



# 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.



## Lake Weeds Will Always Be a Reality

*...well, at least until someone cements the bottom of the lake!*

*By Judd Brackett, Gideons Bay Captain*

Chances are, most of the weeds around your dock area are native to Lake Minnetonka and are supposed to be growing there. While native plants are important to the health of a lake, they can become a nuisance. When they do, there are a few different ways to manage them:

- A.** Hand pulling – There are a number of lake service providers in the area that will hand pull weeds and take them away. Weeds may re-grow and may require more than one removal during the summer to keep the dock area free of weeds for swimming, etc.
- B.** Herbicide treatment – The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MnDNR) issues permits to licensed applicators and homeowners to treat the weeds around docks in limited areas, depending on the amount of lakeshore owned. Generally, two applications in early and mid-summer are needed.
- C.** Harvesting – Privately owned weed harvesters will either remove floating weeds from your lakeshore or cut and remove growing ones. The down side is your neighbors may not be happy because harvesters cannot collect all of the weeds cut, which means weeds left behind may drift to neighbor's lakeshore. Also, research shows weeds that are cut grow back faster and thicker after harvesting.
- D.** Blowers and weed-rollers – while these can be used in some areas, the MnDNR restricts use to certain conditions because of the damage they cause. Additionally, blowers simply move floating weeds from your shore to your neighbor's.

For years, growing up on the lake meant raking weeds nearly every summer day. But now that we have Eurasian watermilfoil, curlyleaf pondweed and zebra mussels, disposing of weeds has become more difficult. Homeowners should check with their garbage/yard waste hauler before disposing of weeds in the trash. Some weeds can be used as mulch around or under pine trees or gardens as they are rich in nutrients, but the *do-it-yourselfer* has a challenge disposing of the weeds. Perhaps the worst thing to do is to push the weeds back out into the lake and making them your neighbor's problem.

Living on the lake is like having two yards – one above water and one below water. Just like your above water yard requires maintenance, so does your below water yard.

**For more information contact the Lake Minnetonka Association at (763) 470-4449.**

# From The Helm

By Tom Frahm, LMA Board President



## Regional Decontamination Stations

Any of you who have read my newsletter articles over the years know that I have favored electronic boat tagging to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS) pollution. For this method to work, all state and local boat landings should be involved. This has turned out to be an herculean endeavor. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MnDNR), and our state government and local government do not seem interested in a statewide program involving electronic AIS monitoring of any sort.

An alternative method to stop the spread of AIS pollution could be mandatory boat decontamination. This may have a better chance of approval and can be used to protect a single or a small number of lakes. Last year, Wright County established

a pilot program to protect three lakes from AIS pollution by providing a regional decontamination station located within a few miles of the lakes. It became mandatory to have a boat decontaminated prior to being launched in these lakes. This project originally met with resistance from the MnDNR but was eventually approved. Because of its success, Wright County attempted to expand the program to nine lakes, but was unable to get MnDNR approval.

With mandatory boat decontamination, a boat owner needs to go to a regional decontamination station and have their boat decontaminated. After the process is completed, the owner is given a date/time pass which could open a gate or be presented to a launch attendant. If the pass has the correct information (time, date, boat license, etc.) the boat owner would be able to enter the lake. This approach would work well on Lake Minnetonka and save tax dollars, but getting the MnDNR and Hennepin County to approve it is a big question mark.

What I do know is something must be done to prevent additional AIS pollution from entering Lake Minnetonka if we want to preserve this beautiful lake. We must all be involved in this effort. If anyone has any ideas on how we can win this battle, I would love to hear from you.

## BIG Water BIG Hotels BIG Island BIG Houses

Join us at Lord Fletcher's  
for a FUN Social Event and  
Lake Minnetonka Association  
Annual Meeting

Tuesday, September 10, 2019  
from 4:30–7:00 pm

Long before the first Europeans came, Lake Minnetonka was a big water haven. Then in the 1800s, things started to change. Hotels appeared, Big Island gained recreational popularity, and today big houses rise above the tree tops. Join us as we trace the evolution of the Lake with Bob Gasch, Lake Minnetonka historian and storyteller!

