



**GULL CHAIN of LAKES
ASSOCIATION**
FALL 2017
Nisswa, Minnesota 56468



Photo by Sheila Johnston

Exceeding Expectations

Satisfied customers are a result of quality products and service.



The Best Warranties on the Water.

Pier Pleasure boat lifts provide the best in appearance and quality, backed by the best warranty in the industry.

The D.H. Aluminum Frame Dock is the leader in appearance, stability, versatility and value, with a LIFETIME WARRANTY.



It's the Good Life...

D.H. Docks, LLC

218-963-2566



dhdocks.com

South of Schaefer's Foods • 23624 Smiley Road • Nisswa

SPECIALIZING IN LAKE SHORE

Located in Nisswa, Heart of the Beautiful Brainerd Lakes Area. Since 1964

An aerial photograph of a large lake with numerous forested islands. A white banner with the website address is held by a red and white seaplane flying across the water.

www.kurilla.com



(888) 876-7333

23590 Smiley Road • Box 779 • Nisswa, Minnesota • (218) 963-7333





Box 102 • Nisswa, Minnesota 56468
218-963-3542

gcola.org

CHAIR

Chuck Herrig, Gull
612-240-3159; theherrigs@hotmail.com

VICE CHAIR

Bill Brekken, Gull
218-232-0257; billbrekken@charter.net

SECRETARY/TREASURER

Rosemary Goff, Margaret
218-963-3542; togogt@charter.net

AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES CHAIR

Steve Alex, Gull, Wilson Bay
218-829-2612; savesta@msn.com

COMMUNICATIONS CHAIR

John Ingelman, Margaret
218-963-9441; jaingl@aol.com

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE CHAIR

Sheila Johnston, Upper Gull
612-226-6571; sheilafjohnston@me.com

Robert Eliason, Bass Lake
Loon Survey; End-of-Dock Program
218-568-7868; rmeliason@gmail.com

FISHERIES CHAIR

Chuck Herrig, Gull
612-240-3159; theherrigs@hotmail.com

FINANCE/AUDIT CHAIR

Marv Meyer, Gull, Wilson Bay
218-828-9577; mgmgull@gmail.com

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE CHAIR

Uldis Birznieks, Gull
218-820-7318; pub@scicable.com

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

Jay Chaney, Gull
218-963-7700; jay@boatsandbeyondrentals.com

Safety & Recreation chair (Buoy System)

Bob Toborg, Margaret
218-963-3542; togogt@charter.net

Steve Frawley, Margaret
612-750-2633; odmajor2@yahoo.com

Linda Harrier, Bass
218-963-2250; lharrier922@gmail.com

ADVISORY MEMBERS

Marc Bacigalupi, DNR Fisheries,
218-203-4303; marc.bacigalupi@state.mn.us

Tim Plude, DNR AIS Specialist
218-203-4354; timothy.plude@state.mn.us

MaryKay Larson, US Army Corps of Engineers
Gull Lake Dam Recreation Area
651-290-5770, MaryKay.L.Larson@usace.army.mil

WEBSITE MANAGER

Dave Anderson, Bass
218-963-3121, webmaster@gcola.org

WEBSITE: gcola.org

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Wake Boat Impact2

Chair's Message3

Fourth Annual Loon Survey4

GCOLA End-of-Dock Program5

2017 Gull Chain of Lakes
Weed Survey Results6

Excessive Algae Growth7-8

Ornamental Lily Pads in Gull Lake.....9

Gull Lake Profiles10

Survey of Minnesota's Lake Associations
Who, What and Why?.....11-12

Lake Learning,
Fall Turnover in Our Lakes13

FALL 2017

Endowment Fund Update16

Keeping it Natural.....17-18

Lake Learning, Abundant Fall Bugs
Lady Bugs and Bees19-20

Photo's Wanted.....22

Association of Cass County Lakes
Needs Your Help!.....23

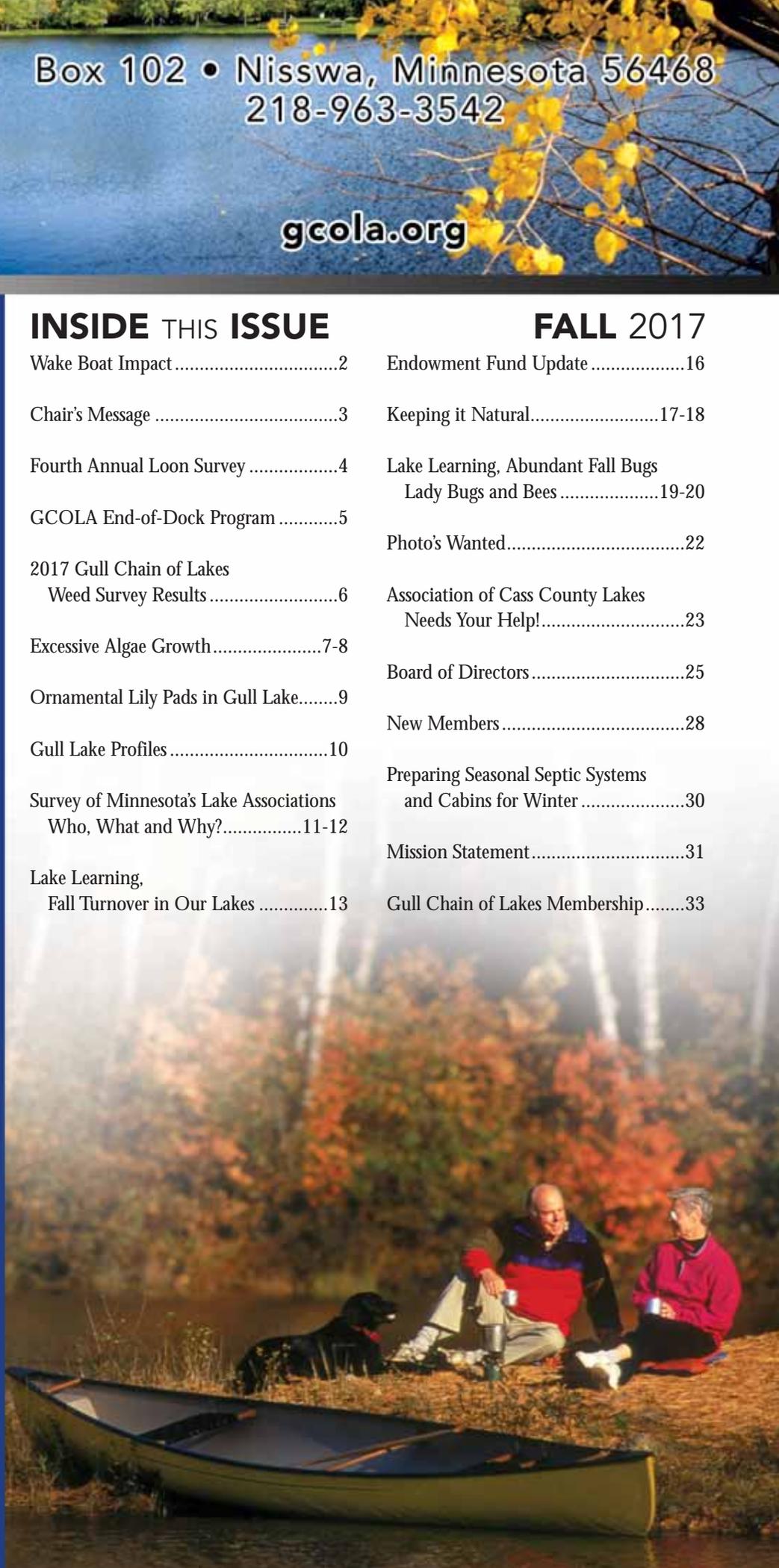
Board of Directors25

New Members28

Preparing Seasonal Septic Systems
and Cabins for Winter30

Mission Statement.....31

Gull Chain of Lakes Membership.....33



CHAIR'S MESSAGE ²

Chuck Herrig, Chair

Fall is my favorite time of year. As I write this early in the morning the air is brisk, leaves are falling, coots (those black water birds with white beaks) are flocking in the hundreds and boat traffic has all but vanished. I am an avid fisherman and this is prime time for walleye fishing on the Gull Chain. I only wish October lasted three months!

This is my first Chair's Message representing your lake association. I am proud to serve as chair and I know I have big shoes to fill replacing Uldis Bierzniks, who just finished his three year term. Uldis worked tirelessly as our chair and our association was fortunate to have his guidance in leading the Gull Chain of Lakes Association for the past three years. The good news is Uldis will continue as a key board member. I will be relying on his guidance in the months ahead during this leadership transition.

I am excited to share in this newsletter issue recent findings from a lake association study conducted by Concordia College. Please read Uldis Bierznik's article on the incredible opportunity lake associations collectively

have to influence environmental policy to ensure our lakes have the highest water quality for future generations.

Also in this issue are two timely topics surfaced by our lake association members. One is the increased popularity of wake boats and the resulting impact it has on other boats and our shoreline. Steve Frawley has looked into this topic and will share what he has learned on regulations regarding wake boat use and what lake wake boat users can do to minimize their environmental impact.

The other timely topic is algae. Many lake association members have observed an increase in algae along our shorelines this summer. Sheila Johnston will share what she has learned are potential causes and long term solutions.

I look forward to representing your lake association in the coming months. I also would welcome hearing your suggestions and thoughts. You can share them on our website, gcola.org and click on the Contact link.

Sincerely, Chuck



CRAGUN'S
ON GULL LAKE • BRAINERD, MINNESOTA

GOLF • FOOTGOLF • LODGING • MARINA • IRMA'S KITCHEN
WEDDINGS • REUNIONS • OPEN 4-SEASONS
1-800-CRAGUNS • CRAGUNS.COM



HOME SMART HOME

CTC's Smart Home monitoring provides your family with protection and freedom at an affordable price – all in the palm of your hand!

GET CONNECTED TODAY.

