
THE CULLEN CURRENTS



Fall, 2019

2019 CLA Annual Meeting

More than 65 people attended this year's Annual Meeting on Saturday, August 10. Coffee and donuts were available throughout the meeting and members enjoyed viewing the exhibits both before and after the meeting.

The meeting began with a presentation by John Maguire and Lisa Hirschey on the their families' 100 years on the Cullen lakes. (See an excerpt of the presentation later in this newsletter.)

John and Lisa's presentation was followed by a business meeting during which the minutes of the 2018 Annual Meeting and the treasurer's report were approved. CLP treatment is expected to continue to be CLA's major expense and thus the Board will ask for donations at the same level as last year.

Nominating Committee chair Denny Opsahl presented the slate of candidates for reelection/election to the Board of Directors. There was one nomination from the floor, Mike Lawrow of Middle Cullen. The slate of candidates as presented with the addition of the floor nominee was elected by unanimous vote.

Paul Beilfuss presented the proposed budget for fiscal year 2020 which the membership approved as presented. The budget shows member donations at the same level as this year and projects an operating deficit of \$1,380. He indicated that CLA will continue to have to treat CLP and he thanked all donors who support this effort.

Ten attendees were selected by a drawing to receive a CLA logo mug or glass. Mugs and glasses were also for sale after the meeting. Membership discussion included a wide variety of topics and questions. Members were reminded to check their docks and other water equipment for the presence of zebra mussels when taking them out of the lake this fall.

AIS Committee co-chairs meet with MN Department of Natural Resources

On September 19 CLA's Aquatic Invasive Species Committee co-chairs, Ann Beaver and Carol Lindahl, met with the Department of Natural Resources aquatic invasive species specialist in Brainerd, Tim Plude, to discuss how the effectiveness of CLA's yearly chemical treatment of curly-leaf pondweed (CLP) could be improved over the results of the last two years. Here are the key takeaways from that meeting.

*Do not chemically treat areas smaller than five acres. It is too difficult to keep the chemical in such a small area long enough for it to adequately affect the CLP. Instead, consider hand pulling the CLP and disposing of it on shore.

*Wind and boat traffic can affect the effectiveness of the chemical treatment of CLP. Ensure the applicator factors in wind speed and direction when applying the chemical and ask lake users to stay out of the treatment area for 24 hours to prevent unnecessary dispersal of the chemical.

*Chemical treatment may be more effective when the water temperature is closer to 50 degrees rather than 60 degrees.

*Consider use of granular Aquathol Super K rather than liquid Aquathol. It is more expensive but it is also more effective.

*Instead of relying on spring pre treatment surveys to find where CLP is growing, CLA may base its treatment polygons on the previous year's mid-season survey. For the last two years CLP was slow in growing and thus not able to be adequately found in the pre season surveys.

Zebra mussel note: These mussels are well enough established now in Lower Cullen that it is advisable to wear water shoes when in the water and to wear gloves when handling equipment that has been in the water.

Maguires and Hirscheys — 100 years on the Cullen Lakes

(excerpts from the Annual Meeting presentation)

A brief timeline:

1919 — Frank Boulger and Mary Armstrong Boulger purchase property on Lower Cullen Lake from Quinn.

1924 — Frank Boulger builds a log cabin west of the channel. Mary Boulger (Maguire) is born.

1948 — Electricity comes to the Hirschey/Maguire Point.

1953 — Cabin's icebox is replaced by a refrigerator.

1955 — Ken & Betty Hirschey build a cabin on Lower Cullen Lake at the Point.

1956 — Indoor plumbing other than the kitchen sink is installed.

1968 — Telephone service comes to the Maguire/Hirschey Point.

How the Boulgers settled at Cullen Lake by Fran Boulger

Dad had made arrangements with a realtor named Quinn to rent a cottage for the last week of August in 1919 or so. Quinn was an active and well-known real estate agent and owned property on Lower Cullen Lake. Apparently the cottage was already rented because Quinn arranged for the Boulgers to stay on Gull Lake. The weather was terrible — cold, wet and windy. The waves were too high to take a boat out. Mother and Dad decided that a big lake with poor beach was no place for children. They ended up buying a large lot on the northern shore of Lower Cullen and the 5 1/2 acre tract on the point between Lower and Middle Cullen.

