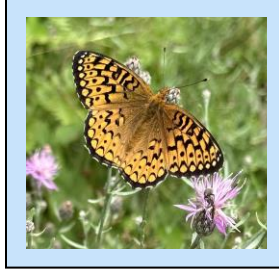


EAGLES NEST TOWNSHIP LAKES ASSOCIATION

Spring 2024 Newsletter



Photos courtesy of Ria Leonard and Eric Jokela

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- Where did Winter go? And how did it affect our bears? Our Bear Team has the answers.
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- ENCEP...What's that? How does it help us?
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- Protecting our lakes - A friendly reminder.
- SURPRISE! We're getting married...in 15 minutes!

From Your President

Tim Decker

At last year's annual picnic, a majority voted, by show of hands, to no longer print our Spring newsletter. We will now be distributing our newsletters digitally. Doing so will save our association about \$1,500 in annual printing costs. With that, we must now consider how we can best use this money. I encourage each of you to give this consideration and share your thoughts at our annual picnic on June 29th. You may also email me at timdecker54@gmail.com. One possibility is to explore how we can invest in protecting and improving our lakes. To that end, I have asked two people to speak at our annual picnic:

Jeff Forester, Executive Director of Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates



"Lake Associations are the indispensable conservation force in Minnesota that no one has ever heard of. Minnesota Lakes and Rivers is Minnesota's lake associations lake association. If we want to protect our lakes and rivers for future generations, all who care for our lakes must join together and work for their protection. Lakes cannot protect themselves." Jeff will provide a statewide snapshot of lake issues, and how those issues impact us on Eagles Nest Lakes.



Jon Utecht, AIS Program Coordinator, North St. Louis County Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD), will provide an overview of the SWCD and the critical components to preventing aquatic invasive species (AIS): 1) Watercraft inspections and decontamination; 2) Education; and 3) AIS early detection. Jon will also outline opportunities for us to get involved including Watercraft Inspectors, AIS Sentries, and Lake Stewards.

This will be a great opportunity to expand our knowledge of AIS and what we can do to protect our beautiful lakes. I hope to see you at the picnic.



An Example of a Successful Lake Steward Program

Lily Carr, Program Manager, Minnesota Lakes and Rivers

Editor's note: The Lake Steward program will be discussed at the annual picnic.

As we move through the 3rd summer of the Lake Steward program, we want to acknowledge the work that has been done and celebrate the progress that has been made. We now have a total of 23 Lake Associations that have adopted the program through MLR, with two more joining just this week.

Each Lake Steward sign awarded means one more lot that provides clean, rather than polluted, runoff into the lake, one more lot that can provide habitat for nesting loons and waterfowl, and one more member of the community who is committed to the common good.

The results of this commitment can be realized on both large and small scales; There is almost immediate benefit to a properly maintained shoreline. Many Lake Stewards notice the increased presence of wildlife on their property as soon as their native plants come in.

Rita is a Lake Steward on Clitherall Lake. She painted me a beautiful picture of her thriving yard since she restored her 250 feet of shoreline to native grasses and forbs.

Since the planting we noticed the water quality in front of our place was much clearer than in other places where people had mowed right down to the lakeshore. Wildlife such as turtles and even loons have used my shoreline. I currently have a loon nesting platform and have had success with one or two babies each year. The variety of birds increased with all the different seed heads to feast on in the fall. The monarch butterflies also love the native flowers.

On a larger scale, Lake Steward is a framework by which social change can be achieved. The program is meant to help empower individuals to take charge of their local environment in collaboration with associations and governing bodies and cultivate a passion for lakeshore preservation. A community with a shared commitment to stewardship makes for a healthier lake as well as a healthier network of neighbors. This kinship, realized in pursuit of a common goal, gives communities the capacity to take on larger projects and enact very important change.

I met a man named Tim at a lake association event in Chisago County several weeks ago. He and his family had recently moved to the area. He told us that the lake they had previously lived on looked like "pea soup" and he wanted to be somewhere where his family could safely enjoy the water. They chose to move to Chisago County because they saw that North Center and South Center lakes had both recently been removed from the impaired waters list by the MPCA. They inferred that the community of landowners on this lake had mobilized to make this happen. They wanted to live among people who prioritized lake health and were dedicated to maintaining it.

Indeed, years of planning and hard work on the part of a dedicated community of lakeshore property owners and the SWCD had led to this achievement. The capability and influence of this community of changemakers did not go unnoticed, and it created a powerful draw for others who are also invested in preservation. In this way, not only do these projects lead to more resilient and vibrant lakeshores, and provide ecological, and recreational benefits, they also inspire and motivate change from the ground up.

This is why we are Lake Stewards. We protect the lakes for the sake of our own personal enjoyment, and plants and animals today. We also protect the lakes for the sake of the future. We must use our knowledge of natural ecosystems and our capacity to learn from each other for the sake of our grandchildren. For something bigger and more important than our yards alone, yet dependent on them as well.