CTC
Internet | TV | Phone | Smart Home
(800) 753-9104 | (218) 454-1234 • ConnectCTC.com | [f](#) [t](#) [v](#)



OCH
ONECALLHOME.com

Gull Lake Cabin Care

• PREVENTATIVE CARE
• SECURITY SUPPORT • SEASONAL MANAGEMENT

BRENT WIZCEK
218.838.5312
Serving the Lakes Area since 2000



Midwest Family EYE CENTER

7870 Excelsior Road
Baxter, MN 56425
218.828.9545
toll free 877.338.3937

121 4th Street NE
Staples, MN 56479
218.894.5480
toll free 866.894.5455

"our focus is on you"
Dr. Jackie McCall
Dr. Evan Kuhn

9-5 M,W, F • 9-6 T & Th • 9-12 Sat.
midwestfamilyeyecenter.com

WAKE BOAT IMPACT

Steve Frawley, Board Member

There have been an increasing number of Wake Boats appearing throughout the Gull Lake chain in recent years. Along with this trend, have been accompanying complaints by property owners and fellow boat recreationalists. The first area of concern involves the loud and sometimes vulgar lyrics heard from speakers on these boats. The second, and more pervasive complaints, stem from the shore erosion and disturbance caused by the significant waves created by these boats. At this summer's annual GCOLA meeting, concerns were voiced by GCOLA attendees on both noise and shoreline erosion concerns, particularly on the chain's smaller lakes or in the bays along Gull lake.

Subsequent meetings with local DNR and Sheriff's department employees revealed that this is an increasing area of concern for enforcement. A call was made to Stan Linnell, the DNR state Boating and Water Safety Manager to learn more about this issue on a state wide basis.

According to Stan, who is responsible for developing Minnesota boating regulations, shore erosion caused by wake boats is an increasing area of concern state wide. He cited Minnesota Rule 6110.3700, Water Surface Management Standards, regarding the regulation and standards for all watercraft; particularly "where watercraft speed or wake constitutes a hazard to people, property or the natural resources". Stan also indicated that he has proposed the National Boating Safety Organization (NASBLA) undertake a study on the impact of wake boats and possible regulation.

The GCOLA organization is continuing to research this issue as well as communicating with local and state enforcement and other lake associations. Beginning with the GCOLA spring newsletter, we will publish reminders to wake boat owners of their responsibilities with regard to noise levels and the protection of our shoreline.

RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL

Love climbing tall ladders?
(YEAH, WE DIDN'T THINK SO.)

Hard to access windows? One of our specialties!
AND we do them all safely and efficiently.
Hire professionals. Call us today!

**Brainerd Lakes
WINDOW CLEANING
& MORE, LLC**
"We'll Help You See Clearly!"

**YOUR
GULL LAKE
SPECIALIST!**

218.820.5544 | BrainerdLakesWindowCleaning.com

FOURTH ANNUAL LOON SURVEY ⁴

By Robert Eliason, Environmental Committee, Loon Survey Coordinator

The GCOLA loon survey this year seemed to me to be a bit unusual. There is a pair that I have watched the past three years. They have nested very early, and they did so again this year. After sitting on the nest for about a week, they suddenly disappeared. There were no eggs in the nest nor were there any egg fragments, which might have been left from depredation. Sheila Johnston and I found another pair on a nest, which they abandoned about a week later and disappeared. Then, during the July chick count survey, we noticed groups (three or more) swimming in a circle, dipping their bills, turning their heads, and splash diving. This was typical social gathering behavior, which I have observed before but later in the summer.

The results from the yearly surveys are presented in the accompanying table. This year two pairs nested on artificial platforms, which is consistent with the past years of two to three pairs using a platform. Thus, the natural habitat found around the chain is extremely important for loon reproduction. During the July survey, both chicks and adults are counted. The number of adults counted on Gull was over 50% more than the last two years. The count on the other lakes reflected that of the past years. I don't know why there were so many adults on Gull. Non-nesting loons and unsuccessful pairs are known to congregate later in the summer.

Volunteers are needed for this program. It appears that I will not be here for the July survey. I need someone to coordinate the summer survey. You can become involved in either the spring nesting survey or the summer chick survey. You are very welcome to become involved in both. If you are interested in helping to continue this program, please send me an email at gcola.loonwatch@gmail.com.

Photo by Sheila Johnston



	2014	2015	2016	2017
Nisswa				
Nests	2	2	1	2
Chicks	0	0	0	0
Adults	2	2	1	1
Roy				
Nests	0	2	0	0
Chicks	1	3	2	2
Adults	7	6	4	9
Bass/Spider				
Nests	2	2	2	3
Chicks	1	1	2	0
Adults	4	3	4	2
Upper Gull				
Nests	1	3	3	3
Chicks	1	6	2	2
Adults	6	9	8	9
Margaret				
Nests	1	2	1	2
Chicks	0	0	0	2
Adults	4	2	2	4
Gull				
Nests	6	6	5	4
Chicks	6	8	11	7
Adults	29	54	49	81
Love				
Nests	1	1	0	0
Chicks	0	0	0	0
Adults	6	0	0	0
Totals				
Nests	13	18	11	15
Chicks	9	18	17	13
Adults	58	76	68	106
Chicks/Nest	0.8	1.0	1.5	0.9

GCOLA END-OF-DOCK PROGRAM

Robert Eliason, Environmental Committee,
End-of-Dock Program Coordinator

This year, thirty-four GCOLA members participated in the End of Dock water testing program. For each lake, I averaged the data obtained in June and the data obtained in August, and then I averaged all of the data to arrive at a lake average. These averages are given in the table. This was the first year Spider and Love lakes were sampled, and the results are given in parentheses. The column labeled "Mid Lake Ave." comes from previous studies where samples were collected from a boat from the middle of the lake. Bass, Spider, and Love lakes have not studied previously; so, they have no mid lake value. The only lake showing a definite increase in TP from June to August is Margaret.

The Gull Chain of Lakes is in the Northern Lakes and Forest ecological region. Lakes in this region are classified as mesotrophic (moderate amount of the nutrients nitrogen and phosphorous) and have TP readings in a range of 14-27 ppb. Except for Margaret, our TP results fall in this range and can be considered to be normal. Algae blooms are a natural part of the lake's ecosystem; however this year, algae growth was reported to be quite severe in parts of Upper Gull and on the east side of Gull, particularly around the channel to Love Lake. I find it disappointing that this algae growth cannot be readily explained by our phosphate concentrations, which are just not that out of the ordinary.

There are many factors that affect algae growth besides phosphate. Algae need sunlight, carbon dioxide, and the nutrient nitrogen, all of which are generally in abundance. Their growth is also affected by the temperature and pH of the water. It could be that there was just the right combination of all factors that resulted in optimizing algae growth this year.

Individual lakeshore owners can help keep phosphate out of the lake by making sure that rain water does not flow directly into the lake. Shoreline buffers are designed for this purpose, and owners should have one. Trees take up a lot of water and, thereby, absorb the dissolved nitrogen and phosphorus compounds. Thus, good tree cover can mitigate the amount of nutrients entering the lake. I think that planting trees is a good idea. I am partial to white pines because they give me the feel of "up north" wildness. Since undeveloped lakeshore is best for a healthy lake, any part of a lot left in its original undeveloped condition will provide the greatest benefits for the lake. As a lakeshore owner, I believe that I have an obligation to alter my lifestyle to benefit the lake rather than altering the lakeshore to benefit my lifestyle.

Lake	Mid Lake Ave. TP (ppb)	June 2017 Ave. TP (ppb)	Aug. 2017 Ave. TP (ppb)	Ave. all data 2017 TP (ppb)
Nisswa	20	16	19	17
Roy	18	15	9	12
Spider 1st year	N/M	(15)	(10)	
Bass	N/M	28	16	22
Upper Gull	22	28	18	23
Margaret	57	36	53	44
Love 1st year	N/M	(14)	(13)	
Gull	18	16	23	19

TP = Total Phosphate. ppb = parts per billion. N/M = Not Measured

2017 GULL CHAIN OF LAKES WEED SURVEY RESULTS

Steve Alex, AIS Chairman

This past summer GCOLA contracted with PLM Lake & Land Management to conduct a survey of vegetation at 23 specific sites across the Gull Chain of Lakes. The photo attached to this article shows the location of all 23 sites. This is the third year that we have used the same 23 sites, which are located via GPS location methods to ensure that we are monitoring the same locations annually. The 23 sampling locations are intended to search areas where the highest likelihood of newly discovered AIS vegetation may be found.

The survey is conducted twice each summer, once in July during the high growth period for lake vegetation and a second time in early September to help detect any potentially late emerging AIS species. In particular we are concerned with AIS vegetation such as Eurasian Water Milfoil and Starry Stonewort in the Gull Chain of Lakes.

From the 2017 survey the good news is that no Eurasian Water Milfoil or Starry Stonewort was found at any of the twenty three locations. Comparing the data from 2015 through 2017 we have detected an increase in Curly Leaf Pond weed and three locations where Purple Loosestrife was noted. Curly Leaf Pond weed was found at the Upper Gull Lake townhouses and near shore of Maddens located in Wilson Bay.

We are aware that Curly Leaf Pond weed is present in other areas such as Lake Margaret and Love Lake and has been emerging more broadly across that lake. Curly Leaf Pond weed has been in Gull Chain of Lakes for many years but the recent emergence could be due to improved water clarity due to the presence of Zebra Mussels. We will continue to monitor the spread of Curly Leaf Pond weed and work with the DNR and PLM and determine if a treatment program is warranted for 2018.



2017 GCOLA Access Site Survey August 2017 and September 2017



PHONE: 218-270-3338
FAX: 866-527-6399
EMAIL: servicesmw@plmcorp.net
WEBSITE: www.plmcorp.net



EXCESSIVE

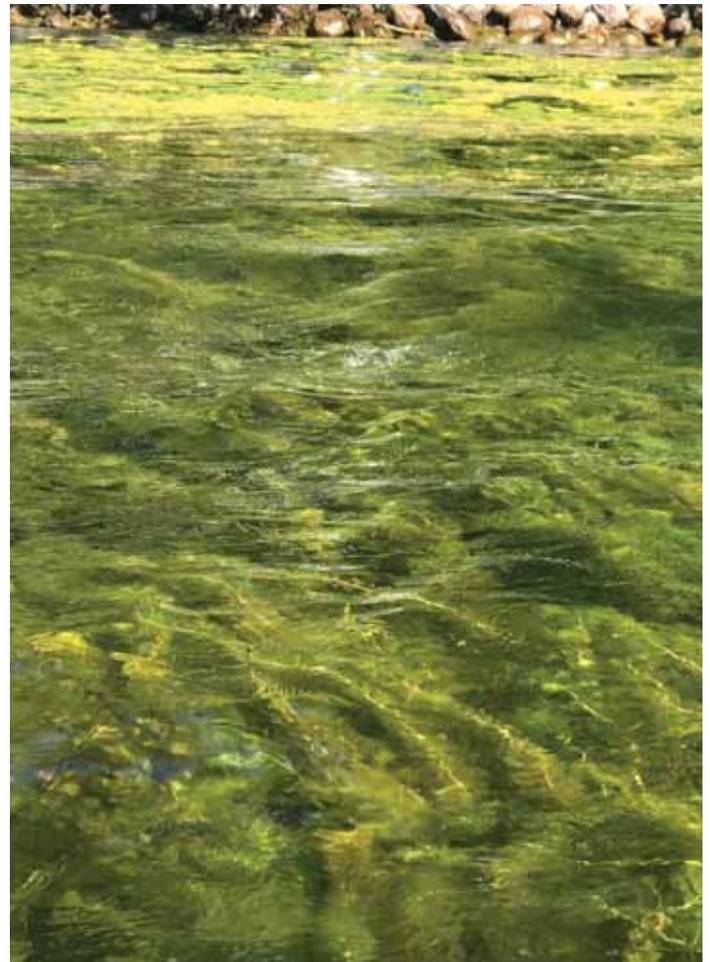
During the past summer excessive algae growth was a problem on Upper Gull, as well as in Booming Out Bay and other areas of Gull Lake. Upper Gull residents reported a massive algae bloom that began June 6th and did not dissipate throughout the summer. This was an obvious change compared to algae growth observed by the residents over their past 20 summers on the lake. In previous years, the algae would appear in August, but this year the algae growth was so thick and pervasive throughout the summer that the residents were unable to use their waterfront for swimming and recreation.

