

# KLA Newsletter

Kabekona Lake Association September, 2023



## Kabekona Watershed Reaches Important Stage

(The following information comes from the booklet "Kabekona Watershed: A Success Story" by the Northern Waters Land Trust and Luther Nervig)



Kabekona Lake is considered a “refuge lake.” Refuge lakes have the best chance for sustaining conditions for cold water habitat and species unique to northern Minnesota.

The land that drains rainfall and snowmelt into a lake is called a “watershed.” Kabekona’s watershed is 97 square miles (62,000 acres).

In 2013, the MN Department of Natural Resources described a new concept of protecting habitat and water quality: that if at least 75% of a watershed is in protected status, that area will be reasonably protected from future disturbances at the watershed level. **THE KABEKONA WATERSHED HAS REACHED 75% PROTECTION!**

In 2012, DNR Fisheries scientists determined that 64% of the Kabekona Watershed was already considered protected. Since then, partners in the endeavor have collaborated to finish the remaining 11%.

*What constitutes protected areas of the Kabekona Lake Watershed?*

State and County Forests provide the majority of the protection (61%) in addition to the Minnesota DNR Wildlife Management Areas, Aquatic Management Areas (AMA), Scientific Natural Areas, Conservation Easements, and Sustainable Forest Incentive Act (SFIA) agreements.

*These partners collaborated to protect the watershed:* Northern Waters Land Trust, The Trust for Public Land, The Conservation Fund, Minnesota Land Trust, The Nature Conservancy, Hubbard County Soil & Water Conservation District, Brinks Wetland Services, Hubbard County,

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Clean Water Land & Legacy Amendment.

*How does the KLF fit in to this?* The Kabekona Lake Foundation raised funds to partially help with the purchase of about 470 acres of the watershed. Additionally, in 1995, 2 acres were sold to the DNR for the Kabekona Lake Aquatic Management Area.

*Is the watershed goal finished now that 75% protection has been reached?* A representative of the Northern Waters Land Trust will be the featured speaker at the 2024 Kabekona Lake Association Annual Meeting.

**Committed to preserve and protect Kabekona Lake**

**2023**

**KLA BOARD**

**President: Ingrid Bey**

**President-Elect: Nick Rogge**

**Treasurer: Sue Schiess**

**Secretary: Stef Westphal**

**Board Members:**

**Maddy Lawrence**

**Paul Uling**

**Kathy Brown**

**Sam Holmgren**

**\*\*\*\*\***

**The KLA is a member of:**

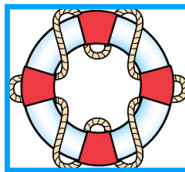
- \*Hubbard County Coalition of Lake Associations (HC COLA)
- \*Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates (MLR)
- \*Minnesota Coalition of Lake Associations (MN COLA)

*The KLA is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization under IRS Code of 1983. Contact KLA Treasurer for information.*

Newsletter: Stef Westphal, David Wee, Ingrid Bey

[www.kabekonalake.org](http://www.kabekonalake.org)

**IS IT YOUR TURN?**  
*The KLA Board and the KLF will have a number of open positions to fill in 2024.* Contact Ingrid Bey, [belleacres@earthlink.net](mailto:belleacres@earthlink.net).



**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Open KLA volunteer positions:

**BOARD MEMBERS:**

- KLA Board generally has 2-3 yearly vacancies**
- KLF Board generally has 1-2 yearly vacancies**

**PICNIC YEARLY NEEDS:**

- \*Membership welcome table assistants
- \*Food organizers
- \*Vendors/crafters
- \*Game assistants
- \*Set up
- \*Clean up

**ANNUAL MEETING YEARLY NEEDS:**

- \*Membership welcome table assistants
- \*Speakers
- \*Food organizers
- \*Set-up
- \*Clean-up

**OTHER VOLUNTEER NEEDS:**

- \*Various Committee members and leaders
- \*Grant writers for various lake projects
- \*KLA Coffee sponsors (3-4 per summer)
- \*Newsletters (edit spring & fall newsletters)
- \*AIS interest—August statewide training on identifying AIS includes being sent out to various Hubbard County lakes to look for invasive plant species. This program is called Starry Trek ([aisdetectors@umn.edu](mailto:aisdetectors@umn.edu)).

**There are many more volunteers needed.** Please contact any board member (via your KLA directory) or [kla56461@gmail.com](mailto:kla56461@gmail.com).

**Suggestions are helpful, but VOLUNTEERS MAKE OUR KLA WORK**

*The KLA Board extends special thanks to:*

- \*Sarah Carlson, Sam Holmgren, Kathy Brown - retiring KLA board members
- \*Kimberley & Katie Mattson, Eric Hermanson, Cindy Gross, Fran Faust & Nita Mitchell for donating proceeds from their sales to the KLA/KLF
- \*Jenna & Matty Walker and Anna & Roy Barigayomwe for offering the use of their Kona Kona resort for the KLF's August event.
- \*Trinity Lutheran (especially Rosy Albers) for the use of their Fellowship Hall.

