

Clearwater Lake Property

Owners Association

2018 Summer Newsletter

Save the date:

Saturday, August 4, 2018: 10:30 AM-1 PM Annual CLPO Picnic: Lower level of the Annandale City Park Pavilion

Saturday, August 18, 2018: Starry Trek - Search for Starry Stonewort

CLPO Annual Picnic:

CLPO 2018 Picnic

SATURDAY, AUGUST 4TH; 10:30 AM TO 1:00 PM
ANNANDALE PARK PAVILION, LOWER LEVEL



PULLED PORK, CHICKEN, AND BRATS, POTATO SALAD, COLESLAW, CHIPS
BEER, WINE, POP, AND WATER
SWIMMING, YARD GAMES FOR THE KIDS, PLAYGROUND, GAMES & PRIZES

FREE FOR ALL PAID MEMBERS

We hope to see you there!

CLPO's 50th Anniversary

The Clearwater Lake Property Owner's Association (CLPO) is celebrating its 50th year of serving and protecting Clearwater Lake. In the mid-60s our beloved lake was a mess. Its water clarity had been declining for years. Visually, there was a carpet of thick green scum next to the shoreline.

In 1968 a concerned group of approximately 15 lake owners met on the deck of Ford (Bill) Crouch's cabin to discuss whether the lake could be saved and, if so, how to go about it. At that time the clarity of the water was measured by using a metal disk with black and white markings known as a Secchi disc (pronounced Se-KEE) which was simply lowered into the water to determine at how many feet it was still visible from the surface. The first findings revealed only 4 ft. clarity.

After these discouraging readings, association members took a canoe trip up the Clearwater River as far Kimball. It did not take long to realize that the many cattle feed lots which ran down into the lake were possible culprits. After more investigation, it was determined that the major polluter was the Watkins Creamery which was discharging its daily effluent directly into the Clearwater River. The extra phosphorus from the creamery and the feed lots had tipped the balance in the lake's natural ecological system resulting in the uncontrolled growth of weeds and algae.

After a few years of denial, CLPO hired legal counsel and the issue started through the judicial system eventually ending in the Minnesota legislature which ordered the farmers to move their feed lots and the creamery to develop a non-polluting system for the release of its effluents. It was a very contentious time pitting farmers and the creamery against the lake owners – most of whom were non-residents.

The results in lake clarity were almost immediately discernible. In a few years the disc readings showed clarity to approximately 15 feet and the lake again deserved its name.

In the mid 80's, huge floating bogs were a major yearly problem. Property owners willingly responded to "bog alerts" with people and boat power. (Bogs are now monitored by the Watershed District.)

As a direct result of its effort to clean up the lake, CLPO also led a campaign to form the Clearwater River Watershed District (CRWD) which was officially established in 1975. This resulted in annual assessments being levied on all property owners located in the watershed including, of course, those on Clearwater Lake.

It has been funds from the CRWD which have supported the efforts to combat the spread of Eurasian Milfoil, which was discovered in the lake years ago. With this financial support as well as many volunteer hours from Clearwater Lake property owners and volunteer divers from the Northwest Airlines Pilots, the spread of milfoil has been contained to approximately 60 acres. Now, CLPO is hoping this valuable partnership with CRWD will expand to include all invasive species such as the current threats from zebra mussels, starry stonewort, and whatever could come next.

The health of the lake was the impetus to forming the CLPO. Its role in that regard will only continue to grow as increased use of the lake will bring more challenges. This year we honor Bill Crouch and the other founders of CLPO who recognized the problem, who took the time to properly determine the sources, and then took up the mantle and did something about it. We are all the better for Bill's and the others' efforts. Thanks to you all!

Ice Harvesting on Clearwater:

Photo Courtesy of Bob Danaher



A word from our president...

It's mid-summer! The lake is beautiful and with your help we're going to keep it that way. There's a lot going on both visible and behind the scenes. The CLPO treated the sand bar for swimmer's itch in advance of the July 4th week activities and we have our Annual Picnic coming up. Less visible, the CLPO is also hard at work addressing both current and future aquatic invasive species (AIS) issues.

