

# Caribou Lake Property Owners' Association

Newsletter

E-mail: [CLPOA.MN@gmail.com](mailto:CLPOA.MN@gmail.com)

Website: <https://caribou.mnlakesanddrivers.org>



*Photo by Tom Bittinger*

Greetings fellow members of CLPOA. We hope this finds all of you healthy and not too worse for the wear of the past year. It was unfortunate but prudent that we cancelled both our Spring and Annual meetings in 2020. We also thought cancelling our Spring meeting this year was equally prudent. However, we are planning to go forward with our **Annual Meeting on Saturday, SEPTEMBER 4** beginning at 10 AM in the Lutsen Town Hall. Our hope is that many of us will be vaccinated by then and that the greatest risks from the COVID-19 pandemic will be behind us. The Board has been active despite the lack of membership meetings. We've reviewed applications for zoning variances on the lake and submitted our comments to the Cook County Board of Adjustment. We've also kept an eye on other issues around the lake that have had potential to impact water quality. Larry Mullen, as always, has diligently continued to sample and monitor various water quality parameters in the lake. Included in this newsletter is an update of water quality sampling. Also, we've included an update on two aquatic invasive species. One, the rusty crayfish, has been found in the lake. The other, spiny water fleas, have not been found in our lake but they are present in other lakes in the county as well as in Lake Superior. Through vigorous boat inspections, we hope we can prevent spiny water fleas from being transported from other lakes to ours. The board is also petitioning the County Board for the renewal of our Subordinate Service District which covers our water sampling costs. We are always looking for new members to the Board. Please consider volunteering. E-mail us at [CLPOA.MN@gmail.com](mailto:CLPOA.MN@gmail.com) expressing your interest and the Board will follow-up with you.

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## Note From the Board

**By Fred Morris, President**

# Lake Sample Results

By Larry Mullen, Water Quality Sub-Committee



<b>2020 Sample Results</b>					
Site	3-Jun	7-Jul	3-Aug	9-Sep	Ave
<b><i>Phosphorus (PPB) Goal = 15 or less</i></b>					
203 (Camp)	7	12	24	21.0	16.00
210 (Island)	9	10	15	20.0	13.50
205 (Fosters)	8	12	18	21.0	14.75
103 (Landing)	18	12	15	21.0	16.50
201 (Isthmus)	14	11	21	16.0	15.50
<b>Average</b>	<b>11.2</b>	<b>11.4</b>	<b>18.6</b>	<b>19.8</b>	<b>15.25</b>
<b><i>Chlorophyll-a (PPB) Goal = 8 or less</i></b>					
203 (Camp)	1.78	4.4	7.56	15.1	7.21
210 (Island)	1.34	4.9	8.01	14.2	7.11
205 (Fosters)	0.45	5.34	5.34	22.2	8.33
103 (Landing)	1.34	3.56	2.67	9.8	4.34
201 (Isthmus)	0.89	3.58	3.56	9.3	4.34
<b>Average</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>5.4</b>	<b>14.1</b>	<b>6.27</b>
<b><i>Secchi (Feet) Goal is 6 or more</i></b>					
203 (Camp)	9	9.5	7.5	6.0	8.00
210 (Island)	8.5	9	8	6.0	7.88
205 (Fosters)	9	9	7.5	6.5	8.00
103 (Landing)	7	7	6.5	6.0	6.63
201 (Isthmus)	8	7.5	6	5.5	6.75
<b>Average</b>	<b>8.3</b>	<b>8.4</b>	<b>7.1</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>7.45</b>

The pandemic did not stop our water quality sampling initiative. The association continued to sample five sites four times during the summer. Phosphorus, Chlorophyll and Secchi disc readings were taken. The results continue to be within the goals set in our Lake Management Plan.

Phosphorus is a nutrient important for algal growth. It originates mainly from human activities. Chlorophyll-a is a pigment that makes algae green and allows it to photosynthesize.

Cook County Soil and Water also sponsored two calcium tests. The August 4 reading was 8 mg/l and the September 9 reading was 9 mg/l. These remain unchanged from prior years and are not a concern.

Oxygen levels were good on the August 3 reading. A reading of 8 mg/l was the average from our five sites taken at three feet. A reading of 5 mg/l was recorded at the 24 foot level at the Foster site.

See sampling history at:

<https://caribou.mnlakesandrivers.org/lake-sample-data>

# Cook County Coalition of Lake Associations (CCCoLA)

by Irene Mullen, CCCoLA Chair

CCCoLA continues the mission of preserving and protecting the lakes of Cook County. We are fortunate to have dedicated board members from lakes across Cook County, as well as Ilena Hansel, Cook County Soil and Water along with Karen Evens, MPCA as part of our team. Amanda Weberg, Cook County AIS is also a valuable resource.

