

Dan Anderson

# CROOKED LAKE

a r e a a s s o c i a t i o n



## We Got an "A"!!!

by Gary Nereson, CLAA President



Check out the Coon Creek Watershed District (CCWD) article on page 3 in this newsletter! That article talks about our ranking in the top 10% of all Metro Area lakes, and states that we "have our best water clarity on record" in 2021! We were also front page of the November 12, 2021 **Anoka County Union Herald**, "Crooked Lake Makes the Grade".

As you know, it has been a decades long battle to manage and control invasive plant species and improve our overall water quality. One extremely successful endeavor was our 2016 lake-wide, all-season-long, herbicide treatment to control Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM). It has provided "long term control of EWM over most of the lake", (per James Johnson, Freshwater Scientific Services). Only a few small areas of EWM received an herbicide treatment last year or this year. Some areas only had a few EWM plants (maybe half a dozen or less) which were hand-pulled by your dedicated CLAA Board members. Hopefully, as the years pass by, we will have a string of "A's" to brag about!

Watch for future announcements about our annual Winter General Meeting on February 17, 2022, in person, at Legacy Christian Academy.

And, special thanks to our other 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 Conversation District   | MN DNR       | City of Coon Rapids |

*Note: See page 4's article on this year's drought and its effect on our lake level. As you will see in that article, we have endured similar low lake levels in 1989, 2000, 2009, and 2021. Let's hope for a return to "normal" in 2022.*

### CLAA APPAREL



**Inventory Clearance**  
For more information and to order please call Brian Graves at 612-282-8803 or [bgraves@tjassociates.net](mailto:bgraves@tjassociates.net)

#### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Is Your Well Water Safe? . . . . . 2
- Winter General Meeting . . . . . 2
- Lake Friendly Lawn Care . . . . . 2
- Water Quality Update . . . . . 3
- Lake Levels: Drought Edition . . . . 4
- Membership Donations . . . . . 4
- Volunteers Make a Difference . . . 5
- Tips for Bee Friendly Yard . . . . . 6
- Christmas Light Contest . . . . . 7
- Boat Parade . . . . . 7
- Summer Picnic . . . . . 8
- Polar Plunge . . . . . 8
- 2021 Ice Carousel . . . . . 9
- CLAA Rules and Regulations . . . . 9
- Ice Out Contest . . . . . 9
- Our Lake's Point of View . . . . . 10
- Treasurer's Desk . . . . . 12
- Volunteer Appreciation . . . . . 12

[www.facebook.com/CrookedLakeAreaAssociation](https://www.facebook.com/CrookedLakeAreaAssociation)

## Is Your Well Water Safe?

By Gary Nereson, CLAA President

Well water sampling conducted by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, MPCA, near the closed landfill in Andover has detected high levels of a likely carcinogen, 1,4-dioxane. This is primarily in the Red Oaks neighborhood, where some residences are reviving bottled water.

The Minnesota Department of Health and the MPCA are continuing their water sample testing and have determined that Andover's *municipal* water supply is safe. They have also indicated that the contaminated aquifer is well away from the area around Crooked Lake.

For more information, review the November-December 2021 edition of the "*Andover Today*" newsletter, and/or visit [www.pca.state.mn.us/andover](http://www.pca.state.mn.us/andover). There, if you wish to have your own private well tested at your expense, you will find the names and contact information of four different laboratories that will do that.

*(The State of Minnesota does not endorse or guarantee any specific laboratory or service any laboratory may provide.)*

### Hope to see you at our **Winter General Meeting**

on  
Thursday, February 17, 2022  
6:30 pm

at Legacy Christian Academy  
3037 Bunker Lake Blvd.



