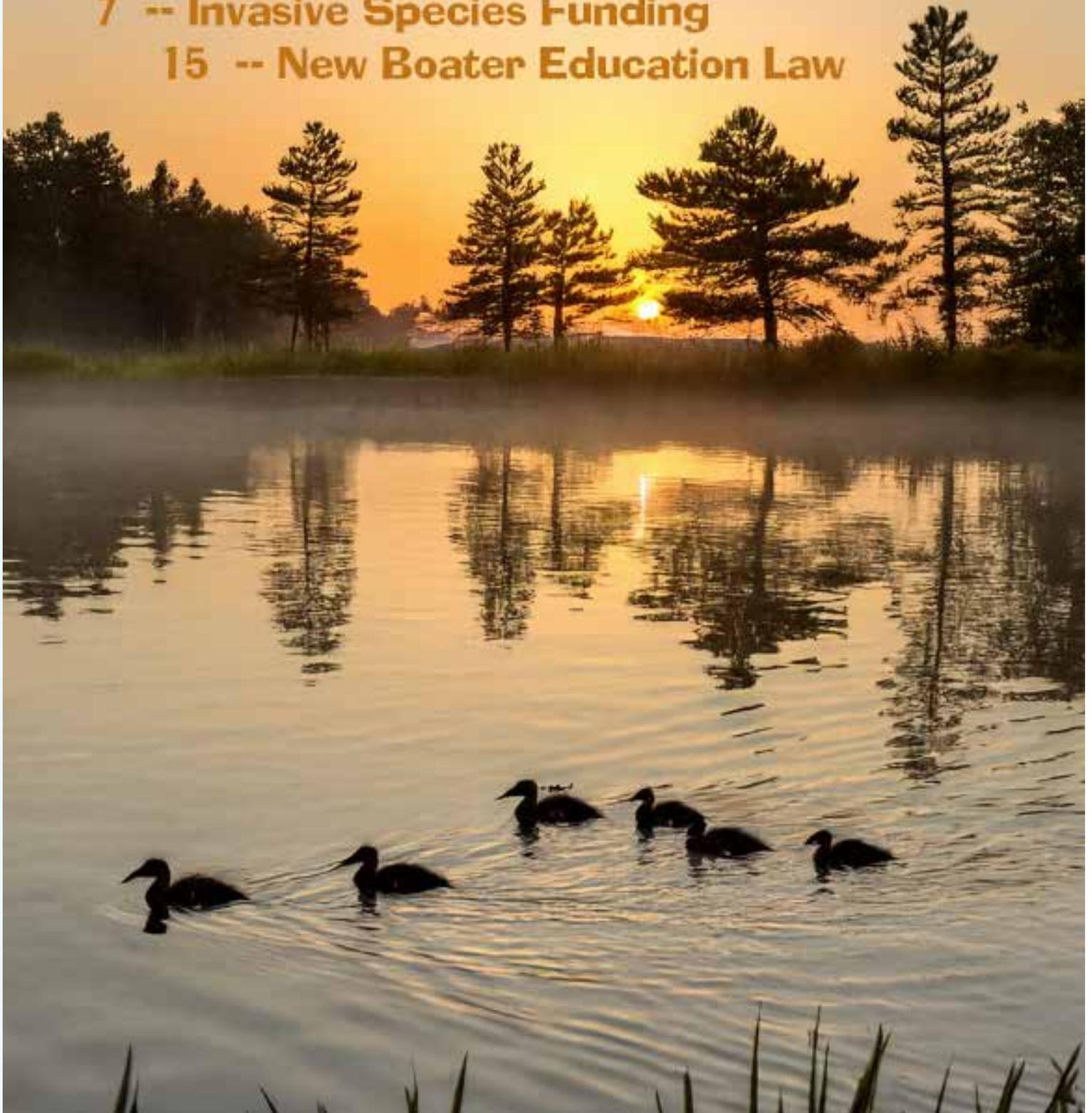




Lake Washington  
Improvement Association  
of Meeker County



**7 -- Invasive Species Funding**  
**15 -- New Boater Education Law**





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# SUMMER NEWSLETTER, 2025

Lake Washington Improvement Assn.  
PO Box 68 Dassel MN 55325  
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## Contact Us



### General Issues

Info@lwiaonline.com

### Membership Changes

Membership@lwiaonline.com

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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.

