



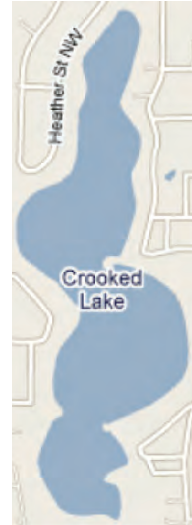
Strong Vigilance and Partnership

By Dan Jared, CLAA President

In 2016, CLAA was the first MN Lake Association allowed to pilot the use of fluridone for controlling invasive Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM) at a low dose, but with extended exposure time. The treatment was wildly successful in the reduction of EWM, and for the last 6 years we have been able to use a combination of hand pulling and ProcellaCOR spot treatments to maintain low levels of EWM.

However, this year the annual EWM delineation report conducted by FreshWater Scientific indicated a more significant presence of EWM than any year since 2016. That report showed we had crossed a threshold, (15% of area < 15 feet deep), in our MN DNR Lake Vegetation Management Plan (LVMP), which includes provision for CLAA to ask the DNR for permission to re-treat Crooked Lake with fluridone. The Board discussed this option at length with the DNR, Coon Creek Watershed District, Freshwater Scientific, PLM (our treatment partner), and Anoka County Parks. Based on those discussions and the approval of the DNR, the Board elected to move forward with a series of very low dose fluridone treatments which began on Nov 1, 2023 and will continue through Spring 2024.

I am so thankful for the strong partnerships that were forged before I joined the Board. Those partnerships include everyone who donates to CLAA as well as the Cities of Andover and Coon Rapids, Anoka County, Coon Creek Watershed District, DNR, PLM and Freshwater Scientific. It is essential for the continued health of our little gem, Crooked Lake, that our partnerships remain strong. I cannot express my thanks enough to all of you who were responsible for building those in the past or who maintain them today. We are hopeful that this next series of fluridone treatments will allow us to keep EWM at bay for another seven years. If you have questions about this article or the greater mission of CLAA, please attend our Winter General Meeting on February 26, 2024.



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Your Donations

are crucial to the mission of CLAA and health of Crooked Lake. Donations can be made via Venmo or Facebook, or by sending a check payable to CLAA using the donation form found on the last page of this newsletter.



Venmo Donations



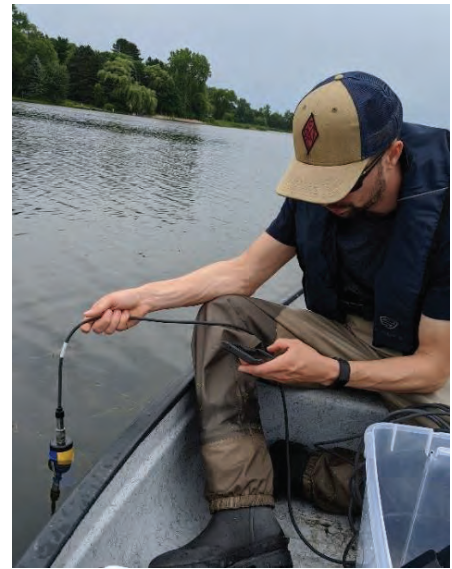
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Crooked Lake Water Quality Update: an “A-” for 2023

By Coon Creek Watershed District (CCWD)

