



# CONNECTIONS

*A Publication of Long Lake Conservation Center*

## SUMMER 2022 EDITION



*Forkhorn Campers enjoying a canoe adventure on Long Lake.*



*A Glimpse into the Future, page 1*



*Events, page 2*



*Nature School, page 3*



*Upcoming Camps & More, page 4*



*Student Phenology, page 5*



*Nature Photos, page 6*



*News and Notes, page 7*

# A GLIMPSE INTO THE FUTURE



## AN EDUCATIONAL VISION FOR THE FUTURE

Long Lake will turn 60 years old in 2023 and sometime next year will welcome our 250,000 student! As the state's first Residential Environmental Learning Center, we are proud of our legacy. Here's a vision of the future for the next generation of students and campers.

Plans are being developed for two major education-focused programs that we hope to implement in the near future: "The Better Living Initiation" and "Nibwaakaawin Project." Though unique and different from each other, both are based on the principle that conscientious environmental citizenship is not only beneficial for the long-term health of the planet, but makes life better TODAY!

### THE BETTER LIVING INITIATIVE

**We believe life is better when it's served with fresh maple syrup!**

Long Lake is blessed with 760 acres. The Better Living Initiative would carve out a portion of that land to create a food-producing campus classroom with an apple, pear and plum orchard, large garden, grape arbors, other fruits such as blueberries and raspberries, a seasonal sugar shack, beehives, and other sustainable food-producing efforts such as vertical farming. The Lab building on campus will be re-purposed as a Hydroponics facility, with a portion used as a greenhouse. A chef's garden, and "Three Sisters Garden" will be planted in the heart of the campus. The students will assist in food production, and enjoy the fruits of the harvest.

The academic goal is to model a variety of sustainable, "Better Living" techniques that students can take back and implement in their schools and homes. The takeaway is a simple one: doing the right thing for the planet tastes delicious!



### NIBWAAKAAWIN PROJECT

For thousands of years before Europeans arrived in Central Minnesota, the Dakota and Ojibwe people lived in harmony with nature, practicing conservation methods that are timeless and Nibwaakaawin - the Ojibwe word for wisdom.



The Nibwaakaawin Project will teach and demonstrate the Ojibwe philosophy of mankind's interdependence with all living things. This will be done by integrating this philosophy throughout all of Long Lake's curriculum, and through the construction of four Ojibwe villages on campus - one for each season of the year.

The villages will be historically accurate and functioning representations of precolonial Ojibwe life in this area. These villages will be classrooms in which students can walk into the past and learn a way of life that is as relevant and important now as it was then.

All signs on the campus will be in both English and Ojibwe. Additionally, it is our goal to have a Naturalist on staff who is an expert on Ojibwe culture, language and environmental practices. This person would provide an Ojibwe perspective on everything we teach. For example, when LLCC teaches the science of producing maple syrup, this naturalist would enhance the curriculum by educating students about the sugar bush.

Long Lake will work with Tribal leaders and cultural ambassadors to ensure that the curriculum is accurate, respectful and appropriate.



# EVENTS



## GEAR DADDIES

WITH KING'S RANSOM

PRESENTED BY LITTLE ROUND STILL

FRIDAY, JULY 15 | 7 P.M.

DOWNTOWN AITKIN

\$25 (\$35 DAY OF SHOW)

**BUY TICKETS**

THIS IS A LONG LAKE CONSERVATION FOUNDATION EVENT. PROCEEDS PAY FOR SCHOLARSHIPS SO STUDENTS CAN ATTEND NATURE SCHOOL AT LONG LAKE CONSERVATION CENTER.



## THESE ROCK STARS

Support Long Lake by sponsoring

## NATURE ROCKS



**Edina Realty**  
KAY HILL  
218-232-5489

**LITTLE ROUND STILL**



Phil Yetzer, Realtor  
218 866-0343



JENN-NYBERG.COM



PLEASE SUPPORT THE  
BUSINESSES WHO  
SUPPORT LONG LAKE



# NATURE SCHOOL



## RADIO CONNECTION

**Sarah Mitchell is the KAXE Phenology Coordinator and a Wood Cookie Club member**

Sarah is one of the people behind the incredible “Engaging Minnesotans with Phenology Project” at KAXE radio out of Grand Rapids.

