

Waseca Lakes Association

NEWSLETTER

Web Site: wasecalakes.org



Spring 2022 Edition

Upcoming Events

WLA Monthly Meeting (East Annex).....	May 4th, 2022 @ 7am
22 nd Annual Lakeshore and Park Clean Up.....	April 23, 2022
17 th 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)

Membership

If you have not had the opportunity to renew your membership for 2022, we hope you will consider doing so as we have a lot of exciting things happening this year and can use your support. We are also looking for new members. You can join through our website at wasecalakes.org and either sign up online or by printing off the membership form and mailing to:

Waseca Lakes Association
37428 Clear Lake Drive
Waseca, MN 56093

Ice Out

This year ice out on Clear Lake occurred on April 5th. The average ice out date is April 3rd. The earliest ice out on record is March 6 in 1987, and the latest ice out date is April 29th, 2018. You can also find records of ice out on Clear Lake on our website under the Water Monitoring tab.



President Update

It was a busy winter for the Waseca Lakes Association (WLA) Board of Directors in reorganizing, meeting with lake partners, looking at addressing issues that have plagued the lakes for years and working on new projects. Regardless of how busy it was, it certainly is going to be exciting watching things come together this summer.

You've all heard about the Waseca County Board of Commissioners purchase of lake harvesting equipment. I believe Waseca County is the only county in the state to personally own and operate something like this. The county really has done a great job ensuring the equipment is ready, building the program and ensuring they are ready for summer work. At this time, it looks like the program will begin on Clear Lake on May 24th with the harvesting of curly-leaf pondweed (CLP). The harvesting will run through June 30th as permitted by the DNR.

Now fast forward six months and Waseca County has yet another amazing opportunity. The DNR Aquatic Invasive Species Control Grant Program expanded for 2022, adding a one-time special initiative for "New Infestations and Innovative Control Grants" to lake associations alongside traditional control grants to both lake associations and other organizations. The WLA applied for the grant and were one of eight recipients to be awarded the grant in the state. This awarded grant will go towards a full lake treatment using an herbicide called Fluridone which is highly effective against Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM). The DNR will cover 25% of the expense and Waseca County agreed to complete the other 75% with specific funding available for AIS.

This treatment involves applying a very low concentration of Fluridone to Clear Lake and then maintaining a desired level over a 45-90 day period. Fluridone stops the plant from making a protective pigment that keeps chlorophyll from breaking down in the sun. Treated plants will turn white or pink at the growing tips after a week and will die in one to two months after treatment as it is unable to make food for itself. The first application will occur sometime this spring once EWM has begun growing as that is when it is most effective.

EMW and CLP are the two invasives that cause the most problems within Clear Lake. This innovative grant opportunity now allows the harvest operation to focus on curly-leaf pondweed and reduces the overall cost of the harvest program, especially in this first year of operation. We've worked with the city on additional treatment options for the beaches and other near shore areas to be completed this summer as well.

There are many organizations involved in anything happening with lake water quality and we are fortunate they've all come together to improve Waseca lakes with these two projects.

President Update

WLA has also been busy looking at other smaller projects that, all together, make small differences in lake water quality. They include updating lake access signage with the goal to improve understanding of AIS, risks associated, prevention and management activities. We are also implementing an Adopt-a-Drain Program, looking at storm drain filters, floating islands, creation of fish habitat, native aquatic plantings, other options for long term treatment, Gaiter Lake improvement options, and opportunities for public education. There are really a number of small things residents can help with. Check out our newsletter and website for information on what you can do.....and sometimes more importantly, what you should avoid.

The 22nd annual lakeshore and parks cleanup is scheduled for Saturday, April 23rd, from 9:00-11:00 AM. We encourage lakeshore owners to clean their shorelines while the WLA coordinates volunteers to clean up the trails and parks throughout Waseca. We will meet at Maplewood Park shelter for sign up of designated areas at 8:30 AM where coffee, juice and rolls will be provided. Upon completion of your area, we invite you to come back to Maplewood Park shelter for lunch as the WLA will provide pizza, hotdogs, chips and drinks for volunteers from 11:00-12:00 PM. We hope to see you there!

The WLA 17th Annual Lakefest Freedom Run is back on July 4th! We're still looking for a few sponsors for this event if anyone wishes to help sponsor, please let us know. We will also be in need of volunteers to help make the event a success. Look for more information regarding registration soon.

