



Cross Lake Association

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www.MinnesotaWaters.org/CrossLakeofPineCounty

Volume 31, Number 1

May 2017

President's Message

Hello Fellow Cross Lakers!

My name is Kurt Kastel, and I am the newly- installed President of the Cross Lake Association. As you can see, there have been a lot of changes to the CLA in the last year. First, I would like to express my sincere admiration and thanks to Judy Yorston, the previous President, whose years of service and dedication has put our organization on sound footing for the future. Judy's guidance has been invaluable to me personally as I take on this role, and we will continue to rely on her sound judgement and good advice going forward. Judy knows more about this or-

ganization than anyone, and her institutional memory and legacy is one of our strongest assets.

For those of you who don't know me, my wife Gina and I have owned a cabin on Norway Point for the last 12 years. She is formerly Gina Bacigalupi, and grew up on Cross Lake with her parents Bach and Teena, who still live here as well. We have loved being part of this community, the heart of which is our beautiful lake (the sunsets over the bay never get old!). The board of the CLA is committed to the good stewardship of this amazing resource, and we know you all feel the same

way. Water quality is always our highest priority.

This is not to say we do not have challenges. The phosphate loads, both new and extant, are a perennial problem, as are invasive plant species like Eurasian Milfoil and Curly Leaf Pondweed. Vigilance against Zebra mussels is always necessary, as is protection of our vulnerable shoreline. We will begin treatment of expanded areas for invasive plants this spring in conjunction with Pine County and the DNR. We have engaged Lake Management, Inc. to be our primary AIS contractor. Pine Coun-

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2017 Cross Lake Association Calendar

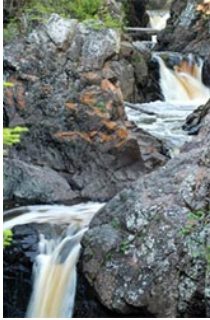
Spring Membership Meeting	Saturday May 20 9 am	American Legion Hall
Senior Outing	Sunday June 4 1 pm	Lakeside Nursing Home
Freedom Fest Booth	Saturday June 24 10 am	County Fairgrounds
Boat Parade	July 4 Noon—3 pm	North End of Cross Lake
Fair Booth	August 2—6	County Fairgrounds
Fair Parade	Saturday August 5 4 pm	Pine City
Fall Membership Meeting	Saturday September 16	American Legion Hall
Dinner Dance	Saturday September 23	American Legion Hall

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The Crossings

DNR Asks for License Fee Increase



As you may be aware, the Department is pursuing a hunting and fishing license fee increase during the 2017 legislative session. This effort is being undertaken with the support of the Governor, following recommendations from the Citizen Budget Oversight Committee's recent review of the 2015 Game & Fish Fund Report. This initiative requests an increase of \$3 for a resident fishing license (about the price of a scoop of minnows!). Other license fees (including those for hunting endeavors) would also in-

crease.

Virtually all fisheries management work is funded by money raised through license sales. This Game and Fish Fund is in decline. Inflation affects us all, including the Division of Fish and Wildlife. Reductions in buying power due to increasing costs for products, services and equipment have put this work and the recreational opportunities it creates at risk. Without this increase, the remaining balance of the Game and Fish Fund will be depleted by

2019.

Many outdoor enthusiasts will recall that license fees were last raised in 2012. At that time, an increase of \$7 for a resident fishing license was requested – \$5 was granted. If successful, the current initiative should secure the solvency of the Game and Fish Fund into 2021. Periodic hunting and fishing license increases are necessary to help offset the budget-eroding effects of inflation.

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Art in the Park Schedule

Once again the Pine City Arts Council is sponsoring Art in the Park. Come and enjoy free music in Robinson Park on Friday nights, from 6:00—8:30 p.m. Food will be sold starting at 5:30 p.m.

ART IN THE PARK
IS A GREAT WAY
TO ENJOY SOME
LIVELY MUSIC IN
THE COOL OF A
FRIDAY EVENING
IN PINE CITY.
AND YOU
WON'T HAVE TO
COOK DINNER!

May 26	Pine City Jazz Band	Music Boosters	Sloppy Joes
June 2	Bill & Kate Isles	Girl Scouts	Bratwurst
June 9	Belle Amor	First Presbyterian	Sloppy Joes
June 16	Echoes of Elvis	Pine Area Lions	Walking Tacos
June 23	Al Godage and Sundown	Immaculate Conception	BBQ Turkey
June 30	Whitesidewalls	Pine City Lions	Pulled Pork
July 7	Monroe Crossing	Zion Lutheran	Hot Dogs & Apple Pie
July 15	40th Anniversary Art Fest 9 a.m.—3 p.m. Food — Exhibitors—Children's Corner		
July 21	Tom Mason & Blue Bucaneers	Our Redeemer Lutheran	Carolina BBQ
July 28	Neighberz	Boy Scouts	Cheeseburgers

Pine City Farmer's Market Opens June 9 - 10

The Pine City Farmer's Market will be held again this year in the Pine County Fairgrounds. The market is open each Friday and Saturday, from 11 am to 1 pm, from June 9—10

through the last weekend in October. Opening weekend will be celebrated with the 'Taste of Spring', where free samples of food made with market products will be offered.

