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# President's Message | Round Lake

Terry Waagmeester | President



Hello fellow Round Lake residents.

I hope you all had a great summer on the lake and were able to meet some of your fellow Round Lake neighbors at the annual meeting on June 15th or at the Sale Around Round on September 7th. Fall has officially arrived, temperatures are dropping, and the activity on the lake is changing in preparation for the season ahead (i.e., storing boats, pontoons, jet skis and removal of docks\lifts).

We have had a couple of changes to our board this past year. Luke Vander Aarde and Pat Heinen resigned their positions which opened spots for Phyllis Trcka and Jennifer Carnahan to join the board. I would like to thank Luke and Pat for their valuable service. Phyllis Trcka will continue to be the Newsletter coordinator. Ann Kalgren is staying on the board but is stepping down from her roles as Secretary for both the Round Lake Improvement Association "RLIA" and Round Lake Improvement District "RLID." Jennifer Carnahan has graciously agreed to take on these Secretary roles. I would like to thank Ann for her diligence in the Secretary roles over the last couple of years and Jennifer for stepping up to replace Ann going forward.

We engage Lakes Restoration to assess curly leaf pondweed every spring. They performed an assessment in early May in the areas where it was previously found and detected minimal growth, so they did not recommend treatment again this year. They did recommend a total lake survey, so we engaged Aquatic Survey Professional to perform this in-depth survey of the lake in mid-June. Aquatic Survey Professionals did detect the presence of curly leaf pond weed however it was too late in the year to treat so we will engage them to perform another survey earlier next year along with a treatment plan.

After another disruptive summer of road work on County Road 115 AKA Nashway Road I think we can all agree that the results were worth the inconvenience. The county and the construction companies did an excellent job of keeping us informed, and due to the weather cooperating, they were able to complete the road reconstruction project from 371 to East Lake Hubert Drive by early August. An additional positive note to wrap up with, the lake level remained normal this summer allowing Bishops Creek to be easily navigable.

Do not forget to check out our website: [www.roundlakebrainerd.com](http://www.roundlakebrainerd.com) for more details.

## Willard (Bill) Hartup

With sadness, we announce the passing of longtime NLLA Board Member and Newsletter Editor Bill Hartup. Bill passed away in July at age 95. Bill served many years as editor and set a high bar, before retiring from that role in 2014. He, along with Round Lake's Chuck Jorgensen, transformed the newsletter from the basics to a professionally designed and printed publication that is produced and mailed at no cost to either association.

Bill's professional career was as an educator focusing on child development. He was a professor and later Director of the Institute for Child Development at the University of Minnesota, where he taught for 37 years. Bill was also a strong supporter of the Lakes Area Music Festival.

Kay Hondo, our board president at the time, described Bill as always helpful and supportive. As well as a true gentleman. Bill contributed greatly to our association and will be missed.



# President's Message | North Long Lake

Chuck Knopik | President

As your newly elected President of the Association, I look forward to working with the board continuing our hard work and great success on several leading issues. I've always felt it's better to work on a few things and do them well rather than work on several and accomplish very little.

A critical issue that has come up this summer is that we have found an invasive species, Eurasian Milfoil, in Merrifield Bay. Frankly, this was not unexpected and we have been preparing for this. We immediately put a plan in place working with our AIS treatment specialist (PLM) and the DNR to combat this issue. The affected area, 6 acres north of the Merrifield Bay boat access, were treated; though we expect further treatments to be necessary. The funds to tackle this were available in our AIS fund. We take this very seriously and will do everything possible to control AIS.

You may recall receiving a survey that we sent out after our annual meeting asking for your input and thoughts about improving the meeting. Thank you to all of you who responded and we appreciate your comments. The survey with your comments will be covered in detail later in this newsletter. However, I would like to share with you our work in progress on a couple of them. Several of you commented on the date of the annual meeting/luncheon, the third Saturday of July, as being a very competitive time. Saturday, June 7 will be the date for the 2025 Annual Meeting and Picnic. We hope that it will be a more convenient date for members.

There were also several comments about the absence of door prizes. In the past we would lean on our local businesses for door prizes and would give them out at the meeting. Over time, it has become increasing difficult to obtain quality door prizes. The transition to more chain stores in the area has exacerbated this problem. So we elected to hand out a NLLA Logo beach towel to every property member attending the meeting. We have a committee of the board working on the strategy for our meeting next year.

