



CROOKED LAKE

area association



Almost an "A"!

By Dan Jared, CLAA President



Last year we received an "A" grade for our water quality. This year we slipped just a little bit due to higher levels of phosphorous and slightly lower water clarity and received a water quality grade of "B". While both may be a result of our continued drought and lower water levels, we also want to be diligent as we head into winter. Storm water runoff is the primary source of pollutants in a lake so how we treat our sidewalks, driveways, lawns and roads has a significant effect on the water quality in Crooked Lake. For example, when snow and ice melt it takes the salt with it. Just one teaspoon of road salt can permanently contaminate five (5) gallons of water. The CLAA Board and our Partners regularly work with the cities of Coon Rapids and Andover to minimize the use of road salt within the Crooked Lake watershed. We ask that you join us with your own responsible use. Likewise, lawn fertilizers often contain high levels of phosphorous which also negatively impacts water quality. Please check out this video to understand better lawn care practices to keep contaminants out of stormwater when Spring arrives. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dwjAoRwLrmM>

Watch for future announcements about our Annual Winter General Meeting on February 16, 2023 at Legacy Christian Academy. And special thanks to our partners without whom we would not have been able to accomplish all that we have:

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| Coon Creek Watershed District | Anoka County | City of Andover Anoka |
| Conservation District | MN DNR | City of Coon Rapids |

CLAA APPAREL

Order your new

Crooked Lake gear!!

Stocking caps, sweatshirts and long sleeves are available in fabulous new designs by our lake's own, Karley Graves!

[See Page 7 for further details.](#)



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Prefer to Donate Online?

CLAA now accepts online donations via Venmo! You have the opportunity to double your donation impact! That's right! CLAA will receive a \$500 anonymous donation when you and others donate a combined total of \$500 via Venmo by December 31, 2022. Please help us seize the opportunity!

Scan to donate!

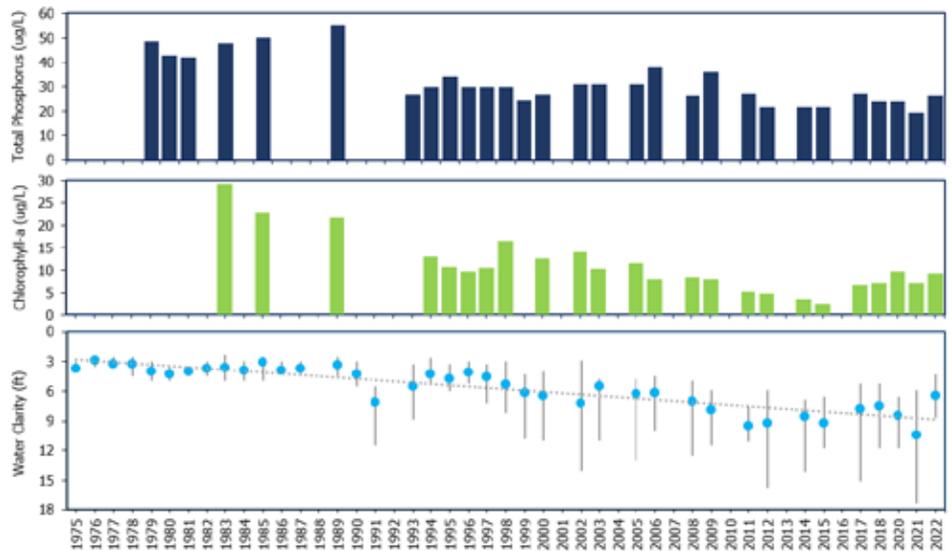


DONATE

Crooked Lake Water Quality Update: a “B” for 2022

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, Crooked Lake earned an “B” 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 B/A range over the past decade.



