

Waseca Lakes Association

NEWSLETTER

Web Site: wasecalakes.org



Summer 2010 Wrap Up

Meeting Notice: Monday, September 27, 7pm at the county highway building: WLA meeting on Gaiter Lake project. Please read article below.

Other Upcoming Events

- Saturday, October 16th, 9:30am to noon, city buckthorn pull at Maplewood Park.
- Monday, October 25th, 7pm at the county highway building: Mark Lieferman, Waseca county planning and zoning administrator meeting with county lake organizations.
- Monday, November 29th, 7 pm at the county highway building, topic TBD.

Gaiter Lake Storm Water Project Put On Hold

The project was put on hold by city engineer Russ Stammer, who notified the city council and county commissioners in June. Up for debate is the significance of the observations that led to the recommendation:

1. No visible plumes of sediment at the outlet near Barneys Drive In.
2. City crews found a pipe upstream of Gaiter Lake plugged with soil, so this source was deemed inactive.
3. The Pondview addition storm water pond was built over ditch 15-1 in 2005. CD 15-1 no longer discharges directly into Clear Lake.
4. County Ditch 15-1 sampled in 2010 showing no high phosphorus levels.
5. MPCA will complete a TMDL for Clear Lake in 1-2 years with recommendations.
6. Project consultants, engineers Bolton & Menk, and attorneys Rinke & Noonan no longer recommend proceeding.

Is Clear Lake "Cleaning Up" as stated in the Waseca County News following the June 1st mtg? While the source of the problem is being debated, 2010 water clarity tests (secchi disk tests) by the WLA show no significant change compared previous testing.



Clear Lake is green with 1.5 ft clarity since August 15

Clear Lake is an Impaired Water and Needs Attention:

Clear Lake was listed as an impaired water by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency in 2004 due to "nutrient/eutrophication", (high nutrient load of phosphorus). Standards are set on a wide range of pollutants including bacteria, nutrients, turbidity, and mercury. The Federal Clean Water Act (section 303d) requires states to:

- Assess all waters to determine if they meet water quality standards
- List waters that do not meet standards and provide updates. (2004, Clear Lake)
- Conduct total maximum daily load (TMDL) studies in order to set pollutant reduction goals needed to restore waters. (Clear Lake scheduled for 2011)

Stewardship of Our Waters



Dogi-bag dispensers were purchased by the WLA in 2008 and installed by the city parks departments around Clear and Loon lakes to promote a cleaner lake shore, reduce fecal matter in our lakes, and raise public awareness and stewardship of our lakes. WLA members purchase replacement bags and fill the dispensers as they are emptied. Average usage each year since installation is approximately 3000 bags.



Loon Lake Fish Kill and Aerator Needs

At our August meeting, Craig Berberich, from the DNR fisheries office in Waterville reported that they were unable to obtain funding for a fall 2010 reclamation of Loon Lake. We will continue to work with Hugh Valiant and Scott Mackenthun of the Waterville Area Fisheries office to reclaim Loon Lake in 2011, then restock and install a new aerator system in 2012. At our April meeting, it was discussed that a recent netting survey that showed very few fish other than black bullheads remaining in Loon Lake after a tough winter, thus prompting the need for reclamation.

Pondweed Removal in Clear Lake

At our August meeting we met with invasive plant specialists from the DNR office in New Ulm. The objective was to begin a curlyleaf pondweed removal program in Clear lake for 2011. We will examine either working with a DNR program for pondweed removal when it is announced for 2011 or working with a private contractor on a smaller scale. Pondweed removal programs can cost several hundred dollars per acre.

The 2nd Annual Waseca Triathlon held on Sunday, August 1st at Clear Lake Park was directed this year by Final Stretch from Nerstrand. Dale Schons of the WLA served as volunteer coordinator; special thanks to Dale for all his work. Approximately 40 of the total 95 volunteers were from the Waseca Lakes Assn. For our help on the event, Final Stretch donated \$1000 to the WLA to fund some of the projects described in this newsletter. This is great community event with that brings people into town and highlights our lakes.