Two long time board members, Jim Anderson and Jim Cook, have decided to resign from the board. I want to thank them for their contributions. We have board vacancies to fill so if you are at all interested, please send me a note at [chuck.knopik@northlong.org](mailto:chuck.knopik@northlong.org) and we can discuss further. But don't feel that you have to be a board member to volunteer. We have many opportunities for members to help out on a project or one-time basis. Again, just send me a note and we can discuss.

Well with all that said it looks like my plate is filling up; however, with the great board that we have my back is covered. I thank the board and all of you for doing what needs to be done to keep our lake the great lake that it is. Enjoy the rest of the year and we will keep you informed on our progress.



# Lake Owner Stewards 101

By Phyllis Trcka

The vision of the office of the Crow Wing County Land Service is to make the lakes area Minnesota's favorite place. To understand what this means, I scheduled an interview with Nicholette Dunlap, Sr. Environmental Services Specialist from the Crow Wing County Land Services. I wanted to find out how a lake landowner can participate to make this vision a reality.

Nicholette described the focus of Crow Wing County Land Services is to preserve our natural resources such as the water and land to result in environmental sustainability. Her office believes there can be a common ground between beautiful lake home and the protection of this natural resource. The best tool is using education for proper lake/land management with the homeowner.

The focus of this discussion is the area of the property called the ordinary high water (OHW) elevation. This is an elevation set by the DNR and it varies from lake to lake. There are more factors to this equation but it is basically the beach and the water. The area should be a special focus to the lake owner to properly steward because we are sharing this fragile ecosystem with everything and everyone. The Crow Wing County Land Services office can become your valuable partner in

getting the resources needed for best land management and sustainability.

A way a lake owner can accomplish this is to manage water runoff. The focus of the office is the review of the percentage of impervious surfaces a lake owner has on their property that prevents water from soaking into the soil. Since most of the unwanted sediment, nutrients and contaminants is found in the first 1 inch of runoff from impervious surfaces, simply landscaping your property to direct this flush of stormwater to rain gardens, berms, or natural depressions will make a huge difference in keeping the water quality of our surface waters.

As you would call the utility office before you dig, also reach out to the Crow Wing County Land Services at 218-824-1010 to schedule the free evaluation of your property or check out the website at [www.crowwing.us](http://www.crowwing.us). They can discuss your specific OHW as it relates to your project such as the installation of a shed, patio, driveway or deck keeping in mind the management of your lake's health. An enforcement program does exist but the office prefers to educate the landowner then to tell them they can't have something they already built. The office believes there is a common ground between a beautiful lake home and the protection of our natural resources.

*The greatest threat to our planet is the belief that someone else will save it.*

-Robert Swan



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## Youth Boating Safety Class

What are the important safety rules when operating a boat? Who has the right of way? What are the special rules for jet-skis? What do the different color buoys mean? Many of us can't answer those questions but there are now more than two dozen teens and tweens on North Long Lake who can. They all attended, and passed, the NLLA sponsored Youth Boater Safety class in June. The association has been sponsoring this class as an annual event since 2017.



lunch, courtesy of Dunmire's, followed by a hands-on ride in the Sheriff's Water Patrol boats. Participants were able to pilot those boats through a navigation course set up in 371 Bay by the Water Patrol.



The Crow Wing County Sheriff's Office Water Patrol conducted the class. Using a series of scenarios, videos and quick quizzes over the course of a Saturday morning, they provided the knowledge these kids needed to pass the Minnesota Youth Boating Safety test and receive their Minnesota water operator's permit for 12 to 17 year olds. This permit allows them to operate motorized watercraft - with few restrictions.

While the class can be taken online, taking this class in person gave the kids the chance to ask questions, hear from the Deputies about real rescues and incidents, and - best of all - drive the Sheriff's Office water patrol boats through a course the Water Patrol laid out.

The class was held at Dunmire's on the Lake restaurant. 25 kids from age 12 to 17 came from near and far to attend. The classroom session was followed by a terrific



Each attendee also received a free lifejacket, courtesy of the North Long Lake Association. Watch this newsletter for announcements and details about next summer's course. The MN DNR's online course is always available at <https://www.boaterexam.com/usa/minnesota/>

The NLLA is extremely grateful to the Crow Wing County Sheriff's Office for their partnership and the generosity of Dunmires for providing the perfect venue and a terrific meal.