At the time, there was no access by automobile to the land on the point, but it was obvious that a road would be built before long. Dad arranged to have a cottage built on the smaller lot. It was a framed building covered with smooth boards painted gray. We spent the summers there, probably three of them, before the log cabin was built.

Because of such handicaps, trips took a long time, even if the tires gave no trouble. The trip was an essential part of the adventure of going north to the lake and roughing it. On our first automobile trip to Cullen Lake we stopped for a picnic lunch on the shores of Mille Lacs, even building a campfire. The trip was long and tiring. We left home around 8:00 a.m. and got to the cabin after dark, probably around 10:00 p.m. Mr. Yates' car had very poor headlights, so Dad walked ahead of the car with a lantern for the last mile or so of the long trip.

At the time, Nisswa boasted two general stores and a lumberyard. We traded at Swanson's, which was east of the railroad tracks and slightly north of the station. It seems to me that they delivered groceries once or twice a week to cottages on the north side of Lower Cullen.

There was no way of getting to town without a car except by walking 2 1/2 miles or going across the lake and hiking from there. Very few people had motors for their boats, so rowing was the only way to travel. We never saw a sailboat until the mid 1930s and canoes were scarce enough to be unfamiliar to all of us. We didn't have much company at the Gray Cottage and we probably only spent a few weeks there at first.

**Grandpa Boulger
by Mary Hirschey Jaspers**

Grandpa Boulger's favorite story was how he got his fishing boat back from the notorious criminal, Bugs Moran. Bugs Moran had a sister, Eva, who owned a hotel in Nisswa, and the robbers hid out there now and then. Grandpa had a white with green wooden row boat he painted every year, and he loved to fish. He used his bravado and an oar to retrieve his boat from this big time crook.

I would go fishing with my grandpa. He wound a line with a hook on the end on a twig. It was a "drop line" and I must have talked too much because he said the line was like a telephone line and if I talked the fish could hear me.

PLANNING PLANNING PLANNING CLA Legacy Committee

A new season and soon a new year can bring forth thoughts of planning and renewal. Many Cullen Lakes residents contribute annually to CLA to assist with the care and health of our beautiful lakes.

Have you considered including CLA as a part of your estate planning? CLA is a non-profit organization and offers a charitable yet meaningful option to one's trust.

There are many options regarding including a 501(c)3 organization in one's plan besides setting aside funds in a trust. For example, a qualified account such as an IRA in which one is required at age 70 to take RMDs (required minimum distributions) can also be an avenue for a tax free contribution to a non-profit.

For more information on 501(c)3 contributions, go to IRS.gov or contact your estate planner.

Currents on the Cullens

New Owners:

Brandon & Charissa Kill, Lower Cullen (L93)
Larry & Laurie Raisbeck, Lower Cullen (L23)
Randy & Carol Steenholdt, Middle Cullen (M20)

Editor's note: Following are the committee reports from the 2019 Annual Meeting.

Administration Committee

Anne Kostreba, chair

The Administration Committee organized the 2019 Annual Meeting, in conjunction with the full Board of Directors. Each year the organization strives to provide an interesting program and displays.

Education Committee

C.B. Bylander, chair

The CLA Education Committee continues to provide helpful information about the Cullen Lakes and related topics through four sources. They are:

- **Cullen Currents**, the quarterly newsletter that Lower Cullen's Ann Beaver edits.
- **Cullen Lakes Association website**, which Middle Cullen's Dan Meixner maintains.
- **Cullen Lakes Association Facebook page**, which Lower Cullen's Alli Isaacson of Eagle's Nest Resort maintains.
- **Annual meeting**, at which Education Committee members provide relevant brochures and other information.

Of these, the newsletter continues to be the most consistent source of timely information, thanks largely to the efforts of Ann Beaver.

That said, plenty of opportunity exists for all lake association members to contribute timely photos and information to our website and Facebook pages.

Anyone with photos or other information they would like to post on our website can contact Meixner directly at dmeixner@tds.net. Similarly, those who have photos they would like to share on Facebook can send them directly to Isaacson at info@eaglesnestnisswa.com. Both Dan and Alli will gladly post your offerings in a relatively short time. Consistent and interesting content is what drives page views. So, the more we collectively share what we have the more we will build our Cullen Lakes social media community.

