

The Dock Post



*Our goal is to preserve and protect
our lake for generations to come.*

Volume 41 Number 1

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Association Calendar

May 18 - Board Meeting
8:30 am
Ponto Town Hall & Virtual

**June 15 - Annual
Member Meeting**
9:30 am
Ponto Town Hall & Virtual

July 13 - Board Meeting
8:30 am
Ponto Town Hall & Virtual

Aug 10 - Annual Picnic

Sept 14 - Board Meeting
8:30 am
Ponto Town Hall & Virtual

Ada Lake-friendly Shoreline Program – Free Site Visits!



Explore how to make your own shoreline more durable, beautiful and natural through our Ada Lake-friendly Shoreline Program. Learning more is free - the lake association will cover the cost of a property assessment by one of our local Soil and Water Conservation Districts, which have matching funds available for your shoreline restoration project.

The deep root systems of native trees, flowers and grasses act as a sponge, soaking up and filtering stormwater runoff. Strategically placed rain gardens and shoreline buffers are helpful for soaking up excess stormwater runoff which carries harmful levels of sediment and phosphorus into the lake or river. Natural shoreline buffers can be as simple as leaving a section of no-mow grasses or planting native flowers along the lakeshore. In cases where shoreline damage has already occurred, newer practices like the addition of willow waddle or coir logs can restore the stability of a shoreline. These buffers not only protect your property from erosion and wave action, but also provide a safe habitat for fish, birds, and animals. Native shorelines are essential to support clean waters and our legendary Minnesota fisheries.

Since the inception of the Ada Lake-friendly Shoreline Program in fall 2022, 12 property owners have had site visits, and several have implemented projects to enhance their shoreline, which range from installing willow wattle and native flowering plants to replacing turf grass with hardier native sedge.

To learn more and get started scheduling a site visit, email sarah.vanbeck@gmail.com.

Loon Conservation Program

To protect and increase the loon population on Lake Ada, Ron Kitzman has been working with Minnesota DNR to enroll Lake Ada in the Loon Friendly Lake Registry program and build our loon management plan. **Loons are a valuable indicator of a healthy lake** since they thrive in clear lakes with robust fish populations.

Our **fish population is classified as outstanding**, so avoiding boat disturbance and protecting natural shorelines are the most important things we can work on. To protect and increase loons on Lake Ada, we'll train volunteers to assist with loon monitoring, take steps to monitor water clarity and quality, provide information on **how to protect loons** through our newsletter, website and meetings, and promote the "Get the Lead Out" program to reduce the risks of toxic lead-based fishing tackle.



Lake Ada has been part of the DNR Loon Watcher Survey since 1999. Our loon population is typically around 14, but has ranged from 2 to 22, with 1 to 5 nesting pairs and 4 chicks per year on average, of which 70% typically survive. The loons have consistently used all 3 of the artificial nesting platforms, although there were 4 years when no chicks at all were hatched. This year, Stan and Shirley Bormann report seeing a loon chick on May 26, **the earliest in recent memory**.

Thanks to Ron for his work and everyone for your part to make our Loon Friendly Program a success and ensure that we keep Lake Ada a wonderful and healthy place for future generations of loons and people.



Why Did the Loon Cross the Road?

In 2023, a late hatching loon family who had nested on a pond behind Smith Drive made a dramatic journey, walking over a quarter mile to reach the lake and access sufficient food for the two chicks who couldn't yet fly.

Loons' legs make them very strong swimmers, but unable to walk on land, so one loon parent inched and lurched slowly across the road and several properties to get the chicks to the lake, stopping frequently to rest, while the other parent flew overhead to guide them.

Neighbors alerted each other to keep dogs inside and stopped traffic on the road to ensure their safe passage. It was so nice to see the family reunited as the loon chicks slipped into the lake.

What you can do to increase Lake Ada's loon population:

