



# On The Lake

## NEWSLETTER

LAKE MINNETONKA ASSOCIATION • *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.



## Working Together

... to keep Lake Minnetonka open for recreation and to protect its natural ecology

As the world around us changes, some things will remain constant. Lake Minnetonka is here to comfort our minds, nurture our souls, and to bring joy to our lives. In return, we need to treat her with respect and give her the care she needs to stay healthy. That's why we're here!

The Lake Minnetonka Association, its members and business partners are stewards of Lake Minnetonka and are working to protect and take care of this wonderful resource.

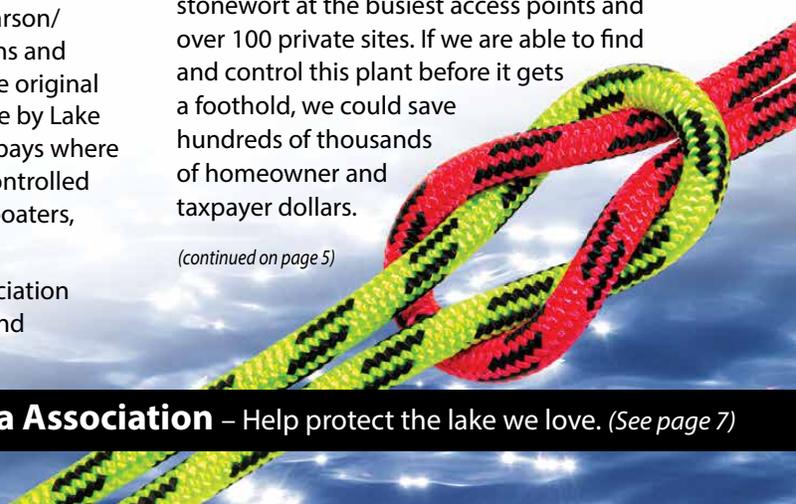
Most of the major improvements to Lake Minnetonka have been made because residents and businesses worked together to fund and implement programs to enhance the boating and recreation experience on the lake, and to protect its natural ecology.

### Here are a few examples of how we are currently working together:

- With the help of our Bay Captains, the Lake Minnetonka Association has been able to keep several bays milfoil-free and are seeing more native plants return. This year, two bays have been added to the Eurasian Watermilfoil and Curlyleaf Pondweed Control Program: Phelps Bay and Crystal Bay. In addition to these bays, we are managing the treatments in North Arm, Gideons, Grays, and Carson/ St. Louis Bays. Treatments in St. Albans and Carmans Bays, which were part of the original control program, are now being done by Lake Improvement Districts. That is eight bays where milfoil is essentially gone or being controlled to keep it from being a nuisance to boaters, swimmers, and other lake users.
- This year, the Lake Minnetonka Association will partner with Tonka Bay Marina and North Shore Marina to begin a program to control invasive flowering rush in Lake Minnetonka. Ridding the lake of this plant will keep the lake open for boating and fishing, and will help to protect fisheries and native habitat.
- Also this year, the Lake Minnetonka Association will continue to monitor for invasive starry stonewort at the busiest access points and over 100 private sites. If we are able to find and control this plant before it gets a foothold, we could save hundreds of thousands of homeowner and taxpayer dollars.

*(continued on page 5)*

**JOIN the Lake Minnetonka Association** – Help protect the lake we love. *(See page 7)*



# From The Helm

By Tom Frahm, LMA Board President

## The Time for Talk is Over, it's Time to Get to Work



For years there has been little more than talk about controlling aquatic invasive species (AIS) in Lake Minnetonka. Worse, some programs such as the Lake Minnetonka Conservation District's weed harvesting program, may have even contributed to the spread of AIS. Well,

the time for talk is over and the Lake Minnetonka Association, together with its members and business partners are stepping in and getting things done.

This year, the Lake Minnetonka Association will start a new program to control and hopefully eradicate invasive flowering rush from Lake Minnetonka. We would like to

thank both Tonka Bay Marina and North Shore Marina for their generous contributions to make this program happen.

