

**DRAFT - Hubbard County COLA Board of Directors Meeting – Reports by Lake Associations on Season 2022**  
**Thursday, September 29, 2022, 6:30 PM – Hybrid Meeting Format**

**Each lake association representative or president shared a brief overview of their most important achievement accomplished this season and two challenges.** This sharing will help uncover future educational topic areas. *(If your lake isn't represented here, it is not too late to provide your lake association's input also; email [hccolamn@gmail.com](mailto:hccolamn@gmail.com))*

**HC COLA's Lake Association Recap of an important Achievements Accomplished Summer 2022 and Two Challenges**

*Lakes that provided the information are listed in alphabetic order. This sharing will help uncover future educational topic areas and/or potential coaches with background on a subject. Remember that our password protected, confidential for HC COLA business, HC COLA Master List with Rep & Lake Assoc Pres & Other contact info is on our [website](#). If you have forgotten the password or have modifications for the list, please email [HCColaMN@gmail.com](mailto:HCColaMN@gmail.com)*

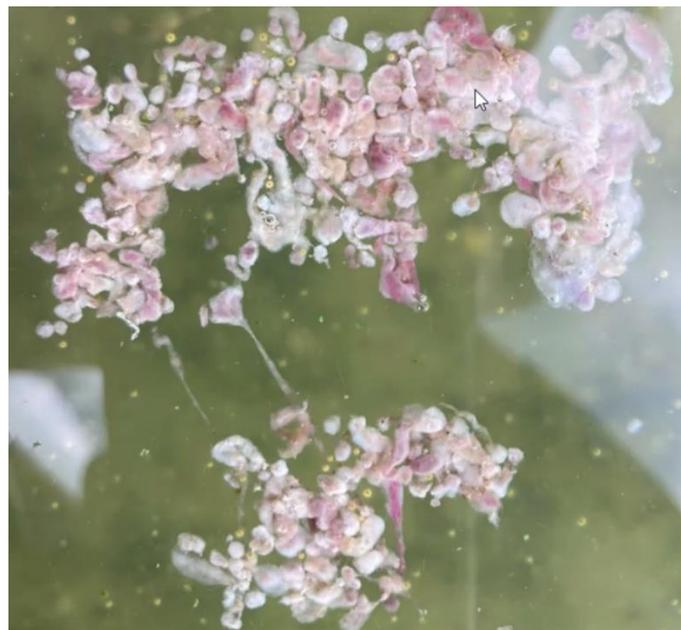
**Bad Axe Lake Association:** Angela Haukebo, HC COLA Rep

**Accomplishment:**

- 1) We are still successfully battling our Eurasian Watermilfoil. Our lake association is very proactive. Our aquatic vegetation monitoring team were the ones that discovered it initially. Now we hire a surveying team as soon as the vegetation is visible around mid-July. That leads to targeted treatment later in the summer or early autumn. It is very helpful that it is a smaller lake and that we get very good lake association participation. There are 30 some lakeshore owners and all but two participate. Some are willing to contribute above and beyond their dues. Some people that stay at the resort are willing to contribute too, especially supporting the aquatic invasive species initiatives.
- 2) The annual meeting is held the Saturday adjoining July 4<sup>th</sup> and gets very good attendance.
- 3) Next year, we'll divvy up the lake into portions for volunteers to survey even closer (similar to Belle Taine and Big Mantrap).

**Challenges:**

- 1) The lake clarity for the first half of the summer was very murky. It cleared up pretty much by mid-July so you could see plants fairly well so didn't interfere with early detection for AIS. That is pretty abnormal for this lake. The secchi disk depth was about half what it normally is. There was a lot of conjecture about what caused this, but no one really knows for sure.
- 2) In late August, there was some kind of an algae bloom that covered the entire lake surface completely, even in the middle of the lake, for a couple of days. We did bring a sample to the DNR and also checked with Nicole. She didn't think it was anything toxic or green algae. It was pretty short lived.



