

LAKE MINNIE BELLE MESSENGER

A Newsletter from the Lake Minnie Belle Improvement Association

Spring 2017



Welcome to Spring on Lake Minnie Belle!!

Marilyn Buboltz, Editor

The long awaited open water, blue skies and warm sunshine is finally here. This is the reason most of us love living on the lake!

I hope you will find the newsletter informative and help you stay in touch with all of the work that is being done to ensure we maintain the integrity of this precious resource in our back yard. Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) is a threat to Lake Minnie Belle and our Board Members have been diligent to stay trained and informed in the identification, control and management of AIS.

If you are not a member of the Lake Minnie Belle Improvement Association please consider joining us for the annual picnic on July 15th to become more informed and involved. There are ongoing improvement projects that need your support.

Enjoy the spring and summer on beautiful Lake Minnie Belle!!

Notice of Milfoil Treatment

We will be treating Lake Minnie Belle for curly leaf and Eurasian milfoil this spring and summer. We have retained Clarke Companies again this year to assist us with lake survey, analysis, permit applications and the treatment process. The exact acreage and areas of treatment will be determined after Clarke has completed the pre-treatment survey early in April. The costs of treatment will be \$350 per acre for both curly leaf and Eurasian milfoil plus the survey and permit applications fees. Estimated area of coverage is about 20 acres. Clarke will be responsible for posting notification signs and/or buoys in the treatment areas. 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 approximately 10 to 14 days after treatment for curly leaf and 21 days after treatment of milfoil.

IF YOU WISH TO OPT OUT OF THE TREATMENT ON YOUR LAKESHORE, YOU MUST COMPLETE AND RETURN THE INSERT FORM IN THIS NEWSLETTER.

If you are considering treating a part of your lake shore for vegetative growth you must receive a DNR permit. Clarke Companies has been used in the past. This company can assist you with the permitting and treatment.

State of the Lake

From LMBIA Chairman, Tom Hess

Greetings fellow lake dwellers and those returning from your escape to the southern sunny climates.

It's been a crazy fall, winter and spring. Last fall, the lake froze over and we all thought winter was here. Not so. A week later, it opened up and fishermen were back on the water catching Northerns. The lake finally did freeze for good and winter set in. This spring, not to be outdone by last fall, overnight the ice went out and we all are thinking, WOW summer is just around the corner – HA – Minnie Belle and Mother Nature showed us who was in charge and it froze over again, back to ice fishing! This year's ice out was one week earlier than the earliest recorded.



So, what has happened since the last newsletter. The MB-2 project (the ditch inlet to the lake on the west side from County 23, is finally done. The efforts and monies from Meeker County SWC, Green Leaf Township, Meeker County MCAL, and our Lake Association were instrumental in the success of this project. It was the final phase of a sediment and water quality project that started 15 years ago.



We also undertook the project of trying to solve the reverse flow of water into the lake at the outlet on the North. Under heavy rains and spring melt, the slough which the lake drains through has, over the years, discharged back into the lake with bad quality water. A number of years back we restructured the drop culvert which then allows the slough and lake water to flow out through the easements to Sucker Creek. This past fall, we had a ditch backhoe dig out the area around the drop culvert removing cattails and deepening it so they won't grow back, thus removing a flow restriction causing our problem. The effort was partially successful but did not solve the problem completely. This project is ongoing. We are exploring additional alternatives to solve it.

Now some good news. For the first time ever, through the really hard work of several directors, our membership broke 200! WOW! Welcome new members and a big THANK YOU to those that got us there.

Our directory is becoming a thing of beauty; color everywhere, a new layout, an updated data base, and a much larger advertising base. Thank you to our returning advertisers and big welcome to the new ones. Folks, support these people, they believe in our lake. Lastly, due to personal reasons our treasurer, Shirley Kronbeck, resigned from the board this past winter. We wish Shirley the best and we thank you for your dedication and service over the years. Todd Kuechle agreed to serve as treasurer for the rest of Shirley's term. Welcome Todd! Thanks to everyone for the support you have given the Board over the years. We are only as good as our members!