MN Lakes & Rivers Advocates ~ PO Box 22262 ~ St. Paul, MN 55122
www.mnlakesandrivers.org ~ 952-854-1317 ~ jeff@mnlakesandrivers.org



Where Did Winter Go?

Judy Thon

The **BEARTEAM** wants to welcome everyone back to Eagles Nest Township and hope that you enjoyed the unusual winter. The entire state of Minnesota experienced an unusually warm winter with very little snow. Many people welcomed the warmer weather with little snow but others not so much. Some winter outdoor events were cancelled due to lack of snow, not good for winter enthusiasts or tourism in northern Minnesota. In November and early December 2023 some residents were worried that without snow cover septic systems could freeze. We had great winter driving conditions but a poor winter for snowplow businesses. So, what did all this mean for our wildlife? For the deer it was a great winter compared to previous years with high snow fall amounts. Deer were able to move freely and browse for food. They did not have to spend energy trudging through 3-4 feet of snow. Other animals such as fox, mink, racoons, and rabbits also had a better winter for finding food.



So, what about black bears? How did this unusually warm and almost snow free winter affect hibernation? Many people believe that snow and cold weather are the reasons why black bears hibernate. It's a hard frost that ends the growing season and the lack of wild foods in the forest that have bears hibernating in northern Minnesota for 5-6 months. Bears adjust to the regional norms of the area. The growing season in northern Minnesota is short versus southern states where the season is longer. The Ely area is in a transition zone between the temperate forest and the boreal forest. Some common deciduous trees found in a boreal forest are white birch, balsam poplar and aspen. Some common coniferous species found in a boreal forest are black and white spruce, jack pine, balsam fir and tamaracks. If

bears in our area leave the den in the winter months, they are just wasting energy since no food is available. So, does the warmer winter change bears hibernation schedule? No, conserving energy or calories is key to a black bear during hibernation. In Minnesota, hibernation can begin in September especially with pregnant females. Dens can be under a big brush pile, a divot made by a large, uprooted tree, at the base of a large tree, or a dug den created by the bear. Warm weather during the winter months can cause some dens to flood where bears may abandon that den, move to higher ground, and continue to hibernate.

The snowfall on March 25-26, 2024, was much needed. We hope for some nice soaking rains to add some additional moisture to the budding forest floor. We want all the wildlife to be off to a good start in their quest to find wild foods. If you are interested in what wild foods black bears enjoy during the spring, summer, and fall months you can find that information on our website. We are a free resource to the community, so don't hesitate to contact us. Enjoy the summer.



Website: BEARTEAM.Info

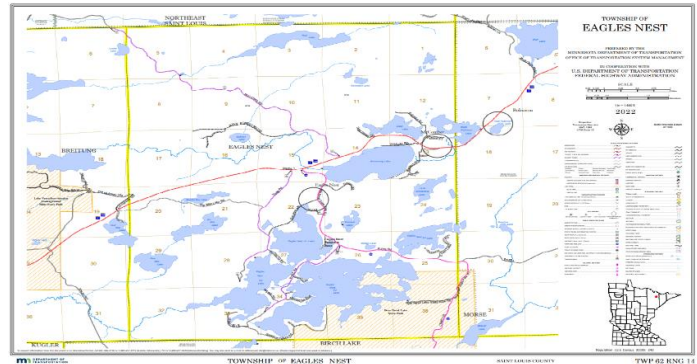
Email: Contact@BearTeam.Info

Phone: 218-341-5085

The Original Land Survey of Eagles Nest Township, 1880

Curt Carlson

In the late summer of 1880, seven men walked every foot of every section line in Township 62 north, Range 14 west Saint Louis County, Minnesota; the area that would later become named “Eagles Nest Township”. It took them 33 days from August 20th through September 22nd of that year. They hacked and slogged and mucked their way through the woods, around lakes and bogs carrying and dragging hundreds of pounds of food, camping gear, personal gear, sledgehammers, picks, axes, pry-bars, a canoe



& paddles, and their most important pieces of equipment; a Gunter's chain, transit level, and a compass. It would be incredible enough for any of us to do this for *one* township today, but George R. Stuntz and his team did it for dozens of townships in Northern Minnesota. When he surveyed Eagles Nest for the US Government Land Office (GLO), he was already 60 years old. All the section lines in a township add up to 84 miles not counting the backtracking and traipsing around wetlands and lakes. He, along with his crew, Edward Byrne & Charles Makossoo (Chainmen), Alexander McGuinness & J.B. St. John (Axmen) and Duncan McKinley (Compassman) methodically made their way through the woods while battling the landscape, weather, insects, wildlife, injury, fatigue and probably the inevitable personality differences that arose from any team charged with such a daunting task in those conditions.

