



The newsletter information is for those interested in preserving and protecting Pokegama Lake and its environs, together with the wetlands and aquifers, and enhancing the water quality, recreational, and aesthetic features of the lakes for both present and future generations.

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NEWSLETTER

<http://www.pokegama.org>

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

TERM ENDS JUNE 2026

- Deb Ryan (2020) 612-868-5590
- Luke Garner (2020) 218-259-5342
- Rich Libbey (2020) 218-326-1874
- Steve Carlson (2023) slka@aol.com

TERM ENDS JUNE 2027

- Tom Newman (2018) 218-259-9961
- Linda Skallman (2017) lskallman@comcast.net
- Pat Davis (2019) 218-999-9658

TERM ENDS JUNE 2028

- Andy Nintzel (2019) 612-998-8368
- Martin Grenzebach (2025) mgrenzebach@hcg.com
- Zach Johnson (2025) 218-269-0566
- Justin Tobeck (2025) 218-259-4465

- PRESIDENT - Andy Nintzel
- VICE PRESIDENT - Zach Johnson
- SECRETARY - Linda Skallman
- TREASURER - Vacant

MEMBERSHIP - Pat Davis
patbill@paulbunyan.net

NEWSLETTER - Linda Skallman
lskallman@comcast.net

MEET OUR NEW BOARD MEMBER!

Martin Grenzebach has been coming to Lake Pokegama since 1954. His family - parents and two older brothers - first stayed at a resort across the bay from Camp Mishawaka. In 1957 the family purchased a cabin on Sherry's Arm and spent every summer and the winter holidays on the lake. By 1998 Martin's own family was well underway and it became clear the family needed their own Pokegama residence. A cabin was purchased on Laplant Road on the Wendigo arm of the lake. After much remodeling, renovation, addition, and maintenance, Martin and his three daughters, all now in their twenties, get to the lake as often as possible.



Tree & Plant Sale

YOU CAN SHOP AT THE 2026 ITASCA COUNTY SWCD TREE AND PLANT SALE UNTIL APRIL 17.

THERE ARE MANY NEW PLANTS AND PLANTING PACKS THAT ARE OF INTEREST TO LANDOWNERS FOR ENHANCING NATURAL BEAUTY, PROTECTING OUR SOIL AND WATER, ATTRACTING POLLINATORS, AND PROVIDING WILDLIFE HABITAT.

MORE INFORMATION AND THE ONLINE STORE CAN BE FOUND AT [HTTPS://WWW.ITASCASWCD.ORG/PLANT-SALES](https://www.itascaswcd.org/plant-sales).

FOLKS ARE FREE TO CALL MATT PICKLO FOR MORE INFORMATION AT 218-999-4439. MATT IS GLAD TO PROVIDE ADVICE ON PLANT SELECTION AND PLANTING REGARDLESS OF WHETHER AN ORDER IS PLACED.

Ripples . . .

- * Are we having an old-fashioned Minnesota winter, at least as far as cold goes? In January it was minus 30 on the 24th and only a couple degrees warmer on the 23rd. Let's hope the cold eliminates a few Emerald Ash Borers and other invasive pests.
- * By my count, in no way sanctioned by the National Weather Service, it was below zero for at least 86 consecutive hours. While not close to a record, combine it with lack of snow cover and our septic tank froze for the first time in 11 years.
- * Still it took a while to see fish houses on the end of the Wendigo arm. There were few until late in December.
- * Pat D on Sherry's Arm reports "tough winter for bird varieties, we had all kinds of woodpeckers from pileated to the smaller woodpeckers, a few chickadees, a flock of blue jays and a Cardinal pair who showed up once in a while."



IN LOVING Memory

Edward Schmidt

April 13, 1942 – Nov. 24, 2025

Ed was born in Grand Rapids and grew up as a lake and woods kid. All his life he loved hunting, fishing, all outdoor activities. He earned a Master in Science and taught Elementary Ed for years, also co-founded the MN Deer Hunters Association and did writing and photos for the Whitetail Magazine. Ed and Rosalie made their home in the Crystal Springs neighborhood, have been members of GPLA since the 70's and were part of the first group of Shore Captains established around the lake in 1972. Ed is survived by his wife of 61 years, Rosalie and 3 children Eliz Matzke, Sara Schmidt-Boldon and Paul Schmidt and by 5 grandchildren.

John F. O'Leary

July 25, 1946 – Nov 27, 2025

John was born in East Grand Forks, MN, grew up there and worked for many years in Grand Forks, ND with the Grand Forks Housing and Urban Development. He assisted Grand Forks recovery from the historic flood of 1997. He spent 20 years in Grand Rapids and directed the Army Corps of Engineers in this region. Members of GPLA for 15 years, John and Jane made their home on Sherry's Arm enjoying all the lake had to offer. He was active with Habitat for Humanity and the MacRostie Art Center. He is survived by his wife of 54 years, Jane and 2 daughters, Christina Beam and Laura O'Leary (Cully) and 5 grandchildren.

Leonard L Hedman

May 1, 1935 – Nov 13, 2025

Len was born in Minnesota and grew up in Grand Rapids, loving the outdoor activities and lake life. He worked with his father at Hedman's Resort exchange selling and appraising commercial resorts and lakeshore properties. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, canoeing and participating in musical productions. He and wife, Carol Rasmussen, made their home in the Mishawaka Shores area. He was a member of GPLA for 30 years. Len is survived by Carol, children Sally Lawless, Paul Hedman, stepson Scott Rasmussen and 3 grandchildren.



EMERALD ASH BORERS

The DNR's website reports that "Based on these results, a model was created that predicts that about five percent of EAB larvae should die when temperatures reach 0°F, 34 percent at -10°F, 79 percent at -20°F, and an impressive 98 percent should die at -30°F.¹⁷"

It goes on to say that not all larvae will actually be subjected to those air temperatures since it depends on where in the tree they overwinter and whether they are protected by snow cover. Still this is good news for the pest which was recently found to be in our area.

<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/terrestrialanimals/eab/winter.html>

CALENDAR

Tentative meeting dates for the remainder of 2026 are:

4/27/26 – Regular evening board meeting

6/15/26 – All Member Meeting
(location to be announced)

7/18/26 – Annual meeting and elections
(location to be announced)

10/26/26 – Regular evening board meeting

Ask any board member for the time and place of upcoming board meetings.



Greater Pokegama Lake Association
Box 381
Grand Rapids, Minnesota 55744