

# Waseca Lakes Association NEWSLETTER

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



## Winter 2009 Edition

### January 2009 Meeting Notice:

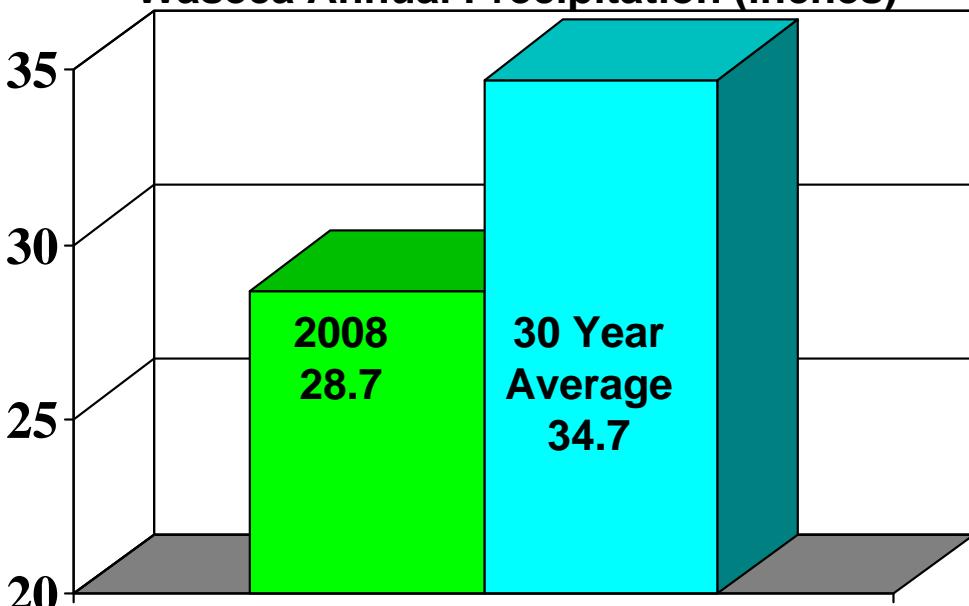
*Monday, January 26th, 7 pm at the county highway building,* Agenda will include:

- Update from Emily Hutchins, who works for the area DNR wildlife section as a Private Lands Specialist. She will talk about what her job entails including the DNR Private Lands Program and some of her area projects.
- Possible shoreline projects for 2009, Joan Mooney.
- Update catch and release signs on Clear Lake.
- Assistance at the Kids Ice Fishing Contest Feb 22nd.

### Why are the lake levels so low?

Many have commented this last fall and winter about the low water level of our area lakes. The simple answer seems to be that we just didn't get as much precipitation in 2008 as normal. Some have also suggested that the new outlet structure on Clear Lake was set lower than the one it replaced, but verifying that point with the DNR shows the level of the outlet did not change. The records at the Southern MN Research and Outreach Center in Waseca show that we were almost 20% below average for 2008.

**Waseca Annual Precipitation (inches)**



# Stewardship of Our Waters

## MN Constitutional Amendment Passes

While the exact funding mechanisms to utilize the 3/8% sales tax are not yet set, the amendment allocates 33% for water quality, 33% for wildlife habitat, 19.75% for arts and cultural resources, and 14.15% for parks and trails. It is likely that the legislature's appropriations will be advised by the Clean Water Council. The CWC is a 23 member council appointed in 2006 to provide advice to the legislature and executive branches on the administration of the Clean Water Legacy Act. It is likely that citizen engagement and education programs will be some of the priorities of the group.

## Minnesota Waters Conference in Rochester in May, 2009

The Waseca Lakes Association belongs to Minnesota Waters, a state wide non profit consisting of the former Minnesota Lakes Association and Rivers Council of Minnesota. The Lakes and Rivers Conference will be held at the Rochester Mayo Civic Center May 7-8, 2009. The conference will feature more than 50 workshop sessions on topics including:

- Gathering and using water quality data
- Addressing aquatic invasive species
- Global climate change: effects on MN surface waters
- Clean water funding
- Land use and shoreland management
- Building healthy, effective, citizen organizations

If any WLA member is interested in attending, please let us know.

## Shore Line Grants for Clear Lake Still Available

Please check our website at [wasecalakes.org](http://wasecalakes.org) or contact Joan Mooney if you are interested in help on lakeshore restoration planning and taking advantage of the DNR block grant awarded to the Waseca Lakes Association.

## Water: An Exhibit at the MN Science Museum

On January 30, the MN Science Museum in St Paul will open its new exhibit, Water. Visitors will learn about the scientific, cultural, and environmental aspects of water in unique and unforgettable ways. The exhibit is on display from Jan 30 to the end of April 2009.

## Good Fishing on Clear Lake this Winter?

If you have gotten some nice sized walleye ice fishing on Clear Lake this winter, it is likely the result of a fall 2008 DNR stocking from Wita Lake near Mankato. Wita Lake has been used by the DNR to raise walleye and then transport the fingerlings to area lakes for stocking before Lake Wita froze out each winter. In recent winters Lake Wita did not freeze out resulting in some large walleye remaining in the lake. This fall the DNR deposited about 15,000 lbs of larger 2-3 lb walleye into Clear Lake. These transplanted walleye tend to be more active and more likely to find your hook .