

CROOKED LAKE

area association

photo by Joel Friday



Another Banner Year! "I've Never Seen the Lake So Clear!"

by Gary Nereson, CLAA President



The above exclamation (article title) was made by Patrick Selter, our AIS (Aquatic Invasive Species) treatment applicator, PLM Lake and Land Management, as he began our Spring treatment for Curly-leaf Pondweed (CLP). That is quite a compliment coming from such an experienced professional! And, I think most of you would agree with his assessment.

We have two invasive species in our lake – CLP and Hybridized Eurasian Watermilfoil, HEWM. (Northern Watermilfoil and Eurasian Watermilfoil cross breed and the result is Hybrid EWM, or HEWM.) Hopefully, we won't get any other AIS! We will never be entirely rid of these AIS plants, but we can control their presence to minimal, non-nuisance levels. Over the last several years we have been quite successful at this!

The aforementioned CLP treatment was only 5.9 acres, which is typical of what has been needed for CLP control. As to HEWM, our late Spring delineation (May 28) did not find any – no EWM, no HEWM! However, HEWM manifests itself later in the season. It was minimally apparent at the end of July when Justine Dauphinais from Coon Creek Watershed District found some isolated areas of a few plants. Following that, James Johnson's (Freshwater Scientific Services) point intercept survey on August 13 revealed several locations of just a couple of plants, along with one more dense location. This sparsity of plants lent itself well to manual hand pulling – which we did! (See Joe Mantel's article on page 9 in this newsletter.)

As long as we continue to be diligent in our control efforts, I believe we will continue to benefit from a 'clean' lake with no nuisance levels of AIS.

On another note, Mother Nature has a great impact on the water level in our lake. Heavy rainfalls can result in very high lake levels which can damage and erode the shoreline. We have in place "NO Wake" resolutions from both Andover and Coon Rapids should the lake level exceed 861.6 ft. above sea level. (The DNR does an annual survey and positions a measuring stake in the lake for easy monitoring.) We have 5 large red and white feather-shaped flags which will be placed at key locations around the lake should this occur. Please be mindful of them and boat responsibly.

Watch for future announcements about our annual Winter General Meeting, Thursday February 18, 2021, which will be virtual this year. Again, a special "Thank You!" to our partners in our forever battle to maintain a high level of water quality and minimal AIS in Crooked Lake:

Coon Creek Watershed District
Anoka Conservation District

Anoka County
Minnesota DNR

City of Andover
City of Coon Rapids



CLAA APPAREL



Inventory Clearance
is happening now.

For more information and to
order please call Brian Graves
at 612-282-8803 or
bgraves@tjassociates.net

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www.facebook.com/CrookedLakeAreaAssociation

Join the Growing Community of Storm Drain Adopters in Anoka County!

By Emily Johnson, Anoka Conservation District

Anoka County residents have prevented nearly 350 pounds of algae from growing in our lakes and streams by doing this one simple thing: Adopting a Storm Drain!

Trash and decaying organic debris like fallen leaves are harmful to lakes, rivers, and streams. As leaves decompose, the resulting nutrients fuel algae growth. The unsightly algae blooms can cover the surface of polluted lakes, sucking oxygen out of the water and choking fish and native plants. Keeping leaves and other pollution out of our storm drains helps keep our lakes and rivers clean and clear.

Since the start of the Adopt-a-Drain program, over 7,400 people have adopted drains throughout Minnesota and collectively prevented 250,000 pounds of pollution from getting into our waters. This is the largest community engagement program of its type in the entire United States!

Getting involved is simple and only takes a few minutes. Just follow these steps:

1. Adopt an available storm drain near you at www.Adopt-a-Drain.org and give it a name.
2. Gather the tools you'll need. These might include: gloves, rake, trash grabber, dust pan, safety vest, bins for separating waste, yard and/or trash bag
3. Collect and separate trash and recycling from the area around your adopted drain
4. Rake or sweep up leaves, sediment, and sticks and place in compost or yard waste bag
5. Report the debris you collect on www.Adopt-a-Drain.org

To learn more and sign up, visit www.Adopt-a-Drain.org

Hope to see
you at our virtual
**Winter General
Meeting**
on
**Thursday,
February 18, 2021**

Watch future
announcements for
online connection
information.

Smart Salting for Clean Water

By Britta Dornfeld, Coon Creek Watershed District (CCWD)

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

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



photo by Scott Andre

A 12 ounce coffee cup holds 1 lb of salt, enough to cover 10 sidewalk squares

Salt granules should be scattered with a 3" spread between them

If it's sunny & wet, don't scatter at all!

