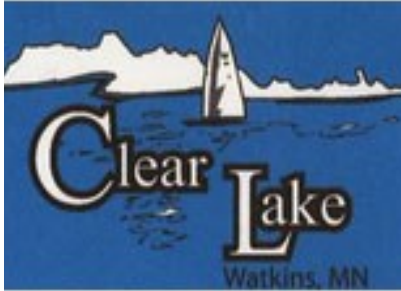


# Reflections

Clear Lake Property Owners, Inc.

VOLUME 13, ISSUE 1 ~ SPRING EDITION

## A Message from our President



In the midst of the coronavirus issues, we hope all members of our Clear Lake Property Owners Association are looking forward to an enjoyable season at your homes on Clear Lake.

Your support for our lake improvement projects has been terrific!

The results will be evident when you see our harvester in full operation addressing the invasive species weeds that have plagued Clear Lake for more than 15 years. While it is impossible to rid the lake completely of these weeds, our selective use of the harvester will be aimed at assuring everyone's recreational enjoyment of Clear Lake, while also protecting the value of our properties.

Because we received very generous \$1 a lakefront foot contributions last year from our members, and based on the Meeker County Invasive Species grants we have received, we will retire the remaining debt on the purchase of our \$90,000 harvester in June.

Doing so will reduce our financial reserves, but for this year our Board of Directors voted not to seek the \$1 per foot member contributions, though some members have done so. Remember that membership fees and contributions are tax deductible.

Thanks to all who have paid their 2020 membership dues of \$25. If you have not done so, you may send your check to CLPO, Box 244, Watkins MN 55389.

Stay safe and enjoy Clear Lake!

*Guy Bobendrier*

## Annual Spring Meeting Canceled

With the uncertainty about conducting meetings during the Corid-19 virus precautions, the association Board of Directors has canceled the annual spring members meeting scheduled for Saturday, April 25. This newsletter and a series of emails will keep members posted this spring and through the summer until our fall meeting scheduled for Saturday, August 22. If you have questions or comments or needs, please contact one of our Board members, as listed in this newsletter.

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### Special points of interests

- Harvester Paid Off
- North End Project
- Clear Lake News on website:  
[www.clearlakewatkins.org](http://www.clearlakewatkins.org)

**Harvester  
Paid in  
Full!**

# Clear Lake Harvester Ready for Action

Thanks to our members, our Watkins community supporters, and with grants from the Meeker County Aquatic Invasive Species Committee, we are ready to launch our fully paid for Eco-Harvester machine to attack curly-leaf (CLP) weeds in outer regions of the lake where it is impairing recreational use of the lake.

As milfoil weeds mature later in the summer we will be ready to harvest them as well. As in past years, based on DNR permitting, the nuisance weeds in the first 150 feet from shore are the responsibility of property owners. CLPO will help property owners identify treatment contractors and do-it yourself methods.

We expect to have as much CLP in Clear Lake as we had last year. Last fall, the growth up to the point of ice up was excessive. We anticipate in excess of 65 acres to be delineated as inhabited by CLP. We hope to start harvesting and removing this in early May from the shallow water areas delineated first, before shallow water fish spawning. We will not be able to harvest much inside 150' of shoreline due to state law, but we will again be advocating for private landowners with shoreline chemical applications if they so choose.

For the first time we may harvest CLP in Little Mud Lake as it has increased there in recent years and has become as much of a problem there as EVM. We hope to have DNR assess EVM on both lakes as they identify the success of our earlier CLP harvest in late June/early July.

As of yet, we do not have starry stonewort in Clear or Little Mud Lakes.

Also, any Ag land or private gardeners who want to use this vegetation for fertilizer or compost should provide an email to our [Clear Lake CLPO website](#) along with a phone number so we can contact them when vegetation fertilizer/compost is available to take.

We are looking for a second deposit site on the south side of the lake as well as an AIS trailer to use that is low enough to slide under the Eco-Harvester for off loading and also has a rear dump or hydraulic dump ability to dump the harvested aquatic vegetation. Please contact [CLPO](#) with information on additional deposit and/or an AIS trailer.



## How to Identify Curly-leaf and Milfoil Weeds



Curly-leaf Pondweed is a rooted, submersed aquatic plant with coloration that varies from olive-green to reddish-brown. Wavy, lasagna-like leaves grow approximately a half-inch wide and two to three inches long.



