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FOAM

SUBMERGED BOULDERS

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NEW CULVERT

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2023 FISH SURVEY



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FALL NEWSLETTER, 2023

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Contact Us



General Issues

Info@lwiaonline.com

Membership Changes

Membership@lwiaonline.com

Lost and Found

lostfound@lwiaonline.com

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

The Lake Washington Improvement Association had a lot going on this year. Besides the normal every year items, the association was involved with multiple watershed projects, taking over weekly water level monitoring, adding official rain gauge, and the culvert between Washington and Stella. Each of these watershed projects, whether small or large, do so much to help with the water quality. Please do reach out if you have ideas for further projects.

The annual potluck had a great turnout and more importantly great food. I am just sorry that I was not able to attend myself. This was an opportunity for members to also give suggestions for projects and ask questions. Thanks again to EZ Dock & Lift for sponsoring this event. Looking forward to the May porkchop dinner, which is the first Saturday in May.

The association is not allowed to perform treatment of residential shoreline for vegetation, which extends out over 75 feet. Residents can however do weed control themselves with a permit from the DNR. The association has partnered with Lake Restoration who does offer residential weed (sorry, should say vegetation) treatment. This is not a cheap option, but they are the only company up for helping us out. Details for this year are available at <https://lwiaonline.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/WeedControl.htm> which should be similar for the coming year.

The new culvert is in place and is very nice. With both lakes connected now, the fishing tournaments are only going to increase. Also contributing to tournaments is the winter kill at other lakes in the area. The lake even had the “2023 Junior State Bass Fishing Championship” held in August with 40 boats (80 kids) fishing.

The election for new board members is in May and the association will be needing some new blood. We are selling our lake home this spring, which will be 24 years on the lake for myself. So that is at least one available board position. I joined the board in 2010 and have been president since 2016 and can honestly say this is a very rewarding experience. With 13 people on the board, the work gets divided up and no one person is overwhelmed. Hopefully we get a few people stepping forward and have a true election – perhaps people even campaigning for the position?

Late breaking news, we are in a drought and it is more on the severe side this season. The official drought monitor is updated every Thursday and as of this writing Lake Washington is in the D2 (Severe Drought) category with parts of Meeker county being in the D3 (Extreme Drought) category. On the positive side, looking historically we should be bouncing back to normal for next season.

Okay, so all of us know that we are in a drought, and it is more on the severe side this season. The official drought monitor is updated every Thursday and as of this writing Lake Washington is in the D2 (Severe Drought) category with parts of Meeker county being in the D3 (Extreme Drought) category. On the positive side, looking historically we should be bouncing back to normal for next season.



Cormorants and Pelicans

By Steve Grotbo

We certainly had more than our fair share of cormorants and pelicans this season. For Pelican lake, the DNR requested feedback by end of August for possible solutions. Hopefully the final outcome allows for controlling the cormorant population and similar control will be allowed for Pigeon lake. Here is the DNR recommendation:

The Minnesota DNR's current preferred alternative would employ lethal measures to remove a portion of the growing double-crested cormorant population on Egret Island that has led to adverse impacts to the Pelican Lake walleye fishery. The Minnesota DNR will be assessing several alternatives including revising fish management goals, increasing survey efforts to increase understanding of the system, and lethal control of adult cormorants before making a final decision.

Every other year, the DNR does a fish survey. The 2023 numbers for walleye seem down considerably compared to 2021 (26% less). This will hopefully show the needed impact from cormorants / pelicans. I am very happy to see the Bluegill numbers way up as I love the taste of sunfish. The below charts show the 2021 numbers followed by this years (2023) so you can judge for yourself.

Abbr	Species	Total Fish	Number Per Set	25%	50%	75%
BIB	Bigmouth Buffalo	1	0.07	0.33	1.00	6.11
BLB	Black Bullhead	6	0.40	4.56	23.42	83.00
BLC	Black Crappie	90	6.00	0.83	2.63	11.10
BLG	Bluegill	167	11.13	N/A	N/A	N/A
GOS	Golden Shiner	7	0.47	0.14	0.26	0.68
HSF	Hybrid Sunfish	11	0.73	N/A	N/A	N/A
LMB	Largemouth Bass	44	2.93	0.26	0.78	1.77
NOP	Northern Pike	31	2.07	1.20	3.50	7.79
PMK	Pumpkinseed	17	1.13	N/A	N/A	N/A
SMB	Smallmouth Bass	39	2.60	0.33	0.50	3.17
WAE	Walleye	192	12.80	3.22	7.67	15.33
WTS	White Sucker	8	0.53	0.75	2.00	5.88
YEB	Yellow Bullhead	35	2.33	0.33	1.17	3.58
YEP	Yellow Perch	25	1.67	3.00	8.94	22.50
Total Fish/Set:			44.87	* Quartiles for Number Per Set		

Abbr	Species	Total Fish	Number Per Set	25%	50%	75%
BLB	Black Bullhead	17	1.13	4.56	23.42	83.00
BLC	Black Crappie	17	1.13	0.83	2.63	11.10
BLG	Bluegill	397	26.47	N/A	N/A	N/A
BRB	Brown Bullhead	3	0.20	0.60	1.80	7.67
CAP	Common Carp	2	0.13	0.52	1.80	9.13
GOS	Golden Shiner	2	0.13	0.14	0.26	0.68
GSF	Green Sunfish	5	0.33	0.17	0.20	2.75
HSF	Hybrid Sunfish	27	1.80	N/A	N/A	N/A
LMB	Largemouth Bass	21	1.40	0.26	0.78	1.77
NOP	Northern Pike	47	3.13	1.20	3.50	7.79
PMK	Pumpkinseed	62	4.13	N/A	N/A	N/A
SMB	Smallmouth Bass	12	0.80	0.33	0.50	3.17
WAE	Walleye	141	9.40	3.22	7.67	15.33
WTS	White Sucker	10	0.67	0.75	2.00	5.88
YEB	Yellow Bullhead	58	3.87	0.33	1.17	3.58
YEP	Yellow Perch	71	4.73	3.00	8.94	22.50
Total Fish/Set:			59.47	1 Quartiles for Number Per Set		

2023 Grants

By Sharon Daniels / Grant Coordinator

Welcome Fall weather! Colors changing, and hoping for a lot of rain in the next couple months!

