

Shishebogama & Gunlock Lakes Association Newsletter

Volume 31 Issue 1

Feb 2026

Special President's Message – SGLA's Strategy to Address Confirmed AIS in our Lakes By Rich Carani

2026, IT'S HERE! It is hard to believe our country is celebrating 250 years since declaring our independence. In some ways this seems like a long time and other ways, a very short period of time when you consider other countries around the world. But enough pondering! Your SGLA Social Committee has big plans for celebrating this year and we will carry our 2026 theme forward for all our 2026 events: **USA – 250 years embracing: Service, God, Liberty, and America the Beautiful.** So, enjoy every bit of this year while at the lake, we are blessed! I would also like to wish all our SGLA members and neighbors a happy and prosperous New Year! We are fortunate to welcome 2026 to the Northwoods with lots of snow and cold temperatures - so far this has been an awesome year for our winter enthusiasts.

This rest of my message is going to focus on the Curly Leaf Pond Weed infestation discovered in Lake Shishebogama in the summer of 2024. We summarized the problem in detail in our October 2025 Newsletter, which you can find on the new SGLA website in the "About Us" tab. Please check out our new website at <https://shishgunlocklakeassoc.org>

A top priority of your Board is to keep our members fully informed as we navigate through many, many unknowns. Here are some facts on Curly Leaf Pondweed (CLPW) to bring you up to speed:

- **About CLPW:** The DNR designates CLPW as an Aquatic Invasive Species. It can form a thick mat on top of the water limiting navigation, choking out native plants and altering fish habitat. It is also aesthetically unappealing and can spread rapidly if conditions are conducive. If it gets bad enough it can affect property values.



Although our groundhog did see his shadow this year; instead of crawling back into his hole for 6 more weeks, he stayed around and enjoyed a really great, warm, sunny Chill Out with us

- **CLPW Reproduction:** CLPW is in the same category as Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) but there are minor differences in how they reproduce and spread. EWM spreads by fragmentation, and fragments can be carried by water currents, wildlife and human activity thus making EWM very difficult to control. CLPW also spreads from fragmentation, as well as by dropping "seeds" called turions to the lakebed, where they sprout and grow from year to year. If CLPW is uprooted while its turions "seeds"

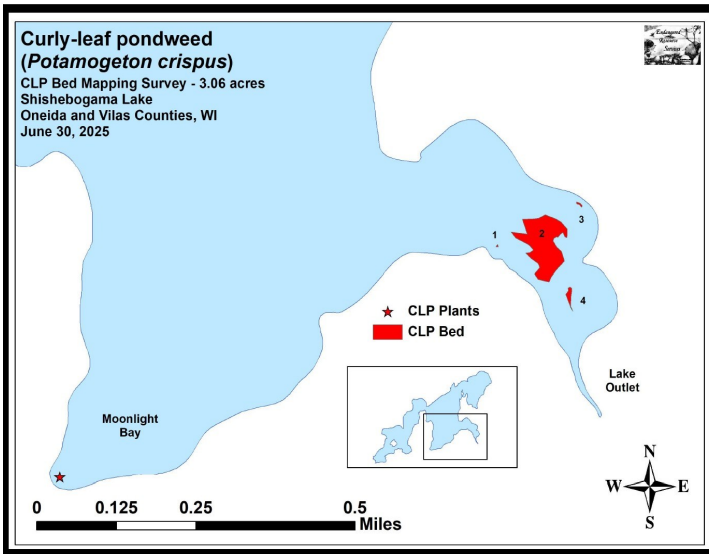


are present on the plant, or while roots are active, it can also be spread by human activity or wildlife and be dropped in another part of the lake. The only positive with CLPW is that it dies back in mid-summer when water temperatures rise. The bottom line is this: transporting an invasive species from one spot to another in a lake, or from lake to lake, is very destructive to the overall lake quality.

