

STAR Lights

Highlights from Star Lake for Members of the SLPOA Spring 2026

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Star Lake Property Owners Association

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

By JoLene Kerr, President

HI ALL! The official first day of Spring was March 20th. We enjoyed a beautiful day here at Star Lake with temperatures hitting a high of 57 degrees. To say the least, I was literally in heaven as I felt that we were on the right track heading toward another summer season at the lake. However this morning, as I am listening to the weather about a possible snowstorm heading our way for Easter weekend, my euphoria has diminished a bit. But then, I think of all the fun coming our way for another year as Star Lake residents. The ice will be out soon; the sun is staying up longer; and the lake is calling!

Whether you've been dreaming of lakeside coffee, fishing, or just listening to the loons, Summer will arrive at Star Lake soon. It's time to shake off the winter chill and get ready for another unforgettable season with family, neighbors, and friends on the water.

Now that I've done my rambling, a few reminders of activities that your SLPOA board (and special contributors) have been working on for this lake season.

The **Adopt-A-Highway** cleanup will be Saturday, May 9th at 9:00 AM. We will meet at duCharme's Corner Store (I hear that Yvette will be serving up coffee and breakfast goodies).

Your AIS committee has a **Throw-A-Rake for Star Lake** event scheduled at the Highway 108 boat landing Saturday, May 30th at 10:00 AM.

Our **Annual Meeting** on June 6th at Camp Joy will kick off the season. Camp Joy is celebrating their 85th year and we are so blessed to be able to use their facility. Breakfast will be served at 9:00 AM with the Annual Meeting will begin at 10:00 AM with speakers and ending with door prize drawings. Tables will be set up to drop off your membership forms and dues. Forms are also available to print off on our website (with PayPal options) and we will also be mailing renewal forms. Our membership calendar runs June to June. See you there!

Our fishing tournament is back again this year and we are reinstating the **Swamp Shark Tournament** name! June 27th is the date to save on your calendar. This year team members will have a choice of selecting a T-Shirt or a hat with our signature Swamp Shark logo. The registration sheet will be posted on the website with a deadline so that we may get the necessary information in order to place the order for hats and t-shirts. Remember - there is no registration fee for SLPOA members and we will have availability for 25 boats to register. More info to come!

We are again working with Long Weekend Sportswear to provide the **Star Lake Gear Store** for you to order T-shirts, sweatshirts, hats and (new this year) APRONS for you cooking enthusiasts!

The end of the summer **Star Lake Picnic** will be hosted again at the home of Linda and Bruce Christianson on Beaver Dam Trail. We will announce the date and menu later this summer. If you have ideas or suggestions as far as food options, please let a board member know. It takes a village for sure to make our events a success!

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

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In closing, as we look ahead to the upcoming season, let us remember that the health of our lake depends on our collective actions. Together, we can ensure our lake and its shorelines remain pristine for generations to come. Thank you for your continued membership and your commitment to preserving our shared paradise. Your SLPOA board looks forward to seeing you at the Annual Meeting on June 6th, 2026. AND...as always...WAVE when you see me!

See you at the lake!

A MESSAGE FROM DICK

If there is one time of the year that brings good memories and feelings, it is the spring and the return to the lake for so many of us. The long absence and cold weather are quickly forgotten with the thoughts of warm days, liquid water, family gatherings, grilling on the deck and long leisurely boat rides on our lake. Oh, there are projects that we have to do that we put aside for the winter, "next summer I'll do that" but that takes till late May to come back to us. For now it's all the great memories that occupy us.

My family has been on the lake for over 50 years, and I have been spending the entire summer here since I retired in 2011. All the day to day concerns change completely and I look forward to leisure, small projects on the cabin, and not worrying about the crazy world we live in. I look forward to sitting in my living room and watching a rain storm roll through..at home they usually include a tornado (not something I wish on anybody). I look forward to watching the annual fireworks show on the lake come the 4th of July, the boat parade, Tuesday evening pizza night at Yvette and Dale's corner store, visiting with my neighbors while we 'pig-out on great pizza, mowing a really small yard and maybe planting a tree for the future, awaiting the arrival of family and friends who visit all too infrequently (they have jobs and busy lives), and seeing friends who I only see at the lake. But, above all, I can forget the news that is never good it seems, with our fast moving world getting lots of people over stressed and kind of nutty. I do have worries, like are the newly stocked walleyes doing alright, will I get enough door prizes for the annual meeting, and where are we going to hold the annual picnic, all the time hoping to see you all at these meetings.

This year will be different for me. The doctors won't let me vary from my treatment schedule so I am locked down at 'home' for the summer. But I am doing well and by August we will be ready to run screaming into a normal life. I hope your summer will be all that the lake can offer and that next summer I will get the chance to resume a normal lake schedule. As with most of life, we don't miss something until we can't do it and I am missing the Lake. I hope you all have a great summer, attend the annual breakfast/meeting, and the annual picnic, and build great memories of the time at the Lake. Above all, treasure this great gift we have received and strive to make it better. I look forward to seeing you all next year ON THE LAKE.