What's Cooking

By Barb Videen



Julie's White Bean Hummus

Not a big garbanzo bean fan so this hummus is a nice alternative, and so easy to make.

- 1 - 15 oz. can Cannelloni beans
- 2 cloves garlic
- 2 T lemon juice
- 1/4 cup chopped parsley
- 1/4 cup olive oil



Puree in food processor. Season with sea salt & fresh ground pepper to taste.

Cheryl's Black Bean & Corn Salad/Dip

I had this at a pot luck. Versatile in that it can be either a salad or a dip. Pretty served in a lettuce lined bowl.

- 1 (15-oz). can black beans, rinsed drained
- 1 (8 3/4 oz). can corn, drained
- 1/2 cup green or red pepper, chopped
- 1/2 cup celery, sliced
- 1/4 cup onion, chopped
- 3/4 cup salsa
- 1 Tbsp. lemon juice (or lime)
- 1/2 tsp. ground cumin
- Dash garlic powder
- 1 cup Monterey Jack cheese (4 oz.)
- Lettuce Leaves (optional)
- Lots of cilantro

In a large bowl, combine black beans, drained corn, chopped pepper, celery, and onion. In a small bowl, stir together salsa, lemon juice, cumin, and garlic powder. Pour over black bean mixture; toss gently. Cover and chill for 2 to 24 hours. Just before serving, stir in cheese and cilantro. If desired, serve in a lettuce-lined bowl

Boat Parade

The Boat Parade will be on Tuesday, July 4th. It will start on the North end of the lake by Norway Point, and will go around the whole lake. The theme for this year's parade is American Patriotism. The best decorated boats will win a fabulous prize. Plan on gathering at

Norway Point at 12 noon. The parade will start at 1 p.m. sharp. You can get your number at the Parade Marshall's boat from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. You have to start at 1 p.m. and finish the entire circuit around the lake to be eligible for the prize. If there is bad weather the parade will



be canceled for this year. Come out and have fun, hope to see you there. Any questions call Frank at 320-629-3361.

May 20 Membership Meeting

Our spring general membership meeting will be held on Saturday May 20, 9:00—11:30, at the American Legion hall on Hwy. 61 on the north side of Pine City. Membership meetings are held twice each year. They are a great way to catch up on the activities going on around Cross Lake, and a chance to meet fellow cabin owners.

The agenda for this meeting includes:

- County Water Management Plan
- Invasive Weed Spraying in Cross Lake
- North End Erosion Control Project
- Committee Reports

Free Refreshments and Door Prizes!

PLEASE JOIN US
FOR THE FIRST
GENERAL
MEMBERSHIP
MEETING FOR
THE YEAR.

(DNR—Continued from page 2)

This declining balance is already negatively impacting 1.5 million anglers as we, unsure of when a fee increase will be enacted, have been aggressively managing costs by reducing staff, holding vacancies, delaying or cancelling projects, and curbing outreach efforts. Hinckley Area staff are striving to maintain the level of service, fish management activity, and research that our customers are used to, but this will soon be unachievable without this fee increase.

Making our stakeholders aware of the need

for this fee increase is very important, hence my email to your group. Even more critical is for our supporters to let their legislators know that this increase is both essential and desired. It is simply not enough to support this initiative passively, action in the form of legislative contact is necessary.

Leslie George

Area Fisheries Supervisor | Division of Fish & Wildlife | Minnesota DNR
leslie.george@state.mn.us



Trumpeter Swan seen on Cross Lake 1-Apr-2017

Volunteer Opportunities

Would you like to have fun and meet some new friends? Are you willing to help improve the water quality of our lake? Do you have new ideas for our Cross Lake Association? If so, please consider becoming involved as a volunteer in an area that is of interest to you. Let us know by sending an email to us:

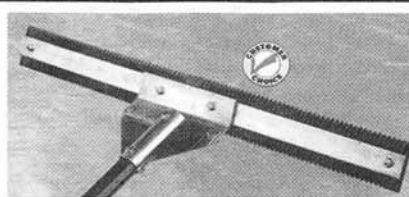
CrossLakeAssociation@gmail.com.

Freedom Fest	Cook & sell burgers/hot dogs at the CLA booth June 24th at the Pine County fairgrounds . Shifts from 8:30 am to 2:00 pm.
County Fair Booth	Staff the CLA booth at the fair. Hand out informational pamphlets and answer questions from booth visitors.
Crossings Newsletter	Write articles, provide photos, or help with mail-

Aquatic Weed Rakes

Cross Lake Association is again selling weed rakes this year to help remove Curly Leaf Pondweed from your shoreline (see pg. 5 for information on Curly Leaf Pondweed). The MN DNR allows you to remove aquatic weeds under certain conditions (www.dnr.state.mn.us/shorelandmgmt/apg/regulations.html). Spring is the best time to remove Curly Leaf. Contact Dave Videen for further information on obtaining weed rakes through the Cross Lake Association.

