



Mitchell Lake Association Spring 2013

First, let me thank you for your continuing membership support of this association. Together, we are making a difference. In addition to working to improve Mitchell Lake's water quality, we hope to enjoy a social aspect to Mitchell Lake Association including the BBQ following our spring time shoreline cleanup efforts and a summer membership social event scheduled for August in our back yard.

Bob Shurson, Dennis Seeger and Frank Spahn are our Citizen Advisor representatives to the Riley, Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District and attend meetings regularly. Dennis is heading up a MLA Lake reclassification effort to the City of Eden Prairie and the DNR. Please see Dennis's note included in this letter. Together, Frank Spahn, Dennis Seeger, Jim Nehl and I are coordinating an effort with Rep. Jenifer Loon aimed at state-wide restructuring of the Watershed appointment and organizational structure through prospective state legislation, which includes lake reclassification requirements. The above-mentioned efforts are intended to address the considerable obstacles we are facing to improve Mitchell Lake's water quality. Representatives from Lotus Lake Association, Lake Riley and Red Rock Lake Associations are also involved.

As if we didn't have enough to deal with, our Lake water quality is also threatened by Aquatic Invasive Species including zebra mussels and various invasive plants. Steve Jenks has been leading an effort within our group and outside our group to address these very real threats to the long-term viability of Mitchell Lake. Please see the separate note on this topic.

Rep. Loon has been most pro-active and open to the numerous issues we have brought forward. Thank you Rep. Loon!

We look forward to seeing you on the water!

John Tyler

John Tyler
Mitchell Lake Association President

Mitchell Lake Reclassification

Mitchell Lake has been classified by the MN DNR as a "natural environmental" lake. This classification was made over 30 years ago based on the physical characteristics of the lake and the level of development of the lakeshore at that time. It is the most restrictive classification in allowing measures that might be taken by homeowners, the lake association, and the watershed district to meet the following water quality objectives: 1) reduction of both internal and external sources of phosphorus that is likely the primary cause of algae blooms and excessive aquatic plant growth, 2) elimination or control of invasive species in the lake and along its shoreline, and 3) prevention from introducing new invasive species that might threaten the water quality or aesthetic values of the lake in the future. The Mitchell Lake board of directors believes that a "recreational development" classification is more suitable for the current level of development and recreational uses of our lake and is working toward enlisting the help of the City of Eden Prairie and the Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District to effect that reclassification with the MN DNR as one of the means to meet the water quality objectives listed above.

MLA Board Members:

John Tyler, President
johnt@boysandtylerfinancial.com
Dallas Burns, Vice President
dndburns@earthlink.net
Frank Spahn, Treasurer
fspahn@signusmedical.com
Carole Ducksted, Secretary
jonduckstad@yahoo.com
Bob Becker
bob@kimballgroup.com
Bob Shurson
shurson@comcast.net
Jim Nehl
james.nehl@comcast.net
Kevin Persinger
kevin.persinger@gmail.com
Dennis Seeger
DRSeeger@aol.com

Weed Harvesting Update

The Watershed District has allocated \$14,000 for Mitchell Lake weed harvesting this year. The harvesting will be aimed at the invasive "Curly Leaf Pondweed" and will occur in the spring once the weed has grown sufficiently to reach the surface. This particular invasive weed starts its growing season during the winter months and ends its cycle around the 3rd week in June where the stems "fold over" and sink to the lake bottom. Timing of the weed harvesting is important to cut and harvest before the young sprouts or "turions" can form and drift off to begin new plant growth. Please note that with limited funds, only the highest infected areas can be harvested as directed by member input and MLA board direction."

