

MLA Newsletter April 2025

Greetings from the Minnewaska Lake Association (MLA). The spring and summer of 2024 provided great fishing opportunities on Lake Minnewaska. Walleye fishing was excellent, with many limits taken throughout the lake. The sunfish, bass, and northern pike were abundant. This past winter we had a return to more uniform ice conditions. There were many fish houses on the lake and the sunfish, crappie, and walleye fishing was productive.

Minnewaska became recognized as a MN Keep It Clean Lake this year (in conjunction with the 2023 MN State Law) and MLA organized an end of season ice clean-up event in partnership with Lakeside scheduled for March 2, 2025. Unfortunately, the prior week brought unseasonably warm temperatures including a rainstorm and the event was cancelled due to uncertain ice conditions and safety concerns for participants.

MLA held our 24th Annual Banquet on June 29, 2024, at the Minnewaska House. Once again, we had a complete SELL OUT at the banquet. Because of the GREAT support we received from donors and those who attended last summer, it was another successful Banquet.

We are looking forward to the 25th Annual MLA Banquet scheduled for Saturday, June 28, 2025. *It will once again be held at the Minnewaska House. Because of the complete sell-out for the last two years, we highly recommend that you get your tickets early. They will be printed by early April and you can mail in your payment for the memberships, donations, and tickets using the form on the back page of this newsletter. These tickets will be mailed to you. Please be aware: Banquet tickets have been selling out early. We will post to our website when sold out.*

The MLA is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, so your donations are tax-deductible. Memberships, banquets, and donations are the primary funding sources for MLA projects. We are planning several projects in 2025, and we hope you will consider renewing your membership and donating to help us make these projects possible. MLA is dedicated to the preservation of Lake Minnewaska.

The MLA continues to coordinate with the Mayor and City Council of Starbuck regarding Aquatic Invasive Species surveys and treatments in the Starbuck Marina and the main lake- please refer to more details in this newsletter. The reconstruction of the Starbuck Marina lighthouse, which was destroyed in a 2022 storm, was completed in September 2024 and once again serves as a landmark and provides safety for night time boaters.

This past winter, MLA donated and delivered two cabinet mounted Automated External Defibrillators (AED's) to the cities of Glenwood and Starbuck. They are installed on the outside of the concession stand buildings at each of the city beaches as life safety devices and are available year-round to the public if needed for a cardiac emergency.

With all of the fishing pressure that we have on Lake Minnewaska, it is essential that we continue the walleye stocking program we have been running since 1998. We thank the Pope County Land & Resource Department and the MN DNR for their past and continued financial help with the invasive species projects on Lake Minnewaska.

Thank you all for renewing your membership. Please consider adding a donation, which will allow the MLA to continue to invest in the stewardship of our amazing Lake Minnewaska natural resource.

We look forward to seeing you all at our 25th Banquet on June 28, 2025.

Respectfully,

*Steve Nelson,
President MLA*

WALLEYE STOCKING PROGRAM:

MLA started the walleye stocking program in 1998 and has continued to stock thousands of walleye fingerlings every year since. Each fall we stock 2,000 pounds of fingerlings (by DNR permit) with an average length of 6" to 8". This equates to about 40,000 to 50,000 fingerlings every year and has resulted in some of the best walleye fishing in the state. Also, the local DNR has reported stocking 3.3 million fry in Lake Minnewaska in the spring of 2024.

Please consider keeping northern pike under 22" and over 26". State law requires that all northern pike 22" to 26" be released. Per reports from the local MN DNR, there is an overabundance of small northern pike in Minnewaska. The small northern pike is excellent for pickling. There is also an abundance of largemouth Bass. Please consider keeping the northern pike and bass you catch as this will help Walleye and Perch survival rates.

Fishing has been great the last three years with numerous 12-14" walleyes reported so the future looks favorable. MLA recommends releasing walleyes under 15" length to maintain natural reproduction and growth cycles. Please refer to the MN DNR fishing regulations for details on all species and observe daily/possession limits.

With the excellent fishing opportunities on Lake Minnewaska across many species, 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.

THE FIGHT AGAINST AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES (AIS):

MLA is dedicated to maintaining a proactive and evidence-based AIS management plan to help protect the Lake Minnewaska ecosystem, water quality, and recreational opportunities.

We continue to work with respected professional service providers for AIS lake surveying (Blue Water Science) and treatment plans (Tigris) using proven products with minimal ecological impact as recommended by industry experts and backed by scientific studies.

MLA will again in 2025 provide treatments for Starry Stonewort and Eurasian Watermilfoil in the main lake and coordinate with the City of Starbuck for their treatments in the Starbuck Marina. By coordinating the treatment in the marina with the treatment in the main lake it reduces the cost by eliminating additional mobilization.

This year we will proactively expand our pre-treatment lake surveys to include four (4) additional boat landings on the main lake to get an early indication of any incoming AIS concerns. The MLA has received the required permits and secured grants to survey and treat Eurasian Watermilfoil and Starry Stonewort in the main lake in 2025 and we have contracted with Blue Water Science and Tigris for the surveys and treatment applications.

If you wish to contribute to the Invasive Species Program, you can indicate this on the last page of this newsletter and mail your donation along with your membership and ticket orders for the banquet.

STARRY STONEWORT (SSW) PROJECT:

SSW was discovered in the Starbuck Marina in August 2017. SSW has also been found in the main channel just outside the Marina. Over each of the last several years since discovery, the MLA has been proactively working to contain the Starry Stonewort issue including expanded survey areas in 2023 and again in 2025.

