

June 2023

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THE Aerie

A NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS OF THE BIG MANTRAP LAKE ASSOCIATION

**BMLA meeting
Sat., June 10, 9:30 am
Mantrap Valley
Conservation Club**

2023 Membership dues are due now

Fill out and mail the registration form on page 4 of this Aerie or use PayPal. If you use PayPal, please complete the form so we can apply your donation as you direct.

Please make checks payable to **Big Mantrap Lake Association**. Send to: **Linda Zawacki, 5104 Sundial Lane, Woodbury, MN 55129**

The Future of Wonewok

RICH HALVORSEN, PRESIDENT

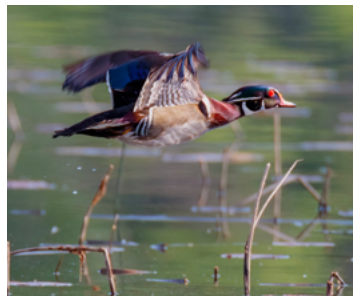
By now the word has reached most that 3M announced at the end of April that it is closing and selling its private resort, also known as Wonewok. The most conclusive article about the initial announcement remains the Park Rapids Enterprise story (<https://rb.gy/daiu8>).

Since then there have been many, many conversations wondering what can be done to try and preserve the pristine nature of the site. There have also been rumors the destiny is preordained, that it has been sold, or that RDO (the Potato folks in Park Rapids?!!) had signed up to purchase it.

Currently we have no reason to believe any of these rumors are credible. One insight we have had is that the brokers who 3M has turned to for sale of the property told the

StarTribune they weren't even sure how to value the property, indicating that it is likely things are still very much in the early stages, even at the time of writing this.

While much remains unknown, one thing we can provide is that we have been in contact with several organizations whose mission is to protect and preserve pristine areas and shorelines, working with many other groups that may be able to use their resources to contribute to a larger plan to procure and manage the land.



One of the more interesting bits to come of the conversations was identifying some of the possible areas of focus that Mantrap and its shoreline might provide and lean on for funds to preserve it ... Loon Propagation, Clean Water Critical Habitat Plan Lake, Muskie Fishery, Cold Water Tullibee Refuge Lake, Headwaters of a Chain of Lakes, the list goes on and on. No doubt that if simply raising funds from various programs and grants is the challenge there would be several to pull from, if not all of them!

With all that said, it is important to understand based on previous successes that these things take time. It is not unusual for months, even years, to pass before a plan can be put into motion. Also there is no expectation at this time that the lake would need to raise funds for purchasing of any sort, however it is possible that when the time comes we may solicit for some assistance helping to cover the legal costs to orchestrate a final plan.

So at this time the most we can ask is for patience and positivity. There could be some bumps along the way but rest assured the best people in the region, the state, possibly the country are pursuing every option to protect a once-in-modern-history opportunity. At the end of it, with the ball ultimately in 3M's court, no one will be able to say every possibility wasn't explored and presented.

I am leading a small committee of neighbors that continue to meet to ensure no detail is overlooked, and that a unified approach is maintained. Though we don't have a lot to share, if anyone has thoughts or ideas, we do have direct channels to some of the parties making inroads, so please do not hesitate to reach out to me (rich.halvorsen@gmail.com) if you have any thoughts or concerns.

2023 BML Ice Out

2023 ice out date: May 3

Median ice out date: April 26

Earliest ice out date: April 5, 2021

Latest ice out date: May 7, 2008

Period of record: 1983 to 2023

Who pays how much for our AIS Lake Inspectors?

Total \$35,600

1424 hours @ \$25/hr

State	\$15,550
Emma Twp	\$1,000
Mantrap Twp	\$3,800
Clay Twp	\$3,600
Thorpe Twp	\$250
BMLA	\$11,450

Minnesota LakeFinder

www.dnr.state.mn.us/lakes

An online tool that finds and displays detailed information about most lakes in Minnesota. LakeFinder contains data for more than 4,500 lakes and rivers throughout Minnesota, including lake surveys, lake depth maps, lake water quality data, lake water clarity data, lake notes, and fish consumption advice. This tool is available for desktop and mobile devices. It is quite easy to use, and Big Mantrap Lake's data is very complete.

