

On The Lake

NEWSLETTER

The LAKE MINNETONKA ASSOCIATION
is 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.



BECOME A MEMBER
and help protect the lake we love.

(See page 7)

Should our lakes be funded like our parks?

Every year, lakes throughout Minnesota host millions of visitors looking for a place to boat, recreate, or just escape from the pressures of everyday life. Minnesota's \$13 billion tourism and recreation industry is built on a foundation of lakes and streams for fishing, boating and swimming. Almost all of the lakes in Minnesota are under public ownership and many provide an important role in outdoor recreation.

The state and several counties, cities, and other governmental bodies operate park departments, many with sizeable budgets, full-time administrators, planners, and maintenance staff. By comparison, government leaves most of the responsibility to manage and pay for the care of our lakes to lakeshore property owners and volunteer groups.

While it can be argued that lakeshore property owners benefit from higher property values and have greater access to lakes than other people, the same is true for anyone living next to a park or state owned land. A study done by the University of Washington found that property values increase as much as 20% next to parkland and 32% next to larger "greenbelt" areas.



Yet, property owners next to parks are not asked to pay for taking care of them. Meanwhile, lakeshore property owners are routinely asked for their time and money to care for our lakes.

In the past three years, the Lake Minnetonka Association has been fortunate to receive grants from the MnDNR, LMCD, and Hennepin County.

Even with these grants, over 75% of bay treatments and aquatic invasive species protection efforts are funded by shoreland property owners.

Minnesota charges \$35/year or \$7/day parking fees at state parks. The parking fees are used to "help maintain and improve the natural resources, facilities, and education and outreach programs." If such parking fees were charged at boat launches in Minnesota, all lake users would share in the cost of taking care of our lakes.

Just on Lake Minnetonka alone, if parking fees were charged at boat launches it is realistic to estimate that over \$1 million could be raised each year. This would provide the resources needed to help control invasive weeds and protect the lake. While it is unlikely a program like this will get through the legislative process anytime soon, the discussion needs to start today.

From The Helm

By Tom Frahm, LMA Board President



Boat Access Fees

Unlike other states, at the present time there are no fees to launch a boat at public boat accesses in Minnesota. There is a small charge for aquatic invasive species (AIS) control on boat licenses; however, this is dispensed by the state without regard to the amount of activity at a boat access. Lake Minnetonka, which is one of the busiest lakes in the state, gets a smidgen of that money via MnDNR grants. Lake Minnetonka homeowners, who already pay exorbitant real estate taxes, are also expected to finance the bulk of the lake management costs required to preserve this beautiful lake. People who enter Lake Minnetonka via public accesses represent a big portion of the boaters on the lake and they pay virtually nothing for the protection and management of this resource.

Years ago, the state determined all residents of Minnesota should have free access to Minnesota lakes. Since the state made that decision a lot of things have changed. We now have AIS invading our lakes, boats are bigger, faster and more destructive to lakes and shorelines, and lake usage has increased many times over. The result is that lake management costs have increased substantially. I believe users of any Minnesota lake should contribute financially to this management expense.

The BIG question: How do we convince the state government to agree that all lake users should share in paying for these increasing lake management costs? This could be a challenge. Convincing fishermen and boat enthusiasts who do not live on a lake to pay for lake management and protection is not going to be easy. To maintain our lakes properly, everyone who uses them are going to need to contribute financially. This is important for Lake Minnetonka's future health and protection.

Proposed Watercraft Operator Permit/Safety Legislation

Lake associations, law enforcement, boat manufacturers, marina operators, and others have joined together to encourage the Minnesota legislature to establish a Watercraft Operator Permit/Safety Program. As a result, early this session, bi-partisan watercraft operator permit/safety bills were introduced in both the House and Senate (HF3787, SF3392). If passed, boaters will be required to take watercraft safety and operation training, and receive an operator permit prior to operating a boat.

HF3787 specifies the Watercraft Operator Permit/Safety Program would be phased in over five years, requiring any boat operator, born on or after January 1, 1987 to receive an operator permit (*note: SF3392 sets the date as July 1, 1987. Differences in House and Senate bills will be resolved in Conference Committee*). The Watercraft Operator Permit/Safety Program will also require boat rental businesses to administer a short boater safety exam to customers.

HF3787 calls for Watercraft operator permits to be phased in according to this schedule:

- effective January 1, 2024, for those born on or after January 1, 2003;
- effective January 1, 2025, for those born on or after January 1, 1999;
- effective January 1, 2026, for those born on or after January 1, 1995; and
- effective January 1, 2027, for those born on or after January 1, 1987.

Operator permits will help the water patrol control reckless and careless boaters, and will lead to a safer and more enjoyable lake for everyone.

The Lake Minnetonka Association supports efforts to enact a statewide watercraft operator permit/safety program.

