

Lake Minnewawa Association Newsletter

Fall 2015

2016 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

APRIL BOARD MEETING

LMA GARAGE OFFICE
APRIL 9TH AT 9:00 AM

MAY BOARD MEETING

LMA GARAGE OFFICE
MAY 7TH AT 9:00 AM

JUNE BOARD MEETING

LMA GARAGE OFFICE
JUNE 11TH AT 9:00 AM

JULY BOARD MEETING

LMA GARAGE OFFICE
JULY 9TH AT 9:00 AM

AUGUST ANNUAL BOARD MEETING

MINNEWAWA SPORTSMEN'S CLUB
AUGUST 13TH AT 9:00 AM

AUGUST ANNUAL SUMMER BBQ

BANN'S BAR & RESTAURANT
AUGUST TBD

SEPTEMBER BOARD MEETING

LMA GARAGE OFFICE
SEPTEMBER 10TH AT 9:00 AM

OCTOBER BOARD MEETING

LMA GARAGE OFFICE
OCTOBER 8TH AT 9:00 AM

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President's Letter

Dale Kratochwill

Hello and welcome to the Fall Newsletter. It has been only a little over a month since I was elected President of LMA. Sue Westberg served as president for the past two years and has stepped down from the position, but will continue as a board member. Please join me and thank Sue for her many years of service to LMA.

The fall season is surely upon us. The trees have lost their colorful leaves and most of the docks and boatlifts are out of the lake. For many this is a time for closing up the lake cabin until next year. For some lake goers fall is a time for late season fishing and hunting, while others just enjoy the peaceful time on the lake. Lake Minnewawa sure is a treasure. Fall is also a good time to take a moment and look back on the summer season on the lake. I can't remember a time when I've seen the lake in better condition. I would argue that a large portion is due to LMA board members and volunteers.

A lot of good things happen this year on the lake and I apologize if I leave out any of the activities or projects. It sure was exciting seeing the Watercraft Inspectors at the boat landing by GROWLERS this summer. I was very pleased to see the mobile pressure washer system at the landing. Boat owners were also able to stop at Willey's Marine and have their boat pressure washed. This program is a positive step in the fight to combat the spread of aquatic invasive species to Lake Minnewawa. The program would not have been possible if not for the grant money through Aikin County Soil and Water, and great number of hard working volunteers. Hats off to all of you involved in this program. Great Job!

Last year in August a plan was put into action to purchase a new aquatic harvester machine and to sell the existing harvester for as much as possible. Both goals were met and most of you may have seen the new harvester on the lake this summer.

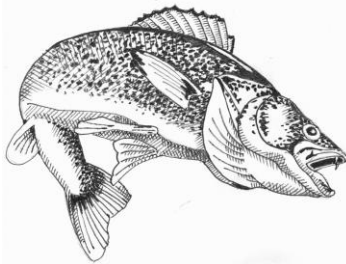
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Fisheries Year End Report

Gregory M. Pfeifer

The 5th year of walleye fry stocking by the DNR is in the books. This year, the DNR surveys of the lake have shown an increase in the number of smaller walleyes in the lake. I have also received a number of reports from members of catches of 8" to 10" walleyes this spring and early summer. This is great news. The DNR will be conducting genetic testing of samples taken from surveyed walleyes to determine if they are from the recent walleye fry stocking or if they are from a natural reproduction of current Lake Minnewawa walleye.

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Welcome New Board Member

James Cook joined the LMA Board in September and was also elected as Vice-President. James and his wife Daphne and their three daughters Evie, Mary, and Lori are full time residents on Lake Minnewawa. The Cook family first came to Lake Minnewawa in 1953 with James being the third generation. James and his family enjoy fishing, boating, and rock climbing. James is an Army National Guard veteran. During his time in the services James received training in several programs such as leadership, which will be an asset to the LMA board. When you meet James please thank him for volunteering to serve on LMA board.

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President's Letter Continue

If not, next summer just look for a big yellow object on the water. In late May an opportunity to sell the old harvester was presented to the LMA board and the decision was made to accept the offer. The old harvester was loaded on a truck and shipped to Aquarius-Systems where it was prepared for overseas shipping. The harvester is now in the county of India cutting some type of aquatic vegetation. A lot of people worked hard and donated a great deal of money to make this project possible. Thank you all for your time and generosity.

