LAKE WASHBURN ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER



Boating on Washburn's East Basin

AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES PREVENTION

For more than 20 years, Lake Washburn Association has applied a proactive, science driven approach to AIS prevention, surveying and treatment. This long-standing diligence remains one of our greatest strengths—and it continues to deliver exceptional results.

Our 2026 work confirmed once again that Lake Washburn remains one of the cleanest lakes in our ecoregion. Through consistent surveys, early detection protocols, and targeted treatment strategies, we've stayed ahead of potential threats and preserved the ecological integrity of our lake.

2026 AIS HIGHLIGHTS

Our early season "hot spot" survey focused on Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM). **A small number of EWM plants were found in each of three locations—two places in the North Basin and one in the Main Basin.** Two of these sites were chemically treated mid summer and one was hand pulled in a wild rice area.

After the hot-spot treatments, our Late Season Full Lake Survey revealed no EWM in any of our three basins - a validation of our long term prevention strategy.

We continue to take monitoring steps for zebra mussels and starry stonewort - invasive species which are found in nearby lakes. **The survey did not show any evidence of these invasive species or other infestations in our lake.**

LWA's AIS lead volunteers, Glen Goodwin and Vicki Lipstreuer, collaborate closely with DNR biologists on species identification, Freshwater Scientific for surveying, and PLM for treatment and eradication. Together with LWA's Director Bob Holman, they also serve on The Crooked Lake Township - Lakes and Shores Committee, which guides the township's funding of AIS prevention efforts. Glen and Vicki also coordinate **prevention efforts at the public access site** with Cass County staff by arranging for onsite inspectors to educate boat owners about AIS migration and provide decontamination services. In



Evening view from Erickson's shore

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear LWA Members,

As we close out the 2026 season, I want to express my deepest gratitude to each of you. Lake Washburn is truly a gem in our region. That distinction exists because of your generosity, volunteerism and steadfast commitment to caring for this lake we all treasure.

A special thank you goes to Charlie McGlynn, our president in 2025–2026, for his vision and leadership. Charlie's steady hand helped position LWA for continued success and we are fortunate that he will remain deeply involved in the year ahead as our vice president. We also extend appreciation to David Patterson who is stepping aside after completing his term as director. David's dedication and contributions over the past nine years have strengthened our organization and we are grateful for his service. We're also glad to welcome three new board members: Bob Holman, Director of AIS Prevention; Frank Kendall, Director of Lakeshore Preservation; and David Snesrud, Director of Water Quality. We look forward to their leadership, energy and insights as they help guide LWA into the future.

Myself and the board enter the 2027 season with great anticipation. The momentum we've built together is wonderful and is energized by our members engagement and support. Together, we will continue protecting the lake's health, beauty and legacy for future generations. Here's to the strength of our lake community...best wishes to all!

Scott Erickson, President (2026–2027)
scott.erickson55@gmail.com
651-283-8627

2026 AIS HIGHLIGHTS (Continued)

addition, last summer LWA's Director Sue Mork participated in the DNR's AIS state-wide study by collecting 17 water samples from our lake. The results of the study will be shared when reported.

Regarding **invasive plants on shore,** purple loosestrife (Lythrum salicaria) was sighted on shorelines in the East Basin. Two locations were on the State of Minnesota properties. Letters with recommendations were sent to 50 property owners asking for help in controlling the spread. The MN Forestry Department dug up and burned the plants on state property.

In 2026, 40% of our AIS prevention program cost was covered by grants from the State of Minnesota and Cass County, and 60% by members' contributions. This enabled our fund balances to grow as a bulwark against potential future AIS eradication events. This strong member involvement is key to our current and future success.

What can you do to help?

- Inspect and decontaminate watercraft, motors and trailers before launching.
- Drain and dry for seven days the live wells and ballast tanks in boats coming from other lakes.
- Notify our committee about potential invasive species you see in the water and on shore.
- Continue to contribute to LWA's AIS prevention funds.

