



On The Lake

NEWSLETTER

LAKE MINNETONKA ASSOCIATION • *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.



LAKE
MINNETONKA
ASSOCIATION

Choosing the right path to protect Lake Minnetonka

We are at a crossroads in the protection of Lake Minnetonka's natural and cultural legacy. **One path** will take us to a lake where Eurasian watermilfoil and curlyleaf pondweed are under control and new aquatic invasive species (AIS) are prevented from getting a foothold in the lake; where boaters treat the lake and each other with respect; and where homeowners and businesses are partners in solving problems.

The other path will take us back to a time when weeds and other AIS made some bays unusable, when policy was based on opinion rather than science, and when carelessness and indifference were the norm.

Currently, the Lake Minnetonka Association manages AIS treatments in select bays on Lake Minnetonka.

One of the most promising signs that we are making progress in the fight against AIS, is this year fewer acres needed to be treated for Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM) than ever before. The work done by the Lake Minnetonka Association shows EWM could be controlled lakewide within a few years if more bays would participate in the Bay Treatment Program.

Individuals interested in leading this effort and willing to help raise funds for their bay should contact the Lake Minnetonka Association at info@LMAssociation.org.

Moving down the right path takes strong partners and sound science. The Lake Minnetonka Association supports research underway at the University of Minnesota to determine the impact of boat wakes on lake health and new, cost-effective ways to control zebra mussels. We also support educational programs such as the Hennepin County Sheriff's and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources *Own Your Wake* program that encourages lake users to practice good lake etiquette.

We can choose what the future of Lake Minnetonka will be. By building partnerships with businesses and communities, supporting policies based on science, and applying new technologies to help manage the lake, the Lake Minnetonka Association is helping to protect the legacy of Lake Minnetonka.

Lake Minnetonka Association is making progress in protecting the Lake

- Fewer acres of Eurasian watermilfoil needed to be treated
- New herbicide use to selectively control Eurasian watermilfoil without harming native plants
- New partnerships have been formed to control flowering rush
- Bi-annual inspections are being conducted to search for starry stonewort before it gets a foothold
- Two bays have been added to the Bay Treatment Program
- Efforts are underway to establish a Crystal Bay Lake Improvement District
- Continued decrease in the amount of trash found at Cruiser's Cove after the 4th of July holiday

JOIN the Lake Minnetonka Association – Help protect the lake we love. (See page 7)

From The Helm

By Tom Frahm, LMA Board President



If not electronic tagging, how about I-LIDS?

If you have read my newsletter articles, you know I have been trying to get the State of Minnesota to electronically tag boats, when they have been exposed to aquatic invasive species (AIS). After many years of trying, I believe this is not going to happen anytime soon. So, we need to take action now to prevent new AIS pollution from entering Lake Minnetonka. **The best option is I-LIDS.** An I-LIDS (Internet Landing Installed Device Sensor) is a high definition video camera, cellular modem, sign, and audio message system in a protective stand placed at the entrance of a boat launch. When a boat enters the launch, a video is recorded and an audio message on how to inspect and clean your boat is played.

I-LIDS are manufactured and monitored by Environmental Sentry Protection, LLC. They found that compared with the typical percentages of boats showing up at launch sites with plants attached (as documented by inspectors), they have observed that only a fraction of boaters bring plants into sites with I-LIDS monitoring. Environmental Sentry also found that more plants are brought to sites that do not have an audio message system, demonstrating that when boaters know their

actions are being monitored, they do take action to inspect and clean their boat. Many videos over the years show people initially reacting to the audio, reading the sign, and inspecting their boat. Over time, boaters become accustomed to the presence of the camera. Modifying the behavior of boaters 24/7 has proven to be more efficient and effective than relying on intermittent monitoring by inspectors at select launch sites, where boaters are conditioned to pay attention *only* when an inspector is present.

In addition, if the State of Minnesota decides to pursue electronic boat tagging, the I-LIDS unit can be upgraded to accommodate this function.



I believe we should install I-LIDS at four of Lake Minnetonka's busiest launch sites (Grays, Maxwell, North Arm, and Spring Park Bays). Hopefully, this can be accomplished by spring of 2021. The cost of this project is estimated at \$60,000, which includes four I-LIDS units and one year of maintenance and monitoring. We will seek grants from Hennepin County, and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, but additional financial support may be needed. I am hopeful that our lakeshore homeowners and businesses will see the value of this initiative.

