

AUGUST
2026

THE LMDA ANCHOR

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Summer's Not Over Yet

It's hard to believe we're already heading into the final stretch of summer at Lake Madison. The days may be getting a little shorter, but there's still plenty of lake season left to enjoy.

August is a great reminder to slow down and soak in the moments that make summers at Lake Madison special—an evening boat ride, a quiet morning on the dock, one more sunset on the water, or time spent with family, friends and neighbors.

It's been another busy summer around the lake, filled with familiar traditions, community events and plenty of activity on and off the water. As schedules begin to shift toward school, fall activities and cooler weather, we hope everyone takes a little time to enjoy what remains of another beautiful South Dakota summer.

Before long, boats will come out of the water, docks will be pulled and the lake will begin to look a little quieter. But we're not there yet.

So here's to a few more sunsets, a few more boat rides and a few more memories at Lake Madison. There's still some summer left—make the most of it!



Our Mission:

Our mission is to promote water safety and to protect the water quality, natural resources, and ecosystems of Lake Madison and the surrounding watershed by promoting conservation, research, and education so the natural beauty and environment of the lake and surrounding area may be preserved for the enjoyment of people today and for generations to come.



Lake Madison Development Association Holds 2026 Annual Meeting

The Lake Madison Development Association (LMDA) held its Annual Meeting of the Membership and Board of Directors on Sunday, August 2, 2026, as part of the annual LMDA picnic. Members, community partners, board members, and guests gathered to share updates, recognize volunteers, discuss ongoing projects, and look ahead to the future of Lake Madison.

LMDA President Teresa Boysen welcomed those in attendance and thanked the Lakes family for their hospitality and for providing a wonderful meal for the gathering. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance, led by Jackie Haggart Tuschen.

Continuing a 68-Year Mission

In her opening remarks, Boysen reminded members that the Lake Madison Development Association was established 68 years ago with a mission to promote water safety, protect water quality and the natural resources and ecosystems of Lake Madison, and preserve the lake area for the enjoyment of people today and generations to come.

That mission continues to guide LMDA's work. The annual meeting provided an opportunity to highlight current efforts in water quality, water safety, recreation, and community partnerships.

Protecting Lake Madison's Water Quality

One of LMDA's ongoing priorities is protecting water quality throughout the Lake Madison watershed.

In September 2023, LMDA entered into an agreement with the East Dakota Water Development District (EDWDD) to establish an incentive grant program for landowners in the Lake Madison watershed. The program encourages landowners to enroll eligible property in the USDA Conservation Reserve Program or other related best management practice (BMP) programs.

The program provides a one-time payment to qualifying landowners after their land is enrolled in an eligible conservation program.

To qualify, a property must:

- Include a minimum of 15 acres.
- Be located within one-quarter mile of a water body, such as a stream, lake, or slough.
- Be determined by LMDA and EDWDD staff to provide a water-quality benefit to the watershed.

Information about the program was shared with approximately 150 landowners. Earlier this year, LMDA board member Martin Jarrett worked with a landowner to enroll 24 acres in the program.

LMDA hopes these conservation efforts will continue to encourage practices that protect the watershed and contribute to the long-term health of Lake Madison.

Promoting Boater Safety

Water safety remains another important part of LMDA's mission.

LMDA hosted its third annual Boater Safety Golf Tournament in honor of Emmy Gorman. The tournament was held May 30 at The Lakes Golf Course, with 48 players participating.

In addition, LMDA hosted Boater Safety Training on June 13, led by South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks. The interactive training reviewed jet ski and boating regulations and provided participants with an opportunity to learn more about safe boating practices. Participants who completed the training received a certificate of completion.

The annual meeting also featured presentations from John Bame and Cody Symens of South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks; Adam Aus, Lake County Patrol Sergeant; and Dan Buresh of the Madison Fire Department, providing members with additional perspectives on safety and the Lake Madison community.

Board of Directors

The annual meeting also provided an opportunity to recognize the dedicated volunteers who serve on the LMDA Board of Directors.

LMDA thanked all current board members for the time and commitment they give to the organization and the Lake Madison community.

Board members serve three-year terms, with LMDA working toward having representation from each area, or zone, around the lake.

The association currently has openings for a representative from Sunset Harbor. Anyone interested in serving is encouraged to speak with an LMDA board member.

LMDA also recognized three board members who are not returning: Jim Farquhar, Larry Kotten, and Clint Sargent. The association expressed its appreciation for their years of service and dedication.

The membership agenda included the reelection of Mike Swiden and the election of Mike Teslow, Daniel Buresh, and Troy Larson to the Board of Directors.

Lake Madison Recreation Trail Gains Momentum

One of the most exciting topics discussed at the annual meeting was the Lake Madison Recreation Trail.

Members of the Recreation Trail Committee were recognized for their work to advance this long-term community project. The committee provided updates on the history of the trail effort, upcoming steps, grant writing, fundraising, easements, and construction planning.

LMDA is well underway in planning the first segments of the trail. The organization has received excellent cooperation from landowners and community members as it works to prepare grant applications, secure easements for future trail segments, and identify needed materials such as gravel.