Crooked Lake Water Quality Update

by Justine Dauphinais, Coon Creek Watershed District (CCWD)

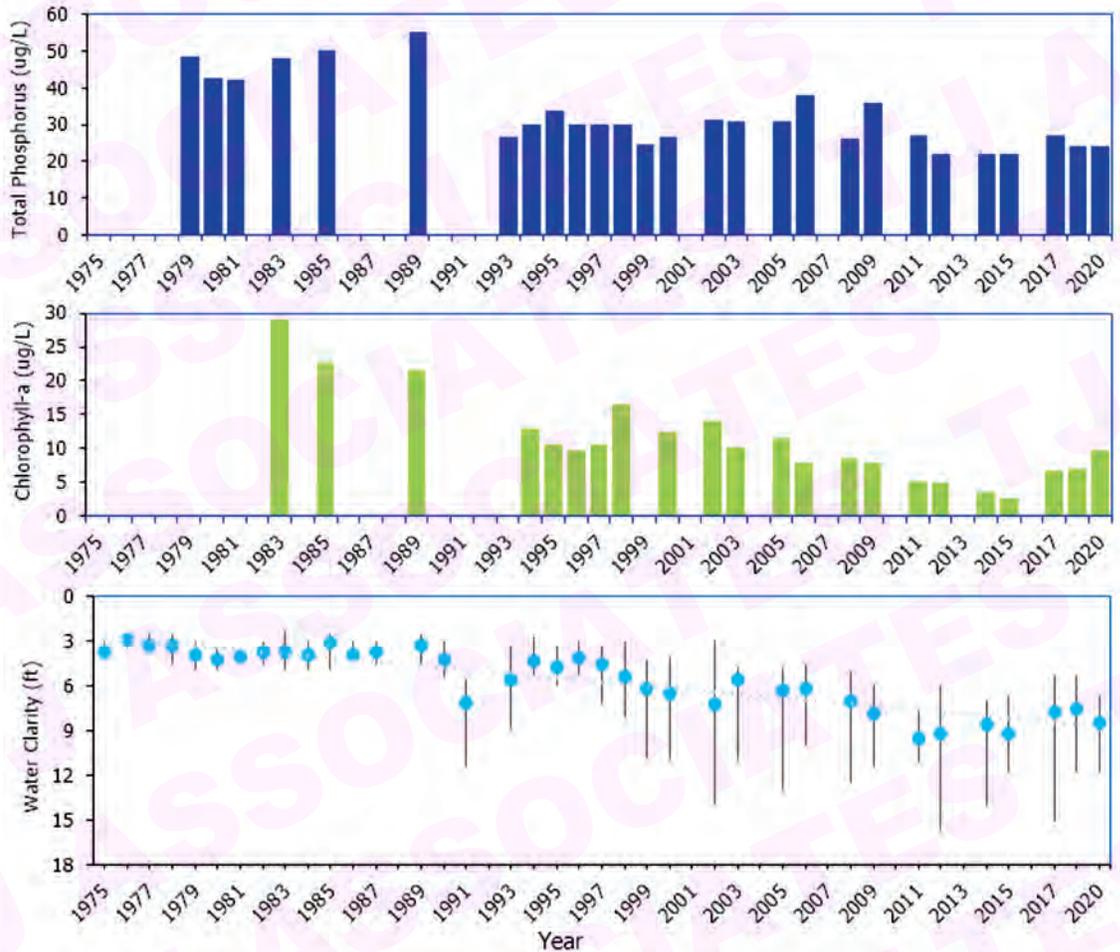
The water quality of Crooked Lake has been monitored since the 1970s and has significantly improved over the past 45 years. According to the Metropolitan Council's Lake Grading System, Crooked Lake ranks well above average when compared to other metro lakes. In 2020, Crooked Lake again earned a "B+" on the A-F grading scale. For reference, Crooked Lake earned a C- throughout the 80s, C+ in the 90s, and B- in the early 2000s.

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!

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, uphinais@cooncreekwd.org, for more information





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If you have already donated in calendar year 2020, **THANK YOU!!** If you have not, the following is why we still need your 2020 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, 2020), now is a great time to do so!

If you are not sure if you have made a donation for 2020 or are interested in making an online donation through PayPal, send GrantSchmalzer, CLAA Treasurer, an email at 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.

Starry Trek: An AIS Early Detection Effort in Anoka County and Across the State

by Megan M. Weber, Extension Educator with the University of Minnesota Extension & Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center

Early detection can be a critical component of successful management efforts for new invasive species. After the discovery of the invasive alga, starry stonewort, in Lake Koronis (Stearns County) in 2015 and subsequent spread in Minnesota leading to a total of 7 infested water bodies in 2016, the Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center and University of Minnesota Extension created Starry Trek in 2017 in partnership with the MN Department of Natural Resources.