We will be providing bites to eat. Treat yourself to a beverage at the cash bar and join us for a fun get together. Bring your neighbors, meet other lake enthusiasts, and learn more about the Lake Minnetonka Association!

### HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

Lord Fletcher's • 3746 Sunset Drive, Spring Park, MN

Please arrive early and join us for the 2019  
Lake Minnetonka Association Annual Meeting, from 4:30–5:00 pm.

### LAKE MINNETONKA ASSOCIATION

## Weed-Wonder Workshop

TUESDAY, AUGUST 13, 2019  
4:30–6:30 PM

Ever wonder what the weeds are that you see growing in Lake Minnetonka?

Join us, along with experts on aquatic plants, for a hands-on workshop on the lake!

REGISTER EARLY – Space is limited

Email your name and address to:  
**workshops@LMAssociation.org**  
(you will receive a confirmation email)

**Boat departure 4:30 sharp**  
at Tonka Bay Marina

220 Tonka Bay Rd • Tonka Bay, MN

Please note: participants must be 16 years or older.

RAIN DATE: Thursday, August 15  
Questions? Call (952) 470-4449

### "On The Lake"

is a publication of the  
Lake Minnetonka Association,  
P.O. Box 248, Excelsior, MN 55331

Issue 2019: 3 • July

### How to Contact the LMA

Eric Evenson, Executive Director  
Phone.....(952) 470-4449  
E-Mail.....info@LMAssociation.org  
Website.....www.LMAssociation.org



### LMA Board Members

Tom Frahm, President (Crystal Bay)  
Rob Roy, Vice President (St. Albans Bay)  
Lee Harren, Treasurer/Secretary (Stubbs Bay)  
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)



# WISE Water and Ice Safety Education

## Lake Minnetonka is becoming safer thanks to the efforts of the Hennepin County Sheriff's office.

This month, the Hennepin County Sheriff's Office will kick off its new campaign, *WISE: Water and Ice Safety Education*, to help keep people safe when enjoying the County's lakes and rivers. The Sheriff's office reminds everyone that water safety comes down to three basic principles: Watch, Wear, and Learn.

- **WATCH** your children and other swimmers
- **WEAR** a life jacket
- **LEARN** about water safety

More information about the WISE program can be found at <https://www.hennepinsheriff.org/community-involvement/outreach/Water-safety-campaign>

"The Hennepin County Sheriff's Office has always been tasked with responding to water emergencies. We are dedicated to keeping people safe around water. It's that dedication that's driving us to increase our water safety education options. We want everyone in Hennepin County to know how to keep themselves safe on or near the water." – Sheriff David P. Hutchinson

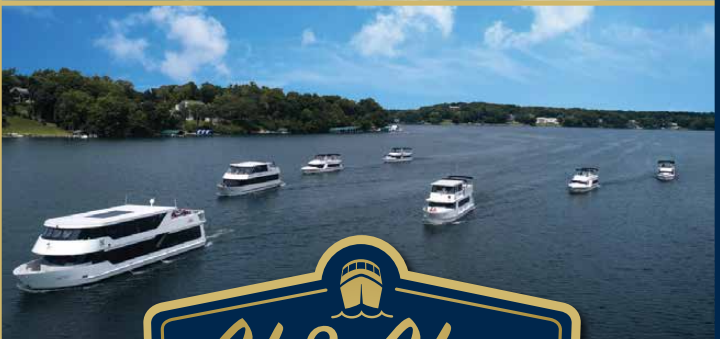
## Smart Boating Reminder

WATCH YOUR WAKE! Know where your wake is going so you don't create problems for other boaters, other lake enthusiasts, and to help prevent shoreline erosion. All boaters need to be aware of the size of the wake they create.

