

2023 Newsletter

Message from our President

I hope everyone is enjoying the nice weather that we have finely?

We started out with what looked like a very nice spring melt but we had a week of very warm temperatures.

That brought a fast melt and rising water very quickly. The lake came back sooner than I thought it would.

If you were like me I was not able to get my dock and pontoon in because of the yard being wet.

We did not treat for curly-leaf this spring but will look at EWM early June to possibly treat.

Facebook seem to be working very good for everyone to ask questions about the lake and get information that you are asking about.

Have a great summer and stay safe.

Jack Gleason, Lake Augusta President, 612-751-1050



If you have not already done so, please be sure to join our Facebook Group at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1050838251787106>.

Since this is a closed (private) group, so you will need to hit the "Request to Join" button.

We are currently over 200 members.

2023 LAA Annual Meeting

Saturday, August 12, 2022 (11:00 am)
South Side Township Hall
8209 County Rd 3 NW,
Annandale, MN 55302
Guest Speaker(s): TBD
Subway Sandwiches will be served.



4th of July Boat Parade

Sunday, July 2 @ 1:00

See page 3 for details



Photo Contest is back for 2023



- Boat Parade
- Fishing
- Wildlife
- Family Fun
- Sunrise/Sunset/Landscape

See Page 6 for details.

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Topics at Lake Augusta

AIS Treatment for 2023

For the past several years, we have treated the lake for the aquatic invasive species (AIS) curlyleaf pondweed (CLP) growth; however, the board decided not to treat the lake for CLP this year due to our expectation that CLP populations would not grow to become a nuisance given the late ice-out, deep snow pack, and cold spring.

In 2022, we also had a late ice-out, and we treated at the end of May. It's unclear whether the treatment was necessary as we did not see it become as big of a problem as usual.

We also have Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM), another AIS, and have been effectively managing it to keep it minimal in the lake. Last year after CLP treatment, we had another plant survey that focused on finding EWM to see if there was enough to treat. We had found some growing in a couple spots by the Clearwater River inlet; however, when we applied for a DNR Permit to treat that area, we were told that we had already treated our full allotment of acres for CLP and were denied the permit. The state has rules for a maximum amount of treatment that can be done in a year, regardless of what kind of plant is being targeted.

During early June of this year, we had a point intercept survey to monitor native plants and map the extent of both CLP and EWM. During that survey approximately 5 acres of EWM was found, and we are planning on treating for EWM in July sometime after the 4th of July weekend. We feel this will allow us to have the most effect on the EWM.

As has been the case for the past several years, we will also have another point intercept survey done in August to determine the effectiveness of the EWM treatment and also look for any signs of starry stonewort (SSW) or other potential AIS (See page 4 for more information on SSW).

Mild Crappie Die-Off this Spring

In early June, young crappies, generally 3-5 inches long, were found dead floating near the center of Lake Augusta.

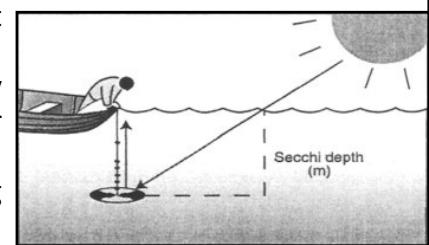


Dr. Dan McEwen of Limnopro explained that spring fish kills are not all that uncommon and are seen in many regional lakes. Most fish species in Minnesota spawn (mate and lay eggs) in the spring, expending a lot of energy doing so and often are not feeding to replenish lost energy. Fish in lakes are always exposed to a variety of infections and low oxygen in the water, which is stressful but manageable as long as fish have energy reserves to fight it all off. He is of the opinion that the spring fish kill is really not much to worry about. It's the price they (the fish) pay for having babies.

Noticing Greener Water than Normal lately?

Water samples collected in 2022 indicate that the lake was definitely greener than usual. Dr. McEwen reported that seasonal in-lake phosphorus last year was 43 ppb. This number is more than double what it was in 2021 (17 ppb) and was the highest seen in the lake going back to 2015. The impaired water's threshold is 40 ppb, so you barely slipped above it for the first time since 2015. In lakes there is a direct relationship between in-lake phosphorus, algae blooms, and water clarity. High phosphorus leads to high algae concentrations and low water clarity.

For context though, it was a poor water quality year last year regionally with many lakes hitting record high nutrient levels. It likely was driven largely by weather factors and low water levels, but it will be something to keep an eye on.



4th of July Boat Parade 2023

This year's annual 4th of July Boat Parade is set for:



Sunday, July 2nd at 1 p.m.

Everyone on Lake Augusta is invited to participate. Join us as part of the parade or cheer us on from shore.

Photo Contest: There is a photo contest this year for best boat parade picture so get your camera's/phones out and cheer on the boaters as they pass by! So get dressed up, decorate your boat or pontoon and wave your flags.

