



CROOKED LAKE

area association

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

I had the pleasure of interviewing three teen and twenty-something siblings for our first "Spotlight on Crooked Laker" column. We all plopped down on couches and I said "So..." and before I could pose a first question Elli beamed "EVERYBODY NEEEDS TO COME TO CROOKED LAKE, IT'S A FRIENDLY LAKE!" (Insert mic drop). Sincerely, I am so pleased to know that a primary mission of this association, "to establish and promote a strong sense of community among the residents on and around Crooked Lake", continues to be accomplished. Those three lads live a quarter mile walk from the water and make use of the public launch or our backyard dependent upon whether they are dropping their boat in or it's a paddle board kind of day. Who they meet on the water is all of you. Thank you for donating your time, resources and community spirit... you are having a positive impact on the lives of people young, old, and growing up in and around Crooked Lake.

You may remember the famous whole lake AIS treatment from nearly 10 years ago that had lakes around the country envious. As they say, what is old is new again..we just completed a second one of those lake-wide Fluridone treatments in 2024. CLAA hired PLM to administer an herbicide in a series of three treatments, the first treatment occurred Nov 2023 and was followed up by two bump treatments in April and May 2024. PLM sampled the lake levels post each treatment to determine the bump treatments necessary. We received positive feedback during the summer from many of you that EWM was disappearing and dying. Freshwater Scientific confirmed the good news; they performed two plant surveys in fall 2024 which indicated no EWM. The Fluridone full-lake treatment was expensive, important, and successful, and it was funded by a DNR grant that CLAA was awarded.

CLAA has been discussing cleaning up the mucky water around the boat launch, reaching out to the city of Andover as well as to a couple of contractors for quotes. We are unable to do any dredging this fall/ winter as it would be a bad day for the hibernating turtles. Our intention is to leverage partnership with the cities of Andover and Coon Rapids to potentially dredge in spring 2025 after working through the rules and regulations, and if water levels will need to be low enough.

Anoka County shares the outcome of the boat inspections on page 3. The inspectors work to ensure water craft do not carry invasive species like zebra mussels and EWM into our lake. Many of the boat inspectors that you saw this year were funded by an Anoka County grant that the Crooked Lake Area Association was awarded.

This year we decided to post, and include in the newsletter on page 7 a Crooked Lake Community Calendar so you can know when exciting things are happening: the summer picnic, boat parade, ice carousel, cardboard boat race, balloon toss, ice golf, winter membership meeting and more.

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This year we are adding Swim Across the Lake, Crooked Lake Broomball Tournament, and a 5K to keep you active and mix up your exercise routine! We are also slipping in a bake sale, card night and other events. Please save the calendar and keep tuned to Facebook and email for updates. Do not hesitate to reach out to me if you have any fabulous ideas for community events and if you'd like to volunteer to help.

Year after year we are lucky and grateful to work with Crooked Lake lovers at Coon Creek Watershed District (CCWD), Anoka County, DNR, Cities of Coon Rapids and Andover, PLM and Freshwater Scientific. Their expertise and funding, mixed in with your CLAA donations and caring spirit, allow our lake, and plants, animals and humans in and around it, to thrive.

That's all for now.

See you on the lake,
Julie

CCWD UPDATE ON CROOKED LAKE

Crooked Lake Water Quality Report Card

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. Crooked Lake earned an A- in 2024 according to the Metropolitan Council's lake grading scale for metro lakes!

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, getting your and your neighbor's leaves off the street, and targeted street sweeping by the cities to name a few. All behaviors, big and small, help keep this trend moving in the right direction! Remember: those leaves go into the lake through the storm drains and cause algae.

Water Quality Metric	1985	1995	2005	2015	2024
Nutrients: Total Phosphorus	C	C	C	B	A
Algae: Chlorophyll-a	C	B	B	A	A
Clarity: Secchi Depth	D	C	C	B	B
Overall Grade	C-	C+	C+	B+	A-

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

2024 Lake Levels: Relief from Drought

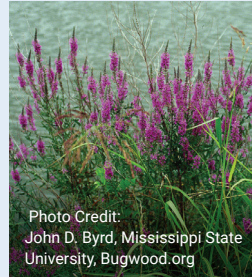
By: Coon Creek Watershed District (CCWD)

After three consecutive years of drought, water levels in Crooked Lake have rebounded this year to levels not seen since 2020. Given Crooked Lake's location on the Anoka County Sandplain, where groundwater and surface water are one-in-the-same, water levels are highly vulnerable to seasonal rain and snowfall totals. After a dry winter, heavy rainfalls in June and July led to a rapid, >1' increases in lake levels that have been slowly drawing down since. The current water level as of the end of September was about 4" over the long-term, 30-year average.

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

SKOL! Purple Loosestrife— We're Coming for You!

