

On The Lake

NEWSLETTER

The LAKE MINNETONKA ASSOCIATION
is the **VOICE** for Lake Minnetonka Lakeshore Owners and Businesses



Our Mission

The Lake Minnetonka Association, a nonprofit organization, works to promote the preservation, protection, and the reasonable use of Lake Minnetonka through volunteers, lakeshore owners, and businesses. The Lake Minnetonka Association serves as an information resource and advocate for the Lake Minnetonka community.



BECOME A MEMBER
and help protect the lake we love.

(See page 7)

Boats are getting more powerful, boating trends are changing, and boat clubs offer affordable options for people to experience boating. The percentage of Minnesotans who own boats is higher than in any other state, and Lake Minnetonka is one of the busiest lakes in the state, with an estimated 72,000 boats launched from public accesses, private docks or at marinas every year. Boating conflicts and accidents are inevitable.

All boaters have a responsibility to learn about boat operation, navigation, and good boating etiquette, but many do not take the time to learn even the basics of boating. In Minnesota, only children between 12 to 17 years old are required to take a boater safety course and receive a watercraft operator's permit. Anyone over 18, regardless of their knowledge of boating or boating rules, are allowed to operate boats of any size or horsepower anywhere in Minnesota without any restrictions and irrespective of past DWI or BWI convictions.

The Lake Minnetonka Association supports mandated boat operator training and certification.

Boater training & certification saves lives. The National Association of State Boating Law Administrators found that states with the longest

history of boating education requirements have the lowest average rate of fatalities.

The longer the boating education requirements have been in place, the lower the fatality rates are. States with no boating education requirements have the highest average fatality rates.

Boater training & certification can save money. Successfully completing a registered boating safety course may help lower boat insurance rates. Knowing boating rules and the meaning of buoys and warning markers can save thousands of dollars in boat repair costs.

Boater training & certification protects the environment. Understanding the damage boats can cause if operated too close to shore or in shallow water, and knowing how to properly inspect and clean boats and equipment will help to protect a lake's ecosystem and its fishery.

Boater training & certification makes the lake experience more enjoyable for everyone. Conflicts due to poor boating etiquette and lack of knowledge of rules are becoming more common. Keeping the lake enjoyable means all boaters must understand and practice safe boating practices and protocols.

For more information about U.S. Coast Guard approved boater safety classes, search for "U.S. Coast Guard Boater Safety Classes."

MAKE LAKE MINNETONKA SAFER
with Boat Operator Training & Certification

From The Helm

By Tom Frahm, LMA Board President



What will Lake Minnetonka look like in the year 2050?

During the last 35 years our lake has added five Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) pollutants, boat usage has increased, and AIS lake management costs have exploded. If the methods used to protect this lake do not change, it seems reasonable to believe that what happened during the last 35 years will be repeated over the next 35 years.

More AIS pollutants will be introduced in the lake, lake management costs will become exorbitant, boat usage will become unsafe, fishing and lake recreational usage will deteriorate, and lakeshore home values will plummet.

The big question is: What can Lake Minnetonka lakeshore homeowners and businesses do to protect the future of this lake? I believe property owners must lobby local and state government to actively become involved in preventing the spread of AIS pollutants and control the misuse of Lake Minnetonka.

Here are a few ideas I believe will help...

1. 24/7 electronic AIS prevention monitoring at all Lake Minnetonka boat accesses.
2. Larger fines for transporting AIS pollutants.
3. Stiffer penalties for boat operation violations.
4. Charge user fees for launching boats at public accesses. Fees would be used for the prevention of new AIS from getting into Lake Minnetonka.
5. Treat polluted storm water that flows into Lake Minnetonka.

I am sure many of you have ideas that would help protect our lake. If you do, please share them with us by contacting the Lake Minnetonka Association at: info@LMAssociation.org, or call 952-470-4449. We would like to hear from you.

Other bays are clear. Why is mine murky?

