



# currents

Kabekona Lake Association  
volume 30 | issue 1 | fall/winter 2021

## LOVE OUR LOONS (LOL) LOON FRIENDLY LAKE REGISTRY BEGINS!

By: Ingrid Bey



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The Minnesota Loon Restoration Project (MLRP) is targeting an 8-county area, which includes Hubbard County. We are so fortunate to have our county included in this project. The other 7 counties included are Aitkin, Becker, Beltrami, Cass, Crow Wing, Clearwater, and Itasca. Rob Rabasco, assistant area DNR wildlife manager for the Brainerd area recently spoke to the Hubbard County Coalition of Lake Associations (HC COLA) and updated us on this project. He informed us that loons are fairly abundant, both at the state and federal level, and that they are in pretty good shape. But they are still considered a “greatest conservation-needs species” because their habitat requirements are easily able to become imperiled due to climate change. Loons prefer to nest along undeveloped shorelines with emergent vegetation for cover

because of predation. The better they can get tucked into cattails, rice, or bullrush, the better for them. Shoreland development is a major threat to loons.

As part of the settlement with British Petroleum (BP) after the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in 2010, Minnesota was awarded 7.5 million dollars for the Loon Restoration Project. Another 1.27 million dollars went to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) for the Get the Lead Out Program. The KLA participated in that program this summer at our annual meeting and collected over 2 pounds of lead. Thank you Kabekona!

The 2 goals of the Loon Restoration Project are to reduce loon mortality and increase reproductive success. The restoration activities will be split into 3 parts:

1. Protecting targeted lake shorelines to conserve loon breeding habitat.
2. Augmenting breeding habitat with artificial nesting platforms, where appropriate.
3. Promoting loon stewardship among lake associations.

This summer the DNR worked with the U.S. Geological Survey and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to survey lakes that are important to loons within the 8-county project area. This project is ongoing and funded for the next 2 years. The data collected will help determine where to target the various parts of the Loon Restoration Project. This may include things like acquisition of shorelines as aquatic management areas, helping loons nest in natural habitats, or creating conservation easements.

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# Kabekona Lake Association

P.O. Box 8 • Laporte, MN 56461

*Committed to Protect and Preserve Kabekona Lake*

## Board of Directors

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Judy Keiser  
Stef Westphal

## Photos

Gary Bolstad  
Stef Westphal

The Board extends special thanks to these esteemed retiring Committee and Board Members for their dedication and service to our lake community.

**Gary Roberts (Lake Management), Sue Schiess (KLF President), Gene Moffatt (Board Member), Judy Keiser Currents Editor.**

Members, please extend your personal thanks to these folks for their hard-working commitment for all our benefit.

The Kabekona Lake Association is a tax exempt organization under Section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986. Contact the KLA treasurer to see copies of the exemption application, exemption letter and the last three annual information returns (Form 990-N).

# KLA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*By: Ingrid Bey*

I sit here on a beautiful fall day thinking back to what a wonderful year we had on Kabekona. Kabekona Live! Coffees were brought back by Martha Vetter and hosted by Martha V., then Gerry and Peter Rogness, and Martha Helland. The book club and men's breakfasts stayed active and strong. The ladies' luncheons were back again thanks to Martha Vetter. All great ways to connect with old friends and make new friends. The 4th of July Boat Parade was bigger than ever and started off with a BANG by Mike Dudley. The annual meeting was back in person! It was fun and informative. And very well attended. That very same night a wonderful party was hosted by the KLF at the beautiful home of Catherine and Sam Holmgren. A great time was had by all.

If all those activities didn't keep Kabekoners busy, there was more. An Aquatic Vegetation Survey of the

lake was completed in July. A very technical land acquisition project continues to move forward to protect the watershed and therefore protect the lake. The I-LIDS system was up and running at the public access thanks to the Lake Management Committee. And the inspectors were at the public access almost every day thanks to the KLA/KLF and you. Long term partnerships were maintained with the Hubbard County Coalition of Lake Associations (HC COLA), HC Soil and Water Conservation District (HC SWCD), and Hubbard County and Environmental Services. And some new things were introduced. Sue Schiess and I were active around the lake and even visited some other lakes as HC COLA Shoreland Advisors. We participated in the MPCA Get the Lead Out Program and the Stop Spiny Campaign with our Swedish "fish" cloths. And Stef Westphal and I

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# KLF PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*By: Dan Rasmus*

The Kabekona Lake Foundation (KLF for short) is an arm of the Kabekona Lake Association (KLA). The KLF safeguards donations and memorials made to the Foundation. Investment interest from those donations is used help preserve our beloved lake. In a typical year, the KLF will have between \$5,00 and \$7,000 to distribute as grants for environmental protection projects.

Please look for a letter from the KLF in mid to late November. The letter will provide an update about an invasive species survey paid-for by a KLF grant. Spoiler alert – no aquatic invasive species were found! The letter also will let you know how you

can donate to the KLF.

Many of you attended the August 7 KLF thank-you event at the home of Sam and Katherine Holmgren. It was a great event at their beautiful new cabin – thanks to the Holmgrens for hosting!

