



## Note from the President by Dan Reuter

## Fall is upon us!



### Greetings from Dan!

Welcome to the 2nd edition of the Cross Lake Crossings of 2020! We hope you continue to enjoy our publications

Membership can be renewed at:

website:  
<https://crosslakeassociation.org>

mail info: [info@crosslakeassociation.org](mailto:info@crosslakeassociation.org)

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612-209-6843

**Larry Kreatz, VP Fisheries**  
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651-245-8595  
[Jody@crosslakeassociation.org](mailto:Jody@crosslakeassociation.org)

**Shanie Berry, Treasurer Webmaster/Social Media Chair Membership Chair**  
612-230-6986  
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**Mary Reuter, Director Water Quality Chair Fair Parade Co-Chair**  
[maryreuter@gmail.com](mailto:maryreuter@gmail.com)  
612-209-6886

**Joe Paget, Director Pine County Co-Fair Chair**  
651-353-1637

**Margo Rothenbacher, Director Fall Dinner Dance Chair**  
651-278-5034

**Don Deutsch, Director Water Quality Tester**  
651-442-3796

**Cross Lake Association of Pine County**  
PO Box 325 • Pine City, MN 55063

Hi All!

It's been quite an interesting summer on the lake to say the least. CLA was unable to hold their usual events due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We were fortunate to have at least two activities this year though: 4th of July Boat Parade and the Hwy36 Concert on the lake! Both were spectacular events.

With the restrictions and requirements of not having large gatherings, to be six feet away from others, and continue to wear PPE, the Board has decided to postpone the annual Board election until May 2021 for everyone's safety.

We will have 4 positions open:

- President
- Vice-President
- Treasurer
- Water Quality Chair

All Members are encouraged to apply. If anyone is interested in any of these positions or would like to be a Board Director, please email me so we can get your name on the list of candidates.

One thing that has not slowed down is water quality. Mary and Don have been busy most weeks doing water testing and each will have full reports of their own on their findings, as well as opportunities to get members involved in shoreline restoration projects. We are also working on the high water and no wake ordinance with the County. Delays are due to COVID and the inability to hold a public meeting. Once those happen, we hope to hear some positive results. Cross Lake and Pokegama are also both working together with the DNR on a pan fish initiative. Part of the initiative is to work on the quality of the pan fish size and increase the population in the lake.

The draft of the Bylaws should be on the website by October 1, 2020, for review and a finalization vote at the May meeting. If you have any questions relating to any changes, please email me. Some changes are housekeeping and outdated language to comply with the Minnesota Statutes 317A for nonprofits. You may or may not be aware that CLA is a registered 501(c)(3) with the Federal government and is considered a Charity with the Minnesota Attorney General's office. With that in mind, our main purpose is water quality and the improvement of the lake and river as stated in the Bylaws.

On another positive note, the plus side of the lockdown seems to have more people out enjoying the lake with the great weather we've been having. Our family has been on the lake almost every day with our grandchildren, their favorite activities being of course pulled on the tube. We are already on our second tube this summer!

Life is good!  
Talk soon! Dan

# Cross Lake 2020 Calendar of Events

**Board Meeting**  
Saturday, January 18th

**Water Quality Meeting**  
Saturday, February 8th

**Board Meeting**  
Saturday, February 15th

**Board Meeting**  
Saturday, March 21st

**Water Quality Meeting**  
Saturday, April 25th

**Board Meeting**  
Saturday, April 18th

**Spring Membership Meeting**  
Canceled due to Covid19

**Garage Sale**  
Canceled due to Covid19

**Water Quality Meeting**  
Saturday, June 13th

**Freedom Fest**  
Canceled due to Covid19

**4th of July Parade**  
Saturday, July 4th - starts at 1:00

**Board Meeting**  
Saturday, July 18th

**Water Quality Meeting**  
Saturday, July 25th

**Pine County Fair**  
Canceled due to Covid19

**Board Meeting**  
Saturday, August 15th

**HWY36 Concert on the Lake**  
Saturday - August 15th

**Fall Membership Meeting**  
Canceled due to Covid19

**Water Quality Meeting**  
Saturday, October 10th

**Board Meeting**  
Saturday, October 17th

**Final Board Meeting for 2020**  
Saturday, November 20th

## Pumpkin Pancakes



These pancakes are really yummy and a great fall breakfast treat. If you haven't had a chance to try something like this, you will thoroughly enjoy it! Happy cooking!