# < FALL 2024 HIGHWAY 371 LITTER PICK UP >

For many years, the North Long Lake Association has taken the responsibility to pick up litter along Highway 371. We do this twice a year, once in the spring and again in the fall. Our section of highway is from mile markers 38 to 40, on both sides of the road. This area stretches from the Kubota Dealership to Ojibwa Road.

The volunteers for the fall pickup were: Sara Hight, Chuck and Char Knopik, Sandy Loney, Patrick Schiller-Michels, Steve and Doreen Purpur, Bob and Becky Shawgo, Mike Villwock, Rod Windjue, Harris Goldstein

All lake residents who volunteer are welcome and appreciated. Watch your email for announcement of the spring pickup. We are generally done in about 2 hours.

Special thanks to Becky and Bob Shawgo for leading this event.





## Second Annual Round Lake 4th of July Boat Parade

Thanks to everyone who joined the fun this year participating in the Round Lake 4th of July boat parade. Whether you were on shore or in the parade, you'd agree it was a success with at least double the boats and good weather. Be sure to mark your calendar for the next annual. Tell all your family and friends as we'd love to have you be a part of this festivity.



## North Long Lake Independence Day Boat Parade

The North Long Lake Independence Day Boat Parade on 371 Bay was a hit this year with 57 boats participating. Despite the forecast of rain, the weather was fine – until the very end. Thanks to Stephanie and Claire Esser for organizing the event again this year. There is, by the way, a Facebook page for the event (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1755432348082554>, or search for "North Long Lake Independence Day Boat Parade").



# BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR: SPINY WATER FLEAS



One of the aquatic invasive species we are tracking are Spiny Water Fleas. Spiny water fleas are tiny freshwater zooplankton that invade lakes and can take over the bottom of the food chain. They can decimate populations of native zooplankton resulting in a decreased food source for native fish and an increase in algal blooms.

They (along with Zebra Mussels) compete with walleye fry for food, impacting the success of walleye stocking. They can also clog the eye-lets of fishing rods, causing problems for fishing. Currently, Spiny Water Fleas are primarily in northeast Minnesota lakes, but are also present in Lake Mille Lacs.



Photo courtesy of the Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center

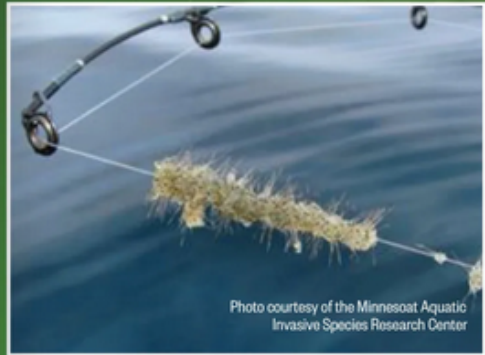


Photo courtesy of the Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center

These creatures often gather in clusters on fishing equipment such as lines, pole eye-lets, downriggers, and anchor lines. It's vital to clean and dry all gear before moving to another body of water. Spiny water fleas are vulnerable to drying out; both eggs and adults can perish within six hours if they are left dry. Letting equipment dry for 24 hours is the most effective method to prevent the inadvertent transportation of viable spiny water fleas or their eggs.

**IF YOU SEE SPINY WATER FLEAS ON YOUR EQUIPMENT WHEN ON NORTH LONG, PLEASE SEND A NOTE TO [NORTH.LONG.LAKE.NEWS@GMAIL.COM](mailto:NORTH.LONG.LAKE.NEWS@GMAIL.COM). INCLUDE THE LOCATION AND, IF POSSIBLE, A PHOTO.**

Top Image: Spiny Water Flea 1 by Daniel Hou (CC BY 2.0)

# ROUND LAKE Annual Picnic & Meeting

Each year the Round Lake Association hosts the annual picnic at the Nisswa Community Center. It's an opportunity to meet your neighbors, eat great food, and learn what is happening on your lake and in the community. This year the speaker was from the Lakes Area Rescue, followed by a short meeting and then a large prize drawing. The association supplied free beer and pulled pork sandwiches. This event occurs the third Saturday in June at noon and lasts just a couple hours. Mark your Calendar for June 21, 2025.