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## Lake Friendly Lawn Care

### Use nature's fertilizer first!

Don't bag short grass clippings  
Mulch leaves in fall

### Test your soil

Before applying fertilizer, find out  
if you need it with a UMN soil test

### Aerate with a core aerator

You need to aerate if a pencil  
can't easily go into your lawn;  
aerate around Labor Day

### If needed, fertilize in fall

Use a fertilizer mix with 35-50%  
slow release fertilizers

Examples of slow release fertilizers  
are biosolids, soy meal, stabilized  
nitrogen, and coated urea products

Avoid fertilizers with phosphorus

### Keep turf 3 inches tall

Always mow with a sharp blade  
Cut less than a third of grass  
height at a time

### Water deeply once a week

Water 1.5"/week in sandy soils and  
1"/week in other soils

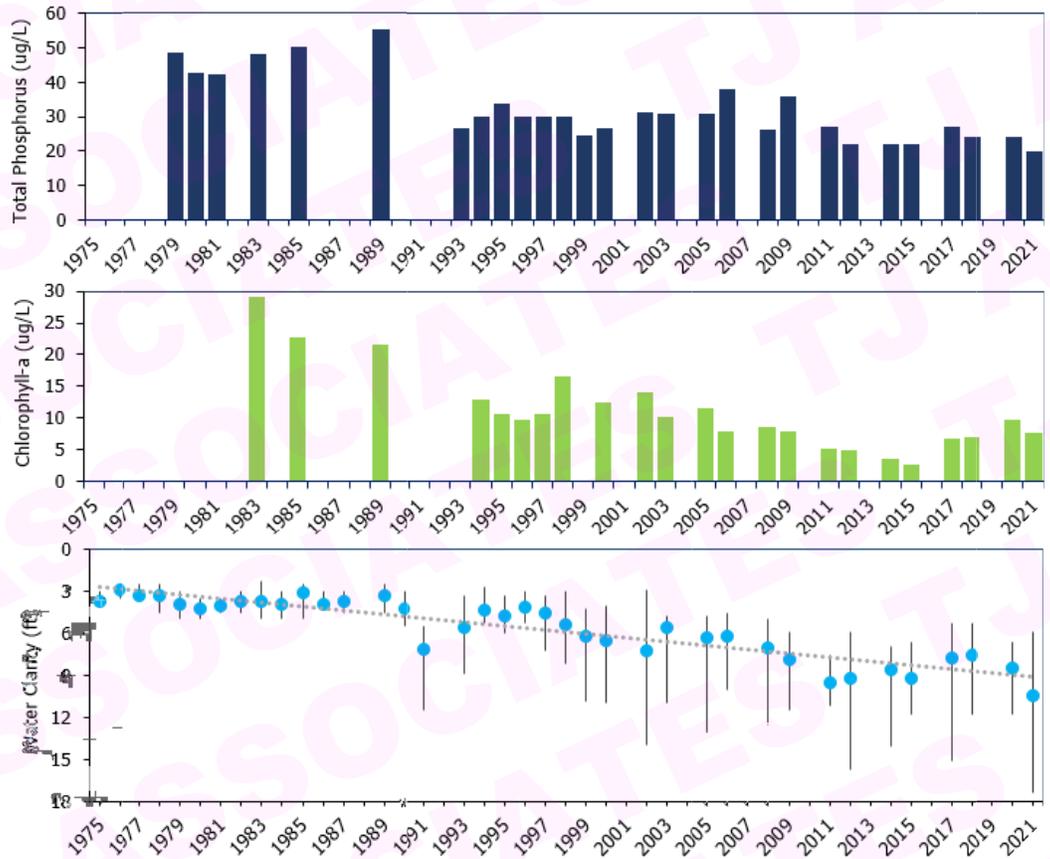
Don't water if it rained over an  
inch that week



# Water Quality Update: Crooked Lake Earns an “A” for the First Time!

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. According to the Metropolitan Council’s Lake Grading System, Crooked Lake earned an “A” this year on the A-F grading scale, ranking in the top 10% of all metro lakes! For reference, Crooked Lake earned a C- in the 80s, C+ in the 90s, B- in the early 2000s, and has been hovering between B+/A- for the last decade. In 2021, Crooked Lake experienced the best water clarity on record, averaging over 10 ft!



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 lawn care 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!

The clipping is from the Friday, November 12, 2021 issue of the Anoka County Union Herald. The main headline is "Crooked Lake makes the grade" by Jonathan Young, Managing Editor. The article reports that Crooked Lake has earned an "A" grade for the first time, a significant improvement from its previous grades of C- in the 1980s and B- in the early 2000s. The article attributes this success to local cleanup efforts and watershed district initiatives. A photo of a football game is visible in the top left corner of the clipping.

