

## ICOLA April 21, 2021 Membership Meeting “Around the Horn”

### **Siseebakwet Lake Association-** <https://www.siseebakwet.com/>

- Ice out tied for third earliest on April 6.
- PortaPotty ordered for public access.
- First board meeting last Saturday, April 17.
- Road clean up formally April 24, but no gathering, so people have just been asked to pick up and report.
- Siseebakwet Lake Association Spring 2021 : <https://preview.mailerlite.com/a5j8e3>

### **Deer Lake Watershed Association-** <http://www.deerlakewatershed.org>

See the DLWA current newsletter:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1dwsIhpZhkn7PVcgkev1NvDG1cPmxdlS/view?usp=drive\\_web](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1dwsIhpZhkn7PVcgkev1NvDG1cPmxdlS/view?usp=drive_web)

### **Johnson Lake Association-**

- We are sending out our annual spring newsletter to all lake residents.
- We are having a new sign made for our public access that says GR Marine has a decon unit if you need a decon unit for AIS. Our hope is that it will give people an option to know where to go if they need a decon unit.
- We will promote our second annual "Swim Around the Lake" event and encourage people to swim the lake's perimeter this summer.
- We will hold our annual July 4th boat parade. This year is our 14th year. It's a big success!
- We will hold our annual meeting on Aug 14.

### **Suomi Area Lakes Association-** <https://suomiareala.wixsite.com/mysite>

- Current Newsletter starts on next page



SALA Newsletter  
42298 County Rd 48  
Deer River, MN 56636

---

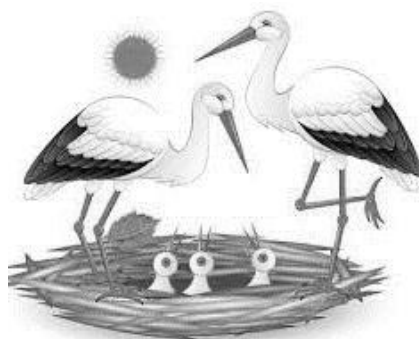
## SUOMI HAPPENINGS -- *SPRING* -- 2021

Editor: Paul Andersen 218 246-8076

[pccma@paulbunyan.net](mailto:pccma@paulbunyan.net)

Publisher: Debbie Poenix 218 246-2740

[poecon@paulbunyan.net](mailto:poecon@paulbunyan.net)



*SPRING has SPRUNG*



**We take this opportunity to thank the board members for their service, especially during these difficult "Covid 19" times**

### **2020 SALA Officers and Board**

LeRoy Johnson – President  
44068 County Road 48, Deer River, MN 56636  
218-246-9296 [lemakery@gmail.com](mailto:lemakery@gmail.com)

Jim Weingart – Vice-President  
12419 Olive St NW Coon Rapids, MN. 55448  
763-757-1983 [weingart.jim@gmail.com](mailto:weingart.jim@gmail.com)  
C 612-594-1286 Cabin 218 246-8662

Dan King – Secretary  
43492 Co Rd 48, Deer River, MN 56636  
218-246-2539 [dking@isd318.org](mailto:dking@isd318.org)

Kevin Roop – Treasurer  
505 King St Suite 300 LaCrosse, WI 54601  
608 784-3540 [kjr@haleskemp.com](mailto:kjr@haleskemp.com)

Paul Andersen – Board  
38305 Grave Lake Rd  
Deer River, MN 56636  
218-246-8076 [pccma@paulbunyan.net](mailto:pccma@paulbunyan.net)

Oliver Juntunen – Board  
42828 CR 48, Deer River, MN 56636  
218-246-8890

Dale Rollins -- Board  
5058 Anderson Rd  
Hermantown, MN 55811  
[dsrollins@msn.com](mailto:dsrollins@msn.com)

Tom Ryan – Board  
43755 Forest Rd  
Deer River MN 56636  
218-246-2007 [rinbar@paulbunyan.net](mailto:rinbar@paulbunyan.net)