We hope to see you there.



# Introducing

## Jennier Carnahan: New Round Lake Board Secretary

Jennifer Carnahan and her family have owned a lake home on Round Lake since 1987. She owns a women's clothing store in downtown Nisswa next to Stonehouse Coffee called Primrose Park. The store is celebrating its 10th year in business. She loves our lake and is proud to be a member of the Round Lake Board.



## ROUND LAKE HAS A WEBSITE ([www.roundlakebrainerd.com](http://www.roundlakebrainerd.com))

The Round Lake website is your current information resource for residents on or near Round Lake and a communication tool for directors (Board) of the Round Lake Improvement Association & District.

The content is organized by **The Association, The District, Events, Projects and News, Photos, Links, Contacts and Membership.**

The **Association** and **District** pages provide access to governing documents, financial reports and meeting minutes. **Events, Project and News** furnishes information such as the next Annual Meeting or Sale Around Round. It also presents the most current information on lake water quality. The **Links** page has websites for external organizations. The members of the Board of Directors are identified with their email address, on the **Contacts** page. Their personal email addresses are no longer on the website. The **Membership** page is our invitation to become a member of the Association.

Photos of the lake, wildlife and recreation are always welcome along with news, events or website contents and design suggestions. Send your information to the site administrator; Richard Crail at [dctxmn@gmail.com](mailto:dctxmn@gmail.com). As a public site no passwords are required though content is screened for malware and approved by the Board. Be sure to take a moment to check it out.

## 2024 Round Lake Loon Report

By Phyllis Trecka

As a member of the Round Lake Association, I was given the task to observe and report the amount of loon chicks hatched on Round Lake for the summer of 2024. The Scientific technique was easy. Wait for a glass water lake day early June and observe through binoculars while riding in a pontoon. I also mapped the lake on our GPS to be sure we were sighting each loon family once. With loons being territorial, it made the counts very accurate as we did the observations more than once to verify. This was a successful year. I counted 2 chicks each with loon pairs at WP 008, 009, 0011, 1 chick with the pair in the SW corner (not mapped) and 0 chicks with the pair at WP010. This totals 7 chicks. Thanks to all for doing your part in protecting these fragile families while watching them nurture from a distance.



## Sale Around Round 2024

It was a last-minute board decision to host the Sale Around Round this summer. Nashway Road was completed mid-summer and it left the easy decision to plan the annual event for September 7th. There were lots of buyers and sellers searching for the usual must have treasures.

Set your calendars for June 7th, 2025 as the sale will be returned to its traditional first Saturday in June. Start planning as you spring clean as you may be able to make cash for your no longer wanted treasures.



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<https://moveu.us/stores/roundlake>

## Round Lake Improvement Association, Inc.

Account Balances As of 6/30/24 | Round Lake Association

Account	6/30/24 Balance	12/31/23 Balance	6/30/23 Balance
<b>Bank Accounts</b>			
CD First Western 403596	\$44,691.46	\$44,691.46	\$36,426.95
Checking	7,518.22	5,379.82	13,974.01
Savings	29,875.22	29,837.80	18,305.48
<b>TOTAL Bank Accounts</b>	<b>82,084.90</b>	<b>79,909.08</b>	<b>68,706.44</b>
<b>Asset Accounts</b>			
Accounts Receivable	100.00	0.00	100.00
<b>Total Asset Accounts</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>
<b>Liability Accounts</b>			
<b>TOTAL Liability Accounts</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>\$82,184.90</b>	<b>\$79,909.08</b>	<b>\$68,806.44</b>

## Round Lake Improvement District

For the Period of 1/1/2024 - 9/4/2024

CASH BALANCE AS OF 1/1/2024	DESCRIPTION
5860.34	Checking account
141040.79	CD
\$146,901.13	Total Cash as of 1/1/2024
<b>Revenues:</b>	
\$10.12	Interest
\$1,000.00	Loan from RLIA
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$1,010.12</b>
<b>Expenditures:</b>	
\$250.00	LID Annual Admin Fee
\$2,237.00	MCIT insurance
\$289.00	Summer TSI analysis AWR
\$3,010.40	Aquatic Vegetation Survey
<b>Total Expenditures:</b>	<b>\$5,786.40</b>
Cash Balance as of 9/4/2024	\$142,124.85

