

ON THE Lake

THE VOICE
FOR LAKE MINNETONKA LAKESHORE
OWNERS AND BUSINESSES

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It worked! Now what?

By Dick Osgood, LMA Executive Director



Dick Osgood

The 2006 milfoil demonstration project is completed and the results show it worked.

Three sites were included in the demonstration project: Phelps Bay, Carmens Bay and Grays Bay.

The objectives of the demonstration projects were:

- Demonstrate the effectiveness of herbicides to control milfoil in Lake Minnetonka
- Evaluate and compare the effectiveness of herbicide treatments when used in large areas
- Determine the feasibility of using herbicides to supplement the LMCD's harvesting program
- Determine the level of public support for future large-scale herbicide treatments to control milfoil

According to the draft technical report submitted by scientists at the US Army Corps of Engineers and the MN Department of Natural Resources, "All three herbicide applications maintained low Eurasian watermilfoil density for the entire summer." In addition, "Native plants were abundant in all treatment plots the entire summer."

This result – milfoil control and native plant protection – is exactly what we were expecting.

Specific reductions in milfoil (percentage frequency and density) were:

Phelp's80% and 99%
Carman'sno significant reductions
Gray's66% and 92%

The Carman's Bay treatments was least effective, but this was probably the result of using the granular formulation of 2,4-D, which was probably applied unevenly because of the very low dose.

The lakeshore owners adjacent to the demonstration sites were given the option of participating in the demonstration. Many of those opting in responded to a survey. A summary of their responses were:

- 1. Did you opt to have your lakeshore treated as part of the demonstration project?**
 - Yes 83%; No 17%
 - Did not seem to reduce the weeds (from Carman's Bay respondents)
 - Best year ever, no lakeshore clean-up, 42%
 - Yes, but other plants were a nuisance (coontail), 12%
- 2. This is a 'demonstration project' and we are evaluating the public/private partnership. Please comment on this model.**
 - Liked the model, seems fair, should be greater participation, 75%
 - Private area should be less than 150 feet lake-ward, should be more public financing, 17%

- Not sure, 8%
 - Not in favor, 4%
- 3. What can the LMA do on your behalf as we evaluate this project and consider future milfoil control efforts?**
 - Communicate results
 - Provide option for additional personal controls
 - Expand, continue the program
 - Evaluate cost-effectiveness
 - Compare with harvesters

Eurasian watermilfoil in Lake Minnetonka was generally less abundant and less dense in 2006. To some extent, the observations by lakeshore owners probably reflect this occurrence. On the other hand, the results as measured and reported by the cooperating scientists, clear show the treatments (except Carman's) worked as expected and as observed on hundreds of other lakes in the country.

Relative to the stated objectives, the demonstrations project:

- Showed that two of the treatments were effective in larger areas
- There has not yet been an evaluation as to whether any of these treatments might supplement the LMCD's harvesting program
- There is clearly a great deal of public support for expanded milfoil control in Lake Minnetonka

(continued on page 2)

What Next?

The Lake Minnetonka Association recommends:

1. The Milfoil Demonstration Project be Expanded in 2007

The milfoil demonstration project should be expanded to entire bay(s) on Lake Minnetonka.

2. Develop a Lake Vegetation Management Plan

An LVMP should be developed for implementation in 2008. An essential element of an LVMP, a comprehensive aquatic plant inventory, should be conducted in 2007. The development of an LVMP is a substantial undertaking that does not depend on the results of the 2006 (or 2007) demonstration project; thus preparations should begin immediately.

While clearly not the “silver bullet,” we know these herbicides can control milfoil in large areas without harming native plants. If lakeshore owners feel it is worthwhile to expand these treatments, as the LMA Board does, please let us know.

LMA BOARD MEMBERS

- Michael Mason, President (Phelp's Bay)
- Amanda Walsh, Vice President (West Arm)
- Gedney Tuttle, Treasurer (Brown's Bay)
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“ON THE LAKE”

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HOW TO CONTACT THE LMA

Phone Number:(952) 470-4449
The LMA's e-mail and Web site have changed.
The LMA's e-mail is now
Minnetonka@MinnesotaWaters.org and our
Web site is “under construction.”