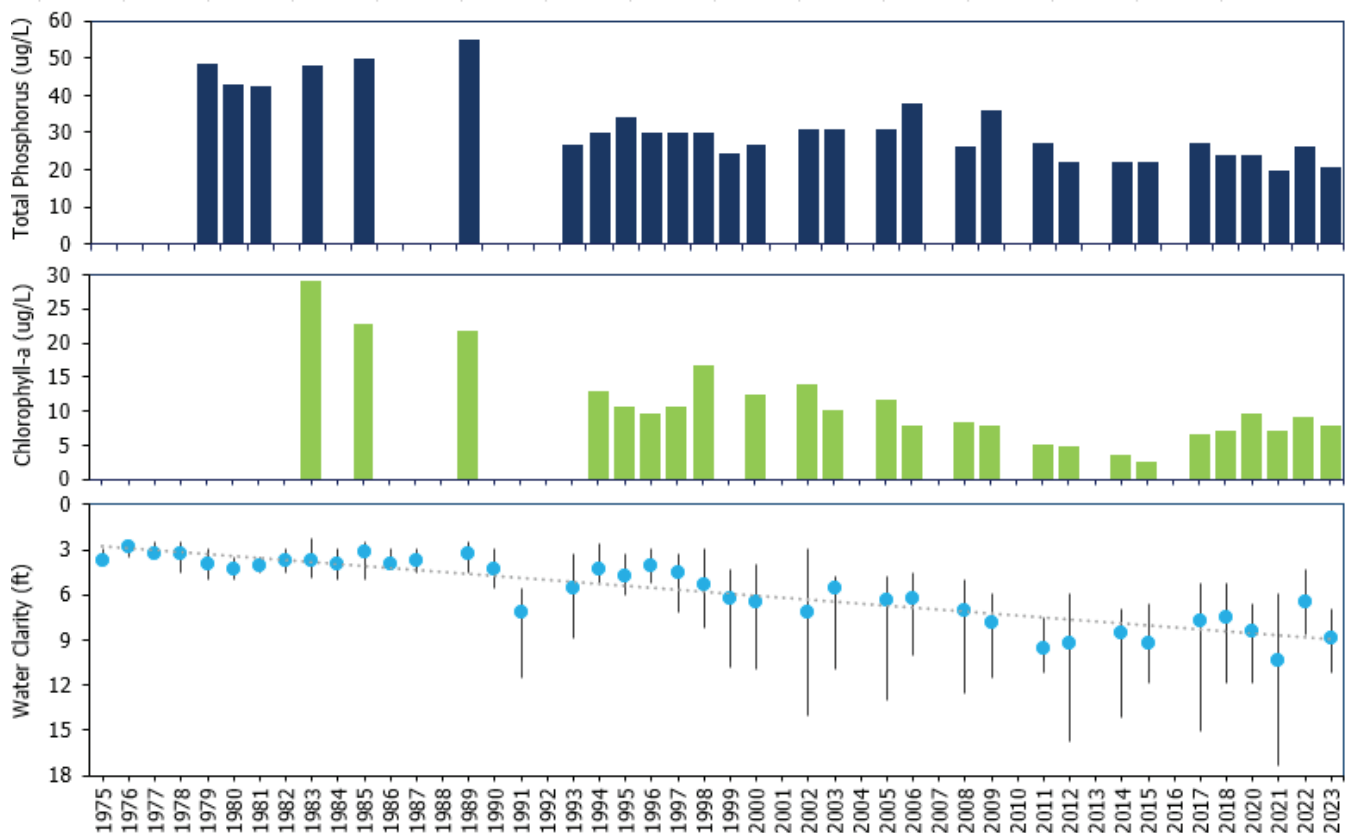
The water quality of Crooked Lake has been monitored since the 1970s and has significantly improved over the past 50 years. After earning a record “A” in 2021 on the Metropolitan Council’s lake grading scale for metro lakes, Crooked Lake earned an “B” in 2022, and has now climbed back into the “A” range with an “A-” this year. For reference, Crooked Lake earned a C- in the 80s, C+ in the 90s, B- in the early 2000s, and has been hovering in the A/B range over the past decade or so.

Thank you watershed residents, the CLAA, and the cities of Andover and Coon Rapids for supporting several clean water initiatives over the years: implementing lake-friendly lawncare practices, controlling aquatic invasive species, adopting and stenciling storm drains, and targeted street sweeping to name a few. All behaviors, big and small, help keep this trend moving in the right direction!



Lake grades are based on average summertime measurements of:

- 1) Phosphorus concentrations (amount of nutrients available)
- 2) Chlorophyll-a concentrations (abundance of algae)
- 3) Secchi depth (water clarity)



Contact Justine Dauphinais, jdauphinais@cooncreekwd.org, for more information

2023 Lake Levels: A Third Year of Drought

By Coon Creek Watershed District

Despite three consecutive years of drought, Crooked Lake's water levels remain within the normal range of values observed since the 1980s and are not cause for alarm. The heavy snowpack this past winter helped to briefly restore water levels to average this spring, but levels fell nearly 1.5' by mid-September. A wetter-than-average fall has helped levels rebound as winter approaches.