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<i>End of the Dock</i>	4
<i>2025 Grant Funding Programs</i>	5
<i>Aquatic Invasive Species</i>	6
<i>Invasive Species Funding</i>	7
<i>Water Quality</i>	10
<i>Watercraft Inspection</i>	12
<i>Zebra Mussels/Watershed</i>	14
<i>New Boater Education Law</i>	15
<i>Pat's Corner</i>	16
<i>Membership</i>	17
<i>Last But Not Least</i>	18
<i>2025 Paid Member List</i>	19



## End of the Dock

By Ron Bubany, Editor

I am beyond my “Use By” date and will be leaving the board. It’s been a grand time!

I worked with Ken Klehr to try and solve the milfoil problem. We ran surveys, treated differing areas and battled for money to support our treatment projects. After that I found myself working with Rick Fernstrom in our battle to get the cormorants and pelicans under control. Then came the zebra mussels. There was also the “bullhead” explosion that ruined the lake for a year.

While all this was going//////////oops, sorry I dozed off. Happens a lot lately.

Got to go now. My doctors want to discuss my expiration date....

Love, Ron

Everyone asked a 100-year-old man and his 98-year-old wife for their health secrets.

The old man said “I’ll tell you my secret. I’ve been married for 75 years. I promised my wife when we got married that when we quarrel, the loser has to walk for 5 kilometers. So I’ve been walking 5 kilometers every day for past 75 years!

Everyone applauded and asked again “But how come your wife is very healthy as well?”

The old man answered “That is another secret. For 75 years every single day she has been following me to make sure I really walk the full 5 kilometers!”

# 2025 Grant Funding Programs

By Sharon Daniels, Grant Coordinator

We are approaching the first day of Summer as I write this article. It's been a cool May & June thus far, but looking forward to the warmer weather!

Funds granted for 2025 for AIS (\$6,838.00 for Milfoil treatment), MCAL sediment control projects (\$4,000.00) and DNR (\$8,452.80 to be used by June 30, 2025) are in place. Volunteers have begun working on some of the designated projects around the lake, such as water quality testing, I-LIDS in place, zebra mussel hotels in place, checking for Milfoil and checking runoff at inlets around the lake. We will work with LIMNOPRO, St Cloud, MN to do a lake survey for AIS such as Eurasian Milfoil and Starry Stonewort. This survey will be conducted prior to June 30, 2025. Should treatment be necessary for Milfoil, then LWIA will need to complete treatment prior to September 15, 2025. We are fortunate to have funds granted to LWIA from MCAL which will be used for mapping and control of sediment projects, and funds granted for AIS projects as Milfoil treatment.



If you have any questions on any projects around the lake, know of any projects that need attention or questions on the grant monies please reach out to a board member or myself for information needed!

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 and or gas receipts, and mileage driven to do a project, etc. You can email me at [sdaniels@grdaniels.com](mailto:sdaniels@grdaniels.com) with all your “in-kind” volunteer 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.



An old man is selling watermelons... His price list reads: 1 for \$3, 3 for \$10

A young man stops by and asks to buy one watermelon. “That’d be 3 dollars”, says the old man. The young man then buys another one, and another one, paying \$3 for each.

As the young man is walking away, he turns around, grins, and says, “Hey old man, do you realize I just bought three watermelons for only \$9? Maybe business is not your thing.”



The old man smiles and mumbles to himself, “People are funny. Every time they buy three watermelons instead of one, yet they keep trying to teach me how to do business...”



# *Aquatic Invasive Species*

By Mark Johnson

## Stop the Spread: Protect Lake Washington from Aquatic Invasive Species

Minnesota's lakes are one of our greatest natural treasures — and it's up to all of us to help protect them. Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) like zebra mussels, Eurasian watermilfoil, and spiny water fleas can quickly spread from one lake to another, harming fish populations, damaging boats, and disrupting our natural ecosystems.

You can help keep Lake Washington clean and healthy by following these simple steps every time you enjoy the water:

-  **Clean:** Remove all visible plants, mud, and debris from your boat, trailer, and equipment before leaving the water access.
-  **Drain:** Empty all water from live wells, bilges, bait buckets, and other compartments before transporting your boat.
-  **Dry:** Allow your equipment to dry for at least 5 days before entering a new body of water, or thoroughly rinse it with hot water (120°F or higher).
-  **Dispose:** Properly dispose of unwanted bait in the trash — never release live bait into the water.

