



President's Note

February has crept up on me again. Seems like it was not that long ago that I finished the October newsletter. I was looking forward to some down time. Sadly, time kept moving while I relaxed. So, here I am again working on the next newsletter and focusing on the annual membership drive. It starts now, by the way!

The ELRA Board met on a freezing day in January and hashed over the 2026 To-Do list. Much of it is routine, except for a few new items that need attention this year. You will find ELRA's 2026 goals in this newsletter along with an activity recap from 2025.

A goal from last year was to be more active in the community. That goal was accomplished by participating in Emily Day. Many people liked our entry in the Emily Day parade. Thanks, Doug for lending us your jazzy pickup for the parade. Vroom, Vroom.



We plan to be active around the community again. We would like to host a fun social event for our members. More news on that later. Added items on the To-Do list are Starry Stonewort monitoring and researching if we can dredge the Little Pine River channel where it meets Lake Emily. Many comments about prop damage there.

Enjoy the rest of winter, spring is not that far away.

Russ Boverhuis, President

2026 Membership Dues

February is when ELRA begins our membership drive for the year. We ask members to renew, or if new to the area, join our community. Dues are only \$50 per property and have not changed since 2018. Please renew today. We need your support!

Joining is simple – fill out the membership form and mail it along with your check or use our website. See below for details.

We run on a very lean budget. Additional donations are appreciated and are put to effective use. Your additional donation goes only to the projects you choose. If your employer has a matching grant program, consider submitting your ELRA contribution for a matching donation.

Join by Mail

Complete the membership form and mail it, along with your check to ELRA, P.O. Box 111, Emily, MN 56447. A membership form is included with this newsletter, or it can be found on our website, www.emilylakes.org.

Join Online

Go to ELRA's website, www.emilylakes.org. On the homepage click the **JOIN** link. Fill in the information on the registration page and then click **SUBMIT REGISTRATION INFO**. Next, you will be directed to the payment webpage to complete the payment process. A \$3.00 is added to your membership to cover the credit card processing fees.

ELRA 2026 Goals

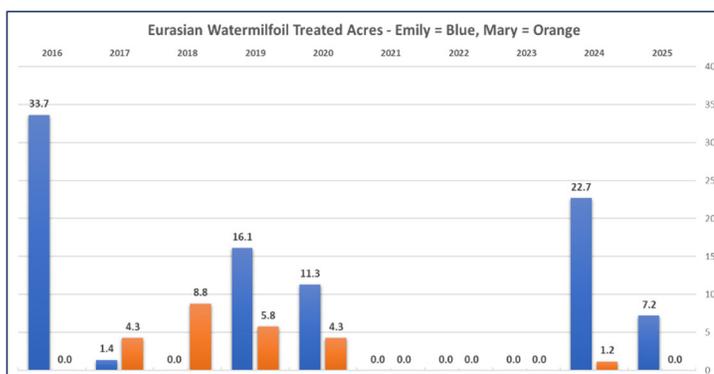
ELRA's goals for 2026 start with the "must do" items.

- AIS Threats – Survey and monitor our lakes for Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM), zebra mussels, and Starry Stonewort. Complete treatments, as needed.
- Water Quality Monitoring – Secchi disk readings and lake level readings.
- Fish Stocking – Stock walleye fingerlings or yearlings in Lake Mary.
- Communications – Periodic newsletters and the Annual Membership meeting.
- Community Outreach – Sponsor the annual 4th of July Boat Parade, coordinate with local government and other non-profits, inform the community about our mission at local festivals and craft events.
- Actions Items – Research and complete action items as requested by our members.
 - Loon Nesting Boxes – Build and deploy loon nesting boxes on the lakes.
 - No Wake Zone Buoys – Deploy and remove the buoys in the NO WAKE ZONE areas.
 - Research, and if possible, dredge the mouth of the Little Pine River in Lake Emily.

2025 Activity Recap

AIS - Eurasian Watermilfoil

Eurasian Watermilfoil has been in our lakes since 2014. ELRA started a treatment program to control EWM in 2016. The chart below depicts the acres of EWM we have treated each year. After a bad 2024, we had a much better 2025. Thankfully, treatments done in 2024 significantly reduced the EWM in 2025. EWM in Emily dropped from 22.7 acres to 7.2 acres. In Mary, the lake survey found only one plant which was removed during the survey. Thanks to ELRA funds plus grants from Crow Wing County and the City of Emily, all 7.2 acres in Emily were treated. Check out the PROJECTS area of our website for detailed maps.



AIS - Zebra Mussel Testing

ELRA tested Lakes Emily and Mary for zebra mussel larvae. Good news again, the test results were negative.

AIS – Starry Stonewort Monitoring

ELRA acquired a special weed rake used to monitor lakes for Starry Stonewort. Monitoring will start in 2026. The board feels this is important since Starry Stonewort is now in two nearby lakes.

Fish Stocking

In November we stocked 126 lbs. of walleye fingerlings in Mary. That is about 1,890 fish.

Water Quality

Randy Manlick did monthly Secchi disk readings and reported that data to WAPOA and the DNR. Tori Ell did lake level readings and reported that data to the DNR.

No Wake Zone Buoys

Volunteers deployed and retrieved the No Wake Zone buoys. ELRA replaced two that were damaged.

Annual Membership Meeting

ELRA's held its Annual Meeting on Saturday, August 9, 2025. Mark Seifert and Mary Thesing were elected to the board. A full meeting recap is on our website in the NEWS section – August 2025 newsletter.

Boat Parade

ELRA held the annual 4th of July Boat Parade on Saturday, July 5. For the first time, we awarded a prize to the Best Decorated Boat. The prize was \$25 gift certificate to Sweets N' Such.

Wake Boat Maps

We created a map that shows the safe wake zones for Emily and Mary. This map can be found on our website.

ELRA 2026 Events Calendar

Boat Parade – Saturday, July 4

Annual Membership Meeting – Saturday, August 8

Board Meetings – April 16, May 21, June 18, July 16, September 17 at 7:00 pm

ELRA Board Members

Russ Boverhuis, Tori Ell, Mark Seifert, Randy Manlick, Doug Humphrey, Ray Wagman, Mary Thesing