

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 11)

Balancing natural resource protection and weed control on Lake Minnetonka

Natural lake ecosystems are a complicated web of interconnections and interdependencies that become exponentially more complex when competing and often conflicting human interests are considered. But there are ways to manage lakes to protect and restore their ecosystems and at the same time protect how most people use them.

Lake Minnetonka can be managed to become a weed free, crystal-clear swimming pool of a lake open to unfettered use. But if Lake Minnetonka was managed like this, it would quickly become a dead lake – an unsafe and unpleasant place for most of us to live. Most lakeshore property owners do not want this and understand the value of a healthy lake.

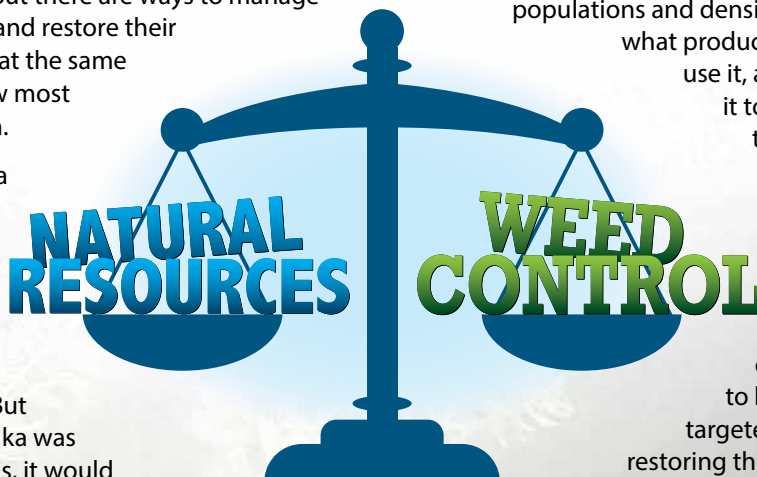
For decades, invasive weeds in Lake Minnetonka were controlled primarily by harvesting. But research done by the Lake Minnetonka Association, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MnDNR), and the US Army Corps of Engineers found harvesting may spread and invigorate growth of invasive weeds. It also found that herbicide treatments were the least

expensive, most effective way to manage invasive weeds lake-wide, and when applied correctly, could result in the restoration of native plants.

By careful monitoring of invasive and native plant populations and densities, we know what product to use—where to use it, and how much of it to apply. As a result, treatments are targeted to areas where invasive weeds are most likely to spread, and where they are most likely to create a nuisance to lake users. This targeted approach is restoring the health of the lake's native plant population.

Controlling invasive weeds will improve the density and diversity of native plants and will lead to healthier macrophyte and invertebrate populations, stabilize lake bottoms and shorelands, and will discourage the spread of invasive plants. It will also benefit native fish species and waterfowl, and enhance fishing and other recreational activities on the lake.

Controlling non-native, invasive weeds bay-wide will help keep them from becoming established in near-shore areas. While there is



(continued on page 5)

From The Helm By Tom Frahm, LMA Board President



Responsibility

After years of talking to many public officials in the state of Minnesota, including legislators, I have come to the conclusion that this state will not take the necessary steps to monitor and control boat accesses to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS). As a result, the only way to fix this problem is for all boaters and lakeshore homeowners to take personal responsibility to stop the spread of AIS.

Fortunately, we have lake associations across the state that can help boaters and lakeshore owners take on this responsibility. The Lake Minnetonka Association and other lake associations are engaged and willing to help people get involved in stopping the spread of AIS. If the users of Minnesota lakes do not take on this responsibility, our lakes will suffer serious harm, and the beauty and recreational use we now enjoy will not be available for future generations.

The Lake Minnetonka Association takes the threat of AIS very seriously and is heavily engaged in preventing its spread. Your support both financially and personally is strongly encouraged and appreciated. If you are not already a member, please join us today.

WE NEED YOUR HELP to find Flowering Rush



In 2019, 2020, and 2021, in partnership with Tonka Bay Marina and North Shore Marina, the Lake Minnetonka Association treated invasive flowering rush on several bays in Lake Minnetonka. In 2021, no flowering rush was found in any of the areas treated, and in 2022, only a few stems were found in the entire lake.

