

CARIBOU LAKE ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2020

VIRTUAL MEETING, JUNE 13, 10 AM **Summer, glorious summer at last!**

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, we will not have an in person annual meeting this spring. However, we will meet on Zoom on Saturday, June 13 at 10:00 AM.

In order to attend the meeting, send an email to meetings@cariboulake.org to receive a link to attend the meeting.

The technology isn't perfect, but it does allow people to meet without actually being together. If you prefer to dial in by telephone, please send an email to meetings@cariboulake.org, or call a Board member to get the telephone number and security codes prior to the meeting.

There will be a short practice session on Friday, June 12 at 3 PM for those persons not familiar with the Zoom platform.

If possible, we will plan on a get together and picnic later in the summer.

MEMBERSHIP FORM ENCLOSED

Please join the Caribou Lake Association. Last year we had 93 member families out of 160 properties on the lake.

Due to the unusual circumstances this spring, there will be no dues for membership, but please send in your form to the address on page 2. If members are able to make a contribution of any amount, it would be greatly appreciated. Contributions help support AIS inspections, weed harvesting, mailings, program planning, and picnic supplies.

2020 membership signs will be delivered to you over the summer.

LAKE CLEAN UP

Even though there were not so many ice fishermen on the lake over the winter, there still was a lot of trash left in the lake.

Thank you to those people who have gone out this spring in kayaks and canoes near the shore to pick up trash. Reports are that it's especially bad from the outlet to the curve at Caribou Lake Road/Industrial with many cans and big and small pieces of washed up lumber.

Thank you to those people who pick up the trash on the roadways around the lake. Your efforts to make our area more beautiful are appreciated!

**WE HOPE YOU ARE ALL WELL
AND HEALTHY!**

WEED HARVESTING

The new Eco Weed Harvester was hard at work over last summer. 250 hours were put on the harvester and at least 100 huge trailer loads of weeds were hauled to two different gravel pits, and used for compost in several gardens. A great deal of biomass and phosphates were taken out of the lake.

The weed harvester was delivered to Caribou Lake on May 29, 2019. Our harvester season, determined by the MN DNR, is June 10 through September 1. We will follow the same harvesting map as last year in order to determine if there is a real difference in the regrowth of the lake weeds.

The harvester is very effective on most weeds, however native stonewort is very long and stringy and tends to foul up the conveyor and it forms rolls, but the harvester is still effective.

A boat trip around the lake used to require several propeller weed clearing reversals. Now it may only need a reversal in the worst area, if at all.

We have many, many people to thank for all their time spent last year on the weed harvester operation. From actual operation, maintenance, weed hauling, storage, dock installation and removal, fall clean up, and all the other activities and jobs related to the harvester we want to thank: Tom Marchand, Jon Marshall, Jeff and Mary Charnes, Paul Manns, Cory Garden, Harley Garden, Jared Peterson, Chris Romundstad, Mark Stafstrom, Ken Lindstrom, Larry and Jowain Wallin, Matt Zuppetz, Julia Mader, and others.

For this season we will need volunteers to haul weeds and run the harvester at times that the paid operator is not working. Volunteers need access to a vehicle with a trailer hitch. The harvester has an automatic unloader, so you don't have to shovel the weeds onto a trailer. Unloading them at the gravel pit is easy. Training will be provided.

The weeds also make great garden compost.

Thank you all again for your generous contributions to buy the harvester! It made a big difference last year in how boaters enjoyed the lake,

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Help will be needed to operate the weed harvester, and help with hauling and disposal of weeds. Contact Jowain, jwallin@cariboulake.org

Please consider hosting the Caribou Lake Association picnic. CLA will provide the food. It's a great time to get to know your lake neighbors.

AIS INSPECTIONS

Each year, through the AIS Prevention Aid Program, the Minnesota legislature gives funding to counties to allocate to organizations that will participate in AIS research, prevention, and education activities.

Thank you to Grand Lake and Canosia Townships for applying for AIS inspection funds for AIS inspection for the 2020 season. \$25,000 was granted to Canosia Township for watercraft inspections and public education on Pike Lake, and Caribou Lake at Holly Lane. \$20,100 was granted to Grand Lake Township for watercraft inspections on Caribou Lake at the Birch Point Landing. Watercraft inspections have greatly benefitted Caribou Lake, we are free of invasive species, except for the banded mystery snails.

All AIS inspectors need to be recertified using on line training videos. Grand Lake won't be sending inspectors out this spring until after the Stay At Home Order is lifted in Minnesota.

You can help stop the spread of aquatic invasive species. Take three steps every time you leave a lake or river - whether or not it's infested:

Clean all aquatic plants, zebra mussels, and other invasive species from boats, trailers, and water-related equipment.

Drain water from your boat, ballast tanks, motor, live well and bait container. Remove drain plugs and keep drain plugs out while transporting equipment.

Dispose of unwanted bait in the trash. To keep live bait, drain the water and refill the bait container with bottled or unchlorinated tap water.

Invasive species negatively affect lake ecology. There are many types of AIS in the Great Lakes, in Minnesota, and in bordering states. At this time 214 lakes and wetlands in Minnesota have zebra mussels. Other invasive species in Minnesota lakes include starry stonewort, Eurasian water milfoil, spiny waterfleas, flowering rush, and others. One third of Minnesota waters are considered unfishable and unswimmable.

SEPTIC SECRETS

A healthy septic system saves money and protects water quality. This webinar by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency will cover what you can do to make sure your septic system operates at peak efficiency.

View the recording of Septic Secrets at:

www.anymeeting.com/292-823-775/EA50D982874E3A

CLA OFFICERS

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CARIBOU LAKE ASSOCIATION

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FREEZE AND THAW DATES

Caribou Lake froze completely on November 8, 2019 and opened on April 26, 2020. Congratulations to Sergio who won the ice out raffle!

2019-2020 was a very different winter on the ice. There was a 21" of snowfall over Thanksgiving weekend, which made for a thick layer of slush on top of the ice. A lot of people were not able to take their vehicles and ice houses out on the lake, and skiers and snowmobilers had to be careful to not get stuck in the slush under the snow.

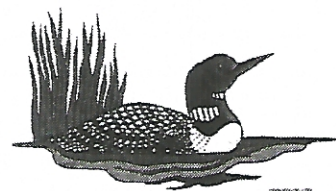
MINNESOTA LAKES AND RIVERS

Caribou Lake Association is a lake association member of Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates, a state-wide 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. Their website, mnlakesandrivers.org has a wealth of information on protecting lakes in Minnesota, a Take Action Network box for contacting your legislators, information on free webinars, and for the summer, an on line book club featuring Minnesota Historical Society authors.

In addition to lake association membership, individual memberships in MLR help to advance legislation to protect our waters, and prevent bad legislation (like selling our water).

Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center (MAISRC)

MAISRC at the University of Minnesota works to develop new and better options to detect, manage, and minimize the spread of key aquatic invasive species. The Center's mission is to develop research-based solutions that can reduce the impacts of aquatic invasive species in Minnesota by preventing spread, controlling populations, and managing ecosystems; and to advance knowledge to inspire action by others. The MAISRC website <https://www.maisrc.umn.edu/> features articles on ongoing science based research, including what is done around Duluth.



Caribou online: cariboulake.org

Facebook: CaribouLakeAssociation