



DEDICATED TO LAKE IMPROVEMENT

Greetings from the Minnewaska Lake Association (MLA). The year 2020 will go into history as one of the most difficult times on record. As you are aware we had to cancel our 21st Banquet that was supposed to be held on June 27, 2020. The GREAT NEWS is that we have received the permit and have scheduled the 21st Banquet for JUNE 26, 2021, at the Minnewaska House.

We are excited to have a chance to get everyone back together. We will be following any required guidelines and mandates by the State and Federal governments. However we are hoping that we can get back to a more normal banquet event. Check the MLALake.org website for updated information as we get closer to the event date.

We are recommending that you send in your membership and Banquet tickets early to ensure you have a ticket in case we are limited on the number that can attend. We are hoping by end of June that there will not be any restrictions.

Because the primary funding for the MLA projects are from the annual memberships and banquet we are hoping you will consider renewing your membership and consider making a donation to help us continue all of our projects.

In the year 2020 we continued to fund the spraying of Milfoil, Minn Aqua program and stocked 50,000 Walleye fingerlings, as well as many other programs to support Lake Minnewaska. Because of Covid 19 restrictions, people were looking for ways to get out and enjoy nature. The MN DNR reported that there were record number of Minnesota fishing licenses issued in 2020. we received many reports of great fishing in 2020, which in many cases was a mixed bag of walleye, northern, crappie, sunfish and of course bass. The comments were that it was fun to go out and you seem to always catch fish.



The ice fishing pressure this last winter was unbelievable. Based on my survey on a weekend there were over 2,000 fish houses on the lake. There were many weekends with a lineup of people at the landings and groups of fish houses setup like small towns on the lake. This brought hundreds of people to the communities which helped some of the local businesses during the difficult times of 2020.

With all of the fishing pressure last summer and winter it is even more important to continue the walleye stocking program we have been doing for many years. We want to thank the Pope County Land & Resource Department for their past and continued financial help with the Milfoil and Starry Stonewort projects.

Thank you all for considering renewing your membership and consider adding a donation, which will allow the MLA to continue to ensure Lake Minnewaska remains the GREAT natural resource that it is today.

We hope you have a great summer and can enjoy the many activities that Lake Minnewaska has to offer. We look forward to seeing you all on June 26, 2021, at the Minnewaska House, for our 21st Banquet.

Sincerely;

Michael Stai, President



WALLEYE STOCKING PROGRAM:

After reviewing some old records of the MLA, we found some very interesting facts related to the walleye's in Lake Minnewaska. In 1980 the walleye count per test was at 17.3. In 1990 the walleye count per test in Minnewaska was at 3.8. In 1996 the test revealed .8 and by 1997 the MN DNR reported ZERO per test. The MLA started the walleye stocking program in 1998. By June of 2008, it was reported that the walleye fishing was the best seen since the 1980's. As of 2008 the MLA had stocked over 500,000 fingerlings. The MLA had been stocking 50,000, 6" to 8" fingerlings, every year since 1998. In the SPRING OF 2019 the MN DNR recorded a record number of 75.5 per test. (YES THIS IS NOT A TYPO). This is great news for the Lake, and because of the fishing success of not just walleyes but many species of fish, we continue to see more people coming to our lake to enjoy this great natural resource. This helps to support the local businesses and surrounding communities.

STARRY STONEWORT:

In 2019, with some financial help and support from Pope County, the MLA was able to perform 4 treatments to the invasive species Starry Stonewort, in the Starbuck marina. We had GREAT success. After the 4th treatment in September of 2019, the Post survey showed NO SIGNS of active Starry Stonewort Algae in the marina. In 2020 the City of Starbuck took this project over. They hired divers that manually pulled the plants. There were no chemical treatments in 2020. The recommendation for 2021, from the professional survey last fall, was to pull the plants and then also do multiple chemical treatments. The primary goal is to try to maintain control hopefully avoid it from spreading into the main lake.

Per our discussion with Gary Swenson, Mayor of Starbuck, the current plan is to hire divers again in the spring of 2021. The company will perform a POST survey to determine if their recommendation is still to perform chemical treatments in 2021. Gary also stated that the Starbuck City Council will meet to review the POST survey and the experts recommendations for additional chemical treatments, to determine what the City's plans for chemical treatments will be in 2021.

MN DNR surveyed the area in front of the marina 3 years ago and did not find any infestation in the main lake. Because of the possible devastation this invasive species could have if it gets into the main lake from the marina, the MLA has contracted with AIS Consulting services to survey 183 acres in the area in front of the Marina to find out if it has spread from the marina. This survey will be completed in the spring of 2021.