The CLPO Annual Meeting was held on the first Saturday in June with about 120 members attending. Kevin Farnum of Lake Koronis gave an excellent and eye-opening presentation on the Starry Stonewort in their lake. Kevin provided videos, photos and graphs illustrating the infestation as well as their planned approach to attack it. Steve McComas of Blue Water Science then discussed the various potential AIS that could make their way to our lake and some of the science behind the ongoing work. I then discussed the new AIS project (reviewed below). New board members were elected as we welcomed Liz Leitch-Sell, a newcomer to the lake, and Jeff Golden, a long-time resident. Calls for nominations to the CLPO Board are issued in the spring (March/April). Be looking for that announcement next spring if you wish to be considered and nominated.

At the June 18 CLPO Board meeting the directors elected Mark Bertelsen as our new Vice President. We thank Dean Flygare for his many years of service as our VP. Dean remains on the board but his current workload has forced him to step back a bit. Reelected were Joy Carlson as Secretary, Deb Flygare as Treasurer, and me as President.

Annual Picnic: As noted on page 1, our annual picnic will be held on Saturday, August 4th 10:30AM-1:00PM at the Annandale Park Pavilion (lower level). All CLPO members are welcome. Food, fun, and prizes!

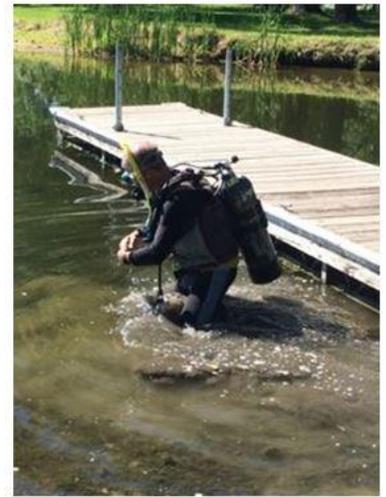
New Aquatic Invasive Species project: As I previously reported to you, the Clearwater River Watershed District (CRWD) is creating a new project for Clearwater Lake to address all AIS. When enacted, this new project will replace the current Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) project that has been in place since the early 90's. The current EWM project is supported with assessments from everybody with lakeshore property or deeded access but this project was created when the only known AIS in the lake was milfoil, and that project was written such that the funds cannot be used to treat anything other than milfoil. Therefore, a new project is being created to allow for management of any and all AIS, including milfoil. The current milfoil-only project will be discontinued once the new project is in place.

As many of you will recall, the CLPO conducted a petition drive last summer/fall and since then the CRWD has been working on developing the project. Following the petition drive CLPO board members met with the CRWD and with its engineers to begin development of the project. An Engineer's Report was prepared to define and cost the new project, and it was then submitted to, and accepted by the CRWD board in May. The next step is the benefits determination and that is currently in process. The following step will be for the CRWD to hold a public hearing, which is expected in late summer or early fall. All affected parties will be notified and will be welcome to attend, learn and discuss.

Current AIS efforts: Regardless of the progress of the new AIS project milfoil treatment will continue unabated. We expect that the first treatment will occur this month (July) with the work is being done by Lake Restoration. CLPO volunteers are also continuing with rake tossing at all of the most used ramps, both public and private. This simple process involves tossing a double headed rake dozens of times around a ramp and looking at what comes up. If any suspicious weed is found it can be taken to the DNR where lab analysis is done, as needed. In special circumstances a sample can be sent out of state for a more thorough analysis, as was done with one Clearwater sample last year. Fortunately, that sample was found to not be Starry Stonewort!

The CLPO has also again this year hired a diving firm to literally get into the weeds and look for AIS. Blue Water Science will be conducting dives at all of the popular ramps on multiple occasions this summer starting this month. They provide a summary of all of the lake weeds found as well as photos and videos showing the plants in their environment.

Have you noticed the increased water clarity? We believe this is due to the Zebra mussels consuming the biomass at the bottom and in the water. While the increase in clarity is a plus, cleaner water means more sunlight is reaching further down. This year we are also seeing a substantial increase in curly-leaf pondweed, possibly due to the increased clarity, as they crown at the surface in areas not previously seen. The pondweed typically dies off earlier in the season than other plants. This means that we'll have a higher level of dead pondweed and other biomass at the bottom than is typically seen. What does this mean for next year and beyond?



