

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)

How to adapt to our Natural Environment

A few small actions taken by many people can have big results.

Adapting to our natural environment does not mean we need to be purists – it’s not an all or nothing game. It is not expensive, complicated, or futile to change our behavior. Making a few changes will not significantly alter how we enjoy our property, and can make our yards and gardens more interesting.

If you have received our newsletter in the past, chances are you have read articles highlighting the wildlife in the area, the value of protecting water quality, the importance of native shorelands, and the need to control invasive species, etc. We publish these articles to raise awareness of Lake Minnetonka’s natural environment and to encourage everyone to become better stewards. By keeping an open mind about natural resource protection and making some minor changes in how we take care of our property, our actions can influence the behavior of others and eventually change the ethos of how our communities value and protect the Lake Minnetonka environment.

We can all become better stewards of Lake Minnetonka by understanding a few simple things:

It is less expensive to protect what we have than to restore it later. Billions of tax payer dollars are spent annually to restore natural resources. Protecting our existing environment will reduce future costs to restore it.

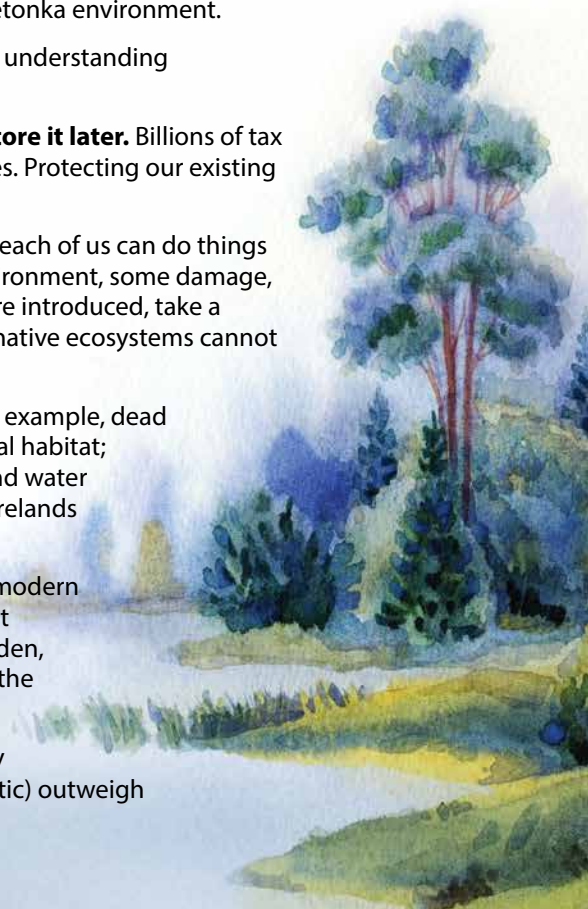
Nature is adaptable, but only to a limited extent. While each of us can do things to minimize or even reverse our impact on the natural environment, some damage, such as what happens when invasive plants and animals are introduced, take a collective effort to control. Without a collective effort, our native ecosystems cannot be sustained.

A healthy natural environment is not always pretty. For example, dead trees (if they do not endanger property) are valuable animal habitat; deadfall in lakes are important for amphibians, fisheries, and water fowl; cat tail bogs are rife with wildlife; native plants in shorelands control shorebank erosion and provide animal habitat.

Native plants can fit in any garden style. Whether ultra-modern or traditional, native plants and native plant cultivars can fit within any garden landscape. They add beauty to your garden, are easy to care for, and will provide year-round benefit to the natural environment.

Not all chemical use is bad. Sometimes the harm done by invasive, non-native plants and animals (terrestrial or aquatic) outweigh

(continued on page 2)



From The Helm

By Tom Frahm, LMA Board President



Who Pays?

The cost to manage aquatic invasive species (AIS) in Lake Minnetonka is well over a quarter million dollars per year. Add to that the money spent on the thousands of other lakes in Minnesota infested with AIS, plus the cost to treat AIS (which is in the millions of dollars per year), and cost to repair damage caused by AIS, and it is easy to understand that AIS costs homeowners in the state hundreds of millions of dollars each year. There are some grants from the MnDNR and counties to cover a small amount of these expenses, but currently, lakeshore homeowners cover well over 90% of the cost to control AIS in our lakes.

