

# Lake Minnewawa Association Newsletter

Spring 2016

## 2016 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### APRIL BOARD MEETING

LMA GARAGE OFFICE  
APRIL 9<sup>TH</sup> AT 9:00 AM

### MAY BOARD MEETING

LMA GARAGE OFFICE  
MAY 7<sup>TH</sup> AT 9:00 AM

### JUNE BOARD MEETING

LMA GARAGE OFFICE  
JUNE 18<sup>TH</sup> AT 9:00 AM

### JULY BOARD MEETING

LMA GARAGE OFFICE  
JULY 9<sup>TH</sup> AT 9:00 AM

### AUGUST ANNUAL BOARD MEETING

MINNEWAWA SPORTSMEN'S CLUB  
AUGUST 13<sup>TH</sup> AT 9:00 AM

### AUGUST ANNUAL SUMMER BBQ

BANN'S BAR & RESTAURANT  
AUGUST TBD

### SEPTEMBER BOARD MEETING

LMA GARAGE OFFICE  
SEPTEMBER 10<sup>TH</sup> AT 9:00 AM

### OCTOBER BOARD MEETING

LMA GARAGE OFFICE  
OCTOBER 8<sup>TH</sup> AT 9:00 AM

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## President's Letter

Dale Kratochwill

Hello and welcome to the Spring Newsletter. Ice Out on the lake has always been my mark that spring is finally here. Time once again to open up the cabin, put the boat dock in the lake, and get ready for the fishing opener and summer fun.

Remember to practice safety in and around your boat and for others on the lake this spring. Also remember that the loons will be back this spring, so please be sure to maintain your distance and respect their nesting sites and the young ones.

LMA has applied for Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Grant through Aitkin County Soil and Water again this year. If successful the grant money will be used for (AIS) educational materials for the public and boat landing watercraft inspections this summer. Preventing (AIS) such as Zebra Mussels and Eurasian Watermilfoil from entering Lake Minnewawa is a responsibility we all must share in. How can you help? Being a member of LMA is an important first step, communicating with the board of directors is the second, being a volunteer is the third, and finally, be responsible about following AIS guidelines and make sure all guests or visitors are aware of the same.

2015 marked a year of many large financial decisions for LMA. With tremendous support from our membership, local business, and LMLID a new harvester was purchased to replace the old one. Toward the end of 2015 the research effort to determine if LMA was required to pay Minnesota sale tax on the purchase of the new harvester concluded. Unfortunately even though LMA is a non-profit organization with (503c) status, it does not excuse LMA from paying MN sale tax. The amount of sale tax LMA paid last year on the new harvester was almost 11,000 dollars. LMA board decided to wait until after the first payment on the harvester bank loan was made in February, the 2015 income taxes were finalized, and determine the 2016 budget before reviewing harvester bank loan principle.

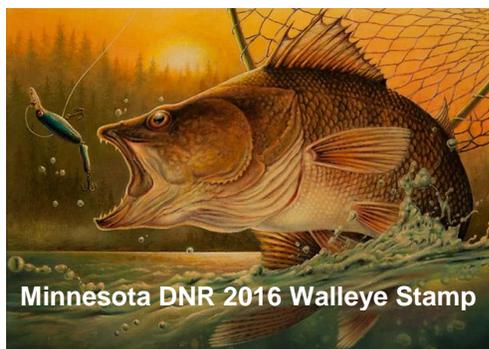
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## Fisheries

Rick Bruesewitz from Minnesota DNR sent an update on Walleye stocking project. Rick said they are in the process of finalizing reports for Lake Minnewawa. One interesting item; the DNR Geneticist estimated that about 80% of the young fish in the sample taken last spring were from the stocked fish. Rick goes on to state that this doesn't necessarily mean that we have more fish due to the stocking because it is likely that a share of the stocked fish supplanted natural fish. What the data tells Rick is that some natural reproduction is still occurring. For now the DNR will continue the fry stocking project on Lake Minnewawa with three million fry in the spring. However, Rick noted that sometime in the future the DNR will curb fry stocking to evaluate the natural reproduction in a different manner, and to determine the extent of contribution to the reproduction of the non-Minnewawa fish that we've been stocking.

## Minnesota DNR Walleye Stamp

For most of us spring is when we buy our Minnesota fishing license for the season. Remember to purchase your Minnesota DNR Walleye Stamp for \$5. According to Minnesota statute, revenue from walleye stamps must be used only for stocking walleye in waters of the state and related activities. The Minnesota Walleye Stamp is a voluntary program, so you must request the validation when you purchase your license. For \$0.75 more, the DNR will mail you the actual walleye stamp as a collector's item. Help Minnesota DNR improve the state's Walleye Stocking Program.