Our 5th annual Summer BBQ was held at Bann's Bar & Restaurant on Saturday August 15th. Once again there were many wonderful silent action items, games for kids, and great food. It was good to see a lot of familiar faces and talk with many of you. If you missed our annual BBQ this year mark your calendar for next August and be prepared to meet a good group of people and have a fun time.

The LMA booth at McGregor Wild Rice Days again was a very successful event. Many people stopped by and purchased promotional items or just stopped to talk and ask questions about what LMA. Both Jerry Bass and I enjoyed talking with many of you. We hope to see you again next year at this event and we will make a point to have a lot more LMA flags available for purchase.

Although the summer season is over the LMA board members continue to work on issues and projects. One important issue is harvester operations reporting. LMA harvesting policy will be reviewed and update. The goal is to improve reporting to the public and to make it clear what the MN. DNR harvesting permit regulations and requirements are. The harvesting policy must be finalized then approved by LMA board. Once this is done a copy of the policy will be sent to all lakeshore owners. Look for this in your mail in late May 2016.

As we head into the winter season I am reminded that last year quite a few people had trouble with their septic system including myself. I did a little research on how to prevent septic system problems during the winter. See page seven for a few tips on winterizing your septic system and cabin.

If you haven't already heard, the Governor's Fishing Opener will be held on Big Sandy Lake next spring May 12-14, 2016. Big Sandy Lodge & Resort will be the headquarters for the event. This will be a special time for the McGregor area.

Enjoy the holidays and have a great winter.

Business Membership

Dale Kratochwill

The summer fun on Lake Minnewawa may have come to an end, but our business sponsors donations continue to support LMA. They provide greatly appreciated funds and services needed by 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 LMA. Go online at www.lakeminnewawa.org where you will find links to these great local businesses.

Our 2015-2016 Business Sponsors:

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



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Fisheries Year End Report

Below is a list of questions to help add public input to the overall goals of the Lake Minnewawa fishery management plan and do not necessarily indicate any upcoming special fishing regulations or restrictions. The DNR will use this members' survey data, lake survey data over the last 6 years, and historic fishery data that is on record for Lake Minnewawa to develop future plans. The following questions were emailed to 191 Lake Minnewawa Association members and Lake Minnewawa Lakeshore property owners on July 14, 2015. Of the 191 emailed survey requests sent out, 30 responses, by either email or through regular postal mail, were received. Below are the results of the survey.

2015 Fishery Survey Results

Question and the individual answer totals:

1. Would you be in favor of a reduced limit on crappies of 5 fish maximum? **21 Yes 9 No**
2. Would you be in favor of a reduced limit on bluegills of 5 fish maximum? **17 Yes 13 No**
3. Would you be in favor of a maximum size limit of 9" on bluegills? Any bluegills caught over 9" must be returned to the lake immediately? **20 Yes 10 No**
4. Would you be in favor of a maximum size limit of 11" on crappies? Any crappies caught over 11" must be returned to the lake immediately? **20 Yes 10 No**
5. Would you be in favor of a maximum size limit of 28" on Northerns? Any Northerns caught over 28" must be returned to the lake immediately? **22 Yes 8 No**
6. Would you be in favor of some type of protective slot limit on walleye? **22 Yes 8 No**
7. Do you feel that you have seen an increase / benefit in the walleye population since the start of the walleye stocking program in 2011? **21 Yes 9 No**
8. Do you have any other concerns regarding the Lake Minnewawa fishery?

There were many responses to this question. Some of the most common are as follows:

- A. There are too many small Northerns in the lake. Many comments on protecting the larger Northerns in hopes of controlling the smaller pan fish.
- B. Many comments on limiting the number of bass fishing contests on the lake.
- C. Concerns with the spread of AIS (invasive species).
- D. If special regulations are put in place, allow 1 trophy size fish to be kept.
- E. Continue the work of walleye stocking and AIS monitoring.
- F. Many felt that there are already too many regulations in place statewide to follow.



Harvester Year End Report

John Montour

The harvester was pulled out of the lake on September 14th. The harvester was pressure washed clean and routing maintenance performed. The new harvester performed very well despite the problems that forced the temporary shutdown of harvesting operations during the summer. Aquarius-Systems field service is scheduled to come next spring to perform some minor warranty repairs on hydraulic system. All other harvesting equipment is in good working condition with no anticipated large expenditures required for the 2016 harvesting season.