While past treatments have been successful, it is likely that the growing conditions in 2021 and 2022 were not good for flowering rush. **This year could be different, so we are asking you to let us know if you see any flowering rush.**

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 (see photograph). Flowering rush grows in shoreland areas as an emergent plant, and in water up to 20 feet deep.

If you suspect you have found flowering rush, please contact the Lake Minnetonka Association at 952-470-4449 or info@LMAssociation.org.

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



Prevent AIS Spread

CLEAN IT WELL!

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources reminds boaters and anglers to follow Minnesota laws to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species:

CLEAN aquatic plants and animals from watercraft, trailers, and water-related equipment. Take special care – some invasive species are small and difficult to see on your boat or equipment.

DRAIN all water by removing drain plugs and keep drain plugs out while transporting watercraft.

DISPOSE of unwanted bait in the trash.

To remove or kill aquatic invasive species, take one or more of the following precautions before moving to another waterbody, especially after leaving infested waters:

- Spray with high-pressure water
- Rinse with very hot water (120° for at least two minutes or 140° for at least 10 seconds)
- Dry for at least five days

“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

Eric Evenson, Executive Director
Phone: 952-470-4449
E-mail: info@LMAssociation.org
Website: www.LMAAssociation.org

LMA BOARD MEMBERS

Tom Frahm, President (Lost Lake)
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LAKE MINNETONKA ASSOCIATION SPECIAL EVENT!

Planting for Pollinators

Join us for a guided garden tour, with a special focus on how we care for our resident pollinators! Bees and butterflies are the most important pollinators in the world. A close look at their busy flower-to-flower activities is a fascinating experience! Situated along the shore of Crystal Bay, Noerenberg Gardens is regarded as one of the finest formal gardens in Minnesota and is known for its tranquility and spectacular beauty.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28TH

Tour time 3:00 pm • Reservations required

REGISTER EARLY - Space is limited

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workshops@LMAssociation.org

(You will receive a confirmation e-mail)

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Lake Minnetonka Foxes

Kits (pups), Vixens, and Dogs (yep, a male fox is called a dog)

This past winter a number of local and national news outlets ran heartwarming stories about the rescue of four little red fox kits that were found alone and freezing on Lake Minnetonka. The animals were taken to the Wildlife Rehabilitation Center in Roseville where they were cared for and later transferred to a licensed rehabilitator who specializes in foxes.

Foxes are not uncommon around Lake Minnetonka and have learned to adapt and survive in suburban and urban environments. Foxes will find refuge under porches, decks, and in backyards or small plots of land that still have a few trees and bushes. They can live just about anywhere where they can find shelter, food, and a safe place to raise their young. Foxes are omnivores and in natural settings get most of their food from hunting small prey and foraging for bird eggs, grubs, and fruit. But in an urban setting, a recent study found about half their diet is from eating household refuse.

There are two species of fox found in Minnesota, the Red Fox and the Gray Fox. Typically, foxes avoid people and are not dangerous to humans except when they are rabid (which is very rare). A fox's natural tendency is to flee rather than fight but they can become a problem when they associate people with food. While it is best to leave them alone, a fox can be easily scared away by making loud noises, spraying a garden hose in its direction, or taking another threatening action, such as tossing a ball at it. In many instances a fox you may see is simply moving from one hunting area to another and no action is necessary.

Most cats and dogs are not at risk from a fox. A typical adult cat is almost the same size as a fox, so foxes generally are not interested in fighting them. However, pets may be injured if a fox feels there is a threat to its young, and small animals (less than five pounds) could be prey for a fox.

What do I do if I find an injured wild animal?

While it may be difficult to hear, before you decide to rescue a sick or injured wild animal, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources advises, "if you care, leave it there." Wild animal rehabilitation can be difficult, expensive, and has varying degrees of success.