(Continued next page)

- **Assessing CLWP's Presence in Our Lakes:** Gunlock and Shishebogama are nutrient-rich lakes and therefore are ideal for aquatic plant life to grow. When

"The preservation and protection of the natural resources of Shishebogama/Gunlock Lakes and its surroundings as general public recreational facilities, through monitoring and maintenance of its waters, shore lands, wetlands and fisheries." With that said, doing nothing is not an option. Attacking a portion of the infestation to preserve financial resources also seemed like it would just be kicking the can down the road when it comes to reigning in the CLPW. After careful discussion of all pros and cons, your Board has determined that our best option is to make an aggressive attack to mitigate the CLPW. On January 17, 2026 we met and voted unanimously to move forward with an aggressive plan of attack. This may seem like an easy decision, until you consider that the experts all say that there is no guarantee that even an all-out attack will eradicate or slow the CLPW. The turions can survive on the lake bottom for 5-7 years and clearly, many are already present in the lakebed especially in Rockwood Bay. We can assume, at a minimum, that we will be engaged in some level of mitigation for the next ten years. This is in no way a one-and-done approach. Simply put, we are dealing with Mother Nature.



we first found CLPW in Rockwood Bay on Shish, we hired an experienced contractor to perform a “meander study” to look for CLPW in other parts of both Shish and Gunlock. The LDF Tribe also performed a meander study, and we compared findings. We found CLPW in a total of six locations in Lake Shish: four spots in Rockwood Bay (including one very large 3-acre infestation); one spot in Joe’s Bay at the Rockwood landing and one spot in Moonlight Bay.

- **Partners on Mitigation Efforts:** Once we had a handle on the severity of the issue, the Board’s next step was to determine options moving forward. We have spent many hours, days and weeks attending meetings and conferences, making phone calls, and researching and prioritizing a mitigation plan for this issue. One thing we have learned is that we must work with two other partners because they have a jurisdictional say over mitigating this issue in our lakes. These partners are the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the Lac Du Flambeau Tribe. The SGLA Board has directly engaged with both partners, meeting in person with them several times in 2025. It has been a cooperative effort to date with both the DNR and the Tribe expressing their willingness to work with SGLA to find a solution.

- **Options for Mitigation:** The Board has three options to address the CLPW:
 1. Do nothing;
 2. Attack portions of the infestation on some sort of timeline;
 3. Launch an all-out attack to stop the spread and reverse the CLPW presence in Shish.

• In the SGLA bylaws, we state that our purpose is

- **Mitigation Efforts:** We began our mitigation efforts last summer by hiring Aquatic Plant Management (APM) to hand pull CLPW from Rockwood Bay. We were not very successful due to the large size of the infestation (3 acres). In the world of aquatic invasive species removal, there are four options: 1) hand pulling using divers; 2) mechanical harvesting with a floating harvester; 3) DASH which is “diver assisted suction harvesting” of the plants and 4) chemicals (herbicide application). Herbicide use is off the table because the Tribe’s constitution forbids it in all waters within the boundaries of the reservation—thus we could not get a permit to apply herbicides even if we wanted to. But incidentally, other lakes who have used herbicides repeatedly also have not achieved elimination of either CLPW or EWM, and herbicides will also harm other native plant life. CLPW is closely related to other desirable native pondweeds and those would be impacted by herbicides. Mechanical harvesting (hand pulling) can spread turions and unfortunately our infestation our area is so large that this is not an efficient method. This leaves us with DASH which costs up to \$2,500 per day.

- **Future Planning/Grants:** As part of the mitigation process we also need to update our lake management plan for Shish, which was last done in 2019. This is essential to ensure SGLA’s ability to apply for and receive grants. We solicited proposals from several companies who can perform the studies and update our lake management plan and we selected the most cost efficient one, who can also help us immediately. The *(Continued next page)*

cost for this service will be \$18,800. We are confident in our contractor selection, and moving forward, we must also perform a study on Gunlock for the same reason (to get grants). The Tribe has indicated they plan to perform the study on Gunlock in 2026 so we will continue to communicate with them in that effort.

The Plan of Action: As I stated, your Board voted on January 17 to launch an aggressive attack on CLPW in Lake Shish. As part of this, the Board approved a potential out-of-pocket expenditure for the mitigation plan of up to \$48,000. This is the largest expenditure in the history of the SGLA and one of the toughest decisions the Board has ever made. We have been telling our membership for years that we need to have a war chest in the event an aquatic invasive species takes hold in our lakes. Folks, the day is here, and fortunately we have a war chest, albeit limited.

