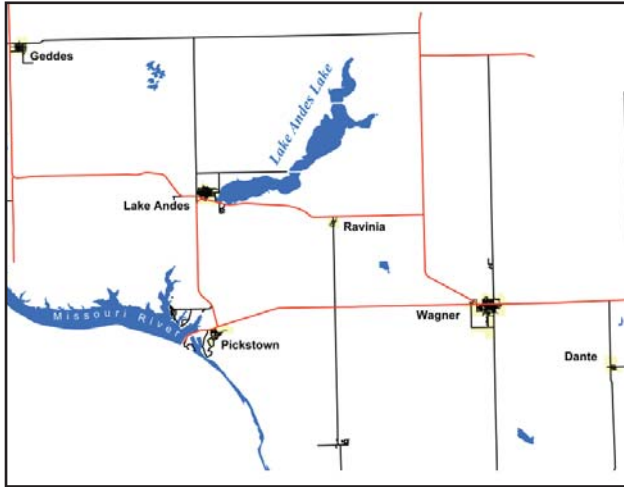


## Board Members

Darryl Deurmier, President (Lake Andes)  
Darrell Mueller, Vice President (Lake Andes)  
Tim Whalen, Secretary/Treasurer (Geddes)  
Alvin Archambeau (Lake Andes)  
Leo Holzbauer (Wagner)  
Chad Peters (Wagner)  
Les Labahn (Pickstown)



## Charles Mix County Lake Restoration Organization

*“Restoring Lake Andes for the development of our economy, environment, recreation, and wildlife.”*

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# The History of Lake Andes Lake



## Charles Mix County Lake Restoration Organization

## Lake Restoration Effort

### Our Vision

To see Lake Andes become the mecca for hunting, fishing, and outdoor recreation that it was during the early 1900's.

### Mission Statement

*“Restoring Lake Andes for the development of our economy, environment, recreation, and wildlife.”*

### Public & Private Partnership

The Charles Mix County Lake Restoration Organization (CMCLRO) was originally formed in 1991. A group of citizens came together to discuss their concerns about the conditions of the Andes Lake area. In the 1980's, there had been significant flooding to the lake, causing some stock dams in the watershed to breach. As a result of the lake filling up, Game, Fish & Parks began to stock it with game fish.

The local citizens saw an opportunity to improve conditions, and sought resources to install a boat launch. In order to apply for assistance, they needed a formal organization to sponsor the effort. The effort was successful, and the boat launch was installed at the south end of the south lake.

The original board members were from the communities of Lake Andes, Ravinia, and Wagner. The organization's next objective was to dredge the south lake. They met with various agencies and applied for funding assistance, but were not successful. When the dredging project failed to materialize, the organization dissolved.



In December 28, 2006, some of the original board members came together with community leaders to re-evaluate the lake's conditions. The group secured reinstatement as a corporate entity through the State of South Dakota, and obtained 501(c)(3) status through the IRS so all donations are tax deductible. CMCLRO is aggressively pursuing funding for various lake improvement projects.

The board hopes to combine the efforts and resources of local business owners, organizations, and various governmental agencies to improve three specific aspects of the Lake Andes area:

- *Water Quality*
- *Environment*
- *Local economy*

### Historical Impact

The lake area has had a significant impact on various aspects of the region over the last 100 years. In the “best of times” for Lake Andes, Main Street had numerous successful businesses, several lakeside resorts, and it was even reported that attendance for Fish Days had been as high as 7,000. At one time, the fishing and hunting in the lake area was a great revenue source for the local economy.

Time has really taken a toll on the lake and the community, especially over the last 50 years. Water levels have fluctuated and the watershed has caused problems with water quality. Erosion from run-off has caused tons of silt to settle to the bottom of the lake. We cannot do anything about the last 100 years, but CMCLRO would like to take steps to restore the lake area for future generations.

## Lake Andes

Lake Andes is a natural, shallow prairie lake whose water supply depends entirely on natural runoff. Lake levels periodically rise and fall, with the entire lake going dry about once every twenty years. The lake borders the city of Lake Andes, White Swan Township, on the east, and extending into Plain Center and Howard Townships. It is 12 miles long and 1 ½ miles wide. This was a lake the Sioux Indians knew well, for they frequently made camp here during their pursuit of migrating herds of buffalo and flocks of waterfowl.

When the lake levels would fall, cattlemen would struggle to water their stock from the lake. In the 1890's, they exerted their political influence to dig artesian wells to supply the lake with water. In 1896-1897, the first two wells were drilled. Other wells were drilled in the following years, but for the most part, the lake was "on its own".



Around the turn of the 19th century, as white settlements were becoming firmly established, the lake became well-known as a fine place to fish. Several resorts were built near the shoreline to accommodate visitors who arrived near the lake by train.



The fame of the fishing in Andes Lake spread and sportsmen came from all over the country... from California in the West, and from New York in the East. Andes Lake was referred to as a "bass bonanza" until it dried up in the 1930's.



In 1935, the Works Progress Administration (WPA) built two dams, which subsequently created three individual lakes - North Lake, Middle Lake, and South Lake. For the first time, a car could travel across the lake via the road built on top of the grade.

1958-1960 brought a different "bonanza" - waterfowl. In 1959, the winter count estimated 1,200,000 ducks and 40,000 geese in the Fort Randall Reservoir and Lake Andes. This was one of the largest concentrations of waterfowl on the continent.



## Bringing People Together

Several summer resorts and beach fronts were built through the years along the shores of Andes Lake by local lake enthusiasts and sportsmen. Dance halls and roller rinks were well frequented by participants of all ages. Swimming and boating were a healthy diversion enjoyed by young and old alike, and the blue lake waters gave off a coolness and freshness not found elsewhere.

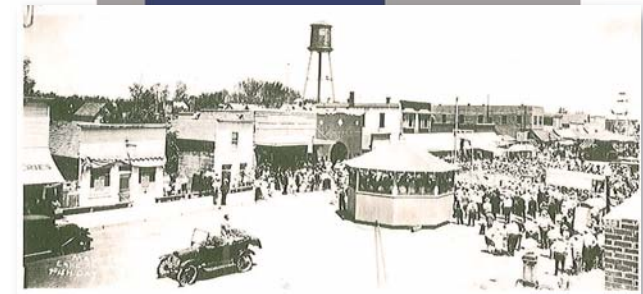


The Rest Haven was a popular lakeside resort, built in 1914 by Henry Z. Miller. At one time, it was a nationally known resort on Lake Andes. In 1922, a cyclone destroyed the pavilion, but work to rebuild the resort began immediately. The resort was an important attraction for the area.



## Shining History

The annual event called "Fish Days" began in 1915 and has continued to be a very important event to the community. People gather every June to enjoy sports tournaments, great food, various children's activities, and several other special contests and events. The activity brings revenue to the local economy and, more importantly, provides a sense of community to residents and visitors alike.



*Pictured Left: Lake Andes High School stands ready for the parade to begin*



*Pictured Right: 1954 - Area family appears in full ceremonial dress for Fish Days*



Photos and historical account provided courtesy of "The Epic of Papineau's Domain", Adeline S. Gnirk, Copyright 1986, Plains Printing Company, Gregory, South Dakota