

Newsletter April 2019

The winter fishing season started early last fall. There were people walking out on the ice just after Thanksgiving. Because we had very little snow we had good ice conditions for most of December. However, things changed in January and the conditions got more difficult due to the large amount of snow we received. The walleye bite was good early but because of the snow it became difficult to travel to some areas on the lake.

We had a great turnout for the 2018 Minnewaska Lake Association Banquet (MLA). We moved the banquet up to the end of June and we received a lot of good comments. July is such a busy month due to so many other activities. We would like to thank everyone that was able to attend the banquet in 2018 and the local businesses for their generous donations and support. Because of this event we are able to continue to support local youth activities, events and the many projects of the MLA.

The MLA Banquet will be held on June 29, 2019 at Minnewaska House, in Glenwood, MN. Registration starts at 5:00 with dinner being served at 7:00.

In 2018 the Minnewaska Lake Association established the MLA Fish & Cruise program, which was previously known as the "Let's Go Fishing" program. Because the MLA took this program over, we will be able to ensure we can provide the opportunity for many senior citizens and kids to enjoy fishing and boating on Lake Minnewaska for many years.

In the fall of 2018 the MLA once again released walleye fingerlings in Lake Minnewaska. We would like to thank Doyle Fetter for his continued donations and supporting the MLA with these fingerlings. Because of the significant fishing pressure on the Lake this is a very important project to continue to maintain a healthy walleye population.

In 2018 the MLA turned the Starry Stonewort project over to the City of Starbuck. Unfortunately, due to several factors they were only able to apply one treatment to the marina at Hobo Park in Starbuck, MN. Michael Stai met with Pope County and the Mayor of Starbuck to establish a plan for 2019. The MLA agreed to manage this project in 2019. We were able to negotiate a contract with Lake's Restoration and AIS Consulting Services for multiple treatments in 2019. We have already applied for a permit for 2019 and will be treating the Starry Stonewort 3 or 4 times depending on the weather conditions in 2019. The MLA would like to thank Pope County Land and Resource Management and the County Commissioners for their help and support to make this possible.

The MLA has been treating the Milfoil in Lake Minnewaska since 2013. We will be treating this invasive species again in the spring of 2019. We will continue to work to educate the home owners and public about the importance of informing MLA Board about possible new infested areas. This is a very important part of controlling the spread of Milfoil.

We want to thank the Pope County Land & Resource Department for their past and continued support. In 2018 we found that we had killed the Milfoil in multiple locations. We had applied for a permit to treat 40 acres but based on the DNR's inspection of the areas we had treated in 2017 they only found the milfoil in 25.3 acres. Please consider helping us continue this program by making donations to the "INVASIVE SPECIES FUND" today. These dedicated funds will ONLY BE used to fight the invasive species.

In 2018, we add a couple of new board members to help replace some that retired from the MLA board. We are looking for more board members to join our group. If you have an interest in gaining a better understanding of our projects or possibly joining the board, please contact one of the current board members listed in this newsletter. The MLA's project are focused on making a positive impact to ensure we have a great natural resource for the area. All the proceeds and efforts of the MLA are dedicated directly towards the lake.

We hope you have a great summer and can enjoy the many activities that Lake Minnewaska has to offer.

Sincerely;
Michael Stai, President

STARRY STONEWORT

We are happy to report that as of 2018, the Starry Stonewort (SSW) invasive species has only been found in the marina in Starbuck, MN. As previously stated the goal of this project is to try to contain it in the 1.5 acres in the Marina. PLEASE make every effort to inform anyone using the marina landings to do everything possible to avoid transporting the SSW to any other lakes. SSW is an algae, that left untreated would ultimately make the marina unusable. Currently there are 14 lakes in the state of Minnesota that are infested with SSW.

This invasive species can be detrimental to the use of the marina but also even more devastating to the rest of the lake if not contained. Without focused efforts it can become so thick that fish cannot even swim through the area, much less trying to run a boat through.

Since the SSW is currently only present in the marina, the goal of the multiple treatments in 2019 is to try to contain and possibly eradicate it before it can enter the main lake. The MLA is coordinating and managing this project in 2019, along with the support of the City of Starbuck, Pope County Land & Resource Management Department and the DNR.

MILFOIL PROJECT (Invasive species):

The MLA started this project to try to contain and control the spread of Milfoil in 2013. In 2017 the MLA applied chemicals to 38.27 acres of Milfoil in Lake Minnewaska. In 2018 the MLA applied chemicals to 25.3 acres of Milfoil. We have applied for a permit to treat 30 acres in 2019. Because of early detection we have successfully killed the Milfoil in several areas in the lake over the past 5 years. Even the areas that we have not totally killed the Milfoil, we have been successful in thinning the infestation and reducing the number of acres in those areas. Because Minnewaska has over 7,800 acres of water we will never be able to totally eradicate the Milfoil. This needs to be a long term commitment from everyone.

With increased public awareness and through education we are having a positive impact. In order to allow the Lake Association to continue this important project we need your help and support. The cost to treat one acre is \$400.. Because this is an ongoing project, if you have donated in the past, we want to thank you and encourage you to consider donating again. If you have not donated in the past, please consider helping us with this project. Any money designated towards Milfoil will be deposited in a separate bank account, specifically for invasive species projects.