Crooked Lake's water level is dependent on four things: 1) groundwater inputs, 2) precipitation, 3) evaporation, and 4) a concrete weir at the lake outlet which is set at an elevation of 861.4 feet above sea level. In most years, the lake stays below 861.4' all year so no water leaves the lake through the outlet, only via evaporation. In hot, sunny summers like 2023, the rate of evaporation can cause lake levels to drop faster than normal. Without ample precipitation to replenish local shallow groundwater, lake levels remain below average. It is not uncommon for Crooked Lake's level to drop >1.5' below the outlet elevation— in fact, this has occurred in 13 of the last 38 years on record. It is however rare for this to happen three years in a row, which just occurred, and has not happened since 1988!

In wetter years, rain and snowmelt refill shallow groundwater aquifers which raise lake levels back to normal. Rainfall and evaporation typically balance each other out and keep lake levels hovering around 861'. During large storm events or unusually wet periods, lake levels can however increase until water overtops the concrete weir. Then, excess water slowly drains through a culvert to Coon Creek and continues to the Mississippi River just downstream of the Coon Rapids dam.

A big thank you to lakeshore resident, Carol Buzzelli, for continued monitoring and reporting of lake level data to the MN DNR each year!



Birds of Crooked Lake and Aerial Photos of Crooked Lake

Photos by Dan Anderson, except as noted

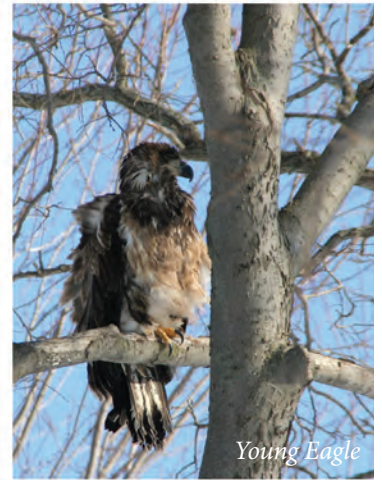
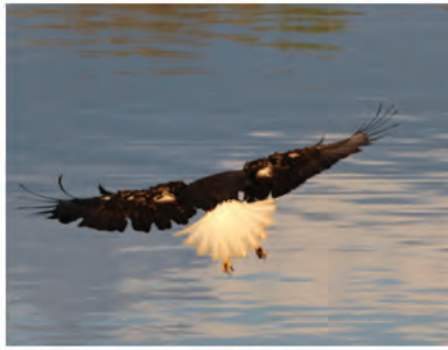
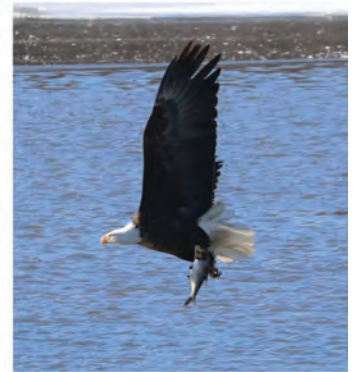