Note: Interest on CD of approximately \$7404 will be received 12/27/24



## WALLEYE FISHERY COMMITTEE

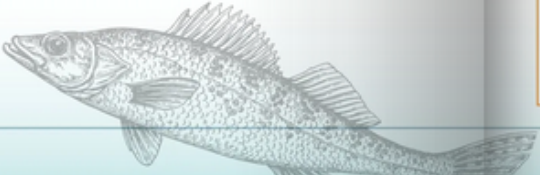
Where have all the walleye gone? Many of us have noticed a dramatic decline in catchable walleye in North Long over the past few years. In response, the association created a committee to see if we can better understand and hopefully address this issue. We met with the DNR fisheries supervisor for this region in late September. While we don't know the exact cause, we do have a few facts and a possible opportunity to share with you.

First of all, some facts. North Long is not conducive to natural walleye production. We depend on stocking to support the walleye fishery in our lake. The Minnesota DNR stocks our lake with fry (tiny walleye at the first stage of life) and fingerlings (small walleye a few inches long). These come primarily from DNR hatcheries. While fry are much easier to obtain, their survival rate is much lower than fingerlings. It's difficult to pinpoint the survival rate as much has changed now the zebra mussels have entered the lake.

For several years the DNR has been supplying roughly 4 million walleye fry to North Long each year. Recently the survival rate of the fry has been reduced significantly due to the zebra mussels feeding on the lake's plankton, which is the same food source for the fry. Acknowledg-

ing this, the DNR has started adding fingerling walleye to the lake. These fingerlings are older and larger fish using a different food source and with a much higher survival rate. Due to the limited supply of fingerlings from the DNR hatcheries and private hatcheries, the DNR will supply fingerlings every other year and fry in the in between years. Again, this will be based on fingerling availability. Each fingerling costs roughly one dollar.

We are also working with the DNR on the possibility of our Association adding additional fingerlings during the years the DNR is adding the fry to the lake depending on availability and funding. The fry is added to the lake in the spring of the year and the fingerlings are added in October when the water temperature is in the 50's; this is very important to the survival rate of the fingerlings. We will keep you posted on our progress as we continue to work with the DNR and others improving the quantity and quality of walleye fishing in our lake.



## AIS COMMITTEE

### >> Eurasian Watermilfoil

As reported in an email earlier, in August a private survey done by PLM Lake & Land Management showed Eurasian Watermilfoil (EW) in the Merrifield Bay just north of the public access. The DNR was notified and confirmed its presence. Our association contracted with PLM to survey the entire Merrifield Bay. They confirmed Eurasian Watermilfoil just northwest of the launch area; the area was about 6 acres.

There was a short window of opportunity to treat the area this fall. A permit was obtained from the DNR and on September 16th, the area was treated with Procclor. In the spring we will be surveying other locations in North Long Lake to make sure that is the only spot with EW. It is likely that we will have to continue to treat for EW as it is very hard to eradicate.

Eurasian watermilfoil is an aquatic invasive species. It looks similar to Northern Watermilfoil which is native to North Long Lake. Eurasian watermilfoil forms dense mats that inhibit fish spawning, blocks sunlight to fish and native plants and prevents recreational activities.



### Eurasian Watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*)

- Characteristics:**
- Submerged, limp aquatic plant
  - Whorls (circles) of four delicate feather-like leaves around stem
  - Usually 12 to 21 leaflet pairs per leaf



**To report invasive species:**  
Wrap plant in wet paper towel, place in sealed plastic bag, chill or refrigerate, and contact the Minnesota DNR at [www.mndnr.gov/ais](http://www.mndnr.gov/ais) or 651-259-5100.



### >> AIS Team

Your AIS team has been "throwing rakes", looking for invasive species in 8 areas of the lake considered high-risk, once or twice monthly. It is time consuming but worth it to try to keep AIS out of our lake. Early detection can provide an opportunity to treat before the spread is too great.

Mary and Becky participated in the state-wide Starry Trek. This was organized through the Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Center. We surveyed lakes in Cass County. We got new ideas and learned a lot that we have brought back to NLLA.

Mary attended the 2024 AIS Research and Management Showcase at the U of M, held by the Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center (MAISRC). The event focused on what the MAISRC learned this year and their continuing projects. Projects included Starry Stonewort and its effect on wild rice, ways to genetically alter Zebra mussels instead of using chemicals, and what works to influence boater behaviors.

