



# The Crossings

*Fall/Winter 2024*

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

**BY: RACHEL WHEELER**

Hello CLA Members,

As we wrap up 2024, I hope you all enjoyed a wonderful summer—time really does fly, and now there's snow on the ground as I write this! The CLA board had a productive and meaningful year, working together to make positive strides in improving our water quality. Here's a quick recap of what we accomplished:

First, a huge thank you to the Events committee for organizing the shoreline restoration plant giveaway at our May Spring Fling. Planting these in your yard directly supports better water quality—a small but impactful action!

## MEMBERSHIP

### UPDATE:

**The members unanimously voted "yes" at the September meeting to increase our yearly dues to \$40. What will we do with the money?**

- Continued lake surveys
- Continue handing out lake shore stabilization plants in May.
- Contribute to help with private weed spraying
- Fun events on the lake (reminder we need volunteers!)
- Postage has gone up - we know the majority still like printed updates
- Advertising to increase membership
- Explore the NanoBubbler - check out the article in the newsletter

**Thank you for your continued support, we can't do this without you!**

We also worked closely with the DNR on curly leaf pondweed spraying. Since there's often some confusion around the purpose of the signature request for this, be sure to check out our article that clarifies the difference between DNR-sponsored weed spraying and private treatments.

The lake concert was a hit once again this summer, despite the wind - Thanks Carolyn for all your work to pull this event off! And at fair time, Joe and Terry did an outstanding job showcasing CLA—thanks to everyone who volunteered! We truly couldn't do it without you.

This year, we celebrated record membership and were pleased to welcome two new directors that were voted into the board, Jason Ehret and Jeff Lee, who will join the water quality committee and bring fresh perspectives to our initiatives.

Looking ahead to 2025, the board is actively setting new goals and initiatives, which we'll share at the start of the year. We'd love to see everyone at our May meeting and encourage you to get involved! Our board is entirely volunteer-run, so if you or your neighbors are interested in lending a hand, it would mean so much to the continued success of our efforts. Let's work towards getting every household on Cross Lake and the Snake River involved!

Here's to a fantastic 2024, and an even better 2025!

Warmly,  
Rachel Wheeler  
President, CLA

**Don't forget to renew your membership for 2025! We need everyone to keep improving the lake!**

# MEET THE NEW BOARD MEMBERS



**JASON EHRET**

Director

Water Quality Committee



**JEFF LEE**

Director

Water Quality Committee

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



### 2025 DATES

**January 11**

**Winter Membership Event**

**320 Brewery**

**4:00-6:00pm**

**May 24**

**Membership Meeting**

**Pine City Library**

**9:00 - 10:30**

**July 4**

**Boat Parade (rain back  
up date July 5)**

**July 31st -**

**Aug. 3**

**Pine County Fair**

**August 23rd**

**Concert on the Lake**

**Sept. 6th**

**Membership Meeting**

**Pine City Library**

**9:00 - 10:30**



## THANKS TO OUR MEMBERS!

### That's a wrap on 2024!

This year we increased our number of members, however donations were less than previous years. Below is a breakdown on year over year. Thank you to all the members, we can't do this without your support!

### Year over Year

#### 2024

**234 Members**

**\$10,885 in dues**

#### 2023

**229 Members**

**\$10,665.00 in dues**

#### 2022

**199 Members**

**\$13,601.00 in dues**

### Looking Ahead to 2025

Next year, our board is excited to expand our efforts. Here's what's coming up:

- **New Initiatives:** We'll continue to focus on water quality improvement, with projects planned in collaboration with environmental partners.
- **Educational Outreach:** Watch for new articles, meetings, and hands-on activities to help members learn more about lake preservation.
- **Increased Volunteer Opportunities:** We'll need extra hands for events and projects. If you're interested in helping out or know someone who might be, please reach out!

We hope to see all members join us in making 2025 another impactful year for Cross Lake. Spread the word to neighbors and friends—becoming a CLA member is one of the most effective ways to support our shared goals and keep our lake vibrant for generations to come.

Thank you again for your continued support, and here's to an exciting year ahead!

