



**Lake Washington  
Improvement Association**  
of Meeker County



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*This month's lake lessons...*

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# FALL NEWSLETTER, 2022

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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

I have to say that the potluck event in August had the best food I have ever had at a potluck. I am used to at least someone showing up with a bag of chips. Nobody left hungry and we all got to try some wonderful dishes. Thanks to Sandy and Mike Wosmek for doing the lion's share for this event and EZ DOCK for paying for the meat.

The Twine Ball parade had perfect weather with Lake Washington being represented for the big event. Thanks to Corrine and Dave Gertsema for getting magnetic signs made up. Their convertible with wiener dog float (bottom of page) was a big hit. Lots of people asked where they could get one, which is on Amazon.



The lower water level seems to be the top topic this year again. Two years in drought does not help, but it does seem to help with less mosquitos if you want to find a bright spot. Ethan Jenzen (DNR hydrologist) was kind enough to attend the September board meeting in person to give an update. He followed this with an article for this newsletter (see page 8).

The Ellsworth boat landing parking lot is looking much better. We originally requested for having a sealcoat followed by painting, but they did a great cleanup job of the loose gravel instead. The new painted lines make the place shine.

Watershed activities were one of the larger focuses this season. Any actual changes require a lot of oversight, so nothing happens too quickly. I really do feel that this area has the largest impact to our lake quality and with 20+ inlets and one outlet we have a lot of areas to look at.

The DNR does walleye stocking on the odd years which allows for tracking natural breeding. What amazes me is the sheer number of walleye counts that come in the net trappings. With such high counts, people should have much better fishing opportunities. Scott Mackenthun (DNR) has provided additional details about stocking. (See page 10).

Lake Restoration has reached out for signing up for residential weed control for next year for those that had the treatment done this season. Be on the lookout for more details if you want to sign up for this service.

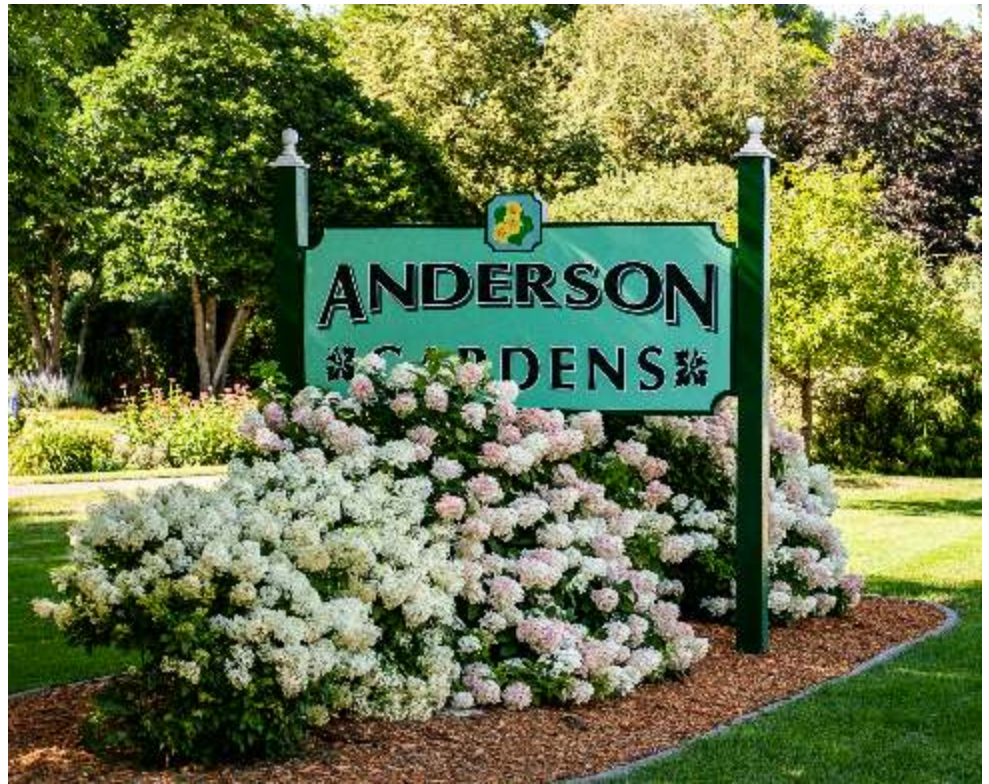


# A Peaceful Place

By Ron Bubany

Drive south of Litchfield about one mile and see a beautiful garden. It will be on the west side of the road, sandwiched between the road and Lake Ripley.

This is one of the top 10 formal gardens in the state. It's pleasant, beautiful and serene. A perfect place to relax from the day's pressures for a half hour or so.



If you have time, be sure to cross the highway and visit Litchfield cemetery.

Study the interesting tombstones dating back to the mid 1800's and the civil war.

Leave refreshed and ready to take on the problems of the day.



# Washington/Stella Culvert Update

By Steve Grotbo, President, and Ethan Jenzen, Area Hydrologist

The DNR approval came on September 6th confirming the 12' x 10' culvert. This was far from a rubberstamp as DNR hydrologists developed several hydrologic models which analyzed many different rainfall scenarios to compare the existing and proposed culverts with the goal of identifying any impacts to water levels in Washington/Stella. In the end, the models determined that the Lake Washington dam serves as the primary control for water levels in both lakes, and the proposed culvert will not significantly change water levels on either lake. The maximum modeled difference in Lake Stella water levels was less than 1/10th of a foot (1.2 inches) from existing conditions after a 100-yr (1% chance) rain – which will not be noticeable.

Phil Schmalz (Meeker County) has confirmed that they have all necessary approvals and are opening up bidding for early October. Installation has potential for a 2022 install - **but** - because of material availability it will most likely be in 2023. Who knows what that will mean for the currently planned road resurfacing.