They started out in the Southeast corner of the township; south of what is now the Murray Road near where the East Two River crosses, hacking and trudging eastward mile-by-mile through the woods for 6 miles to the southeastern corner near Beaver (Grassy) Lake in what is now Bear Head Lake State Park with the axe-men out front, clearing a line. Then, straight north, up the east side of the township to just west of Wolf Lake. They started again from the northwest corner near Rice Bay of Lake Vermilion, across the top towards the east again to finish by joining to the northeast corner of the township. After they'd measured and marked off the southern, eastern, and northern edges of the township, they started breaking it up into 1-mile sections moving from the east side back towards the west. At each half mile (40 chains), they'd set a 2 ½" x 3" wooden post into the 'earth'. On every section corner (80 chains) they'd set a 4" x 4" x 6' long wooden post. When they finished a section line, they'd note what they'd seen along the way: *Pine, Spruce, Black Ash, Tamarac, Birch, Cedar, Aspen, Jack Pine, "Thick Brush & Alder."* *"Surface hilly & rocky."* *"Soil third-rate."* *"Timber mainly fire-killed and down."* *"Some Tamarac and Norway Pine."*

Occasionally they'd note variations in the magnetic compass. *"Variation 2° East". "Variation 20° West". "Compass needle won't settle."* *"North end of needle points S 45° W!"* When they'd encounter a stream or river, they'd note the number of 'links' or 'chains' wide it was at that point and the distance from the section corner starting point. If they encountered a lake in their path, they'd set what's known as a 'meander post' where their line came to the lakeshore. They'd note the distance from their section corner starting point to the meander post; then, they'd walk around the lake and continue the line from the other side noting the width of the water body. If it was a swamp or mire, they'd do the same, leaving one man behind to hold a tall pole with a flag on top if the underbrush was too thick to see through, until the next meander post could be set. As lakes or swamps were encountered, the team would travel along the shore, noting the course and length of each segment of the meandering line until the next section line and meander post was encountered. The notes for these 'meanders' sometimes include comments about the shoreline and waters.

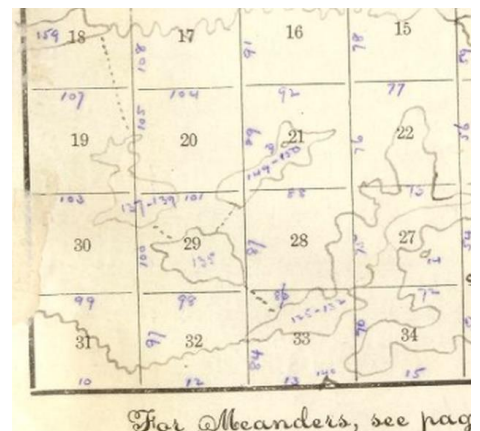
"The water of this lake is clear and deep with rocky shores and bottom. The timber on the south and east has been mostly destroyed by fire and a thick growth of under-brush and young trees have grown up." (P132 – September 17, 1880 – Eagles Nest #2)

"The canoe route from Vermilion Lake to Basswood Lake leads through this lake. The water is dark and in the western part in Sec 4 is very shallow – the soft mud and slime greatly retarding the progress of canoes. On the north side are high hills of gray rising in steep cliffs and escarpments." (P158 – Mud Lake)

For the most part, the field notes are pretty mundane. *"Enter Swamp. Leave Swamp. Enter Swamp. Leave Swamp. Set a post 5' long 2 ½ x 3 two feet in the ground for ¼ corner. White Pine 8s 50e 17 links, Spruce 7s 30w 12 links. 60 chains - 90 links: intersect lake and set a post 2 ½ x 3 x 5 feet long two feet in the ground for meander corner. White Pine 8s 40w 5 links, White Birch 6s 50e 7 links. Over Lake – 6 chains measured with micrometer and set a post 2 ½ x 3 x 5 feet long two feet in the ground for meander corner. Surface rolling. Soil Sandy. Third-rate, Timber: birch, spruce, cedar, pine, and Tamarac. Timber mostly fire-killed and down."*

At least once for each township while in camp and on a clear night, often along a township line, Stuntz would leave a note confirming measurements to celestial observations. *"By observation on the evening of August 25th, 1880. Of Eastern elongation of Polaris. My instrument gave the angle of Azimuth at 1° 58'. Latitude 47.51 at Town Corner. N.B. It is very difficult to get an observation to a minute of the elongation of Polaris in the absence of transit and cross hairs." (Page 27 – field notes.)*

Of particular note and interest are the notations related to trails, portage routes, and camps. The most prominent of these in our area was the "Birch Lake Portage Trail" which ran from the extreme eastern end of what's now called Armstrong Bay in Lake Vermilion, towards the southeast over what is now Highway 1/169, through 4-Mile and 5-Mile Lakes, over land to the south end of Eagles Nest Lake #2. Over water through Lakes #2 and #3, the trail picks up over land again from the southeastern corner of Lake #3 and heads towards the southeast again to Bear Island Lake north of what is now Babbitt. Far earlier than 1880, the indigenous peoples would portage over this trail, through the Eagles Nest Chain and over land again to Bear Island Lake and on to Birch Lake and beyond. After that, the trail was used by trappers, prospectors, and explorers. Each time it's encountered along a section line, its distance from the section corner starting point was noted. Thus, it's possible to deduce its relative position as it transits the township.



