

On The Lake

NEWSLETTER

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

It's a **WEEDY** Situation

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)

Most lake experts agree this year's excessive weed growth is a result of last winter's late ice-in date, low snow cover, early ice-out, increased water clarity due to zebra mussels, and low lake levels.

Yes, weeds can be a nuisance, but a weed-free lake is a dead lake.

Bays participating in the Lake Minnetonka Association's "Bay Treatment Program" or being treated by Lake Improvement Districts are in good shape. Bays not in the program tend to have more invasive Eurasian watermilfoil and curlyleaf pondweed.

Native plants are generally not as problematic as Eurasian watermilfoil and curlyleaf pondweed, but some native plants such as water lilies are thicker than usual. Native wild celery and narrow-leaf pondweed are not a problem yet, but in late summer after the plants die, they may wash up on shores, creating a nuisance (and expense) for homeowners.

Neither the Lake Minnetonka Conservation District (LMCD) nor the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD) currently have



programs to deal with the weed problem. The LMCD's weed harvesting program provided some relief in the past, but the program was not cost-effective and has been discontinued. The MCWD has said they have no interest in helping residents of Lake Minnetonka fund lake treatments or invasive plant



control (even though almost half of their \$10 million levy comes from property taxes in the lake area). The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has been helpful, but weeds are a problem



statewide and their funds are spread thin.

This means the work of dealing with weeds in Lake Minnetonka falls on the shoulders of lakeshore owners and businesses. The members of the Lake Minnetonka Association are the stewards of Lake Minnetonka.

The result of not participating in the "Bay Treatment Program" or being complacent when government agencies responsible for taking care of the lake do nothing—is a weedy lake.

If you are not already a member, please join us to become part of the solution to make Lake Minnetonka an enjoyable place to live and play.

Photos clockwise from left: Curlyleaf pondweed, Wild celery (both photos: Robert Vidéki, *Doronicum Kft.*, Bugwood.org), Water lilies, Eurasian watermilfoil (photo: MnDNR).

From The Helm

By Tom Frahm, LMA Board President



Beautiful Lake Minnetonka

I have been fortunate to have lived on Lake Minnetonka for over 49 years and am still amazed every morning to wake up to the view of this beautiful lake. Before I retired, my job took me to most of the large cities in the United States and, in my opinion, none of these cities had a natural resource nearby that comes remotely close to the beauty and quality of Lake Minnetonka.

Has this lake changed in those 49 years? Yes. The houses are bigger, the boats are bigger and faster, the lake is busier, and we now have aquatic invasive species (AIS). Even with these additional pressures, the lake continues to retain its beauty and recreational attractiveness. For Lake Minnetonka to continue to thrive, people who live on it must be actively involved in its survival. If you are fortunate enough to live on the lake and benefit from its beauty and recreational use, it is important for you to become a steward of this lake.

Government agencies collect a lot of taxes from homeowners but do little to protect the lake. Some, such as the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District

have even said protecting the lake from AIS is not a priority to them.

Life is busy, but all of us must take a little time to help preserve Lake Minnetonka. The folks who live on the lake are the ones that benefit the most from it and who generally care enough to protect it. I know this from personal experience. We need lake residents to become involved.

What can you do? You can help organize homeowners to do bay wide weed control treatments or form a Lake Improvement District (contact the Lake Minnetonka Association

for more information). You can also become active on your city's planning or park commission, or make your voice heard at city council and government agency meetings. And, if you are not already a member, please join the Lake Minnetonka Association so we can better protect the lake and advocate for all of its lakeshore owners and businesses.

My hope is that everyone who lives on or uses the lake will keep in mind how special this lake is and will become actively involved in protecting it, or all of us will suffer the consequences.

Know Your Buoys!

REMEMBER THESE THREE BUOYS. IT CAN SAVE YOUR PROP AND KEEP YOUR TIME ON THE LAKE SAFE & ENJOYABLE



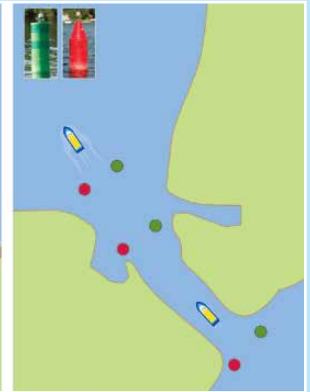
ANGER BUOYS

Identifies potential hazards in the middle of the bay.