## Zebra Mussels

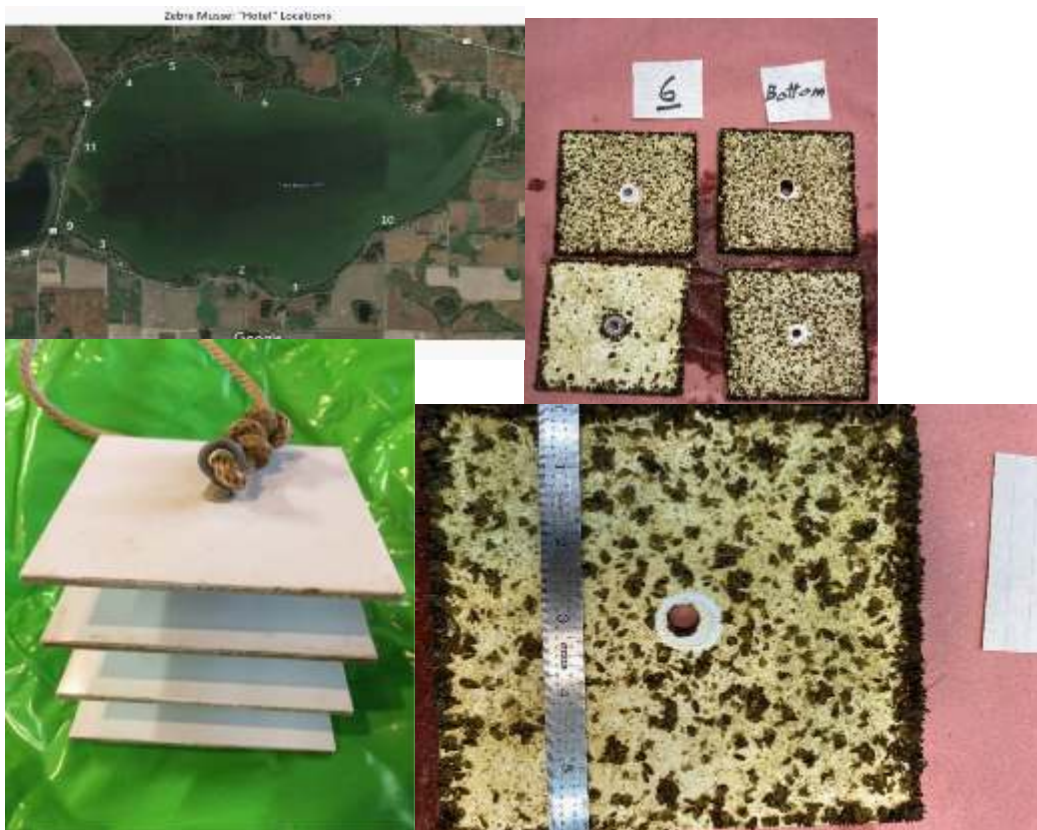
By Dave Rathe

Mike Wosmek installed the zebra mussel “hotels” (settlement plates) in the same locations as last year on Memorial Day May 30th and picked them up Labor Day September 5th. Thanks Mike and thanks to the homeowners gracious enough to allow a hotel on their dock!

Wow, did we ever have a huge crop of zebra mussels this year. Check out the photos. All of the zebra mussels were immature ranging in size from 1/16 to 1/4 inch in length. Generally the hotels on the North side of the lake had more and slightly larger zebra mussels.

One thing of note, in the spring the water on the North side tends to warm faster than the water on the South side. Don't know if this is an indicator of why there are slight population differences North to South.

The hotels have been photographed, cleaned, repaired so they are ready for next year. Unfortunately, there is currently no zebra mussel management approach applicable to Lake Washington.



# 2022 Grant Funding Programs

By Sharon Daniels, Grant Coordinator

We sure have had a wonderful summer, and to date we are still enjoying warmer than usual weather! Now with fall upon us it is time to begin the 2023 grant process for MCAL and AIS.

Board members and others have been busy all year long doing projects around the lake; thus, the In-Kind (volunteer hours) have accumulated. I am working on completing an excel chart showing in-kind hours for 2022. There are 870 volunteer hours!

THAT'S A LOT OF VOLUNTEER HOURS INTO KEEPING THE LAKE AT ITS BEST BY MANY PEOPLE!  
THANKS TO ALL!

In September I started to gather receipts for expenses toward completing our lake projects and I will be billing out invoices for reimbursement from grant money allotted to us in 2022 from the Meeker County Association of Lakes (MCAL), as well as from Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Meeker County.

The MCAL 2023 grant application is due September 30, 2022, and the AIS 2023 grant application is due November 2, 2022. Request for Proposal /RFP for 2022 is due along with the year-end report for AIS by October 20, 2022. I will be turning in all invoices for reimbursement during September 2022.

Board members, as well as any member of LWIA, that has in-kind completed hours should send me an email along with all paid receipts prior to September 25, 2022. Any in-kind hours completed after September 25, 2022 will be used in the year end reports for year 2023.

Take some time to learn who the Meeker County board members are. They need to be urged to make the lakes a priority, to increase the funding out of the budget, and to realize Meeker lakes are vital to this county.

LWIA board members have identified MCAL projects for 2023 to continue the process of water testing, monitoring the water flow of 20 lake inlets, and a possible project on the North side of the lake. These projects are vital to us as lake owners, and to the public to keep our lake at its best. We apply for approved grant funding and request reimbursement to help defray the costs of all our projects each year.

If anyone has any questions, comments, or concerns in regards to grant processing you can reach me at [sdaniels@grdaniels.com](mailto:sdaniels@grdaniels.com).

