

# Waseca Lakes Association

# NEWSLETTER

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



## Winter 2012

**Meeting Notice:** Monday, January 30, 7pm at the county highway building:  
2012 Project and Goals Planning.

### 2012 Calendar of Events

- Monday, January 30<sup>st</sup>: 7pm monthly meeting at the county highway building.
- Sunday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, Kids Ice Fishing Contest on Clear Lake
- Monday, February 27<sup>th</sup>: February monthly meeting; topic TBD.
- Monday, March 26<sup>th</sup>: March monthly meeting; topic TBD.
- Saturday, April 28<sup>rd</sup>: 12<sup>th</sup> annual lakeshore and parks cleanup at Maplewood Park
- Saturday, June 9<sup>th</sup>: Take a Kid Fishing event at Maplewood Park
- Wednesday, July 4<sup>th</sup>: 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Lakefest Freedom Run at Clear Lake Park
- Wed – Sun, July 11-15<sup>th</sup>: WLA booth at the Waseca County Fair
- Sunday, July 29<sup>th</sup>: 4<sup>rd</sup> Annual Waseca Triathlon at Clear Lake Park
- Sept – Nov: Monthly meetings TBD held last Monday of the month

### WLA Donates to Waseca Trail Signs

The WLA donated \$500 to assist the Waseca Area Tourism and Visitors Bureau purchase two new trail information signs. They will be installed by the Parks Dept at sites along the trail around Clear Lake.



### Remembering Mike Connors

As our website has read since Mikes death on December 10<sup>th</sup>; “We are saddened on the Dec 10th passing of Mike Connors, one of the Waseca Lakes Assn’s most dedicated members since our beginnings in 2001. Mike always had a smile for everyone along with a contagious love of the outdoors.” We have been receiving some memorial gifts in his name and intend to design a fitting memorial at our January meeting.

### Lake Levels Very Low

Dale Schons has been recording the water level of Clear Lake for many years as a volunteer for the MPCA. The current level is as low as it has been in the last 10 years and about 20 inches lower than it was back in May 2011.

# Water Projects Update

## MSU Water Resources Center Project

I am working with MSU, Mankato's Director of Research and Sponsored programs to develop an EPA grant proposal for the establishment of an in-lake study area within Clear Lake where we could attempt to control some of the largest internal sources of nutrients to Clear Lake (Curly-leaf pondweed, carp, etc). If we can have success at controlling these sources in the study area, we can begin implementing these practices on a lake-wide scale.

- 1) **Data collection:** we need more data to determine the nutrient loads coming from these sites. We need some rain and snow to get these sites back up and running!
- 2) We will work with the MNDNR to develop the stage-discharge relationship that will allow us to accurately determine the greatest nutrients sources from the watershed.
- 3) **Development of an advisory group:** Dr. Fisher and I believe that it is imperative that we pull together all of the stakeholders that have a vested interest in Clear Lake and/or Loon Lake in the very near future. I will keep you advised on a potential meeting in the coming weeks as soon as I receive the City of Waseca's support for this group.
- 4) Will get monitoring equipment back out in the field as soon as the weather starts to warm up. In the past, we have typically installed our monitoring equipment back into the field during the second week of March. It may be earlier this year if this warm weather pattern continues.
- 5) As we develop the stage-discharge relationship, we will enter the data into a program called BATHTUB. This program will take all of the sources (external and internal) and determine a total nutrient load to both Clear Lake and Loon Lake. From this, we will be able to determine the total nutrient reduction required to remove both lakes from the impaired waters list.
- 6) The final lake management plan for both lakes will be completed in December, 2012. The goals and objectives identified by the advisory group will then be included into the draft lake management plan for Clear Lake/Loon Lake. This plan would need to go out for a 30-day review period to all stakeholders, as well as water planning staff at the county, city, and state agencies. We want to make sure that this plan is viewed as "official" and "formal" so it can be pointed to as a foundation on which to request future funding to accomplish lake management goals. As part of the overall process, we will use the data that we are collecting to determine the steps that we will have to take to reach the goals and objectives outlined by the stakeholders. By setting up the lake management plan in this manner, we have allowed the public to have input into the document. We can then point to the lake management plan as a guidance document for future decision making. Joe Pallardy, Research Analyst

## Loon Lake Reclamation Scheduled for Fall 2012

The plan for reclaiming Loon Lake was unfortunately delayed for another year after there was a shortage of available rotenone for application within Minnesota DNR. The good news is the rotenone is now available, purchased, accounted for and is in storage awaiting October 2012. The plan to reclaim Loon Lake was funded by the scant dollars available in Minnesota DNR Fisheries' special project fund, and it was approved in no small part because of the dedication by the folks with Waseca Lakes Association (WLA) and the dollars they raised. WLA really stepped up in meeting to discuss the project and in hosting a fundraising fish fry. The DNR will continue to work with WLA to do an upgrade to the aeration system before the start of the winter following fish stocking. The current timeline is reclamation in fall 2012, fish stocking in spring 2013, and new aeration equipment in place and operating winter 2013-2014. The Waterville DNR Fisheries office thanks WLA, the city of Waseca, and the public for their patience. In short order, Loon Lake's fish resources will be restored and the lake can be used to its potential once more. Scott Mackenthun, DNR Fisheries, Waterville.