# LET'S CRUSH 2025!

PLEASE TALK TO YOUR NEIGHBORS. WE NEED EVERYONE ON THE LAKE/RIVER TO BECOME A MEMBER!





## Automated aquatic plant control devices

A permit is required to use an automated aquatic plant control device in Minnesota lakes. [Apply online](#) or contact [Aquatic Plant Management Permitting Staff \(PDF\)](#) if you require a paper application permit.

Automated aquatic plant control devices (WeedRoller, Lake Maid, and Beach Groomer are common brands) are a popular method of aquatic plant control among lakeshore property owners. These devices are not appropriate for all locations because they have the potential to excavate the lake bottom and suspend sediment. Minnesota rules prohibit excavation to gain access when it can be obtained by alternative means that result in less environmental impact (MR 6115.0200, Subp. 3.). For these reasons, a **site inspection and permit are required** prior to installing or operating one of these devices in a Minnesota lake.



Purposes for the site inspection:

- to determine whether or not aquatic plants are abundant enough to interfere with recreation
- to identify any critical habitat or aquatic vegetation which may be impacted by operation of the device
- to insure that the lake bottom is firm enough to not be affected by the device

### Where can they be used?

Permits are usually granted for sites where the lake bottom is primarily sand with little accumulation of silt or soft sediment. **These devices are not allowed at sites where the sediment depth is greater than three inches.** Therefore, the DNR recommends that you apply for a permit prior to purchasing one of these devices for aquatic plant control.

### Three-year permit

As an incentive for homeowners to protect aquatic habitat, the rules allow for a three-year permit option for automated devices, provided the site is appropriate.

**This option is available under the following conditions:**

- the area to be controlled extends no more than 100 feet along shore or one half the owners frontage whichever is less
- the site does not exceed 2,500 square feet in area



## DNR WEED SPRAYING VS. PRIVATE

We receive the most inquiries around spraying! There are two different weed spraying programs that are taking place currently. Here is the breakdown:

### DNR SPONSORED WEED SPRAYING:

Each year the board works to secure funds to have the county cover spraying for curly leaf & eurasian milfoil. The last couple years with the high waters in the spring the DNR has not sprayed for milfoil. However, this year they did spray a few spots for curly leaf.

NOTE: in order for the DNR to spray in front of your home, you need to go on our website at [crosslakeassociation.org](http://crosslakeassociation.org) and electronically sign the weed spray form. We then download all of these and send to the DNR. By signing this form, it does not mean that you will be sprayed, it simply means that they have your signature and should your shoreline need to be sprayed they will do it. Without your signature, they will not spray your area. The form has been updated on the website to reflect 2025, we would encourage you to fill it out and then you are all set should your property need spraying.

**YOU MUST SIGN ONLINE!**



### Private Weed Spraying:

This is where you need to contact Aquatic Conservation Services and arrange for them to come out to your property and determine what they need to spray for. In addition, there is a cost to you the homeowner to have your property sprayed.

It's important to sign up for this early, as they also need to secure a DNR permit to spray by March 1st. We have had several homeowners take advantage of their service and see a difference.

Here is the information needed to reach out to them:



Call [\(763\) 257-5852](tel:763-257-5852)

Email:

[aquaticconservationservices@gmail.com](mailto:aquaticconservationservices@gmail.com)



***Lake homeowners play a crucial role in maintaining and improving water quality. Here are some impactful actions you can take:***