To all the volunteers that helped work on projects during 2022, THANK YOU!

**Two financial advisors are in a bank when armed robbers burst in...**

**While one of the robbers takes the money from the tellers, the other proceeds to take the wallets, cell phones, watches, and other valuables from the customers.**

**In the midst of the chaos, the first advisor jams something into his friend's hand. Without looking down, the second advisor says, "\*\*What is this?\*"**

**The first Advisor replies, "\*\*It's the \$100 I owe you.\*"**

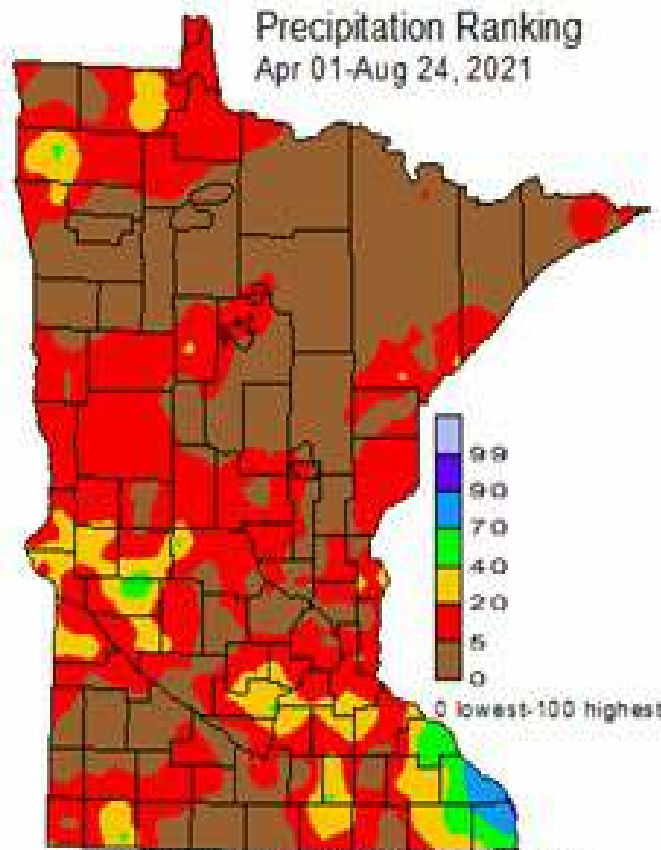
# Lake Washington Water Levels

By Ethan Jenzen, Area Hydrologist

Happy early fall to all! I hope this message finds everyone well, and finding time to spend outdoors enjoying the wonderful natural resources our area has to offer. I am reaching out to all with information on Lake Washington water levels, and some of the factors influencing the significant swing we are currently experiencing. It seems we are spending more time on either the wet or dry sides of things, and little time in the middle!

As you may know, Lake Washington is a part of the Manuella-Stella-Washington chain of lakes, and water flows primarily west to east through the chain as a part of the Washington Creek watershed. Lake Minnie Belle serves as the headwaters of Washington Creek (also known as Sucker Creek upstream of Lake Manuella), and the total contributing watershed for Lake Washington encompasses approximately 22594 acres, including all of the lake areas. Watershed size and overall land use within the watershed are important factors for determining the flow and duration following rainfall events, and plays a very large role in the water level fluctuations on basins like Lake Washington. Specifically, water levels in the lake are reflective of local climate trends, and lake levels will change because of conditions in the watershed.

Recently, we have experienced a stretch of very low water levels in area lakes due to several successive dry years. In 2019, water levels were extremely high in nearly all basins in the area, and much higher than average in any given year. In the last two years, a far dryer trend has emerged, and with it we have seen correspondingly lower water levels in Lake Washington and other area lakes. In comparison to historic precipitation data, the majority of 2021 (April 1 through August 24) ranked in the driest 5% historically observed since 1890. While rainfall conditions are somewhat closer to average in 2022, lack of consistent rain (especially in June and July) with more rainfall coming in large events early in the year, combined with successive dry years has led to moderately lower water levels in most area lakes, especially in comparison to the higher water levels observed during 2014-2019. These water levels, however, are far from the lowest observed in Lake Washington.



DNR EcoWat - State Climatology Office, 08-24-2021



## Lake Washington Water Levels (continued)

Lake Washington water levels have been recorded as far back as the late 1980's, and continue to be recorded weekly by a volunteer reader and incorporated into the DNR database. The chart on page 13, called a hydrograph, shows water levels in the lake from April 1989 (far left on the figure) to August 2022 (far right). The recorded water level in the lake was 1067.35 feet Mean Sea Level (MSL) at the beginning of August 2022. As you can see from the hydrograph, the lake water level has been for the most part higher than the current levels since 2015, however, water levels have been reached similar levels as recently as 2002, 2007, 2009, and 2012. The average water level across the period of record is 1067.81 feet MSL.

Along these lines, while water levels are certainly lower in 2021 and 2022 than other years in the recent past, they have not reached historic lows similar to 1989, when levels were at least 0.75 feet lower than current observations. Outflow from Lake Washington is controlled by the water level control structure (dam) at the lake outlet. This structure is fixed crest structure, meaning there are no parts of the dam that can be removed (like stoplogs) or changed. The elevation of the crest of this structure is fixed at 1067.70 feet MSL (dashed line on figure), and does not change. This is the elevation when water stops flowing out of the lake. Water levels in August 2022 were approximately 0.35 feet below the crest elevation (dashed line), which, as noted earlier, has occurred regularly over the period of record. The outlet structure was constructed in 1953 and, based on a survey and inspection completed in April 2022, has not changed, settled or otherwise significantly been altered in the since completion. Once water levels fall below the outlet structure crest, and there is no outflow from the lake, lake levels are still impacted by evaporation. During extreme low water periods, studies have shown water levels can drop by up to 0.25 inches per day or more in hot, humid, and windy conditions. There is no mechanism to stop or limit evaporation losses. In short, water levels in the lake are reflective of local climate conditions, and as conditions again trend towards dryer periods, lake water levels will be correspondingly lower than during wetter periods.

