

# 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 11)

## Making Sound Wake Surfing Rules and Policies

Arguably, there have been fewer issues in recent years that have divided the Lake Minnetonka community more than wake surfing. Each side of the issue raises legitimate concerns related to the use and enjoyment of Lake Minnetonka. While emotions run strong on both sides of the issue, there are a few things which everyone seems to agree on:

1. Behavior of some wake surfers needs to improve.
2. Large and repetitive wakes can damage shorelands and ecologically sensitive areas.
3. Wake surfing is growing in popularity and, for many, is an enjoyable family activity.
4. The wake surfing debate is happening throughout the state and nation – it's not just a Lake Minnetonka issue.
5. The conflicts and controversy over wake surfing need to be addressed.

Both wake surfing advocates and opponents have decided the best direction to go is to establish setbacks from shorelines, structures, and other boats. Boating industry groups say a 200 foot setback is adequate; whereas, others argue setbacks should be 500-1000 feet. Recent research from the University of Minnesota indicates a 500 foot setback can be effective in some situations, but recommends that more research needs to be done to determine wake surfing impacts in shallow waters.

**So are buffers the answer?**  
Maybe, maybe not. But pursuing this approach without fully understanding the issue will almost certainly result in a compromise between parties that will do little to protect the lake, be difficult to enforce, be confusing to boaters, and will not address noise issues.

It is unlikely any rule or legislation can be enacted before the end of this year's boating season. But that does not mean nothing should be done. Current LMCD rules already address many of the concerns about wake surfing.

*(continued on page 5)*



# From The Helm

By Tom Frahm, LMA Board President



## Remote Inspection System Pilot Project Tested at the Maxwell Bay Boat Access

After 15 years of looking for an acceptable alternative to staffed inspections, there is finally an aquatic invasive species (AIS) Remote Inspection System being tested at the Maxwell Bay Boat Access.

The Remote Inspection System uses a sophisticated software program along with high definition cameras, a cellular connection, and a solar panel. The project will help reduce the potential for new AIS being introduced into Lake Minnetonka and will provide insight into the viability of an "AIS self-inspection program." Additionally, the statistical information gathered will be useful, substantive and informative, and will provide valuable information about lake use.

Boat accesses with on-site boat inspectors are staffed about 30% of the time – and rely on statistical analysis to estimate boat activity during the remainder of the time. Our pilot project will operate 24/7 and will provide comprehensive coverage of boats entering and leaving the lake.

My hope is that the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources will consider expanding the AIS Remote Inspection Systems on the rest of Lake Minnetonka, as well as on other boat accesses across Minnesota.

## POND SCUM

**This spring, Lake Minnetonka had some unusually early blooms of filamentous algae, or "pond scum," show up on bays that are typically very clear at that time of year. What's going on?**

There are several species of filamentous algae found in Minnesota. The most common varieties are Spirogyra and Cladophora.

Spring algae blooms are not common and only occur when the conditions are just right. Typically, early spring lake vegetation shades out filamentous algae – slowing or preventing its growth. This year's late spring and cool water temperatures delayed the growth of lake vegetation, so algae was able to out-compete it.

By now, the mats of filamentous algae are gone, but this year's spring came with several heavy rainfalls that washed a considerable amount of pollution and nutrients into Lake Minnetonka. These nutrients may cause "blue-green" algae blooms later this year.

Blue-green algae can be dangerous to humans and have caused fatalities in pets that have been in the water. The probability of blue-green algae blooms this year are so likely the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency recently released a warning for people to be aware of blue-green algae blooms as the waters continue to warm.

**For more information, go to [www.pca.state.mn.us/water/blue-green-algae-and-harmful-algal-blooms](http://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/blue-green-algae-and-harmful-algal-blooms).**

*Photo: Minnesota Pollution Control Agency*

## Lake Minnetonka Association Hires Diver to Survey for Starry Stonewort

The Lake Minnetonka Association has hired Krista Espelien, with Environs, a professional diver and aquatic plant specialist, to search for starry stonewort at public accesses. According to the MnDNR, diving is "hands-down" the best way to find starry stonewort before it becomes established.



Krista has professional experience in fresh and saltwater systems including conservation, coral reef restoration, and invasive plant and animal surveys. Additionally, Krista is a well-respected advocate and educator of the environment, marine ecosystems, and Minnesota's waterbodies.

