

Lake Minnewawa Association Newsletter

Fall 2016

2017 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

APRIL BOARD MEETING

LMA GARAGE OFFICE
APRIL 8TH AT 9:00 AM

MAY BOARD MEETING

LMA GARAGE OFFICE
MAY 6TH AT 9:00 AM

JUNE BOARD MEETING

LMA GARAGE OFFICE
JUNE 10TH AT 9:00 AM

JULY BOARD MEETING

LMA GARAGE OFFICE
JULY 8TH AT 9:00 AM

AUGUST ANNUAL BOARD MEETING

MINNEWAWA SPORTSMEN'S CLUB
AUGUST 12TH AT 9:00 AM

AUGUST ANNUAL SUMMER BBQ

BANN'S BAR & RESTAURANT
AUGUST TBD

SEPTEMBER BOARD MEETING

LMA GARAGE OFFICE
SEPTEMBER 9TH AT 9:00 AM

OCTOBER BOARD MEETING

LMA GARAGE OFFICE
OCTOBER 14TH AT 9:00 AM

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President's Letter

Dale Kratochwill

Hello and welcome to the Fall Newsletter. Once again docks and boat lifts are pulled out of the lake, leaves are raked and other fall chores are done. Winter will soon be here.

Like most people on the lake I have some favorite memories of summer. One particular memory was during a perfect July Saturday morning while kayaking I came across a couple setting on their dock bench having coffee and just enjoying the sunrise. Sometimes that is one the best reasons for being on the lake.

Thank you to all board members and volunteers for your hard work this year. This was a busy season for LMA, but a great deal was accomplished. Activities quickly started in the spring. LMA had a good turnout for the Adopt-A-Highway program. Volunteers were rewarded to lunch that was provided by Bann's Bar & Restaurant for their efforts. During the Governor's Fishing Opener LMA board members and volunteers helped with many tasks that added to the success of the event.

The 6th Annual Summer BBQ was held at Bann's Bar & Restaurant on Saturday August 20th. A great number of volunteers logged many hours of hard work and despite the rain the BBQ was a success. I enjoyed talking to many of you, only wished there would have been more time that day.

The silent action had many wonderful items and we thank you for your generous and spirited bidding on the items. A big thank you goes out to Century 21 Twin Lakes Realty for the 500 dollar donation to LMA during the BBQ. Keep your calendar open in August next year for the annual BBQ.

Jerry Bass and Chuck Munson staffed the LMA booth at McGregor Wild Rice Days event this year. Jerry and Chuck reported good sales for LMA promotional items. A good number of people stopped in at the booth and shared their views about the lake or asked questions.

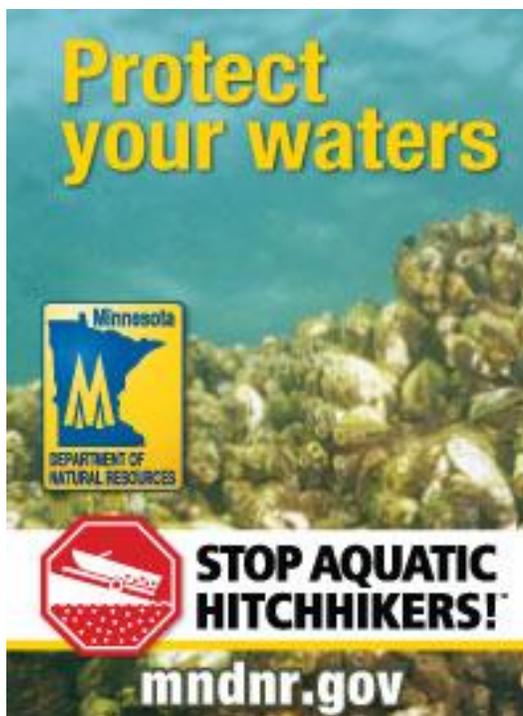
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Fisheries Year End Report

Dale Kratochwill

This spring was the 6th year the Minnesota DNR stock walleye fry in Lake Minnewawa. Walleye fry are newly hatched fish, which are very small, about 1/3 of an inch long. Approximately three million fry were stocked this spring. The stocking program is scheduled to continue through 2018. The DNR will not perform a fish survey until the spring of 2018. Until then you can help by sending LMA the number and size of walleye, along with when and where you caught them. The data will be passed on to DNR Fishery Department.

