Stewards of the Sauk River Chain of Lakes

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A Publication of the Sauk River Chain of Lakes Association

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SAUK RIVER
CHAIN OF LAKES
ASSOCIATION

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About the Cover: Photograph submitted by Brad Matuska, Knaus Lake – First Spring Ski

This magazine is a biannual publication of the Sauk River Chain of Lakes Association (SRCLA). The opinions expressed in the stories printed herein are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions nor the official position of the SRCLA nor any of its directors or members. Please address any comments or inquires to the committee contact. The magazine is printed by the Cold Spring Record.

President's Message

by Brad Matuska, SRCLA President

SRCLA President Brad Matuska

For ten years, John Rocky was the president of the Sauk River Chain of Lakes Association (SRCLA). He and a group of passionate volunteers worked tirelessly to do their best to improve the Sauk River Chain of Lakes (Chain). I had the pleasure of being on the SRCLA Board for part of John's tenure, and he was tenacious and inspiring in his efforts despite being pulled in multiple directions for higher priorities like his family and work. Thank you to John and to all of the others that have volunteered on the SRCLA! You are all an inspiration and have continued the legacy of 40 years of good work for a noble cause.

The passion to help improve our body of water and this legacy of good work are two of the reasons why I volunteered to be president. But mostly, the biggest reason why I agreed to be president is the incredibly talented and dedicated people that are on our Board. They are all simply amazing!

A quick review of 2022:

- We celebrated our continued financial support through charitable gambling at Shady's Long Shots.
- We celebrated some of the highest levels of water clarity on record.
- We celebrated our ability to achieve a level of control against the invasive plant, curlyleaf pondweed.
- We celebrated our early discovery of the invasive plant, Eurasian watermilfoil, on Horseshoe which made management so much less expensive and less problematic.
- We celebrated the installation of a remote water level sensor to warn us of flood conditions.

We still have challenges too. The early flood was a disaster for some property owners. We have a high nutrient problem. There are no management options for zebra mussels right now, but through supporting research at the University of Minnesota, we hope that will change.

If you have a love for the Chain and are as inspired as I am by the work of the SRCLA, you can help by being a member, volunteering, and gambling a bit at Shady's Long Shots. Also, consider not using lawn fertilizers or doing a lakescape project on your property to reduce nutrient run-off. Please continuously visit our website, *srcl.org*, for resources and updates. And most of all, engage a Board member and thank them for their good work.

Help Name Our Magazine

The Sauk River Chain of Lakes Association (SRCLA) Board hopes you are enjoying the new look and content of our first issue of the SRCLA magazine. You may have also noticed that this first issue of our magazine does not have a name!!

That's where you come in! Help us name this new magazine which is replacing our former newsletter but will still be published twice a year in the Spring and Fall.

Email your magazine names to ann.warling@gmail.com. The SRCLA will accept magazine name ideas through the end of 2022. In January, the name for our new magazine will be chosen.

Thank you for sharing your creativity and passion for the Chain of Lakes.

Photos Needed

The Sauk River Chain of Lakes Association is in NEED of photographs of our beloved Chain of Lakes!

When you are out and about this enjoying lake life - Please capture those moments that make you smile, feel wonder at the beauty, or just represent the best of living on the Chain!

Email your photographs to ann.warling@gmail.com. The higher the resolution the better - because it will allow us to use the photograph in a variety of ways. We can always reduce the resolution - but cannot increase if we wish to use a photograph in a larger size format print media.

We are so looking forward to seeing the images you capture!

Aquatic Invasive Species Committee Report ——by Gene Krebs, Aquatic Invasive Species Committee Chairman

The Sauk River Chain of Lakes Association (SRCLA) had a successful year in managing aquatic invasive species. About 59 acres of curly-leaf pondweed (CLP) were chemically treated and a number of acres were mechanically harvested on Great Northern, Becker, Long, Krays, Bolfing, and Knaus Lakes. In addition, Limnopro Aquatic Science developed a composite map of CLP on the entire Chain to better understand where it is and to help us with our management strategy for next year. Also, Clarke Aquatic Services chemically treated about 15 acres of hybrid watermilfoil (HWM) on Horseshoe Lake. Limnopro will follow up with a post-treatment survey to determine how effective the treatments were as well as to determine if HWM has spread to other lakes. The funds to support these efforts came from the gambling proceeds at Shady's Long Shots, membership dues, and a grant from Stearns County.

Unfortunately, there is no effective way to manage zebra mussels at this time. The SRCLA is closely watching the low copper dosage research and other research being done by the Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center at the University of Minnesota to control zebra mussels.

Please remember to Clean, Drain, and Dry all of your equipment when entering or exiting the water. If you purchase a dock or a lift that is coming from another body of water, remember that it is required to have that equipment sit on land for at least 21 days. Any organisms on the equipment will die off in that time frame.

For any questions about aquatic invasive species, please visit our website at *srcl.org*. The plant survey results and treatment area maps are continuously updated and located at *srcl.org/projects/*. Please note, the SRCLA does not manage the aquatic plants along the frontage of properties. For resources on how to manage your frontage, type "Aquatic Plants" into the search engine at *srcl.org*. If you have additional questions, please contact Gene Krebs (*gene.j.krebs@gmail.com*) or Wayne Karg (*ontraxtruckrepair-@embarqmail.com*).

Vice President's Notes

by Aaron Schwartz, SRCLA Vice President

When I agreed to join the Sauk River Chain of Lakes Association (SRCLA) Board, I didn't have any idea of what projects the Association was involved in. We had been members for a couple of years prior but didn't really have a good appreciation for the work that was being done to better our water system. Now that I have been on the Board for the past three years, I am in awe of all the work a dedicated few have done over the past 40 years. It was this eye-opening experience that sparked my interest in taking over the Vice President role on the Board. I thought how can we share all the hard work that is being done by the Board members and our volunteers? How do we continue to grow this community of stakeholders? My mission moving forward will be to explore more avenues to connect with all that have an interest in our Chain of Lakes as well as the surrounding communities.

We have a great group of board members that spend countless hours of service to the mission of the SRCLA. I want to be able to share those activities, celebrate our accomplishments, and connect with the community to help problem solve our challenges. I envision a social community where we can effectively share important news (think no wake zone status), Board activities, as well as local social events. Please keep an eye out in the near future for some updates on this topic as we form and implement this plan moving forward. Also, if this is exciting to you or you have an interest in improving our water system, please consider becoming a member. For this association to reach its full potential, we will need the participation from the larger community of Chain of Lakes stakeholders.

Treasurer Report

by Troy Atkinson, SRCLA Treasurer

First off, I want to thank Charlie Montreuil for his many years of service as the Treasurer of the Sauk River Chain of Lakes Association (SRCLA). He has done a wonderful job over the years and has helped us to get to a very stable financial position to really make a difference on the lakes. His knowledge and expertise will be missed, but he has helped me make the transition smooth as the new Treasurer. Thank you again Charlie!

The SRCLA set a rather large budget for 2022 of over $164,000 to be used on multiple projects to make your enjoyment of the lakes better. Thank you to every one of our 397 Members and our 48 Business Members (as of 8/17/22) as we could not do this without your help and support. We received grants from Stearns County along with our charitable gambling we run at Shady's Long Shots which have contributed to our budget to give us the opportunity to do more for the lakes in 2022 than we ever have.

So far for 2022, here is how the income numbers are stacking up:

- Memberships Income- $37,651
- Grant Income-$20,978
- Gambling Income-$40,000

So, what did we do with all of this? Well, we budgeted to spend over $164,000 as I mentioned and into August we have spent over $133,000!

Where did it all go:

- $104,043 Aquatic Invasive Plants-Surveys, Chemical Treatments and Mechanical Removal
- $8,320 Aquatic Prevention-Boat Launch Cameras (ILIDS) Operation
- $2,831 Water Quality- Monitoring of water clarity and nutrients
- $6,013 40th Anniversary Annual Meeting and Celebration
- The rest is for administration costs and marketing/newsletters.

Lastly, the SRCLA took an inventory of all of its assets (ILIDS, rock buoys, maps, marketing materials, etc) and we calculated a value of $47,000.59 as of July 31st for everything the association owns. The majority of the value comes from the four ILIDS we have at $9,500 each ($38,000) and the 20 rock buoys with their cable hookups and concrete blocks ($2,890) and lake maps ($2,125).

We do still have set aside over $3,000 for grants through the Land Use Committee for homeowner's making improvements on their property to reduce the water runoff impact into the lake. Look for stories from Richard Gallea, Land Use Committee Chairman, highlighting these folks and the wonderful improvements they made.

We also have the cost of the rock buoy's installation and removal to pay for along with some other lake surveys to get us prepared for next year's battle with those pesky invasive weeds!

Thank you once again for your contributions and continue to help us improve the Sauk River Chain of Lakes.

New Payment Options for 2023!

Tired of writing checks for your SRCLA Membership. We have great news for you, so look for some new payment options for 2023. We are exploring in-person credit/debit card payments, an online link to use a card, or even the ability to set up automatic annual or monthly payments. We are striving to making it easier and more convenient for you to pay your annual membership contributions. Have an opinion on what you would like to see us use? Email *troy@pierceinsurance.com* and let me know your thoughts.

Have You Considered Native Landscaping

by Richard Gallea, Land Use Committee Chairman

There is growing interest in replacing traditional turf lawns along our shorelines with native grasses and wildflowers, a practice called lakescaping. According to data from the Stearns County Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) team, at least 21 properties around the Chain have initiated lakescaping projects over the years, including five in the past year. And there are undoubtedly other landowners that have tweaked their shorelines on their own. Look elsewhere in this issue for an article highlighting recently-completed projects by your neighbors.

For many landowners, having a lush, green lawn is highly valued, and the effort required to maintain it is well worth it. And no one is suggesting that lawns should be replaced altogether. There's no reason why lawns and native buffer zones can't coexist and complement each other in any given lakeshore property.