**Belle Taine Lake Association:** Andrea Dutcher, HC COLA Rep

**Accomplishment:**

- 1) We had 110 at our annual meeting, more than ever before.
- 2) We had a big membership drive. Last year we made it possible to pay for your membership dues online and that was a huge success. We recognize people who donate in [categories](#) related to fish like muskie, walleye, sunny.
- 3) We had someone from the HC SWCD present at the annual meeting about shoreline restoration. Several people along our lake have had their shorelines looked at and given recommendations for shoreline restoration.
- 4) We had 16 nesting pair of loons. We did a count in Sept and think we had 11 surviving young loons.
- 5) Our new lake assoc president is Lynn Swaggert, owner of Campers Paradise. She has been extremely supportive of the lake assoc. For example, although Campers Paradise has a launch site, they do not allow people to launch their boat there. They can only take their boat out when they leave Campers Paradise.
- 6) We have 3 new board members this yr. We had people step right up to volunteer to be board members this yr.

**Challenges:**

- 1) High water is a huge challenge. There is a committee that is working with the DNR and Hubbard County. For example, we normally have a beach of about 30 feet and now it is 10 feet this year.
- 2) We had a zebra mussel scare last year. We have done extra veliger sampling this year, especially around the resort where the pontoon was parked and we have had no evidence of adult zebra mussels or veligers in our tests this year.
- 3) Boat traffic and popularity of Belle Taine continues to be an issue. Huge number of people go in and out of our landing. We've increased the number of watercraft inspector hours every year. Each year there is an increase in people coming in from infested waters. Occasionally a boater doesn't appreciate the watercraft inspector educ.

**Big Mantrap Lake Association:** Burney Fischer, HC COLA Rep

**Accomplishment:**

- 1) We always cite our *Loon nesting & monitoring program* (18 juveniles late August survey). Good survival rate!
- 2) Another accomplishment is *Lake Association (LA) Modernization:*
  - a. Newsletter is emailed to all lakeshore residents
  - b. Using PayPal for dues & donations
- 3) We're in the process of creating a "Belle Taine" type *AIS shoreline monitoring program*. We're dividing the shoreline up into segments where volunteers will look at aquatic vegetation. We'll pick significant places to do this as too much shoreline to do it all.

**Challenges:**

- 1) *Eurasian Watermilfoil* (EWM) is our biggest concern. We know through detection that the EWM has spread beyond the launch site. We were going to try to do hand-pulling this year but the wonderful natural vegetation growth camouflages the EWM. After the DNR did some looking, a 2nd chemical treatment of Procella or ProcellaCOR was applied by PLM out of Brainerd on Mon 9/26/22 (1st chemical treatment was 2 years ago.)
- 2) *Lakeshore Owner Participation in LA* - We still struggle with getting enough lakeshore owners to participate and volunteer on the board and on committees in our LA. They are quite willing to pay dues and donate to both AIS and Loon accounts. But not very active in terms of actually participating in the LA.

**Big Sand Lake Association:** Tom Van Bruggen, HC COLA Rep

**Accomplishment:**

- 1) The membership is strong.
- 2) We have a very strong [Foundation](#).
- 3) Boat traffic is low.
- 4) They are getting seasonal visitors that become lakeshore associate members; leads to a strong membership.

### Challenges:

- 1) We have a new public access which was very poorly designed and very expensive. It has so many curves, you can't back straight in with a pontoon; you go over the curb. The center point of the access is an outhouse. The biggest problem is that you still launch where the river flows by. The problems that the public access had prior to the remodel, weren't really addressed. (This computer-aided design was not a successful solution.)
- 2) The aluminum loon platforms that they had many years ago were unsuccessful. They may still have them but not sure where they are...
- 3) We are getting people that are bringing in tons of rocks for shoreland restoration and wondering what shoreland advisors think of that? It is becoming very popular.
- 4) We need more people on the board; would be nice to get young ones on the board too.
- 5) Fishing is very poor on Big Sand.
- 6) VRBO is something we are trying to monitor.
- 7) Interested in what lake associations charge for their membership dues as Big Sand recently raised theirs to \$50... [inputs to Tom ranged from \$10 to one at \$60 with the most frequent answer around \$25 per year as dues.]

### **Blue Lake Association:** Steve Stromme, HC COLA Rep

#### Accomplishment:

- 1) Greater efforts towards the communications among lake members this year. A few years ago when we built our home, there were 10 year-round residents. Now we have 33 out of 71. So the culture of the lake is changing. Hope that will help us bring more people on board. Our membership is 48 to 50%.
- 2) We are having more social activities, breakfasts, lunches, so people can get to know one another and that sort of eases the apprehension / hesitancy to join the association as they find out what we are all about. We created a Facebook page for internal communications. That is working out well. People are talking to each other. We are organizing a Memorial Day fundraiser, instead of asking for a dues increase, which some object to. This will be a fun way to get together and make some money and use that in our efforts to fend off AIS.