Tom Skiff – Board  
38601 Grave Lake Rd, Deer River MN 56636  
218-246-2198 [tjskiff@hotmail.com](mailto:tjskiff@hotmail.com)

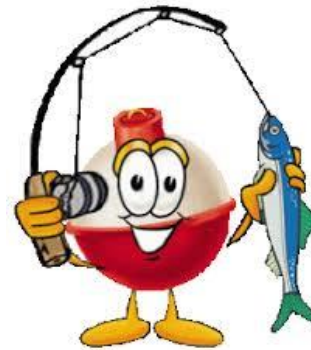
James Drieman – Board  
4650 – 125<sup>th</sup> Ave NE, Blaine, MN 55449  
218-246-2523 [jedrieman@gmail.com](mailto:jedrieman@gmail.com)

Debbie Poenix - Board  
42298 County Road 48 Deer River MN 56636  
218-246-2740 [poecon@paulbunyan.net](mailto:poecon@paulbunyan.net)

Craig Weingart – Board  
4400 Co Rd 13, Moose Lake MN 55767  
763 381-9987 [cbweing85@gmail.com](mailto:cbweing85@gmail.com)

Erica Lindboe – Board  
10809 57th ST NE  
Albertville, MN 55301  
763-568-3706 [ricalindboe@yahoo.com](mailto:ricalindboe@yahoo.com)

## **WEBSITE**



### **FISHING for INFORMATION?**

For updates and current events  
please check out the  
The SALA website

A huge **THANK YOU** goes to  
Craig Weingart  
And  
Erica Lindboe

For putting time and effort in getting the  
website up!

<https://suomiareala.wixsite.com/mysite>

Dear Members,

2020 brought us many challenges, on an individual level and as an association. SALA was able to function at the Board level by having regular virtual meetings.

The fishing contest in February will be a virtual event. It is my hope we will be able to have an annual July picnic and an annual meeting in August. These two events will be dependent on the ability to meet safely. The decision to have these events will be made as information is made available regarding group gatherings.

The annual meeting is needed to conduct elections for association Officers and Board members. I will be stepping down as president and would encourage members to step forward for an Officer or Board member position. After six years as president, I feel it is time for someone to take SALA to the next level. Please contact any Board member regarding the election or if you would be interested in an Officer or Board position.

Stay safe and well,  
LeRoy Johnson,  
President SALA

#### **SALA BOARD MEETING**

*Approved min Submitted by Dan King , SALA Sec.*

Saturday, October 3, 2020

Via Google Meet 9:00 am

BOARD ATTENDANCE: LeRoy Johnson, Jim Weingart, Dan King, Kevin Roop, Oliver Juntunen, Erica Lindboe, Debbie Poenix, Dale Rollins, Tom Ryan, Tom Skiff, Craig Weingart. **Others in attendance:** Paul Ryan  
:

Welcome/President's Report

LeRoy welcomed the board members and guest.

#### **1. Approval of Minutes**

Kevin moved to accept the August minutes; Craig approved. Motion carried.

#### **2. Treasurer's Report**

Kevin sent out the end of fiscal year report and shared the savings and checking account balances. He also shared a membership renewal comparison—listing of members last year that have not renewed and newsletter subscribers. 26 members have not renewed. 12 newsletter subscribers have not renewed. Online spreadsheet shows new members and those who have not renewed. There are five new members.

The audit report is complete. However, due to the change in treasurers in 2019, there are some receipts that have not been received.

---

**Board Min. continued:**

Jim W. asked if electronic payments could be an option. Discussion occurred that this could be done on the website. Craig suggested that he, Erica, and Kevin do some investigating about the payment process through the website.

**4. Secretary's Report**

Dan shared that Steve Serfling, Dale Juntunen, LeRoy and he reviewed the bylaws and Dan is in the process of creating a redline version for the board to review.