## Support Our Business Members

- |                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| ■ Al & Alma's Supper Club           | ■ Lunds & Byerlys  |
| ■ Back Channel Brewing Co.          | ■ MarineMax Minnesota  |
| ■ Bayside Marine                    | ■ Maynards Restaurant  |
| ■ Blue Lagoon Marine, Inc.          | ■ MDS Remodeling, LLC  |
| ■ Carisch, Inc.                     | ■ Minnesota Dermatology  |
| ■ The Danberry Company              | ■ Minnesota Inboard Water Sports                               |
| ■ Dock and Lift, Inc.               | ■ Museum of Lake Minnetonka                                    |
| ■ Don Stodola Well Drilling Co.     | ■ Navarre True Value Hardware                                  |
| ■ Excelsior Bay Harbor              | ■ Niccum Docks, Inc.   |
| ■ Excelsior Brewing Company         | ■ North Shore Marina   |
| ■ FineLine Lakeshore Service        | ■ Otten Bros. Garden Center & Landscaping                      |
| ■ Greenwood Marina                  | ■ Paradise Charter Cruises                                     |
| ■ Howard's Point Marina             | ■ PLM Lake and Land Management, Corp.                          |
| ■ Kowalski's Market                 | ■ The Retreat  |
| ■ Lafayette Club                    | ■ Rockvam Boat Yards, Inc.                                     |
| ■ Lakeshore Weekly News             | ■ Candi & Scott Stabeck - Lakes Sotheby's International Realty |
| ■ Life's A Beach Shoreline Services | ■ Tonka Bay Marina, Inc.                                       |
| ■ Lindbo Landing Marina             |  |
| ■ Lord Fletcher's Old Lake Lodge    |  |

We thank our Business Members for their many contributions to our organization and to our Lake Minnetonka community. You make the lake a better place to live, work and play!



SUPPER CLUB  
OPEN 7 DAYS  
A WEEK

LEGENDARY  
LAKESIDE  
DINING

PUBLIC  
AND PRIVATE  
CRUISES

**WWW.AL-ALMAS.COM 952-472-3098**

Latitude: 44.920585 Longitude: -93.6563 Altitude: 293 meters

©2019 Al & Alma's Supper Club and Charter Cruises





# 2019 Legislative Highlights

Like most legislative sessions, the 2019 session ended with some successes and some disappointments. Here are a few pieces of legislation which passed that may be of interest to Lake Minnetonka residents:

### FUNDS RESTORED TO FIGHT AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES (AIS):

A \$5.60 increase in the AIS surcharge on a three year boat registration was passed. This will restore funding for Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MnDNR) AIS programs and lake association AIS grants, and will amount to about \$1 million annually to be shared across the state. The increase was effective July 1st and AIS grants are expected to be available next year.

### SALES TAX EXEMPTION FOR HERBICIDES USED FOR INVASIVE PLANT MANAGEMENT:

The 2019 tax bill provides a sales tax exemption for herbicides used under an invasive aquatic plant management permit by lakeshore property owners, an association of lakeshore property owners, or by a contractor hired to provide invasive aquatic plant management.

## 2019 Eurasian Watermilfoil and Curlyleaf Pondweed Control Program Update

The late spring, high water, and rainy days created some challenges for this year's Eurasian Watermilfoil and Curlyleaf Pondweed Control Program; nevertheless, all treatments were completed well in advance of the July 4th holiday. With the thick ice and heavy snow coverage on the lake this winter we were hoping for lighter than normal levels of weeds. However, Mother Nature is unpredictable and this year's crop of weeds was heavier than expected. But Lake Minnetonka is not alone – weeds, native and non-native, are heavy on lakes across Minnesota this year.

Photo: Erdahl Aerial Photos

| Bay               | Weed                  | Acres Treated |
|-------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| Carmans*          | Eurasian Watermilfoil | 36.9          |
|                   | Curlyleaf Pondweed    | 22.5          |
| Gideons           | Eurasian Watermilfoil | 43            |
|                   | Curlyleaf Pondweed    | 20.2          |
| Grays             | Eurasian Watermilfoil | 25            |
|                   | Curlyleaf Pondweed    | 0             |
| North Arm         | Eurasian Watermilfoil | 0             |
|                   | Curlyleaf Pondweed    | 47            |
| St. Albans*       | Eurasian Watermilfoil | 25.6          |
|                   | Curlyleaf Pondweed    | 8.75          |
| St. Louis/Carsons | Eurasian Watermilfoil | 17.4          |
|                   | Curlyleaf pondweed    | 13.17         |

\*Treatment is part of a Lake Improvement District

### REDUCTION IN THE STATE GENERAL TAX ON CABINS:

The Tax Bill signed into law this spring reduced the state general tax on cabins by about 6%.

