



## DEDICATED TO LAKE IMPROVEMENT

Greetings from the Minnewaska Lake Association (MLA). The spring and summer of 2023 provided great fishing opportunities on Lake Minnewaska. Walleye fishing was excellent, with many limits taken throughout the lake.

The sunfish, bass, and northern pike were abundant. This past winter was very different from previous years. We had some early ice before Christmas. The fish were hungry and biting for those willing to walk out with portables. Unfortunately, during Christmas, we received over 3 inches of rain. This is the first time in memory that the entire lake REOPENED. Where people were walking out to fish five days earlier, it was now open water.

Last year, we had 800 to 1000 ice houses on the lake. The most I counted this year was around 20 small houses on the lake. We anticipate excellent fishing again this spring because of the lack of fishing pressure this past winter. March 13, 2024, was the earliest ice out on Lake Minnewaska ever. At the end of March, we got about 12" of total snow, which will help the water level this spring.

We want to clarify some rumors regarding possible changes to fishing limits on Lake Minnewaska in 2024. This year, there is NO CHANGE to the Sunfish and Crappie limits for Lake Minnewaska. Please refer to the Minnesota Fishing regulations for details on all species and note possession limits.

MLA held our 23rd annual banquet on JUNE 24, 2023, at the Minnewaska House. Once again, we had a complete SELL OUT at the banquet. Because of the GREAT support we received from donors and those who attended the 2023 banquet, it was another great Banquet.

We are looking forward to the 24th Annual banquet scheduled for June 29, 2024. It will once again be held at the Minnewaska House. Because of the complete sell-out for the last two years, we highly recommend that you get your tickets early. They will be printed by mid-April, but you can mail in your money for the membership, donations, and tickets on the form from the back page of this newsletter. These tickets will be mailed to you. But please be cautious; do not wait until June to send in to buy your tickets. We will post when it is sold out on our website.

The MLA is a 501(C) 3 non-profit organization, so your donations are tax-deductible. Memberships, banquets,



and donations are the primary funding sources for MLA projects. We are planning several projects in 2024, and we hope you will consider renewing your membership and donating to help us make these projects possible. MLA is dedicated to the preservation of Lake Minnewaska.

The MLA coordinated two meetings with the Mayor and City council of Starbuck last fall and again just recently in March 2024. They were regarding Invasive Species in the Marina and the main lake. Please refer to more details in this newsletter.

It was great to see families able to go out and enjoy fishing on our great resource throughout the 2023 season. Lake Minnewaska provides an excellent opportunity to catch a mix of walleye, northern, crappie, sunfish, largemouth and smallmouth bass. We received numerous comments about the fun they had going out and always catching fish.

With all of the fishing pressure that we have on Lake Minnewaska, it is essential that we continue the walleye stocking program we have been running since 1998. We thank the Pope County Land & Resource Department for their past and continued financial help with the invasive species projects on Lake Minnewaska.

Thank you all for renewing your membership. Please consider adding a donation, which will allow the MLA to continue ensuring that Lake Minnewaska remains the GREAT natural resource it is today. We look forward to seeing you all at our 24th banquet, which will be held on June 29, 2024, at the Minnewaska House.

Sincerely, Michael Stai, President MLA

DEDICATED TO LAKE IMPROVEMENT



**WALLEYE STOCKING PROGRAM:**

MLA started the walleye stocking program in 1998 and has continued to stock thousands of walleye fingerlings ever since. Each fall, we stock fingerlings with an average length of 6” to 8”. This equates to about 40,000 to 50,000 fingerlings every year. This has resulted in some of the best walleye fishing in the state.

Please consider keeping northern pike under 22” and over 26”. State law requires that all northern pike 22” to 26” be released. Per reports from the local MN DNR, there is an overabundance of small northern pike in Minnewaska. The small northern pike is excellent for pickled fish. Also, there is an abundance of large-mouth Bass. Please consider keeping the bass you catch. Keeping the northern pike and bass will help Walleye and Perch survival rate.

With the excellent fishing success, including the many fish species in Lake Minnewaska, 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.