For @meanders, see pag

meander corner -
distance obtained by
micrometer rod.
18chs 20 links - Eagles Nest
Lake or Migisiwabisuanogaigon
in Chippewa language

Figure 2 Bottom of Field Notes Page 37. "Eagles Nest Lake or Migisiwabisuanogaigon in Chippewa Language"

Minnesota's original public land survey field notes were handwritten documents prepared during the first government land survey of the state by the U.S. Surveyor General's Office between 1847 and 1911. The collection of 1,417 paper volumes totals 304,370 pages and is housed at the Minnesota Historical Society (MHS). The Minnesota Geospatial Information Office (MnGeo) worked in partnership with the MHS, Office of the Secretary of State, Minnesota Department of Transportation, Minnesota Association of County Surveyors, and the U.S. Bureau of Land Management to digitize and index these exceptional documents and publish them online. The scanning and indexing parts of the project were completed for their centenary in 2011.

Current Saint Louis County Land Office Eagles Nest Township Reference

Map: <https://www.dot.state.mn.us/maps/gdma/data/maps/township/saintlouis/eagles-nest.pdf>

Scanned GLO Field Notes:

https://gloreports.blm.gov/details/fieldnote/default.aspx?dm_id=231776&s_dm_id=107533&sid=gn2who44.bgu (Index on page 4)

Original GLO township maps (compiled from field notes):

https://gloreports.blm.gov/results/default.aspx?searchCriteria=type=survey|st=MN|cty=|twp_nr=62|rng_nr=14|rng_dir=w

Original Public Land Survey Field Notes of Minnesota:

<https://www.mngeo.state.mn.us/chouse/GLO/fieldnotes/index.html>

Curt Carlson has been a professional geographer and cartographer for 35 years since 1988. He works for you at the State of Minnesota Geospatial Information Office (MnGeo). His parents bought their lake cabin on Eagles Nest Lake #2 from Bill Trygg Sr. in 1967.

Let's Get Together

Check out the new **CALENDAR tab** at the top of the redesigned Eagles Nest website: eaglesnestmn.com. Drop down and find upcoming events. At the same time check out the new **ANNOUNCEMENT tab** with event flyers.



Coffee Fellowship

Community Coffee n's 10 - 11 AM

June 1

Eric and Ria Jokela
Cliff and Anna Koski

July 6

Tony and Paula Wood
Mark and Diane McDonald

August 3

Ken and Bernice Gehrls
Lisa and John Kappenman



COMMUNITY DINNER

Community Dinners 5:30 - 7:30 PM

July 22

Ren Graham and Brian Harrington
Cindy Faye Johnson and Tom
Moore

August 12

Val Myntti and Frank Sherman
Barb Levie and Mark Kawell
Betsy Flaten



Preserving the Appeal

Rich Floyd



Over the past couple years, there has been a great deal of new home construction going on in our township. It's easy to see why. For one thing, COVID drove wider acceptance of working and living remotely, away from the congestion and commotion of populated areas. Living here more than satisfies that desire. This is a great place: It's fairly quiet. It's filled with wildlife. There's interesting flora and fauna all around. There's a lot to see and do practically every day.

Enjoyment of our surroundings changes but does not diminish at nightfall. It continues with sounds heard only in places like ours—the chirping of spring peepers that evokes a feeling of serenity; their abrupt silence that arouses curiosity; the hooting of an owl that stirs a sense of solitude; the singing of new ice forming that suggests an alien soundscape; the howling of wolves that awakens primal instincts.

Nighttime attractions are not limited to sounds alone. A harvest moon just clearing the horizon causes one to pause and gaze. The surreal look of a snow-blanketed landscape illuminated by a full moon elicits awe. And the night sky itself is spectacular. Of course, the Aurora are a standout. But sitting out on a cloudless, moonless night marveling at the Milky Way also brings a sense of wonder. Thoughts far deeper than those dealing with day-to-day living are given a chance to surface.



Many people rarely or never get the chance to experience what we do. They live in populated, well-lit areas where there is no opportunity due to dense development. Our area is getting more populated, too, and we are gradually losing a bit of its rural appeal. People can't be blamed for wanting to relocate to an area like this; it's not the exclusive privilege of those already living here. We could ask, though, that they leave some of their city practices behind, one being lighting everything up at night when not necessary. To be fair, this plea is directed to those of us who have lived here quite a while, too.

Artificial lights pose a direct threat to the ambiance I've described. Let's preserve what drew us here in the first place by keeping the outdoor lights off when not being used.

Editor's note: If you are building new or replacing existing lights, please consider lights with a hood or shroud, example pictured, to direct the light where it is needed.





Eagles Nest Fire/EMS Auxiliary

Larry McCray, President ENFEA

After making it through the lightest winter that many can remember I know we are all ready to get into summer. We (ENFEA) are at work planning the Open House for the Fire Department, working on fund raisers, social activities, and helping with the ENCEP Fire Evacuation.

