

Caribou Lake Property Owners' Association

Newsletter

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Photo by Karl Karst

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Spring Meeting May 28

10:00 – 11:00 am

Lutsen Town Hall

Lake and Land Workshop June 9

"Loving our Lakes to Death"

9:00 – 11 am

Community Center Grand Marais

Sponsored by Cook County Coalition of Lake Associations

Highway 61 Cleanup Sept. 2

Meet at 10:00 am

Lutsen Town Hall

Burgers and Beverages Afterwards

Contact Fred Morris at CARIBOUOWL@GMAIL.COM to volunteer

Fall Meeting Sept. 3

10:00 – 12:00 am

Lutsen Town Hall

Upcoming Events

Note from the Board

By Tom Rider, Board Member

The CLPOA board has been busy over the last year! Here is a summary of some major focus areas.

Subordinate Service District "SSD"). A SSD is a geographic area within a county where certain services are provided that are not provided to the county as a whole. The SSD also serves as a vehicle for collecting any additional taxes or fees levied to pay for those additional services. A SSD was established on Caribou Lake in 2004 in connection with a real estate development above Sawmill Bay, and was created to allow for the production of an environmental review to measure the impacts of the development on Caribou Lake. That environmental review recommended ongoing water quality testing, and SSD was ultimately renewed several times to provide a vehicle for collecting \$6/year to subsidize the work we were doing collecting and analyzing water quality samples. The SSD lapsed a few years ago, and last year we renewed it, or more correctly created a new one. The new SSD includes only riparian landowners (the old one included all landowners in the watershed) and the fee was raised to \$12/year to account for inflation since 2004 and to help support our efforts related to aquatic invasive species. The amounts collected pay for the lab costs to analyze the water quality samples. The labor to collect and analyze the data is provided through association volunteers, which most recently has been carried out by Larry and Irene Mullen. Larry and Irene have put a lot of time into this important effort so please thank

them when you see them. Maintaining high water quality is the central mission of this organization. The \$12/year fee is collected once every five years. On the tax bill you received recently you will see a \$60 assessment on line 13 "Caribou AUAR Sub Serv District". You will not see another assessment until 2027.

Variance Reviews. The board reviews all variance requests filed with the County with respect to all riparian land. We comment when we feel that the proposed variance would negatively affect water quality or aesthetics. Our aesthetics lens is about preserving the existing character of the lake, and most often comes into play when structures would be more visible from the lake either because of location or vegetation removal. We were successful in the most recent instance of persuading the Board of Adjustment to make changes we thought were important for both water quality and aesthetic reasons.

Aquatic Invasive Species. We continue our efforts to prevent, detect and combat AIS. Unfortunately rusty crayfish have arrived in Caribou Lake, from Bigsby, from Murmur Creek, from Pike Lake. Last summer we set up traps to gather them and reduce population levels, and those efforts will continue into next year. We are also keeping educated about best practices with respect to controlling the spread and impacts of rusty crayfish. In addition, we continue to support the inspection station at the boat launch and several members volunteer time to staff that position to expand coverage beyond what is staffed by the County. We are also considering building a kiosk at the boat launch to facilitate communication and to provide a place for the inspector to get out of the elements.

Spring Meeting Format Change. Our fall meeting is the annual meeting where the business of the organization takes place. We are re-formatting the spring meeting to allow more social time, and consequently will have a more abbreviated business portion of the agenda.

Wake Boats/Wake Surfing

by Karl Karst, Board Member



Wake surfing has become a popular recreational activity in past years. Wake surfing is done behind a powerful boat that is specifically designed and equipped to generate large waves. Unlike traditional water skiing or wake boarding, where the rider is pulled using a tow rope, a wake surfer merely rides unattached on large waves generated by the boat.

There are a number of problems associated with wake surfing on lakes which are narrow or shallow. Waves generated by wake surfing boats impact shoreline at much greater distances than traditional fishing and water skiing boats. (A wake surfing boat has a similar impact on shoreline at 500 feet that a fish and ski boat might have at 100 feet.) And due to the high horsepower needed to generate large waves, the boats can impact the bottom of the lake, stirring up sediment which can release previously contained phosphorous into the lake waters. (These powerful boats can stir up sediment at depths of 15 feet and greater.) There is also a potential AIS (Aquatic Invasive Species) impact as water may be pumped in and out of ballast tanks aboard the boats. (Ballast is used to increase wave height.)

