

S U M M E R 2 0 1 5

the

Lake Breeze

Lake Josephine Improvement Association Newsletter

What is the Lake Josephine Improvement Association?

- An association of homeowners on—or with access to—the lake
- Mission: enhance and preserve the health & safety of Lake Josephine
- Formed in 1996 as 317A nonprofit corporation
- Liaison with Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Rice Creek Watershed (RCWS), Pollution Control Agency (PCA), Ramsey County and other entities
- Activities include:
 - working with DNR & Lake Management (treatment co.) to address weeds
 - monitoring water quality
 - public boat launch repairs
 - muskrat & geese removal
 - fostering fellowship
- 11 Board Members:
 - R.J. Newcome, President
 - Emil Kucera, Vice-Pres.
 - Dick Hanson, Treasurer
 - Pam Newcome, Secretary
 - Maribelle Cushman
 - Judie Hanson
 - Angie Kucera
 - John Scheller
 - Brett & Jamie Schreiber
 - Jill Shwiff

Help build our Lake Josephine community
by preserving our beautiful lake
and connecting with neighbors!



Upcoming Events—Save the Dates!

Join us for our 2nd Annual Lake Josephine Flotilla!

July 25

Given the success of our inaugural event last year, we expect this year's to be even bigger and better!

All you need is your boat, an appetizer to share, and your favorite beverage. **Join us around 8 p.m. on the west side of the lake.** We will tie up, mingle between boats, and enjoy the Taste of Shoreview **fireworks at 10 p.m.**

To make it easier for neighbors to move between boats, let's please **put larger pontoons on the inside and speed boats/other smaller crafts on the perimeter** when we tie up.

Don't Miss Night to Unite!

August 4



Night to Unite is an evening when neighbors gather to get to know one another and promote community safety.

Check with your neighborhood coordinator for details regarding your neighborhood event.

Lake Josephine Weed Situation

- We continue to have large infestations of Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM), predominantly in the same areas that were treated last year, with the one in the Southeast corner growing in size. This is common for EWM and, based on other lakes' experience, it often takes multiple years of treatment to keep it in check.
- We also saw significant amounts of Curly Leaf Pondweed, which naturally dies down in late June.
- Many of you may have also noticed large patches of Filamentous Algae, which was the gelatinous green matter floating on the waters' surface. Many MN lakes saw similar blooms this season, primarily because the warm, wet spring increased the amount of nutrients in the water. Fortunately, this was NOT the toxic blue-green algae that was featured on the local news as being fatal to pets who ingested it.
- We also had areas of White Stem Pondweed along several shorelines. This is the weed that often leaves reed-like stalks even after it has been killed.

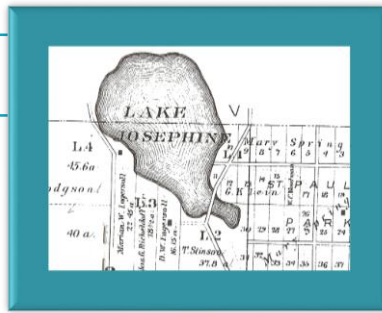
Why should we be concerned?

EWM is a contamination that cannot be eradicated, and requires aggressive and ongoing treatment to control. Left unchecked, it can overtake a lake, making it unnavigable by boats and unsafe for swimming and water sports.

As an example, Lake Minnetonka has also had significant problems with EWM. It was first found in 1996 in one bay, which has nearly been choked out. See photo below. It has now spread to multiple parts of the lake, impacting swimming and boating. Two drownings have been attributed to the weed infestation. One victim was a member of the U of M swim team, who was training in the lake. Lakeshore property owners in impacted areas have seen their home values plummet 30-50%. Each spring through Fall, lake residents have two harvesters operating full-time to try to remove the weeds, at a cost of ~\$200,000.

