

# Lake Edward Lines

Newsletter of the Lake Edward Conservation Club

[LECCMN.org](http://LECCMN.org)

## Shore Soil Contents:

100% Sand

## Weed Line:

14 to 17 feet

## Maximum Depth:

75 feet

## Elevation:

1,203 feet

## Water Clarity:

12 feet

## Public Landing:

Southwest shore

## Width:

2 miles

## Length:

3 miles

## Size:

2574 acres

## Miles of Shoreline:

9.4 miles

## % of water less than 15 feet:

59%

## Acres less than 15 feet:

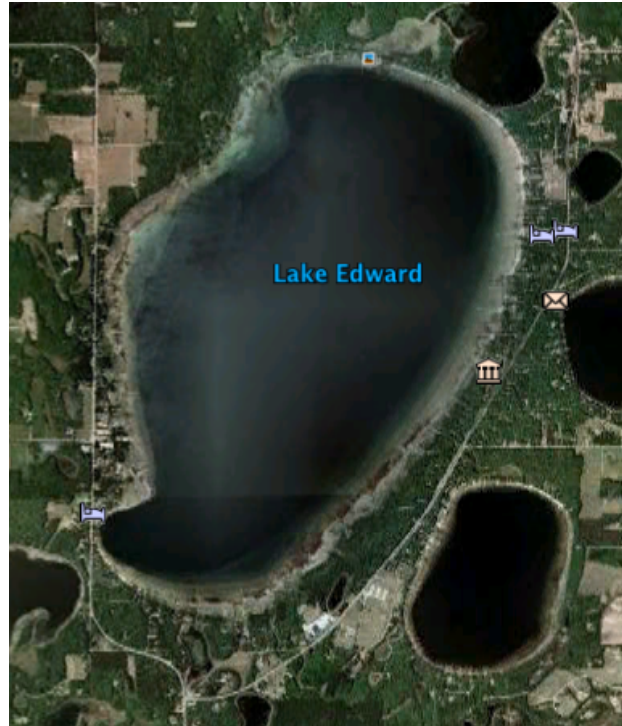
1,199 acres

## Age:

8,000 years old

## Boat Ramp:

Concrete



Lake Edward DNR ID # 18030500

[LECCMN.org](http://LECCMN.org)

LECC WEBSITE ADDRESS

[LECCMN.org](http://LECCMN.org)

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## Save the Dates

Our annual June 2026 LECC meeting is scheduled. Join your neighbors and be informed about the important issues facing our lake. We will meet June 27th at the Lake Edward Town Hall. All are welcome. The meetings begin at 10:00 a.m. A social time precedes the meeting beginning at 9:30. The guest speaker is John Kempe, fisheries supervisor from the Brainerd DNR. Be informed and learn what is happening around the lake.

While you still have your calendar out, mark July 18th for our second annual LECC cookout and potluck. The grills will fire up at 5:00 p.m. at the Merrifield Lions Park. By the time the grills are hot, you should have had a chance to meet your neighbors and find out where the fish are biting.

Don't forget to fuel up your boats, pontoons, jet skis, and fishing boats for the LECC boat parade on Saturday, July 4th at 11:00. The staging area is at Cozy Bay. Show your red, white, and blue.

# Meet and Greet

Don't let it be said you didn't have an opportunity to join our ranks and become a member. On Friday, July 3rd, between 1:00 and 3:00, when you are boating around and enjoying being on the water, cruise on over to the south side of the lake and look for the pontoon with the U of M banner on it and the multitude of umbrellas and pop-up tents on shore. For those of you old enough to remember, it might look like the set for "Singing in the Rain" with Gene Kelly. Instead of cruising by and waving, take a few minutes to stop in and check out the friendly folk enjoying the sun around a table with a big red Leinenkugel umbrella. After exchanging pleasantries, stick around and grab a cold beverage or an ice cream treat and visit for a while. If you haven't paid your dues yet, take this opportunity to do so. If you are already a dues-paying member, don't pass up this time to meet and greet some of your neighbors. Cruise on over and enjoy a cold beverage of choice. If you are intending to pay your dues, we accept all methods of payment. Pay your dues, meet your neighbors, enjoy a beverage, and grab an ice cream treat. By the way, anyone stopping by can put their name into a hat to enter a drawing for free tickets to a Minnesota Gopher Football game this season. The winner also gets tailgate privileges before and after the game as well as free parking. Members new or old, here is a chance to connect with your neighbors. One caveat, however, is that this event is weather dependent. If rained out, we'll arrange for another day at a later time this summer.



