

# Waseca Lakes Association

# NEWSLETTER



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

## Spring 2025 Edition

### Upcoming Events

25th Annual Lakeshore and Park Clean Up.....	April 12th, 2025
WLA Monthly Meeting (East Annex).....	May 7th, 2025 @ 7AM
Take a Kid Fishing Weekend.....	June 7th, 2025
19 <sup>th</sup> Annual Lakefest Freedom Run.....	July 4 <sup>th</sup> , 2025

### The Waseca Lakes Association Goals and Focus for 2025 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

Annual memberships are due so if you have not had the opportunity to renew your 2025 membership already, we hope you will consider doing so. We are excited to build upon last year and can use your support. We are also looking for new members. You can join through our website at [wasecalakes.org](http://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

Ice-out on Clear Lake occurred on March 15th, marking the 3rd time on record it has happened on this date. This ranks as one of the top 10 earliest ice-outs since records began in 1874.

The average ice-out date is April 3rd with the latest recorded on April 29, 2018. This season saw only 74 days of ice coverage , 18 days below the 10-year average.

For historical data visit our website under the Water Monitoring tab.

# President Update

As we welcome the arrival of spring, I want to take a moment to reflect on the incredible strides we've made over the past year and express my sincere gratitude to those who helped make them possible. Thanks to the dedication and hard work of our Waseca Lakes Association Board Members, we've achieved more progress in the past few years than we've seen in quite some time. Their commitment to protecting and improving our lakes is both inspiring and deeply appreciated.

I'd like to especially recognize Chris Howard, Waseca County's Drainage Management Coordinator. His expertise and steady leadership have been vital in moving forward key projects, particularly in the areas of water quality and lake management. Chris's work has been instrumental in building momentum around initiatives that have long been on the table.

Our collaboration with both the City and County is currently at an all-time high. Commissioner Brian Harguth and City Council Member Stacy Schroeder have played central roles in this partnership, offering consistent support and advocacy that continues to drive positive change for our lakes and parks. Their efforts underscore the importance of unified action when it comes to environmental stewardship in our community.

We're also excited about the year ahead, and we hope you'll join us for several upcoming events. This year marks the 25th Annual Lakeshore and Parks Cleanup a milestone worth celebrating! We're also bringing back our popular fishing day, which saw a great turnout and a lot of smiles last year. And, of course, we're gearing up for another amazing Lakefest celebration on July 4th. Tom Sexton and his team of volunteers are once again leading the charge, and we can't wait to see what they have in store for the community this year.

Looking ahead, one of the most promising developments involves Gaiter Lake, the main inflow to Clear Lake, and the largest contributor of phosphorus. For more than 20 years, the potential for meaningful improvement to Gaiter Lake has been a topic of discussion. Now, with the proposed Clearwater Preserve development on the horizon, there's more optimism than ever that we may finally see real, lasting enhancements to this critical area. If realized, these improvements could have a significant and positive impact on the long-term health of Clear Lake.

As always, I encourage our members and community supporters to stay engaged and involved. Your support whether through volunteering, attending events, or renewing your membership makes a real difference. Let's keep building on this momentum and continue working together to preserve and protect our beautiful Waseca lakes.

Regards,

**Trevor Kanewischer**

President, Waseca Lakes Association

# 2025 AIS Management Plan

Clear Lake has two different aquatic invasive species (AIS) that compete with native plants, hamper boat navigation, and contribute to poor water quality due to algae blooms when they decay.

## 1. Curly-leaf Pondweed (CLP):

This is an early emerging weed that has been present since 1988 in Clear Lake and the WLA has been treating certain areas on a small scale since 2013. The efforts were really stepped up starting in 2022 as Waseca county began using a mechanical weed harvester purchased from Lake Minnetonka. Since 2022, the WLA has also increased its aquatic herbicide treatment by treating around 75 acres per year. It has worked best for the mechanical harvester to concentrate on the south half of Clear Lake while the WLA herbicide treatments were applied to the northern half of lake. Each spring we have the lake surveyed to determine locations of CLP and permits for treatment (mechanical and chemical) are permitted by the DNR accordingly. This plan will continue in 2025, but we do rely on your membership and donations to help fund this project.