In the upcoming year the Education Committee aims to put greater emphasis on providing timely website and Facebook content.

In other news, the Education Committee considered seeking yet another Crow Wing County aquatic invasive species awareness grant (this was done the past two years) but decided against it as there was no urgent educational awareness need. Instead, the committee decided to use the newsletter to share on-going AIS information. If the county offers another round of \$250 grants in 2020, the committee will again weigh the value of utilizing these funds.

Finally, the committee encourages those who seek a deeper understanding of AIS to visit the Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center website at www.maisrcn.umn.edu. This site is chock-full of insightful information, including research reports, volunteer opportunities and more. One particularly interesting research paper, for example, explains how genetic and genomic science has concluded that zebra mussels in Mille Lacs Lake were not the source of the zebra mussels that were later found in Gull Lake and Lake Minnetonka. Interesting stuff. And good stuff to know when talking about AIS with others.

Fisheries Committee

C.B. Bylander, chair

The CLA Fisheries Committee reports that:

*It will be a year or so before the DNR conducts another Cullen Lakes fish population assessment. The most recent survey was conducted in 2015. The next one is tentatively scheduled for 2021. Typically, the DNR tries to survey each of the state's 4,500 fishing lakes once every six years. However, that schedule can be delayed based on local staffing and workload situation. When new information is available the committee will share it in the newsletter and on our website.

*When the next Cullen Lakes fish population survey is held it could be interesting. That's because by the time it is conducted new northern pike fishing regulations will have been in place for at least two years. As you may recall, since the spring of 2018 anglers on the Cullen Lakes can keep 10 northern pike but not more than two pike longer than 26 inches and all from 22-26 inches must be released. The old limit was three. The new limit, which applies throughout north-central Minnesota, is designed to address overpopulation of small pike. It often takes up to a decade to fully evaluate the effectiveness of a fishing regulation change. Still, it will be interesting to see if anything is changing in the short-term. It's possible there will be some modest improvement in the number of northern pike in the middle 20-inch to upper 20-inch range. For those who don't know how to cut the Y-bones out of a northern pike, you can learn how by watching videos on YouTube or the DNR's website.

*The DNR is looking into the viability of revised sunfish regulations at some future date. Currently, the agency is focusing on increasing angler awareness of the current status of bluegill and other sunfish populations, which in most waters have shrunk in average size over the past 50 years. The DNR conservatively estimates Minnesota anglers keep about 14.1 million bluegills each year. This number translates to about 1,500 miles of bluegill when placed nose-to-tail. That's roughly a continuous string of bluegill from Minneapolis to Maine. Fisheries researcher Jeff Reed explained in a recent *Conservation Volunteer* article, "There's a myth that you can't take too many sunfish. In reality, a lot of populations are overexploited."

A lot of anglers, he added, don't understand how long it takes to grow a big 9 or 10-inch sunfish. "A bluegill that size can be 10 years old. In the same time it takes to grow a trophy sunfish, you can grow two or three trophy white-tailed deer bucks."

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Invasive Species Committee

Ann Beaver and Carol Lindahl, co-chairs

Curly-leaf pondweed In early February we submitted our DNR permit applications for our spring treatment of curly-leaf pondweed (CLP). On April 30 Clarke Aquatic Services surveyed the Cullen Lakes to determine potential areas for chemical treatment of the CLP and sent its maps to the DNR to complete our permit process. At the time of the surveys, the CLP growth was minimal and the DNR Aquatic Invasive Species specialist called to discuss his reluctance to allow any treatment this year. We encouraged him to check the areas himself on all three lakes where we knew there would be heavy CLP growth. He did so and did not find a lot of CLP but authorized the treatment of 8.32 acres on Upper Cullen and 3.9 acres on Lower Cullen. He did not find enough CLP growth in Middle Cullen to warrant treatment and he said the native plants were abundant and active within the proposed treatment areas, so he denied our permit application for that lake.