By: Coon Creek Watershed District (CCWD)



Despite its beauty, purple loosestrife is an aggressive invasive weed that can wreak havoc on our shorelines and wetlands. Purple loosestrife is not new to MN or Crooked Lake, but has recently been observed expanding into new areas.

To avoid further unwanted spread, we are asking Crooked Lake residents to help us locate and control purple loosestrife along your shoreline in 2025.

You can help by:

Locating and removing any purple loosestrife plants from your shoreline

1. Keep an eye out for purple flowering plants in Mid-July; see below for ID tips.
2. Carefully dig up the entire plant including roots, bag all material, and dispose of it in your fire pit or trash (not as yard waste which can spread seeds!)
3. If you can't dig up the whole plant, cut off all flower spikes before they go to seed in late August.

OR Reporting purple loosestrife to CCWD staff who can remove it for you:

1. Email photos and a description of location or GPS coordinates to Justine Dauphinais: jdauphinais@cooncreekwd.org
2. Provide CCWD written permission via email to access and control purple loosestrife on your property
3. CCWD can coordinate and fund a spot herbicide treatment in late summer; property owners will be notified prior to control actions

Identification tips:

Purple loosestrife is very easy to spot once it starts flowering in July. It is a robust plant with several woody, square-shaped stems with flowers arranged in dense spikes at the tip. Watch out for native look-a-likes including Blue Vervain, Fireweed, and Swamp Milkweed.

2024 EWM Fluridone Treatment By: Julie Jared

Although the previous whole-lake fluridone treatment in 2016 provided multiple years of excellent EWM control, in 2023, your neighbors and our partners at Freshwater Scientific Services documented several areas of moderate-density EWM reestablishing in the lake. Consequently, CLAA and the DNR decided that another lake wide fluridone treatment was warranted, and CLAA contracted with PLM Lake and Land Management Corporation to perform the initial lake-wide fluridone treatment in November 2023 followed by two bump treatments in April and May 2024.

Upon completion of the treatment, Freshwater Scientific Services surveyed the vegetated portion of Crooked Lake in September 2024, navigating a winding search path over near shore areas while using a combination of surface observations, sonar readings, and rake tosses to locate and delineate areas of EWM growth. The fabulous news is that after all that meticulous effort, no EWM was found. Great job, team!

CROOKED LAKE END SEASON WATERCRAFT INSPECTION DATA 2024

By: Jessica Leverty

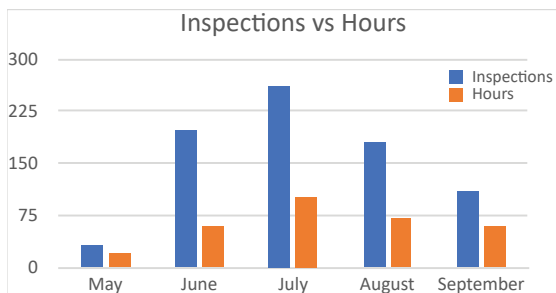
There were 2 county watercraft inspectors working **over 300 hours** at Crooked Lake boat launch in the 2024 season. They worked from May to end of September. The plant violations are a little higher than we want to see. Next year we are looking into different ways to educate more boaters about the laws and hopefully decrease the violation rate. We will be having inspectors at Crooked Lake again in 2025. Make sure to stop by and say Hi!

Remember: "CLEAN, DRAIN and DISPOSE." Clean off ALL plants, drain the boat and all compartments and keep the plug OUT when transporting, and dispose of all unused bait in the trash, NOT the lake. Drying the boat for 5 days before launching in other waters is encouraged as well. Last year we had 2 1/2% of boats failing to remove their boat plugs and 6% of boats with plant violations.

	Inspections	Hours
May	32	20
June	196	60
July	261	100
August	180	70
September	111	60
Total	748	310

Boat Plug Violations		
Month	Violations/ Entering Boats	%
May	0/21	0%
June	3/117	2.56%
July	7/150	4.67%
August	1/110	0.90%
September	0/70	0
Total	11/447	2.46%

Plant Violations		
Month	Violations/ Entering Boats	%
May	4/21	19%
June	14/117	11.97%
July	5/150	3.33%
August	4/110	3.64%
September	0/70	0
Total	27/447	6.04%