With Fall upon us it is time to finish up on projects, request grant reimbursement for projects completed, and begin the grant application process for MCAL and AIS for 2024.

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 2023. As I write this article there are 892 hours accumulated thus far! It's hard to imagine that many hours from basically 13 people, but when many of the board puts in 60 -100 hours per year ... well that adds up fast! Be sure to say THANK YOU to a board member when you see them! They are the ones keeping the lake at its best! Be sure to read ALL the newsletter and you will see the work that is being done by the members. Check out the minutes posted on the LWIA website from each month; read the details of all happenings!

In September I started to gather receipts for expenses for completing the lake projects and I will be billing out invoices requesting reimbursement from grant money allotted to us in 2023 from Meeker County Association of Lakes (MCAL) as well as from Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Meeker County. I do not have exact figures at this time, but reimbursement request to MCAL will be approximately \$3,200 and AIS request for reimbursement will be around \$3,500 for the year.

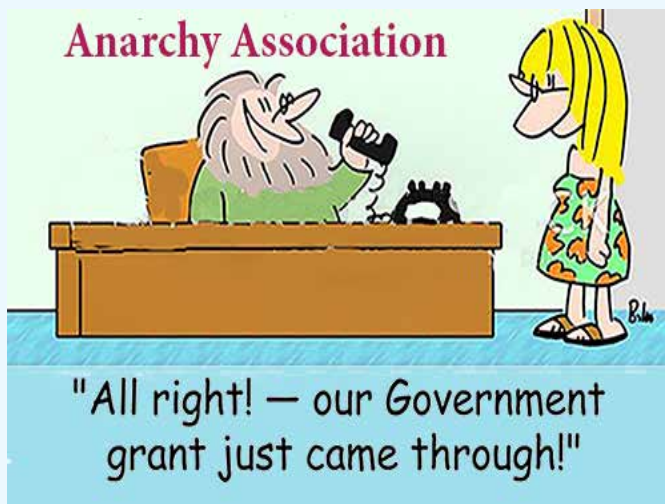
The MCAL 2024 grant application is now due October 19, 2023, and the AIS 2024 grant application is due November 2, 2023. Request for Proposal (RFP) for 2023 is due along with the year-end report for AIS by October 19, 2023.

I will be turning in invoices for reimbursement in September. 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 October 4, 2023. Any in-kind hours completed after that date will be used in the year end reports for year 2024.

LWIA board members have identified MCAL projects for 2024 to continue the process of water testing, monitor the water flow of 20 lake inlets, checking the pond(s) for dredging out, continue the work at Ellsworth landing with the I-LIDS monitoring and maintenance, and any other projects that arise.

The work of the board and lake members and projects they do 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.

To all the volunteers that helped work on projects during 2023, THANK YOU!



Watercraft Inspection

By Dave Rathe

The Internet – Landing Installed Device Sensor system (I-LIDS) has captured over 7,000 videos this summer. We hire Environmental Sentry Protection, LLC to view the videos for potential violations of DNR rules regarding the launching of weeds on boats and trailers. Brett Rasmussen (board member) also views videos weekly. I-LIDS also provides boaters with an audio reminder to Clean, Drain, and Dry prior to launching or leaving the landing area.

Meeker County and the MN DNR conducted boat inspections and boat decontamination this summer. There were inspectors at Ellsworth landing Thursday through Sunday and on Holidays. The DNR decontamination system was also at the landing approximately every other weekend.

Lake Washington currently contains these aquatic invasive species (AIS): Curly-leaf Pondweed, Eurasian Watermilfoil and Zebra Mussels.

Other AIS in Minnesota of concern for Lake Washington are Spiny Waterflea and Starry Stonewort.



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 Hutchinson Area Fisheries Office at hutchinson.fisheries@state.mn.us.

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.

The Lake Washington Improvement Association provided a trashcan at Ellsworth landing again this summer. Thanks for using it and helping keep the landing clean.

Watershed

By Mike Wosmek

The Lake Washington Improvement Association along with Meeker County worked on two lake inlets this year. I would like to thank Joe Norman from Meeker County Soil and Water for his leadership of the two projects.

The first inlet project was for Sue and Lynn Schmidt's property, which hosts the outlet for the Warren Nelson farm. The project started last fall with Meeker County Surveying the Schmidt lake inlet. Then, last winter, Meeker County Engineers came up with a design which Ethan Jenson from the DNR, Joe Norman from Soil and Water and the Schmidts (land owners) were all happy with.

Lindberg Excavating from Cokato completed the project. Meeker County Soil and Water paid 75% of the project. Warren Nelson and the Lake Washington Improvement Association then each paid the remaining 25% (12.5% each).

The second inlet improvement was at the property of John and Donna Hammers.

They could see black water flowing into the lake after a big rain. At the May porkchop feed, they asked if the Lake Association would look into this. Dave Rathe and I found a tile line with an open (unfiltered) inlet.

I worked with Joe Norman. The farmer said that this was the only open inlet on that tile line. Joe said we should install a new type of inlet cover that will hold back the black dirt most efficiently. I therefore ordered and installed an Agri Drain Tile cover.

Thanks to John and Donna for telling us about the problem. As Vice President of the Lake Washington Association, I am proud to advertise that this is the type of improvement project we try to complete.

Incidentally, we could use help on the Lake Washington Improvement Board of Directors. Keep this in mind the next time we have an election.

Thank you!

Here is what we found.



More photos on the next page!

Here is what we did.



More watershed photos...



What we found...



What we did.

2023 DNR Fish Survey

By Scott Mackenthun Minnesota DNR Area Supervisor | Hutchinson Area Fisheries

The 2023 summer gill net survey was completed during the last week of July. Washington and Stella are assessed in alternate years to better track individual year classes of walleye and to observe overall fishery health and abundance. Just like in the 2021 lake survey, several walleye year classes are present. Walleye relative abundance came in at 9.4 per gill net, which is right at the mean and median value for the last 25 years. Northern pike were seen at a little more than 3 per gill net. A few largemouth and small mouth bass were collected as well, although both species are better sampled with electrofishing. In total, 16 different species were captured in the gill nets. We are meeting our goals for managing small mouth and largemouth bass, which is to see winning weights in reported fishing tournaments exceed 12 pounds. Our most recent spring panfish assessment showed that bluegill proportional size density was good, with a number of fish exceeding 8 inches and meeting our goal for size structuring. Walleye abundance goals for stocked year classes were met as well.