This year’s slight dip in quality is due to lower water clarity compared to recent years (see graph). This is not surprising given the extended drought conditions because shallower water is more strongly affected by sediment and nutrient re-suspension from the lake bottom. 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

CLAA Adopted Parks

CLAA participates in the Adopt-A-Park Program, and has been responsible for both the boat access in Andover (since April 2006) and Crooked Lake Park in Coon Rapids (since October 2018). The boat access is picked up on a nearly weekly basis from Spring through Fall. The belief is that a litter-free lake access park encourages visitors not to litter while on Crooked Lake. While CLAA does not organize a formal clean-up, all CLAA residents are encouraged to patrol for trash when visiting these two parks. Many thanks for your service!



Lake Levels: Drought Continues

By Coon Creek Watershed District (CCWD)

Despite the multi-year drought, Crooked Lake's current water level is well within the normal range observed since the 1980s. Water levels have, however, not been this low since 2009-10 which could seem alarming to newer residents who have not yet witnessed a rebound. Levels will recover as soon as we get adequate snow and rain to replenish the local groundwater. This situation is not unique to Crooked Lake— It is true for all area lakes, ponds, and wetlands sustained by groundwater.

How it works?

Crooked Lake's water level is dependent on groundwater, precipitation, and 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 feet so no water exits the lake except through evaporation. In wet years, the water overtops the concrete weir and slowly drains through a culvert to Coon Creek. In dry years when shallow groundwater levels are low, the lake level can drop up to 2.5 feet below average. After a dry 2021 where lake levels were roughly 1-1.5 ft below average, 2022 was another dry year, keeping levels low.

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



Adopt a Drain and Give It a Name!

Adopting and cleaning local storm drains helps prevent debris from getting into our local waters and polluting them. Another benefit of officially adopting a drain through the Adopt-a-Drain website is that you get to name your drains!

Meghann Nelson and her family had fun with that feature, creatively naming their Andover drains Drain Solo and Obi Wan Drainobi. Her daughters are the main ones who clean the drains, especially focusing on removing the leaves that can pile up on top of them. If you're inspired to adopt a drain and give it a great name, get started by going to mn.adopt-a-drain.org!

For more information, contact Abby Shea, CCWD Engagement Specialist, at ashea@cooncreekwd.org or 763-258-7305.

Birds of Crooked Lake

By Joel Friday, Coon Rapids Watchdog, Online Director at Large

Nothing is more majestic than seeing our national bird, the bald eagle, swooping around Crooked Lake, (see photo). There is a nesting pair just south of Lowe's which is viewable from Highway 10 if you know where to look. Rumor has it that at least one of that pair was killed on Highway 10 this year, so eagle sightings were down after July 4th. Recently, I spotted another pair of eagles on Crooked Lake. Hopefully, they will be here for years to come. Our lake has many tall cottonwoods for eagles to spot fish from, which they snatch out of the crystal clear waters. (They may also find a squirrel, as can be seen in the series of photos from Dan A.)

Our Minnesota bird, the common loon (photo below), also has a nesting pair on the lake. Our lake seems to be a stopping point in loon migration each spring, and I have seen as many as ten to twelve loons on the lake at once. We have not seen any baby loons in the past few years, although I did photograph a yearling on the lake in August. Hopefully next year we will see another youth.

Pelicans do also stop by on occasion, as seen in the photo on page 5, but typically do not stay more than a few days. My favorite is watching the swans fly by with the sun gleaming on their huge white wings (pictured on next page).

Other Crooked Lake notables are Canadian geese, wood ducks, mallards, great blue herons, hooded mergansers, kingfishers, and a wide assortment of songbirds. What is your favorite bird sighting on the lake? Please share your best pictures on our Facebook page @CrookedLakeAreaAssociation!



Birds of Crooked Lake



by Joel F.



by Joel F.



by Dan A.



by Joel F.



by Dan A.



by Dan A.



by Dan A.

Do I need a permit for that?

By: Coon Creek Watershed District

Coon Creek Watershed District is a special purpose unit of government in Anoka County that manages local water resources. One way to prevent negative impacts to property from flooding or water pollution and help you meet your home project goals is by requiring permits, balancing growth with protection.

We are updating our Rules beginning January 1, 2023!

