



Lake Washington  
Improvement Association  
of Meeker County



**Summer 2021**



*Cuatro de Julio!!*

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# SUMMER NEWSLETTER, 2021

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## Contact Us















**General Issues:**  
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**Membership Changes:**  
[membership@lwiaonline.com](mailto:membership@lwiaonline.com)

**Lost and Found:**  
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The Lake Washington Newsletter is published three times a year (Spring, Summer and Fall) by the Lake Washington Improvement Association. It is distributed free to lake property owners and friends around Lake Washington.

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# End Of The Dock

*By Steve Grotbo, President*

It feels more like August as I am writing this at end of June. Water levels are even lower than most Augusts. The number of days in the 90's so far is shocking. So what is it going to be like when August does finally get here? Hopefully everyone will be able to get their boats off the lifts.

Our usual May pork chop dinner is what is referred to as our annual meeting in the bylaws. During that meeting we have the elections to the board for a three year term. We announced the opportunity to join the board via the spring newsletter, Facebook, and email. In the end, we held the elections during the May board meeting which like all board meetings is open to all. I am happy to say that Lyle Walker, Steve Ullom, Mike & Sandy Wosmek, and Brett Rasmussen all retained their board positions. A big thanks to outgoing board member Skip Sustacek along with a big welcome to newly elected board member Bonni Halverson. Please do welcome Bonni to the board next time you see her.

The annual pork chop dinner is still happening from a food standpoint, just in August instead. This replaces our usual potluck.

We were contacted by Phil Schmalz (Meeker county Public Works Director / County Engineer) about their plans for replacing the culvert between Stella and Washington. The timing is for end of 2021 / beginning of 2022. We are hopeful they will go with a solution that will be large enough for a pontoon to get through. I received lots of input from both Washington and Stella residents that I passed along to Phil.

In the spring newsletter, Lake Restoration advertised they would do weed control for residents. When contacting them, they required a 20 resident minimum to get this done. So far, they only got about a dozen on the lake to sign up. If you are still interested, please feel free to sign up. You can reach out to me if you need details.

Thanks to Sue Schwinghammer for organizing another great Fourth of July boat parade.



# Fourth Of July Boat Parade

By Steve Grotbo, President



This is the second year that Sue Schwinghammer organized the boat parade. Despite the extreme wind I was surprised to see 1 ½ dozen boats. So, an excellent turnout considering the conditions.

Thanks to all who participated for making it an enjoyable Fourth. I see that Lake Stella had their parade starting a couple hours earlier.

# Zebra Mussels

By Dave Rathe

Mike Wosmek installed the zebra mussel “hotels” (settlement plates) in the same locations as last year on May 31st. It will be interesting to see how this year’s crop of zebra mussels compares to previous years with the dry and low water level conditions. The hotels will be picked up Labor Day weekend, photographed, cleaned, and repaired so they are ready for next year. Thanks Mike!

Unfortunately, there is currently no zebra mussel management approach applicable to Lake Washington.

Zebra Mussel “Hotel” Locations



# 2021 Grant Funding Programs

By Sharon Daniels, Grant Coordinator

Welcome to Summer! Hoping everyone has a beautiful summer ahead!

Funds granted for 2021 for Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) and sediment control projects are in place. Volunteers have already begun working on some of the designated projects around the lake, such as water quality testing, placing and calibrating I-LIDS, installing zebra mussel hotels, checking for milfoil, and doing sediment pond management on the South side of Lake Washington. We are fortunate to have funds granted to LWIA from Meeker County Association of Lakes (MCAL) which will be used for mapping and control of sediment projects, and funds also granted for AIS projects as was described in the Spring newsletter.

New survey forms are available for you to be fill out. If you haven't received your survey form you can go online and complete one at: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/sv/7QQwSTS/LWIA> . Some of the questions are asking for info on lake quality and AIS management. Please take time to fill out the survey!