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Identifies potential hazards between buoy and the closest shore.



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Stay between red and green channel buoys. Create minimum wake when 150 feet from shore/structure.

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We'll be cruising into late October!



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Public Cruise Schedule on Lake Minnetonka (through October 17)

- Sightseeing Cruises – Mon, Wed, Fri: 11:30 am-1:00 pm, Saturdays & Sundays: 2:00-3:30 pm
- Margarita Mondays, plus Taco Bar and Drink Specials – Mondays: 6:00-8:00 pm
- Happy Hour, Pizza & Cocktail Cruise (Incl. Pizza & Drink Specials!) – Tuesdays: 6:00-8:00 pm
- SUNDAYS: Delicious Brunch Buffet 11:00 am-1:00 pm | Sights & Bites Cruise 5:00 pm-7:00 pm

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"On The Lake" is a publication of the Lake Minnetonka Association, P.O. Box 248, Excelsior, MN 55331

Issue 2021: 3 • July

How to Contact the LMA

Eric Evenson, Executive Director
Phone: 952-470-4449
E-Mail: info@LMAssociation.org
Website: www.LMAssociation.org

LMA BOARD MEMBERS

Tom Frahm, President (Crystal Bay)
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LAKE MINNETONKA'S "LEAST" WANTED LIST

Invasive species threatening lake health and recreation



Starry Stonewort

- Starry stonewort is a bushy, bright green macro-algae. It produces star-shaped bulbils "flowers" about the size of a grain of rice.
- Often found near public accesses.

Spiny Waterflea

- Adults range from 1/4 to 5/8 inches long, and are opaque in color. They have a single long tail, with one to four spines and one large, distinctive black eyespot.
- Often found on fishing lines or other equipment in clumps that resemble a gelatinous blob of wet cotton.



Photo credits: Starry stonewort by Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center; Spiny waterflea by Jeff Gunderson.

Caution

- Clean all aquatic plants, zebra mussels, and other prohibited invasive species from your boat, trailer, and equipment before leaving a water access.
- Drain and wipe down livewells and portable bait containers before leaving a water access.
- Wipe down fishing lines and reels.
- Remove drain plugs and keep them out while transporting boat.
- Dispose of unwanted bait – including minnows, leeches, and worms in the trash.

REPORT POSSIBLE SIGHTINGS

If you suspect a new infestation of starry stonewort, spiny waterflea, or other invasive species, note the exact location, take a photo, keep a specimen, and call 888-646-6367 – or contact your local Minnesota Department of Natural Resources AIS specialist or fisheries office.

Lake Minnetonka Association Approves a Lakewide Invasive Vegetation Management Plan

In June, the Lake Minnetonka Association Board of Directors approved its **"Lake Minnetonka Invasive Vegetation Management Plan."** The purpose of the plan is to provide direction to the Lake Minnetonka Association and its partners for the control of Eurasian watermilfoil, curlyleaf pondweed, and flowering rush in Lake Minnetonka, and to prevent the introduction of additional invasive aquatic plants and algae into the lake. Implementation of the plan will be guided by an advisory committee consisting of bay captains, local lake businesses, scientists, and lake managers. The advisory committee will also help develop solutions to problems with nuisance native plant species.

Lake Minnetonka Association Members Social Event and Annual Meeting

Tuesday, September 21, 2021
from 4:30-7:30 pm

Lord Fletcher's, Paddle Room - 3746 Sunset Drive, Spring Park, MN

The 1930s—The Great Depression, Excelsior Amusement Park, Big Bands, and 25¢ Matinees... join us as we explore the exciting 1930s on and around Lake Minnetonka with historian and storyteller **Bob Gasch**. Learn how people around Lake Minnetonka survived the challenging times of the drought and depression in the 1930s... and some of the discoveries they made.

Arrive early and join us for the 2021 Lake Minnetonka Association Annual Meeting, from 4:30-5:00 pm. We will be providing bites to eat. Treat yourself to a beverage at the cash bar and join us for a fun get-together.

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

Wychwood Inn, Island Park, Minnesota. 1920-1930.
Westonka Historical Society, collection.mndigital.org/catalog/whs:187 Accessed 23 July 2021.