### >> Boat Inspection Volunteers

Six of your board members attended a DNR class on AIS and boat inspection. Jim Anderson, Harris Goldstein, Chuck Knopick, Becky Shawgo, Rod Windjue and Mary McCormick are now volunteers for the DNR AIS program.

### >> Volunteers Needed

If you'd like to volunteer for the AIS team or have questions, please send an email to Mary McCormick at [mary.mccormick@northlong.org](mailto:mary.mccormick@northlong.org).

# North Long Lake Association

## 2024 ANNUAL MEETING AND PICNIC

Our annual meeting was held on Saturday July 20, 2024 at Legionville Camp.

We had 84 attendees representing 49 properties. Jim Anderson, NLLA Board President, introduced Sargent Brad Theising from the Crow Wing County Water Patrol who spoke to the group at 10:00 AM.

Sargent Brad Theising shared his background and the law enforcement positions he has held prior to his current role which includes water activities, snowmobiling and ATV activities. Brad and his team monitor over 400 bodies of water. He currently has a staff of 8 people. They work in teams of 2 people and target their water-time to the busiest lake time including weekends, holidays and evenings. He informed the group about practice diving exercises we may observe on the lake which gives their dive team practice at finding targets submerged in the lake.

Brad shared a change in the application process to get a permit for a separate raft stating that it is now necessary to get permission from any property owners where the raft would be anchored in front of their property. Brad reported that records show 25 traffic stops on North Long Lake so far this year which include boat registration issues, jet ski hours of operation, etc. The number to contact the Sheriff's Office for any issues on the lake is 218-829-4749. If a watercraft is involved it is very helpful to get the registration number off the boat which allows them to contact the owner of the boat to address any issues. Sargent Theising then answered a number of questions from the attendees at the meeting.

Jim Anderson formally opened the annual meeting a 10:30 AM and introduced the 2024 Board Members. There were 4 open positions on the Board. After calling for floor nominations, there were none, and all 4 positions were filled with the incumbents being re-elected: Chuck Knopik, Sandy Loney, Martha Weaver-West and Becky Shawgo.

Jim reviewed our Lake Association balance sheet which continues to be solid. Our current membership as of December 31 was 402 paid members with 262 also contributing to the AIS fund. Records show there are 583 properties on our lake.

The meeting agenda continued with Jim sharing updates on our Lake Water Quality. We continue to use AW Labs for water testing. We currently test 8 sites for clarity, phosphorus and chlorophyll. All bays are stable or improving except 371 bay is trending up for phosphorus since 2019. We continue to support these recommendations for all property owners on the lake to assure we maintain good water quality in our lake:

- Stop or reduce the use of fertilizer on lawns
- Grow a plant buffer zone at or near your shoreline
- Get your septic tank pumped and inspected regularly

Jim shared information about the lake water level. He has contacted Jacob Frie from the DNR who is our DNR Water Hydrologist to review the weir-dam on Sugar-bush creek. Jacob visited the weir on July 3rd of this year and concluded that the weir is functioning and operating just as it was designed when it was installed in 1961. The DNR does not support any changes to the weir at this time. Jacob also stated "Please note the that the structure itself may not be tampered or modified in any way without a public waters permit from the DNR". Jim then spoke to our AIS focus. We currently have zebra mussels and Curly Leaf Pondweed. We contract for an annual survey of lake vegetation which is turned over to the DNR for treatment approval. If approved we contract with a company to treat the Curly Leaf. We are now enrolled in a Starry Search program with Crow Wing County. We will routinely be testing at the landings and some campgrounds boat launch areas to identify Starry Stone Wart early enough to be able to get it physically removed before it spreads.

Membership has shown an interest in increasing wall-eye population in our lake and some members have donated money towards this goal. We are in contact with the DNR to see how we fit into their stocking plans for our lake. The DNR has informed us that we can only work within the parameters of their master plan for the amount of lake stocking that can be done. The DNR is currently in the process of updating their lake plans.