Boaters should meet in the middle of the lake near the island at 12:45. We will then take a slow ride around Lake Augusta in the direction shown in the image below. At the end we will take a lap past each other so even the boaters get to see the parade.

If weather is bad stay tuned on Facebook for updates.

Let's celebrate our country's birthday on Lake Augusta!



A few Photo's from 2022 Parade



Invasive Species: Starry Stonewort (SSW)

Starry Stonewort (SSW) was first discovered in Minnesota in August, 2015 in Lake Koronis (near Paynesville, MN). It has also been found in a couple lakes in our area including: Lake Sylvia, & Pleasant Lake. Luckily, those lakes have found it early and are aggressively treating it (within DNR Guidelines). So far, their efforts look to be working. All SSW infestations have been found at public access's.

Lake Augusta Association does annual surveys in late summer looking specifically for SSW. This survey is done by Limnopro. Late summer is when SSW is easiest to identify. Clearwater Lake Property Owners Association has also been very aggressive in searching for any SSW infestation and prevention efforts. They have surveys and divers searching the boat access areas several times each summer.

If SSW is found in any of the chain of lakes on the Clearwater River, this will be a game changer for us all. This is one big reason we need to keep a strong Lake Associations and keeping a vigilant lookout for SSW. Below is more information on SSW. If you believe you have identified SSW in Lake Augusta or Clearwater Lake, please contact any LAA Board Member immediately.



Appearance

Starry stonewort is a bushy, bright green macro-algae. It produces a characteristic star-shaped bulbil.



Leaves and stem

Thin, bright green branchlets (branch-like structures) can be variable in length and are arranged in whorls (radiating out from a single point) around the stem. Branchlets typically extend in acute angles away from the stem nodes.

Reproductive structures

White, star-shaped bulbils (asexual reproductive structures) the size of a grain of rice form on clear threads at the base of the plant and may be found at or below the sediment surface. Small, orange spheres called antheridia (male reproductive structures) may be visible near the tips of the branchlets.

Biology

Starry stonewort is a macro-algae, meaning it does not have a vascular system like true plants. Each branchlet or stem is a single cell. Native populations consist of both males and females, but all known introduced populations in North America are male. Bulbils are present throughout the growing season, but become most obvious and plentiful in late summer. Starry stonewort may form a dense carpet of material in shallow areas.

Origin and spread

Starry stonewort is native to Eurasia, from the west coast of Europe to Japan. The species was unintentionally introduced into the United States' Great Lakes through the discharge of contaminated cargo ship ballast water. The first occurrence in the United States was in 1978 along the St. Lawrence River. It was first confirmed in Minnesota in August 2015, in Lake Koronis and connected Mud Lake (Stearns County). Only 13 lakes in Minnesota are listed as infested with starry stonewort. Refer to the [infested waters list](#) for current distribution.

Don't be fooled by these look-alikes

It looks similar to many native, beneficial grass-like algae, such as other stoneworts and muskgreases found in Minnesota lakes and rivers, but can be distinguished based on its production of star-shaped bulbils.

Look-Alikes:

[Muskgreases](#) (native), [Stoneworts](#) (native), [Sago pondweed](#) opens in a new browser tab (native), [Narrow-leaf pondweeds](#) (native)

THREAT TO MINNESOTA WATERS

Starry stonewort impacts:

- Dense mats at the water's surface inhibit water recreationists.
- Overtakes habitat and outcompetes native aquatic plants, potentially lowering diversity.
- Provides unsuitable shelter, food, and nesting habitat for native animals.

CONTROL METHODS

Management of invasive aquatic plants involving either mechanical removal of plants or application of herbicides to public waters [requires a permit from the DNR](#). Talk to a DNR specialist for more information.

Mechanical control can be done by hand-pulling, suction dredging, DASH (diver assisted suction harvesting) and using other aquatic vegetation harvesting equipment.

Herbicide control can be done using contact herbicides (endothall, copper and diquat). Contact herbicides damage or kill only parts of plants with which they come into contact, they are not taken up or moved within the plant.

MINNESOTA PERSONAL WATERCRAFT LAWS



You Must...

- Wear a USCG-approved life jacket. Comply with label.
- Travel at slow no-wake speed (5 mph or less) within 150 feet of: nonmotorized boats; shore (unless launching or landing skiers directly to or from open water); docks; swim rafts; swimmers; or any moored or anchored boat.
- Operate only from 9:30 a.m. to one hour before sunset.
- Use the cutoff lanyard properly.
- Obey operator age and permit laws for those younger than 18 years old.

You Must Not...