I believe that all lake users should share in paying for AIS management. After all, the boaters that use Lake Minnetonka and other lakes surely enjoy the recreational use and beauty of these lakes, and the fact is that incoming boats are responsible for a great majority of the introduction of AIS to our lakes.

Now comes the hard part. How do we get money from the boaters that do not live on the lake? Many ideas have been floated around, and most go against age old tradition of free lake access to all Minnesota residents. That brings up an interesting fact. I believe that years back, access to all Minnesota parks was free. At some point, the state decided it was appropriate to charge parking fees at state parks, and use revenues to offset park management costs. It seems to me, the same logic would be appropriate for lake users. I believe if park users pay a minimal fee for park use, it's reasonable for boaters to also pay a minimal fee for boat access, use and parking.

Some people may have the immediate reaction, "that's not fair", however; I believe most lake users, after thinking about it, will agree a small user fee would be well worth it to help preserve our great Minnesota lakes for future generations to enjoy.

Hennepin County Sheriff's Office – Lake Minnetonka Update

A new rule took effect this year on Lake Minnetonka, which is a **5 mile per hour speed limit** on all watercraft within **300 feet from shore**. This is an increase from the previous 150-foot distance. This applies to all boats, not just "surf boats and jet skis."

From May 1st to July 31st, deputies have logged 3,151 hours on Lake Minnetonka in 2023—down from 3,672 in 2022 (521 hours). The decrease is due to a **staffing shortage of 1.5 fewer Deputies**. While staff hours have decreased, the numbers of violations and warnings have significantly increased.



Activity/Incidents	2022	2023
Boating While Intoxicated (BWI)	9	36
Citations	133	261
Written Warnings	0	24
Verbal Warnings	1,195	1,554
Drownings	0	1
Near Drownings	0	3
Boat/Personal Watercraft Accidents	0	1

Welcome New Board Members

The Lake Minnetonka Association welcomes two new Board Members—Jim Paul from Black Lake and Wells Brose from Harrison's Bay. Both are active lake users and passionate about making Lake Minnetonka a great place to live and play.

How to adapt to our Natural Environment

(continued from page 1)

the risk of using pesticides. When they cannot be controlled by hand removal or natural means, pesticides may be the best alternative.

Look, but leave them alone is the best rule if you love wildlife. Wild animals and insects will usually not harm humans unless they feel threatened or are provoked. Wildlife specialists discourage anyone from feeding wildlife, even birds, but it's a good idea to make places for them to live. Installing bat houses or bird houses, planting native fruit or seed bearing trees or other plants will attract wildlife, yet prevent animals from depending on humans for food.

By adapting our behaviors and habits, animals will maintain their natural fear of humans and pose less of a risk.

Boat smart – keep away from waterfowl nesting areas and fish spawning areas, and avoid stirring up sediments by making multiple passes in the same area.

We can all become better caretakers of our environment. By becoming more aware of how we impact the environment and being willing to make a few small changes, we can make a very big and a long-term difference in the type of legacy we leave.

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

Issue 2023: 3 • August

How to Contact the LMA

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

LMA BOARD MEMBERS

Tom Frahm, President (Lost Lake)
Rob Roy, Vice President (St. Albans Bay)
Lee Harren, Treasurer/Secretary
CPA/Retired (Stubbs Bay)
Judd Brackett (Gideons Bay)
Wells Brose (Harrison's Bay)
Terry Bryce (Grays Bay)
Josh Leddy (Seton Lake)
Jim Paul (Black Lake)
Amanda Walsh (West Arm Bay)
Denise Westman (Echo Bay)



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LAKE MINNETONKA ASSOCIATION MEMBERS
Social Event and Annual Meeting
Tuesday, September 26 • 4:30 -7:30 pm



Photo: Excelsior-Lake Minnetonka Historical Society

From Saw Mill, to Furniture Factory, to Flour Mill

The role Minnetonka Mills had in the history of Lake Minnetonka

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

It started with the building of the dam on Minnehaha Creek, next came the saw mill, a furniture factory, the Burwell Flour Mill and hotel for workers. Minnetonka Mills developed into the port of Lake Minnetonka and trading center for the area through the 1870's.

Learn more with Lake Minnetonka historian and storyteller, Bob Gasch!

LAKE MINNETONKA ASSOCIATION MEMBERS:

Join us for the 2023 Lake Minnetonka Association Annual Meeting, from 4:30-5:00 pm.

