

Waseca Lakes Association

NEWSLETTER

Web Site: wasecalakes.org



Winter 2004 Edition

Meeting Notice: Note Special Time

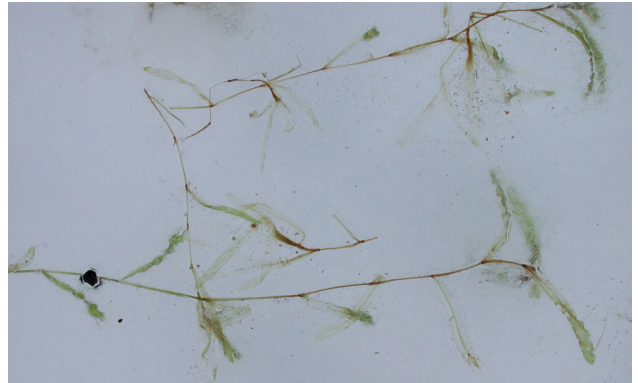
Thursday, February 12th, 7:00 pm at Waseca County Highway Building. Clear Lake Drive road and trail meeting with county, city, and DNR. This is a special time and date instead of our normal Monday meeting which follows a landowner meeting that runs from 4–7 pm to review the preliminary plans.

Calendar of Events

- Thursday, February 12, 4-7 pm, Landowners preliminary plan review of Clear Lake Drive road and trail.
- Thursday, February 12, 7 pm, WLA meeting on Clear Lake Drive road and trail at County Highway building.
- Monday, February 23rd; 7:00 pm WLA meeting: Topic TBD.

Pondweed embedded in Clear Lake Ice

Clear ice with little snow cover likely prompted early germination of curlyleaf pondweed this year. Some curlyleaf pondweed seedlings are currently embedded in the ice in Clear Lake.



The seedlings evidently broke off and floated up to freeze in the ice. Does this mean we will see less pondweed this Spring, or is there so much down on the bottom it's competing for space?

Clear Lake on MPCA Draft Impaired Waters List

The federal Clean Water Act requires states to assess their waters for impairments every two years. For Clear Lake, the affected use is aquatic recreation and the pollutant is excess nutrients. The MPCA has listed a target start date of 2005 and completion of 2009 to address this issue. As outlined by the Bolton and Menk study as well as WLA volunteer water testing over the last three years, high phosphorus (a nutrient) levels are causing excess algae growth and feeding the curlyleaf pondweed problem in Clear Lake. The Bolton and Menk report called for a re-routing of city storm water entering Clear Lake and abandonment of ditch 15-1 which feeds Clear Lake with unfiltered storm water.

A list of the impaired waters is on the MPCA web site at www.pca.state.mn.us/water/tmdl.html.

WLA: What's in store for 04?

The WLA board recently met to plan for 2004 and outlined some of the projects and issues we expect to address:

1. **Storm water management:** Clearly a number one priority for the long term health of Clear Lake. The final Bolton and Menk report recommended several very affordable actions that should be taken to reduce the nutrient concentration entering Clear Lake, primarily from storm water run off. In 2004 the WLA, city, and county must act to put the proposals into action.
2. **Clear Lake Drive road and trail:** Although an emotional issue with personal property issues to be negotiated, the role of the WLA will be to see that the it's purpose: "To improve and maintain the water quality of Clear Lake and other Waseca County Lakes in the Crane Creek Watershed for all users" is advanced. Will the road or trail affect water quality or water use in a positive manner and what can be done to see optimum results?
3. **Other projects** are to begin shoreline improvement projects on Clear Lake, meet with other lakes associations to see how we can learn from each other, hold a fisheries tour at Waterville, Lakes Clean up Day, Summer Picnic, and educational booth at the county fair.

Please make a difference by participating in one or more activities this year.

Duane Rathmann – Waseca Lakes Association President

Obituary

Patricia, Lake

Lake Patricia, age 12,830, after a long and grueling battle with contaminated runoff. Patricia is survived by 9,999 lakes and hundreds of rivers and streams. An active member in the aquatic community, Patricia contracted damaging amounts of algae due to high phosphorus levels given off by leaves and grass clippings that entered her system.

In lieu of flowers, loved ones are asked to rake or sweep leaves from nearby streets and stormwater drains, and to mulch or compost this fall. For more details, visit www.cleanwatermn.org

Did you know you can download this newsletter from our web site using the newsletter tab at wasecalakes.org