Photo Credit: Joel Friday



Photo Credit: Joel Friday



Young Eagle



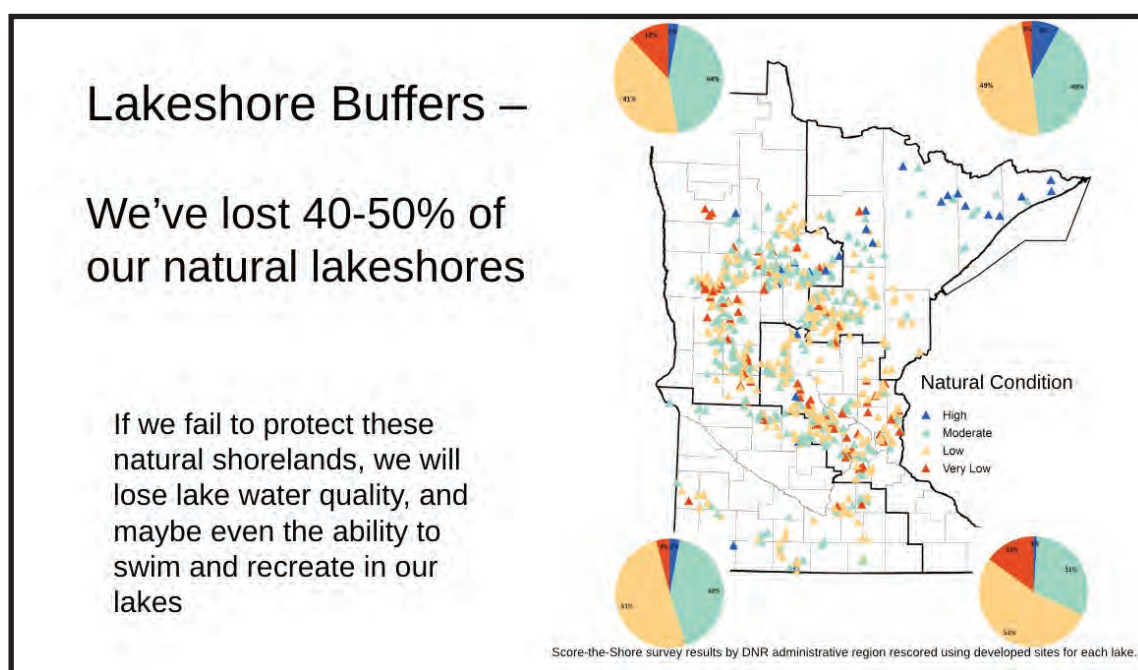
Lake Steward Program

By Jeff Forester, Executive Director, Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency reports that 56% of the lakes and rivers in Minnesota are impaired. The sources and reasons for water degradation are both plentiful and complex, but degraded shoreline is a contributor. The simple fact is that if we want to improve water, we must improve land management. Unfortunately, the trends are towards more development of the shoreline. Across the state, we have already lost approximately half our natural shorelines on Minnesota lakes. Degraded shoreline is a problem that we can address.

In 2020, Minnesota's counties issued 8,846 land use permits on shoreline property. That was 6,797 higher than in 2019. For comparison, in 2012 there were 1,207 permits issued for new development on undeveloped shoreline lots. In 2020 there were 2,220 permits issued for new development on shoreline lots.

This means that the best way to protect shorelines and improve the water quality dependent upon them is for citizens to decide to change their management of the shorelines in their care. Top-down laws, regulations or permits will not meet the increasing need. This is where the Lake Steward Program comes in.



Reducing phosphorus and fertilizer use will reduce excessive aquatic plant growth and algae blooms in our lake. This is because phosphorus is a “limiting” nutrient in Minnesota; phosphorus exists naturally in limited amount in Minnesota’s soils and lakes, and so restricts the growth of plants, including algae, in our ecosystems. Add more phosphorus, most commonly via yard fertilizer run-off, to a lake and plants and algae will respond quickly. Rainwater and snowmelt can carry phosphorus from soils and impermeable surfaces into lakes and rivers. When a shoreline property owner reduces runoff on their property, they can have a significant impact on both excessive aquatic plant growth and frequency and intensity of algae blooms in the lakes they love.

Consider that:

- 1 lb. of Phosphorus produces 500 lbs. of algae in a lake.
- Lots with a lawn that runs down to the water’s edge contribute about 0.2 lbs. Phosphorus/lot per summer, or about 100 lbs. of algae. The cumulative effect is significant. On a lake with 100 lawn to lake lots, this results in about 10,000 lbs. of algae.
- Simple strategies, like maintaining at least a 25-foot buffer of deep rooted native plants, directing runoff from impervious surfaces like roofs, patios and driveways away from the lake can reduce phosphorus runoff to 0.03 lbs. per lot, or 15 lbs. of algae.

Learn more about the Lake Steward Program and take the MLR “Are You a Lake Steward Quiz” on the MNLakesandRivers.org website. [MLR’s Shoreland Guide to Lake Stewardship](#), a how-to manual for shoreline owners who want to help protect water quality, is also available on Amazon.

Summer Algae Blooms

By Coon Creek Watershed District



Warm summer temps, calm air, low water levels. Add in excess nitrogen & phosphorus. Repeat. This is a recipe for blooms known as Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs). These are not your typical algal blooms— the water looks more like pea soup or like it is coated with green paint.