Many of the factors impacting water clarity, such as water chemistry, weather patterns, precipitation, shoreland development, etc., are common to all bays in Lake Minnetonka. Yet bays vary significantly in water clarity. The primary reason for this is likely due to their **location, depth, and history** of land use.

Poor water clarity is the result of **excessive algae growth**, which is the result of nutrient rich run-off entering the lake. The larger the drainage area, the greater the volume of run-off. Bays with historically poor water clarity, such as Halsteads, Jennings, and Stubbs also have relatively large drainage to bay ratios, whereas, bays with smaller drainage ratios, such as Wayzata, St. Albans, and Smithtown Bays have better water clarity.

Depth of the bay also plays an important role in water clarity. In shallower bays, wind and waves can circulate water 20 to 30 feet deep, mixing the nutrient rich water from the lower part of the bay with near-surface waters. If the lake is very shallow (less than 20 feet), the water may stay completely mixed all summer. In the parts of the bay less than 10 feet, boat traffic can also contribute to the mixing.

Over the last several decades, cities and lakeshore property owners have made considerable progress in stopping nutrient rich run-off from entering Lake Minnetonka. While many of the land use issues that polluted Lake Minnetonka have been discontinued, they still negatively affect water clarity in several bays. Lake sediments contain nutrients from over **a century of discharge** into the lake. Once nutrients are introduced into a waterbody, they remain for a very long time and are continually recycled through the life cycle of plants and algae.

Flowering Rush Control Update



Similar to other lake weeds, growing conditions were ideal this year for flowering rush. While very little regrowth was found in areas treated in 2020, a number of new sites were found and treated this past summer. Indications are good the treatments are preventing flowering rush from getting a foothold in the lake. But flowering rush is hard to kill and ongoing monitoring and spot treatments will be needed to control this plant.

The Lake Minnetonka Association thanks its members, Gabriel Jabbour, of Tonka Bay Marina, and Richie Anderson, of North Shore Marina for their generous contributions to this program.

Photo: Leah J. Meinhoff, Univ. of Gorn, Bognwood.org



Clean up – but not too much! Get rid of dying or diseased plants, but let other plants (especially native plants) remain. Seed heads can provide food for wintering birds and animals and dead stalks and leaves can provide shelter. Plus, stalks help hold snow, keeping moisture in the soil and providing insulation from hard freezes. Garden detritus, especially near lakeshore, provides winter habitat for hibernating amphibians.

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Coping with Coyotes

It may seem like Lake Minnetonka is too developed to attract coyotes, but they are here and, while they do not pose much of a threat to humans, they may pose a threat to our pets. As development pressure continues to displace coyote habitat, coyotes have adapted to living in urban areas. Coyotes can be a nuisance, yet they play an important role in an urban ecosystem by controlling rabbits, rats, and small rodent populations.

Coyotes typically avoid people but will raid garbage cans, and have been known to attack or kill domestic cats and small dogs. If you are concerned about the presence of coyotes where you live, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MnDNR) provides the following list of do's and don'ts:



DO:

- Secure all garbage containers, wildlife feeders, and other food sources to prevent coyote access.
- Confine small dogs and cats in kennels, or supervise them when outside.
- Vaccinate all pets for rabies, distemper, parvo, and other diseases, as recommended by a veterinarian.
- Shout, wave your arms, use whistles and air horns, etc. Generally, coyotes are reclusive animals who avoid human contact. Hazing can help maintain a coyote's fear of humans and deter them from backyards and play spaces.

DO NOT:

- Feed coyotes.
- Leave pet food outside.
- Allow cats and small dogs outside, unattended.

In addition to the MnDNR's recommendations, it is important to be extra watchful if you have an un-neutered dog. Coyotes are canines and are attracted to, and can mate with, un-spayed or un-neutered domestic dogs. Additionally, un-neutered male dogs may be viewed as competition by male coyotes and be attacked or killed.

Did You Know?

