

Island Mud Lake Property Owners Association

Fall 2021



2022 OFFICERS

Chuck Pettipiece

President

Jim Luttrell

Vice President

Jerry Finnerty

Treasurer

Linda Berglund

Secretary

Directors:

Leo Offerman

Gwen Geithman

Pam Nordahl

Patrice Bogart

Tom Stremski

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Annual Dues \$20
We're online at
islandmudlake.com



GREETINGS !

The summer of 2021 is behind us, snow and ice are beginning to show up on the lakes, loons are gone and the last of the ducks, geese, and swans are gathering! In 2021 we were able to resume our summer association activities.

THOUGHTS FROM OUR DOCK-

2021 Loon Nesting Loon nesting on our lake yielded no new loon chicks this year. The extremely hot June caused the loon parents to leave the nest occasionally and this resulted in egg failures, not only on our lakes but on several others in the area. John Mobeck from the National Loon Center indicated it was common in the area. Lets all hope the loons have better nesting success in 2022 and the return of loon chicks to our lakes.

Fire / Emergency Service Provider Changes Coming!

For some time our Fire and Emergency Services have been provided by the Aitkin Fire Department. While the Aitkin Fire Service equipment and staffing was very capable, it became painfully apparent this summer that the response time from Aitkin was far too long. To address this response time the Ross Lake Town Board has negotiated to switch our Fire and Emergency Service to the Emily Fire Department. This switch will significantly reduce the response time for fires and other emergencies. This was a concern expressed by many members at our annual meetings over the past few years. Our Association was represented at the Town Board meeting to support the switch to the Emily Fire Department. The new service contract with Emily is anticipated to take effect in January 2022 and will affect 4 sections around Island, Mud and Rogers Lakes. Once this change takes place you may want to verify with your insurance provider that our lakes are now served by Emily. Several property owners have indicated that their insurance rates may be reduced due to fire/emergency service in closer proximity to their cabins/homes.

Pontoon Trailer A special thanks to Mark Caspers for coordinating the pontoon trailer reservations! He will continue to assist in 2022, contact information is on our website.

ATV Trails Expanded. In September the new ATV trail from Emily to Blind Lake was opened (see info in this newsletter). This offers another recreational activity to our area. The "Emily-Blind Lake Connector" will expand the ability to enjoy not only ATV trails in the area but also will serve as a connection to the Northwoods Regional ATV Trail System.

Water Levels. While the summer of 2021 saw drought and fire restrictions, our lake levels maintained a reasonable level. Many lakes in the area became restricted due to low lake levels and access problems. What helped us? Well the beaver dams at the outlet retained the little flow coming into the lakes. This may change as we get more fall rain and winter snow accumulation. Next Spring may require visits with the DNR should water levels become too high due to the beaver dam at the outlet.

Mud Brook Cleanup. The low water flow through Mud Brook exposed several potential submerged and floating obstructions during the summer. In 2022 the Board will be looking into a cleanup of the brook from Island to Mud Lake. Sometime before July we will be coordinating a group of volunteers to help with some 'light-duty' cleanup. Watch for a notice in our Spring Newsletter or posted on our bulletin board. If you have not traveled the Brook, it is a beautiful place to take a canoe, kayak or small boat. Your participation will make travel between the lakes much safer.

Membership We have an all-time high membership of 91 properties! Your membership is vital and appreciated. You can renew your membership and find out lots more on our website at www.islandmudlake.com. If you or anyone you know wants our newsletter by email, just send us the email addresses and we will send a complimentary copy via email. If you are already on our newsletter email list - Thanks!

Interested in helping on a Committee

Interested in helping with an association activity? Your talents can help benefit our association and residents. We also have openings for new Board members, if interested please contact us.

We need Your Photos for our IMLPOA Calendar

The Island/Mud Lake Association is creating a 13 month calendar! It will include ALL of the important dates like hunting or fishing openers, IMLPOA meetings, and holidays so that YOU can plan your trips to the lake. But we need **YOUR** photos so that we feature them on the calendar pages.

