

**Lake Minnie Belle
Improvement Association**
PO BOX 34
Litchfield, MN 55355

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Lake Minnie Belle Messenger

LMBIA

Winter/Spring 2015 Board Highlights

By Larry Rewerts

Winter/Spring 2015

With spring right around the corner, the LMBIA board has spent considerable time in preparation for the open water season. One of the most important issues each year is the treatment of curly leaf pondweed and Eurasian milfoil. Our goal in planning is to deliver effective and efficient treatment methods to control these invasive plants. This year the board has decided to hire the Clarke Company to assist us in the planning, surveying, treatment and post treatment surveys. Clarke worked with us in the treatment of Eurasian milfoil last fall. They are a multi-state company who specializes in planning and treatment of invasive species. Their Minnesota office is located in Clearwater.

The LMBIA board recognizes the need to establish a base of quality information in terms of invasive species. We know we have curly leaf and milfoil. We need better information in terms of location and amount of these invasives as we apply for permits and conduct treatment programs. Clarke uses high technology equipment called a Contour Innovation Bio Base Mapping System as well as throwing a double headed rake and visual inspection in their pre-treatment survey. Last summer members of the board had an opportunity to witness this technology in use by Clarke on parts of our lake. We were impressed by the quality of the maps and the expertise shown by their employees.

You will see a Clarke boat on the lake very shortly after ice out. They will be mapping the lake for curly leaf pondweed. With the data provided from this effort the board along with Clarke can apply for permits to treat with the DNR. Treatment of curly leaf will be done when the water 2 feet below the surface is 50 degrees or warmer. Aquathol K will be used. Clarke will be responsible for posting notification signs and/or buoys in the treatment areas as well as their removal. Minnesota DNR treatment signs will be posted on those properties that are within 150 feet of all treatment areas. It will be the responsibility of the shoreline owner to remove the notification signs on their property. Signs can be removed from properties approximately 10 to 14 days after treatment for curly leaf and 21 days after treatment for milfoil. The procedure for milfoil will be very similar during the late June and early July time period. Liquid 2, 4-D will be used on the milfoil. **Lakeshore owners can expect to receive a postcard requesting the opportunity to treat invasives. You will be asked to respond back if you do not want treatment within 150 feet of your shoreline.**

Last year we were permitted to treat 2.86 acres for curly leaf and 3.3 acres of milfoil. Our lake is 579 acres of which 170 acres are 15 feet or less. The Board believes that we will have a better chance of increasing the permitted areas, if needed, based on the survey results from Clarke. Invasives are here and we need to do the very best we can to manage them. The cost for Clarke's lake management including pre/post surveys, maps, reports, signs, etc is \$2,500. Treatment costs are \$350 per acre. The total cost for this service could exceed \$5,000. In the estimation of the Board, for 2015, this is money well spent. I will have further updates in the upcoming newsletter. See you on the water.

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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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Mary Lou Rolf

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10 Tips To Protect Our Lakes

The following tips are provided by the United States Environmental Protection Agency. Many lakeshore property owners buy their lots to fish and enjoy nature, but then unknowingly harm shorelands and shallows by replacing natural vegetation with lawns, clearing shrubs and trees, importing sand to make artificial beaches and installing expansive structures close to the waters edge. To protect our lakes, we need to protect our lakeshores. Here are some suggestions.

Natural lakeshores protect fish and wildlife habitat. The more homes, roads and docks we build near lakes, the more we endanger the habitat of the fish and wildlife that live in and around the lake. Preserving native vegetation around lakes is critical to a healthy lake ecosystem.

Shoreline trees protect lake water quality. Trees and other vegetation along the lakeshore help buffer lakes from the impacts of development. Overhanging trees also provide cooling shade for fish and other aquatic animals that live in the shallows.

Natural lakeshores keep out polluted runoff. When it rains, pollution on the land flows into streams and lakes. A natural lakeshore has plenty of native trees, shrubs and overhanging vegetation to slow the flow of polluted runoff before it reaches the lake.

Native plants help lake wildlife. Native plants play an important role in the local ecosystem, are adapted to local conditions and are generally low maintenance. When planted or allowed to thrive along the lakeshore, they provide shelter, food and habitat for song birds, butterflies, fish and aquatic life in the lake.