The KLF Board is made up of 9 Members: Tim Werner (Treasurer), Margot Andress (Secretary), Mark Spaniol, Tom Jacobson, Kimberly Mattson, Darlene Hibbs (liaison to the KLA), Pete Fullerton, Catherine Holmgren (Vice Chair, nominated as future Chair) and Dan Rasmus (Chair – 2 year term).

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# 2021 FALL MEMBERSHIP REPORT

By: Roselyn Albers, Membership Chair

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.)

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 were sent via email. The KLA Board has made a decision to send all future publications (except directories) via email. Stef Westphal produced the Spring Newsletter.

We welcome the following new members to KLA in 2021:

PER ANDERSON  
JOE & CAROLYN ARNDT  
DEB BAULER & JIM WILLIAMSON  
MARK & TERRI BRENNER  
ELLING & LORI EIDBO  
RAUL & DANA ESCOBAR  
RENA NESTINGEN FRASCO  
FRANCES KERN & KYLE WELLMAN  
DOUG & JULIE KINGSLEY  
CHAD & PEGGY MALM  
KIMBERLY MATTON  
HEDI MOUSSAVI  
BILL & LYNN OTREMBA  
MATT PREUS

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. 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. 78 members were in attendance and many renewed their membership at that time. Almost 200 members are currently up to date on their dues.

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. Please consult an article in this edition to read the many benefits to membership and our lake association is one of the finest in the area!

## MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS OF KLA

Your \$25 annual membership dues stretch a long way to address the changing environmental, financial, and social needs of our beloved lake. We have listed a benefit for each membership dollar. Not all of the benefits are paid for through dues, but they all cost a volunteer's time. These needs are currently met by unpaid volunteers through (but not limited to) the following:

1. Lake monitoring of water quality.
2. Lake monitoring for Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS).
3. A working relationship and/or communication with other important groups, currently including, but not limited to:
4. Hubbard County Coalition of Lake Associations (HC COLA)

Restore the Shore (tree seedling purchase program)

Shoreline Advisors and so much more...

5. Hubbard County Soil and Water Conservation District (HC SWCD)
6. Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MN DNR)  
Loon Restoration Project (MLRP)
7. Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates (MLR)
8. Lakeport Township
9. Northern Waters Land Trust
10. St Paul and Minnesota Community Foundations
11. University of Minnesota:  
University of MN Healthy Waters Initiative Project

Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center (MAISRC)

12. Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) 'Get the Lead Out' program
13. Minnesota Glacial Lakes Partnership (MGLP)
14. An active working KLA Board which will address all members' concerns. Board meetings are open to all. Volunteers are welcome.
15. An active working Kabekona Lake Foundation (KLF) whose stated purpose, as a non-profit foundation, is to use funds raised through donations, gifts, and

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# WONDERING HOW TO GET TO KNOW FELLOW KLAERS? HAVE WE GOT A DEAL FOR YOU! READ ON...

By: Martha Vetter, Social Groups' Chair

The 2021 summer resurrected the 2020 Covid cancellations which proved to be such a happy thing! Hopefully 2022 will be packed full of interesting and entertaining events. Here's a list and descriptions of a variety of opportunities to be part of:

- **MONTHLY COFFEES IN HOMES** – May – September, 10:00. Simply bring a mug to gather with lively conversation! The first will be on May 31 at Martha Vetter's home. Watch for email announcements for the places!
- **LADIES' LUNCHEONS** – Monthly - May – October, 12:00 . We will meet at "local" restaurants as we did in 2021: Popular Bar, Outpost, Door, Woodshed. We simply order off the

menu! It's so good to support our close-by spots! Perhaps we will meet in the "winter" months as well. Watch for email announcements for the places and dates.

- **MEN'S BREAKFAST** – 8:30 – all year long, 2nd Wednesdays of the month. Meet at Jimmy's! Simply order those really yummy omelets off the menu! (other great choices, too!)
- **WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB** – All year long: May – October. In-person, 10:00. Trinity Lutheran Church; Zoom, November – April. Books for 2022 will be announced via email in December. Contact Pastor Rene to make sure your name is on the list: pastor.rene.mehlberg@gmail.

com. This is a grand group of ladies who dig into books that have been chosen by the members.

- **KNITTING!** This bunch of crafty ladies (and men, of course) have met in the past. Again, we're bringing it back! 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 1:00 in homes. Sara Hanhan is the contact person. Email her if you'd like to receive the announcements: uhanhan@paulbunyan.net. You DO NOT need to knit; rather, you can bring some sort of "lap" project (or not). The fellowship is cozy and fun!

Doesn't this sound wonderful and interesting? You can choose one or more! How about that!! Watch for the announcements.