The cost of early detection of starry stonewort is a fraction of the cost to control it. The Lake Minnetonka Association is excited to have Krista on our team to help us protect Lake Minnetonka.

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

**Issue 2022: 3 • July**

### How to Contact the LMA

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### LMA BOARD MEMBERS

Tom Frahm, President (Crystal Bay)  
Rob Roy, Vice President (St. Albans Bay)  
Lee Harren, Treasurer/Secretary  
CPA/Retired (Stubbs Bay)  
Judd Brackett (Gideons Bay)  
Terry Bryce (Grays Bay)  
Josh Leddy (Spring Park Bay)  
Amanda Walsh (West Arm Bay)  
Denise Westman (Echo Bay)



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© Lake Minnetonka Association

LAKE MINNETONKA ASSOCIATION SPECIAL EVENT!  
**Late-Summer Walkabout  
 at Noerenberg Gardens**

Hardy late-blooming flowers and the beginnings of rich autumn colors grace the paths of Noerenberg Gardens. Join us for a professionally guided tour! Situated along the shore of Crystal Bay, Noerenberg Gardens is widely regarded as one of the finest formal gardens in Minnesota and is known for its tranquility and spectacular beauty.

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 24<sup>TH</sup>**

Tour time 3:00 p.m. • Reservations required

**REGISTER EARLY - Space is limited**

Please e-mail your name, address and phone number to:  
[workshops@LMAssociation.org](mailto:workshops@LMAssociation.org)  
 (You will receive a confirmation e-mail)

FREE TO LAKE  
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 MEMBERS



**Boat Operator  
 Permit Legislation  
 NOT Passed**

Despite rare bi-partisan support and support by marinas, industry groups, lake associations, and others, the proposed boat operator permit legislation did not make it to the Governor's desk. Internal party politics kept the bill from advancing to a vote; however, all parties agree that the bill will be reintroduced next year and will have a much better chance of passing. As the size and horsepower of boats has increased, so have the problems – including dangerous boating behavior, rude boaters, and boaters that churn up lake beds or pound shoreline with destructive wakes. This bill makes sense and will continue to have the support of the Lake Minnetonka Association.

**Cruise the beautiful colors of Autumn**  
**Book Your Fall Cruises Early**

- **Afternoon Sightseeing Cruises:** Mon, Wed, Fri: 11:30 am-1:00 pm, Saturdays & Sundays: 12:00-1:30 & 2:00-3:30 pm
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# LAKE ZONES

Lakes are divided into four zones which are commonly determined by depth and distance from the shoreline. Zones found in freshwater lakes include the littoral, limnetic, profundal and benthic zones.

## Littoral Zone

The topmost zone in a lake is the littoral zone, which is the area near the shore. The littoral zone is the home of a number of animal species, including frogs, fish, insects, clams, grazing snails and crustaceans. The plants and animals serve as food for other animals, such as muskrats, turtles and waterfowl.

## Limnetic Zone

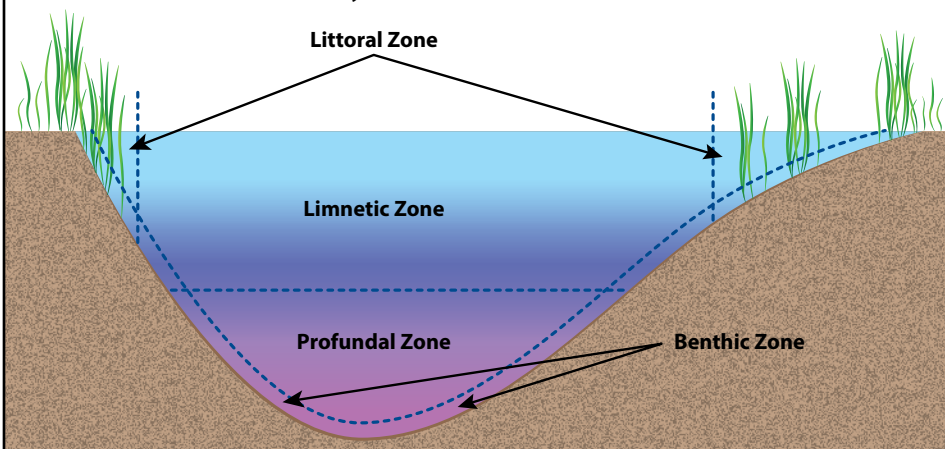
The limnetic zone is the sunlit part of the lake surrounded by the littoral zone. This zone extends at a depth where sunlight penetrates.