Lake Minnetonka Association Workshop NOERENBERG HISTORICAL TOUR

Join the Lake Minnetonka Association for a professionally guided tour of Noerenberg Gardens. Situated along the shore of Crystal Bay on Lake Minnetonka, Noerenberg Gardens is widely regarded as one of the finest formal gardens in Minnesota and is known for its tranquility and spectacular beauty.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 18

1:00, 2:00 or 3:00 p.m. tour times • Reservations required

REGISTER EARLY – Space is limited

Please e-mail your name, address, phone number, and your tour time preference to: workshops@LMAAssociation.org
(You will receive a confirmation e-mail)

Questions?
Call (952) 470-4449

FREE TO LAKE MINNETONKA ASSOCIATION MEMBERS



Photo: Three Rivers Park District

“On The Lake”

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How to Contact the LMA

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Buzz, Bite, SLAP... It's Mosquito Season!

Here are some tips to reduce mosquito bites:

1) Remove standing water.

Anything that holds water for several days can breed mosquito larvae. Remove standing water from gutters, tree holes, containers, or anything else. See graphic for information.

2) Use physical control.

There are a couple of physical precautions that you can take to reduce mosquito annoyance. These include keeping your grass under 2 inches in length and reducing excess harborage - this is where mosquitoes like to hide out during the day. Also make sure that screens are secure and have no holes. For outdoor seating areas, an electric fan will go a long way in reducing the presence of mosquitoes.

3) Use personal protection.

Protect yourself by using EPA approved bug spray that contains the active ingredient DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, or IR3535. You can also use Permethrin-based spray to treat your clothing (follow label instructions and do not apply directly to the skin). Wear long sleeves and pants and light colors. Avoid wearing artificial scents like perfumes or scented hairspray. Stay indoors during the peak mosquito feeding times of dawn and dusk.

4) Consider calling in a professional.

If mosquitoes are really unbearable in your yard, you might want to call in a licensed pesticide applicator. Professionals are able to safely apply control materials in a way that will limit impact to non-target species and only target those nasty mosquitoes. The Minnesota Department of Agriculture lists licensed pesticide applicators by county on their website.

ELIMINATE BREEDING SITES

The easiest way to reduce mosquitoes is to get rid of their breeding habitats. Mosquito larvae grow and develop in standing water, so check your yard for anything that holds water and dump it out or refresh the water weekly.



Ponds and Bird Baths

The water should circulate or be refreshed weekly. For permanent ponds, consider larval control.

Tarps or Containers

Mosquito larvae can develop in any standing water. Constantly check for buckets or anything that holds water.

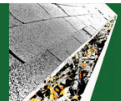


Rain Barrels

Purchase a screen that can cover the rain barrel and ensure there are no openings. Refresh the water weekly.

Clogged Rain Gutters

Rain gutters that don't flow cause standing water that can breed mosquitoes.



Old Tires

Call MMCD and we will pick them up and recycle them for free!

Tree Holes

Check the trees in your yard to ensure there is no water. Fill tree holes with spray foam, silicone, or sand.



#NMCAW

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Who's responsible for controlling weeds in Lake Minnetonka?

Even though Lake Minnetonka is one of the most heavily used recreational lakes in Minnesota, there are no governmental agencies mandated to control weeds in the lake. That is why over a decade ago, the Lake Minnetonka Association began working with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MnDNR) to develop the Bay Treatment Program. While the MnDNR has the overarching responsibility to protect and manage all waters of the state, it is up to homeowners, businesses and the Lake Minnetonka Association to control nuisance weeds if we want to keep the lake open for boating and recreation.

The MnDNR allows **homeowners and businesses** to cut or pull up to 2,500 square feet of their shoreline. The cleared area must not extend more than 50 feet along the shoreline or one-half the length of the shoreline, whichever is less. Herbicide use requires a MnDNR permit.

The **Lake Minnetonka Association** coordinates aquatic invasive weed management on Lake Minnetonka and provides support for the Bay Treatment Program. The Lake Minnetonka Association also monitors for starry stonewort at the busiest lake access points, and treats invasive flowering rush.



The **Bay Treatment Program** is authorized by the MnDNR and managed by the Lake Minnetonka Association to control Eurasian watermilfoil and curlyleaf pondweed in select bays on Lake Minnetonka. Bay Captains are appointed by the Lake Minnetonka Association for each of the participating bays. Bay Captains are responsible for fundraising and managing day-to-day activities for their specific bay. Bays currently participating in the program are: Gideons, Carsons/St. Louis, North Arm, Grays, Crystal, and Phelps Bays.

