



Clearwater Lake Property

Owners Association

2017 Fall Newsletter

A word from our president...

Summer is over. The boats and docks are coming out and in our different ways we're all preparing for another Minnesota winter. It was a good year – not too hot or cold, perhaps wetter than normal, but not unusually so. So ends the 2017 boating season.

First of all I want to thank Steve Irwin for his service as president of the Clearwater Lake Property Owners Association (CLPO). Steve took the CLPO reins a couple years ago and along with board members initiated a number of actions that continue today. Steve decided to step aside in May but he remains an active member of the board as our Past President. I am fortunate to have come into a role where I am surrounded by experienced and willing board members. Thank you Steve and Board!

This was a good year for the CLPO. Our Eurasian Water Milfoil management project continued for another year and our follow-up studies show a continuing reduction in milfoil mass. Unfortunately, the Chara and Curly-leaf Pondweed both seem to have increased. These are naturally occurring plants and aid in the overall health of the lake (even as they foul our props).

We resumed the annual CLPO picnic this year, held at the Annandale Park Pavilion. For years the picnic was held at Truman's point, and then two years ago we moved to the Waterfront Lakeside Grille. Last year we had to forgo the picnic because we were unable to confirm a suitable venue I am pleased to report that with an overwhelming positive response we will return to the Pavilion next year, so mark your calendars for Saturday, August 4, 2018.

During fall 2016 the CLPO tidied up our records and contacted (or attempted to contact) all of you. We launched our new website (www.clpo.org) and many of our local businesses became CLPO sponsors. Please note that our web address will redirect you to mylaketown.com, the host for our new site.) I want to highlight the efforts of Wendy Nelson, Communications chair, and Mark Wilkins, Membership chair, for leading this effort. They were stern task masters, and quite appropriately so, as many of us on the board placed all the calls and emails. If somehow you were missed please get in touch with us to verify your contact info.

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) is now a major issue throughout our state and around the country. Why? New invasive species are coming and carry the very real possibilities of significantly affecting the lake by inserting themselves into the ecosystem and disrupting the natural cycles. Consequently, the CLPO board is now heavily focused on the prevention and management of AIS.

We've been living with and managing Eurasian Water Milfoil for over two decades and we have that process well established with annual treatments. I want to recognize Tim Ilse who continues to manage our milfoil treatment program. The CLPO used to conduct the treatments ourselves from marking sites, filing for permits, purchasing chemicals, and then traveling around the lake with teams on pontoons spreading the chemicals.

Based on Tim's research last year we contracted with Lake Restoration to do the treatments. We found that the treatments were less expensive and as effective, if not more so, and we continued with this approach this year. Initial lake weed surveys show that this year's treatment was successful. We'll conduct another small survey before the season ends.

The next AIS to concern us are Zebra Mussels and Starry Stonewort. Zebras were discovered in Clearwater two years ago and last year we saw an explosion in growth, especially in the east basin. Zebras occupy the lower end of the food chain, consuming much of the food that small fry and other small animals would normally eat. This can result in a reduction in the numbers of small fry that are a food source for the larger fish. Experts tell us that it typically takes about 7-10 years for the fish population to collapse once the food chain is disrupted.

Starry Stonewort is getting a lot of press these days. It's the next big thing in AIS because it has the potential to dwarf the negative effects of Milfoil and Zebras. Why? If conditions are right Stonewort can kill your lake. Period. Consequently, there is tremendous activity all around the state with regard to both prevention and management. Stonewort was first discovered in Minnesota a couple of years ago on Lake Koronis (near Paynesville). It has since been confirmed on more than a dozen lakes, including two more this year. Fortunately, it's been all hands on deck at all of these affected lakes, and the MN DNR now moves into high gear when Stonewort is discovered. A couple of years ago it took weeks to get permits and then mobilize to address Stonewort when identified in a Minnesota lake. Not now. A few weeks ago suspected Stonewort was discovered in Grand Lake and following lab confirmation the DNR was on-site in about five days with divers and equipment to remove all the Stonewort they could find, and most of those five days were spent waiting for a Federal permit. While the DNR is often the focus of complaints, in this case I applaud the DNR for its fast action and aggressive approach to AIS.