So, why should a landowner consider creating a native buffer zone along their shoreline? There are numerous benefits:

Reduced Invasive Plant Growth and Algae Blooms
Even a modest buffer zone (10' - 20') will help filter out undesirable nutrients and chemicals before they reach the lake, a key factor in reducing excessive plant growth and improving water quality.

Enhanced Drought Resistance
Unlike turf grass, native grasses and wildflowers require very little irrigation. With roots that extend four feet or more below ground, native plantings are able to sustain themselves with moisture that's not available to short-rooted lawns.

Improved Wildlife Habitat
Desirable wildlife tend to avoid mowed grass, preferring the diverse habitat afforded by taller grasses and wildflowers. You're much more likely to see fireflies, butterflies, frogs and the like with a native buffer zone.

Reduction in Nuisance Animals
If your shoreline is plagued by geese and ducks, planting tall grasses will almost certainly prompt them to relocate to your neighbor's lawn. They generally want nothing to do with tall grasses that prevent them from seeing predators.

Less Costly and Less Time-Consuming Maintenance
Once your native lakescape is planted and mature, there's very little effort – or money – required to maintain it. And who wouldn't appreciate less time spent mowing!

And the piece de resistance? The availability of cost-share programs to minimize your out-of-pocket expenses!
There are a couple of options to defray the expense of converting part of your lawn into a native buffer zone. One is a program administered by the SWCD, which has access to various funds. If your project meets the SWCD's criteria, up to 75 percent of the costs can be covered by this program.

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Mower? What Mower? It's fun to see how native buffer zones evolve over time, with different wildflower species asserting themselves each year.

It's a MN Law!
Docks & Boat Lifts must be out of the water at least 21 days before putting in another body of water.

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Additionally, the Sauk River Chain of Lakes Association (SRCLA) Board has budgeted funds to provide partial subsidies to association members with qualifying projects. This funding is consistent with the Board's mission to promote enhanced water quality and the best practices that promote that goal. If you avail yourself of both programs, your out-of-pocket expenses can be minimal.

If you're interested in learning about options to create a shoreline buffer zone on your property, there are a number of helpful resources available to you. One of the best is Greg Berg at the Soil & Water Conservation District (*Greg.Berg@mn.nacdnet.net*). Greg and his team have years of experience with best practices regarding shoreline modifications, and he would be happy to come to your site to discuss options with you, up to and including the development of a detailed plan and assistance with the grant program.

You can also contact any of the many local landscape companies that specialize in lakescaping. And, of course, feel free to contact me (*rjgallea@gmail.com*). As the head of the SRCLA Land Use committee and the owner of an extensive native project, I'd be happy to meet with you to discuss options and walk you through the SRCLA subsidy program.

Sauk River Chain of Lakes Association (SRCL)

Land Use Assistance Contract/Application

General Information

Amendment ☐ Cancelled ☐

SRCL Yes ☐ No ☐

Organization | Contract Number | Other federal or other state funds? | Board meeting date(s)

Applicant

Land Occupier Name | Address | City/State | Zip | Phone #

Conservation Practice Location

Physical Address | Lake Name

Contract Information

I (we), the undersigned, do herby request cost-share assistance to help defray the cost of installing the following practice(s) listed as described on the second page of this contract. It is understood that:

1. In no case shall the SRCL provide cost-share assistance to a land occupier or landowner for the reapplication of a practice that was removed by the land occupier or landowner during its effective life without consent of the SRCL board or that failed due to improper maintenance. The specific operation and maintenance requirements for the conservation practice listed are described in the operation and maintenance plan prepared for this contract by the conservation district technical representative. If title to this land is transferred to another party before expiration of the aforementioned life, it shall be the responsibility of the land occupier or landowner who signed this contract to advise the new owner that this contract is in force.
2. Practice(s) must be planned and installed in accordance with technical standards and specifications of the: USDA Field Office Technical Guide, and guidance from State of Minnesota and/or Stearns County Soil and Water Conservation District.
3. Items of cost for which reimbursement is claimed are to be supported by invoices/receipts for payments and will be verified by the SRCL board as practical and reasonable. The SRCL board has the authority to make adjustments to the costs submitted for reimbursement.

Applicant Signatures

The land occupier's signature indicates agreement to:

1. Grant the organization's representative(s) access to the parcel where the conservation practice will be located.
2. Obtain all permits required in conjunction with the installation and establishment of the practice prior to starting construction of the practice.
3. As part of practice certification, the project site may be photographed. These photographs may be used by the SRCL for but are not limited to: reporting, documentation, and publications.

Date Landowner/Spokesperson

Date Land Occupier if different from applicant signature Address if different from applicant information

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Conservation Practice

The land project for which cost-sharing is requested is _____

_____

1. What is the primary objective of project?

_____

_____

2. How will this project help our lakes?

_____

_____

3. Effective life of project?

_____

_____

Technical Assessment and Cost Estimate

1. Total project cost estimate _____
2. Who has approved or engineered the project?

_____

Entity Contact Name Phone Number

2. What percent is being paid by a government entity? What entity?

_____

_____

3. How much are you needing or looking for to make sure project gets completed?

_____

_____

Amount Authorized for Financial Assistance

The SRCL Organization Board has authorized the following for financial assistance, to be funded to applicant after project is completed.

$_____from_____

Enter program name and fiscal year

$

_____

Board Meeting Date Authorized Signature Total Amount Authorized

Flowering Rush Project Upriver

by Brad Matuska

Aquatic invasive species can cause recreational, economic, and ecological damage – changing how we use and enjoy the water of Minnesota. One such species, flowering rush, was discovered on Sauk Lake a number of years ago. It is actually an attractive decorative plant, but once introduced to a lake or river, its aggressive growth along shoreland can:

1. Make it difficult to access the water,
2. Overtake and outcompete native plants, potentially lowering biodiversity, and
3. Provide unsuitable shelter, food, and nesting habitat for native animals.

This past Spring, Stearns County Parks employees discovered a new population of flowering rush 15 miles downstream from Sauk Lake near Melrose. It is spreading downriver, and the Sauk River Chain of Lakes Association (SRCLA) wants to make sure it doesn't make it to the Chain. The SRCLA designated Brad Matuska to manage an aquatic invasive species control project through the Stearns Coalition of Lake Associations which is being funded by a grant from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MN DNR). The goal of this project is to keep flowering rush from spreading further. The project will take place over two years in which the location and concentration of flowering rush will be determined over that 15-mile area. Once surveyed, it will be chemically treated. Other entities involved in the project include Limnopro Aquatic Science, Clarke Aquatic Services, Stearns County Parks, MN DNR, and the Sauk River Watershed District. For questions about this project, please contact Brad Matuska at *brad@mississippitopsoils.-com.*

Flowering Rush (Butomus umbellatus).

Photos Needed

The Sauk River Chain of Lakes Association is in NEED of photographs of our beloved Chain of Lakes!

Email your photographs to ann.warling@gmail.com.

Living with Zebra Mussels in the Sauk River Chain of Lakes

by Meg Duhr, MAISRC

Now that zebra mussels have unfortunately become established in the Sauk River Chain of Lakes, you might be starting to notice some of their more visible impacts. Perhaps you're finding empty shells washed up your shoreline or live mussels covering your dock or lift. Maybe you've started wearing water shoes to avoid cutting your feet on the shells. The water is probably noticeably clearer than it was a few years ago and you might be seeing plants growing out in deeper water than they did before zebra mussels arrived. These are some of the more visible impacts of zebra mussels. With their rapid reproductive rate and capacity to filter large volumes of water, zebra mussels are considered ecosystem engineers and despite their tiny size, they can have massive impacts to aquatic food webs, water quality, and habitat for plants, fish, and other wildlife. As a lake resident, you're probably already familiar with some of the recreational impacts of zebra mussels, and it can be disheartening to know that until the research advances (and I can promise you, there is much reason for hope here!), you need to learn to live with them. This doesn't mean that there's nothing you can do to manage the negative impacts of zebra mussels, however, and it certainly doesn't mean that the fight against aquatic invasive species (AIS) is lost. Zebra mussels are just one species of harmful AIS in Minnesota. On-going focus on AIS prevention is even more important now.

The primary way that zebra mussels can change a lake is through their feeding. Zebra mussels are filter feeders, siphoning large volumes of water and efficiently filtering out the microscopic plants (phytoplankton) and tiny animals (certain smaller zooplankton species), as well as other particles in the water column. An early study on the rates of filter feeding zebra mussels in Saginaw Bay, Michigan, found that the population was able to filter the entire volume of the inner bay's water up to 1.3 times per day! In this process, both edible and inedible organisms are passed through zebra mussels and the associated nutrients end up at a lake bottom, altering the foundations of aquatic food webs. The perpetual removal of plankton by colonies of zebra mussels effectively shunts a large portion of energy and nutrients from the water column to the bottom of a lake or river. For many species, including the zooplankton species that are important prey for young walleye, moving the nutrients to lakebed makes them unavailable.

Many lakes with established zebra mussel populations will see dramatic lakewide reductions of both phytoplankton and zooplankton. Phytoplankton are the tiny, photosynthetic organisms in the water column and, in uninvaded lakes, typically compose some of the highest overall biomass of a water body. Large populations of zebra mussels filter so much phytoplankton and other suspended particles that the water clarity increases, often dramatically. While we all appreciate the aesthetics of a clear lake, this is not necessarily a good thing. For many lakes, particularly those in Central Minnesota, murky or semi-murky water is the natural healthy state and the plants, fish, and other animals in that lake evolved to low-light conditions.

