

Spring/Summer 2015 Board Highlights

By Larry Rewerts

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The spring/summer boating season is here as evidenced by the docks and lifts that are finding their way into the water of Lake Minnie Belle. Dry conditions this spring have created more shoreline than usual at this time of year. Many of the lake residents are working on the damage created by the expansion of winter ice on their lakefront. Shoreline heaves of 2 to 3 feet are not uncommon. Clarke Companies has completed the treatment of curly leaf pondweed. Shortly after ice-out, technicians from Clarke mapped the lake and conducted visual inspections using a double headed rake. They located slightly over 3 acres of curly leaf pondweed in 2 locations (southwest side near the county public landing and in the lagoon). Permits were obtained from the DNR resulting in the treatment of 3 acres for curly leaf pondweed. Clarke will map and conduct inspections for Eurasian milfoil in late June or early July with treatment to follow.

The MB2 ditch project has been temporarily put on hold. One of our anticipated major funding sources for the project is unable to provide grant monies to use for this effort. As a result, the Board is searching for additional funds from other resources. The cost of the MB2 upgrade is in excess of \$25,000. It will take some time to locate the monies necessary to complete this project.

The LMBIA Board is in need of someone to assist us with grant writing. Costs for lake improvements, treating invasive species and other projects continue to increase. We need to try to take advantage of the resources that are available through various grants. If you would be willing to help, please contact Chairman Tom Hess at 320-693-6953.

The LMBIA annual meeting is set for Saturday, July 18th at the Beckville Church picnic grounds located on the south shore of the lake. Coffee, juice and rolls

will be served at 9:30 a.m. The meeting will begin at 10 a.m. and conclude at 11 a.m. with door prizes.

An update on the Aquatic Invasive Species Training Program referenced in the Winter/Spring newsletter. Legislation was proposed requiring a training program and purchase of a trailer sticker for all boat, pontoon or other water related equipment that was used in Minnesota. This was to take effect in July 2015. At the time of this writing, a compromise had been reached that replaces the AIS trailer decal with a new requirement of an "AIS Affirmation" for all watercraft licenses (effective Jan. 1, 2016). There is no fee for the affirmation, but there is a \$25 fine for failing to have an AIS affirmation displayed or available for inspection. With all pending legislation this could be subject to change. I will have further updates in the Fall newsletter. See you on the water.

Eurasian Watermilfoil

Eurasian watermilfoil is a perennial plant native to Europe, Asia, and Africa and was probably brought to the U.S. as an aquarium plant. Spread westward into inland lakes primarily by boats and also by waterbirds, it reached Midwestern states between the 1950's and 1980's. Today it is considered one of the most aggressive and problematic plants in the U.S. because of the dense colonies which it forms.

Eurasian milfoil typically has 12 to 21 pairs of leaflets. The stems are multi-branched, somewhat reddish in color, with gray-greenish feather-like leaves. The leaves are in whorls of 3 to 5 around the stem. The native

northern watermilfoil, with which it is often confused, usually has 5 to 9 pairs of leaflets.

In nutrient-rich lakes it can form thick underwater stands of tangled stems and vast mats of vegetation at the water's surface. In shallow areas the plant can interfere with water recreation such as boating, fishing and swimming. The plant's floating canopy can also crowd out important native water plants.

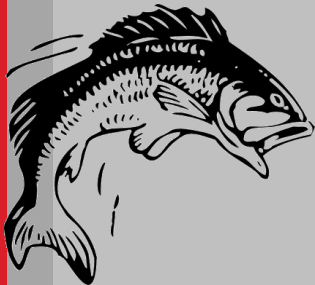
A key factor in the plant's success is its ability to reproduce through stem fragmentation and runners. A single segment of stem and leaves can take root and form a new colony. Fragments clinging to boats and trailers can spread the plant from

lake to lake.

Most problems caused by milfoil can be managed with conventional methods such as treatment with herbicides. The DNR supports management methods that cause as little damage to native aquatic plants as possible. Using herbicides will not eradicate Eurasian milfoil but will slow expansion.