## NEW EDITOR TAKES OVER THE CURRENTS

By: Judy Keiser

Everyone sings a "swan song" sometime in their lives and now it's my turn. After 15 years as editor of the Currents, I am putting down my pen and "saying goodbye." It's time for new ideas and new writers and so I am handing it over to the very talented Stef Westphal. She will take over the editorship beginning with this issue. The current Currents started 15 years ago with the Summer 2006 issue. KLA was looking for someone to take over the paper and my daughter, Stephanie, urged me to take it on. She knew I was a radical "news junkie" and she offered to help. She was also a journalist at the time and the paper you see today, the layout and many of the columns, came from her suggestions and ideas. After a year, I was on my own, and what a whee of a ride it has been, chasing

ideas and recruiting writers! It didn't take me very long to realize what a talented bunch of people we have in KLA. What was even better was that they were willing to write for the paper. The paper has covered big events, such as the Lester Lake purchase and the paving of County 37, but it has also focused on social, environmental and financial issues. And then there have been the wonderful human interest stories. What varied and exciting lives our people have had and how fortunate KLA is to have such creative and gifted members and their willingness to share their own stories. The *Currents* will go on covering all these diverse events and people. I am so grateful that I was able to be part of it for awhile. "Thanks for the memories," as Bob Hope sang. I will treasure every one.

### FINAL PUBLISHED ISSUE

The KLA Board has voted to begin emailing only its newsletters and *Currents* issues to all the membership. This will begin in 2022. It is a cost saving and especially a time saving measure. Many thanks to Rosy Albers who for years has spent hours upon hours dealing with all the KLA mailings. Most all members have their own printers and can print out the newsletters, if they desire. Members, please offer to help out neighbors and friends, if you are aware that they don't have printers. You may contact any board member for assistance.

# SHORELAND ADVISORS

By: Sue Schiess

“Am I doing anything to damage Kabekona Lake? Something I don’t know about? There’s been so much info these last few years about how fragile our lakes are, I can’t keep track! Is there anyone who can advise me without charging a fortune?”

Ask a Hubbard County Shoreland Advisor to visit your property - NO CHARGE!

Shoreland Advisors are volunteers – neighbors helping Hubbard County neighbors who share the desire to preserve the quality of our lakes, ponds, and rivers. Shoreland Advisors have been trained to spot many of the landscapes, landshapes, landforms, and land practices that contribute to lake pollution, and we can help you to see them, too. We can also suggest ways to improve them.

Note: Shoreland Advisors are volunteers, and we will not visit your property unless you invite us. We are not “the police,” and we will not file our observations or recommendations with any governmental body. What, if anything, you do with our recommendations is entirely up to you. We won’t check. It’s strictly a neighbor-to-neighbor service. Remember: You must invite us to visit.

The Shoreland Advisor program began just one year



ago to offer shoreland owners free recommendations to help them reduce their inadvertent pollution of our lakes. The Coalition of Lake Associations (COLA) of Hubbard County initiated this program under the visionary leadership of Sharon Natzel, HC COLA president.

This year 9 volunteers trained to be Shoreland Advisors, including Ingrid Bey (KLA president) and me (Sue Schiess, past chair of KLF). To date, we’ve consulted on 11 properties, 5 of which are on Kabekona Lake. Just goes to show how enlightened our Kabekona Lakers are when it comes to preserving lake quality!

If you would like to schedule a Shoreland Advisor to visit your property (next spring/summer), send your request to [hccola@gmail.com](mailto:hccola@gmail.com). Someone will be in touch!

## HC COLA IN 2021

By: Rolf Smeby, HC COLA Rep

Hubbard County Coalition of Lake Associations (HC COLA) is the leader in protecting Hubbard County lakes and streams. It was formed in 1988. HC COLA currently has a membership of 30 lake associations representing 42 lakes with over 2500 members. HC COLA is an all volunteer 501(c)(3) tax exempt nonprofit organization. Donations to HC COLA are tax deductible. HC COLA has a Charitable Fund Grant Proposal Application up to \$500 open every year to all lake associations. The next grant deadline is April 15, 2022.

This past year Long Lake, which stretches from East Park Rapids all the way down to the town of Hubbard, was discovered to have zebra mussels. Currently, 495 Minnesota lakes and streams have zebra mussels. Eurasian Water Millfoil was discovered in Big Mantrap Lake. Starry Stonewort was discovered on the west shore of Leech Lake, which is not very far from the Cass County - Hubbard County line.

This was the 2nd year of Zebra Mussel Settlement Samplers (ZMSS), which are a short pvc pipe hanging

from the end of the dock checking for zebra mussels that may attach to the pipe. There were about 20 at Kabekona Lake. Hubbard County had over 300 of them. Kabekona Lake had one hanging from the dock at the public landing. All public access docks should have ZMSS hanging from them. This is part of HC COLA’s “Eyes on the Water” campaign.

A program that was started in 2021 was the Shoreland Advisors. Shoreland Advisors for our KLA are Sue Schiess and Ingrid Bey (see previous article).

In 2021 Hubbard County became 1 of 8 Minnesota Counties participating in the DNR’s Minnesota Loon Restoration Program (MLRP). Of course, Minnesota loons migrate to the Gulf of Mexico during the winter. On April 10, 2010, an offshore drilling rig in the Gulf of Mexico exploded with a massive release of oil. Minnesota loons were affected by this. In 2016, BP Oil agreed to pay the states \$8 billion over 15 years to help the loons, other animals, and their habitat. Minnesota was awarded \$7.5 million of this money.

