

Waseca Lakes Association

NEWSLETTER

Web Site: wasecalakes.org



May 2002 Edition

In this Issue!

- Special Water Monitoring Program insert details the WLA volunteer program.
- DNR update on Clear Lake.
- WLA board hires Bolton and Menk, Inc. as Storm Water Management Project Consultant.
- Loon Lake Project update. Attend the walking progress tour as part of our June meeting.
- Enter your boat in the 4th of July boat parade.

Do You "Got Mail"?

Please send your email address to us at: info@wasecalakes.org so we can alert you of meetings and newsletters instead of buying stamps and post cards. If you have already responded to an email asking if you want email notices vs regular mail, we thank you. Meeting notices and newsletters are always online at wasecalakes.org



Informed on the Issues?

Each WLA monthly meeting has an educational program to help you become informed with the facts on the many issues of lake water quality and management.

May Meeting: Monday, May 20th, 7 pm at Agrilink Foods (use east entrance). Roger Ashland, plant manager will explain Agrilink's water handling and discharge.

June Meeting: Monday, June 24th, 7 pm at Loon Lake Park. Burger fry and an update on the Loon Lake project.

Other Events

- Monday, May 20th, 12 noon at Thompson's Boathouse. Anyone interested in working on WLA communication projects.
- Thursday, July 4th, Lakefest at Clear Lake Park. Participate in the boat parade and WLA booth.
- July 24-28, Waseca County Fair, visit or help with the WLA booth.

Loon Lake Shoreline Project

"IT'S A GO" Attend the June meeting and watch for details. Removal of rip rap is the first step and is just days away.

- Jerry Kuhns, Boyd Fuller, and Ron Purcell

Waseca Lakes Association News

DNR Update on Clear Lake

During April DNR fisheries crews were busy collecting 1-2 million northern pike eggs from area lakes which included Clear Lake to supplement lost natural reproduction. Most of the seasonally flooded wetland habitat that pike prefer for spawning has been removed or negatively altered around many of our area lakes making stocking necessary to maintain this fishery.

Approximately 100,000 northern pike fry were stocked in Clear Lake this spring. The stocking was split between the spawning area and behind the ball fields and campground. Spring rains will move these fish into the lake after they have had a chance to grow. Crews have also stocked 400 pounds of yearling northern pike over the last week, these fish averaged around a pound each. 675,000 walleye fry are stocked two out of every three years. Presently, walleye numbers look favorable in Clear Lake with most fish ranging between 12-17 inches.

-Todd Kolander, DNR Fisheries

The WLA has voted to place voluntary fish release signs around Clear Lake. We have worked with the DNR on the wording and will share expenses with the Waseca Sportsman's Club.

The signs will read:

*Help Improve Your Fishing; Release
Walleye under 14"
Northern under 30"*

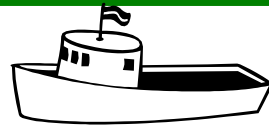
- Mike Connors

Bolton and Menk Hired as Storm Water Consultant

Results of the water monitoring program showing a high phosphorus load entering Clear Lake from Gator Lake (near Barney's) from the city storm sewer system. Reducing the high phosphorus load and high water inflows from the storm sewer system are the focus of the storm water management committee now led by Bolton and Menk, Inc of Mankato.

The WLA board has signed a contract funded via our Blandin grant to evaluate issues such as watershed limits for point sources flowing into Clear Lake, inflow, outflow, nutrient loading and flushing rates. The goal is for the committee to use this information working with the city, county, and other agencies to implement long term and practical solutions.