There is an urgency here because CLPW must be removed between mid-May and mid-June to prevent the spread of new turions. Here is our plan of action:

1. **Apply for a Wisconsin DNR Early Detection AIS grant.** This grant includes \$25,000 of DNR funds; it requires a 25% match by SGLA so our out-of-pocket cost will be \$8,300 on total expenditure of \$33,300.
2. **Hire Sarah Hatleli at Aquatic Plant and Habitat Services LLC** to perform the Point Intercept Study and update the lake management plan for Shish in the amount of \$18,800. Grant funds will help cover this cost.
3. **Budget for a Point Intercept Study on Gunlock in 2026**, in case the Tribe does not complete the study. This cost is \$2,100.
4. **Approve 15 days of DASH on Lake Shish**, paying Aquatic Plant Management Services (APM) for this service at a cost of \$37,500.
5. **Approve an additional 5 days of DASH** if APM cannot complete the three-acre removal in 15 days at a cost of \$12,500. DASH can remove between .5 and 1 acre of CLPW per week depending on the thickness of the infestation. Everything is based on estimates and what we find when the CLPW starts growing again in early 2026.

We hope that that our out-of-pocket costs are at the low end, and that we can remove weeds in a 15-day or less period. I also want to re-emphasize that updates to the lake management plans on both lakes are critical for the SGLA to apply for a next level DNR grant beyond the early detection grant, should it be needed. Every expense and process in this mitigation plan is necessary to either seek future grant funding or help our efforts to eradicate the CLPW.

Summary: There is a lot of information here, and I've tried to summarize this complicated issue and process as best I can but I am sure there will be questions and we welcome them. PLEASE reach out if you have questions.

I am going to take this opportunity to once again state how important it is not to transport weeds around the lake or from lake to lake. Clean your anchors, fishing lures and motors before moving around the lake. It is everyone's responsibility to help.

One of our biggest efforts we make to prevent the spread of invasives is our landing monitoring. **We need volunteers to help with the Clean Boats Clean Waters Program at the Gunlock boat launch.** Watch this spring for our "Sign Up" announcement for volunteers and please respond. We will train you and I promise it is not difficult, in fact it is a rewarding experience—the view at the launch is beautiful and you get to meet a lot of nice people.

We also have several "non-public" boat launches on our lakes that do not get monitored. **It is up to us as lake property owners to make sure private landings are not sources of infestation.** Educate your family, guests and friends. We have a precious resource (our lakes) that we want to preserve.

One last note: We will be marking the CLPW infested area this year with buoys and signage to alert boaters. Please do your best to avoid these areas and not move weeds into other areas of the lake. Thank you!

Rich

FISH STOCKING

The LDF Tribal Fish Hatchery stocked Shishebogama lake with 1,270 5-8 inch extended growth walleye and Gunlock lake 1,293 5-8 inch extended growth walleye in October 2025.

Based on the information provided by the DNR and the Tribal Hatchery, SGLA plans to apply for a permit to stock 2,350 extended growth walleye, into Lake Shishebogama, in the fall of 2026.

As for musky. the DNR has, historically, stocked Shish with 300 to 400 musky every other year (odd years). Unfortunately, the Arbor Vitae hatchery did not produce enough fish to supply all the lakes they intended to. As a result, no musky were stocked last fall. The fisheries committee is petitioning the DNR to provide some stock this year, our "off year", to help offset last fall's shortage.

2026 Clean Boats Clean Waters Program (CBCW)

Your Association has again secured a grant from the DNR that will enable us to participate in the Clean Boats Clean Waters Program this upcoming boating season.

CBCW is an important program for a few reasons:

1. We educate boaters at the Gunlock Launch about the need to Inspect and Remove any plant life from boats, trailers or equipment, drain live wells and never move plant life from one lake to another.

It's possible that Curly Leaf Pondweed was introduced into Lake Shish at the Lakeland Village launch, and that's a clear message that it is vital that everyone pays attention to their equipment and inspect, clean, remove and drain before you launch a boat and also when you remove your boat from any lake. **Talk to your friends, neighbors or renters this summer to make sure they know how important this process is for the future of our lakes.**

2. We have a paid inspector on the weekends who visually inspects the boats/trailers, etc. to ensure that no AIS are present before someone launches a boat, personal watercraft, kayak etc. into the lake from the launch. At this point in time our beloved inspector Tom Meisenheimer plans to return as our paid weekend/holiday inspector for 2026. Yea!
3. We need volunteers to donate their time (an hour here and an hour there) during the summer weekdays (a minimum of 150 hours) to help us meet the volunteer requirements for the DNR grant. For the past few years, a group of about 10 SGLA members have done the yeoman's share of volunteering and it's time we added more people to this roster – please! Watch for more information in early May about how to volunteer to be a launch inspector.

We promise the conditions and the view from the launch will be more hospitable by May!



2026 SGLA MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL CAMPAIGN STARTS IN MARCH

The SGLA Board wants to remind all our current members that it's almost time to renew your SGLA membership. We'll begin our membership renewal campaign next month. We'll be using the Zeffy option again for members to renew their membership online.