- Keep your boat well away (at least 500 feet) from any loons, especially from loon nests and our 3 artificial nesting platforms on Little Ada, South Bay, and Middleton area. **Boat traffic can cause loons to lay fewer eggs, leave the eggs unprotected, or abandon the nest completely.** It's tempting to go closer to see the little loons, but think how you'd feel if strangers came in your yard to look at your kids – eventually you'd want to move, too.
- **Avoid motoring close to natural shoreline** or use no-wake speed in those areas. Lake Ada has multiple shoreline areas totaling almost 500 acres that represent unique or critical habitat that can support natural loon nests. Ideally, you should cut the motor and row if entering Little Ada.
- Choose **lead-free fishing tackle** and dispose of existing lead tackle through an exchange program or at the Pine River Transfer Station hazardous waste collection site. Less lead leaching into the lakewater is good for your kids and dogs as well.
- Explore how to make your own shoreline more durable, beautiful and natural through our Ada Lake-friendly Shoreline Program. The lake association will cover the cost of a property assessment by the Crow Wing Soil and Water Conservation District, which has **matching funds available to pay for your shoreline restoration project.**
- **Avoid the use of synthetic fertilizers, weed killers and pesticides**, which reduce water quality and harm the population of insects and amphibians that fish depend on for food. Replacing turf grass with native flowering plants and sedges, particularly in a shoreline buffer, will require less maintenance and watering, hold the shoreline, and provide colorful flowers all season long (the Lake-Friendly Shoreline Program can help).



Spring Walleye Stocking – Let’s Make Lake Ada a Great Home for Fish

Lake association board member JD Burns coordinated this year’s walleye stocking effort, which was funded by the lake association. In April, **212 pounds of 6-8 inch walleyes** (approximately 650 fish) were placed in Lake Ada at the launch point in the North Bay. Ideally, walleyes this size should grow to around 14 inches within three years.

To help protect our fish population, here are a few things you can do:

Observe Minnesota regulations on limits (north central zone at <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/fishing/regs.html?topic=inland>)

Get the Lead Out! Switch to lead-free tackle, and dispose of your old lead tackle at the Cass County hazardous waste , to **protect loons and your kids!** Lead is toxic to all but especially to loons.

Read more at <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/air-water-land-climate/getting-lead-out-of-fishing-tackle>

Prevent zebra mussels and other invasives from entering our lake.

Whether or not a lake is listed as infested, Minnesota law requires water recreationists to:

- 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.

Dispose of all household hazardous waste at the Pine River Transfer Station, 2 miles north of Pine River on Hwy 371 (phone: 218-587-3500) or at a Mobile Hazardous Waste Collection held in various locations in the summer.

Hazardous products often have signal words on the labels such as Caution, Warning, Danger, Poison, Flammable, Combustible, and Corrosive; these include automotive, lawn and garden, home improvement and household cleaners, paint products, pesticides, stains, varnish, tar, oven cleaners, aerosol products, mothballs, glues, and drain cleaners. Cass County also has motor oil collection at the same site.

Avoid entering Little Ada to fish or motor in spring and early summer months – this will **protect essential spawning areas** and make the loon platform there a safe place for loons to hatch. Too much boat traffic and human activity causes loons to abandon their nests. Stay at least 200 feet away from any loons.

Protect the lake from run off of soil, sediment, and lawn products – see the Ada Lake Friendly Shoreline Program article in this issue (pg 1).

Passing of Lake Friends

Naree Weaver

September 5, 1938 – January 9, 2023

Naree Priscilla (Farber) Weaver was born September 5, 1938 in Minneapolis, Minnesota to Winfred and Alpha (Lyon) Farber. Naree was a lifelong learner and a proud graduate of South High School (Minneapolis) in 1956. Naree married Merle Weaver on July 12, 1958 at Holy Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Minneapolis. Naree continued her education at St. Cloud State University where she earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in 1960. After graduation, Naree taught two years in Circle Pines and ten years in the Anoka Hennepin District, where she made life-long friends. They moved north in 1971 to purchase Old Point Comfort resort on Lake Ada. They ran the resort until it was re-formed into a homeowners association. Naree lived in her house on Lake Ada for over 50 years. She especially loved the porch Merle built for her in 2004.

Naree taught for the Backus Public School until her retirement in 2000 and continued to be a substitute teacher until 2015. Even during retirement, she could be found volunteering in her grandchildren's and great-grandchildren's classrooms. She was a proud lifetime member of the National Education Association and Education Minnesota, and she believed in her union. Naree was a member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, the Lake Ada Association, The Old Point Comfort Homeowners Association, The Lakers Car Club, the Friends of the Library, and an election judge for Ponto Township.

Naree is survived by her children, Michelle Holden (Terry), Michael Weaver (Amy), and Mark Weaver, five grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, two nephews and many, many, former students. Naree was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Merle; brother, Darrel Farber; nephew Darrel (Chip) Spieser, and grandson, Jason Holden.

Paul Bork

1935 – 2024

Paul Bork of New Hope, MN passed away February 24, 2024, surrounded by family. Survived by his wife of 68 years Yvonne, daughter Elizabeth Hoover (Peter), four grandchildren, four great grandchildren and sister Carol Ann Sarnstrom. He was preceded in death by his parents Paul and Elsie Bork, son Paul Bork II, and sister Arlene Green.