Aquatic Weed Eradicator



No need for dangerous chemicals. The AWE is excellent for controlling lake weeds. With a reinforced 28" serrated cutting blade, you don't have to worry about the blades bending under a heavy load of weeds. The AWE has grown in popularity every year we've offered it! Comes with a two-piece eleven-foot rust-proof powder-coated aluminum handle.

Lake Weed Maintenance

The Cross Lake Association has made arrangements directly with the manufacturer of this tool to help you reduce Curlyleaf Pondweed along your shoreline.

To purchase a Weedcutter, fill in the order form below and enclose a check for \$99 payable to Cross Lake Association. Contact Dave Videen, 612-219-8875 if you have any questions.

PURCHASE REQUEST FOR AQUATIC WEED ERADICATOR

Print your name: (first & last) _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone # _____

Mail this form with a check for \$99.00 to:

Cross Lake Association
Box 325
Pine City, MN. 55063

Invasive, non-native species - Curly-leaf pondweed (*Potamogeton crispus*)

What is curly-leaf pondweed?

Curly-leaf is a submersed aquatic plant that is not native to North America. It generally grows in 3-10 feet of water. Curly-leaf tolerates low water clarity and will readily invade disturbed areas.

How can I tell if curly-leaf pondweed is in a lake?

Curly-leaf (see picture) is similar in appearance to many native pondweeds commonly found in Minnesota lakes and streams. It can be distinguished from other pondweeds by its unique life cycle. It is generally the first pondweed to come up in spring and dies back in mid-summer.

Where did curly-leaf pondweed come from?

Curly-leaf was first noted in Minnesota about 1910. It probably was accidentally introduced to the state when common carp were intentionally brought to Minnesota. Curly-leaf has been in Minnesota so long that most people do not realize that it is a non-native species.

Why is curly-leaf pondweed a problem?

In spring, curly-leaf pondweed can form dense mats that may interfere with boating and other recreation on lakes. Curly-leaf also can cause ecological problems because it can displace native aquatic plants. In mid-summer, curly-leaf plants usually die back, which results in rafts of dying plants piling up on shorelines, and often is followed by an increase in phosphorus, a nutrient, and undesirable algal blooms. Like other



**Curly-leaf Pondweed
first found in Minnesota in 1910**

*Photo by Vic Ramey, University of Florida's
Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants*

aquatic vegetation, the abundance of curly-leaf varies from year to year depending on environmental conditions, such as winter snow depth, and spring water clarity, which can effect its growth.

How does curly-leaf pondweed spread?

Curly-leaf is believed to spread from one body of water to another primarily by the unintentional transfer of turions, which are hardened stem tips, on plant fragments carried on trailered boats, personal watercraft, etc.

What can be done to prevent the spread of curly-leaf pondweed?

The most important action that you can take to limit the spread of curly-leaf and other non-native aquatic plants is to remove all vegetation from your watercraft before you move it from one body of water to another.

What can be done about problems caused by curly-leaf pondweed?

Serving Cross Lake and the Lower Snake River

CROSS LAKE ASSOCIATION OF PINE COUNTY

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



(President's Message—Continued from page 1)

ty is also working with Wenck Associates, a consulting firm based in Golden Valley, to assist in crafting plans that incorporate the entire Snake River Watershed in its water quality efforts. We agree that this comprehensive approach is preferable to piecemeal efforts by individual lake associations, which may occasionally work at cross purposes, so we will be working closely with them in coordinating our efforts, and hopefully create economies of scale that we can leverage to maximize the effect of our grants and your generous contributions.

We are also collaborating with our friends on Pokegama to keep abreast of lake levels and flood stage warnings. Here I have to give a shout out to Al Johnson who was very helpful in keeping

many of us informed when we were knee deep in water last summer (some of us a little more than knee deep!). After water quality, safety on and about the lake is our organization's next highest priority.

We hope that you will join us at our spring membership meeting on Saturday May 20, 9am at the American Legion hall when we can discuss our plans with you in greater detail. But it's not all sackcloth and ashes! We plan to have a lot of fun this year as well, and favorite activities such as the Boat Parade and the Fall Dinner Dance will be back in full swing. Please see the rest of this bulletin for dates, times and a comprehensive list of activities.

Finally, we hope you like the new Crossings format. We wanted it to be more concise and user-friendly, including an

electronic format for those who would like to have it available online. Many thanks to Jim Bartol and Barb Videen for toiling away many hours to make this new format a reality. We are also in the process of revamping our website, increasing its functionality and keeping it more up to date.

We are a work in progress, however. Change is never easy and there has been a lot of turnover in the CLA this past year, and though we have great people dedicating their time and talents we can always use more! Please check out the many volunteer opportunities available with CLA, and help make your Cross Lake community even better.

Best Regards,

Kurt

(612-308-5297) cell