### Ingredients:

- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 tablespoons brown sugar
- 1 tablespoon white sugar
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup pumpkin puree
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon ground ginger
- 1/2 teaspoon ground allspice
- 1 egg
- 1 1/2 cups milk
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- 2 teaspoons grated lemon zest
- 1 teaspoon vegetable oil



### Instructions:

1. Combine flour, brown sugar, white sugar, baking powder, baking soda, and salt in a large mixing bowl, and whisk together for two minutes to aerate.
2. In a separate bowl, combine pumpkin puree, cinnamon, ginger, allspice, egg, milk, 2 tablespoons of vegetable oil, lemon juice, and lemon zest. Mix in the flour mixture, and stir just until moistened. (Do not over mix.)
3. Coat skillet with 1 teaspoon vegetable oil over medium heat.
4. Pour batter into skillet 1/4 cup at a time, and cook the pancakes until golden brown, about 3 minutes on each side.



## Secretarie's Desk

Jody Klitzke

As we approach fall, I always look back and reflect on the summer events that my family and I have enjoyed. Although the COVID Pandemic was upon us all, my family was able to enjoy our lake home a bit more. We went swimming, time on the pontoon, zipped around on the seadoo, jumped on the water trampoline and even floated on floaties in the lake. We had some great times together.

I hope our fall is just as good and wish you and your family much joy while the weather changes!

# SUMMER EVENTS!!!

## July 4th 2020 Boat Parade Dan Reuter

The one of two great events CLA had this year was the 4th of July Boat Parade. This year I stepped in as the Grand Marshall. I'd like to give a huge THANK YOU to all the participants and spectators who turned out! You made this event a big part of a great parade. All the boat decorations were spectacular. I'm pretty sure we had the best turn out yet, with a total of 24 boats that participated. In addition to making this a more spectacular event was the weather --- It couldn't have been better.

This year we were able to make it around the entire lake making good time around 1.5 hours from start to finish.

I'm pleased to announce the top three winners:

- 1st Place Loony Toons
- 2nd place Rubber Ducky bubble bath
- 3rd place the Little Mermaids.
- We also awarded several honorable mentions.

Like we've done in the past, all winners had to complete the entire route back to the starting point on the North end where prizes were awarded. This year we placed judges on all sides of the lake.

We hope to see you again next year for an even more spectacular event! Additional pictures of the event posted on our Facebook site.





## HWY36 On the Water Concert by Margo Rothenbacher



On Saturday, August 15, 2020, the Cross Lake and Snake River Association teamed up with Hwy36 Band for a free concert on Cross Lake in Pine City. The weather was wonderful for listening to classic rock and country music. Luanne and Paul Rynders, the bass player, hosted the Hwy36 band at their lake home. There were approximately 55 boats of various kinds that enjoyed the concert from the water. Many of the boats tied up to become flotillas! It was so fun watching the people swimming, laughing, enjoying family and friends, all while social distancing! There were even dogs sharing in the fun! Also, many people who enjoyed listening from their lake homes while cleaning their yards from the storm on Friday night. Many Cross Lakers have requested this to be a yearly event!

CLA usually hosts a fall dinner dance for the membership in October. However, with the social distancing mandate, the lake concert became a great alternative! Thank you to everyone who shared this special lake event with us!

## Safety Around the Water

by  
Joe Paget



This past week Minnesota boaters have been involved in a number of tragic incidents, including:

- A skier striking a Sheriff's boat
- A 24 year old drowning after falling off an inner tube
- Two individuals injured after falling off the the front of a moving pontoon boat

All of these incidents are tragic and life changing for those involved and their loved ones and can be prevented!

Be a good example for passengers in your boat, as well as for others sharing the water around you. Navigate at a safe speed with plenty of space between other watercraft.

If you are unsure of your swimming skills wear a proper personal flotation device (life jacket). Finally, operate your watercraft within the recommendations of the manufacturer. Enjoy the lake- safely and responsibly.



# Water Quality

by Mary Reuter

Hi Lakers!! I thought it would be a good idea to give you an update on what the Water Quality Committee has been focusing on throughout the year and how we've utilized funds.

As you know due to COVID, everything has been at either a standstill, shut down or, at a snail's pace this summer for anything water quality throughout the State. We started off this spring barely getting our lake spot checked for invasive species by the DNR.