“From The Helm”

by Mike Mason, LMA Board President



Mike Mason

What is the LMCD and how are they different from the LMA?

The Lake Minnetonka Association is the voice of Lake Minnetonka lakeshore owners and businesses. The LMA is a nonprofit organization with no regulatory authority. We serve as advocates for the interests of lakeshore owners and businesses.

We have been hearing from our members there may be some confusion between the LMA and the LMCD. As I think about this, perhaps this is understandable – after all there are a lot of “LM’s” – LMA, LMCD, LMCC, on and on. To be an effective advocate, we should at least be clear who we are and are not.

The Lake Minnetonka Conservations District, the LMCD, is a regulatory agency.

The LMCD was created in 1967 and is governed by a Board of Directors composed of one member appointed by each of the 14 cities surrounding Lake Minnetonka. In general, the LMCD reviews various license application requests, considers studies of lake issues, takes measures to control Eurasian watermilfoil and other exotic species, and considers other related lake-management issues.

LMA members and businesses encounter the LMCD when they have docking disputes, require multiple dock licenses or see the milfoil harvesters. The LMCD receives its main funding through a tax levy from the respective cities.

I think there is a need for both organizations, but there is also a need to be clear about our respective roles. On other issues, we may disagree with the LMCD and seek to influence change when we think it is warranted.

I hope all lakeshore owners support the Lake Minnetonka Association as your advocate.

Mike Mason

Look at Your Mail Label

As a reminder to our members and supporters, we have added the month of your membership renewal to the address label on this newsletter. So for example, if it is “Jul,” you renewal month is July. We hope this will be useful for both you and the LMA. For you, we hope you will take that reminder and send in you renewal about a month ahead of that, then we will not need to send a reminder – a process that takes administrative time. For us, we can more efficiently track and prompt our renewal requests.

What if there is no month? This means we have not yet had the pleasure of receiving your support for the LMA. If this is the case, we hope you do become a member and support our advocacy on your behalf.

By the way, many of our members send contributions more than once throughout the year. For you, we have assigned one month, but we will not send reminders if you have made a contribution within the past year. Thanks you for your extra support.

JOIN AS AN LMA MEMBER TODAY OR SEND A TAX-DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTION. YOUR SUPPORT MAKES LMA STRONG

Thank you to LMA members who have joined or renewed their membership. Your dues help support the important work of the LMA. WE NEED MORE LAKESHORE OWNERS AS MEMBERS. Without a solid base of support, the LMA cannot continue to provide a voice for the betterment of our beautiful lake.

**THANK YOU,
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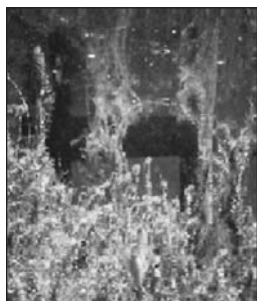
JOIN OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY! We appreciate new or renewing members using this form—thanks!
Please complete this form and mail it with your tax-deductible contribution to the Lake Minnetonka Association, P.O. Box 248, Excelsior, MN 55331. Make your check payable to the "LMA." Thanks!

Name(s): _____ E-mail: _____
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1. I want to support the LMA at the following membership level:
 Basic \$50 - \$199 **Sustaining \$200 - \$499** **Captain \$500 - \$999** **Commodore \$1000+** **Business \$350**
2. I want to support the "LMA Exotic Species Fund"\$ _____
3. Other or Additional\$ _____

The LMA is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization.

ALERT: Hydrilla, “The Perfect Aquatic Weed” One Step Closer to Minnesota



Hydrilla is an invasive plant, like milfoil. However, in reference to hydrilla, experts will often say, “If you think milfoil is bad...”