The DNR is planning to use electrofishing, which is a common scientific survey method used to sample fish populations to determine abundance, density, and species composition. When performed correctly, electrofishing results in no permanent harm to fish, which return to their natural state in as little as two minutes after being caught.



President's Letter continued from page 1

Thank you for stopping in at the booth and we hope to see you again next year.

Two items on the October LMA meeting agenda were director term length and election of directors. LMA board of directors voted to change the term length from three years to two years. This decision was not made easily, but was made in large part to feedback from people that stated they would be willing to volunteer as a board member if the term was shorter.

Four directors whose terms would expire at the end of this year volunteered for another term and were voted back in to office. The four returning directors are Robbie Danko, John Montour, Dave Warwick, and Sue Westberg. Lake association members Barb Bass and Sue Reinhart came forward and volunteered to be board members and were also voted in to office.

Although the lake association gained two new board members there are still five board of director positions open. If you have an interest in serving on LMA board of directors now is the time to step forward and help make a real difference in the future of Lake Minnewawa. To learn more about becoming a LMA board member please see page seven under Volunteer Section.

As this year comes to a close and harvesting operational cost is finalized, it is time to evaluate the program for the year. The total harvesting operational cost for 2016 is 23,473 dollars, which includes the annual bank loan payment of 8,237 dollars. This year's total cost is approximately five percent higher than last year. The majority of this increase was due to extra hours logged removing the bog that blocked the channel in east bay and parts of the bog that floated out in to the lake in August. The other significant expense was the necessary purchase of a 55 gallon drum of environmentally safe hydraulic oil that is biodegradable.

A question that is often asked is how competitive is the LMA harvesting operations compared to commercial harvesting companies. The easiest way to compare is by cost per acre for harvesting. Using LMA total harvesting cost this year of 23,473 dollars and divide the cost by the number of permitted harvesting acres of 188.2, the cost per acre is 125 dollars. A few commercial harvesting companies were contacted to request cost information. Tonka Freshwater Harvesting Services Incorporated serves as a good representation of cost. This company charges 200-300 dollars per acre depending on conditions, and if they are hired by the hour, they charge 180 dollars per hour. LMA harvesting program continues to be a good value for Lake Minnewawa.

Enjoy the holidays and have a great winter

Business Membership

Dale Kratochwill

The seasons may come and go on Lake Minnewawa, but our business sponsors donations support LMA throughout the year. 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 2016-2017 Business Sponsors:

Bann's Bar
&
Restaurant

Christian
Realty
North



Demars
Signs



Floe
International
Inc.

Horseshoe
Lake
Inn



Minnewawa
Sportsmen's
Club

**TAMARACK
PEST
CONTROL**



TAMARACK, MN



Willey's Sport
Shop and
Spirits

AIS Year End Report

The boating season is over and we hope that our lake has survived another year without an AIS infestation.

LMA partnered with Aikin County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) for another season of Watercraft Inspections at the public boat landing by GROWLERS. Lake Minnewawa received full coverage each weekend starting Memorial Day through Labor Day Holiday weekends. The on duty inspectors checked watercraft, but also educated boaters and fishermen about preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species and about self-inspecting their watercraft. The inspectors if necessary would also require watercraft to be decontaminated prior to launching their watercraft in to Lake Minnewawa. The total number of inspection hours and the number watercraft inspected for Lake Minnewawa this year are not available from SWCD at the time of this newsletter. When the data is released it will be posted on LMA website.