In September, several concerned property owners and members of the GCOLA Environmental and AIS Committees met with DNR aquatic plant and AIS specialists, Kevin Martini and Tim Plude, to discuss the issue. It was determined that Mougeotia algae was the type of algae on Upper Gull. While it is troubling to have masses of it on your waterfront, this type of filamentous algae is nontoxic.

Robert Eliason, Director of the GCOLA End of the Dock Water Water Sample Program, attended the meeting and reported that phosphorous is the “limiting nutrient” for algae. If phosphorous levels were abnormally high, this could explain the excess algae growth. However, levels on Upper Gull and Gull were in the normal range. Phosphorous samples in the affected area on Upper Gull were slightly higher, but were still in the normal range.

Residents were concerned that the road construction on Highway 371 may have led to chemical run-off into the lakes and streams feeding into Upper Gull. The DNR officials said this was not the case, and that eutrophic lakes such as Mayo and Sibley function as kidneys and filter water before it enters Upper Gull.

The DNR officials could not say exactly what caused the excessive algae problem on our lakes, but they said, “It is not unique to your lake. This is a state wide issue this year that may be due to a perfect storm of events.” The



ALGAE GROWTH ⁸

contributing events included: photosynthesis occurring year round when there is little snow cover on the ice, rain in February, early ice out, and nutrient loading with massive rain events during the past few years. Time will tell if the 2017 algae growth was an isolated event or a long term trend. Global warming, increased development of shorelines, and run off from impervious surfaces may be significant pieces of the puzzle.

“The biggest impact on lakes is from human use,” said Kevin Martini. Mowed lawns have the most negative impact. Every single property that is corrected will have an effect.”

Tim Plude added, “If the nitrogen in fertilizer grows grass, it will also grow weeds in the lake.”

Several GCOLA board members will be meeting throughout the year to strategize ways to address the algae issue. If you have experienced excessive algae growth on your waterfront, please email sheilafjohnston@me.com.

If you would like to be part of the solution, GCOLA provides matching grants for shoreline restoration projects. Please contact Heather Baird, Heather.Baird@state.mn.us, or Ron Faust, ronfaust@mac.com. Heather Baird is the DNR’s Shoreline Habitat Specialist and Ron Faust is a former GCOLA board member.



B. Johnson & Assoc., Ltd.
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

OVER 50 YEARS EXPERIENCE

ACCOUNTING: _____
Personal & Business Financial Statements

AUDITING: _____
Small Business, Gambling & Other Non-Profit

BOOKKEEPING: _____
Payroll & Other Data Processing

CONSULTING: _____
Management & Computer Advisory Services

FINANCIAL PLANNING: _____
Personal & Business Financial Planning

TAX SERVICES: _____
Personal, Business, Estates & Gift Tax Returns

Bruce Johnson, CPA • Chris Ford, CPA
Jacen Gondringer, CPA • Tad Johnson, CPA • Tom Teasck, CPA

218-829-3501
Business Hwy 371 S
11610 Andrew St.
Brainerd, MN 56401



www.brainerdCPA.com

218-963-3424
Nisswa Office
Kurilla Building #2
Nisswa, MN

*Fastest Growing Waste Collection Business In
“The Lakes Area”*

**BEST PRICING
BEST SERVICE
BEST VALUE**



218-824-8727
Baxter
Brainerd
Gull Lake
Lakeshore
Merrifield
Nisswa
North Long Lake
Pillager
Round Lake



866-602-8727 Toll Free
www.wastepartnersinc.com

9 ORNAMENTAL LILY PADS IN GULL LAKE

by Tim Plude, DNR AIS Specialist

A report from a DNR crew led me to a location on the Gull Chain where a non-native lily pad was spotted. When I arrived, I noticed a red-flowered lily directly in front of a property in 2 feet of water and next to a dock. A coworker and I dug below the lake bottom to pull all of the tuber material related to the red lily, lucky for our backs, there was only one entire plant with two flowers and multiple pads; and we were able to pull the entire plant, roots and all.

There are many ornamental lily pads in this world and many can be easily obtained but, it is not a good idea to plant them in a natural Minnesota environment. The Gull Chain of Lakes has many residents including an entire ecosystem of life. That natural ecosystem can easily be disrupted and damaged by the presence of foreign plants and animals, including ornamental lily pads. These foreign lilies have not evolved in this region so they may not benefit lake creatures, like aquatic invertebrates/bugs (which can be important to fish and other animals).

Keep in mind that non-native water lilies (any cultivar, variety or hybrid) are listed in MN State Rule as Regulated Invasive Species and it is against the law to introduce these species in Minnesota. If you must cultivate ornamental plants please make sure you follow the laws and keep non-native species out of our amazing natural resources. Back yard ponds hosting ornamentals need to be treated carefully to avoid accidental releases of non-native species. If you have a pond and need to winterize it, please dispose of your plants and animals properly and do not release anything into public waters. Our native White Water Lily or Fragrant Water Lily is beautiful and intrinsic to the natural environment. An interesting fact about our native White Water Lily is that they open and close their flowers daily; they open after sunrise and close the flower after sunset.

Image credit: MN Wildflowers, www.minnesotawildflowers.info, by K. Chayka taken in Ramsey and Washington counties.

Up close picture of a stunning native White water lily flower.



GULL LAKE PROFILES THE CHOCOLATE OX



This is an ongoing column focusing on local business and community leaders in the Gull Chain of Lakes area.



THE CHOCOLATE OX

The Chocolate Ox on Main Street in Nisswa was opened in the spring of 2003 by Robert and Loriese Stoll with the intent of providing a memorable shopping experience for the entire family. Having vacationed in the area since the 1960s the Stoll's were very familiar with the unique shops of Nisswa, and looked forward to being part of that charm. They wished to provide the best when it came to candy and ice cream, both in product and service. In 2010 they had an opportunity to open another location at Grand View Lodge on Gull Lake; walking distance to the big lake. This enabled them to serve additional visitors in a more relaxed setting.

The Nisswa store is open April through December; the Grand View location is open from mid-May through Labor Day.

The Chocolate Ox has been a proud member of the Gull Chain of Lakes Association since their inception. They value the beauty of the region, and realize much of the area's economy is dependent on the surrounding lakes and resources.



License #BC003452
Established 1986
218-692-1760
www.weshansonbuilders.com



SURVEY OF MINNESOTA'S LAKE ASSOCIATIONS:

By Uldis Birznieks, Board Member

In the spring of 2017, Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates (MLR) Executive Director Jeff Forester, contacted the Concordia College Biology department, and asked them to survey Minnesota's lake associations for the purpose of increasing current awareness and understanding the role lake associations play in lake conservation.

The survey gathered data from 250 respondents representing 186 different lake associations in Minnesota. The report from the survey provided data on who Minnesota lake associations are, the scope of the lake conservation activities that they engage in, the major concerns they have, and the main hurdles they face. GCOLA was one of a small number of lake associations that were asked to participate in the pilot survey in the spring of 2017. The pilot survey included mostly open-ended questions in order to avoid restricting the range of responses to specific ideas or particular value ranges. GCOLA also participated in the final survey that was sent to all 500+ Minnesota lake associations in the summer of

2017. The final survey had 61 questions which all were closed-end with the exception of one question. The main categories for the final survey questions were: the lake and lake use, the lake association, the members, activities and finances, collaboration/outreach, challenges and concerns, and respondent demographics. This comprehensive study was the first of its kind conducted in Minnesota.

The groundbreaking report, sponsored by MLR, finds that Lake Associations voluntarily contribute more than \$6.25 million and 1.2 million volunteer hours annually in lake preservation and management activities, BUT FEEL SHUT OUT ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY MAKING AND DECISIONS. The top concerns of lake associations include aquatic invasive species, overall water quality, runoff control, aging of lake property owners and lack of trust in and connection to the MN DNR.

Misty Harbor

Uncompromised Quality -
Exceptional Value
Since 1989

Models From
14'-26'

SUZUKI
MARINE

Save BIG \$\$\$\$
Deep Discounts
Extended Warranties

Brainerd Sports & Marine
QUALITY • SERVICE • VALUE

Junctions Hwys 18 & 25, SE, Brainerd, MN
218-828-4728 or 800-450-7669
www.brainerdsports.net

Brainerd Sports
& Marine Welcomes
Mark Van Essen

Where You Get The Best Deal Every Time
- Trades Welcome -

WHO, WHAT AND WHY

A summary of some of the key findings and results from the survey report are the following:

- Most Minnesota lake associations were formed in the 1960s and 70s. The main reason for forming a lake association is preservation/protection of the lake. Specifically, the top goals most lake associations have are to control aquatic invasive species (AIS) in the lake and to improve the quality of the lake water.
- Most lake associations report that their members are motivated to reach the lake association's goals and welcome membership by anyone interested in the welfare of the lake, not just owners of lake properties.
- Most lake associations have 100-400 members and 10 or more board members. Even though about half of lake association board members have expertise in specific lake conservation areas such as fisheries and/or AIS, only about 5% of them are able to contribute to legislation affecting the lake.
- Collectively, the 500+ Minnesota lake associations donate about \$6.25 million, annually, to the care of Minnesota's lakes.
- Collectively, the 500+ lake associations in Minnesota contribute about 1.2 million volunteer hours annually to lake conservation activities, including AIS inspection, attendance of meetings, water quality testing, and community education/outreach activities.
- The top 3 concerns of lake associations in Minnesota are: AIS, overall water quality, and runoff control.
- Most respondents agree or strongly agree that their associations face hurdles in becoming more engaged in lake conservation activities.
- The top 3 challenges that Minnesota's lake associations face as they work on achieving their goals are: Inadequate member participation (i.e. the needs far exceed the available human capital), not being heard/taken seriously by the DNR, and the aging population of lake property owners.
- Most respondents do not agree that their lake associations are authentically included in the lake planning process.
- Most respondents do not feel that their lake associations have real authority over the lake.