Our membership drive continues. We have several different levels, but any level you can help at is certainly appreciated. WLA is a volunteer board, so all memberships and donations go directly to lake quality improvements. We can't do it without our supporters, so *Thank You* to those who have already stepped up!

Hopefully with all these projects coming together, we can slowly make a difference in the years to come. There certainly is a lot to do but we're having fun doing it. We would also encourage you to reach out to your County Commissioners and City Council to let them know you support initiatives to improve Waseca Counties Greatest Natural Asset and Largest County Parks, The Lakes. Please feel free to contact me anytime if you have questions or comments.

Trevor Kanewischer
President
Waseca Lakes Association

Lakeshore and Park Clean Up

The 22nd annual lakeshore and parks cleanup is scheduled for Saturday, April 23rd, from 9:00-11:00 AM. We encourage lakeshore owners to clean their shorelines while the WLA coordinates volunteers to clean up the trails and parks throughout Waseca. We will meet at Maplewood Park shelter for sign up of designated areas at 8:30 AM where coffee, juice and rolls will be provided. Upon completion of your area, we invite you to come back to Maplewood Park shelter for lunch as the WLA will provide pizza, hotdogs, chips and drinks for volunteers from 11:00-12:00 PM. We hope to see you there!

Adopt-a-Drain

ADOPT
A STORM
DRAIN



You are probably familiar with the Adopt-a-Highway program, where volunteers commit to picking up trash along a stretch of highway twice a year?

That same concept is now being applied to storm drains, which carry rain and runoff water along with leaves, gravel, garbage and other debris directly to rivers and lakes. The WLA is excited to have partnered with the City of Waseca to bring the Adopt-a-Drain program to Waseca!

Adopt-a-Drain asks residents to volunteer 10-15 minutes, twice a month, to adopt a storm drain in their neighborhood and keep it clear of leaves, trash, and other debris to reduce water pollution.

You can adopt your drain by visiting <https://mn.adopt-a-drain.org/>

Freedom Run

After a 2 year pause as a result of the pandemic the Lakefest Freedom Run will return this year for its 17th year. This has turned into a great tradition to begin the 4th of July celebration at Clear Lake Park. There will be a 1 mile kids run at the park beginning at 8am and the 5 mile run around Clear Lake beginning at 8:30am. Look for future details regarding registration and volunteer opportunities.



10 Ways To Improve Our Lakes At Home

1. **Grass clippings and yard waste:** Did you know one bushel of grass clippings contain 0.1 pound of phosphorus. That doesn't sound like much, but it has a big impact when it reaches a lake. It's enough to produce up to 50 pounds of algae. Therefore, never blow or push grass clippings, leaves, or other yard waste into the curb and gutter, onto the street, or into a storm drain
2. **Stop mowing near streams, lakes and ponds:** Mowing near streams, lakes and ponds eliminates the natural protective buffer that tall grasses, shrubs and trees provide. Instead consider installation of native plants with deep roots which create natural buffers, protect against erosion, filter stormwater runoff, reduce harmful pollutant loads while providing habitat for mosquito-eating amphibians, fish, birds and beneficial insects.
3. **Use fertilizer wisely:** Fertilizers contain nutrients that help your lawn to grow. Unfortunately, these are the same nutrients that help aquatic vegetation, like algae, to grow. When over-applied or if applied before a rainstorm, the chemicals runoff directly into our local waterways. If you must fertilize your lawn, sample your soil to find out how much and what blend of fertilizer to use, it'll save you money.
4. **Regularly clean storm drains and curbside debris:** Removing debris that collects in nearby stormwater catch basins, storm drains and along curbs promotes cleaner runoff and reduces the amount of pollution and trash entering our waterways.
5. **Locate your septic system:** A failing septic system can be a serious threat to water quality. Sewage from your leach field or holding tank contains bacteria and nutrients that are harmful to groundwater and surface water. Make sure your system is functioning properly by having it inspected every 3 years and have your tank pumped every 3-5 years.
6. **Pick up after your pets:** Failing to pick up after pets can also impact water quality by introducing harmful bacteria and other pathogens into lakes and potentially harming human health. Be sure to pick up after your pets and deposit waste in the trash. The WLA provides doggie bags on the trails throughout town for this purpose.
7. **Rake for [leaf-free streets](#):** Studies show leaves account for nearly 50% of phosphorus in lakes. When left in the street, stormwater passes through leaves like a teabag and brings the phosphorus with it. Raking leaves from the street edge (three feet from the curb) and onto lawns will help fertilize the grass and reduce algae blooms in our lakes.
8. **Create a rain garden:** Not only will rain gardens capture stormwater runoff and beautify your property and they also provide biodiversity that helps butterflies and bees survive.
9. **Redirect downspouts and sump pump drains:** This simple action allows you to redirect rainwater to your lawn or garden, while also reducing the amount of stormwater that goes to streets and directly into the lakes via storm sewers.
10. **Get involved with the Waseca Lakes Association (WLA):** The WLA works closely with the MN DNR, the city and the county on decisions that have an impact on water quality. Issues such as storm water management, phosphorus control ordinances and road maintenance affect behavior that can impact water quality. You can reach us at wasecalakes@gmail.com, visit us on Facebook or via our website at wasecalakes.org.

