



Fall 2022

The Lake Beauty Association is a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting, preserving and enhancing the quality of the environment and life experiences in and around our area.

Be sure to visit our website at www.lakebeauty.org

Our Online Store will be open Oct 1-Oct 31st. With such a large variety of fall camo, lake attire and winter clothing, you're sure to find great gifts for your friends and family! Go to <https://lakebeautyfall2022.itemorder.com/shop/sale/>



Call Centennial Sports at 320-252-2600 or stop by 1620 7th Street North, St. Cloud with questions.

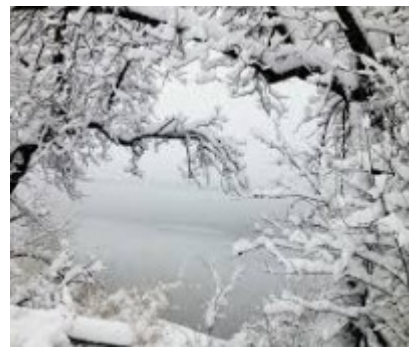
Join the Lake Beauty Book Club!



It's a great way to spend time with your neighbors. For more information, call Carol Jones at (320) 267-7857.



Winter on Lake Beauty



UNDER 4" - STAY OFF

White ice or "snow ice" is only about half as strong as new clear ice. Double the above thickness guidelines when traveling on white ice. Many factors other than thickness can cause ice to be unsafe.

Temperature, snow cover, currents, springs and rough fish all affect the relative safety of ice. Ice is seldom the same thickness over a single body of water; it can be two feet thick in one place and one inch thick a few yards away. Check the ice at least every 150 feet.

Stay away from alcoholic beverages.

Even "just a couple of beers" are enough to cause a careless error in judgment that could cost you your life. And contrary to common belief, alcohol actually makes you colder rather than warming you up.

Don't "overdrive" your snowmobile's headlight.

At even 30 miles per hour, it can take a much longer distance to stop on ice than your headlight shines. Many fatal snowmobile through-the-ice accidents occur because the machine was traveling too fast for the operator to stop when the headlamp illuminated the hole in the ice.

Wear a life vest under your winter gear.

Or wear one of the new flotation snowmobile suits. And it's a good idea to carry a pair of ice picks. It's amazing how difficult it can be to pull yourself back onto the surface of wet and slippery ice while wearing a snowmobile suit weighted down with 60 lbs of water.





Nature Smart

Osprey Tough Love Time

Sitting at the edge of its nest, a young osprey was calling out a begging cry for food. Its high-pitched screams echoed across the lake but went unanswered. His parents were gone, and he was alone and hungry.

Back in June, an osprey pair nested on my property and produced one offspring. Usually, osprey produce two or three young, but this was the second year in a row these raptors produced one chick. The number of eggs a female bird produces is based on several factors: her age, diet, and overall health.

This single chick was doted on by both its parents and was fed and protected for several months during the summer. All the baby needed to do was sit in the nest and wait for its parents, mostly the male, to bring it some fish.

Ospreys (*Pandion haliaetus*), also known as fish hawks, are not closely related to any of our other raptors. They are in a family all their own. Ospreys are different from other daytime raptors in that they have toes that are all of equal length. In addition, each nail – talon – is rounded, unlike other raptors that are hooked. Their outer toes are also reversible and can point forward or backward, allowing them to grasp slippery fish with two toes on one side and two toes on the other. These are some key differences between ospreys and other raptors.

The name “osprey” has unclear origins. The word first appeared around 1460 and was derived from a combination of Anglo-French and Latin to describe a bird of prey. Others say that it comes from the Latin *ossifraga* and translates to “bone breaker,” which was meant to apply to a large vulture species. About 100 years later, the name mistakenly was applied to the osprey, a bird that feeds exclusively on fish. Since then, the name has stuck. Most birds are regional in nature, but the osprey is the second-most widely distributed raptor species after the peregrine falcon.

Back at my osprey nest, the young bird was still calling out for food and occasionally taking short flights around the lake. Though just 4 months old, the young bird looked and flew like an adult. It could hunt on its own, but like most youngsters, it wanted food delivered.

The problem? The adult female migrated south a week or so earlier and the adult male was around but not paying much attention to the young bird. In the next week or so, the adult male also would migrate south. The adults migrate individually to their wintering grounds. They don't fly in flocks or roost together, and the mated pair wouldn't see each other again until next spring at the nest.

So, the young osprey was on its own. This is more common than you might



Ospreys live in temperate and tropical regions around the world, on all continents except for Antarctica.

think. Loons on my lake are the same way. The adults are packing up and leaving, and the baby loon doesn't even know how to fly yet. At least with the osprey, it can fly on its own!