## Profundal Zone

The profundal zone is much colder and denser than the previous zones. This zone is located beyond the range of sunlight penetration.

## Benthic Zone

The benthic zone is the very bottom of a lake.



# Early detection of starry stonewort is critical to protect Lake Minnetonka



Photo: Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center

In 2015, the invasive algae, starry stonewort, was confirmed on the first Minnesota lake, Lake Koronis near Paynesville. Initial investments into treatments have totaled over \$800,000, but despite this aggressive and ongoing management, the infestation spread 7% a year. It now covers about 70% of the littoral area of the lake.

**Starry stonewort** is a fast-spreading invasive algae that can form dense mats on a lake's surface, choke out native species, and overwhelm fish spawning beds. Starry stonewort has spread to nearby Medicine Lake just minutes and a careless boater away from being introduced into Lake Minnetonka.

In 2019, the Lake Minnetonka Association began to survey areas on the lake where starry stonewort would most likely be found if introduced. By catching it early enough, we may be able to prevent the plant from spreading and save lakeshore property owners thousands of dollars. Since 2020, Hennepin County has awarded the Lake Minnetonka Association grants to help continue these surveys. **Membership in the Lake Minnetonka Association helps in this critical effort.**

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www.lifesabeachMN.com

# Making Sound Wake Surfing Rules and Policies

(continued from page 1)

The LMCD rules specify, "no person shall operate a watercraft in such a manner that its wash or wake will endanger, harass, or unnecessarily interfere with any other person or property." The LMCD also has regulations which prohibit noise that, "unreasonably annoys, disturbs, injures, or endangers the comfort, repose, health, peace, safety, or welfare of any person."

## SO NOW WOULD BE A GOOD TIME TO:

- Ask why the existing rules are ineffective or not enforced – these issues will not go away simply by adding new regulations.
- Publish a map showing environmentally sensitive areas, designated quiet waters, shallow areas, and other areas where wake surfing is not advised. Understanding where these areas are will not only help guide policy, but can help guide wake surfers away from these areas while regulations are being considered.
- Understand what will happen if some parts of the lake are closed to wake surfers. Will this increase pressure on other areas of the lake?
- Work with others to find a statewide resolution to this debate.
- Support the University of Minnesota's efforts to understand impact of wake surfing on lake bottoms.

Developing a solution to the wake surfing issue is a complex undertaking with several dimensions and many stakeholders. Policy and rules on this issue are complex and should not be based on which side is the loudest. Rather, it should be based on a complete understanding of the issue, protection of natural resources, awareness of economic and quality of life impacts of both wake surf advocates and its opponents, and on the cost and viability of enforcement.

## Start practicing good wake surf etiquette today!

- Keep the noise down; sound travels much farther than you think on the water.
- Avoid busy bays.
- Keep near the middle of the bay and avoid shallow water.
- Minimize repetitive passes.
- Own your wake – remember you can be held liable for damage it may cause.

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## Bay Treatment Program Update

**Three new bays joined the Lake Minnetonka Association Bay Treatment Program this year.** Black Lake, Browns Bay and Smithtown Bay bring the total to 13 bays that are now being treated for Invasive Eurasian watermilfoil and/or curlyleaf pondweed. Late ice-off and cooler than normal water temperatures this spring slowed the growth of invasive weeds and has led to a later than usual start for treatments. Curlyleaf pondweed treatments were completed in May. Eurasian watermilfoil treatments will be 2-3 weeks later than normal.

Flowering rush will not be treated this year. Unfavorable growing conditions and past treatments have eliminated the need to treat flowering rush this year. We will continue to watch for any new plant growth, but for now, it looks promising that invasive flowering rush is under control in Lake Minnetonka.

