

# EAGLES NEST TOWNSHIP LAKES ASSOCIATION

## Fall 2023 Newsletter



Photo: Jason Schwartz

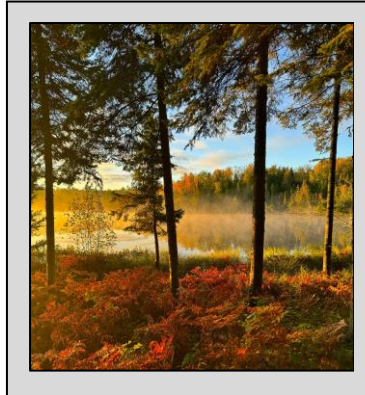


Photo: Tyler Decker

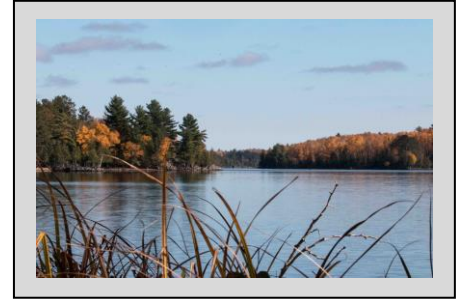


Photo: Rich Floyd

### In This Issue

- \* Judy Thon of The Bear Team gives us a year in the life of “our bears” and what we can expect.
- \* National recognition and some great Firewise tips from Gloria Erickson.
- \* Mike Ostlund gives us the ENCEP year in review...A great year it was!
- \* Another successful Memorial Walk honoring fallen First Responders and supporting our community.
- \* Thanks to our volunteers, our lakes clarity readings are in.
- \* Dennis Kaetterhenry, our “resident historian” shares an *Eagles Nest Poem* from the past.

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### From Your President

Tim Decker

At this time of year, I always say: “*This summer sure went by fast.*” It seems the older I get; the faster time goes. And a great summer it was. We had a great turn out for our annual meeting and picnic. Our Seniors’ supper gatherings and Saturday coffees were back in full swing. We dropped off and had massive amounts of that nasty fire hazard brush picked up, we achieved national Firewise Community USA recognition, and were awarded Firewise grant money (details in this newsletter). We supported and raised money for our Fire/EMS Auxiliary with our third annual 9/11 Memorial Walk. Thank you to all those who volunteered, participated, and helped organize all these great events and achievements in our community, making this another great summer season.

As much as I enjoy the beauty of Spring, Summer, and Autumn in Eagles Nest, I find great beauty here in winter. The snow on the pines, the quiet of a blanket of snow, Nordic skiing through the woods, the variety of birds at the feeders, and of course the fire in the fireplace or wood burning stove. But it’s not for everybody and I know some travel south and experience the beauty of where they are. I wish you safe travels and happy times wherever you may be.

I am forever grateful for all this beauty, for the people of Eagles Nest, and our commitment to preserving our own little sanctuary. I wish you all a happy winter season and wonderful upcoming holidays. I look forward to coming together again in the Spring.



Judy Thon

Another summer is in the history books. We hope you enjoyed the summer with family and friends and took the opportunity to participate in some of the Eagles Nest community events. It's great to see residents volunteer to host various social events for our township, we hope this continues in 2024.

At the annual picnic of the Eagles Nest Township Lake Association on June 24, 2023, we gave an overview of the last few years forest conditions for bears and other wildlife. So, what has happened this year since our last update? At the picnic we mentioned that we needed rain soon to help the berries develop. Mother nature heard our request and rain arrived just in time. This year, 2023 has developed to look more like the great food year of 2022. Some of the fall foods that bears eat are choke cherries, beaked hazelnuts, and round leaf dogwood. We have talked to some Eagles Nest residents and reports are that they have not seen a lot of bears this year. Bears are out in the forest eating the wild foods that they prefer when those foods are available.