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)

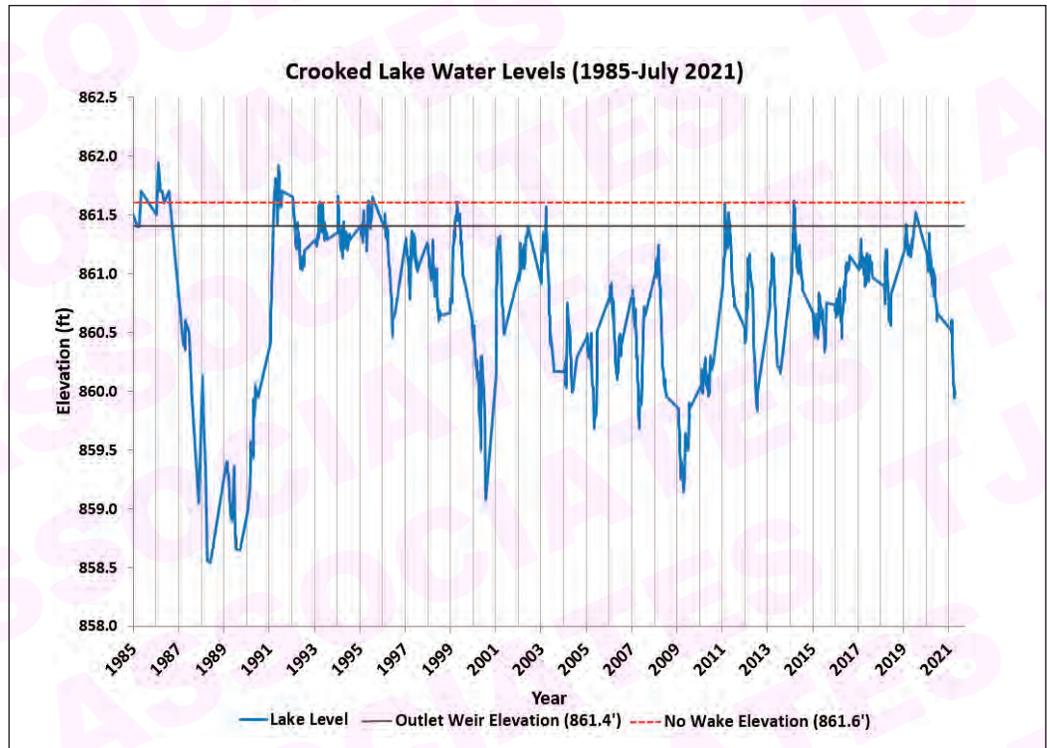
Contact Justine Dauphinais, [jdauphinais@cooncreekwd.org](mailto:jdauphinais@cooncreekwd.org) for more information.

## Lake Levels: Drought Edition

By: Coon Creek Watershed District

Crooked Lake's water level is controlled by inputs of groundwater, precipitation, and a concrete weir at the outlet set at an elevation of 861.4 feet above sea level. In most years, the lake stays below 861.4 feet and 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 roughly 2.5 feet below average. Currently, Crooked Lake is roughly a foot below average, but levels are well within the normal range observed since the 1980s (see graph). Water levels have not been this low since 2012, but will rebound as soon as we get adequate snow and rain!

A big thank you to lakeshore resident, Carol Buzzelli, for volunteering to monitor and report lake level data to the MN DNR each year!



**If you have already donated in calendar year 2021, THANK YOU!! If you have not, the following is why we still need your 2021 donation.** by Grant Schmalzer, CLAA Treasurer

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 1, 2021), now is a great time to do so!

If you are not sure if you have made a donation for 2021 or are interested in making an online donation through PayPal, send Grant Schmalzer, CLAA Treasurer, an email at [gs2175@gmail.com](mailto:gs2175@gmail.com) or call 612.965.4631.

Listed are some of the things your \$50 donation is used for:

- Invasive aquatic species control, specifically Curly-leaf Pondweed (CLP) and Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM), as well as Hybridized EWM
- Aquatic plant surveys
- Long term Lake Vegetation Management Plan
- Lake Management Plan
- Meeting expense
- Newsletter publication and mailing and more...