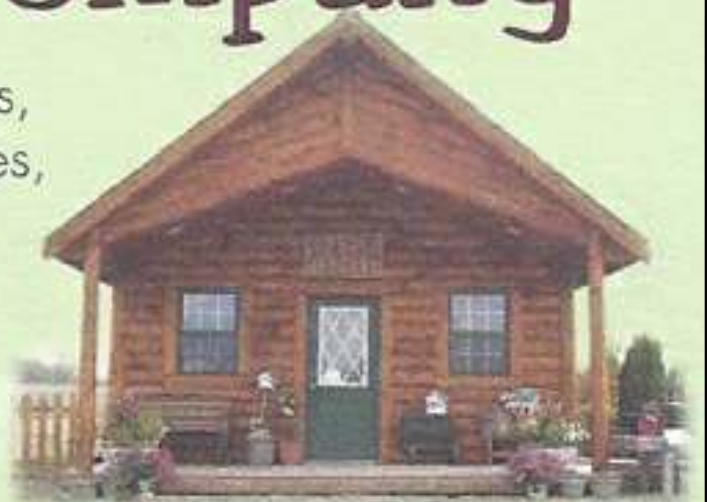
Keep in mind if you, as a member, do any volunteer work, whether it be shoreline captain duties, water projects in a boat, going to meetings, etc., please keep track of your hours, food or gas receipts, mileage driven to do a project, etc. You can email me at [sdaniels@grdaniels.com](mailto:sdaniels@grdaniels.com) with all your "in-kind" hours, or any info you may have. I keep track of all the info for the year in a report, and then I send this report to the county at the end of the year. This report reflects how and why our lake is kept in as good of condition as it has been, and I use this report when working on grants for each new year.

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# Cormorants And Pelicans

By Steve Grotbo, President



Getting a permit to control cormorants is certainly not a simple task. Although the cormorants are not a protected species in the eyes of Minnesota, they are nevertheless a migratory bird that is protected from the Federal side. We as a lake association are not allowed to request the federal permit. That has to come from the DNR.

One step in getting the permit is that we have to prove that the cormorants are causing harm. I see two items, first being the fish population being affected. Firstly, the year that Newcastle disease hit, the fish population went up significantly with the decline in cormorants. Unbelievably, the DNR differs on this view and is indicating it is a normal cycle of events.

Secondly, we have swimmers itch, and surely cormorant poop adds to the problem. Would swimmers itch completely go away without cormorants? Hard to say. Please let us know if anyone has other impacts of cormorants.

The next item requiring a permit is to use non-lethal methods for getting rid of the cormorants. The most effective method for this across the nation has been harassment with motorized boats according to Gary Nohrenberg of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). Gary followed up the conversation indicating that it would be difficult to get this permit in Minnesota, so his next best recommendation was to use "pistol launched pyros" from your boat. Sounds a bit scary.

We are still following up and trying to figure out next steps.

## Pat's Corner

By Pat Hanson



### Seeds of Hope

Do you know about Seeds of Hope? If not, please check out the pamphlet given freely at the Litchfield Public Library but is also given out at all the Meeker County Libraries. I picked my copy up two weeks ago. It explains what the program is about.

You may then take a free seed packet. This year you may choose calendula (flower) or a cherry tomato. There are directions on how and where to plant it. You can eat either one of these! The calendula can be put in salads, dried, or on rice. Bees and native pollinators are DRAWN to these plants.

If you don't frequent the Meeker County libraries, then you might pick up the pamphlet and seed packet at the Natural Food Coop (downtown highway 12), Meeker County Social Services, Meeker Veteran's Affairs Office, Litchfield Community Education Office (in Wagner School) or the Meeker County Food Shelf.

This is a great project for when your children or grandchildren come and you want to do an activity together. I sincerely hope you stop and read this brochure and grow something near your lake home/cabin.