One of the reasons we were able to get checked was the ability to get the permission to spray signatures in a quick hurry. I'd like to thank everyone for your extraordinary quick response to get them back to me. It was definitely a team effort! You made this happen for Cross Lake. Other lakes in the area were not so fortunate and were not tested this year for AIS, so I'm counting our blessings.

Every year in January the Lake Association applies for funds with Pine County to help out with AIS awareness and prevention.

Cross Lake was awarded the following amounts for 2020:

**AIS Control for Cross Lake and the Snake River near the railroad bridge:** CLA was granted \$6,000 to treat Eurasian Water Milfoil and Curley Leaf Pondweed. CLA spent a total of \$497 on Eurasian Water Milfoil and \$2,039.30 on Curley Pond Weed for 2020. A one-time application is applied each year.

**County Wide Zebra Mussel Detection Program:** \$500 – total spent approximately \$500.

**County Fair - Education Giveaway Items (pens, magnets, key floats, etc.):** \$3,500 was granted. The Water Quality Committee will discuss at their next meeting what we could do for the 2021 fair booth.

**Educational Mailings.** \$2,000. In Kind Contribution is \$200. Pine County has allowed CLA to submit the cost of the yearly new letters. So far this year we have spent \$800. Our mailing is around \$800 to all members. By end of year we will have spent approximately \$1,600.

**The Zebra mussel plates** were put together in July. A total of 80 were made. Directions will be included with each plate on how to use them and identify Zebra mussels. Please email me at [maryreuter@gmail.com](mailto:maryreuter@gmail.com) and I will be sure you get one. We will be distributing them as requested. Otherwise, we will distribute at the May 2021 meeting.

I Attended a class with the University of Minnesota called **Aquatic Invasive Species Management 101**. The class was tailored to learn more about aquatic invasive species (AIS) management, improve one's understanding of AIS management strategies, and looking at new AIS control efforts for lake improvement.

**AIS Early Detection Training:** (up to 15 individuals) County Lake Associations \$3,000. I attended an Aquatic Invasive Species Management 101. The tuition fee was \$50.

Topics covered during this course included:

- An introduction to AIS control and aquatic plant management.
- A better understanding of pesticides, how they work, and the regulations surrounding their use.
- Insight on non-chemical treatment options.
- A better ability to understand and evaluate management outcomes.

The Water Quality Committee continues to meet every other month. If you are interested in being a part or would like the email updates for events, meetings or classes or what we are planning for 2021, please email me and let me know and I will add you to our email list. Topics covered this year was strategic planning for the future, looking at new ways of controlling phosphorus in the lake.

### **DON'T MISS OUT ON AN OPPORTUNITY FOR SHORELINE RESTORATION**

I have something going on here that I'd like Cross and Pokegama Lakes to think about.

Jill Carlier, District Manager for Pine Soil and Water is asking Cross Lake and Pokegama residents to think about a cost share initiative that she would like to implement in 2021.

Currently Big Pine Lakes Association has been working with Aitkin SWCD (on the Aitkin county side of things) to do small shoreline projects. The projects are cost-shared so the district pays for a portion of each project. There is a specific consultant/contractor that they work with. Someone designs the projects, and hosts a workshop at the property of the project. The landowner invites their fellow lakeshore owners to help with the labor.

The lakeshore owners learn about healthy shorelines/buffers/plants, etc. from the workshop, and provide much-needed labor. The landowner gets the project installed without any labor charges. (They do typically provide lunch the day of the workshop). These projects typically don't involve much (if any) excavation – it is typically all plantings. If excavation is necessary, a contractor will handle that end of it.

The workshops have been very successful and the landowners are really happy with them. Pine Soil and Water District is currently doing a pilot this year on the Pine County side. The contractor is great to work with and has approved 6 projects so far. **There still are funds to do projects.** The projects are all pretty small (under \$5,000) since there is very little excavation involved.

If you are interested in doing something like this or if you would be interested in helping out at one of their workshops to see how it rolls please contact Jill. This could be a really beneficial program for all lakes in Pine County. Jill would like to offer it Cross and Pokegama lakes first for next summer. Please think about it, talk about it, and let Jill know. If you are interested in the next workshop let her know that to and she will get you in touch with the landowners.

#### **Jill's contact information:**

Jill Carlier

District Manager, Pine SWCD

320-216-4241

#### **More Money Available or Shoreline Restoration through the Snake River Watershed Management Board**

For 2020, the Snake River Watershed Management Board set aside about \$76k for projects for Snake River. 75% of this funding was set aside for projects in the "restoration" sub watersheds in the Snake River. Cross Lake is in a restoration sub watershed so about \$57k is available to residents of Cross Lake.