Minnesota DNR 2016 Walleye Stamp

## President's Letter continued from 1

The first LMA board meeting for 2016 was held on April 9<sup>th</sup> and the board voted to make a payment of 20,000 dollars to reduce the harvester loan principle. Portions of this payment came from the sale of the old harvester and LMA fund raising activities. The bank loan balance now stands at 40,381 dollars. It's hard to believe that only 20 months ago we started out with a total cost for a new harvester close to 170,000 dollars. We thank all of you that supported this project.

A manufacturer representative from Aquarius-Systems was on site at LMA garage April 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> to address hydraulic high pressure line connection leaks, perform inspection, and answer questions about new harvester. All harvesting equipment and harvesting team members are ready for the upcoming season. The price for diesel fuel on the market appears to remain stable so the cost of fuel to run the harvesting operations should remain low again this year. Also again this year the harvester will be anchored along the shore line next to public boat landings when not in operation. I must caution everyone for your own protection, please do not board the harvester. LMA board of directors does not want anyone getting injured.

LMA has changed the June meeting date from the 11<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup>. The meeting is still at LMA garage office. This was done because of too many schedule conflicts. Also, August may still be a ways off, but I want to remind everyone please mark your calendar now and plan to attend our annual meeting this year on Saturday, August 13<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 AM, at the Minnewawa Sportsmen's Club.

Have great spring.

## Annual Membership Drive

Spring is here and time once again for our annual membership drive. Included with this newsletter is a membership brochure for you to fill out and return to us. Your tax deductible membership donation is vital to the success of our organization. LMA membership runs from January 1 through December 31. If you have neighbors who are not members, please encourage their participation. The LMA works for the good of Lake Minnewawa with projects that improve the health and natural resources of the lake.

We need your support!

## Business Membership

The summer season is almost here, time for fun with family and friends at the lake, but also good time to extend a thank you to our business sponsors. They provide greatly appreciated funds and services needed by the LMA, which in turn benefit all of us that enjoy Lake Minnewawa. When you are at their establishments or have a chance to talk with one of them, be sure to thank them for their support of the LMA. Go online at [www.lakeminnewawa.org](http://www.lakeminnewawa.org) where you will find links to these great local businesses.

### Our 2015-2016 Business Sponsors:

- **Bann's Bar & Restaurant**
- **DeMars Signs**
- **Federated CO-OP Inc.**
- **Floe International Inc.**
- **Grand Timber Bank**
- **Horseshoe Lake Inn**
- **McGregor Realty & Property Management**
- **Minnewawa Sportsman's Club**
- **Tamarack Sno Flyers**
- **Willey's Sport Shop & Spirits**



## Water Quality Report

Larry Antonsen

A new year of lake monitoring will be getting underway soon. Some of you may not know that I have taken over the lake monitoring program from retiring Greg Meredyk. I worked with Greg last year to learn the ropes of the process. Currently I am waiting for official instructions from Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) for lake monitoring. Once I have the instructions I will be ready to go. As I collect data for MPCA I also plan to send data to LMA board for inclusion in the web site.

# What Can YOU do to Halt the Spread of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)?



- **Hire dock and boat lift installers that are DNR trained Lake Service Providers (LSP).** It's the law for anyone working for hire in Minnesota public waters. The business needs a permit - the worker needs DNR certification. (DNR website –search **LSP**) Ask to see the DNR issued certificate of the LSP dock and lift worker. Businesses and workers that are properly trained will be happy to show you their credentials.

- **Know that watercraft and all water-related equipment can spread AIS.**

This includes fishing boats, jet skis, wakeboard boats, sailboats, scuba gear, float planes, canoes, kayaks, all fishing gear, waders, docks, boat lifts, moorings, and waterfowl hunting gear.

- **Learn to identify each aquatic invasive** (zebra mussels, Eurasian watermilfoil, spiny water fleas, etc). Establish a lake monitoring team for early detection of new AIS infestations which translates to quicker and more effective treatment options. Be aware of AIS not currently in MN but considered a threat such as hydrilla. (DNR website - search **aquatic invasive identification**)

- **Know where designated infested waters are** in Minnesota and other states. (DNR website - search **infested waters**)

- **Educate guests!** Make sure transported watercraft or water-related equipment of guests arriving from other lakes/ivers (including out-of-state) are free of zebra mussels and other Aquatic Invasive Species. (Eurasian watermilfoil, spiny water fleas, Flowering Rush and others)

Watercraft coming from infested waters should adhere to recommended dry times or professional decontamination. (100thmeridian.org - search **dry time estimator**)

- **Encourage resorts/campsites/hotels to train marina employees** on AIS and to use precautionary measures when working with water-related equipment arriving from other lakes and rivers. All arriving watercraft and water-related equipment needs to be free of AIS - **Cleaned and Drained** before entering the water. Water-related equipment that is **Dry** is less likely to spread AIS.

