeting the water quality goals for the region for both parameters. There is room for improvement, but overall Round Lake is doing well for water quality.

For the Biology component, Round Lake received a score of 68/100 for fishery health, and 47/100 for plant community health. Round Lake is considered a lake of

"High Biological Significance" meaning it has high quality features for the support of biological communities. Not much to be improved upon here!

The Hydrology score is based on two components: watershed health and shoreland quality. Round Lake received a score of 94/100 for its Lake Watershed Health Index. This indicates that within the greater watershed surrounding Round Lake, there is a low percentage of disturbed land. The area is highly forested, and the inflows are majority surface water (streams as opposed to groundwater).

For the shoreland portion, the score given was much lower with an overall score of 55/100 and a "low" rating for shoreland quality. This "Low" shoreland rating indicates that most of the Round Lake's shore has been developed with a low amount of natural habitat remaining. This is where Round Lake can improve!

So now for your homework assignment: Take a moment this fall to really look at your shoreline. How much unmowed shoreline buffer do you have? Are there places where you can add some native plants or trees to improve this? Can you leave a portion of your shoreline un-mowed? When it rains, does water flow from your property directly into the lake? Look for places where you can slow this runoff down. These are just a few

questions to get you started. I would highly recommend checking out the DNR's "Score Your Shore" website. It is an excellent tool to rate your own shoreline and identify places for improvement. You can also use the "Lake Steward Quiz" from Minnesota Lakes and Rivers to assess your shoreline and learn how to become a "Lake Steward". Check out the links below for these resources.

It can be eye-opening to look at your property through this lens. You may think you have an "A+" shoreline and find out you're getting a "C." Don't get discouraged, even small changes can make a big difference! And while you may not get an A+ or get exactly what you want for Christmas, you can feel good knowing that you are doing what you can on your property to improve the health of Round Lake.

#### Resources:

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. "Watershed Health Assessment Framework: Lakes." <https://arcgis.dnr.state.mn.us/ewr/whaflakes/>.

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. "Score Your Shore." <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/scoreyourshore/index.html>.

Minnesota Lakes and Rivers. "Lake Steward Program." <https://mnlakesandrivers.org/lake-steward/>.



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## Short Term Rentals Ordinance Established by Crow Wing County

By Phyllis Trcka

Round Lake/North Long Lake is a special place not just for its residents, but for those who choose to short term rent a home using vehicles such as Vacation Rentals By Owner or VRBO. Lake owners who are willing to open their home to others are required by Crow Wing County ordinance to obtain a license. The license becomes a tool by the Land Services to educate owners as to correct usage of their lake home by their renters. The ordinance's main outcome ensures septic systems can handle the added pressure so there is no overflow going into the lake while enforcing a good neighbor philosophy.

Other ordinance concerns are also addressed such as renters following quiet hours, adequate parking to not block emergency vehicles or encroach on neighboring properties plus proper garbage removal. The ordinance looks to enforce respectful neighboring as one would be if they were at their own home.

The ordinance does not limit the number of short-term rentals allowed. This can sound horrifying to neighborhoods with rentals but the ordinance provides a protection for neighbors and landlords. Everyone is empowered to enforce even if the renters think no one is watching.

### What can be done?

*The short-term Rental Ordinance Keeping Crow Wing County Minnesota's Favorite Place*, an education pamphlet published by Land Services goes into detail as to renter responsibilities while staying in Crow Wing County. This includes all of Round and North Long Lake. The renter responsibilities should be conveyed by their land lords when contracts are signed. The focus is the amount of people to size of septic, quiet hours, parking, and garbage management. If these areas are abused, a complaint can be issued to the Crow Wing County's 24/7 hotline at 218-824-1132 or fill out a form online at [www.crowwing.us/shorttermrental](http://www.crowwing.us/shorttermrental). The sheriff can be called if there is an immediate concern at the address. The sheriff will educate the owner plus file a complaint with the county. Landowners can have up to 3 offenses before their license is revoked and no more renters will be allowed for the rest of the year.

For more questions, reach out to the Crow Wing County Land Services. Their department is ready to help with your concerns.

