

Lake Association Success = Kimble Lake



Even with hundreds of lakes in this neck of the woods, it's unlikely that any one of them epitomizes Minnesota lake country.

There is, however, the occasional lake association that stands out, a prime example of working together, neighbors motivating neighbors – the very definition of lake associations at work.

The Kimble Lake Homeowners Association hasn't been around as long as some. But since the association's formation in 2002, its membership has worked to create what could be viewed as a blueprint of sorts for what a lake association can and should be – even in the shadow of one of Kimble Lake's well-known neighbors – the Whitefish Chain – that, for some, does epitomize this area around Pequot Lakes.

“We were introduced to the area in 1980 when my parents brought a property on the Whitefish Chain,” said Steve Erickson, who has served on the association board since 2004, including as president. “After my parents sold their property on the Whitefish Chain, I started watching for a property for our young family. We purchased our current property during the winter of 1993 – I wanted a place that our three kids could enjoy during their youth.



“At the time, our children were 16, 14 and 9,” Erickson told *Minnesota Traditions*, which celebrates the state’s resources, embracing places like Kimble and Minnesota’s lakes and waterways. (For more, go to <http://www.minnesotatraditions.com>.) “I told them we would stay on Kimble Lake until we could afford to buy on the Whitefish Chain. It wasn’t long before our family fell in love with Kimble Lake. A move to the Whitefish Chain was never seriously considered.”

And it all starts with the Kimble Lake mission statement, Erickson said:

“The Kimble Lake Homeowners Association is organized to encourage wise use and preservation of Kimble Lake in order to maintain the ecological balance, which must exist between the lake and the adjacent shore land. The association will work to keep this lake and its surrounding watershed in good condition. Further, the association will consider, recommend, and endeavor, through responsible means, to bring about appropriate action by agencies of government and private individuals to realize effective management and preservation of the valuable resources of Kimble Lake and its adjacent shore land.”

According to Jim Schultz, who has served as vice president and president of the board and, more recently, as chairman of the association’s aquatic invasive species committee, the association has been true to that mission statement.



“We started monitoring our public access in 2013 (for aquatic invasive species), and in 2017, we actually monitored the access for 1,157 hours from May until October,” Schultz said. “That was a combination of free county hours, paid-for county hours, and our volunteers. We have 24 trained volunteers who commit time at the access during the year.

“We also have a Resources Committee that stocks the lake with walleye's every year and a social committee that develops/executes the social functions. And, of course, the Sunshine Committee that reaches out to those on the lake with health or other difficult issues.

“Other changes include more year-round homes being built in place of the summer-only cabins and more social events each year, including Saturday morning coffees, Mexican fiestas, boat parades, canoe trips, volleyball tournaments, fishing tournaments, and other various social functions.

“We have sort of become our own community.”

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