



2026 October LLAA Newsletter

Community Building:

Watch our Facebook Pages and Newsletter for Multiple Opportunities

Announcement from the LLAA Board of Directors

During the LLAA Board of Directors meeting on September 29th, the Board accepted the resignation of Dan Fraizer, Director for Neighborhood 2. Roger Hall, formerly the Alternate, will fill the Director vacancy and Keith Manlove, was appointed as the Alternate. Both Roger and Keith will serve out the current cycle until the next election in June 2027.

Learn about your LLAA Board of Directors on this website page:

www.longlakeliving.org/p/board-member.html

Learn about your LLAA Foundation (LLAAF) Board of Directors on this website page:

www.longlakeliving.org/long-lake-area-association-foundation-llaaf/board-of-directors/



**Dock & Lift Removal
is Fast Approaching**

Be sure to check for
aquatic invasive species
(AIS).

Inspect all posts, support
bars, wheels & footings.

Report suspicious species to:
Gina Kemper
(local DNR AIS specialist)
(218) 537-6100

Now that you are back to your “normal” work schedule, please remember to check this out with your employer!

Double Your Impact: How Corporate Matching Gifts Can Boost Your LLAAF Donation

When you make a gift to the Long Lake Area Association Foundation (LLAAF), there's a good chance you can double it — or even triple it — without spending another dime. The secret is a benefit millions of Americans already have through their current or former employer and simply don't use: **the corporate matching gift program**.

How It Works

Matching gift programs let employees (and often retirees — more on that below) request that their company match a personal donation to a qualified 501(c)(3) organization like LLAAF, typically dollar-for-dollar. The process is usually simple: after making your donation, you log into your company's giving or HR portal, submit a matching gift request naming LLAAF as the recipient, and the corporate foundation sends a matching gift directly to us. Some employers match at 2:1 or even higher, meaning every \$100 you give becomes \$200, \$300, or more for lake stewardship, education, and community programs.

It's More Common Than You'd Think

Corporate matching isn't a niche perk reserved for a handful of Fortune 500 giants — it's mainstream. Roughly two-thirds of Fortune 500 companies offer some form of matching gift program, and more than half of Russell 1000 companies now publicly report offering one, a figure that has grown nearly 12% over the past three years. Altogether, an estimated 26 million+ working Americans are employed by companies with a matching program available to them. Minimum donation thresholds are typically modest — often just \$25 — so even a smaller gift to the LLAAF can qualify.

Don't Forget: Retirees Often Qualify Too

Here's a detail many people miss: you don't have to still be working there. Many major employers — including Johnson & Johnson, Coca-Cola, IBM, Chevron, and Eli Lilly, among others — extend their matching gift programs to retired employees, sometimes at the same ratio as active staff. If you're retired from a company that had a giving program, it's well worth a quick check; that benefit doesn't necessarily end when you leave.

The Money Left on the Table

Nationally, only about \$2–3 billion of available matching funds are claimed each year, while an estimated \$4–7 billion in matching money goes unclaimed annually — largely because donors don't know the benefit exists or skip the few minutes it takes to request it. Studies show that simply mentioning the possibility of a match boosts giving response rates by over 70%.



**Double Your Gift.
It's Free.**

2 in 3 Fortune 500 companies match
employee & RETIREE donations to LLAAF

CHECK YOUR EMPLOYER MATCH

doublethedonation.com/matching-gift-search

Check Your Eligibility in 30 Seconds

Not sure if your current or former employer participates? Use a free lookup tool like Double the Donation's matching gift search: <https://doublethedonation.com/matching-gift-search/>. Just type in your employer's name to see if a program exists, the match ratio, and how to submit a request. You can also simply ask your current (or former) company's HR or benefits department.

What This Means for LLAFF

Before your next gift to the LLAFF, take a moment to check whether your employer — current or past — will match it. It costs you nothing extra, and it could mean significantly more support for water quality monitoring, shoreline education, and preserving what makes Long Lake special!

Check today — your gift may go twice as far for Long Lake.

Why Monitor?

From information supplied by Sharon Natzel, Environmental Stewardship Committee

Minnesota's lakes are an invaluable natural resource. Continuous water quality monitoring gives us a clear picture of current conditions and helps us track changes over time.

Why Water Data Matters:

- **Identifies Trends:** Multi-year data shows whether water quality is improving or declining and helps identify potential pollution sources.
- **Guides Conservation:** Data directs local, county, and state resources toward effective protection and restoration projects.
- **Enhances Technology:** Volunteer observations are used to ground-truth satellite imagery across all 10,000+ Minnesota lakes.

Long Lake's Monitoring Program:

- **Water Clarity (Since 1984):** Dedicated volunteers have provided Secchi disk readings to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) for over four decades.
 - Most recent reading: We had the best secchi disk clarity reading in many years in July 2026 with the drought and no runoff with no rain. Our [Lake Stewardship program](#) is paying off.
- **Water Chemistry (May–Sept):** Monthly volunteer samples are coordinated and shuttled by the Hubbard County Coalition of Lake Associations (HCCOLA) to RMB Environmental Laboratories in Detroit Lakes, with data uploaded annually to the MPCA database.
- **Deep-Water & Fisheries Testing (Since 2012):** The LLAA contracts with the Hubbard County Soil and Water Conservation District (HCSWCD) to sample dissolved oxygen and temperature levels—meter by meter at our deepest point—five times per summer to monitor vital fish habitat.

