

MINNEWASKA LAKE ASSOCIATION
PO BOX 14
GLENWOOD, MN 56334

Newsletter April 2022

Greetings from the Minnewaska Lake Association (MLA). Welcome to the New Year of 2022. The last couple of years were very challenging for everyone and will go into history as the most difficult times on record. This is hoping that all of you and your families are safe and healthy.

The MLA was able to hold our 21st Banquet on JUNE 26, 2021, at the Minnewaska House. We had a full house and it turned out to be one of our best Banquets in the past 21 years. It was great to be able to meet and great all of those that were able to attend. We are all excited and looking forward to the **22nd Banquet that is scheduled for June 25, 2022**. It will once again be held at the Minnewaska House.

Because last year's banquet was a full house, we are recommending that you send in your membership and request for Banquet tickets early to ensure you can get tickets for this great event.

Because the primary funding for the MLA projects are from the annual memberships and banquet we are hoping you will consider renewing your membership and consider making a donation.

In the year 2021 we continued to fund the spraying of Milfoil, the Minn Aqua program and stocked 2,500 pounds of Walleye fingerlings, as well as many other programs to support Lake Minnewaska. Now that we have less Covid 19 restrictions, people are looking for ways to get out and enjoy nature. The MN DNR reported that there were record number of Minnesota fishing licenses issued in 2020 and this trend continued in 2021. Lake Minnewaska was extremely busy last summer. There were record numbers of boaters on the July 4 and Waterama weekends.

Once again it was GREAT fishing last summer. Fortunately there were less Covid restrictions, which in turn allowed more people traveling, vacationing and fishing than normal. It is great to see families able to go out and enjoy great fishing and our great resource. Many times it is a mixed bag of walleye, northern, crappie, sunfish and of course bass. The comments were that it was fun to go out and you seem to always catch fish.

The ice fishing this last winter was good early but there seem to be less fishing pressure this last winter due to increased snow. The good news is that this should help increase the water level in Minnewaska.

With all of the fishing pressure last couple of years it is important that we continue the walleye stocking program we have been doing for many years. We want to thank the Pope County Land & Resource Department for their past and continued financial help with the invasive species projects on Lake Minnewaska.

Thank you all for considering renewing your membership and consider adding a donation, which will allow the MLA to continue to ensure Lake Minnewaska remains the GREAT natural resource that it is today.

We hope you have a great summer and can enjoy the many activities that Lake Minnewaska has to offer. We look forward to seeing you all on **June 25, 2022, at the Minnewaska House, for our 22nd Banquet**.

Sincerely;
Michael Stai, President

WALLEYE STOCKING PROGRAM: As we stated in last year's Newsletter, the MLA started the fingerling stocking program in 1998. We received several reports of numerous 10" to 12" being caught in 2021. The good news is that many people are releasing them which is GREAT. Hopefully EVERYONE will release all of the Walleye's under 15". Walleyes need to be 15" or larger to be able to reproduce. If you keep the small ones they will not be able to help the natural reproduction process.

Also please consider keeping northern pike under 22" and over 26". The state law is that all northern pike 22" to 26" must be released. Per reports from the local MN DNR there is an over-abundance of small northern pike in Minnewaska. The small northern pike are great for pickled fish. Also there is an abundance of large-mouth Bass. Please consider keeping the bass you catch. By keeping the northern pike and bass it will ultimately help the survival rate of Walleyes. In addition Minnewaska provides great sunfish and crappies.

With the abundance of these species provides great fishing success of the many species of fish in Minnewaska, we continue to see more people coming to our lake to enjoy this great natural resource. This helps to support the local businesses and surrounding communities.

STARRY STONEWORT: In 2019 the MLA hired a professional company to apply Cutrine Plus to treat the marina for Starry Stonewort. It has been well documented that Cutrine Plus is a CHELATED Copper which is NON CORROSIVE. There were other chemicals applied to the marina in 2019 that the MLA was not involved with by a different company.

In 2020 and 2021 the City of Starbuck took over the project of treating and trying to control the spread of Starry Stonewort. There were NO chemical treatments made in 2020 or 2021. The city contracted with divers to manually pull and remove the Starry Stonewort in the marina.

As stated last year in the MLA newsletter, MN DNR surveyed the area in front of the marina in 2017 and did not find any infestation in the main lake. In 2021 the MLA contracted with AIS Consulting services to survey 183 acres in the area in front of the Marina to find out if it has spread from the marina.

As it was published in the local paper last year, unfortunately they found ONE fragment in one place out in front of the marina. The MLA is currently contacting companies to get a quote on hiring them to provide scuba divers to go to the GPS coordinate to investigate if this is an isolated area or if it has spread. This project will be conducted this spring of 2022. We will continue to post updates on our website later this spring.

As of the time of this newsletter the MLA has not received any information from the City of Starbuck related to their plans on treating the marina in 2022.

MILFOIL PROJECT (Invasive species): The MLA has been treating the Milfoil in Lake Minnewaska since 2013. We will be treating 18 to 20 acres of this invasive species again in the spring of 2022. We continue to work to educate the home owners and public about the importance of informing MLA Board about possible new infested areas. Finding new infestations early is a very important factor in controlling the spread of Milfoil.