As of May, there has been only one project brought to the Board and approved. There still is quite a bit of money to allocate. The good news is, it doesn't disappear if it isn't spent, but it would be great to get some conservation going in the ground. So, don't panic if you feel you missed this opportunity, the same amount of funding is set aside for 2021.

There is potentially a 25% - 50% cost share to a project, which is at the Board's discretion, as well as a written contract.

A rain garden style project and a stream bank stabilization are currently being done on the Snake River east of Pine City funded through the Snake River Board. If you would like to get in on this cost sharing opportunity contact Twyla Hill.

District Technician  
Pine County SWCD  
Office: 320-216-4242  
Mobile: 320-372-0855  
<https://www.pineswcd.com/>

## Fisheries

Larry Kreatz

Hello CLA Members,

This article is a little difficult because my two passions are put on a temporary hold. First, the August 8th Golf tournament between Pokegama and Cross Lake members was canceled this year for obvious reasons. Last year we had almost 50 people so, we hope to pick it up again in 2021 with any luck. If any members are interested in a social golf outing throughout the rest of 2020 or would like to add their names to my lists of members that play golf (you get a star by your name), please email me at [larry.kreatz@gmail.com](mailto:larry.kreatz@gmail.com). Maybe we can continue on in spirit or sneak in a round or two.

Second, we had a few meetings with the DNR and Hinkley Fishery and raised the question of private stocking of Cross Lake. It's been a little bit of a challenge compiling the data if the CLA would have a positive effect on our game fish and pan fish population or if we would be forever chasing that trophy fish or stringer of crappies.

The DNR has already stocked an enormous amount of fingerlings and yearlings to Cross Lake over the last five years. I want to conclude supportive studies and theories additional stocking could pay off long term, affordable, and be sustained. Our resources and donations should not be wasted if we can't show results or if the benefits are short lived.

### 2019 Cross -[58011900](tel:58011900)

- Muskellunge - 500 fingerlings
- Muskellunge - 511 fingerlings
- Walleye - 3,804 fingerlings
- Walleye - 6,444 yearlings

### 2017 Cross -[58011900](tel:58011900)

- Muskellunge - 500 fingerlings
- Walleye - 94 adults
- Walleye - 759 adults
- Walleye - 684 fingerlings



Learn more on fisheries at the following website: <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/fisheries/index.html>

And Finally, whoever stepped up and purchased a new volleyball net at the sandbar, from the bottom of my heart I thank you! It is really nice to see people outdoors enjoying the beautiful weather and fresh air. I would like to issue an open challenge to all Cross Lake, Pokegama, Snake River people to get out and bump, set, spike every Saturday afternoon. The Summer is coming to an end, unplug and get outside **Be Safe and See you on the lake!**



# Secchi Disk Monitoring - Why Monitor?

Mary Reuter

As part of the water quality initiative, Don and I have been testing the water on Cross Lake with the HACH Quanta Hydrolab this summer. One of the other tests we do is testing water clarity using the Secchi Disk. The disk is a very simple piece of equipment that can tell a high-level story on the condition of the lake and river.

## How to Use a Secchi Disk

Secchi disk depth is the simplest and one of the most effective tools for estimating a lake's productivity. The Secchi disk, is a metal disk that is 8 inches in diameter with a cord attached to the center. The cord has a black mark at one-foot intervals and a red mark at six-inch intervals. To use, lower the disk on the shaded side of a dock or boat until the disk disappears from sight then raise the disk until it is again visible, Record the depth reading to the nearest half foot.



The Secchi depth is a measurement of water clarity. Water transparency directly affects the amount of light penetration into a lake. Algae and suspended particles from erosion make the water cloudy and decrease the Secchi transparency in a lake; therefore, the lower the Secchi depth, the higher the algal concentration and lake productivity. Because a lake can vary in water transparency seasonally, it is important to take numerous Secchi disk readings throughout the summer. It is suggested that testing be done at least once a month from May to September, however, every two weeks is even better. Rooted plant growth is generally taken to be limited to twice the Secchi disk reading at lowest seasonal depth reading.

CLA has collected data throughout the years and we can now use it to analyze water quality trends. The Secchi disk can help us see if there are high levels of nitrogen and phosphorus which most often come from agricultural run off or waste water – e.g. a mixture of storm water, industrial wastewater, domestic household waste, and resulting residues running off of land into the lake and river.

