



CARIBOU LAKE ASSOCIATION

Results & 2022 Planning

We ended 2021 with 110 Caribou Lake Association members, which was a couple higher than the last communicated number and an all time high record for our lake and organization. This is a great achievement and went a long way in balancing our budget for the year. If you recall, the 2020 season expense was 2.5 times greater than revenue and increased membership helped this immensely. We will be proposing a calendar year by-law update so a full pre and post-season expense collection can be attributed to each calendar year. In looking at last year, we were on track to a balanced budget; however, fell ~\$700 short with an unexpected end of season pontoon leak on the harvester running ~\$1,800. It should be noted that Cory Garden donated a great deal of harvester operation time and fuel was a decreased rate than we are looking at this year.

You will notice a new membership form that aligns membership tiers to membership and donation categories that will be recommended for all residents to care for and maintain our lake. We are also including an option to volunteer versus offer maintenance in a monetary membership or donation amount. If we as a lake want to run the harvester for the full 12-week operating season we need to be prepared to fund about \$15,000 for the 12-week season. We don't think our lake is privy to the amount of expense it takes to run the harvester and want to make sure we are clear with our recommendation for membership/donation for the upcoming year. Our proposal would be to start this year and then the following year's budget would be based on the prior year and what we were able to achieve for operational hours and donations achieved. If we aren't able to

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fund the operation for the year, we would stop harvesting when we have exhausted approved budget to stay in the black with our member's approved funding.

Weekly	Amount
Labor	\$800.00
Fuel	\$200.00
Weekly Total	\$1,000.00
Seasonally	Amount
Labor	\$9,600.00
Fuel	\$2,400.00
Maintenance	\$2,000.00
Work Comp / Ins	\$1,000.00
Seasonally Total	\$15,000.00

Upcoming Meetings & Events

The annual meeting is scheduled for Saturday, **June 4, 2022** from 8:30am – 10:30am. We will have a prepared and efficient agenda to go over the results of last year and plans for this season. Please submit any advance topics you would like on the agenda to Cory Garden (via email at cgarden@cariboulake.org). Guest speaker(s) are also being planned.

The annual membership form is included and anyone who submits the form and membership dues by **May 20, 2022** will be entered into a

drawing to win a large metal Caribou Lake replica or Caribou Lake Gear.

The annual picnic is scheduled for Friday, **August 26, 2022** from 6:00 – 8:00pm.

We are looking for volunteers for the picnic and other fun events. Please contact Jowain Wallin if you are interested in volunteering for event assistance. (jwallin@cariboulake.org)

Aquatic Weed Harvesting

Our lake continues to have a high volume of weeds and, as the planning section indicates, we expect to need a full season of harvesting. Last season we became very efficient increasing to around 5.5 yards per 45 minutes of operation. This is a little over double what we saw in previous seasons. With the efficiency and increased operational checks we are hopeful to have a full season of harvesting. Beyond 2022, this will allow our members to make a decision if we should reduce harvest time (and expense) with a healthier weed balance going into future seasons.

Our 2022 permit application was submitted and approved with an upcoming harvest date of June 10, 2022. The harvester was serviced last fall and had a pontoon repair prior to the winter storage to ensure any preventable and repair maintenance was complete before the upcoming season. Cory Garden will take the harvester out of storage as soon as practical and do a pre-season maintenance and operational health check to ensure we are prepared to start harvesting the first day our permit allows.

Additionally, the St. Louis County Board approved state funds for nine projects that will prevent the introduction and limit the spread of

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) in lakes and rivers in St. Louis County. Caribou Lake continued to receive support for Aquatic Invasive Species funding through both Grand Lake (\$24,515) and Canosia Township (\$30,000 for both Pike & Caribou Lakes) grant applications. These remain invaluable programs for the health of our lake.

Our 2022 aquatic weed offloading will remain with our local lake resident and gravel pit neighbor, the Peterson's. The close proximity was a huge improvement and expected to

remain very valuable to our season.



We will open operator hiring May 1st to allow time for hiring and training before the season. To offset expense and operator loss risk, we would like to have a limited number of trained volunteers that would be interested in participating in this season's operator schedule. If you are interested in training and doing 2-4 hour shifts one or more times per week, please contact Cory Garden (cgarden@cariboulake.org).