Yearly Crooked Lake Watercraft Inspection Data

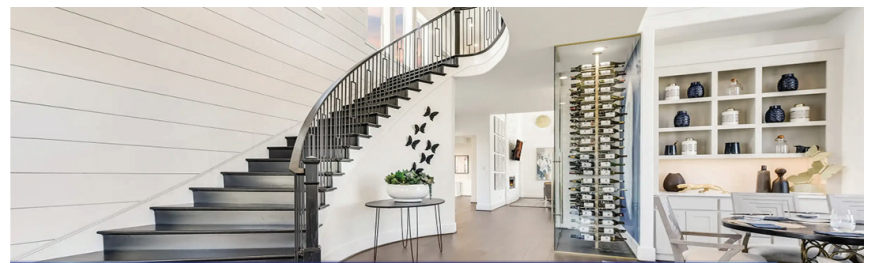
Year	2015 (1 st year)	2020	2022	2024
Hours	288	616	335	310
Inspections	533	948	664	748
Inspections/Hour	1.85	1.53	1.98	2.41
Boat Plug Violations	35/302 11.6%	32/493 6.49%	10/354 2.82%	11/447 2.46%
Plant Violations	20/302 6.6%	30/493 6.09%	21/354 5.93%	27/447 6.04%



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SPOTLIGHT ON CROOKED LAKER COLUMN

Saturday afternoon in mid-October I had the pleasure of interviewing Elli, Theron and Torsten Johnson. I was aware they were avid lake goers, more than anyone else I know, and remarkable kids. They were my obvious choice for the spotlight, here is what I learned from them.

I readied my pen and was about to dive in with a question and Elli beamed "EVERYBODY NEEEDS TO COME TO CROOKED LAKE, IT'S A FRIENDLY LAKE" I thought how great it is that this is her summary message to the world from experience...that you need to be here.

Therron noted "I only got in trouble a couple times....it was "Hey! Don't drive so crazy."

In answer to "first memories?" was a resounding "fishing for sunnies!!". See adorable photo. "We would bike to the park as a family, and ride down the big hill on the South end. There was no beach or peer, and the park had sketch playground equipment back then..not at all as nice as today."

Elli, who refers to herself as "your local paddle boarder" loves the lake community and meeting everyone. "My family used to see a particular Captain that was often out on the water...one day when Julie and I went paddle-boarding, Captain pulled up to us! We all talked and it was so cool and I got to meet Joel and Patty. When I got home I announced 'Hey guys! We know his name now! It's Joel!' There is also one woman that always comes to the beach with her dog, she's a regular, I'm sure you know her, Janna. And there are the Delich's.. just a great community."

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE ACTIVITY? Elli: "I love to paddleboard, and swim, its my happy place, no....it's my peaceful place."

Torsten: "Fishing and tubing are tied."

Therron: "Chasing the waves from other boats. (At a responsible distance of course.) I have done some nose dives with the boat..... Fishing is my go-to thing, for bass mostly."

"Tell me about the flag." "It started with an old small flag we would take, a 3.5 by 5, and bike with it up and down the road, through the Marigold neighborhoods, to Northdale bridge where we'd wave it on the bridge for 4th of July, Memorial Day, Veterans Day. Once we were old enough to take the boat out, we took the flag with us on it too. I upgraded to a larger flag, a 4 x 6, with perfect stitching. I purchased the flag with my own savings, and am very proud of our flag."

"WHAT WOULD YOU CHANGE?" – "There should be a sign at the boat launch that says no parking cars. They can park on the street or at the park." The boat launch is the only approved place for boats and trailers.

"FAVORITE MEMORIES?" – "too many to count, 3rd or 4th of July is always fun, 3rd of July we always anchor and watch the Anoka fireworks." I told them all these years we do the opposite...we go to the Anoka fireworks and watch the Coon Rapids fireworks in the distance on the lake. They said they may try that this year..never know.

Therron added "I did flip a canoe with a buddy, \$400 worth of lost stuff on that move!! Life jackets were on; we were safe. It was spring of 2020, early Covid, my friend and I were 14 and 15 years old. An unknown man saw us flip from shore and came out on a little red pontoon... actually it was just the base of a pontoon, not a full pontoon. The man pulled our canoe up on the pontoon platform and flipped the canoe." They climbed on Elli's paddleboard to get back in the canoe (because of course Elli was paddleboarding, along with a friend of hers). Elli laughed, "Yeah, lol, we saw it all in SLOW motion". Therron had a very different opinion about how fast they went in, "it was not in slow motion for me!!" In the days following, the kids practiced righting a canoe in deep water.

After many attempts, they did get a canoe to flip while they couldn't touch. They noted that completing canoe safety training in advance of taking a canoe out on the lake is a better practice. They also hope to one day meet their hero...so, hero, if you are reading this...

Reliving the canoe flip spawned an embarrassing memory for Elli. The same friend of Elli's that was paddling during the canoe flip was again hanging out with her on a sweltering summer

day, swimming and jumping off their paddle boards in a favorite swim spot on the lake, all carefree, fully present, livin' the lake life. All the while Elli's paddle was floating further and further away unbeknownst to her. When it was time to head back, the unfortunate loss of a paddle was noticed. The girls had their cell phones, though, and resourcefully called a friend. The friend's dad had to come pick them up and Elli still is soooooo embarrassed about this. An oar recovery mission ensued later in the day when the Johnson family returned by boat and after scouring the lake excitedly found the oar beached on "some random property". Elli followed up this story with "tethers are your friend". If you see her now, you will notice her paddle nicely tethered to her board.

