

Lake Minnewawa Association Newsletter

Summer 2016

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 18TH 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 20TH FROM 1:00 TO 3:00 PM

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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AIS Boat Landing Inspections
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President's Letter

Dale Kratochwill

Hello and welcome to the Summer Newsletter. With the warming temperatures spring gave way to the summer season of activities on the lake. I can't remember a July 4th Holiday weekend that had better weather. The holiday was enjoyed by a great number of lake residents and visitors alike.

The LMA Directors and volunteers have been busy with seasonal activities that support enjoyment of the lake. The third season of watercraft inspections at the public boat landing for Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) is in full swing as is the lake monitoring program which collects data used for tracking water quality. Just as a note; we are still seeking a volunteer to be a backup to the current volunteer. See page [8] for details.

This summer LMA will again work jointly with Aitkin County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) on testing for Zebra Mussel in our lake. With the water temperatures now warm enough to support Zebra Mussel reproduction lake water testing will begin the third week of July. Test results will be posted on LMA website when available.

The harvesting operations reporting method has also been updated this season. Harvesting operations are now posted on LMA website under the Member Information tab. Graphical lake maps illustrate where harvesting has taken place each week along with amount of vegetation that was removed. LMA has a new policy for harvesting operations. The goal of the policy is to work within the MN DNR regulations and help bring a better understanding of harvesting operations to lake shore property owners.

continued on page 2

June Harvesting Report

The lake is divided into five harvesting zones (see figure – 1). LMA staff perform regular reconnaissance surveys of the five zones to evaluate when and to what extent mechanical harvesting is appropriate. Initially, each zone is evaluated on the bases of where the greatest public use is impaired by offshore submerged vegetation.

LMA began 2016 harvesting operations on Monday, June 6th. As expected for the beginning of the season aquatic vegetation conditions on the lake were low. This condition was consistent for the first two weeks of operation. The rate of harvesting in zone [1] and [2] was slow, taking most of the day to accumulate a full load. Zone [3] proved to have a higher concentration of vegetation resulting in a higher percentage of loads than zone [1] and [2] combined. Zone [4] was harvested the last week of June and produced one full load. This was due to only part of zone [4] being harvested that week. A total of 12 loads were taken from the lake during the month of June. Each load has an average weight between seven and eight tons.

A total of twenty work days were possible in the month of June. Nine days were spent harvesting, nine days were canceled due to high wind and/or rain, and two days were lost because of trailer brake problem.

Go online at www.lakeminnewawa.org under Member Information tab for full details on LMA harvesting operations.

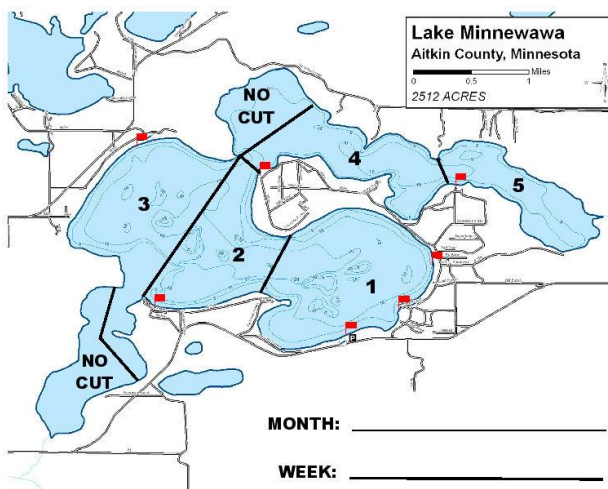


Figure - 1

President's Letter continued from page 1

Last year LMA changed their website provider. This summer LMA electronic communications system has seen some additional changes. With the growing number of email recipients on our list, it was time to move to a system that provides tools that will reduce the work necessary to keep our list up to date and help eliminate duplication of work between our email list of members, website, and Facebook.

LMA is in a critical state. For the past few years LMA has been operating with minimal board members and volunteers who have worked very hard to maintain the existing programs. Looking into the future, if we are unable to recruit new board members and volunteers we may be forced in to making some hard decisions about our existing programs. LMA Annual Meeting will be held at the Minnewawa Sportsmen's Club on Saturday, August 13th, 9:00 AM. Part of the annual meeting is to hold elections for board members. Please see page [8] under Volunteers for more information about being a board member. If you prefer, you can contact me at dalekay@q.com for more information.

Have a great and safe summer.

AIS Boat Landing Inspectors on Duty

Many of us have become aware of the watercraft inspections taking place at the public landing across from GROWLERS. This program was made possible with grant funding from the Aitkin County Soil Water Conservation District (SWCD).

Since the start of the Memorial Day Holiday weekend SWCD inspectors have been on duty at Lake Minnewawa public landing during the weekends. The inspections are set up to educate boaters how to be in compliance with state invasive species control regulations, monitor, and collect data about aquatic invasive species (AIS) prevention. Boats will be inspected before being launched into the lake. Please cooperate and be respectful to these individuals as they help protect our lake.

Business Membership

Summer is finally here, time for 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 where you will find website and Facebook links to these great local businesses.