Bay Treatment Program Update

Early ice-out made it possible to get most of the bays that participate in the program treated for curlyleaf pondweed and Eurasian watermilfoil by the first week in July. Post-treatment surveys will be done in August and September.

The Lake Minnetonka Association Board of Directors wish to thank the Bay Captains for all of their hard work to make the bay treatments possible, which helps keep the lake open for boaters and others to enjoy.

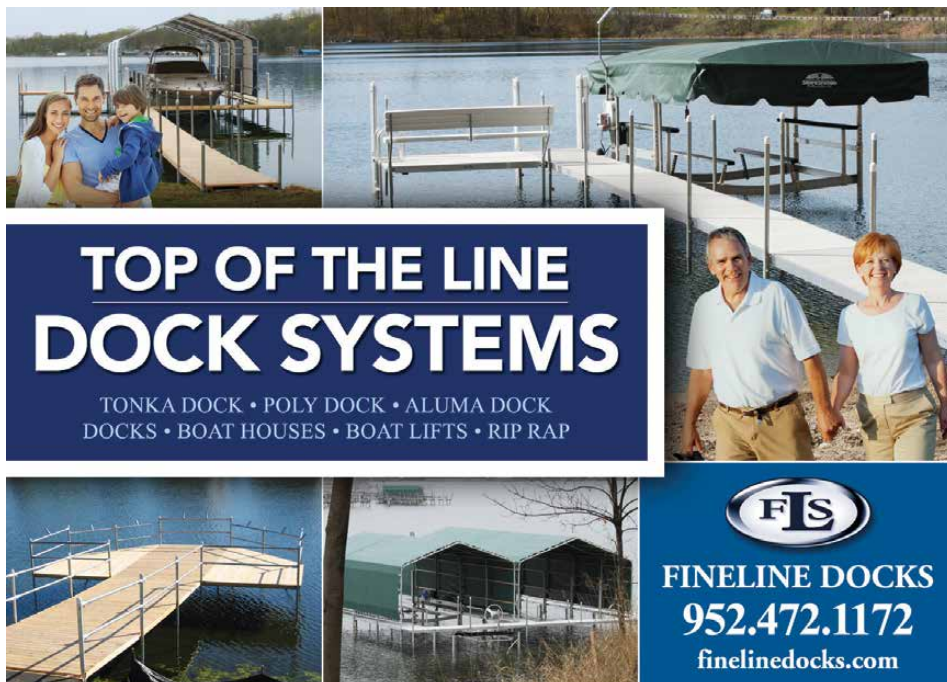
BAY	WEEDS TREATED	ACRES TREATED
Carmans*	Eurasian watermilfoil	11.6
	Curlyleaf pondweed	19.9
Carsons and St. Louis	Eurasian watermilfoil	10.5
	Curlyleaf pondweed	14.1
Crystal	Comb. Eurasian watermilfoil & Curlyleaf pondweed	39.4
Gideons	Eurasian watermilfoil	14.9
	Curlyleaf pondweed	35.2
Grays	Eurasian 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

MnDNR's Top 10 Boating Etiquette Guidelines

Remember, these are guidelines and should not serve as a replacement for learning the rules, regulations and laws for your local body of water. Whether you're a novice or veteran boater, learn more by taking a boating safety course.

- 1. Respect the ramp.** Good boating etiquette starts before you enter the water – at the dock. Prepare your boat and equipment before getting into position to launch.
- 2. Own your wake.** The fastest way to make the wrong kinds of waves is to literally throw a big, obtrusive wave at another boat, swimmer, angler or shoreline owner. Stay at least 200 feet from the shoreline and other boaters.
- 3. Keep the tunes in check.** Sound is amplified over the water, so keep the music at a decent and respectful volume level.
- 4. Pack in. Pack out.** Seems like common sense, right? Take care of the body of water you love. Bring your trash back to shore and dispose of it in a trash or recycling receptacle. Do not throw it overboard!
- 5. Slow your roll.** Does the body of water you're on have a speed limit or slow/no-wake restriction? It's your responsibility to know it and follow it. You are responsible for any damage you cause to other people's property.
- 6. Rules of the road.** Become familiar with waterway markers and navigation rules, which dictate how you operate.
- 7. Be prepared.** Know state and local laws for the body of water you're on. Set a good example by always wearing a life jacket, and have life jackets that properly fit each person on board.
- 8. Fuel and go.** At the fuel dock, get fuel, pay your bill and move out of the way. Don't forget to run your blower before starting.
- 9. Anchoring and mooring.** Enter an anchorage or mooring area at a slow speed. Don't create a wake that will disrupt other anchored boats.
- 10. Be polite—give a wave.** Boating is all about having fun and being part of the boating community. Embrace it, enjoy it, and share it for generations to come.