### LAKE MINNETONKA CONSERVATION DISTRICT (LMCD) AUTHORITY CLARIFIED:

The legislature overwhelmingly passed language clarifying the LMCD's authority over marinas to activities below the ordinary high water level. This legislation will help prevent conflicts between city rules and LMCD rules.

### AIS RESEARCH FUNDING PROVIDED:

The legislature provided the Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center (MAISRC) \$4 million in Natural Resource Legacy Funding over four years to research ways to control AIS. Additionally, through the Omnibus Environment and Natural Resources Finance Bill, MAISRC will receive \$510,000/year for two years. \$100,000 in the first year will be allocated to develop a new AIS early detection system.



## TOP OF THE LINE DOCK SYSTEMS

TONKA DOCK • POLY DOCK • ALUMA DOCK DOCKS • BOAT HOUSES • BOAT LIFTS • RIP RAP



**FINELINE DOCKS**  
952.472.1172  
finelinedocks.com





## Lake Minnetonka Association Takes the Lead in Protecting the Lake from Starry Stonewort

**This year the Lake Minnetonka Association will be inspecting the heaviest used public and private boat accesses for starry stonewort.**

Based on findings from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MnDNR) and the University of Minnesota, the most likely place starry stonewort will be found is at, or near a busy lake access. While the primary focus of the Lake Minnetonka Association's inspections will be starry stonewort, we will also be looking for other possible new aquatic invasive species (AIS) that may be introduced into the lake.

Starry stonewort is an extremely invasive algae that forms dense mats and which make boating and water recreation almost impossible. Last year it was found in Medicine Lake in Plymouth – just a few minutes north of Lake Minnetonka.

If starry stonewort or other new AIS is discovered, the MnDNR, the property owner(s), and other agencies managing Lake Minnetonka will be notified immediately. The MnDNR has indicated if starry stonewort is found, its removal will be priority.

Photo by Paul Skawinski,  
Aquatic Plants of the Upper Midwest

## FOURTH OF JULY WEEKEND LAKE CLEAN-UP



On Monday, July 8th, after the busy Fourth of July weekend, the Lake Minnetonka Association joined with Life's a Beach Shoreline Services, Al & Alma's, Tonka Bay Marina, and the Hennepin County Sheriff's Office to clean up Cruiser's Cove off of Big Island. Cruiser's Cove is the party hot spot on the Lake and attracts hundreds of boaters and partiers every year. We are pleased to see that more and more people are packing up what they bring out (but there are always a few that still leave a mess behind).

Broken bottles and litter leave a dangerous and unsightly mess. Help us keep Lake Minnetonka beautiful and safe. Please remember and remind others that ***"what goes out on your boat... comes back with your boat!"***

**THANK YOU** to all of the dedicated volunteers who helped in this clean-up effort, and to Joey Nova's for providing pizzas to the volunteers.

## Life Is Better On The Lake!

*Birthdays • Sweet 16's • Anniversaries • Wedding Events • Retirements • Neighborhood Parties  
Corporate Events • Client Entertaining • Department Parties • Team Building • And More!*



### Lake Minnetonka Public Cruise Schedule Through October 20th

- **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

**Children, Group & Senior Pricing • Lake Cruises depart from the Port of Excelsior • Reservations required**

**952.474.8058** [TwinCitiesCruises.com](http://TwinCitiesCruises.com)

**Paradise**  
CHARTER CRUISES 

**\$2 Off Any Public Cruise!**  
Use Discount Code "LMA" Online!



# What's That WEED?

## Flowering Rush

Flowering rush is a prohibited aquatic invasive plant originally native to Eurasia that is beginning to get a foothold in Lake Minnetonka. A 2016 survey found beds of flowering rush in Crystal Bay and Smiths Bay, along Highway 15 and in shallow areas around Big Island; however, by now it has likely spread to other areas in the lake. The plant is believed to have been introduced to lakes in Minnesota as an ornamental plant.

