



Lake Minnie Belle Messenger

LMBIA

Winter/Spring 2013

Winter/Spring Highlight by: Larry Rewerts

Happy New Year. My hope is that you are well, enjoying winter and looking forward to spring and summer. There are a number of highlights related to our lake in this issue. Hopefully you will find the following information helpful.

First of all, in this issue on page 2 you will find the 2013 LMBIA membership enrollment form. If you are a current member, I ask you to participate again this year. We have approximately 1/2 of lake residents that are dues paying members. The lake association board anticipates significant expenditures this year as we continue our treatment plan

for invasive plants and other projects to enhance the quality of the lake. We will be applying for permits to treat both curly leaf pondweed and Eurasian milfoil this spring. We rely on membership dues and potential grant monies to pay for these treatments. If we are allowed to treat the maximum acreage for these invasives, costs could easily exceed \$10,000. If you are not a current member of our lake association, I ask you to participate this year. The money you donate and we use will benefit both residents and the lake itself.

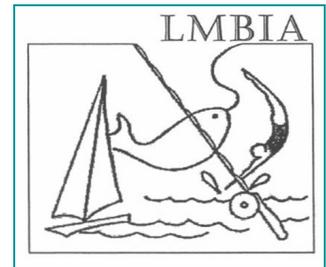
We have submitted the official paper-

work to the State of Minnesota to obtain 501 C3 status. This allows our association to be legally defined as a non-profit organization. 2013 dues and other donations given to LMBIA can be declared on next years taxes.

As we approach spring, lake residents (especially on the east side) can start to think about forest tent caterpillars. We will need volunteers to organize for potential spraying efforts.

The Lake Minnie Belle Board has decided not to do another point intercept survey of the lake this summer. We have reliable data for

the lake provided by Nick Brown of the DNR from the 2012 survey that can be used to plan our treatment strategy. See you on the ice/water.



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2013 Lake Minnie Belle Membership Form

Please complete and return with your check payable to
LMBIA (Lake Minnie Belle Improvement Association)
PO Box 34
Litchfield, MN 55355

Last Name _____

First Name _____ Spouse _____

Lake Address _____, Litchfield, MN 55355

Permanent Mailing Address _____

City _____, State _____ ZIP _____

*If you are a first time member or member who purchased additional lot(s); who were the previous owners of your new lake property? _____

E-mail Address _____

Lake Minnie Belle dues (\$1 of your Membership dues will go into the Milfoil fund) \$25.00

Would you like to make a contribution to the LMBIA Milfoil fund? \$ _____

Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____

EARLY BIRD SPECIAL

HAVE YOUR DUES PAID BY APRIL 20, 2013
AND YOU WILL BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE EARLY BIRD DRAWING!
WE WILL BE GIVING AWAY 1-\$50 CASH AWARD!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW SO YOU WON'T MISS THE LMBIA ANNUAL MEETING!

The annual meeting is held the 3rd Sunday in July at the Beckville Church campground.

The meeting starts at noon, please bring a dish to pass!





Vegetation or Weeds: A Roundtable Discussion

On November 30, 2012 members of the Minnesota DNR and Lake Minnie Belle residents met at the DNR office in Hutchinson. Representing the DNR were Nick Brown, DNR Invasive Species Specialist, Lee Sundmark, Supervisor Division of Fish and Wildlife, and Garry Bennett, DNR area hydrologist. Representing Lake Minnie Belle were current board members and other concerned residents. The purpose of this meeting was to gather information on Lake Minnie Belle provided by the DNR and to express concerns about the significant growth of certain vegetation in our lake.

Nick Brown began the meeting by providing a summary of a report he prepared after conducting a point intercept survey of the lake during the summer of 2012. (The complete report is available for viewing on the LMBIA web page). In his summary Nick stated that in the summer of 2010 a few Eurasian milfoil plants were discovered in the lake. By 2012 those few plants had spread into 7 1/2 acres. A second invasive, curly leaf pondweed was also present. Nick then described the process of conducting a point intercept survey. (Also available for viewing on the LMBIA web page).

Discussion then centered on native plant growth versus invasive plant growth and what strategies can be implemented to keep the good plants and reduce the bad (invasive) plants. The discussion then centered on treatment options.

Residents from our lake expressed concern about the lack of treatment success from the late 2012 summer chemical application for Eurasian milfoil. The treatment seemed successful in the lagoon but ineffective in the southwest part of the lake. Both Nick Brown and Lee Sundmark stated that there are many factors that need to be considered when looking at successful treatment (product used, weather conditions, expertise of the applicators) to name a few.

Ultimately the discussion centered on "where do we go from here?" Get permits and treat. FYI-A decision was made at the January 2013 LMBIA board meeting to apply for permits to treat both invasives (curly leaf pondweed and Eurasian milfoil) in 2013. If the permits are granted by the DNR, the curly leaf pondweed would be treated first (early spring). The maximum area for this treatment is 15% of the littoral acreage of our lake (Lake Minnie Belle has a total of approximately 150 littoral acres). Will we be permitted the maximum acreage for curly leaf? In my estimation, probably not. Nick Brown did not think the curly leaf pondweed was excessive in the lake. Lee Sundmark also stated that even with successful treatment, native plants would fill the niche of reduced invasives so the level of weeds will not decrease.