Harmful algal blooms are caused by a type of cyanobacteria commonly called blue-green algae. These cyanobacteria naturally occur in almost all lakes and rivers, but can cause problems when they become overabundant. They can produce toxins that impact people, wildlife, and pets.

You can't tell if a bloom is toxic by sight or smell, so: "If in Doubt, Stay Out!" Not all algae are toxic! Algae create oxygen and are the base of the food chain for healthy lakes, rivers, ponds, and streams.

Not sure if you're seeing blue-green algae? Learn more at the MPCA website. For more info, contact Justine Dauphinais, jdauphinais@cooncreekwd.org

Pontoon-2-School Tradition

Article and photos by
Julie Jared

If you were enjoying your morning coffee and looking out on the lake in June on the last day of school, you may have caught sight of a couple pontoon loads of lake family kids on their way to class, with tummies full of donuts and juice. Um...lucky duckies!! Thank you to the Laughlin's for hosting this event year after year!



Crooked Lake Picnic

Article and photos by Julie Jared

The Crooked Lake Area Association Summer General Membership Picnic was held at Crooked Lake Beach Park on Sunday July 23rd. Served up was sun, fun, and out-of-this-world Dan-n-Dan pulled pork sandwiches made by resident chefs Dan Jared and Dan and Ginger Anderson. CLAA President Dan Jared shared updates on lake health and lake association activities, while the kittens were busy stealing the show. And here I always thought there was no “littering” allowed at the park?



The Lobstah Chronicles

Article and photos by Julie Jared

Many of you followed Lobster Dan in The Lobstah Chronicles – Episodes 1 through 11 (YouTube and FaceBook). As Lobster Dan shares in Episode 8, the Crooked Lobstah got caught in the weather lobster fishing on the mighty Crooked Lake last winter. The legend goes that the weather got rough, the gales came up, the rain changed to ice, and she got stuck in the ice. Onlookers soon began guessing when Crooked Lobstah would fall through the ice. Congratulations to Ann M, the ice out contest winner! 2nd place went to Donald H. 3rd Place to Sue and Patrick F. And 4th Place to Dan A. Official ice out date per Lobster Dan: April 13, 2023, 10:12 am



Thank you 2023 CLAA Sponsors!!!



Smart Salting for Clean Water

By Coon Creek Watershed District

Did you know it only takes 1 teaspoon of salt to permanently pollute 5 gallons of water? This pollution, called chloride pollution, is a problem for over 50 waterbodies in Minnesota. Crooked Lake currently has low levels of chlorides; we'd all like to keep it that way! Here are some tips to optimize your salt use:

1. Shovel first to remove as much snow and ice as possible before using salt.
2. Select the right product; rock salt (NaCl) only works when the pavement temperature is above 15°F! When it gets too cold, try sand for traction instead.
3. Scatter salt only where it's needed and leave lots of space between granules.
4. Sweep up and reuse any leftover salt or sand!
5. If you're not doing your own maintenance, use a Smart Salting certified contractor! You can find an online list of them on the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Salt Applicators page.



Happenings on the Lake



Photo Credit: Joel Friday

Boat crash!



Photo Credit: Dan Anderson

August 2023 boat fire at Crooked Lake boat launch, without injuries. Rumor is that the owner just acquired the boat and it was first/last voyage.

Hope to see you at our
Winter General Meeting
on Monday, February 26, 2024
6:30 pm
at Legacy Christian Academy
3037 Bunker Lake Blvd.



Photo Credit: Joel Friday

CLAA Safe Boating Rules

By Joel Friday

We all love being out on the lake in the summer. Boat traffic has increased over the past few years as more and more lake residents get new boats. The variety of floatation devices increases every year. Kayaks, canoes, wake boats, barefoot skiers, professional and amateur skiers, swimmers, pontoons, bass boats, carp boats, and many other varieties can all be seen on the lake. With all of this going on, it is a good time to remind everyone of safe boating rules and how we want traffic to move on the lake.

One of the things to consider as we are on the lake is, which way should I go? We have always followed the counterclockwise direction around the lake rule, which is especially helpful on busy days. This can be critical as you come around the points where sightlines are limited. It is a lot easier to avoid other boats if they are going slower than you than it is if they are coming directly at you.