## ROUND LAKE IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

### Account Balances - As of 8/31/2025

Account	1/31/2025 Balance	8/31/2025 Balance
<b>Bank Accounts:</b>		
CD Blackridge	143,465.72	131,509.50
RLID Checking Blackridge	2,845.31	3,124.50
<b>TOTAL Bank Accounts</b>	<b>146,311.03</b>	<b>134,634.00</b>
<b>Liability Accounts:</b>		
<b>TOTAL Liability Accounts</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>146,311.03</b>	<b>134,634.00</b>

## ROUND LAKE IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

### Banking Summary - Year to Date

1/1/2025 through 8/31/2025

#### INCOME

Interest Inc	3,052.58
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>3,052.58</b>

#### EXPENSES

CLP Survey	5,130.00
CLP Treatment	9,033.14
Insurance	2,242.00
LID Fee	250.00
TSI Analysis	315.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>16,970.14</b>

<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>-13,917.56</b>
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## Round Lake Improvement Association, Inc.

### Banking Summary 7/1/24 through 6/30/25

#### INCOME

Interest Inc	\$2,423.06
Membership Dues	20,990.00
Rummage Sale Inc	140.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>23,553.06</b>

#### EXPENSES

Buoys	1,245.01
Mailbox Fee	72.00
Mailings	587.71
Misc	25.00
Mowing - Landing	300.00
Picnic Annual Meeting	981.18
Professional Fees	350.00
Sale Around Round	171.39
Website Expense	226.17
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>3,958.46</b>

<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>\$19,594.60</b>
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## Round Lake Improvement Association, Inc.

### Account Balances as of 6/30/25

Account	6/30/25 Balance	6/30/24 Balance
<b>Bank Accounts</b>		
CD First Western 403596	\$65,944.19	\$44,691.46
Checking	15,700.65	7,518.22
Savings	20,034.66	29,875.22
<b>TOTAL Bank Accounts</b>	<b>101,679.50</b>	<b>82,084.90</b>

#### Asset Accounts

Accounts Receivable	100.00	100.00
<b>TOTAL Asset Accounts</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>

#### Liability Accounts

<b>TOTAL Liability Accounts</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
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<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>\$101,779.50</b>	<b>\$82,184.90</b>
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## FALL SOCIAL

Our first ever Fall Social was a great success! More than 50 neighbors gathered to enjoy fresh donuts from the Brainerd Senior Center and hot coffee before touring Miller Castle and Parker Scout Camp. The beautiful fall weather made the day even more enjoyable.

A big thank-you to Holly and Gerry from the Boy Scouts Central Minnesota Council, who graciously hosted us and answered everyone's questions. Want to learn more about the unique history of Miller Castle? Check out this link: [tinyurl.com/nllamillercastle](https://tinyurl.com/nllamillercastle)

We're already looking forward to more opportunities to connect in 2026, with spring, summer, and fall socials in the works. Have an idea for a future gathering? We'd love to hear it! Send your suggestions to [north.long.lake.news@gmail.com](mailto:north.long.lake.news@gmail.com)



## North Long Lake Association Board Members

### 2025-2026 Officers

The North Long Lake Association currently has ten active members. There is a lot of experience with our lake. For this year, the officers are:

**President**  
Harris Goldstein

**Vice President**  
Rod Windjue

**Treasurer**  
Patrick Schiller-Michels

**Secretary**  
Susan Arntz

**Members**  
Alan Albrecht  
Grant Hartup  
Garry Kahle  
Sandy Loney  
Mary McCormick  
Becky Schwago  
Bill Schmidt  
Martha Weaver-West



## 2025 Annual Meeting Minutes

The annual meeting of the North Long Lake Association was held on Saturday, June 7, 2025, at Legionville Camp.

Harris Goldstein, Interim President of the NLLA Board, opened the meeting by introducing Sergeant Brad Theising of the Crow Wing County Water Patrol, who spoke at 10:00 AM.

Sergeant Theising briefly shared his background and responsibilities. He and his team patrol over 400 bodies of water, supported by five seasonal water safety officers who work in teams of two. They focus their patrols during peak lake activity times—weekends, holidays, and evenings.

He reported that there were no drownings on the lake in 2024, and shared that the team is now also enforcing Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) laws. Two deputies have completed AIS training.