#### Challenges:

It is a small, clean lake. With that comes complacency. People may think this lake is never going to change. But that could happen overnight. We have some "eyes on the water". We just need more sharing between our "eyes on the water". That is a goal for next year!

### **Boulder Lake Association:** Bob Wolf, HC COLA Rep

#### Achievements:

- 1) We had two roadside cleanups. We clean 2 miles along County Road 18 along side of Boulder.
- 2) We also put out about a dozen zebra mussel settlement samplers and all came back negative so that is a good thing!
- 3) We also participate in the Loon Liaison program. We had 7 chicks and 5 survived so that is very good for Boulder.
- 4) At our annual meeting, we had about 25 which is down from last year. We attribute that to last year we went door to door, inviting people to come to the annual meeting. This year we did not do the door knocking.

#### Challenges: trying to overcome!

- 1) We are having problems filling open board positions (sounds like other lake associations do also).
- 2) We probably have 80 households around the lake with about 1/3<sup>rd</sup> as members of our association.

**Eagle-Island Lake Association:** David Fastenow, HC COLA Rep

**Accomplishments:**

- 1) We're getting more people engaged on our two lakes – Eagle and Island! We had more people at our annual meeting this year than we have ever had! There was a lot of interest. David did an ad hoc HC COLA presentation at their meeting, as the featured speaker. He talked about Loons, "Get The Lead Out", AIS and also talked about Shoreland Restoration based on the [Aug presentation](#) by Sue Schiess:
  - So far, we have not found any AIS in the searching we have been doing.
  - Eagle Lake had 4 pair of loons and 1 single adult. 3 babies survived thru Aug and were big & healthy!
  - Island Lake reported that there were 7 pair of loons seen and no babies. Some people saw babies earlier but after witnessing a big loon fight, they could not see any babies; not clear what happened.
- 2) Another accomplishment we had is that we created a boating guide. The theme was "how to be a good boat neighbor to others on the lake". We distributed it around the lake, to the resorts and the campground. It was well received. They handed it out to all their guests that they had during the summer. (Dave will provide a copy for us to share.)

**Challenges:**

- 1) We have overcrowding of the lakes. That is why we created the boating guide. Eagle Lake is 2 miles long and 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of a mile wide. The campground has 100 sites. There are 2 other resorts. There is a sandbar that gets really busy with up to 20 boats with families. There is a lot of boating traffic which causes waves which drives the other issue on our lake....
- 2) Maintaining a good lake ecosystem is a challenge. The shoreline restoration topic, presented by the HC COLA shoreland advisor, will likely be the topic of the next annual meeting. When David talked about it at the annual meeting this year, it was very well received. He was able to illustrate the concept Sue discussed of "no mow" and then to add natives plants to improve beauty and lake ecology. The hosts appreciated hearing about this as they had a groomed 200 ft grass yard to the lake and now want to find out more about shoreline restoration.
- 3) On the issue of Loons and "Get The Lead Out", in David's opinion, it is a losing battle until the MN Legislature passes a law to ban lead fishing tackle. He discussed "getting the lead out" with the local tackle shops....
- 4) When driving from CA to MN, for example, he noticed states that have strict guidelines about mandatory boat inspection. Our lakes are our greatest resource and are treasures. David hopes the MN Legislature will do more to make it happen; mentioning the efforts by Jeff Forester, MN Lakes & Rivers Advocates, MN COLA, etc.

**Eighth and Ninth Crow Wing Lake Association:** Cheri Godfrey, HC COLA Rep

**Achievements:**

- 1) All of their loon nests produced babies this year which gave us the enjoyment of seeing and hearing the loons which we all love.
- 2) Our loon nesting platforms are becoming very old and in dire need of replacement. Thankfully, one of our LoonWatchers reached out to all of our lake residents and we were able to raise enough money to replace 4 of the nesting platforms. So this kind of relates to the whole 4-H project. We have one resident who has stepped up to build them himself. He has the resources to build them with aluminum. We are also at the top of the waiting list with St. Cloud Technical College Welding Classes to build the other two. We are excited about that as the old ones were getting heavy and hard to maneuver.