As some of you may know, flowering rush was found in Lake Minnetonka 10 years ago and has since spread through portions of Smiths, Crystal, and Lafayette Bays, and around Big Island. We are fortunate that the plant has not gotten a foothold – but it is spreading and, if left uncontrolled, could take over entire bays. Even though lake agencies have known about flowering rush for 10 years, nothing has been done to stop it from spreading.

In addition to the flowering rush control program, the Lake Minnetonka Association will be adding two bays to the Eurasian Watermilfoil and Curlyleaf Pondweed Control Program. We will also continue to monitor sites around the lake for starry stonewort and other new AIS that may be introduced into the lake. So, just like the saying goes, "if you want something done, you have to do it yourself."

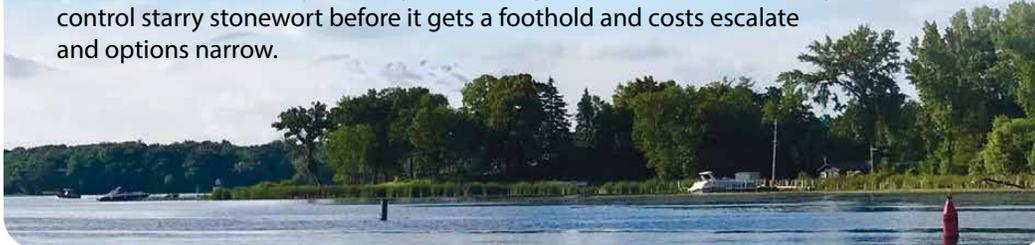
By getting rid of the invasive weeds, we're making the lake bigger and better. The Lake Minnetonka Association wants everyone to get out on the lake and enjoy the season.

## Lake Minnetonka Association Receives Grants from the MnDNR and Hennepin County

This year the Lake Minnetonka Association applied for and was awarded approximately \$40,000 in grants for aquatic invasive species control and prevention from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MnDNR) and Hennepin County.

The MnDNR grants will be used to offset costs associated with milfoil and curlyleaf pondweed control in bays that are part of the Lake Minnetonka Association's Eurasian Watermilfoil and Curlyleaf Pondweed Control Program, or are being treated by a Lake Improvement District.

The Hennepin County grant will be used to continue the Lake Minnetonka Association's Starry Stonewort Prevention Program that began in 2019. Sixteen of the most active public and private access sites will be monitored on Lake Minnetonka. Each site will be surveyed twice during optimum growing time for starry stonewort using methodology developed by the University of Minnesota. Additionally, plant specialists will be monitoring over 100 private locations on the lake throughout the season. Currently, there is no other lake in Minnesota being monitored as extensively as Lake Minnetonka. By carefully monitoring the lake, we can hopefully find and control starry stonewort before it gets a foothold and costs escalate and options narrow.



## Lake Minnetonka TIDBITS

- Brackett's Point has had several names. At one time known as Promontory Point, Starvation Point, Printers Point, and Orono Point, it eventually was named after George Augustus Brackett and his wife, Annie Hoit Brackett.
- Six inches of fast-moving flood water can knock over an adult. It takes only 12 inches of rushing water to carry away a small car, while 2 feet of rushing water can carry away most any vehicle.
- Minnesota has about one recreational boat per every six people, more than any other state.

### "On The Lake"

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#### LMA Board Members

Tom Frahm, President (Crystal Bay)  
Rob Roy, Vice President (St. Albans Bay)  
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Judd Brackett (Gideons Bay)

Terry Bryce (Grays Bay)  
Rod Kern (Carsons Bay)  
Josh Leddy (Seton Lake)  
Amanda Walsh (West Arm Bay)  
Denise Westman (Echo Bay)

# What's That WEED?



Photo: Leslie J. Mehrhoff, Univ. of Conn., Bugwood.org



Photo: MCWD and Steve McComas and Jo Stuckert, Blue Water Science

## FLOWERING RUSH: pretty to look at, easy to spread, tough to kill.

Flowering rush is an attractive, reed like plant with clusters of pink flowers on its tip that bloom in June and July. While it can be easily confused with native rushes, flowering rush is a prohibited invasive species in Minnesota, which means it is unlawful (a misdemeanor) to possess, import, purchase, transport or introduce this species.