Walleye abundance goals for stocked year classes were met...

...we see lots of perch that function as forage but never get large enough to interest anglers.

We also completed a round of forage netting, using experimental fine-mesh gill nets. This allows us to see what forage species are present and at what levels – it's only been used for a few years and is experimental so it's hard to put into context, but it's nice to see what sort of forage are available for predator species. We did similar nettings in 2019 and 2021; in the earlier September nettings we found 20-35 yellow

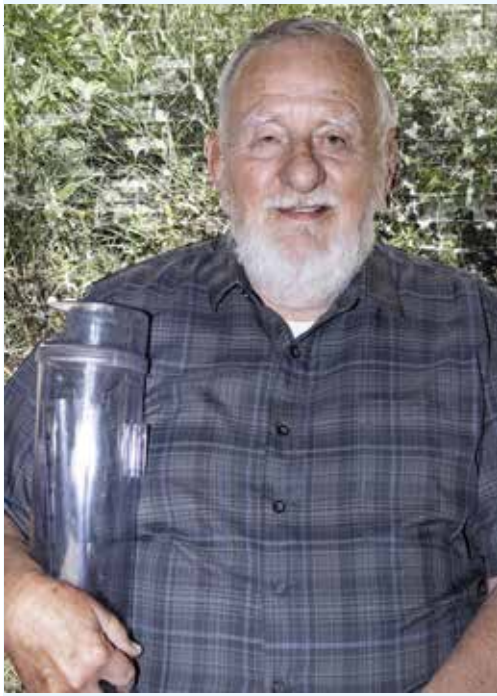
perch per net anywhere from young-of-year to 4 years old and spottail shiners ranging from 40-50 per net. This year, our perch jumped up to over 200 per net. We also saw young-of-year bluegill and black crappie, bluntnose minnows, a few white suckers and bullheads, and young-of-year largemouth bass. The forage nets were originally done as part of a statewide effort to examine yellow perch. What DNR is seeing statewide is also what is being observed at Washington; yellow perch are so heavily preyed upon that rarely do you see perch get big enough to be sampled in standard gill nets (whose smallest meshes are 0.75 inches). Instead, the perch have a survival response of accelerating sexual maturity and spawning at smaller sizes and younger ages. We often hear from anglers that they put underwater cameras down and see clouds of perch but note that our surveys on Lakefinder show no or very few yellow perch. Those observations are correct; we can't adequately sample those small perch in traditional nets and must instead find them with smaller mesh gears. The end result is we see lots of perch that function as forage but never get large enough to interest anglers.

Our last remaining field work for the year is to do some night time electrofishing to sample juvenile walleyes on Washington. We try to index young-of-year and yearling walleye. Unfortunately, a rainstorm kept us off the water this week but we will get to it in the next few weeks. Based on the young-of-year walleye observed in the forage nets (we caught about 6 per net), we know that a cohort developed and that most are around 4 inches. 2023 was a stocking year for Spicer/Crow River strain walleye, but we won't be able to tell stocked and naturally reproduced fish apart. The small size of the 2023 walleye is concerning in that the fish may not be large enough to survive through their first winter; most years Washington's young-of-year walleye are anywhere from 6 to 8 inches and exhibit fast growth. With a warm summer and long growing season, it's a bit surprising. But it could be an artifact of density dependence, where we have too much of a good thing and there are too many young-of-year walleye out there. We could also see a bottleneck with zoo plankton availability. The impacts of zebra mussels straining out native zoo plankton is still being examined around the state. Washington is one of a handful of lakes participating in a walleye and zebra mussel interaction study within Minnesota DNR as well as a second study in partnership with the University of Minnesota.



Ron's Waterworld

By Ron Bubany



Me holding my official COCORAHS rain gauge. To learn more about cocorahs, use this link: www.cocorahs.org.

Today's lake monster is a blob. The eggheads would call it an amoeba.

These animals (there are millions of them) crawl around the lake looking for food. They love to eat what I would call jelly beans (paramecium).

Watch him live at this link:

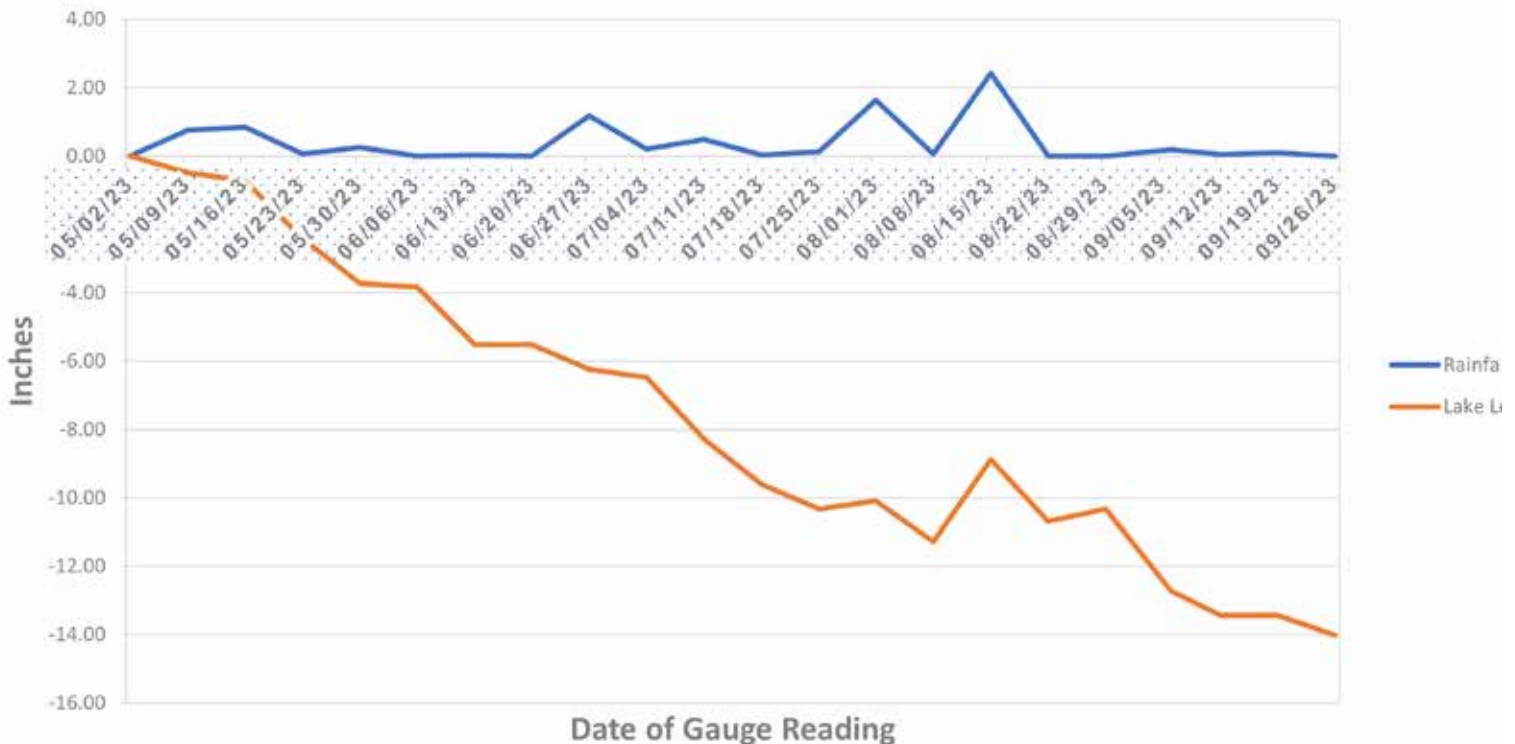
<https://lwiaonline.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/Amoeba.mp4>



This year's recordings began on May 5 and ran through September 26, 2023. Rainfall amounts were disastrous, with only 10.33 inches received during the entire five months. During the same time period our Lake Washington water level dropped over 12 inches.

Here is a weekly plot of rainfall vs lake level.

2023 RAIN VS LAKE LEVEL (INCHES)



Foam

By Ron Bubany

Residents have expressed concerns about the foam on our lake. We have observed this phenomenon at many sites around the lake recently. Is this something we need to worry about?

Having studied this, Dave Rathe provides us with the following observation:

Most lake foam is caused when the surface tension of water is decreased and air is mixed into the water. Surface tension is reduced when organic materials are introduced from naturally decaying plants and animals. When the wind blows across the water waves can wash against the shore, producing bubbles.

Foam occurs naturally in lakes or streams and is not usually an indicator of pollution. So we shouldn't be overly concerned.

Nevertheless if you wish to determine if foam is natural or not, collect some of it into a jar. Shake the jar. Detergents tend to produce more long-lasting bubbles whereas natural foam usually dissipates relatively quickly. Also, detergent foams feel slippery and usually smell of perfumes. Natural foams often smell like fish or soil.

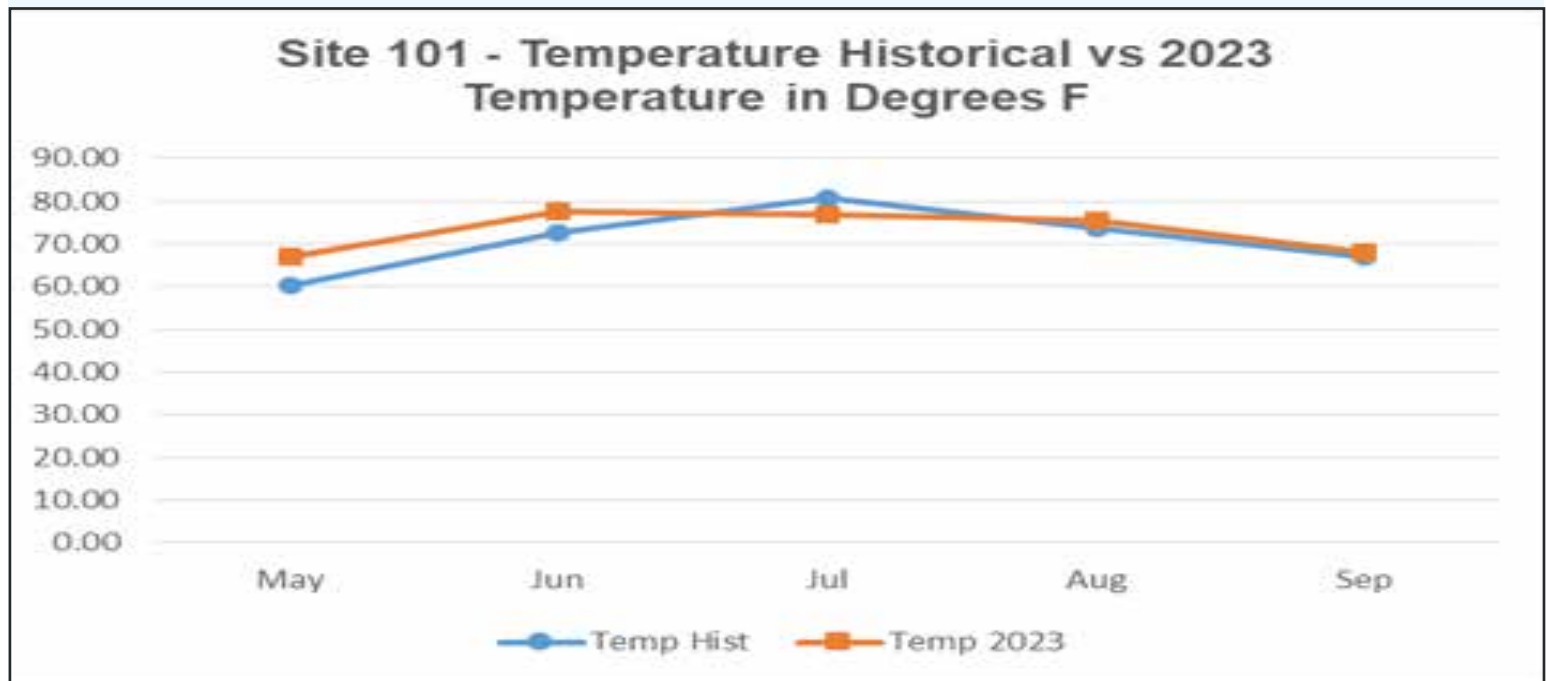
Moral: If it stinks it is probably OK.