**5. Website Discussion**

Erica asked about the board's opinion on purchasing a domain name—e.g. sala.com vs. a name that is generated by the web provider. The estimated cost is about \$15-\$25 a month. Some features are the ability to be found in Google searches, secure online payments, removal of ads, more storage, video hours, customized reports, technological support. No decisions were made. Craig and Erica will discuss possible domain names and site options and will bring back the info at a future meeting. Lastly, Erica shared some analytics about numbers of website visitors.

**6. Little Bowstring Sunfish Limit**

A brief discussion occurred regarding the potential sunfish limit change from 15 to 5 on Little Bowstring. The board decided to create an online form to garner opinions on the issue. Dan and Erica will team up to create the survey.

**7. 2020 Review**

LeRoy thanked the board for their work during the past year and highlighted some of the accomplishments despite the issues incurred with the recent pandemic. Kevin shared that the letter accompanying the dues letter that illustrated the accomplishments of SALA was beneficial to sustaining members and recruiting.

Jim mentioned that we have Secchi disk readers, water level monitors, river/beaver clean-up, and zebra mussel detectors. Jim wanted to thank the volunteers who have donated their time to these efforts.

**2021 Goals**

- Increase membership by comparing the resident data on lakes to membership data
- LeRoy asked if the membership supported a fishing contest this year. It was suggested to do a virtual fishing contest instead of an in-person gathering. Jim W. said that he would speak to local membership and board members regarding a potential virtual fishing tournament.
- Dan suggested that the board continue to emphasize education about the watershed and about the issues associated with AIS in an effort to protect our lakes.
- Jim suggested that we increase volunteers for boat inspections.
- Paul Ryan suggested that the website recognize and celebrate our volunteers which may result in more volunteerism.

**8. Miscellaneous**

The meeting time for January was discussed. It was agreed upon that the board would meet on January 16 at 9am.

Kevin motioned to adjourn. Tom S. seconded.

## FEVER

*Submitted by: Paul Andersen*

Fever (sometimes called Cabin --Fever - but this year called *Covid Fever*). Do not confuse this with the Covid-19 fever which is much more serious. Covid fever is just like Spring Fever and Cabin Fever but is new this year and is much more prevalent. The symptoms are the same for all three - Restlessness, Urge to get out and travel, impatient to see the snow gone and the appearance of new, green leaves, return of migrating birds, and the opening of fishing season. Fishing thru the ice is just not the same as navigating a lake in a boat in the pursuit of fish. Sometimes you may even get a little irritated and short tempered with the person (persons) you are living with. These are all signs of boredom and/or not being able to do some of the things that you like such as golfing or swimming. Just be patient. Soon you will be complaining about the heat, and that it is too hot to do anything. Learn to appreciate what you have. What you can do with what you have and where you are at.

Covid Fever is a little worse than Spring/Cabin Fever because it is more restrictive and longer lasting, but this too, will eventually pass. Then we can look back at this period and be proud that we had the endurance and patience to survive it. Fortunately, none of these three fevers are fatal. Covid-19 can be. Here, UP NOTH, we have the advantage of being able to look out the window and see the birds and deer come to the feeders. Sometimes a different animal, like a fox or a coyote will be seen. The snow on the pines will glisten as the sun reflects like diamonds. Even the snow blowing across the lake is much more interesting the looking out at the same old house across the street and the same old road in front of your city house. THAT IS WHY I LIVE HERE.