So, during the next couple of weeks I'll watch as the young osprey hunts for its own meals. It will plunge feet first into the lake, grabbing fish. It will go back to the nest, a familiar place, to feed. But once the leaves fall and the wind begins to blow cold, the young osprey will have to head out on a new journey. It will have to navigate several thousand miles over

three to four weeks and arrive in a place it has never been before to spend the winter. It will spend 18 or more months in this wintering range before returning as a 3-year-old bird to the lake where it hatched.

My lake will freeze solid and be blanketed with snow and I won't see the osprey family until next spring when the ice melts. Usually within a few days of the lake opening up, the osprey parents will return to the nest and start the process all over again. And I'll be wondering if the young osprey survived the winter. Until next time ...

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Wild rice, called *manoomin* in the Ojibwe language, has been a staple food for Minnesota's Native Americans for centuries.

Long before European settlers arrived in Minnesota, the Anishinaabe gathered wild rice to eat each year. Canoeing through grassy patches, they bent stalks over the canoe and gently tapped ripe seeds off the stems with special sticks. Many still harvest wild rice the traditional way.

It is an aquatic grass, not related to common rice. Early in the summer, the plants bloom with tiny maroon and gold flowers. In August and September, their seeds mature into long, dark brown seeds.

Wild rice is commercially produced as a field crop on about 20,000 acres in Minnesota.

For many years, basically all of the wild rice produced in the world came from Minnesota, and most still does.

Wild rice grows naturally in the shallow waters of lakes in central and northern Minnesota

It was adopted as the official state grain in 1977.

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The history of elk in Minnesota

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources believes elk were abundant in the state before and during the early years of European settlement. Elk were protected from hunting in 1893, but even so were nearly extinct by the early 1900s.

According to information from Itasca State Park, in 1913 the Minnesota State Legislature set aside \$5,000 for establishing a herd of elk in the park, with the goal of reintroducing elk into the wild. In 1929, they tried releasing eight of these elk in the Superior National Forest in an area known as the Red Lake Game Preserve, but the habitat was not suitable for the elk's survival.

In 1935, they released most of the remaining elk to the Beltrami

Island Resettlement Project, except for seven elk kept in the park for exhibition purposes. By 1940, there were approximately 100 elk as a result of this resettlement project.

The animals began to spread slowly westward, with a few near Bagley Lake, about 12 miles northeast of Clearbrook. Their descendants still roam in northwestern Minnesota today. One herd is located near the tiny town of Grygla, Minn., and two herds are in Kittson County.

“If you are camping near Lake Bronson this fall, you might hear the whistling bugle of the bull elk as he sings his love song to his harem,” says Itasca State Park naturalist Connie Cox.

Flannel Shirts 2021

COMMON FISH OF MINNESOTA



Bluegill Sunfish

Smallmouth Bass



Pumpkinseed Sunfish

Muskie



Black Crappie

Northern Pike



Yellow Perch

Walleye



Anglers who intend to release any of the fish they catch can boost the chances those fish will survive by following best practices for catch and release.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources advises to set the hook quickly to avoid hooking a fish in the stomach or gills.

Before handling the fish, wet your hands to prevent removal of the fish's protective slime coating. If possible, unhook and release the fish while it is still in the water.

If a hook is deep in the fish, cut the line and leave the hook in the fish.

When holding the fish out of the water, support it with both hands using a firm, gentle grip. It is OK to measure the fish and take a photo; however, minimize the time the fish is out of the water. Anglers intending to release a fish should not place it on a stringer or in a live well.

To release a fish, hold it horizontally in the water by cradling it under its belly. If needed, revive the fish by slowly moving it forward and backward in the water until it swims away.

An alternative to this method is cupping your hand and splashing water into the fish's mouth and out the gills while holding the fish stationary on the surface of the water.

Harvest a fish that can be legally kept if it is bleeding extensively or cannot right itself in the water.

How long can YOU hold YOUR breath? With no lungs, fish must run water through their gills to get oxygen. Keep fish in the water as much as possible.

Keep the slime on the fish... not on your hands

Before handling a fish, wash and wet your hands in the lake. A fish produces slime on its body to protect it from disease. If your hand wipes away the slime, the fish can become sick and die.



Did you know?

Many people think it's the whiskers on a catfish or bullhead that can sting you, but it's not true. The whiskers (or *Auricles*) are for feeling and tasting at the bottom of the lake. It is their sharp spines that can hurt you.