Zebra Mussels

By Dave Rathe

The zebra mussel settlement plates (hotels) were pulled Labor Day weekend. You can view a map of the locations on the map page at the end of this document (page 22). The mussels we observed were mostly of small size (one eighth to one quarter of an inch) and there were very few zebra mussels on the plates.



We have been seeing a lot of mussels attached to clam shells and vegetation in deep water, but not on our hotels. The best spawning temperature for zebra mussels is believed to be 57° F to 61° F. As you can see in the temperature graph above the lake water in the middle of the lake is generally above this optimal spawning temperature. Also, temperatures in shallow water where the hotels are located is usually warmer.

We are wondering if earlier placements may get more zebra mussels on the plates due to the cooler lake water temperature. We have added aluminum metal plates to all of the hotels to simulate aluminum dock and boat lifts. All the hotels have been photographed, cleaned, repaired and are ready for the summer of 2024.

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

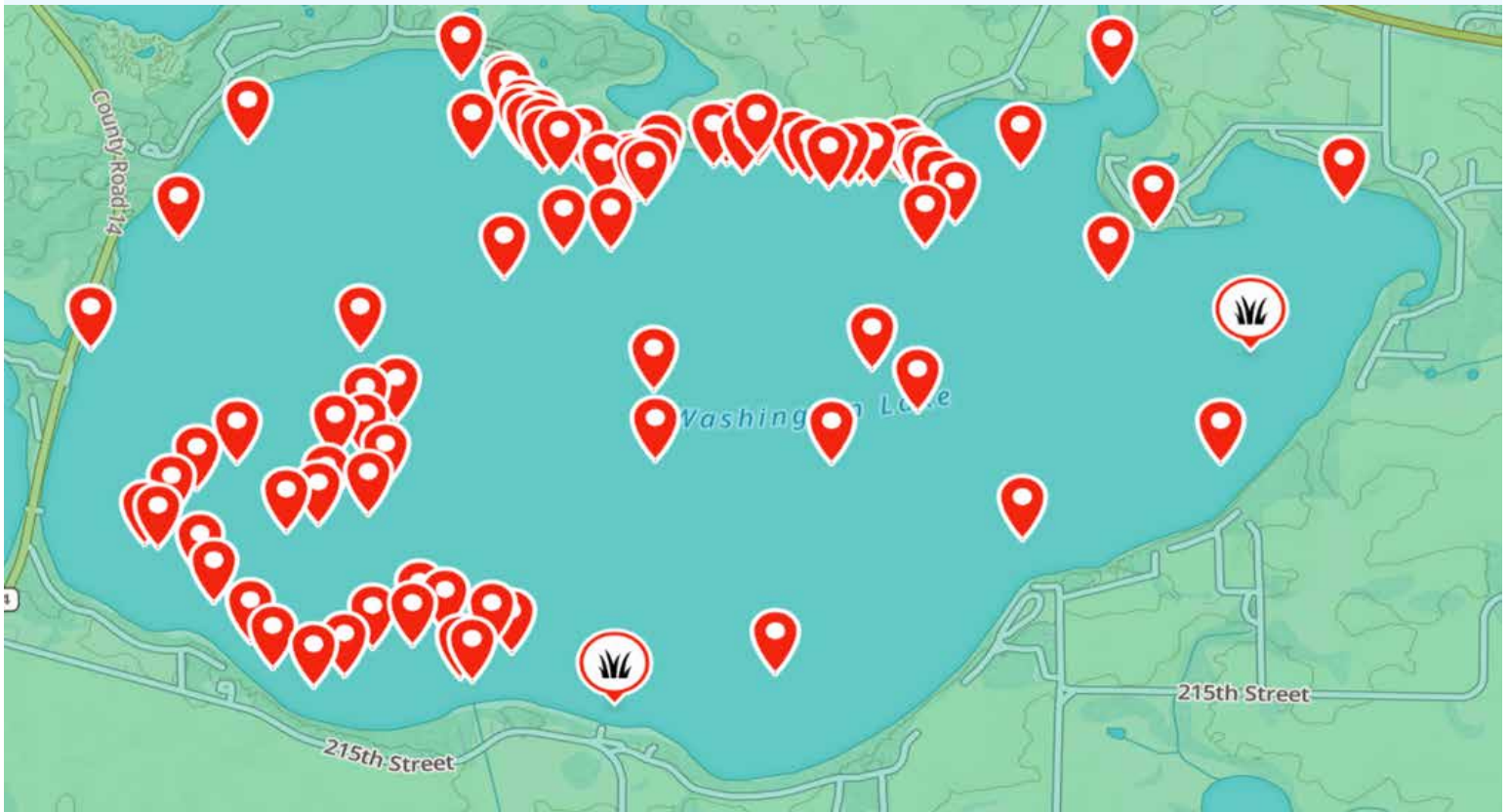


Aquatic Invasive Species

By Mark Johnson

Vegetation surveys on Lake Washington

This past June and July, Lake Washington Improvement Association (LWIA) and LIMNOPRO Aquatic Science surveyed 85 waypoints throughout the lake. At 2 of the 85 waypoints surveyed, traces of Eurasian Watermilfoil (INVASIVE) were found. The map of Lake Washington below displays the waypoints that were surveyed. You will see the 2 white waypoints that represent where Eurasian Watermilfoil was found. The white waypoint on the southside of the lake is at Ellsworth Landing. These two locations will be our starting points for next year. We will increase our surveys in these areas to re-validate, monitor and treat if necessary.



Eurasian Water Milfoil Found

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. See you on the lake!