But with zebra mussel filtration leading to greater water clarity, sunlight penetrates deeper into the water column. This increases the area and depth with enough light to support photosynthetic activity. Zebra mussel filter-feeding and waste products also change the availability of phosphorus within a lake, by moving phosphorus from the water column to the bottom of the lake, especially in nearshore areas where zebra mussel settlement is dense. Greater phosphorus availability, more light, and warmer water, in turn, promote aquatic plant populations by allowing them to grow deeper and cover larger portions of invaded water bodies. While many plant species respond favorably to this, invasive species such as curly leaf pondweed and Eurasian watermilfoil which already have competitive advantages over native species, tend to capitalize on these altered conditions most readily. For this reason, it is crucially important to aggressively manage invasive plant populations following zebra mussel establishment and work to prevent any new plant introductions.

What about the fish?

We know that increased water clarity directly impacts plant growth, abundance, and species composition; and this impacts the habitat conditions for fish survival, growth, and reproduction. Altered vegetation communities also change the day-to-day predator prey interactions of fish, favoring some species over others, changing the dynamics for recreational anglers. It is generally believed that increased water clarity and light favors species like northern pike, muskellunge, and bass, while disfavoring species like walleye that require darker, colder water. While there is abundant anecdotal evidence of fishing declining after zebra mussels, we have only recently actually quantified these impacts to food webs.

This Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center (MAISRC) study, led by Dr. Gretchen Hansen and continuing today, analyzed samples from all parts of the aquatic food web and incorporated a 35-year Minnesota Department of Natural Resources dataset from annual shoreline seining (a commonly used fisheries sampling method that involves large nets pulled through shallow waters by people) at

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Minnesota's nine largest walleye lakes (Lake of the Woods, Rainy, Kabetogama, Vermillion, Red, Cass, Mille Lacs, Leech, and Winnibigoshish) to look at differences in walleye and yellow perch size and growth across lakes with zebra mussels, spiny water fleas, or both. Uninvaded lakes were included in the study as well. The researchers found that walleye in their first year of life grew more slowly in the presence of zebra mussels and were 12-14 percent smaller at the end of their first summer. The long time series allowed the researchers to compare the growth of young walleye in a lake before and after invasion by zebra mussels (and spiny water fleas).

While the large lakes may not be representative of most lakes in Minnesota, ongoing studies are looking at small and medium sized walleye lakes using the same methods, to see if a similar dynamic exists. What we do know from decades of fisheries research is that slower growth during the first year is associated with higher mortality due to increased predation, lower energy reserves to help them survive through the winter, and delayed access to a wider range of prey. With walleye, size at the end of their first growing season is a reliable predictor of long-term survival. When fewer young fish survive to adulthood, a local fishery will decline.

Zebra mussels are also a threat to native mussels because the hard shell of a native mussel or clam represents the ideal settling substrate for zebra mussels. Native mussels can become so encrusted with zebra mussels that they are no longer able to open their shells and they perish. Zebra mussels have been directly linked to the local extirpation of many native mussels and are one of the main factors behind the decline of these vitally important creatures.

Nuisance Management

Swimming

In many infested lakes, zebra mussels forever alter the swimming experience because their sharp shells can cut bare feet. Accumulations of empty zebra mussel shells on swimming beaches may also become a hazard. What can we do about it? Most lakeshore residents simply adapt to zebra mussels in their swimming areas by wearing water shoes. A simple rake and shovel can be used to scrape zebra mussels into a pile and, if necessary, the sand can be conserved and shells filtered out using a mesh screen. Specialized lake rakes for zebra mussel removal are also available through online vendors. If their growth on swim ladders becomes a problem, a putty knife works well to scrape them off. If your swimming or dock area has severe mussel accumulation, lakeshore property owners have several options. Moving larger rocks outside of the primary swimming area into deeper water is an easy fix, however, this should be done in moderation. Consider that in a heavily developed lake, if every lakeshore resident moved all of their shallow water rocks into deeper water, that could have large-scale impacts on habitat for aquatic invertebrates and plants. There are also several companies operating in Minnesota that remove zebra mussels for homeowners. Depending on the situation and the services requested, a team of divers uses a hot water pressure hose to remove zebra mussels from riprap, piers, and larger rocks in the swimming area. Manual removal methods such as scraping may also be employed in some cases.

Docks, Lifts, and Floats

This equipment presents ideal settling habitats for zebra mussels. Putty knives or thick leather gloves can be used to remove mussels from dock poles and other gear. When docks are removed for the winter, if they are to be returned to the same body of water it is not necessary to clean the mussels from it. They will have died over a winter being out of water. However, if you are moving the equipment to another lake or selling it, Minnesota state law requires that it must be out of the water for a minimum of 21 days and be cleaned of all plant and animal material before transport.

Boats

Zebra mussels can be damaging to boats and engine systems if they are left in the water for prolonged periods. If you store your boat on a lift you don't need to worry about zebra mussel establishment on or in the motor as long as you ensure that all parts of the boat are out of the water between uses. It is particularly important to raise the boat high enough on the lift or to trim the engine to ensure that the lower unit stays out of the water between uses. This reduces the risk that zebra mussel larvae in the engine's cooling system could establish and foul pumps or other components. Similarly, boaters who trailer their boats between lakes do not need to worry about mussel establishment on their equipment, however, these boaters do represent one of the highest risk vectors for further zebra mussel spread, particularly if they visit another lake shortly after being in an infested waterbody.

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Continued vigilance

A new invasion of zebra mussels may make it seem like the battle against AIS is lost at your lake. In truth, the opposite is the case: this is the time to double down on outreach and future prevention efforts: ensuring that signage at public access points is up to date, that visitors have information about and access to local decontamination stations, and all lakeshore residents are aware of the new developments and risk factors that boats and in-water equipment now carries. The need for continued and increased vigilance cannot be overstated. For one, it is important that every effort is taken to ensure that your lake does not become the source population for the next new infestation of zebra mussels. Two, there is growing awareness and concern about the effects of multiple introduced species within a water body. Zebra mussel populations tend to become severe and then stabilize at tolerable levels, but if additional invasive species such as spiny water fleas or starry stonewort are present, impacts could be far more severe than any of these species on their own.

Researchers at MAISRC are working year-round to develop solutions to manage existing populations of zebra mussels, prevent future spread, and unlock the genetic techniques that could lead to eradication, but while the research progresses, we all have an important role to play in limiting their spread to more lakes.

Members Volunteer

by Kersten Thellin, SRCLA Member Volunteer

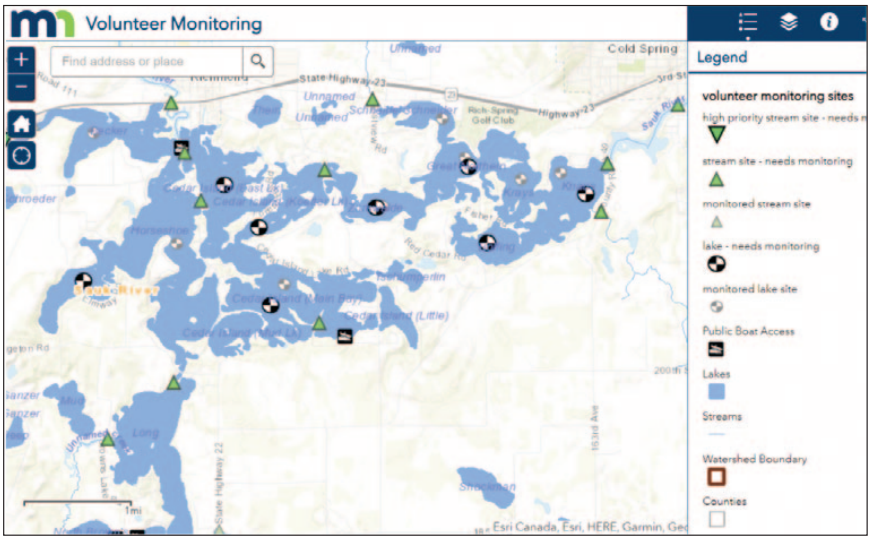
The Sauk River Chain of Lakes Association (SRCLA) is always looking for more volunteers! There are many opportunities available to join in caring for the Chain of Lakes such as being a board member, helping to ensure the success of the gambling fundraising efforts (bingo & meat raffles), participate in road cleanup, and so many other options. Contact SRCLA President Brad Matuska to find out how you can volunteer at *brad@mississippitopsoils.com*.

Another great way to support a healthy Chain is to participate in the Volunteer Water Monitoring Program, operated by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MnPCA). A volunteer simply finds a spot on the Chain of Lakes and signs up! Volunteers measure the water clarity of lakes and streams, and the MnPCA uses that valuable data to make decisions on watershed protection and restoration. For some lakes and streams, volunteer monitoring provides the only data available, making this work indispensable.

Volunteers conduct water clarity tests at least twice a month each summer at designated locations on lakes or streams. To determine water clarity, volunteers find the disappearance/reappearance point of a Secchi disk (the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources provides the disk) as it descends into a lake or a specially designed stream collection tube. Volunteers submit their readings at the end of each monitoring season. It's super easy!

Lake volunteers need access to a water craft (canoe, kayak, paddleboat or motorboat) to participate. Stream volunteers can monitor from a bridge or stream bank.

To sign up, visit *https://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/join-volunteer-water-monitoring-program*, pick a site, and complete an enrollment form. There are several locations available on the Chain of Lakes. It's a great way to help make a difference!



MnPCA Volunteer Monitoring Map for the Sauk River Chain of Lakes.

Volunteers record Secchi disk readings.

Land Use Committee Report: Lakescape Spotlight

by Richard Gallea, Land Use Committee Chairman

As mentioned in another article in this issue, creating native buffer zones along the shoreline is becoming increasingly popular. Nearly two dozen projects have been completed with assistance from the Stearns County Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) over the years, along with an unknown number of private projects that landowners have executed on their own.

Let's take a look at two projects recently completed by residents of the Chain of Lakes, both with partial subsidies from a Land Use fund established by the Sauk River Chain of Lakes Association (SRCLA) Board.