In early August bears move into one of the five stages of activity that they go through every year, that being hyperphagia. This is a period of about 4-6 weeks of very active feeding for many hours a day. The goal is to put on weight for hibernation. See the [BEARTEAM.INFO](http://BEARTEAM.INFO) website for more information on the five stages of a bear's yearly cycle. Here in northern Minnesota bears usually hibernate for 5-6 months. Hibernation is not brought on by cold weather but the lack of wild foods in the area. Bears are genetically programmed to the regional norms of the area. In more southern states black bears do not hibernate as long as in northern Minnesota.



In late August and early September some bears are moving into dens. Generally, pregnant females are the first to den and mothers with cubs tend to den later. Through research we know that bears check out potential den sites as early as July. Black bears may or may not reuse a den.



Late August and early September we experienced some very warm weather. During these 90-degree days bears can be observed panting to stay cool. Other methods they use to keep cool are a dip in the lake or laying in mossy grass or swampy area. By September bears have started to grow a winter coat in preparation for hibernation. Usually, 2-3 weeks prior to hibernation a bear's metabolism begins to slow down. This is called fall transition. They begin to eat less and rest/nap more frequently. Usually by early November all bears in this area have denned for the year.

For more information on hibernation, check out our great videos on our website [BEARTEAM.INFO](http://BEARTEAM.INFO).

As September came to a close, we had some wonderful fall colors, cooler temperatures, and some nice soaking rains to put the forest floor to bed for the season.

*A public service announcement.* During the months of September, October, November, and December a variety of hunters are in the woods. It is always best to wear some blaze orange/pink for those fall walks in the woods.

Enjoy the cooler season and we look forward to seeing everyone next year.

**BEARTEAM** website: [BearTeam.Info](http://BearTeam.Info) Email: [Contact@bearteam.info](mailto:Contact@bearteam.info) Phone: 218-341-508



## 2023 ENT Fall Tips for Wildfire Resiliency

Gloria Erickson

It's been an exciting year for Eagle's Nest Township in advancing community efforts regarding wildfire resiliency. Eagle's Nest has achieved national Firewise Community USA recognition. A mitigation action plan has been adopted by the township supervisors. Emergency Manager Mike Ostlund has secured a MN DNR Firewise grant award to help supplement wildfire resiliency efforts in your community. I look forward to continuing and increasing our partnerships to assist in these efforts.

Fall has arrived, the last blast of warm summer air is about to change. It is harvest time, hunting time, and household chore time in preparation for winter. There are many projects you can do with little investment to lower your wildfire risk. Here are a few Fall tips to help your property be more wildfire resilient.

- 1) Make sure your address sign is visible in all directions and will be out of the path of snowplows.
- 2) Remove leaves and pine needles off roofs and out of gutters. Remove any branches that are within 10 feet of any roof.
- 3) Remove lumber and all other flammable debris from under and around decks.
- 4) Make sure your firewood is at least 30 feet away from all structures.
- 5) Make sure your driveway is clear of trees and overhanging branches to provide egress of at least 14 feet wide and 14 feet high.
- 6) Trim grass and clear all dead vegetation away from structures.
- 7) Fill propane tank and clear all vegetation at least 10 feet around and above your tank.
- 8) Inspect your furnace to make sure it is in proper working condition.
- 9) Have fireplace/wood stove chimneys cleaned and inspected. Remove any branches that are within 10 feet of the chimney.
- 10) Prune all conifer trees within 30 feet of your structures up to at least 8 feet from the ground.
- 11) Remove and dispose of all "ladder fuels" from beneath trees that are within 30 feet of all structures (ladder fuels are tall grass, small shrubs, trees, tree limbs and other materials that allow fire to climb into the tree crown).

Visit our Minnesota Arrowhead Fire Adapted Communities website to learn more at <https://minnesotafac.org>. If you are interested in taking an active role in working with your neighbors to be more wildfire resilient contact Mike Ostlund, Eagle's Nest Emergency Manager, [mjostlund@msn.com](mailto:mjostlund@msn.com) or your St. Louis County Firewise Coordinator to learn more about how you can help your property and your community be more wildfire resilient. .

Be safe and enjoy this beautiful time of year!

Content provided by Gloria Erickson, contracted St. Louis County Firewise

Coordinator. Contact Gloria at: [gloria@dovetailinc.org](mailto:gloria@dovetailinc.org) or 218-365-0878.