## 2. Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM):

This became a problem in 2020 as it tends to clog up water movement and recreational activities when it reaches the surface in June. The good news on this weed is that the special whole lake fluridone treatment that we did in 2022 has worked great to date and we haven't seen a EWM plant in either 2023 or 2024. We need to keep an eye on this so if anyone spots any plants with the red top at the surface, please notify the WLA so we can address it before it becomes a bigger problem as it did in 2020.



Waseca County harvesting of curly-leaf pondweed



Eurasian watermilfoil in Clear Lake in August of 2020

# MEMORIAL BENCHES

As you all know, nearly two years ago our community lost a dear giant, Mr Blair Nelson. Among his many accomplishments, one of his proudest was initiating the purchase of a weed harvester to bring Clear Lake back to its beauty and recreational use for the local community. Like all in the community who knew Blair, the board members of the Waseca Lakes Association miss him greatly. Blair's harvester continues to operate per his vision.

To honor Blair both as an Association Board Member, and for his many contributions to all he touched, the Waseca Lakes Association is sponsoring the build and installation of a memorial bench to be placed along the pedestrian path near the inlet to Clear Lake from Gaiter Lake later this Spring. A memorial plaque will accompany the bench. When the Parks Department crew completes the installation, the members of the Lake Association Board plan to conduct a dedication ceremony with Blair's family members.

The Association Board also approved a replacement bench honoring Dale Schons which is located along the lake pathway at Maplewood. As you may recall, Dale was a founding member in 2001 of the Waseca Lakes Association and was honored for his many contributions. The replacement will be installed by the Parks Department later this spring.



The benches to honor Blair Nelson and Dale Schons will be similar to the above.

# FISHING CADDIES

For over a year, the Lake Association Board discussed providing something they referred to as a “fishing station” to aid persons fishing around Clear Lake on the perimeter path and fishing piers. At the time, none of the board members had a clear vision of exactly what this device would look like though the types used on boats were well known.

Then, last fall, the board decided it was time to stop talking about it and finally do something. The task was assigned, and two of the board members, Tom Glaser and Duane Rathmann collaborated on the design and fabrication of what we now call a “Fishing Caddy”, shown in the accompanying photos.

The Caddy is designed to hold a drink cup, many forms of fishing lures, and other types of tackle and tools of the fishing world, pliers for example. For the Caddies mounted on posts along the southern part of Clear Lake, there are also rod holders. A total of 6 of the fishing Caddies were fabricated and will soon be installed; two along the southern shoreline and the remaining 4 to be installed by the Parks Department on the fishing piers at Clear Lake Park, Maplewood and Loon Lake. If the Caddies installed this year are successful and positive feedback is received, the Association will add additional Caddies next year.

So, enjoy the Fishing Caddies! And, let us know what you think!