**Challenges:**

- 1) We have had some uptick in bad behavior on the lake. Boats and wakes too near the shore. Fishing lines snagging boat canopies, boats getting too close to the loons, people in boats partying close to the end of residents docks preventing residents from getting their own boats out. Anxious to see the boating guide that

David Fastenow has from Eagle/ Island Lake to share. Hopefully we will be able to communicate with people and pass on some good boating etiquette.

- 2) The other thing we've noticed is that some people seem to be cutting vegetation and leaving it float in the lake. It is floating into swim areas, docks and shorelines of other people. This causes irritation.

**Gilmore Lake Association:** Keith Minkel, HC COLA Rep

**Achievements:**

- 1) Lake Gilmore is located between Big Sand and Little Sand. Gilmore is 90 acres. We have about 48 lakeshore owners so it is sort of like "Cheers" where everybody knows everyone else. I don't know the exact membership, usually close to 80 to 90%. Some are in nursing homes.
- 2) We have had successful loon hatches over the years, except for the last four years when we have zeroed out! Some eggs were tossed out, some predation, we don't know the cause. The location is good. Has been used in the past, just not used lately. We had a fundraiser to buy a new loon platform.

**Challenges:**

- 1) We have a lot of new, younger people on the lake. There is more boat traffic and may be part of the issue with the loon nest success. Part of the challenge is to educate the newer people. Stay a great distance away. Loons need to have their space. Leave them alone.
- 2) The newer people seem to enjoy beaches and riprap on the shore. So we need to educate on the grass, leaves and vegetation are good.

**Ham Lake Association:** Walt Stachon, HC COLA Rep

**Achievements:**

- 1) "Restore the Shore" tree plantings, eight property owners ordered 165 trees / shrubs; one ordered in 2021
- 2) Water quality testing restarted this year; last time was 2014. Water quality is slightly better than in 2014, overall TSI Trophic State Index is: 39.3; In 2014, it was 42.2.

**Challenges:**

- 1) How do we educate lake owners about what it takes to keep a lake healthy? From a longtime lake property owner; "we seem to be getting more power equipment on the lake" (mostly jet skis but a few ski boats).
- 2) Loon Liaisons had difficulty connecting with the DNR. There is a successful platform and raised a couple of chicks this year which hadn't happened in the past few years.
- 3) We did a shoreline restoration and I've had a few inquiries. But doesn't seem to be Interest in shoreline restoration? Does not seem to be a real high priority.

**Little Sand Area Lake Association:** MaJeana Hallstrom, HC COLA Rep

**Achievements:**

- 1) Learned about Chinese Mystery Snails this summer after finding them on Little Sand this year. Found out that there is nothing they can do about them.
- 2) Little Sand no longer has resorts. The cabins are owned by individuals (similar to a Planned Unit Development.) In the past, these individuals weren't very involved. Now they are getting involved with the association. In fact, one of the cabin owners is now the LSALA Treasurer taking over from the Treasurer, who had been in the role 12 years.
- 3) Have good participation in their annual meeting which is held at Zorbaz, which is right at the lake, so there is no travel time involved. People come early on Sat morning and we get the meeting done so they can get on with their Saturday. We use a theme for our annual meeting. This year it was Country Western. Last year it was

Hawaiian. In 2019 it was Fifties. People just love it. This year we got to meet a lot of new neighbors. Like everyone else, we are having turnover.

- 4) 85 attendees were at the annual meeting. We have 145 properties on the lake with dues paid by about 115 people annually. We are also a pretty social lake. We do all kinds of things and take opportunities to talk about the association at these events too.
- 5) As far as board members, this year we had more than enough to run for the board positions so we basically have a bench for next year.
- 6) We have two additions to the water monitoring team to take over for those that have been doing it for a long time.

#### Challenges:

- 1) Volunteering – getting volunteers is difficult to get.
- 2) Too many “beaches” on a 400 acre lake where new owners don’t realize how harmful clearing a beach is. For example, a new neighbor cleared their entire yard & their vegetation. The neighbor has been impacted by that.