Flowering rush was first found in Lake Minnetonka in 2008 and is located in near-shore areas around Crystal Bay, Smiths Bay, Lafayette Bay, and Big Island. While likely introduced into Lake Minnetonka as an ornamental plant, it is primarily spread by water currents, boats and other water-related equipment. There is good evidence that shows mechanical efforts to control Eurasian watermilfoil inadvertently spread flowering rush to other parts of the lake.

Once established, flowering rush is hard to kill. Mechanical control can be done by cutting the plant below the water surface several times per summer and removing all cut parts from the water. However, in some instances, cutting has facilitated spread. Isolated plants can be removed by hand digging, but it must be done with care, as root fragments can spread and sprout. Herbicide control can be done in mid-summer during calm wind conditions with a permit from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

### Flowering Rush Impacts:

- Dense growth along shoreland areas makes it difficult for swimming and to access open water.
- Overtakes habitat and outcompetes native aquatic plants, potentially lowering diversity.
- Provides unsuitable shelter, food, and nesting habitat for native animals.

This summer, the Lake Minnetonka Association will begin a treatment program to stop the spread of flowering rush. While flowering rush is currently found in only a few bays, it is spreading. It's best to eliminate it now, before the plant becomes more widespread and more expensive and difficult to control.

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# Social.....Distancing WHILE BOATING

The Hennepin County Sheriff's Office asks boaters to practice the following social distancing guidelines:



**Families or other cohabitating groups may be on a boat together even if the boat does not allow them to stay six feet apart.**



**Boating with individuals outside of your home is allowed if everyone on the boat can stay six feet apart.**



**Don't go out if someone in your group is feeling sick or may have been exposed to someone who is sick.**



**When launching or landing your boat, keep at least six feet from others. Be patient and wait your turn.**



**Boats and rafts may be tied up next to each other as long as people can maintain a six-foot distance, and the group does not exceed 10 people.**



**Plan ahead – most public restrooms and facilities are closed.**

**In addition to these social distancing guidelines, the Sheriff's Office asks boaters to keep in mind the safety guidelines that are always in place.**

## Farewell to a Friend and a Steward of Lake Minnetonka

Sadly, the Lake Minnetonka community has lost another passionate advocate.

**John "Jack" Charles Kimball**, passed away on January 20, 2020. Jack served as Bay Captain for Phelps Bay for years and was instrumental in making the bay a place for everyone to enjoy. We celebrate his life and his love for Lake Minnetonka. Fair winds and following seas!

## From the Sheriff's Department

**Although this spring is unlike any we have had before, much of boating safety has not changed.**

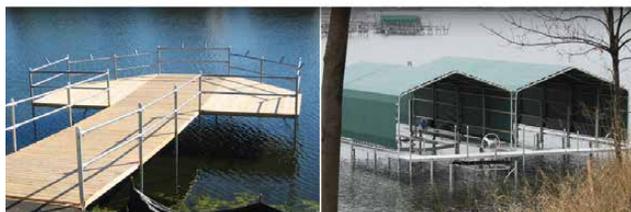


- The water this time of year is very cold. Wear a **personal flotation device (PFD)** – even great swimmers can quickly become hypothermic and will be unable to stay afloat.
- Have a **sober driver** at all times. In 30 percent of fatal boat accidents, alcohol is a factor.
- **Let someone know** your plans and when you will be back.
- Pay attention to the **weather**, it takes time to get off the water.
- **Check your boat** prior to launching. Things to consider: do you have all your PFDs, fire extinguisher, audible device, phone or marine radio, carbon monoxide detection (if applicable), do your navigation lights work? For inboard boats, run your blowers for at least five minutes prior to starting the engines.
- Currently, Minnesota's *Stay Safe Minnesota* guidelines allow for boating activities, with a **few restrictions**. Families or other cohabitating groups may be on a boat together even if the boat does not allow them to stay six feet apart. Boating with individuals outside of your home is now allowed if everyone on the boat can stay six feet apart.
- Tying rafts or boats together is now allowed as long as doing so **does not create a group of more than 10 people**. When tying boats together, everyone should still be able to maintain a six-foot distance.