**Minnetonka
Bay Choked
by EWM**

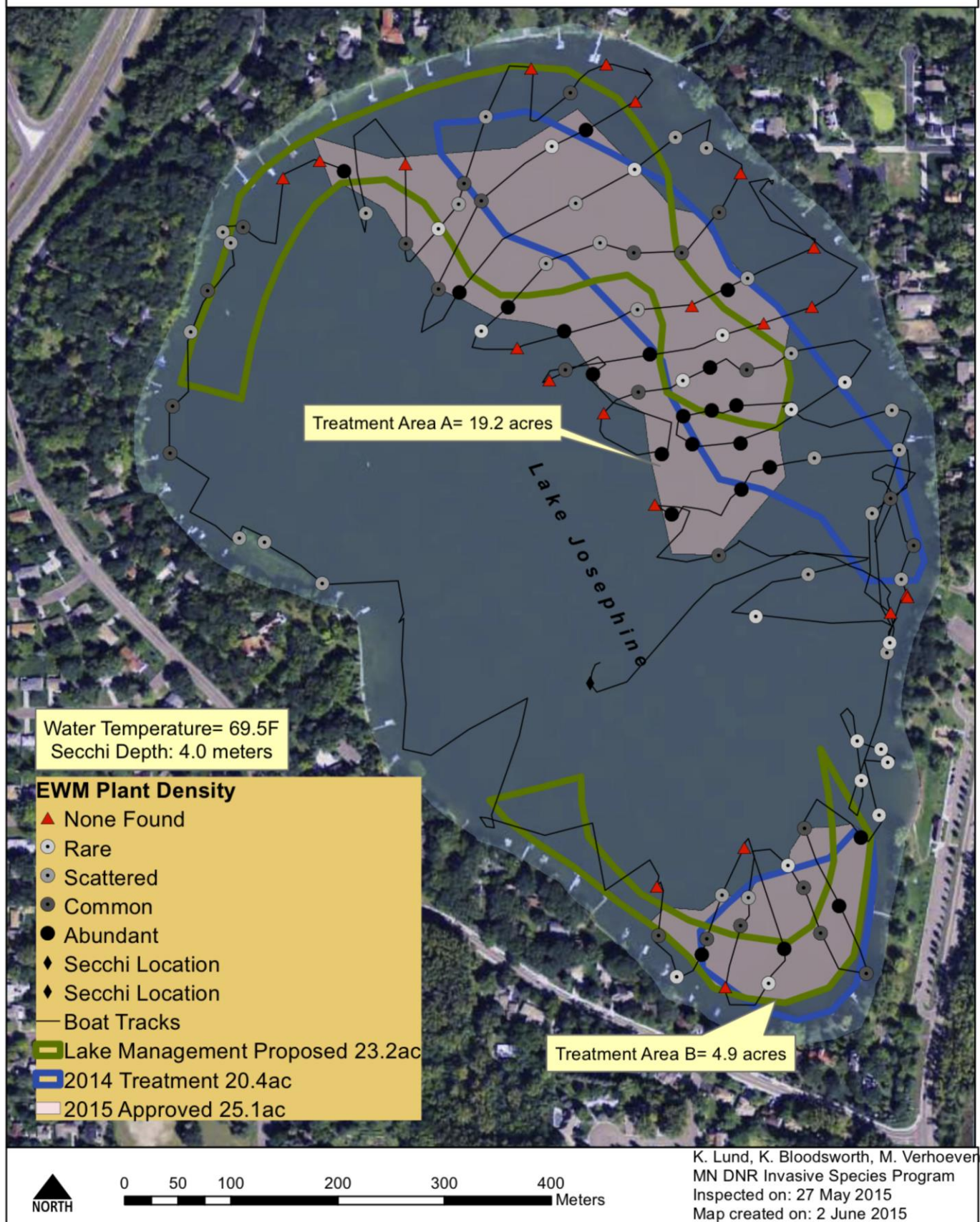




What's Lake Josephine's 2015 Treatment Plan?

- Lake Josephine Improvement Association applied for—and was granted—a variance from DNR to treat beyond the 15% littoral limit due to our large infestation of Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM).
- DNR allowed us to treat 24.1 offshore acres in 2015, which is roughly three times our normal allowance of 7.9 acres.
- Offshore spraying for EWM took place in late June and noticeably reduced the amount of EWM in the lake.
- Note: DNR determines the “map” of offshore areas to be treated based upon where the milfoil is the most dense and most hazardous to lake users—the Board has no jurisdiction. The treatment areas are outlined in the map on the following page.
- After consulting with DNR and our treatment vendor, we decided NOT to conduct offshore treatment of the Filamentous Algae, as it is an infestation that tends to break up on its own. It's often held on the surface of the lake by EWM, so the EWM treatment also had the added benefit of helping to dissipate it.
- Two rounds of onshore treatment—for those who contracted for it—occurred in mid-June and mid-July. The broad-spectrum herbicide used kills EWM as well as Curly Leaf Pondweed, Filamentous Algae, and White Stem Pondweed. Unfortunately, the White Stem Pondweed stalks may not disintegrate and may need to be physically removed by homeowners.
- A caveat of a DNR treatment permit and/or grant is that we complete a Lake Vegetation Management Plan for 2015-2016. We are working with DNR to understand what this plan entails and what the costs associated with it will be.