*There are no paid positions in our Lake Association - we are all volunteers.*

## Volunteers make a difference for Crooked Lake

### By Coon Creek Watershed District

We want to thank our current zebra mussel spotters, storm drain adopters, and Citizen Salt Watch volunteers in the Crooked Lake area! Together, they are making a difference for Crooked Lake and other local waterbodies.

Ten drains around Crooked Lake are officially adopted with great names such as "Sir Drains A Lot" and "Bee Clean". These adopters reported removing 16 pounds of debris from their storm drains. There are still many drains waiting to be adopted! If you want to become an adopter, go to [www.mn.adopt-a-drain.org](http://www.mn.adopt-a-drain.org).

Last winter, three Citizen Salt Watch volunteers measured the levels of chlorides in street runoff in the Crooked Lake area. This data helps us find out where there are chloride hot spots we can target for salt use optimization projects. We'd love to have more volunteers around Crooked Lake this winter. Please contact Britta Dornfeld at [bdornfeld@cooncreekwd.org](mailto:bdornfeld@cooncreekwd.org) or 763-258-7305 if you're interested in participating. Citizen Salt Watch is a project of the Izaak Walton League of America.



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## Tips for a Bee-Friendly Yard and a Cleaner Crooked Lake!

By Emily Johnson (Anoka Conservation District)

Pollinators are keystone species that depend on connected habitats, clean water, and food sources free of pesticides to survive. Unfortunately, our state bee, the rusty patched bumblebee, and other pollinators are at risk.

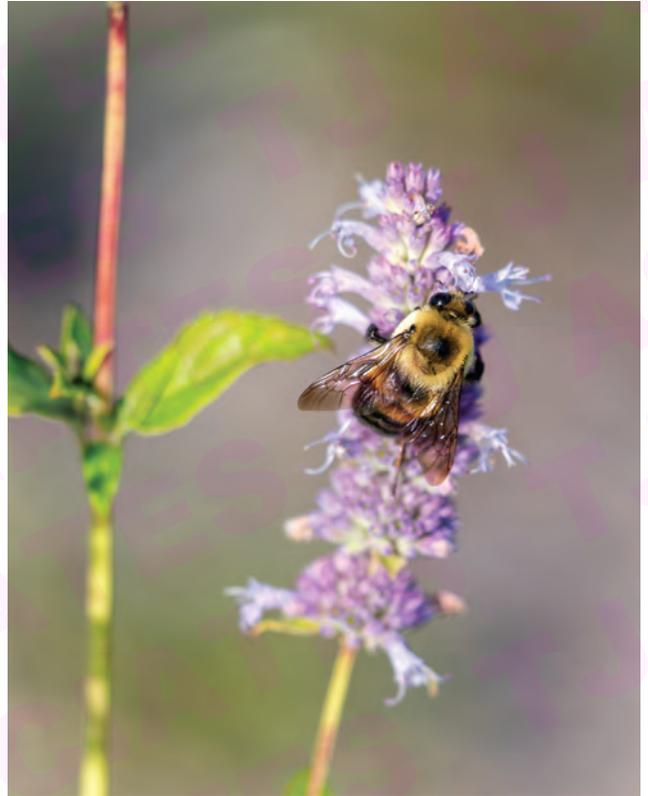
Pollinators, including butterflies, moths, beetles, hummingbirds, flies, and Minnesota's 450 native bee species, play a key role in pollinating many food crops and native plants. However, populations have significantly declined worldwide in recent years due to environmental stressors such as habitat loss and fragmentation, loss of food sources, pesticides, climate change, diseases, and parasites.

Residents throughout Minnesota, including around Crooked Lake, can help save our state bee and provide safe food sources and habitat for all pollinators by adding pollinator-friendly plants to their yards and eliminating the use of insecticides. In addition, native plants are critical for maintaining a clean and healthy lake! Native shoreline vegetation acts as a buffer, filtering polluted runoff and trapping excess nutrients before they enter Crooked Lake and cause unwanted algae growth. Their roots also hold the soil in place and prevent erosion and property loss.

Luckily, there are a lot of resources and funding available to help residents create habitat for pollinators in their yards. Lawns to Legumes is a statewide program created to provide funding and technical assistance to create pollinator habitat on residential properties in support of the rusty patched bumblebee and other at-risk pollinators.