Dick

PS: President Jolene has promised to do prize gathering in my absences, so I look forward to hearing about her successful efforts. And, if you win a prize, go to the business and Thank Them for their donation, and help them by patronizing their business.

STAR LAKE GEAR STORE

You will be able to order Star Lake Gear again this year! The online store **opens on May 15th**. Orders will be ready for pick-up at duCharme's Corner Store within 2-3 weeks after the store closes. Don't miss out - place your orders now!

<https://starlakesummer26.itemorder.com>



THE SCHROEDER CABIN ON STAR LAKE

By Andrew Schroeder

This is the story of highway 108, 2 cabins, 3 generations of gourmet cooks, 4 score family and friends, and a road that was misnamed. We need to start in the late 1930s to understand how things are now. For those of you who want to follow along on a map, my cabin is at 31208 Frog Trail. At that time, there were no cabins on Star Lake along that stretch of 108 because 108 followed the lake where everyone's cabins are today. If you were heading West, the old 108 would have veered toward the lake where Nick Nyhus's house is – 31126 Highway 108. It would have gone through Sue Nyhus's front yard – 31194 Frog Trail, then directly in front of my cabin, continued on through the trailer park, and up to where Rocky's Resort used to be before it joined with modern day 108. The gravel road in the trailer park is the old 108. Not a paved, two-lane road - It was just one lane - sometimes graveled and sometimes just car ruts on the grass.



Schroeder Cabin

In the 1930's, North of my cabin and across modern day 108, there was a dairy farm owned by a family with the last name of Peach. They owned the land to the lake which was where their cattle grazed. Sometime in the late 1930's, I'm guessing, 108 was moved to its current location and the lake shore was sold as lots. The first people to build cabins there were a group of families from Omaha, NE. They built three identical cabins in a row, and you can still see the date 1941 stamped into the concrete steps of one of the cabins. They became known as the Omaha group and that part of the lake was called Omaha Beach. Sometime in the 1950's, my great aunt Elsie bought a cabin next to the Omaha group and then later acquired one of their cabins for a guest cabin. If you look at the deed for my cabin, you'll see that it's on Peach Beach, named after the dairy farmer who originally owned the land. My dad, Don Schroeder, gave me all this Star Lake history. Don, always a stickler for correctness, pointed out that Frog Trail really should have been named Peach Trail.

From the 1950's through the 1970's, Grandma and Grandpa Johnson, Aunt Eunice, Aunt Kathryn, and Aunt Hardis along with mom, her sister Sue and occasionally other cousins all enjoyed weekends at Aunt Elsie's cabin. Grandma Johnson and Eunice were the first generation of Star Lake gourmet cooks. There was oven-fried chicken, spring soup (cream peas and potatoes), homemade onion rings, and sodas (like they made at Swan Drug in Pelican). On the 4th of July, Grandpa Johnson would make homemade ice-cream, topped with fresh strawberries that Aunt Kathryn bought from Walstrom's Berry Farm. The kids would be playing in the lake somewhere down the beach while the adults were enjoying highballs on the lawn. Later in life, Aunt Eunice, then in her 90's, once reminisced, "Remember when we could drink and smoke and nobody cared?" My mom and dad, Anne and Don Schroeder, inherited the guest cabin after Aunt Elsie's death in 1978. Her rambler was sold and weekends at the lake moved next door to the Schroeder Cabin.



Don and Anne

The maintenance and upgrades to the cabin and property over the years was a family effort. According to Don, when he joined the family in the mid-1970s, the lawn at the cabin "was so thick with trees you could hardly see the lake." He and Grandpa Johnson grubbed out a lot of the trees, re-graded the lawn, and planted sod. Don moved an old chicken coop from Staples, MN to the property and installed it behind the cabin for a shed. Don and Anne installed new windows, paneling, remodeled the kitchen, and even replaced the old cast iron fireplace with a propane heater. Aunt Kathryn bought a new dock. Sue and her husband Butch chipped in by upgrading the plumbing. Eventually, Aunt Elsie's rambler came back on the market, and Sue and Butch bought it back from the couple we had sold it to. With both cabins back in the family, weekends at the lake were just like old times – including the highballs. In researching this article, I asked my dad what had happened to the old dock from the 1950's. "Oh, I still have it," he said. "It's in an old chicken coop, in the woods behind my shop, at the farm."

