



Mission Lake Association members and Mission Lakes shore owners--- we need your help!

Many of us share the goal of handing to our children and grandchildren lakes that are navigable, fishable, and swimmable and that have retained their natural beauty. In the last 13 years or so, this has required the Mission Lakes Association to treat areas of aquatic invasive species (AIS). To reach our goals, the Association currently treats Curly-leaf Pondweed in the spring and Eurasian watermilfoil in the summer.

The Mission Lakes have, in the past, been a part of a study which contributed money to treat many acres of AIS. That has ended, and now there is nothing offered for such assistance. Currently, the Association receives no funds at all for treating the Curly-leaf Pondweed. To treat Eurasian watermilfoil, the Association continues to receive funding from the county, but none from the DNR. The grants available from the county for treating milfoil have been reduced from an annual \$5000 per lake treatment to \$4000 per lake. The costs of treatment, all approved and permitted through the DNR, have increased. Our applicator for many years has been Professional Lake Management, in Brainerd, and they remain competitive and have greatly assisted us with mapping with GPS locations of AIS at no additional cost.

The Association is primarily dependent on your donations towards this effort, as the county grants only cover a small part of the expenses. Overall lake property owners' donations have gone down the last two years.

Last year we spent approximately \$35,000 to keep ahead of the AIS as best we could. This year we are committed to about \$33,336, and for the first time, we are unable to afford to treat all the milfoil that needs to be treated.

Those of you who are members of the Mission Lakes Association give critical assistance with your \$20 annual dues. This helps cover the cost of mailings and printing of the newsletters and other correspondence. However, as you can see from the above numbers, it does take significantly higher levels of donations to meet the four goals outlined in this letter.

Board officers and members and others who fulfill many other association tasks are volunteers. We rely on them and you to keep the lakes healthy and beautiful.

If you share these goals, please assist us with your donation. We all win with a better outcome. Please send your checks (payable to Mission Lakes Association) to Cheryl Turcotte, 13789 County Road 16, Merrifield, MN 56465

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