



IMLPOA

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Visit us online at
islandmudlake.com

Island and Mud Lakes Property Owners Association Spring 2026

GREETINGS FROM THE DOCK

As spring turns into summer, we're all eager to settle into cabin life, enjoy the water, and reconnect with neighbors. Your IMLPOA Board has once again put together a full lineup of activities to bring our lake community together. In addition to highlighting those events, this newsletter includes updates on the upcoming AIS survey, improvements to the Association's pontoon trailer, how to purchase [Island/Mud Lakes gear](#), and more. Be sure to read Chuck's reflections on the IMLPOA and lake life as he concludes his term as board president this summer. Join us in sincerely thanking him for more than a decade of responsive and forward-driven service.



JULY 4TH BOAT PARADE

Show off your holiday spirit on the water. Decorate your pontoon, fishing boat, or speed boat and join the parade. Festive outfits and music are encouraged, though not required.

- **Gather near the public access around 12:45pm on July 4th.**
- **Parade begins at 1:00pm.**

Whether you're in the parade or watching from the dock, let's top last year's record turnout!

ANNUAL FISHING CONTEST

This year's fishing contest will be held on **Friday, July 3rd from 7:00am to 3:00pm**. Contest rules will be posted at the bulletin board at the "Y" and on islandmudlake.com.



To register, please call or text Jerry Finnerty at 612-987-2275. Include names and ages of participating anglers.

Join us at the **public access at 4:00pm** to announce and **celebrate the winners**.

ANNUAL PICNIC & MEETING

Get to know your lake neighbors and learn more about IMLPOA activities.

- **When: Saturday, July 25th**—moved to the weekend *after* Emily Days.
- **Where: Levi's Field on Walworth Rd.**
- **When: Social time/games at 4:00pm.**
- **Potluck meal begins at 5:00pm.**
- **Annual meeting follows potluck.**

The Association will provide meat, buns, chips, and water. Please bring a dish to share, your preferred beverage, and lawn chairs.

We invite you to bring a non-perishable food item or a cash donation for the Emily Food Shelf. IMLPOA will match cash donations (up to a total of \$200).

ICE CREAM ON THE LAKE

Cool off on **August 8th from 1:00pm to 4:00pm** by visiting the ice cream pontoon for free, refreshing treats. Watch for more information as the date approaches.

EXPANDED GEOCACHE

This year there are **three IMLPOA Geocaches!** Use your GPS devices to find our hidden caches. When you find one, sign the sheet inside. There will be a special prize drawing for geocache participants at the annual picnic.

GPS coordinates and clues:

- **N46.687310; W093.904624;** I say a little prayer for you
- **N46.685871, W093.895789;** Operator can you help me place this call
- **N46.686976, W093.893121;** Like a bridge over troubled water

IN THE KNOW: QUICK, USEFUL INFO

IMLPOA PONTOON TRAILER UPDATE

The IMLPOA Board recently revisited whether to purchase a new pontoon trailer or upgrade our existing one—a discussion originally tabled last fall. After reviewing options, gathering expert input, and comparing costs, the Board voted to move forward with upgrading the current trailer.

New “universal” pontoon trailers generally start around \$5,000. In contrast, our existing trailer can be modified for significantly less while still achieving similar lift height and functionality. After confirming the trailer is structurally sound and suitable for both lift-height improvements and a length extension, the Board determined that upgrading it is the most practical and cost-effective choice at this time.

USING THE TRAILER

Your annual membership dues include **free access** to the IMLPOA pontoon trailer for launching and removing boats on Island and Mud Lakes. This shared resource provides convenience and helps protect our waters by ensuring the trailer is used exclusively on our two lakes, reducing the risk of introducing aquatic invasive species.

A few reminders for smooth and responsible use:

- **To reserve the trailer, text or call Mark Caspers at 763-258-3842** to receive the lock code.
- Read and follow the **safety and usage** info posted by the trailer and on our website.
- Weekend demand is high, so please pick up and return the trailer within your reserved time slot.
- The trailer may not be used on other lakes—this is essential for AIS prevention.

Thank you to Mark Caspers for maintaining the trailer and managing reservations. We also appreciate Tom and Linda Ferdelman’s donation towards the upgrades.

HELP US CAPTURE A YEAR ON THE LAKES

We’re gathering photos for the **2026–27 IMLPOA calendar** (July–July). Please share your digital pictures. Scenery is preferred; no identifiable people. Think wildlife and natural beauty around our lakes—like eagles, hummingbirds, owls, deer, wildflowers, water lilies...