Under the new rules, a permit will be required if you are doing any of the activities below on 5,000 square feet and within 50 feet of the lake OR 10,000 square feet and within 300 feet of the lake OR within the District floodplain or wetlands.

- Grading, digging, excavating or exposing soil
- Placing fill material
- Paving, constructing buildings such as sheds, homes or home additions
- Removal of vegetation

This is not a comprehensive list, but is a list of common activities that may occur on a lakeshore property which would require a permit. If you are unsure, you can fill out a Technical Assistance application from our website (cooncreekwd.org) and we can help!

Pontoon-2-School

by Brian Graves, SE Quadrant Lead

Living on Crooked Lake has had many benefits and enjoyments for myself and family. Moving on the lake over 22 years ago, my wife and I were one of the only young couples on the lake. We soon had two beautiful girls and when they were old enough to attend school at Crooked Lake Elementary at the end of the lake, I thought what an awesome benefit to living here. The school is so close.

Then, when my oldest was just about to start first grade, we were in the boat playing around right before school started that year and she said, "Look Dad, there's the school, can I go to school in the boat?" I thought "of course!" From that moment on it became a tradition to at least use the boat a couple times a year to give the kids a ride to school.

(continues, next page)



Pontoon-2-School (continued)



One time walking Karley to the school from the boat landing, some kids getting off the bus asked her, "Did you just come here in a boat?" She said, "Yes!" "Wow, that's so cool!," they exclaimed. Yes...it is indeed.

Nowadays there are so many great young families who live on the lake and use it to its fullest. All the kids are friends, and they even can go to each other's houses to play. To see the Facebook posts of all these kids going to school by boat just warmed my heart. The big smiles on all their faces made the memories come flooding back. Makes me miss those days, but I love to see the tradition continue.

Minnesota may be the land of 10,000 lakes, but there are very few people that live on those lakes that can say they can bring their kids to school by boat. The uniqueness of this school transportation is just one of the many special things about our beautiful gem of a lake. I hope the tradition continues.



CLAA APPAREL

Order your new
Crooked Lake
gear!!

Stocking caps, sweatshirts and long sleeve shirts are available in 3 fabulous new designs by our lake's own, Karley Graves! Available in black, white, grey, blue, red and green.

Email
Crookedlaa@gmail.com
or contact Brian at
612-282-8803

Fabulous new Crooked Lake apparel is now available! Just in time for the holidays!



\$15



\$15

*Also available
with "Winter
Fun" logo!



\$45

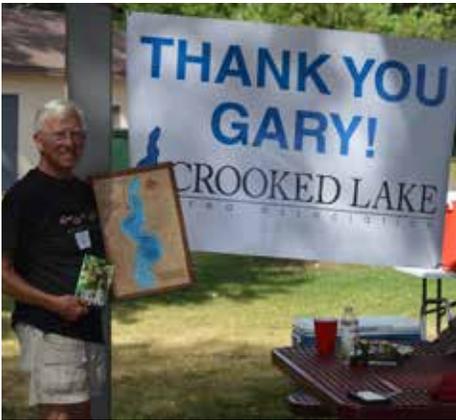


\$30

Please email your order to crookedlaa@gmail.com

Crooked Lake Picnic

Our Crooked Lake community gathered together for a beautiful and fun day at the Crooked Lake Area Association Summer Picnic on July 24th at Crooked Lake Park. Paula Foley presented an appreciation gift to Gary Nereson, Crooked Lake Area Association President from 2006-2021, for advancing Crooked Lake's water quality, including improving clarity from 6.2 feet in 2006 to 10.4 feet in 2021. Dan Jared, President CLAA, addressed members as they enjoyed a feast and silent auction sponsored by our generous sponsors below!



Thank you 2022 CLAA Sponsors!!!



Crooked Lake Egg Hunt

Our Crooked Lake community held an egg hunt for the second time at Crooked Lake Park this year. Hundreds of eggs were found by eager hunters throughout the park. There was even an egg toss and bunny hop/gunnysack race! Watch Facebook for details for next Spring. We hope you will hop on over and join us!