July 2018: Steve McComas prepares for an underwater inspection at the Bob's Bay ramp

The CRWD has issued a lake quality report for all lakes in its management area including Clearwater Lake (http://crwd.org/crwd_map.html). When you visit the site, click on any active link for any lake to retrieve the report for that lake. The Clearwater report shows a dramatic increase in water clarity starting in 2013, especially in the east basin. Zebra mussels were 'first discovered' in the lake in the east basin in 2015, but the data indicates that Zebras may have been in the lake two or so years earlier. Other charts in the report illustrate the effectiveness of the efforts of the CRWD and the CLPO over the past couple of decades. Please take a look.

See something, Say something!: This applies to the lake as well. If you find a suspicious weed please contact CLPO board member Tim Ilse at: t_ilse@yahoo.com or 651-231-9377. We would much rather chase down a dead end than have new AIS in the lake left unattended. There is clear evidence of the cost difference between finding out early and finding out late. The Lake Koronis group is budgeting \$800,000 just to manage and treat Starry Stonewort that was not discovered until it became widespread. Compare that to Lake Sylvia where early detection of Starry Stonewort kept last year's total management and treatment costs to under \$30,000. Initial surveys in Lake Sylvia this spring found no Starry Stonewort and only a few bulbils, but time will tell whether it's completely gone.

Volunteer!: We are always looking for volunteers to help us out with the AIS duties, the Annual Picnic, the Annual Meeting, and other activities. We're a friendly group of folks, we don't bite. Please contact any Board member and join us!

Finally, I want to thank all of our many sponsors. Their generous support provides us necessary resources to help us as we continue our work. You'll find these sponsors throughout this newsletter and also on our website www.clpo.org.

Have a great rest of the summer and we'll see you at the Picnic!

Jim Kutzner, CLPO President

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Refreshing Watermelon Lemonade Slush

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Recipe By: Terri Myers

"Whenever I have excess seasonal fruit, I freeze it in chunks for fast and easy slushes and smoothies. Here's a delicious way to use up some watermelon."

Ingredients

1 cup cubed seeded watermelon	3 tablespoons sweetened strawberry lemonade drink mix
1 1/4 cups water	

Directions

- Place the watermelon pieces onto a plastic-wrapped baking sheet, and freeze until solid, about 45 minutes.
- Place the frozen watermelon, water, and strawberry lemonade drink mix in a blender; blend until slushy.