Deadline: May 15, 2026

Photo Specs:

- **High-resolution (300 DPI at 11” x 8.5” or better)**
- **JPG or PDF format**
- **Landscape orientation, no zoom**

Please **email photos to: tdstephani@gmail.com**. We’re looking forward to seeing your best shots!

FREE LITTLE LIBRARY REOPENS FOR THE SEASON

Island Mud Lakes’ *Neighborhood Library* is officially open for the summer. You’ll find it just past the “Y” as you turn onto Walworth Road—perfectly placed for a quick stop on your way to or from the cabin.

Residents are encouraged to share books and games. Children’s books and games are especially a big hit.

Please place all donations on the top shelf, left side. Our volunteer librarian, Tricia Murray, will label new additions with IMLPOA stickers to keep the collection organized. Please email questions to: islandmudlakeslibrary@gmail.com.

While you’re there, don’t forget to grab a book to enjoy back at the cabin. Happy reading!



YOUR LAKE COMMUNITY, JUST A CLICK AWAY

Whether you’re settling in for the season or checking in from afar [our website](#) is the easiest way to stay connected, informed, and involved with life on Island and Mud Lakes.

What You’ll Find Online

- [About IMLPOA](#) & [Now You Know](#): Get to know the Association’s mission, browse recent newsletters and meeting minutes, connect with board members, review road and fire updates, and pay your annual dues.
- [Association Activities](#): Stay up to date on upcoming events and community gatherings throughout the year.
- [Lake Info and DNR Links](#): Explore water quality resources, conservation guidance, DNR information, Crow Wing County GIS maps, and helpful rules and permitting links.
- [Lake Living](#): Find practical tips on shoreline care, AIS prevention, and wildlife best practices.
- [Area Photos](#): Browse new snapshots capturing lake life—events, wildlife, and the moments that make our community special.

Visit anytime at www.islandmudlake.com.

AROUND THE LAKES: TIPS AND UPDATES

ATV EXPLORING



One fun way to enjoy the scenery of the Northwoods is by ATV. Crow Wing County allows ATV travel on county road rights-of-way to help riders reach homes, businesses and trail connections.

Most of the land surrounding Island and Mud lakes is privately owned requiring permission to enter it for any reason. Fortunately, there are designated ATV trails nearby and many communities along the route are ATV-friendly.

[Emily-Outing Trail | Minnesota DNR | Trail map](#)

Ranging from rocky and hilly to flat and open, this Cass County trail offers something for beginners and advanced riders. Note, portions of the trail share the road with vehicle traffic.

[Emily - Blind Lake Trail | Minnesota DNR | Trail map](#)

Discover the 16-mile multi-use Emily Blind Lake ATV Trail linking the Emily Outing trails, the Blind Lake Connector, and the Northwoods regional system. The route skirts Lake Emily, threads through tall red pines in Emily State Forest, crosses a wetland on a 200-foot elevated bridge, traverses 2,200 feet of wooden boardwalk, and winds through lowlands and black spruce swamps across rural Crow Wing and Aitkin counties.

The future of off-road riding directly links to riders being courteous, responsible and safe. **Please follow these simple rules:**

- **Ride right:** Stay on the right shoulder or extreme right-hand side of county roads.
- **Know your speed:** The posted advisory speed (yellow signs) is **20 mph around both Island and Mud Lakes**. Follow the 30 mph county limit and the 20 mph zone on CSAH 66.
- **Make safe turns:** Cross the road for left turns only when visibility and traffic allow.
- **Gear up:** Helmets for youth are required—and smart for everyone.
- **Lights on:** Use headlights when conditions call for it.
- **Stay aware:** Watch for vehicles, wildlife, and changing surfaces.
- **Respect the route:** Avoid restricted ditches and follow posted signs.
- **Know the laws:** [Minnesota ATV rules](#) apply county-wide. Do a quick check before heading out.

Always check for [trail closings](#) before your trip. If not a Minnesota resident? Don't forget your [trail pass](#).

Article source: <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/ohv/index.html>

ISLAND AND MUD LAKES AIS SURVEY

This summer, *Freshwater Scientific Services* will be on Island and Mud Lakes conducting important checks for **aquatic invasive species (AIS)**. The surveys help us protect the health of our lakes by spotting potential invasive species before they spread.