**Long Lake Area Association (Hubbard County) Inc:** Jaimie Beretta, President LLA

#### Achievement:

One of our achievements on Long Lake this year is our [Loon Management](#) plan. With help from the Minnesota DNR Loon Restoration program we’ve created a Loon friendly lake management plan. We decided to create a page on our website that focuses on the Loon, in hopes to educate our members. We had a Loon Watcher Surveyor participating in the DNR program previously but with this plan we found we really needed to add more loon surveyors. We were able to do this and we currently have 3. Ideally we would like a loon surveyor in each area where there are loon nests located.

At this year’s annual meeting we focused on the Loon and our [guest speaker Steve Maanum](#). Steve is a wildlife photographer and loon watcher. He shared his insights on loon life and he also told us of his volunteer experiences with Big Mantrap’s successful loon nesting program. His talk was well received.

Also at our annual meeting we had a [“Get the Lead Out”](#) collection box. We collected 1.4 pounds of lead tackle.

In early July we had 4 young chicks and by the end of the season we had 2 left.

Neighborhoods History Fish Stories **Loon Page** Ice Data Links List Calendar

### Loon Page

**Number One Rule for humans: GIVE LOONS THEIR SPACE!**



Photos on this page were taken by Debbie Center using a camera with zoom feature. She observed the guidelines from the MN DNR Loon Monitoring Program which suggests staying at least 200 feet away from loons.

[Use this link to watch Steve Maanum's Loon Talk plus more loon information](#)

[Excerpts from Article by Sharon Natzel in LLA Spring 2022 Newsletter and DNR website.](#)

For many years Long Lake residents have worked to keep the lake welcoming to our state bird, the Common Loon. But now those efforts are moving into hyper-drive as the LLA works to participate in state and federal programs aimed at not only preserving loons but helping them thrive.

Our LLA Planning Team worked during autumn 2021 and winter 2022 on our Loon-Friendly Lake

## Challenges:

- 1) Some of our challenges that we are finding on Long Lake is the early detection of AIS and aquatic vegetation surveys and how we want to do them.

One of the difficulties we are currently experiencing is trying to determine if we have a zebra mussel and spiny water flea population that we don't know about it. In 2020 DNR divers found 3 adult zebra mussels in our lake at the south access so we've been working hard to determine if and where there are other zebra mussels. In 2021 and 2022 we participated in a Zebra Mussel settlement sampler pilot led by MN AIS Research Center (MAISRC). They tested with 3 infested lakes in 2021 and in 2022 tested with the same lakes and added 3 more. Long Lake had 14 zebra mussel settlement sampler sites around the lake. This study carefully places these sample plates from docks 2 feet beneath the surface of the water, in water that is at least 4 ft deep. In both years Long did not yield any zebra mussels.



**Pilot Sampler hangs from the dock, 2 feet beneath the surface of the water, in water at least 4 ft deep..**



When it comes to Spiny Water Flea.... We're participating in the MN AIS Research Center 2022 [Surveillance](#) and early detection pilot. We purchased a Spiny Water Flea (SWF) plankton net with 0.50 mm holes in the mesh for our volunteer monitoring. We are following the guidelines from the MAISRC for testing. As of now no SWF have been detected. Additional sites will be added in Sept / Oct.

SPINY WATER FLEA (*BYTHOTREPES LONGIMANUS*) SURVEILLANCE:  
A GUIDE FOR MINNESOTA  
VOLUNTEERS AND MANAGERS  
Written and compiled by Meg Durr, Dr. Dawn Brantner, and Dr. Valerie Brady



**MINNESOTA AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES RESEARCH CENTER**  
MAISRC.UMN.EDU



- 2) Our second challenge that we wanted to share with everyone are the aquatic vegetation surveys. Currently our lake management plan is to survey every 5 years or as needed. The question is what types of surveys do we do and how often to do them. We often wonder if we need to do more?

We are sampling more frequently and have trained volunteer shoreline monitors who check segments of the shoreline.. This past year we introduced more sampling with a two-headed rake.

We are in the process of deciding if we should do a delineation survey / meandering search for the entire lake to determine if we have any AIS infestations which uses sonar, rake toss and surface observations and even possibly using a diver to locate AIS. And / or do we do standard point-intercept aquatic survey with approximately 450 sample points which would tell us our plant community.