[kla56461@gmail.com](mailto:kla56461@gmail.com)

PO Box 8, Laporte, MN 56461

# KLA President's Message

Hello Kabekona Lake Association

Happy fall! Even as we enjoy this beautiful weather, we need to remember that Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) never really rest. In August starry stonewort (SSW) was found in Long Lake near Park Rapids in Hubbard County. This really hits close to home and puts Kabekona at even higher risk. The patch of SSW in Long Lake is about 5 feet in diameter and in about 10 feet of water and is roughly 70 feet off the south access. It is estimated to have been there about 2 to 3 years. Fortunately, the Long Lake Area Association went into high gear. Permits were quickly issued by the DNR. The patch of SSW was chemically treated and hand pulling by divers was performed about 3 weeks later. The DNR mobile CD3 watercraft decontamination unit is currently at the south access. All boaters coming out of Long Lake are being strongly encouraged to decon on site or schedule an appointment for decon in Park Rapids (phone 218-616-1631). No other starry stonewort has been found in Long Lake at this time. It is important to note that this patch of starry

stonewort was found during a professional aquatic vegetation survey. This was the same type of survey performed on Kabekona in 2021 and is scheduled to be repeated in 2024.

The second part of the KLA surveillance and early detection strategy is that this summer we got our Kabekona Aquatic Vegetation Surveillance Team Pilot Project off the ground. Thanks to a grant from the Kabekona Lake Foundation (KLF) and support from the KLA Lake Management Team we constructed 5 double-sided rakes on rope and 5 aquatic vegetation handbooks. A wonderful group of volunteers have agreed to sample aquatic vegetation along their shoreline on Kabekona via rake toss 2 to 3 times a summer. We are specifically looking for AIS including starry stonewort, Eurasian watermilfoil, curly leaf pondweed, and zebra mussels. Moving forward we would like to expand this program to get lake-wide coverage. We especially need volunteers on the east, west, and northwest area of the lake. If you are interested, please contact me at [belleacres@earthlink.net](mailto:belleacres@earthlink.net).

Thank you all for your ongoing vigilance. Familiarize yourself with starry stonewort and other AIS. **Prevention** is key! **Please clean,**

**drain, dry, and dispose.** If you boat in other lakes, please consider scheduling an appointment at the free watercraft decontamination station in Park Rapids. Three additional steps can also increase AIS prevention:

1. **SPRAY** with high pressure water.
2. **RINSE** with very hot water (120 degrees F. for 2 minutes or 140 degrees F. for 10 seconds).
3. **DRY** for at least 5 days.

As the Kabekona Lake landing sign says...**KABEKONA IS CLEAN. IS YOUR BOAT CLEAN?**

Sincerely,

Ingrid Bey



- The **KLA** board announces its 2024 Board members: Ingrid Bey-president, Nick Rogge-president-elect, Sue Schiess-treasurer, Stef Westphal-secretary, Maddy Lawrence, Paul Ullring, Ann Kern, Nadene Davidson, and Jill Pottenger.
- The current **KLF** members are: Catherine Holmgren, Dan Rasmus, Mark Spaniol, Dave Loch, Darlene Hibbs, Pete Fullerton, Kimberly Mattson, and Tim Andersen.
- The **KLF** thanks its retiring members: Tim Werner and Margot Andress for their excellent service.

## NEW DIRECTORIES COMING IN 2024!!



The KLA prints a new association directory every 5 years. The directory contains both Kabekona Lake and home residence (if not a full-time lake resident) contact information. This includes cell phone numbers and email addresses of both members of a two-person household. (We do not include names of children, grandchildren, etc.) We want the information to be as updated as possible so if you have any changes to your contact information, please send an email to me at [kla56461@gmail.com](mailto:kla56461@gmail.com). I will also be sending out individual emails over the next few months

asking you to confirm your contact information and what you want to appear in the directory. Please be sure your email account allows emails from [kla56461@gmail.com](mailto:kla56461@gmail.com) and that communications from KLA are not being sent to your junk folder.

In the new directory, we plan to include a cross-reference by fire number to help encourage contact with neighbors you might not know. This will be especially helpful in situations where you see a downed tree, damage or anything else on someone's property you think it's important for that cabin owner to know. As they say, "it takes a village" and we should all be looking out for one another and our properties since many of us are not here year-round.