If you choose to help a sick or injured wild animal, here are a few things to consider:

- Do not put yourself in a position where you can be injured. Sick or injured wild animals may bite and scratch even if they appear to be laying quietly.
- Determine if the animal is really sick or injured. Some animal species will behave oddly at different times of year or different times of their lives.
- It may not be possible and safe to attempt to rescue a wild animal. Sometimes, despite the best effort and intentions, an injured animal is just not accessible and unfortunately nothing can be done for them.
- If an animal is still moving around vigorously and is able to flee when approached it is best to leave the animal alone. A prolonged struggle or chase will often put both animal and human rescuers at greater risk.
- Contact your local animal control office or a permitted rehabilitator or rehabilitation center before attempting to handle the animal.



Balancing natural resource protection and weed control on Lake Minnetonka

(continued from page 1)

no feasible alternative to herbicides for large-scale control of non-native invasive weeds, several options are available to homeowners who want to control weeds in front of their property.

Homeowners are allowed to use herbicides on up to 2,500 sq. ft. in front of their property with a permit from the MnDNR. Hand pulling or mechanical treatment (e.g., harvesting, or weed rollers) up to 2,500 sq. ft. does not require a permit.



- A. Hand pulling** – Hand pulling is the most effective alternative to treatments. There are a number of lake service providers in the area that will hand pull weeds and take them away. Weeds may regrow and require more than one removal during the summer but over time will become less of a problem.
- B. Herbicide treatments** – Property owners are encouraged to use a professional applicator to treat their lakeshore. It is common for “do-it-yourselfers” to over apply or incorrectly apply herbicides.
- C. Harvesting** – Privately-owned weed harvesters can cut and remove weeds from your lakeshore, but weed harvesting is rife with problems and should be avoided. Research shows that harvesting weeds will invigorate their regrowth and may spread invasive species to surrounding properties.
- D. Weed rollers** – Weed rollers should be avoided. While weed rollers can clear a small area, they cause unwanted nutrients to be released into the lake and break weeds into fragments that can easily spread to nearby shorelands.
- E. Biologic control** – There are no biologic controls that are feasible for weed control in Lake Minnetonka.

The Lake Minnetonka Association will continue to look for innovative, cost-effective ways to control invasive weeds. But for us to continue our work, we need everyone on the lake to become a member. If you are not already a member of the Lake Minnetonka Association, please take this opportunity to join us! Please visit our website at www.LMAssociation.org, or see page 11 for membership details.

Boating Safety Corner

Have you checked your fire extinguisher lately?

State law requires that all personal watercraft with enclosed engine or fuel compartments carry a fully charged, readily accessible, U.S. Coast Guard-approved fire extinguisher. Boats over 26 feet in length require two or more fire extinguishers.

Fire extinguishers must be replaced every 12 years after their manufacture date, but many fire extinguishers lose their charge much earlier. So it is important to check your fire extinguisher(s) to make sure they are fully charged and in good working condition as part of your spring safety check.



PLEASE REMEMBER:

What goes out on your boat... comes back with your boat!

Broken bottles and litter leave a dangerous and unsightly mess. Help us keep Lake Minnetonka beautiful and safe. Remember and remind others that what you take out on the lake should be brought back and disposed of properly. Let's show our love for the lake and keep it clean.



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Bay Treatment Program Update and Treatment Notice

The Lake Minnetonka Association will treat curlyleaf pondweed and/or Eurasian watermilfoil, both aquatic invasive species, on the following bays in Lake Minnetonka: Grays Bay, Gideons Bay, Crystal Bay, Phelps Bay, Browns Bay, North Arm Bay, Black Lake, Carsons Bay, and St. Louis Bay. Also, if invasive flowering rush plants are found in any part of Lake Minnetonka, they will be spot treated. Only EPA/MnDNR approved herbicides will be applied at no more than recommended application rates during May-September. Products containing glyphosate will not be used. If a landowner does NOT want treatment to occur adjacent to their property, they must complete the waiver located at www.LMAssociation.org/treatment-notice or contact the Lake Minnetonka Association at 952-470-4449.

Curlyleaf pondweed surveys begin in May and treatments will shortly follow. Eurasian watermilfoil surveys will be done in June with the goal that treatments will be completed before July 4th.

