



# CARIBOU LAKE ASSOCIATION

## SPRING 2021 NEWSLETTER

### **ANNUAL MEETING, JUNE 12, 10 AM**

Open water, sunshine and warmth—at last!

The annual June meeting will be Saturday, June 12 at 10 AM at the Old Caribou Lake School at the intersection of Industrial and Munger Shaw Roads. The meeting will be conducted according to CDC guidelines. Come for coffee and treats at 9:45, meeting will start at 10.

Items on the agenda for the business meeting will include election of officers, weed harvesting, AIS inspections and prevention for Caribou, and program plans for the summer.

All officer positions are currently open until the elections on June 12.

This past year has been a tough one for most of us, we hope that you are all well and are looking forward to better times this summer.

### **MEMBERSHIP**

Please join the Caribou Lake Association. Last year we had 80 member families out of 160 properties 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

On April 28, 2021, the CLA Board voted to increase the membership dues to \$40.00. The dues have been \$35.00 for many years, we will need increased funding for weed harvester operation. Dues help to support program planning, weed harvesting, communications with property owners, picnic supplies, DNR permits, and insurances.

New this year - you may either send your membership form and dues by US mail to the address on page 2, or fill out the form on line and pay your dues by credit card or debit card, or by PayPal. The link for the on line form and payment is on the Caribou Lake website: <https://cariboulake.org> under the "Our Association" heading.

### **VOLUNTER OPPORTUNITIES**

Please consider hosting the annual Caribou Lake picnic, usually held in August. We could not have a picnic last year, but in other years we have had great turnouts with good food and pleasant conversations with neighbors around the lake.

We need volunteers to operate the weed harvester when the paid operator is not working. Volunteers are needed to haul weeds and take them to one of the nearby gravel pits for disposal. Volunteers will need a vehicle with a trailer hitch, the trailer is parked at the end of Birch Point Road.

Please let the board members know if there is a program or speaker you would like to have for a CLA meeting. Do you have an interesting hobby you would like to share with our members?

### **MANY MANY THANKS**

Thank you to:

Tom Marchand who has served as President for the past ten years. Besides conducting the meetings, Tom was an integral player in getting the weed harvester for Caribou. He has managed the weed harvester operations, hired and supervised the operators, made repairs when necessary, arranged for all outside work on the docks and harvester, hauled many loads of weeds, dealt with the DNR regarding our permits, cut maps, and fish stocking. He has attended town board meetings to represent Caribou Lake.

Cory Garden who has offered to take Tom's place as President and Weed Harvester Manager. Cory and his family live on North Shady Lane, he loves the lake and loves to fish. He has spent many volunteer hours operating and cleaning the harvester, hauling weeds, and fixing things that needed work.

Jon Marshall who operated the weed harvester for the past two years.

Larry and Jowain Wallin, and others, who hauled many, many loads of weeds to the gravel pits.

Grand Lake and Canosia Townships for applying for the funding from St. Louis County for AIS inspections on Caribou and Pike Lakes.

Chris and Carrie Romundstad who put out the buoys and loon nesting platforms.

Carrie Romundstad who has offered to manage our information systems and keep the Caribou Lake website current.

Amanda Carlson who designed a new logo and arranged for ordering apparel. Proceeds are a fundraiser for the lake association. Ordering information is on the Caribou Lake website: <https://cariboulake.org>

Jeff Charnes who is digitizing the membership form and payment systems on the website.

Sue Jessico who has collected many, many big bags of trash left in the water around the shore. Sue goes out in her kayak as soon as she can get onto the water when the ice is going out. Sue says that a lot of trash is left on the lake by ice fishermen, and there is a lot of junk dumped near the outlet on Birch Point Road.

Les and Rosie Adolphson who organize the Fourth of July Boat Parade each summer, and to all of you who have fabulous fireworks to celebrate the 4th!

Thank you to all of you who are picking up trash alongside the roads surrounding the lake.

**Thank you to all of you for being great neighbors!**

## **AIS INSPECTIONS**

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.

We are grateful to Grand Lake and Canosia Townships for applying for this funding. This year grants include \$30,000 to Canosia Township for Pike Lake and Holly Lane on Caribou, and \$22,164 to Grand Lake Township for Caribou. The townships do the hiring and pay the inspectors. We are lucky to have township cooperation in this matter, only eight lakes in the entire county received the grants this year.

Aquatic invasive species (AIS) disrupt the health of water bodies, and pose a myriad of threats to natural, cultural, and recreational resources of the region. Key AIS species of concern to St. Louis County include zebra and quagga mussels, New Zealand mudsnail, viral hemorrhagic septicemia (VHS), round and tubenose gobies, Eurasian ruffe, faucet snail, mystery snail, spiny water flea, Eurasian watermilfoil, purple loosestrife, and rusty crayfish.

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 cause problems for lakeshore owners, swimmers and boaters. Once a lake is infected, zebra mussels are impossible to eradicate. They are carried from infested lakes on boats, trailers, motors, in bait buckets, in live wells and bilges. The only invasive species that Caribou has at this time are the banded mystery snails.

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 tap water.

A list of infested waters in Minnesota can be found at [Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Infested Waters - EDDMapS](#)

## **TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETINGS**

Represent Caribou at your town board:  
Grand Lake - second Tuesday of the month  
[www.grandlaketownship.com](http://www.grandlaketownship.com)  
Canosia - first Wednesday of the month  
[www.canosiatownship.org](http://www.canosiatownship.org)

Contact your township supervisors you have issues regarding road conditions, failing septic systems, taxation, parks, brush cutting, recycling, trails, vacation renters, or other township matters.

## **MINNESOTA LAKES AND RIVERS**

Caribou Lake Association is a lake association member of Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates, a statewide grass roots organization that works at the Capitol in St. Paul to protect our lake and river heritage for current and future generations, by forging powerful links between lakes and policy makers. The website, [mnlakesandrivers.org](http://mnlakesandrivers.org) has a wealth of information on protecting lakes, a Citizens Action Network box for contacting your legislators, a free webinar library including information about the Lake Stewards Program, a recording of the Septic Secrets program, Get the Lead Out program to protect loons, and other valuable water related issues.

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

## **LOON NESTING PLATFORMS**

Boy Scout, Nathan Covington from Troop #84 who is working on his Eagle Scout badge, built three loon nesting platforms for Caribou. They have been installed in 3 locations close to shore, but away from land predators. As you kayak and boat in the areas around our lake you will see the platforms by the NERC shoreline, Birch Point creek outlet, and at the little creek at the end of Sunny Lane. Please give the platforms and loons space in order to help preserve these beautiful birds.

## **WEED HARVESTING**

Please continue to support the weed harvesting operations on Caribou by volunteering and your contributions. Last year the lake water was much clearer and there were no large algae blooms, due primarily to a major reduction in phosphates from so many weeds. Boating is better because people don't have to stop and reverse to remove weeds from their motors. The DNR weed cutting map on the CLA website under the heading "Useful Info".

## **ANNUAL MEETING JUNE 12, 10 AM, OLD CARIBOU LAKE SCHOOL**

**ALL OFFICER POSITIONS ARE OPEN, PLEASE CONSIDER SERVING OUR LAKE ASSOCIATION**

**CARIBOU LAKE ASSOCIATION  
PO BOX 15097  
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**Caribou Online: [cariboulake.org](http://cariboulake.org)**

**Facebook: [CaribouLakeAssociation](https://www.facebook.com/CaribouLakeAssociation)**

