

Lake Country Lure

SEPTEMBER 2021

A FREE Monthly supplement of the Maple Lake Messenger and Annandale Advocate

ANNANDALE Advocate The Maple Lake MESSENGER

Business Buzz

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Pleasant Vista has eight different floor plans to choose from starting at \$1,800 a month. The plan pictured below is a two-bedroom, two-bathroom with a den and is 1,353 square feet. Those looking for a new home in this upscale establishment also have the option for handicap accessible floor plans.

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▼ Two bedrooms
2 bath + den
1353 sq ft

Senior Living Community set to open this fall

By Brenda Erdahl

The luxury apartments at Pleasant Vista in Annandale are nearing completion and by early November should be move-in ready. Many of the one- and two-bedroom suites have their granite countertops and stainless-steel appliances in place, and these are just a few of the amenities that come with living at Annandale's newest senior living community.

Overlooking beautiful Pleasant Lake, Pleasant Vista has everything seniors could hope for, from spectacular views, refined furnishings and stylish yet functional floor plans to independent and assisted living services. And the benefits don't stop there. With access to the entire Annandale Health and Community Services campus, residents can take advantage of a state-of-the-art exercise room, Health and Wellness Center, heated lap swimming pool and hot tub plus the campus chapel, and it's all connected so in the winter they won't have to set a foot outdoors if they don't want to.

"It's a really nice option for people who have a spouse living in a different part of our facility like the memory care center or nursing home," Senior Housing Director Deb Flygare said.

Ground was broken on the 42-unit, three story complex in October of 2020 and is due to open Nov. 1. Already 14 of the units are spoken for. Designed for luxury and convenience every apartment has its own balcony or patio, many with views of the lake and/or wetlands, its own washer and drier



The three-story, 42-unit senior living community in Annandale, Pleasant Vista, will open Nov. 1 for independent living with assisted living capabilities. wetlands.

plus amenities like stainless steel appliances, granite counter tops and walk-in closets. Residents also have the convenience of underground, heated parking with storage units available in the garage area and an elevator that will easily take them from the ground floor, up.

The commons and dining room is located on the first floor and is the perfect place for socializing. Two fireplaces will give the area a homy feel in the winter and in the summer, large patio doors that open onto a large deck offer residents an opportunity to grill, dine and take in views of the wetlands.

The dining/commons area

also offers private dining for special occasions and a future restaurant/bistro, Flygare said.

On the second floor is a multi-purpose room where tenants can gather for social activities.

As part of the Annandale Health and Community Services campus, Pleasant Vista is part of a non-profit membership organization with six facilities that offers the full continuum of care. Those facilities include: the Annandale Care Center, a 60-bed skilled nursing facility with rehabilitation services, a beauty shop, chapel and more; Centennial Villa Assisted Living, two secured apartment buildings with 46 units, that offers independent and assisted living services; Centennial Villa Assisted Living Memory Care which has three separate cottages set up as a home, offering individual rooms with private baths and plenty of secure outside areas for walking and specialized programs and activities. Although temporarily closed because of COVID, the Annandale Health & Wellness Center is another part of the campus designed to help adults aged 50 and older live a healthier lifestyle.

For information on reserving your stylish yet functional apartment at the new Pleasant Vista Senior Living Community, call 320-274-5031 to speak to a representative.



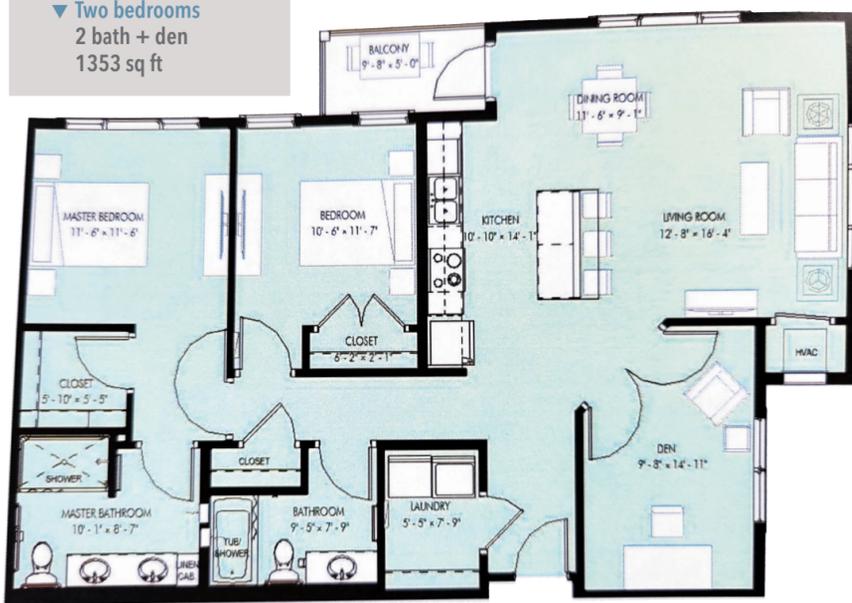
Every apartment at Pleasant Vista Senior Living Community has a patio or balcony and many of have views of Pleasant Lake and/or the wetlands.



