



Lake Minnie Belle Messenger

WINTER/SPRING 2014 BOARD HIGHLIGHTS By Larry Rewerts

It seems like it has been a long cold winter this year. Ice on the lake is over 30 inches thick now and not much activity in terms of fishing and other recreational sports. We all know that this is about to change. It won't be long and we can all be outside more, enjoying warmer weather, putting docks, boat lifts, pontoons and boats in the water.

You will notice in this issue of the newsletter we have included the 2014 LMBIA membership form. I want to encourage all who receive this newsletter to join the lake association. Last year there were 154 paid memberships (roughly 1/2 of all lake properties). Our goal this year is to exceed 200 memberships. The cost remains \$25 per year. Dues paid are used for a variety of projects and expenses incurred over the course of the year. Rest assured that money spent by the Lake Association will be used to enhance

the overall quality of Lake Minnie Belle. Please join.

The MB2 inlet ditch project is moving ahead. MB2 is located on the southwest side of the lake next to the gravel access road. The project has been surveyed and a bid has been accepted for removal of trees. This is the beginning phase of a restoration project that will limit and filter the amount of sediment runoff that enters the lake. The project is expensive with costs in the tens of thousands of dollars. The Board is exploring funding opportunities through grants and other financial assistance provided by township, county and other organizations. Some of the costs will be paid with membership dues donations. This is another example of a project that when completed will improve water quality in Lake Minnie Belle.

There will soon be an upcoming meeting for the Lake Captains. These volunteers have received training in the identification of milfoil and other invasive species. In order to have success in the treatment of eurasion milfoil and curly leaf pondweed, we need to identify the locations of infestation and determine if the

invasive species have spread. If you wish to participate in this initiative, contact board director Dick Baril or Tom Hess. A preliminary list of volunteers was published in the Fall 2013 LMBIA Messenger.

Permit applications for the treatment of Curly Leaf Pondweed have been submitted to the DNR. If accepted, treatment would take place later this spring. Eurasion milfoil permits will be submitted soon for treatment later in the summer. If you are planning on treating your own shoreline, now is the time to begin the process. A number of residents on the south and west side of the lakes treated last year. Check with your neighbors.

Please consider joining the Lake Association this year. The money you donate will be used to improve our lake. We have 501C3 status as a non-profit organization which allows you to deduct the membership dues on your taxes.

Enjoy the spring and we will see you on the water.

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FISH CONSUMPTION GUIDELINES FOR LAKE MINNIE BELLE

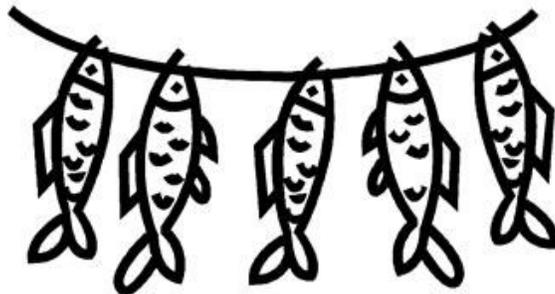
These fish consumption guidelines help people make choices about which fish to eat and how often. Following the guidelines enables people to reduce their exposure to contaminants while still enjoying the many benefits from fish.

Pregnant women, women who may become pregnant and children under 15 should not consume more than 1 meal per month of bullheads, largemouth bass or walleye taken from Lake Minnie Belle due to levels of mercury in the fish. The general population should not consume more than 1 meal per week of the same species.

In Minnesota, mercury is the contaminant in fish that causes the most concern. Air pollution is the major source of mercury that contaminates the fish in Minnesota's lakes and rivers. About 70 percent of the mercury in the air is the result of emissions from coal combustion, mining, incineration of mercury-containing products and other human sources. Over time, fish can accumulate relatively high mercury concentrations. That's why it's important to make wise choices about the fish you eat and how often you eat it.

Once in a lake, mercury is converted to methylmercury by bacteria. Fish absorb methylmercury from their food. Mercury is tightly bound to proteins in all fish tissue, including muscle. There is no method of cooking or cleaning fish that will reduce the amount of mercury in a meal. Larger, older fish and fish which eat other fish accumulate more contaminants than smaller, younger fish which eat less contaminated prey.

Methylmercury builds up on your body over time. It may take months or years of regularly eating contaminated fish to accumulate levels which are a health concern. As you follow the fish advisory, the amount of methylmercury you take into your body is safely eliminated between meals. Large amounts of mercury may harm the nervous system. Young children, developing fetuses and breast-fed babies are at most risk, because small amounts of mercury can damage a brain that is just starting to form or grow. Too much mercury may affect a child's behavior and lead to learning problems later in life. The first symptoms of adult mercury poisoning include incoordination and burning or tingling sensation in the fingers and toes. The consumption advice given by MDH is intended to keep the mercury in your body below levels that damage the nervous system. The Minnesota DNR and the Department of Health websites were used for this article.



2014 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, 2014
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!

Calendar Dates & Random Thoughts

2014 Dates to Remember

May 10 - Feb. 22 – Walleye & Northern Pike Season

May 10 – 11- Take a mom fishing weekend

May 24 – Feb. 22 – Largemouth Bass Season

June 6 - 8 Take a kid fishing weekend

June 7 – Dec. 01 – Muskie Season

Interested in volunteering.

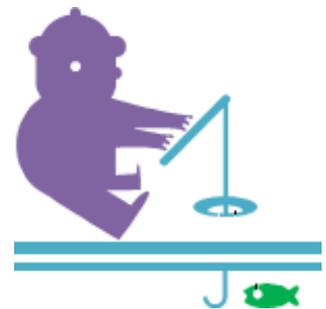
Consider being a Lake Captain. Help us with the identification of invasive species. We need more volunteers. Contact Board Member Dick Baril if you can help.

Internet Addresses

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

LMBIA facebook www.facebook.com/lmbia

DNR website www.dnr.state.mn.us



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

Lake Minnie Belle has a slot limit on Northern Pike.

All fish 24 –36 inches must be immediately released. 1 pike over 36 inches is allowed in possession.



Every 2 years the DNR stocks walleyes in Minnie Belle. The last stocking took place in 2012 when 968 yearling walleyes were released into the lake. Yearling walleyes range from 6 – 12 inches in length. In 2010, 3,817 fingerlings were released. Fingerling walleyes range from 3 – 8 inches in length.

Lake Minnie Belle is 577 acres in size. The maximum depth is 49 feet. Plant growth occurs to a depth of approximately 16 feet.

Secchi disk readings for 2013 ranged from 17 feet in early June to 11.5 feet in early September. This reading gives an indication of how clear the water is in the lake. A disc about the size of a pie plate is lowered into the water in the middle of the lake until it is no longer visible. Depth readings are taken at this point. Many area lakes have secchi disc readings of 2 – 5 feet.



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:

Tom Hess

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320-693-6953

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Sylvia Kittelson

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320-693-2609

Advisor:

Mary Lou Rolf
320-593-1083

Please contact any Board Member listed above. They can take your concerns to our Board Meeting. Board meetings are held the 3rd Wednesday of each month (except December). An annual general meeting is held the 3rd Sunday in July at the Beckville Church picnic grounds on the southwest shore of Lake Minnie Belle.