Grasping the fish

Grasp fish firmly, but be careful not to squeeze it too tightly.

Handle most fish by grasping around the body. Be ready for the fish to thrash.



Watch out for spines!

Most fish have bones (called *spines*) in their fins to help them work properly. To avoid getting poked, simply "pet" the fins down before grasping the fish.



Be careful of gills and eyes

Don't grasp a fish by putting your fingers into its gills or eye sockets. This will injure or kill the fish.



THE ELUSIVE WALLEYE IS THE STATE FISH

The walleye became the official state fish in 1965.

The walleye is the most sought-after fish in Minnesota. Its thick, white filets, handsome shape and coloring, and elusive nature make it the ultimate prize among anglers.

This popular game fish is found throughout Minnesota in lakes and rivers.

Walleyes are most at home in the large, clear, cool lakes of Minnesota's northern forests.

Their eyes are sensitive to light, so they go to deep, dark waters during the day and move to shallow areas at night. It gets its name from its glassy eyes, which make it look "walleyed" – an old-fashioned word for blind.

The walleye is the largest member of the perch family in the U.S. The state record for walleye weighed 17 pounds, 8 ounces.



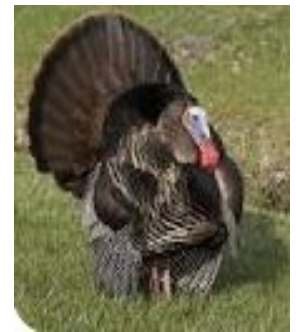
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Before You Eat Your Thanksgiving Turkey, You Should Know.....

Minnesota has long been the turkey capital in the U.S. and some would argue in the world. In 1939, Minnesota's turkey farmers gathered together to form the Minnesota Turkey Growers Association.

Since then, Minnesota has consistently ranked #1 in U.S. turkey production. Every year Minnesota turkey farmers raise 40-42 million birds.

A home-grown commodity, Minnesota boasts the largest number of independent turkey farmers in the nation.



MEET OUR STATE FLOWER: THE SHOWY LADY'S SLIPPER

Minnesota is the only state to have an orchid as its state flower: the showy lady's slipper. It was adopted as the state flower in 1902.

Found living in open fens, bogs, swamps, and damp woods where there is plenty of sun, lady's slippers grow slowly, taking up to 16 years to produce their first flowers.

Lady's slippers bloom in late June or early July. Under the right conditions, lady's slippers can live for more than 50 years. A healthy showy lady's slipper can produce a half



million seeds in a single year.

The frilly, pink and white lady's slipper can grow to a height of 4 feet – the tallest of the state's nearly 50 native species of orchids.

Its scientific name, *Cypripedium*, means shoe of Venus.

Since 1925, it's been illegal to pick this rare flower or uproot the plants. It's state law.



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DO YOUR PART TO PROTECT THE BELOVED LOON



Nothing symbolizes the beauty of northern Minnesota more than the haunting call of the loon, our state bird.

Do your part to protect loons. Minnesota's loon population is threatened by loss of breeding habitat, water contamination and direct human disturbance to shoreline nests.

When boating in open water, watch for loons and keep your distance – at least 150 feet. Give more distance if the loon calls or shows other signs of distress, like when it “dances” on the water surface.

It's particularly important to stay away from nesting loons.

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Never circle loons while jet skiing. This is harassment and subject to a fine from DNR.

Choose lead-free fishing tackle. Don't throw old fishing gear into the water or shore.

Properly dispose of unwanted lead tackle.

FUN FACTS

▶ Loons' bones are thicker and heavier than the bones of many other birds. The extra weight helps loons stay underwater when they dive. It also makes it harder for them to fly.

Few birds use sound to communicate in as many ways as loons do. Scientists have categorized common loon calls into four main types, each conveying a unique message.

Hoot: A loon gives a hoot – a soft, short call – to let other loons know where it is or to ask another loon where it is. A parent might hoot to its chick, or one of a pair to another.

Tremolo: The wavering tremolo call – sometimes likened to maniacal laughter – means a loon is excited or alarmed. Loons also use the tremolo when they fly over a lake to announce their presence to any loons there.

Yodel: Only male loons make this loud sound, which starts with three notes and ends with a couple of swinging phrases. They use it to defend their territory. Each male has a “signature” yodel. Some people have learned to recognize a specific loon by his yodel.

Wail: The high, haunting wail helps loons to figure out where they are relative to each other. They call back and forth, using the location of the sound to move closer together.

▶ Loons sometimes dive 250 feet deep.

