

CARIBOU LAKE ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER SPRING 2019

ANNUAL MEETING, JUNE 1, 10 AM

Open water, green grass and sunshine, at last!

The annual June meeting will be Saturday, June 1 at the Old Caribou Lake School (now the Sheet Metal Workers Academy) at the intersection of Industrial Road and Munger Shaw Roads. Come for coffee, juice and pastries at 9:30, the meeting will start at 10.

Please join the Caribou Lake Association. Last year we had 84 member families out of a total of 160 owners on the lake. We need to work together to protect and preserve our lake's ecosystem, advocate for responsible recreational activities, and enhance the relationships among lakeshore owners. We are all responsible for protecting our lake in order to pass on to future generations the beauty, wildlife, water and natural resources we enjoy today.

Items on the agenda for the business meeting will include an update on the new weed harvester and plans for weed harvesting, AIS inspection and prevention for Caribou, election of officers, and program plans for the summer.

Following the business meeting we will go over to the boat launch and the public beach on Birch Point Road to see the new weed harvester. Our permit does not allow harvesting until June 10, but we can show it and explain to members how it works. Weather permitting, we will grill hot dogs and have other treats for lunch.

MEMBERSHIP FORM ENCLOSED

Attached to this letter is the 2019 membership form. Please send the form along with dues of \$35 to the address on page 2, or bring them to the June meeting. Dues have not increased for many years, we would rather increase revenue by increasing our membership numbers. Dues help support program planning, weed harvesting, picnic supplies, and communications with property owners.

CLA is an IRS approved non-profit under IRS Code 501(c)(3).

2019 CLA signs will be available on June 1.

NEW ECO WEED HARVESTER

**THANK YOU, OUR CARIBOU LAKE OWNERS
AND FRIENDS, FOR YOUR GENEROUS
SUPPORT! WE RAISED THE FUNDS TO
PURCHASE THE NEW ECO WEED HARVESTER!**

Last fall a group of Caribou Lake property owners who were very concerned about the increasingly thick weeds in the lake, the damaging effects on our property values, and problems trying to operate a boat on the lake, approached the CLA Board with a proposal to raise the funds for a new weed harvester. These neighbors pledged funds, contingent on other owners contributing the balance of the funding. To date, nearly 80 families have pledged and most have paid, so we were able pay for the harvester and we have enough funds for operating this year.

The harvester will be delivered on Wednesday, May 29 late morning to the Birch Point landing. We are allowed to operate it on that day for two hours for training purposes only. We will post the expected arrival time on the CLA website and on CLA Facebook site when we know more.

Thank you to those of you who contributed. If you pledged but have not yet sent in your money, please send it in. We will also need additional funds to continue operating the weed harvester in the coming years. We think it will take at least two or three years to get the weeds under control. If you appreciate the weed harvesting efforts on the lake, please continue to support it financially.

There are help wanted ads on the website and the Facebook page looking to hire a weed harvester operator for the summer.

We will need people to volunteer to operate the harvester at additional times, training will be provided. We will also need people to help with weed hauling and disposal. Lake weeds make great compost for gardens, they decompose and don't grow on land.

The old weed cutter is for sale, it's advertised on Craig's list, Duluth area.

**ALL CARIBOU LAKE OWNERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND THE JUNE 1 MEETING IN
ORDER TO HELP PLAN THE WEED HARVESTING OPERATIONS FOR THE SEASON.**

AIS INSPECTIONS

Thank you to Grand Lake Township for completing the application process for AIS inspection funding for Caribou Lake. Each year through the AIS Prevention Aid Program the state legislature grants funding to counties to allocate funds to organizations that will participate in AIS research, control, prevention, and education activities. The amount of funding is based on a formula that factors each county's share of watercraft trailer launches and watercraft parking spaces.

\$17,000 has been granted to Grand Lake Township for boat inspections on Caribou at the Birch Point landing. Canosia Township is responsible for inspections at the Holly Lane landing.

According to the St. Louis County Risk Assessment Tool, the only invasive species in Caribou Lake at this time is banded mystery snails. The risk assessment tool, <https://data.nrri.umn.edu/ais/>, is a very thorough assessment of information about all the lakes in St. Louis County.

Pike Lake is infested with zebra mussels. It is vitally important that boats coming from Pike Lake be thoroughly decontaminated when leaving the lake, and inspected before entering another lake.

We must take care to protect Caribou. Zebra mussels can cause problems for lakeshore owners, swimmers and boaters. Once a lake is infested, zebra mussels are almost impossible to eradicate. They are carried from infested lakes on boats, trailers, motors, in bait buckets, in live wells and bilges.

Invasive species negatively affect lake ecology. There are many types of AIS in the Great Lakes, in the state and in bordering states. At this time 180 lakes in Minnesota have zebra mussels. Other invasive species in Minnesota lakes include starry stonewort, eurasian water milfoil, spiny water fleas, flowering rush, and others. One third of Minnesota lakes are considered unfishable and unswimable.

SWANS AND PELICANS

Several groups of white trumpeter swans and white pelicans have stopped in Caribou on their way to their summer breeding grounds this spring. It's exciting to see these big birds on our lake.

CLA OFFICERS

President– Tom Marchand, 218-728-4549, tmarchand@cariboulake.org
Vice President– Jowain Wallin, 218-729-8033, jwallin@cariboulake.org
Secretary– Mary Manns, 218-729-0281, mmmanns@cariboulake.org
Treasurer– Julia Mader, ymader@cariboulake.org

Caribou Lake Association
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OFFICER POSITIONS

All office positions are open. The present officers have served for a number of years and would be glad to have others take over.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Please consider hosting the Caribou Lake Association picnic in August. Last year about 50 people came on a rainy day, thank you to Jeff and Mary Charnes and Janice Battersby for hosting.

We need volunteers to operate the new weed harvester and help with hauling and disposal of weeds. Contact Jowain, jwallin@cariboulake.org.

FREEZE AND THAW DATES

Caribou Lake was frozen completely on November 10, 2018 and opened on April 25, 2019. A chart showing freeze and thaw dates going back to 1968 is on the CLA website. Congratulations to Mary Lou who won the ice out raffle!

MINNESOTA LAKES AND RIVERS

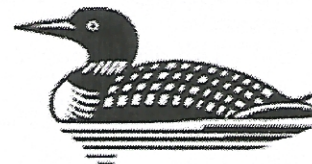
Caribou Lake Association is a member of Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates, a statewide grass-roots organization that works at the Capitol to protect Minnesota's lake and river heritage for current and future generations by forging powerful links between lakes, lake advocates and policy makers. See the MLR website: <http://www.mnlakesandrivers.org>.

AMAZON SMILE BENEFITS CLA

If you order from Amazon, smile.amazon.com will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible purchases to CLA. From "Your Account", on the top of the page go down to "Programs and Charities", click on "Change your charity" and type in Caribou Lake Association, Inc. CLA gained almost \$20 in the last quarter from this program!

TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETINGS

Represent Caribou Lake at your town board.
Grand Lake - 2nd Tuesday of the month
Canosia - 1st Wednesday of the month



Caribou on the web:
cariboulake.org
Facebook/CaribouLakeAssociation