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# MOVING HOME

By: David Wee

I was asked to write an article about moving from a home elsewhere to a seasonal cabin on Kabekona Lake, thus making the cabin into a year-round home. Many of you readers already have done this years ago, others may be considering it. Here's how it happened for us.

On March 20, 2020, Karen and I, both long-since retired from our day jobs at St. Olaf College in Northfield, where we lived for over a half-century, decided to sequester ourselves from the quickly-growing covid crisis, at our Kabekona cabin for a few weeks. Weeks turned into months. Gradually we began to ask ourselves "Why should we ever return to Northfield from this beautiful home on this beautiful lake in these beautiful woods?"

When people like us ask questions like that, we have to consider key things:

- our age (we're both over 80)
- our health (we are reasonably healthy--we thought)
- nearness of children, grandchildren, parents
- long-time friends, book groups, running groups, etc.
- worship affiliations
- medical providers: doctors, dentists, nurses, pharmacies, caregivers
- finances: mortgages, home sale, moving costs
- belongings: what do we leave behind, give away, sell, bring with us
- and, exactly when should we make this move

Here are some details of our move: we already were the sole owners of our cabin. My parents had built the family cabin, Twin-Kin, in 1947; after their deaths, it belonged to us, their four children, who had equal ownership.

As some of you undoubtedly have experienced, collective family ownership can include complicated inequities of usage, proximities, scheduling, finances, decoration taste, etc. If we are lucky, we resolve such issues amicably, as our family did. When Karen and I decided to venture into sole ownership of a cabin, my siblings--bless them!--bought out my share of ownership so we could build our cabin. We bought an empty lot on the south shore near the Roy cabin (then Scots on the Rocks), which provided us the envious opportunity to design a cabin and hire a contractor (Arnie Novodvorsky) to build it. Many of you knew and have hired Arnie over the years, so many Kabekona residents have admiring and entertaining tales about his building expertise and personal eccentricities--may he rest in peace!



Arnie built our cabin in 2002-2004, and we have loved it! We didn't design it with the intention of living here year-round, and thus we didn't plan to have a garage or storage sheds, so we still have the issue of space: to move from a fully-finished home into a fully-furnished cabin, after a lifetime of gathering and saving, is a problem of the privileged few living in a first-world country. We are not sorry for ourselves, but we continue to be busy thinning out file folders of letters, cards, photos, and presentations, and closets and drawers of clothing that we have loved but that no longer fits (either our bodies or our social circumstances).

And the books! I have been a college English professor for 42 years, and Karen has spent decades as a poet, teacher, and public reader, so we are embraced by manuscripts, books, and professional documents that will someday need other homes---after we've read or re-read certain ones of them.

As our finances diminished after retirement, we could no longer afford to maintain two households. We asked our three adult children "should we sell our Northfield house or our Kabekona cabin?" Without a pause they all exclaimed "Do not sell the cabin!" So we didn't. But then we had to face those topics I listed earlier. Friends protested that at our decrepit age we should not be moving from a populated area into the remoteness of the Great North Woods, far from friends and good medical care (Northfield is only 60 miles from the Mayo Clinic). But in the year that we have been here at Kabekona we have received wonderful care through the Sanford Health

system, especially pronounced as this past June Karen had triple bypass heart surgery at the Fargo Sanford Heart Hospital. We have had great help and counsel from the Walker and Bemidji Sanford medical providers.

We did worry about suffering the loss of support from our Northfield social networks, and the covid pandemic has made all of us cautious about mingling too much with neighbors. But here at Kabekona Karen and I do not feel like strangers in an unknown land. I have been coming here since I was eight years old, playing in the lake and hiking in the woods with other pre-teens named Preus, Anderson, Sheggeby, Nestande, Rogness, Tallakson, Beaver, Malmborg, Lunde, and Nervig. And now many of you playmates live here too! (Do any of you still play Up Jenkins and Old Maid in the evenings at your cabins, consuming popcorn and grape Koolaid, then walking back to your own place well after dark?) Perhaps not, but I know that you are here, and your presence gives us good comfort.

Whatever your experiences in leaving other homes to settle into your Kabekona cabins, I hope that living up here permanently is as much a blessing and treasure as it is for us!

## HOME: FIRST MONTH AT KABEKONA

Surrounded by boxes  
still to be opened  
and too many cups  
for the cupboard  
Still there is peace  
this fall morning as daybreak  
lights down on the water  
natural as you please

*By: Karen Herseht Wee*  
*[written after our first permanent overnight, Aug. 4, 2020]*

## UNTITLED

Outside no wind  
The sun's red eye peers through smoke  
from wildfires in Oregon

Furniture from our fifty-seven  
years together followed us here  
to squat heavily in rooms resistant to  
permanence

We sort pots and pans  
kitchen spices papers  
poems sheets running tee shirts  
socks

All of it slips through our fingers like  
hourglass sand

*By: Karen Herseht Wee*



## KLA vs KLF

*By: Luther P. Nervig*

I have been asked to write an article detailing the relationship between Kabekona Lake Association (KLA) and Kabekona Lake Foundation (KLF). There is apparently some uncertainty regarding the relationship. The board of KLA is elected annually, at the annual meeting, by members of KLA. This KLA board then annually appoints the KLF board. All of the above are eligible to serve two consecutive three year terms. One member of the KLF board is designated to attend the KLA board meetings. The names of the KLA and KLF Board members are all listed elsewhere in this issue.