As anyone who has been out on the lakes this summer or who has a dock in areas of CLP can tell you, this summer's CLP nuisance growth is widespread and dense. The late June surveys done by Clarke proved this to be the case and thanks to these surveys we have maps of proposed treatment areas ready to submit with our applications next year. However, if the CLP is not growing abundantly enough during the short time frame allowed by the DNR for its chemical treatment, we could end up with the same problem next year. We plan to meet with the DNR specialist later this summer to discuss what can be done to allow us to deal effectively with the CLP that is matting and causing navigation and swimming problems throughout the lakes. We should have more information to share with you in the fall newsletter.

Purple loosestrife We again ask you to monitor your own shoreline and either pull out/dig up or poison any loosestrife you find. There is a display on this invasive species at this Annual Meeting or you can find information on the CLA web site. Please refer to it and familiarize yourself with the plant's identifying

characteristics. One mature plant can produce up to 2.7 million seeds annually, so if this invasive species is not dealt with our shorelines can be taken over by it. *If it's on your shoreline, it is your responsibility to get rid of it.*

Zebra mussels This invasive species has been found in many areas of Lower Cullen Lake and last fall many people had to scrape or power wash the mussels off the watercraft they had left in the water all summer. The population is bound to continue to increase and spread to new areas. Zebra mussels attach themselves to anything solid in the lake and their microscopic juveniles can hitch a ride in any Lower Cullen Lake water. Please do all you can to prevent them hitching a ride in your watercraft to another lake. Although there have yet to be any reports of zebra mussels in Middle Cullen, people should be on the lookout for them in the lake or on equipment that has been in the lake. If you are on Middle or Upper Cullen Lake and discover what you think might be a zebra mussel, please report it to the DNR and to one of us.

Land Development Committee

Ann Beaver, chair

The only land use applications before the Crow Wing County, Nisswa, or Pequot Lakes Planning Commission/Board of Adjustment this past year that we were notified of were two requests by Wilderness Point Resort. One was to amend its conditional use permit (CUP) to expand its existing beach area and relocate the existing boat ramp to the other side of the beach. The other was for a variance to remove the existing boathouse in the shore impact zone and reconstruct the boathouse with the same dimensions but including a restroom. We submitted a letter to the Pequot Lakes Planning Commission/Board of Adjustment stating CLA had no objection to the CUP requests, especially since they had been approved in 2014. The resort didn't act on them within the required 12 months, thus the CUP expired and the resort had to reapply. We could find no land use ordinance basis for objecting to the reconstruction of the boathouse, but we did express concern over the proper handling of waste from the proposed boathouse restroom. The CUP was approved and the variance was denied.

Membership Committee

Carol Lindahl, chair

CLA membership currently stands at 257. This includes 233 current property owners, 14 associate members (former owners or family members of current owners), and 10 complimentary memberships (new owners). We are grateful for the on-going support and participation of our members.

Nominating Committee

Denny Opsahl, chair

The CLA Board currently has 13 members, one more than the minimum required by the association's by-laws. Of those 13, the terms of 10 are ending as of the 2019 Annual Meeting. Jim Burrell, Lower Cullen, and Charlie Boudrye, Middle Cullen, have chosen not to stand for re-election. We thank Jim for his 5 years of service to the lake association and Charlie for his 18 years, 13 of which he served as treasurer.

Because of the number of terms that expire this year, to better balance when future terms expire we are recommending the election of some of the slate of candidates to one-year terms and some to the usual two-year terms.

The Nominating Committee presents the following names to the Cullen Lakes Association membership for election to the Board of Directors to two-year terms:

Paul Beilfuss	Lower Cullen
Dan Hurley	Lower Cullen
Patty Hicks	Middle Cullen
Joel Knutson	Middle Cullen
Debi Oliverius	Middle Cullen
John Maguire	Middle Cullen

And the following names for election to the Board of Directors to one-year terms:

C.B. Bylander	Upper Cullen
Carol Lindahl	Lower Cullen
Anne Kostreba	Lower Cullen

Water Quality Committee

Ann Beaver, chair

The results of our water sampling since the last annual meeting continue to show the water quality of the lakes falls within the normal range for lakes in our ecoregion. Monthly results vary some from year to year due to weather conditions, but the overall condition of our lakes remains fairly consistent. A more detailed report will be included in the winter, 2020 newsletter.