Crystal Bay Lake Improvement District Update

Lakeshore residents on Crystal Bay met in March to re-energize efforts to create a Lake Improvement District (LID) on Crystal Bay. LIDs were instituted by the state legislature for three specific reasons: to help provide clean water; to manage lake levels; and, to control aquatic invasive species. In the case of Crystal Bay, residents want to form a LID to provide equitable and stable ongoing funding to manage aquatic invasive species, algae, nuisance vegetation, and water quality in the bay.

LIDs are formed by a petition from lake residents and those who have lake shore access (through associations or by deed). A majority of the residents must approve. There also must be approvals by the cities affected and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

If you are a Crystal Bay lakeshore resident and would like to find out how you can join in this LID effort contact Richie Anderson, Crystal Bay Captain for the Lake Minnetonka Association and Crystal Bay resident, at rich@nsmarina.com.

If you would like more information on how your bay can be a part of a Lake Improvement District, please contact the Lake Minnetonka Association at: info@LMAssociation.org or 952-470-4449.

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| ◆ Caribbean Marina | ◆ Jim Paul's Valley Buick GMC | ◆ MN Inboard Water Sports | ◆ Scherven Financial |
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We thank our Business Members for their many contributions to our organization and to our Lake Minnetonka community. They make the lake a better place to live, work and play!



This year's proposed **Omnibus Bill** prepared by the Minnesota Legislature contains a number of items that are important to Lake Minnetonka shoreland owners and lake users. Watch for an update and details in our summer newsletter:

- Boater education and certification language.
- "Keep It Clean" legislation that makes it illegal to have any refuse outside of an ice house when on the ice.
- Funding for the Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center.
- Funding for carp deterrents in the Mississippi River.
- Loon protection.
- Expansion of state soil health restoration to reduce runoff.
- Improvements to Aquatic Invasive Species prevention programs.

Fish species found in Lake Minnetonka

There are 162 species of fish found in Minnesota's waters. Of these, the following 22 species are found in Lake Minnetonka:

1. Black Bullhead
2. Black Crappie
3. Bluegill
4. Bowfin (Dogfish)
5. Brown Bullhead
6. Common Carp
7. Common Shiner
8. Green Sunfish
9. Hybrid Sunfish
10. Largemouth Bass
11. Muskellunge
12. Northern Pike
13. Pumpkinseed
14. Rock Bass
15. Smallmouth Bass
16. Sturgeon (?)*
17. Tiger Muskellunge
18. Walleye
19. White Sucker
20. White Crappie
21. Yellow Bullhead
22. Yellow Perch

*In 2019 a sturgeon was found in Minnehaha Creek – MnDNR speculated it may have come out of Lake Minnetonka. According to local legend, "Lou," a 10 plus foot long sturgeon, has skulked beneath the waters of Lake Minnetonka for decades.

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What's **THAT** Fish??

Bowfin (Dogfish)

This primitive fish was around when dinosaurs roamed the earth. Bowfins survive in murky, oxygen-depleted water by rising to the surface and gulping air into their air bladders, and can survive out of water for a considerable time. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources reports a farmer once found a live bowfin while plowing a field that had been flooded a few weeks earlier.

The state record bowfin is 12 lb., 9 oz., and 31½ inches long. It was caught in the Mississippi River near Wabasha on September 14, 2012. Bowfins are edible, but are not considered desirable. Bowfins are fast swimmers with powerful jaws and many sharp teeth. They can easily ambush many types of prey, including game and non-game fish, crayfish and amphibians, etc. There are even reports of them preying on small snakes and birds. Like other native non-game fish, bowfins help to maintain ecosystem balance, resulting in healthier fisheries and larger game fish.



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REMINDER: Use only lake service providers with current state permits

When hiring a business to decontaminate, install or remove your boat, dock, lift, or lake-fed lawn irrigation system, first check to see if the business has a **current lake service provider permit**.

Businesses that have completed the required Minnesota Department of Natural Resources training and obtained their lake service provider permit will have a permit sticker in the lower driver's-side corner of their vehicle's windshield.

You can also search the list of companies with current permits at www.mndnr.gov/lsp.