Every apartment is fit with granite countertops and stainless steel appliances.



This unfinished corner apartment on the third floor of Pleasant Vista is going to have a wonderful panorama view of the wetlands and lake.



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By Marissa Schuh
Extension educator,
integrated pest management

Minnesota has had a hot summer and Extension educators across Minnesota are fielding questions about poorly yielding vegetable gardens. Bushy cucumber plants with no fruit, tomatoes not ripening, and beans with no flowers are being reported.

The causes behind many of these phenomena are related to persistent high temperatures. The high temperatures are affecting Minnesota's vegetables in many different ways.

"My plants look healthy, but I'm not getting any vegetables."

Potential issue 1:
Too much fertilization

The brutal heat has made it tempting to baby our plants but giving some vegetables too much nitrogen results in lush green plants, but no harvestable vegetables. Vining vegetables are especially prone to this.

Make sure you are fertilizing appropriately for the weather and the plant you are trying to grow.

Potential issue 2:
Hot day and nighttime temps cause flowers to drop

If you are still seeing flowers, but aren't getting the tomatoes, peppers, beans or zucchini you are expecting, there can be heat-related factors in play.

The first is flower abortion: flowers form, but then die and fall off the plant before becoming fruit. This can happen in vegetables as well as other flowering garden plants. Flower abortion can happen at temperatures ranging from 75° F to 95° F.

Dropped flowers have been noticeable in tomatoes this year. Tomatoes produce new flowers often, and the flowers have a 50-hour-long window in which to be pollinated.

When tomatoes are exposed to sustained hot temperatures (more than 85° F in the day and 70° F at night), the tomato plant becomes stressed and burns through its energy stores. This changes the flowers, making it harder for them to be polli-

HEAT, DROUGHT AND YOUR garden



High temperatures are affecting Minnesota's vegetables in many different ways.

nated, and the blossom often drops out without pollination occurring. So, during 50-hour periods that have hot days and especially hot nights, a round of tomato flowers are likely to drop off without pollinating.

You may start to notice something similar happening with green beans, which can also abort flowers in hot temperatures (over 95° F), especially if the soil is dry.

Potential issue 2:
Hot temperatures change what type of flowers some vegetables produce

Vining vegetables in the cucurbit family (pumpkins, squash, melons, cucumbers, and the like) produce male and female flowers. See base of the flower to tell the sex.

- Female cucurbit flowers are swollen underneath in the area that will eventually become the pumpkin or zucchini.
- Male flowers will have just a straight stem.

Depending on the variety of the vine crops, hot temperatures can change how many male and female flowers are present. Typically, high temperatures (over 90° F during the day and 70° F at night) develop more male flowers than female flowers. This means that we may be

seeing zucchini plants with prolific flowers and few fruit, because the flowers we are seeing are all male, thus do not produce the part of zucchini we like to eat.

Potential issue 2:
Many bees don't like it hot

In crops that depend on pollinators, such as members of the vine crop family, hot weather can impact bee activity, causing reduced fruit set. Just as we like to take it easy and rest in the shade on a hot day, so do many bees.

The ideal range for pollination for many species of bees is somewhere between 60° and 90° F, with hotter temperatures in this range promoting more pollination. Once it gets over 90° F, many bees slow down and pollinate less. This can be especially pronounced in crops like cucumbers, whose small flowers aren't particularly attractive to many bees.

Pollination may occur, but not at high levels. This can lead to deformed cucumbers, summer squash and melons.

"I can see the vegetables, they just aren't getting ripe!"

Potential issue 1:
Poor pollination results in fruit that can't grow

Some growers of vine crops have noticed small squashes, pumpkins and melons forming but then rotting. You may think that this is caused by disease, as the small fruit are often breaking down, soft, and covered in mold.