We will also apply for a permit to treat Eurasian milfoil in 2013. Once Nick Brown receives the permit he will conduct delineation. This is an on-site survey of the lake to determine the location of Eurasian milfoil and is used to develop a treatment plan. The lake residents at the meeting emphasized the need to treat as much of the Eurasian milfoil as possible now rather than allow the milfoil to spread resulting in the need to deal with greater acreage and expense in the future.

The main objective of this meeting was to open lines of communication between residents of Lake Minnie Belle and representatives of the DNR. This dialogue will lend itself to cooperative efforts between government agencies and lake residents resulting in positive results for our lake.





Patten's Insights

Ground truthing training will be taking place soon. Volunteers will be trained in interpreting aerial survey photography to identify "hot spots" that may have an adverse affect on our lake. Please be receptive to these volunteers as they visit your neighborhood.

LMBIA board meetings are held the 3rd Wednesday of each month (excluding December) at the Bonfire Bar and Grill. The meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. and are open to the public.

This years fishing opener is
May 10, 2013.

Thank you to Roger Jergens for his many years of service collecting water samples and conducting secchi disc readings from the lake. Roger will be training in new volunteers this spring.

According to the Meeker County Assessors Office there were 7 home sales on Minnie Belle This past year. The lowest sale was \$151,500 and the highest was \$471,550. Overall the houses sold for over 2.3% of their appraised value. (This does not include any back lots that were sold.)

Cindy Hoffman has volunteered to organize lake captains for Minnie Belle. These people will initially be trained to identify invasive species. Each captain will be assigned a portion of the lake to monitor. If you are interested contact any LMBIA board member.





Rain Barrel Sale

Rain barrels can capture and store roof runoff from small to medium size rain events. Water stored in rain barrels can be used to water flowers, landscape areas or irrigate lawns in between rain events.

Installing a rain barrel not only helps the environment, but it also reduces your water bill. When it rains and falls faster than the ground can absorb it or it lands on hard surfaces it goes directly to area storm drains. Storm drains then runoff into area lakes and rivers. As the water reaches the storm drains it can come into contact with a variety of contaminants like: oil, salt, fertilizers, pesticides, bacteria and trash left along curbsides. As a result, runoff contributes and effects local water quality.

Disconnecting your downspout can help reduce direct runoff from small rain events and divert water from storm drains and ultimately our lakes and rivers. The more people that use rain barrels, the greater impact we have on improving our water quality in local lakes and river.

Barrel Designs

Size Dimensions: 32" H x 24" W

Capacity: 54 gallons

Weight in lbs: 18lbs when empty

Composition: made from recycled materials

Key Features: attractive, expandable, debris screen, durable, color: **Brown**

Barrel Benefits

- Provide clean water for outdoor uses
- Conserve water and other natural resources
- Decrease the chance or magnitude of flooding
- Minimize the effects of drought

Details

Price: \$50

Cash or check, make checks payable to CROW

If interested contact Linda Larson 320-221-3061

Event Sponsors

Lake Minnie-Belle Association

Crow River Organization of Water - Dan Nadeau
763-682-1933

LINKS

Lake Minnie Belle website address

<https://sites.google.com/site/lmbiaorg/>

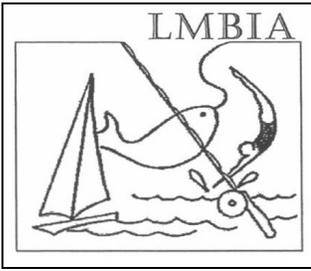
Lake Minnie Belle on Facebook

www.facebook.com/lmbia

Go to the DNR website to obtain information concerning regulations for removal of aquatic plants and the permits that are necessary. www.dnr.state.mn.us

The walleye,
sauger, northern
pike season ends
February 24th.

A special thank you to Mark & Ann Schmidtbauer's Creative Graphics for publishing the LMBIA Messenger.



Lake Minnie Belle Improvement Association

Po Box 34

Litchfield, MN 55355



LAKE MINNIE BELLE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The LMBIA wants to represent the view of all its members. Questions, concerns, suggestions and volunteers are all encouraged. We want active participation from all people living near or using Lake Minnie Belle.

We believe we can work together to continue to maintain the quality of this lake and help ensure its benefits for future generations. Your Board of Directors includes:

Dan Fitterer
Chair/MCAL
61998 190th St.
Litchfield, MN. 55355
320-693-6613

Larry Rewerts
Vice Chair LMBIA Messenger
62146 200th St.
Litchfield, MN. 55355
320-693-2609

Sylvia Kittelson
Secretary
61898 193rd St.
Litchfield, MN.55355
320-693-7351

Shirley Kronbeck
Treasurer
20085 612th Ave
Litchfield, MN. 55355
320-693-9588

Roger Patten
LMBIA Messenger
19545 624th Ave
Litchfield, MN. 55355
320-693-2749

Stan Kittelson
Ditch CleanUp
61898 193rd St.
Litchfield, MN.55355
320-693-7351

Robert Hantge
1210 Lewis Ave SW
Hutchinson, MN. 55350
320-583-1396

Linda Larson
19640 612th Ave
Litchfield, MN. 55355
320-221-3061

Pete Schlauderaff
19657 624th Ave
Litchfield, MN.55355
320-693-8743

Laurie Boll
19739 623rd Ave.
Litchfield, MN. 55355
320-221-0733

Advisors:
Roger Jergens Tom Hess Mary Lou Rolf
320-693-6357 320-693-6953 320-593-1083