As we move into 2027, we will continue our proactive approach because prevention works, and it's far less costly than eradication. With your continued support, Lake Washburn will remain free of invasive species and healthy. Thank you.



Jeff Maranda Memorial Youth Fishing Challenge



LWA's 3rd Annual Lunch and Learn

PRESERVING NATURAL LAKESHORE

According to Cass County's Soil, Water and Conservation District (SWCD) scientists, **Lake Washburn's shorelines are more than 75% forested, a tremendous strength. This provides essential habitat for fish, birds and pollinators which makes our lake naturally resistant to invasive species.** Protecting and restoring natural lakeshore is one of the most important actions we can take to maintain Lake Washburn's long term health, clarity and ecological balance.

In 2022, LWA began participating in Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates' (MLR) in its statewide Lake Steward Program. We began the first season with 12 members who successfully completed MLR's survey of their property's aquatic, natural buffer and upland zones with a committee volunteer. MLR's program has grown to **90 lake associations participating and LWA's participation increased by 5 members in 2026. We now have 34 qualifying lake stewards with all three basins represented.** Look for the qualifying Lake Steward sign on the shores and on the roads around our lake.

In June, our **Lake Steward Committee hosted LWA's 3rd Annual Lunch and Learn** at the Crooked Nook. Forty-four members attended. Ryan Carlson of the SWCD staff made a presentation about the information, technical assistance and funding that Cass County has available for shoreline restoration. Our committee member Susan Henken-Thielen (also MLR's Chairman) made an excellent presentation about MLR's efforts in the state legislature generating awareness and funding for lake health issues. Our members introduced themselves and shared a bit of their Washburn stories which strengthens our community.

What can you do to help?

- Maintain a natural buffer zone at least 25 feet in depth to stem run-off from lawns, roofs and patios.
- Allow native plants to grow in the water off your shore.
- Participate in our Lake Steward Program, attend the 2027 LWA Lunch and Learn and consider volunteering on our committee...it's fun!

Thank you very much for taking good care of our shores. We look forward to seeing you at our 2027 LWA Lunch and Learn!



IMPROVING WATER QUALITY

Our lake's excellent water quality is one of its defining strengths and preserving it requires ongoing attention from all of us. The most recent readings for Lake Washburn on the DNR's website remain very strong.

Lake Washburn's Trophic State Index reading of 41 (a summary of three water quality measures) is among the very best for the lakes in our ecoregion. Transparency (a measure of clarity) has improved from an average reading of 9 feet in 1985 to almost 15 feet in 2025. The chlorophyll and phosphorous content of our lake have each gradually reduced as well. Our phosphorous reading is now better than the best of the expected range for lakes like ours!

A result of our improving water quality is the sighting of otters basking on swim platforms in Muchow Bay, late in the summer. Otters are known to be picky, they inhabit only the best lakes!

Many thanks goes out to **David Snesrud, our new Director of Water Quality, assisted by Vice President Charlie McGlynn**, for years of sample collection in the MPCA's Citizen Lake Monitoring Program.

LWA also has volunteers monitoring our lake level. Tests in May and September showed our lake rose across the summer with the rains, countering a trend of the last several years. Our lake remains 15" below the average level for the last 30 years, the effect of a drought cycle that began in 2021.

In July, several board members had initiated conversations with the DNR's hydrology staff to help our board better understand the long-cycle trends of lake level fluctuations. In addition, they also dove deeper into beaver habits, the Daggett Brook beaver habitat and found the beavers are very territorial.

We are **currently in contact with the Army Corp of Engineers about possible repairs for the Weir Dam, on the south outflow from the Main Basin.** We hope to have a DNR hydrologist address our 2027 Member's Annual Meeting regarding the state of our lake and its place in the watershed.

What can you do to help?

- Direct run-off away from the lake and avoid the use of phosphoric fertilizers and lakeshore herbicides.
- Load watercraft gas by siphon to avoid spillage.
- Consider volunteering for our water quality and level monitoring programs.

