

The background of the page is a repeating pattern of stylized pine needles, rendered in a light grey or blue color. The needles are arranged in a way that they appear to be scattered across the page, with some pointing upwards and others downwards. The overall effect is a textured, naturalistic background.

Kabekona Lake Association 2021 Annual Report

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Kabekona Lake Association's primary purpose is to protect and preserve Kabekona Lake, its watershed, shores, and environs. This includes water quality, aquatic productivity, flora and fauna, its aesthetic quality, and its social and cultural climate. Other purposes are to communicate information concerning governmental agencies, lake and environmental associations, and to serve as a forum on relevant issues.

KLA Annual Meeting Agenda:

- A. **Welcome and President's Report—Mike Dudley**
- B. **Approval of last year's minutes—Stef**
- C. **Financial Report—Lee**
- D. **Critical Lake Info. (AIS, Lead, Fish Cloths, Loons, etc.)--Ingrid**
- E. **Committee/Service Group Reports**
- F. **Meeting Presentation—Luther Nervig (Minnesota Land Trust info. and Kabekona Watershed)**
- G. **Election of new Board Members—Mike intro. of Tony Fiacchino and Nick Rogge**
- H. **Questions from members—Mike**
- I. **KLF Presentation—Sue**
- J. **Adjournment**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

This is a great time for the KLA ! I write this report pondering the challenges we have faced this past year with Covid, AIS (Aquatic Invasive Species), Lake levels and the heat. We as a lake association have faced it all and we have overcome and look forward to the positive future of our lake. We have a dedicated Board who have given unselfishly many hours and days to ensure our lake is the BEST in our great state and will be the BEST for future generations!

We have faced these challenges and will be prepared to face any additional threats to our piece of paradise. We are committed to doing all we can as a board, but we cannot do it alone. WE NEED YOUR HELP and support. I have taken this role, and the role of President of the Hubbard County COLA, not because it is easy, but because it is hard and my efforts will always be to do what is right.

The efforts of your talented VP, Ingrid and your Secretary, Stef have left me awe struck with the passion they exhibit. Lee and his dedication to our finances have always been exemplary. All our committees and service teams need your appreciation and willingness to do what you can to help. If there is anything you can do, or ANY time you can dedicate, please do it.

The KLF has been a true partner and we are so very appreciative of all their efforts. Sue has done a fantastic job in leading this vital group and we look forward to continuing this relationship.

I want to offer this challenge to all of you on the KLA; what can we do to BTL---Building to Lead. We need to lead in addressing the AIS challenge. We need to lead in preventing the use of fertilizers on our lake shore lawns and discontinued use of lead sinkers. We need to lead in active participation on the KLA committees and service groups. We need to lead with Kabekona Lake as the reason we have property on the lake and the reason we do what we can for the future generations of KLA.

I remain forever grateful for the chance to be a part of the KLA and look forward to working with you in the future!

Mike Dudley

President-KLA

FINANCIAL REPORT

Statement of Income and Expenses January 1 - December 31, 2020

Beginning Balances (January 1):

Checking	\$ 11,134.88
Savings	<u>\$ 1,124.36</u>
Total	\$ 12,259.24

Income:

Interest	\$ 1.15
Membership	\$ 8,080.00
Trees - Sales	\$ 1,787.00
Grant (Kabekona Lake Fund)	<u>\$ 3,619.18</u>
	\$ 13,487.33

Expenses:

Printing (Newsletter and Currents)	\$ 1,504.27
Printing (Kabekona History Books)	\$ 459.16
Postage	\$ 1,260.55
P.O. Box - 1 year	\$ 76.00
Portable Restroom at Public Access	\$ 623.48
Oxygen Sensor	\$ 1,247.61
I-LIDS Security System (Monitoring Fee - 2019 and 2020)	\$ 3,619.18
Trees - Purchase	\$ 1,787.00
COLA Water Testing	\$ 365.00
COLA Membership Dues	\$ 600.00
MLR Advocates Membership Dues	\$ 300.00
KLA Sponsored Honorariums	\$ 125.69
KLF (Redirect Member Contribution)	\$ 125.00
KLA Septic Assistance Program	<u>\$ 0.00</u>
	\$ 12,092.94

Income less Expenses: \$ 1,394.39

Ending Balances (December 31):

