

www.mitchelllake.org

MLA Newsletter - March 2020

Mitchell Lake Association Board

Jason Burnett, President
Dave Jackett, VP
Mike Kaselnak, Treasurer
Cheri Nehl, Secretary
Pete Iverson, CAC Rep
Paul Yahnke
Joel Bredemeier
John Tyler
Travis Yohn

email the board at mitchelllakeassociation@gmail.com

MLA 14th Annual Spring Cleanup/Picnic on May 2, 2020



Message from the President

Friends of Mitchell Lake,

I hope you all are having a wonderful start to 2020 and everyone is enjoying the relatively mild Minnesota weather. I am sure you are all taking advantage of all the winter activities our beautiful lake provides.

On behalf of the board, I would like to thank you for your continued support and interest in improving Mitchell Lake. There were many fun and informative events that occurred in 2019. We hosted our 13th Lakeshore Cleanup event, continued our commitment to weed harvesting, worked to educate and track invasive species that effect our lake and engage in the watershed 10-year planning process. Our annual meeting in October was very well attended and we had some great guest speakers and lively dialog about plans for 2020.

On behalf the board, we are excited for the year ahead and have laid out a few priorities:

1. Address the Weeds (harvesting credit & city/watershed partnerships)-Jason Burnett
2. Stop Invasive Species (Zebra mussels in Lake Riley)- Dave Jackett
3. Improve the Shoreline (cleanup & restoration grants)- Jason Burnett
4. Member Funded Fish stocking – John Tyler
5. Grow Membership (partner with homeowner’s associations)
6. Address the Geese (removal in partnership with the city) – Dave Jackett

We hope that you will support us in our efforts to maintain, protect and improve Mitchell Lake by becoming members of the association and taking part in our events and programs.

In closing, I would like to recognize Dave Jackett, and the entire board, for all your time and efforts over the past year working to improve the quality of Mitchell Lake.

~ All the Best, Jason Burnett MLA President



2020 MLA Key Dates: Mark your calendars!

Sat, May 2	MLA Annual Spring Lakeshore Cleanup and Picnic , 10am at Miller Park
Thu, Oct 1	MLA Annual Meeting - 6-9pm at Chanhassen American Legion.



ONLINE OPTION AVAILABLE!!!

You can now pay your membership dues online at:
<http://mitchelllake.org/contact/membership-renewal/>

MLA Membership Form

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Date Paid: _____

Options	Cost	I am including:
<input type="checkbox"/> One Year Membership	\$35	\$
<input type="checkbox"/> Two Year Membership	\$70	\$
<input type="checkbox"/> Three Year Membership	\$105	\$
<input type="checkbox"/> *Add'l Contribution for Fish Stocking (Apr 30 deadline for 2020 stocking)	-	\$
<input type="checkbox"/> *Add'l Contribution for Weed Harvesting	-	\$
<input type="checkbox"/> *Add'l Contribution for General Lake Cleanup	-	\$
* All additional contributions donated to the Mitchell Lake Association will only be directed to help fund specific projects and will not be allocated for other purposes		Total \$

Please send your tax-deductible donation made payable to Mitchell Lake Assoc to:
 Mitchell Lake Association
 C/O Mike Kaselnak
 17598 Toft Cove
 Eden Prairie, MN 55347

Comments/Suggestions: _____

Mitchell Lake Association: Dedicated to improving the quality of our lake

The purpose of the Association is:

- To maintain, protect, and improve the water quality, aesthetic values, wildlife habitat, and recreational capacity of Mitchell Lake.
- To educate shoreline owners and the public about the condition and protection of Mitchell Lake and
- To provide a framework for representation for work with federal, state, and local agencies for improving the quality of Mitchell Lake.