As we look ahead to 2027, the Board encourages continued vigilance. Protecting water quality is a shared responsibility and every thoughtful action contributes to the long term health and beauty of Lake Washburn.



The Lions Corn Feed at The Pickled Loon Saloon

STRENGTHENING OUR FISHERY

A healthy fishery is essential to the ecological balance and recreational enjoyment of Lake Washburn. In 2026, anglers reported strong populations of bass, northern pike and pan fish. They also reported walleyes being caught in the early and late seasons, but still remain elusive.

Our lake is in a class which the DNR stocks with walleyes during even numbered years. The stocking could be fry, fingerlings, yearlings or a combination. **LWA's Director of Fisheries, Brent Nordstrom, notes the 2026 stocking occurred on October 2 at the Birch Bay launch. Our DNR specialist reported 748 pounds entered the lake and the fish looked good.** The 2026 and 2024 stockings were of comparable size and were by far the largest in the last 10 years, so the DNR is working to help us gain momentum with our walleye population.

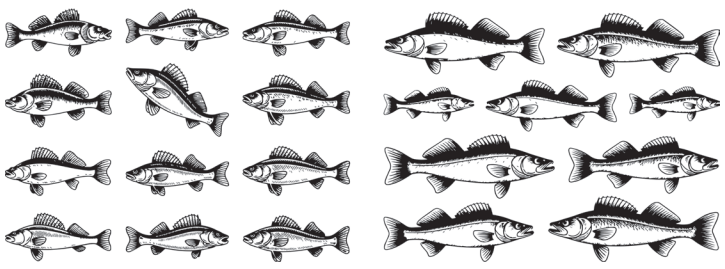
The DNR's annual electro-fishing surveys have shown our walleye population is increasing by natural reproduction, albeit slowly. Given this fact and with Brent's recommendation, our board approved LWA's first privately funded walleye stocking in 2024. **Members contributed over $15,000 to our Fisheries Fund and 14,900 fingerlings were stocked! In the 2027 season, this class of walleyes will be 8 to 10 inches in length and should be visible to anglers for release!**

Our Fisheries Fund is currently at 80% of the amount needed for a second privately funded walleye stocking in 2027. We'd love to do this again! Thank you for your generosity - and **if you're able, please help us grow the Fund by another $3,000.**

For several years running, Lisa and Randy McCloud have organized the **Jeff Maranda Memorial Youth Fishing Challenge** with the help of more than 20 member volunteers. This is one of our best events that contributes significantly to the health of our fishery and to our anglers' experience. Big thanks goes out to the McCloud's and to Pat and Julie Maranda for making this event one of the summer's highlights.

This year over 70 participants harvested more than 125 pounds of northern pike! The young anglers were photographed with their catch and awarded prizes provided by Reed's Family Outfitters of Walker.

Next years fishing challenge is slated for Saturday, June 26, 2027 at the Maranda's home. We hope for a great turnout again. If there's a young, budding angler in your family, we'd love to see you!





Fourth of July Boat Parade - The water cannon protecting the Grand Marshall



Jeff Maranda Memorial Youth Fishing Challenge



The Floating Ice Cream Social

What can you do to help?

- Increase natural shoreline vegetation, maintain submerged trees and shrubs, and practice catch-and-release with large egg-producing fish.
- Keep wakes and propeller washes well away from shore, especially the rocky shoal areas were female walleyes deposit eggs in the Spring.
- Continue to contribute to the Fisheries Fund to enable our stocking program.

Looking to 2027, LWA will continue to take steps to strengthen our fishery, and we look forward to the days when walleyes are increasingly prevalent in our lake.



BOATING SAFELY

Boating is one of the great joys of Lake Washburn, and safety is essential to keeping the lake enjoyable for everyone. **In 2026, members continued to demonstrate responsible boating behavior, including observing hazard markers, maintaining safe speeds and keeping a respectful distance from shorelines, swimmers and watercraft.**

Teresa Reding, LWA's Director of Boating Safety, reminds us of the important work Olds Lift and Dock ServiceService provides annually. With their help we are able to remove and store our hazard markers easily so they can be quickly placed each Spring again on all three basins. Thank you, Brian Olds!