Bruno, their dog, caught a duck once.

Craziest thing you've seen? "Tubing with jeans on – might be the stupidest looking thing we saw. Some guys tubing with an inboard/ outboard, rickety, 40 year-old motor..no life jackets. It was pretty cool to see...they had jeans on, no cares, having themselves a grand old time."

They recalled another time when Devon Delich had to tow them back, all the way to the boat landing from past the point.

Elli was like, 'where are they, we were supposed to meet long ago?'. Then, like a dream, a red boat came into sight, with her family in tow. They also mentioned something about jumping off a moving boat once.

How about the most beautiful moment you remember? "Easy, we were out for sunrise, summer of '22. There was a thunderstorm the night before...the sun rose in the East – it was





a "fire sunrise". JJ: What do you mean, fire sunrise? "It looked like fire in the sky...I'll show you". And they pulled out their phones and quickly found the fire photo, pictured top left. "We got up at 4:30 am that morning just to see the sunrise..." JJ: "Really?? That's amazing. Just to see the sunrise...it was planned? It wasn't like you woke up early, couldn't go back to bed sort of thing? You intended to get up at that hour?" Them: "yep". JJ: "What did you do?" "Wait for the sun and fish." (Of course you did, I thought...) "What was that like?" "When we go out early, your sprinklers will be running and it makes this fog everywhere and it's beautiful, right there on the lawn all misty, then we dodge the sprinklers until we get to the shore." Part of me thinks that mist is the pool heating the air and we should get it covered.... Anyway, so glad I asked about their most beautiful moment. They painted such a pretty picture of it for me. All these years I had no idea these kids were sunrise chasers, and going all Mission Impossible-like, dodging sprinklers until they were toes-in-water.

"Torsten, your turn." Torsten shared fond memories of chilling out on the lake and making fun of each other." They all three expand that when on the lake with friends, they goof around and always take time to share what they are thankful for, as well as

pray for each other. Often, they bring their dinners with them so they can spend more time.

Ellie shared that her favorite bible verse is Romans 5:5: And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us. Therron shared his favorite is Proverbs 6:20-21: My son, keep your father's command and do not forsake your mother's teaching. Bind them always on your heart; fasten them around your neck. Torsten's favorite is Proverbs - 16:16: How much better to get wisdom than gold, to get insight rather than silver!

Torsten adds that he loves a good fishing competition on Crooked Lake. "Therron always beats his friend fishing, and then I beat them all." Both Elli and Therron agree, Torsten is the GOAT fisherman.

The Johnsons have been going out on the lake since before they can remember as a family. They recall a Monday night weekly tradition, catching sunnies using corn. Torsten: "I remembers biking to the boat landing before the fishing pier was in at the park...it was just corn and a hook off the dock. I caught a sunny, and as I brought it up a basketball size snapper jumped out of the water and almost grabbed it. I also saw a bass jump up and eat a

sunny after I released it."

Best time of day to swim per the Johnson's is 2-4 pm..." and do NOT forget sunscreen." Elli shares the best time overall is sunset on the lake.. "it is my peaceful place... talk with God."

Favorite winter memory was riding a side-by-side a few years ago, and pulling Therron and his friend as they shred the lake on a snowboard behind it.

If Torsten could change one thing about the lake it would be to please improve the consistency of fishing. "One day I am sitting in a cove in the large bay, talking, and a massive pike hits my line...30 inches. And then another day I am trying really hard and I get one or two sunfish. Fishing can be weird." If Elli could change one thing, it would be to make the lake cleaner.

Spending time with the Johnson siblings on this column was a sincere pleasure. I hope you enjoyed getting to know them, and recalled a fond memory or two of your own.

Cheers to more lake life,
Julie

4th of July Boat Parade

Despite the rainy weather and a last-minute delayed start that left some sailors already on the water, the 4th of July boat parade on Crooked Lake was spectacular! The Jared family stole the show with their fantastically themed "Splish Splash Taking a Bath" boat, winning tickets to a St. Paul Saints baseball game, and proving that there's nothing better than taking a nice, relaxing bubble bath out on the lake, even on a rainy day! A great big thank you to the Beckerman family for organizing the event! And to all the fans!

