

# Waseca Lakes Association

# NEWSLETTER

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



## Winter 2022 Edition

### Upcoming Events

WLA Monthly Meeting.....March 2nd, 2022 @ 7am  
22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Lakeshore and Park Clean Up.....April 23, 2022  
Annual Lakefest Freedom Run..... July 4, 2022

### The Waseca Lakes Association Goals and Focus for 2022 and Beyond

- **AIS- Aquatic Invasive Species** (Weed harvester and herbicide treatment)
- **Internal Loading** (Lower internal lake phosphorous, aeration, Alum treatments)
- **External Loading** (Lower phosphorus entering from Gaiter Lake, storm water, City waste, other inlets)
- **Shoreline Restorations & Lake Plantings** (Public & private landowners)
- **Public Education** (Awareness for all lake users, landowner roles & responsibility)

### 2022 Board of Directors

- **President:** Trevor Kanewischer
- **Vice President:** Duane Rathmann
- **Secretary:** Doreen Eaton
- **Treasurer:** Aaron Kanewischer
- **Director:** Steve Kiesler
- **Director:** Larry Krause
- **Director:** Jill Stagman



*By Jessie Naro*

# Waseca Lakes Association President's Update

It's certainly an exciting time to be part of the Waseca Lakes Association (WLA). Little did I know that I would be on a new board of directors, coming out of some long-time discussions with my brother Aaron. Aaron had been involved in the WLA in the past and we've talked a lot about the lake quality and improvements and how we can make a difference. We both grew up near the lake, swam at the beaches, grilled out at the parks, and were on the water many times over the years.

It really began moving ahead in June of 2021 with a couple of different discussions happening with some friends, Blair Nelson, Steve Kiesler, Larry Krause, Brian Harguth and Aaron. We met numerous times at The Boathouse with a variety of people. After a few inquiries and talking with people around the lake area, we realized that there are even more out-of-the area visitors and guests to Clear Lake and the area surrounding it than we ever imagined. Conversations drew us to reaching out to long time and Founding member of WLA, Duane Rathmann. If you haven't met Duane, he's the resident expert and historian of the WLA and Clear Lake. He's a great man and has dedicated a good portion of his life to the WLA and efforts to improving and maintaining lake quality here.

Our group had the same goals in mind, that we wanted to help to improve and maintain one of Waseca County's greatest natural assets, the lakes. Duane has worked hard over the 20 years with the WLA, and we quickly found out that he needed support. There is a lot of work that goes with being the voice of the lakes and working to maintain and improve lake quality, it's also very costly. We quickly raised some additional funding to spray as many acres of Eurasian milfoil on Clear Lake as the DNR would permit in July but knew there was a lot more that was needed.

A very rare opportunity to purchase Lake Minnetonka's largest and nicest weed harvester equipment coincidentally presented itself around the same time. Commissioners Blair Nelson and Brian Harguth, along with County Administrator Michael Johnson got involved and presented their idea of purchasing the 3 pieces. A harvester purchase that would normally have taken months, if not years, was completed within a month or two at less than half the price of new equipment. Waseca County Public Works staff are now tasked with developing a program for its use. A large task to complete, but we're very confident they will make things happen. We're certainly proud of the county taking this type of initiative, so please thank your commissioners for this.

Fast forward to the fall of 2021, the new WLA board began meeting and reorganizing. We've really been busy updating the website, focusing on main goals and projects, rallying some local donors, meeting with partners, gathering more information for landowners and researching what options are out there for controlling Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS). Many discussions are underway for 2022 including spraying the maximum amount of acres allowed by DNR, the County's harvesting project, looking at other solutions including fish habitat, Gaiter Lake improvements, public education, and encouraging lake shore owners to get involved.

Hopefully with all of these projects coming together, we can slowly make a difference in the years to come. There clearly is a lot to do, so we certainly appreciate any donations or contributions the public can make to help with the costs over the years. We would also encourage you to reach out to your commissioners and City Council to let them know you support initiatives to improve Waseca County's Greatest Natural Asset. Please feel free to contact me anytime if you have questions or comments.

Trevor Kanewischer  
WLA President

# AIS – Harvester Update

We're excited to announce that the Waseca County Commissioners voted last year to purchase an Aquarius weed harvester, barge and conveyor equipment from The City of Minnetonka for use on Waseca County lakes with Clear Lake being the pilot project. When conflict struck the Lake Minnetonka harvesting project, it provided a very small and rare window to purchase some top of the line and very impressive equipment for under half the cost of new. The weed harvester and related equipment will be used for the harvesting of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) on Clear Lake, including curly-leaf pondweed and Eurasian watermilfoil. This harvesting project is a very big undertaking, but Waseca County has some really great people working on it. Waseca County Public Works has been tasked with operating and maintaining the program with the Waseca Lakes Association helping in any way we can. We're confident we'll see some great results with this and know we have some excellent people that are passionate about running with this project.

As many of you know, last year was a very bad year for weeds in area lakes due to low water levels, seasonally warmer weather, and years of little maintenance or treatment for AIS. The Waseca County Commissioners stepped up greatly in showing their support for one of Waseca County's great natural resources by purchasing this equipment. If you see the Waseca County Commissioners, please thank them for this unprecedented step in advancing lake water quality on Clear Lake.