Another tool for checking out the health of Big Mantrap Lake and see how the rest of Hubbard County is described is at <https://arcgis.dnr.state.mn.us/ewr/whaflakes/lakedetails/29015100/topic/summary>

Big Mantrap Lake Association 2022 Financial Report

L. ZAWACKI 2/23

Bank Balances

General Fund: \$21,061.72 - (\$6,754.90 *Loon Fund) = \$14,306.82

AIS: \$38,306.21

Revenue	2022	2023 Projection
Membership Fees	\$1,421.04 (53)	\$1,500.00
Loon Fund	\$2,705.57 *	\$2,500.00
Loon Memorials	\$2,462.76 *	\$1,000.00
Misc.	\$247.71	\$300.00
Total Revenue	\$6,837.08	\$5,300.00

Expenses

Loon Expenses	\$3,096.49 *	\$2600.00
Lake Maintenance	\$379.00	\$400.00
Meeting Expense	\$400.00	\$400.00
COLA Membership	\$204.00	\$225.00
MISC.	\$447.26	\$300.00
Total Expenses	\$4,526.75	\$3,925.00
Total Surplus	\$2,310.33	\$1375.00

AIS Fund

Revenue

Members donations	\$17,232.61 (56)	\$17,200.00
AIS other	\$150.00	\$100.00
Total AIS Revenue	\$17,382.61	\$17,300.00

Expenses

AIS Inspector Fees	\$13,478.08	\$12,000.00
AIS Treatment/Misc	\$4,110.00	\$1,000.00
Total Expenses	\$17,588.08	\$13,000.00
Total Deficit/Surplus	(\$205.47)	\$4,300.00

Loon Fund

January 1, 2022-December 31, 2022

Beginning Balance \$4,683.06

Income

Contributions (22)	\$2,705.57
Memorials (27)	\$2,462.76
Landrigan, McCardle, Harborg, Dunn, Laske	
Total	\$9,851.39

Expenses (\$3,096.49)

Barry Guptil (July, September) Expenses #1 & #2, Cameras

Current Balance \$6,754.90

Letter from the President

RICH HALVORSEN

Just before fishing opener I grabbed lunch at Emmaville with a journalist from the Star-Tribune newspaper, one of the many entities interested in gathering some context for the news of Wonewok's closure and its impact to the lake as well as the area.

Just by chance when parting ways we were both heading towards Park Rapids, so I offered to lead him to the Hubbard County Historical Society. He was hoping to see if there was anything resembling a file on the Wonewok property history. Being a bit of a history nut I couldn't help but follow him inside.

Upon arrival, we were barely through the front door when we learned about several friends and family members of the handful of folks that just happened to be there, each of whom had past ties to the resort. Before I knew it we had someone on speakerphone talking about their experience managing the gardens, the forestry of the property, as well as other passers

by raving about the food, the lodge, the amenities, and these aren't even the fortunate folks to be flown up on private jets to enjoy it!

Driving back towards the lake afterwards I was filled with an overwhelming sense of awe of watching people just go on and on sharing their memories and stories ... the kind of fulfillment that often feels like it takes a lot of work to unearth and yet here are people, laughing and smiling, happily sharing their memories for anyone who would listen. All it took was someone to ask.

"Change" has been a common theme far more than I'd have preferred over these past few years that I have contributed to the Aerie as Lake Association President. Yet, I can't help but find a sense of joy as so much history, otherwise bottled up, has come out for others to hear.

Back at Emmaville later, we briefly attempted to think of just how many Mantrappers are still around who could

speak of a pre-3M Wonewok. A list that isn't very long to begin with ... and has gotten shorter by a few more names just recently. More stories lost to time had someone only written it down.