- Most respondents do not think that the DNR has sufficient lake management policies in place. Most respondents had concerns regarding the DNR and its role in lake management. Concerns with the DNR extended to bureaucracy, general inaction, lack of funding, lack of listening to lake association concerns and a general lack of action.
- From an earlier MLR study; lake association members are the largest angling group in Minnesota, responsible for nearly 550,000 fishing license sales and nearly \$400,000 spent towards fish stocking.

In addition to the on-line survey, qualitative data, obtained by the research team from observations at field visits, email and phone communications, and an open-ended survey question, revealed that AIS, lack of communication with the DNR, managing water quality, and engaging members are major concerns of many lake associations. Lake association members assert that AIS infestations greatly impact their lives and are eager to engage in more collaborative conservation efforts with the DNR. Miscommunications about decisions affecting the lake and about allocation of funds can result in the projection of major concerns and hostilities directly toward the DNR.

The survey report concluded that Minnesota's lake associations play a crucial role in protecting and managing Minnesota's lakes and recommends more communication and collaboration between policy makers and lake associations.

If you are interested in getting a copy of the complete 76 page report by Concordia College on the MLR Minnesota Lake Association survey, please contact Uldis Birznieks (email – pub@scicable.com or via phone at 218-820-7318).

LAKE LEARNING

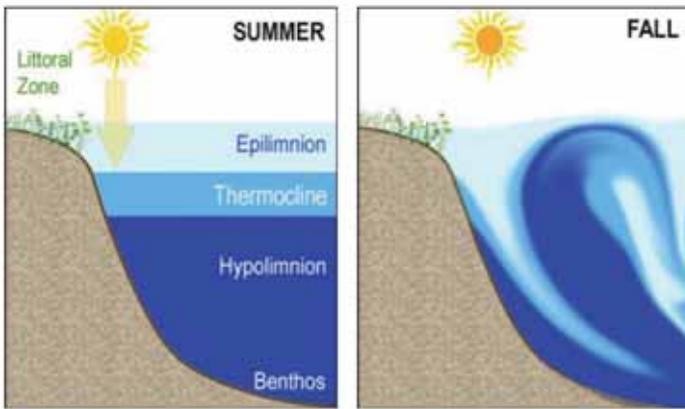
FALL TURNOVER IN OUR LAKES

The temperature has cooled lately and the wind has picked up. These are the ingredients needed for fall turnover in our lakes. A couple months ago I wrote about how the lakes separated into layers in the summer, which is called stratification. To recap, the layering of lakes has to do with the relationship between water density and temperature.

Water is most dense at 39 Fahrenheit (4 degrees Celsius), and as water warms or cools from that mark it gets less dense. This has implications for a lake's structure because the denser water is heavier and will be at the bottom of a lake while the less dense water is lighter and will generally be at the top of the lake.

In the summer in Minnesota, the sun heats the top layer of a lake (called the epilimnion) which causes it to become less dense. The bottom layer of the lake (called the hypolimnion) does not receive sunlight and therefore remains cold. Since the top layer of the lake is less dense, it floats on top of the bottom layer and the two do not mix. The metalimnion is the middle layer of water. The metalimnion also encompasses the thermocline, the area of the most drastic change in water temperature.

In the fall in Minnesota, the sunlight is not as strong and the nights become cooler. This change in season allows the top layer of the lake to cool off. As the water cools, the density difference between the top layer of the lake and bottom layer is not as great. Wind can then mix the layers. Eventually the top layer fades and mixes with the middle layer. The thermocline sinks in the water column as the heavier upper water layer forces it deeper. Soon, though, the temperature in this mixed upper layer equals that of the



bottom layer; wind easily mixes the entire water column because similar temperature and density exist throughout. This mixing allows oxygen and nutrients to be distributed across the whole water column again, and is called fall turnover.

The timing and duration of fall turnover depends on the size and depth of the lake. Sometimes it can occur in a couple days and sometime it takes a week or more. The deeper the lake, the longer the water column takes to become uniform in temperature since the bottom stays cooler. Most lakes in Minnesota that are deeper than about 20 feet turnover in early to mid October.

You can track fall turnover in an individual lake a couple different ways. The easiest way is with a Secchi disk and a water thermometer. A Secchi disk measures water clarity. During fall turnover, the clarity of a lake usually decreases because mixing brings up nutrient rich water from the bottom of the lake and causes the lake to look cloudy. Sometimes there is even a distinct smell as decomposing plants, algae and other matter surfaces. Then, when turnover is complete, the clarity increases dramatically. If you take Secchi disk readings and surface water temperature readings every day or every other day in late September and early October, you can track fall turnover. Once the surface is 39 degrees F and the water clarity is deeper than it's been all summer, you will know that turnover is complete.

A more precise way to track fall turnover and the sinking of the thermocline is to take the temperature at 2-foot intervals from the surface of the lake to the bottom. You can tie a rope to a thermometer and mark 2-foot intervals on the rope. If you graph a line of temperature versus depth in the lake, you can see how the lake cools off and becomes uniform in temperature after turnover.

Some people report that fishing is not as good during fall turnover. The main reason fishing is harder is because the fish move and are more dispersed. In the summer, walleyes school in high oxygenated holes and structures. When the lake mixes, the oxygen levels become uniform throughout the lake so fish can roam anywhere. For information on how to fish during fall turnover, visit: <http://fishingminnesota.com/fishinfo343.html>.

Most lakes in northern Minnesota are considered dimictic, meaning they mix twice a year - spring and fall. Shallow lakes, less than 15-20 feet, behave differently and can mix more often throughout the summer.

Enjoy the lakes! This article was written and shared by Moriya Rufer at RMB Environmental Laboratories as part of continuing education for their Lakes Monitoring Program (218-846-1465, lakes@rmbel.info). To learn more, visit www.rmbel.info.

Social
Circles



goWild*

16460 Hwy 371 North,
Brainerd
218.829.5519
LandsburgNursery.com



For the best tips, advice,
and coupons, sign up
for our e-newsletter at
LandsburgNursery.com



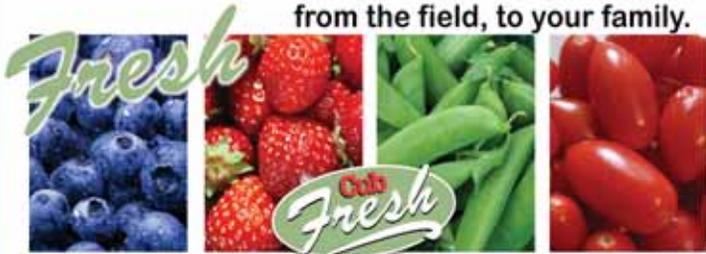
Build
yours
Today!

GET BACK TO THE LAKE

BOAT REPAIR | CUSTOM DETAILING | MARINE ACCESSORIES
AUTHORIZED FACTORY REPAIR FOR MANY MAKES & MODELS

HIGHWAY 371 N. | BRAINERD/BAXTER
(800) 991-9039 | (218) 825-3500

VISIT US ONLINE: TheBodyWorks.com



from the field, to your family.

**Cub
FOODS**

FEATURING
Finest Meats • Seafood • Produce • Bakery
Hot & Cold Deli • Bakery • Floral
Open 24 Hours
14133 Edgewood Drive 417 8th Avenue NE
Baxter, MN 56425 Brainerd, MN 56401
(218) 828-4601 (218) 828-1816

PARTY TIME RENTAL

Where it's always Party Time!

Weddings, Graduations Reunions & More
Canopies • Games • Concessions • Grills

4750 White Gables Road • Brainerd, MN 56401 • 6 miles north of Brainerd on 371

218-829-6300 • partytimerentalmn.com

CHAD SCHWENDEMAN IS YOUR

Gull Lake Chain

HOME SELLING EXPERT

It's Not the Market, It's the Marketing!



218-831-HOME (4663) | www.HOMES1234.COM

7153 Forthun Road, Suite 120, Baxter, MN 56425



RARDIN

CONSTRUCTION INC.

est. 1925

NEW CONSTRUCTION • REMODELING • ADDITIONS • MORE



— DESIGN ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE —

(218) **829-6507**

www.RardinConstruction.com

SERVING THE BRAINERD LAKES AREA AND SURROUNDING

Superior Craftsmanship... Exclusive Customer Service

PRAIRIE BAY
GRILL & CATERING
Local **HOT SPOT**

PREMIUM CATERING SERVICES

Lakes Area Destination
A Minnesota Menu with Local Flare.