The lake, the four attached parks, and the area it impacts, attracts hundreds of visitors from near and far every year and they are doing their part to show its importance to the community and our guests. This is one step in the right direction, with many other related projects coming together to help do our part in cleaning and maintaining Clear Lake for future generations to enjoy.



# Stewardship of Our Waters

## Waseca Lakes Association Membership/Renewal Due

The pandemic has demonstrated what a valuable resource our lakes are. At the same time, as more people utilized the lakes, it drew attention to the problems that exist with our area lakes, many of which are listed as impaired waters. As we begin 2022 and with a new WLA Board in place we have made some changes that we believe will allow us to have a greater impact.

In 2022, we have changed our membership period to follow the calendar year. This allows us to align our main source of revenue with the timing for grant applications and spring and summer project planning. At the same time, we have also created a membership structure that we hope will provide us some additional funding to achieve our goals.

- **Individual:** \$50+ includes annual membership, newsletter and e-mail correspondence
- **Lake Supporter:** \$100+ includes annual membership, newsletter, e-mail correspondence and website recognition
- **Business Membership:** \$250+ includes annual membership, newsletter, e-mail correspondence, WLA website advertising, Facebook recognition and Freedom Run t-shirt recognition.
- **Business Lake Supporter:** \$500+ + includes annual membership, newsletter, e-mail correspondence, WLA website advertising, Facebook recognition and Freedom Run t-shirt recognition.
- **Lake Lover:** \$1000+ Annual membership with newsletter, e-mail correspondence, WLA website advertising, Facebook recognition, Freedom Run t-shirt recognition, lake signage, sign at WLA events and recognition at ALL WLA sponsored events.

Attached with this newsletter is a membership form. You can complete by mail or you can utilize our new online feature which will allow you to provide your contact information and make your payment online. Your membership will help fund projects such as AIS management, lakeshore and park cleanup day, Lakefest activities, lakeshore restoration projects, doggie bags around the lakes, and other projects to promote water stewardship.

Thanks for your support. Please visit us at [www.wasecalakes.org](http://www.wasecalakes.org) and like us on Facebook. We can also be reached by e-mail at [wasecalakes@gmail.com](mailto:wasecalakes@gmail.com).

# Waseca Lakes Association



Waseca, Minnesota

The purpose of The Waseca Lakes Association shall be to improve and maintain the water quality of the Waseca lakes and adjoining watershed for all users. The group will be organized as a non-profit organization to promote involvement and input from all watershed residents, interested persons and organizations through communication, action, and education.

Please join at <https://www.wasecalakes.org/> or by completing the below membership form.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$50+   | <input type="checkbox"/> Lake Supporter \$100+          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business \$250+    | <input type="checkbox"/> Business Lake Supporter \$500+ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lake Lover \$1000+ |   |

## WLA Membership Form

**All donations are tax deductible. The WLA is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to WLA and mail with membership form to:

Waseca Lakes Association

37428 Clear Lake Drive, Waseca MN 56093

wasecalakes@gmail.com

Areas of Interest (Check all that Apply):

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water Quality | <input type="checkbox"/> AIS management                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation    | <input type="checkbox"/> Fishing                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Trails        | <input type="checkbox"/> Lakeshore and Park Clean Up              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> WLA Board     | <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer (Freedom Run, Doggi Bag, etc.) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other:        |   |

# PUBLIC NOTICE

## Aquatic Invasive Species Management Program Implementation on Clear Lake, Waseca, MN

---

Notice is hereby given that Waseca County, in collaboration with the Waseca Lakes Association (WLA), plans to implement an Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) management program on Clear Lake. The AIS management program involves, among other things, the mechanical harvesting of curly-leaf pondweed and Eurasian watermilfoil infestations on Clear Lake. Proposed mechanical harvest areas will be based on the results of an AIS survey performed last year by the DNR, a DNR confirmation survey to be conducted this spring, and DNR permitting. Additional details regarding the survey and permitting will be posted on the WLA home webpage: <https://www.wasecalakes.org> as they become available. The mechanical harvest of curly-leaf pondweed and Eurasian watermilfoil may occur in two operations, beginning in mid-May and extending through optimal harvest times.

The purpose of implementation of an AIS management plan on Clear Lake is to reduce aquatic invasive species populations which interfere with navigation, impair recreational activities, reduce water quality, and cause harm to native plant populations.

Mn Statute §103G.615, Subd 3a provides for, among other things, notification requirements for an invasive aquatic plant management permit. The statute also requires any notification to provide instructions on how a landowner may request that control not occur adjacent to the landowner's property. To "opt-out" of mechanical harvest operations of curly-leaf pondweed and/or Eurasian watermilfoil within 150 feet of a landowner's shoreline, please notify the Waseca Lakes Association, in writing, no later than Friday, May 6, 2022.

Waseca Lakes Association  
Attn: AIS Management Program  
37428 Clear Lake Drive  
Waseca, MN 56093

Email: [wasecalakes@gmail.com](mailto:wasecalakes@gmail.com)