## SNOWY TRAIL



Robert and Debbie Poenix shake off *Covid Fever* by going snowmobiling. This picture was taken while riding snowmobile on a trail in our local woods

## SALA COMMITTEES

As mentioned in the board minutes the SALA board has formed a few committees. The following are the chairs of each with their contact information:

### **By Laws:**

Dan King, 218-246-2539  
[dking@isd318.org](mailto:dking@isd318.org)

### **Watershed:**

Jim Weingart, 763-757-1983 [weingart.jim@gmail.com](mailto:weingart.jim@gmail.com)

### **Historical:**

Paul Andersen, 218-246-8076  
[pccma@paulbunyan.net](mailto:pccma@paulbunyan.net)

### **Newsletter:**

Debbie Poenix, 218-246-2740  
[poecon@paulbunyan.net](mailto:poecon@paulbunyan.net)

### **Website:**

Craig Weingart, 763 381-9987  
[cbweing85@gmail.com](mailto:cbweing85@gmail.com)

### **Membership:**

Tom Skiff, 218-246-2198  
[tiskiff@hotmail.com](mailto:tiskiff@hotmail.com)

---





The largest Crappie was 12 inches caught by Keenen.



Smallest - 8 inch Crappie caught by Dan.

## 2021 SALA FISH EVENT

Suomi Area Lakes Association held our annual fishing event amid Covid and the Polar Vortex on Saturday Feb 13, 2021. This day started with temperatures at -24 degrees, it was a clear day with a slight wind. It was not an ideal day to fish, but the sun was out and there was some fish activity. The fish entries received were from Dan King and his son Keenen. They started their fishing around noon on Grave Lake using a portable fish house to keep out of the weather as they caught fish.

The first fish was a Crappie caught at 1:32pm by Keenen.

The largest Crappie was 12 inches caught by Keenen.

The smallest fish was a 8 inch Crappie caught by Dan.

The Suomi Grand Slam of Panfish was 30.5 inches of 3 Crappies, caught by Keenen.

Congratulations to the father and son duo for braving the weather and for their fishing success. After the event, Dan and Keenen

indicated they wanted to donate their winnings back to SALA. I thank them for their donation.

I'm sure we are all hoping for warmer weather to come so folks can get out on the lake and enjoy all nature has to offer.

Thanks to Dan King and Erica Lindboe for sending out the email invitation and posting the invitation on the website.



The first fish was a Crappie caught at 1:32pm by Keenen.



Keenen King



Dan King with son Keenen

***Looks like neither the fish nor the fishermen minded the cold.***  
(Congrats & well done brave souls!)

## MEMORIES

This winter has certainly been a different one with so little social activity. I feel so fortunate to have lived in this community my entire life and have spent time this winter thinking of by gone days.

One memory is firewood sawing. This was done in February and March after the trees had been cut and hauled to the yard.

Felix Forsman, who lived on the west end of Little Bowstring, bought a circle saw powered by a gas engine with two three foot diameter fly wheels. It was mounted on wheels and moved by a horse. He didn't keep it very long and sold it to Walter Filpus. Walter moved it from place to place with a beautiful Belgian horse named Tullantei. I always wondered how a horse got a name like that, as it doesn't mean anything in Finnish. One day while sawing wood, the engine stopped with a loud clang and it was never repaired.

Isaac Beck then put together a saw rig mounted on a model T Ford frame and wheels and model T motor and moved it from place to place with his horse, Valkko, which in English means Whitey. Isaac had lost the sight in one eye as a young man but never lost any fingers in the saw.

When Isaac quit sawing I mounted a saw rig on the front of a F12 McCormick tractor and began sawing throughout the neighborhood. It was easy to move from place to place and I remember sawing at twenty six different places over the years. The day was a festive occasion. We would start sawing at nine o'clock with a five man crew. Two to take the wood from the pile, one to help the sawyer move the wood forward and the sawyer would push the wood in the saw. The fifth man would throw the blocks. At ten o'clock we would stop for coffee. At noon we would stop for a huge meal and good socializing. By three o'clock a years supply of wood was sawn. It was often wet work from the melting snow but it was a good day. The photo is of a time I went to John Salo's. He also hired Mrs. Oscar Maki to cook the meal and when we completed the work she came out and asked me to take a photo. She and Oscar had just recently been married and I often wondered if this might have been their first picture together.

Soon more tractor mounted saw rigs came into use. Then suddenly wood sawing came to an end. People started heating their homes with fuel oil and cooking with gas and also chain saws came into use.