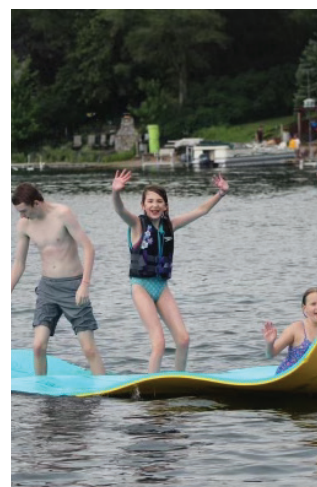
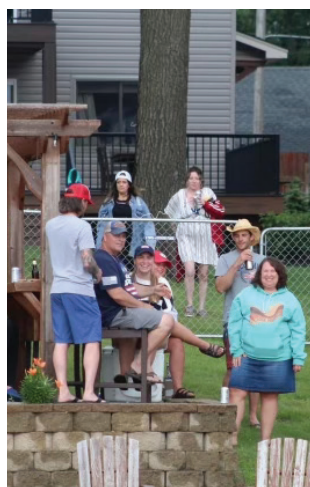


Summer Membership Meeting Picnic

The summer membership picnic was a blast, with neighbors and friends gathering for a day full of fun and laughter. Highlights of the event included a thrilling water balloon toss, delightful face painting, and Brian Vail's smoked meat feast that brought everyone together. President Julie Jared shared a lively update before running off to sail Floaty Boaty in the inaugural Crooked Lake Regatta (cardboard boat race).

Crooked Lake Cardboard Boat Race

The first annual Crooked Lake Regatta, held right after the summer general membership picnic, was a phenomenal time! With a plethora of impressive entries, participants vied for two fabulous trophies—1st Place and Fan Favorite—themselves crafted partly from cardboard. Dan Anderson and his trusty sidekick John got up early to expertly set up the race course, complete with a billboard cardboard sign and checkered flag finish line, drawing participants from far and wide. The creative boats were a sight to behold, and the turnout was incredible. Dan and John's patriotic vessel clinched the race in a thrilling photo finish, proving that speed wasn't everything. Meanwhile, Floaty Boaty was just happy not to sink while carrying the Prez. Anne and Mick McCann's brother snagged the Fan Favorite award with his shark-inspired boat, which he initially built to teach kids about construction before stumbling upon the race—it was meant to be!



CROOKED LAKE CARDBOARD BOAT RACE RULES

Rules for Division 1

- The boat may be of any design, v-hull, flat bottom, kayak/canoe, sailboat, or may just look like a box.
- The boat must be designed so that the person or persons in or on the boat are entirely out of the water.

Materials

- Boats are to be constructed of corrugated cardboard. Other types of cardboard may be used such as flat or smooth. Cardboard tubes are permitted as long as they are open on the ends.
- Any type of tape may be used
- Any type of glue/caulking may be used
- Boats may be painted for decorations or for waterproofing.
- Boats may be waterproofed with any paint on products such as paint, water sealer, or liquid rubber such as Flex Seal.

Restrictions

- Plastic, Foam, Wood or wood products, Fiberglass or Metals may not be used.
- Cardboard that has been treated with wax or other coatings may not be used.
- No screws, staples or other fasteners are to be used.
- You may use any type of paddle or oar. You may use your hands to paddle the boat. No motors or propulsion devices are allowed

Course – The Race will start at the shoreline. Boats will race out into the lake about 200 feet, go around a buoy, and race back to the shore. Boats must go through the Finish Gate near the shoreline.

All participants must wear a Coast Guard approved PFD during the race.

Trophies – 1st, 2nd and 3rd place trophies will be awarded in Division 1 Official. A 1st place trophy will be awarded in Division 2 Outlaw.

There will also be one trophy awarded for Fan Favorite Design among all the boats.

Other – All boats must be removed from the lake and the shore after the race.

This year we are having two divisions of watercraft.

Division 1: OFFICIAL - Boats must follow all the rules.

Division 2: OUTLAW - Boats are exempt from most rules. The only request is that the boat be mainly constructed of cardboard.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

The CLAA Winter Meeting will be held at Legacy Christian Academy at 6:30 PM on

FEB 25, 2025

CLAA COMMUNITY CALENDAR

DECEMBER

12/15/2024
Holiday Crafting

JANUARY

1/11/2025
Ice Carousel

1/25/2025
Broomball Tournament

FEBRUARY

Ice Out Contest

Fishing Event

MARCH

Ice Out Contest

APRIL

4/12/2025
Egg/Medallion Hunt

MAY

5/18/2025
CLAA 5K

JUNE

6/21/2025
Talent Contest

JULY

7/20/2025
SGM and Cardboard Boat Race

AUGUST

8/2/2025
Swim Across the Lake

SEPTEMBER

9/20/2025
Cards Night

OCTOBER

10/18/2025
Bonfire

NOVEMBER

11/30/2025
Cookie Exchange

*All dates are subject to change. Keep an eye out on our Facebook for the most up-to-date information.

REMINDER: OUT OF THE STREET, POND, AND CREEKS!

