

# Waseca Lakes Association

# NEWSLETTER

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



## Summer 2022 Edition

### Upcoming Events

WLA Monthly Meeting (East Annex).....August 3rd, 2022 @ 7am

### 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)

## Secchi Disk

### Clear Lake 2022 Monthly Clarity Readings (Ft)

	1st	2nd	3rd	Average
April	11.5	11.0		11.3
May	11.0	10.5	11.0	10.8
June	11.0	7.5	7.0	8.5
July	4.0			
August				

Great clarity early, but now declining mainly due to warming water temperatures which is normal.

## Freedom Run T-Shirts

Due to weather, we had to cancel the Lakefest Freedom Run this year. As a result, we have t-shirts available for sale for \$10.00 for those interested.



Please e-mail us at [wasecalakes@gmail.com](mailto:wasecalakes@gmail.com) if interested.

# Harvester Update

In 2022 thanks to the commitment of Waseca County mechanical harvesting of curly-leaf pondweed took place on Clear Lake for the first time. Hopefully, you were all able to get to see the harvester in action as it was impressive. The county put together a 5-person crew that was able to run the harvester, the barge, the conveyer and dump trucks.

The operation began on May 24<sup>th</sup> and ran through June 20<sup>th</sup>. While the permit was through June 30<sup>th</sup> the curly-leaf pondweed had an early die off this season which allowed them to stop earlier than expected.

During these 15 days of harvesting, they were able to harvest 75 acres of curly-leaf pondweed or approximately 5 acres a day. They were permitted by the MN DNR for 100 acres with 90 of those acres being along the south shore from The Boathouse to Kiesler's Campground and the other 10 acres around the north shore landing. Hopefully, you noticed the difference the harvester made in these areas.

In all, they were able to remove 230 tons or 460,000 lbs of curly-leaf pondweed from Clear Lake. This is approximately 136 dump truck loads which was hauled to the Waseca County Landfill. This was a significant investment by the county of both financial resources and manpower so when you see your County Commissioner, please make sure to thank them.

We couldn't be more excited for how the first year went. There were lessons learned that will only improve this operation for future years. We look forward to continuing to work with the MN DNR and Waseca County with this.



**Weed Harvester**



**Transport Barge Unloading**





# Common Algae In Lakes

Filamentous algae are commonly known as pond scum, and moss. It is located in ponds, shorelines, and backwaters, and is a mass of long, stringy, hairlike strands; usually green in color but may become yellow grayish or brown. Individual filaments are a series of cells joined end to end, which give them a thread-like appearance. Filamentous algae can be identified by its greenish mats on the water surface. Slimy or cotton-like in appearance it may form hair-like growth on logs, rocks, and other vegetation at lake bottom and on the shoreline.



Nuisance growth of filamentous algae may indicate that a lake has excessive nutrients. Adopting preventative measures such as limiting the flow of nutrients into the lake may help reduce the severity of nuisance conditions.

Plankton algae are commonly known as blue-green algae, scum, or a waterbloom. It is located lakewide and is generally free-floating, but concentrations occur along windward shores and backwater areas. Abundant growth results in "blooms" that color the water green or turquoise blue. Plankton algae can be identified by a change in water color; severe blooms often resemble pea soup. Blue-green algae form unsightly, jellylike masses or a blue, paint-like scum on beaches and shorelines.



Plankton algae provides food for certain small aquatic animals and young fish.

Abundant growth indicates that a lake has excessive nutrients, usually phosphorus. When some species of blue-green algae are decaying, their cells release toxic materials, which can poison animals that drink the water. These toxic blooms are uncommon, but it is wise to keep your pets and livestock away from the water when any algal bloom is breaking up. Preventive measures such as limiting the flow of nutrients into the lake may reduce future blue-green algae blooms.

# Midwest Floating Island

In the coming months look for a new vegetated floating island which is a green infrastructure tool to improve water quality and create habitat to be installed in Clear Lake. The Waseca Lakes Association was awarded a grant from the Waseca Area Foundation for the purchase of this island.

Floating islands consist of a buoyant matrix mat and plants which bio-mimic the benefits of natural, floating peat bogs. These artificial floating islands are designed to leverage the natural process of plants and microbes to improve water quality and create habitat.

Aquatic and terrestrial vegetation grow on the island and can push long roots down 2-3 feet below the islands. The island material and the hanging roots work below the surface to remove unwanted pollutants. They provide surface area for beneficial bacteria and micro-organisms to colonize, thrive and compete for nutrients in the water.



## Adopt-a-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/>

ADOPT  
A STORM  
DRAIN