Let's work together to protect the beauty and health of Lake Washington for generations to come!

For more information, visit the Minnesota DNR's website at [www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/aquatic](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/aquatic)



# Invasive Species Funding

[Click here for more detail](#)

Excerpted from MN Lakes & Rivers article by Jeff Forester (LWIA donates to MN Lakes & Rivers yearly.)

In March the Minnesota Budget Office projected a ballooning deficit of \$5.95 billion for FY 2028/2029. In response, Gov. Walz put forth a budget that made cuts to all areas of Government. The Governor's proposed budget to resolve this historic deficit included a 50% cut of County Aquatic Invasive Species, AIS Prevention Aid, a formula that MLR [MN Lakes & Rivers] worked to get in place in 2014. Since its inception this funding stream has sent \$100 million to counties to provide grants to Lake Associations, hire boating access inspectors, do aquatic invasive species monitoring for early detection, enforcement, education and even targeted AIS control at accesses to reduce the risk of spread.

Minnesota Lake And Rivers pursued three objectives this legislative session, and urged the Minnesota Legislature to:

- Protect the County AIS Prevention Aid Formula.
- Increase the AIS surcharge on a three year boat license to increase AIS Management grants to lake associations, local government units and tribes.
- Prevent the state budget deficit from being pushed down to counties and local governments

Using MLR's Citizen Action Network, you sent close to 10,000 emails directly to your representatives. Members lobbied local and county government officials who also carried the message to policy makers.

The final budget package:

- Left County AIS protection aid whole for the next two years. The proposed 50% reduction is set to occur in 2027/2028.
- Increased the AIS surcharge on a three year boat registration (average of \$25) and will increase the AIS Control Grants, This is more than double the current surcharge. This is permanent.
- Protected the State aid formulas to local governments and did not push the state's budget deficit down to the property tax.

In addition, in recognition of the incredible and unsustainable financial contributions lake associations make to protecting and managing the public waters, the Legislature ALSO set aside one time money of \$28 million for small local projects through the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund. AIS is listed as a funding priority in the bill. These smaller grants are more accessible and do not need to go through the full Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources process, but will be administered by the MN DNR.

A young boy asks an old man how he got to be so old.

The old man tells the boy "Oh it's an old cowboy trick! Every morning I put a spoonful of gunpowder on my oatmeal!"

So the young boy starts doing it and sure enough he lived to the ripe old age of 106.

He left behind 3 children, 8 grandchildren, 4 great-grandchildren and a 30 foot hole in the wall of the crematorium.





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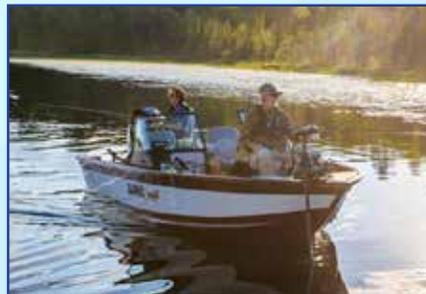
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# Water Quality

By Dave Rathe

Lake Water: Holy moly, have we gotten a lot of rain in the first part of June. Going to be some great mosquito habitat for the rest of the month, best to stock up on bug spray.

*I recorded 1.85 inches in April, 4.48 inches in May and 7.29 inches in June, for a total of 13.62 inches over the three month period -- Ron*

At the time of this writing, we have completed two water tests at Site 101, on the 18th of May we pulled a water sample and on the 4th of June we took clarity readings with the secchi disk. The May water test had 45.1 µg/L of Total Phosphorus and 6.7 µg/L of Chlorophyll-a with a clarity reading of 4.5 feet. Chlorophyll-a was in-line with historical numbers for May of 6.06 µg/L. Total Phosphorus was quite a bit higher than the historical numbers of 28.8 µg/L. Usually the water is clearer in May with over 7 feet on average, however, I think the reason the water was so murky was the recent storms with high winds likely stirring up the lake. The water clarity was much better on the 4th of June with a reading of 7 feet, which is better than historical of 5.59 feet for June. Water temperature for both dates were right in-line with history of 62.4° F and 71.4°F.