## I Guess That's a Wrap....

Mike Ostlund, Eagles Nest Director of Emergency Management

My assumption is that by the time you read this, boats are winterized and in storage, docks are out of the water, and for some, the water to the cabin is turned off. The summer t-shirts and shorts have been replaced with sweatshirts and fleece jackets. And for me, It's the time of year when I look back and wonder what I did with my summer.

For the Ostlund's, our summer was highlighted by a trip to Alaska for 16 days. The weather wasn't the greatest, but the trip was phenomenal, nonetheless. And yes, we saw Denali.... twice! In ENT, the summer was also highlighted with amazing work by YOU! As I look back on what ENCEP (Eagles Nest Committee for Emergency Preparedness) planned to do and what we actually did, were pretty close and there was a surprise or two. So, just what did ENCEP do?

- Held a Firewise demonstration that was attended by 28 Eagles Nest Residents. Led by our St. Louis County Firewise Coordinator, Gloria Erickson, we learned about what we can do to keep our homes and cabins fire resilient. Thanks to John and Lisa Kappenman for hosting.
- We held a roadside brush haul-away event. Walsh Road, Swanson Shores, Minnesota Boulevard, Norway, and the other spur roads had brush picked up. Our contractor had 10 truckloads, picking up over 350 piles of 'wildfire fuel' – totaling 400 cubic yards of debris.
- We hosted two weekends of brush drop off. As we've done in the past, we provided dumpsters for our residents to get rid of the woody debris from around their homes. This year, we filled 8 40yard dumpsters – getting rid of 320 yards of debris. And this year, we asked for some information from those dropping off brush. We wanted to know how many hours they spent getting that load of debris ready. And the results were astounding. Our Eagles Nest Residents spent over 270 hours of work keeping their homes and cabins free from debris that can help wildfire spread. Just an FYI – those 270 hours translate to over \$8,500 dollars in matching funds for our Wildfire grant.
- Held an evacuation exercise with our Road Ambassadors playing a pivotal role in trying to figure out how to help evacuate Eagles Nest Township on a really bad day. And with every exercise, we learned a few things too.
- And speaking of Road Ambassadors, we added three new Road Ambassadors to our team. We added Eric and Ria Jokela on Trygg Road, Cliff Koski on Deerhaven/Hwy 169 and Ron James on Walsh Road. It's great to have these folks step up to help be the liaison between the residents and ENFD. Thank you to all of our Amazing Road Ambassadors

Yes, we did all that and more. But the high point of the summer came in September. Before I departed for Anchorage, we submitted an application with the Minnesota DNR for a Firewise Grant. On September 18<sup>th</sup>, we learned that we were awarded a grant for \$26,500 for Firewise work in Eagles Nest Township. What does that mean? It means that our work towards wildfire resiliency can continue. It means that we can do more. We can offer dumpsters again; we can have another roadside chipping/haul-away event.... or two. We can get new 9-1-1 address signs replacing the old one-sided signs for some roads. We can handle another Firewise demonstration and evacuation exercise. And we have a couple of other projects that will continue to help keep Eagles Nest Township prepared.

As we wrap up another summer season, we find ourselves facing another holiday season in a very short time. I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a healthy and happy holiday season.

As I tell our Road Ambassadors, stay weather aware and be safe over the holidays – keep an eye on those fireplaces and Christmas trees. Most of all, thank you to all of you for your hard work to keep Eagles Nest Township prepared!

We'll look forward to seeing you in the spring. - Mike Ostlund



## Walking For a Cause

Thank you to all the organizers, sponsors, and participants for remembering fallen First Responders and raising money to support our fire department. Our third annual 9/11 Memorial Walk raised \$7,500 (net) for our fire department auxiliary.



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## Looking for a tax detectable contribution supporting our community?

Please consider the Eagles Nest Fire/EMS Auxiliary 501(c)(3).

*The mission of the non-profit, all volunteer Eagles Nest Fire/EMS Auxiliary is to provide support, to aid financially during times of emergency, support fire protection, emergency medical services and a safe environment for all of Eagles Nest. Township.*

As a 501(c)(3) organization, all contributions are tax deductible. 100% of contributions go directly to support our EMS/fire programs.