SWCD again this year offered a testing program for Zebra Mussel Veliger (larvae). LMA quickly seized the opportunity to test our lake again. LMA director Sue Westberg procured the testing supplies and collected the water samples per test instructions. The water samples were then sent in to a laboratory for testing of Zebra Mussel Veliger. Results of the Zebra Mussel Veliger test have not been released yet, but will be posted on LMA website when made available.

The DNR recently updated the list of confirmed infested waters in Minnesota with fifty (50) new locations this year. The new locations are infested with either Zebra Mussel, Eurasian Watermilfoil, Faucet Snail, Flowering Rush, Starry Stonewort, or Spiny Waterflea. Twenty three (23) of the new locations are infested with Zebra Mussel.

This regrettable situation points out why making sure your watercraft are "clean, drained and dry" before entering any body of water and after exiting is extremely important. The war to prevent AIS infestation is not over rather it has just started, so remember to do your part next year by inspecting your boat and trailer before launching it in the lake and when you take it out.

Harvester Operator Retires

During the October LMA board of directors meeting notice was received that Lyle Marsyla has decided to retire from running the harvester. The board directors are very happy and excited for Lyle, but at the same time sadden by his departure. Lyle also donated his last harvester operator payroll check back to LMA. For those of us that know Lyle know his generosity goes far beyond donating his last payroll check.

There are many who would agree that LMA would not be what it is today without Lyle's dedication and willingness to help at any time. Lyle has contributed greatly to the harvesting program and is a chief reason for the success of the program over the years. A good example of this was when the old harvester diesel engine failed and LMA did not have enough money to pay \$10,000 for a new engine. Lyle and Pat McGinn drove to the Port of Duluth to get the new diesel engine. Lyle and Pat both used their person credit cards to come up with enough money to get the new engine back to McGregor.

The next problem to overcome was the diesel engine came from Germany and the owner's manual was written in German language. Lyle and Pat took the manual into McGregor and asked a local priest for help translating the manual. The priest rewrote the manual in English so they could install the new engine and get it running.

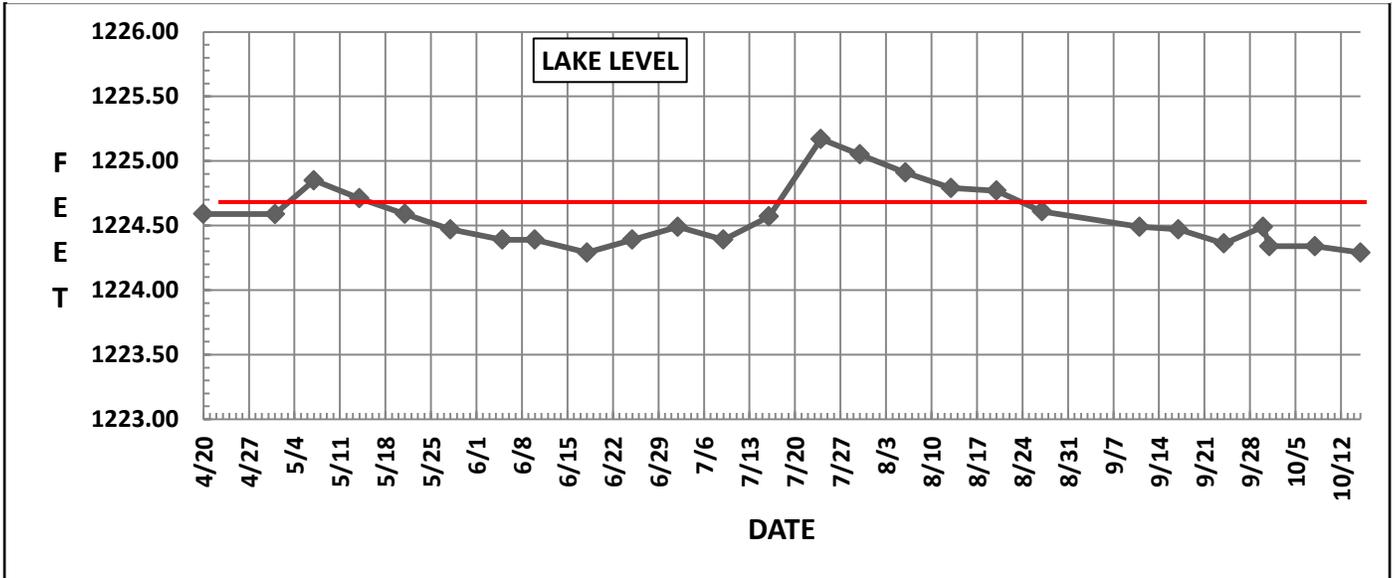
Lyle and his wife Margie who passed away a few years ago volunteered a great number of hours to the lake association over the years; working the meatball dinners, garage sales and other annual events.