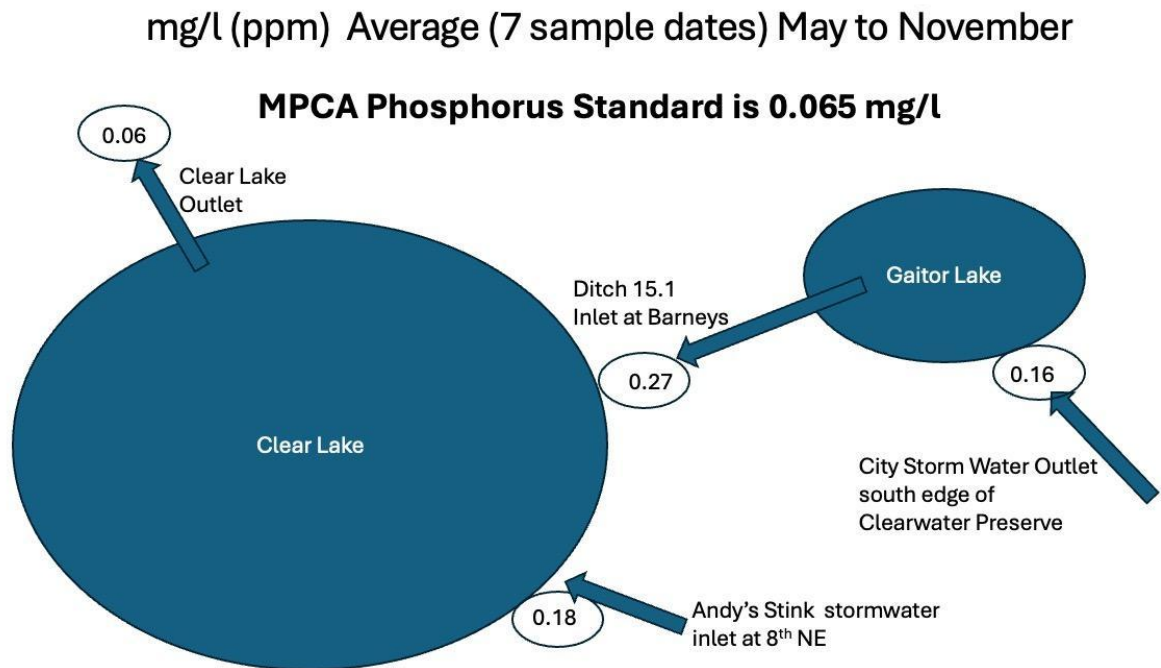
Caddy #1 at the popular fishing spot at the inlet from Gaiter Lake across from Barney's.

# Phosphorus Sampling

One of the reasons that much of our water quality efforts center around reducing phosphorus in Clear Lake is that it is the most limiting component for algae growth, so if we reduce phosphorus, we reduce algae and improve water clarity. Storm and stream water inflow, cycling of lake bottom sediments, and decaying lake weeds are all major sources of phosphorus that fuel algae blooms.

Previous studies have shown that approximately half of the phosphorus in Clear Lake is a result of inflow from Gaiter Lake and other inlets. Since no sampling had been done for almost 10 years, the WLA board decided to initiate another sampling program to have some current information. Tom Glaser of the WLA volunteered to sample at key inlets and well as the outlet in 2024. This study will continue in 2025 so we can have a good two year set of data that can be used to help with management projects.

Below are the results from seven sampling dates in 2024, showing that the phosphorus levels coming in from Gaiter Lake continue to be of the most concern. Other inlets can also contain high levels, but the amount water coming in from Gaiter Lake via ditch 15-1 is much higher and much more constant than any other inlet. The only samples that were below the MPCA accepted phosphorus standard levels were at the Clear Lake outlet.



# Lakeshore and Park Clean Up

The 25th annual lakeshore and parks cleanup is scheduled for Saturday, April 12th, from 9:00-12:00. 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 9:00 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, hotdogs, chips and drinks for volunteers from 11:00-12:30 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/>

## Lakefest Freedom Run

The Lakefest Freedom Run will return this year for its 19<sup>th</sup> 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.



# 2025 Board of Directors

## **PRESIDENT**

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## **TREASURER**

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## **DIRECTOR**

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## **DIRECTOR**

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## **PAST PRESIDENT**

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## **DIRECTOR**

Tom Glaser  
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## **DIRECTOR**

Steve Kiesler  
14200 Old Highway 14  
Waseca, MN 56093  
(507) 521-1924  
[stevekiesler@gmail.com](mailto:stevekiesler@gmail.com)

## **DIRECTOR**

Larry Krause  
1436 Lola Ave  
Waseca, MN 56093  
(507) 420-8557  
[larry@ndapumps.com](mailto:larry@ndapumps.com)