With Grandma Johnson and Eunice doing less cooking, the wooden spoon was passed to the next generation of Star Lake gourmet cooks, Anne and Sue. They carried on the traditions of weekends at the lake and made the fried chicken, spring soup, onion rings, and other dishes that were important traditions for the family. Anne, a self-taught gourmand and Julia Child acolyte, having had a dish somewhere that she liked, would announce; "We can make this at the lake!" Dad even took over the role of making ice-cream. Every 4th of July, you could find him in the shadow of the chicken coop behind the cabin at his post operating the ice-cream maker. "You need three things to make ice-cream: lots of cold ice, lots of salt, and lots of cold beer to drink while you stand and watch the bucket go round and round," he once said.

The Schroeder Cabin on Star Lake

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My wife and I took over the family cabin several years ago after my mom's death. We live in St. Paul. I'm a registered nurse at Abbott Northwestern and Becca is a social worker for Ramsey County. In addition, Becca is the founder of Auntie Bec's Boutique - a nonprofit that provides free clothes and supplies to school-age children in St. Paul. I assist in the endeavor as carpenter, delivery person, and forced volunteer. Uno is our fur-baby and at our side with a special smile that is only Uno's!

My brother, Martin, is a diesel mechanic in Erhard at Ripley's, Inc. He lives in Pelican Rapids on his hobby farm. We have a complimentary skill set. I handle the remodeling and general carpentry at the cabin while Martin's mechanical skills make him the lead man in maintenance and opening and closing the cabin.

The three of us - me, Becca, and Martin - have a unique cabin lifestyle. We are analog people in a digital world and like to keep it simple. You won't find a speed boat, jet ski or pontoon in front of our cabin. You may find us sitting on lawn chairs on the dock with a book (and perhaps a cocktail) in hand. Or we may be floating on an air mattress in the water. If we aren't outside, we may be in the cabin with Martin as DJ, listening to records from our mom's record collection on her old record player. Yes, there's a television in the cabin, but no one has turned it on in eight years.

Likely, the lawn will be populated with other family members enjoying the lake and living the cabin lifestyle. Becca's mom, Jean Hayenga from Staples, is a frequent visitor. Our nephews, Noah and Kaleb Champion from Minneapolis, will give you a wave. However, Don will be unable to wave due to a whisky sour in one hand and a cracker with cheese in the other. Becca's sister Krista and her two girls, Cynthia and Simone, make summer visits from their home in Atlanta, GA. Come happy hour, Cousin Nick and family will walk down and the gathering may shift next door to Sue's yard where we will all enjoy happy hour and lots of good food.

If it's a holiday weekend, you'll see more folk between the Schroeders' and Nyhus's. Our cousin from the Minneapolis area, Kathryn and spouse, Justin, along with their kids will have their camper set up. Her sister, Anna and daughter Karmen will join the gang. Usually once a summer, Sue's cousin Mark will come from the Cities and enjoy a weekend of good food and reminiscing about their childhood at Elsie's cabin.

Sue and I are carrying on the culinary traditions at the lake. We are the third generation of Star Lake gourmet cooks. After my mom's passing, the wooden spoon was passed to me and Sue. We plan for lunch, happy hour, and supper for Friday and Saturday nights, never knowing how many people will show up. There might be six and there might be sixteen. If we do a good job, it's because we stand on the shoulders of the culinary giants that have gone before us - Grandma Johnson, Eunice, and Mom. Their presence and influence is still felt at the lake every time Sue and I say to each other, "I used Eunice's recipe for this." Or, "I bet mom would have loved that."

On any given Friday between 4:30 and 5pm, Martin will burst through the cabin door after a long week working at Ripley's. "Make me a drink, Andy," he'll command before collapsing into the recliner. The tinkle of ice in the highball glasses will soon be drowned out by the sound of Neil Diamond on the record player. And the people will rejoice because they know that, at least until Monday morning, all will be right with their world. We are grateful for the legacy Aunt Elsie left us. Star Lake has become a second home for family and friends, and we all agree it doesn't have to be complicated.

We can enjoy each other, good food and drink, the lawn chair, the lake and yes, a pontoon ride from Uncle Butch.



Andrew and Becca



Martin and Cousins

FAMILY FAVORITE RECIPES FROM STAR LAKE

What is your family's favorite dishes when they come to the lake? Share them with us for a Star Lake Family Favorite Recipe Book! Send them via email or bring it to the Annual Meeting and get registered for a special prize drawing. The Recipe Books will be printed when we have reached our goal of 200 recipes! We've still got a ways to go - so help us out by sharing your dishes! We'll have the most-used Recipe Book ever! Email your recipes to Yvette Lewis at yankelewis6@gmail.com or Gail Hagen at gmahagen@gmail.com. Thank you!

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Adopt-A-Highway

By JoLene Kerr, Treasurer

The Star Lake Property Owners Association participates in the Otter Tail County's Adopt-A-Highway Program. Twice a year volunteers gather and pick up litter along County Highway 41 from South of 380th going North to the intersection of Highway 108 and 41.

This spring ditch clean-up will be held Saturday May 9th, 2026. Volunteers will meet at duCharme's Corner Store at 9:00 AM. Come and help us keep Star Lake area beautiful!