MILFOIL PROJECT (Invasive species):

The MLA has been treating the Milfoil in Lake Minnewaska since 2013. We will be treating this invasive species again in the spring of 2021. We continue to work to educate the home owners and public about the importance of informing MLA Board about possible new infested areas. Finding new infestations early is a very important factor in controlling the spread of Milfoil.



In 2017 the MLA treated 38.27 acres of Milfoil in Lake Minnewaska. In 2018 we treated 25.3 acres, in 2019 we treated 27.4 acres, in 2020 survey only found 18.14 acres of infestation. We received a permit to treat 18.14 acres in 2021. We are required to pay to have a survey done every year before we can get final approval on the number of acres we are allowed to treat from the MN DNR. The MN DNR doesn't provide this service to the MLA, as they did prior to 2020. Through our efforts we have been successful in thinning the infestation and reducing the number of acres in the lake. We appreciate all of you past donations and support, and hope you will consider to continue to help funding the invasive species projects in 2021.

The cost to treat one acre is \$400, plus the cost of the initial survey of the lake. If you have donated in the past, we want to thank you and encourage you to consider sending in a donation this year with your annual membership. Any money designated towards Milfoil or Starry Stonewort will be deposited in a separate bank account, specifically for invasive species projects.

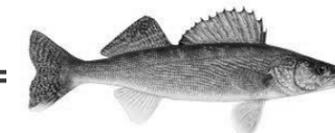
If you want to contribute to the Invasive species program, you can indicate on the last page of this newsletter and mail along with your membership and tickets to the banquet to : **Minnewaska Lake Association at P.O. Box 14, Glenwood, MN 56334.**

THRIVENT ENDORSEMENT

We would like to thank all the members that continue to use this method of helping to support the MLA. This is greatly appreciated. This partnership has proven to be very successful and provides a good method to allocate and send your Choice Dollars for the Thrivent Financial members as a donation to the MLA.

MLA WEBSITE – mlalake.org

We continue to work on keeping our website current. We have posted this newsletter on our website so it is available to potential new members and the general public. Please talk to your friends and neighbors and direct them to our Website to help them understand the projects that the MLA supports related to supporting Lake Minnewaska. We will also be posting more information related to the MLA banquet on June 26, 2021, as it becomes available. Anyone interested in joining the board to help with our website please contact Mike Stai.



MEMBERSHIP

Unfortunately do to the Covid 19, and many other issues everyone had to deal with in 2020, our membership support was down in 2020. We are asking that you please continue to support the MLA by sending in your membership for 2021. The banquet, memberships and donations are the primary revenue sources for the MLA. This allows us to continue the many projects related to the lake, to help ensure Lake Minnewaska remains a great natural resource for many years.

We have a strong commitment to educating the youth and the general public about the important factors that impact our lake. We continue to support youth programs such as the Minn-Aqua, Take a Kid Fishing, Pope & Stevens County Water Festival, youth fishing league and the Ice fishing contest held by the FFA. We continue to support programs that encourage the youth, seniors and veterans the opportunity to enjoy Lake Minnewaska, through the "MLA Fish and Cruise" program.

In addition to the projects above, it is important to continue to manage the invasive species. They can have a dramatic negative impact on the ability of the public to utilize the lake. Also, as proven in other lakes in Minnesota, if left untreated, they can have a very negative impact on the value of the Lake Property and the economy of the area.

Based on the historical facts, it is important that the MLA continue to release walleye fingerlings each year. This will help to support the tremendous fishing pressure on the lake during both the summer and winter.

All the donations that the MLA receives are used for education and projects that are directly related to the lake.

The MLA membership runs from January 1st through December 31st. If you are already a member of the MLA, thank you for your support. If you are not currently a member, please consider joining.



MLA BOARD

We would like to encourage you to consider becoming a member of the MLA board. If you are interested in finding out more about becoming a board member please contact anyone of the board members listed in this newsletter. The board members are also listed on the MLA website: mlalake.org. We will be practicing safe distance at our meetings in 2021, as required.

With each new board member we get new ideas and perspectives that will make the MLA a stronger organization. The primary objective of the board is to do whatever we can to preserve of the great natural resource that we have in Lake Minnewaska

Thank you for past and future support of the Minnewaska Lake Association.