## Dues Form 2026

Please fill out the form below and send your check for \$25.00 to:

**Lake Edward Conservation Club**  
**P.O. Box 134**  
**Merrifield, MN 56465**



.....  
Name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

I am a new member.

I want to renew my membership.

My contact information the LECC has on file is correct, no changes are needed.

Some of my information has changed. My correct information is:

Lake Edward Address \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Cell phone # (     ) \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone (     ) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_ @ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ @ \_\_\_\_\_  
.....

For you techie folks out there dues can be paid quickly and easily by going to:

[LECCMN.org](http://LECCMN.org)

# APRIL

2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>		

The definition of “ice out” is when one can travel from one end of the lake to another unhindered. This year that date was April 17th.

Thanks, Mike Chapman, for recording the date this year.

**Lake Edward Conservation Club**  
**ANNUAL MEETING**

**Saturday, June 27 • 10:00am**  
*Come at 9:30 for Coffee, Donuts, and Fellowship!*

**At Lake Edward Township Hall**

**Guest Speaker**  
**John Kempe**  
DNR Fisheries

Visit our website for more info!  
[www.LECCMN.org](http://www.LECCMN.org)

# Creel Survey

Those of you out fishing after ice-out may have run into a DNR intern touching base with fishermen on the lake. The very friendly fellow is a college student and, in this case, hopes to someday work for the DNR. He was friendly, pleasant, and respectful as well as polite. If you ran into him, you know what I'm talking about. He was out on the lake conducting a creel survey. A creel survey is not something new to Lake Edward; it has been conducted in the past. In fact, 2025 was the last time a creel surveyor was on the lake. If the DNR is looking for a smart, enthusiastic, friendly future employee, this guy should be near the top of the list.

What is a creel survey?

This explanation is from the DNR website.

As fisheries managers we often rely on several tools to gather information on our fisheries. One of these tools is a creel, or angler survey. What a creel survey amounts to is having an individual interview anglers, measure fish, keep track of hours fished, count boats, fish houses, recreational craft, etc. When the data is analyzed we can get information about the effort, harvest, size distribution of several important species of fish. We can also get an idea of fishing quality and recreational pressure a lake has been subject to. Needless to say the creel survey is a valuable tool in the fisheries managers tool box

A few highlights from the previous survey.

- \* 131 interviews took place at the landing.
- \* 53% interviewed were after walleye.
- \* 87% of the interviewees were male.
- \* The largest walleye reported was 28 inches.
- \* 40% were using Forward Facing Sonar.
- \* 54% of walleye caught were released.
- \* 2.2 was the average number of folks fishing in each boat.
- \* 3.87 was the average time each party spent fishing.
- \* Bluegill had the highest catch rate.
- \* Walleye had the highest harvest rate.
- \* 2026 Survey results will be posted on the DNR website when available.

As you are reading this newsletter, you probably are aware our annual LECC meeting is soon, June 27th. We have one of the best lakes in the county. Part of the reason for that is the dedicated board members that monitor and take appropriate action when an issue comes up that needs immediate attention. The welfare of the lake is not limited to the board members; it is also a credit to every single one of you that made the decision to become a dues-paying member and/or attend our meetings. Without your financial and physical support, our lake would not be one of the most desirable lakes in the area. Let's keep it pristine.