Some wood is still used and the Saarenpaa brothers now have a wood processor with which two men can cut and split a huge pile of wood in a day. It is a pleasure to watch them. Too bad this machine wasn't around many years ago!

By: Oliver Juntunen



Wood cutting crew: John Salo, Mary & Oscar H Maki, Carl Salo, Waino Antilla – ca - 1950



## THE JOYCE FAMILY AND ITASCA COUNTY

The Joyce family has had a very pronounced influence on the development of Itasca county. Most people associate them with the logging industry, but they were involved in many other endeavors. In fact, some say they made more money from railroads than from lumber. This I doubt. The logistics of getting a tree from the woods to the sawmill was probably a logger's greatest concern, and David Joyce was an expert at using steam and rail power for this purpose. When waterways were not available to transport logs to a sawmill, he would build a logging railroad to move the logs. On top of that, he usually owned all or part of the sawmill. To further increase his profits, he would often open lumberyards to sell some of the finished lumber to the end user. The Joyce family first entered Itasca county in the Swan Lake/Jacobson area. They had extensive holdings in Lyons (Clinton) Iowa and Shell Lake, Wisconsin, but the supply of timber was beginning to deplete in those areas. In those days the motto for loggers was "Cut it and get out". Not a very environmentally sound philosophy but a quick profit one. Hence the move to Itasca, and a new supply of timber. The region looked good as it had many streams that entered the Mississippi and could be used to transport the logs. However, the streams proved to be seasonal and mostly unreliable. A logging railroad was planned from Jacobson and northwesterly for 25 miles to solve this problem. Since, at the time, there were no roads, no adjacent water transport, and no adjacent railroad, the problem of transporting rails, locomotives and railroad cars were intimidating. Fortunately, the Duluth and Winnipeg were building a line from Duluth to Grand Rapids that would go thru Jacobson. They saw the potential of a logging spur at that point and were able to build it before Joyce could get his built. The Duluth and Winnipeg railroad reached Grand Rapids and continued on to a point called Bass Brook - today known as Cohasset. This was ideal for Joyce as he had very extensive logging lands to the north and west of there. These holdings, as were the ones at Swan Lake, were in the name of Itasca Lumber Company (ILC) in which he was a partner. However, the logs had to be brought to Bass Brook to be floated down the Mississippi. That is when he decided to build the Itasca Railroad. Originally this railroad only serviced the Bass Lake area but was gradually extended to the north end of Deer Lake. Then two things happened. First, surveying problems developed to the north. Then legal problems developed pertaining to the land rights at Bass Brook where the logs were stacked to be floated down the Mississippi. In the meantime, the Duluth and Winnipeg Railroad had extended to Deer River. This was advantages for Joyce and the Itasca Lumber Company, so he pulled up his tracks and moved to Deer River. Here he built the Minneapolis and Rainy River Railroad. This name was very in-appropriate as the railroad never originated in Minneapolis and never reached the Rainy River. However, it was originally built to Little Bowstring and eventually extended to Marcell and Effie and finally to Craigsville, with side lines to Smith Lake and Wirt. It transported logs from these areas to Deer River and brought supplies to the log camps and residents of the area. At one time there were 31 logging camps transporting logs along this railroad. While extending this line from Little Bowstring to Smith Lake and Marcell some problems and advantages occurred that resulted in a decision to become a regulated railroad instead of a logging railroad. This opened new opportunities but also created many problems for the Minneapolis and Rainy River Railroad. More about that in the next issue, but you can see how this opened up the whole northern part of Itasca county for settlement and development.