One specific comment frequently received during drier conditions on many lakes is related to the elevation of the lake outlet structure being too low and/or needs to be changed. It should be noted that changing the elevation of any lake outlet structure is a very complex and multifaceted process with significant regulatory oversight, as this action would impact everyone on the lake. These elements are essential in managing lake water levels at elevations consistent with the historic hydrologic regime, and in the best interest of the general public. To briefly summarize, DNR could only issue a Public Waters Permit to establish a control elevation for a Public Waters basin with an outlet control (like Lake Washington) that is different than any previously existing or established control level in very limited situations outlined in MN Statute and Rules. Any change to the existing outlet control structure would result in significant changes to the hydrologic regime of Lake Washington and upstream Lakes Stella and Manuella. We must also consider the impact changes at other local climate/water level conditions than the current dry trend, including the wetter experienced in previous years. If the outlet structure crest elevation were to be raised, and high water conditions similar to 2019 occurred, would there be landowners experiencing flooding issues that historically had not been impacted? Likely so. Lastly, the appropriate easements and other property interests would have to be obtained from all affected owners. In the case of raising a water level control structure, this essentially means that flowage easements must be obtained from all riparian landowners around the lake.

To summarize, lower recent water levels in the lake are representative of somewhat drier conditions in the watershed in recent months/years, and are not outside the range of water levels observed on the lake in the recent past. Water levels will vary seasonally based on precipitation/climate trends, and similar lower water levels are also being observed in many area lakes because of drier local climate conditions and trends. Unless we begin to see more precipitation in coming weeks and months, it is likely many lakes will continue to maintain lower water levels than seen in recent years. We will continue to monitor the water levels in the area lakes and streams to observe changes over the open water season.

# Walleye Stocking Principles

By Scott Mackenthun, Area Supervisor | Hutchinson Area Fisheries

Hi LWIA ladies and gentlemen,

Sorry for the long delay on a response. I wanted to address a few things brought up in the question about fundraising and stocking more walleye on Washington. I flagged the email for a response thinking I might dig deeper and deeper into it and by doing so delayed the response needlessly. Summer is almost over! I didn't need to overcomplicate it so I simply took some time to gather my thoughts. I certainly welcome anyone who wants to take a look at our fry stocking historical returns, growth data, abundance, etc. to do so – it might be fun to do that at a future meeting or something similar? I know a lot of people find this stuff really interesting and cool – I know we certainly do here! We are grateful for the chance to work with you folks and share our data – we have a shared goal of trying to get the best fishery performance out of Lake Washington and the lake has tremendous potential and output!

First and most important – our fry stocking strategy at Washington has worked very well looking back historically, either taking a deep dive to when fry stocking first started or even looking at recent fry stocking returns. Our strategy of alternate year stocking gives us gap years to evaluate natural reproduction (of which Washington has a great deal – the most recent modeling suggested around half of the fish in Washington are naturally reproduced) and supplementing that natural reproduction on stocked years with hatchery raised fry. Contrast that to Minnetonka, where it is believed that there is almost no natural reproduction found (personal communication with Daryl Ellison, West Metro Area Supervisor and Brian Nerbonne, Central Region Fisheries Manager). The management strategy taken by West Metro DNR in conjunction with the Westonka Walleye program is to stock advanced life stages (fingerling, yearling, adult) – not fry – to provide fishing opportunities in Lake Minnetonka. The Minnetonka walleye stocking strategy does mix in various year classes, which makes tracking natural reproduction impossible, and the management goal for the lake is set to simply provide walleye angling opportunities and a baseline lakewide abundance. Quite honestly, Minnetonka and Washington are such different lakes in type, size, and makeup and have such different lake management goals that they are directly incomparable.

Washington's walleye fry stocking works well and gives the lake the benefit of economy of scale. You get a lot more fish in a pound of fry than in a pound of fingerlings. Strong walleye year classes and subsequent strong angling opportunities come from natural reproduction and fry stocking – fingerling stocking just doesn't have the numbers on their side to really stack up. Fingerlings can contribute to abundant walleye population, just not on the same level as fry stocking or natural reproduction. Because Washington has good walleye spawning and nursery habitat, fry are best suited for this lake type.

A follow up question I would anticipate is what rate do you use for fry stocking. Research done by Logsdon that calculated native (naturally reproduced) fry densities in lakes as well as examining the success of DNR fry stocking showed 400-600 fry/littoral acre as an ideal range. For that reason, our rates on Washington actually dropped in 2019 from 1000/littoral acre to 500. We believe we can produce the most survivors from a year class at this rate that will contribute to the fishery in as little as 2 or 3 years on Washington. Growth on Washington is that fast! We get walleye on average to 6 inches in their first year, to 12 inches by the end of year 2, to 16 inches by the end of year 3, and to near 18 inches by year 4. That is fantastic growth.