The deets:

- We are looking for 14 photos...for 13 months and a cover page
- They should be landscapes, flora, fauna or family pets
- We would like photos highlighting all four seasons

- Photos from Island or Mud Lake or the immediate surrounding area
- High resolution images...so 300 DPI at 8.5" x 11" is best for this project
- JPG or PDF format
- Landscape alignment is better than portrait...the calendar is 11" wide

More info:

- Submit as many photos as you wish.
- Submission cut off is May 31, 2022

- Please include the photographer's name, the location and a few words about the photo...Such as: Sunrise on Mud Lake, Fawns drinking along back bay shoreline, Turtles sunning near Lookums island, fall trees along Norway Pine Place.
- Submit your photos to the IMLPOA webmaster at: imlpoawebmaster@gmail.com or: merffot@gmail.com

So get out those cameras and send us some pictures!



Get to Know a Board Member !



Hi, my name is Leo Offerman. My wife Theresa and I live year-round at our home on Mud Lake. I am an IMLPOA board member and over the years I've held various positions on the board. I am also a Ross Lake First Responder and a township board Supervisor. In 1958 my parents bought a cabin on Island Lake. I liked the area so much that I bought our own lot on Mud Lake in 1979 and started building our home in 1980. We raised our four children spending almost every weekend at our cabin all year round. We sold our home in Elk River and retired here in 2015. What I like the most about the Island Mud Lake area is that over the 63 years that I've been coming here, the Lakes have changed very little. There are newer, nicer year-round homes, but a drive around the lake today looks very much like it did 60 years ago. It's a nice and relatively quiet family cabin area with lots to do on the lake and in the woods.

Hi, my name is Pam Nordahl. I am serving my second term as a director on our association board. My husband Fred and I bought our cabin about 20 years ago. We had just blended our two families together and the cabin was a great place for our family to come together. We have so many treasured memories here. There's no place like it. We rebuilt our cabin about 6 years ago to accommodate our growing family and we are now sharing the experience with our seven grandkids. I retired from Blue Cross Blue Shield about 4 years ago after 37 years. Now I spend time helping with my husband's business and taking care of grandkids and elderly parents. It's been a great experience being a part of an association board who truly cares about our lake and community.



Our 2021 Annual Meeting / Picnic !

The Annual Meeting and Picnic Resumes! After the cancellation of our 2020 Picnic it was great to get together and share some stories, learn about the National Loon Center, and get updates on all of the Association activities. Approximately 50 members were present. Jon Mobeck from the National Loon Center in Crosslake gave an informative presentation on the progress of the Loon Center, goals to maintain the loon population in Minnesota, and the threats to our loons.

Some of the other reports and actions included:

- The Pontoon parade had 13 patriotically decorated pontoons
- Participants in the Fishing Contest included 22 adults and 18 juniors with prizes in each of several fish categories
- Distribution of 'appreciation' IMLPOA rechargeable flashlight gift to all in attendance,
- Donation of \$350 in cash and food goods to the Emily Food Shelf,
- The non-profit status of the Association and the approval of our By-Laws to reflect non-profit requirements and operation of the Association,
- During the meeting there was a question about the drones on Island Lake, here are some notes:
 - * It is legal to own and operate a drone.
 - * In general, privacy is not violated since airspace is "public"
 - * Drones are treated as aircraft and cannot be shot down by property owners.

* As a lake association we have no enforcement authority, but we encourage drone owners to be courteous and respectful.

- Three Board members were elected:
 - * Jerry Finnerty as Treasurer,
 - * Linda Berglund as Secretary,
 - * Tom Stremski as a Director

At the conclusion of the business meeting Door Prizes totaling almost \$575 were presented. This years Door Prizes were purchased by the Association and included:

\$25 Gift Certificate to Redding's
No Zipper Cooler
Folding Table
Igloo Cooler
Engle Bait Cooler
Cutter Insect Fogger
WOW Tow Tube—donated by Land O'Lakes Marine



Keeping Our Lakes Clean

Courtesy of : Linda Berglund

There are many ways that we, as individual lake home owners, can keep our lakes clean. It is our hope that our lakes stay clean for the generations to come. We enjoy our fishing, our boating and shoreline. These are some ways to keep enjoying all those things.