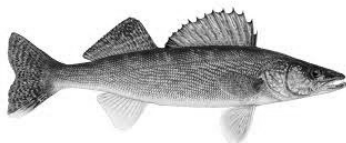
**THE FIGHT AGAINST INVASIVE SPECIES:**

In September of 2023, the MLA setup a meeting to develop strategic business partnerships to provide information about Invasive species in Minnesota. We invited specific individuals who have extensive expertise related to Invasive Species. The expert panel included Steve McComas from Blue Water Science, who has been performing pre- and post-surveys throughout Minnesota; Amy Kay and Matt Swanson from TIGRIS both have extensive experience with new and more eco-friendly chemicals to address Invasive Species. Wendy Crowell is with the State of Minnesota Invasive Species Department and spoke highly regarding both companies. Mark Ranweiler is with the MN DNR and provides the required permits to ensure compliance with the State Requirements.

We also invited Kevin Farnum, who has a Science background and is the chair of the Lake Koronis Association. He has extensive experience in treating and trying to control Starry Stonewort, which has had a detrimental impact on the use of the Lake Koronis. He provided an excellent overview of what has failed to work and what they are doing now to address this problem. He also provided precise information to the group on what he would recommend to address the Starry Stonewort in the Starbuck. With this information, and working together with the City of Starbuck, we will develop a better plan to ensure that this great resource is here for all future generations.

In March of 2024, Mike Stai met with the City Council and Mayor of Starbuck to continue developing a joint strategic plan to address Starry Stonewort and Eurasian Milfoil in 2024. We reviewed the information we received from the experts from the meeting in the fall of 2023. The Starbuck City Council held a meeting on April 8th to discuss their plans for Eurasian Milfoil and Starry Stonewort in the Marina in 2024. We invited Matt Swanson from TIGRIS to discuss options for chemical treatments and address any questions or concerns from the City of Starbuck. After discussion the Starbuck City Council voted unanimously to treat the Marina with chemicals for both Eurasian Milfoil and Starry Stonewort in 2024. They will be sending out a notification with the Annual rental agreement to each renter in the near future. MLA will be coordinating the treatments with the City of Starbuck to ensure they can notify all renters at least 2 weeks prior to the treatment. The goal is to stop any BOAT TRAFFIC in the marina for at least 24 hours after treatment. By coordinating the treatment in the Marina with the treatment in the main lake it will reduce the cost by eliminating additional mobilization.

The MLA has received the required permits, established contracts, and grants to survey and treat Eurasian Milfoil and Starry Stonewort in the main lake in 2024.



**STARRY STONEWORT:**

Starry Stonewort was found in the Starbuck marina in August 2017. Over the last several years, the MLA has been surveying and working to address the Starry Stonewort issue, which has been found in the main channel just outside the Marina. In 2022, we found 1.52 acres; in 2023, we found 1.72 acres, which we treated in 2023. Fortunately, in the 183 acres surveyed in the area outside the marina, we only found it present in the main channel directly outside the marina.

We have a contract with Blue Water Science to complete the required pre- and post-surveys of the 5-acre area in the main channel outside the marina in 2024. At the meeting in March 2024, we provided a quote from Blue Water Science to perform a PRE- and Post-Survey of the Marina to help the City of Starbuck better understand the infestation and provide details of the Eurasian Milfoil and Starry Stonewort in the Marina in 2024.

**EURASIAN MILFOIL PROJECT:**

MLA has been fighting EURASIAN WATERMILFOIL since 2013. Over the last several years, we have had success treating this invasive species. In 2023, we treated with a new chemical called Procellacor. This is a very eco-friendly chemical and has shown results in controlling and killing the milfoil in several lakes in Minnesota. It has demonstrated the ability to have control for over three years. It is a lot more expensive, and we hope to find the same results in the Pre-Survey in 2024, which will justify the increased cost.

Lake Minnewaska covers many acres of water, and it is not realistic to think we will be able to fully eradicate the species from the lake. Because of the MLA efforts in previous years and because of the cold spring in 2022, the native vegetation took over the areas, stunting the growth where Eurasian Milfoil had been in the past. After a second survey on September 1, 2022, we found 5.27 acres of treatable Milfoil. In 2023, we found and treated 2.7 Acres.