### **THANK YOU MEMBERS**

Our 2026 membership drive is winding down, and a big thank you to the 65 folks that renewed or signed up to become members of our great organization. We still have room for improvement, so we aren't ending the 2026 campaign just yet. I know there are a few of you out there that want to be a member or forgot to renew and were just waiting for the right time to send in your dues. The right time is now. Dues will continue to be accepted as long as you are willing to support the health and well-being of our lake. To those dues-paying members, thank you. To those still out there with money in hand, look for ways in this newsletter to become or renew your membership.

Paying dues is quick and easy at our website [LECCMN.org](http://LECCMN.org)

## The Lake Eddy Ladies Group

There are many ways to connect with neighbors on the lake. A simple wave while out on the water is an easy way to connect. When attending LECC meetings, one gets to know folks. Attending the cookout in July is a perfect time to meet folks we don't normally see. New opportunities crop up. Lately, a group of women meet at Valerie Anns on Highway 3 to socialize and exchange pleasantries. If that option appeals to you, check out the Facebook page to look for the next gathering. You can access the upcoming dates at the Lake Edward Residents Facebook Page.

## Ice Floats Vehicles Don't



This time of year I only see ice when it is floating around in a glass holding my beverage but not too many months ago it covered the lake. Speaking of lake ice we've all heard it before: no ice is ever really safe. That statement is prominently displayed on the DNR website. That doesn't mean activities on the ice can't take place; it only means be aware of your surroundings and be careful. Sometimes things happen in spite of taking all precautions. I was at a local watering hole a few weeks ago and ran into a seasoned ice fisherman who has fished on hard water his whole life. He has caught many fish over his forty years but this year experienced something for the first time: losing his vehicle through the ice.

According to the DNR website, ice is safe to travel on by foot when it is 4 inches minimum and by passenger car when it is 8 inches minimum. Those numbers are just guidelines; there is always a caveat: no ice is ever completely safe. The fellow I was talking to found that out this winter the hard way. I was intrigued by his story. He grew up in this area and hard-water fished ever since he was a boy. Now, at 40, he has experience, knowledge, and many, many years of successful fishing trips out on the ice. All that experience was for naught this past December when he carved out a few hours on a sunny afternoon to spend some time doing what he enjoys, trying to fill a frying pan with fresh-caught fish. On this beautiful sunny day he drove out to a lake he had fished before and headed to a spot where he had success before. He was just about to drill a hole when he noticed his truck listing slightly. After determining his eyes weren't playing a trick on him, he rushed back to his truck, jumped in, and tried to move it to more solid ice. The truck's back wheels just spun in the slush forming around the tires, and the horizon was starting to get lower as he looked through the windshield. He jumped out and watched his vehicle slowly park itself in Davey Jones' locker. I can imagine his heart was racing faster than some of the race cars at the BIR speedway. When a vehicle drops through, a whole new set of challenges presents itself, and immediate action is needed at that instant.

I talked to Jim Guida, the Conservation Officer assigned to our area by the DNR, and he provided some observations about winter travel on ice. According to Jim, most accidents happen early in the year when fishermen are anxious to get out and drop a line. Lake Edward has a pretty stable sheet of ice, but lakes like Gull have areas that narrow as the water travels from one lake to another or through a channel, and those areas are the trouble spots early in the season. Some lakes will have open water areas when other parts of the lake are completely frozen over. Caution should be the key word when traveling on ice. In fact, Jim said as he checks ice fishermen while on duty, he follows this protocol. When he sees snowmobiles and side by sides moving on the ice, he travels by foot. When he sees cars and trucks on the ice, he feels safe to travel by snowmobile. When he sees trucks pulling ice houses, he feels safe to travel with his DNR work truck. He places a priority on his safety.

