

Lake Minnie Belle Messenger

Summer/fall 2012 Board Highlights

by Larry Rewerts

Our LMBIA annual summer meeting was held at the Beckville Church picnic grounds on Sunday July 15th. Approximately 50 people braved the heat to enjoy delicious food, informative presentations and neighborly conversation. Nick Brown, DNR invasive species specialist gave an excellent presentation on the milfoil issue and treatment plan for our lake. There was an extensive question and answer session that followed his presentation. Our Board of Directors invites specialists like Mr. Brown to educate and inform lake residents on issues that affect us. Hopefully the weather will cooperate next summer and our attendance will be even better.

The Board is considering completing a Point Intercept Survey of our lake. This survey identifies both native and exotic plants in the lake. A preliminary survey was conducted early this summer by Nick Brown. This was prior to treating the areas of the lake for eurasian milfoil. At this time we are waiting for his survey report. Mr. Brown stated that he can't commit to completing another survey on Minnie Belle any time soon. We need updated information to develop a treatment plan for the summer of 2013. Contractors have been contacted asking them to submit a plan and give us bids to conduct a Point Intercept Survey next year. No decision has been made at this time.

You will notice the fall newsletter does not contain the 2013 membership dues form. We will have a separate mailing with this form after Jan. 1st 2013. In order for you to claim your contributions on next years tax form our 501 C3 plan must be submitted to the state for review(I have an update on 501C3 later in the newsletter).

Please take time to read the other articles in the newsletter. We try to be informative on the issues.

See you on the water/ice.

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501 C3 UPDATE - YOUR VOTE IS NEEDED IN NOVEMBER.

One of the objectives of the Board of Directors this year was to complete the necessary paperwork so that our Association qualifies as a non-profit organization. This status is necessary to apply for grants and to allow the contributions (membership dues, milfoil treatment, other donations) to be declared as deductions on your taxes. This has been a very time consuming process working with both accountants and attorneys to amend/restate our Articles of Incorporation to reflect non-profit status.

In order to complete the process, Lake Minnie Belle Association members (those that paid dues in 2012) must VOTE to allow the Article language to be changed to show non-profit status. At the October board meeting the LMBIA Directors voted unanimously to amend the Articles.

WHAT MUST YOU DO THEN? Shortly, each member of our association will receive a letter in the mail. This mailing will include a cover letter from LMBIA Chairman Dan Fitterer and an addressed postcard. On the postcard you will either vote YES (to allow the Article of Incorporation language change to reflect 501 C3 non-profit status) or NO (to decline).

In order for approval for 501C3 we need 51% of our membership voting YES. Postcards not returned are counted as NO votes. We need the postcards returned before the end of November so we can submit the paperwork to the State of MN. **WATCH FOR THE MAILING AND SEND YOUR POSTCARDS BACK AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.**

Once the State has our paperwork “under review”, you can deduct on your 2013 taxes the donations you make to LMBIA. This is why we are not sending the 2013 Membership Dues form to you until after January 1st, 2013.

A special thanks to Board Director Robert Hantge for his time and efforts organizing the 501 C3.

Healthy lakes & Rivers Visioning Session

On August 18th over 70 people attended a visioning session sponsored by LMBIA as part of the Healthy Lakes and Rivers Program. The event was held at the Beckville Lutheran Church event center. Mr. Joe Jacobs (Wright County Soil and Water) was the facilitator.

The meeting began with the entire group identifying major concerns and issues affecting the lake area. Four major areas of concern were identified: 1. Improve the water quality of the lake 2. Reduce/control eurasian milfoil and other exotic species 3. Identify and evaluate all vegetation and reduce vegetation that prevents use of the lake for recreational purposes 4. Provide education and communication to lake property owners and others regarding their responsibility to decrease lake pollution. After the 4 areas were identified, small groups were formed to identify specific goals, develop action plans and gather a list of volunteers willing to help.