Membership & Forms

The 2022 Caribou Lake Association annual membership forms are included. We now offer 3 tiers of membership for clarity on how our residents can support our Association and need for aquatic weed harvesting operations.

Mallard Level Supporters are Caribou Lake Association members only. Membership supports communication, mailing, insurance, and lake interests. This tier does not provide any additional donation support towards our annual aquatic weed harvesting needs. This tier will get a bronze colored sign.

Loon Level Supporters receive Caribou Lake Association membership and also provide support for the minimum level needs to support aquatic weed harvest operations for the 2022 seasonal operating plan. This tier will get a silver colored sign.

Eagle Level Supporters receive Caribou Lake Association membership, provide support for the minimum level needs to support aquatic weed harvest operations for the 2022 seasonal operating plan, and invest in additional incidental expenses and growth opportunities. This tier will get a gold colored sign.

We will be providing 2 laminated signs per member this year. It is traditional to display a lakeside support sign; however, we are offering a second to display on pontoons, driveways, or keep as a spare.

Making and distributing signs is a big job for our volunteers, so we are offering an incentive for all form submission and membership dues received by May 20, 2022 will be entered into a drawing to receive some great prizes. The grand prize is a large metal Caribou Lake replica sign (includes Little Caribou Lake not pictured) donated to the organization by Dan Urshan. We will also have other Caribou Lake Gear prizes in our drawing. Get your forms in!



Wildlife Corner

Keep your fishing holes secret neighbors! We continue to be a successful walleye stocking lake and received our highest number of walleye fingerlings stocked last fall. The DNR stocked 16,509 fingerlings on September 30, 2021. This is consistent with our every other year stocking cycle. The fingerlings are one to six month old walleyes and range from three to eight



The DNR stocks lakes every other year rather than yearly because the walleyes from the stocked year eat much of the food needed by the next year - called class suppression. The DNR stocks about 900 lakes in Minnesota and only those suitable for walleye are stocked with walleye.

You can read more on DNR programs and our lake on the DNR website.
<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/>

Ongoing & Upcoming Work

We hope that you have seen great progress over the last year and we are working to continue that trend. Here is a summary of what we have done to support our members and lake:

- Membership tier status introduced to introduce differences in membership and what it takes to operate and maintain harvesting operations. We want to educate our lake residents on a true budget for our operational needs to maintain a healthy weed level.
- Renewed business filing with Minnesota Secretary of State that had lapsed since 2007!
- Started insurance quote process. Just like our personal insurance policies, it is good to get updated quotes to try and lower expense.
- Continued push with St. Louis County on project to rebuild the outlet structure by the beaver dam.
- Harvester operator safety and comfort improvements made. Watch for a Facebook post to see pictures!
- Spring maintenance and operational check on harvester before season in process for day 1 readiness as permit opens.
- Updated aquatic weed harvest map to match the pontoon flow and received approval from the DNR.
- By-laws from 1982 shared with the membership for review and proposed update published to the website. This will be voted on at the annual meeting. See Caribou Lake Association website for review/preview before the meeting.
- Investigated nameplate signs for Birch Point and Charles Roads; however, there was little interest in pursuing. Charles and Birch Point, rally the neighbors to support if you are interested!
- Caribou Lake Meeting/Event sign updates are still in work for all roads. We did not make as much progress over the winter as we had hoped on this; however, have sourced some free materials and are pursuing for future completion.
- Follow us on Facebook for frequent communication updates – Caribou Lake Association, Duluth, Minnesota.

RECRUITING SPOTLIGHT

President & Treasurer

Cory and Jen garden are moving from our lake and we are looking for a new President and Treasurer. We thank both Cory and Jen for their service and continued support during the transition. They have both been **extremely valuable** assets with their new ideas, streamlining processes, and dedication to our lake.

Harvest/Ops Manager

We would love to bring in a more focused volunteer for

Harvest Operator

This is a paid position. If you are interested or know of someone that would be a good fit, we want to know!

Why Get Involved?

- You love our lake!
- Boost your resume with board or volunteer accomplishments.
- We have documented and made things easy.
- We are tons of fun!

Ready To Join Us?

Reach out and share your ideas and skills!

(cromundstad@cariboulake.org)
or (218) 590-4555

WE WANT YOU!