Starry Trek is an annual, single day event focused on searching for starry stonewort



circa 2018

and other aquatic invasive species in Minnesota waters. Local partners host Starry Trek training sites across the state where volunteers receive a brief training and are assigned equipment and monitoring routes. During the 2020 event, volunteers searched 292 public water accesses across Minnesota!

Statewide, Starry Trek volunteers have been responsible for the discovery of 4 of the 16 known starry stonewort populations in Minnesota. In addition to discoveries of starry stonewort, Starry Trek volunteers have also found 1 new zebra mussel population, 2 new Eurasian watermilfoil populations, as well as new reports of a few other invasive species, most often mystery snails.

There has been a local training site in Anoka County every year since 2018. The only new aquatic invasive species report as a result of Starry Trek in Anoka County was a report of Chinese mystery snail in Pickerel Lake in 2019, though it's not clear whether the mystery snails were a new population to Pickerel or may have been locally known and just not previously reported.

If you'd like to learn more about Starry Trek, you can visit our website at www.starrytrek.org or contact Megan at mmweber@umn.edu.

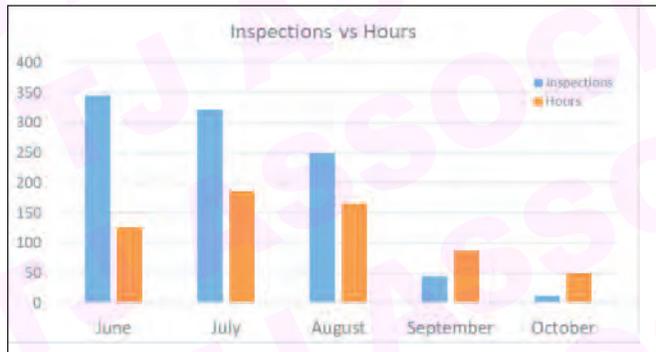
Crooked Lake End of Season Watercraft Inspection Data - 2020

By Jessica Abarca, Anoka County by Julie Jared, CLAA Secretary

There were 3 county watercraft inspectors working at Crooked Lake boat launch in 2020. They started in June this year due to COVID with new protocols in place designed to keep everyone safe and healthy. The inspectors continued working until the beginning of October. Even with COVID, the boat launch was still busy in the summer but quickly slowed down in September and October. We will be having inspectors at Crooked Lake in 2021. Make sure to stop by and say Hi!

TOTAL INSPECTIONS			
	Inspections	Entering	Exiting
June	345	207	138
July	322	156	166
August	249	115	134
September	45	22	23
October	12	0	12
Total	973	500	473

BOAT PLUG VIOLATIONS		
Month	Violations/ Entering Boats	%
June	20/207	9.66
July	10/156	6.41
August	4/115	3.48
September	2/22	9.09
October	0/0	
Total	36/500	7.2



PLANT VIOLATIONS		
Month	Violations/ Entering Boats	%
June	14/207	6.76
July	3/156	1.92
August	13/115	11.3
September	0/22	0
October	0/0	
Total	30/500	6

Yearly Crooked Lake Watercraft Inspection Data

Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Hours	288	519	702	410	644	616
Inspections	533	956	1500	998	1364	973
Inspections/Hour	1.85	1.84	2.14	2.43	2.11	1.58
Boat Plug Violations	35/302 11.6%	38/526 7.2%	4/837 .48%	28/564 4.9%	42/807 5.2%	36/500 7.2%
Plant Violations	20/302 6.6%	9/526 7.4%	25/837 2.99%	36/564 6.4%	23/807 2.85%	30/500 6.0%

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Boat Parade

by Julie Jared, CLAA Secretary

We love our Annual Crooked Lake Fourth of July Boat Parade

and this year was no exception, even if it was a pandemic. We have some very creative people on this lake...congratulations to the Beckermann family and their fabulous winning entry: "Restart 2020"!!



Christmas Light Contest 2019 by Julie Jared, CLAA Secretary

Congratulations to Dan and Ginger Anderson in winning the Great CLAA Christmas Lighting Contest this year with their beautiful display of white lights! Dan and Ginger received a gift card to Kendall's, CLAA t-shirt, homemade wood-burned "gold medal" that doubles as an ornament, and took home the Dean-Keller-created traveling trophy!! The traveling trophy has an area at the bottom that displays names of each year's winner (2017 Bergan Family, 2018 Jared Family, 2019 Anderson Family) as well as a memorial angel with inscription, "Always BelIEVE". The Grandell family won the participation prize of an Applebee's gift card, when their display was randomly drawn at the Winter General Meeting. **Best of luck to competitors this year! Judging will occur 12/19/20 by committed as well as online; get the most Facebook likes by 1/2/21 and you win! There will also be a participation drawing/award!** If you would like assistance putting up a string of lights to participate, please contact Paul at paulemartin@comcast.net.