There are currently no available treatments to eradicate SSW so it is critical that we continue our efforts to minimize the spread.

Our initial SSW treatments in 2018 covered 1.5 acres. In 2024 we identified and treated 1.7 acres. It is encouraging that the 2024 surveys indicated that SSW appears to be contained within the treatment area. In 2025, the MLA will survey 5 acres outside the Marina plus the areas around four (4) boat ramps on the main lake and provide treatments accordingly.

EURASIAN WATERMILFOIL (EWM) PROJECT:

MLA has been fighting EWM since 2013, initially treating over 40 acres. In the years since, we have had good success treating this aquatic invasive species. In 2023, we began treating EWM with a new product called ProcellaCOR. Although this is a more expensive option, it is very eco-friendly and has shown results in killing and controlling the spread of EWM for up to three years.

Lake Minnewaska covers many acres of water and it is not realistic to think we will be able to fully eradicate EWM from the lake. Due to continuing MLA efforts, we are finding many previous treatment sites where the native vegetation has taken over, stunting the growth of EWM.

In 2024 we found 8.4 acres of treatable EWM and the treatment was applied in mid-July. Post-treatment surveys showed good success in reducing and containing EWM.

The MLA in 2025 will conduct the required pre-treatment meandering survey of 18 acres in June or early July where we have found EWM in the past to determine the infested areas for treatment in 2025. With relatively light snow cover and an early anticipated ice-out this year, we are expecting more weed growth in 2025. The exact timing of the survey and treatments will be based on the weather and water conditions this spring. We will continue our work to control the spread of EWM over the coming years.

THRIVENT ENDORSEMENT:

We would like to thank all the members who contributed to MLA in 2024. Each year we continue to see more donations to support the MLA through this program, which is greatly appreciated. This partnership has proven to be successful and provides a good method to allocate and send Members Choice Dollars as a donation to MLA.

MLA FISH & CRUISE:

MLA has a program called "MLA Fish & Cruise," which aims to enrich people's lives by providing on-the-water experiences for area seniors and veterans. Fishing trips and cruises are provided to these individuals at no cost due to the generous support from businesses and organizations listed on the side of our pontoon. We are looking for more people who would consider becoming Captains or helpers for these outings. We will provide the necessary training to ensure a safe and enjoyable experience.

MLA WEBSITE: www.mlalake.org

Our website was updated to a new platform in 2023. 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 MLA supports related to Lake Minnewaska. If anyone is interested in helping with our website, please get in touch with Steve Nelson. We are always looking for expertise and new insights related to our website.

MEMBERSHIP:

It was great to see MLA membership increase in 2024 and we would like to continue this trend in order to support and expand our important projects. Please reach out to your friends and neighbors and encourage them to become members of the MLA. The membership is only \$30 per year. We ask that you please continue supporting the MLA by sending in your membership and attending our banquet in 2025. The banquet, memberships, and donations are the primary revenue sources for the MLA. This allows us to continue the critical projects related to the lake and help ensure Lake Minnewaska remains a tremendous natural resource now and for future generations.

Between the treatment of Starry Stonewort, Eurasian Watermilfoil, Walleye Stocking, AED's, and other projects, MLA is investing over \$60,000 each year to maintain this GREAT resource. We need your help and support to continue these projects, which bring amazing recreational opportunities and significant revenue to the local businesses and communities in the area.

We continue to support youth programs such as Take a Kid Fishing, Kids Spring Bike Giveaway, Pope & Stevens County Water Festival, and other events related to the lake that benefit our communities. We are proud to provide seniors and veterans the opportunity to enjoy Lake Minnewaska through the MLA Fish & Cruise program.

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

MLA BOARD:

The current MLA Board members are listed below and also posted on the MLA website: www.mlalake.org

The board's primary objective is to preserve Lake Minnewaska for the recreational enjoyment of the local and greater community as well as for the vitality this beautiful lake brings to our area.

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

Respectfully;

MLA Board

Current Board Members of the MLA:

Steve Nelson, President	320-424-9474	Tony Carlson	320-334-4171
Mike Stai, Vice President	320-424-0384	Marty Gjerde	320-295-1435
Bill Anderson, Treasurer	320-220-1947	Dave Gross	507-227-3776
Mary Krueger, Secretary	320-424-1958	Nancy Koep	320-634-4660
Fred Anderson, Membership	320-334-1710	Patrick Krueger	320-424-1957
Tom Silver, Banquet	320-424-0533	Jim Morrissey	320-424-2400
Doug Evink, Fish & Cruise	612-366-1701	Michael Noland	701-741-7877
Kurt Amundson	320-239-4935	Steve Pike	952-239-9865
Angie Anderson	320-220-2130	Jim Rinsem	612-875-4023
Steve Blair	320-368-2794	Don Sack	763-228-1297
Anja Carlson	612-239-6913	Bill Wright	320-334-0135

NOTE: There are NO PAID employees; ALL board members are donating their time to the MLA.

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.

The 2025 MLA Banquet will be held Saturday, June 28 at Minnewaska House.

You can use the form below to send 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 and designate if you want to specify how it should be allocated. 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.

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

Please check below:

___ Annual Membership ONLY = \$30.00

___ Annual Membership + a Banquet Ticket for ONE individual = \$55.00

___ Spouse is \$25; and each child of a member under 18 yrs of age is \$25. Total Additional Meals ___ * \$25 = ___

___ Donation to the MLA General Fund \$ _____

___ Special Donation to Aquatic 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 _____