Aquatic Invasive Specifities Management

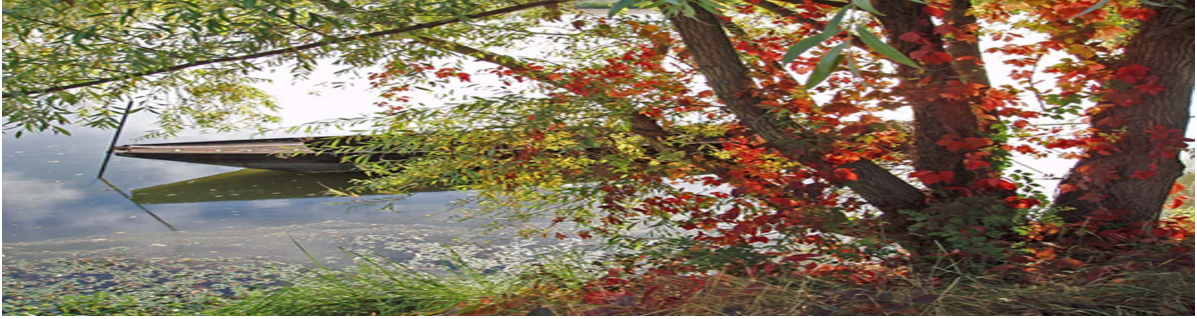
To protect our lake or not to protect our lake – that is the question? Or perhaps stated another way – why wouldn't we protect our lake? Is Mitchell Lake worth it? We have all seen the impact of Eurasian Milfoil choking the shallow bays and inlets of Mitchell Lake. What we haven't seen yet is the effect of zebra mussels on the fish and plant life within the lake. These mussels strain the water and consume the food eaten by much of the minnow and fish populations, resulting in decreased populations of both. Clearer water to be sure – but devoid of life. Mitchell Lake is of course a small lake. Should zebra mussels gain a foothold in Mitchell Lake, one of the pleasures, fishing, will be potentially harmed. Other forms of wildlife that feed on minnows and small fish would also be impacted.

Zebra mussels are hitchhikers. They are in the crevices, live wells and engines of boats and are transported to Mitchell Lake from other infested lakes, likely the same way Eurasian Milfoil originally got into the lake. Once infested, it is impossible to get ahead of the infestation. The solution is to guard the lake from hitchhikers from the beginning. Don't let them in. Boat inspections and only allowing conscientiously maintained boats to enter the lake and to keep their boats clean of harmful species will keep the lake more pure. Inspectors and launch gates are a possibility to restrict entrance to only inspected boats. To obtain inspectors and launch gates, the city, Watershed and DNR need to be involved to finance the operation.

Is that what we are open to? Is our lake a sufficient priority to request such oversight? This is a discussion we need to have. Mitchell Lake is worth it.

Mitchell Lake Association Summer Garden Party and Pot-luck get together:

Date: Saturday August 3rd, 2013
Time: 4:30 to Dark
Place: Tyler's residence (flyers to be sent this summer)



Join your neighbors and meet new friends for the 7th Annual Mitchell Lake Clean Up & Social!

Date: Saturday, April 20, 2013

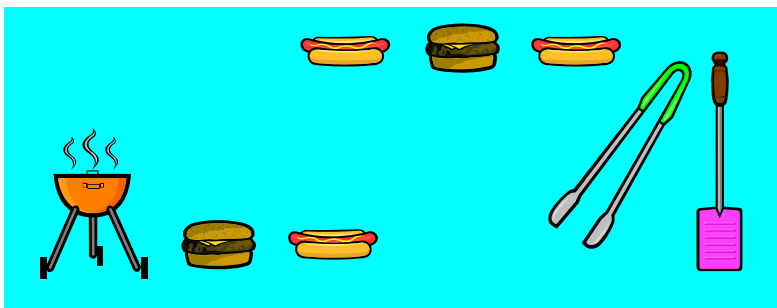
Time: 10 a.m. to Noon

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

Mitchell Lake Association

Membership Form

Mitchell Lake Association Mission Statement: The purpose of the Mitchell Lake Association is to create awareness, knowledge and appropriate actions with property owners, local government and community agencies to enhance the water quality and thereby the boating, fishing and aesthetic values of Mitchell Lake, as a recreational facility for today and for future generations.

We are strength in numbers, please continue as a founding member or join today. Thank-you!

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: (_____) _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Date Paid _____ **Check** ____ **Cash** ____

Please forward a \$35.00 tax deductible donation made payable to Mitchell Lake Assoc.:

**Mitchell Lake Association
C/O Kevin Persinger
17595 Belfast Cove
Eden Prairie, MN 55347**

- ____ I am interested in “light” volunteer activities.
____ I am interested in an “active” role in the association.
____ I am interested in help with a lake “buffer” zone.
____ I would like to make an additional monetary gift of \$ _____
and would like it to be used for the following.

Not a member yet?

If you would like to support this important effort...

- Visit our website to learn more <http://www.mitchelllake.org>.
- Annual Membership fee is \$35