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LAKE HEALTH MYTHS & TRUTHS

- **Weeds are good for fishing.** Yes and no. A diverse native weed population is important to maintain a healthy fishery. Many fish species hang out along the edges of weed beds, but matted weed beds make it hard to get into favorite fishing spots and invasive plants reduce native plant growth, which can affect fish populations.
- **Weeds contribute to the amount of phosphorous pollution in a lake.** False. Weeds simply cycle phosphorous – they use phosphorous when they grow and release it back into the lake when they die.

Blue-Green Algae Warning



Photo: Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

People should avoid recreating in waters that have a blue-green algae bloom, as certain varieties of the algae can produce toxins that are linked to illness in humans and animals.

Blue-green algae is often described as looking like pea soup or spilled green paint. While there have been blue-green algal blooms on Lake Minnetonka in the past, recent drought conditions and warm temperatures may increase the duration and extent of the blooms this summer. This is of special concern in some of the western bays with lower water quality grades or in calmer, warmer areas of the lake where there are less

likely to be waves or wind. Typically, water temperatures above 75 degrees can trigger a bloom.

According to the Minnesota Department of Health, people can get sick if they swallow, have skin contact with or breathe in airborne water droplets

while swimming, boating, waterskiing, tubing, bathing or showering in water that has harmful algae. Symptoms can begin hours to two days after exposure, including symptoms such as vomiting, diarrhea, rash, eye irritation, cough, sore throat and headache.



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Boat Wake Research Update

Boat-generated waves, specifically waves generated by wake surfing, is an issue Lake Minnetonka residents and users are divided on how to address.

Over this past year, researchers from the University of Minnesota have been examining the effects of boat wakes, wake energy, and prop-thrust energy and their impact on lake ecology. The research is led by Jeff Marr at the St. Anthony Falls Laboratory and has garnered national attention. In a recent letter to the Lake Minnetonka Association, Jeff Marr wrote, "Given the importance of our research to all stakeholders, we are taking extra care in the steps leading to publication." The report will go through a vigorous peer review process and is expected to be available in six to nine months.

Given the passions on both sides of the wake surfing topic, it is hoped that with good science in hand, policy makers can develop boater education and policy proposals that have the support of wake-sports enthusiasts, protect the aquatic ecosystem, and will contribute to a lake all of us can enjoy.

LAKE MINNETONKA ASSOCIATION

Weed-Wonder Workshop

Wednesday, August 18, 2021, 4:30–6:30 pm

Ever wonder what the weeds are you see growing in Lake Minnetonka? Would you like to learn how to identify what they are and why they are there? What about how to treat them – or *if you can*? Join us, along with experts on aquatic plants, for a hands-on workshop on the lake!

PLEASE REGISTER EARLY – Space is limited

Email your name and address to: workshops@LMAssociation.org
(you will receive a confirmation email)

Boat departure - 4:30 pm sharp

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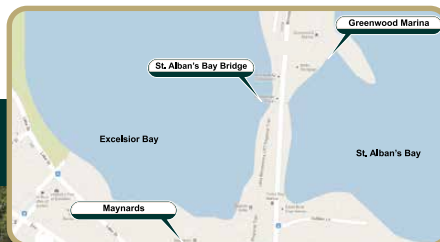
*Please note:
participants must be
16 years or older.*

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- ◆ Tonka Bay Marina, Inc.
- ◆ Waterfront Restoration
- ◆ Wave Armor

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!

PLEASE JOIN OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY!

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 TAX-DEDUCTIBLE.
 The Lake Minnetonka Association is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation.

Name(s): _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

City, State, Zip: _____ E-mail: _____

- I would like to learn more about how my bay can join the **Lake Minnetonka Association's Bay Treatment Program** to control Eurasian watermilfoil and curlyleaf pondweed in my bay.

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