All KLA members who are up to date on their annual dues will receive a free copy of the 2024 directory. The directories will be available starting in June 2024. You will be able to pick them up at the picnic or annual meeting or by contacting me directly at the email above. Additional copies will be available to KLA members for \$5.00. If you are not a current member, you can become one by paying your annual dues of \$30.00 for one year or \$50.00 for two years at <https://www.kabekonalake.org/membership-dues> or by mailing a check to KLA, P.O. Box 8, Laporte, MN 56461.

Catherine Holmgren, KLA Membership Chair

**Attention Loon Lovers!**  
There was a terrific Star Tribune article on migrating loons in the Sept. 5th, 2023 issue. Check it out:  
<https://www.startribune.com/normally-loners-loons-are-converging-on-northern-minnesota-lakes-to-fuel-up-for-migration-dnr>





## Keeping My Memories Alive Through Mugs

Perhaps some of you already know Eric Hermanson from the KLA 8 a.m. walking group, or from a round of golf on a nearby course, or from being a happy owner of one of his ceramic KLA coffee mugs or wine cups. If you don't know him yet, here's an introduction.

Eric has spent most of his life in Colorado, but ever since his parents built their cabin on the south shore of Kabekona in 1968, this has been to his family (he has five brothers, no sisters) as a piece of Paradise. Now he and his wife Cindy have 13 grandchildren who also love this place. Here's how Eric describes his Kabekona pottery life:

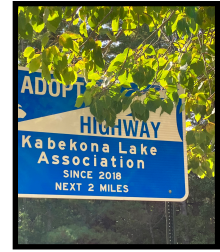
"About twenty years ago I started my pottery adventure with my youngest daughter. She took ceramics in high school and enjoyed it so much that she wanted to continue. So I signed us up for a class at the City Pottery Studio. She lasted one session and I continued on. I am not much of a drawing or painting artist like my mother but found my niche in pottery. I have always wanted to do something for the Kabekona Lake Association because for many years it was so important to my parents. So I make my pottery in honor of my parents Sheldon and Renee Hermanson.

The idea [of selling mugs to KLA members] came to me because I admire the Mattson sisters who are selling the wonderful Kabekona t-shirts [and donating the proceeds to the KLA/ KLF, which Eric also generously does]. It takes me an hour or so to make six mugs and then another half-hour to put the handles on. I have made 35 or 45 mugs each year to bring up to Kabekona. I also make some wine cups because my parents loved their wine. I hope they are looking down on what I am doing and are happy."

If you'd like to see photos of Eric's ceramic skills, go to Facebook and from there to the Kabekona Lake Group photos for close-ups of his works, especially those focused on Kabekona. Or contact him at [thehermansons@aol.com](mailto:thehermansons@aol.com).

Submitted by: David Wee





## Kabekona's Adopted Roads

Many of us may have wondered about the blue signs on the paved roads around our lake: who adopted parts of roads 37 and 39? What are the responsibilities for these roads, and who are the adoptive parents? What will happen if and when those adopters decide to retire or move away? Here's the scoop:

There are two signs on route 39 and two on county 37. Those on 39 are older and acknowledge Rich and Gerri Majcin as our benefactors. The two on 37 acknowledge the KLA. The Majcins have done their work for some 48 years! They report that over that time, the process of applying for the job has varied, but has been simple. At first they had to pay for the signs and the highway department has never offered them orange vests, or trash bags, or tools, or pay. They were told that they must pick up the trash at least twice a year, but of course they do that countless times on their regular daily walks along the road. They consider their efforts to be a volunteer responsibility as citizens of this neighborhood and of this beautiful planet.

The unofficial adoptive parents of 2 miles of county 37, Tim and Kris Werner, have been on the job for only a few years, along with the volunteer help from other citizens along our road. They understand that, since the newer signs on 37 identify only Kabekona Lake Association, all KLA members should consider ourselves responsible parties, if we are able, to keep our roads free of trash when we see it.

The Majcins and the Werners love to do their part and do not expect thanks from us, or from the highway departments, but they do hope that many of us will make it a habit to keep our roads clear of trash whenever we can.

By: David Wee

Editor's notes:

How lucky for us that both the Majcins and Werners are members of the KLA! Although they don't expect thanks from KLA members, when you see these dedicated volunteers, please still extend your thanks to them.

Also, all of route 93, 1 mile of County 39, and half of county 37 do not currently have Adopt-a-Highway volunteer sponsors. Jed Nordin, Hubbard County Highway Department reports that there is still no charge for adopting a highway. His department now offers free vests, garbage bags, and garbage pick-ups, plus you only need to commit to picking up garbage once a year (twice is still preferred though). Call Jed at 218-732-3302 or email him at [jed.nordin@co.hubbard.mn.us](mailto:jed.nordin@co.hubbard.mn.us) for more information.

*Please consider helping the Macjins and the Werners keep our lake neighborhood beautiful!*