I recently had a conversation with our Fire Chief. He tells me he has spent over half of the \$10,000 we donated last year. He's very excited about the difference the upgrades and in some cases replacement of equipment has made. Ted shared with me that he has approached the DNR with intent to purchase a Wildland Fire Truck. He will need about \$10,000 for the purchase and about the same amount for firefighting equipment to make it ready. So, there you have it. The ENFEA has taken on a mission. This summer we are working to raise the money for the truck and some if not all of the money needed for equipment.

Let me just take a few moments to fill you in with our plans and bring you up to speed. First, July 25th at 6:00 PM we are planning an Ice Cream Social/ Bake Sale. Yes, we need your help. We need baked goods. We need helpers. And we need donations.

Our next activity is August 10. We will be providing lunch for the First Responders and the ENCEP workers the day of the Evacuation. Our way of saying, "Thank You" for all you do.

Then a week later, we will be sponsoring the Fire Department Open House. That will be August 17th beginning at 10:00 AM. Everyone is invited. We call the event "Touch A Truck." Bring the kids. Bring your families' kids. Bring your spouse. We will have Fire Trucks, Fire people, games, activities, interesting information, and my favorite snacks.

Finally, on September 14th at 9:00 AM we will start our 911 Memorial Walk. This walk is 3k/5k along Bear Head State Park Road. Donations can be made online at our website ENFEA.ORG or by mail (our address is also online).

Just in case I didn't mention it we have a new website (ENFEA.ORG). The site has all our information, including who we are what we do and the fact that we are a 501©3 non-profit organization. Our summer schedule is there. The site contains contact information, and some pictures of past activities.

As I said in the beginning, we are ready to get started.



It's Free and Could Save Your Life

OPENING YOUR SUMMER HOME? Need a new Smoke Detector?
Please call the Eagles Nest Fire Department 218-365-4573. We have
smoke detectors that are available to Eagles Nest property owners.

So...Just What Exactly Do You Do?

Michael Ostlund, Emergency Management Director



As I draft this article, I'm watching it snow outside my window. Despite the snow and chilly morning temperatures, I must admit I'm thinking about and making plans for getting the boats out of winter storage, when we'll see Ice-out and just when can we get the dock in the water.

And, unfortunately, as I start thinking about summer, my thoughts naturally turn to wildfire. This has been an unusual winter. Since early February, we've been hearing that this could be a particularly bad fire season - simply because we didn't get the snowfall like we had last year. As a result, we're faced with the real possibility of a bad fire season.

And that brings me to the question people have asked "...what is Emergency Management, what is ENCEP and how do they relate to wildfire?" Allow me to explain exactly what Emergency Management is and why it's so important to you and Eagles Nest Township.

Emergency management - despite its name, does not actually manage emergencies, which can be minor events with limited impacts, or they can be life-changing events that affect an entire community.

Like the 'Preparedness' cycle above, Emergency Management works to analyze the **RISKS** that could befall our community – work with our community to **MITIGATE (or lessen the impact of)** those risks, **RESPOND** to emergencies or disasters, and then help the community **RECOVER** from the disaster. Many times, the Recovery phase takes the longest amount of time to complete.

In Eagles Nest Township, Emergency Management is part of the Eagles Nest Fire Department (ENFD) and is also known as "**ENCEP**" – the "Eagles Nest Committee for Emergency Preparedness."

Started in 2017, ENCEP is a cadre of volunteer Road Ambassadors that work with the neighbors on 'their' roads to keep our residents informed and prepared. Originally based on the old 'game of telephone,' the plan was that in the event of an emergency, the Fire Chief would call the Road Ambassadors and the Road Ambassadors would call their neighbors. Since the original plan was developed, we've expanded our horizons.

Today, ENCEP has 25 volunteer road ambassadors and our own two-way radio system. And with Eagles Nest Township having 23 dead-end roads, **Wildfire** is our biggest risk. It's the reason we put so much time and effort into fire prevention. That means that we continually ask our residents to clear out dead and dying trees on your property – keep that 30' defensible space around your home or cabin clear of pine needles and brush.

Wildfire is also the reason we host numerous opportunities to dispose of brush by either providing community dumpsters or road-side chipping/haul-away events. Gloria Erickson provides some excellent Firewise Tips, in her article on page 11 of this newsletter. Additionally, watch for dates that we'll have events you can use to make your home **WILDFIRE RESILIENT**.



And we have three dates coming up for you to learn more about the work we're doing. Please mark these dates on your calendar:

- **May 21, 2024, 5:30 -7:30 PM** - ENCEP is hosting an outdoor training on how to do an evaluation of a property regarding its risk level of surviving a wildfire. In addition, you will learn how to use the Survey 123 app to record the evaluation data.