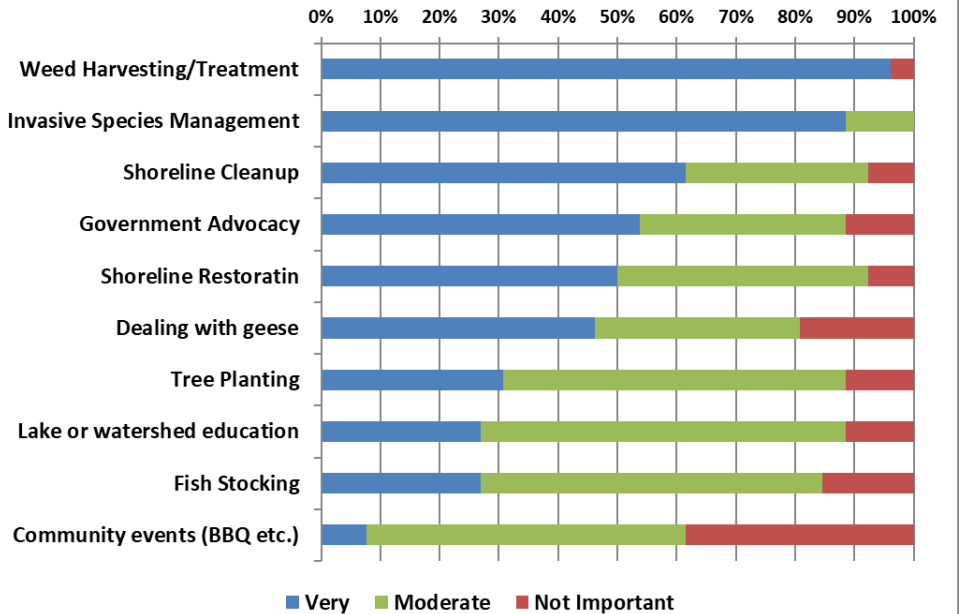
MLA Survey Results

We are listening! We completed our annual membership survey in the fall of 2019 to help set plans and priorities for 2020. We received 26 responses. Thank you for your feedback.

MLA 2020 Priorities

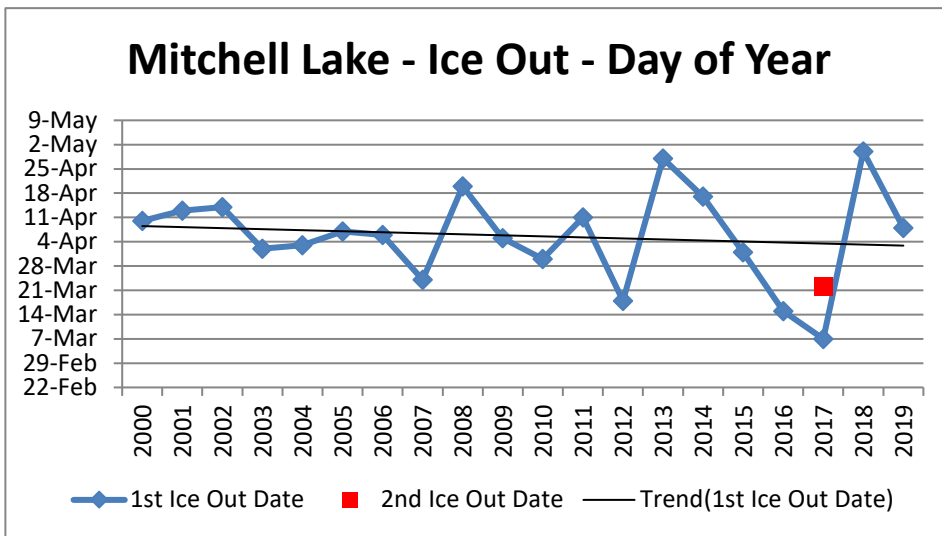
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(Zebra mussels in Lake Riley)- Dave Jackett
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- 5. Grow Membership**
(partner with homeowner’s associations)
- 6. Address the Geese**
(removal in partnership with the city) – Dave Jackett

Fall 2019 MLA Survey – 26 Respondents



Mitchell Lake Ice Out

2019 ice out was April 8th. Any bets on 2020 ice out dates?



Sources:

2000-12: Ice out dates were recorded by the Nelson's of Weston Bay before they moved from neighborhood.

2013-15: Ice out dates recorded by John Tyler

2016-current: Ice out dates recorded by Cheri Nehl.

Ice out definition used: Able to navigate from the inlet at Highway 5 to the Miller Park boat launch.

Beware of Thin Ice!



Mitchell Lake – Jan 2020

Please use caution on ice! ice thickness can vary across an area, make sure you check more than one spot. DNR ice thickness recommendations are:

- 4 inches for walking
- 5 inches for a snowmobile or ATV
- 8-12 inches for a car
- 12-15 inches for a med size truck

2019 MLA Photo Contest Winners

In 2019 we held our first annual photo contest and received many beautiful photos. Congrats to our first-place winner Eric Toft. Please check out our website for a slideshow of all entries.