A more common cause is poor pollination. Just as poor pollination can result in misshapen fruits, it can also result in fruit that form and then quickly die.

Green beans can have similar issues. During periods of hot weather bean flowers produce less pollen, which cascades into

fewer, smaller pods containing fewer, smaller beans.

Potential issue 2:
Hot nights mean fruit doesn't ripen

Tomato plants in many gardens are loaded with green fruit. Maybe grape tomato varieties are being harvested, but many slicing and beefsteak tomatoes seem to be holding onto green fruit that just won't turn red.

Tomato ripening happens in two stages. In the first stage of ripening, the tomato becomes mature and is green, seeds form and the area around them becomes soft and gelatinous. (If you've ever had fried green tomatoes, you are eating a mature green tomato). In the second stage the tomato fruit turns red.

The optimum temperature range for tomato maturation is between 68° F and 77° F, while the pigments that turn ripe tomatoes red aren't produced above 85° F. Once we start to get some cooler nights, tomatoes will again have some hours in their ideal ripening temperature range, allowing for tomatoes to fully ripen and redden.

Potential issue 3:
Need to be patient

Vegetables take time to get ripe. There may be nothing out of the ordinary going on in the garden. Tomatoes can take six to eight weeks to fully ripen and change color, and some vine crops, like pumpkins, can take just as long. So, now what? – Unfortunately, there really isn't much to be done but wait out the hot temperatures. Cool nights will solve many of these issues.

As water restrictions are rolled out in some locations, make sure to use water and fertilizer wisely.

Make notes on how your vegetable varieties are performing and consider trying a new heat-tolerant variety in the future.

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September Fishing Forecast



Don Dittberner, of the Maple Messenger, landed this crappie near Clearwater on August 14th while navigating extremely low water levels on the Mississippi River.

Heat, low water slows fishing

Brenda Erdahl
Staff Writer

Fishing remains slow and so does business at some area bait shops due to the warm, dry summer. The water is still much too warm to keep the fish biting like they would in an average year, said Shawn at Lake Region Coop in Buffalo. Water is also low, making it difficult for some anglers to land their boats. Crappies, sunnies, northern and bass are still active on most lakes, but they are not abundant. Maple Lake is doing the best according to what Shawn is hearing from his clientele. They have been catching a variety of panfish,

bass and northern, with some larger pike found deep using deep diving Rapalas. There has been some bass action on Lake Sarah and Shawn expects anglers are throwing spinner baits to reel them in. A few anglers are having some success on the Mississippi and Crow rivers however, as the pools are dry up in some areas fish are dying because of lack of oxygen. On most rivers, you can't even take a kayak down it, Shawn said. The warm water has fish retreating to deeper parts of the lakes. Shawn predicts a few nights of cool weather, and some rain could really turn things around for anglers wanting to catch a meal on area lakes.

Baitshop Chatter

Clearwater Lake: Walleyes are biting on crawlers and crankbaits in 14 to 20 feet of water. Sunfish are biting during the day and crappies in the evening on the 12 to 15-foot weed edges.

Maple Lake: Larger northern are biting on deep diving Rapalas; small northern are active throughout the lake. Sunfish are biting along the weed edges during the day and crappies are biting in the evenings.

Cedar Lake: Look for sunfish during the day and some crappies in the evening along the weed lines in 12 to 15-foot of water.

Lake Sara: Try a variety of colored spinner baits for luck with bass. Bass and pike remain active on the shallow and deep weed lines of most lakes.

Sugar Lake: Anglers have had luck catching walleyes in 14 to 20 feet of water. Sunfish are biting during the day with some crappie action occurring in the evenings on the 12 to

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15-foot weed edges.

Indian Lake: Look for sunfish during the day and some crappies in the evening along the weed lines in 12 to 15-foot of water.

Lake Sylvia: Crawlers and crankbaits are attracting walleyes in 14-20 feet of water.

Pleasant Lake: Anglers are catching sunfish during the day and some crappies in the evening along the weed lines in 12 to 15-foot of water.