LMA board of directors want to thank you Lyle for all you have done for the lake association and Lake Minnewawa, and wish you the very best on your second retirement.

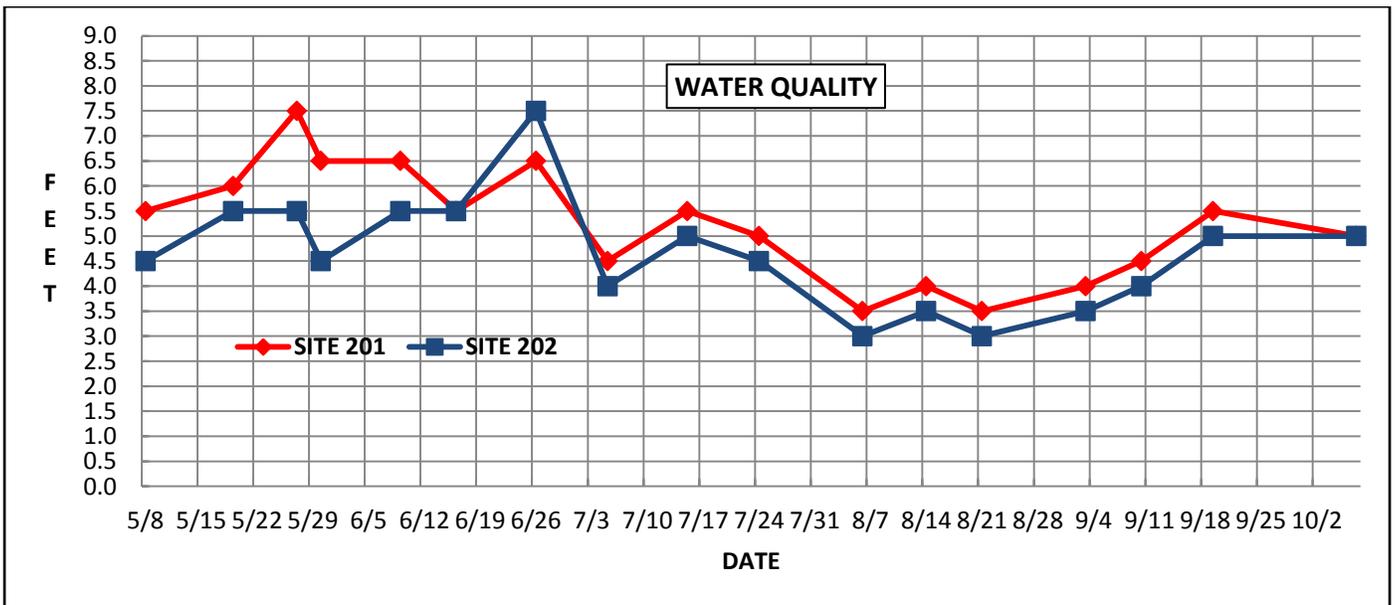
Lake Monitoring Report

Larry Antonsen

Lake level monitoring began April 20th with an initial reading of 1224.59 feet above sea level. Lake Minnewawa is normally higher in spring from snow melt and rain. During summer the lake level will continue to drop and by fall the lake level will be just above the overflow point on the dam. The red horizontal line is the Ordinary High Water Level (OHW), which is at 1224.70 feet above sea level. Final Lake level reading on October 15th was recorded at 1224.29 feet above sea level. Lake Minnewawa water level data is forwarded to Lake Level Minnesota, a program of the Minnesota Department of Natural resources.



Water transparency testing began on May 8th. The best reading was 7.5 feet for both Site 201 and 202. The poorest reading of 3.0 feet was in Site 202. Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) has a gauge for transparency where less than 1.5 feet is 'Poor', between 1.5 and 3.0 feet is 'Fair', between 3.0 and 6.0 feet is 'Good', 6.0 to 12 feet is 'Very Good', and above 12 feet is 'Excellent'. Site 201 is located in the main part of the lake, while Site 202 is located in the smaller northern portion of the lake. Lake Minnewawa transparency readings are forwarded to the Citizen's Lake Monitoring Program, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.



Harvester Year End Report

John Montour

The harvester was pulled out of the lake on September 5th. All harvesting equipment performed very well this year. Harvesting operations recoded only two lost time days this season due to equipment breakdown. The weather was a significant factor this season with 18.5 days canceled due to either high winds and/or rain. Despite the breakdowns and weather conditions, lake navigation remained good all summer long. Harvesting operations were suspended for two weeks due to low volume of aquatic vegetation in areas allowed for cutting. The low volume of aquatic vegetation could have been in part due to the high lake level and diminished water clarity this season.