# Ellsworth Happenings

## Fishing Tournaments and Leagues

The Issue has come up on the amount of pressure Lake Washington is getting with the abundance of fishing tournaments and leagues that are with us every weekend. The DNR is having a hard time regulating this with the uprise in bass fishing popularity and this is their response,

“The state of Minnesota is one of the first in the nation to regulate tournaments. Presently, a tournament does not need a permit if the number of boats is under 25, is not limited to specific waters, contestants are 18 or younger, the contest is limited to rough fish, or total prizes are \$500 or less. For permitted tournaments, the number held on a water body is limited based on that water body's size. For Washington, it's no more than 3 permitted tournaments per month, which we have and continue to stringently follow. All of these rules are right out of state statute:

<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/97C.081> There's no level of limitation we have beyond what is in statute about permitted tournaments.”

## Paint Striping

Lake Washington's Ellsworth Landing is on the DNR Park and Trails Wish List to have the parking lot stripes repainted, It should be done later this summer.





# Water Quality

By Dave Rathe

## Lake Water

Wow, we are really dry this summer. Depending on how you measure, the lake is down 10 to 14 inches or more. According to the US Drought Monitor ([droughtmonitor.unl.edu](http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu)), we are in “moderate drought”. Seems worse; hope we get some significant rain soon.

This summer we have taken 2 of the 5 lake planned water samples with July, August, and September left to complete. The samples have and will be taken from Site 101, which is one of the deepest parts of the lake (approximately 17 feet, not so deep this summer). Each sample measures the amount of algae (Chlorophyll-*a*) and nutrients (Total Phosphorus) in the water. We also take a Secchi disk reading to determine the clarity of the water in feet. We lower the white Secchi disk in to the water and measure the depth reached when we can no longer see the disk.

### Water Quality

Date	Chlorophyll-a, mcg/L	Total Phosphorus, mcg/L	Clarity, feet
5/17/2021	3	16.8	8.5
6/7/2021	No sample taken	No sample taken	3.5
6/22/2021	Results not yet posted	Results not yet posted	3.5
<b>Historical Mean</b> 2006-2021	<b>Chlorophyll-a, mcg/L</b> 10.7	<b>Total Phosphorus, mcg/L</b> 27.2	<b>Clarity, feet</b> 4.3

The analysis is performed by RMB Environmental Labs out of Detroit Lakes, MN. RMB has a nice website, [RMBEL.info](http://RMBEL.info), where you can view Lake Washington past test results as well as other Minnesota lakes. Our data can be found under Lakes Monitoring Program in the Lakes & Streams drop-down menu. Then under Lakes Database.

We also conduct water clarity (Secchi disk) tests twice per month at 5 different sites (101, 205, 207, 208, & 209). At the end of the summer all data collected will be submitted to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. They also have a website where you can view our Lake’s data at [pca.state.mn.us](http://pca.state.mn.us) although it takes a bit of “drilling down” in their website.

We plan on providing information on our lake water and inlet water data including graphs, maps, etc. on the Lake Washington Improvement Association web site. However, this is still a work in process.

Stay tuned.



# Water Quality (continued)

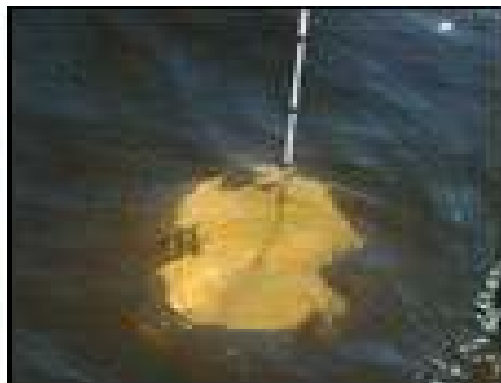
## Lake Water Test Sites Map



### Clarity Data (Secchi depth in feet)

Date	Site 101	Site 205	Site 207	Site 208	Site 209
5/17/2021	8.5 feet	6.0 feet	6.5 feet	6.0 feet	6.5 feet
6/7/2021	3.5 feet	3.0 feet	3.0 feet	3.5 feet	3.5 feet
6/22/2021	3.5 feet	4.0 feet	3.5 feet	4.0 feet	4.0 feet