Checking	\$ 12,528.12
Savings	<u>\$ 1,125.51</u>
Total	\$ 13,653.63

Net Gain (Loss) **\$ 1,394.39**

KABEKONA LAKE FOUNDATION ANNUAL REPORT

Kabekona Lake Foundation of the St. Paul and Minnesota Community Foundation, is a committee of elected KLA members who raise, invest, and direct funds to “protect and develop the watershed, shores, and environs of Kabekona Lake ... including water quality, aquatic productivity, the flora and fauna of its shoreland, the aesthetic quality of its environment, and to promote the social and cultural climate of its shoreland residents.” (From the bylaws)

Financial

We maintain two accounts with the St. Paul and Minnesota Community Foundation:

1. Perpetual Account: An endowment that generates some income that we may spend at our discretion in accordance with the bylaws. Unless otherwise directed, legacy gifts and memorials are deposited into this account.
2. Granting Account: A transactional account into which we deposit proceeds from the annual fall appeal, the picnic, soup suppers, and other fund-raisers. All our grants are made from this account.

As of April 30, 2021, the balance of the Perpetual Account was \$164,667, of which \$13,150.00 is currently available for grants. Memorial gifts of \$10,530 were received for the previous 12 months, ending 4/30/21.

We strongly encourage everyone who loves Kabekona Lake to make a legacy gift to the Kabekona Lake Foundation. Any KLF board member can assist you. Just ask!

As of April 30, 2021, the balance of the Granting Account was \$53,822.

In the past year, we continued to focus our spending on preventing the invasion of aquatic invasive species (AIS). And so far, we’re still winning!

For the Granting Account, we received:

1. Annual Appeal gifts - \$26,740 in 149 donations, averaging \$179/donation. THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!!
2. Grant from Lakeport Township - \$1,500

So far this year, we have spent:

1. Aquatic Invasive Species boat ramp inspectors - \$14, 628 (including the \$1,500 from Lakeport Township)
2. I-LIDS system operation and review - \$1,915

We have also made three financial commitments:

1. Lake Vegetation Survey, partnering with Hubbard County COLA - \$1,500 our share
2. Modification of E. coli flow into Kabekona River, partnering with Hubbard Soil and Water Conservation District - \$2,500 our share
3. Purchase of 655 acres of forest formerly owned by Potlatch Corp. that is in our watershed, partnering with Northern Waters Land Trust - up to \$50,000 our share. (NWLT will raise \$1,000,000)

So, as you can see, our books are balanced AND we have kept AIS out of our precious lake! Further financial details are available from Tim Werner, KLF treasurer.

Board Members

After six years of service, Don Evans, Sam Holmgren, and I are stepping down from the KLF Board. Alas, the bylaws prevent us from serving longer. I think I can speak for all of us in saying that it has been a pleasure to do meaningful work in service of a treasure like Kabekona Lake.

Heritage Society

The Heritage Society includes everyone, living and deceased, who has named Kabekona Lake Foundation in their estate plan (trust, will, IRA, insurance policy, etc.). We owe them our appreciation.

Please come to the party we're hosting on August 7 to celebrate our Heritage Society members and all who have made a financial contribution to keep our lake pristine. Wine, cheese, and other goodies, 5:00-7:00 PM, at the home of Sam and Catherine Holmgren, 29252 County Rd. 37.

Thank you all for your generous and ongoing support of Kabekona Lake Foundation and the work of Kabekona Lake Association.

It is for today and for times we shall never see. So let us be about the task! The materials are precious, and they are perishable.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Schiess, chair, on behalf of

Tim Werner, treasurer

Dan Rasmus, secretary

Margot Schmidt Address

Don Evans

Sam Holmgren

Tom Jacobsen

Kimberly Mattson

Mark Spaniol

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE_ ANNUAL REPORT

The Membership Committee's duties are to collect KLA dues, coordinate all mailings, seek new members, and plan and coordinate the "Meet Your Neighbors" picnic in June.

The total membership units in KLA are 344. 102 of those units are paid through 2021 or longer. We also have 9 associate members (such as other Lake Associations, DNR representatives, etc.).

The Currents was mailed in November, 2020 to 276 members and associates. A list of directory additions and corrections was included in this mailing. A 2021 Spring/Summer Newsletter was mailed to 272 members and associates. Over 80 of our members have opted to go "paperless", so the publications (except annual reports and directories) were sent to them via email. Judy Keiser did the editing of the Currents. The printing was done by Kevin Magnuson at Hummingbird Press. Stef Westphal produced the Spring Newsletter.