Indian Lake bluegills

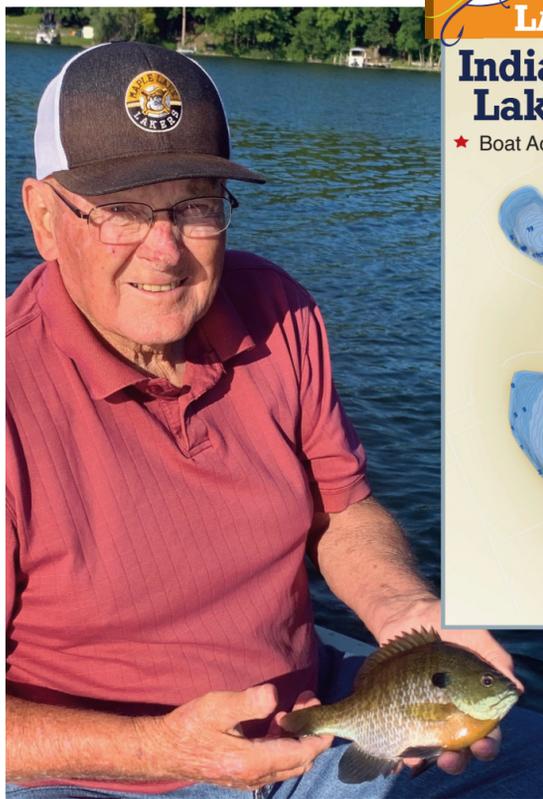
Bag limits reduced as sunfish quality improves

By Joe Stewig
Area Fisheries Manager

Indian Lake is a 146-acre lake located north of Maple Lake in north central Wright County. The lake has a maximum depth of 31 feet and an average summer water clarity of about four feet. A public access is located on the southeast side of the lake with room for 6 – 8 truck/trailer rigs. Indian lake is primarily managed for Largemouth Bass and panfish. The most recent lake survey was conducted in 2017 with a targeted Bluegill assessment conducted this spring (2021).

Indian Lake is best known as a bass/panfish lake. Largemouth Bass are abundant and were sampled during the spring 2017 as part of a routine lake survey. The catch of Largemouth Bass was three (3) times higher than the average catch for lakes within the Sauk Rapids Management Area. A total of 332 Bass were sampled during the survey ranging in length from 5.8 to 21.1 inches with an average length and weight of 11 ½ inches and one (1) pound. Sixty-three percent of the bass sampled were longer than 12 inches and 14% were longer than 15 inches. Anglers can expect decent bass action on Indian Lake with a good chance at catching a bass over 20 inches.

Black Crappie are also a highly sought after species on Indian Lake and at certain times can provide excellent fishing. Black Crappie abundance appears to be average; however the size structure appears to be above average. Black Crappies sampled in 2017 ranged in length from 4.3 to 11.5 inches with an average length of 7.6 inches. Thirty-nine percent of the crappies sampled were longer



Harold Brutlag, of the Maple Lake Messenger, enjoys time on the water catching panfish on local waters. Harold holds a nice Indian Lake bluegill.

than eight (8) inches and 26% were longer than ten (10) inches. Conversations with the local conservation officer indicates that the crappie bite has been pretty good the last couple of winters. Growth of Black Crappie is average for the area taking four (4) years to reach eight (8) inches.

The Bluegill population has come full circle on Indian Lake. Back in the 1970s and 80s Bluegill abundance was through the roof (> 250/trap net) and the average size was small. Attempts were made in the late 80s to reduce the Bluegill abundance and improve the size structure of the population. Since that time the Bluegill numbers have returned to more normal levels (30 – 50/trap net) and the size structure has improved. So

much so that a reduced bag limit was implemented in March 2021 as part of the state's Quality Sunfish Initiative which is a statewide effort to increase the average size of sunfish caught across the state. For more information check out the following link (Quality Sunfish Initiative info). Starting in March 2021 the daily possession limit of sunfish was reduced from 20 to 10. Targeted Bluegill assessments conducted in the springs of 2017 and 2021 collected 829 Bluegills that ranged in length from 3 – 10 inches with an average length of almost seven (7) inches. Sixty-seven percent of the Bluegill sampled were six (6) inches or longer and 27% were eight (8) inches or longer. Which is

excellent for this area.

Northern Pike are also in the lake and there abundance is about average for the lake class; however the average size is good. Pike sampled in 2017 ranged in length from 15.6 to 34.5 inches with an average length and weight of 24 inches and just over three (3) pounds. Anglers won't encounter numerous pike, but the ones they do should be decent size as 48% of the catch were longer than 24 inches. There is also a good chance to catch a few fish over 30 inches as 10% of our catch were longer than 30 inches. Northern Pike growth is average for the area, taking six (6) years to reach 25 inches.