THE MOST COMMON BOATING VIOLATIONS ON LAKE MINNETONKA

The four most common boating violations cited by Minnesota conservation officers are:

- Stowing life jackets in a way that they are not readily accessible.
- Not having a throwable flotation device readily available.
- Failing to use navigation lights after sunset.
- Not having enough life jackets on board; not having the correct size life jackets for passengers aboard; or, having life jackets that are torn or otherwise compromised or unusable.

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Help Keep Starry Stonewort Out of Lake Minnetonka

Starry stonewort has never been eradicated from any U.S. lake, and once established, it can cost tens to hundreds of thousands of dollars to control. For example, an engineering report completed for Lake Koronis, near Alexandria, MN, estimates costs over \$171,000 annually to control starry stonewort in the lake.

Starry stonewort is primarily spread through the movement of water-related equipment. Fragments can get tangled in trailers, motors, anchors and inside watercrafts (boats, canoes, and kayaks). Small bulbils, which may be hidden in mud and debris, can stick to trailer bunks, anchors, ropes, fabric, footwear, as well as scuba, fishing, and hunting gear. A small fragment or bulbil can start a new population.

Starry stonewort will likely be found in shallow water near boat launches and can be identified by its thin, bright green branchlets (branch-like structures) of variable length. They are arranged in whorls (radiating out from a single point) around the stem and a tiny, white, star-shaped bulbil (bud-like structure).

If you suspect you have found starry stonewort in Lake Minnetonka:

- **Note the exact location**
- **Don't disturb the area**
- **Take a photo or keep the specimen**
- **Contact the Lake Minnetonka Association at 952-470-4449, or e-mail info@LMAssociation.org. You can also contact the MnDNR AIS Specialist at www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/ais/contacts.html**

If starry stonewort is introduced into Lake Minnetonka, it can quickly spread throughout the lake, making boating and recreation difficult.

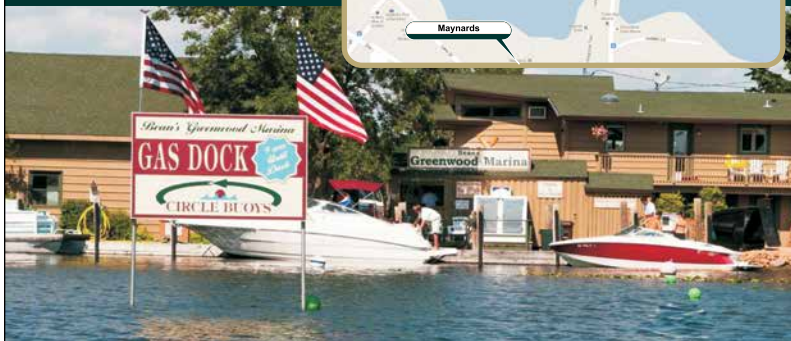
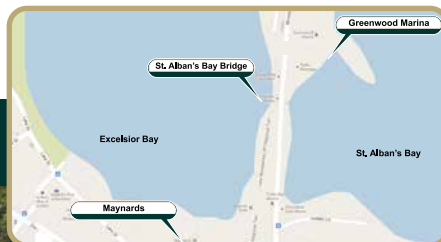


Photo: Paul Skawinski



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Your support makes us stronger!

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JOIN OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY!

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Complete this form and mail it with your tax-deductible contribution to: The Lake Minnetonka Association, P.O. Box 248, Excelsior, MN 55331
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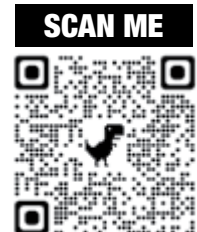
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I would like to learn more about how my bay can join the Lake Minnetonka Association's Bay Treatment Program to control Eurasian watermilfoil and curlyleaf pondweed in my bay.

TO CONTRIBUTE ONLINE
Scan the QR code with your mobile phone's camera or visit www.LMAssociation.org



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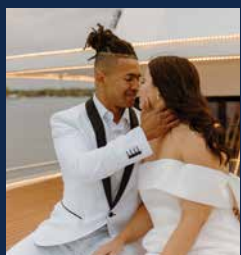
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