**Don't
Blow it!**

Misusing lake weed blowers to uproot aquatic plants or displace sediment is illegal.

The use of water thrusters or lake weed blowers, while allowed in Minnesota, are discouraged by most lake managers because all they do is move algae, weeds, and other debris further along the shoreline, creating a nuisance for adjoining property owners. Using weed blowers to remove muck, sand, or rooted vegetation is illegal and violators may be subject to fines.

Lake Minnetonka... Paradise Style

Lake Minnetonka Public Cruise Schedule Through October 15th

- Afternoon Sightseeing Cruises – Mon, Wed, Fri: 11:30 am-1 pm, Saturdays & Sundays: 12-1:30 & 2-3:30 pm
- Margarita Fiesta, Happy Hour & Pizza & Cheeseburger In Paradise Dinner Cruises: Evenings 6-8 pm
- Delicious Brunch Buffet Sundays: 11 am-1 pm | Cheeseburger In Paradise Cruise 5-7 pm

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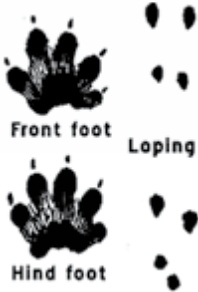




CRITTER CORNER North American Mink

Mink are the most common carnivore (meat eater) in Minnesota. They can be found in nearly every wetland, lake, and creek in the state, including those in cities and towns.

Mink are semiaquatic members of the weasel family and are strong and agile swimmers that can remain underwater for many minutes. Mink are nocturnal hunters that eat mostly fish, frogs, crayfish, lizards, grubs, earthworms, mice, and muskrats, along with aquatic birds and their eggs. Occasionally, mink will search for terrestrial prey such as rabbits.



If you see a mink – give them a wide berth. Mink, like most wild animals, prefer to avoid a fight but they are very aggressive and can pose a danger to pets, especially if they feel threatened. The average life span of a mink is about three years. Their natural predators include, coyotes, foxes, otters, and great horned owls, but they more commonly die from parasites and diseases.

Look for mink tracks along stream banks. Tracks are a bit more than one inch long. The toes of mink tracks can appear pointed due to the claw marks. The five toes are asymmetrical in arrangement, with the inner toe (smallest one) being set back further in the track.

Source: MnDNR

Lake Minnetonka Association

WORKSHOP

What do bees, butterflies, stormwater (and beer) have in common?

Thursday, September 7th • 2:00 pm

Join us at Back Channel Brewing to see what they are doing to keep dirty runoff from draining into Lake Minnetonka. Learn from landscaping experts how to build a home rain garden that will clean-up stormwater runoff, attract pollinators, and create a beautiful addition to your yard.

BACK CHANNEL BREWING • 4787 Shoreline Drive, Spring Park

**FREE to Lake Minnetonka Association Members
REGISTER EARLY-SPACE IS LIMITED**

Please email your name, address and phone number to:

workshops@LMAssociation.org

You will receive a confirmation email.

Questions? Call (952) 470-4449



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After the 4th of July Lake Clean-Up

On Wednesday, July 5th, the Lake Minnetonka Association joined with Life's a Beach Shoreline Services, and Minnetonka 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 that 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!

LMCD Considers Rule Change

The proposed change will remove observer requirements for towing, skiing, and wake surfing.

The Lake Minnetonka Association is opposed to this change. The change would also establish days, times, and locations where observers are not required. The proposed change is confusing and, on a lake as busy as Lake Minnetonka, getting rid of the observer requirement will make the lake less safe. According to the US Coast Guard, lack of observers is the third leading cause of injuries when boating.

Decades ago, the LMCD wisely enacted the observer rule to protect people using the lake. Since then, the diversity in the types of water-based recreation has grown, the number and power of boats has increased, and the rental of boats and jet skis (often to individuals with no watercraft experience) has ballooned. It is easy to get distracted while boating and boat operators need to keep focused on driving the boat. Some lake conditions can make paddle-boarders, kayakers, anglers, and other boaters difficult to see. The Hennepin County Sheriff's Office also opposes the LMCD rule change.

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.



2023 Legislative Update

In 2023, the Minnesota Legislature passed two new rules affecting lake users: Watercraft Operator Permit Requirement, and the "Keep it Clean" bill.