We welcome the following new members to KLA:

PER ANDERSON
JOE AND CAROLYN ARNDT
DEB BAULER AND JIM WILLIAMSON
MARK AND TERRI BRENNER
RAUL AND DANA ESCOBAR
DOUG AND JULIE KINGSLEY
CHAD AND PEGGY MALM
KIMBERLY MATTSON
HEDI MOUSSAVI
BILL AND LYNN OTREMBA

If you find an error in your directory information, please email Rosy Albers at ralbers2@msn.com. A list of changes will be sent out sometime this winter. Please notify her if you want to go "paperless". If you want an extra directory, they are \$5. Contact Rosy if you would like one. We also have the "Kabekona Chronicle" books available for \$10.

Unfortunately, our picnic was again canceled this year due to the pandemic. We are grateful that our annual meeting was scheduled in August.

We encourage you to invite your neighbors to join KLA if they are not already members. Please let me know if someone is interested in membership. There are many benefits to membership and our lake association is one of the finest in the area!

Submitted by Roselyn Albers, membership chair

LAKE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

The Lake Management Committee was formed to coordinate all of the actions associated with protecting and sustaining the water quality of Kabekona Lake.

The specific responsibilities of the committee include:

- Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) protection strategies
- Lake monitoring
- Public Access monitoring and I-LIDS camera system
- Fisheries
- Testing and reporting
- Watershed awareness and protection (KLA/KLF initiatives)

Shoreland Considerations Committee members are:

Gary Roberts, Chairperson
Luther Nervig
Don Evans
Tim Werner
Rolf Smeby
Sam Holmgren
Ingrid Bey
Dave Loch
Mark Ringham
Mike Dudley

Aquatic Invasive Species/Watercraft Inspection

Kabekona Lake has 1,100 hours of watercraft inspection in 2021. Kabekona Lake Association, through Kabekona Lake Foundation, paid for 708 supplemental inspector hours. Hubbard County (by state funding) paid for 392 hours for 2021. In addition, Lakeport Township has contributed \$2,000 toward inspection hours. 60 supplemental inspection hours have been banked with Hubbard County for the 2022 season.

Trained watercraft inspectors are crucial in our fight against AIS. Watercraft inspectors also provide valuable education to citizens launching boats. Kabekona Lake Association members' financial support to this endeavor cannot be over emphasized.

In July, 2021, the DNR announced that Starry Stonewort had been discovered in Leech Lake. Following this report, I contacted Nick Macklem at Hubbard County Environmental who manages the watercraft inspectors. All inspectors for Hubbard County have been informed of this AIS issue and to be extra vigilant.

I-LIDS Camera System by Environmental Sentry Protection (ESP)

In 2018, Kabekona Lake Association, funded by Kabekona Lake Foundation, installed an I-LIDS Camera System at the public access. The system provides video surveillance and recorded messages to launching boaters about the procedures to make sure watercraft and trailers launching are clean and to prevent Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS).

The I-LIDS was installed for the season in May prior to opening fishing. A new magnetic sensor was added on the camera system to improve the accuracy of launch videos. Committee members assisted in reconfiguring the system to accommodate the sensor. Environmental Sentry Protection provides 500 video reviews per month during the boating season as part of the service KLA pays for.

Launch video incident. In June, 2021, a video capture of a launch showed what appeared to be a potential AIS violation. This was observed by one of the reviewers of ESP and the information was given to the lake management committee. Gary Roberts contacted our local DNR Conservation Officer, Michael Cross and relayed the picture and video capture to him. Officer Cross followed up by actually going to see the owner of the boat and trailer (a local individual). It turned out that what had appeared to be mud and vegetation hanging down on a trailer was actually just a shredded spare tire cover. No violation occurred, however it is encouraging that our local CO followed up. This occurrence points out the value of the camera system and a great follow up by our local conservation officer. A thank you on behalf of KLA was sent to Officer Cross.

DNR Fish Sampling Survey

Sam Holmgren reports the following:

Here is a link to the latest survey conducted in 2020. <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/lakefind/showreport.html?downum=29007500> the fishery looks really solid compared to other lakes I have studied, however there is little commentary from the biologist on the overall health of the lake. I take that to be a good thing. If there were issues we would hear alarm bells.