Born and raised in Ellsworth, WI in 1935, Paul was a three-sport athlete, prom king, and the best-looking guy around. He served in the US Army and in the security agency battalion in Germany. Paul graduated from the University of Minnesota Twin-Cities in 1961 and worked 36 years for IDS/Ameriprise as a computer programmer and software buyer.

Paul and Yvonne enjoyed traveling together and building their dream cabin on Lake Ada, where Paul served on the Lake Association Board. Paul's happy place was on the lake, and he relished his annual hunting and fishing trips with his buddies for many years. Tomtebo, Paul and Yvonne's cabin, became the destination for many social gatherings, vacations, and holidays, where all were welcomed and Paul could usually be found enjoying either a cold beer or a hot coffee. Paul's family cited his 68 years of blissful marriage to Yvonne as an enduring model for how to care, create space, and grow old together with one's partner.

Gary Graupman

October 9, 1947 – January 23, 2024

Gary was born on October 4, 1947, to Orville & Harriet (Schwecke) Graupman. He was baptized and confirmed into the Christian faith at Immanuel Lutheran in Gibbon, MN. He grew up in Gibbon and graduated from Gibbon High School in 1965 and the University of Minnesota in 1969. He was united in marriage to Melba Lillian Flygare in 1967. They were blessed with 5 children, 16 grandchildren, and one great-grandchild on the way.

Gary was a civil engineer for the City of Mankato for 35 years and greatly enjoyed another 7 years working for Holtmeier Construction. In addition to engineering, his passion was farming with his in-laws Ronald and Lillian Flygare and his brothers-in-law Marc and Duane Flygare. He was an active member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Nicollet and served on many boards there. He was also a Nicollet Lions Club member. He loved the outdoors, especially hunting and fishing. Gary and Melba had a place at Lake Ada on Smith Drive (north shore) for many years. Lake Ada was one of Gary's favorite places on earth and he passed that love on to his kids and grandkids; three of his kids also have cabins on Lake Ada. His family was his greatest blessing in life, and he said his grandchildren were the frosting.

Gary is survived by his beloved wife Melba, with whom he shared 56 wonderful years of life, his children Julie (Scott) Trebelhorn, John (Gail), Karen (Bob) Wottreng, and Kathy (Matt) Horak, 16 grandchildren, brother Richard, and brothers-in-law Lynn, Marc (Kris), and Duane (Carol) Flygare. He was preceded in death by their infant daughter, Rebecca; and sisters-in-law, Pauline Flygare and Janet Graupman.



Karen Ostroot Cater

March 2, 1934 – April 4, 2024

On March 2nd, 1934, Karen Elizabeth was born in Granite Falls, Minnesota to Martha and Oscar Anderson. Karen died at home in Kasson, Minnesota, surrounded by family on April 4, 2024, and will be remembered for her sharp mind, sense of humor, and love of beauty.

After completion of her education at Granite Falls High School and the University of Minnesota, Karen worked as a dental hygienist for 4 years. Karen married her high school sweetheart, Roger Ostroot, and they enjoyed over 50 years of marriage. Roger worked as a dentist, and they worked together for the first years of their marriage. Karen and Roger had 3 children, Kristin (Herbert Bolte) of Wunnenburg, Germany, Eric (Patty) of Kasson, and Solveig (deceased). Karen stayed home to take care of her children until they were of school age and then spent 20 years teaching dental assisting at Canby Area Vocational Technical Institute in Canby, MN.

Karen and Roger acquired the octagonal cabin on the north shore of Lake Ada on Smith Drive in 1993. After she retired, Karen enjoyed many hobbies including travel. She traveled extensively and even managed to visit all seven continents. Karen was active in her Church, including choir, bell choir, and volunteering at a preschool program at St. John's Church in Kasson, MN. At the age of 80, Karen married the second love of her life, David Cater (also 80 with a cabin on Smith Drive) and they spent 10 lovely summers together at Lake Ada. Winters were spent in Texas visiting relatives or in their townhome in Kasson welcoming family and friends.

Karen was preceded in death by her first husband Roger, her parents, sister Dorothy Seipp, and daughter Solveig. She will be greatly missed by her husband David, 2 children, 8 grandchildren, 11 great grandchildren, niece (Barbi Seibert, who sadly passed away less than a month later on April 29, 2024), and her many friends.