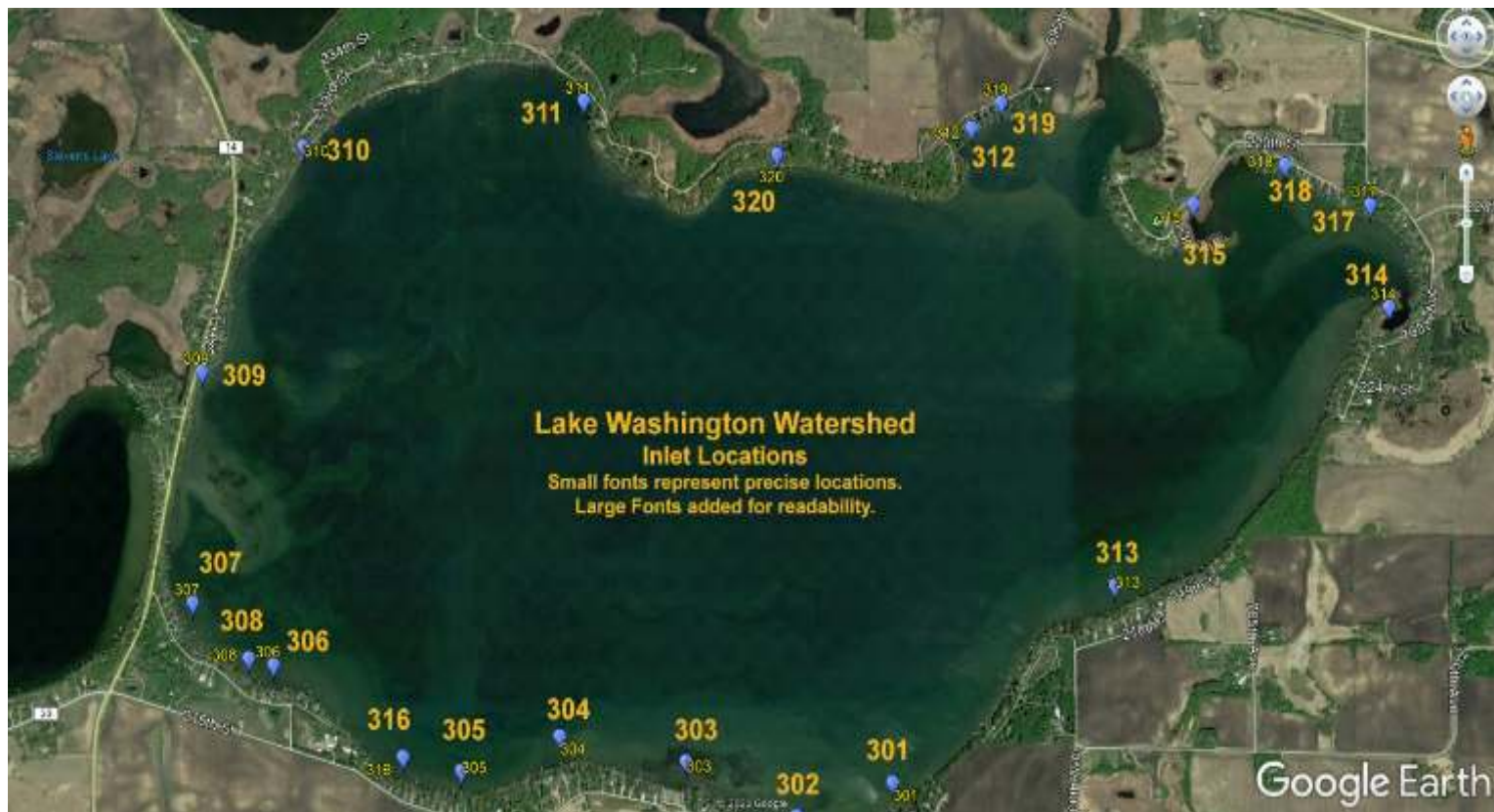
Note: Secchi depth measurements can be influenced by time of year, recent rain amounts, wind conditions, as well as algae and water sediment.



## Water Quality (continued)

### ***Inlet Water:***

We are planning this summer to test some of the inlet water coming into the lake, assuming we get a significant amount of rain, such that the inlets begin flowing water again. Most inlets are not running any water or very little.