Before becoming a nature hero, she was a student who attended Long Lake. She remembers trekking through the bog and even managed to find her old Wood Cookie.

*If the video doesn't play, [click here to view](#).*

## PADDLES BRING BACK FOND MEMORIES

We had a wonderful surprise visit from Jessica Ladd Odom, a Camp Counselor here at Long Lake 30 years ago. She told old stories of camps from days gone by, and remembered guiding trips to the Boundary Waters (an idea we might revisit).

We even found the old paddles from those trips that she signed. Jessica is now a teacher in Florida, but spends here summer in Minnesota. Thanks for the nice visit and sharing your memories!

Come and visit us again soon, because once you're a Long Laker, you're always a Long Laker.



## TEACHER JOINS 25-YEAR WOOD COOKIE CLUB!

Congratulations and a BIG THANK YOU to Mrs. Cathy Riewer from Bertha-Hewitt schools on becoming a member of the Long Lake 25-Year Wood Cookie Club! That means that she's been to Long Lake with her students 25 times!



When you add it all up, her hard work has resulted in nearly 1,000 students getting the chance to experience nature at Long Lake! That is an amazing legacy! We look forward to many, many more years!

## LCCMR GRANT AWARDED

The state's Residential Environmental Learning Centers, of which Long Lake is one, were awarded a \$1,602,000 Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR) grant. The objective of the grant is to provide environmental education to a minimum of 20,000 traditionally under-served students.



The Trust Fund is a permanent fund constitutionally established by the citizens of Minnesota to assist in the protection, conservation, preservation, and enhancement of the state's air, water, land, fish, wildlife, and other natural resources.



# UPCOMING CAMPS & MORE



# HOMESCHOOL TRIPS



**FALL**  
September 14-16, 2022

**WINTER**  
December 12-14, 2022

**SPRING**  
April 10-12, 2023

**LONG LAKE INVITES HOMESCHOOL GROUPS AND FAMILIES TO EXPLORE THE WONDERS OF NATURE.**

Explore like scientists, learn outdoor skills and make new discoveries on a three-day, two-night nature immersion school field trips. Long Lake Conservation Center is a standards based and STEM-focused nature school, geared for students in grade 2-7.

**\$130 PER STUDENT**

**\$100 PER ADULT** or additional family member.

This includes all meals, lodging and a complete educational immersion

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT BETH HAASKEN AT 218-768-4653 OR BETH@LONGLAKECC.ORG**

**MORE INFORMATION/SIGN UP**

If the video doesn't play, [click here to view.](#)

## SUMMER CAMPS



### OUTDOOR ADVENTURE CAMP

JULY 24 - 29 | Ages 10-14

This five-day, four-night camp is for youth interested in having outdoor adventures! A traditional summer camp with an extra dash of nature.

**MORE INFORMATION/SIGN UP**

### ASTRONOMY CAMP

AUGUST 3-7 | Ages 10-14

Explore the terrestrial world by day, and stars at night. This camp is instructed by Long Lake staff as well as members of the Minnesota Astronomical Society.

**MORE INFORMATION/SIGN UP**



## SCENES FROM SUMMER CAMP

If the video doesn't play, [click here to view.](#)



# STUDENT PHENOLOGY



**CLICK HERE FOR ALL THE  
YEAR'S PHENOLOGY NOTES**

**GREAT JOB, YOUNG NATURALISTS!**

If the video doesn't play, [click here to view.](#)

If the video doesn't play, [click here to view.](#)

If the video doesn't play, [click here to view.](#)

If the video doesn't play, [click here to view.](#)

If the video doesn't play, [click here to view.](#)