### New Boating Rules – Effective July 1, 2025

A key topic was the new boating permit requirement:

- As of July 1, 2025, anyone 21 years old or younger (born after June 30, 2004) must have a boater operator's permit to legally operate a boat.
- The permit requires passing an exam, after which the operator receives a lifetime license.

This requirement will expand in the coming years:

- Born after June 30, 2000 – required by July 1, 2026
- Born after June 30, 1996 – required by July 1, 2027
- Born after June 30, 1987 – required by July 1, 2028

People without a permit may still operate a boat only if accompanied by a licensed operator. Additionally:

- Young operators cannot operate boats with more than 75 horsepower.
- They may operate boats under 75 horsepower (excluding personal watercraft) if accompanied.

### Other Safety & Lake Use Updates

- A permit is required to move a boat lift into deeper water. The fee is \$25, and the permit is valid for five years.
- Reflectors or lights are required on all four corners of boat lifts.

### Q&A Highlights

- Wake boats: The Sheriff's Office advises operators to move to deeper water due to potential lake impact.
- Music volume: No current restrictions on how loud music can be played while boating.
- Speed limits: There are no speed limits on the lake.
- Fishing under docks/lifts: This is allowed.

### Meeting Business

At 10:30 AM, Goldstein formally opened the annual meeting and introduced the current Board Members. There were open positions on the Board, and after calling for nominations from the floor, the following individuals were nominated:

- Susan Arntz
- Garry Kahle

Goldstein reviewed the Lake Association's financials, noting a solid balance sheet.

- Current membership: 370
- Members contributing to AIS fund: 223
- Total lake properties: 583

### Other Announcements

- A boating safety class will be held in mid-June.
- Updates were given on AIS efforts, specifically targeting Curly Leaf Pondweed and Milfoil.
- The Association is exploring a pilot project to accept credit card payments for membership fees.

Other ongoing initiatives include:

- Installing and maintaining cleaning stations
- Adding cameras at cleaning stations
- Collaborating with the DNR on the walleye stocking program

### Member Appreciation

Each Lake Association member received a logo beach towel or kitchen towel for their property on North Long Lake. The meeting adjourned at 11:45 AM.

During the meeting, attendees were served brats, hot dogs, potato salad, beans, and chips, with cookies and root beer floats for dessert.

# North Long Lake Walleye Update

by Bill Schmidt

If you've noticed fewer walleyes on your line lately, you're not alone. Both last year's DNR netting survey and this year's counts confirm that North Long Lake's walleye population is on the low side. Local fishing guides have also reported challenges in finding enough fish to keep outings successful.

## Stocking Efforts Underway

The good news is that work is being done to help turn things around. In partnership with the Minnesota DNR, a multi-year stocking plan is in place. Last fall, about 3,000 pounds of fingerlings—each about the size of your finger—were added to the lake. This spring, nearly 3.9 million fry, or newly hatched fish, were stocked. The plan is to continue alternating: fingerlings one year, fry the next.

This approach balances cost, availability, and survival rates. Fingerlings have a 30–40% survival rate but are expensive (about \$1 each) and limited in production. Fry are more affordable but face much steeper odds—less than 1% survive—and their survival has dropped even further since the arrival of zebra mussels, which compete with fry for the same plankton food source.

## Why Natural Reproduction is Low

Stocking is especially important for North Long because the lake does not produce enough walleye naturally. The sandy bottom lacks the rocky, gravel-like surfaces walleyes need for spawning. In addition, the lake doesn't have a continuously flowing river or creek where walleyes can lay eggs. Without these natural

conditions, even though a female walleye lays around 100,000 eggs each year, very few survive to adulthood.

In other lakes, efforts to add gravel or rock to create better spawning beds have been tried, but the results have been mixed. On lakes like ours, shifting sands from wind and waves often cover these improvements. These projects are also costly, though the possibility remains under investigation.