Aquatic vegetation conditions on the lake this year were low overall, however, there were still a few stubborn spots that needed extra attention. A total of 45 trailer loads were taken from the lake this year. Each trailer load has an average weight between seven and eight tons.

YEAR	TRAILER LOADS	AVERAGE WEIGHT IN TONS	AVERAGE WEIGHT IN POUNDS
2005	252	1,890	3,780,000
2006	161	1,208	2,416,000
2007	274	2,055	4,110,000
2008	116	870	1,740,000
2009	104	780	1,560,000
2010	108	810	1,620,000
2011	138	1,035	2,070,000
2012	49	368	736,000
2013	52	390	780,000
2014	72	540	1,080,000
2015	45	338	676,000

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
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**STOP AQUATIC
HITCHHIKERS!**



Water Quality Report

Greg Meredyk & Larry Antonsen

Lake Data Sheet Site 201

Date	Time	Seechi Depth	Physical Appearance	Recreational Suitability	Water Color	Weather Condition
5/23/15	2:50 PM	5.5 FT.	2	2	Green-Brown	PC 75° F W-SW@15-20 MPH
6/13/15	2:22 PM	9 FT.	2	2	Green-Brown	MS 80° F SE@10 MPH
6/27/15	1:00 PM	8.5 FT.	2	2	Green-Brown	MS 82° F SW@5 MPH
7/4/15	1:15 PM	6.5 FT.	2	2	Green-Brown	S 85° F S-SE@5 MPH
7/22/15	1:20 PM	6.5 FT.	2	2	Green-Brown	PC 80° F S-SW@8-10 MPH
7/25/15	2:45 PM	6.5 FT.	2	2	Green-Brown	S 84° F S-SW@10 MPH
7/31/15	12:40 PM	6.5 FT.	2	2	Green-Brown	S 76° F High Wind@25 MPH
8/8/15	1:03 PM	5.5 FT.	2	3	Green-Brown	PC 71° F S@15-20 MPH
8/22/15	1:06 PM	5 FT.	2	3	Green-Brown	C 72° F S@25 MPH
9/8/15	1:59 PM	5 FT.	2	3	Green-Brown	S 70° F NW@20 MPH
9/26/15	11:17 AM	4.5 FT.	3	3	Green-Brown	C 56° F SE@5 MPH
10/11/15	10:10 AM	5 FT.	3	3	Green	S 59° F Calm Wind

PC = Partly Cloudy, MS = Mostly Sunny, S = Sunny, C = Cloudy,

Lake Data Sheet Site 202

Date	Time	Seechi Depth	Physical Appearance	Recreational Suitability	Water Color	Weather Condition
5/23/15	3:00 PM	9 FT.	2	2	Dark Brown	PC 75° F W-SW@15-20 MPH
6/13/15	2:35 PM	9 FT.	2	2	Dark Brown	MS 80° F SE@10 MPH
6/27/15	1:15 PM	8.5 FT.	2	2	Dark Brown	MS 82° F SW@5 MPH
7/4/15	1:30 PM	7 FT.	2	2	Dark Brown	S 85° F S-SE@5 MPH
7/22/15	1:30 PM	6.5 FT.	2	2	Brown-Green	PC 80° F S-SW@8-10 MPH
7/25/15	2:55 PM	6.5 FT.	2	2	Brown-Green	S 84° F S-SW@10 MPH
7/31/15	12:56 PM	6.5 FT.	2	2	Brown-Green	S 76° F High Wind@25 MPH
8/8/15	12:49 PM	6 FT.	2	2	Brown-Green	PC 71° F S@15-20 MPH
8/22/15	1:14 PM	5.5 FT.	2	3	Brown-Green	C 72° F S@25 MPH
9/8/15	2:13 PM	6 FT.	2	3	Brown-Green	S 70° F NW@20 MPH
9/26/15	11:30 AM	6 FT.	2	3	Brown-Green	C 56° F SE@5 MPH
10/11/15	10:20 AM	8 FT.	2	3	Brown-Green	S 59° F Calm Wind