Indian Lake is not managed for Walleye, although they have been stocked in the past with minimal success and because of this state stocking ceased after 1989. A few private stockings have occurred in the past as well. Most surveys catch a Walleye or two, but in 2017 no Walleye were caught.

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Coming clean on soap in the garden

By Marissa Schuh
Extension educator,
integrated pest management

Any place gardeners gather to talk about plants, there will be talk of soap. Dish soap and water are often referred to as the holy grail for managing insects from aphids to Japanese beetles. Understanding how soap impacts insects and how to best use soaps means better insect management and healthier plants.

How soaps impact (or don't impact) insects

We still don't understand exactly how soap kills (or doesn't kill) an insect. The working theory is that the soap washes off a protective coating on the insect's body, causing it to dry out.

Because of this potential cause and effect, only certain insects are susceptible; small, soft-bodied insects are those most likely to be controlled. The soapy water covering their bodies apparently causes them to dry out and die. Soapy water is occasionally effective on larger insects, such as boxelder bugs. This means that soap is safe for pollinators and natural enemies. As long as you aren't coating them in the soap, they won't be bothered. Soap is a



Soapy water can be a great way to rid your plants of insect pests, but be careful, some plants like certain tomato varieties are sensitive to soapy sprays and can be damaged.

Contributed Photo

good match with a bucket of water because it breaks the surface tension on the water and causes insects to sink into the water and drown.

Soapy water burning your plants? Head to the store instead of the pantry

Some gardeners purchase ready-to-use insecticidal soaps while others will make their

own solutions using dish soap and water. If you are in the latter group, aim for a 2 percent soap solution: add just 2 teaspoons of dish soap to 1 pint of water.

High concentrations of soap can burn plant foliage, especially when plants are stressed, temperatures are over 90°F and

humidity is high. Much of Minnesota has seen many days with afternoon high temperatures of 90°F or greater this summer.

There are commercially available insecticidal soaps formulated to reduce the chances of plant damage. You can buy one that you dilute

Tips for getting the most out of suds

Right spray, right insect.

Soapy water is not a universal insecticide. This is good. It allows us to preserve beneficial insects in the garden. It also means that not every insect will be bothered by soap. Small, soft-bodied insects are the best candidates for management with soapy water. Aphids, whiteflies, thrips, and mites are all good candidates for soapy water sprays. Sturdy, large-bodied insects like caterpillars and beetles — including Japanese beetles (sorry!) — are unlikely to be affected.

Take aim.

The soapy water needs to not just touch the insect but also coat the insect's body in order to be effective. This likely means turning over leaves to reach insects on the underside of leaves. A bonus effect is that many of these small-bodied insects will be knocked off the plant if the spray is high pressure, so you get physical and chemical control in one spray.

Timing is everything.

Because soapy water works by touching the insects, sprays need to be made whenever new insect populations appear and start to grow. Spraying soap directly on the leaves when no insects are present does nothing, as soap doesn't bother insects if they eat it. It only works if it contacts the full body.

yourself, or something that is ready to use (abbreviated as RTU on some packaging).

Some plants are very sensitive to soapy sprays, and are not good candidates for their use. This list includes hawthorn, sweet pea, cherries

and plum, and some gardeners have reported tomato varieties that can also be damaged. If you're concerned about leaf burn, test on a small area of the plant before making widespread applications.

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Tips to avoid being stung by wasps

Wasp Safety Tips

- Remove fallen fruits, spilled food and drinks, soft drink cans, and garbage.
- Avoid scents and brightly colored clothing.
- Keep your house, garbage cans, garage, and attic clean.
- Wear closed shoes to protect yourself from stepping on a wasp or hornet.
- Avoid leaving sugary drinks unattended outdoors and always look before you drink.
- Look for wasps in work areas before using weed trimmers, hedge clippers, lawn mowers, chain saws, etc. Wasps attack



You are more likely to encounter bees and wasps from late summer through October. Wasps generally do not sting or attack unless handled, disturbed, threatened, or harmed. If disturbed, most wasps, yellow jackets, and hornets are aggressive and will sting repeatedly.

when a person mowing the lawn or pruning shrubs inadvertently strikes a nest.