Bad News, Long Lake Neighbors

By Keith Manlove, Master Gardener and Shoreline Stewardship Volunteer

Another invasive species is impacting our lakeside community, but Fall is a great time to identify and combat it. European buckthorn is an invasive, medium-sized tree that can cause serious problems for natural areas. It was introduced to North America as an ornamental plant and for use in hedges. It escaped cultivation and has since spread throughout much of the United States, including Hubbard County. Minnesota currently prohibits importing, selling, or transporting buckthorn. Buckthorn has a couple of characteristics that make it attractive as a nursery plant but particularly troublesome for native, natural areas.



It grows rapidly and can tolerate a wide range of conditions. It thrives in both sunlight and shade. Once established, buckthorn forms dense layers of thorny, impenetrable vegetation that prevent native shrubs, wildflowers, and young trees from getting enough sunlight, water, and nutrients. This reduces plant diversity and can make it nearly impossible for native species to regenerate.

In the Fall, mature plants will be covered with thousands of purple berries. Birds eat these berries and spread buckthorn seeds to new locations. Although wildlife can eat the berries, they do not provide the same nutritional value as many native fruits. (Photo credit Steven Katovich)

It is typically the first plant with green leaves in the Spring and the last plant with green leaves in the Fall, and this attribute gives us our best means of dealing with it!

By the 2nd half of October, when our native deciduous trees have dropped their leaves, look for anything still green, and you can be 90% certain you are seeing Buckthorn.

Controlling buckthorn: There is good news and bad news when it comes to controlling Buckthorn. The good news is that it has very shallow roots. If you find seedlings under a couple of feet tall, you can easily pull them, which kills the plant. The bad news is that for larger plants, trees, and larger saplings, if you cut them down, they will resprout with multiple shoots the following spring, making the problem worse. The only way to kill the larger plants is to treat the stump with glyphosate (the active ingredient in Roundup and other herbicides).

The University of MN Extension Service has several pages dedicated to this pest:

<https://blog-crop-news.extension.umn.edu/2020/07/controlling-buckthorn-who-what-where.html>

If you discover that you do have buckthorn on your property, especially if you have established, fruit-bearing plants, don't despair. You won't eliminate all the plants in one year. This will be an ongoing effort. But it is important to cut down and treat the mature trees to slow the spread and prevent a larger infestation.

Good luck! We're all in this together.

They're not Weeds—They're Aquatic Plants!

By Keith Manlove, Master Gardener and Shoreline Stewardship Volunteer

It can be tempting to look at aquatic plants as “weeds” that get in the way of swimming, boating, or enjoying the shoreline. But native aquatic vegetation is an important part of a healthy lake ecosystem!

Native plants can help stabilize lake-bottom sediments and shorelines, absorb nutrients that might otherwise contribute to algae growth, and provide food, shelter, and spawning habitat for fish and other aquatic life. Healthy native plant communities can also help make it more difficult for invasive aquatic plants to become established.

A recent MPR news story (see the link below) examines why lake scientists and conservation experts are encouraging Minnesotans to think differently about aquatic vegetation. The takeaway isn't that lake residents can't maintain swimming and boating access. It's that knowing what's growing in the water and understanding its role is important before removing it.

As we work together to protect Long Lake, the vegetation growing both along our shorelines and beneath the water is part of the lake ecosystem we're trying to preserve.

<https://www.mprnews.org/story/2026/09/14/many-minnesotans-dont-value-aquatic-plants-the-states-lakes-are-paying-a-price>

Here is Proof: Late Fall can be a Great Time to Fish on Long Lake

Sarah Hoffman with the Northern Pike she caught on Long Lake during a late rainy September day.



Volunteers Needed

Give Back to Long Lake—On Your Own Time! 🌲 ⚓

You don't need a huge time commitment to make a big impact. We're looking for volunteers to help protect our waters and keep our community connected!

- **On the Water:** Monitor for aquatic invasive species (AIS) or keep an eye on our loons.
- **Behind the Scenes:** Help with website tweaks, spreadsheets, or organization.
- **In the Community:** Snap photos at events or contribute to our Facebook group.

Your help keeps Long Lake vibrant and healthy. Please go to these links and fill out the form: [Immediate Volunteer Needs](#) or [Learn more about committees](#)

Another way to help: During the winter months we will include links to articles, webinars, and videos that will help us all educate ourselves about native plants, aquatic invasive species (AIS) and ways to improve the health of Long Lake for the future.

Our Long Lake community is growing online!

More lake neighbors are connecting through the Long Lake Living Facebook page, Long Lake Leisure group, and <http://longlakeliving.org>. Thanks for following, sharing photos, joining conversations, and helping keep our Long Lake community connected year-round.

Two Long Lake Facebook Options

★ *Follow both to stay informed & engaged!* ★

Facebook Page: Long Lake Living

- Official Long Lake Area Association (LLAA) Facebook page
- Open to everyone
- Managed by the LLAA communications team
- Content
 - Announcements, events & updates
 - Lake stewardship & AIS prevention
 - Membership information & ways to get involved
- Follow this page for official updates & information about Long Lake.

Facebook Group: Long Lake Leisure

- Private community group
- Open to those connected to the lake
- Member-driven posts & discussions
- Content:
 - Photos, questions & everyday lake life
 - Wildlife, weather, fishing & local happenings
 - Community conversations & recommendations
 - For official updates & announcements, Follow the LLAA Facebook Page.

Scan for LLAA Facebook Page







Scan for Long Lake Leisure Facebook Page

[Unsubscribe](#)