LWA participated with the Crow Wing County Sheriff's office and RALALA in hosting a **youth boating safety class in June of 2026. Eighteen youngsters received five hours of instruction** about laws, safe practices and courtesies when operating watercraft. If you know of any young boaters, please encourage them to attend next year's class - tentatively scheduled for Thursday, June 17, 2027.

What can you do to help?

- Give wide berth to hazard markers, docks, swim platforms and watercraft.
- Provide life jackets to all passengers and have at least one throw cushion on board.
- Wear bright flotation vests when water skiing, wake boarding, paddle boarding, kayaking or canoeing.
- Wake boating - "Own your wake" - Tow in 50 feet of water or greater, stay at least 200 feet away from shore, docks, or other watercraft to reduce the risk of wake-related damage and hazard. Slow down in congested areas, avoid repetitive passes, and always be mindful of how your wake impacts others and the environment.

As we enter the 2027 season, please continue to model safe boating practices and encourage guests and family members to do the same. Let's make every trip on the lake enjoyable!

BUILDING A STRONG FINANCIAL FOUNDATION

What a rewarding experience it has been to serve as your Treasurer! I want to extend a huge "Thank You" to John and Penny Clausen, my predecessors, for their meticulous work, the orderly transfer of financial records and their continued assistance as I navigate my way into year number two.

Plus, I want to thank our generous members and the excellent stewardship our past board and committee members have given. **I am happy to report, Lake Washburn Association maintains and has a strong financial foundation.** This ongoing financial stability ensures we are prepared to act proactively and effectively in the event of an AIS infestation.

Looking ahead, we must remain highly diligent in managing our resources. The costs of AIS prevention and treatment strategies continue to rise. State, county and local grants potentially offsetting these types of costs are becoming increasingly competitive and challenging to secure.

I am incredibly grateful for your trust and look forward to another great year of serving on the LWA board.

Tony Patterson, Treasurer

Please see Tony's LWA financial update on page 7

(As of Sept. 1 through Sept. 30, 2026)

As Tony noted above in his report, AIS prevention costs are expected to rise while government funding faces increasing pressure. In response, the board proposed increasing annual dues from $25 to $40 at the July 25 Annual Members Meeting. The proposal was discussed and approved unanimously by paper ballot, in accordance with our bylaws. This is the first dues increase in 17 years, reflecting the strong financial stewardship of past LWA boards and committees.

Our AIS Fund currently totals $87,000 in restricted and unrestricted balances, providing some protection against a major treatment event. However, a neighboring lake association recently spent more than $83,000 in a single season to eradicate EWM. Given the potential cost of such an event, the board believes it is important to continue building the AIS Fund to ensure we are prepared for unexpected future needs.

What can you do to help?

- Become a Sustaining Member by making a convenient, recurring dues contribution. (We currently have about 40 Sustaining Members.) Visit our website to learn more.
- Continue supporting the AIS, Fishery, and General Funds to help strengthen our financial reserves.
- Consider increasing your contribution in 2027. Your support helps protect our lake for future generations.

Strengthening Our LWA Community

Lake Washburn's strength comes from its people. In 2026, members connected through LWA special events, informal gatherings, shoreline conversations, volunteer efforts and shared stewardship of the lake.

Whether participating in AIS prevention or simply checking in with your neighbors - **every act of involvement is a kindness which strengthens our community.**

The 2026 season began with the **Annual Highway 48 Spring Clean-up in early May lead by Mark Stange** and concluded with the much-anticipated **Floating Ice Cream Social** on Labor Day weekend. **The member participation in our LWA events this year was amazing!**