We adopted Zeffy, a donor system for nonprofits, last year. We needed a system that would take credit cards as fewer of us use checks these days. Last year, almost 50% of our members used Zeffy, and we hope even more members will use Zeffy this year for your renewal. It's easy and helps SGLA in multiple ways as we save mailing expenses and clerical time. Zeffy accepts dues and donations and is flexible enough to allow members to direct their donations to their preferred SGLA funds including Fisheries, AIS, Social and Board choice.

As a quick refresher, Zeffy accepts all major credit and debit cards, Apple Pay, and Google Pay. Zeffy's goal is to return every penny of dues and donations to nonprofits like SGLA. They achieve that goal by asking donors to leave a 'tip' with each donation to cover the payment processing fees. This tip is no different than service fees we're seeing added to many credit card charges today. We recommend that the tip to Zeffy be 4% to 5% so we remain attractive to Zeffy as our payment processor. Currently, the Zeffy system is completely free for SGLA.

Members can expect to receive an email from SGLA around March 9, 2026, with a link inviting you to use Zeffy to renew your membership. For those who still prefer to write a check, you will find a 2026 membership renewal form that you may download from our website. We thank all our members who loyally renew their membership. We're also very appreciative of those members who add an optional donation to help cover the Association's expenses. Please consider adding an extra donation this year to help us cover the significant cost of Curly leaf pondweed mitigation. Thanks in advance for all your support.

The SGLA Board of Directors

SGLA's PATRIOTIC THEME FOR 2026

On July 4, 1776, the Continental Congress declared independence from Britain as the Revolutionary War raged on.

The Continental Army, led by George Washington, eventually prevailed in their fight for liberation from Britain. These volunteer soldiers were both native born and immigrants of almost every nationality. They were as young as sixteen, and those younger than that were accepted with their parents' permission. Many women also disguised themselves as men to serve, so fervent was the desire for liberty!

From a total force of 230,000 soldiers, approximately 8,000 lost their lives in combat, while twice that number succumbed to disease or starvation. In total, 30% of the army was either killed, wounded, or taken prisoner. Freedom—whether to achieve it, maintain it or facilitate it for others—does not come free.

As we honor the tremendous qualities of bravery, sacrifice, heroism and fortitude that eventually led to a victory over Britain and the creation of our beloved United States of America, SGLA wanted to recognize this 250th anniversary with a special theme. The Social Committee announced a theme contest in fall 2025, requiring the theme to be based around the 250th birthday of the Declaration of Independence, but also incorporating SGLA in some way.

We received over a dozen entries for the contest, and the themes were presented anonymously for a vote by the Social Committee and SGLA Board. The winning theme is:

Our USA - 250 Years Embracing:

Service
God
Liberty
America the Beautiful!

Congratulations to Jean and Rae Payne on Gunlock Lake for the winning entry, and thanks to all who participated.

We kicked off our theme at the 2026 Chill Out with a special banner that served as the backdrop for the event. Below is a photo of the Chill Out Committee with our banner, and you will see more displays of our theme throughout the year.

God Bless the USA and SGLA!





**RIP RAP BUFFER GARDENS FIGHT AIS:
APPLY NOW!**

Integrating native plants into rip rap (known as "joint plantings" or "vegetated armor") is a highly effective strategy to prevent the establishment and spread of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS). Native plants fill the ecological niches between the rocks and become a natural barrier to invasives that otherwise might take hold. The SGLA Buffer Garden team is looking for more Rip Rap sites as another step to stop the spread of Curly leaf pondweed across our lake shores.

How Native Plants in Rip Rap Fight AIS

Native plants form dense root systems that outcompete AIS such as Purple loosestrife, Curly leaf pondweed, Eurasian water milfoil and more. By occupying the space between rocks, native plants block the entrapment of floating AIS fragments that are looking for a place to become established. Native plants in rip rap also filter sediment and nutrients (like phosphorus from fertilizer) as well as nutrients from upland runoff; these nutrients can promote the growth of aquatic invasive species.

Recommended Wisconsin Native Plants for Rip Rap

The Wisconsin DNR recommends a range of specific native species that have adapted to the harsh conditions of rocky shorelines including sedges, grasses, milkweeds, vervains and more. These natives have strong, fibrous roots that tolerate the fluctuating shoreline water levels as they tuck into the rock joints. Proactively planting native plants in your shoreline rip rap is highly beneficial.