Membership Shoreline Captains

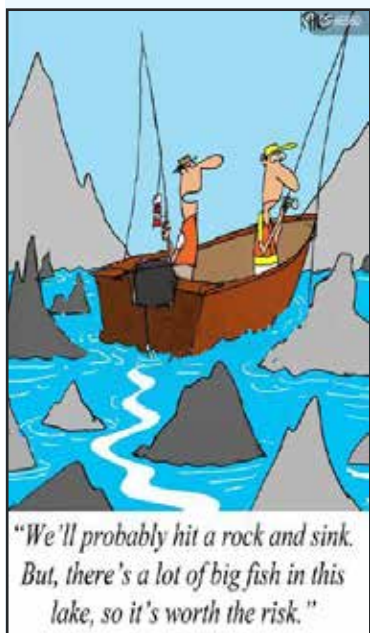
Jim Barnes	Bonni Halverson	Jenna O'Brien	Steve Ullom
Pam Coppa	Jenny Kjell	Bob Paulson	Elizabeth Walke
Sharon Daniels	Gloria Kotilla	Connie Paulson	Sandy Wosmek
Joyce Everski	Jo Lukes	Sue Schmidt	Jan Vanderline
Phil Flores	Mary Jo Lyke	Lois Stueber	

Submerged Boulders

Researched by Steve Ullom



Because of low water levels in the lake, we have heard from property owners that there are areas of the lake where rocks have caused a problem for watercraft running into them. As a result, I contacted the DNR about this issue and here is what I learned.



They reported that the Meeker Co. Boat and Water Patrol did in fact receive an alert from a local residence.. This was considered to be a safety issue and in fact the Meeker Co. Boat and Water Patrol did mark the rocks near the residence with a buoy.

Private markers of any type may not be placed in the water overnight...

Here is what you need to know.

From the 2023 MN Boater's Guide page 32 (<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/regulations/boatwater/index.html>):

WATERWAY MARKERS—AIDS TO NAVIGATION

Waterway markers show navigable channels, denote unsafe areas, direct traffic, control speed, protect resources and serve other functions. Official markers are usually placed by the U.S. Coast Guard, state, county or local governmental unit. Private markers of any type may not be placed in the water overnight without a permit from the county sheriff."

Please note that individuals can NOT put out any type of marker. There was a question about moving rocks and again you are not allowed to do that either. You would first need to get a permit from the Meeker Co. Sheriff's Department and pay for it.

Culvert

By Steve Grotbo

For better or worse, Lake Washington and Lake Stella are now even more connected via a new and larger culvert. The culvert project did have some delays blamed on getting the concrete box culvert sections. A lot of concerns were raised on what exactly the final dimensions are based on odd markings on the culvert. Phil Schmalz (Meeker County) confirmed that it is 12 feet wide by 8 feet high.

I made my maiden voyage through the culvert at the end of August and can confirm that there is plenty of room. With the water levels being way down, it is a bit shallow on the Washington side for now. It is just so much more comfortable not having to duck your head when going through like the old culvert, plus plenty of room on the sides so that pontoon boats are making it through. My thought is that we need to paint the inside of the culvert with some aquatic invasive species educational sayings.

The road reclaim / paving project on 14 is to be completed in October.

On another note, concerns were raised at our recent potluck dinner about the existing access to the lake that is used for ice fishing. The DNR indicated they have no responsibility for this access, so Meeker County did give in and indicate that it is under their purview. With that, Meeker County will do the blacktop so it is same as prior to this project starting.





Water Quality

By Dave Rathe

Lake Water: Another summer with little rain and low water levels, yuck. Many lake shore owners had to pull their boats and boat lifts off the lake or move them into deeper water, this writer included. Per the US Drought Monitor, we are in a 'severe drought' condition and just to the East in Wright County they are in an 'extreme drought' condition. As I write this, we are forecast to get some significant rain this weekend, hope everyone had their fingers crossed.

We have collected 5 water samples this year, one in each month May through September. **Test result graphs for 4 of the 5 samples are shown at the end of this document (page 21).** The fifth result (for September's sample) has not yet been received. All 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 also took Secchi disk readings to determine the clarity of the water in feet at sites 101, 205, 207, 208, and 209 every two weeks. In addition, we started taking surface water temperatures at each site in earnest using a new digital thermometer. In previous years we had only taken water temperatures on occasion with various thermometers and locations, however, the historical data still looks in-line with 2023 data.

Secchi Disk



A map of the test sites (and inlet locations) can be found in the map page at the back of this document (page 22). Clarity at 205, 207, 208, and 209 sites are typically within +/- 0.5 feet and +/- 0.5 F° compared to the reported Site 101 data.

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 by October 31st 2023.

Inlet Water: We took water samples from Site 311 and 312 inlets after ice out to see what the effects are due to the above average snow fall and subsequent runoff. Samples were evaluated for suspended solids and phosphorus. For Site 311 total phosphorus was 0.116 mg/L (milligrams per liter) and suspended solids was 38.2 mg/L. For Site 312 total phosphorus was 0.331 mg/L and suspended solids was 31.9 mg/L. The total phosphorus coming into the lake from these two Sites is about 10 times higher than the phosphorus measurements we normally get from Site 101, which is about the average phosphorus coming in from other inlet Sites we've measured in prior years, although we don't have a lot of data to support the average. We were planning to pull samples from 4 other inlets this summer, but due to the drought there was not enough water flowing from the inlets to get a meaningful test result. We are mostly interested in times when the inlets are running a lot of water to get phosphorus and suspended solids data.



REMEMBERING DEAN SHANER

Dean Shaner was an elected board member of our Lake Washington Association Board for years! I have asked many of our present and past board members about their memories of him.

Dean applied his knowledge of science to our Lake Washington concerns! He helped Dave Rathe and Ken Klehr on the water quality committee. Together they pulled water samples and took secchi disk readings. The water samples were then shipped for laboratory analysis.

Dean also talked regularly to the Department of Natural Resources(DNR) in Hutchinson regarding cormorants, pelicans and walleye stocking (fry versus fingerlings) in order to express Lake Washington's views. He stayed current on area lake news and applied the information to Lake Washington when there was a fit. Many told us Dean approached the DNR often with issues requiring attention. He was our 'squeaky wheel' so to speak.