Aquatic Invasive Species Inspections at the DNR Landing

Beginning at the end of May and continuing until the end of September of this year, all boats, entering our lake by the DNR landing on the weekends, will be required to undergo an inspection before and after using our lake. The inspectors are funded by the county AIS and trained by the DNR. They are here to help in the prevention of spreading AIS. Even though you may not have transferred your boat to another lake you will be required to undergo the inspection. We are working with the DNR to allow passes for lake owners that are only pulling their boats out for short periods and have no plans on visiting other lakes. So far we have not come up with an acceptable solution so please be

patient with the process. Failure to comply will be cause for a sitement from the County Sheriffs Department. If any AIS are detected on your boat or trailer you will be required to sanitize before entering our lake or transferring to another lake. I hope you can appreciate the effort and severity of this issue. After working with the DNR and the state legislature it appears the efforts to prevent the spread of AIS next year will require even more stringent measures.

(For a comprehensive overview of this project, please refer to your Dockside Magazine article “Taking Action against AIS.”)

Advanced Training / Aquatic Invasive Species

If you find any biological specimen that you have a question about or think it may be an invasive species we now have a certified citizen scientist at your disposal. Steve Stepien is now trained and certified by both the University of Minnesota and the Department of Natural Resources to identify, handle and transport aquatic invasive species (AIS) in the state of Minnesota. Should you have a question or concern about any aquatic or biological item found in or around our lake please call him at 612-669-8122, text with a photo or

email him at stevestepien@yahoo.com. We have a small laboratory located just south of the DNR landing with all the equipment necessary to identify the species. His training is helpful in reducing the pressures put upon the DNR to respond to calls about aquatic invasive species. Please be aware that transporting AIS is against the law and requires special training and permits. Your help in finding and isolating non-native aquatic species in our lake is crucial to keeping our lake enjoyable and safe for recreational use.

Regulations Regarding Moving Used Docks and Lifts

Please be aware that moving AIS infested used docks or lifts is prohibited by Minnesota State laws and property owners have been liable for the treatment and management of AIS around their property. Licensed movers have very specific regulations to follow before docks and lifts are considered sanitized. Remember that our lake

is listed as infested by Eurasian Milfoil and you don't want to sell and move your dock or lift to a new lake that is trying to prevent infestation. If you are moving a dock or lift to or from another lake call for guidance on this law. Contact the DNR AIS Specialist at 507-362-8786 Ext. 238 or Email Allison.gamble@state.mn.us.



Were the fish biting on Lake Minnie Belle this past winter?

Corey Pagenkopf would say they were!! Corey is Lloyd and Sue Kadelbach's son-in-law and caught this Northern on a sunfish line. It was 38 ½ inches. What a catch!!

Ditch Clean Up Volunteers

Thank You to the following for their time in assisting with the HWY 22 ditch clean-up April 8th:

Laurie Boll	Sandy Holtz
Stan Kittelson	Laurie Koehn
Linda Larson	Linda Pagenkopf
Larry and Mary Rewerts	

Do you have an interest in volunteering to assist with Lake Projects or serve on the LMBIA Board? Please contact any one of the Board Members. Your time would be greatly appreciated!!

Water Monitoring/Testing

Stan Kittelson

Spring is here, and water/stream monitoring will start soon. The first reason for monitoring a lake is to acquire knowledge of its general health. Under the guidance of the MPCA, we take water samples from the top six feet of water in the center of the lake. Why the top six feet? Because the top six feet of water in the summer time contains the highest percentage of nutrients. Phosphorus, Chlorophyll-a (algae concentration) and Secchi depth (clarity) are related. When phosphorus increases, that means there is more food available for algae, so algae concentrations increase. Phosphorous numbers have increased very slightly the last couple of years. However, we also experienced some very heavy rainfall during that period which can affect water nutrient levels. If you wish to view the water testing record of MinnieBelle, you can go to <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/lakefind/index.html> and put in belle – this will let you select MinnieBelle.

