

Waseca Lakes Association

NEWSLETTER

Web Site: wasecalakes.org



Winter 2011

Meeting Notice: Monday, January 31, 7pm at the county highway building: Session #1 on revisiting storm water inflow to Clear Lake (formally known as the Gaiter Lake storm water project). MN DNR Wetlands Area Mgr, Jeanine Vorland.

2011 Calendar of Events

- Monday, January 31st: 1st in a series of meetings to address the former Gaiter Lake project. MN DNR Wetlands Area Mgr, Jeanine Vorland.
- Sunday, February 20, Kids Ice Fishing Contest on Clear Lake
- Monday, February 28th: 2nd meeting to address the former Gaiter Lake project. Aaron Wills, Cannon River Watershed Partnership and Shaina Kesely, MPCA watershed project manager.
- Monday, March 28th: 3rd meeting to address the former Gaiter Lake project
- Friday April 8 or 15 (TBD), Legion Burger Fry to benefit Loon Lake Aeration
- Saturday, April 23rd: 11th annual lakeshore and parks cleanup at Maplewood Park
- Saturday, June 11th: Take a Kid Fishing event at Maplewood Park
- Monday, July 4th: 8th Annual Lakefest Freedom Run at Clear Lake Park
- Wed – Sun, July 13-17th: WLA booth at the Waseca County Fair
- Sunday, July 31st: 3rd Annual Waseca Triathlon at Clear Lake Park
- Sept – Nov: Monthly meetings TBD held last Monday of the month

Waseca Lakes Assn to Receive the James J. Donahue Award

While your WLA board of directors met in December for a 2011 planning session, they were presented an invitation by Waseca chamber executive director Kim Foels with notification that the WLA would be receiving the James J. Donahue Award at the upcoming Waseca Community Awards Banquet January 29th. Thanks to all who have contributed to this organization resulting in this recognition.

Walk The Walk – Actions You Can Take for Healthier Lakes

- Attend informational meetings and volunteer for WLA projects.
- Keep grass clippings, yard waste, pet waste, household and garden chemicals off of the streets and out of the lakes.
- Leave an unmowed natural area where water runs off your property. If you live in Waseca, it probably goes to a lake!
- Get to know your neighbors and help them do the right thing for our lakes.
- Minimize impervious areas on your property to reduce run off.

Stewardship of Our Waters

The Former “Gaiter Lake” Stormwater Project

At our December WLA board meeting, we discussed how to continue efforts to improve the water quality of Clear Lake, our local impaired water. The project once known as “Gaiter Lake” is on hold due to uncertainty on effectiveness of treatment methods proposed and to some extent uncertainty on sources of nutrient flow into Clear Lake. We decided to take a step back, scrap the “Gaiter Lake” tag, and bring a series of speakers during our Jan-March meetings to re-access what we know, what we need know, and what small steps we might be able to make in the next 1-2 years. Additional speakers may include engineering firm opinions and other officials with familiarity with the issue. To that end, we will summarize information gained during the Jan-March meeting schedule and present the information and recommendations to the city council and county commissioners by April. The TMDL process beginning in 2011 will also generate recommendations, but not for several years, so we wanted to be proactive looking for some positive steps in the interim.

Loon Lake Fish Stocking and Aerator Needs

At our August 2010 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. In support of that effort, the Waseca Lakes Assn will be sponsoring a Saturday night burger fry at the American Legion with proceeds going towards the Loon Lake reclamation and aeration project. We will likely pick either April 8th or 15th as the date at our meeting on Monday, January 31.



Curly Leaf Pondweed is the invasive weed that grows early in the spring to water surface, then starts to decay by late June resulting in algae blooms.

Curly Leaf Pondweed Treatment Offered in Clear Lake

For anyone interested, you may work with a private contractor in 2011 for curly leaf pondweed control. Cory Culbert of Lakescapes, LLC in Waterville will contract with individual or multi-party projects. The deadline for signup is March 1, so if you are interested call him at 507 271-3727 or email at cory.culbert@gmail.com. He will handle the DNR permit and treatment which will run around \$125 per address. MN DNR regulation states that treatment area is limited to ½ total shoreline or 50ft whichever is less.