Summer Picnic

by Julie Jared, CLAA Secretary

The **CLAA Summer General Membership Meeting** was held at the Crooked Lake Park shelter near the beach, where many stepped out of quarantine to enjoy the fresh air, sunshine and update from our President.

CLAA was unfortunately unable to provide a picnic lunch this year, but is looking forward to filling stomachs next summer!



Thank you CLAA
Sponsors!

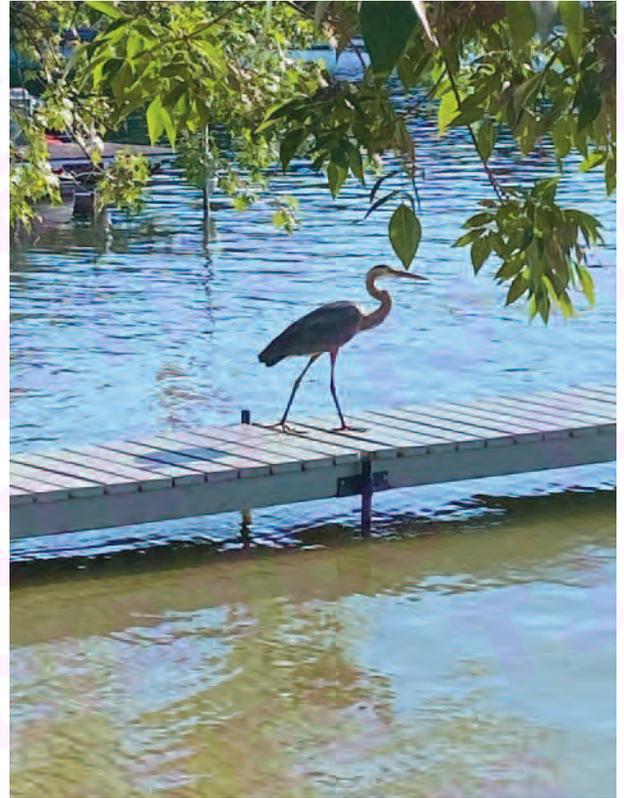


Fred the Blue Heron

By Brian Graves, CLAA Southeast Quadrant Leader



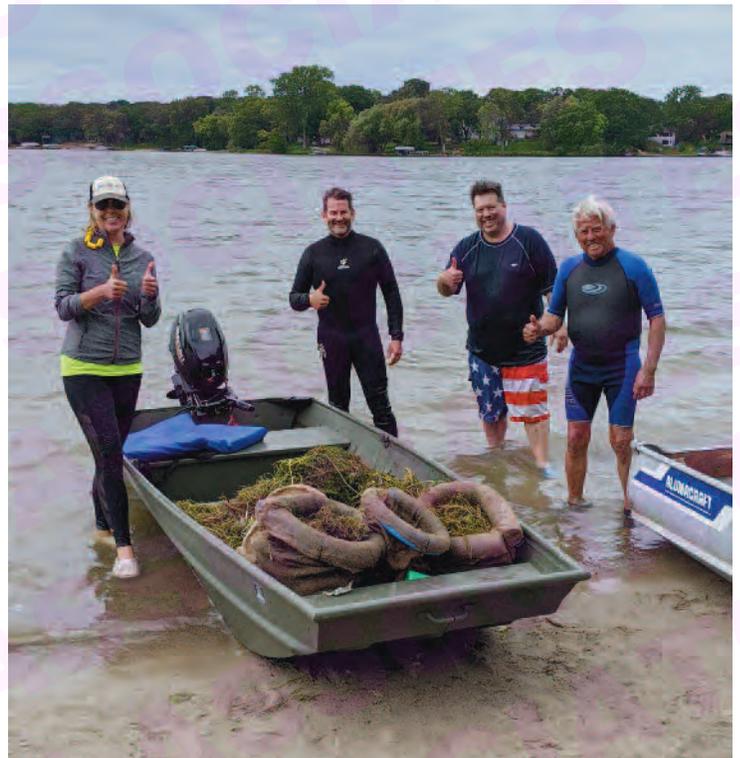
This is Fred the Blue Heron. He lives on Crooked Lake and eats most of his dinners at my beach. If I'm there, he'll walk right up to me to say "Hi", and then will turn around and sun himself at the end of my dock... all summer long. Fred is so used to me that I've almost been able to reach out and touch him. Can't wait to see him again next spring when he gets back from his winter home. A true Minnesota Snowbird he is.