### Identification Hints:

Most of the year, flowering rush is difficult to differentiate from native rushes. However, unlike native rushes, during June through early fall, flowering rush forms attractive clusters of light pink flowers at the tops of long, rigid, leafless stems. Flowering rush grows in shallow



shoreland areas as an emergent plant and in waters up to 20 feet deep as a submergent plant.

### Friend or Foe?

Flowering rush is a foe. According to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, the plant can cause recreational, economic and ecological damage. Its dense growth along shoreland areas makes it difficult to access open water, it can overtake habitat and outcompetes native aquatic plants, potentially reducing plant-diversity.

### Management:

Research has found the most effective means of controlling flowering rush is by herbicide treatment. Hand pulling has been marginally successful in small areas with muddy bottoms, but care must be taken not to break apart the plant or its root wad. Flowering rush is easily spread by fragmentation. It is strongly recommended that mechanical harvesters stay out of areas infested with flowering rush.

Photo: Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut, Bugwood.org

## Boating Smart Tip

Operate your watercraft at a **slow-no wake** speed when you are close to swimming areas, docks, rafts, moored watercraft, and fishing boats or when signs or buoys direct you to do so. **Slow-no wake** means that you should be operating at the slowest possible speed to maintain steerage, but not greater than 5 miles per hour.



**Proud Supporter of the  
Lake Minnetonka  
Association**

**Plymouth and Excelsior  
612-486-4200**

## ⚓ Rockvam Boat Yards, Inc. ⚓

# Plan for Winter... but still enjoy Summer!

**Download your FREE guide at  
LakeMinnetonkaFun.com**

**Winter Storage**  
**Early Bird Discount  
on Winter Storage!  
Call Now!**

**Boat Rentals**  
**952.471.9515  
www.rockvamboatyards.com**  
f [www.Facebook.com/RockvamBoatYards](http://www.Facebook.com/RockvamBoatYards)

**Boat Club**  
**Membership  
Discount  
\$2,500 Off!**

**MARINA OF THE YEAR**  
2018  
Lakeland Community College  
The American Boat and Yacht Show

# Itching to get out of the water...

The price you pay for that great day at the beach might be an itchy rash for the next few days.

**Chiggers** – Chiggers are very tiny mites that live along lakes and in moist grassy areas. Chiggers will latch on to bare skin and inject saliva that turns some of your cells into mush causing redness and a very itchy rash.

**Avoidance:** Most water proof insect repellents containing DEET may be helpful. Natural repellants with oils made from citronella, tea tree, jojoba, geranium, or lemon grass have also been demonstrated to help.

**Swimmer's Itch** – Swimmer's itch is a skin rash caused by an allergic reaction to certain microscopic, fresh water parasites that burrow into your skin. The parasite's eggs enter the water via feces of water fowl and aquatic animals. After hatching, the parasites live for a time within a type of snail that lives near shorelines. This is why infections occur most often in shallow water.