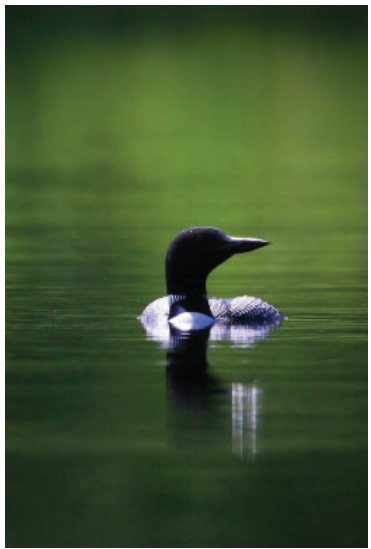
If the video doesn't play, [click here to view.](#)

If the video doesn't play, [click here to view.](#)

If the video doesn't play, [click here to view.](#)



# NATURE PHOTOS



[CLICK HER FOR MORE PHOTOS AND NATURE NOTES](#)



# NEWS & NOTES



## HOW SWEET IT IS!

Life at Long Lake got a lot sweeter thanks to the addition of bee hives! Roger Sorben of Sorben Honey installed four hives in a remote portion of campus, each with 20,000 bees.

A new bee class will be added to our summer and early fall curriculum. The class will focus on the critical roles of bees in our ecosystem, and the intricate society that exists within the hives. Additionally, the honey produced will be available for purchase in our Canteen.

Thank you to Roger for generously donating his time and knowledge in making this happen.



## OPENINGS AVAILABLE FOR THE 2022-23 SCHOOL YEAR

There are still some spots available for the 2022-23 school year, including great weeks in the spring. We would love to host your school and share the wonders of nature with your students.

**LCCMR SCHOLARSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE**

**GIVE DAVE A CALL AT 218-429-1661 OR EMAIL HIM AT [DAVE@LONGLAKECC.ORG](mailto:DAVE@LONGLAKECC.ORG) TO LEARN MORE.**



### A BIG THANK YOU TO THE INDIVIDUALS, BUSINESSES AND ORGANIZATIONS WHO SUPPORTED LONG LAKE THIS YEAR

#### BUSINESSES AND ORGANIZATIONS

Aitkin County Economic Development  
Aitkin County Lakes and Rivers Association  
Aitkin County SWCD  
Albertville Lions  
Benevity Community Impact Fund  
Block North Brew Pub  
Bush Lake Chapter IWLA  
C&L Distributing  
Community Foundation Santa Cruz  
Enbridge  
Hill City Lions  
Jenn Nyberg (jenn-nyberg.com)  
Kay Hill - Edina Realty  
Lake Minnewawa Sportsman Club  
Little Round Still  
Loretto Lions  
McGregor Lions  
McGregor VFW  
Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe  
Mille Lacs Energy Cooperative  
Minnesota Deer Hunter's Association  
Moose Willow Sportsmens  
Mystic Lodge  
Northland Foundation  
Phil Yetzer, Lake Country Properties  
Riverwood Healthcare Center  
Sampaguita  
STMA Women of Today  
Talon Metals Corp  
Tamarack SnoFlyers  
Timber Lakes Portable Services, LLC  
Timber's Sugar Shack  
Trinity Business Partners

#### INDIVIDUALS

Travis Aufderheide  
Kimberly Bartz  
Harvey & Judy Blomberg  
Wendie and Jim Bright  
Rob & Liz Harmon  
Anne Hennessey  
Roland and Kay Hill  
Terry Hougen  
David Lange  
John Latimer  
Jerry and Donna Bahls  
David and Linda Hommes  
Richard Lupu  
David Manship  
Dave McMillan  
John & Diane Newstrom  
David Purdy  
Carol Shepherd  
Lois Spear  
Mark Stone  
Sandra Vathauer  
Monica Witthaus

#### NEW STEWARDS

Bob Benes  
Lael Carlstrom  
Ruth Carlstrom  
Todd Engle  
Bob Marcum & Joel Hoppe  
Sandra Vathauer

LEARN ALL THE WAYS TO SUPPORT LONG LAKE AT [LLCFUNDATION.COM](http://LLCFUNDATION.COM)

**SUPPORT LONG LAKE BY DONATING TO THE LLC FOUNDATION**

