



The Tackle Box

Keeping it Reel

Loren Simer
Board President



Hello Everyone,

Well, the lakes are still ice-covered, but CAFWF is busy getting ready for our seventeenth season.

We have a very ambitious, active Summer planned:

- Spring Kickoff Dinner for active members April 22nd
- Boat crew training starts in April
- Regular trips on Lake Minnetonka start in May
- Family Fishing Academy June 7th
- Vets On The Lake Day July 14th
- Plus special activities like shore fishing on Firemen's Pond and supporting the Lake Minnetonka Crappie Contest, Armed Forces Family Fun Celebration and Chaska's Fire and Ice program.

We will keep you posted on schedule developments and new activities via our newsletter, email distribution, website (www.CAFWF.org), and Facebook.

We're eagerly looking forward to seeing everyone again and sharing more memorable outdoor experiences with our community.

Be well & stay safe!

Highlights of 2025

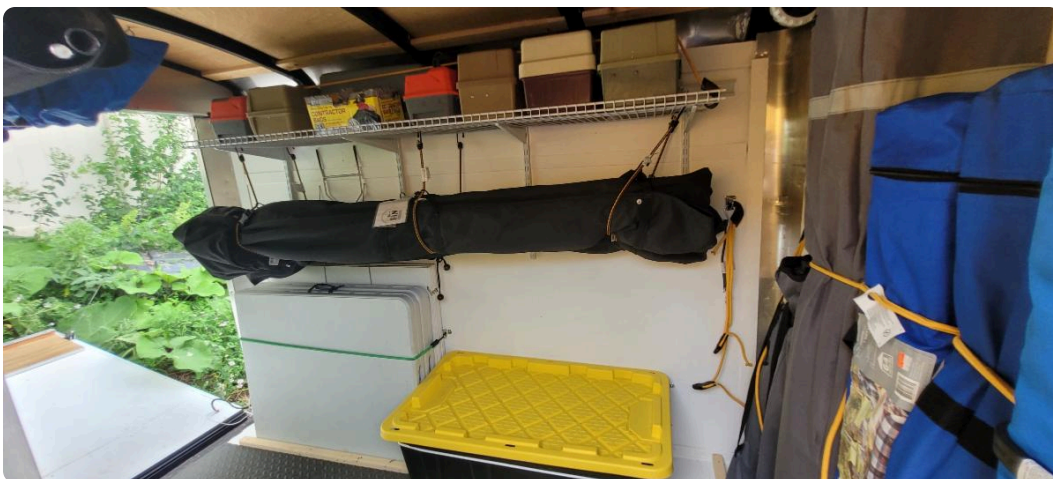
Upgraded Pontoon

At a cost just over \$40,000, we had our pontoon completely refurbished by Blue Lagoon Marine. The pontoon is now better than ever with a new engine, new floor, new seats, new electronics, new Bimini top and new, light-weight cover. We were fortunate to obtain a no-interest loan from the City of Chaska for the entire project. We now have the challenge of raising the money to pay off that loan.



Upgraded Event Trailer

Jeff Willeck designed, fabricated and installed flooring, shelves, equipment anchors and bins. Finally, our trailer is fully useful and organized as it was intended.



Record Number of Trips Scheduled

We had unprecedented demand for our pontoon trips. Clients booked over 130 trips and CAFWF volunteers signed up to handle each of them. As usual,

weather interfered with some of these plans, but our crews still performed at least 104 trips, a record number of trips.

Fall Dinner & Annual Elections

At the well-attended Fall Recognition Dinner we welcomed special guests from Blue Lagoon Marine Jason Rice and spouse. We also held the annual election. Re-elected for another three year term to our Board of Directors were Sandy Curtis, Jennifer Willeck and Adrienne Klehr. We elected one new Board Member.

Please welcome new board member Cheri Hanna.



Your 2026 Board Members

- Loren Simer – President
- Gary Wittrock – Secretary
- Jennifer Willeck – Marketing
- Charlie Robbins – Treasurer
- George Rossiter – Boat Operations Manager
- Sandy Curtis – Volunteer Coordinator
- Tony Faust
- Cheri Hanna
- Adrienne Klehr
- Scott Paynter
- Gary Sornsen

Kickoff Dinner - April 22nd

Persons who intend to be active volunteers during 2026, are invited to our 2026 Kickoff Dinner on Wednesday evening, April 22nd from 5:30 to 7:30 PM at The Lodge in the Chaska Community Center at 1661 Park Ridge Drive in Chaska.

If you want to be an active volunteer this year, we encourage you to attend. You should RSVP no later than April 12th. Spouses and significant others are also invited.

We are seeking new members, so please bring friends, neighbors, relatives, coworkers and others who may be interested.

RSVP Today!



New Tax Rules

New tax rules concerning donations should make it easier for many taxpayers to donate to CAFWF. We understand that many Individual non-itemizing taxpayers may now deduct up to \$1,000 and many couples filing jointly may now deduct up to \$2,000 in addition to their full Standard Deduction on their Federal Income Tax*. Please consider donating to CAFWF so we can continue to serve others. We appreciate your support!

**CAFWF does not give tax advice. You must follow IRS guidelines, which are available at [IRS.gov](https://www.irs.gov)*

[Donate](#)

MN DNR Webinars

The MN DNR is featuring several angling educational webinars at this link - <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/fishwildlife/outreach/index.html>



We Need You!

There are many ways to be a part of CAFWF. We are looking for helpers for our pontoon trips, shore side fishing, Family Fishing Academy, Vets On The Lake Day, plus program management activities, and much, much more!

Everyone can visit our volunteer page on our website to learn more. Next they should fill out and submit the online Volunteer Form. We will respond promptly.

Join Us!



Follow Us



Chaska Area Fishing With Friends | 1661 Park Ridge Dr | Chaska, MN 55318 US

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