- 1. Implement Native Shoreline Planting:** Planting native vegetation along the shoreline helps prevent erosion, reduces runoff, and provides natural filtration for pollutants before they enter the lake. Native plants also offer habitats for local wildlife.
- 2. Minimize Fertilizer and Pesticide Use:** Chemicals from fertilizers and pesticides can run off into the lake, leading to harmful algae blooms and pollution. If you need to fertilize, opt for phosphorus-free, slow-release fertilizers and apply sparingly.
- 3. Properly Dispose of Yard Waste:** Avoid raking leaves, grass clippings, or other debris into the lake, as they can contribute to nutrient buildup and fuel algae growth. Compost yard waste or dispose of it in designated waste collection areas.
- 4. Use Eco-Friendly Lawn Care:** If you're near the lake, consider a "no-mow" zone or leave an area of natural vegetation to reduce runoff. When mowing, direct clippings away from the lake to keep excess nutrients out.
- 5. Inspect and Maintain Septic Systems:** Ensure your septic system is in good working order and schedule regular inspections. Faulty septic systems can leak nutrients and contaminants into the lake, affecting water quality.
- 6. Limit Hard Surfaces on Property:** Consider reducing hardscape (e.g., driveways, patios) and use permeable materials when possible. This can help decrease stormwater runoff and prevent pollutants from reaching the lake.
- 7. Prevent Soil Erosion:** Stabilize any areas prone to erosion with plants, retaining walls, or other structures. Reducing soil erosion minimizes sediment and nutrients entering the water, keeping it cleaner.
- 8. Avoid Feeding Waterfowl:** Feeding ducks, geese, or other waterfowl attracts more birds, which leads to increased waste and nutrient buildup in the lake.
- 9. Practice Responsible Boating:** When boating, avoid stirring up sediment in shallow areas, which can release nutrients that promote algae growth. Be mindful of invasive species and clean your boat, trailer, and gear thoroughly after each use.
- 10. Get Involved:** Join your lake association or volunteer in local water quality initiatives to stay informed and contribute to larger conservation efforts.

***Every small action makes a big difference when it comes to lake health!***

**YOU CAN MAKE A  
DIFFERENCE!**



# Nanobubble Information

## Naturally Restore Minnesota Lakes with Chemical-Free Technology and Adaptive Lake Management Plans

According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), of the 18.5 million acres of waterbodies assessed, it's estimated that 13 million acres are impaired, and 35,000 acres are in threat of impairment in the United States alone. In Minnesota, this includes 2,798 waterbodies.

### What impairment looks like:

- Excessive algal blooms, including harmful algal blooms (HABs) that contain toxins and can lead to lake closures
- Poor water clarity
- Excessive aquatic plant growth, especially invasive species
- Fish kills and poor aquatic animal habitat
- Foul odors



### What can we do to reduce impairment and start removing lakes from the list?

Creating an adaptive lake management plan is key to improving water quality and boosting natural lake recovery processes. This involves monitoring and assessments, decision-making and strategy, implementation of management technologies and tools and continuous adaptation through evaluation and analysis. Prevention methods can also be implemented, such as reducing landscape fertilizer usage or limiting run off into lakes to reduce nutrient loading that fuels algae growth.

### Integrating Sustainable, Chemical-Free Tools to Address Water Quality and Improve Natural Lake Recovery Processes

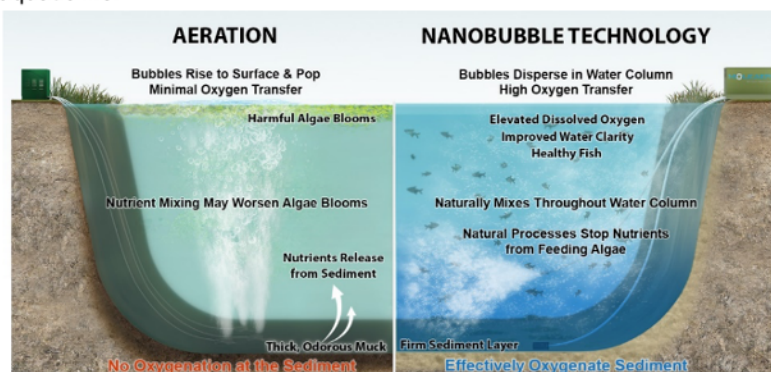


A chemical-free tool, Moleaer's nanobubble treatment offers a sustainable, long-term solution by oxygenating the entire water column, particularly the lake bottom where sediments, a major source of internal nutrient loading in most lakes, are found. By reversing oxygen-depleted conditions at the bottom of the lake, nanobubbles mitigate nutrients, reducing algal growth and preventing future blooms. Increasing the lake's oxidation-reduction potential (ORP) further enhances its resilience to algae toxin loading and reduces muck accumulation, making the lake a safer environment for human recreation and aquatic life.

