



April/May 2026 Membership Newsletter

FROM THE PRESIDENT:

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I hope this first newsletter of 2026 finds you all well, looking forward to open water, and the return of the beautiful Northwoods sounds that surely follow, which includes the sounds of migrating waterfowl, the singing of the peepers in our wetland areas and the song of the Common Loons.

We had a very productive 2025, and 2026 is looking to be as exciting. We will be having our 2026 Area Lake's Day this year and it is always a great way to kick off our membership drive. With three speakers who will be enlightening us with a history of the Blue Diamond Lakes, the art of photographing the abundance of nature we have on the lakes, and how the aquatic macrophytes (plants) work to make our Lakes a healthy ecosystem for the flora and fauna that live amongst us. Area Lake's Day will be on Saturday, April 18th at the Arrowhead Bible Camp from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Along with the speakers, we will have several area vendors set up in addition to our special committees who will be there to showcase their achievements. Additionally, you will be able to pay your membership dues and pick up your ICOLA calendar at that time.

We saw a revival of the fish rearing ponds in 2025, which hadn't been utilized since 2011. The ICOLA and walleye committee worked very hard and saw over 5,600 walleyes harvested to an average of seven inches with many over 11 inches going back into our lakes. We are looking at growing and releasing more Walleye into our lakes in 2026! In order to do this we will need additional monetary donations to repeat the success we had last year. Please let me, or Rod Steege know if this is something that you would be interested in helping us out with. A major regulation change on the lake for fishermen in 2026 is that starting on April 1st the daily bag limit for panfish will go from 25 fish to 10 fish. This is a change being seen around the state to make sure our fisheries stay strong.

Below are the dates to remember for upcoming events and meetings this year. Your ICOLA board looks forward to seeing you at our meetings!

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

Saturday, April 18, 2026 - Area Lake's Day at Arrowhead Bible camp. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Saturday, May 9, 2026 - Shep's 10 a.m. (No Speaker)

Saturday, June 13, 2026 - Backwoods 10 a.m. (Speaker)

Saturday, July 11, 2026 - Brat Feed - Sunny's 11 a.m. (WDNR and Rusk County Sheriff)

Saturday, August 8, 2026 - Hawk's (Elections)- 10 a.m. (Speaker)