In the KLA 2021 annual report, KLA treasurer Lee Weinmann has a detailed financial report showing all income and expenses, including the income from members dues and the

expenses of the social and business activities of KLA. KLA maintains its money at a local Walker bank. When the KLA seeks money from KLF, such as funding for the septic pumping program, KLA must submit a written grant request to KLF. The KLA and KLF boards approve these expenditures.

The 2021 annual report also contains a report of KLF treasurer Tim Werner showing annual donations to the granting fund from members to be disbursed when needed for expenses for the protection of the lake, including aquatic invasive species. The report also reported the balance in the perpetual account, which is a permanent endowment with only the earnings available to the KLF board. The monies are invested and managed by the Saint Paul and Minnesota Foundation. A KLA member stated that KLF was “flush with cash.” Members need to realize that the balance in the permanent account is an investment in the future. Gifts to the permanent fund are added to the endowment and are not available to be disbursed by the KLF board. Only the annual earnings from the endowment fund will be available for the next 100 years or more. The KLF board approves all expenditures.

The KLA board meets monthly from May to October and the KLF board meets a minimum of twice per year. Kabekona Lake is blessed to have nine volunteers on the KLA board and up to nine volunteers on the KLF board. Each year you, the reader, have the opportunity to volunteer for an open board position. It is an opportunity to give back to Kabekona.



# KABEKONA KLIMATE KALAMITY?

By: Jim Kelly

The UNI-Bay came into existence 44 years ago. What became an almost daily routine for the group was to “walk to the bridge” on County 39. I can’t begin to suggest how many times that trek was taken, but you can guess, it was a lot. Conversations might include everything from “soup to nuts.” But, like those who walk County 37, I might suggest most will not spend a lot of time talking about the trees or the underbrush along the road, but simply all recognize the environs outline a subliminal pathway for bucolic walk with nature.

For my part, I’m far more likely to look at the flora in the ditches. Having attained my Master’s degree from Mankato State College with a thesis wrapped around the ferns and fern allies of Emmet County Iowa, I tend to dwell with more observation at the fern populations that find safe harbor in the ditches. I see them and reminisce and smile at the Rattlesnake Fern, the Ostrich Fern, or the Tall Scouring Rush. Yah, I know. What kind of excitement walk is that? Simply know that Jeanie would understand as she assisted me in gaining all the information needed for my thesis as we trekked throughout Emmet County, Iowa.

The environ surrounding Kabekona Lake is filled with these plants and so many, many more; some flowering and some, like the ferns and fern allies not. The simple draw to those walks and the panoramic view that leans across the lake purports that our little piece of Earth is a Goldilocks chunk of joy.

The plants that you see in the ditches and the underbrush are well versed for the conditions that enable them to survive in northern Minnesota. They are climatically speaking, in their zone. They are in their respective niches and are successful. This biogeographical quadrant of northern Minnesota fits well with the flora that lines our asphalt pathways. The only difference, at least at this moment in time, is some of them are beginning to yield to the climate changes being experienced in northern Minnesota, as well as, throughout the country and around the world. Simply know, it is being documented that the climate is shifting.

There is a golf course that I play in Cedar Falls, Iowa. For the past several years, I’ve noticed the affect the Emerald Ash Borer has been having on the Ash trees. In my home region, some 12,000 Ash trees have had to be taken down. Like the Dutch Elm disease that ravished the majestic Elm trees of days gone by, the Ash tree is now finding its demise due to a different invasive insect. These expiry situations are difficult to deal with because we lose

so many of what we grew up with. Yet it happens and is happening.

But, as I see the loss of the Ash trees, I’m more perplexed by the fact that many of the Spruce species have been dying off at about the same rate. There isn’t an invasive critter lurking in the way lands taking their repast on these trees. This is a result of climate change and the results seem to be pervasive. The climate affect that is going on in Iowa is also going on in and around the Kabekona Lake region. The trees around our personal environment are feeling the effect of the slow change in climate, and to that accord, so are most of the other flora and fauna. In short, trees and other flora are being forced to adapt or die and the along with this, the fauna will also adjust.

For tree species specifically speaking, some are relishing in it, while some are not. Spruce and Fir trees are struggling. The Red Pine is struggling. However, the White Pine, Cedar, American Basswood, Oak and Maple trees seem to be hardier to the climate alterations. Their success may, in the future, llluminate the terrain around the Kabekona region more blazon with shades of red and yellow; possibly more so than has been the case in years past.