Physical Appearance

- 1 = Crystal clear water
- 2 = Not quite crystal clear
- 3 = Definite algae green, yellow, or brown
- 4 = High algae levels with limited clarity
- 5 = Severely high algae levels

Recreation Suitability

- 1 = Beautiful, could not be better
- 2 = Very minor aesthetic problems; excellent for swimming, boating
- 3 = Swimming and aesthetic enjoyment slightly impaired
- 4 = Desire to swim and level of enjoyment reduced, boating okay
- 5 = Swimming and aesthetic enjoyment nearly impossible

Winterize Your Septic System and Cabin

To keep your septic systems operating at peak performance seasonal cabin and homeowners should follow the tips listed below. Precautions taken in the fall can help prevent a frozen system.

Winterizing the Pipes in the Cabin

- Do not add automotive antifreeze, salts or any other additives to your plumbing.
- If you leave the water on for the winter, be very sure there are no leaks or drips. This constant, low flow of water can cause septic system freezing. This is common with high efficiency furnaces.
- Even if the heat is left on, it is a good idea to drain water supply lines. Shut off the water where it enters the house and drain all lines. Drain the pump and then run a couple of seconds to be sure all water is out of the lines. Drain the system by opening all the faucets, leave faucets open. Completely drain the pressure tank. Flush toilet and add RV antifreeze to the tanks at the recommended dilution ratio. Check flexible hoses in sinks and bathtubs to be sure they are drained completely. Remove and drain inlet hoses for the dishwasher and clothes washer. Clear the water valve by starting the machine for a few seconds, and then drain the tub. Remove the drain hoses, drain completely. Disconnect the electrical supply to the pump, water heater, softener, washer and dishwasher. Drain the water heater and water softener with a hose after the power is disconnected. RV antifreeze can be added to traps in the sink, bathtub and shower drains, washtubs, floor drains and sump pumps. In the spring, re-connect all hoses and flush the lines out before using again.
- For those using the cabin periodically throughout the winter, set the thermostat to 50 degrees and open the doors of cabinets that have pipes in them so heat can get in. Pipes can also be insulated, or wrapped with heat tape.

Furnace

If you have a high efficiency furnace that is left on for the winter, be sure there is no water drip into your system. Freezing can result. Re-route the drip water to a floor drain, bucket or other source that does not enter the septic system at all, or enters in larger amounts. This water does not harm the septic system, but entering in very small amounts causes a trickle of water, which can freeze more easily. If shutting off the furnace, drain all water from forced hot water and steam systems unless the system contains antifreeze. If that is the case, call a plumber for assistance. If leaving the furnace on, it is a wise idea to conserve energy by installing a low-heat thermostat that will maintain the cabin at 40 degrees.

Septic System Maintenance

- Consider pumping the tank if closing the cabin for the winter, or if it will only be used a few times during the winter. If you live in an area with a high water table, you should only pump out the tank if the tank was designed for high water table conditions. If a tank is left full but the system is not used for the winter months, the sewage will get very cold, and can even freeze. If the cabin is opened before temperatures in the soil start to rise, the effluent leaving the tank will be cold, which is not desirable in the soil treatment area.
- To help prevent septic systems from freezing, spread a layer of straw or leaves over the system to provide insulation.
- Do not plow snow off the area or store plowed snow over the drain field.

Sealing Windows and Air Leaks

Going through the cabin and sealing windows and air leaks will help conserve energy and save dollars for those who heat a cabin year-round. While you check for air leaks you may also want to have some steel wool on hand to plug any holes large enough to invite critters into the cabin while you are away. Mothballs or dryer sheets around the cabin also keep unwanted pests out.

Sources:

University of Minnesota Resource Center <http://www.septic.umn.edu/factsheets/freezingproblems/index.htm>

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

<http://www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/water/water-types-and-programs/subsurface-sewage-treatment-system-ssts/index.htm>

University of Wisconsin Extension <http://learningstore.uwex.edu/assets/pdfs/B3583.pdf>

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Newsletter

The Lake Minnewawa Association Newsletter is published in PDF file format. This electronic version of the newsletter will help save postage and printing costs. If you would like to subscribe to our newsletter contact mpawelski007@gmail.com with your name, mailing address, and email address. You will receive a PDF newsletter three times per year.

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