# MEMBERS

We want to say thank you to all of our 2024 members

Dick & Carol	Arnold	Trevor	Kanewischer
Chad & Julie	Anderson	Steve & Belinda	Kiesler
Kris & Dean	Becker	Al & Dana	Kingsley
Perry & Renata	Berg	Dan	Kopischke
Kevin & Brenda	Bernhardt	Bill & Diane	Kortuem
Todd & Cindy	Boeddeker	Larry & Kim	Krause
Brett & Noreen	Bye	Larry & Michelle	Kroeger
Godon	Christensen	Arlene & Jovin	Lombardo
Kristi & Mike	Corchran	Andrew & Kathleen	Miller
Laurie	Deml	Mark	Mitchell
Matt & Abby	Dettmer	Rick	Morris
James	Dey	Joan	Mooney-Broughten
Joanna & Todd	Egbert	Larry & Cheryl	Neid
Doug & Jan	Elliott	Chris	Neu
Gordy & Pat	Frisk	Jay & Nancy	Nicolin
Neil	Fruechte	Larry	Olson
Bernie and Ann	Gaytko	Mike	Peters
Tom	Glaser	Matt	Petsinger
Bill & Cindy	Groh	Gyles & Carol	Randall
John & Tracy	Gutfleisch	Duane and Cheryl	Rathmann
Leroy	Harty	Mylon & Sharon	Robran
Bob & Judy	Hoffman	Richard	Sankovitz
Ryan & Sarah	Hoffman	Jeff & Jodi	Sampson
Kyle	Holmen	Tom & Jeanne	Sexton
William & Patricia	Hoversten	Jon & Jill	Stagman
Howard & Deb	Hoyme	Jeanie	Thompson
Robert	Hunter	Rebecca	Thompson
Mike	Jevning	Debra	Vrieze
Steve & Jennifer	Johnson	Paul & Ashley	Walker
Doug & Lela	Jones	Kevin & Brenda	Walter
Aaron & Deanna	Kanewischer	Craig	Youngberg
Ron & Mary	Kanewischer		

# BUSINESS SPONSORS

We want to say thank you to the local businesses that supported us in 2024!

Keen Bank	Waseca Dental Care
Kiesler's Campground	Dennis Steffel Omtvedt
Prairie Lakes Art Council	American Family
Mayo	VFW
American Legion Sons of Legionnaire	Waseca Area Foundation
American Legion - Gambling	Past and Present
American Legion Auxiliary	Minnwest Bank
American Legion Post 228	MPeters
ICAN	Waseca Tourism
Ameriprise Financial	

# PUBLIC NOTICE

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

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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 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 is expected to begin in mid-May and extend 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 within 150 feet of a landowner's shoreline, please notify the Waseca Lakes Association, in writing, no later than Friday, April 25th, 2025..

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

Email: [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"/> Silver \$250+    | <input type="checkbox"/> Gold \$500+           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Platinum \$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](mailto: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

## Platinum Sponsor \$1000+

- 30 beverage tickets for LakeFest and a 2024 Waseca Lakes Association Lake Lover membership which includes:
  - Newsletter and email correspondence
  - WLA website advertising
  - Facebook recognition
  - Lake signage
  - Freedom Run T-shirt recognition
  - Recognition at all WLA sponsored events
  - LakeFest Banner Recognition (banner in front of the stage)

## Gold Sponsor \$500+

- 25 beverage tickets for LakeFest and a 2024 Waseca Lakes Association Business Lake Supporter membership which includes:
  - Newsletter and email correspondence
  - WLA website advertising
  - Facebook recognition
  - Freedom Run T-shirt recognition
  - LakeFest Banner Recognition (banner in front of the stage)

## Silver Sponsor \$250+

- 15 beverage tickets for LakeFest and a 2024 Business Waseca Lakes Association membership which includes:
  - Newsletter and email correspondence
  - WLA website advertising
  - Facebook recognition
  - LakeFest Banner Recognition (banner near the stage)