According to the Florida Center for Aquatic Plants, “hydrilla has spread rapidly through portions of the United States and has become a serious weed that causes substantial

economic hardships, interferes with various water uses, displaces native aquatic plant communities, and adversely impacts freshwater habitats.”

Hydrilla was found in a lake in northern Indiana this past fall. Indiana officials are developing a rapid response plan for implementation this spring. The Indian Lake Management Society have invited Lake Minnetonka Association Executive Director, Dick Osgood, to their annual meeting in February to address them regarding Minnesota’s exotic species experiences and help them develop an overall strategy.

We should be very concerned because hydrilla is moving toward Minnesota. If introduced into Lake Minnetonka, it would make milfoil seem tame. There is no rapid response plan for Lake Minnetonka!

The access inspections and protection measures the LMA has been advocating to keep zebra mussel at bay will also protect against hydrilla.

As we look forward to the 2007 season, the inspection and protection program for Lake Minnetonka will cover only a fraction of the incoming boaters. More needs to be done, but at least the 2007 program is a start to help stem the threat of the hydrilla invasion.

Photos: University of Florida, Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants; <http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/byvepic.html>



Volunteer Inspectors Needed

LMA members or other volunteers can help in the larger effort to keep zebra mussels and other unwanted exotic plants and animals out of our lake. We are seeking volunteers who will spend time educating boaters and conducting inspections at the public boat accesses around the lake. Volunteers will receive training through the MN DNR Watercraft Inspection Program this spring and then can participate in the inspections.

The LMA endorses all efforts to keep Lake Minnetonka clean, and this is one way lakeshore owners and others can provide a valuable service.

Interested people should send an email to the LMA with you name and contact information, including an email address.

The LMA and Minnesota Waters

The Lake Minnetonka Association is a member of Minnesota Waters, a merger of the Minnesota Lakes Association and the Rivers Council of Minnesota. Minnesota Waters helps lake associations, like the LMA, by being an advocate for common interests and concerns, offering educational materials and programs and a forum for the exchange of ideas.

Minnesota Waters believes that the lakes and rivers in our state are irreplaceable natural assets to be held in trust for future generations. Through programs of

discovery, advocacy and on-the-ground action, the people of Minnesota will change their behaviors and public policies to reflect responsible stewardship.

Checkout Minnesota Water’s Web site at www.Minnetonka@MinnesotaWaters.org

Answer to mail panel question:

Not True

C: Mutant turtles have not been found in sewers (except in cartoons).

**“THE LMA
PRESENTS”**
airs on
CHANNEL 12
(see local listings
for times)

LMA Recommends a Moratorium on New Multiple Docks

The recent consideration and action of a multiple dock facility on Grays Bay has highlighted several issues with respect to new multiple docks on Lake Minnetonka. The LMA is concerned about environmental impacts of new multiple docks on the lakeshore as well as the need for updating a policy regulating these facilities. Specifically, we believe the application of the 'meandered' shoreline measurement for determining multiple dock capacity is ill-advised. For example, in the Locust Hills case, the method allowed for including environmentally sensitive inlets and back bays, which should be excluded. The alternative – putting more multiple docks on the main body of Gray's Bay – did little to mitigate these environmental concerns. Because there appears to be great demand for new multiple docks, we see the prospect for these concerns to continue.

There is also concern with the numerous 'subjective criteria' the LMCD uses in these matters. For example, the LMCD may consider whether new multiple docks:

- Will be compatible with the maintenance of the natural beauty of the lake.
- Will affect the quality of the lake and the ecology of the lake.
- Will cause noise, fumes or other nuisances and may be an annoyance.
- Will serve the public good.
- Will obstruct or occupy too great an area of the public water.

The Lake Minnetonka Association

Think about this...

What is worse than zebra mussels?

QUAGGA MUSSELS – they have been found in the Duluth-Superior Harbor, they may be more prolific, destructive and aggressive, they have been shown to eat at the base of the food-chain, robbing fish of food.

Tick, tick, tick...

believes these criteria, and perhaps others, should absolutely be considered for new multiple docks on Lake Minnetonka.