Randy Siem

Randy owns a parcel on Cedar Island Lake that has a steep slope to the lake, as well as a gravel path that stops just short of the shoreline. He worked with the SWCD team to develop a comprehensive project that addressed several issues:

- The removal of a retaining wall by re-grading to the natural topography and adding native vegetation.
- The removal of a sand blanket, which was replaced with low mow fescue grass
- Improvements to an eroding path to the lake, involving the installation of 'diversions' that direct run-off into native vegetation rather than directly into the lake.

The project was installed by Brad Vierkan, Natural Resource Services, who worked closely with Randy and the SWCD team to ensure the project met the requirements to enable a subsidy from state funds, as well as meeting the long-term needs of the landowners to access their dock and shoreline.

The overall project cost was $16,500, of which 75 percent will be covered by state funds. An additional 13 percent of the project costs will be covered by a grant from the SRCLA as part of their support of native buffer best practices.

The slope to the lake before the project started..

The slope after planting native vegetation. It will take a year or two for the plantings to fill out.

Lakescape Spotlight continued on page 17

Tired of Weeds in the Chain?
Stop Fertilizing Your Lawn!

Lakescape Spotlight continued from page 16

Barb & Dennis Gregory

The Gregory's own a home on Zumwalde Lake that has a steep slope to the shore that was plagued by prickly ash and buckthorn, as well as being a challenge to mow. Working with Steve Heymans, Prairie Scapes Landscaping, they came up with a plan to remove the invasive vegetation and turf grass, and plant in its place a variety of native grasses and wildflowers. Not only will the Gregory's no longer need to mow the long slope, but the native plantings will help filter any pollutants before they reach the lake.

The Gregory's planted eight types of grasses, including Little Bluestem and Prairie Dropseed. The planting plan also included 27 different species of wildflowers, including Black-eyed Susan, Spotted Bee Balm and milkweed. A fun fact about milkweed is that it's the host plant for monarch butterflies, whose larvae feed exclusively on milkweed leaves. So, the Gregory's are likely to enjoy a boost to their monarch butterfly population for years to come!

The Gregory's opted not to apply for state funds via the SWCD, and the SRCLA board approved a 25 percent subsidy to offset part of the $2,900 cost of the project.

Congratulations to Randy Siem and Barb & Dennis Gregory's for their recently-completed shoreline projects!

If you are thinking about a lakescape project and have questions, contact Richard Gallea at 612-859-9895 or email *rjgallea@gmail.com*.

Looking up from the Gregory's shoreline before the project started.

The same view after the project was completed. It will take a year or two before the new plantings really start to pop.

Meat Raffle
Friday Nights at 6 pm
Starting October 21, 2022

Join us at Shady's Long Shots for loads of fun!

EST 1982
SAUK RIVER
CHAIN OF LAKES
ASSOCIATION

During October through April
Gambling #01870

Bingo
Wednesday Nights at 6:30pm
Starting October 19, 2022

SRCLA Membership Levels

See Page 20 for SRCLA Membership Form

NEW MEMBERSHIP OR MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

EST 1982
SAUK RIVER
CHAIN OF LAKES
ASSOCIATION

SAUK RIVER CHAIN OF LAKES ASSOCIATION

WWW.SRCL.ORG

PO Box 369
Richmond, MN 56368

Name:	
Business Name:	
Current Address (street, city, state, zip):	
Lake Property Address (street, city, state, zip):	
Lake you live on:	Home Phone:
Email Address1:	Cell Phone1:
Email Address2:	Cell Phone2:

MEMBERSHIP DUES CONTRIBUTION

Individual/Family Membership Level:
___$40 Sunfish ___$60 Crappie ___$80 Walleye ___$100 Catfish ___$150 Bass
*(All Individual/Family Memberships receive a **SRCL Association Membership Decal**. See www.srcl.org for more information.)*

Business Member: ___$75 *(Business name included in Membership Listings in the SRCL.org, Spring and Fall Newsletters.)*

Business ELITE Member: ___$150 *(Business Member benefits PLUS your logo linked to your website/Facebook in SRCL.org's Business Carousel.)*

Donate additional amount for a specific area?
(please identify additional amount into appropriate area below)

Walleye Stocking: $_____	Weed Control: $_____	General Fund: $_____

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN DONATING YOUR TIME?

(please circle interested area below)

Invasive Species	Fisheries	Weed Control
Land Use	Water Quality	Road Cleanup
Gambling – Bingo night	Gambling – Meat Raffle night	Board Member

Your contribution is tax deductible!

SRCL 1982

SRCLA ONLINE STORE

EXCITING NEWS: Please watch our website (*srcl.org*) for our online store to be opening again from October 22nd through November 5th, 2022! We have so many options for logo clothing and other items, so make sure to take a look when it is available to order from again. Below is just an example of a few the items being offered.









Marketing/Public Relations Committee Report —— by Susan Antolak, Marketing/Public Relations Chairwoman

The Sauk River Chain of Lakes Association is celebrating 40 Years!

We want to thank everyone who came to our annual meeting and 40th anniversary picnic. What a beautiful day we had!

The Sauk River Chain of Lakes Association (SRCLA) has had a busy summer supporting River Lake Days and the Rock the River concerts. We will also be sponsoring the Catfish Fest on the Sauk River Chain of Lakes on February 10th and 11th, 2023. Looking forward to seeing you all there!

We are always looking for volunteers to help on our committees. If you are interested in volunteering, please reach out to one of our board members.

Please continue to support the SRCLA by participating in our gambling opportunities at Shady's Long Shots in Cold Spring, along with their great drink and food options. Gambling includes Bingo on Wednesday's and Meat Raffles on Friday's during the winter months, along with year-round Pull Tabs and E-Tabs.

Bingo starts at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, October 19th at Shady's Long Shots!

Meat Raffle starts at 6 p.m. on Friday, October 21st at Shady's Long Shots!

Photos Needed The Sauk River Chain of Lakes Association is in NEED of photographs of our beloved Chain of Lakes!

Email your photographs to ann.warling@gmail.com.

Fisheries Committee Report

The Sauk River Chain of Lakes continues to be one of the better fisheries in Central Minnesota! For the most recent detailed fisheries report, please visit our website at *srcl.org* and look at the newsletter from Spring 2022. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources plans to do walleye sampling in October and the next lake surveys are scheduled for 2024. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Matt Noska via email at *noska76@aol.com* or by phone at 763-913-5654.

Water Quality Committee Report

by Aaron Schwartz, SRCLA Board Member

This year the Sauk River Chain of Lakes Association has again partnered with the Sauk River Watershed district on our water sampling program. We have been out on the Chain of Lakes monthly taking both water samples and water clarity readings on six of our lakes. Those lakes include: Horseshoe, Cedar Island, Schneider, Krays, Knaus, and Zumwalde. The water samples that we take are used to test the levels of Total Phosphorus (TP) and Chlorophyl A. These data points are important to our system as the TP is the nutrient load that our lakes are holding, and the Chlorophyl A levels indicate the green tint in our waters. We will receive the results from this sampling activity around the end of the year and will publish them on our website for everyone to review. The water clarity readings will also be included in the annual report; however, I can share a few of these data points with you at this time. You don't have to analyze the data to notice that our waters have been substantially clearer this summer. I won't go into the pros and cons of that clear water in this article but did want to show some of the readings from last summer compared to this summer's results. It is astonishing the differences in one year.

There is another update that I would like to share which is that I will be transitioning out of the Water Quality Committee Chairman position moving to the Vice President role. I will leave the position in the very capable hands of Gary Schnobrich. Gary will be continuing the work with the road clean up and water sampling. I want to take a moment to thank all of the people that have volunteered their time to the road clean ups. It was great to see all of you on those brisk mornings, and I hope that you continue to offer your time to this great event. Again, I thank you and look forward to what is next for this committee.

Water Clarity Depth

	June		July		August	
	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021	2022
Horseshoe	7'9"	9'8"	3"	5'4"	2'6"	4'8"
Cedar Island	5'6"	12'6"	4'8"	8'4"	3'	7'7"
Krays	4'1"	3"	2'2"	3'2"	1'6"	5'2"
Knause	6'8"	3'9"	2'2"	3'8"	1'3"	4'
Zumwalde	2'2"	3'2"	1'8"	2'10"	1'8"	4'8"
Schneider	7'	12"	4'8"	7'9"	3'6"	11'5"

Battling Lake Weeds

by Dan McEwen, Limnopro Aquatic Service, Inc.

Nobody likes to spend their free time at the lake removing overgrown weeds. It is not uncommon for people to remove hundreds of pounds of plants over the growing season just so that they can boat, fish, swim or otherwise enjoy the water in front of their property. As a lake management company, every year we get phone calls and emails from exhausted lakeshore owners asking what can be done about these nuisance plants and the overwhelming work required to keep on top of them. We feel their pain.

So, what can be done? There are really two ways to control runaway weed growth in lakes. The first is through mechanical removal, which just means you pull, cut, rake, or use any other type of physical means to get rid of plants. The second is through chemical control. Just like you might use herbicides to kill weeds on your lawn or garden, certain herbicides are manufactured to work under the water on plants.

No doubt the most common method for removal is mechanical, which is the source of people's exhaustion. It's a lot of work and because you leave portions of the plants behind, it doesn't take long for them to return. From our experience, the more effective way to control lake weeds is through the use of chemical herbicides.

Unfortunately, the rules that govern how nuisance plants can be controlled are not simple, and most processes that bring noticeable results, including the use of chemical herbicides, require a permit from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MnDNR). Really, the only thing you are allowed to do without a permit is to remove submerged plants, through pulling or cutting along 50 ft of your shoreline and out 50 ft lakeward. For any other types of control, a permit is required.