**Avoidance:**

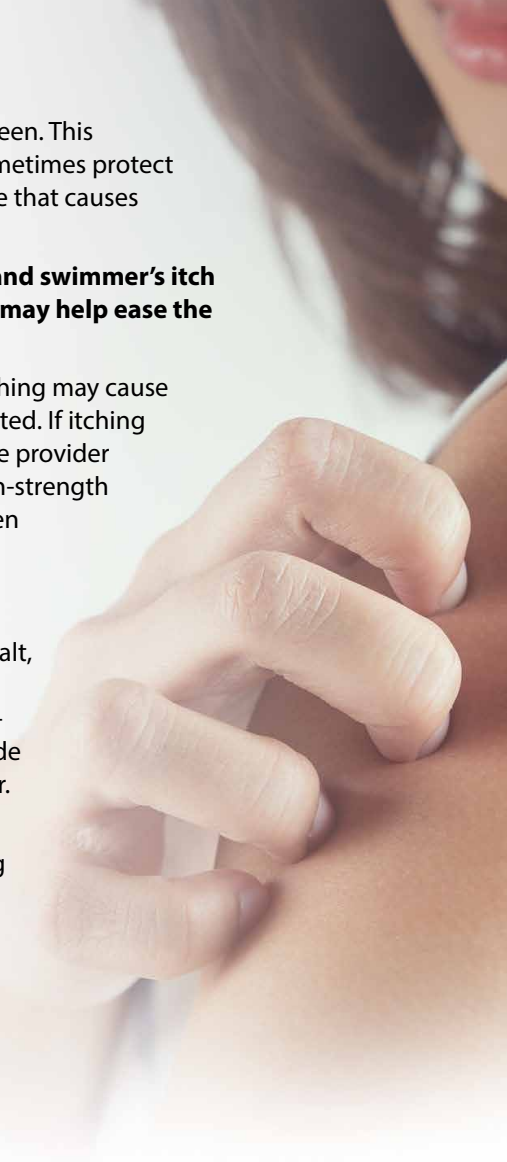
- Avoid swimming in areas where swimmer's itch is a known problem. Also, avoid swimming or wading in marshy areas where waterfowl are commonly present or snails are found.
- Rinse exposed skin with clean water immediately after leaving the water, then vigorously dry your skin with a towel. Launder your swimsuits often.

- Apply waterproof sunscreen. This has been reported to sometimes protect the skin from the parasite that causes swimmer's itch.

**Treatments for chiggers and swimmer's itch are similar, the following may help ease the discomfort:**

- Try not to scratch. Scratching may cause the rash to become infected. If itching is severe, your health care provider may suggest prescription-strength lotions or creams to lessen your symptoms.
- Apply cool compresses to the affected areas.
- Soak in baths of Epsom salt, baking soda, or colloidal oatmeal or apply an anti-itch lotion or a paste made of baking soda and water.

Talk to your doctor if you have a rash after swimming that lasts more than three days or if you notice pus at the rash site. If your rash is accompanied by fever, vomiting, diarrhea, or sore throat you should seek medical attention immediately.



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

**The Lake Minnetonka Association is the VOICE for lakeshore owners and businesses.**  
*Your support makes us stronger!*

**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 SMR19

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

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

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

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

|  |        |
|--|--------|
| Lake Weeds Will Always Be a Reality.....                                     | page 1 |
| From the Helm: Regional<br>Decontamination Stations .....                    | page 2 |
| Social Event and Lake Minnetonka<br>Association Annual Meeting.....          | page 2 |
| Weed-Wonder Workshop.....  | page 2 |
| WISE: Water and Ice Safety Education...                                      | page 3 |
| 2019 Legislative Highlights .....  | page 4 |
| Eurasian Watermilfoil and Curlyleaf<br>Pondweed Control Program Update ..... | page 4 |
| Starry Stonewort Inspections .....   | page 5 |
| Lake Clean-Up .....  | page 5 |
| What's That Weed?.....   | page 6 |
| Itching to get out of the water.....   | page 7 |



**LAKE  
MINNETONKA**  
ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 248  
Excelsior, MN 55331

*The VOICE for Lake Minnetonka  
lakeshore owners and businesses!*



# MINNESOTA INBOARD

ONE FAMILY. ONE BRAND. ONE MISSION.



WWW.MNINBOARD.COM



@MNINBOARD



@MNINBOARD



/MNINBOARD



**OUR FAMILY PROUDLY SERVING MINNESOTA'S 10,000 LAKES SINCE 1992**

**EXCELSIOR SALES / 720 GALPIN LAKE ROAD EXCELSIOR, MN 55331**  
**TWIN CITIES SERVICE CENTER / 260 STATE STREET NEW GERMANY, MN 55367**  
**BAXTER SALES & SERVICE CENTER / 15779 EDGEWOOD DRIVE BAXTER, MN 56425**