Fisheries Improvement

By Steve Roth, Treasurer

Walleye Growth Patterns in Minnesota

Walleyes across Minnesota's lakes and river systems follow growth patterns closely tied to water temperature, forage availability, and lake productivity. In nutrient-rich, fertile lakes — common across the central and southern parts of the state — walleyes can reach 15 inches within their first three years of life, while fish in the clearer, deeper lakes of the north often grow more slowly, sometimes taking four to five years to hit that same benchmark. On average, a healthy Minnesota walleye gains roughly one to two inches per year after reaching legal size, with females tending to outpace males and grow into the larger trophy class fish that anglers prize.

Seasonal feeding behavior plays a big role in annual growth. Walleyes feed most aggressively during the spring and early summer months when water temperatures climb into the mid-50s to low 60s (°F), coinciding with peak forage activity. This window is critical — fish that capitalize on abundant perch, shiners, and young-of-year ciscoes during this stretch put on the bulk of their annual weight. As waters warm through midsummer, walleyes often retreat to deeper, cooler structure and feeding slows somewhat, before picking back up again in the fall feeding push ahead of ice-up. Understanding these seasonal rhythms helps explain why year-class strength — how well a given spawn survives its first summer — is such a strong predictor of future fishing quality on any given Minnesota lake.

Minnesota Walleye Stocking: Science, Success, and Ongoing Learning

The Minnesota DNR stocks walleyes in roughly 900 lakes across the state, with a standard rate of about 1,000 fry or one pound of fingerlings per littoral acre — the portion of a lake shallower than 15 feet. Fry stocking is preferred when possible, as it is more cost-effective than fingerling stocking, though managers will follow up with supplemental fingerlings in the fall if fry survival checks come back low. Minnesota DNR Success rates can vary considerably from lake to lake. In lakes where fry survival is monitored through fall electrofishing surveys, a catch rate of greater than 75 fish per hour is considered a strong year class — a benchmark that helps managers decide whether to adjust stocking strategies going forward.

What the DNR has learned over decades of stocking is that more fish doesn't always mean better fishing. A review of the Accelerated Walleye Program — which doubled fingerling stocking rates on 254 lakes — found that 70 percent of those lakes did not see meaningful increases in walleye populations, and in roughly half of program lakes, walleye recruitment hadn't changed at all. The takeaway for managers has been that stocking works best when it's tailored to a lake's specific forage base, productivity, and natural reproduction levels. Lakes south of I-94 with poor natural spawning habitat but good walleye-supporting capacity tend to be the best candidates for stocking, while clear northern lakes with strong natural reproduction often need little or no intervention. It's an evolving science — and one that Minnesota's fisheries managers continue to refine lake by lake.

YOU ARE INVITED - LAKE DAY AT CAMP JOY

When: July 5th starting at Noon

Buffet Lunch Provided ♦ Cornhole Tournament ♦ 200 ft SlipNSlide ♦ Yard Games ♦ Open Beach Swim
Free Will Offering - All Proceeds go to Camper Scholarships

For more information and to register visit: www.campjoyminnesota.org/lakeday

News from the AIS Team

Aquatic Invasive Species Detection Invitation

The Star Lake Association Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) team is kicking off the 2026 summer season by hosting a Throw-a-Rake Event to help detect aquatic invasive species. The event will take place on Saturday, May 30th, at the Star Lake 108 Boat Landing on Highway 108, beginning at 10:00 AM. Everyone is welcome to join and participate in the simple process of tossing a rake into the water and retrieving whatever is on the lake bottom. The purpose of this activity is to observe and assist in identifying potential invasive species present in the lake.

Star Lake currently has two confirmed invasive species: Zebra mussels and Chinese Mystery snails. According to reports from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR), as we all know from personal experience, these species often encrust equipment such as boat motors, rafts, and ladders. They also attach themselves to underwater rocks, which can create physical hazards for lake users. Additionally, these invasive species consume plankton, an essential aquatic food source and a producer of oxygen in the water.

The Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Research Center (MAIRC) continues to actively research how these invasive species spread and explore strategies to reduce their numbers.

Curly-leaf Pondweed: An Early Spring Concern

Another invasive species for which vigilance is needed in early spring is Curly-leaf Pondweed. Community members should be alert for their presence as part of ongoing lake stewardship efforts.

The Minnesota DNR Fact Sheet provides information:

How to identify it:

Curly-leaf pondweed is similar in appearance to many native pondweeds commonly found in Minnesota waters. It is generally the first pondweed to come up in spring and dies in mid-summer. Leaves have undulating and finely serrated edges that have been compared to lasagna noodles.

Why is it a problem?

Curly-leaf pondweed can interfere with recreational and other uses of lakes and rivers by producing dense mats at the water's surface. Matted curly-leaf pondweed can displace native aquatic plants. In mid-summer, curly-leaf plants usually die, and dying plants accumulate on shorelines.