Eurasian Watermilfoil is a rooted, submersed aquatic plant with green leaves and stems are white to reddish. Leaves are feathery-like, with four leaves arranged in a whorl (radiating out from a single point) around the stem.

Wherever weeds are observed by members beyond 150 feet from shorelines, please report the presence of curly-leaf and milfoil by using these pictures as a guide and by collecting a sample of the weeds for examination by our team of volunteer harvester machine operators led by Bruce Hall or any of our other Board members.

## Thank You for 2020 Membership Dues

Many of our members have responded to our recent membership dues notice inviting your annual \$25 payment which is tax deductible as a charitable-educational donation. Please send dues to:

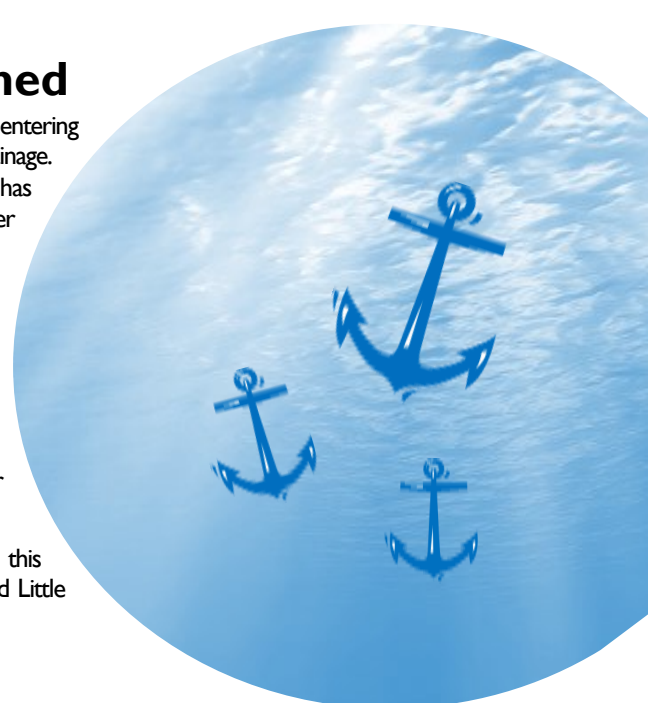
CLPO, Inc.  
PO Box 244  
Watkins, MN 55389-6058

# North End Algae Reduction Project Planned

The blue-green algae we see in the late summer months is caused in part by the phosphorus entering Clear Lake at the north end where distant dairy farm runoff enters the lake through natural drainage. As a result, Clear Lake is designated as an impaired lake by the Minnesota DNR. CLPO has received grant from the Meeker County Association of Lakes to support the Clearwater River District's development of an action plan to address the issue.

We are working with the DNR, USFWS, Forest-Prairie Township, and Clearwater River Watershed District to start engineering plans to install a soluble phosphate filter in the main north tributary adjacent to 375th Street. After the engineering plans and coordination are concluded, hopefully in early fall, we will be seeking a Conservation Partnership Legacy grant from the DNR for the construction of this filter for as early as spring 2021. This, along with removal of the harvested AIS vegetation from Clear Lake should have a significant effect on lowering the soluble phosphates in the lake, reducing the problem algae growth, poor water clarity and low oxygen we are seeing in recent summers.

The DNR will be doing a lake sampling effort for common carp in Clear Lake at some time this summer. Lake users should report common carp observations or catches on both Clear and Little Mud Lakes to CLPO so we can forward this information to DNR Fisheries in Hutchinson.



## Lake Ice issues this Winter

Early, heavy November snows prevented deep ice this year, thus no fishing contest in January. Low light penetration and low early March oxygen in the water appears to have caused a fairly extensive fish kill on Little Mud Lake. Clear Lake is okay, but little oxygen below 6' below the surface.

Shifting north-south lake ice has once again pushed ice and land up in ridges on the south Clear Lake park access. It has also pushed and further twisted the wooden fishing pier structure, which may require more extensive repairs this year.



Westside lake member, Joyce Baumgartner, contributed the above picture. She states, "We went around the lake cleaning up after ice fishing. This is the cleanest I have seen. Only one small garbage bag of item! Thanks to all who ice fish this lake."