Tax deductible contributions may be sent to:  
Eagles Nest Fire/EMS Auxiliary  
1552 Bear Head State Park Road  
Ely, MN 55731

## 2023 Water Clarity

Each month, June through September, a group of volunteers measure the clarity of our lakes. The lakes for which we were able to obtain monthly readings are published below.

Thank you to our volunteers for their service:

Volunteer	Lake
Dan Johnson	Clear
Gloria Gervais	Eagles Nest 1
Donna & John Clark	Eagles Nest 2
Linda Rodorigo	Eagles Nest 3
Jeff Mogush	Eagles Nest 4

Lake	June		July		August		September	
	Date	Reading	Date	Reading	Date	Reading	Date	Reading
Clear			24	10.5 ft	19	10.5 ft	13	11.5
Eagles Nest 1	16	23 ft	2	18.5 ft	27	25		
Eagles Nest 2	15	17.5 ft	3	17.5 ft	5	17.5 ft	15	17.5 ft
Eagles Nest 3	4	21 ft	1	15.5 ft	19	15 ft	2	14 ft
Eagles Nest 4			26	15 ft				

### Welcome to Eagles Nest

Do you know someone that has purchased or will be purchasing property in our Township? Please contact Bev Decker at 612-859-7310. She will be sure to officially welcome them to our community.

### NEWS ABOUT DUES

If you have not paid your 2022 please do so by sending a check for \$25 made out to ENT LA to this address:

ENT LA  
1552 Bear Head State Park Rd.  
Ely, MN 55731

You may also pay at our annual picnic planned for June 29, 2024.

**Editor's note:** Dennis Kaeterhenry, ENTLA Board Treasurer, found this Eagles Nest Poem which was printed in the Fall 2011 newsletter. Always nice to read some history...enjoy!

## Eagles Nest Poem by Carl Howe (circa 1935)

The Arrowhead country  
Has Lakes we adore.  
Ten thousand they say,  
With beautiful shores.  
It's according to fancy,  
Which lake is the best,  
But everything considered,  
It is Eagles Nest.

You will likely say,  
The lake is too small,  
That, in my opinion,  
Means nothing at all.  
The three mile lake  
Will offer to you,  
The finest scenery,  
A person can view.

The island and bays  
With irregular shores,  
Will require time  
For you to explore.  
The shoreline is covered,  
With Cedar and Pine,  
A background of Birch  
Which always looks fine.

Don't strain your neck  
To look at the hills,  
Reflections in the water,  
Gives glorious thrills.  
The water is so clear  
And pure, you know,  
It comes from the springs  
That forever flows.

Talk about wild life,  
You will find it all there—  
From the smallest Shipmonk <*sic*>  
To the ugliest Bear.  
A doe and her fawn,  
With a buck as their guide  
Is a common sight  
From sunrise to dawn.

Seagulls and Ducks,  
And blue Heron too,  
You will find in the bays,  
Waiting for you.  
And the jolly old loon  
All day and all night,

Keeps laughing at you,  
To his own delight.

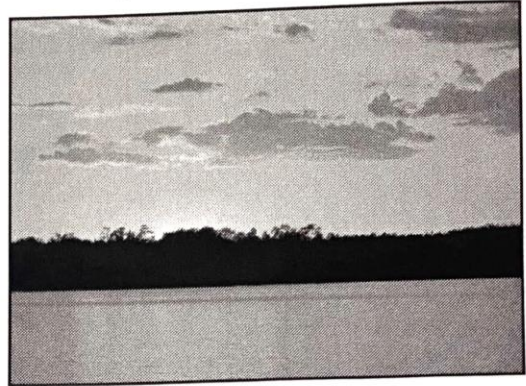
Down in the deep  
And rocky hole,  
Where the water  
Is always cold,  
Is the home of the Walleyed Pike  
Ah, my, what a fish, he is.  
The king of them all,  
You'll know it when he strikes.