So, Officer Guida, what should one do if their vehicle drops through the ice? Jim says, first call the authorities so they can determine if any person is in danger and needs rescue. The DNR, the sheriff, and an ambulance usually show up. Another reason to notify authorities quickly is so the sheriff can post warning signs around the area so nobody else attempts to travel on ice that has an open water area. He will also issue a press release alerting others of this specific danger on the lake. The day doesn't end there. The vehicle now must be moved from the bottom of the lake to solid ground. If the owner doesn't have a clue on what to do next, the sheriff has a list of companies that can handle this type of job and will share that list if requested. Each vehicle rescue is different; it might involve 2 x 12 planks, or tripods and pulleys, or divers and chains, or cranes and winches.

Jim says the timeline for recovering the vehicle is 30 days. Vehicles now aren't as much of an environmental risk because newer vehicles don't leak fluids as quickly as older vehicles. The environmental impact is reduced, but the vehicle must still be removed in 30 days because hydraulic lines aren't designed to be under water and will eventually start to leak. You might wonder what might happen if the 30-day window passes and the vehicle has not been removed. In that case a fine kicks in. According to Minnesota Statute 86B.107 The owner of the vehicle is subject to a civil penalty of not less than twice nor more than five times the costs incurred by the political subdivision to remove, process, and dispose of the vehicle. A vehicle falling through the ice usually happens every year in the Brainerd Lakes Area. Each time Jim is called to a recovery scene, he wonders if a few fish are really worth this.

Getting back to the guy I chatted with, his story goes on. He notified the authorities so search and rescue teams weren't mobilized to look for him in the water. The sheriff and the DNR showed up, and the DNR informed him the thirty-day clock to remove his truck had started. His truck was in about ten feet of water, and he arranged for a towing company to rescue his vehicle, which at this point is just a hunk of worthless iron. Luckily, no one was injured and none were the worse for wear, but that can't be said about the vehicle. Insurance didn't pay for the truck, but did pay for his work tools in the bed of the truck. Eight thousand dollars later the vehicle was no longer in Davey Jones' locker and was above water, but not drivable, operational, fixable, and never more to cruise down the open road again. He figures after the retrieval and getting another vehicle to replace the one that sank, he was out of pocket for about \$20,000. If there was a bright side to this story, he said how happy he was when he decided to leave his elementary-age kids home instead of taking them out fishing with him on what turned out to be an eventful day.

# **6B.107 REMOVING SUBMERGED VEHICLES FROM STATE WATERS.**

## **Subdivision 1. Definitions.**

(a) For purposes of this section, "vehicle" means a motor vehicle as defined in section [97A.015, subdivision 32](#), or a watercraft as defined in section [86B.005, subdivision 18](#).

(b) For purposes of this section, "owner" means the registered owner, last registered owner, or legal owner of a vehicle if the vehicle is not registered.

## **Subd. 2. Responsibility for removal.**

(a) The owner of a submerged vehicle is responsible for removing the vehicle from waters of the state, unless the vehicle is permitted or otherwise exempt from removal. Removal must be completed within 30 days of the vehicle entering the water or being discovered in the water, unless the owner is notified in writing by the political subdivision having jurisdiction that the removal must be completed sooner. Upon request of the political subdivision the commissioner may extend the 30-day time period for removal.

(b) The owner of the vehicle shall report that the vehicle is submerged in a body of water. The owner shall report the date and the circumstances surrounding the submergence to the sheriff of the county where the body of water is located within 48 hours of the vehicle entering the water.

(c) If the vehicle is not removed according to paragraph (a), the political subdivision in whose jurisdiction the lake or watercourse is located shall remove the vehicle. The owner of the vehicle is subject to a civil penalty of not less than twice nor more than five times the costs incurred by the political subdivision to remove, process, and dispose of the vehicle. Civil penalties imposed under this section may be enforced and distributed as provided in section [115A.99](#).

(d) The owner of a submerged vehicle is not responsible for removal of the vehicle if the vehicle was used without the owner's knowledge. This includes, but is not limited to, the operation of a vehicle that was under the control of a member of the owner's household. If the driver or operator of the vehicle is known, the driver or operator is responsible for removing the vehicle according to this section.