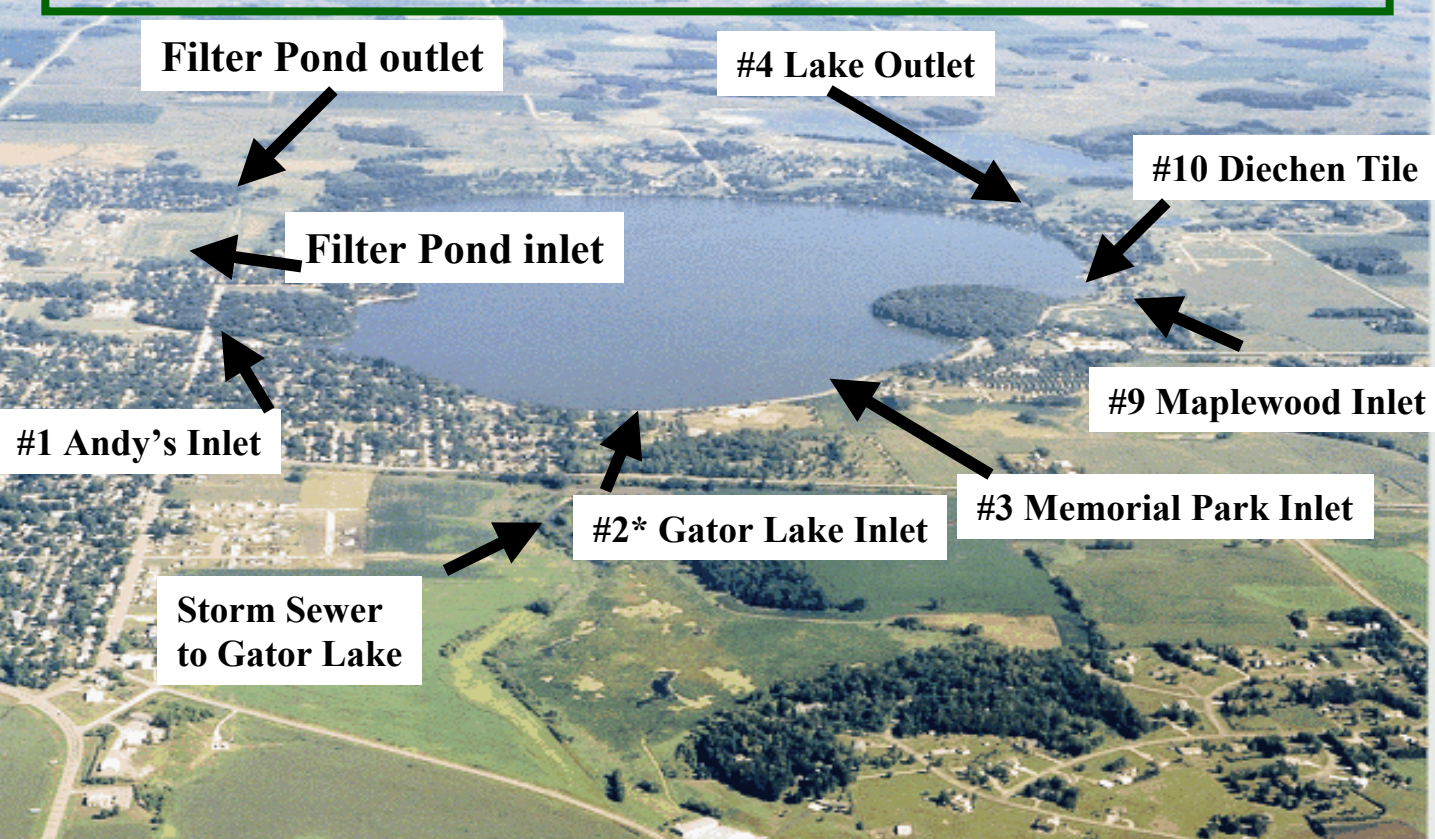
- Dale Schons, Storm Water Mgmt.



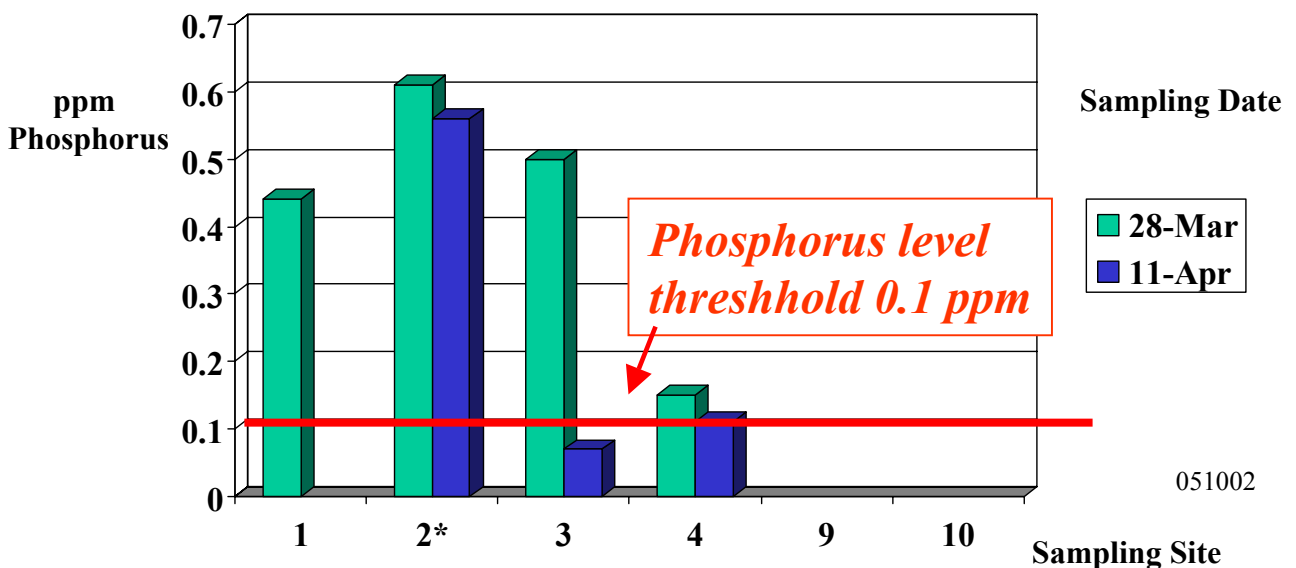
Enter the Boat Parade

The Lakefest boat parade met with much success last year. Who can unseat Hank Olson of his traveling paddle trophy? Parade theme is patriotic or "anything" and starts at 3:30 pm on July 4th from the north shore. For details and to join the fun, call Rick Roberts at 835-1207.