When It's Happening

Fieldwork will take place in **mid to late summer (July/August)**—the best time to spot most invasive plants and animals.

What They'll Be Doing

- **Lake-wide AIS Search** Specialists will travel around both lakes looking for invasive species such as Eurasian watermilfoil, starry stonewort, flowering rush, and zebra mussels. They'll use a mix of visual checks, sonar, and rake tosses to inspect the shoreline and shallow areas.
- **Diver Survey at the Boat Ramp** A snorkeler will inspect the area around the Island Lake public landing. New infestations often start near boat ramps, so this is a key early-detection step.
- **Zebra Mussel Larvae Testing** One water sample from each lake will be collected and analyzed in the lab to check for zebra mussel veligers (larvae). Finding veligers would indicate active reproduction.

What We Receive

Within two weeks of completing the fieldwork, the lake association will receive a full **AIS Survey Report** with maps, findings, and documentation for both lakes.

If any invasive species are discovered, *Freshwater Scientific Services* will:

- Share findings with the DNR to speed up any needed permitting or response
- Notify our lake association
- Provide photos and GPS locations

EMERGENCY ALERT PROGRAM: Stay Informed When It Matters Most

Crow Wing County's Emergency and Community Alerts program delivers fast, critical updates straight to you—whether it's severe weather, road closures, missing persons, or neighborhood evacuations.

Choose how you want to receive alerts: phone call, text, email, or all of the above. You pick where, you pick how.

Sign up [here](#).
(<https://member.everbridge.net/892807736729514/login>)

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS: CHUCK'S REFLECTIONS

A DECADE OF IMLPOA LEADERSHIP AND LAKE LIFE



Chuck Pettipiece and his wife, Tricia Murray, became year-round Island Lake residents in June 2015. In true “lake fashion,” Chuck headed off to Canada on a fishing trip and famously left Tricia to handle the closing and the first wave of moving. Somehow, that feels exactly right for a couple who spent their lives working hard running their respective businesses and now savor

lake life, sunshine, and the next great memory.

They moved here from Mankato, each bringing a lake-soaked childhood with them. Chuck grew up in the southern Minnesota lakes region, while Tricia spent her first 30 years in Milwaukee, escaping north to Crooked Lake in northern Wisconsin every summer. Skiing, fishing, campfires—those weren’t hobbies; they were a lifestyle. So when it came time to choose the “next chapter,” they knew it had to be on a peaceful lake where their kids and eight grandkids could build memories right alongside them.

Finding Island Lake — Almost by Accident

After three years of searching and not quite finding “the one,” Tricia spotted a cabin for sale on Mag Bee Island. The idea of living on an island lit her up immediately. Reality eventually won out—year-round island living might be a little tricky—but that spark led them to a Kelly Point listing on Island Lake. One look, and they thought, “Why not?” The rest is history.

Getting Involved and Giving Back

Upon arriving at Island Lake, Buck Brothers tried to recruit Tricia to join the Board. After several attempts, she pointed to Chuck and told Buck, “That’s the guy you want.”



Chuck joined the IMLPOA Board in 2016 expecting to ease in as a director. One missed nominating meeting later, he was Vice President. The next year, President.

Over the past decade, he’s helped guide the association through COVID-era remote meetings and countless association and community projects. He says the experience has been rewarding and encourages anyone who’s curious to get involved.

Life at the Lake

Most days, you’ll find them enjoying the simple joys of lake living—fishing, pontoon rides, ATV trips on the Emily–Blind Lake Trail, and time with neighbors. Like all our lake residents, making fun memories for the family is what matters most.



He also volunteers and is active across the community:

- Helping with firewood at K of C Wood Hill.
- Monitoring lake water clarity for the MPCA.
- Reporting rainfall and snowfall as a CoCoRaHS volunteer.
- Enjoying “garage logic” chats, cigars, and happy hours with neighbors.
- Attending Summer Music in the Park in Crosslake.