The LMBIA Board will continue to monitor and treat Eurasian milfoil. The cost for treatment is currently \$350 per acre. Please consider an extra donation along with your membership dues.

The background information on Eurasian milfoil was provided by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.



DNR Test Netting Results

Last summer the DNR had a number of trap and gill nets in Lake Minnie Belle. The results of their survey should be available on their website shortly. This information is very useful in terms of understanding what species of fish and

the size of the fish that are in the lake. The last survey was done in 2010. It will be interesting to interpret the results of this most recent survey with the previous data. To access this information go to the DNR website and click on the lake finder

link. Our lake number is 47011900 or if you choose to type in the name of the lake you must type in Belle and of course Meeker County. Click on the Minnie Belle link and the following page provides you with a great deal of information

2015 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 _____
 Telephone Number _____
 Cell Phone Number _____

*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? \$ _____

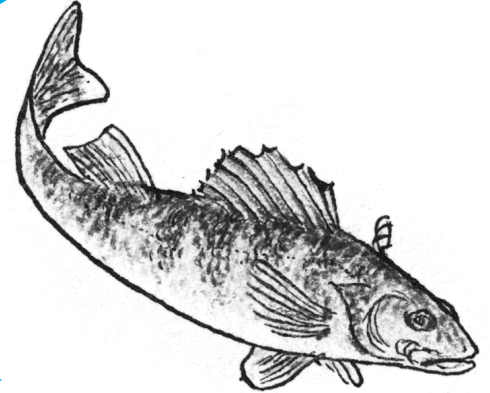
Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____

EARLY BIRD SPECIAL

**HAVE YOUR DUES PAID BY APRIL 20, 2015
 AND YOU WILL BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE EARLY BIRD DRAWING!
 WE WILL BE GIVING AWAY 1-\$50 CASH AWARD!**

Lake Minnie Belle Directory

All residents who have paid their 2014 annual membership dues should have received the 2015 LMBIA Directory. This publication is very informative in terms of property ownership and location on the lake. Many local businesses buy advertising which helps defray expenses. Creative Graphics donates the printing of the Directory.



Walleye Stocking

Every 2 years the DNR will stock Lake Minnie Belle with walleyes. In 2014, 5040 fingerlings (180 lbs) were stocked. These fish are 3-8 inches in length. In 2012, 968 yearlings (242 pounds) were released. These fish are 6-12 inches in length.

Ice Out Date

The ice officially left the lake on April 5th this year. In 2014 ice out was April 23rd.

Northern Pike Slot

The slot on northern pike remains in effect. 24 to 36 inch fish must be immediately returned to the lake. One over 36 inches is allowed in possession.

Membership Dues

So far 100 lake residents have paid their annual dues. Each year approximately 170 residents will participate. This is roughly half of all property owners on the lake. Please consider donating extra to the mil-foil fund. This money is used for the treatment of invasive species. All donations are tax deductible.

Ditch Cleanup

A number of lake residents participated in the spring road ditch cleanup. A special thank you to Stan Kittelson for his efforts in organizing this effort. Our lake association is committed to being environmentally conscious.

Reducing Phosphorous and Nutrients Flowing Into Lakes and Rivers

In his State of the State address on April 9, the Governor reaffirmed his commitment to improve water quality in Minnesota by requiring a 50 foot buffer on all rivers and streams. Virtually every statewide conservation organization in the state is strongly supporting the Governor's common sense water quality proposal. The bill does not affect most lakeshore properties, which are covered by existing rules.

LMBIA Annual Meeting

The 2015 annual meeting will take place on the 3rd Saturday of July at Beckville Church picnic grounds. Coffee, juice and rolls will be served at 9:30 a.m. Meeting begins at 10 a.m. and concludes at 11 a.m. with door prizes.

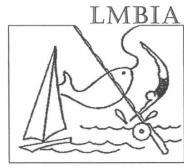
Check Us Out

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

LMBIA Facebook is www.facebook.com/lmbia

DNR website is www.dnr.state.mn.us

A special thank you to Mark & Ann Schmidtbauer's Creative Graphics for printing the LMBIA Messenger. This service is done at no cost to our organization. Thanks a lot.



**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:

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