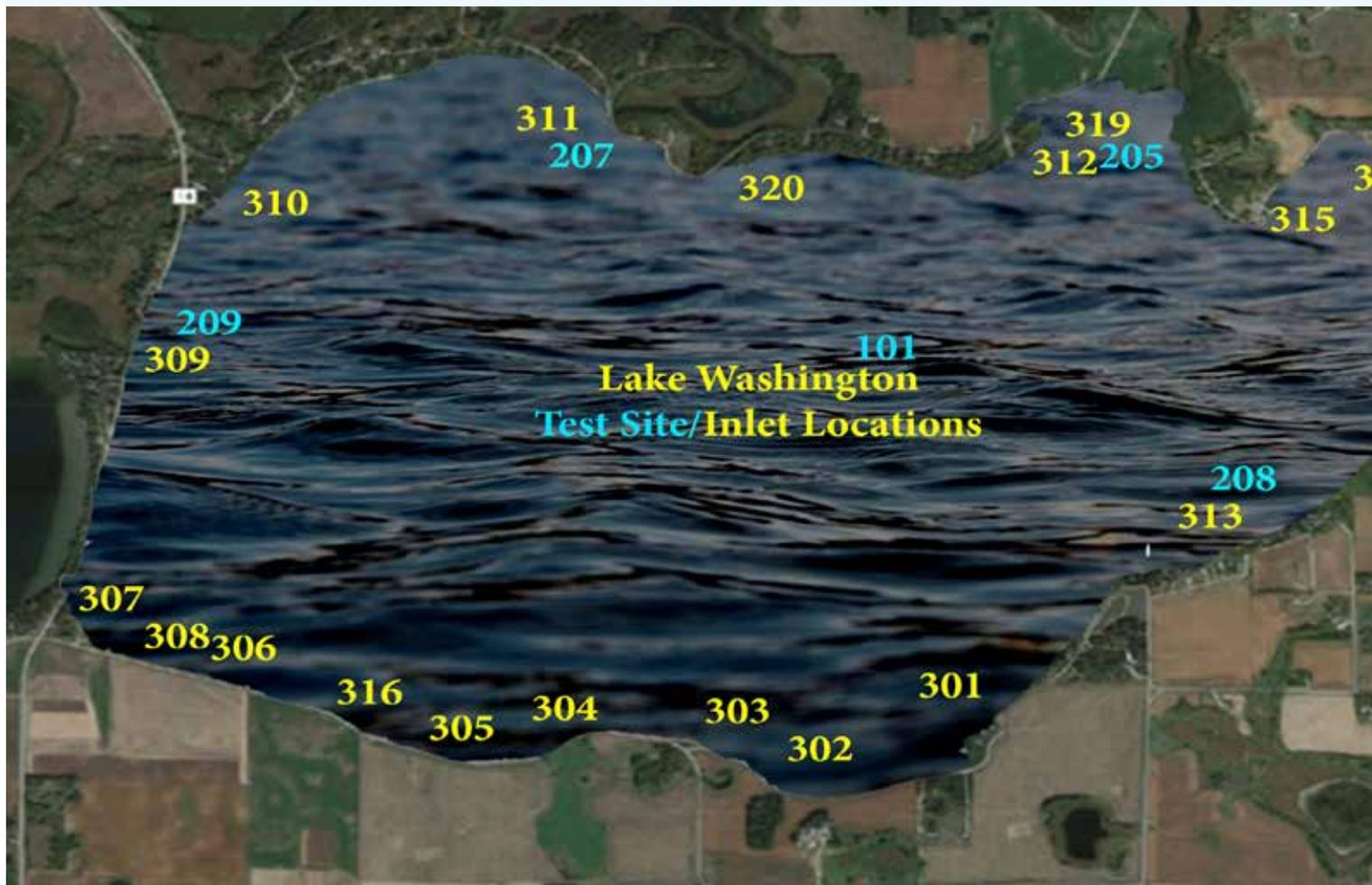
We did have a mishap on our water quality May test. While taking readings at Site 101 the Secchi disk fell off of the rope. Since Site 101 is in about 17 feet of water there was no recovery possible. So, you ask, who's to blame? Obviously the person that wasn't able to help out that day. Oh by the way, if you hook the Secchi disk while fishing, let me know and I'll provide filleting instructions. ;- ) MN Pollution Control Agency provided a new disk, so we were back in business for the June tests. Next scheduled test will be the week of June 16th where we will pull a water sample to be sent to RMB labs for analysis.

In the Spring newsletter I didn't yet know this summer's cost of the 5 test samples to be analyzed by RMB. With analysis and shipping the cost will be slightly over \$550 for the year.