Common Buckthorn

by Karla Sandstrom, Intermediate Forester — Division of Forestry, MN DNR, Brainerd, MN

I'm writing to raise your awareness of an invasive species that was found on private property near yours. It's called Common, or European, Buckthorn and it is a silent invader of our forests, wetlands, and prairies.

If you've been to any parks around the Twin cities, pretty much the only thing you can see when you look into the woods is buckthorn. It is a perennial shrub, originally brought over from Europe for hedges, which form dense

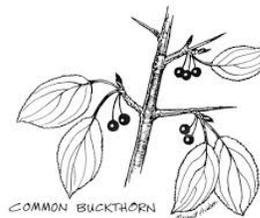
thickets. Buckthorn easily and quickly can take over an area and prevent other young trees from growing. It outcompetes native forest floor vegetation which can lead to erosion into lakes and wetlands, and very few wildlife species can utilize it for habitat or suitable food source. Once a sizable population is established, it is EXTREMELY difficult to remove. Large plants (10' to 25' more more) can produce thousands of berries and each berry contains 3-4 seeds that are viable in the soil for up to five years.



The infestation that was found is small, the landowner cut down and sprayed chemical on the stumps of the big ones and pulled all the small ones... but it came from somewhere, so I'm hoping you'll be

willing to look on your property, as well, for the source. We are quickly approaching the best time of year to find it – late fall. Common buckthorn will often have green leaves through November, so if you see green leaves after the end of October it may be worth checking out.

The leaves are oval, dark green, finely toothed, with 3-5 pair of curved leaf veins that run parallel to the middle of the leaf. Another telltale characteristic is a sharp spine at the tip of the twigs, and the purplish black berries will persist through the winter. Finally, if you still aren't sure, you can cut back part of the bark and look for orange inside the inner bark.



If you find it, pull it out by the roots. If it is too large to pull, cutting the stem at the soil surface and treating the cut stump, within two hours after cutting, with herbicide containing glyphosate (Roundup, Rodeo, etc.) or triclopyr (Vastlan, Garlon 4, etc.) is the best method for control.

So how did it get on your property? Because you live along a water body, probably birds or other wildlife. Common buckthorn berries are an intensely active laxative, and during the winter months when food is scarce, although not their first choice birds and wildlife will eat it and, as a result, spread its seeds.

CLA Committees — 2019-2020

2020 Operating budget

Paul Beilfuss, Budget & Finance Committee chair

The following budget was approved by the membership at the 2019 Annual Meeting.

Income

Membership Dues	\$6,000
Donations (Curly-leaf Pondweed)	40,000
Interest income	1,000
Total Income	\$47,000

Expenditures

Administration Committee	
Annual Meeting:	
Supplies, Postage, Printing	\$250
Food	75
Board Meeting Room Donation	250
General Office Supplies	75
LARA Membership	75
Soteroplos Scholarship	<u>250</u>
	\$975
Water Quality Committee	
Water Quality Monitoring	\$700
Education Committee	
Map/Guide Update	\$175
Newsletter Postage	495
Newsletter Printing	900
Web Site Management	<u>250</u>
	\$1,820
Aquatic Invasive Species Committee	
AIS Annual Control (Clarke)	\$43,000
Membership Committee	
Supplies and Printing	\$250
Postage	300
New Owner Packets	<u>75</u>
	\$625
Other	
Board Liability Insurance	\$1,000
Miscellaneous	<u>250</u>
	\$1,250
Total Expenditures	\$48,370

2019 Budget (Deficiency) (\$1,370)
 (Estimated income less estimated expenditures)

Administration

Anne Kostreba — chair
 Paul Beilfuss
 John MacGibbon

Budget & Finances

Paul Beilfuss — chair
 Joel Knutson
 Carol Lindahl
 Debi Oliverius

Education

C.B. Bylander — chair
 Ann Beaver
 John MacGibbon
 Debi Oliverius

Environmental Issues

Anne Kostreba — chair
 Patty Hicks
 Dan Hurley
 Mike Lawrow
 Denny Opsahl

Fisheries

C.B. Bylander — chair
 Dan Hurley
 Joel Knutson

Invasive Species

Ann Beaver — co-chair
 Carol Lindahl — co-chair
 C.B. Bylander
 John Maguire
 Debi Oliverius
 Denny Opsahl

