

Waseca Lakes Association

NEWSLETTER

Web Site: wasecalakes.org



Winter 2005 Edition

March Meeting Notice:

Monday, March 28th, 7pm at county highway building.

Coming Events

- ✓ Monday, March 28th, 7:00 pm at the county highway building. Craig Berberich of the DNR fisheries division will discuss their activities on area lakes.
- ✓ Monday, April 25th, 7:00 pm at the county highway building. Balancing community development and protection of our area waters.
- ✓ Saturday, April 30th, 4th Annual Lakes and Parks cleanup. Meet at Maplewood Park at 9:00 am.
- ✓ Monday, May 23, Monthly WLA meeting.
- ✓ Monday, June 27, Annual Loon Lake Picnic.

Please Protect Our Waters: Use non-phosphorus fertilizers to reduce algae

Phosphorus containing fertilizers are no longer allowed in the city unless a soil test indicates that it is needed or if you are establishing a new lawn. The fertilizer analysis on the bag should have a zero in the middle such as 10-0-15.

Did you know you can download this newsletter from our web site using the newsletter tab at wasecalakes.org?



WLA Joins Ti-County Coalition of Lake Organizations

Because of concerns of the quality of our lakes and streams, a group of lake associations from Blue Earth, LeSueur, and Waseca counties, with the aid of the LeSueur County Environmental Services and the Minnesota Lakes Assn has formed a Coalition of Lakes known as the "Tri-Country COLA".

The WLA board approved joining the newly formed COLA to learn from other lake associations and to lend support on common issues. Current members besides the Waseca Lakes Association include Lake Elysian Watershed, Lake Francis, Lake Volney, Lake Washington, German Lake, Greater Jefferson-German, and the Waterville Lakes Assn.

If you are interesting in attending COLA meetings held the 2nd Wednesday of each month in Waterville, please contact Mike Connors at 835-5787.

Water Improvement Efforts

WLA Joins the Citizen Lake-Monitoring Program

The WLA board approved joining the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Citizen Lake-Monitoring program beginning this spring. Clear Lake will be measured for water clarity using a secchi disk on a weekly basis.



Information gathered will be entered in the MN Pollution Control Agency website to track water clarity which is affected by algae growth, sediment, and water color. Anyone interested in assisting with the lake monitoring program this year in Clear Lake should contact Duane Rathmann at 835-2373. You will need access to a boat to monitor the same spot each week.

We are also looking for someone to begin a similar water monitoring program on Loon Lake.

Mark Your Calendar for Saturday, April 30

Annual lakeshore and parks cleanup.
Meet at 9:00 am at Maplewood Park.

WLA Encourages Action on Storm Water Management in 2005

In a March 8th letter from the WLA board to city engineer Fred Salsbury, the WLA asked for specific action to begin addressing the high nutrient flow into Clear lake from storm water.

The WLA letter asked for:

1. Abandonment of County Ditch 15-1. The ditch has been shown by monitoring, completed by the Waseca Lakes Association and Bolton and Menk to be the major contributor of nutrients to Clear Lake. Presently storm water coming from this ditch system receives no filtering. We know now that CD 15-1 is delivering direct storm water runoff to Clear Lake. Because Clear Lake is now listed as an impaired water in the state of Minnesota, it would seem prudent to do everything possible to improve this situation.
2. Following the abandonment of CD-15-1 make the decision either to totally abandon the ditch or redirect the outlet back into Gaiter Lake. This will provide treatment to the storm water before it enters Clear Lake. This modification will improve nutrient removal thus reducing nutrient loading to Clear Lake.
3. Secure additional flowage easements around Gaiter Lake and install a flow control structure that would allow management of the water level as needed.