We still see water flowing from Lake Stella at Site 309. We are not sampling the inlet water from Lake Stella, as the Lake Stella Improvement Association was planning to pull those water samples. I have not seen any Lake Stella data as of this writing.



# Watercraft Inspection

By Dave Rathe

We installed the Internet – Landing Installed Device Sensor system (I-LIDS) on May 5th. The system is located on the East side of the ramp at Ellsworth Landing. We will remove the system in the October November timeframe depending on weather conditions.

We believe the I-LIDS system has been effective in improving boater compliance to MN DNR rules regarding boat decontamination prior to launching and prior to leaving the landing, particularly when there are no boat inspectors at the landing. Boaters are reminded via audio messages to clean weeds and debris from their boats, as well as drain their boat, live wells and bait wells, keep all drain plugs out while traveling, and dispose of unwanted bait.

Meeker County and the MN DNR have been conducting boat inspections and boat decontamination on Friday's, Saturday's, Sunday's, and Holiday's. The inspectors help boaters clean, drain, and dry boats internally and externally. Areas of concern are aquatic invasive species (AIS) going into and out of the lake. Lake Washington has these AIS: Curly-leaf Pondweed, Eurasian Water milfoil, and Zebra Mussels. Other AIS in Minnesota of concern are Spiny Water fleas and Starry Stonewort. The DNR boat decontamination unit uses 120° F water, which kills the Zebra Mussel free-living planktonic larvae within the water, called veligers.

Note: The DNR decontamination unit splits time between Lake Washington and Lake Stella. If you want your watercraft decontaminated and the unit isn't at Ellsworth Landing, it likely is at Stella's landing and the DNR will be glad to decontaminate your watercraft there.

The MN DNR maintains an Infested Waters List, which includes lakes, rivers, ponds or wetlands containing AIS that could spread to other waters. To view the Infested Waters List, you can download the [Excel spreadsheet](#) here. *It was last updated June 4, 2021.*

Remember to Clean In and Clean Out when launching or loading all watercraft. Drain all water, and dispose of unused bait.

There is a trash can at Ellsworth landing provided by the Lake Washington Improvement Association. Please help keep the landing clean of trash.



# 2021 Survey

By Laurie Johnson, Membership Coordinator

The Lake Washington Improvement Association (LWIA) Board of Directors is conducting a Property Owners Survey to better define and update our Lake Management Plan. This plan details how the Lake Association looks at and values the following areas:

- Aquatic Invasive Species Management
- Education and Communication
- Water Quality Management
- Watershed Management
- Wildlife Management

We want to learn about your concerns and opinions regarding the direction we as an Association should be taking. Information from the survey will be used to inform public officials of our interests and concerns as a collective group, and help the Board of Directors plan for the future.

**What:** We would like your feedback by conducting a confidential survey. The questionnaire takes less than 15 minutes to complete.

**Who:** All Lake Washington property owners (one per household).

**When:** Completed by August 7.

**How:** Type the link below into your browser or find the link on our website or Facebook page.

<https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/sv/7QQwSTS/LWIA>

**Note:** *If you enter your data via the online page be aware that when you push the "Submit" button nothing may happen. In this case it means you have some red flagged entries in your document. Fix them up and then do the submit action again.*

Results will be posted to our website as well as in the Fall newsletter. Thank you for your participation.