- If a wasp or hornet comes near you, remain still until it leaves. Do not swat at wasps or wave your arms to fend them off. You will only antagonize them and be more likely to be stung.
- If attacked, run away in a straight line as quickly as you can. Do not flail or swing your arms at wasps, as this may further annoy them.
- Wasps target the head, mouth, and eyes. Therefore, lower your head and cover your face as much as you can without slowing your escape.
- Do not stay still if you are being stung – wasps will not stop stinging if you "play dead."
- Do not jump into a pool or other body of water to avoid being stung. Wasps will wait for you to surface and will sting you.
- Don't pen, tie, or tether animals near hives or nests.
- Refrain from using a ladder to reach a hive that is high off the ground.
- Over-the-counter wasp killer products kill on contact; However, it only kills the wasps you actually spray.
- Wear protective equipment.
- Do not stand beneath the nest when spraying chemicals.
- Never remove an active wasp nest during the day, when paper wasps are actively flying in and out of the nest.
- Check the nest the following day for any signs of wasp activity before you remove the nest. Any wasps that were absent from the nest at the time you sprayed may have returned to the nest.

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TEACHER of the MONTH

Coaches Edition



NICOLE GREEN



By Tom Westman
Staff Writer

Earlier this month the Annandale community voted online for the Annandale Coach of the Month. The results have been tabulated and Annandale High School Head Varsity Coach Nicole Green.

Comments of those voting said this about Green: "Inspiring" - "She is really student centered" - "Caring, authentic, encouraging and inclusive" - "She cares about the whole athlete! She is patient, understanding, caring and dedicated!" "The Annandale School District is very fortunate to have Nicki Green as a teacher and coach," said Annandale Activities Director Luke MacLean. "Nicki's deep passion for coaching-teaching is very evident. She connects extremely well with students, she is an outstanding motivator-encourager, and she works very hard to squeeze every ounce of potential out of each individual student-athletes that she coaches. Nicki not just coaches the skills and strategies of the game, but she also does an excellent job of instilling positive values and skills that will help student-athletes find success in life after high school."

"I am humbled and very grateful for this honor," Green said. "I love what I do with all my heart."

13 seasons

Green was hired as a physical education teacher in the Annandale School District in 2003. That same year she took on the coaching duties (along with co-coach Jen Harmoning). Over the next 17 years Green accumulated an overall record of 82-37 (69 percent). She took a few years off following the 2013-14 season, returning in 2019 as the assistant coach and took over as head coach again in 2020-21. Green became the assistant tennis coach in 2019.

Grew up in Maple Lake

Green participated in gymnastics at Maple Lake High School 7th through 12th grade. She qualified for the MSHSL State Meet in 8th and 9th grade, broke her ankle in 10th

grade and tore her right knee ACL in 11th grade. She was able to compete as a senior.

Injuries continued at River Falls

Green attended the University of Wisconsin - River Falls, where she tore her left knee ACL the second day of practice her freshman year. In her sophomore year she came back and qualified for Nationals on the Uneven Bars. That same year, post-season, Green tore her ACL again.

"My mom told me she loved me, but I was becoming too expensive," Green said. "I was not ready to be done competing, but my body was telling me differently. I then started coaching and judging."

In her junior year Green became a volunteer assistant coach for the college team and an assistant coach for the youth competitive program.

"Debbie Tradewell, the youth program head coach, became my mentor and friend," Green said. "She consistently demonstrated passion for the sport, kindness and empathy for the athlete, committed to the program, set high standards, full of knowledge and had a heart of gold."

Honors for Green and the team

Green was State Class A Coach of the year in 2006-07 and 2010-11.

Green was Section 5A Coach of the Year in 2003-04, 2005-06, 2006-07, 2007-08, 2009-10, 2010-11, 2012-2013.

Under Green's coaching the Cardinal gymnastics team:

- Received nine gold or silver academic awards
- Nine individuals qualified for the state tournament
- Seven individuals were state medalists
- Two state champions, Jenna Woelfel - Vault 2008-09; Becca Green (Nicole's daughter) - Uneven Bars and Balance Beam - 2020-2021
- Person first, athlete second.

"I always try to lead by example with positivity and enthusiasm and I coach with my eyes and heart," Green said.

"Athletes need our love, support and trust."

■ "Athletes want set goals, organization and clear communication. I like it when we set with goals as a team."

■ "Every day, I try to learn more about each athlete and what makes them, them. I will always continue to figure out ways to inspire, motivate and improve each athlete. The mental game is just as important as the physical game."

"It's what you learn, after you know it all, that counts." John Wooden

Rewarding moments

"The moment you realize you have helped coach and guide two MSHSL State Champions, Jenna Woelfel, Vault and Becca Green, Uneven Bars and Balance Beam."