Lake Josephine, Ramsey County: 2015 Eurasian Watermilfoil, Approved Treatment Areas



Rules Around Lake Treatment

- DNR restricts weed treatment
- Treatment area cannot exceed 15% of a lake's littoral area (15% Rule)
- Lake Josephine is 116 acres, with 81 of those considered littoral, which gives us approx. 12 acres to work with
- Treatment plan has traditionally been:
 - 3.2 acres of shoreline spraying, individually contracted by homeowners
 - 7.9 acres of offshore spraying, contracted by association to benefit entire lake
 - 1 acre must be held in reserve
- If DNR agrees that a lake has an aggressive weed infestation, it can allow a variance to treat a larger area
- Coverage area for variances differ, based on the type, nature & extent of the weeds
- A variance must be applied for & granted before additional acreage can be treated
- For Eurasian Water Milfoil, DNR waits until late Spring/early Summer so it can diagnose the prevalence and the pattern of the weed before allowing any treatment and/or granting a variance
- As we have both a limited amount of chemicals we can put into the lake and \$ to work with, DNR tailors the treatment plan (location & coverage) to optimize both.

Lake Rules

Watercraft Operation Regulations

Speed limit 40 mph.

Boat ramp hours: 5:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Personal watercraft operating hours: 9:30 a.m. to one hour before sunset.

Slow no-wake zone within 150' of shore.

Motorized watercraft shall only travel in a counter-clockwise direction except when operating at a slow no-wake speed.

Motorized watercraft or person being towed shall not pass between a raft and the nearest shore when a swimmer is present.

Operation prohibited in designated swimming areas.

Operating a personal watercraft at greater than slow no-wake speed within 150' of any shore, dock, swimmer, raft, moored or anchored watercraft, or any non-motorized watercraft is prohibited.



Based on provisions of City Ordinances and State Statutes; Park Ordinance enforced by the Ramsey County Sheriff's Department. Call 651-484-3366.

How can we help protect Lake Josephine?

We've been extremely fortunate in past years to enjoy a relatively clean lake, and have not had to seek contributions from homeowners to cover offshore weed treatment, but that all changed a few years ago after the lake was diagnosed with Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM).

Eurasian water milfoil is an infestation that cannot be eradicated, it can only be controlled. Just as the need to control it will be ongoing, so will our need to collect contributions to cover both offshore treatment, as well as lake testing that the DNR requires as a stipulation of that treatment.

That's why, for the first time in Fall of 2013, the Board sought a voluntary contribution from lake homeowners to cover 2014 offshore EWM treatment. Similarly, we needed to do the same thing to cover this year's treatment, which was more expensive given that DNR approved a variance to treat more acreage. Roughly 60% of our 72 homeowners contributed to the 2015 treatment fund, raising approximately \$9,000.

Costs of 2015 offshore spraying were approximately \$8,200. After receiving our \$2,300 MN grant from DNR, we will be left with roughly \$5,000 left in the coffers. As a condition of receiving a DNR treatment permit and variance approval, we need to conduct a 2015-2016 Lake Vegetation Management Plan, which will have additional costs associated with it. Clearly, our fundraising efforts will continue to be needed, and we hope we can rely on your continued support!

In the Fall, we will hold another Lake Josephine Improvement Association Meeting. (You will be notified in advance.) We will review lake status (following offshore treatment & two rounds of onshore treatment), future treatment options, and solicit input from homeowners. We will also be asking for contributions towards 2016 offshore treatment at that time. Again, we will be soliciting input from homeowners regarding the recommended amount of that contribution, but the need is likely to be even higher than last year's. **Please plan on attending!**

Living on Lake Josephine is a privilege. . .one that we don't want to take for granted. THANK YOU for your continued support in conserving this beautiful resource and in protecting our property values. We look forward to your input & engagement.

Lake Josephine Neighbors Know How to Have Fun!

In the Heat of Summer
First Annual Flotilla—July 2014



Or the Artic Winter
First Annual Winter Blast—February 2015



Welcome New Neighbors!

WELCOME to the Johnson family on Ingerson Rd. and to the Lee family on Josephine Rd.! We hope to meet you all at the Flotilla!



HAVE A
GREAT
SUMMER!

Stay Connected!

- If you have neighbors who are not receiving this newsletter but would like to, we need their email addresses.
- All contact information is treated as confidential, used only to share pertinent information, and will not be shared beyond a few members of the Board.
- All recipients are blind-copied on all correspondence so no one has visibility to others' email addresses.
- To sign up for future correspondence, contact any member of our board.

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