Here on Clearwater you may have seen our weekly rakers at each of the ramps as we search for Starry Stonewort. If we ever find a suspect sample it would be taken to the DNR for verification. I'm pleased to say none has been found to date. We have also contracted with a diver to conduct an underwater search at each ramp, and we will do that one more time at the end of the season.

Clean. Drain. Dry. Stonewort is spread by boats and trailers. In every lake where Stonewort has been found in Minnesota it was found at a boat ramp and in most cases only at the ramp. It's imperative that boaters thoroughly clean, drain and dry their boats before leaving a ramp. To see videos and photos of Starry Stonewort and more info go to <http://clearwaterlake.mylaketown.com/StarryStonewort>.

What do I do with those bogs?

You may have noticed that your property tax statement includes a small levy for bog removal. Those dollars go to the Clearwater River Watershed District (CRWD) and are used to meet the costs of large bog removal where bogs may impede water flow. We have posted the CRWD's bog removal policy on our website (<http://clearwaterlake.mylaketown.com/CRWD>). From the policy "any bog removal undertaken by the CRWD is done only when the bog is determined to impede or threaten the flow of water in the Clearwater River and threaten to elevate the water level of Clearwater Lake." If you have a large bog and you believe it meets the criteria your first step is to contact any of us at the CLPO.

However, if a bog is floating you can move it to another part of the lake without a permit or permission. The best advice is to move and stake the bog in an area of the lake where it won't impede traffic such as with other bogs (and don't just shove it over to your neighbor!). If the bog is already rooted and/or you wish to remove it from the lake you will need a DNR permit. If a bog floats into your shore the best advice is to move it before it roots and thus before you need a permit.

If you have any questions, concerns, or simply a story that needs to be told please contact us. I can be reached at jkutzner@mindspring.com or send a letter to the CLPO at our PO Box.

Have a safe winter and if we don't see around this winter we'll see you next season.

Jim Kutzer, President

Membership:

Just a reminder that if you haven't paid your 2017 Dues, to please do so. Dues are \$50/year and go to support many lake benefits. You may pay your dues via check (a Dues form is attached) or also on our website www.clpo.org. All donations are tax deductible and if you pay on-line, PayPal can issue you a receipt. To date we have 224 dues paying members out of an approximate total of 593 property owners. This is less than one half. Please remember that the activities of the Lake Association benefit everyone!

Thank you for your support!

CLPO Member Form: Please encourage your neighbors to do the same and join. We have made a big difference in the lake quality in the past 15 years and will be able to continue in the years to come if we get your support. Thank you!

2017 CLPO Annual Membership: \$50 Annual Fee

Yes, I'd like to give an additional donation: \$_____

Check the box if you'd like to have the additional donation kept anonymous:

** CLPO is a 501(c)(3) Organization. All dues and donations are tax-deductible. **

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Lake Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone Number(s): _____

Please mail this page along with your membership dues to:

Attn: Membership
CLPO
PO Box 476
Annandale, MN 55302

Sponsors –Thank you!



CLPO

P.O. Box 476

Annandale, MN 55302

Save the date:

Saturday, September 30, 2017: 10 AM Special Meeting at Corinna Town Hall; to discuss a petition to the CRWD to create a new project to allow us to combat new AIS. ** See the attached petition insert **

Saturday, June 2, 2018: 9 AM Annual CLPO Meeting at Corinna Town Hall

Saturday, August 4, 2018: 11 AM-2 PM Annual CLPO picnic at the lower level of the Annandale Pavilion

See you there!

CLPO Board:

Officers:

Association President:
Vice President:
Secretary:
Treasurer:

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Dean Flygare
Joy Carlson
Deb Flygare

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Board Members:

Tim Isle
Mark Bertelsen
Joel Dehmer

Bill Lovegren
Scott Dehmer
Westin & Wendy Nelson

John Holb
Mark Wilkins

Keith Beckman
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