Open Year Round
Deck Seating
Private Events

SHERWOOD FOREST
LODGE
FOOD & SPIRITS

COMING IN 2017
• NEW CROSBY LOCATION •

WE'RE SOCIAL www.3CheersMN.com

GULL LAKE
PENDANT

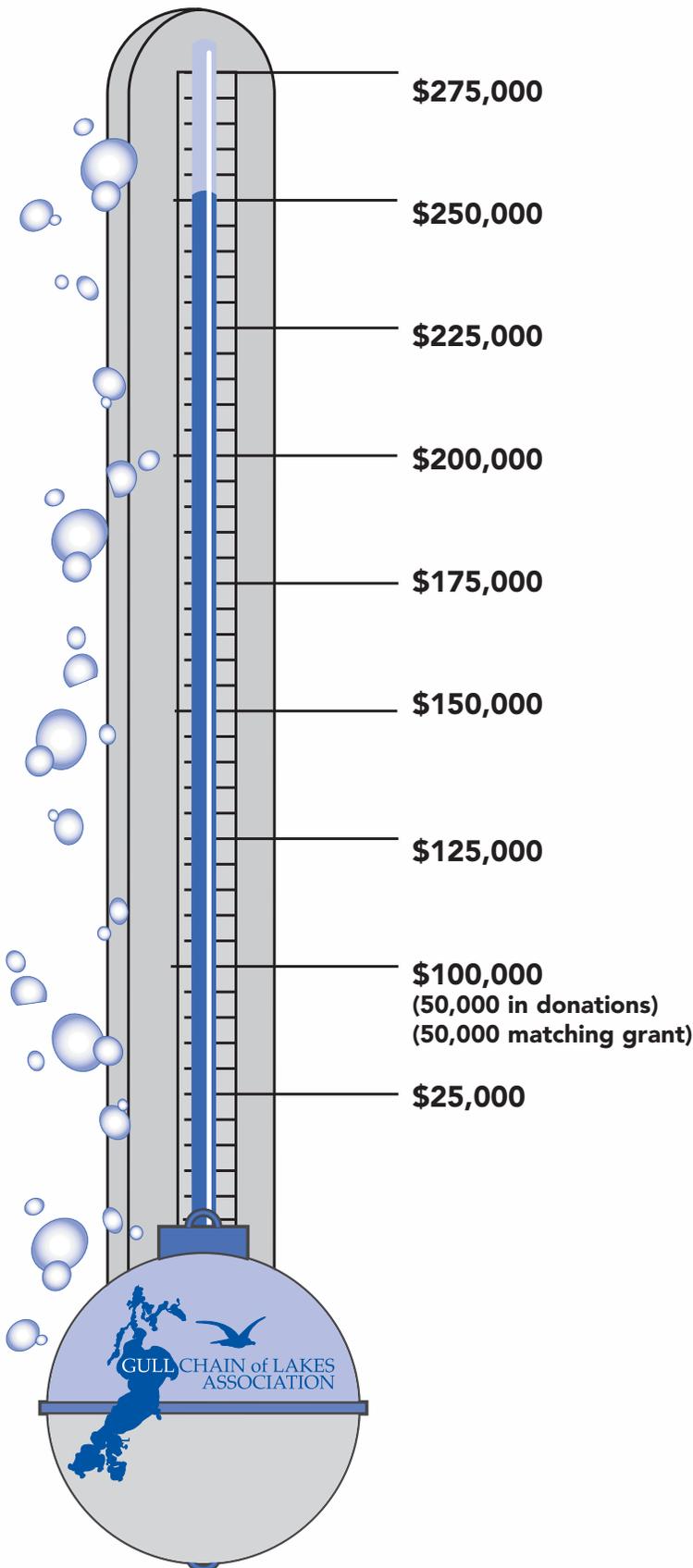
14k White Gold, Yellow Gold
or Sterling Silver
Customize with a Diamond

the original
LAKE PENDANT

Miller's Jewelry

ANNANDALE, MINNESOTA
Tel 320-274-5313

ENDOWMENT FUND UPDATE



• In partnership with the Initiative Foundation, GCOLA established a perpetual Endowment Fund. The fund is intended to provide long-term funding to support the stewardship activities of GCOLA to preserve and improve the ecosystem of the Gull Chain off Lakes. It's also a wonderful opportunity to leave a legacy for those who will enjoy this area for years to come.

We currently have \$250,894 in the fund, which includes a \$50,000 matching grant from the Initiative Foundation. It is great to know that there is a long-term base of financial resources through the endowment to be able to carry out projects designed to enhance and protect our beautiful chain of lakes. Watch for a November mailing seeking additional donations to this fund.

The Board again wants to thank all the many members and friends of GCOLA for the generous support of our endowment fund.

Park in your garage tonight.

Big stuff, little stuff, or just too much stuff. We can help.

- Units starting at \$50/month
- Gated keypad access & 24/7 security
- Drive-up & covered access
- Climate-controlled, heated & oversized units
- FREE use of enclosed trailer for move-in

16231 Hwy 371 North
www.LakeRegionStorage.com

Brainerd: (218) 822-3222

Because "SQUISH" is not a sound your carpets should make...

Chem Dry Of The Lakes
Superior Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning

- Carpets Dry in 1-2 hours, not days
- Tile/Grout/Hard Floor Cleaning
- Upholstery Cleaning
- Pet Urine & Odor Specialists
- Green-Certified Solutions, safe & non-toxic for kids & pets
- Truckmount & Portable Equipment
- Commercial & Residential
- NOW OFFERING: CLEAN AND POLISH GRANITE COUNTER TOPS

Call..... **218-828-4320**
cdofthelakes@midco.net
www.Chemdryofthelakes.com

Independently Owned & Operated *Serving Crow Wing, Aitkin & Southern Cass Counties*

KEEPING IT NATURAL

By Keith Goetzman, Acting Editor of Minnesota Conservation Magazine



Soon after Ron Faust bought his home on Gull Lake in 1995, he joined the local lake association. His goal was to get to know the large, beautiful northern lake where he had chosen to retire.

“I just wanted to learn more about the lake and what the issues were with it,” says Faust. “I wanted to learn more about the ecosystem.”

Faust has now been a member of the Gull Chain of Lakes Association for 22 years, nine of them on its board of directors, and during that time he has continually absorbed knowledge about Gull and the seven connected lakes that compose the Gull chain. No longer is he simply

a student of these waters. Though: Faust is also an advocate and a catalyst for action.

Most significantly, he focuses on shoreline buffers of native plants. Keenly aware that the land use around a lake is closely tied to the lake’s health, Faust has been a champion for shoreline naturalization projects. As a citizen, he has planted natives on his own shoreline. As a lake association member, he has helped line up funding and resources for fellow property owners to complete dozens of shoreline projects in the area.

“A naturalized shoreline is essentially a buffer for what’s on the land above the waterline, and what’s below it. We try



to prevent stormwater runoff and erosion,” Faust says. “If we find a place where stormwater is getting to the lake from just flowing downhill, we build rain gardens to catch it and let it soak in.”

Shoreline naturalization is hard, ongoing work that requires technical knowledge. One of Faust’s roles in the lake association has been connecting property owners with the money and expertise to get the job done. A key tool has been grants, funded by the city of Lake Shore and the lake association, that pick up half of the cost of hiring resource restoration professionals to do the work. The Department of Natural Resources, local Soil and Water Conservation District offices, and native plant nurseries all provide technical help.

Faust has often worked as an ally to Heather Baird of DNR Fisheries, formerly a shoreline habitat specialist in Brainerd. Baird says Faust first came to her attention when he was advocating for a rain garden project at the city hall in the small community of Lake Shore, where he lives. Although that project didn’t happen, he wasn’t deterred: He kept pushing for other projects, including a planted buffer at Bar Harbor Supper Club in Lake Shore.

Says Baird: “A new owner bought the restaurant and redid the inside of the building, and Ron was able to convince the landowner to plant a buffer. So Bar Harbor now has this beautiful buffer. And without a strong local advocate, I don’t think I could have gone to the owner and said ‘You should really do this.’”

“Ron searches out people and tries to educate them. He’s not real pushy, but over time he just plucks away.”

Once Faust learned how popular shoreline practices, such as maintaining lawn to the water’s edge and installing riprap, was harming the Gull chain and its wildlife habitat, he says, “I thought it would be worthwhile to convince other people about naturalizing their shorelines. I knew it was an unending task, but I thought that 100 feet at a time might be a cool project.

“We call it progress if we help to create one shoreline that’s natural.”

During Minnesota’s current Year of Water Action, Gov. Mark Dayton is urging Minnesotans to act to protect our water resources. In a state renowned for its abundant lakes and lakefront properties, lake associations are a key way for some citizens to get involved in preserving the waters they know and love best.



LAKE LEARNING

Have you noticed there seems to be a lot more lady beetles (also known as ladybugs) and bees out lately? This is a common occurrence on sunny fall days. Today I'll explain why they are out in such numbers at this time of year, and what you can do to avoid them.

We'll start with lady beetles, which are little round beetles with a mustard-color, orange or pink back with black spots. The type that occurs in such large numbers is usually the multicolored Asian Lady beetle. These beetles are beneficial insects and were first imported from Asia and released in attempts to naturally control certain insect pests. They are an effective, natural control for harmful plant pests such as aphids, scale and other soft-bodied arthropods. Still, its tendency to overwinter in homes and other buildings, sometimes in large numbers, may make them a nuisance to many people.

Lady beetles enter your home in the fall to find a warm protected place to overwinter. They usually stay in small cracks and the walls, but some may become active on warm days in late winter or early spring and move into

living areas searching for a way out. The best way to prevent them entering your house is to caulk exterior cracks and crevices before fall.

Lady beetles are not structure-damaging pests, unlike insects such as termites and carpenter ants. Lady beetles do not chew or bore holes in walls or eat carpet or furniture. They do not lay their eggs in homes and are generally harmless.



The only thing that really could damage a home is if they are agitated or squashed, the beetles may exhibit a defensive reaction known as "reflex bleeding," in which a yellow fluid with an unpleasant odor is released from leg joints. This reaction generally prevents predators, such as birds, from eating lady beetles. But in the home,

the fluid may stain walls and fabrics.

The most effective way to remove Lady beetles from your home is to vacuum them. Once they are in your vacuum bag, they die because their breathing pores (spiracles) get clogged with dust. It is only a myth that they go on living and breeding in your vacuum!

Lakewood HEALTH SYSTEM

CLICK Care

Click Care is an online diagnosis and treatment service! Check it out at:
<https://lakewood.zipnosis.com>

Lakewood HEALTH SYSTEM Your Choice. For a lifetime of care.