## How You Can Help

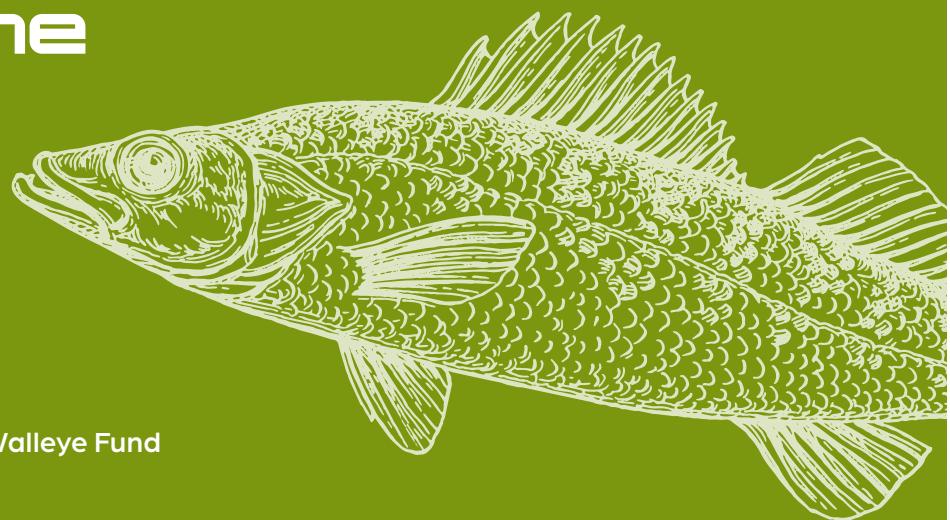
There are still meaningful ways we can all make a difference:

- Prevent runoff: Keeping silt and debris from entering the lake helps protect fragile walleye eggs from being smothered.
- Support stocking: The North Long Lake Walleye Fund currently holds about \$800. Every dollar goes directly toward purchasing more fingerlings. The more we raise, the more fish can be added next fall.

Together with the DNR and community members like you, we're hopeful that these efforts will help strengthen the walleye population for years to come. Stay tuned—we'll share more details this winter about how you can contribute to the fund and be part of the solution.

## walleye by the numbers

- 3,000 lbs of fingerlings stocked last fall  
(≈ 23 fish per pound)
- 3.9 million fry added this spring
- 30–40% survival rate for fingerlings
- <1% survival rate for fry  
(reduced further by zebra mussels)
- \$1 = cost of one fingerling
- \$800 currently in the North Long Lake Walleye Fund



# Youth Boater Safety Class: Empowering the Next Generation of Safe Boaters

by Susan Arntz

This June, the North Long Lake Association proudly hosted its Annual Youth Boater Safety Class—a hands-on, in-person learning experience designed to prepare young boaters to navigate our lake safely and responsibly.

While many adults might pause when asked questions like *“Who has the right of way on the water?”* or *“What do the colors of buoys mean?”*, more than two dozen local teens and tweens now know the answers—thanks to this comprehensive course.

Since 2017, the Association has sponsored this annual event to promote water safety and education. The class is led by the Crow Wing County Sheriff’s Office Water Patrol, who use videos, real-life rescue stories, scenario-based learning, and quick quizzes to keep things interactive and informative.

Participants who successfully complete the course are eligible to receive the Minnesota Water Operator’s Permit, required for youth ages 12–17 to operate motorized watercraft in the state. While the permit course is also available online, attending in person offers something extra: personal interaction with deputies, hands-on experience, and the unforgettable opportunity to pilot official Water Patrol boats. This year’s event was hosted at Dunmire’s on the Lake, where 22 students from across the region gathered. After the classroom portion, attendees were treated to a



delicious lunch generously provided by Dunmire’s, followed by time on the water with Water Patrol deputies.

As a bonus, every student received a free lifejacket, courtesy of the Association.

We extend our sincere thanks to the Crow Wing County Sheriff’s Office Water Patrol for their expertise and mentorship, Dunmire’s on the Lake for their hospitality and support, and the families who encouraged their young boaters to take part in this valuable program.

For those who couldn’t attend in person, there are a couple of options for taking the exam.

A text book style course, with the exam, can be found here: [www.boaterexam.com/usa/minnesota](http://www.boaterexam.com/usa/minnesota).

A fun, interactive lesson, with exam, can be found here: <https://www.ilearnboat.com/minnesota/>

Here’s to a safe and informed boating season on North Long Lake!





# Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers: Safeguarding North Long Lake with a New Cleaning Station

by Susan Arntz

This season, the North Long Lake Association is proud to introduce a new boat and equipment cleaning station—a vital step in protecting the health of our lake for generations to come. This station is the third station we have added to the lake. We have one at the Merrifield Bay Landing, one at the Birchdale landing, and now one at the 371 Bay Landing.

The new station is designed to help boaters and anglers clean and drain their equipment before entering or leaving the lake. By taking just a few extra minutes at the station, everyone can play a role in preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS) such as zebra mussels, curly leaf pondweed, and other invasive plants. These species can quickly disrupt the delicate balance of our lake, harming fish populations, reducing water quality, and damaging recreation.

## How the Cleaning Station Works

- Tools and brushes are available to remove vegetation and debris.
- Clear signage provides step-by-step instructions, making it quick and simple to use.

## Community Effort

This project was made possible through the leadership of the North Long Lake Association who purchased the tools and updated the signage. Funding and volunteer efforts were crucial in bringing this initiative to life.

## What You Can Do

- Use the cleaning station every time you enter and leave the lake.
- Remind visitors and neighbors about the importance of stopping at the station.
- Consider volunteering with the Association to help with education and outreach.

Together, we can protect the lake we love and ensure that future generations experience the same clear waters and abundant recreation that make North Long Lake so special.



## New North Long Lake Membership Stickers

As you may have already noticed, there is a North Long Lake Association Member decal inserted in this newsletter for our members. It's an opportunity for us as members to display our support for the association and the work it does. They can be placed on your boat, on your lift, or perhaps on your mailbox.

Additional decals are available for \$1 each. We plan to make them available at our Spring Social and our Annual Meeting in June. Extras may be purchased by sending a stamped self-addressed envelope, with a check made out to NLLA, to:

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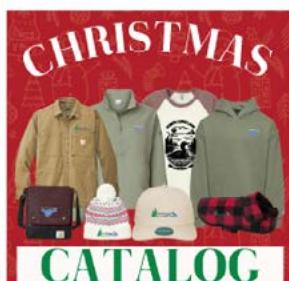
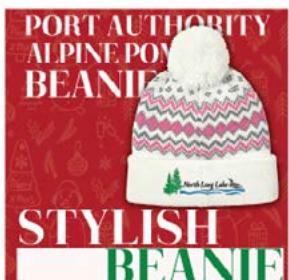
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## 371 Litter Clean Up

The weather - dense fog - threw us a curve ball for our Highway 371 Litter Pickup. The low visibility at our start time made it too dangerous to be out there. But by 10:00 a.m. the fog had cleared and we got the job done. Not as much litter as in the Spring; we take that as a good sign. Nonetheless, we still managed to fill about 20 bags. Participants for the Fall 2025 Pickup were:

Chris and Garry Kahle | Mike Villwock | Janelle Stocking | Sara Hight  
Rod Windjue | Sandy Loney | Becky and Bob Shawgo



## Clothing Sale

Our North Long Lake logo clothing and accessory store will be open November 1st through November 19th. Items can be shipped to your address or picked up at GLS Promotions in Brainerd (near BIR). They will be available before the winter holidays. You'll receive an email when ready.

You can order online at <https://northlong.itemorder.com/> or use the qr code below from your phone or tablet.



# AIS Committee

by Becky Schwago and Mary McCormick

Your Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Committee has been hard at work this summer and fall.

We have thrown rakes at least twice a month in June, July, August, September and October looking for AIS. We do this from land and from a boat.

We are pleased to announce the installation of our third cleaning station at the 371 Bay launch. We now have cleaning stations at all 3 launches. Each cleaning station has a grabber, a boat plug remover, a brush and an extendable weed stick. We have not lost one tool over the summer! Yeah!

Crow Wing County sponsored Starry Trek this year. This program is a state wide event. It is organized through the Minnesota Aquatic Species Research Center. Mary and Becky participated by throwing rakes at 4 different lakes in Crow Wing County searching for aquatic invasive species.

We are continuing to fight the spread of Eurasian Water Milfoil. This fall, PLM Lake and Land Management



Corporation will be treating 3 sites in the Merrifield Bay.

