



# Cross Lake Association

PO Box 325 Pine City, MN 55063  
CrossLakeAssociation@gmail.com  
www.MinnesotaWaters.org/CrossLakeofPineCounty

Volume 31, Number 4

November 2017

## President's Message by Kurt Kastel

Hello Cross Lakers!

As we move into the colder weather months, and snowbirds start to fly south, I wanted to update you on the progress of some of our initiatives. In September, Minnesota Native Landscapes completed primary work on the long-awaited soil erosion project on the North End. The culvert was re-graded, with additional drainage added. The flow will pass through both rock and native vegetation filtration systems, and will result in less sediment finding its way into the lake, which should help to reduce contaminants. Please check out the photographs of the project included in this news-letter. The project has evolved over time, and there is more work to

be done as the pollution load, particularly phosphates, is a multi-faceted problem with no easy or quick solutions. However, the Cross Lake Association is committed to improving water quality in both the near and long term, and we consider this project to be at least a step in the right direction.

Towards that end, we will be partnering with Pine County and other lakes in the Snake River watershed at a water quality conference in December. This two-part conference, held on December 5<sup>th</sup>, will focus on Aquatic Invasive Species initiatives across the watershed, and also to discuss the advantages to forming a new County Coalition of Lake Associations to replace the now-defunct PICKM organization.

As you know, our lake does not exist in isolation, and what happens elsewhere in the watershed is of critical importance to the health of Cross Lake and the Snake River. The Cross Lake Association strongly feels that coordinating with other associations and the relevant government and regulatory agencies is the most effective way to achieve lasting results and get maximum leverage of our resources.

On the social front, we had a very successful Fall Dinner/Dance, with a "Hawaiian" theme that was really well-received. Our thanks to out-going CLA board Vice-President Frank Ramish, and his wife Linda, for organizing such memorable event. Also, thanks to the

*(Continued on page 6)*

## Cross Lake Association Membership by Barb Videen

Things are gearing up for the 2018 CLA Membership Drive. To help clear up any confusion, our membership is based on the calendar year. So, payments and applications that arrive any time during 2017 are considered memberships in that year.

Our memberships arrive throughout the year with the main arrivals in February and March. In 2017 we have 165 paid households.

The CLA membership packets, for 2018, will go out sometime late January. If you do not receive a membership packet, contact the CLA email address below.

We are looking for innovative ideas on how to increase the membership. If you are interested in serving on the membership committee, please contact Barb Videen via the CLA email: [crosslakeassociation@gmail.com](mailto:crosslakeassociation@gmail.com)

### Inside this issue:

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE	1
ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP	1
FALL DINNER DANCE	2
WHAT'S COOKING?	3
MEMBERSHIP FORM	4
WEED RAKES	4
NORTH END PROJECT	5

# The Crossings

---



## Fall Dinner Dance by Ron Levin

A big "Thank You" to Frank and Linda Ramisch for planning the party, and many thanks to EVERYONE that helped make the Fall Dinner Dance so successful. The Hawaiian theme was a favorite, according to feedback. The Legion put on a great meal. In keeping with the Hawaiian theme, we were served appetizers, including a watermelon boat, salad, glazed pork loin, cheesy potatoes, veggies and pineapple upside-down cake. The Cruiser's music was perfect, playing soft dinner music while we ate and dancing music later. The bake sale auction brought in \$220.00. Many thanks, to all that donated their treats. It is so appreciated. You can find more party photos on the Cross Lake Association website. Look for the photo album of left side of the site. <https://minnesotawaters.org/crosslakeofpinecounty>



## *What's Cooking?*

By Barb Videen



Thanks to CLA member Dan Reuter for submitting his cake recipe. If you have a favorite recipe you would like to share, please email it to [crosslakeassociation@gmail.com](mailto:crosslakeassociation@gmail.com) or mail it to me at 15321 Norwood Lane, Pine City, MN 55063

### Coconut Chicken Soup

Quick and light.

- 3 cups chicken stock
- 1 fresh thumb-sized piece of ginger, sliced into thin coins
- 1 cup coconut milk
- 1 tablespoon fish sauce Don't omit - really adds and does NOT taste like it sounds. (Asian section of most stores)
- 6 ounces leftover chicken
- 1 cup mushrooms, rinsed, drained and sliced in half lengthwise
- 1 medium carrot, julienned
- 2 tablespoons lime juice
- 1/4 cup fresh cilantro, minced

In a pot, bring chicken stock and ginger to a boil, then reduce heat to low and simmer for 5 minutes. Stir in coconut milk, fish sauce, chicken, mushrooms and carrot. Just before serving, stir in lime juice and cilantro.

### Orange Cranberry Torte

I love this cake during the holidays. Great flavor and keeps a long time in the fridge or freezes beautifully for holiday guests.

Grease and flour a bundt or angel food pan.

#### Mix:

- 2 eggs
- 1 cup buttermilk
- 3/4 cup oil
- 1 cup sugar

#### Add:

- 2 1/4 cups flour
- 1/4 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. soda
- 1 tsp. baking powder
- 1 cup walnuts
- 1 cup dates
- 1 cup cranberries
- grated rind from 2 oranges

Bake 350° for 1 hour. Let cool for 15 to 20 minutes. Remove from pan and put on large plate.

#### Heat:

- 1 cup orange juice
- 1 cup sugar

Brush onto warm cake. Redo every 15 minutes or so heating liquid each time (will use up most of it). Chill before slicing.

Serve with Whipped Cream.  
Serves 16-20 (Don't think so)

### Slow Cooker Zuppa Toscana

Slow and filling. This soup was a hit at a Farmers' Market tasting 2 years ago.