800-525-1033 | 218-894-1515 | lakewoodhealthsystem.com

Gas @ Love Lake Marina on Gull

SNACKS • BEVERAGES • ICE • BAIT

JUST NORTH OF YACHT CLUB, THROUGH LOVE LAKE CHANNEL

Boats and Beyond Rentals.com

SMOOTH, EASY, PAY AT THE PUMP

218-963-7700

www.BoatsandBeyondRentals.com

MasterCard VISA American Express DISCOVER

ABUNDANT FALL BUGS – LADY BEETLES AND BEES

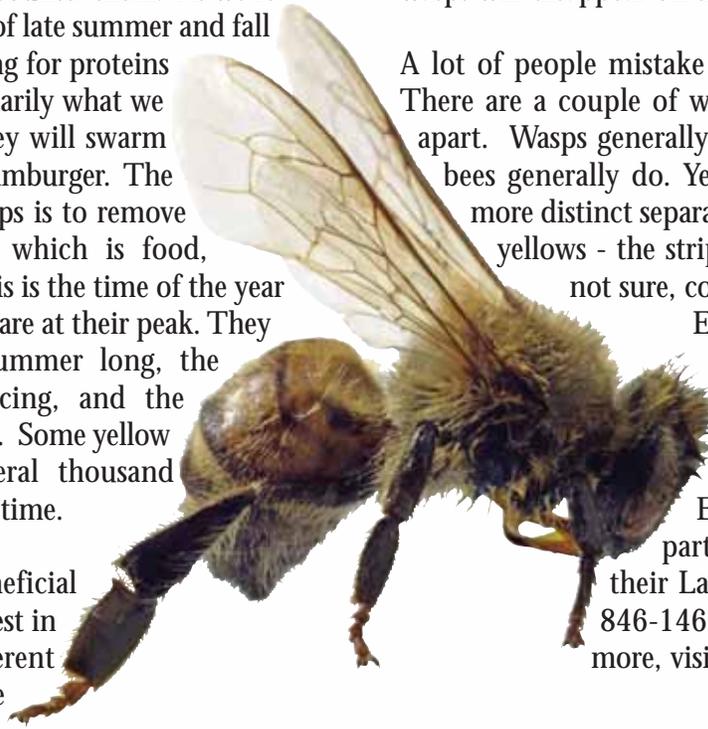
Now on to yellow jackets and bees, which are out in force looking for food at this time of year. This isn't the only time that bees are foraging for food, but it is the time that people are most likely to encounter them. As we're enjoying the last nice days of late summer and fall outside, bees are out looking for proteins and sugars, and that's primarily what we use as refreshments, so they will swarm around your pop or your hamburger. The way to avoid bees and wasps is to remove what is attracting them, which is food, beverages and garbage. This is the time of the year that wasp and bee colonies are at their peak. They have been working all summer long, the queen has been reproducing, and the colonies have been growing. Some yellow jacket colonies have several thousand individuals at this point in time.

Bees and wasps are beneficial insects, but if you have a nest in your house, that is a different story. A bee nest must be taken out by a professional, because even if you kill the bees with pesticide, the honey is still in the wall. When this honey ferments, it can seep through your wall and attract other bugs.

Yellow jackets are actually wasps, and their nests are less messy. They will not re-use it the following year, so if you can wait until the first or second good solid freeze, the wasps will disappear on their own.

A lot of people mistake yellow jackets for honey bees. There are a couple of ways homeowners can tell them apart. Wasps generally do not have a hairy abdomen, bees generally do. Yellow jackets often have a little more distinct separation between the blacks and the yellows - the stripes are more defined. If you're not sure, collect one and take it to a county Extension office.

Enjoy the lakes! This article was written and shared by Moriya Rufer at RMB Environmental Laboratories as part of continuing education for their Lakes Monitoring Program (218-846-1465, lakes@rmbel.info). To learn more, visit www.rmbel.info.



Honey Bee



Wasp



*Osprey on Upper Gull
Photo by Sheila Johnston*

PHOTO'S WANTED ²²



Ice skating – TJ Bonnett



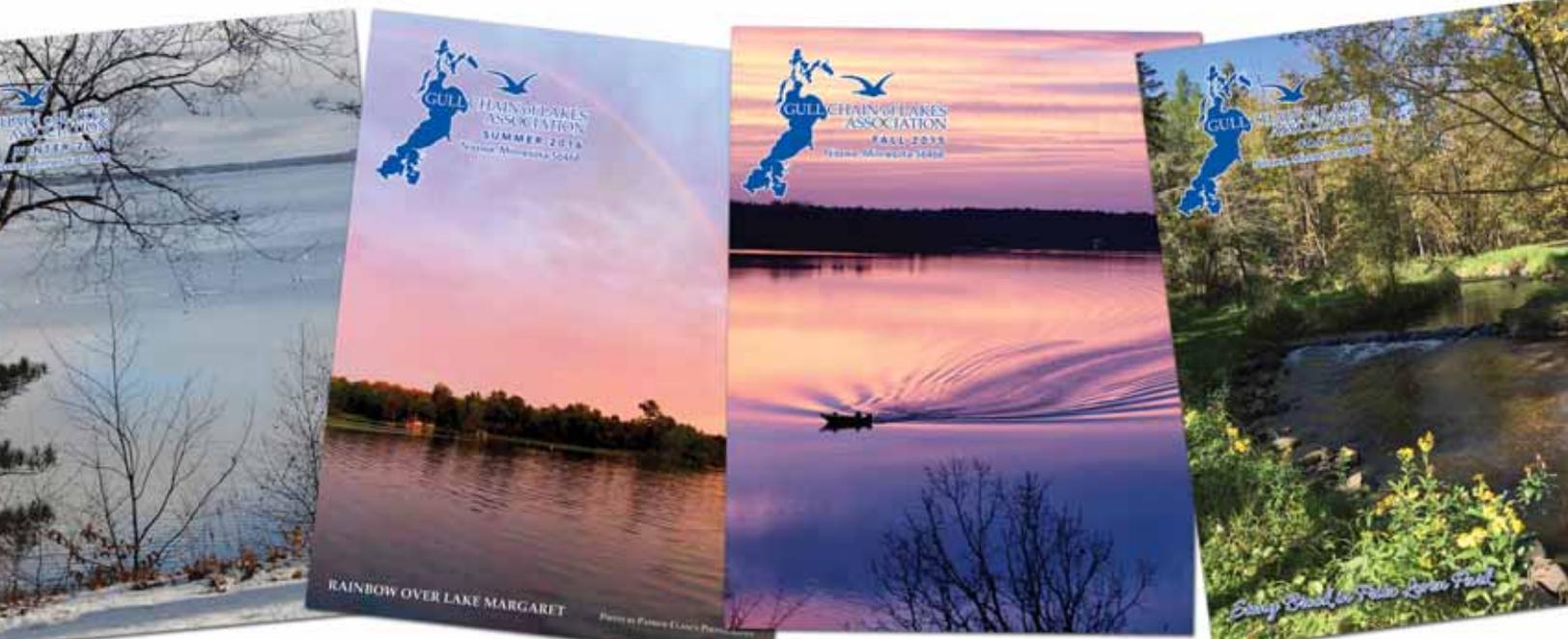
Pileated – Dave Anderson



Sledding – Jay Fifield

Do you have photos you've taken around the Gull Lake Chain you'd like to share with other members? We're putting together a library of photos to be used in the GCOLA newsletter. You will be given credit for any photos printed in the newsletter. Photos can be sent to Rosemary Goff at togogt@charter.net.

All photos should be supplied at the highest resolution/largest size possible, thank you.



ASSOCIATION OF CASS COUNTY LAKES NEEDS YOUR HELP!



IT'S ILLEGAL TO...

TRANSPORT aquatic plants, water, or prohibited invasive species (*e.g., zebra mussels, Eurasian water milfoil*).

DUMP live bait into state waters, on the shore, or on the ground.

LAUNCH or attempt to place, watercraft or trailers with aquatic plants, zebra mussels, or prohibited invasive species into any waters of the state.

IT'S THE LAW!

CLEAN visible aquatic plants, zebra mussels, and other prohibited species off of watercraft, trailers, and equipment before transporting from any water access.

DRAIN water from the boat's bilge, livewell, motor, ballast tanks, and portable bait containers before transport from water access site or shoreline property.

KEEP drain plug and water draining devices open while transporting watercraft.

THANK YOU....CASS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

CONNECTING THE METRO AREA WITH THE LAKES AREA



NINA KARSKY
218-821-3373
NinaKarsky@edinarealty.com



MIKE KENNEDY
218-232-1946
MikeKennedy@edinarealty.com



BRAD AND MATT WADSTEN
218-821-2721
Bradwadsten@edinarealty.com



*Minnesota's
Market Leader*

Edina Realty[®]

a Berkshire Hathaway affiliate
www.edinarealty.com

ALL ARE WELCOME TO OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS



Steve Alex



Uldis Birznieks



Bill Brekken



Jay Chaney



Robert Eliason



Steve Frawley



Rosemary Goff



Linda Harrier



Chuck Herrig



John Ingelman



Sheila Johnson



Marv Meyer



Bob Toborg

You are all welcome to join us at our monthly Board of Directors meetings. We meet at Grand View Lodge on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 8:30 a.m. Upcoming meeting dates are: November 13, December 14, 2017, and January 10 and February 14, 2018. We usually adjourn around 10:00 a.m.

Come see what we do.

INTRODUCING THE ALL NEW XT22

MasterCraft

THIS IS WHAT WE LIVE FOR



ALL NEW DASH WITH DUAL TOUCH SCREEN



218-963-2292

24238 SMILEY ROAD 371 NISSWA, MN

Up North FIREPLACE GALLERY



218-454-1040
14322 Dellwood Drive, Baxter, MN 56425
email: upnorthfireplace@brainerd.net
website: upnorthfireplacegallery.com

Our store features a wide variety of gas and wood fireplaces, stoves, and inserts. We also offer a large selection of real and cultured stone, custom mantels and fireplace accessories to create a warm and cozy atmosphere for our customers.

Call or Visit Our Gallery Today!

QUADRA-FIRE **heatilator** **HARMAN** **HEAT & GLO**
The First Name in Fireplaces Where everything comes together.

We are dedicated to meeting all your fireplace needs.



Enjoy easy, affordable, automatic control of security, garage doors, locks, lights, thermostats and more!



YOU'VE GOT YOUR
PIECE OF PARADISE.
NOW WE'LL GIVE YOU
PEACE of MIND.

Any phone. Any tablet. Anywhere.

The Area's Most Trusted Security Company
For Over 25 Years!

CALL US TODAY!
(800) 735-1440

www.peoplessecurity.com



Book Your Next Event — on — Gull Lake

DESTINY CRUISES
DestinyCruisesLLC.com | 218.820.9543

We Service All Vehicle Makes & Models! **MILLS**
Visit MillsAuto.com

STIFEL

Supporter of the Gull Chain of Lakes Association.

Kurt B. Nelson
Vice President/Investments
(218) 828-3204 | (888) 823-4385
nelsonk@stifel.com
14275 Golf Course Drive, Suite 100
Baxter, Minnesota 56425

Stifel, Nicolaus & Company, Incorporated | Member SIPC & NYSE | www.stifel.com

Mattson LUMBER COMPANY
Hwy. 371 South, P.O. Box 149
Nisswa, Minnesota 56468

3 MILES SOUTH OF NISSWA ON HWY 371
• **FREE ESTIMATES • FREE DELIVERY**
"Quality Materials To Serve You Better"

We carry a full line of building materials for all your construction needs.
Marvin Windows ~ Acclimated Doors & more!

Mon.- Fri. 7am - 5pm
Sat. 8am - Noon

Phone: (218) 963-7470
Fax: (218) 963-7480

17821 Hwy 371 • BRAINERD • 218-822-3500
 33972 US Hwy 169 • ONAMIA • 320-532-3860
 www.POWERLODGE.com



WE HAVE DOUBLED!