Creel Survey being conducted by DNR in 2021.

Emily (from the DNR office) has been darting back and forth across the lake all summer conducting a creel survey. She will share preliminary results with us once she is finished, however, a final report will not be publicly available until April at the earliest.

Oxygen testing report by Dave Loch.

John Gagner and I did the first oxygen testing today, 7/24/2021. The monitor worked great! To my surprise the O2 levels were better than last year. Today the lowest O2 level was 5.9 versus 4.6 on 7/25/2020. Water temp was within a degree of each other on the surface, 75-76 degrees, and at 95' both years. It's about 45 degrees from 75' down to 95' which is as long as the probe cable is.

Kabekona watershed land protection update (former Potlatch land project)

Potlatch sold 72,000 acres in Minnesota to the Conservation Fund. Dave Loch and Luther Nervig checked and found out that 620 acres within the Kabekona Lake watershed is included in the sale. This sale closed in the second half of 2020. The Conservation Trust holds the land aside for conservation habitat. Hubbard County board has previously approved this action.

In conjunction with Northern Waters Land Trust, a coordinated effort is now taking place to obtain matching grants from Kabekona Lake Association (through Kabekona Lake Foundation), and other interested organizations. The goal is to get this important watershed land transferred from the Conservation Trust into the hands of the State of Minnesota DNR for perpetual land and wildlife protection.

KLF has included a funding match (see KLF annual report for details).

Submitted by Gary Roberts

ARCHIVES ANNUAL REPORT

The KLA and KLF Archives are housed in Laporte School. They contain a wealth of information about KLA, KLF, Friendship Springs and the history of people around the lake dating back to the 1930's. It is open to visitors. Contact Stef Westphal (stefmyown@aol.com), if you are interested in visiting it.

Many thanks to Cheryl Hoium and Luther Nervig for devoting much time and effort to the creation and organization of the Archives!

For example, here's a nugget of lake history found in Archives:

KLA LOGO

In 1992, KLA Board Members Priscilla Sage and Jim Roy (both artists on staff at Iowa State University, College of Art and Design, undertook working on a logo for the KLA. Priscilla contacted a fellow artist and friend from the Ames, Iowa area named Linda Emmerson. She specializes in Scherenschnitte (German paper cutting). After brainstorming some lake activities etc., Linda generously donated the logo to the KLA. Sometimes the center of the design is used alone, but the full design is wonderful!



AQUATIC VEGETATION SURVEY 2021

On July 21, 2021, Kabekona Lake had an Aquatic Vegetation Survey performed by RMB Environmental Laboratories, Inc. This survey was conducted around the entire lake to identify and quantify all the plants in the lake. RMB Labs collected plants at 260 points around the lake from the water surface down to 20 feet deep. They will identify all these plants and submit a full written report on their findings by the end of the summer. This survey was contracted by the Kabekona Lake Association (KLA) in an effort to continue to fight Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS). It is important to know the aquatic vegetation in the lake as a reflection of the health of the lake. It is also important to identify invasive vegetation early (if found) in order to prevent AIS from colonizing the lake. A survey of this type has not been done on the lake since 2005. Current recommendations are to survey the lake every 3 to 5 years. The KLA was awarded the Hubbard County Coalition of Lake Associations (HC COLA) Charitable Fund Grant to cover half the cost of this survey. The cost of the survey was \$3000, so the grant award was for \$1500.

Submitted by Ingrid Bey

WATER QUALITY REPORT

- For the calendar year of 2020 Kabekona Lake received 26.3" of precipitation. Average is 23.8" so Kabekona Lake received 2.5" above average.
- For the winter of 2020-2021 Kabekona Lake recieved 33" of snow. Average is 41" of snow so we were short of snow by 8".
- Kabekona Lake froze over on December 16, 2020. Kabekona Lake was totally free of ice on April 27, 2021.
- Kabekona Lake level was extremely low when the ice went out because of shortage of snow and spring rain. Drought continued during the summer of 2021 and the lake dropped another 4".
- Hot weather started at the very beginning of June and lasted through the end of July. Much algae formed. There were even reports of floating algae mats on the lake.
- Secchi Disc readings (the distance you can see a 12" diameter white disk down in the lake) have been 17.5' on 5/5/21, 13.5' on 6/26/21, and 10.0' on 7/17/21.