In 2017 we found 38.27 acres that we treated so we have had success in controlling this invasive species. We are required to pay to have a survey done every year before we can get final approval on the number of acres we are allowed to treat from the MN DNR. With your donations and support we have been successful in controlling the spread of this invasive species. We appreciate all of you past donations and support, and hope you will consider to continue to help funding this project in 2022.

If you want to contribute to the Invasive species program, you can indicate on the last page of this newsletter and mail along with your membership and tickets to the banquet to : **Minnewaska Lake Association at P.O. Box 14, Glenwood, MN 56334.**

THRIVENT ENDORSEMENT:

We would like to thank all the members that continue to use this method of helping to support the MLA. This is greatly appreciated. This partnership has proven to be successful and provides a good method to allocate and send your Choice Dollars for the Thrivent Financial members as a donation to the MLA.

MLA WEBSITE – mlalake.org:

We continue to work on keeping our website current. We have posted this newsletter and will continue to post last year's newsletter on our website so it is available to potential new members and the general public. Please talk to your friends and neighbors and direct them to our Website to help them understand the projects that the MLA supports related to supporting Lake Minnewaska. We will also be posting more information related to the MLA banquet on June 25, 2022, as it becomes available. Anyone interested in joining the board to help with our website please contact Mike Stai. We are always looking for expertise related to our website.

MEMBERSHIP:

We are happy to report that our membership grew in 2021 over 2020. We are still down versus the previous years but it was great to see an increase in 2021. We are asking that you please continue to support the MLA by sending in your membership and can attend our banquet in 2022. The banquet, memberships and donations are the primary revenue sources for the MLA. This allows us to continue the important projects related to the lake, to help ensure Lake Minnewaska remains a great natural resource for many years.

We have a strong commitment to educating the youth and the general public about the important factors that impact our lake. With the invasive species like Milfoil and Starry Stonewort it is critical that the MLA continue our efforts to do what we can to try to maintain the great natural resource we have.

We continue to support youth programs such as the Minn-Aqua, Take a Kid Fishing, Pope & Stevens County Water Festival, youth fishing league and other events on the lake that bring people to our communities. We continue to support programs that encourage the youth, seniors and veterans the opportunity to enjoy Lake Minnewaska, through the "MLA Fish and Cruise" program.

Based on the great walleye fishing the MLA stocking program has proven to be successful. With this continued effort we will be able to provide and support the tremendous fishing pressure on the lake during both the summer and winter.

All the donations that the MLA receives are used for education and projects that are directly related to the lake. The MLA membership runs from January 1st through December 31st. If you are already a member of the MLA, thank you for your support. If you are not currently a member, please consider joining.

MLA BOARD:

We would like to encourage you to consider becoming a member of the MLA board. If you are interested in finding out more about becoming a board member please contact anyone of the board members listed in this newsletter. The board members are also listed on the MLA website: mlalake.org.

With each new board member we get new ideas and perspectives that will make the MLA a stronger organization. The primary objective of the board is to do whatever we can to preserve of the great natural resource that we have in Lake Minnewaska

Thank you for past and future support of the Minnewaska Lake Association.

Respectfully;

MLA Board

CURRENT Board Members of the MLA:

Mike Stai, Pres/Tres	320-424-0384	Mary Krueger, Secretary	320-424-1958
Fred Anderson, Membership	320-334-1710	Tony Carlson – Banquet	320-334-4171
Karen Warren – Advertising	612-670-7316	Bill Anderson	320-220-1947
Doug Evink	612-366-1701	Dave Gross	507-227-3776
Ken Knudsen	320-424-1702	Don Sack	763-228-1297
Nancy Koep	320-634-4660	Bill Wright	320-334-0135
Steve Pike	952-239-9865	Jim Morrissey	320-634-5546
Jerry Kirkvliet	320-808-9585	Michael Noland	701-741-7877
Kurt Amundson	320-239-4935	Jim Rinsem	612-875-4023
Steve Nelson	952-715-2318		

Minnewaska Lake Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 14

Glenwood, MN 56334

PLEASE RENEW YOUR MINNEWASKA LAKE ASSOCIATION (MLA) MEMBERSHIP DUES NOW.

The MLA Membership year runs from January 1 – December 31, each year.

Tickets can be purchased at Bobbers Marine in Glenwood, Last Cast Bait & Tackle and Minnewaska Marine in Starbuck.

You can also use the form below to send your payment for your membership dues and/or banquet tickets to the treasurer. If you buy your Banquet tickets using the form below, the tickets will be mailed to you. You can also include a donation, specifically for the Invasive Species Projects, or to our General fund. You do not have to be an MLA member to donate to the MLA for our projects. However, we encourage you to consider becoming a member. All the donations and money that the MLA receives are put back into the lake. We have NO PAID employees and all the board members donate their time.

Help us recruit new members by asking your friends and neighbors to show their support by becoming a member. Membership dues are only \$30.00 per year.

Please check below

____ Annual Membership ONLY = \$30.00

____ Annual Membership + Banquet Ticket = \$50.00

____ Each Spouse or child of member under 18 yrs of age \$20.00 ____ Number to attend Banquet = ____

____ Donation to the MLA General Fund \$_____

____ Special Donation to Milfoil Project (Invasive Species) Fund \$_____.

GRAND total contributed \$_____

**Mail To: Minnewaska Lake Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 14
Glenwood, MN 56334**

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL FORM (Please print and/or include this information with your payment)

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____