Since the launch of the Lawns to Legumes program, Minnesotans have planted over 725 trees that serve as important early-season forage for many pollinator species and created more than 550,000 square feet of new pollinator habitat! There are many ways to get involved:

1. **Find Resources** - Visit the Board of Water and Soil Resources website to learn more and download free resources: [bwsr.state.mn.us/L2L](https://bwsr.state.mn.us/L2L)
2. **Attend a Workshop** - Sign up for a Lawns to Legumes Workshop near you: [bluethumb.org/events](https://bluethumb.org/events)
3. **Apply for Individual Support** - All Minnesota residents are eligible to apply for individual mini-grant funding up to \$300. Apply here: [bluethumb.org/lawns-to-legumes](https://bluethumb.org/lawns-to-legumes)
4. **Map your Completed Project** – Share a photo of your pollinator friendly yard and add it to the statewide map here: [bluethumb.org/lawns-to-legumes/map-your-completed-project](https://bluethumb.org/lawns-to-legumes/map-your-completed-project)



You have the power to make a difference for pollinators and keep Crooked Lake clean! Planting pollinator friendly plants is a great way to improve lake water quality and attract beautiful nature to your yard, which will have a positive impact on your property value, recreation on the lake, fisheries, and more!

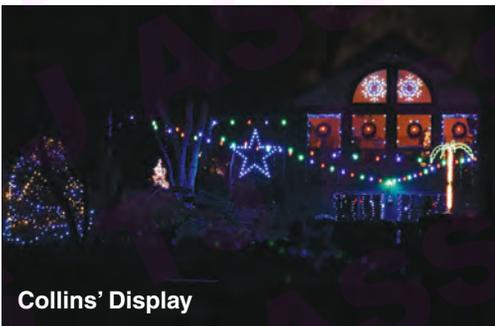
## Christmas Light Contest

Congratulations to Doug and Catherine Collins and the Prom Family for winning the Great CLAA Christmas Lighting Contest this year! That's right, we had our first tie! Oh my!

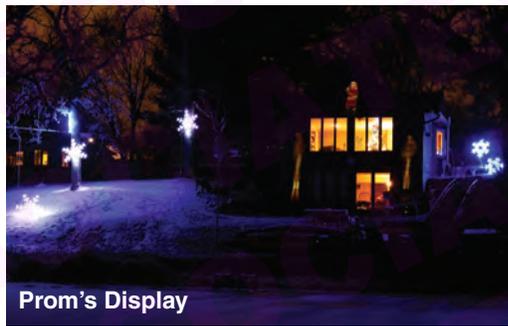


Winnings were a gift card to Kendall's, CLAA t-shirt, homemade wood-burned "gold medal" that doubles as an ornament, and possession of the traveling trophy!! Fortunately, they are next door neighbors, whew, and can display their shared award on their shared lot line! Honorable mention went to the Sullivan's...it was so close... We are looking forward to your light displays again this year! **Committee will be judging December 14, 2021!**

Facebook Likes winner was the Schillinger's, who also received a Kendall's gift card and "gold medal".



Collins' Display



Prom's Display

*The Collins' and the Prom's tied for first place by committee vote!*



Facebook Likes Winner - Schillinger



Honorable Mention - Sullivan

## Boat Parade

*We love our Annual Crooked Lake Fourth of July Boat Parade!!*



## Summer Picnic

The CLAA Summer General Membership Picnic was held at the Crooked Lake Park shelter near the beach. This year we happily enjoyed picnic food once again, thanks to our gracious sponsors and “the pandemic that must not be named” subsiding a bit. There was plenty of sun and fun for all, including metallic tattoos, bird feeder

building, scavenger hunt and update from our phenomenal CLAA President. Check out some of whom partook below 😊!



## 11th Annual Polar Plunge for Special Olympics!

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2022  
Plunge Begins at 12:00 pm

Crooked Lake Park  
13180 Crooked Lake Blvd NW

*Jump into freezing cold water and bask in your generous glory!*

*The Anoka County Plunge has raised over \$1,677,962 for Special Olympics in its 10 year history!*

**Special  
Olympics  
Minnesota**



Thank you CLAA  
Sponsors!