Please keep yard waste out of the street since it can clog storm drains or add pollution to our waters. Leaves and yard waste in the street reduces the capacity of street sweepers to collect sand & dirt, potentially polluting our creeks and lakes. A recent study has shown street sweeping, if done strategically, can very effectively reduce these pollutants. We are working with the cities on the best strategy for each.

You can help by adopting a storm drain through adopt-a-drain.org. This is where you regularly clean out storm drain grates and report your work. You get to name your drain, can get swag, and join over 10,000 other Minnesotans in protecting our waters.

Leaves (and grass clipping piles!) need to also be kept out of (or next to) creeks, ponds, ditches, and wetlands. Why? Leaves can add excess phosphorus to our creeks, ponds, and lakes. Excess phosphorus leads to algal blooms that can cause fish die-offs. Piles of grass clippings and leaves also kill the vegetation underneath, causing erosion.

Make it your plan to mulch your leaves and grass clippings with your mower, saving you time, feeding your lawn, reducing potential flooding, and protecting our waters!

Info provided by Coon Creek Watershed District,
WWW.COONCREEKWD.ORG or **763.755.0975**

DOCK HELP 101

By: Joel Friday

One of the tasks we have as lakeshore owners is putting our docks in during the spring and taking them out in the fall. A recent conversation at a CLAA board meeting included hiring contractors to do the job. Concerns were that the companies might not be lake aware and bring in unwanted invasive species. The board also doesn't want to endorse any particular provider yet recognizes that multiple vendors increase the chances of bringing in unwanted species. Here are the options available.

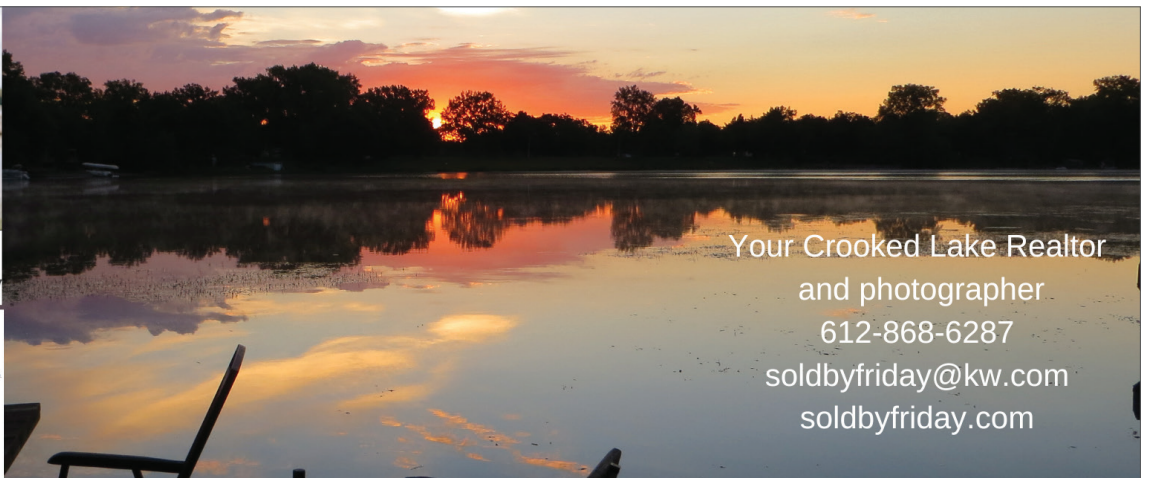
1. Take your dock in and out by yourself or with a neighbor's help. I am guessing about 75% are done this way currently.
2. Leave your dock in the water. This can be a risk with ice shifting but several owners utilize this method.
3. Hire someone to assist you. We are all able to do this but make sure the equipment used to do this has followed the same protocols we use for boats. Here is the website to find contractors who have gone through MN DNR Lake Service Provider training and should be up-to-date on invasive species protocols to avoid your contractor contaminating the lake:

https://webapps15.dnr.state.mn.us/ais_business_training/lake_service_provider_permits/public_website_list

SALTING 101

By: Coon Creek Watershed District (CCWD)

Salt is almost impossible to remove from waterways. Just one teaspoon pollutes five gallons of water forever. Use it sparingly. A 12-ounce coffee cup of salt is enough to cover 10 sidewalk squares or a 20-foot driveway. Shovel first, and sweep up extra salt to re-use next time!



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WATERSPORT SAFETY & ETIQUETTE: MAKING WAVES RESPONSIBLY

Hey there, fellow lake lovers! Whether you're gliding across the water on a kayak, zipping around on a jet ski, or just trying to keep your inner tube from flipping over, safety and etiquette are key. Here's a guide to keep our lake fun and safe for everyone!

Safety First: Because We Like Everyone In One Piece.

- **Life Jackets: Wear 'Em Like a Fashion Statement**

Seriously, life jackets are not just for boaters—they're the "little black dress" of water sports. Make sure they're U.S. Coast Guard-approved. Bonus points if it's neon!