Any lake in Minnesota has a plant community that consists of between 15-20 different species on average. These different species have unique growth forms, grow in different habitats, grow at different times of the year, and have different propensity to create nuisance conditions. The most common problem plants we see are curlyleaf pondweed, coontail, milfoils, duckweed, water celery, and water lilies with a matrix of filamentous algae growing over the top of everything. While you do not need to be able to identify the species causing problems, the MnDNR expects you to know the difference between vegetation types, which include submerged plants, floating plants, emergent plants and macroalgae.

Submerged plants are rooted species (e.g., coontail, curlyleaf pondweed, milfoils) that grow fully underwater. Floating plants are those that are rooted (e.g., water lilies) or not rooted (e.g., duckweed) that have leaves floating on the surface of the water. Emergent plants are rooted with portions of stems that extend out of the water (e.g., bulrushes, cattails, wild rice). Finally, macroalgae are not really plants at all. They are called macroalgae because you can see them with the naked eye, whereas most algae are microscopic. Groups of macroalgae that are common in Minnesota lakes include muskgrass and filamentous algae.

The permitting process goes something like this. You apply for a permit through the MnDNR Permitting and Reporting System or MPARS, which can be accessed through the MnDNR webpage. MPARS will ask you to specify what group of vegetation you want to control, why you want to treat it (the correct answer is to improve recreational opportunities), how you propose to control it (i.e., chemical or mechanical), how much area you propose to treat (e.g., 50 ft of shoreline out 100 ft lakeward), where the area will be located relative to your property (e.g., centered at dock), and whether you will do the control activity yourself or hire a company to do the work. You pay an annual fee of $35 for the permit to the MnDNR to be processed. The very first year you apply, the MN DNR will come to your home for a site visit to see what sorts of vegetation you have growing. They are generally looking for things they like to protect. After their review, they will either issue a permit as you requested or modify it in some way. Usually, but not always, the MnDNR will permit you a treatment area equal to half of your owned shoreline width out 100 ft lakeward. The permit will have information about what you can do as well as when the control can take place. At that point, you can perform the control. Generally, there is some requirement of end of the year reporting on what you actually did. In future years, as long as you do not change what you want to do, the MnDNR will not come for a site visit and the process is more streamlined.

If this all sounds complicated, it is, or can be. If you hire one of several local commercial companies to do plant control, many will take care of the permitting process as part of the deal. It does come at a cost though. For an average property, you should expect to pay $400-$800 for a year of control from a commercial company whether that be for mechanical removal or chemical treatment. If you do the chemical treatment yourself, the cost can be approximately halved, and, of course, if you stick with mechanical removal, it's free!

One of the distinctions I haven't made so far is between native and invasive aquatic plants. Invasive plants are

Battling Lake Weeds continued on page 24

Battling Lake Weeds continued from page 23

species that are from other countries than the USA. The most common invasive plants in Minnesota lakes are curlyleaf pondweed and Eurasian watermilfoil (and the related hybrid watermilfoil) with starry stonewort potentially becoming a third problem to keep an eye on. Curlyleaf pondweed first made it to Minnesota in the early 1900s. Eurasian watermilfoil first appeared in the mid 1980s, and starry stonewort first appeared in 2017.

Native plants have had hundreds or even thousands of years to live together and learn to get along to create a sort of balanced plant community. When a new species is introduced from a different country, sometimes it can upset that balance, and in the worst cases take over large expanses of the lake, preventing the native and balanced plant community from thriving. Both curlyleaf pondweed and Eurasian watermilfoil are particularly successful because their nature is to grow to the surface of the water in thick mats. This shades out the understory, preventing any other plants from growing. Left unchecked, these invasive species can take over and create quite a mess. Given invasive species can cause such a problem in lakes, the MnDNR has special programs to control them that have a whole set of different rules than those that apply to treating your shoreline.

The Sauk River Chain of Lakes has curlyleaf pondweed (and pretty bad at that) in every lake and has for some time. Just last year, for the first time, algae hybrid watermilfoil was discovered in Horseshoe Lake, and it seems to be spreading quickly. Hybrid watermilfoil is a cross between native milfoils and the invasive Eurasian watermilfoil. These hybrid watermilfoils often are even a bigger problem than pure strains of Eurasian watermilfoil because they tend to take characteristics from both the native and invasive milfoils that make them extra good at growing and resisting control efforts.

The Sauk River Chain of Lakes Association spends money annually to control large amounts of the invasive curlyleaf pondweed and is also aggressively going after the newly discovered hybrid watermilfoil. It is important to recognize that this is a different program than what you are able to do on your shoreline. At your shoreline, you can treat any nuisance plants, regardless of whether they are native or invasive. The large area treatments offshore that the lake association pays to have treated annually can only treat areas that have either curlyleaf pondweed or hybrid watermilfoil treatment growing. So, if you see a map and wonder why your area isn't being sprayed while other areas on the lake are being sprayed by the lake association, keep in mind that it is because the goal for control and the rules that govern such differ between the two programs.

Finally, while certain aquatic plants can be a nuisance, it is important to understand that aquatic plants are important to the ecological functioning of a lake. Aquatic plants provide habitat and food for other organisms in a lake. They reduce wave impacts to shorelines as well as stabilize sediments, keeping nutrients out of the water column that might otherwise lead to poor water quality due to stimulated algae growth. Lakes that have very few plants or those that are overcontrolled often end up in a turbid state, green with perpetual algal blooms and stinky water. Nobody wants that!

The plants belong, and you will never be entirely rid of them. No matter the control method, you should manage your expectations. The goal should be not to eliminate, but to reduce them to a degree that allows you to enjoy your lake experience.

Lake Level Monitoring for the SRCLA

by Steve Weeres, SRCLA Board Member

Water level is a fundamental variable of a lake. It is expressed as an elevation in feet above sea level, as defined by an agreed to reference. The knowledge of water level has both short-term and long-term benefits. Short term it provides a reference to identify high and low water events and proper management of these events. If lake level data can be correlated to other measurements in the watershed, it is possible to predict how precipitation events may affect lake level, giving stakeholders an advanced notice to prepare. Long-term data shows normal fluctuations as well as extreme high and low levels.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MnDNR) has a program for monitoring lake levels: Lake Level Minnesota Monitoring Program. An elevation gauge is installed in the lake and a volunteer periodically observes the reading on the gauge and reports the value to the MnDNR. The data is fed into a database and can be viewed on the MnDNR Lakefinder. This data can be useful long term but depends on frequent updates which is difficult to manage.

The high-water event of this past May exposed a gap in knowledge on water level of the Chain. There was no warning on the level that the lake would get to, which led to many property owners losing items in the water or having their deployed lifts/docks damaged. There was no quantitative lake level data available to set and release the no-wake restrictions. Had the Chain had easily accessible real time lake level data available, both of these issues could have been greatly mitigated.

I have been developing a solution for water depth monitoring for wastewater treatment ponds. The solution is based on a buoy that could be deployed in the lake year-round. With software changes the buoy it was repurposed to measure lake level. A prototype was installed in Horseshoe Lake in early July for a two-month trial. The results exceeded expectations. The productized version of the buoy has been developed and the necessary permit obtained from the Stearns County Sheriff. The buoy will provide Sauk River Chain of Lakes (SRCL) water elevation, water temperature and ice thickness (if present) measurement every 12 hours. The measurement data is sent over the cellular network to a portal on the internet. The data is available on the *srcl.org* website. The data will be archived and form a historical data base for SRCL water elevation. This capability will not only be a resource for the residents of the SRCL, but also for commercial and government agencies that are responsible for various aspects of our lakes.

The installation and maintenance of this capability is being provided to the SRCLA by Winter Recreation Technologies at no cost. We believe that it will provide a valuable service to the residents of the SRCL and be an example of the application of advanced technology to better manage our valuable resource. Data can be viewed at SRCLA Lake Elevation Portal: *www.srcl.org/lake_elevation*. Additional information regarding the water level equipment can be obtained at Winter Recreation Technologies; *www.winrectech.com* or email *stevesrclb@gmail.com*.

Winter Recreation Technologies has deployed this buoy year-round in Horseshoe Lake to measure water levels.

MEET AT THE HIGHWAY 22 BOAT LAUNCH

We will supply safety vests and trash poles

*Weather permitting— if a change needs to be made we will alert participants via Facebook.

Aquatic Invasive Species Awareness, Prevention Committee Report by Steve Weeres, Committee Chairman

New Committee Structure

The Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Awareness and Prevention Committee is a new addition to the Association committee structure for 2022. This committee takes the current responsibility for the Internet Landing Installed Device Sensors (I-LIDS) systems and expands the role to address the broader need to increase awareness of the issue of AIS transport into and out of the Sauk River Chain of Lakes (SRCL).

Specific actions include:

- Review of signage/messaging at our access points.
- Review of best practices and new ideas to increase awareness.
- Implement improvements identified from the reviews above.
- Aggressive AIS awareness and education activities.

It is essential to remain diligent in the fight to prevent the spread of AIS both into and out of the SRCL.

I-LIDS Update

The Sauk River Chain of Lakes Association (SRCLA)continues to maintain the I-LIDS at the four public access points on the SRCLA; Highway 23, Highway 22, Highway 71, and Long Lake. For the time period May-August 2022, I-LIDS observed the following number of boat launches by location:

- Highway 23 access point: 288 launches
- Highway 22 access point: 750 launches
- Highway 71 access point: 613 launches
- Long Lake access point: 610 launches

This is a total of 2,261 launches for the season into the SRCL. Each time a boat is launched in the water, it is an opportunity to insert AIS into the ecosystem. With this high level of activity, it is paramount that we do all we can to ensure that those launching craft do the right thing and prevent the introduction of invasive species by inspecting their rig before entering the water. Correspondingly, there is a boat retrieval for every launch. It is equally important to emphasize proper procedures to prevent the export of invasive species.

The SRCLA continues to maintain a collaborative agreement with the Stearns County Sheriff's Office to investigate AIS violations and issue a warning or citation to the boater. During this season three violations were observed and reported to the Sheriff's Office for review. An example is shown below.