- Chase or harass wildlife.
- Jump the wake of another boat within 150 feet of the craft.
- Operate a personal watercraft in a manner that endangers life, limb or property. Protect Your Sport Respect your neighbors.
- Don't operate for long periods in the same area or near occupied boats or shore.



This is only a summary of the laws as of June 2018 and is required to be visible to the operator on all personal watercraft in Minnesota. For more information contact: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Boat and Water Safety 500 Lafayette Rd., St. Paul, MN 55155-4047 651-296-6157 | 888-646-6367 | mndnr.gov/boatingsafety. email: info.dnr@state.mn.us

If you see any violations or unsafe conduct, please take pictures and/or video and report them to the Wright and/or Stearns County Sheriff's Water Patrol Department. Please try to get the Boat or Jet-Ski Licence Number and Driver in Photo/Video (if possible).

Wright County Water Patrol Officer: [\(Drew.Scherber@co.wright.mn.us\)](mailto:Drew.Scherber@co.wright.mn.us) (763) 684-4534

Aquatic Invasive Species Info:

Eurasian Watermilfoil Info: www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/aquaticplants/milfoil/index.html

Eurasian Watermilfoil FAQ: www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/aquaticplants/milfoil/faq.html

Curly Leaf Pondweed Info: www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/aquaticplants/curlyleaf_pondweed.html

Zebra Mussels Info: www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/aquaticanimals/zebramussel/index.html

Starry Stonewort Info: <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/aquaticplants/>

MN DNR 1035 South Benton Drive, Sauk Rapids, MN 56379
320-223-7878 • saukrapids.fisheries@state.mn.us

To find your conservation officer visit:
<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/officerpatrolareas>
Annandale Area Conservation Officer: Leah Kampa

LAA Board Members:

Jack Gleason - President: calljackgleason@aol.com

Mike Elms - Vice-President: mkelms6337@gmail.com

Joel Von Ende - Treasurer: joelv@danetechnologies.com

Rhonda Small - Secretary: rhonda.small@rsparch.com

Steve Ladwig: sldadwig@comcast.net

North Side Representative:

Greg Alberg (Stearns County): gegalberg@gmail.com

Advisor:

Roger Rauschendorfer: rrauschendorfer@gmail.com

All LAA Board Members are 100% Volunteers

Questions/Comments: lakeaugustaassociation@gmail.com

Looking to get active in our Lake Augusta Association?

We have 1-2 Board Positions Open
Contact any LAA Board Member listed above.

Why Join and Support the Lake Augusta Association?

Your LAA Membership dues help support many things to make this a great lake to live and play on. One of those things is bog maintenance. Some of you have seen in the past the damage a loose bog can do to your personal property as well as the entire lake if it clogs the bridge. It can be devastating.

But LAA has been very proactive in maintaining loose bogs so they no longer cause damage. We work with the DNR to obtain an emergency bog permit to manage bogs that come loose. If you are a LAA member, you have access to this permit to help prevent damaging bogs in our lake.

This bog permit allows removal or reattachment of migrating free-floating unattached cattail bogs within Lake Augusta if they are less than or equal to 15X15 feet in size.

Bogs larger than this require further communication with the Clearwater River Watershed District. Our permit is valid until October 30, 2023.

This year we are collaborating with both Clearwater and Grass lakes to create a small committee between our 3 groups to be in constant communication if there are any bog issues. Anytime any of our 3 lakes has any useful information concerning bogs, we will communicate quickly and freely between this group, and we then can communicate as needed to our Lake Associations.

If you see a loose bog, please contact the Lake Augusta Association immediately at lakeaugustaassociation@gmail.com.



Begin or Renew Your Lake Augusta Association Membership

We encourage you to join us as we work to improve and protect this magnificent lake.

Together we can make an even bigger impact. Anyone who cares about Lake Augusta and wants to protect her for the next generation may join. You do not need to be a property owner. The lake association board members are dedicated volunteers working closely with DNR, Clearwater River Watershed District and Wright and Stearns counties.

These relationships allow us to obtain grants that help with our efforts to control Milfoil and Curlyleaf Pondweed and to monitor for Zebra Mussels and Starry Stonewort. The association is also instrumental in developing and carrying out emergency plans when there is high water or bog emergencies.

We thank you in advance for your support. A membership form is attached to this Newsletter.

The LAA Photo Contest is BACK for 2023

This year we are bringing back our photo competition! We have 5 categories that we will be awarding \$25 gift cards to the winners.

The Categories are:

- Boat Parade
- Fishing
- Wildlife
- Family Fun
- Sunrise/Sunset/Landscape

All you have to do is submit your 2023 photo on our LAA Facebook page now through Labor Day weekend to be entered into the contest. The LAA board will review all photos and select a winner in each category and contact you via facebook to collect your prize. So have some fun this summer and post your photos to <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1050838251787106>.



Note: LAA Board Members are not eligible to Win.