**Q: What you get when four men go fishing and one comes back not catching anything.**

**A: Three Men And A Baby**

## Walleye Stocking Principles (continued)

Generally speaking, the public and many anglers come to a similar conclusion with respect to walleye stocking, on individual lakes but also on the whole across the entire state. “If some (stocking) is good, more must be better.” The reality is that natural systems have a sweet spot. For example, too little natural reproduction or fry stocking in a given year and your year class will be weak. Too much natural reproduction or fry stocking, and you run the risk of creating a lot of competition within that cohort, shrinking average size, and sending those young fingerling walleyes into their first winter small and in poor condition. While our winters are getting weaker, size and condition entering the first non-growing season has been found to be a predictor of year class success. There can be “too much of a good thing.” Thus, finding the sweet spot on fry rates and fish density does become important. There is also the efficiency and cost part of the equation since we aren’t operating in a vacuum. We want to maximize our return on investment while minimizing costs. Fry stocking not only provides Washington with its best opportunity for abundant walleye by the economy of scale, it also as a secondary function is a better fit by looking at costs. Fingerling production is expensive compared to the costs of hatching and releasing fry early in the spring.

In closing I do want to say I genuinely appreciate the interest in the Lake Washington walleye fishery and the offers from Lake Washington Improvement Association to help in any capacity. At present, with good performance from fry stocking, we’re inclined to continue to use fry stocking as the primary walleye management strategy. We will continue fry stocking and plan to cover the costs of getting fry as part of our statewide budgetary plan. Our frequent, alternate-year survey schedule will allow us to continue evaluating fry stocking returns going forward. Washington may continue going through system change and developing a “new normal” for the fish community for species composition and abundance; walleye will still have a place in that community as we look across the entire Washington Chain of Lakes but habitat use may change, which is something of a deeper topic for a different time. The bottom line is this – walleye natural reproduction is doing well on Washington and fry stocking is providing a nice supplement.



# Cormorants And Pelicans

By Steve Grotbo, President

Luckily the cormorants and pelicans have not been around much in any high numbers. I am sure they will be back in the spring though. Difficult part is indicating we have any issue without having them on the Lake.

We did get additional information from Michael Worland (DNR out of the Waterville office) on pelicans. Michael specializes in nongame wildlife. Apparently the pelican population has rebounded from the very low numbers in the 80's to where it is today, but they are still listed as a species of concern in Minnesota. Nearly all of the nesting occurs in just seven (7) lakes, which includes Pigeon Lake. I am leaning towards that we are just unlucky to be by one of the seven lakes, but others are trying to put a positive spin on this indicating that we are fortunate. In any case, pelicans, like cormorants, are protected under both federal and state laws.

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## Pat's Corner

By Pat Hanson



### Milkweeds for Monarchs

Did you know that Minnesota has six ornamental Milkweeds that are native to Minnesota? They are:

- Whorled Milkweed
- Common Milkweed
- Butterflyweed
- Swamp Milkweed
- Purple Milkweed and
- Showy Milkweed.

The Monarch butterfly population in North America has declined by over 90% in just the last twenty years.

Why?

One reason for the decline is the SCARCITY of the caterpillar host plant MILKWEED. Our monarch butterflies can't reproduce successfully and therefore the species declines. So what can we lake owners do to help the Monarch butterfly? We can plant in our gardens, by our boathouses, cabins, landscapes, and throughout our community these native milkweed plants. This will help reverse the future of our beautiful butterflies.

### Meeker County Association of Lakes (MCAL)

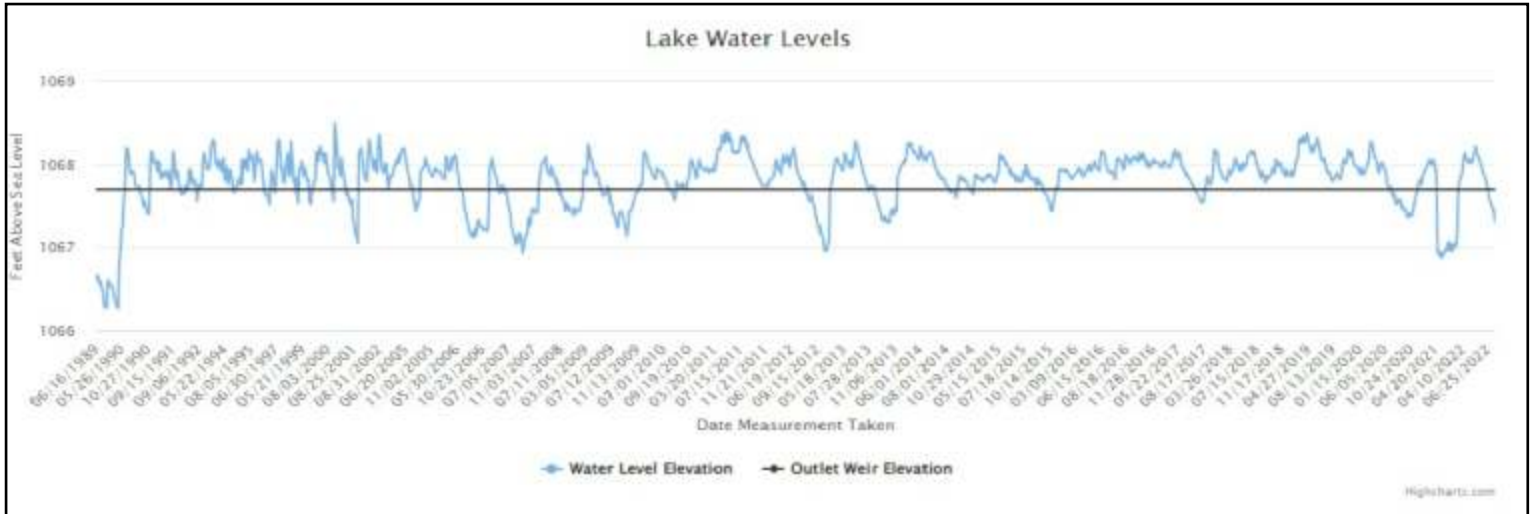
MCAL meets only 4 times a year. One member from each of the Meeker County Lake Associations can vote at the meetings. There is more interest this past year in new board members wanting to know about what is going on with our neighbors lakes.

