Key members of the Mission Lakes Association (MLA) Board and property owners continue to work to keep our lakes beautiful and usable for all of us to enjoy year-round. At the October board meeting some of these activities were noted.

- Veliger (the final larval stage of certain mollusks including zebra mussels) testing was negative and no zebra mussels have been found on docks and lifts removed this fall by Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Certified Mission Dock Service.
- A lakeshore property owner cleared the beaver dam to allow the creek to flow again.
- The DNR sprayed the creek area and rearing pond to reduce the impact of the hybrid cattails that have proliferated there.
- Mission Lakes Association Board President, Nick Bernier, removed summer lake buoys with the assistance of the staff from Mission Dock Service.
- Secchi readings (this requires an opaque disk, typically white, used to gauge the transparency of water by measuring the depth (Secchi depth) at which the disk ceases to be visible from the surface) were as expected during a summer with a quick spring warmup causing diminished water clarity and significant algae in Lower Mission Lake later in the season.
- In 2018, the county only allotted a maximum of 100 hours of boat inspection for each of our two public accesses. There is nothing budgeted by the county for 2019.

Curly-leaf Pondweed (CLP) and Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM) continue to be the problematic AIS in the Mission Lakes. The DNR funds $4000 per lake for AIS control, but only for EWA. The MLA funded $31,083 towards AIS control 2018. We received $8000 from the county towards the EWM (no grants for CLP). Therefore, we spent $23,083 of our funds, and our donated contributions were $15,915. A shortfall of $7,168. Membership dues provided $2000, and we tapped into our diminishing savings for the rest.
Jeff Forester to speak at annual Association meeting

Jeff Forester, Executive Director at Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates, will be the featured speaker at the annual Mission Lakes Association Annual meeting scheduled for May 25th. According to its website, the mission of this organization is to protect Minnesota’s lake and river heritage for current and future generations by forging powerful links among lakes, lake advocates, and policy makers.

In on-line remarks from January 2018, Forester wrote, “As sweeping changes to funding and regulation happen at the federal and state levels, the wisdom of focusing our energy at the local level becomes more and more clear. If we do not protect the water resources in Minnesota, they will simply not be protected. Lake preservation begins with the active citizens and resource professionals most committed - those who live in communities near the lakes.

Please mark your calendars for this not-to-be missed meeting at the Center Township Hall, May 25 at 9:00 a.m.

Boating season will be here in a few short months, and lake residents and visitors must always keep the problem of AIS in mind when bringing boats onto either Upper or Lower Mission Lakes. The lakes are already burdened with Curly-leaf Pondweed and Eurasian watermilfoil. The Mission Lakes have not yet experienced the invasion of the non-native zebra mussel.

If a boat has come from another lake, owners should spray the boat with high-pressure water and then rinse with very hot water, 120° for at least two minutes; or 140°F for at least 10 seconds. These water temperatures will kill zebra mussels and other aquatic invasive species. Dry for at least five days.

“Lake preservation begins with the active citizens… most committed.”

Jeff Forester

Mission Lakes Association Board

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