Grant Funding Process

LMDA is grateful for support already received from Sioux Valley Energy and Madison Kiwanis.

The association has also pursued additional grant opportunities, including an application to the South Dakota Recreation Trails Program, with plans to apply again during the next funding cycle.

LMDA has also applied for the South Dakota Transportation Alternatives Program. Representatives were scheduled to visit the trail site as part of the review process.

These funding efforts, along with community support, are helping move the Recreation Trail project forward.

Community Partnership & E-Bike Raffle

LMDA extends its appreciation to John Berry for his continued support of this important community initiative through the raffle of an e-bike. The bike is on display, and raffle tickets are available Tuesday evenings during Madison Madtown events and Thursday evenings at Brookings' Downtown@Sundown events throughout the month of August.

A \$50,000 Matching Fund

LMDA has officially launched a Capital Campaign to support the development of the Recreation Trail.

At the May 12 LMDA Board of Directors meeting, Bob Van Liere made a motion to establish a \$50,000 matching fund to help kick-start fundraising efforts. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board.

The matching fund provides an important opportunity for members and supporters to help build momentum for the project.

The Lake Madison Recreation Trail is envisioned as a safe and accessible place for cyclists, walkers, runners, cross-country skiers, families with strollers, and people of all ages and abilities. Beyond recreation, the trail represents an investment in health, connectivity, quality of life, and the future of the Lake Madison community.

How Members Can Help

LMDA members are encouraged to review the information included in the meeting program about the Recreation Trail. The materials included suggested levels, trail naming opportunities, QR codes linking to the South Dakota Community Foundation donation page, donation and pledge forms, and information about the e-bike raffle.

Every contribution, large or small, will help move the project one step closer to becoming a reality.

Looking Ahead

The annual meeting provided an opportunity to celebrate the accomplishments of LMDA volunteers and partners while looking ahead to the work still to come.

From protecting water quality and promoting safe boating to advancing the Recreation Trail, LMDA's efforts reflect the organization's longstanding commitment to preserving and improving the Lake Madison area.

The association extends its appreciation to its members, board members, volunteers, landowners, community partners, and everyone who continues to support the LMDA mission.

LMDA also thanks Mike Swiden, Eddie Fischer, and Mark Kuca for collecting door prizes for the annual meeting and Jo Dohrer for coordinating the door prize drawings.

After the business of the annual meeting concluded, members had the opportunity to enjoy the picnic, visit with neighbors, and celebrate the community that makes Lake Madison such a special place.

As LMDA looks toward the coming year, the organization's 68-year mission remains as important as ever: promoting water safety, protecting the lake's water quality and natural resources, and preserving Lake Madison for today's community and for generations to come.

What is that?!

The buildup on the south side of Lake Madison is typically a filamentous algae or blue-green algae (cyanobacteria) - often referred to locally as "pond moss" or scum - pushed into the shoreline by prevailing summer wind patters, rather than true land moss.

Causes of the Buildup

- **Wind Direction:** Prevailing summer winds push floating mats of algae and aquatic plants across the water, accumulating them in dense patches along the south or southeast shores.
- **Nutrient Runoff:** Agricultural fertilizers and rich local soils wash into the watershed, providing high levels of phosphorus and nitrogen that feed rapid algae growth.
- **Warm Weather:** Hot, calm, and sunny summer days create ideal conditions for algae and cyanobacteria to multiply rapidly into thick surface mats.

Safety and Management

- **Toxin Risk:** Dense blue-green algae accumulations can produce dangerous cyanotoxins that are harmful or fatal to pets and livestock if ingested.
- **Precautions:** Avoid swimming in or letting pets drink from thick, scummy, or discolored water areas.
- **Long-Term Control:** Minimizing nutrient runoff through vegetative buffer strips along incoming streams helps reduce the frequency of heavy blooms.

Fishing Update

Game, Fish and Parks aquatics staff set nets on Lake Madison and Lake Brant every summer, and Lake Herman every other summer to survey the fish community. Gill nets are required to determine walleye, yellow perch, white bass, and northern pike abundance, and frame nets (set near shore) are used for panfish and other species. Yellow perch catch on Lake Madison was at a 10-year high (19/net) and twice the 10-year average of 9/net. Many of the perch were big, measuring 11-13 inches. We also saw lots of yellow perch in the nets at Brant and Herman, so I would expect a good late-summer and fall bite for perch. Walleye catches were low (<2fish/net) again this year despite biennial stockings of hatchery-reared fingerlings. Walleye catches on Brant and Herman were similar to Madison. Our survey shows that white bass continue to be abundant on all three lakes. We are confident that white bass originated in the Madison lakes with unauthorized stockings by anglers back in the mid-2000s. However, they are hard-fighting fish and good eating so you might want to bring a couple home to eat when you catch them. All other species caught in the nets at Madison were low in abundance. Good luck fishing!