Lake Management Planning

president — chair
 all committee chairs

Land Development

Ann Beaver — chair
 Patty Hicks

Membership

Carol Lindahl — chair
 Ann Beaver

Water Quality

Ann Beaver — chair
 Eric & Denise Whitson
 Debi Oliverius
 Denny Opsahl

Wild turkey sightings become more common

Intro by Ann Beaver

Driving paved roads throughout the Brainerd lakes area this summer and fall I frequently had to slow down to allow wild turkeys to cross the road. Seeing a group of 23 wild turkeys a few days ago make their way through our backyard made me want to learn a little more about why they seem to be more common in recent years. The following information is excerpted from a MN DNR web site page about wild turkeys.

Once extirpated from Minnesota, wild turkey restoration has been a phenomenal success. Today's turkey population descended from a successful release of



turkeys that occurred between 1971 and 1973 when 29 adult wild turkeys were trapped in Missouri and transplanted to Houston County in extreme southeastern Minnesota.

Since this modest beginning over 40 years ago, Minnesota's population has grown to more than 70,000 wild turkeys.

Wild turkeys are active during the day and roost in trees overnight. They nest on the ground and the young turkeys (poults) are able to leave the nest shortly after hatching. They immediately begin foraging for insects, but stay in a brood with the hen until their flight feathers have developed. Because turkeys are large and active during daylight hours, they are often observed foraging for insects, grubs and seeds, their primary food source. However, since they are highly visible, they have sometimes been blamed for crop damage that has actually been caused by other animals such as deer, raccoons, squirrels or blackbirds. Studies in Wisconsin, Iowa and Ohio have concluded that turkeys seen in crop fields eat mainly waste grain and rarely cause significant crop damage. Instead, they can benefit farmers by eating insects and weed seeds.

As both the human and turkey populations expand in Minnesota it is only natural to expect that increasing interactions will occur, some of them negative. Some wild turkeys that reside in urban areas have become acclimated to humans, which can create problems.

Compounding the problem is the illegal practice of raising and releasing turkeys. Although well intentioned, people who release pen-reared turkeys are doing more harm than good. Pen-reared birds pose a potential disease threat to the wild turkey population, as well as other domestic poultry. They are also not wary of humans and may become a nuisance by roosting on roofs, in trees near homes, and on decks, and they are known to occasionally damage painted automotive surfaces. Some turkeys, usually the yearling males (jakes), may also become aggressive and chase homeowners, children and pets. If this behavior persists, these birds may need to be removed and destroyed by special permit. Tame turkeys are counter to the wild turkey restoration effort and are not typical of the wily behavior necessary for long-term survival of the largest of North American game birds.

At first, the appearance of turkeys is usually novel and welcome. Property owners often regrettably feed the birds to encourage them to stay. It is only after the droppings accumulate, property is damaged, or residents are chased by aggressive jakes that they are considered a nuisance.

Getting ready for Minnesota winter —

Ice facts: Did you know?

from the MN DNR web site

New ice is usually stronger than old ice. Four inches of clear, newly-formed ice may support one person on foot, while a foot or more of old, partially-thawed ice may not.

Ice seldom freezes uniformly. It may be a foot thick in one location and only an inch or two just a few feet away.

Ice formed over flowing water and currents is often dangerous. This is especially true near streams, bridges and culverts. Also, the ice on outside river bends is usually weaker due to the undermining effects of the faster current.

The insulating effect of snow slows down the freezing process. The extra weight also reduces how much weight the ice sheet can support. Also, ice near shore can be weaker than ice that is farther out.

Booming and cracking ice isn't necessarily dangerous. It only means that the ice is expanding and contracting as the temperature changes.

Schools of fish or flocks of waterfowl can also adversely affect the relative safety of ice. The movement of fish can bring warm water up from the bottom of the lake. In the past, this has opened holes in the ice causing snowmobiles and cars to break through.

CULLEN LAKES ASSOCIATION
P.O. BOX 466
NISSWA, MN 56468

To protect, preserve, and enhance the three Cullen Lakes and their environs in order to ensure the continued vitality of the lakes, high quality fish and wildlife habitat, safe and healthful family living, and the survival of these natural gifts for future generations.

CLA BOARD 2019-2020

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