- **Check Your Equipment**

Before hitting the water, inspect your gear like it's a contestant on a reality show. Make sure everything is in working order—no one wants a surprise "sink or swim" situation!

- **Know Your Distance**

When following a boat pulling tubers (or any watersport), remember: the only thing they want close is the fun, not your bow. Maintain a safe distance, or risk turning your joyride into an unintentional game of "who can dodge the airborne tuber."

- **Watch the Flow**

Traveling counter-clockwise around the lake is crucial for maintaining the delicate balance of traffic and safety. Let's travel like our friends south of the equator and swirl like water in an Australian toilet!

Etiquette: Let's Keep It Chill, Folks

- **Respect the Space**

Think of the lake as a giant living room. Give your neighbors room to enjoy their own "lake time." Avoid zooming through their peaceful fishing spot like you're auditioning for a water-skiing stunt show.

- **Slow Down in Crowded Areas**

When you're near the dock, swimmers, or other boats, channel your inner tortoise. Not everything needs to be a race—especially when Grandma is trying to catch some sun!

- **Pick Up After Yourself**

Let's leave the only footprints on the shore. Bring a trash bag for your snacks and drinks—because no one wants to kayak through your leftover chip bags. It's not a treasure hunt!

Let's Make a Splash the Right Way!

So there you have it, folks! Watersport safety and etiquette doesn't have to be a drag. Keep it safe, keep it fun, and let's make our lake the best place to splash around. Remember, the only thing we want to see diving into the lake is you (and maybe a few ducks)!

Happy paddling, everyone!
Dave Martz



CROOKED LAKE HOME HISTORY HIGHLIGHT

I thought it would be a fun idea to highlight the history of some of the beautiful homes on our lake in our annual newsletter, starting with mine.

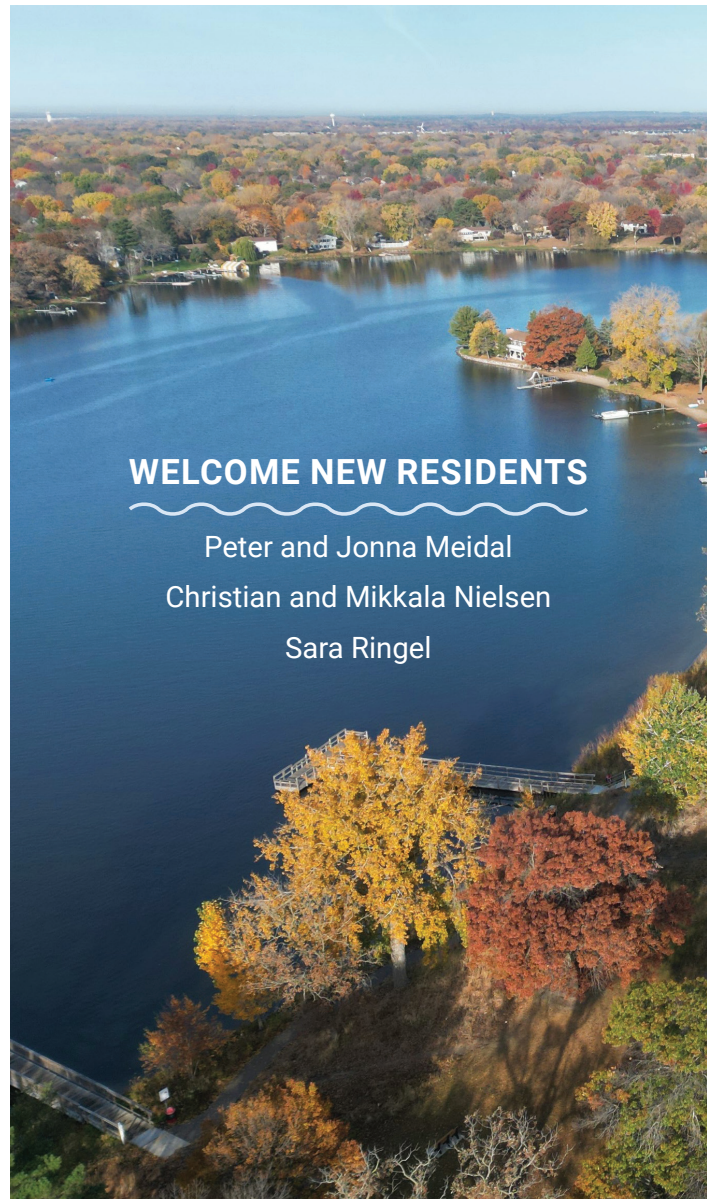
Although the city of Coon Rapids was established in 1959, Crooked Lake was home to Crooked Lake Resort and cabins for many decades before that, and was surrounded by farmland. Back then, the lake had a great deal less properties, and would have been without electricity and many of the other amenities we enjoy today. The house my wife and I bought 25 years ago, located in the south-east quadrant of the lake, was one of those cabins. When the previous owners knocked down the cabin and built what would become our home, they left the original basement with the house. In the 70's, he was able to obtain a lot of building materials from Crooked Lake Resort's old lodge to use as he built, since the resort was being torn-down (in the location that would eventually become Crooked Lake Park). For example, the entry door into our garage came from the resort's bar, while the pine paneling in our living room came from its lodge. As a matter of fact, paneling across the whole house came from different parts of the lodge - paneling that has to be close to 100 years old, and still looks amazing. Paneling in one of the bedrooms upstairs is knot-less pine paneling.