Tricia brings her own touch to lake life—gardening, hosting friends and family at their “B&B,” grandkids over the 4th, ladies’ summer golf leagues, morning book club in Crosslake, keeping the “neighborhood library” fully stocked, and grabbing takeout from Red Pine Cookhouse to enjoy by the water.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS: CHUCK'S REFLECTIONS

A DECADE OF IMLPOA LEADERSHIP AND LAKE LIFE (CONTINUED)

A Community That Keeps Getting Better

Over the years, Chuck has watched the IMLPOA grow stronger, more connected, and more organized. Some highlights from his time on the board include:

- Expanded AIS awareness through signage, education, and pontoon trailer upgrades.
- Updated entrance signs, rebuilt the little library and activity bulletin boards.
- Enriched newsletter content and worked with the webmaster to enhance the website and launch email alerts.
- Revived “IMLPOA Gear” and introduced the annual photo calendar.
- Reported walleye catches and stocking results to DNR Fisheries.
- Strengthened annual meeting and picnic traditions.
- Maintained nonprofit status, updated by-laws and supported long-term financial planning.
- Increased membership participation and continued the tradition of personally welcoming new property owners to the lake.



Many of these efforts began long before Chuck joined the board, but he's proud to have helped continue the tradition. The real credit, he says, goes to the many board members and property owners who have supported the association since 1979.

Why They Love It Here

For Chuck and Tricia, the magic of Island and Mud Lakes comes down to the people. “Lake folks are unique in their approach to life and friends,” Chuck says. Living here has only deepened their appreciation for the neighbors who share this shoreline. Pontoon rides, grandkids, sunsets, new friends, and secret fishing spots; storms, beavers, bears, and red squirrels—every bit of it is part of the story now. And they wouldn't trade it for anything.

HISTORICAL FACTS ABOUT OUR LAKE COMMUNITY

- **What's in a name?** Island Lake's name is literal—its **three islands** make it stand out among Crow Wing County's many lakes. The lake's shape and island clusters made it a recognizable landmark for early settlers.
- **Mud Lake's quiet waters attract trumpeter swans**, especially in spring and fall. With a Secchi disk reading of 3.5 ft, Mud Lake is a haven for waterfowl and amphibians.
- **The lakes' dark water once led early settlers to believe they were “bottomless,”** a common myth about bog-stained lakes in Minnesota.
- Minnesota lakes, like Island and Mud, are natural geological features formed thousands of years ago during the Wisconsin Glaciation, ending ~11,000 years ago.
- The **earliest official documentation** that can be tied to Island and Mud Lakes comes from Crow Wing County's **real estate and land survey records**, which begin in **1857**.
- **Crow Wing County** was established in **1857** and **Emily, MN** was incorporated as a city in **1957**. It's post office was established in 1900 which marks the earliest formal federal recognition of the community.
- **Island Lake and Mud Lake** were once part of a **natural Indigenous travel corridor**, connected by Mud Brook—a route used long before European settlement. It was a canoe-passable link to lakes in the region and part of a Ojibwe water-trail network that connected seasonal camps, hunting grounds, and wild-rice wetlands.

THIS AND THAT

NEW DESIGNS, NEW GEAR— ISLAND MUD LAKES **ONLINE STORE IS OPEN**

The votes are tallied! The *Established in 1857* and *Retro Kayakers* are the winning designs for our 2026 Island and Mud lakes gear. Thanks to all that responded to our email survey.



Along with new designs, we have **new clothing options for all ages, from toddlers to adults, in a wide-variety of sizes and price ranges**. Check out our tanks, t-shirts, sweatshirts, performance shirts, quarter-zips and golf shirts. Choose from screen printed or embroidery items. And don't forget about the trucker or performance caps.

Ordering is easy!

- Visit <https://islandmudlakes2026.itemorder.com/shop/home/>.
- Shopping and payment is all online.
- Gear is **locally supplied** by *Shirts Plus Signs and Designs* of Aitkin.
- Orders will be processed after the **online store closes on June 7, 2026**, and available about 2-3 weeks later.
- Delivery options are direct ship or pick up at:
Shirts Plus Designs and Signs
212 Minnesota Ave. N.
Aitkin, MN 56431

Again this year, there is an optional donation option to help support IMLPOA expenses and activities.

EXPLORE JOINING THE IMLPOA BOARD

Want to get more involved in keeping our lake healthy and our community connected? The IMLPOA Board meets about 3–4 times a year, and we're looking for new members as several long-serving volunteers wrap up their terms.

A big thank-you to **Chuck Pettipiece** for a decade of service and forward-thinking leadership as President, and to **Linda Ferdelman** and **Patrice Bogart** for their many years of steady, dedicated work as Directors.