Stop the Spread of AIS

Multiple studies have found, while over 90% of boaters know the steps they need to take to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS), only about half of them fully clean, drain and dry their watercraft when leaving an access. This is simply not good enough! All boaters must take the time to inspect their boats, trailers, and other equipment before and when leaving a lake, and remove any vegetation or AIS.

Stopping the spread of AIS is the responsibility of anyone who brings previously used water equipment, boats, water toys, or docks into Lake Minnetonka.

Just remember you MUST:

- **CLEAN** all visible aquatic plants, zebra mussels, and other prohibited invasive species from watercraft, trailers, and water-related equipment before leaving any water access or shoreland.
- **DRAIN** water-related equipment (boat, ballast tanks, portable bait containers, motor) and drain bilge, livewell, and baitwell by removing drain plugs before leaving a water access or shoreland property. Keep drain plugs out and water-draining devices open while transporting watercraft.
- **DISPOSE** of unwanted bait, including minnows, leeches and worms, in the trash; it is illegal to release bait into a water body. If you want to keep your live bait, you must refill the bait container with bottled or tap water.

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

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How to Contact the LMA

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Website: www.LMAAssociation.org

LMA BOARD MEMBERS

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© Lake Minnetonka Association

The Lake Minnetonka Association plans to treat non-native, aquatic invasive plants on the following bays in Lake Minnetonka:

Grays Bay, Gideons Bay, Crystal Bay, Phelps Bay, Browns Bay, Black Lake, North Arm Bay, Smithtown Bay, Carsons Bay and St. Louis Bay. EPA/MnDNR approved herbicides will be applied in selected areas of each bay at no more than recommended application rates during May-September, 2022. If a landowner does NOT want treatment to occur adjacent to their property, they must complete the waiver located at www.LMAssociation.org.

Curlyleaf pondweed surveys begin in May and treatments will follow shortly afterwards. Eurasian watermilfoil surveys are done in June, and treatments are generally finished by the second week in July.

Every year, the Lake Minnetonka Association applies to the MnDNR for grants to offset costs of bay treatments. However, the MnDNR awards grants on a "lottery basis" and not all bays may get a grant every year.



Bay Treatment Program Update and Treatment Notice

Bay	2022 PLAN
Black Lake*	Treat 15% of littoral CLP, EWM
Browns*	Treat CLP, EWM
Carmans**	Treat CLP, EWM
Carsons and St. Louis	Treat CLP, EWM
Crystal	Treat CLP, EWM - expand to W and NW part of bay
Gideons	Treat CLP, EWM
Grays	Treat CLP, EWM
Harrisons***	Treat CLP, EWM
North Arm	Treat CLP, EWM
Phelps	Treat CLP, EWM
St. Albans**	Treat CLP, EWM
Smithtown*	Treat EWM
Minnetonka - Misc. Bays	Spot treat for flowering rush

* New bay - treatments will occur only if funding goals are reached
 **Treatments managed by Lake Improvement District
 ***Treatments managed by the Harrison's Bay Association

This year, Crystal, Phelps, Browns, Carsons and St. Louis Bays received grants from the MnDNR totalling \$34,700.

In 2022, the LMCD began offering grants to enroll new bays to the Lake Minnetonka Association's Bay Treatment Program. The grants pay up to 35% of the cost of the initial plant surveys and 25% of the first year treatment cost. By working in partnership with the LMCD, the Lake Minnetonka Association is happy to announce that Black Lake, Browns Bay, and all of Crystal Bay are now part of the Bay Treatment Program. Discussions are currently underway to enroll Smithtown Bay in the program.

We wish to thank the LMCD AIS Task Force and the Board of Directors for their support of the Bay Treatment Program and their efforts to control AIS in Lake Minnetonka.

Invasive Flowering Rush Control Update: Treatments are expected to be done in late June/early July. The Lake Minnetonka Association thanks its members, Tonka Bay Marina, and Northshore Marina for their generous contributions to this program.

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LAKE MINNETONKA ASSOCIATION SPECIAL EVENT

Year of the Bird "Morning Bird Hike" – July 18th



Check-in at 8:45 am / Hike starts at 9:00 am

Lowry Nature Center, 7025 Victoria Dr., Victoria, MN 55386

Would you like to learn how to identify certain bird species? July can be a great time for spotting resident bird species at the Lowry Nature Center. Join us, along with an avid birder & naturalist on an early morning bird hike.

Bring your own binoculars or borrow a pair from the Nature Center.

PLEASE REGISTER EARLY – Space is limited.

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

FREE TO LAKE MINNETONKA ASSOCIATION MEMBERS.

Questions? Call 952-470-4449.

Please note: participants must be ages 13+



Photo credit: Three Rivers Parks/L. Sweet

Bird Trivia



The largest bird native to Minnesota based on its wingspan is the American white pelican. Adult American white pelicans have a wingspan of 8 to 10 feet. As a comparison, an American bald eagle has a wingspan of 6 to 7 feet.