Back in the cottage  
At the end of the day,  
You can watch the sunset,  
In the western bay.  
The glorious colors,  
In the lake and the sky,  
Is a real treat  
To the artist's eye.

In the dusk of the evening,  
when the shadows creep in,  
it's the time to review,  
what you may have seen.  
We know you will think,  
It was a glorious day,  
And wishing you always,  
Could live that way.

Now the darkness is trying,  
To limit your sight,  
But the stars  
And the Northern Lights,  
Increasing in number,  
All through the night,  
They keep the lake sparkling,  
Beautiful and bright.

Over the tree tops shiny and bright,  
The moon is now peeping out.  
You can see the reflection  
In the water below.  
It sure is a pleasant sight, as it keeps on  
raising more  
More, getting brighter all the time.  
It makes a silvery trail on the lake,  
From the East to the Western shore.



If you are tired and weary,  
And in need of a rest,  
Throw away your worry,  
And go to "EAGLEST NEST."  
Enjoy the scenery,  
Breathe the pure air,  
Give the nature a chance,  
To yourself be fair.

If you do it once,  
You will do it again.  
Your health will be better,  
You will feel like a man,  
Husky and cheerful.  
You just want to play,  
And all the worries,  
Are forgiven in a day.

Nature does wonders,  
When the doctor fails.  
So shoulder your packsack,  
And start on the trail.  
A healthful vacation,  
With pleasure and rest,  
You're sure to find it—  
at Eagles Nest!

*"There's a  
fine line  
between  
fishing and  
just standing  
on the shore  
like an  
idiot."  
~Steven  
Wright*



## ENTLA Board Members 2022- 2023

### Officers

Ryan Bajan, 2026

Bev Decker, 2024

Tim Decker, 2025

Dennis Kaetterhenry, 2023

Mark Kawell, 2025

Cliff Koski, 2025

Scott Linde, 2025

Joanne Schwartz, 2023

Tony Wood, 2025

President: Tim Decker

Vice President: Open

Treasurer: Dennis Kaetterhenry

Secretary: Bev Decker

Water Clarity: Tim Decker

Water Quality: Joanne Schwartz

Welcome: Bev Decker

Membership: Dennis Kaetterhenry

Adopt a Highway: Tim Decker

Board members may be contacted at: [entlakesassn@gmail.com](mailto:entlakesassn@gmail.com)

Have an article, picture, suggestions for the newsletter? Contact Tim Decker at [timdecker54@gmail.com](mailto:timdecker54@gmail.com) or 612-875-5855. We need articles and pictures for the Spring newsletter.

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### Photo Gallery



Rich Floyd



Rich Floyd



Tim Decker



Rich Floyd



**Membership Form and Directory Information  
Eagles Nest Township Lakes Association**

**It is necessary to complete this form ONLY IF you are a  
new member or there are changes from 2022-2023.**

Only your name, township address and lake/cell phone number will be listed in the biennial directory

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Alternate/Additional Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Circle One: Armstrong    Camp    Clear    EN Lake 1    EN Lake 2    EN Lake 3  
                  EN Lake 4    Pickerel    Robinson    Five Mile    Six Mile    Back-lot

Lake/Township Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Lake Contact Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: (To receive newsletters by mail when you are not at the lake.)

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_                      State: \_\_\_\_\_      Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Alternate Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Annual Dues: \$25.00 per household, July 1<sup>st</sup> – June 30<sup>th</sup>

Make checks payable to “ENTLA” or Eagles Nest Township Lakes Association

Mail to: ENTLA  
1552 Bear Head State Park Rd.  
Ely, MN 55731

ENTLA e-mail: [entlakesassn@gmail.com](mailto:entlakesassn@gmail.com)

Please circle those functions for which you would be willing to volunteer:

Board Member    Roadside Cleanup    Water Clarity Reader    Mailing Preparation    Picnic Preparation  
Zebra samplers    Boat Launch Ambassadors    Water Samplers    Miscellaneous – one-time help.

To volunteer as a Firefighter or First Responder contact our Chief at 218-365-4573 or  
[eaglesnestfirechief@citlink.net](mailto:eaglesnestfirechief@citlink.net).