Submitted by Rolf Smeby

HUBBARD COUNTY COLA

Kabekona Lake Association is one of 30 lake associations that belong to Hubbard County COLA (Coalition of Lake Associations) in Minnesota. Meetings are held once a month from April to October. This past year they have been ZOOM meetings. However, the last 2 meetings have been a combination of live in person meetings in Park Rapids and ZOOM meetings.

The meetings are held on the last Thursday of the month. The meetings start with 1 or 2 guest speakers at 6:30PM. The business meeting of HC COLA is at 7:30PM. The meeting is usually done by 8PM. Anybody from a Hubbard County Lake Association may come to the meetings.

The main objective of HC COLA is to stop the spread of AIS (aquatic invasive species) into Hubbard County. HC COLA and Kabekona Lake in conjunction with RMB Environmental Laboratories of Detroit Lakes, Mn. does 5 tests for phosphorus and chlorophyll A in the lake during the summer. They also do 2 tests (one in June and one in July) looking for Zebra Mussel young (called veligers) and Spiny Water Flea. HC COLA and Kabekona Lake have paid boat inspectors at the boat landing looking for AIS.

HC COLA and Kabekona Lake are continuing their program, Eyes on the Water. There are 19 people around the lake who have PVC pipes hanging from the end of the dock checking for Zebra Mussels who might take up residence in these pipes.

HC COLA is also a part of a program called "Get the Lead Out". Ingrid Bey has been spearheading the program for Kabekona Lake. The object of the program is to get rid of lead fishing gear (mainly sinkers), not buy anymore, and buy and use non-lead fishing gear. This is also part of the Loon Restoration Program. Loons search the bottom of the lake for food, end up swallowing some lead sinkers, and die. Eagles can also die from eating fish that have taken in lead.

Ingrid Bey was also instrumental in getting a vegetation survey of Kabekona Lake done by RMB Environmental Laboratories of Detroit Lakes. No AIS plants were found in Kabekona Lake.

Kabekona Lake now has 2 shoreland advisors, Sue Schiess and Ingrid Bey, who took training from HC COLA. Residents of Kabekona Lake should call upon these women, who both live on Kabekona Lake, if they have questions about their shoreline or if they want to do something with their shoreline.

HC COLA is also having a Starry Trek to look for the AIS plant, Starry Stonewort on August 8, 2021. This year HC COLA is concentrating on the northern lakes of Hubbard County. Kabekona Lake will likely be one of them. Starry Stonewort was recently found on the west side of Leech Lake.

Hubbard County COLA is heavily involved with Kabekona Lake and vice versa. It is good that Kabekona Lake belongs to HC COLA because a lot of tests are done to keep the water quality of Kabekona Lake and other lakes in Hubbard County great!

Submitted by Rolf Smeby

TONY FIACCHINO

Married to Sandy, we are originally from the Chicago area, we are proud parents of six children, four daughters and two sons and grandfather to 11. Former owner of AeroStar Global Logistics Inc., a international logistics company catering to the aerospace industry and AG Logistics Inc , a domestic trucking company.

Prior to selling our business we began looking for a place to retire far away from the maddening crowd. When I was younger we came up to the Leech Lake area and I immediately fell in love with the area. When we decided to retire we returned to the idyllic place of my youth and found it and the people to be as beautiful and enchanting as I had remembered. We immediately started our search for our ideal place. We searched on Leech at first and while it's beautiful we found it became much more commercial than what we wanted in our retirement. Then in 2012 we found Kabekona, and her natural beauty embraced us at first site. With our large family we decided to establish a family compound on Kabekona. We purchased the former grounds of "Pine Aire Resort" and began building our dream. We completed our project in 2016 and never looked back. While we continue to maintain a home in Wheaton IL, we live on Kabekona full time throughout the year. Kabekona has become our home.

Since moving here Kabekona has provided years of happiness for our family. To this day we believe we were somehow guided to Kabekona. After many unsuccessful months working with a realtor for a place on Leech we became frustrated and were about to look elsewhere when our realtor took us on Kabekona, it was love at first sight! We continue to be enthralled by the pristine beauty and serenity of the lake and wish to become an active part of maintaining the preservation of her beauty

NICK ROGGE

Been at the lake since 1986. I have a long background in finance and tax, specifically in taking distressed companies and turning them around. I have served on many non-profit boards in the past, mostly related to youth sports. Strong fishing and lake passion.