**The Bay Treatment Program is an important part of what the Lake Minnetonka Association does – but we are so much more.**

Contributions to the Bay Treatment Program are used only for the bay treatments and do not support other Lake Minnetonka Association activities. Your Association membership helps us continue to protect and improve Lake Minnetonka. *Your membership matters!*

The Lake Minnetonka Association works closely with state and local governments to advance efforts that protect and improve Lake Minnetonka and advocate against those that

do not; we help educate people about lake science and lake stewardship; we work hard to prevent new invasive species from getting a foothold in the lake; and we provide fun and informative programs and workshops for our members.

If you contribute to the Bay Treatment Program – thank you! If you are not already a Lake Minnetonka Association member, please consider joining us.



Taking care of Lake Minnetonka is no small effort – **there is much that needs to be done.** Your membership helps to fund the work of protecting the lake.

*Join the Lake Minnetonka Association or renew your membership – see page 11 for details.*

## Lake Minnetonka Association Members Social Event and Annual Meeting Lake Life in the Good Old Days

A fascinating chat about “how it used to be”

**Tuesday, September 27, 2022  
from 4:30-7:30 pm**

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

**School ended – and it was time to gather the family, pack your bags and move to the lake for the summer!** Life on Lake Minnetonka was where happy and lasting memories formed – the “thwap” of the screen door... cleaning the day’s catch for supper... water for the cottage pulled directly from the lake... sleeping in the screen porch to enjoy the cool night air. Join us as we reminisce about life on Lake Minnetonka with historian and storyteller, **Bob Gasch.**

*We will be providing bites to eat. Treat yourself to a beverage at the cash bar and join us for some fun!*

**LAKE MINNETONKA ASSOCIATION MEMBERS:**  
Join us for the 2022 Lake Minnetonka Association Annual Meeting, from 4:30-5:00 pm.

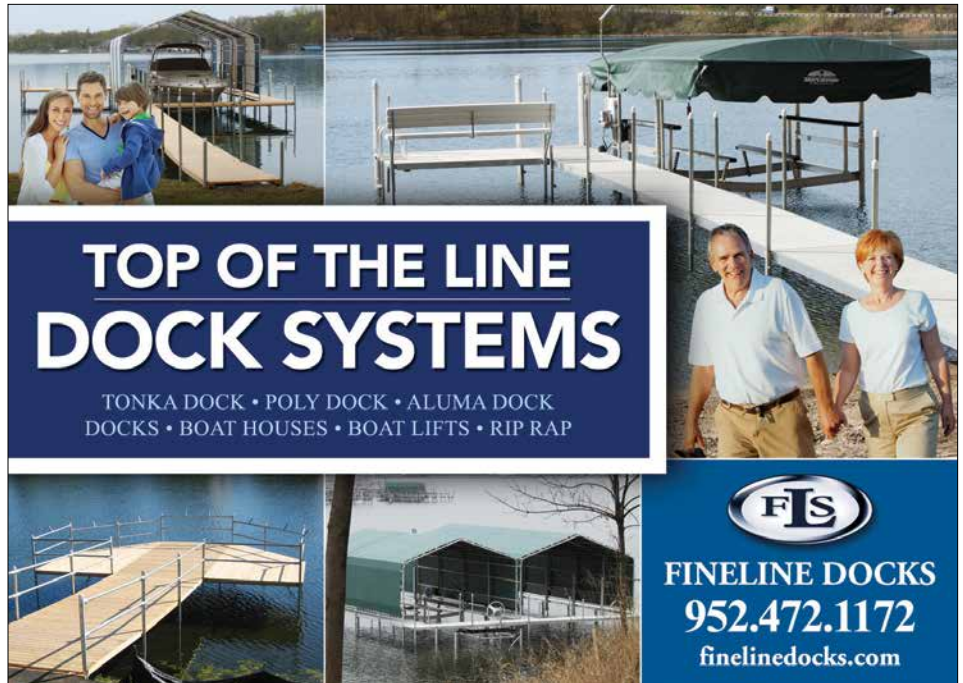
**WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!**

## Increasing the Quiet Water Setback Makes Sense

Notwithstanding any future rule or legislation regarding wake surfing, the Lake Minnetonka Association supports expanding the current LMCD "quiet water setback" from 150 feet to 300 feet from shore (the length of a football field). Since the LMCD's quiet water setback was enacted, there are many more boats on Lake Minnetonka, and the average size and horsepower of boats have increased significantly.