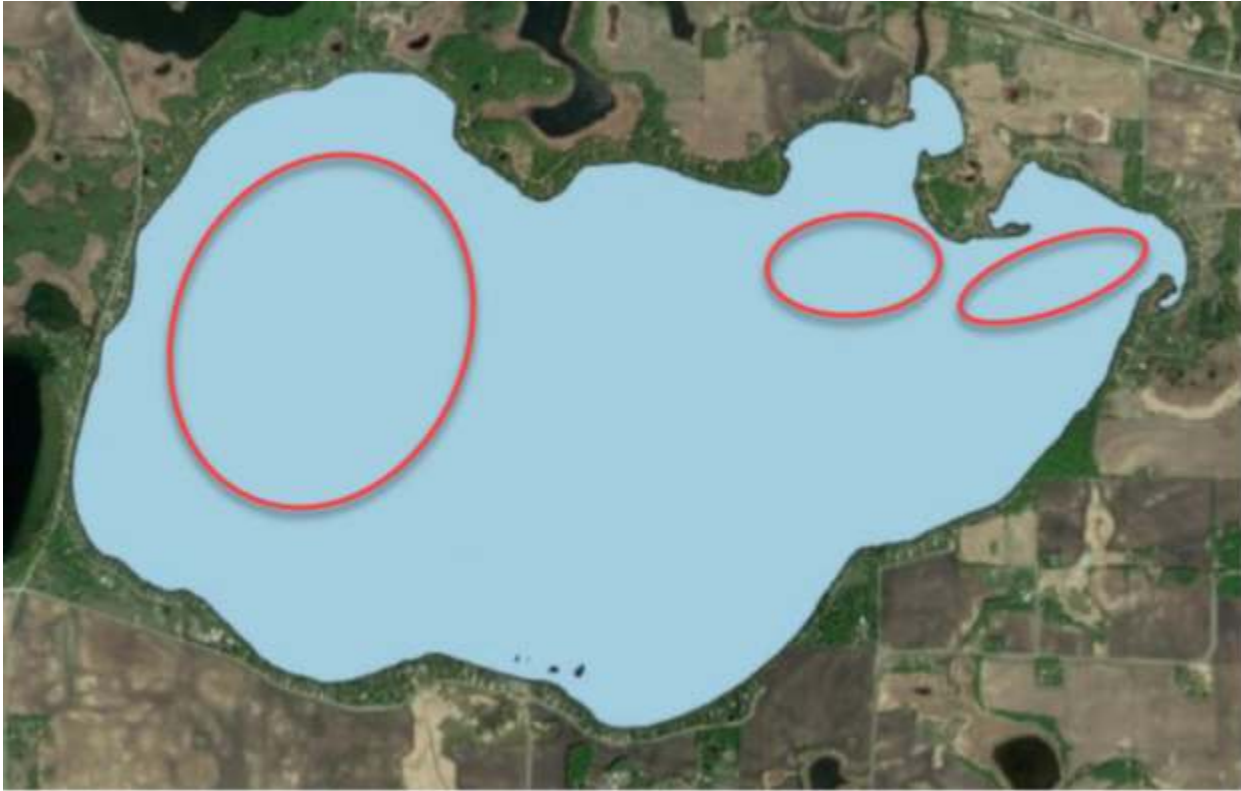


# Aquatic Invasive Species

By Mark Johnson, AIS Coordinator

This year our plan is to focus our vegetation surveys near the shorelines in search of new growth clumps of Eurasian Water milfoil and random way points where we have identified traces previously. Ron Bubany, Mike Wosmek, and myself have been out on the lake performing vegetation surveys. The 3 ovals shown on our lake below represent the areas that we have surveyed so far this year. Good news is no Eurasian milfoil samples have been found. We will perform additional surveys in July.

See you on the lake!



**If anyone suspects an aquatic invasive plant or animal new to Lake Washington, they should:**

- Note the exact location (GPS coordinates or point on a map, lake, county, nearest city, etc.).
- Take clear photos showing all parts of the plant/animal and another item showing scale or keep the specimen.
- If you keep the specimen, place it in tightly sealed container with small amount of water. You may transport directly to a DNR office for identification.
- Contact the [DNR Invasive Species Specialist](#) in your region.

Meeker County- if new AIS is suspected please contact the AIS Coordinator on this email or phone number and send clear photos if unsure of ID. If AIS is suspected we may pick up and transport the sample to Eric Katzenmeyer at MN DNR if individuals would prefer not to make the trip.

Ariana Richardson  
AIS Coordinator  
325 North Sibley Ave  
Litchfield, MN 55355  
320-221-0614

# Committee Reports

## Social Committee

*By Sandy Wosmek*

Beautiful sunny MN days ----- Happy summer at the lake!!!! The calendar says summer has arrived --- so its time to enjoy the lake, on both warm days and starry nights.