CLAA EWM Hand Pulling Club

By Joe Mantel, CLAA Northwest Quadrant Leader

The 2020 Fall Point Intercept Survey for CLAA did find a minimal amount of Eurasian Watermilfoil, where the Spring report did not return any results. A decision was made by the CLAA Board to endeavor on a new adventure and we would hand pull the plants throughout the lake! A group of pioneers met at the Crooked Lake Beach in September, along with personal watercraft (kayaks, canoes, Jon boats, and row boats) and divided up to conquer the several areas throughout the lake that had a plant or two growing. We were supported in the effort by our wonderful partners Justine Dauphinais (CCWD), James Johnson (Freshwater Scientific) and the MnDNR who literally jumped in and showed us how it is done. The half day experience netted quite the result, see the EWM we pulled in the photo, and the volunteers all agreed it was a fun and successful expedition.



10th Annual Polar Plunge for Special Olympics!

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2021

Plunge Begins at 1:00 pm

Crooked Lake Park

13180 Crooked Lake Blvd NW

Jump in to help make 2021's goal of \$80,000!

2020	569 Plungers.....	\$156,000
2019	537 Plungers.....	\$156,034
2018	560 Plungers.....	\$155,260
2017	639 Plungers.....	\$191,283
2016	733 Plungers	\$187,612



aerial by Dan Anderson

The Anoka County Plunge has raised over \$1,445,000 for Special Olympics in its 9 year history!



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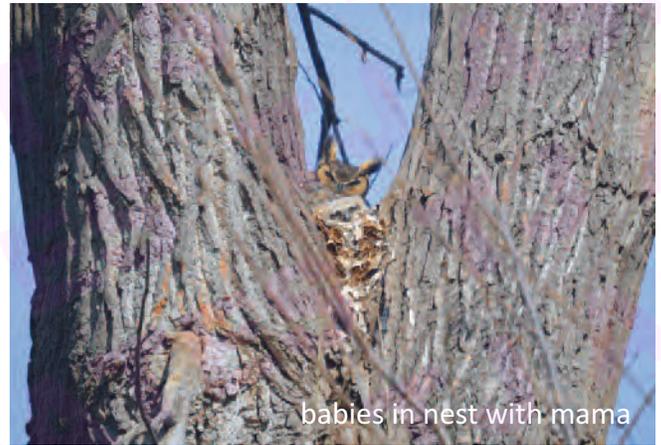
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Owl Family

by Julie Jared, CLAA Secretary

This year during COVID, mama and daddy Great Horned Owl decided to expand their family on Crooked Lake. Hooting could be heard all night when the babies were born in March/April. Dan Anderson, Resident Owl Expert and CLAA Andover City Council Watchdog, taught owl pellet dissection, and shared interesting owl facts like owls do not go back to their nest after they swoop/fall out. For weeks after leaving the nest, if the babies were not statues on a branch social-distancing, we could locate the darlings by searching around on the ground in about a 30 foot radius of the nest....there they were...on the ground hoping for mama to come pick them up and place them safely on a branch, to stand as a statue, and repeat. Months later, the two sweet children came back as

screaming teenagers at midnight.... perching on flag poles and making a ruckus all over the lake. Hoot Hoot!



CROOKED LAKE

area association

Paul Martin
2926 129th Ave NW
Coon Rapids, MN 55448
Phone: 651-755-4656
E-mail: paulmartin@comcast.net



WINTER GENERAL MEETING
Hope you can join us virtually on
Thursday, February 18, 2021
Watch for future announcements with
online connection information



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** ★
 ★ **• Treasurer and Secretary** ★
 ★ **• Quadrant Leaders – NW and SE** ★
 ★ **• Coon Rapids City Council Watchdog** ★
 ★ **• Online Director at Large** ★
 ★ They will be elected on 2/18/21 ★

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, 2020), now is a great time to do so!



If you are not sure if you have made a donation for 2020 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
Paul Martin	651-755-4656	Online Director at Large

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP/DONATION FORM

2020 2021

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 Night Out

Thank you to all the volunteers who take care of Crooked Lake! We are so grateful for everything you do...from zebra mussel plate monitoring to clearing storm drains to diving in muck to hand-pull EWM. We appreciate you! Our night at Pizza Ranch is not going to be, due to COVID-19, and we hope to show our appreciation in another way this year. ***In the meantime, thank you, thank you!!***