▶ They can swim 400 yards and stay underwater for up to five minutes to escape danger.

▶ Because their bodies are heavy relative to their wing size, loons need a 100- to 600-foot runway in order to take off from a lake.

▶ Loons can fly more than 75 miles per hour.

▶ The red in the loon's eye helps it to see underwater.

▶ Scientists think loons can live for 30 years or more.

Tips for the most perfect preservation

When explaining to people about the proper steps to take in making sure you get the best taxidermy results, Dewey Schmitz has a couple important tips to remember: “Fresh is best,” and “Treat it like you'll eat it.”

Getting an animal to the taxidermist quickly is key for proper preservation. If that isn't possible, here are some steps to take at home:

- **Let the animal cool.** It often surprises people, but wrapping a large animal in plastic and putting it in the freezer can cause it to go bad. Consider bears; these animals have so much fat on them that if they are not cooled down first, wrapping them up can hold heat and steam inside of their fat layers. They'll start to rot from the inside out, even in a freezer. If you let the body cool off first, and then wrap and place it in a freezer, it should be good to go for quite some time. But time itself can gradually dry out an animal and create undesirable changes to the skin.
- **Watch those fish fins.** If it's a fish that's not frozen, be sure to lay the fins tight to

the body before trying to freeze it. If the fins are frozen out, wrap them in a wet cloth or paper towel, then plastic, and freeze. Do not gut a fish.

- **Big game skinning.** How you want your big game mounted can affect how you should skin it. A major consideration for shoulder mounts is to avoid cutting the chest or neck area. If blood gets on the hide, wash it off or brush off with snow.
- **Do not gut a bird or small game.** Let it cool, put it in a plastic bag, and freeze it.
- **Always have the appropriate DNR tags** with your animals.



COMMON BIRDS OF MINNESOTA



THE MONARCH IS OUR STATE BUTTERFLY

A group of fourth graders in Mahtomedi, Minnesota suggested the monarch as the state butterfly in 2000.

Monarch caterpillars appear to feed exclusively on milkweed, which grows throughout Minnesota.

The monarch is one of the few butterfly species that migrates north and south like birds do. August is the best

month to see them before they migrate south to Mexico.

Approximately four generations of monarchs are born in Minnesota each summer and live roughly four weeks; the exception is the last generation of the season, which survives about six months.

Each fall, members of this last generation migrate to Mexico and spend the winter in a state of semi hibernation.



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MOREL: THE STATE'S FAVORITE FUNGUS

Morchella esculenta, commonly known as the morel, sponge or honeycomb mushroom, became the official state mushroom in 1984.

The morel is considered one of the most highly prized and delicious of all edible mushrooms.

They are creamy tan or shades of brown and gray (darkening as they age), with pitted, spongy heads, smooth stems and hollow interiors. It's usually 2 to 6 inches high.

It grows from early May to early June among leaves or wood ashes in open woods, along roadsides and in partially shaded meadowland. Good places to find morels are near dead elm, cottonwood trees and old apple orchards.



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Liscensed & Insured Free Estimate

Please support our local business around Lake Beauty!

***Thanks to all of you who submitted your annual membership and
to everyone who gave more than the annual \$35 dues!***

We appreciate it, and we appreciate YOU!



Consider Becoming an Member Today!

Members are the most important part of any Association. Your support of the Lake Beauty Association is appreciated! By attending meetings, volunteering and participating in activities, we build a strong community on and around the lake.

Your membership helps support:

- Monitoring the condition of the lake
- Developing lake management plans
- Improving the health of the lake and protecting it from users' impact
- Educating and informing property owners about issues that affect the quality of life on and surrounding the lake, such as Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) prevention, boat safety, littering, township funding for sewer upgrades, ice safety, and shoreline erosion management
- Serving as an organized voice with township and county governments
- Continuing to work with the DNR on problems like litter, pollution, wildlife management, fish limits, boat safety, etc.
- Connecting with neighbors
- Keeping our lake one of the cleanest in northern Minnesota and free of AIS
- Creating lifelong memories for your children and grandchildren

How to join....

To become a member, send your \$35 check (payable to the Lake Beauty Association), along with your name, phone and email to:

Dianne Krousey
26024 Iris Trail
Long Prairie, MN 56347

As a benefit of your membership, you will receive a gift and yard sign that states you're a supporting member of the Lake Beauty Association.

Lake Beauty Association Officers

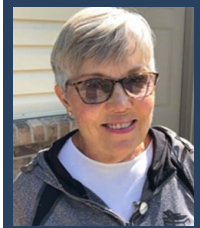
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