Results of this meeting were incorporated into our Lake Management Plan, which will be a guide for LMBIA now and into the future. Local residents that served on the Healthy Lakes and Rivers team included Chuck Anderson, Randy Buboltz, Dan Fitterer, Donn Hoffman, Rich Peterson and Larry Rewerts. A special thank you to Randy Buboltz for his time and effort organizing and completing the Lake Management Plan. The final plan will be available for viewing soon. A second thank you goes to the Beckville Church Women's Organization who served a delicious brunch.

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

Patten's Insights

On August 6, 2012 Midwest Aqua Care treated 7.35 acres on Lake Minnie Belle for Eurasian milfoil infestation. The total cost for the treatment was \$3,349.98. However, \$2,000 of this total will be paid for through DNR grant monies. The balance comes from the Association's milfoil fund. All homeowners who were affected by the treatment signed a statement giving their permission. We will know by next spring how effective the treatment was.

The early bird winner at the annual picnic was Tom Reynolds

Congratulations are in order to Dean Ohland. He served on the lake association board for 20 years, much of it as the Treasurer. He will be missed.

Starting in January, the monthly meeting location for LMBIA's Board of Directors will be at the Bonfire Bar & Grill. Meeting date is the 3rd Wednesday of each month (excluding December).

Our total association membership to date is 176 members. With the potential milfoil problems looming in the future, we can't emphasize enough the importance of joining LMBIA. The cost is \$25/year with \$1 going into the milfoil fund. This is your lake and your investment.



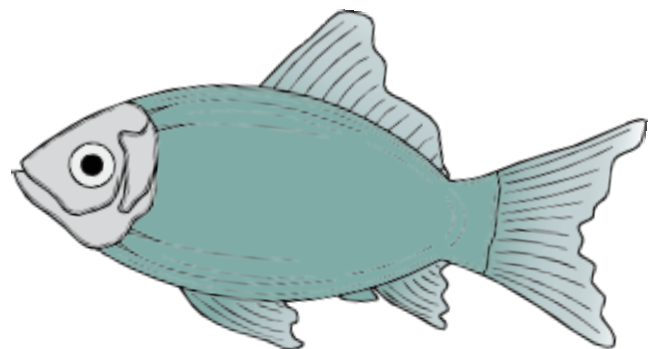
We now have 19 rain barrels for sale. Each barrel holds 55 gallons of water. Dimensions are 32" H x 14"W. This is a good way to store your collectable rainwater. The cost is \$50/barrel. Contact board member Linda Larson at 320-693-8147 to order.

The road ditch cleanup crew was busy on Sept. 29th. Randy & Marily Buboltz, Laurie Koehn, Larry & Mary Rewerts, Alvin Rueckert, Stan & Sylvia Kittelson participated. We appreciate your help and dedication.

Residents with dogs need to keep their pets restrained. Dogs running loose can get into mischief.

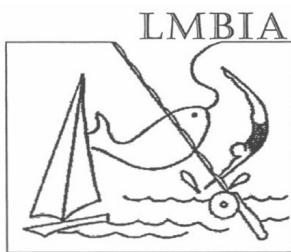
Ground truthing volunteers are set to continue identifying potential sources of contamination around the lake. The process is most effective in the spring after the ice has left.

The abundance of weeds this summer created some disposal problems. It was reported that lake weeds along with branches and ashes were dumped in the ditch near the Beckville church picnic grounds. There are compost sites near the lake and just south of Litchfield where debris can be taken. We need to work hard to keep not only our lake clean but also the surrounding area.



If you have access to Facebook you can check out LMBIA. Open Facebook and do a search for Lake Minnie Belle Improvement Association.

This is just the beginning of LMBIA using the Internet



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
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19739 623rd Ave.
Litchfield, MN. 55355
320-693-6713

Advisors:
Roger Jergens Tom Hess Mary Lou Rolf
320-693-6357 320-693-6953 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 third Sunday in July at the Beckville Church picnic grounds on the southwest shore of Lake Minnie Belle.