The ability to look at water quality trends over years can help us see if the water quality of the lake is improving or declining. This summer we have tested the original three areas: Norway Point, the mid-east side of lake, and mouth of River entering Cross Lake at deepest part (30 ft). A comparison for July 2019 and July 2020:

In feet	Norway Point	Mid-East Side of Lake	Mouth of River into Cross
July 2019	5.5	4	4
July 2020	4	4	5
Aug 4, 2020	3.5	3.5	3.5
Aug 18, 2020	3.5	3.5	3.5

In August we added 3 additional areas to test: South end Bay, and two areas on the Snake River, one by the boat landing and the other by Snake River bridge. We are also looking at possible winter testing.

Credits to: Elsevier B.V. or its licensors or contributors. ScienceDirect

RMB Environmental Laboratories – State of Minnesota





# Lake and River Testing

by

**Don Deutsch**  
**(Lake Detective)**

OK, I am not qualified for a "Lake Detective" title but I love the sound of it, and it is a tip-of-the hat to Joe Suecheri (surely misspelled) a fellow alumni of Hill High Maplewood and it is something I aspire to.

What I have been focused on is restarting the lake and run-off testing. I had been assisting Jerry Trent last year in run-off sampling, but I had not been involved in lake testing. Jerry is the father of testing here for us and we owe him a great deal for the amount of time and effort he put into testing in our watershed. From all of us Jerry, Thank You! Jerry however is no-longer a spring chicken and he has asked me to assume responsibility for this work, as he now needs to step back and not do the field work any longer. I am honored that he thinks that I will be a suitable replacement for him in this work.

Our current status is this: Mary Reuter and I have been doing lake testing for the last 2 months. We are taking meter readings and sampling at 3 spots on the lake. These are the historic testing sites, and I believe we need to continue testing at the same locations as this establishes our historic baseline data. Baseline data is the key to understanding data as single data points have little value and provide not much in understanding about what is going on in the lake. My understanding of how these 3 locations were selected is as follow:

Snake River Inlet. This is sampled at the deepest point of hole formed just after the snake river enters the lake. It is testing parameters on what is basically the river waters themselves.

Mid-lake region east shore deep water: This is intended to represent the lake waters in their entirety.

Norway Point: This sampling is done just south of Norway Point in deep water. The selection of this point was the idea that most of the, "dirty waters", entering the lake was from agricultural sources at this end of the lake.

Regarding stream and run-testing there has been no testing this year. This testing is usually done only after significant rains. I do have hopes of getting this testing on-line yet this year. The hard part is always just to get started.

I would like to be responsive to the best of my ability so if you have questions or thoughts regarding testing you may address them to me at: Cross Lake Association of Pine County, PO Box 325, Pine City MN 55063. Also, [info@crosslakeassociation.org](mailto:info@crosslakeassociation.org)



2020

**Cross Lake  
Association**

## **Purpose and Objectives of CLA – Mission Statement**

**Parts taken from Art.II Sec. A of the current Bylaws**

Cross Lake Association of Pine County is a nonprofit organization under the laws of the State of Minnesota (Ch. 317A). The mission and purpose shall include, but not and its watershed. The objectives of the Association shall be clean water, recreation, operation walleye and other be limited to, the promotion and improvement of the understanding and comprehensive management of Cross Lake, Pine County fisheries, services from government and sociability. The Association was granted exemption on April 10, 1987 as a nonprofit 501(c)(3) charity under the Internal Revenue Code of 1954.



# Cross Lake Association of Pine County

**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

## 2020 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

(Membership year runs from Jan. 1 thru Dec. 31, 2020)

Member Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Primary Email \_\_\_\_\_

Secondary Email (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Pine City Address (if different than above) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Send newsletter by email (environmentally Friendly & saves us money)

### I would be willing to help with the following (circle all that apply)

- |                 |              |             |             |              |
|-----------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| Governing Board | Membership   | Newsletter  | Boat Parade | Garage Sale  |
| Senior Outing   | Freedom Fest | County Fair | Fair Parade | Dinner Dance |

### Membership Categories: (Check one)

- Regular \$25   
  Contributing \$30-\$40   
  Associate \$45-\$50   
  Sustaining \$60-\$85  
 Sponsor \$100+   
  Lifetime \$500+   
  Benefactor \$800+

Mail to: **The Cross Lake Association, P.O. Box 325, Pine City, MN 55063 website:**