This image is an example of the capability of the I-LIDS system and the review process. The SRCLA Board

AIS Awareness continued on page 29

Image captured by I-LIDS

Note the weeds remaining on boat trailer as the boater pulls away from the landing.

AIS Awareness continued from page 28

believes that the presence of the I-LIDS at our access points emphasizes the importance of proper cleaning and inspection procedures needed to ensure the AIS-safe launch and retrieval. From the data above we note a low number of violations indicating that there is a consistent effort to Clean-Drain-Dry.

SRCLA is committed to continued investment into strategies to create awareness of this simple message. We can all do our part, both with our own activities and reminding visitors of the importance of following proper procedures when launching and retrieving watercraft.

We are always looking for new ideas to promote awareness of AIS transfer. If you have an idea or are aware of effective methods others have implemented, contact the author at *SteveSRCLB-@gmail.com*.

Look what's new at the Highway 22 boat landing. The Sauk River Chain of Lakes Association has added this sign. We are all responsible for protecting the Chain of Lakes.

SRCL 1982

Sauk River Chain of Lakes Association Vision

To be a passionate group of volunteers that strive to be good stewards of the Sauk River Chain of Lakes by working with all of its stakeholders to preserve and protect water quality, wildlife, and lake life while also promoting improvements through learning, education, and assistance.

Starry Trek Team Report

by Wayne Karg, SRCLA Board Member

On August 20th, a group of 22 volunteers from the area met at the Lake Koronis public access to identify and collect samples of the lake weeds. A sample was provided by a Lake Koronis property owner and identified as starry stonewort.

The group was broken into teams of two and three members and given area lakes to visit to identify and collect samples primarily focusing on the starry stonewort, but also looking for Eurasian watermilfoil. The teams were instructed to rake at least five samples at each lake access from around and near the docks at the public accesses. The team of Richard Gallea and Wayne Karg visited Big Lake access, Cedar Island Hwy 71 access and Horseshoe Hwy 22 access. Any questionable weed samples were collected and brought back to the team on Lake Koronis for analysis. All samples collected at the landings were found to be negative for starry stonewort and Eurasian watermilfoil.

The first starry stonewort was identified in the Great Lakes area and in 2015 was found in Lake Koronis and Mud Lake in the Paynesville area. The weed was later found in Grand Lake in 2017. Not only is the starry stonewort invasion affecting Stearns County, it is a state wide issue and early detection has proven beneficial to the eradication shown in the decrease in weed harvested each year from Lake Koronis and Mud Lake. With the continued water clarity, the increased sunlight into the lakes increases weed growth.

Our group of volunteers was the largest that has worked while noting some areas of the state, without local lake associations, struggle with the lack of volunteers. Without the volunteers, the University of Minnesota sends out staff to areas where possible invasive species have been spotted by property owners to identify and collect samples and develop a plan to try and reduce the spread. Keep your boat and equipment clean and dry when moving from lake to lake to prevent further spread of any invasive species.

For questions regarding weed identification go to *www.mndnr.gov/ais* or call 651-259-5100.

Volunteers examine weed samples for Starry Stonewart.

Aquatic Plant Management Part I: Managing Invasive Vegetation

——by Amy Kay, Clarke Aquatic Services

Why manage invasive and nuisance vegetation?

Many lakes are impacted by the excessive growth of invasive plants and harmful algae. Aquatic invasive species (AIS) such as Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM), its hybrid (HWM) and Curly-leaf pondweed (CLP) are established on the Sauk River Chain of Lakes. They can rapidly form dense beds that top out on the water's surface, blocking out sunlight and oxygen while obstructing the growth of beneficial native vegetation - which in turn displaces fish and other wildlife due to the negative impacts on their habitat. AIS and nuisance vegetation also impact recreational activities such as boating, fishing and swimming. Thankfully, by managing the problematic vegetation, beneficial plants are encouraged to grow, reestablishing a desirable wildlife habitat, a more balanced ecosystem, and an enjoyable lake.

Why aquatic herbicides?

When developing a plan to manage invasive and nuisance aquatic vegetation, it is important to consider different methods of controlling species from an integrated vegetation management (IVM) approach. Methods include physical control (hand pulling, harvesting, etc.), biological control (weevils, bacteria products, etc.), and chemical control (aquatic herbicides and algaecides). IVM promotes the consideration of all management options while balancing the benefit analysis of successful control, environmental impact, public health, regulatory compliance and cost.

In most cases, aquatic herbicide and algaecide products tend to be the most efficient and cost-effective way to manage established populations of invasive and nuisance vegetation. These products go through a rigorous approval process with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) – for example, one product may take up to 12 years to receive a label approved for aquatic use with tests, trials and more costing as much as $40 million dollars.

Eurasian/Hybrid Watermilfoil Control on Horseshoe Lake

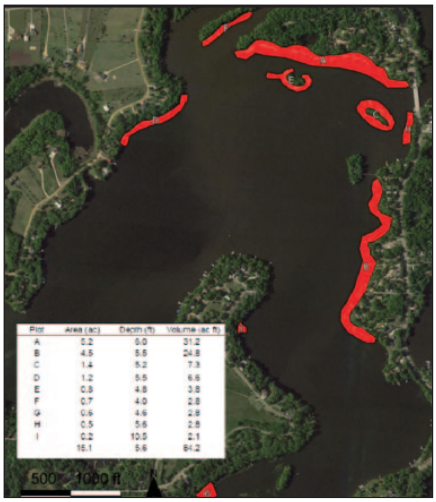
Through a lake management plan implemented by the Sauk River Chain of Lakes Association (SRCLA), EWM/HWM was identified on Horseshoe Lake during routine survey work performed on the Chain. The Association acted swiftly to control the recently established populations by collecting plant samples for genetic testing, mapping potential management sites, and collaborating with Clarke Aquatic Services (Clarke) to develop an aquatic herbicide strategy for the most effective control possible. Working with SePRO Corporation (SePRO), a manufacturer of aquatic products, Clarke presented a strategy to control the established EWM/HWM with their aquatic herbicide, ProcellaCOR.

ProcellaCOR (florpyrauxifen-benzyl) is a selective, systemic aquatic herbicide. In this context, selective refers to a product's tendency to control only the targeted plant(s) (in this case EWM/HWM) while having minimal to no impact on anything else. Systemic, refers to its ability to control the entire plant from its leaflets to roots. Clarke recommended ProcellaCOR due to research supporting its ability to selectively control EWM/HWM quickly (usually within about two weeks) and that it may provide longer term control (up to three years) without needing to target the entire lake at one time – a treatment strategy commonly referred to as spot treatments.

Another compelling feature of ProcellaCOR is that it is classified as a Reduced Risk Pesticide by the USEPA. This classification means the USEPA considers it to be safer than traditionally approved and used aquatic products.

Clarke is a PRO Certified ProcellaCOR Specialist – a required certification to purchase and apply ProcellaCOR.

SRCLA provided a map of management sites via the survey work completed by Limnopro Aquatic Science. This included nine targeted sites with size ranging from 0.2 surface acre to 5.2 surface acres for a total of 15.1 surface acres on Horseshoe Lake. The proposed, agreed upon, and permitted by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MnDNR) strategy was an application of ProcellaCOR EC at five Prescription Dose Units (PDU) per acre foot of water. The map and strategy can be seen here.



A map showing the areas in need of management provided by Limnopro Aquatic Science.

Aquatic Plant Management continued on page 33

Aquatic Plant Management continued from page 32

2022 HORSESHOE LAKE EWM/HWM Management Area Data + Strategy				PROCELLACOR EC (florpyrauxifen-benzyl)		
EWM SITES	SURFACE ACRES	MEAN DEPTH	VOLUME	RATE PDU/ACRE FOOT	PDU PER ACRE	TOTAL PDU
A-22	5.2	6.0	31.2	5.0	30.0	156.0
B-22	4.5	5.5	24.8	5.0	27.5	123.8
C-22	1.4	5.2	7.3	5.0	26.0	36.4
D-22	1.2	5.5	6.6	5.0	27.5	33.0
E-22	0.8	4.8	3.8	5.0	24.0	19.2
F-22	0.7	4.0	2.8	5.0	20.0	14.0
G-22	0.6	4.6	2.8	5.0	23.0	13.8
H-22	0.5	5.6	2.8	5.0	28.0	14.0
I-22	0.2	10.5	2.1	5.0	52.5	10.5
TOTALS	15.1		84.1			420.7

Clarke deployed one of their Conserve® to perform the ProcellaCOR treatment to Horseshoe Lake on Tuesday, July 26, 2022. Conserve, a proprietary, technologically advanced product application vessel, was designed to achieve precision herbicide and algaecide applications with onboard technology that guides licensed aquatic pesticide applicators with GPS to and within the treatment areas. Conserve can target any portion of the water column providing immediate, direct contact with the desired species. During applications, a SmartFlow® system regulates the rate of product application to ensure consistent and thorough applications are made.

Mapping technology is also used simultaneously to collect accurate treatment data - including water temperature, depth, and submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) coverage. The use of Clarke's Conserve system coupled with concurrent mapping is one of the ways Clarke prioritizes using best available technologies and management practices exceeding both state and federal compliance requirements.

Of course, the management of AIS and nuisance vegetation on a lakewide basis – whether targeted for control with spot treatments or a whole lake herbicide approach – can vary greatly from the management needs of a private shoreline. So, how does the treatment of a private shoreline differ from that of a lake's entirety? Find out this, as well as what to look out for, different application methods, and more in the next installment of our Aquatic Plant Management Series in the Spring 2023 SRCLA magazine.

Clarke's Conserve boat with concurrent mapping technology.

A treatment map depicting where Clarke applied ProcellaCOR within Horseshoe Lake.

