

# Caribou Lake Property Owners' Association

Newsletter

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

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



Photo by Fred Morris

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### **Fall membership Meeting** – September 4 at 10AM -Lutsen Townhall

The program for the fall meeting will be a presentation on Sugarloaf Cove. A very interesting addition to your list of places to see and things to do not far from Caribou Lake. One of the Sugarloaf leaders will be making the presentation. You may have noticed the sign as you passed by on Hwy. 61 near Schroeder or even visited. It is about 20 miles south of the Caribou Trail and features a combination of several points of interest including a historical varied Lake Superior shoreline, trails, and the natural world of the area. Major attractions to be described include:

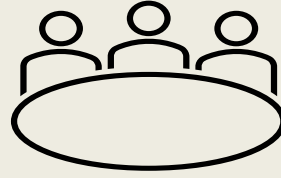
- More than a mile of trails through a variety of environments.
- An Interpretation Center with animal exhibits and description of the logging history of the Cove.
- A varied shoreline wending around the cove and extending out as a peninsula into Lake Superior.
- Designated as a State Scientific and Natural Area.
- Great for a short break or a longer visit exploring all that is there.

One more part of the “epicenter of the North Shore vacation land” as Caribou Lake has been described.

## Annual Fall Meeting & Program

**By Bob Reid, Board Member**





## Board Nominees

Membership will vote on nominees to fill three open seats on our Association's board at the Annual Fall Meeting. Here is an introduction of the new nominees.

**Jeanne Anderson.** Sandra McHugh writes "*Jeanne and her husband Steve have been year-round residents in the area since 2008, when they purchased a home on Foothill Blvd. In 2011 they moved to their current home on Peninsula Point Trail. Jeanne has demonstrated experience in volunteer board work, previously serving as school board chair at ISD 166. Like many of us, she holds a deep interest in preserving the water quality on Caribou Lake. Jeanne is a local real estate agent, with knowledge of the local market along with county land use requirements. Jeanne and Steve have two college age children*"

**Charlie Austin.** Larry Mullen writes "*Charlie and wife Carol have been on Caribou Lake since the acquisition of their first cabin on White Sky road many years ago. In 2013 they, along with Charlie's brother Brad, took over their parent's cabin on Peninsula point. Charlie's concern for Caribou's water quality and his team skills will make him an excellent candidate for our board* "

**Mike Nicklow.** Julie Bittinger writes "*Mike Nicklow, wife Carrie and their 2 teenage children fell in love with the beauty and uniqueness of Caribou Lake while renting, and they began their search to find a cabin here. It took a few years during which they became active in our community by joining in the CLPOA highway clean-up. Their home is on Sawmill Bay. They hope to become year-round residents fairly soon. Mike is eager to become an active board member to continue the legacy of preserving the quality of Caribou Lake. He will be a great addition to the Board.*"

Returning board members up for re-election are Fred Morris, Julie Bittinger, Bill Dunn, Sharon Hexum-Platzer and Larry Mullen. Board members whose terms are not up are Tom Rider, Karl Karst and Bob Reid.

## Highway 61 Cleanup Reminder



We 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. 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.

# Rusty Crayfish Harvest By Larry Mullen, Water Quality Sub-Committee



We had a number of Association members participate in our June harvest of the invasive Rusty Crayfish, in an effort to capture females before they laid their eggs. The harvesting approach was proposed by the county AIS coordinator (see our March 2021 newsletter) with traps being supplied by the US Forest Service and frozen bait supplied by the DNR.

Rusties destroy a lake's vegetation. They are aggressive and can take over the native population of crayfish. Their larger size makes it more difficult for them to be preyed upon by native species of fish. One method of control is a harvesting program.

The US Forest service discovered Rusties in the bay by Bigsby in August of last year (see our March newsletter). All indications are that they traveled from the infested Pike Lake via Murrum creek and Bigsby Lake.

Eight traps were set along the shoreline of the bay by Bigsby and were checked and re-baited every other day. These traps yielded **a total of 1087 Rusties** and only 3 natives for the 4 ½ week period. The native percent is in sharp contrast to the 50 % number the US Forest Service harvested last August.

Three exploratory traps were set for a week on the northwest corner of the lake. Only 5 Rusties were found indicating no major migration to that part of the lake yet. Exploratory trappings on other parts of the lake are planned.

Plans are to continue our harvesting program each June.