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**Walmart**

**Cub**

**BILL'S SUPERETTE**  
YOUR SMALL SUPERMARKET

**COSTCO  
WHOLESALE**



## 2021 World Famous Crooked Lake Ice Carousel

The perfect COVID-19 escape, compliments of Dan Anderson and team!



### Crooked Lake Rules and Regulations Reminders:

- 1 – Pilot boats counter-clockwise around the lake for safety.
- 2 – Bass fishing is catch and release only.
- 3 – Jet skis off the lake 30 minutes before sunset.

**ICE OUT  
CONTEST!**

"Ice Out!" is declared when our weighted mascot drops, attached to a time clock.

Buy your tickets on the Crooked Lake Area Association Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/CrookedLakeAreaAssociation/>) or email [Crookedlaa@gmail.com](mailto:Crookedlaa@gmail.com)

\$3 for one ticket  
\$5 for two tickets  
\$10 for five tickets

Deadline to submit Ice Out predictions/tickets is March 1 or when the ice goes out, whichever is earliest.

Winner is the person closest to the time the mascot drops without going over. The winner's award is half the pot! The other half will go toward taking care of Crooked Lake!

## Our Lake's Point of View

Let's have a listen to what our lake has to say. Pictures speak a thousand words!

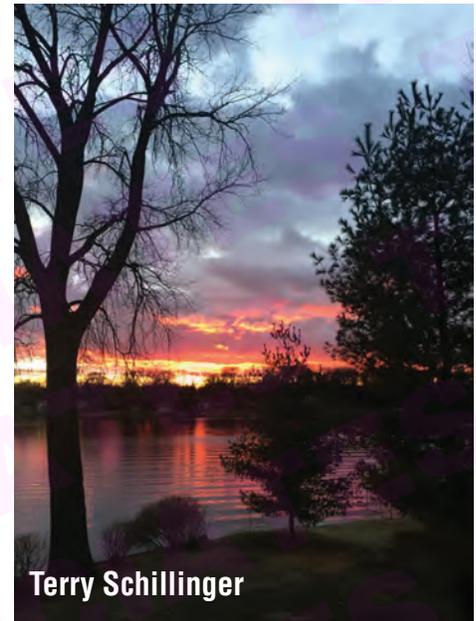
*Compliments of your lake neighbors.*



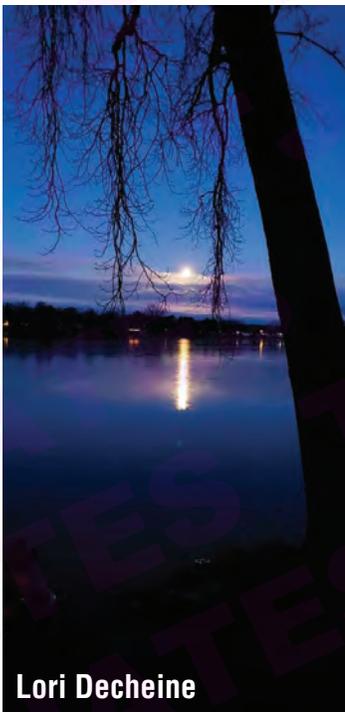
Ben Bergan



Joel Friday



Terry Schillinger



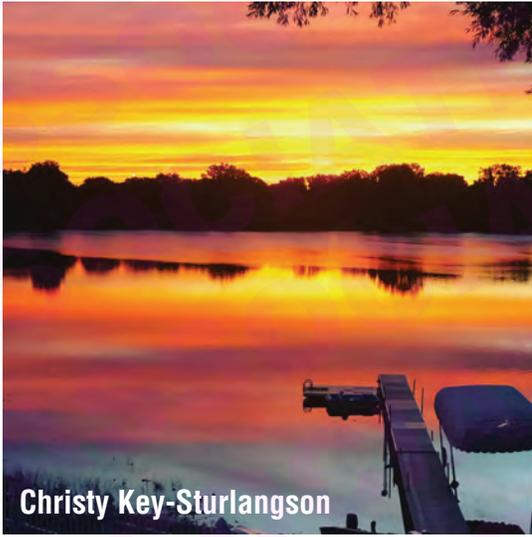
Lori Decheine



Terry Schillinger



Will Sturlangson



Christy Key-Sturlangson



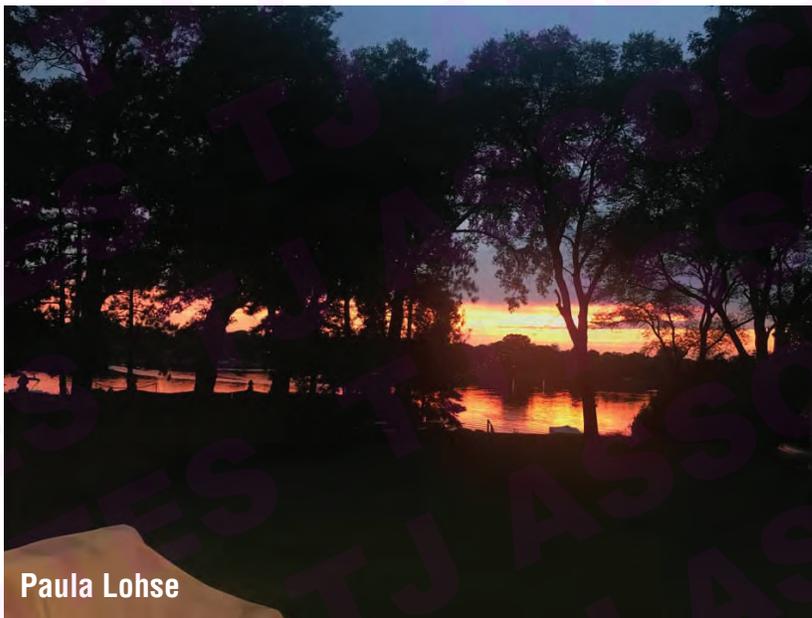
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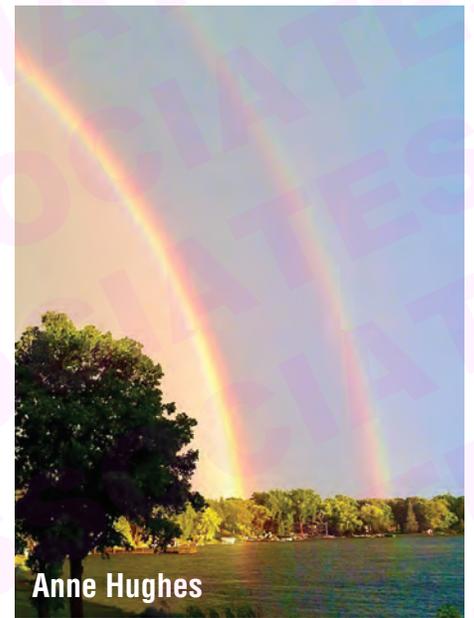
Lori Decheine



Ben Bergan



Paula Lohse