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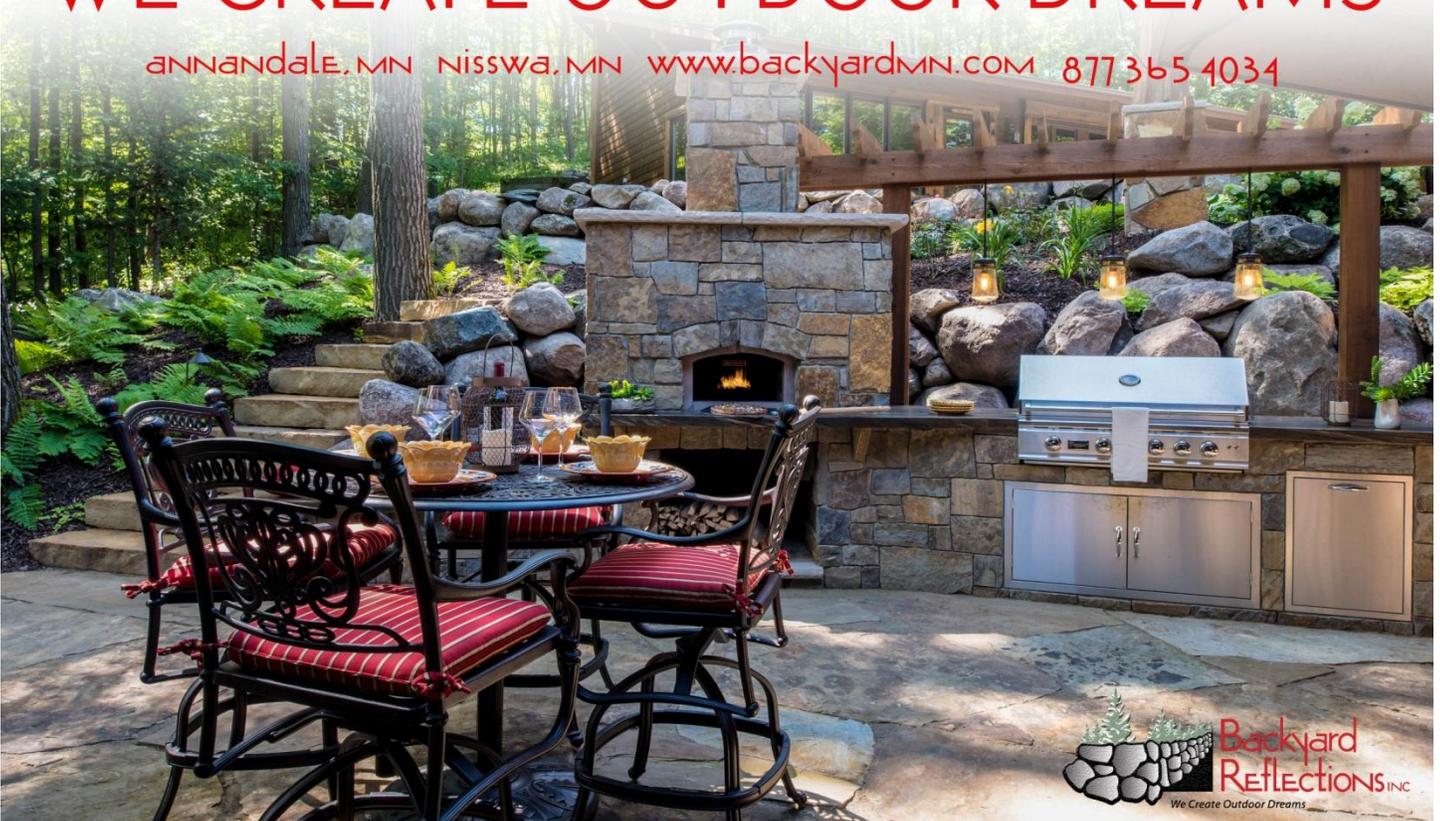
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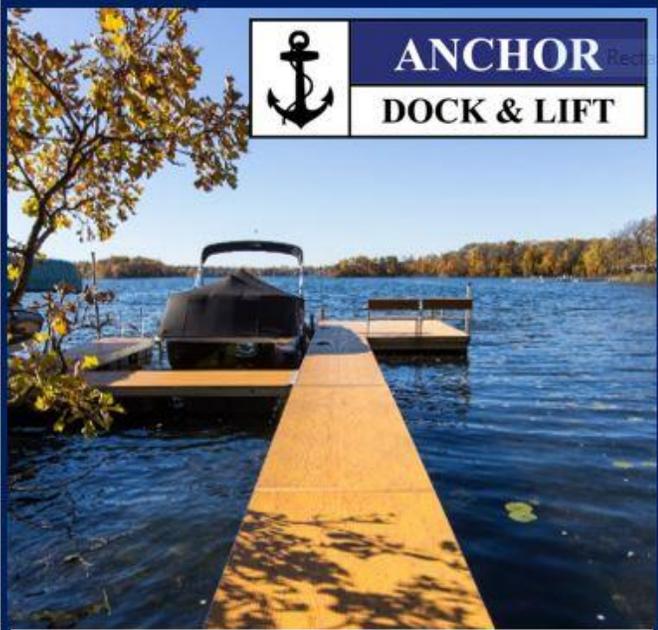
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Starry Trek – Search for Starry Stonewort – Sat., Aug. 18th

Join others around the state to search for one of Minnesota's newest aquatic invasive species, starry stonewort (and other invaders) on August 18th. Starry stonewort is an invasive algae that was first found in Lake Koronis in 2015 and has since spread to 11 Minnesota lakes.

Help is needed to search other lakes to better understand its distribution in Minnesota. You do not need to live on a lake to participate, and lots of volunteers are needed to visit lakes that may not have residents searching. No experience necessary! Learn more and register at: www.maisrc.umn.edu/starrytrek

Membership:

2018 Dues are \$50 and go to support many lake benefits. You may pay your dues via check (a Dues form is attached), on our website at www.clpo.org. All donations are tax deductible and if you pay on-line, PayPal can issue you a receipt. Please remember that the activities of the Lake Association benefit everyone! Also, make sure we have your current contact information, especially your email address. We send many updates throughout the year and it helps us save on postage. You may update your information on the website, complete the membership form attached or email us your information and we'll update it for you. Thank you!