In better news, ice fishermen appear to have done a good job of cleaning up after themselves on the lake ice. It was a good year for winter fishing crappies and sunfish on Clear Lake. Early on good trout, crappie and large perch were taken from Little Mud before the low oxygen fish kill there.

## Fish & Wildlife News

DNR Fisheries is planning to assess if there is again a breeding population of common carp in Clear Lake, but clouded water in winter and observations by winter fisherman and dark house fisherman appear to agree that the common carp are back in some numbers and size. Excessive black bullhead may be present in Clear Lake as well.

DNR Fisheries in their 3<sup>rd</sup> year of the northern pike and stocked walleye study on Clear Lake. Walleye this winter were small on Clear and only fingerling size walleye were stocked last fall. Northern pike still appear to be present in large numbers of smaller size pike.

Trumpeters swans are back looking for nest sites, as are Canada Geese. No otter or beavers' sightings in or around the lake so far, but we did have a wayward Fisher, large woodland weasel, on the west side of the lake for a part of the winter in December and January.

## Floating Bog

We have a state MPARS permit to remove to remove or anchor on free shoreline any floating bog during the open water season on Clear Lake in 2020.

### Clear Lake Oxygen Levels as of March 1, 2020

**Clear Lake** (200 yards NE of South Public Access)

**Ice Thickness:** 27"

Depth	Temperature	O2 %	O2 (ppm*)
1'	2.0 C./35.6 F.	58%	8.05 ppm
3'	3.0 C./37.4 F.	56.3%	7.55 ppm
6'	3.5 C./38.3 F.	48%	6.20 ppm
9'	3.9 C./40.2 F.	21.5%	2.86 ppm
12'	3.9 C./40.2 F.	5.4%	0.95 ppm
Bottom	5.4C./41.72F.	9.0%	1.12 ppm

**Assessment:** Adequate oxygen to a break point below 6' deep for fish. Most fish now suspended 1-6' under ice.

\*\* Parts Per Million

**Little Mud Lake**

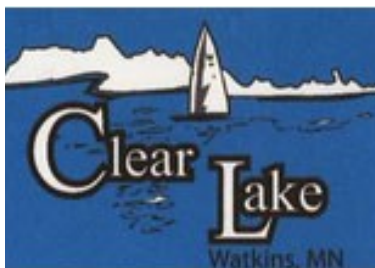
**Ice Thickness:** 19"

Depth	Temperature	O2 %	O2 (ppm*)
1'	1.4 C./34.5 F.	12.0%	1.8 ppm
3'	3.0 C./37.4 F.	7.8%	1.0 ppm
6'	3.5 C./38.3 F.	5.7%	0.7 ppm
Bottom	3.7 C./38.7 F.	4.0%	0.5 ppm

**Assessment:** Poor oxygen levels in Little Mud under ice. Some pockets of 3-6 ppm oxygen 1-4" deep under ice over deeper portions of the lake, and fish dormant and suspended in these pockets.

\*\* Parts Per Million





**CLEAR LAKE PROPERTY  
OWNERS, INC.**

PO Box 244  
Watkins, MN 55389-6058

**Mission Statement:**

Working toward making Clear Lake  
once again worthy of its name.

**Vision:**

“Clarifying our Waters”

Please visit  
[www.clearlakewatkins.org](http://www.clearlakewatkins.org)



**First Class Mail**

## 2020 CLPO Board

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- Vice-President — Kenny Rosenow  
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**Questions?  
Comments...**  
The Board invites  
your calls.

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

Mark your calendars for the following CLPO events:

- Spring Membership Meeting - **Canceled**
- July 4th Parade of Boats - Saturday, July 4<sup>th</sup> at 1pm
- Annual Membership Luncheon Meeting - Saturday, August 22<sup>nd</sup> at 12pm

Visit our website at [clearlakewatkins.org](http://clearlakewatkins.org) to learn more!

## New to the Lake?

Do you have new neighbors?

We would love to add them to our mailing list.

Visit us online: [www.clearlakewatkins.org](http://www.clearlakewatkins.org)

Or contact Denise DeJuliannie at  
[clpoinc@aol.com](mailto:clpoinc@aol.com) with new owners name, lake  
address, email and phone number.