



Mitchell Lake Association Spring 2012

Letter from the President: March 18, 2012

Welcome to summer! At the time of this writing, the ice has left Mitchell Lake all except for the very south bay. I do not yet have a good source for ice out dates for our lake, but I am guessing this is a record along with the many record high temperatures that have been broken in the past week. And with the lack of snow over the past winter, I wonder if I will be able to launch my pontoon given the low water level. Looking back at 2011, we once again had a very good turnout at our 5th annual association meeting last September at the Chanhassen Legion with a presentation by CH2M Hill VP of Engineering Mark Enoch. Mark further detailed the issues with our lakes and provided options for improving the water quality. His presentation is posted on the MLA website. Weed harvesting was once again scheduled for Mitchell but was cancelled due the government shut down and the prevention of obtaining the necessary permits.

Looking ahead for 2012, the Watershed District will continue its harvesting of weeds with an approved budget of a \$25,000. The main target will be the invasive Curly Leaf Pondweed, which begins its growing season while ice is on the lake and starts to matt on the surface in the spring months. A second harvest later in the summer may also take place depending on the conditions. Also, as you may recall, the Mitchell Lake Board brought in consultants last year to review additional approaches to weed control other than harvesting with the end result to consist of a pilot herbicide treatment on approximately 13 acres. The herbicide selected is in wide use by various watersheds and also the DNR. We presented the plan to the Watershed District board, which unanimously approved it. Unfortunately, the DNR refused to issue a permit, noting that Mitchell Lake is classified by the DNR as an "Environment Lake" which currently prohibits the use of such herbicides. There are several respected opinions, given the current level of development, that the lake should be reclassified. This, however, will involve a lengthy application process with no precedent of a reclassification of this type occurring. Another hot topic that the board is involved with is "AIS" or Aquatic Invasive Species. The primary concern for Mitchell Lake is the potential infestation of zebra mussels. We will also once again host our annual April lakeshore cleanup outing on April 21st. Please reference the articles in this newsletter for details on both items.

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

I would like to once again extend a thank you to all current paid members for your support of the Mitchell Lake Association. Please encourage your neighbors or those new to the lake to join our association- a simple way to help the cause of our clean water initiatives. Also, we continue to welcome your individual contributions and suggestions. Please consider your own lakeshore as a potential for restoration, or consider aerating your lawn once or twice a year to filter excess water run-off and improve your lawn's appearance. Visit our web site for other ideas on how individuals can participate in the effort to clean up our lake. As we have already proved, individual contributions can and do make an impact.

Jim Nehl

Mitchell Lake Association President

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Butchering the Weeds – Part II

In our last MLA newsletter, I highlighted the “Weed Butcher”, a tool and creation promoted and sold by Ken Wencil, a manager on the Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed Board, for the purpose of lake weed control. MLA purchased one, my wife and I purchased two and Jay and Carrie Beaton purchased one. It’s a large, “V” shaped, sharpened-edged tool that is pulled either behind a boat or behind someone in waders, who pulls it around docks to clear weeds.

The technique is to use it twice in the spring – once when the curly leaf pond weed and Eurasian Milfoil are just coming up, and again as it attempts to re-establish itself three weeks later. This brief commentary is to report that Jay Beaton and I did just that last spring, and I expect we will attempt it again this spring in “Fountain Bay” between Toft Cove and Belfast Cove on the SW section of the lake.

Jay and I dragged two large Weed Butchers around Fountain Bay as recommended. Two people are recommended as frequent clearing of weeds off these large Butchers is recommended on the second effort. Two people can more easily handle the size & weight of the Butcher as the weeds are pulled off. (Don’t forget the gloves.)

The second effort last spring yielded a significant cutting, judging from the volume of cut weeds floating to the surface behind the boat. During the first cutting there were fewer weeds due to the very small growth-size of the cuttings. It is possible that we waited longer than we should have for the second cutting. Also, trying to use an 8 horsepower engine on the second cutting was not successful. Unfortunately, I needed to use the larger engine to gain any forward movement, due to weed length and weight of the two cutters. The GPS on board allowed us to have accuracy in the track we were following.

The results were such that the navigational ability of the bay was the best in recent years, and lasted most, if not all of the season. Whether or not the success is from the “Weed Butchering” efforts remains to be seen, but so far so good. On a side comment, the MLA Weed Butcher was borrowed and not returned. The idea was to share it around as much as possible, so could the person who borrowed it from Jim Nehl please return it.

Thank you all for your continuing support of the Mitchell Lake Association:

John Tyler
MLA Board Member



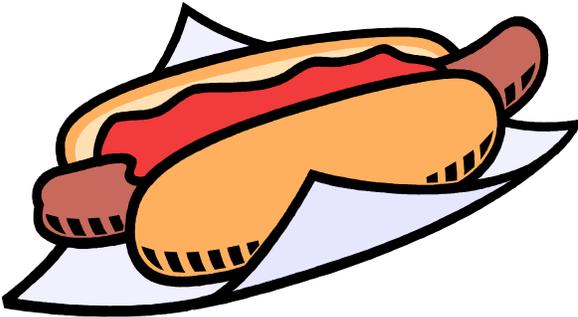
Join your neighbors and meet new friends for
the 6th Annual Mitchell Lake Clean Up & Social!

Date: Saturday, April 21, 2012
Time: 10 a.m. to Noon
Place: Miller Park Warming House near the hockey rink

Primary areas to be cleaned: the lakeshore in the area of the park and the north shore along highway 5.

Bring gloves, rakes and waders (if you have them.) Help clean up our lake by removing trash from the shoreline and shallow water. Once again, prizes will be awarded for the most unusual trash found.

At 11:30 lunch will be provided at the warming house. During lunch, hear exciting Association updates on our lake improvement activities.



Please rsvp to jonduckstad@yahoo.com or call Coco at 952-903-0274