Jon Hansen

&

Marilyn Hansen

December 7, 1937 - September 21, 2023

December 10, 1940 - February 5, 2024

Jon Edward Hansen was born to (Thomas) Merlin and Susan (Pace) Hansen in Waterloo, Iowa. In high school, Jon made his love of music come alive. He was a dedicated musician and also a dedicated biker. He would fasten his trombone to the back of his Triumph and head to West. He graduated from Waterloo West High School and went on to attend Iowa State Teachers College, now the University of Northern Iowa (UNI), where he majored in teaching with an emphasis in music education.

Marilyn Lee Fremont Hansen was born to Everett Thomas and Martha (Westring) Fremont in Waterloo, Iowa. She graduated from Waterloo East High School and went on to attend Iowa State Teachers College (now UNI), where she loved studying English Literature.

Rumor has it they met when Marilyn was a dancer in a production of “Kiss Me Kate” and Jon was in the orchestra pit. They were married on February 4, 1960. After college, Jon taught at a number of high schools, including his alma mater, where he taught all of the instruments and was instructor of the West High Wahawks Marching Band. During this time, he completed his master's degree at Northwestern University in Chicago and was fortunate enough to study under Frank Crisafulli, principal trombonist with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. Eventually, he was hired by Dickenson State College for his first job as a music professor. After graduating from college, Marilyn worked as a high school educator, particularly in the subject she loved. Jon was set to start a doctorate program at the University of Indiana, but before they could move, he was offered a job as an associate professor of music at UNI. Jon and Marilyn moved back to the Cedar Valley and adopted their daughter, Inger Christine Hansen (now Elliott). From then on, Marilyn was a homemaker, with occasional jobs that piqued her interests; a favorite was at Maggie's Youth Shop in downtown Cedar Falls. She loved to play tennis and bridge and was an active member in AAUW and TTT Society-Camping for Girls.

In the early 1980s, Jon also became a private pilot. He acquired a Piper Archer II and loved to fly. He retired from UNI in the mid-1990s and was inducted into the UNI Music Hall of Fame. Jon loved his job, his students, his involvement in the symphony and brass quintet. He could not speak more highly of his students. They are an impressive group: professors, Julliard, Los Angeles Philharmonic, and San Francisco Symphony, to name a few.

In retirement, Jon and Marilyn spent most of their time at Lake Ada. He founded the Ada Lake Association and served as president and on the board of directors for numerous years. Care of the environment was his highest priority. He spearheaded the successful effort to get all property owners to become septic compliant. Jon was also passionate about protecting loons on Lake Ada, and our loon management program is dedicated to his memory.

Jon and Marilyn are survived by their daughter, Inger Hansen Elliott (Jason) of Eagan, Minnesota; two grandchildren, and brother and sister-in-law, Darrell and Ann Fremont of Des Moines, Iowa. Preceded in death by their parents and a brother, Gary Fremont.



Albert R. Anderson, Jr.

December 13, 1932 – June 21, 2023

Al was born December 13, 1932 to Albert R. Sr. and Helen (Churchward) Anderson. Al was born and raised in St. Paul. He graduated from Murray High school in 1950 and from Hamline University in 1954. He served in the U.S. Army from 1954-56. Joyce and Al were married in 1966. Following the military, he worked at 3M and then joined the Municipal Bond firm of Juran and Moody, Inc., in St. Paul, where he worked for over 40 years. He was a longtime member at Incarnation Lutheran Church and a member of St. Paul's Norske Torske Klubben. Al enjoyed traveling and skiing (water and snow), especially mountain skiing in the western US, where he made his last run on his 88th birthday. Al will be remembered as a gentleman; kind and caring and a friend to all.

Al's parents bought a lot on Lake Ada for \$130 in 1935, and in 1938 his dad began building the family cabin with his own hands. Al enjoyed the lake with family and friends for 85 years. In the Summer 2021 Dockpost, Al shared memories of those early days at Lake Ada, when their cabin had an outhouse, icebox and kerosene stove. After his dad's retirement, Al and his brother and sister shared ownership and made improvements to the cabin, and it was a busy place with three families. In 1992, Al and Joyce purchased his siblings' interests, and eventually built a new lake home on the site in 2012. Al served on the Lake Association Board for many years until 2018, and cared deeply about supporting healthy fisheries, water quality and wildlife for future generations to enjoy and carry on wonderful family traditions.

He is survived by his wife Joyce, daughters Jill Beck and Diane (Craig) Anderson, four grandchildren, brother Jerry (Judy) Anderson, and many nieces and nephews and their families. He was preceded in death by his parents, sister Joanne Renstrom, and brother-in-law Robert Renstrom.