(See our May newsletter on "How to Identify a Rusty Crayfish")

# Subordinate Service District

**By Tom Rider, *Treasurer***

CLPOA is working to re-authorize a subordinate service district ("SSD") for the Caribou Lake watershed to collect money to continue to support water quality testing, and to also support efforts to combat aquatic invasive species ("AIS"). Here's the background. A SSD was formed in 2004 when an environmental review (in this case called an "AUAR") was completed for the lake and watershed. The AUAR recommended among other things continued water quality testing, which CLPOA carries out annually with funding support through the SSD. The SSD provided about \$1,000 per year. The SSD was set up for five years and caused the assessment of \$30 to each property owner in the watershed. There are 165 property owners, and 298 parcels in the watershed, so  $\$30 \times 165 = \$4950$  for the five-year period. This amounts to only \$6/year/owner which is a heck of a deal to make sure that water quality testing is conducted at five locations across the lake, four times each summer.

The original SSD from 2004 was renewed in 2009, then again in 2014. In 2019 through oversight the SSD was not renewed in time and it lapsed. We are initiating a process to have it reinstated. The funding generated by this SSD will be applied to pay for water quality testing but also to support efforts to combat AIS. Caribou Lake has been infested with one invasive species as of this time: the rusty crayfish. Rusty crayfish can out-compete native crayfish, multiply rapidly, and deplete vegetation used as a food source for native fish. See our newsletter article on CLPOA's efforts to harvest rusty crayfish in the spring to keep the population down. Other AIS (e.g. spiny water flea, Eurasian water milfoil) exist in lakes across Minnesota and constant vigilance will be required to prevent or delay the introduction of further AIS into Caribou lake. Because of this expanded scope and considering the effects of inflation since 2004, CLPOA is requesting an increase in the assessment amount from \$30 to \$50 per owner.

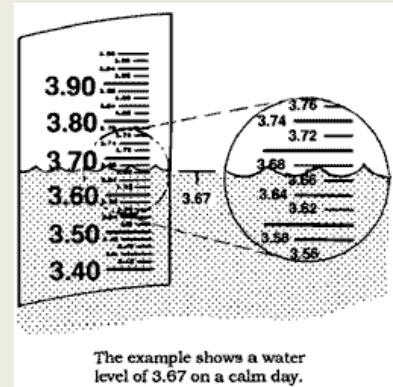
Each property owner will soon receive a letter from the County summarizing the request to establish a SSD and requesting input. A public hearing will be held, at the conclusion of which the County Board will vote on the measure. If it is approved, the \$50 assessment will be added to the 2022 taxes of each property owner. Again, this is a one-time assessment over the five-year period. We hope you support this measure either with written comments or by attending the public hearing.

The DNR installed a permanent lake level gauge on Caribou. The readings below are vertical datum units which are used to determine elevations. The 2021 readings are fairly consistent with other years.

Year	Readings			
	April 16	May 1	June 1	July 1
2021	4.18 (ice out)	3.9	3.8	3.6
2020		3.9 (ice out 5/3)		
2019			3.56 (6/22/19)	3.48
2018		3.56 (ice out)	3.70	3.46
2017		4.1	3.84	4.3
2016		4.1	3.86	3.46
2015		3.55	3.76	3.74
2014		4.3	4.2	4.1
2013		4.1	4.02	3.82
2012		3.42	3.56	3.6
2011		4.06	3.86	3.68

## Lake Levels

Recorded by Sally Westby



The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) is requesting that we report algae blooms to them. Recent hot, dry weather across MN has been fueling early algae blooms. Algae blooms look like pea-soup or spilled green paint. Algae blooms typically need water temps of 75 degrees ++ to bloom. If you do spot an algae bloom on the lake, please contact the MPCA directly at their water quality line (651-757-2822) or at [algae.mPCA@state.mn.us](mailto:algae.mPCA@state.mn.us). The MPCA wants to track and document all bloom reports. Photos can also be sent. This information is useful in helping us maintain our lake's water quality and clarity.

## Reporting Algae Blooms

By Larry Mullen, Water Quality Sub-Committee

### Average temperature of our 5 sample sites at 3 feet

<u>8/13/15</u>	<u>8/1/16</u>	<u>6/27/17</u>	<u>8/7/18</u>	<u>8/11/19</u>	<u>8/2/20</u>	<u>7/21/21</u>
74	75	65	70.4	73.8	69.8	72.3

Membership dues annually are \$30 per property and can be sent to P.O. Box 11, Lutsen, MN 55612 or paid at the membership meetings. Thank you.