I ran across a Web article on why we have black ice in the spring. It explains that the ice starts to melt from the bottom – where it is touching the water. When the ice thickness erodes to between 4 and 12 inches, it transforms into long vertical crystals called candles. These candles “absorb” light well, so the ice starts to look black because the candle is not reflecting very much sunlight.” – Now we know.

Enjoy the lake and protect the water.

“ A lake is the landscape’s most beautiful and expressive feature. It is earth’s eye looking into which the beholder measures the depth of his own nature.” – Henry David Thoreau

Lake Captains – Keeping our lake clean

We have asked our lake captains to help test for Starry Stonewart and Zebra mussels in our lake this year. They will be taking samples from the end of their dock and occasionally they will request permission to take samples from your dock. They are only going to throw a rake attached to a rope and take a small sample of weeds off the bottom of the lake to check for these invasive species. The samples will undergo a thorough inspection and the results sent to the DNR. If we should find an invasive species in a certain area of the lake there will be a follow up investigation with trained divers and detectors to find and take samples for the state DNR lab for their verification. We are trying to locate and identify any aquatic invasive species entering our lake so we can put control and management in place. There will only be a request to sample off of docks if a certain area cannot be reached from the Captain's docks. If you have any questions about this weed sampling please contact Steve Stepien at 612-669-8211 or Cliff Willhite at 320-848-2102.

We would like to thank the lake captains who have helped with this project in the past and request your continued efforts.

2017 Annual Meeting
And Pork Chop Dinner

Will take place on **July 15th**
(the 3rd Saturday of the month)
Beckville Church picnic grounds
Meeting at 11 AM – Dinner to follow

Door prizes and bug wipes
Join us for grilled pork chops
Side dishes and dessert
Bring a lawn chair and relax!



New Board Member

We are pleased to introduce our new Board Member who is filling the vacancy left by Shirley Kronbeck as Treasurer.

Todd Kuechle: Todd and his wife Sarah grew up in Litchfield and four years ago started spending their summers on Lake Minnie Belle.

In January, 2017, they moved into their beautiful new home, now living here year round. Todd and Sarah have two children, Jack (13) and Kira (10). We welcome them to the lake, and Todd will be a great addition to the LMBIA Board.

Resurfacing of Highway 22

Highway 22 will be shut down for part of the summer. The Minnesota Department of Transportation and Knife River will be resurfacing and constructing new turn lanes on Highway 22 this summer. The detour will start at and follow County Road 1 in Litchfield to Hwy 7 west of Cedar Mills. There is also more information on the MnDOT website. (www.mndot.gov/d8/projects/hwy22litchfield)



July 4th Water Parade

We will continue with our annual tradition of having a 4th of July parade on Lake Minnie Belle. Be creative with those boat decorations, and plan to meet at the lagoon with a start time of 1:00 PM.



Lake Maps Available for Purchase

Don't like the little lake map in the center of the directory? We have a limited edition of the lake map in high definition printed on a 17" x 22" sheet. You don't need your cheaters to read this one. Along with that is an updated 8 ½ x 11 laminated map, cropped to show just the lake lots and property owners, including the lagoons, suitable for use in your boat. The laminated map also contains the original 1800's designations of the property divisions. There is also a sheet with additional lake data and an updated explanation of how the lake got its name. If you are interested call (612-699-8211) or email Steve Stepien, stevestepien@yahoo.com, or you can purchase one at the annual meeting for \$10.

Tribute to Wally

This past March, we lost a good neighbor and friend at Lake Minnie Belle when Wally Pikal passed away at the age of 90. We all know that Wally lived life to the fullest and loved to entertain and bring joy to others.

Wally was the center of the Lake Minnie Belle 4th of July water parade for as long as most of us can remember, and our best estimation it was for at least the past 30 years. He loved sharing his music and shouting out a "Happy 4th of July" to everyone as he passed by their docks.

We will try to continue the tradition of having Wally's music playing on one of the boats in the parade. He will surely be smiling down on us!