The largest bird native to Minnesota based on its weight is the trumpeter swan. An adult trumpeter swan can weigh up to 30 pounds. By the late 1800's, over hunting led to the loss of breeding populations of trumpeter swans in Minnesota. In 1966, a swan reintroduction effort was started by the Three Rivers Park District, and by 2015 the breeding population of trumpeter swans increased to over 17,000 individuals.

Learning how to be a good neighbor to waterfowl and other animals that share the lake with us is important for their survival.

Human activity can disrupt breeding pairs of waterfowl. Jet skis, motor boats, and shoreline development can impact water bodies and the beds of emergent vegetation where waterfowl nest and forage. This often results in reduced nesting success or abandonment of breeding attempts. Protecting native emergent and shoreland vegetation, and avoiding boating near nesting areas is one more important part of maintaining the legacy of Lake Minnetonka and preserving the richness of the Lake Minnetonka experience.



Lake Minnetonka... Paradise Style

Lake Minnetonka Public Cruise Schedule Through October 16th

- Afternoon Sightseeing Cruises – Mon, Wed, Fri: 11:30 am-1 pm, Saturdays & Sundays: 12-1:30 & 2:00-3:30 pm
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How are the bass biting?

Either bass fishing is getting better in Lake Minnetonka or bass anglers are getting better at catching them.

Lake Minnetonka is one of the best largemouth bass fishing lakes in the U.S. – and hosts between 8-13 bass tournaments every year, attracting bass anglers from across the nation. Fish size and numbers are collected and sent to the MnDNR. Over the past 10 years, data on 30,989 largemouth bass have been reported, and shows a slight increase in both the average number of bass caught each year and the size of the largest bass caught.

Researchers return to Lake Minnetonka for the next phase of zebra mussel control research

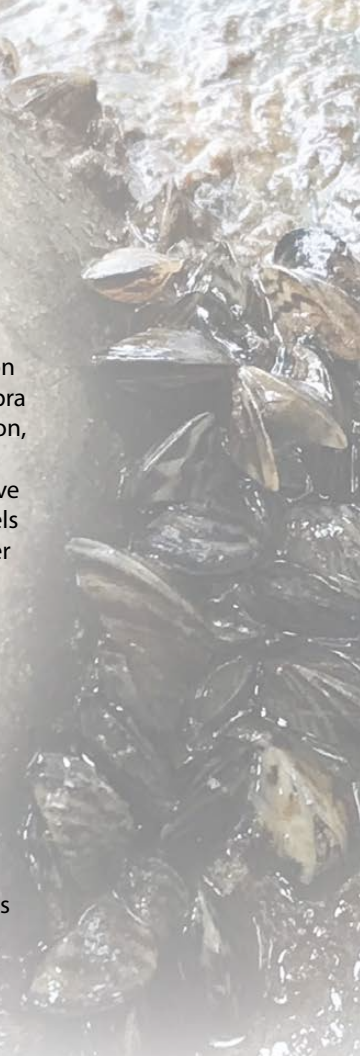
By Angelique Dahlberg and Meg Duhr, Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center

Researchers with the Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center (MAISRC) and U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) have been working since 2016 to improve methods for controlling zebra mussels with copper. Starting with laboratory studies, then progressing to enclosed treatments in lakes, to whole bay treatments, every phase of this project helped identify ways to lower the dose of copper to reduce impacts to non-target species while still suppressing zebra mussel populations. One key insight from this work is that a **“one size fits all” approach to using copper for zebra mussel control is not feasible** because every lake is different and will likely require a tailored approach. Therefore, the current phase of this research examines how lake conditions and water chemistry influence the toxicity of copper.

Last year, the team conducted lakeside trials at Pelican Lake in Crow Wing County to evaluate the predictive value of a copper bioavailability model. **Copper availability to living organisms (bioavailability) changes in response to factors like water temperature, hardness, and concentrations of other ions.** The more available copper becomes, the greater its potential to adversely impact organisms. Researchers are working to build predictive models based on lakeside trials that used variable concentrations of copper and observed the toxicity to zebra mussels and a suite of non-target organisms.

This summer, the research team will return to Lake Minnetonka where data from the lakeside trial will guide decisions on a concentration and application method for open water treatments on Maxwell Bay. Pretreatment studies examined zebra mussel settlement, biotic community composition, and water chemistry. These parameters will then be entered into the model to estimate an effective copper treatment. If copper bioavailability models do help predict a successful treatment with fewer non-target impacts than other approaches, this tool could be used to help managers design more effective future treatments and prioritize where and when to use copper to control zebra mussels.

