

# Waseca Lakes Association

# NEWSLETTER

Web Site: [wasecalakes.org](http://wasecalakes.org)



## Winter 2007 Edition

### *Upcoming 2007 Activities:*

- Monday, January 29<sup>th</sup>, Ron Anderly, will represent a grass roots effort to form a rural sewer district on the east side of Clear Lake. He will explain the concept of running sewer from rural properties to the city sanitary sewer. This has the potential for a very positive effect on the water quality of Clear Lake. 7 pm County Highway Building.
- Monday, February 26<sup>th</sup>, TBD
- Monday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, (Tentative) Bolton and Menk design study report on Gator Lake storm water diversion project.

### *Landscaping During 2007 Clear Lake and Trail Project*

Lakeshore owners affected by the 2007 Clear Lake and trail project construction can help improve lake water quality through landscaping and shoreline restoration. We have still not heard on our grant application for landscaping and shoreline improvements, but you will be contacted as soon as we have more information on a funding help through the WLA from a DNR grant program. Tree and shrub plantings are part of the road and trail project, please contact the county for details.

Thanks to the Maplewood Task Force and volunteers who helped remove buckthorn from Maplewood Park on October 28<sup>th</sup>.



# Lakes; Frequently Asked Questions

**Q:** What causes the foam on my shoreline?

**A:** In most instances the "foam" we see on the surface of our lakes and streams is natural. It's created by a combination of natural organic compounds (such as decomposing plants and animals) in the water and mixing air with these compounds. The mixing or agitation in lakes is commonly caused by wind and wave action; in streams, it may result from the water flowing through a stretch of rapids or over a dam. As with other things that float on the surface (like some algae blooms), the foam will often collect on a downwind or downstream shore and although it may not be aesthetically pleasing, it is natural and harmless.

**Q:** What causes the blue-green scum (looks like spilled paint) you see on some lakes?

**A:** This is a very common question in the summer. In lakes that are over-enriched with nutrients like phosphorus and nitrogen, algae tend to prosper and create "algae blooms." One group in particular, blue-green algae (Cyanophytes) can be quite bothersome. Blue-greens tend to form large colonies that float on the surface of the water. Nuisance algae blooms can be especially pronounced when we get the warm water and hot, calm, "dog days" of summer. The characteristic paint-like appearance and noxious odors result from the decomposition of the algae.

Since we can't control the water temperature, the best thing we can do is to reduce the amount of nutrients getting into the lake. This can best be accomplished by reducing the amount of phosphorus and nitrogen from man-made sources such as lawn fertilizer, and runoff from cities, cultivated fields, feedlots and a myriad of other sources. Though the response will not be immediate, it is the best long-term solution to minimizing the frequency and intensity of algae blooms.

## ***Snow Village Moves On to Clear Lake***

***The recent cold weather has once again turned Clear Lake into a village. Reports are that the lake ice depth averages 12" as of January 21.***



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