### How oxygen nanobubbles help naturally restore lakes:

- Deliver oxygen to the sediment layer
- Improve water quality
- Reduce algal blooms and HABs
- Promote muck digestion
- Decrease odors

*Moleaer is the leader and pioneer in nanobubble technology, bringing tailored solutions to lakes and other water bodies throughout the U.S. and beyond. With over 600 installations in surface waterbodies, Moleaer is helping communities like yours limit lake closures due to HABs, improve water clarity and fish habitat and make your lake more resilient without the use of chemicals.*



[www.Moleaer.com](http://www.Moleaer.com)

**MOLEAER**  
ADVANCING NANOBUBBLE TECHNOLOGY

Learn more about Moleaer's technology and solutions by scanning the QR code



# GET YOUR GEAR FOR THE LAKE!

We have partnered with our very own Lee's Pro Shop in Pine City. Not only will you support the CLA, you are supporting local. Visit [Crosslakeassociation.org](http://Crosslakeassociation.org) to order!



SanMar - BC3413  
Sanmar BC3413 BELLA+CANVAS ® U...  
\$12.00



SanMar - BC6415  
Sanmar BC6415 BELLA+CANVAS ® ...  
\$12.00



SanMar - BC3480  
Sanmar BC3480 BELLA+CANVAS ® U...  
\$11.00



SanMar - ST254  
Sanmar #ST254 Sport-Tek ® Pullov...  
\$37.00



SanMar - G2400  
Sanmar #G2400 Gildan® - Ultra Co...  
\$18.00



SanMar - LST253  
Sanmar #LST253 Sport-Tek ® Ladie...  
\$38.00



Landway - 9901  
Landway #9901 MATRIX BONDED S...  
\$59.50



SS Activewear - 8872  
SS Activewear #8872 J. America - ...  
\$38.00



Richardson - 112  
Richardson #112 Snapback Trucker ...  
\$15.00



SanMar - NE800  
Sanmar NE800 New Era ® Hex Era B...  
\$24.00



YETI - YRAM20  
YETI #YRAM20 Rambler 20oz Tumbler...  
\$37.99



RTIC 20oz Tumbler - RTIC20  
RTIC #RTIC20 20oz Tumbler  
\$19.00





# LET'S BRING ON WINTER!

What a year it's been! We hope that you are all looking forward to 2025. To recap just a few of the accomplishments from the board.

- 2024 Updated water quality report (just received data and will update on the website)
- 6 Add'l kids signed took the boating safety course
- Brought the fair back - shoutout to Joe and Terry!
- Supplied shoreline restoration plants to members in May - we have seen some pretty plants on the shore!
- Concert on the Lake - Pine City Food Shelf Donation of \$245

We are always looking to improve and would encourage you to email us honest, candid feedback that will only help us to improve. In addition, making sure that we are accomplishing what you are looking for on the lake.

The team is open to all new ideas, anything to bring people together on the lake. Consider joining a committee, attending events, starting a club, volunteering, the opportunities are endless.

As we wrap up the 2024 season, we want to THANK YOU ALL, we couldn't do this with everyone of our members. Please feel free to reach out to us at anytime, we would love to hear from you on how to better the lake!

***We will see you on the lake this winter!  
Maybe some snow golf, or grumpy old men ice fishing weekend....***

**We want to hear from you!**



**WINTER FUN!**



## Serving Cross Lake and the Lower Snake River

Cross Lake Association  
P.O. Box 325  
Pine City, MN 55063

Non-Profit  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Pine City,  
MN 55063  
Permit No. 8

Forwarding Service Requested

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

**MEMBERSHIP YEAR RUNS JANUARY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2025**

Online registration and payment are available on our website at [crosslakeassociation.org](http://crosslakeassociation.org)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Pine City Address if different from above:  
\_\_\_\_\_



**Let's be green, please email me my newsletter!**  
**I WANT TO GET INVOLVED!**

Water Quality

Board Member

Freedom Fest

Events

Fisheries

Fair Booth

Parade

Other special skill or talent:  
\_\_\_\_\_

| Level    | Amount | Donation Amount |
|----------|--------|-----------------|
| Platinum | \$150+ |                 |
| Gold     | \$100  |                 |
| Silver   | \$75   |                 |
| Basic    | \$40   |                 |