*Submitted by: Paul Andersen*

*Did you know that **SPRING** is a great time of year for Maple Sugaring and Mushroom Hunting??*



### **Maple Sugaring Season**

It happens only once each year, and now's the time. Sometimes sap flows as early as January or as late as May, but in Minnesota, sap usually runs from about **March 15 to April 20.**



Look for these mushrooms growing on the sides of Birch Trees

Description. For centuries, Chaga has been revered for its life enhancing properties. According to thousands of years of testing in Traditional Chinese Medicine, medicinal mushrooms including Chaga, can preserve youth and increase longevity, improve health, and boost life energy. Chaga contains zinc, copper, magnesium, calcium,

potassium, aluminum, iron, silicon, manganese and other substances. The properties of Chaga are spasmolytic, diuretic, analgetic, antimicrobial, restorative, laxative and antitumoral. Chaga mushroom is also well known for its huge load of immune stimulating phytochemicals. The Chaga fungus has some of the highest amounts of anti-oxidants of any substance consumed by man.

NOTE: Chaga is claimed for many other uses but none have been proven safe or effective. DO NOT TAKE if you are taking meds for diabetes, hypertension or blood thinners

**Did you know that the Morel Mushroom is Minnesota's State mushroom?**



*Look for them to start poking their heads up out of the ground in early May*



Finally found out why the fish weren't biting!

**COVID-19 VACCINE-IS IT EFFECTIVE?  
IS IT SAFE?  
SHOULD I GET IT?**

*Submitted by Paul Andersen*

These are all questions I had when the Vets, Hospital called and said they had a supply and that I qualified for the vaccine. Fortunately, the nurse on the phone was well informed and had knowledge backed up by statistics and science to answer most of my questions. Her answers were based on facts, not emotion or opinions. First of all; how effective is it? Overall, it is over 94% effective in producing antibodies. Of this 94%, 75% achieve full immunity. The other 25% MAY contact the virus, but with a much milder form with a MUCH lower mortality rate (almost zero). OK it works, now how safe is it? What are the side effects? Here her knowledge was excellent. She started by saying it was not possible to get Covid-19 from the vaccine. The vaccine is made from ONE molecule from the virus. It is not the molecule that is the causative agent, but rather one that stimulates the production of anti-bodies in our body. One molecule out of possible millions in the virus! Since it is a foreign substance, allergy re-actions are possible. This is true of any substance we may come in contact with-pollens, shellfish, bees, eggs, most anything. So that possibility does exist. Also, a slight swelling and discomfort may develop at the site of injection. This may be more pronounced at the second injection. You may develop a slight fever for a day or two. Also, mild flu-like symptoms may occur. These are usually mild and disappear in a day or two. Headache and/or diarrhea sometimes occur in some people. Stress, fatigue, diet and general health may be factors in if and when you may develop unwanted symptoms. As of now, pregnant women are advised NOT to get vaccinated. No tests have been completed on pregnant women to determine its safety on both them and the fetus. After considering all the

pros and cons I set a date in early February for my first shot with the second one three weeks later. What you decide will depend on your feelings about vaccines and your health problems. These are the facts as we know them on this date.1/25/21.

P.S. Carolyn and I have both now had our Covid-19 shots (first dose only).

Neither Pizer or Modena have full F.D.A. approval but are authorized under an emergency order. Both have been thoroughly tested and are considered safe and effective. The risks of getting the disease are far greater than the risk of any of the side effects. Both Carolyn and I have been very fortunate. Our only side effect has been a slight tenderness at the injection sight. We can certainly live with that if it will protect us from getting Covid-19.

\*\*\*\*\*



**CORNER BEEF AND CABBAGE-THE EASY WAY**

Thaw a corner beef brisket of appropriate size for your occasion and put it in a slow cooker FAT side up! At this time, you may want to peel a few potatoes sliced about 1-1/2 inches thick and add to the pot. Set the heat at LOW if to eat in 8 hours or High if to eat in 6 hours.

After about three hours core and quarter a head of cabbage. Place on top of other ingredients. Finish cooking cycle and dinner is ready. Personally, I like to add a few carrots sliced in 1-inch lengths at the time I put the potatoes in. Also, I will sometimes remove the cabbage at the end, chop it and add cream sauce for creamed cabbage.