Buffer Garden Team is Looking for More Rip Rap Garden Sites

As the SGLA fights our Curly Leaf Pondweed (CLP) infestation, the Buffer Garden team is focused on implementing more rip rap buffer gardens. We have funding to install two to four Rip Rap gardens this season. The Buffer Garden team will make recommendations for the best native plants to install at your site, provide site preparation guidelines, procure the plants, and assist you in planting the plants.

If you'd like to learn more about putting native plants in your shoreline rip rap please reach out to: Chris Denniston cad4lf@comcast.net or Tracey Lust traceylust140@hotmail.com for a Buffer Garden application now. We are taking applications until March 1, 2026.

Shishebogama & Gunlock Lakes Association

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Bob Schmidman Editor

SGLA Has a New Website

Please check out the new SGLA website at shishgunlocklakeassoc.org. We launched the site in early January 2026 and it features:

- An easy to navigate “menu” in the top left corner (called a “hamburger” by IT folks). You can use the menu to navigate to pages that tell you more about SGLA, links to our various lake programs, social activities, AIS information and get directly to the SignUp page to RSVP for social events or to schedule a time to volunteer at the launch this summer.
- On our “home” page we will post the most pertinent information so that you can see high priority items right away without having to hunt for them. At the bottom of the home page you can also link to many of our lake programs, similar to getting to them from the hamburger menu.
- In the “About Us” portion of the menu you can find a roster of your fellow SGLA members as well as our lake maps. We are always striving to keep the lake maps updated with owners of the many lots on our lakes, so if you know of changes please send them to slgacommcmte@gmail.com
- A link to the current SGLA Calendar of Events is also in the main menu and under the Social Activities tab.
- Click on the “Contact” button on the home page to reach out to the SGLA board with questions, suggestions, etc. and we will always get back to you.

SGLA would like to thank Abby Miller of Stonebridge Marketing in Ashland, WI for helping us design and launch the new website. We started this project in October 2025 and finished it in early January, which may be a record for the Northwoods, just saying. If you love the photos on the website, they were taken and shared with SGLA by Steve Haugesag (an SGLA member and Shish resident). Thank you Steve! Finally we want to thank Greg Myers who designed and updated our prior website. Greg and his wife Gaye recently moved from our lakes, and we wish them well in their next adventures.

Please bookmark the new URL for our website so that you can easily return to it at any time. Again, it is shishgunlocklakeassoc.org

SLGA BOOK CLUB 2026 BOOK SELECTIONS & DATES

The SGLA Book Club team is excited to share the list of this year’s books as we look forward to our 8th season of reading together! We welcome anyone to our meetups who likes to read and participate in thoughtful discussions. We always learn something new!

The Book Club Committee picks books from a range of reading genres that offer interesting discussion topics. There’s also the goal of choosing books that appeal to all our readers and that sometime take us out of our comfort zones! A few of next year’s selections are nods to SGLA’s plan to celebrate the country’s 250th birthday with stories that highlight our country’s rich history. Here’s next year’s line-up that was unveiled at our final event this year on September 25th:

May 28, 2026, None of This is True (Lisa Jewell)
Genre: Thriller Mystery

June 25, 2026, The Frozen River (Ariel Lawhon) Genre: Historical Fiction

July 23, 2026, North Woods (Daniel Mason) Genre: Historical and Speculative Fiction

August 27, 2026, James (Percival Everett) Genre: Historical Fiction

September 24, 2026, All the Living and the Dead (Hayley Campbell) Genre: Non-Fiction

As in past seasons we’ll work with the Minocqua Library to have these books on the Reserve shelf for our group next summer. We currently have leads and hostesses for all our meetups except for the August event. We look forward to seeing everyone next May!