Our 2016-2017 Business Sponsors:

- **Bann's Bar & Restaurant**
- **DeMars Signs**
- **Christian Realty North**
- **Federated CO-OP Inc.**
- **Floe International Inc.**
- **Horseshoe Lake Inn**
- **Minnewawa Sportsman's Club**
- **Tamarack Sno Flyers**
- **Willey's Sport Shop & Spirits**



6TH ANNUAL L.M.A. BBQ & FUNDRAISER



Join us for a FUN afternoon

- Meet new people from the lake and reconnect with old friends.
- Enjoy a delicious afternoon meal of grilled burgers or chicken with plenty of sides and fixings.
- Explore a large selection of raffle and auction items to purchase and win-gift cards, sporting event tickets, assorted themed baskets, high-end patio furniture and more!
- Entertain your children in our crafts and games area.

August 20, 2016
1pm – 3pm

Bann's Bar and Restaurant
18870 Goshawk St, McGregor, MN 55760



LAKE MINNEWAWA ASSOCIATION
McGregor, MN | www.lakeminewawa.org

Zebra Mussel (*Dreissena polymorpha*)

Zebra mussels (*Dreissena polymorpha*) are prolific invaders that cost the U.S. billions of dollars each year. These small mussels from Eurasia can clog water intakes and damage equipment by attaching to boat motors and hard surfaces. They can damage ecosystems by harming fisheries, smothering native mussels and crayfish, and littering beaches with their sharp shells.

In the late 1980s, zebra mussels spread from Europe to the Great Lakes in contaminated ballast water discharged from foreign ships. From there, they expanded to the Mississippi River, its tributaries, and to inland lakes. Zebra mussels spread primarily by attaching to boat hulls, aquatic plants, nets, fishing equipment, or in water. Adult zebra mussels can survive out of water for days under certain conditions. Your actions are vital to prevent their spread.

General Characteristics

- Zebra mussels look like small clams with a yellowish or brownish “D”-shaped shell, usually with dark and light-colored stripes (hence the name “zebra”)
- They can be up to two inches long, but most are under one inch. Zebra mussels usually grow in clusters containing numerous individuals and are generally found in shallow (6-30 feet), algae-rich water
- Zebra mussels are the only freshwater mollusc that can firmly attach itself to solid objects – submerged rocks, dock pilings, boat hulls, water intake pipes, etc.
- On smooth surfaces, young zebra mussels feel like fine sandpaper.
- Juveniles are about the size of peppercorns.

What You Can Do

- **Learn** to recognize zebra mussels

Follow Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Laws:

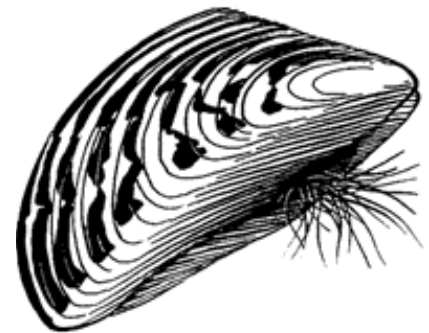
- **Clean** all aquatic plants, animals and mud from watercraft, trailers, docks, lifts, anchors and other recreational equipment *before leaving access*.
- **Drain** water-related equipment (boat, ballast tanks, portable bait containers, motor) and drain bilge, livewell and baitwell by removing drain plugs before leaving water access. *Keep drain plugs out while transporting watercraft.*
- **Dispose** of unwanted bait, worms and fish parts in the trash.

Also Recommended:

- **Spray** watercraft and equipment with high-pressure water, or
- **Rinse** with very hot water, or
- **Dry** for at least 5 days.

Know The Rules!

Specimens are needed to confirm sightings, but some jurisdictions prohibit or discourage possession of zebra mussels and other invasive aquatic animals and plants. In Minnesota, possession and transport of any *Dreissena* species is illegal, except when providing them to the DNR for identification. Unauthorized introduction of zebra mussels, fish, or plants into the wild is illegal. Protect your property and our waters.



Water Quality Report

LAKE MINNEWAWA

2016

Larry Antonsen

We had a surprising 7.5 foot reading at Site 202 the day after a storm with heavy rain. Typically Site 202 has had a lower reading but not on June 26. This on an overcast day with 20 MPH wind as well. We are taking water samples for the Aitkin County Soil and Water Conservation District as well as the monitoring for the PCA. Will try to find out what they are testing for.