- **The Fourth of July Boat Parade was LWA's 33rd and a resounding success!** All previous records were smashed with 86 watercraft filling Birch Bay. The flotilla was led by Grand Marshall Jack Schuller and his family. Jack is the founder of the parade! The Schuller's were escorted by Kim and Dave Hughes with a special water cannon opposing anyone thinking of soaking the Grand Marshall.
- **LWA's booth at The Lions Corn Feed at the Pickled Loon (Saturday, August 15th) drew over 80 passers-by.** Six board members had many conversations with our members and other area residents who care about lake health. A highlight was LWA's collaboration with RALALA and our township's Lakes and Shores Committee to "Get the Lead Out!" This year 37 pounds, 12 ounces of lead was collected - setting the state record for a single day event! Local establishments provided significant prizes for the largest hauls. The Army Corp of Engineers contributed gift bags for youth in attendance. Thank you Vicki, Glen and Bob Holman who represent Lake Washburn on the Lakes and Shores Committee for making it happen.
- **Floating Ice Cream Social on Saturday, September 5th, drew 70 boats with 60 kids under 10 and 45 adorable dogs.** Despite the weather, participants floated by Jack Schuller's pontoon anchored in the West Basin to receive and enjoy 337 ice cream bars! The dogs got treats, the adults received gift bags about AIS and the kids received water safety information. Vicki and Glen, our outgoing director David Patterson and his son Sam, and Winston Salkas ran the floating dispensary with aplomb.

Our Annual Members Meeting on Saturday, July 25th was a success with good turn-out. Kim Zwart, LWA's Board Director, reports 62 members attended the discussion led by Charlie McGlynn, our 2025-2026 President.

After the Secretary and Treasurer reports, Charlie led us through updates on AIS prevention, natural lakeshore preservation and strengthening our fishery. A active discussion occurred concerning lake levels, watershed trends and beaver dams on Daggett Brook. **The board agreed to check with the Army Corps of Engineers regarding possible repairs to the Weir dam on the southern outflow of the Main Basin.** It was suggested we invite a DNR hydrologist and a beaver habitat specialist to speak at our 2027 meeting.



A motion to increase our dues was discussed and approved. A proposed bylaw change to install an improved budgeting process was discussed and later approved in the electronic balloting process for directors and officers in September**. The meeting concluded with an excellent presentation by Matti Nessler of the National Loon Center in Crosslake.**

Our annual meeting is always a great connecting point for members where we can catch up with folks we know and make new acquaintances. **A goal for the board is to encourage increased participation in these 2027 events. Please add these to your 2027 calendar:**

- **Saturday, May 29th & Sept. 4, 2027 at 9:00 am: Annual Highway 48 Spring & Fall Clean-up**
- **Friday, June 11, 2027 at noon: 4th Annual Lunch and Learn at The Crooked Nook (free for members).**
- **Saturday, June 26, 2027 at 1:00 pm: Jeff Maranda Youth Fishing Challenge at Pat and Julie Maranda's place on the Main Basin.**
- **Saturday, July 24, 2027 at 9:30 am: Annual Members Meeting at the Township Hall.**
- **Saturday, August 14, 2027 from 10:30 am to 4:00 pm: The Lions Corn Feed in Emily at The Pickled Loon (back yard). Look for the LWA, RALALA, and CLT booths and the "Get the Lead Out" event!**

What can you do to help?

- Participate in the events listed above. Expand your friendships in our lake community.
- Offer your ideas and express your viewpoints at our Annual Members' Meeting.
- Consider volunteering for committee work or serving on the board of directors. The tasks are reasonable and you get to work with encouraging and accepting people.

The Board meets monthly from May through September, with four meetings held via Zoom and the July meeting is held in person at The Crooked Lake Township Hall. **All meetings are open to members.** If you'd like to attend, please contact Charlie McGlynn, Vice President, through the LWA website and we'll be happy to welcome you.