The Book Club Committee: Nancy Berndt,
Chris Denniston & Trinkia Waters

One of our former Presidents recently stated he believes aliens are real



It’s possible, if you look closely you may be able to see them



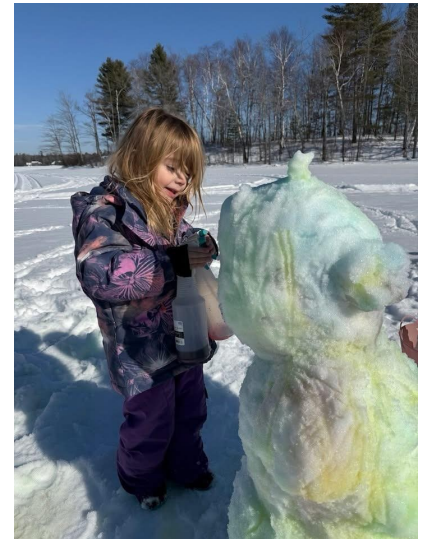
What a beautiful day and amazing participation for our 2026 SGLA Winter Chill Out! This was a great event to “kick-off” our lake association social events. Everyone enjoyed great food, fun games, socializing and gorgeous weather. The sunshine and warm weather provided a lovely backdrop for our annual event. We want to thank our chill out team and all those who donated raffle baskets, time, food and energy to make this our best event ever! Social Events for 2026 are listed on our website and on the last page of this newsletter. This will be a wonderful year on our lakes especially as we celebrate our Country’s 250th Birthday!

Crystal Roecker SGLA Social Committee Chair



*Whoever said
There's
No fish in Shish?*

Looks like
We have another
Michelangelo
Or Rodin
In the making



*It may not be Milano
But these future champions
Had a great time!*





SGLA 2026 EVENTS AT A GLANCE

Event	Date	Time	Where/Event Leader(s)
SGLA Winter Chill Out	Saturday, February 14	11 am – 2 pm	On the Ice @ Rockwood Bay Lead: Sue & Doug Holle
May Ladies of the Lakes	Thursday, May 21	5 pm – 8 pm	Lead: Barb Brown
May Gentlemen of the Lakes	Thursday, May 21	5 pm – 8 pm	Leads: Len Roecker & Rich Carani
May Book Club <i>None of This is True (Lisa Jewell)</i>	Thursday, May 28	6 pm – 8:30 pm	Host & Lead: Crystal Roecker
SGLA Rummage Sale	Saturday, May 23	8 am – 5 pm	Lead: Dana & Jerry Wakefield
June Ladies of the Lakes	Thursday, June 18	5 pm – 8 pm	Lead: Barb Brown
June Gentlemen of the Lakes	Thursday, June 18	5 pm – 8 pm	Leads: Len Roecker & Rich Carani
SGLA Annual Meeting	Saturday, June 20	8 am – 11 am	Woodruff Community Center
June Book Club <i>The Frozen River (Ariel Lawhon)</i>	Thursday, June 25	6 pm – 8:30 pm	Host: Carol Pozniak Lead: Judy Popovich
Gunlock 4 th of July Boat Parade	Saturday, July 4	2 pm	Gunlock Lake (Starts in Loon Bay) Lead: Delma Erikson
SGLA Dock Decorating – USA 250th anniversary theme	Saturday, July 4	10 am – 7 pm	Shish & Gunlock Lakes
July Ladies of the Lakes	Thursday, July 16	5 pm – 8 pm	Lead: Barb Brown
July Gentlemen of the Lakes	Thursday, July 16	5 pm – 8 pm	Leads: Len Roecker & Rich Carani
SGLA Summer Picnic	Saturday, July 18	11 am – 2 pm	Minocqua Sports Pavilion Lead: Crystal & Len Roecker
July Book Club <i>North Woods (Daniel Mason)</i>	Thursday, July 23	6 pm – 8:30 pm	Hostess: Barb Brown Lead: Sue Holle
SGLA Poker Run	Saturday, Aug 8	TBD	Leads: Kristi Benson, Donette Zander, Joyce Carani, Sue Holle
August Ladies of the Lakes	Thursday, Aug 20	5 pm – 8 pm	Lead: Barb Brown
August Gentlemen of the Lakes	Thursday, Aug 20	5 pm – 8 pm	Leads: Len Roecker & Rich Carani
August Book Club <i>James (Percival Everett)</i>	Thursday, Aug 27	6 pm – 8:30 pm	Hostess & Lead TBD
September Ladies of the Lakes	Thursday, Sept 17	5 pm – 8 pm	Lead: Barb Brown
Sept Gentlemen of the Lakes	Thursday, Sept 17	5 pm – 8 pm	Leads: Len Roecker & Rich Carani
Sept Book Club (<i>All the Living & the Dead</i>) Hayley Campbell	Thursday, Sept 24	6 pm – 8:30 pm	Hostess: Chris Denniston Lead: Susan Haugesag
SGLA Garden Club	Events TBD		Tracey Lust
Welcome Committee	Year Round	As needed	Kristi Benson & Bev Wnuk
Winter Warriors	Events TBD		Peggy Kresch

Updated 1/17/2026