Therefore as "Change" continues to be at the forefront, I would implore you all to share your stories, record them somewhere, or even submit to us stories and photos, whatever it takes to not lose them. Wherever the Mantrap experience may wander a generation from now, like those before us this will be history that deserves to be remembered while similar history will come that has yet to be written for those who follow.

We are lucky to have such a magical place to connect us all, a place that came long before us and will be here long after, and I have no doubt that between the framework laid whether now, prior, or in the future, will be the basis for much more ... even as the names, faces, and even companies change around us.

Norway Hills Resort is hiring

- » Saturday cabin cleaners
- » 8am-1pm
- » June, July, August
- » Call Pat Hoffman for application, 218-255-0200

Mantrap on Facebook

Have you seen the Mantrap loon photos on OneDrive? Barry has posted photos from our loon nest cameras on OneDrive as a public site. Some are short videos and some are still pictures. It's fascinating to see the loons on the nest – black flies were bothering several of the loons last week. Check it out – the link is on Facebook – Big Mantrap Lake Neighbors. Let's put a new password in the Aerie for members to join the group ... short link to group: <https://rb.gy/6krel> password: Ladyslipper –RH

Another great posting on Facebook were the pictures of the Northern Lights on Big Mantrap last week. Again – check it out. It's fun to see the lake when we are not there or to see things that we missed.

Forever a Mantrapper

We lost a couple of Mantrappers in the last few months. The ones I know about are listed below. If there are others I should include, please let me know: Barb, barbf49@aol.com.

Timothy Kluender

<https://www.kandt-tetrick.com/obituaries/Timothy-Robert-Kluender?obId=27831210#/celebrationWall>

Gerald Ratigan

<https://www.ghchapel.com/obituaries/gerald-ratigan?mibextid=Zxz2cZ>

Big Mantrap Lake Association Membership Registration, AIS Watercraft Inspection Donation and Loon Fund Donation.

Big Mantrap Lake Association's purpose is to preserve and protect Big Mantrap Lake and its surroundings. BMLA will work to enhance the enjoyment of wildlife, fishery, boating, safety, economic and aesthetic value of Big Mantrap Lake for our members and the public.

Today's date _____ / _____ / _____

____ **Renewing member** ____ **New member: please complete all information.**

Contact member: _____

Mailing address: _____

Lake address: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Other members: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

I have enclosed the following payment:

Membership dues \$25 per property. Please pay between January 1 and June 1.

AIS suggested donation \$300. Loon donation, any value is appreciated.

_____ Check, (preferred) made out to Big Mantrap Lake Association, for \$25 along with completed form.

_____ PayPal accepted, bmlamn@gmail.com please complete form and send to address below

_____ A donation of \$ _____ payable to BMLA AIS Fund.

_____ A donation of \$ _____ payable to BMLA Loon Fund.

Send completed form and/or check to Treasurer, Linda Zawacki, 5104 Sundial Lane, Woodbury, MN 55129

Or email form to: bmlamn@gmail.com

Anyone interested in volunteering or being on the board of directors contact any current board member.

Visit our web page for info about our meetings and current events:

www.mantraplake.org and/or Facebook page: [Big Mantrap Lake Neighbors](https://www.facebook.com/BigMantrapLakeNeighbors)

Board of Directors

President	Rich Halvorsen	612-245-9391	rich.halvorsen@gmail.com
Vice President	could be you!		
Treasurer	Linda Zawacki	651-246-3844	LZboutique@comcast.net
Secretary	Julie Mickelberg	218-699-3004	jmickelberg@sio.midco.net
Aerie coordinator	Barb Fischer	765-414-4197	barbf49@aol.com
AIS coordinator	Brian Livingston	507-263-6102	bdlivingston@icloud.com
Board member	Kathy Nevins	605-695-2959	knevins62@gmail.com
Board member	Kraig Narr		narrkraig@gmail.com
Board member			

web site
www.mantraplake.org

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public site

[www.facebook.com/
groups/1076808002386929/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/1076808002386929/)
private site, contact Rich Halvorsen for access