Another consideration is to not follow boats pulling skiers and tubers. There was an incident this year where a jet ski was too close and almost hit someone coming off a tube. Fortunately, no collision occurred but no one wants that type of incident to happen on our lake. Please follow at least 100 feet behind other boats and anyone towed behind boats. Yes, they make a great wake to jump, but it is not worth risking personal injury. Also, a note to jet skiers: state law requires jet skis to be off the lake 30 minutes prior to sunset. At that time all boats should also start using their navigation lights.

Finally, we have a great lake here with plenty of wonderful neighbors. I will see you with my captain's hat out there!



Ice Carousel



Photo Credit: Julie Jared

by Julie Jared

The 6th Annual Crooked Lake Ice Carousel took place January 7, 2023. Dan Anderson and friends have "Ice-Mastered* the art of spinning neighbors around on a 100-foot diameter slab of frozen water! The Crooked Lobstah, Rudolph, Clarice, Christmas trees, snowmen and bonfires all took a spin on the ice carousel as well!



Photo Credit: Ginger Anderson



Photo Credit: Julie Jared



Photo Credit: Julie Jared



Photo Credit: Julie Jared

CROOKED LAKE

area association

Grant Schmalzer
130 Kerry Street
Coon Rapids, MN 55448

Phone: 612-965-4631
Crookedlaa@gmail.com



WINTER GENERAL MEETING

Hope you can join us on

Monday, February 26, 2024

Legacy Christian Academy

6:30 pm Social. 7:00 pm Meeting.



**STOP AQUATIC
HITCHHIKERS!**

The mission of the Crooked Lake Area Association is to act as an advocate of the lake and to establish and promote a strong sense of community among the residents on and around Crooked Lake.

current resident or

CLAA volunteer terms up for re-election

- Vice President and President
- Quadrant Leaders – NE and SW
- Andover City Council Watchdog
- Online Director at Large

They will be elected on 02/26/24

List of Officers and Phone Numbers:

Dan Jared	612-280-7054	President
Lucas Wilson	612-977-3180	Vice President
Grant Schmalzer	612-965-4631	Treasurer
Julie Jared	763-229-7457	Secretary
Melissa Sandeen	763-670-6457	Quadrant Leader - SW
Danielle Dziedzic		Quadrant Leader - NE
Brian Graves	612-282-8803	Quadrant Leader - SE
Joe Mantel	612-419-7857	Quadrant Leader - NW
Joel Friday	612-868-6287	Coon Rapids Watchdog, Online Director
Dan Anderson	763-427-0964	Andover Watchdog

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP/DONATION FORM

☐ 2023 ☐ 2024

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail address: _____

☐ I'm GREEN...please email me the newsletter next year.

☐ I'd like to volunteer.

Please include your

Lake Owner Annual donation of \$50.00 or

Lake Watershed Annual Membership donation of \$35.00

Make check payable to: **CLAA**

Send to: **Grant Schmalzer**

13021 Kerry Street

Coon Rapids, MN 55448

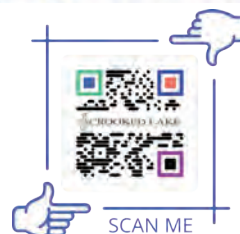
From the Treasurer's Desk *by Grant Schmalzer*

The membership suggested donation amount to the lake association is \$50 per year or \$35 if you live off the lake. You can donate anytime from January 1 – December 31st. We are a 501(c)3 corporation which means that all money donated by you is tax deductible. If you have not sent in your donation for this year (since January 1st, 2023), now is a great time to do so! Don't forget that you can donate via Venmo with the QR code on page 1. You can also donate on Facebook by clicking the Donate button at top of the Crooked Lake Area Association Facebook page (which can be accessed by QR code below).

If you are not sure if you have made a donation for 2023, you can contact me by email at gs2175@gmail.com or by phone at 612-965-4631.

Volunteer Appreciation

We are so grateful for our volunteers! Our mission wouldn't be possible without you! We will be hosting a Volunteer Appreciation dinner this year as one way to say thank you. Invitations will be sent out in January!



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