It is difficult to render specifics as to why the climate change has the effect it does. No one is so esoteric as to have all the answers. When you try to consider the effect of a warmer climate and drought on trees and other plants, the questions might rise as to the adjustments made within their biochemistry (photosynthesis) or biophysics (transient and turgor pressure) or any one of sundry of plant physiology. What we know is there is change happening and more change is on the way. It will be a slow change, but it will be coming.

Know that the University of Minnesota under the direction of Dr. Lee Frelick, Director for the Center for Forest Ecology, is heading up much of the research related to climate change and the effect it is having on the boreal portions of northern Minnesota. Data shows that the two most northwest counties (Kittson and Rouseau) have warmed 2.4 degrees Celsius, which is much higher than the 1-degree average for the country. Itasca and Aitkin counties are 2.1 degrees Celsius higher. Cass County is 1.8 degrees higher and Hubbard County is 1.5 degrees warmer. Northern Minnesota is essentially one part of the United States that is showing a warming trend far beyond that of the rest of the state and country.

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# KABEKONA LAKE AQUATIC VEGETATION SURVEY

You may be aware by now that Kabekona Lake had an aquatic vegetation survey done this summer. This survey was emailed to KLA members who have submitted their email address and it was posted on the website ([kabekonalake.org](http://kabekonalake.org)). Here are some frequently asked questions...and answers.

## WHY DID WE DO THIS SURVEY?

The most important reason to do this survey is to methodically and systematically look for Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS). This survey is specific to plants. The very good news is that no AIS were found! That bears repeating...

## NO AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES WERE OBSERVED IN KABEKONA!

The best and least expensive way to deal with invasives is **PREVENTION**. That is why we have inspectors and the I-LIDS system at the public access. That is why we clean, drain, and dry. That is why we use our STOP SPINY Swedish dish cloths. That is why we remain 100% vigilant. That is why we work together. Kabekona could be just 1 boat away from an AIS introduction.

## BUT WHAT IF...

The second most important reason to do a survey like this is for early detection. The fact is that once invasives are found in the lake they are very difficult to eradicate. But if found early and in low numbers, there is hope. We need to accept the fact that in order to stay vigilant we need to consider doing a survey like this approximately every 3 to 5 years.

## WHAT ELSE DID WE LEARN FROM THIS SURVEY?

That Kabekona is a healthy lake. A diverse population of healthy native plants shows that a lake is in good



health. Let's consider adopting the term native plants (born and raised in Minnesota) and throw out the term weeds.

## WHAT ABOUT A COMPARISON TO OTHER LAKES?

It's darn near impossible to do a side-by-side comparison. There are just far too many variables. But we do know that starry stonewort was found in Leech Lake this summer and now also found in a stretch of the Mississippi River in Beltrami County between Wolf Lake and Andrusia. We also know that Eurasian watermilfoil is found in Bad Axe and Big Mantrap. Zebra mussels are found in Benedict (connected to Leech Lake), Garfield (veligers), and Long Lake. And faucet snails are found in multiple lakes in Hubbard County.

## WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

With starry stonewort recently detected in our neighbor Leech Lake and other invasives looming nearby, it will be important to continue our monitoring efforts, especially access checks to target high traffic areas such as the public launch.

Native aquatic plants are the good guys. They help maintain water clarity and provide habitat for fish, insects,

and water fowl. They reduce nutrient mixing by stabilizing the bottom sediment and can lock up nutrients helping to limit algae growth. They also produce oxygen in the water column, which helps keep the lake healthy. So, we need to protect native aquatic plant beds.

- If a swimming area is necessary, clear only a small area of plants.
- Be careful not to cut or remove large areas of plants. When aquatic plants are uprooted, the lake bottom is disturbed, and the phosphorus in the water column gets used by algae instead of plants.
- Be aware that a DNR permit is needed for removal of aquatic plants, and also for plant control devices such as weed rollers.
- Be aware that almost anything you do on your property and shoreline effects the health of the lake and the aquatic plants. Reduce runoff, consider a shoreline (native plants) buffer strip, reduce your lawn and lawn mowing, and discontinue fertilizer use.

**SIT BACK. ENJOY THE LAKE!  
KEEP KABEKONA CLEAN!**

from *Kabekona Klimate Kalamity?*, page 8

At this time, we can only extrapolate existing data into our fears and concerns, which isn't a healthy way for any of us to go, since we really need more quantifiable information. Understanding climate change is a multifarious venture and one that should undoubtedly be handled one step at a time. Dr. Lee Frelich, Director of the University of Minnesota Center for Forest Ecology has been doing a lot of research with climate change and the boreal forests of Minnesota. Maybe we will have an opportunity to refer our questions to him or the Hubbard County/State of Minnesota DNR in the future. Until such time, we live with what is being given.

*Editor's Note: This article is the first of a series.*

## SOLVING LAKE MYSTERIES



### AFTER EFFECTS

We have a sign on County 37 that everyone asks us about. Our cabin is named "After Effects" and we installed the sign last summer.

My family has owned a cabin on Kabekona since 1969 (Ramona and Bob Jacobsen) and 3 years ago we (my husband Reuben Pacheco) were lucky to purchase the Wagner cabin.