The only real problem this season was caused by a storm in early August. The high wind from the storm caused a large portion of vegetation bog in East Bay to break loose and move in front of the channel entrance.

LMA received a special permit from Minnesota DNR to move the bog from the front of the channel, and to pick up bog pieces that floated out in to the lake. A total of 44 trailer loads were taken from the lake this year. Each trailer load has an average weight between seven and eight tons.

Annual maintenance on the harvesting equipment is done and the equipment has been put away for the winter. All equipment is in good working condition and ready for the next season.

YEAR	TRAILER LOADS	AVERAGE WEIGHT IN TONS	AVERAGE WEIGHT IN POUNDS
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
2016	44	330	660,000

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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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

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 term of two years. 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 to good lake stewardship. Add your experiences and talents to the decision making process and help make a difference in the future of Lake Minnewawa.

Board of Directors

Dale Kratochwill – President	612-803-7247	dalekay@q.com
Chuck Munson – Vice President	612-703-6224	chuck.munson@gmail.com
Dave Warwick - Secretary.....	612-210-0458	dave.warwick02@gmail.com
Robbie Danko – Treasurer	952-639-6532	robbie.danko@yahoo.com
Barb Bass	612-426-3062.....	bass5805@gmail.com
Jerry Bass	612-747-6036.....	olpines1@hotmail.com
John Montour	612-419-2388	bjmontour@gmail.com
Greg Pfeifer	612-590-4953	gmpfeifer5@gmail.com
Sue Reinhart	763-370-1965	minnewawa2sue@scicable.com
Sue Westberg	651-587-2614	swestb1069@hotmail.com
Open Board Seat #1		
Open Board Seat #2		
Open Board Seat #3		
Open Board Seat #4		
Open Board Seat #5		

Volunteer Agents

Mary Ellen Anderson – Payroll	651-332-4245	meanderson2010@hotmail.com
Larry Antonsen – Lake Monitoring		ljanton@frontiernet.net
Bob Bass – Liaison to BSALWMP	218-426-3062	bass5805@gmail.com
Tim Rinowski – Harvester Vegetation Spotter		

Newsletter

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