Thank you!

A special thank you to **Mark and Ann Schmidtbauer's Creative Graphics** for publishing the *LMBIA Messenger*. This service is done at no cost to our organization. We greatly appreciate your generosity!

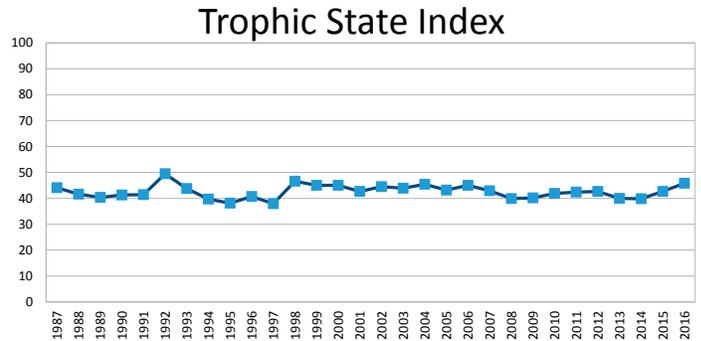
Minnie Belle Outlet Update

The lake outlet (MBO) standpipe clean up was completed this fall. Further exploration of the drainage way found one of the two culverts from the retaining structure to the Christensen swamp was completely plugged. We have requested the township to clean it out. We took elevation measurements to verify that none of the structures have moved. There appears to have been some heaving of the standpipe but only a little more than an inch. The vegetation growth in the swamp is restricting the water flow and we are working to dredge a channel through the swamp on the property we have easement to. The swamp is no longer capable of handling the water surge from the adjoining farm fields during heavy rain events. We are meeting with the DNR, our Soil & Water and the farm property owners to come up with a plan to prevent water from running back into the lake.

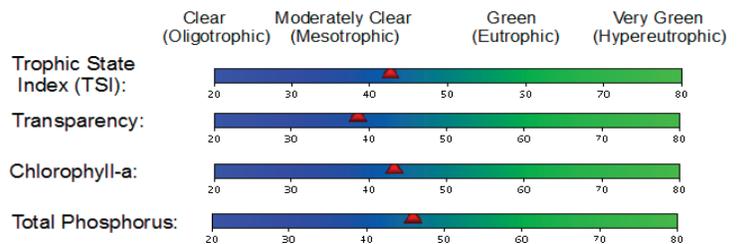


Trophic State Index

Here is a simple graph of our lake quality data for the past 30 years. All data has been recalculated to a Trophic State Index (TSI) number which allows us to compare chlorophyll-a, phosphorus and secchi disc readings on an equal level.



The Trophic State Index (TSI) is a number that summarizes a lake's overall nutrient richness. Nutrient richness ranges from clear lakes, low in nutrients (oligotrophic), to green lakes, with very high nutrients levels (hypereutrophic). The chart below shows the overall TSI rating for our lake (top bar), followed by the TSI ratings for the individual parameters that contribute to nutrient richness. The TSI calculations are base on data collected between 1986 and 2016.



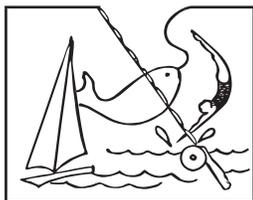
Good Lake Stewardship

We all have responsibilities to keep Lake Minnie Belle Clean!! Everything we do does make a difference!

Please remember to:

- Never dispose of bonfire ashes in the lake water.
- Never allow lawn clippings or weed whippy debri to end up in the lake.
- Never throw downed branches/twigs or lawn clippings on others private property, swamps or wetlands.

We are very fortunate to have the Litchfield Compost Site just down the road on old hwy 22 south of Litchfield for disposal of yard waste.



LAKE MINNIE BELLE
IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION
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Check Us Out!

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

LMBIA on facebook:
www.facebook.com/lmbia

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

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LAKE MINNIE BELLE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board meetings are held the 3rd Tuesday of each month (except December), at the Bonfire Bar & Grill at 7:30 PM.

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