## TOP OF THE LINE DOCK SYSTEMS

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# Working Together for Lake Minnetonka

(Continued from page 1)

- Lake Clean-Up efforts are planned for parts of the lake. We do not know yet if July 4th gatherings will be allowed at Cruisers Cove, but if they are, and if it is safe, we will once again partner with the Hennepin County Sheriff's Office and local businesses to clean up around Big Island.

The Lake Minnetonka Association is the VOICE for lakeshore homeowners and businesses. Your membership matters to help keep the lake open for boating and recreation and to preserve its natural and cultural heritage.

If we want something done, it is up to the homeowners, lake users, and others who care about this lake to take the lead in doing so. Lakeshore homeowners and users cannot simply rely on government to take care of our lake. It is up to us.

**If you are not already a member of the Lake Minnetonka Association, please join us!**



We are hearing reports on some bays that algae seems to be getting bad again. While there have not been significant changes in water pollution, there may be a correlation between lower zebra mussel counts and higher amounts of algae.

Zebra mussels, like most organisms, go through boom and bust cycles. Zebra mussels are filter feeders so when populations are large, during boom cycles, they filter a considerable amount of algae from the water – leading to very clear water, but during bust cycles, as they die off, their decomposing bodies release nutrients into the water which, in turn leads to more algae growth.

Photo: Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

**EVEN AFTER ALL WE'VE BEEN THROUGH...**  
**Life Is Still Better On The Lake!**

**Lake Minnetonka Public Cruise Schedule Through October 18th**

- **Sightseeing Cruises** – Mon, Wed, Fri: 11:30 am-1 pm, Saturdays & Sundays: 2:00-3:30 pm
- **Margarita Mondays, plus Taco Bar and Drink Specials** – Mondays: 6:00-8:00 pm
- **Happy Hour, Pizza & Cocktail Cruise (Incl. Pizza & Drink Specials!)** – Tuesdays: 6:00-8:00 pm
- **Delicious Brunch Buffet** – Sundays: 11:00 am-1:00 pm

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## BAY PROGRAM UPDATE

Plant surveys show the Bay Treatment Program is working. While milfoil is under control in bays that are part of the program, ongoing monitoring and spot treatments will be needed until there is a lake-wide solution.

Curlyleaf pondweed treatments are also doing well; however, it is a more challenging plant to control. Curlyleaf may be a problem one year, but not the next. This is likely due to weather variations from year to year. Timing of treatments is also important to control this plant. Treatment must be done when water temperatures are between 50-60 degrees and before the plant releases its "turions" or buds.

BAY	WEEDS TO BE TREATED	EST. ACRES TO BE TREATED
<b>Carmans*</b>	Eurasian watermilfoil	20
	Curlyleaf pondweed	20
<b>Carsons/ St. Louis</b>	Eurasian watermilfoil	10
	Curlyleaf pondweed	9.6
<b>Crystal</b>	Eurasian watermilfoil	20
	Curlyleaf pondweed	15
	Flowering rush	TBD
<b>Gideons</b>	Eurasian watermilfoil	9
	Curlyleaf pondweed	37.8
<b>Grays</b>	Eurasian watermilfoil	43.9
<b>Lafayette</b>	Flowering rush	TBD
<b>North Arm</b>	Eurasian watermilfoil	5
	Curlyleaf pondweed	47.7
<b>Phelps</b>	Eurasian watermilfoil	48
<b>Saint Albans*</b>	Eurasian watermilfoil	0
	Curlyleaf pondweed	5-10
<b>Smiths</b>	Flowering rush	TBD

\* Treatment is part of a Lake Improvement District

## Welcome Aboard!

The Lake Minnetonka Association welcomes two new Bay Captains this year: **Cheryl Eastborne** from Phelps Bay, and **Richie Anderson** from Crystal Bay.