Training will be done by the MN DNR Regional Firewise Specialist and St. Louis County Firewise Coordinator. Location: John Kappenman - 1150 Jesse Blvd. Eagle's Nest Township. Please RSVP to Mike Ostlund at mjostlund@msn.com or call 612.839.6501.

- **June 2, 2024, 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM** - ENCEP will be hosting a Firewise Best Practices outdoor event. This is a chance for you to see what you can do to help your property be more wildfire resilient. Location Host: Ellie Fuller at 3938 Cedar - Eagle's Nest Township. All are welcome!
- **June 15, 2024, 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM SAVE THE DATE!** An ALL day "Living with Fire" event in Ely at Minnesota North College Vermilion Campus. This workshop is geared for woodland landowners demonstrating ways to take care of their land, especially how to be more wildfire resilient. Experts on Fire History, Fire Phenology, planting for climate adaptation, evacuation planning, safe hazardous woody debris pile burning, developing a fuels reduction co-op, fuels reduction contractors & methods and cost/share funding opportunities. Future details of the event will be available soon.

Contact Mike with any questions about these events. They are put on for your benefit!

Wildfire is also the biggest reason we practice evacuation. No one wants to leave their home during a disaster, but we live in the woods and houses can be rebuilt, lives cannot. When we practice an evacuation on your road, please take part – that practice could save your life. Our next Evacuation Exercise is planned for Saturday August 10th. Again, watch for details.

And there is now a new website from St. Louis County. The site stlouiscountymn.gov/wildfire, is now live and will be used when needed to get information to 1,600 specific areas of the county in harm's way of a wildfire or other dangerous event. The new online mapping tool allows residents to monitor, by community and even by neighborhood, their risk level and how to prepare if evacuation is needed. Please 'bookmark' this website as it could be very important to you!

Now, here comes the really important part; We can't do any of this work without you! If you would like to participate with ENCEP, want more information about serving as a Road Ambassador, Reserve Road Ambassador, or want more information on ENCEP and the Emergency Management Operations of Eagles Nest, please contact:

Michael Ostlund, CEM
Emergency Management Director
612.839.6501
MJOstlund@msn.com

Keely Drange
Deputy Emergency Management Director
218.365.4573

Warm Weather Means More People, More Activity Please Go Slow and Be Careful



With the return of warm weather and our "snowbirds" from the south, we will see an increase in activity on our roads. Please be careful and slow down for our pedestrians, dog walkers, children, and bike riders. Remember, the posted speed limit is not always the safest. **Let's make it a safe summer.**





FIREWISE USA™
Residents reducing wildfire risks

2024 Spring Firewise Tips

Gloria Erickson, Contracted St. Louis County Firewise Coordinator

A non-winter and a very dry start to spring. The wildfire risk is high until we get some rain or things start to green up. Don't panic. Welcome spring, the lakes will be open soon. It's a good time to get out there and do some spring clean-up and reduce your wildfire risk.

Be ready for emergency personnel if the need arises:

- Check and clear around address and street sign and ensure the sign is perpendicular to the road and reflective on both sides.
- Clear your driveway of overhanging trees and branches at a minimum of 14 feet wide and 14 feet high for easier access for emergency vehicles.

Make your home more wildfire resilient:

- Screen areas below decks and porches with 1/8" wire mesh to help prevent material from accumulating underneath.
- Cover exterior attic and soffit vents with 1/8" metal wire mesh to help stop sparks from entering your home.
- Sweep pine needles/leaves from porches and rake from under decks, porches, play structures, etc.
- Clear any needles and leaves out of gutters and off roofs.
- Inspect and replace shingles or roof tiles as needed. Cover ends of tiles and metal roofs with fire resistant stops to help prevent embers being sucked in during a wildfire.
- Make sure chimneys have spark arrestors.

Make your property more wildfire resilient:

- Remove lower limbs of trees up to 6-10 feet off the ground within 30 feet of all structures to lower the risk of the "ladder" fuel from the forest floor igniting the tree crowns.
- Rake and remove pine needles and leaves and maintain trees, brush, and grass within 30' around your structures and propane tanks. And remember, a full tank is a safer tank in the event of a fire.
- Properly dispose of branches, weeds, leaves, and pine needles at designated hazardous woody debris drop off sites.
- Remove debris from around your home and under decks and porches, including wood piles, construction materials, gas or propane tanks and trash.
- All wood piles should be 30' away from all structures.

Mark your calendars for a Firewise Best Practices Community Demonstration event on June 2, 2024, at 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM Location: 3938 Cedar Street Eagle's Nest township

For more information visit the Minnesota Arrowhead Fire Adapted Communities website: <https://minnesotafac.org>. Content provided by Gloria Erickson, Contracted St. Louis County Firewise Coordinator. You can contact Gloria at: gloria@dovetailinc.org or 218-365-0878.



Please Help Protect Our Lakes

Tim Decker

It is critical that we, friends, family, and renters coming to visit, continue to protect our lakes from the introduction and spread of additional aquatic invasive species. Please remember the following state aquatic invasive species laws and recommendations from the North St. Louis Soil and Water Conservation District.