Be a Good Neighbor on the Water

A little courtesy goes a long way on Lake Madison! As you enjoy the final weeks of summer, be mindful of others sharing the water. Give docks, swimmers, anglers, and other boats plenty of space. Keep wakes down near shore, and be aware of how your wake affects others. When enjoying music on the water, remember that sound carries farther than you might think. Most importantly, stay alert, boat responsibly, and look out for one another. Share the lake. Respect the shore. Enjoy the ride!



Donate to the Rec Trail Maintenance Fund

Donate to the Rec Trail Program Fund

Looking Back at Lake Madison

Preserving the Stories That Shaped Our Lake

From Cabins to Community

Take a drive around Lake Madison today and it's easy to see beautiful homes, well-maintained roads, and a vibrant community that enjoys the lake in every season. But just a few generations ago, life around the lake looked much different. For much of the 1900s, Lake Madison was primarily a summer destination. Many of the original lakeside cabins were modest by today's standards—often just one or two rooms with screened porches, no central heat, and water drawn from a well or carried from a hand pump. Families spent weekends and vacations fishing from wooden docks, swimming along the shoreline, playing cards on the porch, and gathering around evening campfires. Winter was a different story. Once the summer residents packed up, much of the shoreline sat quiet until spring returned. Roads were not maintained as they are today, and year-round living on the lake was uncommon. Beginning in the 1960s and accelerating through the following decades, improvements to roads, utilities, and infrastructure made permanent lake living increasingly practical. Many of the original cabins were expanded or replaced with year-round homes, while new neighborhoods developed around the shoreline. What was once primarily a seasonal getaway gradually became a thriving community of full-time residents, alongside generations of families who continue to return each summer. Despite all the changes, many traditions remain the same. Families still gather for Fourth of July celebrations, anglers head out before sunrise hoping for the day's best catch, and neighbors wave from their boats or stop to visit at the dock. The lake continues to be a place where memories are made and friendships grow. As Lake Madison continues to evolve, it's worth appreciating the generations who helped shape this community. Their love for the lake laid the foundation for the vibrant place we enjoy today—and reminds us that preserving its beauty and sense of community is a responsibility we all share.

Did You Know....

- Many of Lake Madison's original cabins were built as simple summer getaways with no central heat or year-round water service.
- Until the mid-1900s, several roads around the lake were gravel or minimally maintained, making year-round living much more challenging.
- Fishing, swimming, boating, and evening campfires have been favorite Lake Madison traditions for well over 100 years.
- Before modern refrigeration, South Dakotans harvested ice from area lakes during the winter to keep food cold throughout the summer.
- Many of today's permanent homes stand on lots that once held small family cottages passed down through generations.
- While the homes and roads have changed over the years, one thing hasn't—Lake Madison has always been a place where families gather, memories are made, and traditions begin.

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RECREATION TRAIL

Donation & Pledge Form

HELP BUILD AND SUSTAIN THE TRAIL

Your gift supports the planning, construction, and long-term maintenance of the Lake Madison Recreation Trail—creating a legacy for our community for generations to come.

1 CHOOSE WHERE YOUR GIFT MAKES AN IMPACT

You may direct your gift to one fund or split your gift between both.

☐ CONSTRUCTION FUND



Supports the planning, construction, and completion of the trail.

☐ MAINTENANCE ENDOWMENT FUND



Creates a permanent source of funding for future trail maintenance, repairs, and improvements.

☐ SPLIT MY GIFT BETWEEN BOTH FUNDS



Construction Fund: _____ %
Maintenance Fund: _____ %
(Total must equal 100%)

2 DONOR INFORMATION

Name(s): _____ Business (if applicable): _____

Address: _____

City/State/ZIP: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

3 PLEDGE INFORMATION

GIFT AMOUNT

- ☐ One-Time Gift: \$ _____
- ☐ Monthly Gift: \$ _____ per month
- ☐ Annual Gift: \$ _____ per year

PLEDGE TERM

- ☐ 1 Year
- ☐ 2 Years
- ☐ 3 Years
- ☐ Ongoing Until Cancelled

Start Date: ____ / ____ / ____

4 PAYMENT METHOD

- ☐ Check (payable to LMDA)
- ☐ Online Payment at lakemadisondevelopment.com

PAYMENT SCHEDULE

- ☐ Monthly (on the ____ day of each month)
- ☐ Annually (on ____ / ____ each year)

5 DONOR RECOGNITION

- ☐ Please recognize my/our gift as:

- ☐ I/we prefer to remain anonymous.

(Name(s) will be listed according to the level reached.)

6 SIGNATURE

I/We agree to fulfill this pledge as indicated above.

Signature: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / ____

Co-Donor Signature (Optional): _____ Date: ____ / ____ / ____

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Callies Homes Inc. was established in 2013 and is owned and operated by husband and wife duo, Shawn and Shelley.

Shawn is hands on with the build in many ways- physically doing a lot of the construction and labor himself. Assisting and directing all subcontractors throughout the project.

Shelley assists in designing all the areas- from the floor plan and layout to the exterior design such as window/door placement to siding options and the design of each space individually. She also assists in viewing and selecting materials and supplies.

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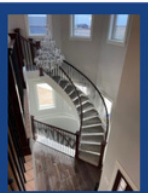
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