Over the next year we completely gutted and re-imagined the late 50's ranch into something more Scandinavian and modern. I had just finished selling most of my Visual

Effects company and intend to spend my summers on Kabekona. Thus the phrase and title "After Effects." It's also a play on words as one of the first VFX pieces of software was called "After Effects" as well (Adobe release this).

Tim Jacobsen  
28316 County 37



### HEART HOUSE

We built our cabin in 1983 after purchasing the empty lot from my brother, Rev. David L. Valen, a lutheran pastor who owned the cabin next door. My wife loves hearts and a quick look around the cabin will make it very obvious why the name "Hjerte Hytte," which means Heart House in Norwegian. I wanted to continue the heart theme, so I put it on a heart. I used my router and designed the sign. I retired from the Air Force in 1986 and we spend as much time as we can here each summer. We have added a "Man Cave," a porch, a back door overhang and a double garage over the years, as well as heat and air conditioning. There is a lot of Red, White and Blue decoration, as well as many, many hearts throughout the cabin. We now have three children, four grandchildren and one great grandchild and we enjoy lots of family get-togethers throughout the summer.

Doug and Pat Valen  
28970 County 37

*If you'd like to submit your cabin's name/sign story, please contact Stef Westphal, stefmyown@aol.com.*

from *HC COLA*, page 5

In 2021 the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) began a program called "Get the Lead Out" (GTLO). This has to do with getting all of the lead out of fisherman's tackle boxes. Lead ingested by loons and other birds can lead to the death of those birds. Non lead fishing gear is available.

In 2021 Garfield Lake Association wanted to include Garfield Lake in the MN DNR Quality Sunfish Initiative, which allows a daily limit of 5 sunfish. Currently the daily limit is 10 sunfish. 1st Crow Wing Lake also wants to join this Initiative. 2nd, 3rd, & 4th Crow Wing Lakes already have joined this Initiative. Garfield and 1st Crow Wing Lakes are complaining about lack of sunfish and what they do have are all small sunfish.

Our Kabekona Lake Association's members have been busy in HC COLA's programs. Ingrid Bey, President of KLA, has joined the HC COLA Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Operating Team. Ingrid Bey and Stef Westphal joined HC COLA's Starry Trek team of 10 looking for Starry Stoneworts in northern Hubbard County on August 21, 2021. Ingrid Bey will be the loon liaison between HC COLA and KLA. Ingrid also spearheaded our "Get the Lead Out" program and the Loon Restoration Project. Maddy Lawrence handed out trees to KLA residents in 2021 in HC COLA's "Restore the Shore Program." She will be doing that again in 2022. All of HC COLA's programs in 2021 will be carried over into 2022.



*from Love Our Loons, page 1*

Ingrid Bey has volunteered to serve as the KLA loon liaison on this project and will be the primary point of contact between the DNR and the KLA. The KLA will also continue to participate in the Get the Lead Out Program.

STAY TUNED KABEKONA! MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE EXCITING LOON RESTORATION PROJECT TO COME!

LOL!



*from KLA Membership Benefits, page 3*

bequests to protect the watershed, shores, and environs of Kabekona Lake.

16. Septic rebate program offers a \$60 rebate on septic pumping every 3 years.
17. Social activities and lake-wide functions which may include, but are not limited to: an annual picnic, 4th of July boat parade, members coffees, luncheons, breakfasts, and book club
18. Annual meeting.
19. KLA/KLF archives.
20. Membership directory.
21. Active website.
22. Active Facebook page.
23. Active email notification to members of current events and opportunities.
24. Twice a year newsletters.
25. Twice a summer (Picnic & Annual Meeting)  
Reduce & Reuse Days

All of this is dependent on **Volunteers** and their dedication to our beloved lake. If you'd like to see a change or enhancements to these various categories, please consider volunteering your time and talents!

*from KLA President's Letter, page 2*

attended Starry Trek along with other Hubbard County volunteers as part of a state-wide initiative to look for Aquatic Invasive Species. Thankfully, none were found. And we are just embarking on the Minnesota Loon Restoration Project. The Kabekona Facebook page remains fun and active with many thanks to Susan Roberts who has turned over the moderator position to Sue Schiess and Sandy Loch.

Many thanks to the KLA Board, committees, and the KLF... past and present. Current KLA Board members Lee Weinmann, Stef Westphal, Mike Dudley, Sarah Carlson, Paul Ulring, Maddy Lawrence, Tony Fiacchino, and Nick Rogge. Current KLF committee Dan Rasmus, Margot Andress, Tim Werner, Catherine Holmgren, Darlene Hibbs, Kimberly Mattson, Mark Spaniol, Pete Fullerton, and Tom Jacobsen. Current committee chairs, service group leads, and liaisons Judy Keiser, Mary Moffatt, Rolf Smeby, Rosy Albers, Steve Larson, Sam Holmgren, Martha Vetter and Darlene Hibbs. The lake association could not function without all these willing volunteers. Please forgive me if I've neglected to include someone or misspelled a name.

Yahoo! We are gearing up to bring back the summer picnic in June 2022! If you would like to volunteer to help in any way, with the picnic or anything else around the lake that interests you, please reach out to me or any board member. It is fun and rewarding!