With two director seats and one officer role opening, it's a great time to step in. If you're curious about joining, email islandmudlake@gmail.com or chat with any **current board member** (scroll to "Current Board" on www.islandmudlake.com/about-us#dataItem-j3m2wxwg).

Whether you've been here for decades or are just settling in, your voice is exactly what we need! Consider joining the Board this Fall.

ONLINE GARAGE SALE—JUNE 20, 2026

Island and Mud Lakes residents are invited to join the **Ross Stark Twin Lakes Online Garage Sale on Saturday, June 20, 2026**, from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Shop neighbors' treasures or sell your own. Send item listings and photos to lakes_3@yahoo.com ahead of time, or bring the information to **Ross Lake Township Hall** on the day of the sale for posting on display boards.



Stop by the town hall for **coffee, donuts, listings, and seller addresses**. Buyers will contact sellers directly to arrange viewing and pickup.

Sponsored by the Ross Stark Twin Lakes Association.

MUSIC AT THE END OF THE ROAD

You're invited to a relaxed lakeside concert — featuring piano solos, duets, and cello-piano pieces. This **5th Annual Labor Day concert** is sponsored by Donna Hastings and Jonathan Geiger.

- **When:** 3 to 5pm on Saturday, September 5, 2026.
- **Where:** 36205 Whitewater Road, Emily, MN.
- **Parking:** at the blue cabin (36223 Whitewater Rd) or in our driveway.
- **Dress:** lake-casual.
- **Bring:** a chair, snacks or drinks to share, and your friends and family.

Enjoy performances by Drs. Simona Barbu and Nariaki Sugiura from UND, along with their students.

Please **RSVP to Donna Hastings** at 701-330-2586 (call/text) or donnah701@gmail.com.

Freewill donations support future student concerts.



IN MEMORIAM

This year, our lake family said goodbye to some truly special people. We want to express a heartfelt thank-you to **Theresa Reardon Offerman**'s family for her many years as our webmaster, email manager, and her warm, steady presence as a volunteer at IMLPOA events—she kept us connected and well informed.

We're also remembering longtime residents **Ann Caspers**, **Stan Nelson**, and **Kathy Leigh Nelson**, whose stories, kindness, and presence around the lake will be deeply missed.

SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY, TOGETHER

PROUD OF OUR LAKES, GRATEFUL FOR OUR COMMUNITY

What makes the Island and Mud Lakes community special is the people who care so deeply about our lakes. The IMLPOA supports that sense of community by building connections and sharing information that helps keep our lakes healthy and thriving. Your membership and involvement are what make this possible. Here's a quick reminder of just a few things your support helps sustain:

- **Community Events** — The annual picnic, fishing contest, ice cream social, boat parade, and more— always free and always a good time.
- **Lake Care & Stewardship** — Your support fuels channel cleanup, erosion control, and water-quality monitoring with partners like MPCA and the DNR.
- **Custom Lake Sign** — A complimentary engraved sign with your name, proudly displayed at your lake's entrance.
- **Free Pontoon Trailer Use** — Convenient and helps reduce the spread of AIS. To reserve it, contact Mark Caspers at 763-258-3842.
- **News & Updates** — Seasonal newsletters, website posts, and timely info so you're always in the loop.
- **Annual Photo Calendar** — A beautiful calendar featuring lake photos and community event dates.



We're so glad to have you in the lakes community and we look forward to everything we'll build together. If you haven't had a chance to submit your 2026 IMLPOA dues yet, you'll find the details on how to do so just below.

2026 IMLPOA MEMBERSHIP DUES STATEMENT

Member/Associate Name:		
Address:		
IMLPOA Membership: Island/ Mud Lakes property owners	\$40.00	
Associate Membership: Non-property owners/friends of the lakes	\$20.00	
IMLPOA donation (optional)		
Total Enclosed		\$

IMLPOA is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization and contributions may be tax deductible.

Easy Payment Options

- **Mail:** Send payment to Jerry Finnerty, IMLPOA Treasurer, 5945 Sweetwater Cir., Shorewood, MN 55331.
- **Online:** Visit www.islandmudlake.com. Hover over *About IMLPOA*, select [Pay Dues](#) from the drop down, click the *Buy Now* button to begin the payment process.
- **Venmo app:** Search Jerry Finnerty@IMLPOA to pay.

Has your contact information changed? Please email Jerry at cipromo67@gmail.com with any email, mailing address or phone number changes.