We continue to encourage all members to get involved in our Community Events including Litter Pickup along

Highway 371 in the spring and in the fall. Other events include the annual youth boater safety class we sponsor along with the Sheriff's Water Patrol, and our support of the annual Boat Parade on the 4th of July. Also a reminder that the NLLA logo clothing and merchandise are available through GLS supply at: <https://northlong-itemorder.com/>

There were a couple of booths set up for members to get the latest information on AIS activities including the relatively new threat of spiny water fleas which have been spreading in Minnesota lakes and well as the always present threat of starry stonewort. NLLA is testing near the boat landing twice per month this summer to identify any new AIS threats to our lake as soon as possible. The Master Gardeners also had an informational booth setup to share their knowledge and activities in the area.

Each property on North Long Lake which is a current member of our Lake Association received a beach towel with our logo. Additional towels are available for sale for \$20 each and they come in blue or yellow. Also note that the 2024 slideshows are on our NLLA YouTube Channel: [www.youtube.com/@nllacommunications](http://www.youtube.com/@nllacommunications).

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 in time for a picnic lunch. Brats, hot dogs, potato salad, beans and chips were served with cookies and root beer floats for dessert. During this time, we presented our annual slide show for our Life-On-The-Lake.

*Gave the Date*

Saturday, June 7 at Legionville



# Annual Meeting Survey

Our annual meeting this year was similar to past meetings and went smoothly. But attendance was lower than normal. In an effort to improve attendance and make the meeting more meaningful to our members, we sent a survey to all 640 individuals on our email list. 106 responded. Because we invited respondents to the survey via email, we recognize that there is a bit of bias in that members who don't have (about 25) or monitor their email may not have seen the invitation to the survey.

We first wanted to know how members were learning about when and where the meeting was being held. Most learned about the meeting from our printed newsletter and our monthly emails.



Every respondent was aware of the meeting, which is obviously good. But again, those who do not use email may not have seen the survey.

We then wanted to understand why members choose not to attend the annual meeting. The most common answer (56%) was "Had competing commitments", followed by "Not at the lake that day" (29%).



We realize that for many, it's difficult to devote half of a day, in the height of "lake season" to a meeting. Our by-laws do require an annual meeting to be held sometime in June, July, or August. We are looking at the feasibility of moving our meeting to mid-June when perhaps there is less competition for attention.

And we know that there was disappointment in the lack of a raffle and silent auction. However, the amount of time it took to acquire those raffle and silent auction items was increasing and both the quantity and quality of those items were decreasing.

We also asked for suggestions. Some of the most specific were:

- ✓ *Have the meeting earlier in the season*
- ✓ *Make the meeting shorter and start earlier*
- ✓ *Concerns about accessibility to the venue*
- ✓ *Make the meeting more family friendly*

As mentioned, we hope to move the meeting date to mid-June. We will be exploring other changes as well in the coming months. We always welcome your suggestions; feel free to send us your thoughts at north.long.lake.news@gmail.com.



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## 2024-2025 Officers

The North Long Lake Association has elected a new slate of officers for 2024-2025. All have lived on our lake and have been active on the board for years. The officers are:



President  
Chuck Knopik



Vice President  
Harris Goldstein



Treasurer  
Patrick Schiller-Michels



Secretary  
Martha Weaver-West

## New Board Member



Board Member  
Rod Windjue

In August, the NLLA Board of Directors accepted a new board member: Rod Windjue. Rod and his wife Heather have been full time residents of North Long Lake since October of 2012 residing on 371 Bay. He has been a realtor in the Brainerd Lakes area for the past six years, specializing in lakeshore sales.

Heather and Rod have six children and two grandchildren, all of whom love spending time with them on the lake. In their free time, they enjoy boating on our wonderful lake and are long time members of Maddens Golf Resort.

Rod has been actively involved in community service, including participating in the 371 road clean up over the past few years. Rod has told us that he is eager to contribute more by serving on the lake association board. And his primary goal is to help preserve and enhance the natural beauty of our lake, ensuring it remains one of the finest in the area.

## NLLA Board Resignations

It is with regret that we announce the resignations of two long-standing board members: Jim Anderson and Jim Cook. Both have served with the board for many years and made significant contributions to our Association. Their efforts and their counsel will be missed. We wish them well.