- Coyotes mate for life.
- Coyotes can run up to 40 mph.
- Coyotes bring live mice to their young so they can learn to hunt.

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Bay Treatment Program Update

The Lake Minnetonka Association's 2021 bay treatments for Eurasian watermilfoil and curlyleaf pondweed exceeded its goal of reducing these invasive plants to less than 20% post-treatment occurrence.

This September, the Lake Minnetonka Association held its first **Lake Minnetonka Weed Committee meeting**. Representatives from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Bay Captains, staff from other agencies, marinas, and weed control experts discussed the program and laid out a strategy for next year.

The Lake Minnetonka Association will continue to advocate for funding from the Lake Minnetonka Conservation District and others, and will be welcoming several new bays to the Bay Treatment Program, including: Harrison's Bay, Browns Bay, Black Lake, and Smiths Bay.

BAY	WEEDS TREATED	ACRES TREATED IN 2021
Carmans*	Eurasian watermilfoil	11.6
	Curlyleaf pondweed	19.9
Carsons and St. Louis	Eurasian watermilfoil	10.5
	Curlyleaf pondweed	14.1
Crystal	Comb. Eurasian watermilfoil & Curlyleaf pondweed	39.4
Gideons	Eurasian watermilfoil	14.9
	Curlyleaf pondweed	35.2
Grays	Eurasian watermilfoil	24.17
	Curlyleaf pondweed	18.26
North Arm	Eurasian watermilfoil	0
	Curlyleaf pondweed	50.1
Phelps	Eurasian watermilfoil	20
	Curlyleaf pondweed	0
St. Albans*	Eurasian watermilfoil	14.9
	Curlyleaf pondweed	28.2

*Treatment is part of a Lake Improvement District

Starting a Bay Treatment Program

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MnDNR) and lake scientists agree that a bay-wide plant survey is necessary prior to doing a whole bay or large scale treatment. Since organizing and raising funds for a bay-wide plant survey and treatment takes time, a small scale treatment may be a better option while larger scale programs are organized.



Bay-wide Plant Survey?

The MnDNR will allow up to 15% of the littoral area of a bay to be treated prior to completing the survey for a whole bay or large scale treatment. When first starting a bay treatment program, it is often best to do an early season curlyleaf pondweed and Eurasian watermilfoil survey and stick with the 15% or less treatment.

Even with small scale treatments, it is more important to maintain a standard system of evaluation, planning and implementation to avoid future conflicts. Way too often property owners use the *ready, fire, aim* rather than *ready, aim, fire* approach. Taking time to analyze and understand the problem and then manage toward the science allows better results.

Understanding the complexities of each bay and setting realistic goals is important before starting a treatment program. Regardless of the scale of the treatment, the basic steps for a bay treatment are:

1. **Identify the problem and how big it is.**
2. **Identify possible solutions.**
3. **Identify the consequences of each potential solution (both big and small).**
4. **Identify the cost of the best solution.**
5. **Implement the solution.**
6. **Identify the results.**
7. **If needed, modify the approach used for future treatments.**

For more information, or to learn how your bay can enroll in the Lake Minnetonka Association's **Bay Treatment Program** to control Eurasian watermilfoil and curlyleaf pondweed, please contact the Lake Minnetonka Association at: info@LMAssociation.org, or call 952-470-4449.