The MLA will conduct the required meandering survey of the 18 acres we have found in the past to determine the invested areas for 2024. With the early ice-out date in 2024, we are anticipating more weeds in 2024. The timing of the survey will be determined based on the weather conditions this spring. We will continue to work to control the spread of Eurasian Milfoil over the coming years.

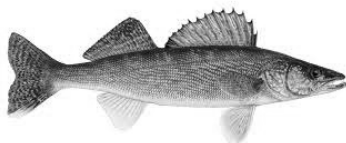
Suppose you want to contribute to the Invasive Species Program. In that case, you can indicate this on the last page of this newsletter and mail your donation along with your membership and tickets for the banquet to Minnewaska Lake Association at P.O. Box 14, Glenwood, MN 56334. You can also visit our website, [www.mlalake.org](http://www.mlalake.org), to learn more about the Minnewaska Lake Association and how you can help with these critical projects.

**THRIVENT ENDORSEMENT:**

We would like to thank all the members who contributed to MLA in 2023. Each year, we continue to see more donations to support the MLA through this method, which is greatly appreciated. This partnership has proven to be successful and provides a good method for allocating and sending Members Choice Dollars as a donation to MLA.

**MLA FISH & CRUISE:**

MLA has a program called “MLA Fish & Cruise,” which aims to enrich people’s lives by providing on-the-water experiences for area seniors and veterans. Fishing trips and cruises are provided to these individuals at no cost due to the generous support from businesses and organizations listed on the side of this pontoon. We are looking for more people who would consider becoming Captains or helpers for these trips on the boat. We provide the necessary training to ensure a safe and enjoyable trip.







MLA WEBSITE – mlalake.org

Our website was updated to a new platform in 2023. We continue to work on keeping our website current. We have posted this newsletter and will continue to post last year’s 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 MLA supports related to Lake Minnewaska. If anyone is interested in helping with our website, please get in touch with Mike Stai. We are always looking for expertise related to our website.

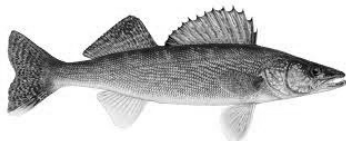
MEMBERSHIP

Our membership has remained relatively consistent over the last couple of years. We are still down compared to previous years, but it was great to see an increase in 2023. Please get in touch with your friends and neighbors to become a member of the MLA. The membership is only \$30 per year. We ask that you please continue supporting the MLA by sending in your membership and attending our banquet in 2024. The banquet, memberships, and donations are the primary revenue sources for the MLA. This allows us to continue the critical projects related to the lake and help ensure Lake Minnewaska remains a tremendous natural resource for many years.

Between the treatment of starry stonewort, Eurasian milfoil, walleye stocking, and all the other projects, MLA is investing over \$60,000 each year to maintain this GREAT resource. We need your help and support to continue these projects, which bring significant revenue to the local businesses and communities around the area. Being in rural Minnesota, the Lake attracts people to our area who come and enjoy our lake and spend money, which in turn helps everyone in our local communities.

We continue to support youth programs such as Take a Kid Fishing, Kids Spring Bike Giveaway, Pope & Stevens County Water Festival, and other events related to the lake that bring people to our communities. 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.

All the donations MLA receives are used for education and projects directly related to the lake. MLA membership runs from January 1st through December 31st. If you are already a member, thank you for your support. If you are not currently a member, please consider joining.



MLA BOARD

We encourage you to consider joining the MLA board. If you are interested in finding out more, please contact any one of the board members listed in this newsletter. The board members are also listed on the MLA website: mlalake.org.

With each new board member, we gain new ideas and perspectives that will make MLA a stronger organization. The board’s primary objective is to do whatever we can to preserve this great natural resource. Thank you for your past and future support of the Minnewaska Lake Association.