"Hugging an athlete after they've accomplished a goal that I know they've worked so hard to achieve."

"Dancing, laughing and creating daily routines that help bring positive energy to practices and competitions."

"Daily jokes of the day make me laugh!"

"Listening to teammates genuinely cheer as loud as they can for their teammate and truly want to see everyone have success."

Difficult moments

"Injuries, they break my heart," Green said. "When you hold an athlete's hand and hug them tightly because they are hurting, I hurt too."

Living in Annandale

Nicole and her husband Russ live in Annandale along with daughter Becca 18 (attending St. Scholastica), Nathan 16 and Cadan 11, attending St. Scholastica; sons Nathan 16 and Cadan 11 make their home in Annandale. Green likes living in Annandale. "We are a strong community of support, kindness and compassion," Green said. "It is an amazing place to raise a family."



BEN YOUNGS



By Brenda Erdahl
Staff Writer

Dedication, diligence, and ability to engage his students are just a few reasons Maple Lake Coach Ben Youngs was voted Coach of the Month in the Teacher of the Month-Coaches edition online competition.

The public cast their votes via the Maple Lake Messenger website in August in favor of Youngs who, voters said "loves all the kids he has worked with and makes everyone feel like family." Some of the other comments included: "Mr. Youngs has always been someone who can engage with kids and is remembered fondly by past students," he is "dedicated to the kids" and "sacrifices a lot of family time for the kids."

"Whether it has been cross country, wrestling, or track and field, Ben has put in countless hours to ensure the success of his programs and the success of his athletes," Maple Lake High School Principal Dave Hansen said. "He has taken athletes to state competition and has enjoyed being part of their success. Ben makes being involved in his athletic programs fun for all participants. He pushes athletes to improve and be their best and celebrates their accomplishments. Ben is very deserving of this award."

Youngs was hired at MLHS the fall of 1995 as an English teacher and took over the job as head track and field coach that same year. In 2001 he and fellow teacher J McClelland started the Cross Country program, which Youngs has been involved in ever since, and in the winter he is the head wrestling coach for the Annandale/Maple Lake Co-op.

"I didn't think about becoming a coach when I was younger, but once I entered into the education program, I knew I would be interested in doing so, since I

enjoyed playing sports so much myself."

Youngs attended Monticello High School where he was a three-sport athlete. He started as a football player, then switched to cross country. He wrestled in the winter and in the spring played tennis.

After graduation, he attended the University of Minnesota-Duluth where he received a Bachelor of Science degree. He later earned his masters from St. Mary's of Winona. He started his teaching career the fall of 1993 at AlBrook, which is located 20 miles west of Duluth. He also taught at Cherry and Virginia in Northern Minnesota before settling down in Maple Lake. When he's not coaching, he teaches College English, English 11 and English 9.

Some of his greatest coaching accomplishments include coaching the 2012 boys track and field state championship team, the first in school history, and the 2018 girls track and field state championship team but winning isn't what he enjoys most about the job.

"I really enjoy seeing kids who take a chance and join one of the sports I coach; they are individual and team sports and aren't very visible, so I give kids a lot of credit for joining and giving it their all when they don't receive a lot of attention for their efforts. In some ways, it is most enjoyable to see the kids who would not get much playing time in another sport commit themselves and improve and feel good about themselves; the top kids have plenty to play for, but the kids who aren't the record breakers but work hard and improve really inspire me," he said.

One of his favorite memories happened early in his track and field career. "When I took over the track and field team, we didn't have uniforms that said Maple Lake on them, and we only had about 15 total kids. It

was difficult to get the kids to take the sport seriously. When we finally had kids qualify for the section meet, we were going to Melrose and the meet started at 2 p.m. One of the qualifiers wasn't at school when we were supposed to leave, so we jumped in the van and stopped by his house—he was still sleeping, so we woke him up and he got ready quickly and we were late. Another funny story was when we were running at Glencoe—they had a new track, and they must not have worked all the kinks out of their system because during the third leg of the 4x400 relay, the sprinkler system turned on. Todd Kempenich had the baton, was running, and the sprinkler went right into his face. He just whipped his hair to get the water off, gave a grunt, and kept going," he said.

Youngs originally moved to Maple Lake to be closer to family, but he quickly realized the town of Maple Lake just "felt right."