## **History:**

[2001 c 185 s 15](#)

The ballots are in, the votes have been counted, and we have a winner. Drumroll, please. The logo voted most popular with our members was the circle logo. We now have a logo to identify us, promote our organization, and display with enthusiasm. It is unique to us. Our board is checking on ways to promote our new logo. Certainly, we will pursue standard options, hats, T-shirts, windbreakers, return labels, mugs, etc. When we have some reasonable options, we'll get the word out. You will be the first to know. When you come to our annual meeting on June 27, pick up a sticker with the new logo on it.



**Getting your email address in our database includes you in the lost item updates and a provides you with a complete version of our newsletter. Contact us at [contact@LECCMN.org](mailto:contact@LECCMN.org) if your name is not on our list. We do not share or sell our list to anyone, no exceptions.**



Are you wondering when the 2026 Lake Edward Directory will be coming out? It's out and available for pickup at the Annual Meeting at the Lake Edward Town Hall on June 27th also it is available on July 3rd on the south side to the lake for a Meet and Greet.

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### Word Scramble

Rearrange the letters to spell two words found in this newsletter.



d r c o t e r i y

e r c l e s r e y v u

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#### Ramp Inspector

The County plans to provide 392 hours of monitoring at the landing in 2026, Friday through Sunday plus holidays.

#### Crappie

Future Crappie stocking is on hold until the DNR give the OK on additional stocking in the lake.

#### Walleye

DNR stocked 2,000,000 walleye fry in May at various locations in the lake.

## HELP!

My father-in-law used to say busy people find the time to get things done. The LECC is looking for a busy person. Many of the duties to keep the lake beautiful and pristine have been accomplished by Mike Chapman and, before him, Don Rother. These busy guys, for over thirty years, put in the time to ensure our lake maintained the high quality we have come to expect. Don and his successor Mike can be described as hardworking guys with a love for the lake. When Don retired from duties on the lake, Mike stepped up to fill in. Well, Mike Chapman is moving from his dream home on the lake and relocating closer to family. That's good for Mike but unfortunate for us. It means we are looking for a busy guy to take Mike's place. Taking over for Mike doesn't mean one needs to start from scratch; Don is still around as a mentor and advisor. It might look overwhelming, but Mike was able to get a handle on it, and so will the person or person(s) who step up to fill in. There will be plenty of support for whoever decides to fill these shoes. On-the-job training is available this summer to learn the ins and outs of the job. These tasks are essential to keeping our lake safe and clean. The tasks aren't difficult, but do take a little time. Mike's six duties below can be split among more than one person. If you can help out with some of the tasks, you are our guy or gal. If you can help out with all of them, you are our guy or gal. If you can help with one task, you are our guy or gal. One person to do six, two folks to do three, six folks to do one each. It all works; just give us a shout, and we'll get the ball rolling. Split the job with a friend, neighbor, or family member; it all works.

Here is a list of Mike's duties as supplied by Mike.

- 1) Take lake level reading weekly from ice out date to ice in date. I report the level to the DNR and to Paul and Wendy.
- 2) Take monthly water samples and cechi disk reading once per month starting in May and going through September. I deliver this information to AW Research in Brainerd along with current weather conditions on the day of the samples.
- 3) When the opportunities are offered in the early spring to apply for grants, I fill out the requests and submit them via email. Due to reduced funding for such things we haven't been successful the last two years.
- 4) I do periodic checking for AIS. This is done primarily by checking the public access to Lake Edward and checking the shore area at 3 or 4 of the resorts on the lake. These checks are then submitted to the DNR. If I were to find anything, which I have not, I would take pictures and send those along with location to the DNR.
- 5) I was asked to do a check for spiny water fleas by the county but not last summer. It has been done in July and three samples are taken from 3 locations that are marked on a map supplied by the county.
- 6) And of course reporting the findings from these tasks to the LECC board.

I hope I haven't missed anything.

Mike

Interested? Contact our President, Paul McCullough, at [contact@LECCMN.org](mailto:contact@LECCMN.org) and let him know you would be willing to do all of the six duties, some of the six or any one that interests you. If you are seasonal resident we will take whatever time you can spare.