Lake Improvement Districts (LIDs) are formed by lakeshore homeowners and approved by the MnDNR to control aquatic invasive weeds in their bay. There are currently two LIDs on Lake Minnetonka: Carmans Bay and St. Albans

Bay. LIDs are independent organizations; however, they work closely with the Lake Minnetonka Association and Bay Captains.

Until 2019, **Lake Minnetonka Conservation District (LMCD)** operated three large weed harvesters on the lake. But following an evaluation of the program's cost and concerns that the harvester's may actually be spreading invasive weeds, the program was halted. At this time, the LMCD is not doing any weed control in the lake.

MOST WANTED: FLOWERING RUSH



Photo: MCWD and Steve McComas and Jo Stuckert, Blue Water Science



Photo: Leslie J. Mehrhoff, Univ. of Conn., Bugwood.org

Have you seen this plant?

Flowering rush is an invasive plant that can choke out native vegetation and make bays and shoreland unusable for boating and recreation. The Lake Minnetonka Association has partnered with Tonka Bay Marina and North Shore Marina, and are trying to eliminate this invasive plant from Lake Minnetonka. The more plants we can find, the greater chance we have of getting this plant under control.

Flowering rush blooms in late July and early August. If you see this plant please contact the Lake Minnetonka Association at 952-470-4449 or info@LMAssociation.org.



TOP OF THE LINE DOCK SYSTEMS

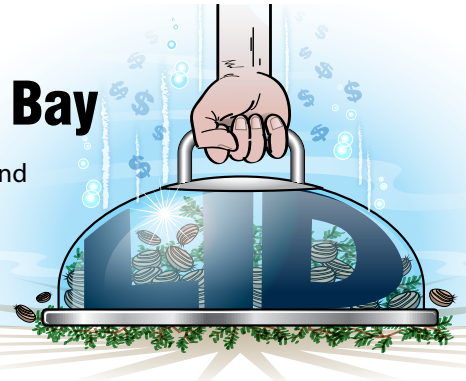
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Forming a Lake Improvement District to Control Aquatic Invasive Species in Your Bay

A Lake Improvement District or "LID" is a special purpose body created to manage and fund a defined lake (or bay) improvement project. LIDs are established by resolution of a city council, county board, or by the commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MnDNR); require approval by a simple majority of affected landowners; and are approved by the MnDNR. A LID must encompass an entire bay. Property owners elect a 5 to 9 member board of directors. Once established, LIDs empower property owners to decide what is best for their bay with less government involvement.



If you think a LID might be an option to pay for controlling AIS in your bay, here are a couple things to consider:

1. Do your neighbors agree that weeds are enough of a problem that they are willing to help pay to control them and support forming a LID?
2. Are any of your neighbors willing to work together to form a LID? Will your city council support your efforts to form a LID?

LIDs have been established on lakes across Minnesota and are one of the best ways to create a sustainable program to control AIS. They are governed by homeowners, and the funds collected are used for a clearly defined purpose without the overhead costs of a governmental body. A LID on each of Lake Minnetonka's Bays will help win the fight against AIS!

There are two LIDs on Lake Minnetonka: the St. Albans Bay LID and the Carmans Bay LID. Both were established exclusively for the purpose of controlling Eurasian watermilfoil, curlyleaf pondweed, and other aquatic invasive species in the bays. Crystal Bay homeowners are currently in the process of forming a LID.

The LID's board of directors submit an annual budget to the County Board, and assessments are added to property tax statements. In the case of the Lake Minnetonka LIDs, one-hundred percent of the money collected is used to pay for bay treatment programs. The amount of a property tax assessment is dependent on a number of factors (e.g., extent of the weed problem, level/cost of desired treatment, number of properties in the LID, etc.). Initial assessments are often in the area of \$200-\$300 per year/per property and generally decrease after the first few years of treatment.

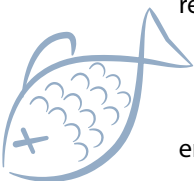
If you have questions, please call the Lake Minnetonka Association at 952-470-4449 or email: info@LMAssociation.org.

Fish Kills

Fish kills during this time of the year are not uncommon and most often are the result of natural causes. Hot weather raises water temperatures and places additional stress on fish that are already stressed from the energy they used during spawning. This makes fish more susceptible to a common bacterial infection referred to as *columnaris*. *Columnaris* infections are relatively common among sunfish, crappies, bullheads, and occasionally, largemouth bass and northern pike.