During the evening MCAL meetings we share what our lake association is doing, answer questions, learn about workshops available through the University of Minnesota, and listen to what others are doing. We report back to our Lake Washington executive board through our monthly meetings or via email. We are informed about various information to share especially on grant writing. I immediately send the information and forms to our Lake Washington Grant writer, Sharon Daniels. Sharon has been a valuable member to our association by writing grants. I would say many of the MCAL ask questions about all the requirements and rules to these grants.

# Water Quality

By Dave Rathe

**Lake Water:** Lake Washington water level is down significantly again this summer. The lake at the end of July (last reported data point) was approximately 5 inches below the top of the Washington Creek dam and approximately 7 inches below average. The US Drought Monitor ([droughtmonitor.unl.edu](http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu)) has Meeker County in an “abnormally dry” condition (on September 6<sup>th</sup>). In July and the first part of August the US Drought Monitor had Meeker County in a “moderate drought” condition. Anybody know a good “Rain Maker”?



Four of the 5 planned lake water samples have been completed as of this writing, with September’s sample remaining to be taken around September 19th. The samples were taken from Site 101, which is one of the deepest parts of the lake. Each sample measures the amount of algae (Chlorophyll-a) and nutrients (Total Phosphorus) in the water. More nutrients means more algae, which in turn means greener and less clear water. We have taken disk reading to determine the clarity of the water in feet at sites 101, 205, 207, 208, and 209 every two weeks throughout the summer. In general the lake has been clearer than the historical average this year. Also, recent lake clarity for the past few years has been clearer than historical average, likely due to zebra mussel filtering of the lake water.

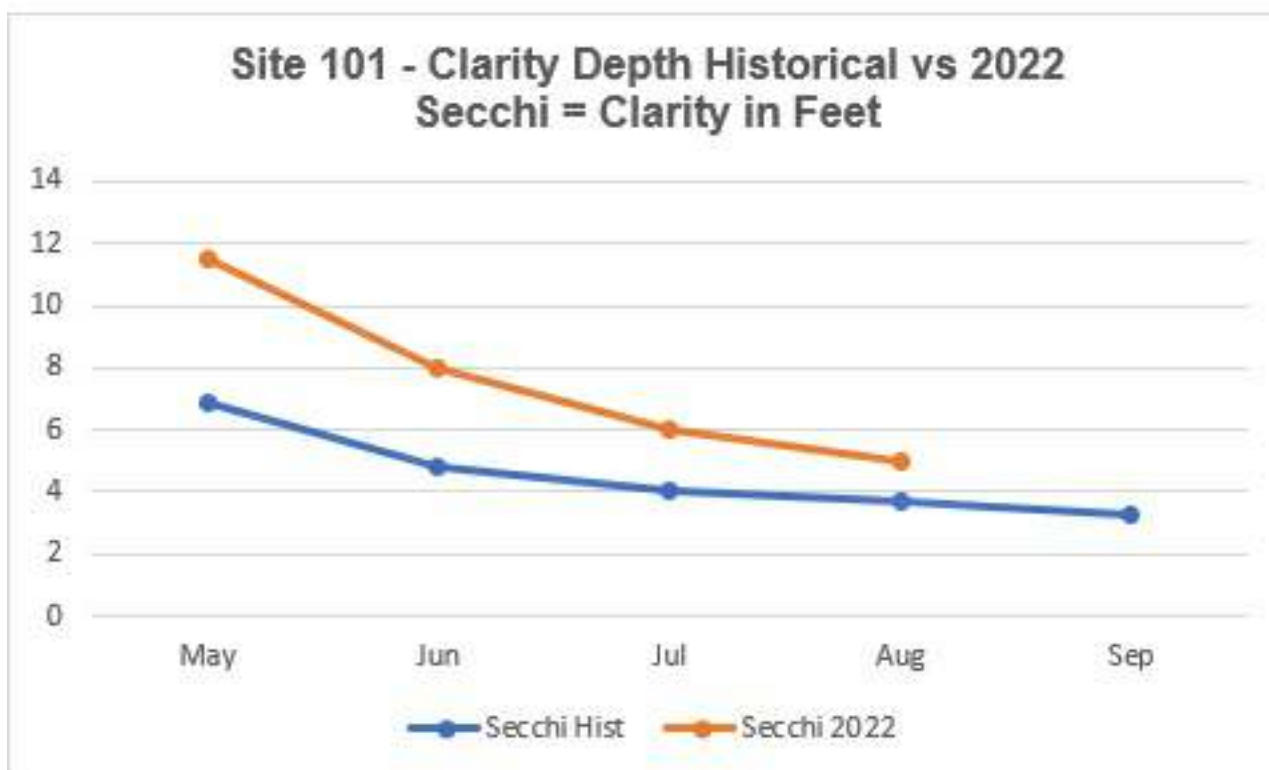
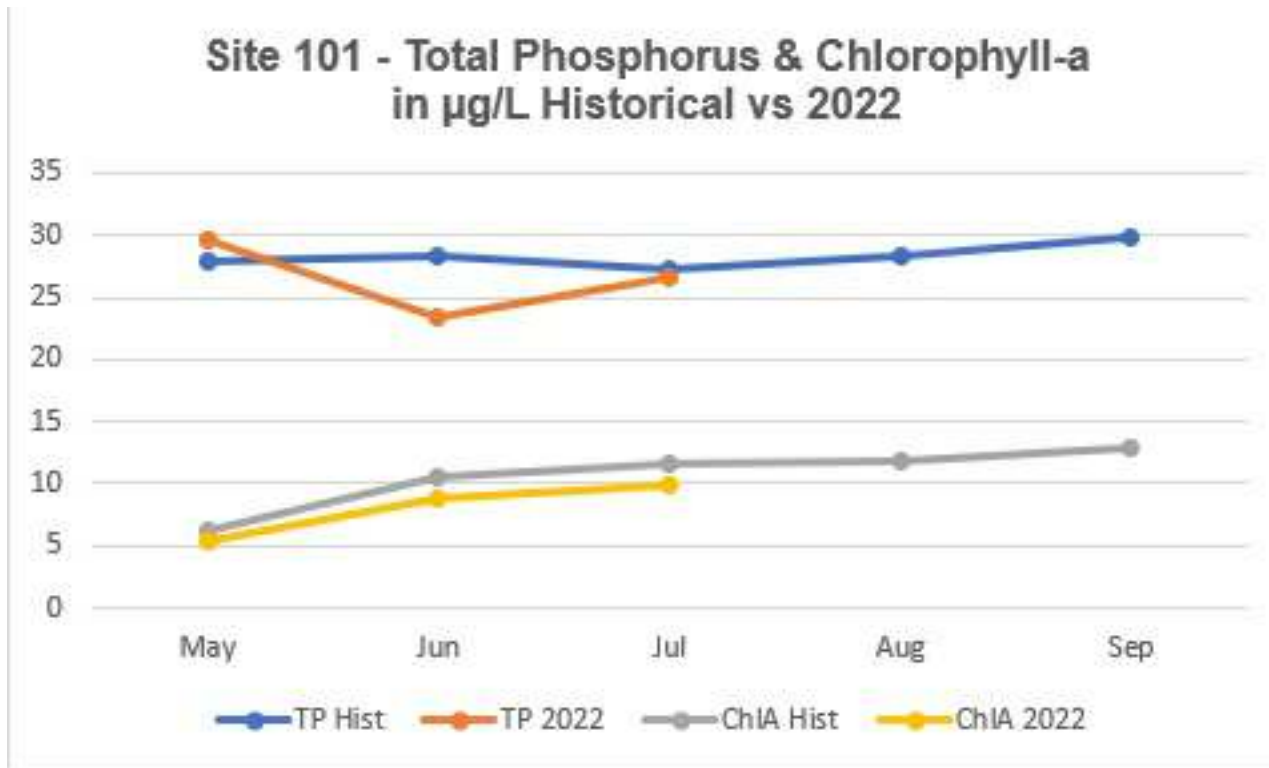
## Sample Site Locations