Since 2019, the Shoreland Stewardship Resource Guide, developed by Cook County Soil and Water, has been promoted by CCCoLA to all property owners. We will continue this outreach throughout the summer. Our own Julie Bittinger has coordinated with others to ensure new property owners on Caribou receive a copy of this resource. Many of you have shared this resource with your neighbors. We need to keep up the good work of sharing best practices. If you need copies of the Shoreland Steward Resource Guides, please contact Cook County Soil and Water, or a CLPOA board member.

Cook County Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS):

- 3 lakes are represented on the Cook Count AIS Advisory Committee: Caribou, Deeryard and West Bearskin.
- Amanda Weberg, Cook County AIS, has shared a new spiny water flea education and prevention process, which will be implemented this summer during boat inspections.
- Caribou is a pilot site for new signage at the boat landing, which will inform users with information about Caribou Lake, such as a short history of the lake, acreage, water depth, types of fish, importance of low wakes near shore. This sign should be installed by summer.



Cook County boat inspectors will be distributing specialized Swedish dishcloths, which are a blend of biodegradable cellulose and cotton, for cleaning spiny water fleas off gear. They will contain preventative information.

- A representative from CCCoLA will be attending the spring *Rainey – Lake of the Woods Watershed* Bi-national Community Engagement Workshop. The focus will be on spiny water flea prevention tools and resources. This group connects Minnesotan and Canadian border lake groups.

CCCoLA made a donation to The UMN St. Anthony Falls Laboratory Healthy Waters Initiative Fund which is conducting research of how boat wakes affect the health of lakes. See this link to learn more: <https://sites.google.com/umn.edu/healthywatersinitiative/welcome?authuser=0>

CCCoLA continues to be members of MN COLA and MN Lakes and Rivers Advocates. These two statewide organizations are links to information regarding legislative matters pertaining to Minnesota lakes. Our webpage: <https://cookcountycola.mnlakesandrivers.org>

# Boat Inspections

By Larry Mullen, *Water Quality Sub-Committee*

## Inspections in 2020:

- Cook County hired three seasonal inspectors working 96 total hrs./wk. county wide.
- The DNR volunteer Ambassador program was suspended due to covid-19.
- Sheriff Deputies conducted 118 inspections and worked 88 hrs. total county wide.
- Inspectors distributed, county wide, 160 Clean Drain Dry T-shirts, 60 baseball hats, and 220 towels.

## History of Boat Inspections at Caribou Access (includes county, sheriff and volunteer)

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
<b>Total Hours of Inspections</b>	144	272	356	252	264
<b>Total Inspections</b>	90	162	290	181	218
<b>Inspections per Hour</b>	0.62	0.6	0.81	0.72	0.83
<b>Motorboat</b>	45%	44%	29%	50%	40%
<b>Canoe</b>	46%	45%	67%	40%	47%
<b>Compliance</b>	93%	98%	99.60%	98%	99.50%
<b>Spoke with inspector within last 30 days</b>	7%	4%	4%	12%	7%
<b>Out of State</b>	65%	50%	30%	30%	35%
<b>Out of water 5 or more days</b>	37%	46%	50%	55%	40%

## Inspection Plan for 2021:

- Cook County plans to hire, again, three seasonal workers with same hours as 2020.
- DNR leadership is working on getting the volunteer Ambassador program open for 2021.
- Sheriff Deputies will continue to conduct inspections with hours similar to 2020.

For more information in how to participate in the volunteer DNR Ambassador inspection program, send us an email at: [CLPOA.MN@gmail.com](mailto:CLPOA.MN@gmail.com)

# Highway 61 Cleanup

By Fred Morris, *President*



For the past 4 years, CLPOA has adopted the two mile section of Highway 61 running from just east of it's junction with the Caribou Trail to just west of Lockport. Volunteers from our Association have gathered on the Friday before our annual Labor Day meeting at the Lutsen Town Hall and then paired off to walk along the highway and pick up trash. Afterward, we gather at the Town Hall for grilled burgers, chips, side dishes and socializing. It has been a great way for our Association to do a good deed for the community and have some fun time together. This year we will meet on **FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 3 AT 10 AM** at the Lutsen Town Hall. Trash bags, reflective vests, burgers, buns, and beverages will be provided. Please consider coming down and helping out. **Contact Fred Morris at [caribouowl@gmail.com](mailto:caribouowl@gmail.com)** and let him know you'll be coming. Thanks. It will be fun.



# Spiny Water Fleas

By Cook County AIS

Spiny water fleas are tiny crustaceans  $\frac{1}{8}$  -  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch long with a long tail native to Europe and Asia. They were introduced into the Great Lakes by ballast water discharged from ocean going ships.

## HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Prevention is key!

- LEARN** to recognize spiny water fleas on fishing gear
- CLEAN** gelatinous material from anchor ropes and fishing lines, especially where they meet a swivel, lure or downrigger ball connection (plucking the line like a guitar string helps)
- DRAIN** water before transporting boats, live wells and bait containers
- REPORT** new infestations

## Infestations in Cook County

Caribou Lake (BWCA), Devilfish Lake, Devil Track Lake, Flour Lake, Greenwood Lake, Gunflint Lake, Lake Superior, Little John Lake, McFarland Lake, North Fowl Lake, Pine Lake, Saganaga Lake, South Fowl Lake and Trout Lake.

## FREE

SELF-SERVE  
BOATWASH

*North Shore Car Wash*  
400 West Highway 61

Offering FREE self-serve boat wash abilities with 110°F water. Stop into NAPA during business hours to receive \$5.00 towards washing your watercraft.

## HOURS:

*North Shore Car Wash*  
400 West Highway 61  
7 days a week  
8 am – 7 pm

*NAPA Auto Parts*  
404 West Highway 61  
Monday – Friday  
7:30 am – 5:30 pm  
Saturday  
8 am – 3 pm

Photo: Darren Lilja

## IMPACTS OF SPINY WATER FLEAS

Spiny water fleas eat small animals called zooplankton that are important food for larval and juvenile fishes. Fish do not feed on spiny water fleas because their sharp spine tends to puncture through the stomach...ouch!

For anglers, these invaders can clog the eyelets of rods, damage a reel's drag system and prevent fish from being landed.

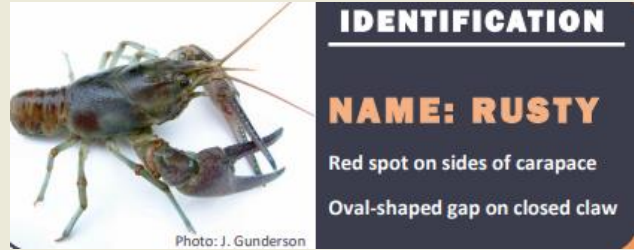
Boaters and anglers can inadvertently spread egg carrying females to new waters because spiny water fleas easily attach to fishing gear. Adults will die out of water, but their eggs remain viable due to resistance to drought, heating and freezing.

**Spread the word, not the species!**

## MORE INFO:

Cook County  
Aquatic Invasive Species  
Coordinator,  
Amanda Weberg  
amanda.weberg@co.cook.mn.us

# Rusty Crayfish



By Amanda Weberg, Cook County AIS Coordinator

During July 2020, rusty crayfish traps were set in Murrum Creek and Bigsby Lake to determine if the invasive crayfish had travelled out of infested Pike Lake. Rusty crayfish were found.

On August 17<sup>th</sup>, 8 crayfish traps were set throughout Caribou Lake. Traps were checked on August 18<sup>th</sup>.



Trap #	Location (UTM)	Number of <i>O. rusticus</i>	Number of Natives
1	675045, 5287638	8	42 <i>O. virilis</i>
2	675482, 5287928	14	15 <i>O. virilis</i>
3	676085, 5288276	23	6 <i>O. virilis</i>
4	676587, 5288415	34	6 <i>O. virilis</i>
5	676605, 5288418	7	1 <i>O. virilis</i>
6	676744, 5288525	8	15 <i>O. virilis</i>
7	676515, 5288029	30	12 <i>O. virilis</i>
8	675088, 5286411	0	26 <i>O. virilis</i>

Proposed Management Plan: Extensive harvesting in early summer 2021

The most efficient time of year for crayfish trapping is in early summer. This is when females are gravid, and crayfish are active and most hungry.

With this approach, trapping intensively for several days or weeks will remove the females before eggs are laid and remove the larger crayfish. The remaining crayfish will be smaller in size and more easily predated upon by fish species. Caribou Lake has a healthy bass fishery similar to Hungry Jack Lake. Hungry Jack Lake is also infested with rusty crayfish but the invasive crayfish is not a nuisance because the population is under control by fish management.

There is a study that advocates that this method works:

*"Fish predation and trapping for rusty crayfish (Orconectes rusticus) control: a whole-lake experiment"*  
by Catherine Hein, Brian M. Roth, Anthony R. Ives, and M. Jake Vander Zanden

AIS leaders have confidence, that with annual early summer harvesting, rusty crayfish will be managed. The Cook County AIS coordinator will work with the Caribou Lake Association and government agencies to organize and accomplish the crayfish harvesting.

**CLPOA is soliciting volunteers to help in the harvesting. For more information on how to participate, send us a note at: [CLPOA.MN@gmail.com](mailto:CLPOA.MN@gmail.com)**

## Membership Dues

Because of the inconvenience and interruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, payment of membership dues has fallen off considerably, **Please consider sending in a 2020 dues payment if you have not done so already, along with your 2021 dues.** The dues annually are \$30 per property and can be sent to P.O. Box 11, Lutsen, MN 55612. Thank you.