Natural fish kills tend to be concentrated within a specific species and size range. But when fish kills have vastly different sizes of fish and multiple species, it is more of a concern because it may be related to human activity.

fish kills at 651-649-5451 or 800-422-0798. The duty officer is available 24/7. Describe the fish types and sizes seen when making a report (or take a photo). This information provides important insight and an early report makes it possible for the MnDNR and other state agencies to gather timely water samples or take other actions if needed.



The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MnDNR) encourages people to report



Watch Wear Learn

Hennepin County Sheriff's Department Water Safety Reminder

At the Hennepin County Sheriff's Office Water Patrol, one of the main duties is responding to reports of emergencies on Hennepin County lakes and rivers. Their goal is to keep people safe on the water through education. Remember, during the COVID-19 pandemic, most beaches do not have professional lifeguards on

duty, so it's even more critical to know basic water safety.

Basic water safety starts with three simple words: **Watch, Wear, and Learn.**

Watch

- Watch your children and other swimmers - Parents must use active supervision when children are in-or near-the water. In 70% of cases where young children have drowned, one or both parents were nearby. Being nearby isn't enough.

Wear

- Wear a life jacket.
- Weak swimmers or non-swimmers should wear life jackets in the water.
- Adult supervision is needed even when using a life jacket.
- Do not rely on water wings or other inflatable devices, especially for children.

Learn

- Learn about water safety and CPR - Teach your kids to swim. Adults must know how to swim, too.
- Keep safety equipment near pools, such as a shepherd's hook.
- If attempting a rescue, hand something to the struggling person or pull them to safety with the hook.
- Use safety precautions with backyard kiddie pools. One child drowns every five days in portable pools.

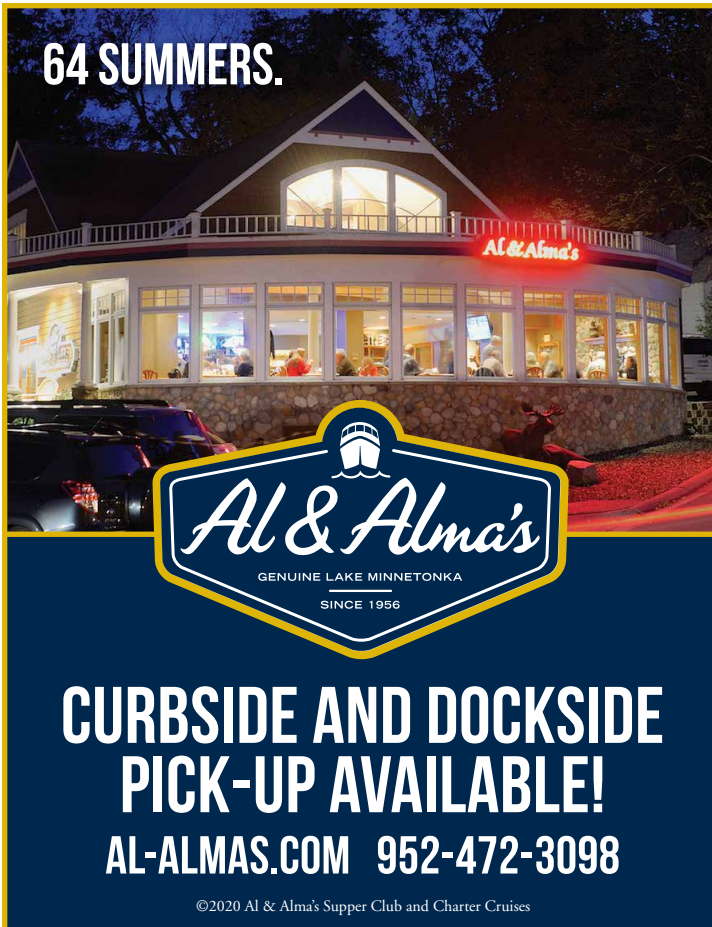
SMART BOATING REMINDER

OWN YOUR WAKE! Know where your wake is going so you don't create problems for other boaters, other lake enthusiasts, and to help prevent shoreline erosion. All boaters need to be aware of the size of the wake they create.

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- | | |
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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!