If you remember, last summer we volunteered to pull water samples to test for perchlorates before and after the 4th of July fireworks. Perchlorates are a propellant oxidizer used in rocket fuel, explosives, flares, and fireworks. This was a nationwide study by Texas Tech University funded by the Federal EPA. There were 226 US lakes in the study within 31 states, 24 in MN. Our results were 0.05 ppb before the 4th, 1.04 ppb on the 5th, and 0.163 on the 11th of July 2024. Pre-event we were at the average for the 226 lakes, on the 5th of July we were well above the 226 lakes average of approximately 0.11 ppb, and on the 11th of July we were still above the total 226 average, which was also approximately 0.11 ppb. We had planned on doing another test this summer, however, the grant to continue the study was canceled. It would have been interesting to see any changes in the data if we would have had more normal weather on the 4th of



## Water Quality (continued)



Inlet Water: We tested water from Inlets 302, 304, 306, 306E, and 306W on the 27th of May. Samples were evaluated for Total Phosphorus and Suspended solids.

Site #	Total Phosphorus mg/L	Suspended Solids mg/L
302	0.411	17.7
304	0.268	2.5
306	0.194	4.7
306E	0.06	1.9
306W	0.239	4.6

Site 302 and 304 both had a lot of work done last year, so it is not surprising these amounts are on the high side. Site 302 moves water at a rapid pace through a culvert, while 304's flow rate is much slower and is preceded by a wide ditch prior to entering the lake helping settle out the solids in the water.

Stella (Site 309) water flow rate was measured at 808,000 gallons per hour on June 4th. With all the rain we've had in early June, I expect a much higher flow rate when we measure it again mid-June.