*"I grew up with the smell of the lake and the feeling of the woods."*

— Steven Tyler



Garbarit Vertical 12-Can Cooler

Polar Camel 40 oz. Travel Mug

**BRAND NEW**



Port Authority Snapback Five-Panel Boats Cap

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Port Authority Cozy Striped Pom Beanie



**STYLE**



Pennant archive crew



**CREW**



**NECK**



Port Authority Cozy Striped Pom Beanie



**WOMENS HOODED**



**NEW MERCHANDISE**



**SPORTWEAR**

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**OUTDOORS**

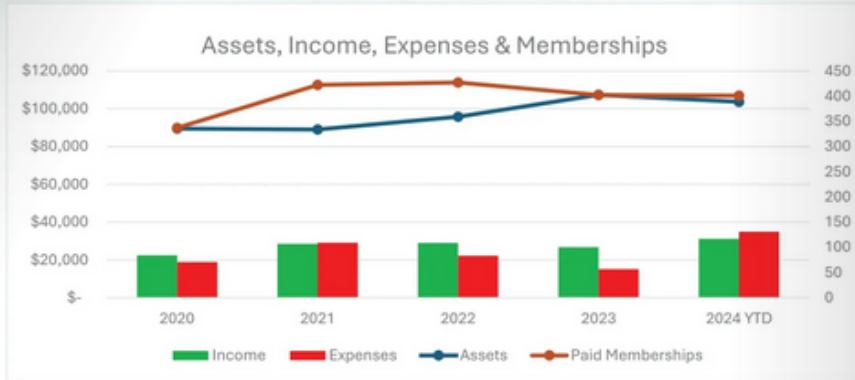


**REALTREE**

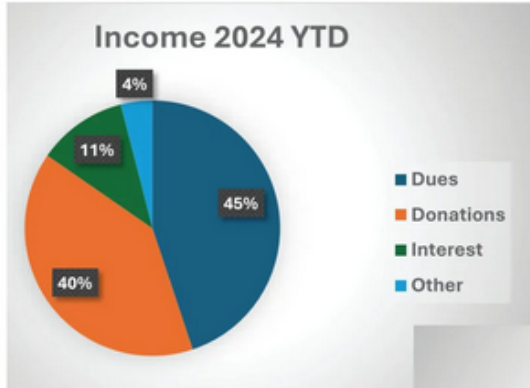
Our North Long Lake logo clothing and accessory store will be open November 10th through November 24th. Items can be shipped to your address or picked up at GLS Promotions in Brainerd (near B1R). They will be available before the Christmas and Hanukkah holidays. You'll receive an email when ready.

You can order online at <https://northlong.itemorder.com/>

## Treasurer's Report for 2024 Year-To-Date



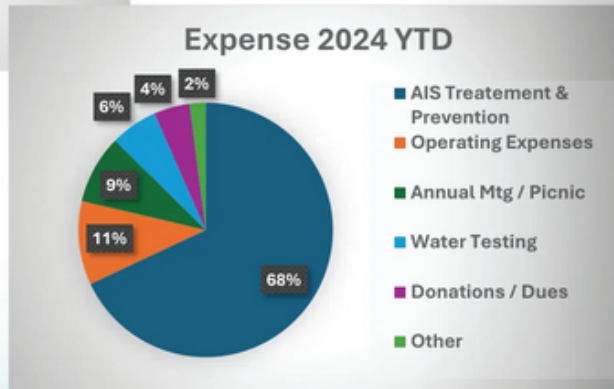
For the first time in several years, our expenses exceeded income for the year. This was due to the need to treat for Eurasian Water Milfoil, which was recently discovered for the first time in our lake. However, we had sufficient assets to immediately contract with our vendor for the treatment. Curly Leaf Pondweed did not meet the DNR's threshold for treatment, so we did not treat that this Spring.



Our income was almost \$3500 more than previous years, due to putting a large chunk of our assets into Certificates of Deposit. The second largest chunk of our income, after membership dues, comes from member donations to prevent, detect and treat Aquatic Invasive Species.

Over two thirds of our expenses were for AIS, followed by operating expenses and the annual meeting / picnic. Operating expenses include such things as insurance, printing and postage.

I would characterize our financial condition as currently quite healthy, though AIS expenses have the potential to continue to exceed income in coming years.



# NLLA Logo Beach Towels

High quality beach towels with our North Long Lake Association logo are available for purchase. These are the towels offered at the annual meeting. Both blue and yellow are available at \$20 each.

If interested, please contact Sandy Loney at [sndloney@gmail.com](mailto:sndloney@gmail.com).

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