1st Place – Eric Toft



2nd Place – Paul Yahnke



Honorable Mention – Eric Toft



Honorable Mention – Paul Yahnke

MLA 2020 Photo Contest

To Enter:

- 1) Capture photos portraying Mitchell Lake scenery, wildlife or lake life activities
- 2) Email photos to mitchelllakeassociation@gmail.com by **Sept 15, 2020** with Subject Line: "Photo Contest Submission"
- 3) Include your name with your submission and a title or description if relevant
- 4) Entries will be judged by the MLA Board & winners will be announced at the 2020 Annual Meeting.
- 5) Prizes will be awarded as follows: 1st Prize: \$50 Gift Card, 2nd Prize: \$25 Gift Card

Weeds!!!

Weed harvesting and treatment was once again the #1 priority issue on our 2019 member survey.

- **Weed Harvesting** – The city will once again harvest weeds in 2020. The City of EP is finalizing the RFP for a weed-harvesting contractor. Residents will have an opportunity to have their private shoreline harvested at the same time and paid MLA members are eligible for a one-time-per-year \$100 weed harvesting rebate. Watch for future notices with details on harvesting contractor and the dates.
- **Water Quality Study**- The City of EP, University of MN, Watershed District and MNDOT have embarked on a study to determine the impacts of the storm water retention ponds phosphorous levels and the impacts to the lake systems. They will be studying whether Alum or Iron Filing does a better job of lowering phosphorous levels in the ponds thus lowering phosphorous in the surrounding lakes. Finally, they are in the process of determining if additional Alum treatments will be approved for Mitchell Lake in 2020.



Adopt-a-Dock to detect Zebra Mussels

Zebra mussels, an aquatic invasive species (AIS), have not been found in Mitchell Lake and we hope to keep it that way.

What can you do?


1. **Adopt-a-Dock** – This watershed sponsored program is an easy way to get involved. Performing regular checks can result in earlier detection and opportunity for treatment before they become too widespread. In 2019, three Mitchell Lake residents participated in the Adopt a Dock monitoring program. We hope to at least double the number of participants this year.
2. **To prevent their spread** - Clean all aquatic plants, animals and mud from watercraft, trailers, docks, lifts, anchors and other recreational equipment *before leaving any lake access*.
3. **If suspected Zebra Mussels are detected** – Contact the Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek watershed district or the DNR immediately.

Adopt-a-Dock

Just hang the mussel detection plates on your dock & monitor monthly.



How to Participate?
Email Maya at RPBC watershed at mswope@rpbcd.org



Sign up to adopt a storm drain at Adopt-a-Drain.org and get this cool sign to show your support!!

Adopt-a-Drain to protect our lake water

Did you know that everything that is in the street ends up in our lake? When it rains, storm water carries all debris and pollutants in the street down the storm drain system directly to our lake. Even “natural” debris such as leaves and grass clippings are a problem because they break down to become food for algae.

What can you do?

Adopt a storm drain near your home by committing to keep it clear of leaves, trash, and other debris. The simple act of sweeping up around a storm drain protects the water quality of our lake. Go to Adopt-a-Drain.org to learn more and to officially adopt a drain on your street.

Mitchell Lake Fish Stocking

In 2019, we initiated a fish stocking project to enhance and diversify Mitchell Lake's fish population. We kick-started the effort with \$1000 coming from the MLA general fund and \$920 in voluntary contributions from 10 different MLA members. With these funds we planted 350 adult black crappies and 20 adult largemouth bass in the spring and 1050 walleye fingerlings in the fall. In total, we planted 1420 fish for our first year of stocking! Or approximately \$1.35 per fish on average. A great start! Thanks to all who contributed!

2019 Stocking Summary

Date	Species	Size	Number
Spring 2019	Black Crappies	Adults 6" to 11"	350
Spring 2019	Largemouth Bass	Adults up to 16"	20 (10 breeding pairs)
Fall 2019	Walleye	Fingerlings 4"-6"	1050



Spring 2019 Release
Many residents came out to the boat landing to witness the spring and fall fish release.

We plan to continue the fish stocking effort in 2020 with voluntary contributions. Funds permitting, we will stock crappies in the spring since they have been absent in past DNR stocking efforts. Over the past 10 years, the DNR has only stocked walleye, bluegill and largemouth bass and has no further stocking plans unless there is a winter fish kill. To prevent winter fish kill, the City of EP installs aerators every winter. This year, two aerators have been operating since January 16th and will continue until ice out. The DNR does plan to complete a Mitchell Lake fish survey in 2020. We will use the survey results to aid in defining future stocking plans. If you have any fish stocking questions, please contact John Tyler at johnt@boysandtylerfinancial.com.