COME AND SEE OUR NEW MARINE SHOWROOM
 AND NEW STORAGE FACILITY

NEW THIS YEAR!
 Ranger and Lund Pontoons!



GOLF CARS BY



PARTS • SALES • SERVICE • STORAGE
 CERTIFIED TECHNICIANS FOR



Because everything
 is better at the lake



Schaefer's
FOODS
 Established 1914

Hwy 371 Nisswa • 963-2265 • www.SchaeferFoods.com

glacial waters spa
 relax. rejuvenate. unwind.



Voted
 Top 100 Spas
 by Spas of
 America

- Massages
- Body Treatments
- Hydrotherapy
- Facials
- Manicures/Pedicures



23521 Nokomis Avenue Nisswa Minnesota 56468
 Appointments 218.963.8700 | glacialwaterspa.com

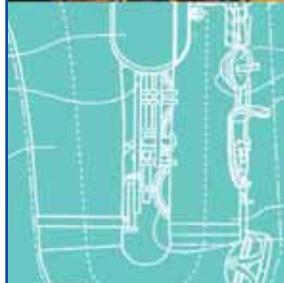
JOIN US
 FOR OUR
 2017
 SEASON

Over 140 musicians from the
 Minnesota Orchestra, St. Paul
 Chamber Orchestra and other
 world class ensembles around
 the country will bring the best
 in classical music to our area!

JULY 30 - AUGUST 20

LAKES AREA
MUSIC
 FESTIVAL

For concert information and locations visit
LakesAreaMusic.org



WELCOME **NEW** MEMBERS

Ward and Beverly Anderson, Gull
Becky and Dan Astrup, Gull
Michael and Deanne Kruse, Gull



17753 State Highway 371
Brainerd, MN
218-828-0620
www.CrowWingCabinets.com



A Local Company You Can Trust

Serving the entire Lakes Area

COMPLETE TREE CARE

- Certified Arborists • Tree Consultations
- Deep Root Fertilization • Injections
- Root Regeneration • Disease Recognition

*Free Estimates
Insured/ Certified*

Tree Removal • Mulch
Brush Chipping • Stump Removal
Pruning/Trimming

PROMPT YEAR ROUND SERVICE

218.825.8207

www.mikestreecompany.com

for all of your dock & lift needs....

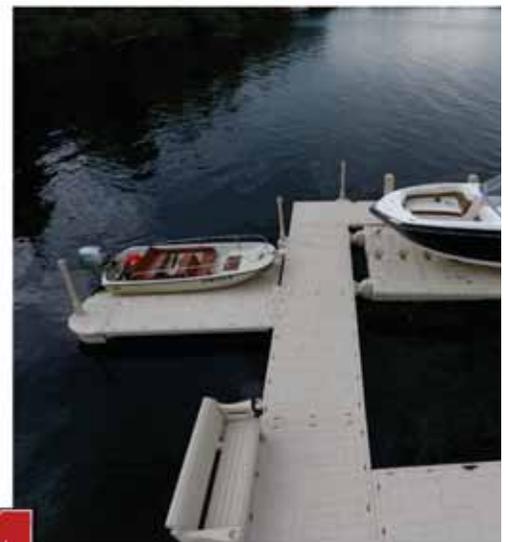
ShoreStation

Waterfront Lifestyle: The options are endless with ShoreStation



Wave Armor

Residential & Commercial Floating Docks



NISSWA MARINE.com

24238 SMILEY ROAD MINNESOTA 371 NISSWA, MN

PREPARING SEASONAL SEPTIC SYSTEMS AND CABINS FOR WINTER 30

Closing a septic system for the winter is a vital task for seasonal homeowners to prolong the life of the system and to keep it operating at peak performance. Precautions taken in the fall can help prevent a frozen system.

Winterizing the Pipes in the Cabin

- Do not add automotive antifreeze, salts or any other additives to your plumbing.
- If you leave the water on for the winter, be very sure there are no leaks or drips. This constant, low flow of water can cause septic system freezing. This is common with high efficiency furnaces.
- Even if the heat is left on, it is a good idea to drain water supply lines. Shut off the water where it enters the house and drain all lines. Drain the pump and then run a couple of seconds to be sure all water is out of the lines. Drain the system by opening all the faucets, leave faucets open. Completely drain the pressure tank. Flush toilets and add RV antifreeze to the tanks at the recommended dilution ratio. Check flexible hoses in sinks and bathtubs to be sure they are drained completely. Remove and drain inlet hoses for the dishwasher and clothes washer. Clear the water valve by starting the machine for a few seconds, then drain the tub. Remove the drain hoses, drain completely. Disconnect the electrical supply to the pump, water heater, softener, washer and dishwasher. Drain the water heater and water softener with a hose after the power is disconnected. RV antifreeze can be added to traps in the sink, bathtub and shower drains, washtubs, floor drains and sump pumps. In the spring, re-connect all hoses and flush the lines out before using again.
- For those using the cabin periodically throughout the winter, set the thermostat to 50 degrees and open the doors of cabinets that have pipes in them so heat can get in. Pipes can also be insulated, or wrapped with heat tape.

Furnace

If you have a high efficiency furnace that is left on for the winter, be sure there is no water drip into your system. Freezing can result. Re-route the drip water to a floor drain, bucket or other source that does not enter the septic

system at all, or enters in larger amounts. This water does not harm the septic system, but entering in very small amounts causes a trickle of water, which can freeze more easily. If shutting off the furnace, drain all water from forced hot water and steam systems unless the system contains antifreeze. If that is the case, call a plumber for assistance. If leaving the furnace on, it is a wise idea to conserve energy by installing a low-heat thermostat that will maintain the cabin at 40 degrees.

Septic System Maintenance

- Consider pumping the tank if closing the cabin for the winter, or if it will only be used a few times during the winter. If you live in an area with a high water table, you should only pump out the tank if the tank was designed for high water table conditions. If a tank is left full but the system is not used for the winter months, the sewage will get very cold, and can even freeze. If the cabin is opened before temperatures in the soil start to rise, the effluent leaving the tank will be cold, which is not desirable in the soil treatment area.
- To help prevent septic systems from freezing, spread a layer of straw or leaves over the system to provide insulation.
- Do not plow snow off the area or store plowed snow over the drainfield.

Sealing Windows and Air Leaks

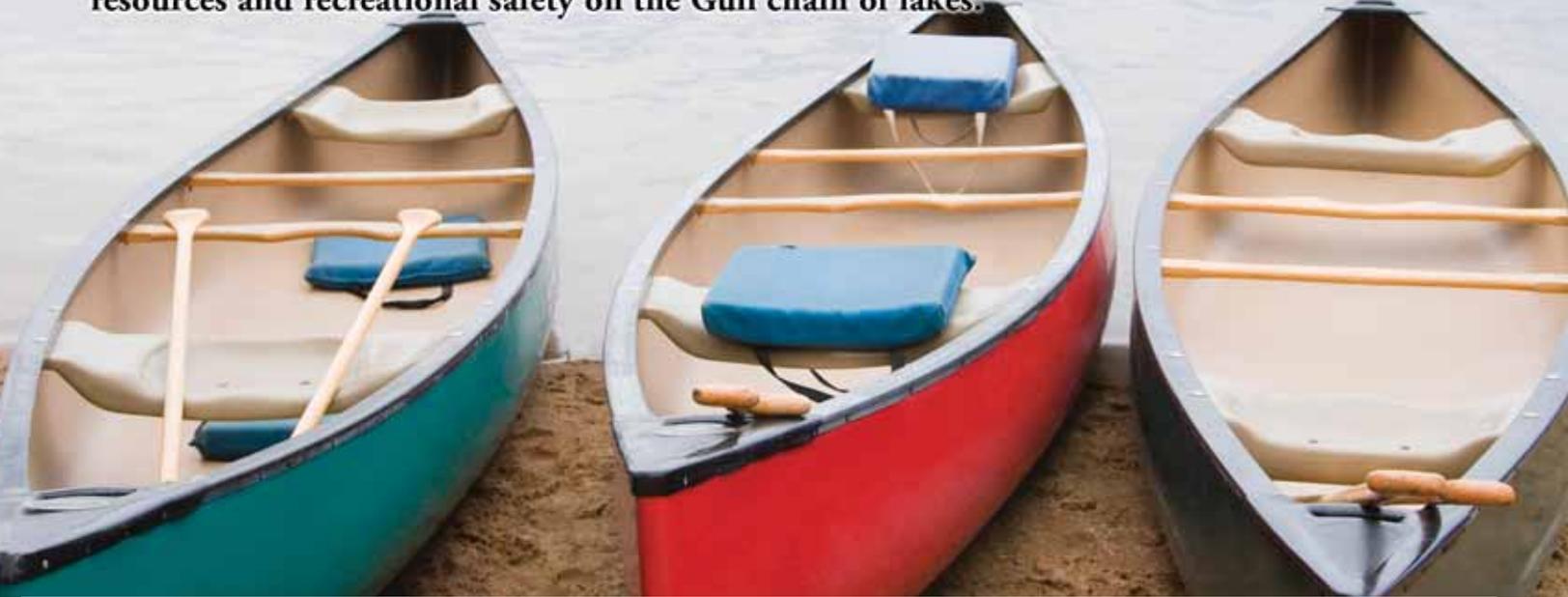
Going through the cabin and sealing windows and air leaks will help conserve energy and save dollars for those who heat a cabin year-round. While you check for air leaks you may also want to have some steel wool on hand to plug any holes large enough to invite critters into the cabin while you are away. Mothballs or dryer sheets around the cabin also keep unwanted pests out.

Sources:

*University of Wisconsin Extension;
MN Pollution Control Agency*

MISSION STATEMENT

The Gull Chain of Lakes Association is an alliance of individuals, families and business owners in the Gull Chain of Lakes in Cass and Crow Wing Counties. The Association is devoted to the restoration and continued preservation of the highest water quality and environmental standards achievable, promotion of the responsible use of land and water resources and recreational safety on the Gull chain of lakes.



**SERVICE DONE RIGHT AND
ON TIME SINCE 1993**

The most important person in our company is "you", the customer. Thank you for allowing us to continue the tradition at Bradow Dock Service.

At Bradow Dock Service you have a company that has the experience and commitment to excellence in everything we do. Installing or removing waterfront equipment, canopy cleaning and storage, sales or servicing your equipment, you can trust us to be on time and do the job right the first time, at a fair price.