If you'd like to learn more about this research, on May 25th MAISRC and USGS will be hosting a **community research update** from 7-8:30 PM at the Osprey Picnic Shelter at Lake Minnetonka Regional Park in Minnetrista. All are welcome to join this presentation and Q&A with the scientists leading this research. There will be updates on post-treatment monitoring results from the 2019 St. Albans treatments, and more details on the current phase of the research.



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Bridge Heights... The vertical clearances under the Lake Minnetonka bridges listed below are measured from the ordinary high water level of 929.4 feet. **Give yourself ample room for error** – above average water levels and wakes reduce channel clearance!

Arcola: 14'9"	Emerald Lake: 12'4"	Lost Lake: 11'1"	St. Albans Bay: 12'5"
Black Lake: 9'9"	Forest Lake: 11'3"	Halsted Bay: 14'11"	Tanager Lake: 9'
Boy Scout: 6'11"	Grays Bay: 14'4"	Narrows: 18'3"	Zimmermans Pass: 11'6"
Carsons Bay: 5'8"	Hendrickson: 14'11"	Noerenberg: 12'8"	
Coffee: 13'6"	Libbs Lake: 8'10"	Seton Lake: 12'8"	Source: Hennepin County

Know Your Buoys!

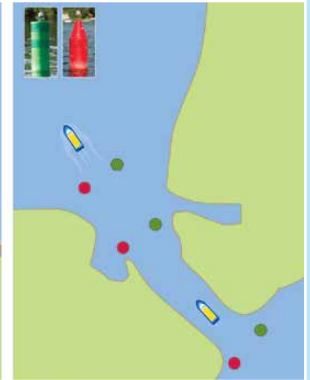
REMEMBER THESE THREE BUOYS. IT CAN SAVE YOUR PROP AND KEEP YOUR TIME ON THE LAKE SAFE & ENJOYABLE



DANGER BUOYS
Identifies potential hazards in the middle of the bay.



POINT BUOYS
Identifies potential hazards between buoy and the closest shore.

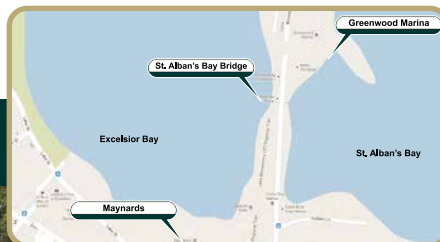


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U of M Wake Study is Making Waves

A new study by researchers at the University of Minnesota St. Anthony Falls Laboratory found that popular wakesurf boats require a greater distance from the shoreline and other boats when compared to more typical recreational boats, to reduce the potential impact of their larger waves.

Researchers compared the wake waves of four boats during their most **typical mode of operations**. Data indicated that wakesurf boats require distances **greater than 500 feet** from the shoreline/docks and other boats (a little less than 1.5 football fields) to decrease their wake wave characteristics to levels similar to non-wakesurf boats.

The U of M hopes to conduct further research aimed at propeller wash interactions with lake bottoms, and an examination of the impact of large waves on aquatic vegetation and shorelines.

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Drinking and boating do not mix. Boating under the influence (BWI) is illegal and is the single greatest factor in fatal boating accidents. If you are caught operating a boat while you are drinking (or under the influence), you may lose your driver's license, along with your ability to drive your boat. All boaters convicted of a BWI will have their boating privileges suspended for at least 90 days. The period of suspension must be between May 1 and October 31 and can span two consecutive years.

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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!

PLEASE JOIN OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY!

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please complete this form and mail it with your tax-deductible contribution to:
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Make checks payable to "The Lake Minnetonka Association" or contribute online: 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 TAX-DEDUCTIBLE.
The Lake Minnetonka Association is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation.

Name(s): _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

City, State, Zip: _____ E-mail: _____

- I would like to learn more about how my bay can join the **Lake Minnetonka Association's Bay Treatment Program** to control Eurasian watermilfoil and curlyleaf pondweed in my bay.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Should Our Lakes Be Funded Like Our Parks?.....</i>	<i>page 1</i>
<i>From the Helm: Boat Access Fees.....</i>	<i>page 2</i>
<i>Proposed Watercraft Operator Permit/Safety Legislation</i>	<i>page 2</i>
<i>Stop the Spread of AIS</i>	<i>page 2</i>
<i>Bay Treatment Program Update.....</i>	<i>page 3</i>
<i>Year of the Bird "Morning Bird Hike"</i>	<i>page 4</i>
<i>Bird Trivia.....</i>	<i>page 4</i>
<i>MAISRC Zebra Mussel Control Research.....</i>	<i>page 5</i>
<i>Lake Minnetonka Bridge Heights</i>	<i>page 6</i>
<i>Know Your Buoys!</i>	<i>page 6</i>
<i>U of M Wake Study</i>	<i>page 7</i>
<i>Drinking And Boating Do Not Mix.....</i>	<i>page 7</i>



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