Serving on a committee or on the board is both an honor and a commitment to safe-guarding the health of our lake for future generations. **It's a call to stewardship, and we encourage you to respond! To the health of our lake and respectfully submitted,**

The Lake Washburn Association Board of Directors

APPENDIX

LAKE WASHBURN ASSOCIATION FINANCIAL REPORT: SEPTEMBER 2026

Income September 1, 2026 - September 30, 2026		
Item	**September**	**YTD**
Membership Dues	$260.00	$8,058.00
AIS	$240.00	$7,169.00
General Fund	$125.00	$7,053.72
Fishery Fund	$195.00	$3,670.00
Book Sale	$30.00	$120.00
Newsletter Sponsors	$0.00	$50.00
TOTAL	**$850.00**	**$26,120.72**

Fund Balances (as of September 2026)	
Item	**YTD**
AIS (Restricted)	$66,657.01
AIS (Unrestricted) ***Directed by GM***	$20,000.00
History Books (Restricted)	-$1,739.80
General Fund	$57,301.78
Fishery Fund (Unrestricted)	$12,504.37
TOTAL	**$154,723.36**

Disbursements September 1, 2026 - September 30, 2026		
Item	**September**	**YTD**
Office Supplies/Postage/Misc	$0.00	$1,494.14
Western Surety Bond	$0.00	$100.00
Lakes Printing (Member communications)	$0.00	$434.24
Pine River State Bank (safe deposit box)	$0.00	$45.00
Donations/Memberships *MN Lakes & Rivers	$250.00	$500.00
Graphic Elements	$0.00	$1,610.63
Lake Steward	$0.00	$1,175.49
Pine Cone Press Citizen	$0.00	$160.00
Red's Storage	$0.00	$864.00
Youth Fishing Challenge	$0.00	$1,011.06
Freshwater Scientific *AIS Eurasian survey	$5,670.00	$7,810.00
PLM Lake & Land *Watermilfoil treatment	$0.00	$7,651.00
Cass SWCD *May/June inspection hours	$0.00	$940.50
Lake Country Foods *Ice cream social	$300.16	$300.16
Lions Corn Feed	$542.41	$542.41
TOTAL	**$6,762.57**	**$24,638.63**

2026-27 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Scott Erickson	Director	Teresa Reding
Vice President	Charlie McGlynn	Director	Ron Reich
Secretary	Janice Judd	Director	Kim Zwart
Treasurer	Tony Patterson	Director	Bob Holman (incoming)
Director	Jill Emanuel	Director	Frank Kendall (incoming)
Director	Susan Mork	Director	Dave Snesrud (incoming)
Director	Brent Nordstrom		



LAKE WASHBURN ASSOCIATION
2027 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

LWA Members
Please post me on your fridge.

Annual Highway 48 Spring Clean-up
Saturday - May 29, 9:00 am
Clint Converse State Forest Campground

Zoom Board Meeting #1
Tuesday - May 11, 7:00-8:15 pm

Zoom Board Meeting #2
Tuesday - June 8, 7:00-8:15 pm

4th Annual Lunch and Learn
Friday - June 11, noon-2:00 pm
The Crooked Nook, Outing

Sheriff's Youth Boating Safety Training
Thursday - June 17, time TBD
Location to be determined

Jeff Maranda Youth Fishing Challenge
Saturday - June 26, 1:00-4:00 pm
On the Lake - Maranda's Woods

Fourth of July Boat Parade
Saturday - July 3, 1:00 pm
On the Lake - Start at Birch Bay

In-person Board Meeting #3
Saturday - July 10, 9:00-10:30 am

Annual Members Meeting
Set-up Friday July 23, 2:00-3:30 pm
Saturday - July 24, 9:30-11:30 am
Crooked Lake Township Hall, Outing

Zoom Board Meeting #4
Tuesday - August 10, 7:00-8:15 pm

The Lions Corn Feed
Saturday - August 14, 10:30 am-4:00 pm
The Pickled Loon Saloon (backyard)

Annual Highway 48 Fall Clean-up
Saturday - September 4, 9:00 am
Clint Converse State Forest Campground

Floating Ice Cream Social
Saturday - September 4, 2:00 pm (until supplies run out) West Basin of Main Lake

Zoom Board Meeting #5
Tuesday - September 14, 7:00-8:15 pm

Join us online and at the lake!
LakeWashburnMN.org
facebook.com/LakeWashburnAssociation.mn

Lake Washburn Association
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