Dean also served on the Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) and Cormorant Committees. He participated in vegetation surveys and cormorant lobbying. He attended the U of M Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Committee (MAISRC) fall conference and got LWIA involved with their research.

He supported improving fish populations and habitat. He was on a first name basis with many elected state and regional DNR representatives when it came to lake water issues throughout the region.

Some of our lake area residents have donated to the LWIA in memory of Dean Shaner. Should you wish to join them, here is the information.

LWIA is a non profit organization and anyone can donate to the lake association - whether you live on the lake or have enjoyed your time on our lake. Lyle Walker is our Lake Washington treasurer. So if you wish to donate just write a check to LWIA and mail it to Lyle Wagner at our mailing address.

We send our sympathies to Dean Shaner's family on his passing. He certainly was a great asset to our lake association.

Committees

Social Committee

By Sandy Wosmek

Quietness settling in at the lake.

Docks and lifts are being pulled in from the lake.

Another awesome summer is winding down.

Cool mornings -- cool nights -- beautiful days

FALL HAS ARRIVED with all of its splendor

In 2023 we were able to have both the May porkchop meal/annual meeting and then in August the potluck dinner. Both had good attendance and were enjoyed by all. Once again, thank you to B&B Sports and EZ Dock and Lift for their donations to the two events.

The plan for 2024 is to have the porkchop meal and annual meeting the first Saturday in May and the potluck the first Saturday of August. We look forward to many being able to attend -- watch the spring newsletter for full details.

For now, enjoy the fall season and all the colors. Have a safe and healthy winter and be ready for the next spring and summer lake season.

Financial Committee

By Lyle Walker

As the end of the summer season approaches, the Association maintains a strong financial position. Membership funds of \$10,250 have been generated by 205 members. Eighty-three members have donated \$2,782 to the Dassel Fire Department through the Association. No significant expenditures are anticipated. The current financial position is \$128,700.

The Board of Directors thank you for your continued support.

Membership/Shoreline Captains Committee

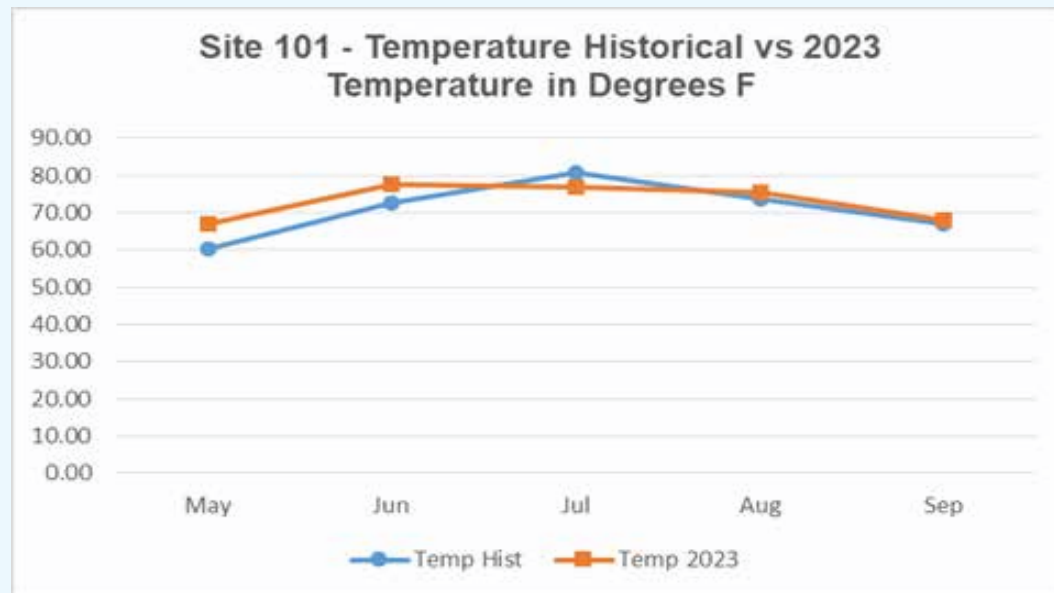
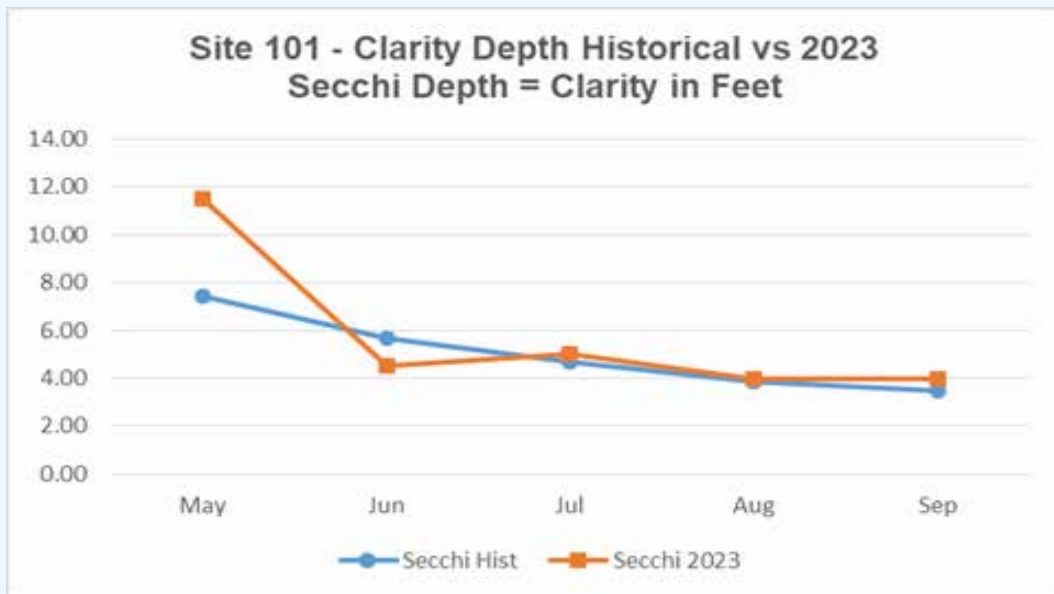
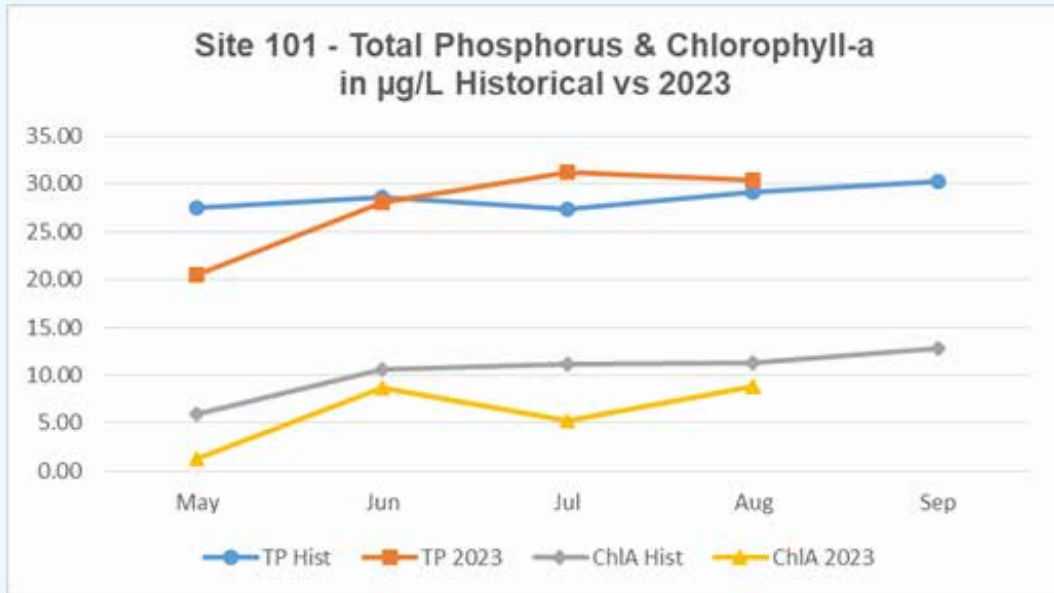
By Laurie Johnson