Or do we do both studies in order to so a more thorough survey of the lake?

It is important for us to stay on top of the latest research and information so that we can make the most informed decisions for our lake. This can be a real challenge at times. But we plan on continuing to participate in the new pilot studies offered to us and watching the science and new developments that come along.

**Aquatic Vegetation Survey / Early Detection of AIS**

**Delineation Survey / Meandering Survey to Detect AIS**

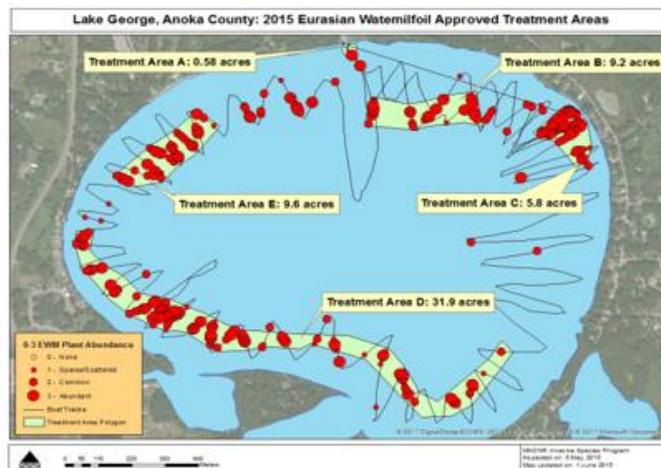


Figure 5. Example of a delineation map with proposed treatment polygons for Eurasian watermilfoil. Points courtesy of Anoka Conservation District. Green polygons indicate Eurasian watermilfoil stand. Black line indicates boat track.

**Point-Intercept Aquatic Plant Surveys**

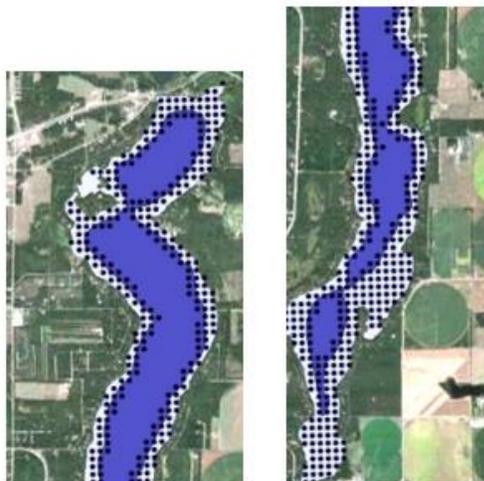


Figure 3. Map of sample points used for the 2011 Long Lake point-intercept plant survey. Areas deeper than 20 ft are shaded in dark blue.

**Middle Crow Wing Lake Association (5th, 6th and 7th Crow Wing Lakes):** This information was provided by Cheryl Hilgemann, Secretary who was unable to attend. (Info was shared during the meeting by Sharon Natzel for Cheryl H.)

Accomplishment:

In 2019 we had a major membership drive and successfully doubled our membership (people who have paid their annual dues) to over 100. This is approximately 50% of the people living on our lakes. We have maintained this through 2022 and hope to continue growing.

Challenges:

- 1) We share the major challenge of getting people involved in the lake association. People are very generous and many regularly donate more than their dues each year. Getting participation on the board and on other projects is a different story. Our lake has undergone a "generation turnover" in the last 2 years meaning that the larger portion of our members and lakeshore owners are now "weekenders" vs. retirees. This makes it even more difficult to recruit participants when they have "only 2 days at the lake". (And most of us have been in that same spot and can easily relate to their thinking.) 😊
- 2) We are in the process of figuring out how to put together a survey and get responses from our members to get ideas for projects/ideas of things they'd like to see the LA address. Our hope is that if we "invite" members to help on a specific project that will help them see that participation is not all that time consuming but can be fun and rewarding. We have also put together job descriptions for a board member and officers to try to help reduce the "fear factor".

**Plantagenet Lake Association:** Krystie North, HC COLA Rep

Achievements:

We are a lake that is in part of Beltrami County and majority in Hubbard County so it is interesting to see how the two different COLAs present things & do things. Our lake association goal this year was trying to get more information out to our lakeshore owners and others. We were able to put together a website and a Facebook page. We are still trying to get this information out to everybody so hopefully we can continue providing more information with that.