Lake Data Sheet Site 201

Date	Time	Seechi Depth	Physical Appearance	Recreational Suitability	Water Color	Weather Condition
5/8/16	01:00:00 PM	5.5 FT.	3	2	Green	S @0 MPH Sunny
5/19/16	01:00:00 PM	6.0 FT.	2	2	Green	SW @10 MPH Sunny
5/27/16	12:30:00 PM	7.5 FT.	2	2	Green	S @ 0 MPH Sunny
5/30/16	01:00:00 PM	6.5 FT.	2	2	Green	SW@5 MPH Recent Rain Sunny
06/09/16	11:00:00 AM	6.5 FT	2	2	Green	N @ 10 MPH Sunny
06/16/16	11:00:00 AM	5.5 FT	2	2	Green	S @5 MPH Recent Rain
06/26/16	11:00:00 AM	6.5 Ft	2	2	Green	N @ 20 MPH Windy Rain

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

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

Lake Data Sheet Site 202

Date	Time	Seechi Depth	Physical Appearance	Recreational Suitability	Water Color	Weather Condition
5/8/16	12:30:00 PM	4.5 FT.	3	2	Brown	S @ 0 MPH Sunny
5/19/16	01:00:00 PM	5.5 FT.	2	2	Green	SW @10 MPH Sunny
5/27/16	01:00:00 PM	5.5 FT.	2	2	Green	S @0 MPH Sunny
5/30/16	01:00:00 PM	4.5 FT.	2	2	Green	SW@5 MPH Recent Rain Sunny
06/09/16	11:00:00 AM	5.5 FT	2	2	Green	N @ 10 Sunny
06/16/16	11:00:00 AM	5.5 FT	2	2	Green	S @ 5 Sunny
06/26/16	11:00:00 AM	7.5 FT	2	2	Green	N @ 20 MPH Recent Storm Windy PC

Aquatic Plants

Aquatic plants have an important role in our lakes ecosystem. Being able to identify the native aquatic plant species from ones that are invasive aquatic plants can be difficult at times. Swamp Milkweed is native to Minnesota and can be found along the shore of Lake Minnewawa in several locations. From a distance or quick glance Swamp Milkweed is sometimes mistaken for Purple Loosestrife, which is an invasive aquatic plant. The most noticeable feature is the similar color flower petals followed by the shape of the leaves. Upon closer inspection, the two plant species are easy to distinguish from each other. Additional information is available on the Minnesota DNR website. <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/terrestrialplants/index.html>

Swamp Milkweed

Is a tall plant that grows quickly and can reach a mature height of four feet or more with fragrant, showy clusters of pink and light purple flowers. In the wild is found at the edges of water, hence the name. The plants are happiest in full sun but will perform well with at least a half day of sun or indirect light for much of the day. Swamp milkweed is a favored food of Monarch Butterfly Larva and also an important food source for the Queen Butterfly Larva. Various other butterflies and hummingbirds consume nectar from the flowers.

Information: USDA NRCS, Norman A. Berg, National Plant Materials Center.
Nancy Schumacher of the Vagary



Purple Loosestrife

Is a wetland plant from Europe and Asia. It was introduced into the east coast of North America in the 1800s. First spreading along roads, canals, and drainage ditches, then later distributed as an ornamental, this exotic plant is in 40 states and all Canadian border provinces.

Purple loosestrife invades marshes and lakeshores, replacing cattails and other wetland plants. The plant can form dense, impenetrable stands which are unsuitable as cover, food, or nesting sites for a wide range of native wetland animals including ducks, geese, rails, bitterns, muskrats, frogs, toads, and turtles. Many rare and endangered wetland plants and animals are also at risk.

Currently there are about 2,000 purple loosestrife infestations recorded in 77 of Minnesota's 87 counties. Of those sites, the majority (70%) are lakes, rivers, or wetlands. Inventory totals indicate that Minnesota presently has over 58,000 acres infested with purple loosestrife.

Likely means of spread: Seeds escape from gardens and nurseries into wetlands, lakes, and rivers. Once in aquatic systems, seeds are easily spread by moving water and wetland animals.

Information: Minnesota. DNR.



Flower: Individual flowers have five or six pink-purple petals surrounding small, yellow centers. Each flower spike is made up of many individual flowers.



Leaves: Leaves are downy, with smooth edges. They are usually arranged opposite each other in pairs which alternate down the stalk at 90 degree angles, however, they may appear in groups of three.

Stalks: Stalks are square, five or six-sided, woody, as tall as 2 meters (over 6 feet) with several stalks on mature plants.



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 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 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.

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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Board of Directors

Dale Kratochwill – President	612-803-7247	dalekay@q.com
James Cook – Vice President	218-730-8111	drako79.jc@gmail.com
Dave Warwick – Secretary	612-210-0458	dave.warwick02@gmail.com
Robbie Danko – Treasurer	952-639-6532	robbie.danko@yahoo.com
Jerry Bass	612-747-6036.....	olpines1@hotmail.com
Joel Danko	651-248-5129	dankosaregreat@gmail.com
John Montour	612-419-2388	bjmontour@gmail.com
Chuck Munson	612-703-6224	chuck.munson@gmail.com
Greg Pfeifer	612-590-4953	gmpfeifer5@gmail.com
Sue Westberg	651-587-2614	swestb1069@hotmail.com
Open Board Seat #1		
Open Board Seat #2		

Volunteer Agents

Mary Ellen Anderson – Payroll	651-332-4245	meanderson2010@hotmail.com
Mark Pawelski – Communications	612-270-3641	mpawelski007@gmail.com
Larry Antonsen – Lake Monitoring		ljanton@frontiernet.net
Barb & Bob Bass – AIS Monitoring	218-426-3062	bass5805@gmail.com
Tim Rinowski – Harvester Vegetation Spotter		

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.