# Bear Watch !!!!

Bears are getting active and on the move. There have been many sightings around the lake. The same rules apply to being bear safe: monitor or remove your bird feeders, keep a close eye on your garbage cans, and store grills out of reach. Take precautions when you go outside if there are sightings near you.



## Sunfish Crappie Reminder

5



5



### LECC Board of Directors

#### Officers

**President** Paul McCullough  
**Vice President** Lynn Hansch  
**Secretary** Nancy Fischer  
**Treasurer** Wendy McCullough

#### Directors

David Christensen Liz Hintz  
Ron Czerepak Mike Chapman

#### Committee Chairs

**Invasive Species** Paul McCullough  
**Fisheries** Paul McCullough  
**Water Quality & Quantity**  
Mike Chapman

**Outlet and County Ditch 13**  
Lynn Hansch, David Christensen

**Webmaster** Wendy McCullough

**Newsletter Editor** Ron Czerepak

[LECCMN.org](http://LECCMN.org)

### Did You Know?

**Loons are a protected species and our State bird. If the loons appear distressed or forced to take evasive action when you approach it's a sign you are too close. The DNR recommendation is that boats maintain a distance of least 150 feet from loons. Please be on the lookout and protect our loon population.**





## Test your knowledge.

1. How much distance should a boat stay away from a loon?
  - a) Half the distance of the length of the boat multiplied by 6 and divided by pi.
  - b) 150 feet
  - c) As much as possible
2. When is ice totally safe to travel on ice ?
  - a) The day after Christmas.
  - b) Never
  - c) By the first Monday of the last month.
3. When is the LECC cookout?
  - a) August 17
  - b) July 18
  - c) August 22
4. What time is the July 4th parade?
  - a) 9:00
  - b) 11:00
  - c) 10:30
5. Who is the CO for our area?
  - a) Calie Cook
  - b) Jim Guida
  - c) Tony Flerlage
6. What does a creel survey do?
  - a) Collects data about fishing.
  - b) See if walleye are suitable for the lake.
  - c) Check rough fish populations.
7. How many duties does Mike Chapman perform?
  - a) Six
  - b) Too many to count
  - c) Ten
8. How many times does the link [LECCMN.org](http://LECCMN.org) show up in this newsletter?
  - a) 6
  - b) 8
  - c) 3
9. Can a homeowner do something to deter bears from visiting?
  - a) Yes, monitor bird feeders and garbage cans.
  - b) No, bears have a mind of their own.
10. What shape is the LECC logo?
  - a) Round
  - b) Rectangular
  - c) Oval
11. When was ice out in 2026?
  - a) April 17th
  - b) March 17th
  - c) May 1st
12. How many days are allowed to get a vehicle that fell through the ice?
  - a) A fortnight
  - b) Thirty days
  - c) Depends if the gas tank was full.

1. b
2. b
3. b
4. b
5. b
6. a
7. a
8. b
9. a
10. a
11. a
12. b

**Answers to  
the Test  
Your  
Knowledge  
Quiz.**

The  
scrambled  
words are  
directory  
and creel  
survey.

Calendar

**April 17th 2026** Ice Out

**June 27 LECC Annual Meeting**

Lake Edward Town Hall People Time 9:30 Meeting 10:00

**July 4 parade** 11:00 meet at Cozy Bay, circle the lake clockwise.

**July 18** Cookout/Pot Luck Merrifield Lions Park 5:00

**August 22 Board and Member Meeting**

Lake Edward Town Hall People Time 9:30 Meeting 10:00

Save the Date!!!!

Mark your calendars for Saturday, July 18th. Our annual LECC Cookout/Potluck is planned. Picnic in the Park is scheduled at Merrifield Lions Park at 5:00. Bring a dish to share and your beverage of choice. Brats and burgers provided.



**Lake Edward Conservation Club**

**P.O. Box 134**

**Merrifield MN 56465-0134**