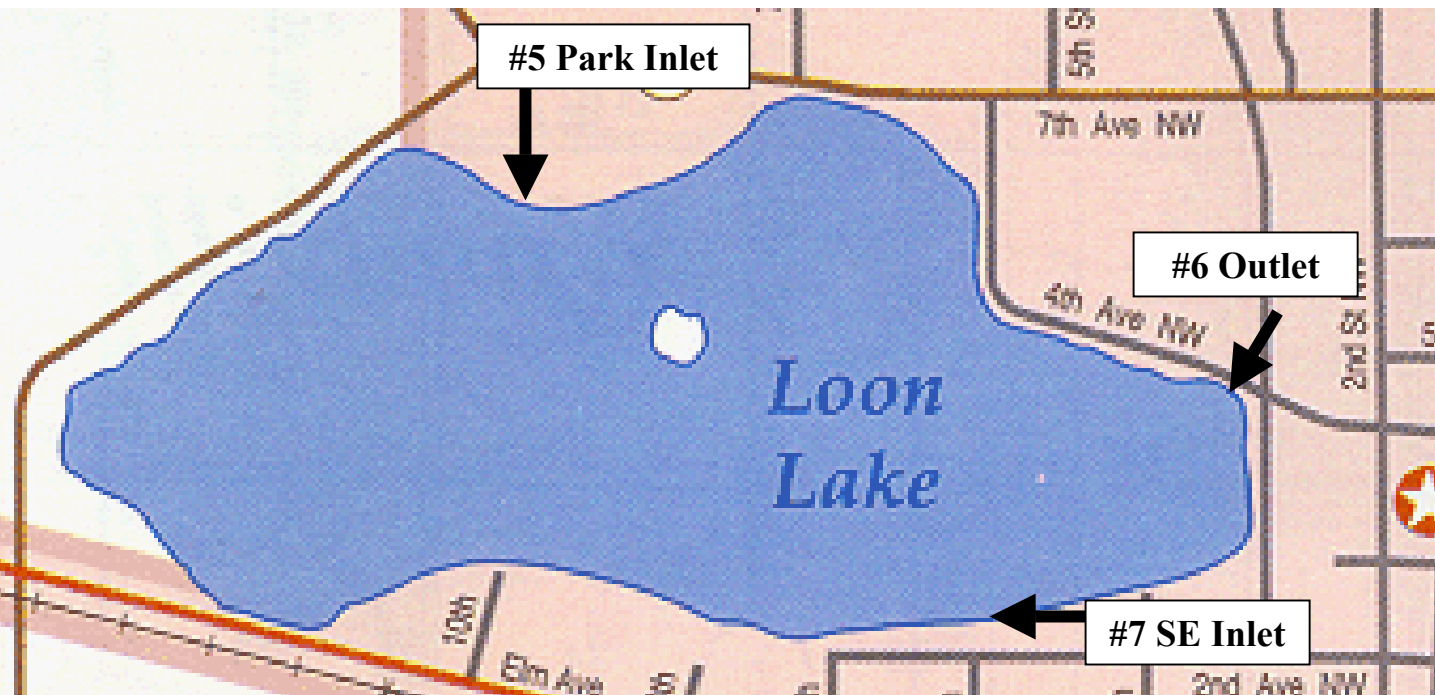
Most experts agree that the top two factors affecting water quality in Clear Lake are storm water management and septic systems. Monitoring information will be used to address the storm water issue as that is how phosphorus enters the lake. Gator Lake is the biggest concern since it probably contributes as much storm water volume and phosphorus as all the other inlets combined. Hopefully, eventual annexation and completion of the trail/road around the lake will eliminate the septic problems. - Duane Rathmann



2002 Waseca Lakes Association Clear Lake Phosphorus Monitoring Sites



Volunteers collect 13 samples every two weeks at the Clear and Loon Lake sampling sites. Jim Zimmerman runs the samples to the lab in Janesville for phosphorus analysis. In addition, two samples in each Loon and Clear Lake are taken every month for water clarity using a secchi disk. This information is forwarded to the Cannon River Watershed Partnership and eventually the MN PCA. – Hank Olson and Dave Baldini, Water Monitoring co-chairs.



2002 Waseca Lakes Association Loon Lake Phosphorus Monitoring Sites

