

CARIBOU LAKE ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2018

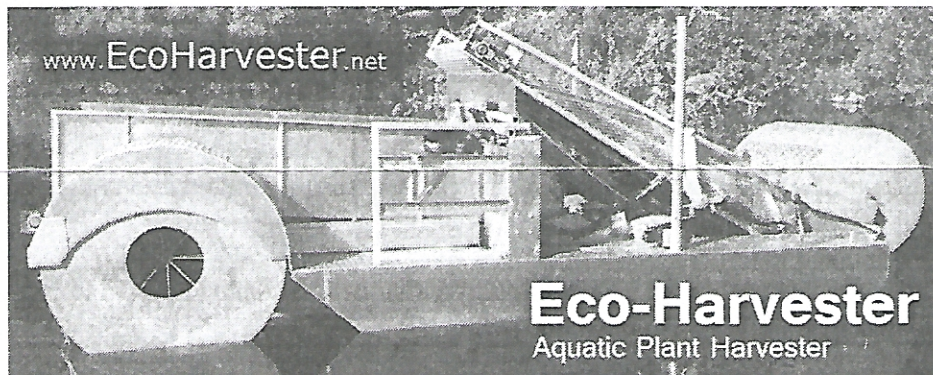
WEEDS, WEEDS, WEEDS WE HAVE A PLAN MANY OF YOU HAVE RESPONDED - THANK YOU!

Thank you, thank you to the 61 families who have already pledged funds to purchase the Eco Weed Harvester. We have reached our goal of \$75,000 in pledges to purchase the harvester, and we are hoping to raise additional funds to pay for intensive harvesting over the next few years. Now the hard part is writing the check to pay for the harvester by the end of October.

Thank you to the original families who approached the CLA Board with their proposal and pledges contingent on other people around the lake contributing the rest of the funds. Their foresight kicked off the whole campaign, and many of you have responded generously. Thank you!

We encourage ALL 160 owners on Caribou to participate in this project. If you are concerned about the effects of the thick weeds in Caribou we urge you to contribute. Every contribution helps.

The CLA Board received notice from Lake Weeders Digest that there was only one 2018 harvester left this fall, total cost with delivery and training would be \$77,267. If we waited until 2019 to order, the total cost would be \$3,800 more, due to increased material costs. The CLA Board made the decision to make a down payment on the 2018 harvester and a check for \$22,950 was delivered to Lake Weeders Digest on September 18. This purchase is exempt from Minnesota sales tax. They will store it for us until spring.



Information about the Eco Harvester and videos of the harvester in operation can be viewed at: www.EcoHarvester.net.

Our DNR permit is from the beginning of June to the end of August. Our plan is to harvest at least 400 hours over the summer, depending on weather, wind and wave conditions. We plan to clean up the allowed cutting areas on the DNR map first, then work with property owners who have supported the harvester drive and the Caribou Lake Association with their weed problems. It will take several years of intensive weed removal to get it under control. We have received written assurance from the DNR that this weed harvester will be allowed on Caribou Lake.

In addition to the purchase price we will need additional funds each year in operating costs, including salaries and related costs for operators, insurances, permits, fuel, winter storage, and maintenance.

Caribou Lake has always had some weeds, but with warmer and longer summers, non-compliant septic systems and fertilizer use, the weeds are becoming extremely dense. According to the National Weather Service in Duluth, since 1951 the average annual temperature has risen 3.1 degrees and the average low temperature has risen 3.3 degrees. Average frost free period has gone from 133 to 155 days. Lake weeds have a longer time to grow.

There are many benefits to lake weeds, they are an important part of the lake's ecosystem, but extreme proliferation causes problems. They interfere with water recreation and fishing, and degrade property values. Can you imagine what Caribou Lake would be like in 10-20 years if we allow the weeds to take over? We need to think about the valuable investments we have made in our properties, and our responsibilities as lake shore owners to protect our lake.

Please come to the informational planning meeting on October 6 at Pike Lake Community Church on Martin Road, 9:30 am. Part of the agenda will be to create a lake weed management plan to include the following: hiring qualified people to run the harvester full time, and training volunteers to run it at other times. We need to identify places to unload the weeds so time doesn't have to be spent taking each load over to NERCC. We will need to work with the DNR to redraw the cut map. We need to plan how to raise enough funds to continue to pay for harvesting after our initial funds are depleted.

Questions? Ask at weedharvester@cariboulake.org

-The DNR cutting map for Caribou can be seen on our website under the heading, "Useful Info" at cariboulake.org.

If you have already pledged, THANK YOU! If you have already sent a check, THANK YOU, THANK YOU! To make your pledge, please send your pledge form, or make your pledge at weedharvester@cariboulake.org

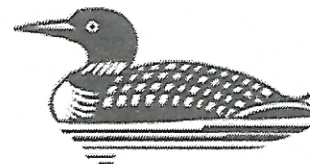
Now the hard part is writing the check to pay for the harvester by the end of October, and to have enough funds to operate it as much as possible for the next several years. Please send your contributions to Caribou Lake Association at the address below. Caribou Lake Association is a 501 (c) (3) charitable organization. Tax laws have changed, check with your tax preparer to see if your donation is tax deductible.

We can protect Caribou Lake for generations to come. Every contribution helps.

Amazon Smile ~ Please support Caribou Lake Association when you shop at Amazon by going to smile.amazon.com. Amazon will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to CLA. Go to cariboulake.org for more information.

CLA OFFICERS

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Caribou on the web:
cariboulake.org
weedharvester@cariboulake.org
Facebook/CaribouLakeAssociation

CONTRIBUTION AND PLEDGE FORM FOR NEW ECO WEED HARVESTER ON CARIBOU LAKE

We are asking YOU, our property owners to help us financially by pledging and contributing toward this project. Everyone on the lake has an interest in this and should contribute however much is reasonable for you.

I will pledge \$5,000 _____ \$2,500 _____ \$1,000 _____ Other \$ _____

for a new Eco Weed Harvester for Caribou Lake.

My check for _____ is enclosed.

Name _____

Date _____

Email address _____

Send this form to:
Caribou Lake Association
PO Box 15097
Duluth, MN 55811