Respectfully;

MLA Board

CURRENT BOARD MEMBERS OF THE MLA

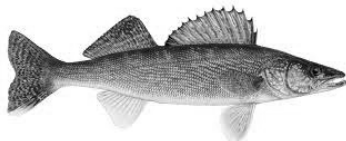
|                                    |              |                                 |              |
|------------------------------------|--------------|---------------------------------|--------------|
| Mike Stai, President .....         | 320-424-0384 | Mary Krueger, Secretary.....    | 320-424-1958 |
| Steve Nelson, Vice President ..... | 952-715-2318 | Fred Anderson, Membership ..... | 320-334-1710 |
| Bill Anderson, Treasurer .....     | 320-220-1947 | Angie Anderson .....            | 320-220-2130 |
| Tony Carlson, Banquet.....         | 320-334-4171 | Anja Carlson .....              | 612-239-6913 |
| Doug Evink.....                    | 612-366-1701 | Don Sack.....                   | 763-228-1297 |
| Dave Gross .....                   | 507-227-3776 | Jim Rinsem.....                 | 612-875-4023 |
| Steve Pike .....                   | 952-239-9865 | Jim Morrissey .....             | 320-424-2400 |
| Michael Noland .....               | 701-741-7877 | Bill Wright.....                | 320-334-0135 |
| Kurt Amundson.....                 | 320-239-4935 | Nancy Koep .....                | 320-634-4660 |
| Tom Silver .....                   | 320-424-0533 | Marty Gjerde .....              | 320-295-1435 |

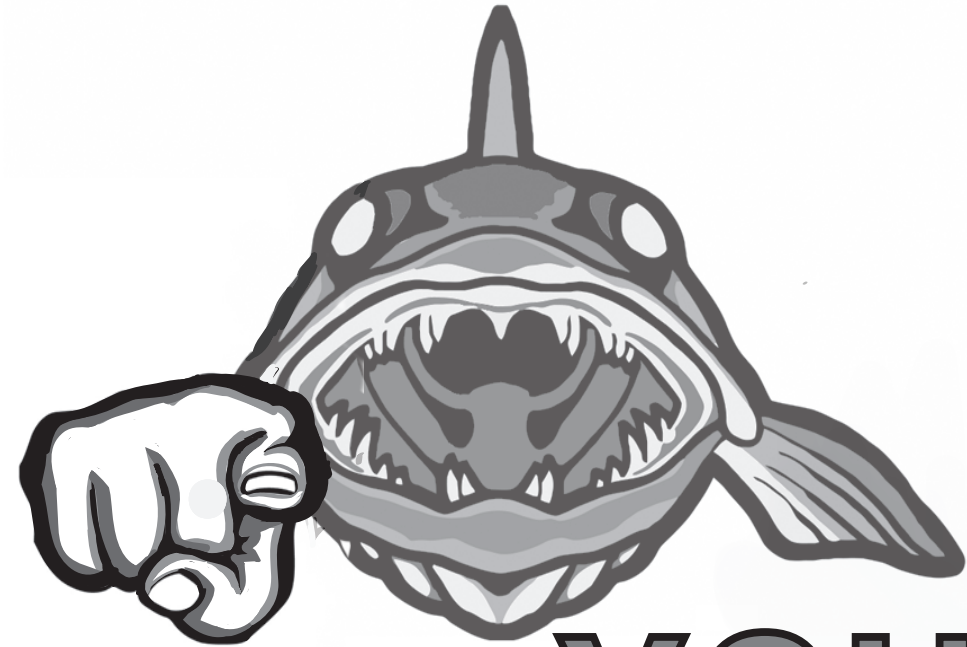
NOTE: There are NO PAID employees and all the board members are donating their time to the MLA.

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.*

*Banquet Tickets can be purchased at Bobbers Marine In Glenwood, Last Cast Bait & Tackle 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 and designate if you want to specify it to be allocated. You do not have to be a MLA member to donate to the MLA for our projects. However we encourage you to consider becoming a member.*

**Please check below**

\_\_\_\_ Annual Membership ONLY = \$30.00

\_\_\_\_ Annual Membership + Banquet Ticket = \$50.00

\_\_\_\_ Each spouse \$20 and child of member under 18 yrs of age \$20. Total Additional Meals \_\_\_\_ \* \$20 = \_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Donation to the MLA General Fund \$ \_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_ 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 \_\_\_\_\_