Challenges:

- 1) We are a fairly large lake. When airplane pilots practice landing and taking off on water, they do this on our lake. We actually have a couple of individuals on our lake that have their own planes. We started to be concerned about the number of times they were landing and taking off. If that was something that we needed to discuss. We weren't sure what other lakes they were going to because we have other lakes in our area with AIS. After our annual meeting, it was brought up to chat with them again. Since then, it hasn't been an issue.
  - As far as the plane activity, is that something others experience on your lakes? David Fastenow mentioned that he has that concern on Eagle Lake, almost every day. He is concerned about the loons.
  - Sharon mentioned there is a brochure that shows how to check a plane for AIS and will share.
- 2) The Schoolcraft River flows through our lake and flows from the south to the north to lakes that then connect to the Mississippi and Lake Bemidji. The lakes to the north of us along that river have AIS, but we do not. We just know it is a matter of time that somehow there may be a time that AIS will gravitate toward them. They continue to be vigilant about AIS.
- 3) Our lake is used for fishing tournaments. The Muskie Group is very good about making sure their tournament fishing boats aren't going from one lake to another lake that have AIS. There is a locally sponsored tournament however that isn't as proactive about AIS with the individuals that sign up for the tournament. The State of MN has a record of who applies for tournaments but don't require them to have their boats inspected. So not sure if others experience this?

- 4) When do you have your annual meeting? (LA's in the meeting mentioned some in June, some early Aug and mid-August.) Krystie mentioned Plantagenet chose to do their annual meeting on Labor Day, but that may not be a real good time, especially to get guest speakers in.... Plantagenet has found that their lake is made of residents now. Also almost 50% of lakeshore have changed hands (many within the families) so there is lots of opportunity for their lake association to do more education on shoreland and loons, for example. So that will be a goal next year.

**Potato Lake Association:** Ken Grob, PLA President

**Accomplishments:** Besides the road cleanup, here are the statistics, memberships, and 2022 Factoids

### Statistics:

- ~2100 acres (426 littoral); 14.8 miles of shoreline; 87' max depth; three arms (T-shape); Fish Hook Chain; Water level controlled by a fixed level dam on HWY 18.
- 60-70 % of shoreline vegetation is unaltered or slightly altered (SIZ vegetation)
- ~ 3 miles of protected shoreline; Ringer Property; Grey Goose & Como shore (Conservation Easement); plus Sunset Resort PUD – 50% natural shoreline.
- ~273 separate parcels of land

### Memberships:

- 155 members paid dues in 2022; highest ever
- Annual August Meeting – Over 65 attendees.
- PLA Board has 9 members (3 new ones in 2022)
- Craig Bihrlé is COLA Rep (new) and contributor to COLA Publicity committee

### 2022 Factoids:

- Annual Dues drive in January - \$35 dues (\$5145)
  - ✓ AIS Watercraft inspection funding direct contributions –\$7,235
  - ✓ NMF Trust AIS Project account contributions - \$5,334
- 1500 hours of watercraft Inspection funded in 2022; County 736 (\$16,192) ; PLA 628 (\$13,808); Lake Emma Twp 136 (\$3,000)
- ZM Veliger and Spinny Waterfleas sampling – No AIS Found
- Water Quality Sampling – 25 years? Slight improvement in TSI and Clarity
- Published a lake resident directory (Electronic)
- Annual Newsletter – Ringer Award; Social calendar; Article on Resort History, Special Interest..long-time resident, and project reports ( COLA, DNR Fishery, WQ, Objectives, AIS, Loons, SMO)

### **Challenges:**

- 3) Restarting Loon Program
- 4) Chinese Mystery Snails – expanding locations; annoyance
- 5) Recreational Boating has expanded to a safety concern level on the East Arm
- 6) More shoreline / water vegetation monitoring – e.g. AIS Starry Stonewort

**Note:** Here is a link to the Potato Lake Newsletter called [“The Potato Laker”](#) from Summer 2022; features page turning.

**South Island Lake Association:** Matt Lamb, HC COLA Rep – provided after the meeting as had to drop off meeting early

**Achievements:**

Loon Program - as a small lake, we only have one nesting platform. Last year none of the chicks survived through the summer. This year it appears that both chicks are alive and doing well.