Plant a rain garden, help your lake. A rain garden is an attractive landscaping feature with perennial native plants. Placed where it can intercept the water running from downspouts or hard surfaces, it allows rain water to soak in rather than run off into lakes and streams.

Natural lakeshores help prevent erosion. Natural lakeshores with abundant trees, shrubs and native grasses are "living shorelines" that use deep, strong plant roots to stabilize soil. Natural lakeshores provide habitat, filter runoff from the land and create natural buffers that absorb wave energy and reduce shoreline erosion.

"Perfect" lawns are not perfect for your lake. Try natural landscaping. "Perfect" smooth green lawns require frequent mowing, watering, fertilizers and pesticides. When it rains, fertilizers and pesticides can run off into the lake and harm its quality. Consider decreasing the size of your lakeside lawn by planting native grasses, wildflowers, trees and shrubs to provide lakeshore wildlife habitat, stabilize shorelines and reduce the need for irrigation, pesticides and fertilizers.

Lighten up on lawn chemicals, for the lake's sake. Fertilizers, pesticides and weed killers we apply on our lawns can wash into the lake when it rains. Nutrients in fertilizers can lead to algae blooms and lower oxygen levels for fish and other aquatic animals; pesticides and weed killers can be toxic to people, pets, beneficial insects, fish and wildlife. Protect the lake by minimizing or eliminating use of fertilizers and other yard chemicals.

Natural lakeshores are picture perfect. Studies show that most people come to lakes simply to enjoy their natural beauty. Natural lakeshores are beautiful; they contribute to improved water quality, which can help increase the value of lakefront property. Keep our lake "picture perfect" by protecting its natural shoreline.

Get involved! Protect the lakes natural shoreline. Begin by being an example to others and ensure that your lakeshore property is as lake friendly as it can be. Educate your neighbors and friends about natural landscaping, native plants, living shorelines and the importance of lakeshore buffers in protecting the quality of the lake. Get involved with our lake association (LMBIA).

Ground Truthing Final Report

The final report was presented to the LMBIA board. 76 properties were visited. 7 properties were uncooperative. In the final presentation a grid was used to identify the sites of interest. There has been considerable updating of septic systems since the initial fly over was conducted.

Aquatic Invasive Species Training Program

If you trailer a boat, pontoon or other water related equipment you are required by law to complete a training program and to buy a sticker for your boat or pontoon trailer. If you did not complete this by July 2015 you could be stopped and fined. This was to take effect this year and has at least temporarily been postponed until the current legislature amends the law. Go to the DNR website for more information. I will include updates in the next newsletter.

Check Us Out

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

LMBIA facebook www.facebook.com/lmbia

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

Individual Lakeshore Treatment

If you are considering treating a part of your lakeshore for vegetative growth you must receive a DNR permit. We have used both Midwest Aquacare and Clarke Companies last year. These companies will assist you with the permitting and treatment.

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

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!

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Updates and Thoughts

Membership

The 2015 lake membership form is included in this newsletter. Dues will remain at \$25 for this year. Please consider donating extra to the milfoil fund. This money is used specifically for the treatment of invasive species. All donations to LMBIA are tax deductible.



Lowrance Graph Needed

Do you have a Lowrance Elite 7 HD graph in your fishing boat or pontoon? As part of our reporting invasives, we need to graph parts of the lake. The corresponding software used in reporting is compatible with Lowrance fish finders. If you have the Elite 7HD and would be willing to help the lake association, contact President Tom Hess.

LMBIA Annual Meeting Change

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.

MB 2 Update

We are still waiting for final contractor bids for this project. We are also in contact with different organizations to help with funding. Our goal is to move this project forward to completion sometime this summer.

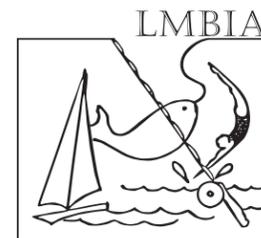
Lakeshore Improvement

Meeker County Soil & Water Conservation District has available for sale shoreline seed mixes, wildflower plant kits and trees to improve your shoreline. Contact Joe Norman at 320-693-7287 if you are interested. All orders need to be placed by April 1, 2015.

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