218.963.0431

requests@bradowdock.com

www.BradowDock.com





YOUR BOAT CLUB



**CONVENIENT LOCATION
ON THE WATER**

to serve all of your Service, Storage & Winterizing Needs.

Gas Docks that are Easily Accessible.

Full Parts & Accessory Department.

C-Store for your last-minute needs.

On-the-Water Towing Available.

**RENTALS - MAKE YOUR 2017
RESERVATIONS NOW!**

MERCURY® Certified Technicians

YOURBOATCLUB.COM or call **218-963-1010**

The
Harbor
at East Gull Lake

The Harbor at East Gull Lake features Baratto Brothers high quality, custom built craftsman style homes with high-end finishes and architecture on Gull Lake. All 27 homes come with a 30' harbor slip, permanent dock, a 20'x40' private storage garage, community pool and 26 ac. common grounds for the best in maintenance free living.

Lot reservations now available



*Premier
BUILDER*

David Mernin | REALTOR
dave@lakesareahomes.mn
(218) 820-4668

Edina Realty.

EIP EXCEPTIONAL
PROPERTIES

a Berkshire Hathaway affiliate

Your
BUILDER FOR LIFE

LIC.# BC322437

Follow us:



houzz

218-692-1070 | WWW.BARATTOBROTHERS.COM



GULL CHAIN OF LAKES ASSOCIATION 2017 MEMBERSHIP DUES STATEMENT

Dues for the lake association are \$50 per year. They are payable anytime from January 1 – December 31. We are a 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation which means that all money donated by you over and above the \$50 dues amount is tax deductible. If you have not sent in your dues for this year, now is a great time to do so. Contributions above the \$50 dues are greatly appreciated. You can get membership forms on our website at: gcola.org. Dues can be sent to Box 102, Nisswa, MN 56468

PLEASE USE THIS FORM: Please provide the information requested below and send with your 2017 dues to the address indicated. We have also provided a space for any additional contributions that you would like to make to the Invasive Species Fund.

Name: _____

Mailing address: _____

Lake address: _____

Home Phone: _____

Lake Phone: _____

Email address: _____

Cell Phone: _____

2017 dues: \$50.00

Additional donation designated to:

+ Invasive Species Fund _____ + Endowment Fund _____ + Buoy Fund _____ + Board Discretion _____

= Total Contribution: _____



**PLEASE JOIN THE
GULL CHAIN OF LAKES ASSOCIATION**

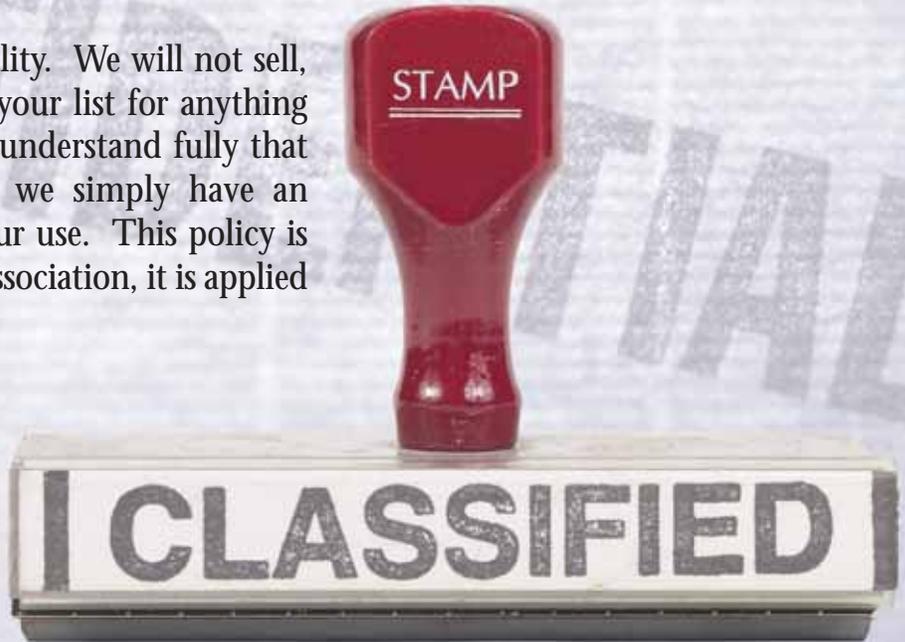
Dues for the lake association are \$50 per year. They are payable anytime from January 1 – December 31. We are a 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation which means that all money donated by you over and above the \$50 dues amount is tax deductible. **If you have not sent in your dues for this year, it's not too late.** Contributions above the \$50 dues are greatly appreciated.

You can get membership forms on our website at: gcola.org.
Dues can be sent to Box 102, Nisswa, MN 56468

LAKE PRINTING CONFIDENTIALITY POLICY

Lakes Printing in Brainerd is the only business that is allowed access to our Association member list and only for the purpose of mailing our newsletter. They have issued the following confidentiality policy.

We have a strict policy of confidentiality. We will not sell, trade, swap or in any other way use your list for anything except mailing your newsletter. We understand fully that you are the owner of the list and we simply have an electronic copy on our system for your use. This policy is not just for the Gull Chain of Lakes Association, it is applied to all customers.



NISSWA DOCK
DOCKS • LIFTS • SERVICE

24428 SMILEY ROAD, NISSWA MN

Toll free | 800-322-3525
Web | NISSWADOCK.COM

Creative

Inspiration for the entire Lakes Area

We want to be your design, offset printing, digital printing, bindery and mailing professionals.

We want to be your printer. Please contact us.

218-829-7790 | Fax: 218-829-0977
1223 Oak Street, Brainerd, MN 56401
www.lakesprinting.com

HOOKED?



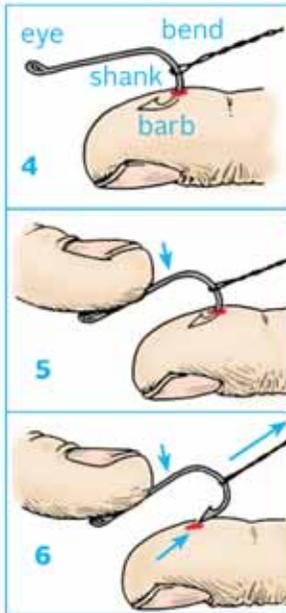
DO NOT try to remove a fish hook that is deeply embedded in the skin, lodged within a joint or tendon, or located in or near an eye or artery. If you are at all unsure, it is best to **seek medical attention immediately**.

DO NOT CUT THE HOOK. DO NOT ATTEMPT TO PUSH THROUGH TO CUT OFF BARB.

String Yank Technique

How to remove a fish hook from your finger

1. Remove hook from lure by cutting at attachment ring; **DO NOT** cut the hook itself.
2. Tape any additional free hooks to prevent other hooks from also getting embedded.
3. First, wash your hands with soap and water, or disinfecting solution, and then wash the area surrounding the hook.
4. Tie off a loop with some fishing line. Place the loop over the hook's shank and lightly pull it against the bend of the hook.
5. With your other hand, press down and back on the hook's eye.
6. Continue pressing down on the hook's eye. Quickly and firmly jerk the fishing line backward, ensuring that the line is parallel to the shank. *Don't worry; only a tiny bit of flesh is behind the barb.*
7. Wash the wound thoroughly with soap and water and apply a bandage.
8. Watch the area for signs of infection such as redness, swelling, pain, or drainage.



Be prepared

- Keep electrician's pliers with a wire-cutting blade and disinfecting solution in your fishing tackle box.
- Tetanus immunization (vaccine) should occur every 10 years. If needed, it may be done any time in the 72 hours following the injury.

Walk Right In.

When the unexpected happens, we're here with you **7 days-a-week**

Urgent Care

Essentia Health St. Joseph's - Baxter Clinic, 13060 Isle Drive, Baxter

Convenient Care (now 2 locations)

Essentia Health - Convenient Care at Baxter Cub Foods, 14133 Edgewood Drive, Baxter

Essentia Health - Convenient Care at Brainerd Cub Foods, 417 8th Avenue NE, Brainerd

Emergency Medicine

Essentia Health St. Joseph's Hospital

523 North Third Street, Brainerd

Wait Times at [EssentiaHealth.org](https://www.essentiahealth.org)



Essentia Health

Here with you



**WATER SPORTS
SINCE 1992**

MINNESOTA INBOARD

**ONE FAMILY. ONE BRAND. ONE MISSION.
SERVING MINNESOTA'S 10,000 LAKES SINCE 1992**



BAXTER LOCATION IS DIRECTLY BEHIND LAKE COUNTRY TOYOTA



WWW.MNINBOARD.COM



@MNINBOARD



@MNINBOARD



/MNINBOARD

**EXCELSIOR / 720 GALPIN LAKE ROAD, EXCELSIOR, MN 55331 / 952.474.1742
BAXTER / 15779 EDGEWOOD DRIVE, BAXTER, MN 56425 / 218.822.4401**



GULL CHAIN of LAKES ASSOCIATION

Box 102

Nisswa, Minnesota

56468

218-963-3542

PRSR
FIRST CLASS MAIL
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Brainerd, MN
Permit No. 471



STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!

Prevent the transport of nuisance species.
Clean all recreational equipment.
www.ProtectYourWaters.net

PLEASE CHECK OUT YOUR NEWSLETTER ON OUR WEBSITE:
GCOLA.ORG

RESIDENTIAL - PLUMBING, HEATING & COOLING EXPERTS



Professional Service on All Brands

24 HOUR EMERGENCY SERVICE

Sales • Service • Design • Installation

Geothermal Heat Pumps

In-Floor Heat • Sheet Metal • Indoor Air Quality
Preventative Maintenance • Plumbing

FREE ESTIMATES 218.828.4337

7674 COLLEGE RD, SUITE 115 BAXTER



\$15⁰⁰ OFF Plumbing Service Call

ONE COUPON PER SERVICE CALL



218.828.4337

Coupon must be presented at time of service. Not valid with any other offers. Expires 12/31/17.

\$15⁰⁰ OFF Heating/Cooling Service Call

ONE COUPON PER SERVICE CALL



218.828.4337

Coupon must be presented at time of service. Not valid with any other offers. Expires 12/31/17.

\$15⁰⁰ OFF Home Heating/Cooling System Check

ONE COUPON PER SERVICE CALL



218.828.4337

Coupon must be presented at time of clean & check. Not valid with any other offers. Expires 12/31/17.

What is the **Carbon monoxide Level** In Your Home?



We are also your plumbing experts!

www.scr-mn.com www.brainerdgeothermal.com

Serving the Entire Brainerd Lakes Area & Beyond!