## Water Quality (continued)

Clarity at 205, 207, 208, and 209 sites are typically within +/- 0.5 feet and not shown in the graphs below. Total Phosphorus and Chlorophyll-a averages for 2022 are very close to the historical average (2006 to 2022).

Note: As of this writing we have not received Phosphorus and Chlorophyll-a results from RMB Labs for the August water samples.



## Water Quality (continued)

Information on lake water and inlet water data including graphs, maps, etc. is on the Lake Washington Improvement Association web site, <https://lwiaonline.com/>. More improvements are planned in this section, so stay tuned. Water analysis is performed by RMB Environmental Labs out of Detroit Lakes, MN.

The water clarity (Secchi disk) tests, as well as, phosphorus and chlorophyll-a data will be submitted to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency at the end of the year.

**Inlet Water:** The plan this summer was to test some of the inlet water coming into the lake, after a significant amount of rain. Due to the drought, these tests were not conducted.



No sampling of inlet water from Lake Stella was planned, as the Lake Stella Improvement Association is pulling water samples this summer. Data from Lake Stella can be found on RMB Labs web site <https://www.rmbel.info>.

### Call Captain Planet

The residents of a town are fed up with all of the lake pollution from factories, littering, and toxic waste. Finally, a towns person says, "We need Captain Planet!"

A moment later, a superhero looking dude shows up and says, "Did someone summon me? The townspeople rejoice, and cheer for their new savior.

The superhero gathers everyone together and puts together a basic strategy to fight the pollution. Then he says, "Have fun, I'm outta here."

The townspeople are confused and ask him, "Well wait, when do you start doing all this?"

He replies, "Me? I don't do anything. You called for Captain Plan-it"

# Watercraft Inspection

By Dave Rathe

The Internet – Landing Installed Device Sensor system (I-LIDS) was installed on May 4<sup>th</sup> and will be removed in October or November depending on weather. I-LIDS has captured over 2500 videos as of September 9<sup>th</sup>. None of the viewed captured videos have shown launching of weeds on boats or trailers. Early in the summer several boats were seen with expired tabs.

Meeker County and the MN DNR have been conducting boat inspections and boat decontamination on Friday's, Saturday's, Sunday's, and Holiday's throughout the summer. The inspectors help boaters clean, drain, and dry boats internally and externally. The DNR boat decontamination unit uses 120° F water, which kills the Zebra Mussel free-living planktonic larvae within the water, called veligers.

The I-LIDS system is 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.

Lake Washington has these aquatic invasive species (AIS): Curly-leaf Pondweed, Eurasian Watermilfoil, and Zebra Mussels. Other AIS in Minnesota of concern for Lake Washington are Spiny Waterfleas and Starry Stonewort.





## Watercraft Inspection (continued)

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 go to <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/ais/infested.html>.

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 [eric.katzenmeyer@state.mn.us](mailto:eric.katzenmeyer@state.mn.us) in the Hutchinson Area Fisheries Office.

Remember to Clean In and Clean Out when launching or loading all watercraft. Drain all water, and dispose of unused bait. Remember, Minnesota law requires docks and boat lifts to be out of the water for at least 21 days before putting them into another body of water.

There is a trash can at Ellsworth landing provided by the Lake Washington Improvement Association.