How does it spread?

People spread curly-leaf pondweed primarily through the movement of water-related equipment. Plant fragments and turions can get stuck on trailers, motors, docks, boat lifts, swim rafts and inside watercraft (boats, canoes and kayaks). Turions, which may be hidden in mud and debris, can stick to anchors as well as scuba, fishing, and hunting gear.

What can be done to prevent its spread?

The most important action is to remove all vegetation from your watercraft before you move it from one body of water to another.

- ◆ Clean watercraft of all aquatic plants and prohibited invasive species.
- ◆ Drain all water by removing drain plugs and keeping them out during transport.
- ◆ Dispose of unwanted bait in the trash.
- ◆ Dry docks, lifts, swim rafts and other equipment for at least 21 days before placing equipment into another water body.



Membership

By Jake Daniels

It's that great time of year again, where we start to thaw out, watch the birds migrate through, and get ready for another fun summer at Star Lake. It's also time for the SLPOA membership drive as we kick into gear for 2026. Its quick and easy to go to our website - <https://starlakeassociation.com/membership> - and click that renew button for PayPal renewal, or for mailing forms and instructions. Share that link with any new neighbors, or anyone else that you may know that hasn't joined yet. Or if you prefer, the 2026-27 membership form was mailed late April. Return your completed form along with the appropriate fee via US Mail. Renewing in time for this year's Annual Meeting, coming up on June 6, helps us to plan and is much appreciated. The membership fees remain fixed at \$40.00 for property owners and \$35.00 for Associate Members (non-voting). I am nearing the end of my first year on the board and can attest that the group is dedicated not only to using the membership money for what is important to our members, but also in keeping the finances stable and growing so we can do more as new ideas and challenges come along.

Our 2025 membership final tally reached 192, including 6 associate memberships, and we have a good start already for 2026 thanks to our early renewals! We want to grow that number back up over 200 and beyond. Being a member has its benefits, sure, when it comes to attending the Annual meeting and breakfast at Camp Joy (Saturday June 6th this year), the Swamp shark fishing tournament (June 27th), as well as our Annual picnic later this summer. The most important benefit is having our active board just a phone call, email, or Facebook post away; plus long-time members and neighbors to share ideas, make connections, and let your voice be heard. There are changes happening in fish limits at the state level, and the fishery has obviously changed over the years. Always ongoing construction projects (MNDOT) mean we want to stay on top of safety issues as they come up. New toys, for example, wake boats come into the picture and we welcome everyone's thoughts and ideas for enjoying our lake while also protecting it for the future. The only constant is change, and together with others who know and love this lake we can continue to be a strong community.

Thank you as always for your continued support and see you at the Annual Meeting.

Water Safety

WAKE BOATS - FUN AND PROBLEMATIC

By Lee Mindemann

A recent article provided by Minnesota Lakes & Rivers lays out some of the issues that accompany the debate. Most people may know what wake boats are, but for those that may not: they are boats whose hulls "plow" the water and use ballast tanks & hydroplanes to drive the stern of the boat down deeper into the water. The result are wakes that are abnormally large and have the energy of ocean surf.

An individual can then use a "surf board" to mount the wave from the back of the boat using either a short rope or pole. The allure of it is the thrill of riding the wave untethered from the boat at a speed of 10 -20 mph – sounds like fun. The lower speed reduces the odds of injury if one were to fall. So safe, fun, and something new. What's not to like?

Well, these abnormally large waves have a much greater impact on the shoreline; eroding banks, damaging docks, lifts and tethered boats if the wakes hit at full strength. These powerful wakes can create a hazard to other types of watercraft as well. Of special concern for a lake known for its Loon population such as Star Lake as loons construct their nests slightly above the natural water level – so the un-naturally large surfing waves likely present a real threat to these nests.

So there in lies the problem.

While we have no official count, there are a few Wake Boat Owners that have places on the lake. In their defense, these boats are not illegal in the state of Minnesota. There is much controversy as well as good points, to be made on either side of the issue.

A recent study by the University of Minnesota found Wake boats need a distance of more than 500 feet from other watercraft, and to operate in a minimum depth of 20 feet.

In light of the above, the Star Lake Property Owners Association is asking Wake Boat Operators to follow the above stated guidelines. The SLPOA has also requisitioned informational signs developed by Minnesota Lakes & Rivers that will provide a map of Star Lake depicting those areas within the lake would be appropriate areas for Wake Boat operation. SLPOA intends to have these posted at the public accesses & resorts where allowed.

Let's all practice good Star Lake Etiquette – have fun, be safe & considerate of others, and enjoy the treasure of our lake!

The Story of Camp Joy

A Legacy of Faith, Growth, and Transformation



The story of Camp Joy begins even before the land on Star Lake was ever purchased. In the summer of 1939, Rev. P.C. Sorenson and his wife, Lillian, stepped out in faith to start what would become a life-changing ministry. The very first Camp Joy took place at Lake Lida as a small, one-week camp.