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)

Curly-leaf pondweed is a non-native, invasive submersed aquatic plant that was first observed in Minnesota in about 1910. It is known to be present in more than 750 lakes in 70 of the 87 counties in Minnesota. It was first discovered in Clear Lake in 1988.

Turions sprout in the late fall so it is generally the first pondweed to come up in the spring when it flowers, fruits, and produces turions in June before dying back in mid-summer.

Curly-leaf pondweed impacts:

- Grows from shoreline to 15' depths
- Dense mats at the water's surface inhibit water recreation
- Overtakes habitat lowering diversity.
- Provides unsuitable shelter, food and nesting habitat for native animals
- Midsummer die-offs can litter shoreline with dead plants and impact water clarity



Eurasian watermilfoil is also a highly non-native invasive aquatic plant. It was first observed in Minnesota in 1987 in Lake Minnetonka. In 2005 it was discovered in Clear Lake.

Eurasian watermilfoil flowers twice a year, usually in mid-June and late-July. It typically only grows 3' to 9' tall but can grow as much as 20'. Even though each plant can produce approximately 100 seeds per season it primarily establishes through vegetative fragmentation. A fragment can break off, settle in the sediment, grow roots, and establish a new plant. The plant dies back in the fall, but the root system can survive the winter and begin growing again in the spring.

Eurasian watermilfoil impacts:

- Dense mats at the water's surface inhibit water recreation
- Displaces native plants
- Provides unsuitable shelter, food and nesting habitat for native animals



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

PUBLIC NOTICE

Aquatic Invasive Species Herbicide Treatment

The Waseca Lakes Association has contracted to treat Invasive Milfoil, an Aquatic Invasive Species in Clear Lake in 2022.

The WLA has requested from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to the Waseca Lakes Association a waiver of the requirement that the Association obtain the signatures of approval of owners of lakeshore property. Instead, the Waseca Lakes Association will notify property owners of the treatment through alternate forms. This notice is one form that the Waseca Lakes Association is using to notify property owners. Other forms may include but are not limited to notification through the associations email list, website, social media and or meeting.

With regard to the treatment for this year, 2022:

1. **The proposed date for treatment: May 1 thru August 30, 2022**
2. **The target species for the treatment: Invasive Milfoil Species**
3. **The method of control or product being used: EPA and MDA registered aquatic herbicides, such as but not limited to: Sonar A.S.**
4. **How landowners may request that control not occur adjacent to the landowner's property: If you desire that the treatment of Invasive Milfoil not occur adjacent to your property, please notify the Waseca Lakes Association immediately at the following address and email address below:**

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

Email: 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: | |

Individual \$50+

Annual membership with newsletter and e-mail correspondence

Lake Supporter \$100+:

Annual membership with newsletter, e-mail correspondence, website recognition

Business Membership \$250+:

Annual membership, newsletter, e-mail correspondence, WLA website advertising, Facebook recognition and Freedom Run t-shirt recognition

Business Lake Supporter \$500:

Annual membership, newsletter, e-mail correspondence, WLA website advertising, Facebook/Social Media recognition and Freedom Run t-shirt recognition.

Lake Lover \$1000+:

Annual membership with newsletter, e-mail correspondence, WLA website advertising, Facebook recognition and Freedom Run t-shirt recognition, Lake Signage and Sign at WLA Events, Recognition at ALL WLA sponsored events.

We are still looking at adding additional benefits for levels of membership, so watch for more.