As COVID restrictions ease, the board has decided to have the Annual meeting and pork chop dinner in August ( change from the May date for the annual meeting ) instead of the pot luck which is usually held in August. Hope the change of date will work out for a good number of lake owners to attend.

**ANNUAL PORK CHOP DINNER -----Saturday, August 7, 2021 -----Dassel Rod and Gun Club**

**Social Hour -- 5 p.m. (please bring your own refreshment)**

**Dinner -- FREE — pork chop meal -- ( pork chop, bean casserole, cole slaw, chips, bread, brownies, coffee and juice )**

**Pork chops provided by Benny's in Hutchinson.**

**B & B Sports in Hutchinson is once again paying for the pork chops. PLEASE thank them when doing business with them.**

**After the meal stay for an open discussion to answer any questions and concerns. Board members will be announced and retiring members thanked**



## Finance Committee

*By Lyle Walker*

Federal and Minnesota tax information forms have been submitted for the fiscal year ended 4/30/21. Membership funds of \$9,200 have been generated by 184 membership renewals so far this season. All bills are paid currently. Financial position remains strong with total funds of \$123,400 at the end of June.

# Parade Boats





## More Parade Boats



# LWIA Paid Member Listing

Wednesday, July 7, 2021

Name	Name	Name
Adams, Bruce & Janice	Bull, William & Shirley	Hall Steve, Danny Della Lana
Ahlgren, Wilton	Burgstahler, Neil & Patty	Halverson, Marcus & Bonni
Albright, Susan	Burt, Steve & Diana	Hansen, LaVonne
Andersen, John & Caroline	Campbell, Josh & Melissa	Hansen, Ronald & Mary
Anderson, Keith & Wendy	Cartwright, Darlene Rotzien	Hauer, Tom & Patty
Anderson, Randy & Mary	Christianson, Gary & Peggy	Haverkamp, Judy
Aubol, Sally & Judy Strolberg	Coppa, Rodger & Pam	Heck, Darryl
Bahr, Mel & Marilyn	Cowan, Bill & Bev	Heimerl, Duayne & Sue
Bahr, Richard & Carla	Dalen, Dean & Theresa	Hewitt, Troy & Cindy
Baker, Deborah & Vern	Daniels, Gary & Sharon	Hoffman, Mark & Lisa
Ballard, Kenneth & Jane	Danielson, Scott & Pam	Hoffmann, LuAnn
Barsness, John & Jeanette	Davis, Lisa	Hogan, Jane & Paul
Bartz, John	Drew, Scott & Donna	Horacek, Jeff & Denise
Becker, Kris & Dean	Dullinger, Craig & Dr. Anita Strei	Hoversten, Donald
Bengtson, Clarice & John	Eggersgluess, Brad & Carol	Idle Wave, Association
Bengtson, David & Susan	Eichten, Noel	Jans, Dennis & Kristin
Benjamin, Charles & Sharon	Engl, Andy & Vicki	Jensen, Jeff & Renae
Benson, Gary & Cindy	Erickson, Terrie	Jensen, Jerry
Benson, Keith	Evenski, Keith & Joyce	Johnson, Bruce and Barb
Benz, Tim & Anastasia	Fernstrom, Gaylord & Jeanenne	Johnson, Dave & Cindi
Betker, Gene & Barb	Fink, John E. & Ruth	Johnson, Keith & Laurie
Blake, Jeff & Amy	Finkenaur, Bob & Nancy	Johnson, Mark & Laurie
Blake, Jon R	Flor, Jerry & Rhonda	Kadelbach, Gene & Julie
Bock, Nelson & Bev	Flores, Phil	Kaiser, Kraig & Kelly
Bollman, Don & Jane	Furst, Jerry & Addie	Karlson, Dave & Bev
Borg, John & Kate	Gayner, Tom & Jo Ann	Keeler, Susan
Bottema, James	Gillman, Brice & Chantel	Kelzer, Robert & Stacy
Bowman, Mike	Gramentz, Alan & Judy	Kerstein, Robert & Ruth
Brinkmann, Grace	Griffith, Robert & Dianne	Kluver, Tom & Jacqueline
Broll, David & Lori	Grotbo, Stephen & Elizabeth Walke	Komarek, Dan & Ruth Lotsof
Brown, Carol & Ben	Haag, Scott & Kay	Koski, Jim & Megan
Bruhjell, Arlen & Kathy	Habnen, Paul & Heather	Kotila, Larry & Gloria
Bubany, Ronald & Rita	Haefner, Andy & Marcia	Kraemer, Thomas & Sandra