We will also be treating Curlyleaf Pondweed in the spring when the water temperature is lower. Lower temperatures are required to be effective in treating this invasive species.

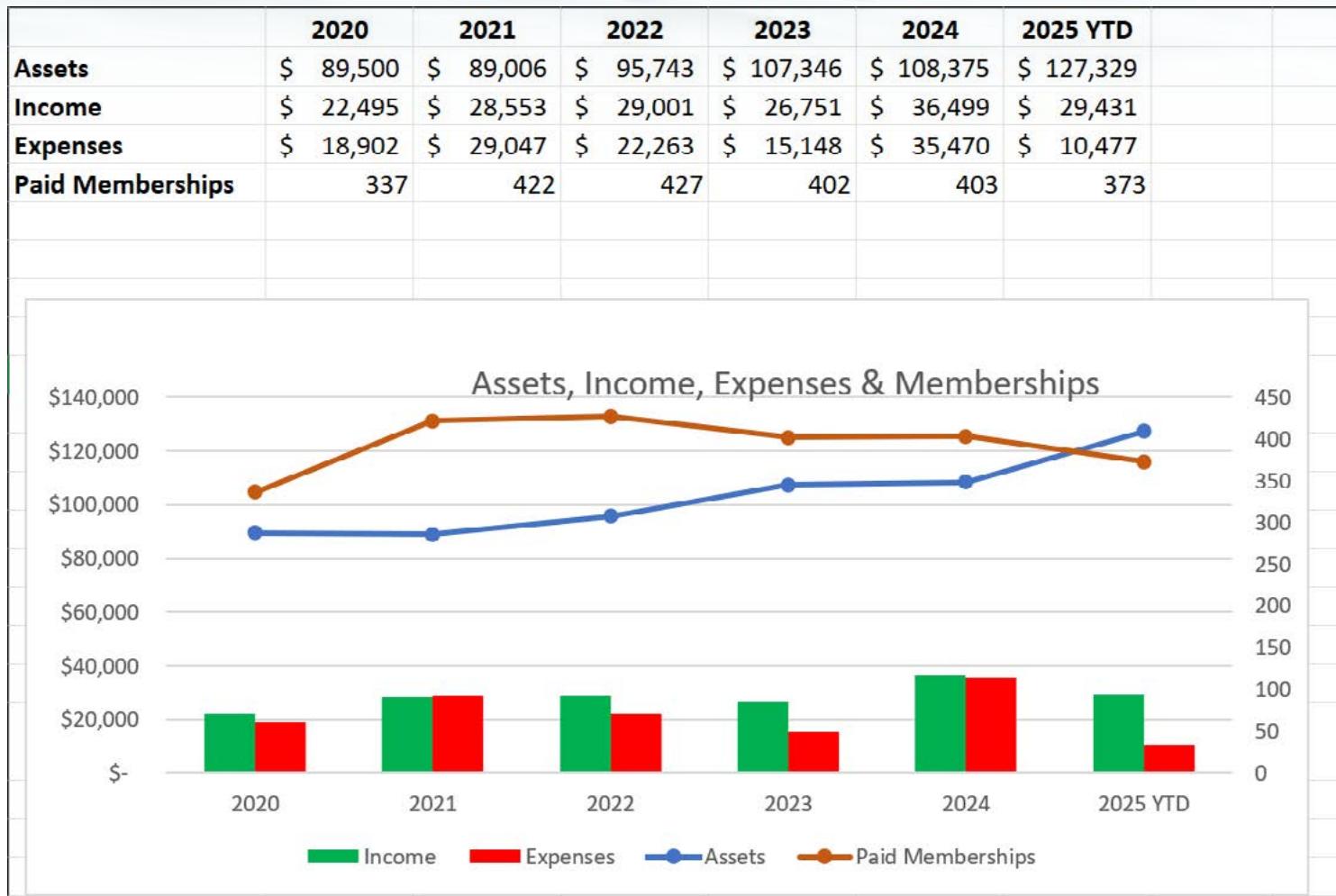
## Volunteers Needed

If you would like to volunteer for the AIS team or have questions, please send an email to Becky Shawgo at [becky.shawgo@northlong.org](mailto:becky.shawgo@northlong.org).