## Minnesota Lakes and Rivers (MLR) Lake Steward” Program

*By Steve Grotbo*

The Lake Steward program through the Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates (MLR) is happening. We now have a couple copies of the “Shoreland Guide to Lake Stewardship” to help guide our lake residents.

Feel free to do a self-assessment of your lake shore at the following website:

<https://mnlakesandrivers.org/lake-associations/lake-association-programs/lake-steward/>

Jeff Forrester of the MLR has agreed to be our guest speaker for next year’s May meeting. Jeff has been featured in the newspaper and on local news, so it is very good to have a person of this caliber speaking at our event.

So far, we have two properties that did the assessment for receiving Lake Steward signs. If you feel your property meets the criteria, please contact Steve Grotbo for an assessment.

# Aquatic Invasive Species

By Mark Johnson, AIS Coordinator

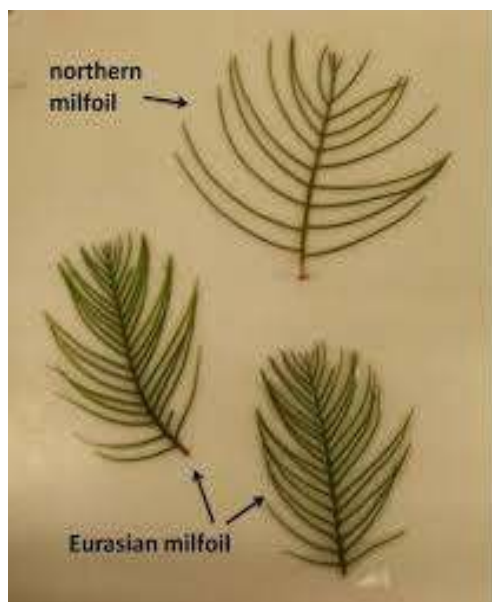
Northern Milfoil (NATIVE) and Eurasian Milfoil (INVASIVE) look a lot alike. Both are present in Lake Washington and each year LWIA surveys the lake and sample various waypoints in search of the invasive milfoil. In the past 10 years, LWIA has only had to chemically treat the lake twice - 2013 (146 acres) and 2020 (77 acres). The last couple of years seem a little odd to me...not only are we not seeing any Eurasian Milfoil, we are also seeing less Northern Milfoil as well.



## Keys to ID Eurasian Milfoil (INVASIVE):

Look for feathery leaves of 4 leaves per whorl; Leaves have 12 – 20 leaflet pairs; Leaves become limp when taken out of water. **Keys to ID Northern Milfoil (NATIVE):** Look for rigid leaves of 4 leaves per whorl; Leaves have 4 – 11 leaflet pairs; Leaves are rigid when taken out of water. If you think that you have identified the INVASIVE milfoil in Lake Washington, please contact Lake Washington Improvement Association at [info@lwiaonline.com](mailto:info@lwiaonline.com) for evaluation and we can report it to MNDNR AIS Specialist through their reporting app.

**Remember**, the most common way that aquatic invasive species get introduced into new bodies of water is from boats and other recreational equipment moved lake to lake. Therefore, boat landings and areas around docks are locations where this may first appear. Please help stop the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species! Keep an eye out for this invasive.



## Vegetation surveys on Lake Washington

This past June, Ron Bubany, Mike Wosmek and I surveyed our waypoints and found no Eurasian Milfoil (INVASIVE). Curly Leaf Pondweed was found in small quantities throughout the lake (INVASIVE). We will do one more survey in mid- September which will include boat landings. Last note: LIMNOPRO Aquatic Science did not get scheduled this year to perform an Early Detection survey as mentioned in the summer newsletter. Next year we will start this program.

See you on the lake!

# Committee Reports

## Social Committee

*By Sandy Wosmek*

The feel of FALL is in the air --- Summer lake season coming to an end, hope it was full of fun, rest, and relaxation.

We were able to have our annual meeting and pork chop meal in May (thanks once again to B & B SPORTS for paying for the chops) and the potluck in August, (thanks to EZ DOCK & LIFT for paying for the BBQ meat and buns).

Plans are to have the next annual meeting and pork chop meal the first Saturday of May - (May 6, 2023) and the potluck the first Saturday in August - (Aug 5, 2023). Watch the spring newsletter for full details.

ENJOY the last days and nights of summer – and have a great Fall and Winter!

## Membership

*By Laurie Johnson*

**Thank you** to the 213 folks that have submitted their membership fees. We had 206 submit for 2021, 208 submit for 2020 and 239 for 2019.

**A big thank you** to all of Lake Washington Shoreline Captains. Your time and effort is greatly appreciated! Please find a map of current shoreline captains and open areas here:

<https://lwiaonline.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Shoreline-captain-map.pdf>

Jim Barnes	Jenny Kjell	Mary Jo Lyke	Connie Paulson
Sharon Daniels	Gloria Kotilla	Jenna O'Brien	Sue Schmidt
Phil Flores	Jo Lukes	Bob Paulson	Steve Ullom
			Sandy Wosmek

There have been a few people that have volunteered for next year, however, we could always use some more support. If curious, you can find a list of roles and responsibilities here:

<https://lwiaonline.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/SHORELINE-CAPTAIN-DESCRIPTION.pdf>

Watch for more details on a meeting in May to go through everything Shoreline Captains will need to know.

## Finance Committee

*By Lyle Walker*

As the summer season winds down, the Association continues in a strong financial position. All bills are paid and no significant expenditures are anticipated. Membership funds of \$10,650 have been generated by 213 members. In addition, 76 members have donated \$2,225 to the Dassel Fire Department through the Association. The Board of Directors thanks you for your continued support. The current financial position is total funds of \$124,800.