# Watercraft Inspection

By Dan Komarek

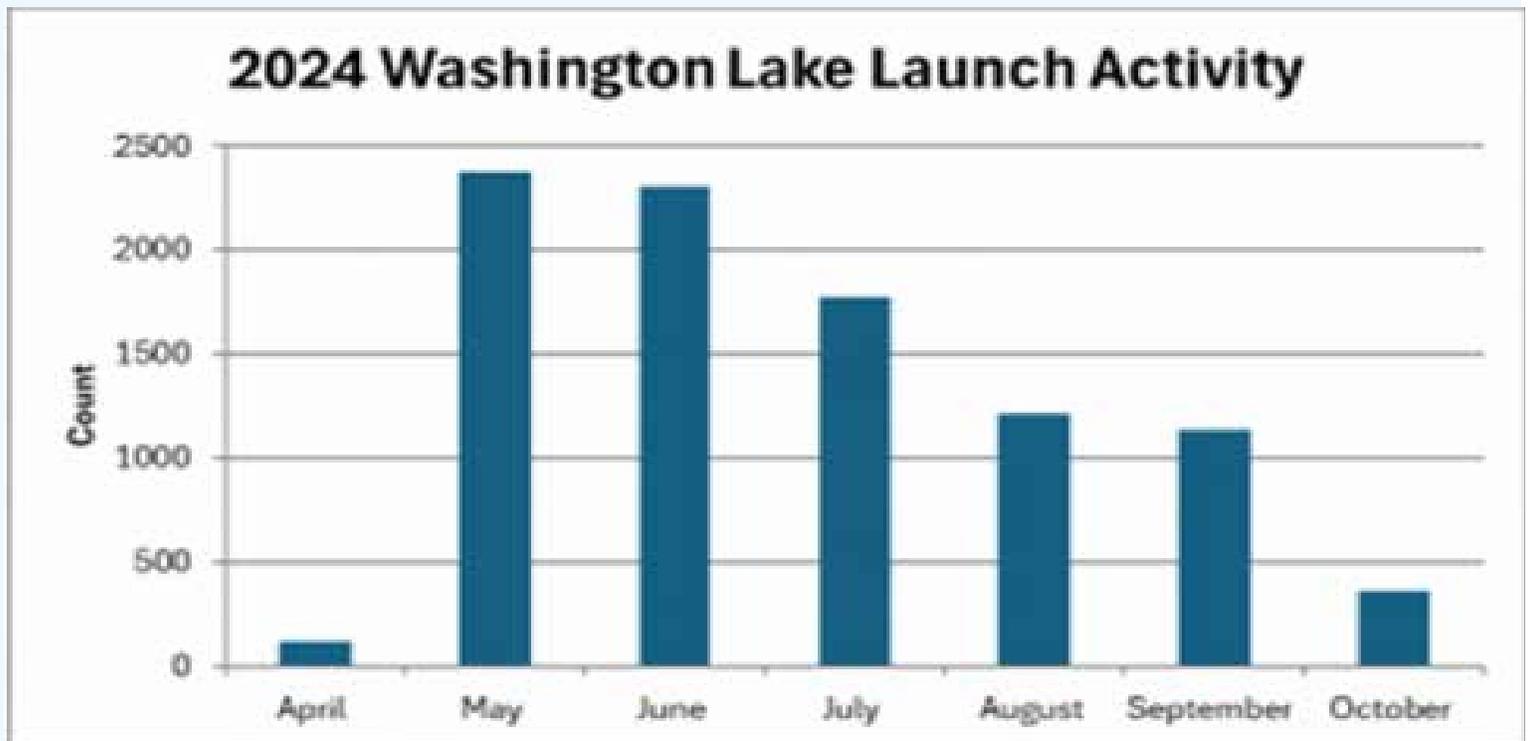


As we were getting ready for the LWIA Pork Chop Dinner in early May, we were also busy installing the “I-LIDS” system (which is easier to say than the actual name “Internet – Landing Installed Device Sensor”) at the Elsworth landing on the south side of the lake. Everything was installed and working on May 2, a week ahead of the Fishing Opener on Saturday May 10.

The I-LIDS system uses both motion and magnetic sensors to trigger audio messages reminding boaters to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species (“AIS”) – and it also captures a video recording of each event. Unfortunately, it will also respond to other activity, and as a result it has recorded kids playing around it, county employees mowing the grass, and adults walking up to it and waving their hands or covering the lens (in other words “older kids”).

Over the nearly 6 months the I-LIDS was active in 2024 (late April to early October), it recorded almost 9,300 videos. Our lake association contracts with the I-LIDS vendor to review an average of 600 videos per month, to help identify potential violations of boat and trailer cleaning requirements and avoid more invasive aquatic infestation of our lake. When video evidence strongly suggests a violation has taken place, they are referred to the DNR Conservation Officer Nicholas Klehr for follow-up (we are not privy to any enforcement actions that result).

The chart below shows the I-LIDS activity (videos captured) by month. As you’d expect, the majority of activity occurs in May and June, with declining numbers as the dog days of summer give way to autumn. Note that the counts shown below are based on videos captured, and do not distinguish between boat/pontoon launches and retrievals (or for that matter, the videos of kids/adults showing curiosity about the I-LIDS device).



## Watercraft Inspection (continued)

Another interesting aspect is the time of day most activity is recorded. It's not early in the day as you might expect, but rather most activity at the launch is occurring in the afternoon (13th to 18th hour, or 1 to 6 PM). The chart also shows a large dip around noon – are we all having lunch at the same time. While videos are captured all day long, the audio recording - reminding boaters of their duty to Clean, Drain, Dry, and Dispose of any aquatic vegetation, and live well or bilge water before entering the lake as well as upon leaving



The I-LIDS system improves boater compliance with MN DNR rules regarding boat decontamination prior to launching and prior to leaving the landing - particularly when there are no boat inspectors present at the landing. While Meeker County is committed to continue with occasional boat launch inspections at the Elsworth Landing, it all depends on our advocacy and continued funding from the state and county for aquatic invasive species (AIS) control. As part of the initial Minnesota state budget proposal, funding for local counties and lake associations was reduced by half. Fortunately, as the budget moved through committees, local support by LWIA, the Meeker County Association of Lakes (MCAL), among other county and lake associations helped restore the funding in the final 2026-2027 budget to its prior level of \$10 Million per year for the entire state. LWIA continues to apply for these grant funds (and receive awards) which are distributed statewide based on the uses proposed by the individual lake associations.

Also this year, Meeker County or the MN DNR will continue conducting boat inspections and decontamination monitoring during the summer. So far, inspectors have been seen on weekends to help boaters Clean, Drain, Dry, boats internally and externally, and Dispose of any AIS.