Alone, this should encourage a reconsideration of the LMCD's quiet water setback, but recreation trends also show an increase in paddle boarding, kayaking and other activities most often done near shore which are incompatible with wakes from larger, more powerful boats.

While the issue of wake surf regulations is controversial and complicated, increasing the quiet water setback from 150 to 300 feet is a straight forward measure the LMCD can enact now to make Lake Minnetonka a safer and more enjoyable place for all.



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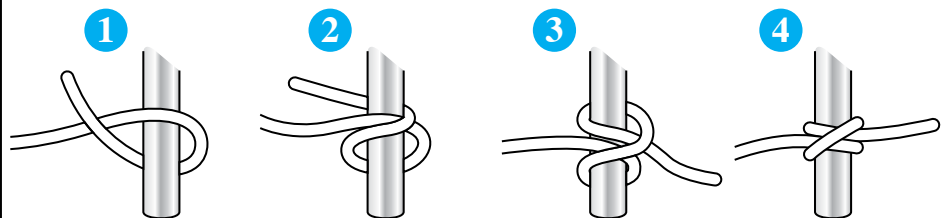
## Know your Knot

### Ideal Uses:

- Positioning and tying fenders to the rail
- Docking
- Mooring
- General Utility

The **clove hitch**, also known as the double hitch, is considered one of the most important and most commonly used knots in the world of boating. This easy to tie binding knot uses two simple back to back half hitches around a post. The running end of the rope can be adjusted quickly to different lengths and holds tightly as long as one strand is weighted.

Source: [www.anchoring.com](http://www.anchoring.com)



## Please Support the Lake Minnetonka Association Business Members

Our Business Members are key partners in our effort to protect Lake Minnetonka.

- |   |                                     |   |   |
|---|-------------------------------------|---|---|
| ◆ Al & Alma's Supper Club & Charter Cruises | ◆ Fineline Lakeshore Service        | ◆ Maynards                                | ◆ Paradise Charter Cruises                                      |
| ◆ Back Channel Brewing Co.                  | ◆ Greenwood Marina                  | ◆ Minnetonka Bargeman                     | ◆ PLM Lake & Land Mgmt., Corp.                                  |
| ◆ Blue Lagoon Marine, Inc.                  | ◆ Jim Paul's Valley Buick GMC       | ◆ MN Inboard Water Sports                 | ◆ Rockvam Boat Yards  |
| ◆ Caribbean Marina                          | ◆ Kowalski's Market                 | ◆ Museum of Lake Minnetonka               | ◆ RSI Marine  |
| ◆ Carisch, Inc.                             | ◆ Lafayette Club                    | ◆ My Service Pro 612 Plumber              | ◆ Candi & Scott Stabeck - Edina Realty, Wayzata/Lake Minnetonka |
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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!**

# Be Safe this Boating season

Boaters of all experience and skill levels must take seriously their safety responsibilities. Following a few simple safety tips will help make your boating season fun, memorable and safe.

- **Life jackets on, all the time.** Don't just bring one, wear one. In Minnesota, 90 percent of boating fatality victims are not wearing a life jacket. By law, children under 10 years old must wear one while the boat is underway.
- **Drinking and boating do not mix.** Boating while intoxicated (BWI) is illegal and is the single greatest factor in fatal boating accidents. If you are caught operating a boat when intoxicated (or under the influence), you may lose your driver's license, along with your ability to drive your boat. All boaters convicted of a BWI will have their boating privileges suspended for at least 90 days. The period of suspension must be between May 1 and Oct 31 and can span two consecutive years.
- **Own your wake.** "Owning your wake" means understanding that all boats produce wakes, so you need to be aware of the potential impacts of your wake. This includes impacts to others on the water, the shoreline, and equipment like docks and moored watercraft.

