

Waseca Lakes Association

NEWSLETTER

Web Site: wasecalakes.org



Spring 2021 Edition

Upcoming Events

- Virtual Sign up for Lakeshore & Parks Spring Cleanup. Please volunteer at WasecaLakes.org or click here: [Sign up for Lakeshore and Parks Cleanup](#)

Waseca Lakes Assn

Membership/Renewal Due

The WLA took a year off from activities and did not ask for memberships in 2020. Please note that you should see a membership renewal in this mailing for the 2021-2022 season. Your \$25 membership helps to fund membership projects such as the cleanup day, lake aquatic invasive weed management, kids fishing events, Lakefest activities, lakeshore restoration, doggie bags around the lakes, and other projects to promote water stewardship. Please mail your \$25 check to Dale Schons, WLA Treasurer, 34888 Knoll Circle, Waseca, MN 56093 Thanks for your support.

Ice Out on Clear Lake in 2020 was March 29th

We likely will not make it to March 29th in 2021. Go to the “water monitoring” tab at the WLA website to find the ice out on Clear Lake dating back to 1874

Doggi Bag Dispensers

We have replaced the original plastic dispensers with new aluminum models. Help to keep our lakes clean by using these as we average over 3000 bags dispensed per year. We maintain eight dispensers around Clear and Loon Lakes.

Clear Lake Weed Issue

Until 2020, Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM) had not been a big issue in Clear Lake as Curlyleaf Pondweed (CLP) had been the invasive weed of concern. But by late last summer, EWM was covering large areas of Clear Lake. See the back side of this newsletter for more information on what both the WLA and private landowners can do.



Eurasian Watermilfoil in Clear Lake, August 2020

Stewardship of Our Waters

Past Invasive Aquatic Weed Management of Clear Lake

Invasive weeds such as curlyleaf pondweed (CLP) makes it difficult for swimmers and boats, and also cause the green algae blooms in early summer. In 2012, the Waseca Lakes Assn applied for the first treatment of CLP in Clear Lake and the 30 acres treated showed good results. We have treated problem areas each year since spending about \$7500 per year and plan to do the same in 2021. We feel this has helped to keep CLP in check and improved water clarity. Now we have an issue with Eurasian watermilfoil that needs to be managed.



What the Waseca Lakes Assn is Doing

The WLA is a 501c3 non profit and is eligible to apply for AIS management grants, but we can only conduct “lakewide” treatments and must stay 150 ft from any shoreline.

We have applied for grant funding from both the MN DNR and Waseca County to help offset aquatic invasive species (AIS) treatment in 2021. DNR grants require the WLA to hire a professional for a lake delineation (mapping the occurrence of an AIS) prior to a permit being granted for treatment. We are projecting a cost of up to \$20,000 in 2021, half for continued management of CLP in May, and half for EWM which is likely an early July treatment. Your membership helps to offset our portion of the cost.

What Private Lake Home Owners Can Do

Private landowners are not eligible for DNR AIS grants, but can have a near shore treatment done by a licensed applicator. This is permitted through the DNR Aquatic Plant Management Program. You can treat up to one half of your shoreline or 50ft, which ever is less. A delineation or professional mapping of the area is not required for a private property application.

If you are interested in getting your shoreline treated in 2021, I would suggest you work through a licensed aquatic applicator who can take care of the permitting for you. We have used Cory Culbert of Lakescapes LLC of Waterville, MN for our lakewide treatments and have been very happy with his work. You can download his application “Near Shore Plant Mgmt Application” with treatment information and costs on our website at: WasecaLakes.org