## *Watercraft Inspection (continued)*

So far, there have been no changes to the three known aquatic invasive species (AIS) in Lake Washington: Curly-leaf Pondweed, Eurasian Watermilfoil, and Zebra Mussels. Let's help keep it that way. If you suspect we have a new aquatic invasive plant or animal in Lake Washington, please consider doing the following:

- Note the location as best you can (GPS coordinates or point on a map, lake, county, nearest city, etc.).
- Take good photos showing all parts of the plant/animal and another item showing scale or keep the specimen.
- If you happen to keep a specimen, place it in tightly sealed container with small amount of water. You may transport directly to a DNR office for identification.
- Contact [eric.katzenmeyer@state.mn.us](mailto:eric.katzenmeyer@state.mn.us) in the Hutchinson Area Fisheries Office.

If you want to know more about AIS or Meeker County lake management efforts, check out this page on the MN DNR website: <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/ais/id.html>, or visit the Meeker County website at: <https://www.co.meeker.mn.us/DocumentCenter/View/7528/AIS-Prevention-Plan-2025-2026>.

## *Zebra Mussels/Watershed*

*By Mike Wosmek*

We are working with the Minnesota Aquatic Species Research Center again this year. 11 new settlement plates were installed on May 26, the plates will be removed on September 14. Updates will be in the fall newsletter.

Watershed happenings:

We cleaned out Ellsworth ditch #303 just east of Ellsworth Landing with a brush cutter on May 9, 2025.

With the 4 plus inches of rain in May, we pulled water samples to test at inlets 302, 303, 306 east, 306 west tile, and 306 on May 27 (Inlet location map was in the spring newsletter, page 10). The water samples will be compared to site 101 -- the middle of the lake (we want to be sure the water quality at the inlets is better than the middle of the lake). RMB Labs will send us analysis results of the samples, and we will report their findings in the fall newsletter.

Enjoy your summer at the lake!



# *New Boater Education Law*

By MN DNR

(See DNR web site for full new requirements.) <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/safety/boatwater/boater-education-law>

Starting on July 1, 2025, a new law will require some adults and youth who operate motorboats—including personal watercraft—to have a valid watercraft operator’s permit. People who already have a watercraft operator’s permit are not affected by the law, which is designed to make boating safer by ensuring everyone operating a motorized watercraft knows the rules and is properly trained. Here’s a breakdown of the key points:

Adult operators: Permit requirement:

Some adults (defined below) will need a valid operator’s permit to drive any motorboat or personal watercraft starting July 1, 2025.

- Exemptions: Some adults are exempt from this requirement. Check the law for specific exemptions.
- Supervised operation: People without a permit still can operate a boat, but only if there’s an accompanying operator (defined below) onboard.

Young operators:

- Restrictions on high-powered watercraft: Young operators (people less than 12 years old), can’t operate a personal watercraft or any motorboat with a motor over 75 horsepower.
- Low-powered motorboats: Young operators can operate a motorboat that’s not a personal watercraft and has a motor under 75 horsepower as long as there is an accompanying operator in the motorboat.

Who is considered an adult operator?

- Is 12 years old or older, and
- Was born after these dates:
  - June 30, 2004 (starts July 1, 2025)
  - June 30, 2000 (starts July 1, 2026)
  - June 30, 1996 (starts July 1, 2027)
  - June 30, 1987 (starts July 1, 2028)

This means people born after June 30, 2004, will need a permit to operate a boat starting in 2025. The permit requirement will gradually apply to older age groups over the next few years.





## Pat's Corner

By Pat Hanson

What native plant am I planning to sow? I have been doing research. In an article in the April 4 Minnesota Star Tribune I read and reread what Greg Stanley, a researcher from the University of Delaware, has told me about my county and most counties in the United States. Doug Tallamy, an entomologist, explains his reasons for it. Caterpillars. That's what we have here! In a decade of research I identified a native species that has caterpillars and this tree. Have you guessed the one I will buy and plant this summer? Caterpillars are "the building blocks of our country's food web."

The Homegrown National Park developed a guide by searching county by county in our great country! It showed the top 6-7 species of flowers, scrubs and trees. What tree most supports the required caterpillars, birds and wildlife? Have you figured out which tree yet?

North America has lost 3,000,000,000 birds from its annual population since I first started teaching in the 1970's. Why? Doug explains that we have lost so many trees that birds need to hunt and nest. So many woodpeckers, finches, warblers and herons need homes. This researcher says "We've got 125,000,000 Acres of residential landscape in our country". My backyard needs another tree-maybe three.

I know that most birds and small mammals depend on thousands of caterpillars! I agree with Tallamy that birds must feed their young. I learned that "caterpillars are very high in carotenoids. This turns out to be a great way to quickly let baby birds grow. The insect is high in protein and fat.