Watercraft Operator Permit: All motorized watercraft operators ages 12 or older born on or after July 1, 1987, must complete a boater education course and receive a watercraft operator permit. The program will set forth national approved safety standards with Minnesota-tailored messaging and content developed by the Department of Natural Resources. Operator permits will be phased in according to the following schedule:

- Effective July 1, 2025, born on or after July 1, 2004;
- Effective July 1, 2026, born on or after July 1, 2000;
- Effective July 1, 2027, born on or after July 1, 1996; and
- Effective July 1, 2028, born on or after July 1, 1987.

"Keep it Clean" bill: Anglers, those who ice-fish, and other lake users can now be fined for leaving any trash, including: rubbish, cigarette filters, dead fish, human or animal waste, or any other waste outside their ice house or vehicle.

WATER LEVELS

Lake Minnetonka is experiencing the fourth year in a row of lower than normal water levels. The Grays Bay dam has remained closed since July 11th. Lake levels started the year with low water levels and has dropped continually since its high of 929.31 feet on May 19th. Long range weather forecasts show little to no precipitation the remainder of the summer. For current water levels, visit minnehahacreek.org.

If the Lake Minnetonka water level falls below **928.0 feet**, the LMCD may issue a low water declaration. If a low water declaration is called, residential properties may extend their docks without a permit if certain conditions are met. For more information, visit www.lmcd.org.

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Bay Treatment Program Update

Some bays were weedier than usual this year. While we can speculate why, the most straight forward answer is that nature can be unpredictable. That said, low water levels can make a bay seem weedier.

Late ice-out caused curlyleaf pondweed and Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM) to grow slower than normal (by about three weeks).

Weed inspections began shortly after ice-out for curlyleaf pondweed and the bays were treated when water temperatures were optimal.

Once EWM started growing, it grew fast. In some areas, such as Grays Bay, it came in thick, yet other bays had very little EWM. In 2022, St. Albans Bay and North Arm Bay were given full bay treatments, and no EWM was found in 2023. This year, Black Lake and Grays Bay are receiving full bay treatments. After a full bay treatment is done, spot treatments are generally all that are needed for the next several years.

Special thanks to our members who found a few new locations where flowering rush has spread. As a reminder: If you suspect you have found flowering rush, please contact the Lake Minnetonka Association at 952-470-4449 or info@LMAssociation.org.

Bay	Acres of Curlyleaf Pondweed Treated	Acres of Eurasian Watermilfoil Treated
Black Lake	Full Bay	Full Bay
Browns	0	21.73
Carmans*	18.75	8.3
Carsons & St. Louis	8.14	19.37
Crystal	38.98	10.35
Gideons	7.86	32.7
Grays	0	Full-Bay
North Arm	35.58	0
Phelps	17.91	10.27
St. Albans*	28.2	0
Smithtown	0	0

*Treatments managed by a Lake Improvement District

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Did you know?



The most common wasp in Minnesota is the European paper wasp. Paper wasps commonly build papery, umbrella shaped nests under eaves and in overhangs. They are not native to Minnesota nor are they pollinators. Paper wasps kill native butterflies, bees, and other pollinators. It is recommended to use wasp spray to eliminate these nuisances. A solution of soapy water or water and peppermint oil can also be used to kill wasps.



Photo courtesy sandia via Pirellay







Taking fish by hand, also known as "noodling," is illegal in Minnesota.

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Make checks payable to "The Lake Minnetonka Association"

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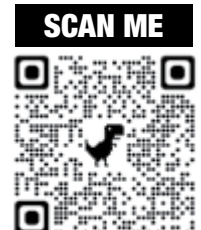
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I would like to learn more about how my bay can join the Lake Minnetonka Association's Bay Treatment Program to control Eurasian watermilfoil and curlyleaf pondweed in my bay.

TO CONTRIBUTE ONLINE
 Scan the QR code with your mobile phone's camera or visit www.LMAssociation.org



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

How to Adapt to Our Natural Environment ...page 1
From the Helm: Who Pays?.....page 2
Sheriff's Office–Lake Minnetonka Update.....page 2
Social Event and Annual Meetingpage 3
Don't Blow It!page 3
North American Mink.....page 4
Lake Minnetonka Association Workshop.....page 4
After the 4th of July Lake Clean-Up.....page 5
LMCD Considers New Ordinances.....page 5
2023 Legislative Update.....page 5
Bay Treatment Program Update.....page 6
Support Our Business Members.....page 7
Did You Know?page 7



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