How to Contribute? – To make supplemental fish stocking contributions:

- Send check to MLA Treasurer, Mike Kaselnak, 17598 Toft Cove, EP, MN 55347, with "fish stocking" on memo line, or
- Send in your annual Membership dues with additional contributions (Membership form on pg. 2), or
- Go to mitchelllake.org and make online contribution

Landscape for Water Quality

Did you know that you can improve water quality by installing a rain garden or shoreline buffer and financial assistance is avail through the City of EP, Watershed and MLA?

How do shoreline buffers & rain gardens improve water quality?

- Capture Pollutants
- Mitigate Erosion
- Provide Better Wildlife Habitat

MLA offers a \$250 supplemental rebate to paid members who complete a Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District (RPBCWD) or City of EP approved shoreline restoration, rain garden or buckthorn removal project. One MLA member completed a project in 2019 and we hope to have more in 2020.

In 2019, MLA hosted 3 hands-on shoreline restoration workshops in partnership with the watershed. We plan to host similar workshops again in 2020, check your email for updates.

Where to find more information on rebates?

- RPBCWD Cost Share Program - Go to www.rpbcwd.org
- City of EP Landscaping Rebates - Go to www.edenprairie.org
- MLA Rebate - Email MLA Board at mitchelllakeassociation@gmail.com

New in 2020

MLA rebates will also include buckthorn removal



Goose Management

Are the geese making a mess on your lawn or beach? Goose management tips can be found on www.edenprairie.org website under Goose Management. MLA will once again be working with the City of EP this summer to remove the bothersome geese. There is a limited window of time when geese can be relocated or removed safely. To have geese removed from your property a [Wildlife Management Request Form](#) must be submitted in advance. We will reach out to the membership thru email to share updates on timing.



Mitchell Lake Spotlight: Fran & Gordy Warner

Fran and Gordy Warner both grew up in Nebraska and met on a blind date. They will be celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary this summer. After getting married they lived in St. Louis, Texas, Iowa, Alabama and Pittsburg before settling down on Island Road in Eden Prairie in 1993. They have always loved the water and since 1964 they have owned one, two or even three boats at any given time.

Over the years Fran and Gordy have been very active members of our community. They were MLA charter members and Gordy served on the MLA board for the first 5 years. But even before the lake association was formed, Fran and Gordy were already committed to improving water quality. Before the City of EP hired an environmental coordinator, Gordy served on the city's Environmental Waste Management Committee.

For the past 16 years, they have volunteered in the Citizen-Assisted Monitoring Program (CAMP) sponsored by the Metropolitan Council and the City of EP. Starting in mid-April and continuing every 2 weeks through mid-October, Fran and Gordy head out onto the lake to collect water samples and obtain temperature and Secchi transparency measurements. The samples are delivered to the Metropolitan Council for laboratory analysis of phosphorus, nitrogen, and chlorophyll-a. Results are reported on the Metropolitan Council website at <https://eims.metc.state.mn.us/Site/27007000-AL>.

The biggest changes they have observed over the past 16 years include more homes, less weeds and clearer water.

Please look for Fran and Gordy out on the lake this summer and tell them 'thank you' for their dedication to our lake and 'congrats' on their 60 years of marriage!

**Meet Your Neighbors
Gordy & Fran Warner**

Years on Mitchell Lake: 26

Lake life favorites:

- Gordy loves fishing, Fran loves cruising and they both love the people & neighborhood social events.

Fondest lake memory:

- Ice bowling tournaments

Stay Current on Lake Updates



Check out our website - www.mitchelllake.org is a great source of information about our lake and upcoming events.



Get on our email distribution list - If you are not receiving our email updates, please include your current email address on your membership form or email request to mitchelllakeassociation@gmail.com



Check out the Mitchell Lake Association Facebook page - We invite friends and members of the Mitchell Lake Association to join our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/mitchelllakeorg



Mitchell Lake is in the Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek watershed district (RPBCWD)

MLA Board Member, Pete Iversen, is a member of watershed Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC)



14th Annual Mitchell Lake Cleanup & Lunch Social!

Date: Saturday, May 2, 2020 (Rain or Shine)

Time: 10 a.m.-noon cleanup, lunch served at noon

Where: Meet at Miller Park Warming House
(near the hockey rink)

Help clean up our lake by removing trash from the shoreline and shallow water. Primary cleaning areas: lakeshore in park area and north shore along Highway 5. Bring gloves, rakes and waders (if you have them)

Once again, PRIZES will be awarded for the most unusual trash found.

Lunch (hamburgers, hot dogs, chips & refreshments) provided at noon in the warming house. Please bring a side or dessert to share if desired. During lunch hear about lake improvement projects.