Sauk River Chain of Lakes Association 2022 Members

Becker Lake

Catfish Level
Jill Graham

Walleye Level
Ronald & Valeria Flint

Crappie Level
Kenny Huckenpoeler
Jeffrey & Cynthia Kummer

Sunfish Level
Ronald & Betty Backes
Greg & Nancy Bartes
Timothy & Marie Lingl
Jim & Laurie Meyer
Michael & Jeanne Purnick
Randy & Mary Rothstein
Steve & Chris Stang
John & Hilda Tschumperlin
Jean Weber

Bolfing Lake

Bass Level
Garth & Kathy Fagerbakke
Thomas & Kathryn Graham
Bret McElwee
Trent & Lynn Negaard
Don Ophein

Catfish Level
Troy & Sarah Atkinson
Bill & Jennifer Cahoy
Rodney & Lois Maetzold

Walleye Level
Thomas & Lenore Bolfing
Tom Klein & Deborah Wiese
Jacob & Ashley Reiter
Paul & Amy Schmidtbauer
Thomas Zappa

Crappie Level
Donald Walz
Barb Zorbitz & Greg Taft

Sunfish Level
Donat Backes
Roxann & Matthew Dorweiler
Rick & Lynn Farr
Jennfier Olson & John Wolfe

Brown Lake

Bass Level
Cindy Becken & Dean Olson

Cedar Island Lake

Bass Level
Hoobie & Bonnie Eskuri
Mark & Kim Johnson
Rodney & Kathy Peterson
Robert & Cynthia Waldon

Catfish Level
Chuck & Janet Dezurik
Barbg Eiynck
Tom & Janet Jacobson
Robert & Sue Marty
John & Laurie Ohotto
Derek Schultz

Walleye Level
Randy Anderson & Carol Burns
Randy & Susan Antolak
Candy Burns
Jack Gabler
David & Kim Kohorst
Nicholas & Tammy Koop
Daniel & Deb Lanik
Douglas & Kristy Petermeier
Chuck & Deb Pille
Tim & Pam Schlangen
Jonelle Streed

Crappie Level
Donald Lee Family
Loren & Patricia Malziewski
Michael & Sharon McCarney
Wanita Misico, Timothy & Brian Irwin
David & Janet Molda
Brad & Melissa Riebel
Mike Rozycki
Don & Cynthia Weld
Andy & Mary Woychek
Sherry Ye

Sunfish Level
Rick Antolak
Brian & Kerry Bechtold
Troy & Kelly Boettcher
Randy Bringgold
Mark & Pam Carlson
Eileen Decker
Sharon Clemons & Cherise Erickson
Steven & Carol Dahlson
Jon & Sue Diederich
Bill & Carol Eisenreich
Jon & Darlene Folkedahl
Donald & Mary Holthaus
Mike & Sue Iten
Bob & Gail Johnson
Lisa Koll & Shazad Ahmad
Lawrence & Pamela Kreuger
Thomas & Dona Laumann
Scott & Sandi Maselter
Luke Reiter
Sharon & Chuck Schoenberg
Randy Siem

East Lake

Bass Level
Cindy & Lowell Haagenson
Austin & Barbara McDonough
Richard & Lynda Seitz

Catfish Level
Mark & Lisa Brinker
Mark & Robin Caufman
Mike & Jennifer Holasek

Walleye Level
Gary & Ruth Athmann
Douglas & Mary Backes
John & Ruth Heinen
Mike & Janelle Peart
Gregory & Tama Theis
Sandy & Jim Whisler

Crappie Level
Adam & Samantha Frie
Jeremy & Nicole Geiger
Amy Hunter & James Leinen
Gregory & Mary Ann Johnson
Barbara & James Platten
Romie & Jen Schmitz
Chad & Carolyn Stang
Lavon Suckut
Brian & Mary White
Dave & Julie Wik

Sunfish Level
John & Janet Anderson
BJVI Brinkman Properties LLC
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Stephen & Dawn Jensen
Brent Koosmann
Dennis & Kathleen Needham
Kenneth & Nancy Oksendahl
Pete & Rita Peterson
Doug & Deb Phelps
Margie Rothstein
Dave & Kelli Ruegemer

SRCLA Members continued on page 35

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Gary & Judy Schloeder
Margaret Smith Wenner
Clyde & Marylou Terwey
Rick & Roxie Theisen
Robert & Jennifer Walker
Galen & Angela Wax

Great Northern Lake

Bass Level

Richard & Mary Gallea
John Rocky
Kurtis & Tina Scepaniak

Catfish Level

Kendall & Tamah Dahlquist
John Kaufman
Chuck & Lori Kuebelbeck
Jeff & Jackie Lund
Tom & Mary Lynch
Mike & Jessi O'Brien
Richard & Sheila Pulju

Walleye Level

Philip & Correne Keefauver
Lane & Melissa Laubach
Steven & Kathleen Mooney

Crappie Level

Kurt & Bonnie Hemmesch
Steve & Sheri Nash
John & Lois Rausch
James & Cynthia Rowe
Joey & Dee Ruegemer

Sunfish Level

David & Loraine Ashfeld
Jim & Yvonne Betts
Gregg & Sherry Bryant
Brian & Karen Cash
Doug & Laura Giese
Rodney & Theresa Keefauver
Kathleen Loehlein
John & Carol Marshall
Rick Pflipson & Pam Gibbs
Stephen Prozinski
Tom & Chris Wicklund

Horseshoe Lake

Bass Level

Doug & Jodi Friedrichs
Charles & Jodee Montreuil, Jr
Trygre & Holly Nystuen
Todd & Diane Roorda
Jim & Lisa Rush
Thomas & Karon Scherer
Adam & Lisa Schulte

Catfish Level

Paul & Julie Blacklock
Jeremy & Melanie Carpenter
Jesse & Diane Crooks
John & Liz Ginther
Joe, John, & Mary Jo Haeg
Ward Isaacson
Mike & Barb Jerhoff
David & Lisa Kempston
Jason Lehnen
Tim & Ila Macik
Dylan McIntosh
Jeffrey & Mary Milbert
Kevin & Elizabeth Mortinson
Michael Nielson
Ken Robeck
Del & Jody Ruegemer
David & Nancy Schrupp
April Schumacher
Jerrad & Sharon Sunde
Elton & Donna Tilbury
Nick & Judy Trotter
James & Lillian Wawra

Walleye Level

Brian & Scheila Athmann
Stephen Bernu
Kenneth & Deborah Blasing
Todd & Deb Boettcher
Kip Cameron
Dave & Vanessa Ebling
Aaron Foix – Brown Family
Wendell & Marilee Giese
Tom Gilmore & Vera Novak
Gary & Ruth Gruba
Tom & Casy Kraus
Matt & Ashley Landwehr
Scott Loehrer
James & Barbara Lundborg
Scott & Patti Savoy
Todd & Meghean Shea
Mike & Debbie Singler
Trent Thies
John & Corinne Whelan
Jeremy & Janene Willner

Crappie Level

Jim & Maureen Atchison
Anthony & Viola Barthel
John & Peggy Beckius
Thomas Bruening
Mike & Lisa Daum
Julie Flammang
(Janet Flammang Trust)
Don & Kelly Foehrenbacher
(Stearns 5 LLC)
Rick Menden
Duane Steil
Don & Kathleen Winter
Barry & Denise Tipka
Britta & Nate Zarbok

Sunfish Level

Gary & Donna Anderson
Sheila Anderson
Robyn Bitz
Roger & Barree Boettcher
Thomas & Rhonda Borresch
Kevin & Wendy Brisky
Charles & Doreen Chirhart
Neil & Kay Cook
Thomas & Kathy Dirks
Larry & Mary Donnay
Dennis & Dru Dukart
Mary Ann Elfering & Fred Wells
Everett & Myrna Engebretson
John & Carol Fjelsta
Gregory & Judy Flint
David & Pam Grass
Michael Gray & Beth Kegler-Gray
Brad & Brian Hansen
Kevin & Cindy Heap
Amy Hiltner
Ron & Mary Kron
Benjamin & Debbie Manning
James & Mary Merchlewicz
Thomas & Laura Meyer
Curtis & Barbara Peterson
Harvey & Mary Schmitt
Thomas & Eileen Schoenecker
Mary Schommer
William & Mary Schrobilgen
Robert Sommers & Andrea Adamson
Lee & Cindy Steckman
Marvin & Luann Sticha
Steve & Nancy Strong
Glen & Sandra Schlueter
Norman & Lavon Venske
Earl Von Ende
David Wolfe
Jody Woller
Duane & Lynn Yurek
Rodney Zimmer

Knaus Lake

Bass Level

Nichole & Brad Matuska

SRCL Members continued on page 36

SRCLA Members continued from page 35

Cyril & Rose Schmitz
Shane & Karla Smetana

Catfish Level

Jen & Rick Krauter
Mark & Judy Spies

Walleye Level

Chuck & Anne Johnson
Jason & Kristine Jones
Paul & Kerry Peterson
Julie Pung
Ronald Schmitz & Diane Polman

Crappie Level

Tom & LouAnn Fickett
Dale & Debra Guggenberger
Randall Kalthoff
Jay & Mary Lou Landowski
Curtis & Susan Sauer

Sunfish Level

Steve & Theresa Anderson
Kevin & Debbi Dierkhising
Ron Dropik
Ralph & Dorothy Hansen
Deb Harren
Bert & Patricia Johnson
Donald & Lorraine Jungles
Kevin & Terri Larison
Daniel & Marion Mumm
Steve & Brenda Peterson
Jerry & Ann Salzer
Debra Sorenson
Sherry Telschow

Koetter Lake

Bass Level

Brad Droege
Monica Kahout
Michael & Taylor Mazur
Linda Smith & Mary Bahe

Catfish Level

Marilyn Balfanz
Janet Bauer
Richard & Linda Burm
Bruce Ferch
Pervez & Ruth Mistry
Connie & John Selden
James & Karen Stoos

Walleye Level

Dan & Pamela Davey
Jim & Sandy Hughes
John & Patricia Krueger
Allan & Clare Mackedanz
Aaron & Krysten Schwartz
Terry & Sandy Wolff
Brian Zimmerman