Those early days were simple, yet full of purpose. The main building served as the dining room, kitchen, and cooks' quarters. Boys slept in an old boathouse, while the girls stayed above the main building. When space ran out, campers slept in tents under the open sky. Services and classes were often held in tents, and the Sorensen's themselves lived in a trailer.

Conditions were far from comfortable. Water for dishes was heated over an outdoor fire, and campers washed and dried everything by hand outside. There was no electricity, so gasoline and kerosene lamps were used, though not in sleeping areas, where flashlights were the safer option. Each morning, P.C. would drive to a nearby farm to pick up fresh milk and collect mail left in a box by the roadside.

It was humble. It was challenging. But God was at work.

In 1941, Camp Joy made a defining move to Star Lake in Dent, Minnesota. The land was small, so small that the dining hall stretched nearly from one boundary to the other. The boys' sleeping quarters, affectionately named "Tumble Inn" and "Cubby Hole Inn," required climbing up the kitchen wall to reach them. Some campers still slept in tents, but the vision was growing.

From that point on, the Lord continued to bless the ministry. In 1942, camp expanded to two weeks, one for juniors and one for seniors. By 1944, attendance had grown significantly, with 74 campers registered, and even bread deliveries began arriving from Fergus Falls. In 1945, camp stretched to three weeks, and by 1948, electricity finally came to Camp Joy, a major milestone.

Growth continued through the years. In 1955, a chapel was built, giving campers a dedicated space to gather and hear God's Word. By 1960, Camp Joy celebrated its 20th anniversary with a service attended by 400 people, a powerful reminder of how far the ministry had come.

Leadership transitions followed as the ministry expanded. P.C. Sorenson stepped down in 1962, passing the torch to David L. Pritchard. In 1965, Gustav "Uncle Gus" Hansen became director, beginning a long and impactful season of leadership. That same year, Camp Joy celebrated its 25th anniversary with cake and singing in the dining hall.

In 1968, Lillian Sorenson wrote what would become the beloved Camp Joy song, still sung by campers year after year, echoing the legacy of those early days.

As the decades rolled on, Camp Joy continued to grow in both size and impact. New cabins were built, facilities were improved, and the number of campers steadily increased. Bathrooms, kitchens, and gathering spaces were upgraded to better serve the needs of a growing ministry.

The 1970s and 80s brought major developments, including new buildings, expanded programs, and faithful leadership through both challenges and victories. Dedicated individuals poured their time, energy, and hearts into Camp Joy, ensuring that each generation would have the opportunity to hear the gospel.

In 1991, Camp Joy celebrated its 50th anniversary, a milestone marking decades of life change. Improvements continued into the 1990s and early 2000s, with renovations of cabins, the dining hall, and other key areas across camp.

In 2014, Camp Joy welcomed Shane Hollenbeck as the new Camp Joy Director. Shane brought a new energy to Camp Joy. With an extensive background in youth ministry, facilities, programming and staff leadership, Shane created a foundation that to this day is still used in Camp Joy's progression forward.

By 2016, Camp Joy reached its 75th anniversary, celebrating years of ministry, faithfulness, and transformation. New updates, including shingles, electrical improvements, and staff housing renovations. Helping prepare the camp for the future.

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The Story of Camp Joy

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In 2018, the new leadership of Matt Larsen brought fresh vision, and continued improvements were made to the grounds, including walking paths and shoreline protection. Camp Joy also stepped into new seasons of partnership and structure, continuing to adapt while staying rooted in its mission.

Then came 2020, a year that brought unexpected challenges. The COVID-19 pandemic forced the cancellation of youth camps, but Camp Joy adapted by hosting family camps, continuing to provide a place for connection, rest, and spiritual growth.

In 2021, Camp Joy celebrated its 80th anniversary, a powerful reminder that God had been faithful through every season.

The years that followed brought both change and growth. Major renovations took place, including a full kitchen remodel and the long-awaited replacement of the girls' bathhouse. In 2022, the old structure was demolished, and construction began on a new, larger facility. By May 2024, the new girls' bathhouse was completed, a symbol of continued investment in future generations.

In 2023, another significant moment came as longtime director Matt Larson stepped down. Soon after, Tyler Tracy was hired as Camp Joy's first full-time Executive Director, marking a new chapter in leadership and vision for the ministry.

Throughout the years, countless improvements, big and small, have taken place. From new equipment and buildings to updated facilities and expanded spaces, each step has been taken with one purpose in mind: to create a place where people can encounter Jesus.

From sleeping in tents and washing dishes by hand over an open fire...to a thriving camp that continues to grow and reach new generations, Camp Joy stands as a testimony to God's faithfulness.

And the story is far from over.