"It's a great size for a school—not too small but not too big. The community has a lot of character, and the businesses are supportive. It feels like a great place to be," he said.

Youngs has been married to Sara for almost 23 years. They have two boys who both attended MLHS. Holden is 23 and will be getting married in January of 2022. He wrestled at and attended NDSU and SCSU and has a business degree; he currently works in Buffalo. Quinn is 22; he wrestled and attended Augsburg for two years, transferred to SCSU, and has one year left before graduation.

GO ONLINE TO VOTE FOR THE OCTOBER TEACHER OF THE MONTH!

The poll will open shortly for the October poll featuring admins. Head online to put in your vote before September 12!

Advocate

The Maple Lake MESSENGER

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LAKE Country Calendar

September



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bear Season Begins Crow & Dove season Starts Donate to Maple Lake Fire Department at Maple Lake Wine & Spirits Thru 9-11 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maple Lake Football- Home 7 p.m. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NO SCHOOL- MAPLE LAKE 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> September goose Season Starts
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> August New Moon 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Labor Day - NO SCHOOL September New Moon 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maple Lake Required Open House MEET YOUR TEACHER DAY South Haven City Council Meeting, City Hall, 6:30 p.m. Silver Creek Township Meeting, 7 p.m. Corinna Township Meeting, 7 p.m. South Haven City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m., City Hall 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FIRST DAY OF CLASSES MAPLE LAKE Annandale Chamber Meeting, 11:30 a.m., TBD Maple Lake Chamber of Commerce Meeting, 12 p.m. On this date in 1966 Star Trek premiered on television. The original series had 79 episodes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Antlerless & special deer hunt lottery deadline Legion Riders Meeting, 7 p.m. at the Legion Club 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maple Lake Football- Home 7 p.m. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth Waterfowl Hunt Weekend Maple Lake Fire Department Donation deadline at Maple Lake Wine & Spirits
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth Waterfowl Hunt Wkd 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School Board Meeting, 7 p.m. PTA Meeting, 5 p.m. Annandale City Council Meeting, 7 p.m., City Hall 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pioneer Park, Potluck supper, 6:30 p.m. Chatham Township Meeting, 7 p.m. ML American Legion Meeting, 7:30 p.m. Maple Lake City Council Meeting, 7 p.m. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annandale Chamber Meeting, 11:30 a.m. at Pour L'Amour Wine Bar 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annandale Art Crawl, downtown, TBD Wright Saddle Club Meeting, 7:30 p.m. ML Legion Auxiliary Meeting, 7 p.m. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Professional House Cleaners Day On this date in 1972 Award winning comedy show M*A*S*H premieres on television. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Statewide Deer Archery opener Ruffed Grouse Opener Squirrel & Rabbit Season begins On this date in 1965 "I Dream of Jeannie" premieres on NBC.
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> September goose Season ends 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> September Full Harvest Moon 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Corinna Township Meeting, 7 p.m. Albion Township Meeting, 7 p.m. Maple Lake Township Meeting, 7 p.m. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Autumnal Equinox National Ice Cream Cone Day 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On this date in 1962 "The Jetsons" premieres on television. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maple Lake Football- Home 7 p.m. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> October Calendar Published Take a Kid Hunting Weekend Statewide Waterfowl opener
26	27	28	29	30		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On this date in 1969 "The Brady Bunch" premieres on television. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annandale School Board meeting, AES Media Center, 7 p.m. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On this date in 1919 The Giants beat the Phillies in 51 minutes. The fastest baseball game ever played in the majors. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On this date in 1919 The Giants beat the Phillies in 51 minutes. The fastest baseball game ever played in the majors. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knights of Columbus Meeting, 7 p.m. at the Church of St. Timothy 		

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September Historical Events

- September 1, 1752 - The Liberty Bell arrives in Philadelphia.
- September 1, 1830 - "Mary Had a Little Lamb" was published.
- September 1, 1939 - Germany invades Poland, starting World War II.
- September 1, 1995 - Rock and Roll Hall of Fame opens in Cleveland, OH.

- September 2, 1666 - The Great Fire of London is started. 80% of city is destroyed.
- September 3, 1813 - The image of "Uncle Sam", a symbol of America, was first used.
- September 4, 1886 - Geronimo surrenders ending the last U.S. - Indian war.
- September 7, 1998 - Google was founded by Sergey Brin and Larry Page.
- September 27, 1954 - "The Tonight Show" premieres on television with Steve Allen

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