Like many homes in the area, our fireplace was built with bricks that came from the Chicago fire. Our upstairs was built as a passive solar room, which was one of the first of its kind in the area when it was built in the late 70s - early 80s. Other unique features of our house include slate entry-way floors, hardwood flooring throughout the ground level, and even a grandfathered-in boathouse at the beach built in 1964. The boathouse is a particularly unique part of the property, because laws have changed since it's construction that wouldn't allow it to be nearly as close to the waterline as it is now.

Buying our house on Crooked Lake has been one of the best decisions our family has ever made, and we absolutely love living here. I hope that other residents on the lake might want to share the history of their unique home in the next newsletter. If you would be interested in sharing about your home history, please contact me,

Brian Graves

Vice President, Crooked Lake Area Association



WELCOME NEW RESIDENTS

Peter and Jonna Meidal

Christian and Mikkala Nielsen

Sara Ringel

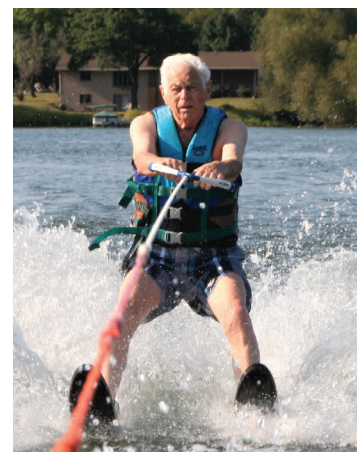
CROOKED LAKE FLASHBACK CORNER

By: Julie Jared

Meet Crooked Lake's Legendary Dan Anderson

Growing up on the shimmering waters of Crooked Lake and calling it home his entire life, Dan Anderson is a living legend around these parts. Nowadays, he's known as Lobster Dan, the charismatic captain of the Crooked Lobstah, and the mastermind behind the much-loved Crooked Lake Ice Carousel tradition. In his prime, Dan set up a gnarly slalom course on the lake, carving through the water like a pro. To the right is a snapshot of him shredding the waves, despite a little ear injury just before the photo. Dan's passion for the water is unmatched, even teaching his 90-plus-year-old father, Wally, to water ski. Dan Anderson truly embodies the spirit and community of Crooked Lake!

Below is a photo of Dan carving serious water, despite his ear injury.



TREASURER'S REPORT

From the Desk of the Treasurer by Grant Schmalzer,

The recommended donation for membership in the lake association is \$50 annually, or \$35 for those residing off the lake. Donations can be made at any time between January 1 and December 31. We are a 501(c)3 corporation, meaning that any donations you make are tax deductible. If you haven't submitted your donation for this year (since January 1st, 2024), now is an excellent opportunity to do so! Remember, you can make a donation through Venmo using the QR code found on page 1. Donations can also be made on Facebook by clicking the Donate button located at the top of the Crooked Lake Area Association Facebook page, accessible via the QR code below.

If you're uncertain about whether you've made a donation for 2024, feel free to reach out to me via email at gs2175@gmail.com or by phone at 612-965-4631.



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ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP/DONATION FORM



2024



2025

Suggested Annual Donation:

Lakeshore Owners: \$50.00

Lake Lovers: \$35.00

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Phone: _____

Email Address:



I'm GREEN... Please email me the newsletter next year instead of mail



I'd like to volunteer

Make check payable to: **CLAA**

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13021 Kerry Street

Coon Rapids, MN 55448

List of Officers and Phone Numbers:

Julie Jared	763-229-7457	President
Brian Graves	612-282-8803	Vice-President
Grant Schmalzer	612-965-4631	Treasurer
Josephine Larson	612-209-8218	Secretary
David Martz	763-234-6565	Quadrant Leader - SW
Kerry Rowland	612-787-6272	Quadrant Leader - NE
Brian Vail	651-431-1713	Quadrant Leader - SE
Joe Mantel	612-419-7857	Quadrant Leader - NW
Joel Friday	612-868-6287	Coon Rapids Watchdog, Online Director
Dan Anderson	763-807-5848	Andover Watchdog

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CrookedLAA@gmail.com

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.