Each summer, campers still arrive. The gospel is still shared. Lives are still changing.

And what began as a small, one-week camp in 1939 continues today, stronger than ever, because of a faithful God and a mission that has never changed.

This year marks another milestone for Camp Joy - the 85th Anniversary! You are invited to help them celebrate 85 incredible years of adventure, friendship, and memories at Camp Joy! Whether you're a longtime camper, staff member, supporter, or new friend, this milestone is all about you — the people who make Camp Joy what it is. We can't wait to gather together to reminisce, reconnect, and create new memories that honor our rich history and bright future.

When: June 14th - 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM

What to Expect: Lunch provided, program, camp tours, swim time at the lake, volleyball, yard games and so many memories!

Registration for this 85th Anniversary celebration is available at their website:

www.campjoyminnesota.org/85th-anniversary



SWAMP SHARK TOURNAMENT



Get your tackle boxes ready and dust off those fishing hats—Swamp Shark is back, and it's fishier (we hope) than ever! On Saturday, June 27th at 8:00 AM, we're throwing lines in for the annual Star Lake Swamp Shark Tourney. To hop aboard this fantastic adventure, complete a registration. Registrations will be available at the Annual Meeting, June 6th, and on the Star Lake Association website: www.starlakeassociation.com. Return registration forms by email to slpoa@arvig.net or mail to SLPOA Swamp Shark, PO Box 155, Dent, MN 56528. It's so easy, even a fish could do it!

This year, you get to choose your fishing swag: T-shirt or hat—because nothing says "top angler" like your gear! Every registered participant (up to three per team) gets their pick, and if you decide you need more, extra T-shirts or hats are available for purchase. After a morning of rod-bending action, we'll gather at Bells Resort for lunch,

laughs, trophies, and prizes that'll have your scales shining!

Ready for a reel good time? The hunt for small Northerns is on at Star Lake! Cast off at 8:00 AM sharp and bring your best "fish tales"—just make sure you're checked in by 12:30 PM at Bell's Resort Bar & Grill. The first ten teams to check in with their limit (of Northerns 22 inches or less per participant) will snag cash prizes, and there's a special award for the youth angler (15 and under) who reels in the tiniest Northern. It's going to be a whopper of a good time—don't miss the boat!

You do need to be a member of the Star Lake Property Owners Association to join the fun—membership is \$40 for property owners and \$35 for Associate Members (non-property owners). So, become a member, grab your fishing buddies, and get ready to make a splash at the Swamp Shark Tourney!

Registration forms will be available at the Annual Meeting and on our website:

www.starlakeassociation.com

STAR LAKE WALLEYE FUNDRAISING

This is Year 2 of the 3-year Walleye Fundraising effort! Mike and John thank you for a terrific first year of support. They are entering Year 2 of the ongoing mission to stock Star Lake with Walleye fingerlings (6-8") and yearlings (12"). Your contributions are greatly appreciated and go directly toward purchasing and planting these fish to improve the lake for every sports fan and family.

Last fall, 3,100 Walleye Fingerlings (6-8") were placed in Star Lake in late November. This Spring, 5,500 yearlings (12") were put in the lake.

Here's how you can help us this year:

- ◆ Purchase custom playing cards - \$10.00 per Deck. Star Lake Walleye Fundraising decks will be available starting April 16th. Purchase a custom souvenir to remember your part in boosting the lake's fish population. Every card game with friends and family will celebrate the community's effort. Decks will be available for purchase at the Annual Meeting. Other locations will be announced.
- ◆ Make a Direct Donation - Every dollar helps purchase more fingerlings and yearlings for the lake. Every donation is greatly appreciated.

Make checks payable to SLPOA. It is important to note "Fish Fund" on the memo line of the checks. Mail Checks to:

SLPOA - Walleye Fundraiser
PO Box 155
Dent MN 56528-0155

Questions? - Reach out to the organizers directly for more information:

Mike Anderson – 612-328-4778, or John Bialozynski: 651-900-2624

Thank you, sponsors, for supporting the Star Lake Walleye Fundraising decks:

LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS STEWARDSHIP SYMPOSIUM - 2026

Join other lake property owners on Saturday, May 16th, 2026 in a one-half day symposium, at Thumper Pond Resort, 300 Thumper Lodge Rd., Ottertail, MN 56571.

The Otter Tail County AIS Task Force and Otter Tail County Coalition of Lake Associations have released the lineup for the 2026 Lake Property Owners Lake Stewardship Symposium. The Symposium will begin with a free hot breakfast for attendees at 8:00 a.m. followed by presentations from scientists, county government officials and lake-oriented organization leaders. The event will conclude by 1:00 PM.