Bay Captains work hard to raise funds needed for Eurasian watermilfoil and curlyleaf pondweed control treatments for bays. They also work to ensure the treatments are done effectively and efficiently – keeping the bays open for boating and recreation all season long.

*We thank all Bay Captains for their tireless efforts!*

Photo: Erdahl Aerial Photos

# Help Keep Lake Minnetonka Association Business Members Strong

The Lake Minnetonka Association encourages everyone to continue to support our Business Members and keep our local economies healthy. More than ever, we need to support each other and come together as a community!

Our local businesses are hubs of our communities; they are owned by our neighbors and they provide jobs to our friends and family. They help shape the identity of the Lake Minnetonka area.

## OUR BUSINESS MEMBERS ARE HERE FOR US – LET’S BE THERE FOR THEM!

- Al & Alma’s Supper Club
- Back Channel Brewing Co.
- Blue Lagoon Marine, Inc.
- Caribbean Marina
- Carisch, Inc.
- The Danberry Company
- Dock & Lift Inc.
- Don Stodola Well Drilling Co.
- Excelsior Bay Harbor
- Excelsior Brewing Company
- FineLine Lakeshore Service
- Greenwood Marina
- Howard’s Point Marina
- Kowalski’s Market
- Lafayette Club
- Life’s a Beach Shoreline Services
- Lindbo Landing Marina
- Lord Fletcher’s Old Lake Lodge
- Maynards
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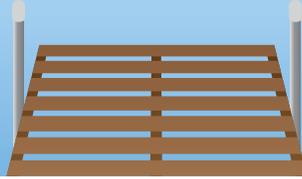
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## 21-Day Dry Time Law

People often have questions or misconceptions about Minnesota's 21-day out of water dry time required for docks and lifts. Here's a summary to clear things up:

- Any dock or lift (or associated equipment like a weed roller) that is removed from any lake or river needs to dry out of water for 21 days before being put in a different lake or river. This only applies to docks and lifts – not boats.
- If you decontaminate a dock or lift, it still needs to dry out of water for 21 days before putting it in another lake or river.
- After drying for 21 days, decontamination is still required (to remove plants and AIS animals like zebra mussels) before putting it in another lake or river.
- Any other dry time you see listed (like 5 days for boats) is a recommended precaution to lower the chance of spreading AIS.



## OWN YOUR WAKE!

**Under Minnesota law, the damage your wake causes is treated the same as damage caused by an actual collision. Please follow these guidelines to avoid violating the law:**



- Have a designated lookout to keep an eye out for other boats, objects, and swimmers.
- If crossing a wake, cross at low speeds and keep a close lookout for skiers and towables.
- Comply with all signs and respect no-wake zones.
- Stay at least 200 feet away from shorelines, anchored boats, docks or other structures.
- Minimize repetitive passes. Once you've run a line, move on to another area.
- Respect the rights of others on the water and on the shore.



**PLEASE JOIN  
OR RENEW YOUR  
MEMBERSHIP  
TODAY!**

**The Lake Minnetonka Association is the  
VOICE for lakeshore owners and businesses.**  
*Your support is making a positive difference!*

### MEMBERSHIP FORM

*Please complete this form and mail it with your tax-deductible contribution to:  
The Lake Minnetonka Association, P.O. Box 248, Excelsior, MN 55331*

Make checks payable to "The Lake Minnetonka Association" or contribute online: [www.LMAssociation.org](http://www.LMAssociation.org)

**I want to support the Lake Minnetonka Association at the following membership level:**

**Basic** \$50 - \$199  **Sustaining** \$200 - \$499  **Captain** \$500 - \$999  **Commodore** \$1000+  **Business** \$350

Other or additional contribution..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL** ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**CONTRIBUTIONS ARE  
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The Lake Minnetonka Association is  
a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation

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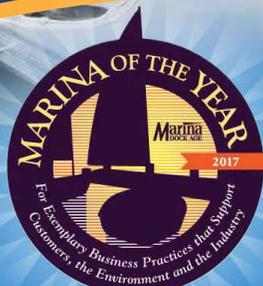
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