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Paid memberships for 2025 as of June 30th are 373, with 224 members contributing an average of \$54.31 to the AIS fund.

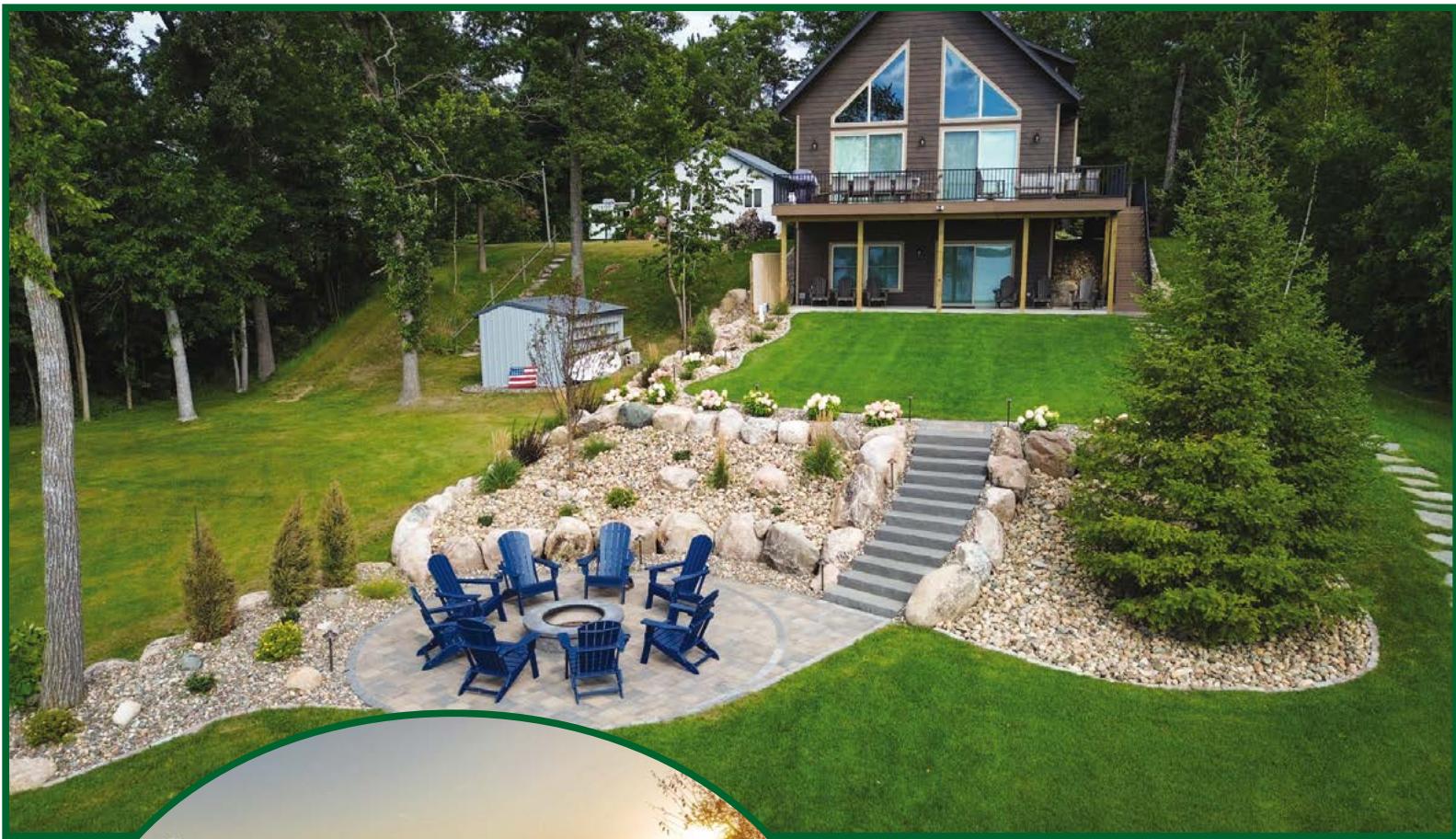
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