- **Organize a volunteer inspection program** for public accesses and contact the DNR for training. Be "**Eyes and Ears of the Lake**". (DNR website - search **watercraft inspection**)

- **Promote good AIS relationships** among your lake neighbors, the DNR AIS Specialist and law enforcement by including DNR and law enforcement as speakers during your lake association meeting. (DNR website - search **aquatic invasive species contacts**)

- **Report suspected new AIS sightings to the DNR.** It's the law!

- **Know current laws and follow them.** Before leaving public accesses, water must be drained from all water-related equipment. All bait containers with lake water must be drained and watercraft must be transported with the plug out. (DNR website - search **invasive species laws**)



**Zebra Mussels on a native clam – ALSO: Zebra Mussels deplete food supply for native fish**

QUESTIONS:

Minnesota Coalition of Lake Associations

DNR - Ecological and Water Resources - 651-259-5100

Local Sheriff or Conservation Officer

[MinnesotaCOLA@gmail.com](mailto:MinnesotaCOLA@gmail.com)

[www.dnr.state.mn.us](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us)



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Volunteers are what make Lake Minnewawa Association possible. Would you like to help Lake Minnewawa Association, but your time is limited? Do you have a talent or skill that could be put to good use in supporting Lake Minnewawa Association? Below are a few ways that you can contribute in a limited way but still make a difference. If you would like to help send your contact information to Dale Kratochwill at [dalekay@q.com](mailto:dalekay@q.com)

**Volunteer needed to be a “back up” for water quality monitoring.**

The lake monitoring volunteer is looking for a backup person should he not be available. You will learn how to take samples from Lake Minnewawa and what to do with the data when collected. The time commitment is minimal, the sampling process is educational and benefits Lake Minnewawa with consistent data used for analysis on the health of Lake Minnewawa.

**Volunteer needed to write one interesting and informative article for the Lake Minnewawa Association Newsletter.**

If you enjoy writing and want to learn more about Lake Minnewawa and its inhabitants, this is a great way to share with others. We have a few interesting topics to choose from but need a volunteer to pull the information together.

**Volunteers needed for Lake Minnewawa Association Board of Director Positions.**

LMA is looking for volunteer board members to help strengthen our programs. If you have an interest in becoming a board member, the position would be for a three year term. Board meetings are held on the second Saturday for two hours in the morning during the months of April through October. You will work with other lake property owners that are committed good lake stewardship. Add your experiences and talents to the decision making process and help make a difference in the future of Lake Minnewawa.

# PULL THE PLUG ON AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS

## Actions Required by MN Law to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species:

- ✓ **Clean** aquatic plants, zebra mussels, and other prohibited invasive species off watercraft, trailers, and equipment before leaving the water access.
- ✓ **Drain** water from boat, ballast tanks, portable bait container, and motor before leaving a water access – *and* drain bilge, livewell, and baitwell by removing drain plugs. **Keep drain plugs out** while transporting boats.
- ✓ **Dispose** of unwanted bait in the trash. It is illegal to release live bait into the water, or to dump worms on the ground.



[mndnr.gov/ais](http://mndnr.gov/ais)  
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## Board of Directors

Dale Kratochwill – President .....	612-803-7247 .....	<a href="mailto:dalekay@q.com">dalekay@q.com</a>
James Cook – Vice President .....	218-730-8111 .....	<a href="mailto:drako79.jc@gmail.com">drako79.jc@gmail.com</a>
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Sue Westberg .....	651-587-2614 .....	<a href="mailto:swestb1069@hotmail.com">swestb1069@hotmail.com</a>

## Volunteer Agents

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Mark Pawelski – Communications .....	612-270-3641 .....	<a href="mailto:mpawelski007@gmail.com">mpawelski007@gmail.com</a>
Larry Antonsen – Lake Monitoring .....		<a href="mailto:ljanton@frontiernet.net">ljanton@frontiernet.net</a>
Barb & Bob Bass – AIS Monitoring .....	218-426-3062 .....	<a href="mailto:bass5805@gmail.com">bass5805@gmail.com</a>

## Newsletter

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