How can you help stop aquatic hitchhikers?

By following simple procedures each time you leave the water, you can stop aquatic hitchhikers.

- **CLEAN** watercraft, trailer, motor, and water-related equipment. REMOVE visible aquatic plants, mussels, other animals, and mud before leaving any water access.
- **DRAIN** water-related equipment (boat, ballast tanks, portable bait containers, motor) and drain bilge, livewell and baitwell by removing drain plugs before leaving a water access or shoreline property. Keep drain plugs out and water-draining devices open while transporting watercraft. It's the law!
- **DRY** watercraft for 5 days and boat lifts/docks for 21 days minimum before introduction into a new body of water. Micro plant particles, zebra mussel veligers, and other AIS can survive in small amounts of water and can be transported to new water bodies if not given the proper drying time.
- **DISPOSE** of unwanted bait, including minnows, leeches, and worms, in the trash. It is illegal to release bait into a waterbody or release aquatic animals from one waterbody to another. If you want to keep your bait, you must refill the bait container with bottled or tap water. NOTE: THERE MAY BE A BAIT DISPOSAL STATION LOCATED AT THE ACCESS POINT.
- **Habitattitude** – Adopt a conservation mentality. Protect our environment by not releasing unwanted fish and aquatic plants from your aquarium, backyard pond or water garden. If you have an undesirable aquatic plant or fish species in your aquarium or water garden, it is important not to release these plants or animals into the environment. They have the potential to create negative impacts on our natural environment.

Additional Recommendations:

Spray, rinse, dry - Some invasive species are small and difficult to see at the access point. To remove or kill them, take one or more of the following precautions before moving to another waterbody, especially after leaving zebra mussel and spiny water flea infested waters:

- Spray with high-pressure water.
- Rinse with very hot water: 120°F for at least 2 minutes; or 140°F for at least 10 seconds. This will kill zebra mussels and some other AIS.
- Run motor and personal watercraft for a few seconds to discharge water before leaving a water access.
- Transport fish on ice - be prepared, bring a cooler.

Cleaning stations are located at numerous public landings on area lakes. An attendant will spray your boat and trailer with high-pressure hot water free of charge. **Station locations and availability throughout the summer can be found at this web address:** www.mndnr.gov/decon. This site is usually updated weekly. Viewing the "View Courtesy Decontamination Map" icon will bring you to an interactive map of MN. Selecting a date will help narrow down stations available on the date a person would like a decontamination.

Surprise! We're Getting Married...in 15 minutes!

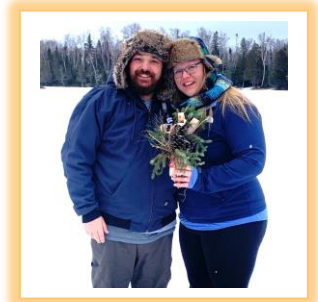
Diane & Mark MacDonald

My husband Mark and I were pleasantly surprised when our daughter Dani announced, "There will be a ceremony on the lake in 15 minutes" WAIT WHAT did you just say?? As the Mother of the bride jokingly I couldn't help but say "O dear which snow pants do I wear!!"

Our youngest daughter Jamie Weckop was ordained to perform this special ceremony for her sister Dani Weckop & fiancé Justin Mitchell on 12/31/23.

The vows were exchanged on the frozen lake of Eagles Nest Lake #2 next to our dock. The sun was shining with a balmy 18 degrees. The bridal bouquet was made the day before with our native white pine, balsam fir, pinecones, and birch bark. We'll definitely cherish this memory!

Congratulations Dani & Justin



The Seasons of Life

There was a man who had four sons. He wanted his sons to learn to not judge things too quickly. So he sent them each on a quest, in turn, to go and look at a pear tree that was a great distance away.

The first son went in the winter, the second in the spring, the third in summer, and the youngest son in the fall.

When they had all gone and come back, he called them together to describe what they had seen.

The first son said that the tree was ugly, bent, and twisted.

The second son said no – it was covered with green buds and full of promise.

The third son disagreed, he said it was laden with blossoms that smelled so sweet and looked so beautiful, it was the most graceful thing he had ever seen.

The last son disagreed with all of them; he said it was ripe and drooping with fruit, full of life and fulfillment.

The man then explained to his sons that they were all right, because they had each seen but one season in the tree's life.

He told them that you cannot judge a tree, or a person, by only one season, and that the essence of who they are – and the pleasure, joy, and love that come from that life – can only be measured at the end, when all the seasons are up.

If you give up when it's winter, you will miss the promise of your spring, the beauty of your summer, fulfillment of your fall.

Don't judge a life by one difficult season. Don't let the pain of one season destroy the joy of all the rest.

Source: livelifehappy.com

Save the Dates

Road Cleanup

Calling all able-bodied people who like to see Eagles Nest roads clean.

May 25th, 10 A.M. and August 31st, 10 A.M.