Did you know it takes about 9,000 caterpillars for a small group of chickadee's to mature enough to leave their nests. Then these young ones must eat for another month to mature.

Have you guessed the tree yet? Tallamy's research shows that OAKS are the "best tree in Minnesota for fostering life". Angela Gupta, a forester for the University of Minnesota Extension says this is the reason for keeping healthy and resilient wildlife is diversity".

We in Minnesota have three major ecosystems: prairie to the west, the arboreal forest in the north, oak savanna and eastern big woods trees in SE part of our state.

Meeker County is where I will plant my oak. If one lives near Duluth the researchers suggest aspen and willows

We can't forget our butterfly and bees. I do have hives on the farm but I want more butterflies.

Feel free to drive by and see my new oak tree on 233rd Street.



# Membership

By Laurie Johnson

## Why Your Membership Matters

As a homeowner on Lake Washington, you're part of a special community — one that values clean water, safe recreation, and a healthy, thriving lake for generations to come. The Lake Washington Improvement Association (LWIA) works year-round to protect and enhance our beautiful lake, and your membership makes it possible.

What does your membership fee support?

- ✓ Aquatic Invasive Species prevention and monitoring
- ✓ Water quality testing and shoreline preservation
- ✓ Annual lake events and community updates
- ✓ Ongoing advocacy for lake-friendly policies and practices

By paying your membership fee, you're investing in the future of Lake Washington. Together, we can protect the natural beauty, property values, and recreational opportunities that make our lake community so special.

Shoreline Captains will be handing out LWIA stickers to 2025 paid members. Proudly place them on your mailbox, boat, fishing box etc.

If you haven't renewed yet, now's the time! Your support keeps these important efforts afloat. Membership cards can be found on [lwiaonline.com](http://lwiaonline.com) under Membership.

Another way you can give to LWIA is to volunteer to assist in any of the types of projects listed above. You do not have to be a board member to help at social events, ride along to test the water quality or aquatic invasive species. Also, all are welcome to attend a board meeting. We meet the first Tuesday of every morn at 7:00pm at the Dassel Rod and Gun Club.

**An old man calls his son and says, "Listen, your mother and I are getting divorced. Forty-five years of misery is enough."**

"Dad, what are you talking about?" The son screams.



"We can't stand the sight of each other any longer," he says. "I'm sick of her face, and I'm sick of talking about this, so call your sister and tell her," and he hangs up.

Now, the son is worried. He calls his sister. She says, "Like hell they're getting divorced!" She calls their father immediately. "You're not getting divorced! Don't do another thing. The two of us are flying home tomorrow to talk about this. Until then, don't call a lawyer, don't file a paper. DO YOU HEAR ME?" She hangs up the phone.

The old man turns to his wife and says, "Okay, they're both coming for Christmas and paying their own airfares."

# *Last But Not Least*

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## **Social Committee**

*By Sandy Wosmek*

It's a Gloomy, Gloomy Day and as I get this article ready for print the day gets darker and cooler. The weathermen say rain for the next 4 to 6 days -- oh my. But, summer is just around the corner, and hopefully more sunny days and warmer temps will be the rule.

Our May Annual Meeting and pork chop meal went over well, having good attendance and informative speakers from MCAL. THANKS to those attending and to B&B Sports for paying for the chops. So now, here's what's coming up ---- mark your calendars for Saturday, August 2, 2025

POTLUCK ----- DASSEL ROD AND GUN CLUB ----- SAT., AUG 2, 2025

Social Hour - 5 p.m. - Please bring your own refreshments.

Meal - 6 p.m. Meat sandwiches will be provided by the lake association.

Open discussion after meal

Q & A and maybe door prizes

PLEASE bring a dish to share, along with your own plates and utensils. Here's hoping that a good number of you are able to attend the potluck. Look forward to a fun night of visiting with all your lake neighbors

EZ Dock & Lift is paying for the meat and buns. Please thank them for this when you see them.



---

## **Finance Committee**

*By Lyle Walker*

For the fiscal year ended April 30, 2025, The annual review has been completed and the required Federal and Minnesota tax information forms have been completed and filed. Membership funds of \$6,800 have been generated by 136 memberships received so far this season. Current financial position is \$148,000. The Board of Directors thanks you for your continued support

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# *2025 Paid Member List*

## *2025 Paid Member List (continued)*