animals and viruses out of Lake Minnetonka. We must remain vigilant to keep new

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The Lake Minnetonka Association is a valued source of information and updates on issues that impact the lake, its residents and businesses

our tax-deductible contribution will strengthen our mission to promote lake preservation, protection and restoration, and the reasonable use

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Lake Minnetonka Association:



LOOKING FORWARD TO AN EXCITING 2020!

New Projects, Programs, Educational Workshops and Special Events

By Eric Evenson, Lake Minnetonka Association Executive Director

The Lake Minnetonka Association is looking forward to another year working to find better ways to preserve and protect Lake Minnetonka.

Activities in 2020 include:

- Proactive efforts to stop starry stonewort and other invasive species from gaining a foothold in Lake Minnetonka.
- Ongoing management of watermilfoil and curlyleaf pondweed in bays participating in our Bay Treatment Program.
- Special events and educational workshops focusing on Lake Minnetonka's natural and cultural legacy.
- Lake Clean-Up teaming up with local partners to remove trash from the lake.
- Joining other local and regional-wide organizations to extend and strengthen the voice of Lake Minnetonka Association members at the State Capitol.

Thank you to the members of the Lake Minnetonka Association – you are the stewards of the Lake. Because of you, we are able to focus efforts on preserving and protecting Lake Minnetonka, restoring its natural ecology and keeping government agencies more accountable. The Lake Minnetonka Association keeps Lake residents and users informed on important Lake issues.



Bay Treatments Scheduled for 2020

The Lake Minnetonka Association has scheduled treatments in late spring/early summer for Grays, Gideons, North Arm, and St. Louis/Carsons Bays. The St. Albans and Carmans Bays Lake Improvement Districts will likely treat their bays about the same time. This year we expect to receive grant dollars from the MnDNR to match funds raised by homeowners. Since the amount of money available statewide is just a fraction of what is needed, the grant amounts

Halting the harvesting program was an important first step in controlling Eurasian watermilfoil in Lake Minnetonka.

will likely be small, but it all helps. The Lake Minnetonka Association has applied for grants to treat parts of Crystal and Phelps Bays. These funds will also need to be matched with local funds in order to do treatments in 2020.

Findings by the Lake Minnetonka Association that harvesting of Eurasian watermilfoil does more harm than good, convinced the Lake

Minnetonka Conservation District (LMCD) to re-evaluate their weed harvesting program. A recent study done by the LMCD found that herbicide treatments are generally more cost effective than harvesting.

Halting the harvesting program was an important first step in controlling Eurasian watermilfoil in Lake Minnetonka. While we will likely never be able to completely rid the lake of Eurasian watermilfoil, advances in the science of lake treatments, GPS mapping, and treatment methodology will significantly reduce the amount of treatment required.

Please Support Our Business Members

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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 Bav) Judd Brackett (Gideons Bay) Terry Bryce (Grays Bay) Rod Kern (Carsons Bay) Josh Leddy (Spring Park Bay) Amanda Walsh (West Arm Bay) Denise Westman (Echo Bay)

HIGH WATER LEVELS LIKELY IN THE SPRING OF 2020

High water levels on Lake Minnetonka during the spring and early summer are becoming more and more common. This year will likely be no exception.

According to the National Weather Service, we entered this winter with precipitation and soil moisture levels well above normal. Last year was the wettest year on record. The snowpack continues to build, with the snow holding anywhere from 2-8 inches of water within it waiting to be released.

The National Weather Service's 2020 Winter Outlook favors a normal to wetter February through April. Cooler than normal temperatures are also favored, which could hold onto the snowpack longer into the spring, resulting in a fast thaw once it warms up. All these factors increase the risk of high water levels. But there is still a lot of time and other factors that could affect Lake Minnetonka's water levels, so stay tuned...

Ice Safety Reminders from the Hennepin County Water Patrol

- Ice is never completely safe. Stay alert whenever you're on the ice.
- · The DNR recommends a minimum of 4' for people to safely walk on the ice.
- Wear your PFD (life jacket) when on the ice.
- · Carry a set of ice rescue claws.
- · Never go on the ice alone.
- · Let someone know where you will be on the lake and when you plan to return home.
- Avoid channels, creeks, rivers or anywhere there is moving water.
- · Check ice conditions with a local bait shop or Sheriff's Department. • Physically check the ice where you plan to skate with a
- chisel or drill. Ice conditions vary even within a few feet. • If you break through the ice, don't panic. Turn around and exit the same direction you came from. Call 911 and seek warm, dry shelter.

Hennepin County Sheriff's Office

Starry Stonewort Surveys to Continue in 2020

Highly invasive starry stonewort was found in Medicine Lake in 2018. putting Lake Minnetonka in extreme risk for infestation. In response, in 2019, the Lake Minnetonka Association worked with lake experts to survey 16 public and private access sites on Lake Minnetonka. These experts also surveyed over 100 of their privately contracted sites. No starry ston

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