Crappie Level

Roger Bechtold
Curt & Amy Bertram
Ed & Wanda Hanson
Bret & Kim King
Tom Roof

Sunfish Level

James & Liola Dold
John Kruchten & Sharon Bahe
Mark & Sheryl Lindgren
Mark & Jule McCauley
James & Cheryl Odegard
Jim & Deb Schaff
Jonathan & Sara Voss

Krays Lake

Bass Level

Larry & Carol Zeman

Catfish Level

Tim & Dana Doering
Ken & Deb Henrickson
William & Kelly McKinney

Walleye Level

Stuart Nelson
Joseph & Mary Wenner

Sunfish Level

Willard & Bernie Backes
Ken & Joyce Bertram
Ed Cotter
Craig & Paulette Martinson
Bryan & Mary Messer
Mark & Denise Nierenhausen

Little Cedar Island Lake

Bass Level

Mike & Sheri Kealy
Micheal & Jenny Hidding

Walleye Level

Chris & Patty Jackson
Thomas & Nancy Sherman

Crappie Level

Bret & Jamie Anderberg
Paul & Andrea Baker
Robert & Lisa-Marie Hanson
Layton & Linda Zellman

Sunfish Level

Gerald & Nancy Fiecke
Anne Howard
Donald & Alecia Kottke
Robert & Linda Wendlandt
Steve & Heather Wilson

Long Lake

Bass Level

Justin & Jamie Gabrielson
Kevin & Tammy Holthaus
Gene & Judy Krebs

Catfish Level

Jerry & Janet Kolasa

Walleye Level

Craig & Donna Flynn
Brad Martin
Todd & Kim Ostby

Crappie Level

Vaune & Mike Borreson
Ron & Kathy Elkins
Brad & Jen Erpelding
Dan & Jill Hagen
George & Joni Hemmesch
Sean Schlangen
Robert & Laura Schroden
Randall & Deborah Spotts
Brian & Jodie Steffensmeier
Richard & Nancy Tillman

Sunfish Level

Guy & Jennifer Evens
Rod & Julie Flann
James & Sandra Haasl
Jerome & Joanne Kockelman
Margaret & Arthur Kuechle
Mel & Kathy Landwehr
Darian & Denise Litzau
Mark & Kim Marschel
William & Zena Menth
Chad Mickelson
Janis & Karen Minnerath
Kathie & Marty Nelson
Patrick & Shelley Olberding
Mike & Pam Pefeninger
Bruce Spanier
Roger Weinmann
John & Julie Wilson

Park Lake

Bass Level

Jeff & Deb Steinworth

Catfish Level

Mark & Bonita Johannes

Walleye Level

Gary & Jeanne Schnobrich

Crappie Level

SRCLA Members continued on page 37

SRCLA Members continued from page 36

James Johnson

Sunfish Level

David & Virginia Johannes
Patrick & Kristine Kelly
Ken & Sylvia Raschke

Sauk River

Bass Level

Bill Nistler

Walleye Level

Jim & Lisa Kuechle
Gary & Tracy Terhaar

Crappie Level

Mike Liestman
Matt Noska

Sunfish Level

Jody & Linda Gueningsman
Tom & Kim Lindell
John & Dolores Maile
Tom & Terry Niehaus
James Olson

Schneider Lake

Bass Level

Dianne Dingmann & Lynn Spelman
Thomas & Rosalie Hall
Sean & Jill Grefe
Jeremy & Sue Schneider
Gary & Ana Theisen

Walleye Level

Wayne & Pamela Karg
Tim & Kersten Thellin
Doug Torborg
Alan & Barbara Weber

Crappie Level

Chris & Leah Aleshire
Tom & Helen Goebel
Mike & Amanda Henry
Todd & Delores Howen
Marvin & Evelyn Huss

Sunfish Level

Marilyn Creed & Allen Lambrect
Nicholas & Lisa Demuth
David & Shirley DiBrito
Stephen & Victoria Dibrito
Alice Jungels
James & Mary Leuer
Lyle & Barbara Lingofelt
Richard Lockhart
Gary & Rita Moening
Bernard Schneider
Wallace & Carol Simdorn

Zumwalde Lake

Bass Level

Anthony & Mary Couri
Barb & Dennis Gregory
Micah & Jamie Juelfs

Catfish Level

Max Johannes
Suzanne Lee
Mike Winegar

Walleye Level

Julie & Steven Reid
Larry Reisinger
Steve & Jill Vardsveen
Ron & Alice Zumwalde

Crappie Level

William & Lynda Dimmel
Dale & Lori Mandelko
Michael & Deane Stuber
Steve Torning

Sunfish Level

Joe & Cindy Beaulieu
Lee & Cathie Bolyard
Rod Gertken
Cory & Stacey Hertzog
Ryan & Ashley Mareck
Dan & Diane Schaible
Denis & Elenore Torgborg
Bernhard & Ann Warling
Scott Zika

Community Member

Walleye Level

Neil Perry

Crappie Level

Fred & Linda Strub

Business Elite

American Family Insurance
Channel Marine and Sports
Clarke Aquatic Services
Cold Spring Family Dentist
Edina Reality – Green Team
Feldhege – Remax Results
Flexible Pipe Tool Company
Golden Pond Homes
Granite Community Bank
KAS Properties
Kiess Bros. Shell – Bait, Liquor, Gas, & More
Kiess Oil Inc
Magnifi Financial
Mississippi Topsoils
North Country Processing, Inc
Purple Poodle Parlor
Richmond Bus Service
River Links Development
Riverside Resort
Roadway Sport-N-Trailer
Ruegemer's Island View Resort
Shady's Long Shots
Steil Insurance Services Inc
Sunset Cabin Services
Voigt Johnson Real Estate
Wealthcare, Inc
West Central Sanitation
Westwind Woodworkers
Winter Recreation Technology LLC

Business

American Legion Post Post 455
Buck Shot Hideaway, LLC
Brinky's Liquor
Call 4 Water
Century 21 First Realty Inc – Jennifer Schaefer
City of Richmond
Cold Spring Record
Eagleview Sales & Consulting
Egress Window Guy
Electrical Installers, Inc
Gilk Plumbing Heating & AC
Grandview Buildings
Haffley's Bar
Horseshoe Shores Association
In Tune Marine
Jeddeloh & Synder, PA
JH Muller Trucking
Lake Friendly Law Care & Landscape
Meyer's Cozy Corners Campground
Midsota Painting LLC
Murphy Granite
New Adventures Golf Cars & Sports
Peninsula Shores
Personal Touch Travel
Plantenberg Market Inc
Wenner's Hardware – Cold Spring

Photos Needed

The Sauk River Chain of Lakes Association is in NEED of photographs of our beloved Chain of Lakes!

Email your photographs to ann.warling@gmail.com.

Shoreline Use Matters

by Nick Neuman, MPP, MA, AICP

We all enjoy our lakes, streams, and wetlands. We appreciate clean water, beautiful trees, plants, wildlife, and solitude. It is no surprise that so many of us want to live on or near a body of water. How we use our shoreland property impacts our property values by impacting the quality of our natural resources. For this reason, the State of Minnesota designed shoreland rules based on science and citizen input.

Here is how you can help:

• To keep water clean, maintain natural beauty and prevent erosion of your shore. Leave natural vegetation between lawns and water, minimize the use of fertilizers, and encourage the growth of deep-rooted, native vegetation (no – those hostas are not what we are talking about!).

• To attract butterflies, songbirds, fish, and other wildlife, grow native plants, maintain natural habitat by allowing snags (dead trees) and low overhanging trees to remain along the shoreland or within the water.

• To respect your neighbors around the lake and preserve shoreland aesthetics, maintain the natural beauty which drew you to your property.

Stearns County Environmental Services can provide shoreland resources and is the permitting authority for shoreland alteration projects. If you have questions about shoreland alterations, building or moving structures on shoreland property, or about your septic system, please reach out to us.

You can find a summary of Stearns County shoreland standards here: *https://www.stearnscountymn.gov/779/Shoreland-Summary*

In the Spring SRCLA magazine, we will provide information on shoreline stabilization practices – including those that do not require permits from Stearns County or the DNR. Feel free to reach out and ask if you have questions between now and the next newsletter.

If you have any questions contact me at Stearns County Environmental Services 320-656-3613 or email *Nicholas.-Neuman@co.stearns.mn.us.*

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WE WANT YOU TO JOIN OUR TEAM!

The Sauk River Chain of Lakes Association Board of Directors is looking for energetic, passionate people to:

- Influence decisions impacting the Chain of Lakes
- Build community and local government partnerships
- Act as a catalyst for improving the overall water quality
- Serve as an ambassador for the lake system we all love

Our expectations are simple – Sauk River Chain of Lakes Association Board Members must:

- Attend monthly board meetings
- Contribute to newsletters
- Actively lead a committee such as Marketing, Community Outreach, Fisheries, Charitable Gambling, Aquatic Invasive Species, Land Use, Water Quality, Road Clean-Up, or Local Business Partnerships etc.
- Represent the Sauk River Chain of Lakes Association Board at occasional external events
- Partner with peers such as the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Sauk River Watershed District, Stearns County Government Representatives, etc

EST 1982
SAUK RIVER
CHAIN OF LAKES
ASSOCIATION

If you believe you can add value to the Chain of Lakes and you would like to be an active participant with our group, we have a volunteer opportunity that you could fill. In particular, we are currently looking for charitable gambling and roadside/bridge clean-up help. Please reach out to SRCLA President Brad Matuska at *brad@mississippitopsoils.com* to volunteer. We look forward to hearing from you!

Sauk River Chain of Lakes, Inc.
P.O. BOX 369 • RICHMOND, MINNESOTA 56368

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SAUK RIVER
CHAIN OF LAKES
ASSOCIATION