Township Hall parking lot.

Firewise Best Practices Demonstration

Sunday, June 2, 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

3938 Cedar Street Eagle's Nest township.

49th Annual Board Meeting and Picnic

Saturday, June 29th, Noon, Township Hall

A time to reconnect, meet new members, share a meal, and have fun. Please bring your own table settings for each person in your group. ENTLA will provide all food, lemonade, and water. WE ARE IN NEED OF VOLUNTEERS SATURDAY MORNING TO HELP SET UP AND AFTER THE PICNIC TO CLEAN UP.

Romeos

(Retired Old Men Eating Out)

Romeos has disbanded as no one has volunteered to schedule lunches. Should we start up again, we would meet at various restaurants in Ely and Tower from May through October (schedule to be determined) to socialize and share stories over lunch. You need not be retired or old to be a ROMEO "member." If you would like to volunteer to coordinate these lunches, please contact Tim Decker at 612-875-5855.

Juliets

(Just Us Ladies Interested in Eating Out Sometimes)

Juliets is a group of Eagles Nest Ladies who meet for lunch on the second Thursday of each month, June through September. We meet at the at 11:30 a.m. at the Grand Ely Lodge (GEL). Please consider joining us for lunch and good conversation. If you are interested in attending, please call Sue Flesvig at 218-365-2253 and she will put you on our email list.

Ice Cream Social and Bake Sale

Thursday, July 25, 2024, 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm, Township Hall

Eagles Nest Fire Dept. Open House "Touch-A-Truck"

Saturday, August 17, 2024, 10:00 am – 1:00 pm, Township Hall

9-11 Memorial Walk/Run/Bike

Saturday, September 14, 2024, 9:00 am, Township Hall

News About Dues

ENTLA annual dues are \$25.00. To pay due you may send a check made out to ENTLA to this address:

ENTLA
1552 Bear Head State Park Rd.
Ely, MN 55731

You may also pay dues at our annual picnic and meeting planned for June 29th.



We have board members that will be completing their terms and “retiring” from the board. Some have already completed their term but have agreed to stay on an additional year to maintain the minimum of seven members required. Without seven, the board would disband.

We now need your help and ask that you please consider joining our board. As a board member, you will be part of a team that serves as advocates for our community, and acts as a liaison facilitating communication with the township and any groups having matters that affect our township. We are looking for volunteers to share their insight and guidance and help make a difference in our community.

The purpose of our board, as stated in our By-Laws, is “to generally engage in the promotion, protection, and conservation of the lakes in Eagles Nest Township and surrounding areas and countryside and to participate actively in the encouragement of good conservation practices, the protection of property, and all matters of common concern.” The board meets the third Thursday of each month, May through September, for approximately one hour.

If you would like to know more, please contact Tim Decker at timdecker54@gmail.com or 612-875-5855.

ENTLA Board Members 2023- 2024

Ryan Bajan, 2026
Bev Decker, 2024
Tim Decker, 2025
Dennis Kaetterhenry, 2025
Mark Kawell, 2025
Cliff Koski, 2025
Scott Linde, 2025
Joanne Schwartz, 2024
Tony Wood, 2025

Officers

President: Tim Decker
Vice President: Open
Treasurer: Dennis Kaetterhenry
Secretary: Bev Decker
Water Clarity: Tim Decker
Water Quality: Joanne Schwartz
Welcome: Bev Decker
Membership: Dennis Kaetterhenry
Adopt a Highway: Open

Board members may be contacted at: entlakesassn@gmail.com

Have an article, picture, suggestions for the newsletter? Contact Tim Decker at timdecker54@gmail.com or 612-875-5855. We need articles and pictures for the Fall newsletter.

Membership Form and Directory Information Eagles Nest Township Lakes Association

**It is necessary to complete this form ONLY IF you are a
new member or there are changes from 2023-2024.**

Only your name, township address and lake/cell phone number will be listed in the biennial directory

Name: _____

Alternate/Additional Name: _____

Circle One: Armstrong Camp Clear EN Lake 1 EN Lake 2 EN Lake 3

EN Lake 4 Pickerel Robinson Five Mile Six Mile Back-lot

Lake/Township Address: _____

Lake Contact Phone Number: _____

Home Address: (To receive newsletters by mail when you are not at the lake.)

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Alternate Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Additional Email Address: _____

Annual Dues: \$25.00 per household, July 1st – June 30th

Make checks payable to "ENTLA" or Eagles Nest Township Lakes Association

Mail to: ENTLA
1552 Bear Head State Park Rd.
Ely, MN 55731

ENTLA e-mail: entlakesassn@gmail.com

Please circle those functions for which you would be willing to volunteer:

Board Member Roadside Cleanup Water Clarity Reader Water Samplers AIS Sentry
Lake Steward Zebra samplers Boat Launch Ambassadors Picnic Preparation
Miscellaneous – one-time help.

To volunteer as a Firefighter or First Responder contact our Chief at firechief@eaglesnestmn.com.