- If you live on a lake, stream or wetland, plant a buffer strip of native plants along the water.
- If you have a lawn, keep it small and don't use fertilizers and pesticides.
- If you have a septic system make sure it functions properly and meets current standards.
- Be courteous with your wake boats. They create very big waves that are harmful to the shoreline.
- When you buy a boat motor, choose a 4-cycle, rather than a 2-cycle engine. You will lose less gasoline into the water and cause less air pollution.
- If you fish, consider putting away your lead sinkers and jigs and switching to non-toxic tackle. Loons, trumpeter swans and some other waterfowl are susceptible to contracting lead poisoning from tackle they ingest off lake bottoms.
- Don't use the lake as a bathtub. Soaps and shampoos contain nutrients and pollutants that are harmful to the lake and organisms living in it.
- The leftover ash from burning wood is very high in phosphorus. If the fire pit is located near the lake, rain can wash the ashes into the lake. Locate the fire pit at least 50 feet away from the lake. Remove the ashes from the fire pit to prevent the nutrient loaded ashes from being blown or washed into the lake.
- Pick up pet waste in the yard or near the shore and dispose of it properly.
- Inspect your boat and trailer to avoid transporting aquatic invasive species.
- Don't burn garbage. Dispose of properly.

We can all be stewards for the greater good. Choose to do the right thing!



Forwarding Service Requested

The Emily - Blind Lake ATV Connector Trail Opens

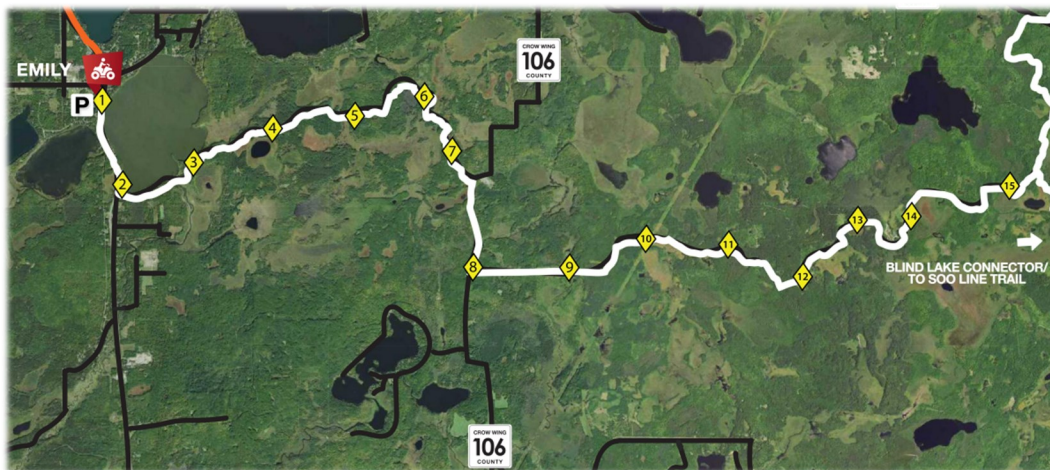
After 8 years of design, planning, land manager approval, funding, permitting and construction, the Grand Opening of the “Emily - Blind Lake ATV Trail” was held on September 15, 2021. The Trail is a 16 mile multi-use trail connecting the Emily Outing ATV trails with the Blind Lake Connector Trail and the Northwoods Regional Trail system. It took over 1500 hours of volunteer labor, active participation from nine different ATV clubs and working relationships with eight different land managers to successfully complete the trail. Funding for the trail came from a variety of resources including: the Minnesota Trail Assistance Program, the Iron Range Resources Rehabilitation Trail Grant, Yamaha Outdoor Access Initiative Grant, Polaris T.R.A.I.L. Grant, the Outing Chamber of Commerce and the OTHG ATV Club. From the City of Emily the trail winds its way around Lake Emily and then through the tall red pines of the Emily State Forest. You will cross above a wetland on a 200 foot elevated bridge, ride over 2200 feet

of wooden boardwalk, and pass through low areas and black spruce swamps. The trail is heavily wooded and winds its way through the forests of rural Crow Wing and Aitkin Counties. There is also a ‘Selfie Station’ at marker 7 to capture your ride .

You can access the trail just north of Island Lake Rd on CR 106 on the Lens Rd. and travel either east to Blind Lake or west to the City of Emily. This is a great new recreational resource for our area. You can get additional information at the following websites:

Over The Hills Gang ATV Club
www.overthehillsgang.org

Crow Wing County Trail Conditions
www.crowwing.us/318/Trail-Conditions



HOW TO CONTACT IMLPOA:

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