More lake people are starting to get engaged with folks from the Association.

**Challenges:**

- 1) We have a beaver problem on our lake. We have struggled to find trappers who were interested in light of weak pelt prices even though the Association was willing to fund it. We may have finally found a trapper but I also wanted to inquire if other COLA members had any recommendations.
- 2) I would like to see more lake folks become members and become more active in the Association. As my busy work season starts to slow down, I hope to help drive more engagement.

**Spider Lake Association:** Rose Lawler, Alternate HC COLA Rep and Dan Olympic, President SLA

**Achievements:**

Rose:

- 1) Spider Lake Association members voted to establish a 501(c)(3). Getting close to completion. The effort is being led by Jon Dennis and committee.
- 2) Also had the highest turnout for the annual picnic in June. That was a good thing with 60-65 people.
- 3) Jon will present the video he created on Purple Loosestrife Removal at the end of the meeting.

Dan:

- 1) Rose organized for Spider Lake, the Shoreland Restoration Assessments in June with HC SWCD. Lots of people were interested. We are still processing some of that information. When people are there in person, we had a couple of suggestions so we took them up on that right away rather than waiting for a written report. Rose has been in the forefront of helping that out.
- 2) We were anticipating some board membership changes and have been recruiting from different parts of the lake. They have already started making contributions in terms of their expertise and feedback.
- 3) We had our very first boat parade in awhile!

**Challenges:**

Rose:

- 1) Property tax increases for Spider Lake were extremely large this year. That is why so many people showed up at the annual picnic. We recruited people to work with the county to get a reduction for Spider Lake. Unfortunately we were not successful as a large group. A few individual people that appealed did receive reductions.
- 2) We had a loon that was injured in July. It had a big gash in its leg. It could swim, dive and eat but couldn't fly. We don't know what happened to it this autumn; if it was able to get off the lake or met its maker

Dan:

- 3) We have some feedback from members that are concerned about watercraft and how close they come to shore. We want to figure out some ways for helping people become more sensitive to that; how they cruise around the lake, pull waterskiers, do wakeboards, etc. That is still a work in progress.

*[Sharon noted that the boating guide that Eagle-Island developed, that David Fastenow spoke about, will be shared after the meeting and we may find that helpful for hints.]*

**Stony Lake Association:** Mike Glynn, President SLA (sometimes Stony is called / known as Big Stony Lake)

**Achievements:**

Stony is a small lake and has a potential for 115 members and now have 95 paid members at an 82% participation rate. (They have 118 properties on the lake but 3 are government owned.) Had 6 properties change hands this year and all the six new owners have joined the association, as well as some existing owners that have decided to join & participate.

**Challenges:**

- 1) We had a single adult zebra mussel discovered by a member in June. No additional specimens were discovered after multiple dives and shoreline inspections by the DNR. We remain vigilant and our membership has a heightened awareness.
- 2) We had some vandalism at our Silver Sands public beach. We will be replacing the sign which is being co-sponsored by HC COLA, the local 4-H club "Stony Lake Beavers", and the Stony Lake Association.

**Tripp Lake Association:** Lynn Goodrich, Tripp Lake and co-host of the HC COLA 9-29-2022 hybrid meeting...

**Achievements:**

- 1) This has been a transition year at Tripp Lake. We are a very small lake with 15 properties. We lost some of our lakeshore owners in the past year. There are some new lakeshore owners that have come in the last 2 years. They are quite interested in the lakeshore, how to improve it and improve the quality of the lake. We had two sessions, one at the annual meeting and one at our place, talking about lakeshore and what you should do, what you shouldn't do, what you could do, etc. I think there will be lots of projects taking place next year.
- 2) We are having a transition of the officers of the lake association so we are getting younger people involved. Hopefully the future looks good on Tripp Lake.
- 3) Now getting prepared for the Winter months. We are pulling the docks and boats this weekend.

**Challenges:**

- 1) We had a nesting eagle in the tree on our property for about 30 years. The tree top was broken off in a storm two years ago. They came back but they can't nest. So will be interesting to see where they do nest.
- 2) One of the property owners was interested in loons and picked up a loon platform. The first year they were unsuccessful to get loons to use the platform to breed. They discussed with us and other people. It may have been a poor location choice so they will try a different location next summer.