If you want to contribute to the Invasive species program, please send your contributions to the Minnewaska Lake Association at P.O. Box 14, Glenwood, MN 56334. Please put a note on the check designating to the "Milfoil Project". The MLA would like to say **"Thank-You"** for your consideration in continuing to support this great project.

Please note you can include this donation with your membership and banquet tickets. See the last page of this newsletter for more details.

ZEBRA MUSSELS:

We receive a lot of questions related to what impact the Zebra Mussels are having on Lake Minnewaska. As I am sure everyone is aware the lake clarity has increased dramatically. Last fall we received several reports of fewer mussels on some of the docks and boat lifts. Based on research in other lakes there appears to be a natural life cycle that they go through. Please thoroughly inspect your boats and trailers when launching and retrieving them to avoid the possible spread of this invasive species.

The DNR and other entities are continuing research and testing on potential new products, processes and potential predators for possible solutions to have an impact on the Zebra Mussels population. As of today, there isn't any real solution. We will post any additional information as we receive it on our website: mlalake.org.

GREEN SLIME:

We have received several calls and questions related to what has been called the "Green Slime" that was in the lake last summer. Based on our discussions with Pope County Land and Resource management, the MN DNR and the different chemical applicator companies there isn't any chemicals or anything that can be done to address this issue. It is just a natural part of the life cycle of the lake. We will be monitoring the lake again this summer and if it is present again, we will continue to discuss any potential options that may become available in the future.

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 very 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 on our website so it is available to potential new members and the general public. We will also be posting the flyer for the banquet that will be held on **JUNE 29, 2019, at the Minnewaska House.** There is more information on how to register and to get tickets to attend our banquet on the back page of this newsletter.

MEMBERSHIP:

The MLA has a strong commitment to educating the young kids about the important factors that impact our lake. We continue to support youth programs such as the Minn-Aqua, Take a Kid Fishing, Pope & Stevens County Water Festival, and the youth fishing league. This year we also supported the winter ice fishing sponsored by the FFA that was associated with Winterama. As previously stated, the MLA has taken over the former project of "Let's Go Fishing". We established the new entity of "MLA Fish and Cruise". We purchased the pontoon and will continue to provide this project for those individuals that would not otherwise be able to have the opportunity to enjoy the great natural resource of Lake Minnewaska.

The MLA is continuing efforts to address the invasive species like Milfoil and Starry Stonewort in the lake. Without continued efforts these invasive species will have a dramatic negative impact on the ability of the public to utilize the lake. Also, as proven in other lakes in Minnesota, if we don't treat these invasive species it will have a very negative impact value of the Lake Property and the economy of the area.

Because of the MLA's continued efforts in releasing walleye fingerlings each year everyone can continue to enjoy the great fishing we have had for many years. With the tremendous fishing pressure on the lake it is important to continue to restock the lake so we can continue to enjoy this great fishing for years to come.

All the donations that the MLA receives are used for education and projects that are directly related to the lake. Our main goal is to ensure Lake Minnewaska remains the great resource for future generations. We continue to keep the public informed on the MLA projects and things affecting the lake. It is important to realize that some projects do not happen overnight. However, with the common goal of protecting our resources we can and will continue to make a difference.

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. With your support the MLA will be able to continue our efforts to ensure future generations will have the same opportunity as we have today.

BANQUET IN 2019:

The Minnewaska Lake Association banquet will be held on June 29, 2019. Registration and events will start at 5:00 with dinner served at 7:00. It will be held at the Minnewaska House in Glenwood, MN. If you are interested in tickets you can contact any of the board members listed in this newsletter for tickets. Tickets are also available at Minnewaska Bait, Koep's Bait, Bobbers Marine and Minnewaska Marine.

Another option is to send in your membership and banquet ticket money with the form on the last page of this newsletter.

Thank you for your past and continued support.

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. If you are not interested in joining the board but are willing to help with banquet please contact one of the board members.

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

Respectfully;

MLA Board

CURRENT Board Members of the MLA:

Mike Stai, President	320-424-0384	Mary Krueger, Secretary	320-424-1958
Jan Jensen, Treasurer	320-491-0418	Fred Anderson, Membership	320-334-1710
Tony Carlson – Banquet	320-334-4171	Tina Struck – Web Site	320-247-2712
Karen Warren – Advertising	612-670-7316	Bill Anderson	320-634-4489
Ken Knudsen	320-424-1702	Don Sack	320-634-5960
Dave Gross	507-227-3776	Nancy Koep	320-634-4660
Steve Pike	952-239-9865	Mike Nemmers	320-424-0368
Jerry Kirkvliet	320-239-4860	Bill Wright	320-424-1439
Kurt Amundson	320-239-4935	Dean Beck (DNR)	320-634-7323

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.

Use the form below to send your payment for your dues and/or banquet tickets to the treasurer. You can also include a donation, specifically for the Invasive Species Projects. You do not have to be an MLA member to donate to this fund. However, we encourage you to consider becoming a member. All the donations and money that the MLA receives is 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 = \$50.00

___ Each spouse or child of member under 18 yrs of age \$20.00 ___ Number to attend banquet = ___

___ 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)

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____