Symposium Lineup:

- ◆ Nick Phelps– Professor and Department Head, University of Minnesota
- ◆ Chris LeClair– Director of Land & Resource, Otter Tail County
- ◆ Jeff Forester– Executive Director, Minnesota Lakes & Rivers Advocates
- ◆ Pete Guck– Riparian Conservation Specialist, East Otter Tail SWCD

Many organizations and agencies will be hosting table displays for consultation and dissemination of relevant lake property owner information. To reserve a table at the event contact John Kruse, OTC COLA Administrative Assistant.

There is no cost for the event including the free hot breakfast. Registrations for the event are greatly appreciated to assist in capacity planning. To register go to www.otccola.org

INTRODUCING MINNESOTA LAKES & RIVERS

By Jake Daniels

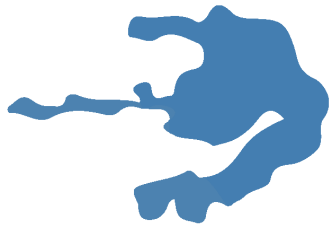
Minnesota Lakes and Rivers (MLR), <https://mnlakesandrivers.org>, is a non-profit organization and network that combines a PAC (political action committee) with an Education and Outreach charitable branch, along with a grassroots membership organization (think: Association of Lake Associations). Our very own Star Lake Property Owners' Association is a member of the MLR Advocates (MLRA). Because the Minnesota DNR is mostly regulatory, and relies on lake associations as well as other agencies to do things like monitoring and protection work, MLR helps to bridge the gaps to help organize and drive water protection efforts.

Among other notable achievements, MLR has been instrumental in preserving state funding for Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) mitigation efforts with their lobbying and advocacy work at the Capitol. While AIS can be scary and sometimes seem inevitable, slowing the spread of starry stonewort and others really does have an impact (64% reduction in infestations statewide since 2014) and buys time for scientists to find cures before expensive mitigation is the only option to save a fishery, swimming area, or other recreational waterway.

Property taxes seem to always be on the rise. MLR Advocates has made significant impact in helping to reduce property tax increases by working with legislators, finding ways to reclassify or get discounts for lake property owners. As lake property becomes too expensive, it can often be sold to corporate and non-local interests which can lead to overdevelopment and degradation of water quality. MLR provides a Citizens Action Network which allows concerned citizens to stay in the loop on important legislation and news related to water issues. Contacting legislators through an organized group like this strengthens your voice and the impact you can have.

Finally there is an MLR a program called "Lake Steward" that is comprised of a local volunteer who is trained to do a short survey and recognize actions that protect lakes and shorelines. If your property qualifies you get a lawn sign that you can display so that others can see examples of best practices for shoreline and habitat preservation. Star Lake is still very clean and helping to prevent runoff and erosion will make a big difference as the years go by. MLR estimates that Minnesota has lost over 50% of its natural shorelines and continues to lose the equivalent of 154 miles of shoreline every 2 years. Here at Star Lake I can see the impact the yearly Ice Push has on my own shoreline and I wonder how it will look when my daughters take over for me. Consider being a Lake Steward, or take the quick quiz to learn more:

<https://mnlakesandrivers.org/lake-steward>.



STAR LAKE

PROPERTY OWNERS' ASSOCIATION

Annual Membership Meeting Camp Joy, Star Lake Saturday, June 6th

9:00 AM Breakfast

10:00 AM Annual Membership Meeting (Chapel)

Guest Speaker: Lily Carr, Lake Steward Program Coordinator, Minnesota Lakes & Rivers (MLR)

Breakfast will be prepared by volunteers. They will be serving scrambled eggs, pancakes, sausages and the award-winning Camp Aquila Pure Maple Syrup. Coffee, Orange Juice and Bottled Water will also be provided.

The drawings for door prizes will be immediately following the conclusion of the meeting (must be present to win).

Bring a copy of your favorite family recipes for our Family Favorite Recipes on Star Lake Recipe Book and get a registered for a special prize drawing (one entry for every recipe)!

See you at Camp Joy on the 6th!



STAR Lights

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Dent, MN 56528-0155
www.starlakeassociation.com
Email: slpoa@arvig.com



Star Lake Property Owners' Association

Star Lake Area Fun and Service Opportunities

- | | |
|-------------------------|--|
| May 9 th | AIS Throw-A-Rake, Hwy 108 Boat Access, 9:00 AM |
| May 15 th | Star Lake Gear Online Store Opens |
| May 16 th | OTCCOLA Stewardship Symposium |
| June 1 st | Camp Joy Golf Scramble, |
| June 6 th | SLPOA Annual Meeting, Camp Joy |
| June 14 th | Camp Joy 85 th Anniversary Celebration |
| June 17 th | Turtle Fest begins, Perham |
| June 27 th | SLPOA Swamp Shark Tournament |
| July 5 th | Lake Day at Camp Joy |
| July 11 th | Phelps Mill Festival begins |
| July 30 th | Looney Days begins, Vergas |
| August 15 th | Dent Corn Daze |
| TBD | Star Lake Picnic, Home of Linda & Bruce Christianson |