The Lake Minnetonka Association recommends the Lake Minnetonka Conservation District impose a moratorium on new multiple docks, pending clarification of their meandered measurement policy, a re-consideration of its 1974 boat density policy, clarification of its subjective criteria and any revisions to its ordinances that may be necessary to address these concerns.

Zebra Mussel – Will Cost Every Boat & Dock Owner

We have begun investigating the increased maintenance costs for lakeshore boat and dock owners, should zebra mussel get into Lake Minnetonka. As this issue of On the Lake goes to press, we have learned that the additional end-of-season maintenance costs for cleaning boat hulls and lifts is expected to be at least \$250 to \$450 over and above what you now pay. We will keep investigating this. More to come...

Zebra Mussel – Elected Officials Meeting a Bust

The Lake Minnetonka Association and the LMCD hosted an elected officials meeting on December 12th to provide background of our proposed zebra mussel prevention plan, discuss obstacles and concerns, explore opportunities, gain their support and discuss and agree on next steps.

The turnout at the meeting was a big disappointment.

Of the state representatives and senators (all whose district includes the lake), country commissioners and 14 mayors who were invited, *a single legislator and mayor-elect* were in attendance or sent a representative.

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THE MISSION OF THE LMA

The Lake Minnetonka Association, through volunteers, lakeshore owners and the Lake Minnetonka community, works to promote lake preservation and the reasonable use of Lake Minnetonka.

Serving as an information resource and advocate for the lakeshore owners, the Lake Minnetonka Association focuses on the areas of lake preservation and protection that are appropriate for the entire lake community.

Also, the Lake Minnetonka Association promotes social interaction among members through association events. By forming a lasting relationship with members of the lake community, the LMA creates a kinship of lakeshore owners involved in the protection of Lake Minnetonka.

Largemouth Bass Virus Found in Lake Minnetonka

The largemouth bass virus, or LMBV, was documented from fish in Lake Minnetonka this past August. According to a MN DNR report, “Largemouth bass is the only species where it is known to cause fatalities, especially in trophy-sized fish.” It is likely that all fish have the virus, but will not show signs of ill-health, except during stressful conditions. Warm water temperatures, overcrowding or handling may trigger the onset of disease in the fish. LMBV has caused large-scale die-offs in other US lakes.

According to the MN DNR, “Infected fish are safe to handle and eat. Largemouth bass virus does not affect humans or other warm-blooded animals.”

Anglers should:

- not move live fish or fish parts from one body of water to another
- drain water from the motor, live well, bilge and transom wells at the ramp access before leaving any water body
- not target largemouth bass from mid-July to mid-August, especially during exceptionally hot weather conditions
- wash/dry boats to kill exotics/pathogens that were not visible at the boat launch (recent research has determined that LMBV can live for several days in water)
- report dead or dying largemouth bass to the local DNR fisheries office



THE LMA NEEDS YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Lake Minnetonka is facing several critical challenges that require strong advocacy and timely actions. The LMA is able to confront these issues in a positive, effective manner, but we need your financial support. Your support will allow the LMA to:

- Continue and increase our advocacy on behalf of lakeshore owners.
- Work with agencies, elected representatives and municipalities to coordinate and facilitate action.
- Provide financial support for inspection programs and milfoil demonstrations which will result in assured protection and better management of the lake.

These activities, to be meaningful and effective, are expensive. LMA members have ‘stepped up’ in the past to challenges like this. The LMA is the VOICE for Lake Minnetonka Lakeshore Owners and Businesses. Please show your support. Thanks.

Which one of these is NOT true? See stories inside.

A: Virus in Lake Minnetonka may kill largemouth bass
 B: Milfoil treatments worked – can milfoil be controlled lake wide?
 C: Mutant turtles found in sewers
 D: Zebra mussels would cost boat and dock owners \$250-\$450 per year
 E: LMA recommends moratorium on new multiple dock facilities
 (Answer on page 4)

*The VOICE for
 Lake Minnetonka Lakeshore
 Owners and Businesses*

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