64 SUMMERS.

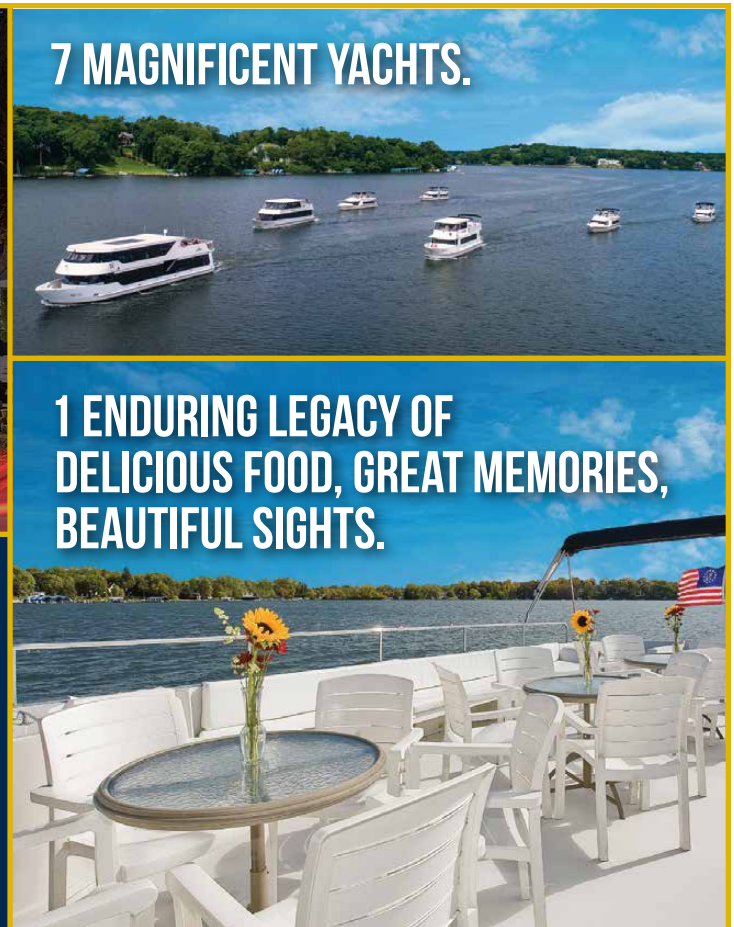
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Bay Treatment Program Update

Rain and windy weather during June slowed down the bay treatments, but by July 13, all bays in the program were treated. Post-treatment surveys will be done in August and September.

The Lake Minnetonka Association thanks the **Bay Captains** for all of the hard work they do in making the bay treatments possible, and keeping the lake open for boaters and everyone to enjoy!

BAY	WEEDS TREATED	ACRES TREATED
Carmans*	Eurasian watermilfoil	6.65
	Curlyleaf pondweed	27.3
Carsons/ St. Louis	Eurasian watermilfoil	4.95
	Curlyleaf pondweed	4.8
Crystal**	Eurasian watermilfoil	17.0
Gideons	Eurasian watermilfoil	3.49
	Curlyleaf pondweed	18.9
Grays**	Eurasian watermilfoil	34.25
North Arm***	Curlyleaf pondweed	47.7
Phelps**	Eurasian watermilfoil	21.29
St. Albans*	Eurasian watermilfoil	3.84
	Curlyleaf pondweed	12.7

*Treatment is part of a Lake Improvement District

**Curlyleaf pondweed not treated in 2020

***Eurasian watermilfoil not treated in 2020 because it was below the treatment threshold

Fourth of July Weekend Lake Clean-up – Less Trash Again!

On July 6, the Lake Minnetonka Association joined with volunteers to clean up Cruiser's Cove off of Big Island. Great news—each year boaters are doing a better job of not leaving their garbage behind!

Thank you to Life's a Beach Shoreline Services and Tonka Bay Marina for their continued support, and to Joey Nova's for providing lunch to the volunteers who helped with the clean-up.

Help keep Lake Minnetonka safe and beautiful. Remember, "what goes out on your boat... comes back on your boat!"



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VOICE for lakeshore owners and businesses.**

Your support is making a positive difference!

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please complete this form and mail it with your tax-deductible contribution to:
The Lake Minnetonka Association, P.O. Box 248, Excelsior, MN 55331

Make checks payable to "The Lake Minnetonka Association" or contribute online: www.LMAssociation.org

I want to support the Lake Minnetonka Association at the following membership level:

Basic \$50 - \$199 Sustaining \$200 - \$499 Captain \$500 - \$999 Commodore \$1000+ Business \$350

Other or additional contribution..... \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

**CONTRIBUTIONS ARE
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The Lake Minnetonka Association is
a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation

Name(s): _____

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