Thank you to the 206 folks that have submitted their 2023 membership fees. We had 212 submit for 2022 and 206 for 2021.

A big thank you to all the Lake Washington Shoreline Captains. Your time and effort is greatly appreciated! We added several new shoreline captains this year, however, we are always in search of additional folks to help keep residents up to date and to act as a liaison with the board. If curious, you can find a list of roles and responsibilities on our website. If you would like to volunteer, please let me know.

A list of the current shoreline captains is at the bottom of page 14.

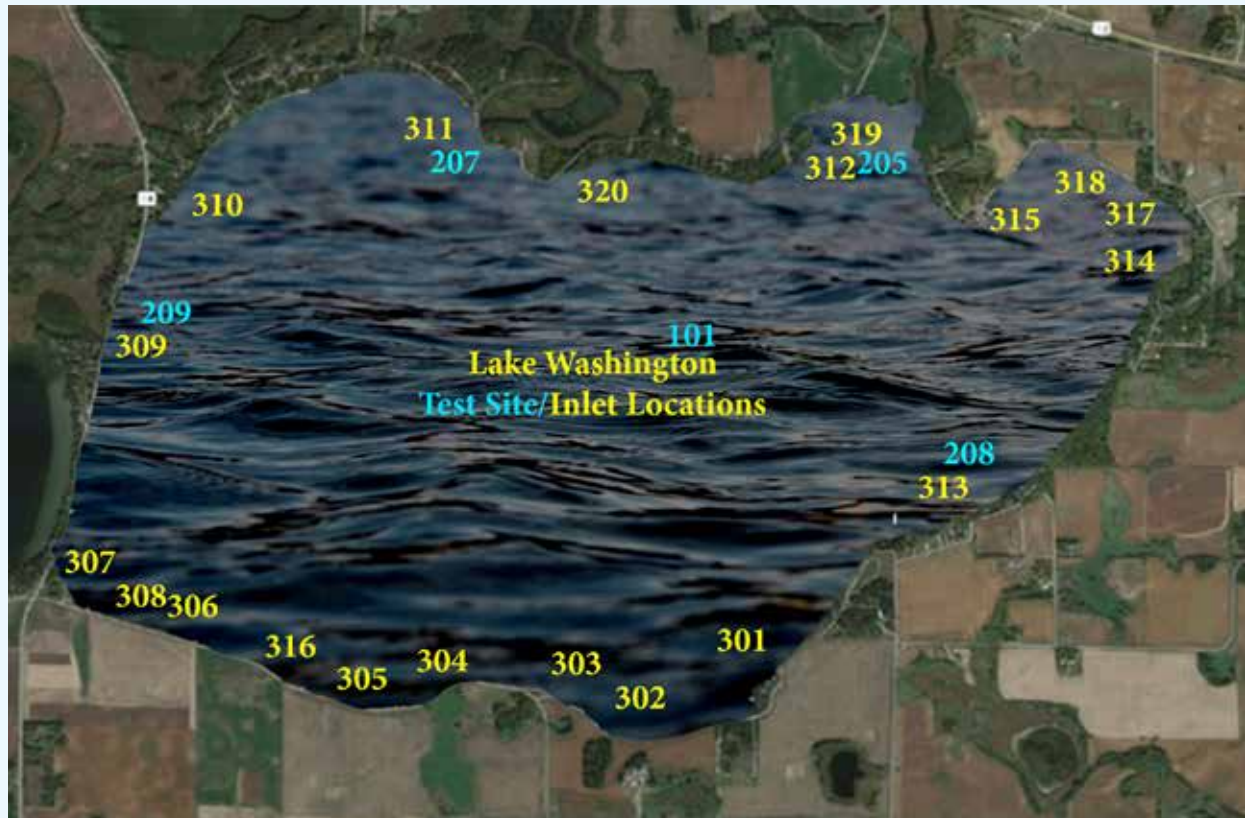
Water Quality History



Zebra Mussel Hotel Locations



Inlet Locations





Locations:

940 Elm St E, Annandale MN 55302
24142 Smiley Rd, Nisswa MN 56468

Contact Information:

320-274-6336 or 877-365-4034
Backyardmn.com
info@backyardmn.com



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