Christmas Light Contest

The Jared Family won the 2021 CLAA Great Christmas Light Contest!



Hope to see you at our
Winter General Meeting
on Thursday, February 16, 2023
6:30 pm
at Legacy Christian Academy
3037 Bunker Lake Blvd.

CLAA Boating Safety Reminder

To: All Lake Association Members and users of Crooked Lake

Crooked Lake is relatively small and narrow. It can't safely support many recreational boaters, skiers, canoeists, and fishermen all at one time. Therefore, for your safety and the safety of others, we encourage everyone to keep a sharp, attentive eye to boating traffic in the lake, and display common sense when on the lake.

The rule on Crooked Lake for direction of boat travel is counter-clockwise: stay on the westerly side of the lake when traveling South, and on the Easterly side of the lake when traveling North. Stay well away from swimmers, skiers, tubers, etc. Give them a wide berth and especially keep an eye out for downed skiers or others being towed by a boat. If you are using a raft or large 'lily pad,' please keep it relatively close to shore (not near the middle of the lake) and, do not leave it unattended. Furthermore, swimmers are strongly discouraged from swimming far out into the lake (stay within 200 ft. or less of the shoreline). It is difficult for boats to easily see a lone swimmer in their path.



Ice Carousel

We know how lucky we are to have Dan Anderson give the lake community a spin on his epic ice carousel each winter! The Ice Master 3000 came out once again this year for the 5th annual (4th successful) Crooked Lake Ice Carousel. Friends and family enjoyed hot chocolate, fire and ice and the hard work of Dan and compadres as they once again cut a 100 ft diameter slab of ice and turned it into a spinning winter wonderland using chain saws, trolling motors and the Ice Master 3000. Mark your calendars for January 7, 2023 for the 6th GO-AROUND!!



Ice Out Contest

2021 brought Crooked Lake's first Ice Out Competition, that most of us can remember! We do hear that there used to be various ice outs that patrons watched from the bar/dance hall long ago.

This past year, "Sinker", the first annual CLAA Ice Out Mascot, went down on April 10, 2022 at 12:34 pm. The lucky winning guess of the date/time of Sinker's sinking without going over was Gary Nereson!!

The 2nd Annual CLAA Ice Out is a GO for this winter as well! See details to the right for your chance to Split the Pot! Updates on the contest will go out via our Facebook page and to the CLAA email distribution. A brand new website, www.crookedlakeiceout.org, has been created for you to purchase tickets/guesses and to keep an eye on our Crooked Lobstah! Send any questions to crookedlaa@gmail.com and stay tuned to Facebook and email for further updates on the fun!



CROOKED LAKE
ICE OUT
CONTEST!

"Ice Out!" is declared when Crooked Lobstah sinks, attached to a time clock.

Ways to enter:

A – Visit www.crookedlakeiceout.org
or
B – Email crookedlaa@gmail.com with dates and times of guesses and submit payment via Venmo (QR Code page 1) or send check addressed to Crooked Lake Area Association to CLAA, 13021 Kerry St, Coon Rapids, MN 55448.

\$3 for one ticket
\$10 for five tickets

Deadline to submit Ice Out predictions/tickets is March 1, 2023 1 am Central or when the ice goes out, whichever is earliest. Ticket sales begin Nov. 24, 2022.

Winner is the entry closest to the time that Crooked Lobstah sinks without going over.
The winner's award is HALF the POT!
The other half will go toward taking care of Crooked Lake!

CROOKED LAKE

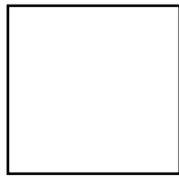
area association

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
Thursday, February 16, 2023
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

- Treasurer and Secretary
- Quadrant Leaders – NW and SE
- Coon Rapids City Council Watchdog
- Online Director at Large

They will be elected on 02/16/23

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, 2022), 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 2022 or are interested in making an **online donation through PayPal**, send me an email gs2175@gmail.com or call 612-965-4631.

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
Paula Foley	612-701-7660	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

2022 2023

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

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!



Facebook DONATE