The CLPOA is currently investigating possible methods of limiting or controlling the use of wake surfing boats on Caribou Lake. A discussion of how to limit the impact of wake boats on our lake is planned at the next association meeting. For those that are interested, a petition to prohibit wake boats and wake surfing on Lake Caribou will be available for signature at the spring meeting

Cook County Coalition of Lake Associations (CCCoLA) Update

By Irene Mullen, CCCoLA Rep.

We are an action-oriented independent organization made up of Cook County lake and road associations. Serving as an umbrella group, the Coalition Board of Directors (23) brings together these associations to focus on issues of common interest such as promoting and implementing sound and responsible lake and shoreland management practices. Our goal is to develop an informed community of Cook County lakeshore property owners who accept responsibility for the preservation and protection of their lakes and who work actively to protect their quality.

New and exciting meetings and events coming up this summer:

Dates and locations:

- June 3rd 9:00-11:00 am – Mid Trail Community Center – continuation of our work with Lake Plans and DNR updates
- July 8th 9:00-11:00 am – Council Chamber, Court House – continuation of our work with Lake Plans and updates from Cook County SW and MPCA
- August 12th, 9:00-11:00 – Mid Trail Community Center -TBD
- September 9th, 9:00-11:00 am Council Chamber, Court House - TBD

Lake and Land Workshop – Loving our Lakes to Death? – Community Workshop

- June 9th, 9:00-11:00 am Community Center Grand Marias – CC Land Services, CCSW and other community resources will be sharing information. This is an opportunity to ask questions and share concerns.

Fishermen's' Picnic

- August 5th – 7th - CCCoLA will have a booth to share information and share the mission of CCCoLA -Protecting, Preserving and Participating the health of the pristine lakes of Cook County. Stop by and say hi!

Welcome to new members from Loon and Greenwood Lakes!!!

Rusty Crayfish Harvest

By Larry Mullen, Water Quality Sub-committee



Volunteers successful harvested 1087 invasive Rusty Crayfish in 2021 from the Bigsby bay area. The harvest was conducted in June, before the females reproduce. Rusties were first discovered in that bay in 2020 by the USFS. Indications are that they traveled from Pike Lake via Murrum Creek and Lake Bigsby into Caribou Lake.

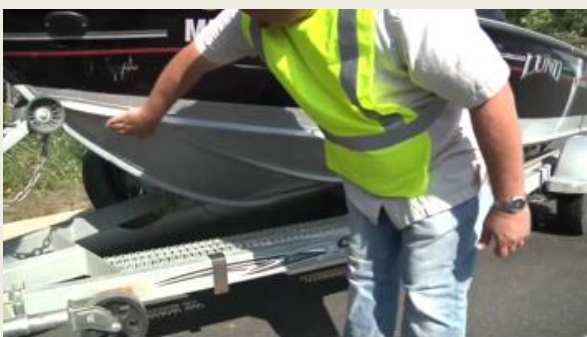
The harvest program is again planned for 2022. We will be concentrating again in the Bigsby bay area and also expanding to all areas of the lake where we can get volunteer coverage. The main thrust will be to conduct the harvest in June.

We are looking for volunteers to help with the harvest. Would you be interested in maintaining a trap at the end of your dock or perhaps helping with the Bigsby bay harvest? The association has an inventory of newly purchased traps.

More information on the harvest will be given at the Spring Membership meeting. You can express your interest in volunteering at the meeting or emailing CLPOA.MN@gmail.com.

DNR Ambassador Program

By Larry Mullen, Water Quality Sub-committee



In an effort to protect our lake from aquatic invasive species (AIS), CLPOA has had volunteers participate in the DNR Ambassador program since 2017. Ambassadors work at our landing, educating boaters in AIS prevention and assisting in boat inspections at times when the county inspectors are not scheduled.

Ambassador Training is given by the DNR Watercraft Inspection Program staff. Training is given at the DNR regional office, but training could be held in Lutsen if we can get a sufficient number of new volunteers.

More information on the program will be given at the Spring Membership meeting. You can express your interest in volunteering at the meeting or emailing CLPOA.MN@gmail.com

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.