Respectfully;
MLA Board

CURRENT BOARD MEMBERS OF THE MLA

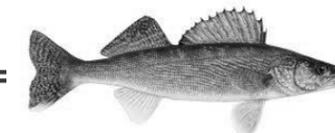
Mike Stai, President/Treasurer	320-424-0384	Mary Krueger, Secretary.....	320-424-1958
Fred Anderson, Membership	320-334-1710	Tony Carlson, Banquet.....	320-334-4171
Karen Warren, Advertising	612-670-7316	Bill Anderson.....	320-634-4489
Doug Evink.....	612-366-1701	Dave Gross	507-227-3776
Ken Knudsen	320-424-1702	Don Sack.....	320-634-5960
Nancy Koep	320-634-4660	Bill Wright.....	320-424-1439
Steve Pike	952-239-9865	Mike Nemmers	320-424-0368
Jerry Kirkvliet	320-239-4860	Mary Jo Wohlwend	320-288-6442
Michael Nolan.....	701-741-7877	Kurt Amundson.....	320-239-4935
Jim Rinsem.....	612-875-4023	Jim Morrissey	320-634-5546

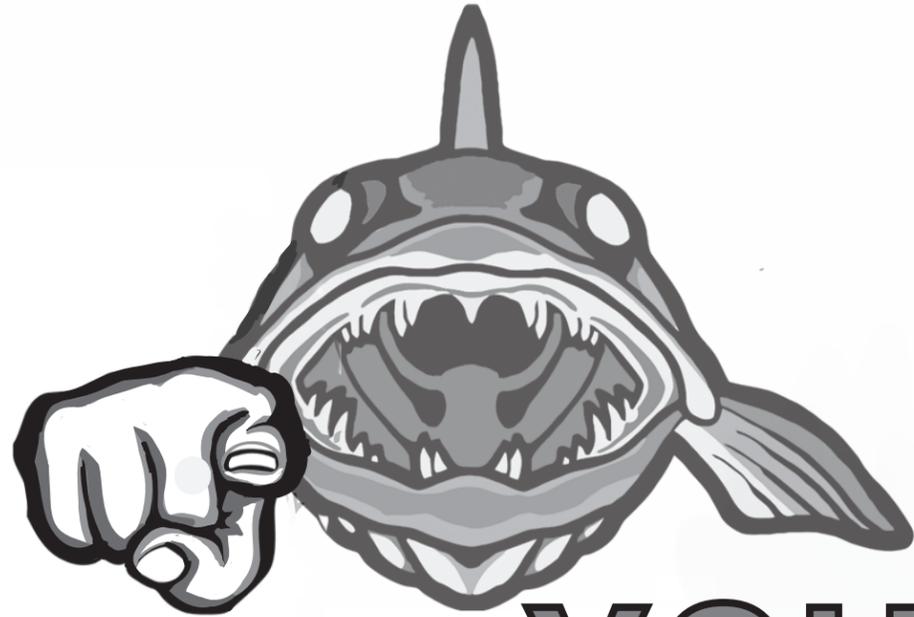
Thank you for past and future support of the Minnewaska Lake Association.

Mike Stai, MLA President

Minnewaska Lake Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 14, Glenwood, MN 56334





WE WANT YOU!

**TO JOIN THE MINNEWASKA
LAKE ASSOCIATION**

**GO TO WWW.MLALAKE.ORG AND DISCOVER
WHAT THIS WONDERFUL ORGANIZATION
IS DOING TO PRESERVE, PROTECT AND PROMOTE
THIS AREA'S GREATEST RESOURCE**

THE MOST IMPORTANT \$30.00 YOU WILL EVER SPEND

MINNEWASKA LAKE ASSOC., INC.

P.O. BOX 14

GLENWOOD, MN 56334

PLEASE RENEW YOUR MINNEWASKA LAKE ASSOCIATION (MLA) MEMBERSHIP DUES NOW.

The MLA Membership year runs from January 1 through December 31, each year.

Tickets can be purchased at Bobbers Marine In Glenwood, Minnewaska Bait and Minnewaska Marine in Starbuck.

You can also use the form below to send your payment for your membership dues and/or banquet tickets to the treasurer. If you buy your Banquet tickets using the form below, the tickets will be mailed to you. You can also include a donation, specifically for the Invasive Species Projects, or to our General fund. You do not have to be an MLA member to donate to the MLA for our projects. However, we encourage you to consider becoming a member. All the donations and money that the MLA receives are put back into the lake. We have NO PAID employees and all the board members donate their time.

Help us recruit new members by asking your friends and neighbors to show their support by becoming a member. Membership dues are only \$30.00 per year.

Please check below

___ Annual Membership ONLY = \$30.00

___ Annual Membership + Banquet = \$50.00

___ Each spouse or child of member under 18 yrs of age \$20.00 ___ Number to attend banquet = ___

___ Special Donation to Milfoil Project (Invasive Species) Fund \$____.

GRAND total contributed \$_____

**Mail To: Minnewaska Lake Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 14, Glenwood, MN 56334**

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL FORM *(Please print and/or include this information with your payment)*

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

E-MAIL _____