SIGNS OF HEAT EXHAUSTION	SIGNS OF HEAT STROKE
Mild headache, lightheadedness	Throbbing headache, confusion, irritability, or altered/loss of consciousness
Cool, pale skin (heavy sweating)	Oral body temperature of 104°F and above; dry mouth
Nausea, vomiting	Hot skin
Muscle cramps, fatigue, weakness	Nausea, vomiting

*Many signs of heat exhaustion can overlap with signs of heat stroke. When in doubt, call 9-1-1.*

**WHAT TO DO**

**MOVE** to a cooler place  
**COOL** with ice/cold water and lay down  
**DRINK** cool water or sports drinks  
**CALL 9-1-1** if symptoms last longer than 1 hour

**CALL 9-1-1 IMMEDIATELY**  
**MOVE** the affected person to the shade or cooler place  
**COOL** the affected person with immersion in cool water or by placing ice packs on the neck and groin areas

[www.health.mn.gov/heatplanning](http://www.health.mn.gov/heatplanning)


[www.health.mn.gov/heatdata](http://www.health.mn.gov/heatdata)

- **Know the rules.** Make sure you know Minnesota's boating laws and regulations. An online education course can help increase your knowledge.
  - **Check safety equipment.** It's important to routinely check all safety equipment. That includes making sure life jackets fit and are in good condition and checking navigation lights, sound-producing devices, fire extinguishers and carbon monoxide detectors. Also remember to inspect – and use – the engine cut-off lanyard.
- Get more information on safe boating at [mndnr.gov/boatingsafety](http://mndnr.gov/boatingsafety)**

## Second Phase of U of M Boat Wake Impacts Research Underway

The first phase of boat wake research, completed by the University of Minnesota's St. Anthony Falls Laboratory, addressed impacts from the height, energy, and power of wakes from a variety of boats. This widely-followed research was peer reviewed and the findings were released in February of this year. Since its release, the findings have been downloaded an unprecedented number of times and it is already having an impact on public policy.

The second phase of research will provide new insights for water resource managers. Understanding how deep the propeller thrust goes and how much force it has are the next vital pieces of the puzzle for establishing policies or regulations affecting wake surfing. For more information, search "Boat Wake Impacts on MN Lakes - Phase II of Research."

[www.WAVEARMOR.com](http://www.WAVEARMOR.com)

DOCK LIFE MINNETONKA STYLE



# Life at the Bottom

## ...the importance of the BENTHIC ZONE

While most of us do not enjoy sinking ankle deep in muck on lake bottoms, many organisms find this the perfect place to live, raise their young and search for food. Boat wakes, sand blankets, and lake blowers can damage lake bottoms and invasive plants and animals can out-compete or kill native species that make this part of a lake their home.

The bottom of a lake is named the **benthic zone** and the collection of organisms living in this zone are called benthos. Benthos may consist of macroinvertebrates, such as insect larvae, leeches and worms, freshwater snails and mollusks, and a variety of other organisms.

Human activities such as boat wakes can churn up lake bottoms, damage the benthos and reintroduce phosphorous and suspend solids in the water column. Polluted runoff, eroding shorelines, waste discharges, and over-fertilizing lawns will also increase the amount of nutrients and suspended solids in the water.

### This can result in:

- **Changes in fish assemblages, such as fewer fishes that depend on sight for feeding.**
- **Loss of critical fish spawning areas and amphibian habitat.**
- **Changes in benthos, such as fewer invertebrates with gills (e.g., mayflies) and more filter feeders.**
- **Changes in aquatic vegetation that supports waterfowl, amphibians, and other aquatic life.**
- **Greater opportunity for invasive plants to gain a foothold.**

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**Fourth of July Weekend Clean-up**

**MORE AND MORE PEOPLE ARE PACKING UP WHAT THEY BRING OUT**



**On Tuesday, July 5th**, after the busy Fourth of July weekend, the Lake Minnetonka Association joined with Life's a Beach Shoreline Services and Tonka Bay Marina to clean up Cruiser's Cove off of Big Island. Cruiser's Cove is the party hot spot on the lake and attracts hundreds of boaters and partiers every year. We are pleased to see once again very little garbage was found. It's clear more and more people are packing up what they bring out and helping to keep Lake Minnetonka beautiful and safe.

**Please remember and remind others that "what goes out on your boat... comes back with your boat!"**

**THANK YOU to all of the dedicated volunteers who helped in this clean-up effort!**



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# PLEASE protect the lake we LOVE!

The Lake Minnetonka Association is the VOICE for lakeshore owners and businesses.

*Your support makes us stronger!*

Your tax-deductible membership contribution helps the Lake Minnetonka Association continue dedicated outreach efforts to maintain the quality of Lake Minnetonka and serve as a voice for lakeshore owners and businesses — with a passion for the lake we love.

**JOIN OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY!**

**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](http://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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