I am forever grateful to this wonderful Kabekona community and this beautiful lake we have the privilege of enjoying.

Sincerely,  
Ingrid Bey  
belleacres@earthlink.net  
952-873-6952 (home)  
612-257-2051 (cell)

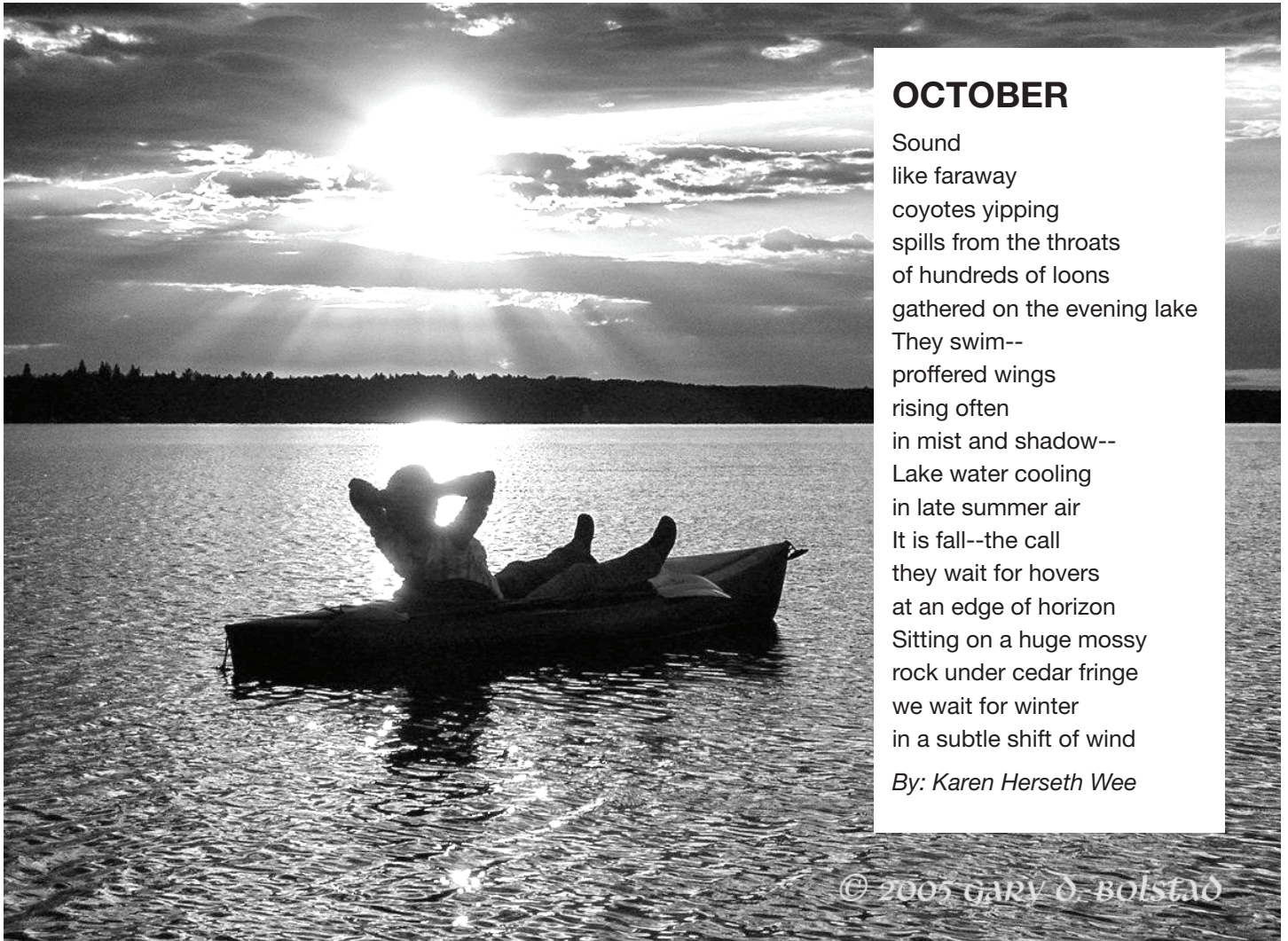
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*from KLF President's Letter, page 2*

Many thanks to outgoing Board Members: Don Evans, Sam Holmgren and Sue Schiess – Sue served as the most recent Board Chair and special thanks to her for all the time and effort she contributed to continue the strong traditions of the KLF.

If you have ideas for projects to help preserve our lake, please contact any of the KLF Board members. We would love your input.

# Godspeed



## OCTOBER

Sound  
like faraway  
coyotes yipping  
spills from the throats  
of hundreds of loons  
gathered on the evening lake  
They swim--  
proffered wings  
rising often  
in mist and shadow--  
Lake water cooling  
in late summer air  
It is fall--the call  
they wait for hovers  
at an edge of horizon  
Sitting on a huge mossy  
rock under cedar fringe  
we wait for winter  
in a subtle shift of wind  
*By: Karen Herseth Wee*

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