# LWIA Paid Member Listing

Wednesday, July 7, 2021

Name	Name	Name
Kraft, Joel & Catherine	Nielsen, Ron & Joyce	Schroeder, Doug & Kathy
Krogstad, Todd & Traci Larsen	Noplos, John & Janice	Schuetz, Dennis & Sandra
Labraaten, Eric & Tara	O'Brien, Terry & Jenna	Schugel, Joachim & Leanne
Larson, Mark & Jan	Ohme, Daniel G. & Sheryle	Schultz, Ray & Evonne
Larson, Steven	Olsen, Mark & Dianne M.	Schwarzrock, David
Lhotka, Gary & Terri	Ooley, William	Schwinghammer, George & Susan
Lieffring, Andrew & Candice Link	O'Shea, Lori & Michael	Seemann, Kenneth & Virginia
Loncorich, Tim Reed & Mary Jo	Parks, Doug & Lisa	Servin, Jeanette
Longhenry, Tom & Cindy	Paulson, Amy	Settergren, Dale & Jane
Loosbrock, Kelly & Holly	Paulson, David & Connie	Shaner, Dean & Jeanette
Lueneburg, Brad & Jeri	Paulson, Robert & Sheila	St. Piece, Carl & Shayna
Lueneburg, Milton	Paulson, Timothy & Candace	Steiner, Owen & Mary
Lukes, Fritz & Jo	Penkert, Emmanuel	Stenmark, Larry & Karen
Lundeen, Todd & Carlynn	Plath, Kyle & Leah	Strom, Bob & Arlene
Lyke, Thomas & Mary Jo	Polt, Beverly & James	Stueber, Russ & Lois
Macho, Tom & Marilyn	Quast, Douglas & Connie	Tenold, Loren & Anne Mahoney
Madsen, Kevin & Judy	Quinn, Reagan	Terning, Wanda
Madson, Randy & Linda	Rasmussen, Brett	Trautman, Allan & Susan
Maiers, Matthew & Ashley	Rathe, Dave & Sue	Ullom, Caroline & Joe Carroll
Matthias, Mark & Ronda	Reed, Mark & Lynn	Ullom, Steve & Christine
McDonald, Mark & Ashley	Regenscheid, Ron & Steph	Verby, Steve & Joyce
McGraw, Linda	Reinke, Kenny and Anne	Walker, Lyle & Georgiann
McKimm, Mike & Renae	Rettman, Georgia	Wallace, Bruce J.
McLain, Luke & Erin	Ringgenberg, Wendy	Walls, Sue
Meir, Jim & Johanna	Rothstein, Dan & Abby	Ward, Jean & Steve
Melty, Jaspn	Ruschmeyer, Vernon & Renee	Wendinger, Leon & Shirley
Messner, Michael & Cheryl	Saber, Tony & Terry	Westlund, Dave & Karen
Messner, Russell & Teresa	Samson, Kalin & Nancy	Woodford, Dale & Margo
Milne, Paul & Elizabeth	Sandberg, Michael & Rebecca	Woolverton, Paul & Rebecca
Moorhead, Kevin	Schierman, Mark & Wendy	Wosmek, Michael & Sandra
Moses, Cammy & Karl Terning	Schiller, Michael & LuAnne	Young, Jane and Shawn
Motzko, Jean	Schmidt, Lynn & Sue	Zieman, Dale & Shari
Nathe, Jean	Schmidt, Mark & Linda	