- 1 pound Italian sausage
- 3 russet potatoes, sliced into wedges, then halved
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 large white onion, finely chopped
- 4 cups chicken broth
- 2 cups kale or spinach, rinsed and chopped
- 1 cup heavy cream
- Salt and pepper to taste

Brown sausage in a large skillet over medium-high heat, about 5 minutes. Drain and discard fat. Combine all ingredients except cream and kale or spinach in slow cooker. Cook on low 7-8 hours, or on high 4-5 hours. Add cream, kale or spinach to slow cooker, stir, and cook until leaves are wilted and warmed through, 20 - 30 minutes.

### Easy Chocolate Cake & Never Fail Chocolate Chip Frosting

Dan Reuter

- 3 cups flour
- 2 cups sugar
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 2 teaspoons baking soda
- 1/3 cup cocoa

Sift flour, sugar, salt, soda and cocoa together into an ungreased 9 X 13 cake pan. Make 2 wells.

- 3/4 cup vegetable oil
- 2 Tablespoons distilled white vinegar
- 3 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 2 cups cold water

Pour oil into one well, vinegar into second, and vanilla into third well. Pour cold water over all and stir well with fork. Bake at 350° for 40 minutes or until tooth pick comes out clean.

### Never Fail Chocolate Chip Frosting

- 1/4 c. butter
- 1 c. sugar
- 1/4 c. milk
- 1/2 c. chocolate chips
- 1 tsp. vanilla

Bring butter, milk and sugar to a boil, add chocolate chips and vanilla. Beat until cool. Will frost a 9 x 13 cake.

If you have not yet renewed your membership for this year, please fill out and return the form below. If you are already members for 2017, please share this form with one of your neighbors.

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**  
**The Cross Lake Association of Pine County**

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

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

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

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_ My information has changed      \_\_\_\_\_ Email newsletter and all correspondence

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

Governing Board   Membership   Newsletter   Boat Parade   Senior Outing  
Freedom Fest Booth   County Fair Booth   Fair Parade   Dinner Dance

**Membership Categories: (check one)**

\_\_\_\_\_ Regular adult couples/\$15      \_\_\_\_\_ Contributing \$20-30      \_\_\_\_\_ Associate \$35-45  
\_\_\_\_\_ Sustaining \$50-75      \_\_\_\_\_ Sponsor \$100      \_\_\_\_\_ Lifetime \$500      \_\_\_\_\_ Benefactor \$800

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

**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](http://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.

CUT

**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  
Attn: Dave Videen

# North End Project

by Jim Bartol

The erosion control project sponsored by our association was finally completed in October. Our many partners in this project include: Snake River Watershed Management board, Pine County Soil & Water Conservation District, Minnesota Native Landscapes, and the owners of the private property on which this work was done. Thanks to everyone who worked so hard to make this project a success! Below are some 'before' and 'after' photos of the project.

## Before



Water flowing under Cross Lake Rd. as it enters the ravine,



Erosion occurring around an old tree stump.



Deep channeling, and remnants of an earlier project that failed.



Large areas of the bank have washed away during flooding after heavy rains.

## After



Channel erosion stabilized by rock and coco logs. Bank erosion checked by landscape fabric and seeding.



Water energy is dissipated by flowing over rock ledges.



Heavily vegetated area will emerge in spring to stabilize soil along banks.



Pine County Soil & Water personnel inspecting the completed work.

### Board Members

President	Open
Vice-President	Aubrey (Rusty) Phillips
Secretary	Bill Casby
Treasurer	Ron Levin
Director	Jim Bartol (Newsletter)
Director	Barb Videen (Membership)
Director	Bruce Andersen
Director	Dan Reuter
Director	Mary Reuter
Director	Dave Videen

THANK YOU FOR CHOOSING TO RECEIVE THE CROSSINGS BY EMAIL. IT SAVES US MONEY AND IS GENTLE ON THE ENVIRONMENT.



**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



«FIRST NAME» «LAST NAME»

«MAILING ADDRESS»

«CITY»«STATE»

«ZIP»

*(President's Message—Continued from page 1)*

Pine City American Legion for providing the venue and a great meal, and to the Cruisers, for their exceptional music.

Additionally, the Cross Lake Association held its fall membership meeting in September, with featured speaker Roger Hugill, formerly of the DNR fisheries division. He provided an extremely informative and engaging discussion, and we hope to have him back again as we recognize his unique knowledge and experience is a valuable resource for both the CLA and the community at large. At that meeting we also elected new board members Bruce Anderson and Daniel Reuter. Subsequently, Mary Reuter and Scott Olsen have also joined the CLA board. The CLA also wants to thank outgoing board members Bob Rothenbacher, Pat Brautigan, and Frank Ramish for their valued service to our organization. A complete list of board mem-

bers and officers can be found in this newsletter.

Finally, as my term as President comes to an end, I want to extend my sincere and humble thanks to my fellow board members and the membership at large for entrusting me with the responsibilities of this organization. I have enjoyed being a part of this wonderful community, but after 12 years on the lake, my wife and I decided that our life plan runs in a different direction, and we have regretfully sold our cabin on Cross Lake. We will not be completely absent, however, as we have many treasured friends and family in Pine City, and I will continue to provide whatever assistance I can to the Cross Lake Association. I wish you well.

Best Regards and a Blessed and Happy Holiday Season,  
Kurt Kastel. CLA President

**BEST WISHES FOR A GREAT HOLIDAY SEASON, AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR! WE'LL SEE YOU AGAIN IN APRIL WITH OUR FIRST EDITION OF CROSSINGS FOR THE NEW YEAR.**