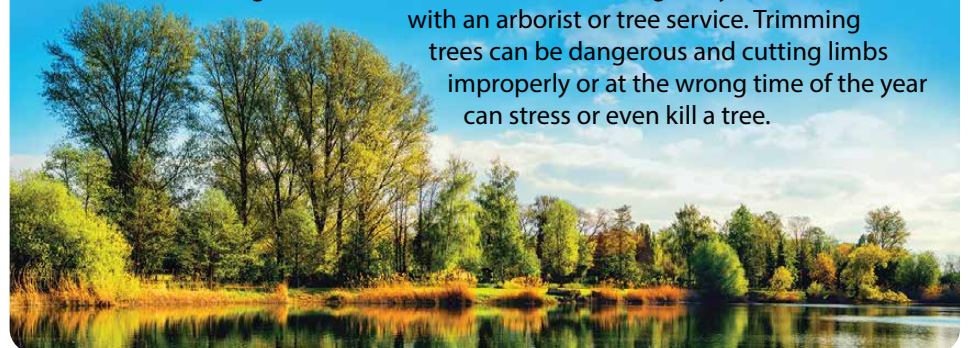
The Benefits of Trees on Your Shoreland

While most of us can appreciate the beauty of trees, they also play an important role in the health of a lake ecosystem.

Several species of birds need shoreland trees for nesting and hunting. Bald eagles, barred owls, several species of hawks, osprey, kingfishers, egrets, wood ducks, mergansers, and swallows are just some of the species that live in shoreland trees. Even dead or dying trees provide perches and nesting habitat for several bird species.

Shoreland trees provide cooling shade for crappies, blue gills and other fish species. The detritus from trees provide the habitat for the insects that fish feed on, and is necessary to maintain populations of frogs, salamanders and turtles.

Removing lower limbs to provide lake views or to protect structures is a great alternative to cutting down a tree. However, before doing this yourself, consult with an arborist or tree service. Trimming trees can be dangerous and cutting limbs improperly or at the wrong time of the year can stress or even kill a tree.



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We thank our Business Members for their many contributions to our organization and to our Lake Minnetonka community. You make the lake a better place to live, work and play!

In midst of deadliest boating season in 16 years, DNR asks late-season boaters to play it safe

Minnesota's waterways were unusually deadly this year, with 17 people losing their lives in boating-related drownings and crashes—the highest number since 2005. And with weeks of open water left this year, there's a chance that total could climb higher.

Following are safety reminders as people head out onto cold water:

- Wear a life jacket (foam life jackets are more effective than inflatable life jackets during the cold-water season).
- Distribute weight in the boat evenly and abide by manufacturer's weight limits to reduce the likelihood of falling overboard.
- Have a means of communication. Boaters also should let other people know where they're going and when they plan to return.
- Watch the weather to avoid shifting winds or storms.
- Wear an engine cut-off device if the boat is equipped with one.

For more information on staying safe on or around cold water, see the DNR's cold water webpage: www.dnr.state.mn.us/safety/boatwater/cold-water.html.


Minnesota DNR Summary of Accidents as of September 15th of Each Year

Accident Category and Year	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012
Boating Fatalities	17	13	10	13	11	14	12	10	10	11
Non-Fatal Boating Accidents*	55	83	84	58	87	73	64	32	56	66
Non-Boating Drownings	23	42	29	32	23	34	30	21	26	36

*There is usually a delay in the reporting of non-fatal accidents


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No Starry Stonewort found in Lake Minnetonka

The Lake Minnetonka Association completed its bi-annual surveys for invasive starry stonewort on Lake Minnetonka and found none in the lake. Sixteen of the busiest private and public access sites were checked along with over 1,700 private sites.

The MnDNR reminds boaters and anglers to follow Minnesota laws to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species:

- Clean aquatic plants and animals from watercraft, trailers, and water-related equipment.
- Drain all water by removing drain plugs and keep drain plugs out while transporting watercraft.
- Dispose of unwanted bait in the trash.

Some invasive species are small and difficult to see on your boat or equipment. To remove or kill them, take one or more of the following precautions before moving to another waterbody, especially after leaving infested waters:

- Spray with high-pressure water.
- Rinse with very hot water (120 degrees for at least two minutes or 140 degrees for at least 10 seconds).
- Dry for at least five days.

Lake Minnetonka Association's Starry Stonewort Survey was funded through a grant from the Hennepin County AIS Prevention Program. Grants are available to help local units of government and organizations implement projects that prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species.

Thank you to members who have joined or renewed in the past year.

Your support helps our efforts to protect the lake we love!

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