Anne Hughes

**CROOKED LAKE**  
area association

Grant Schmalzer  
130 Kerry Street  
Coon Rapids, MN 55448  
Phone: 612-965-4631  
gs2175@gmail.com



**WINTER GENERAL MEETING**  
Hope you can join us on  
**Thursday, February 17, 2022**  
**Legacy Christian Academy**  
6:30 pm Social. 7:00 pm Meeting.



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.

\*\*\*\*\*  
★ **CLAA volunteer terms up for re-election** ★  
\*\*\*\*\*

- **President and Vice President**
- **Quadrant Leaders – NE and SW**
- **Andover City Council Watchdog**

They will be elected on 2/17/22

**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, 2021), now is a great time to do so!



If you are not sure if you have made a donation for 2021 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:**

Gary Nereson	612-961-0358	President
Dan Jared	612-280-7054	Vice-President
Grant Schmalzer	612-965-4631	Treasurer
Julie Jared	763-229-7457	Secretary
Melissa Sandeen	763-670-6457	Quadrant Leader - SW
Katie Grandell	612-702-5127	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
Dan Anderson	763-427-0964	Andover Watchdog

**ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP/DONATION FORM**

2021     2022

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail address:** \_\_\_\_\_

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

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**

Thank you to the volunteers who take care of Crooked Lake! CLAA appreciates the efforts of our volunteer team. Unfortunately, the traditional dinner will not take place this year. In place of dinner, thank you gifts are being delivered to our volunteers. This lake would not be rated A without your hard work. **Thank you.**