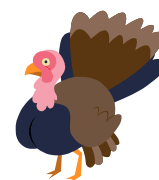


# The Three Lakes Development Association (TLDA) Newsletter



RodendorfMN@q.com

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Late Fall Edition 2021

## TLDA Fall Meeting Minutes August 28, 2021

**Roll Call:** Elizabeth called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance. Thirty-five members were in attendance and three attended via Zoom.

**Officers and Directors Present:** Elizabeth Simonson, Gary Lindberg, Sally Blank, Carla Montgomery, Renee McAdamis, Chris Magney, Bill Lowry, Bill Kubiak, and Michelle Lyons; Ad Hoc members Peter Jongewaard and Gordy Westendorf,

**Absent:** Pat Smith and Ken Maeckelbergh (Ad hoc member).

Elizabeth called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

**Secretary's Report:** Renee read the minutes of the June 5, 2021 Spring Meeting. Motion by Chuck Kolasinski to accept the minutes, seconded by Rose Kolasinski, motion approved.

**Financial Report:** Currently, there are 102 paid members out of 350/400 total properties.

TLDA Balance	\$5,404.63
Water Quality Balance	\$2,433.49

Additional membership forms and stickers for membership signs are available from Gary Lindberg and Sally Blank. Gary suggested mailing out the next membership drive to all property owners on all four lakes; hopefully, it will get some of the property owners who are not currently members to join. Approximate cost would run \$400.00 for postage and printing.

### **Remaining TLDA 2021 Schedule of Events:**

September 25	9:00 am	Fall road and garden clean-up – meet at the “T” (Coffee and donuts are provided)
Date TBD	9:00 am	Burning of the brush pile (dependent on snow cover)

### **New Business:**

- Brush Pile – looks beautiful. Thank you to Michelle Lyons and Bill Lowry for their work on the new signs. People really appreciate being able to take logs for their personal fire pits. We are not setting a date to burn the brush pile. We will wait on weather conditions.
- Water Sampling – Due to the high test result in phosphorus in Strand Lake (10 times higher than normal) a second sample has been taken.
- Increase in the volume of aquatic life in the 4 lakes – Some factors that are causing the spread is the level of the lakes (lower this year because of heat and lack of rain), leaching of fertilizer from lawn treatments, and weeds spread from one area of the lake to another via props on motors. Quite a few residents on Rose Lake do not want chemicals used to treat the weeds.
- The bay area of Rose Lake has become a gathering area, with a spring break atmosphere. Please be considerate of your neighbors.
- Clean Water Land and Legacy Amendment (save the date) – Learn about historical records of sedimentation and water quality on Long Lake (by Makinen) and Strand Lake from the mid-1800s to present day! Ask questions of the researchers. Hear about how these lakes compare to other lakes and state water quality standards. The event is free and open to the public at the Cotton Community Center on Tuesday, September 7<sup>th</sup>, from 4:00 – 6:00 pm. If the meeting gets cancelled due to Co-vid, it will still be held via Zoom.
- Snails on Lake Elora – The snails are brought in by water fowl. They are not zebra mussels.
- French Club Spaghetti Dinner, 3 Miler, and Awards Ceremony – Still on for Labor Day weekend. Spaghetti dinner is on Saturday

night, serving from 4:00 – 7:00 pm. Meals will be served in to-go containers, picnic tables will be set up outside. Cost is \$8.00. 3-Miler is on Sunday morning. Registration is on Saturday night at the spaghetti dinner and on Sunday from 10:00 – 11:00, with the race starting at 11:00.

- Strand Lake Dust Control Account – Many Strand Lake residents would like a special account set up, similar to the water testing account, to accept donations for purchase of a 2<sup>nd</sup> application of calcium chloride to the South Strand Lake Road. The road is maintained by the town of Cotton, and they only have funds for one treatment per year. Calcium chloride does not migrate. A significant amount of class 5 will be added next spring. Reblading causes the calcium chloride to lose its effectiveness.
- A current listing of TLDA members has not been published lately. Michelle Lyons is working on this.
- Scott Twining gave an update on the Fire Hall being built on his property, across from Lake Dodo. It is not just a storage building, but will be actively used. The Fire Department is always looking for new members.
- A special thank you to Mandy and Mike Oney for setting up the French Club for the TLDA Meeting. It is very much appreciated.
- Gary Lindberg made a motion that current TLDA board members and area residents wishing to attend all indoor TLDA events be fully vaccinated (single or multi-dose) against Covid-19. The period of this motion, should it pass by a show of hands, shall run until the CDC deems covid-19 no longer a public health emergency where citizens need to take precautions of any sort, seconded by Carla Montgomery, motion carried with a show of hands 20 for and 14 opposed.

#### **Door Prize Winners:**

Chris Magney – Wilberts gift certificate  
Connie Tessier – Wilberts gift certificate  
Bill Lowry – lead free fishing tackle  
Robin Cicmil – lead free fishing tackle  
Mandy Oney - \$10.00 Kwik Trip gift card

Motion was made by Bill Kubiak to adjourn, seconded by Robin Cicmil, the meeting adjourned.  
Submitted by:  
Renee K. McAdamis, Secretary



\*Board note: It was determined by the executive council, after the meeting that the proposed motion was out of order, as it would create an amendment to the TLDA constitution. The Amendments section within

Article XIII of the Three Lakes Development Association (TLDA) By-Laws states the following; “These By-Laws may be amended, in whole or in part, by a majority of the membership attending the general membership meeting at which they are presented. Proposed amendments shall be published in the Newsletter prior to the meeting at which they will be presented for a vote.” Since this did not happen, the vote taken at the fall meeting is invalid.

In addition, it was ruled by the Board, at their fall meeting, that, according to the by-laws, all proposed amendments need to be presented, and voted on, by the Board, before they are to be printed for presentation to the membership. This proposal was presented at the fall Board meeting and defeated by a majority vote. Therefore, this proposal will not be presented to the membership for a vote.

The Board presents the following statement:  
*Although we agree with efforts on behalf of health and safety of our members, vaccination is a national, politically divisive issue and beyond the scope of our TLDA organization. TLDA has always been a small organization dedicated to local issues and a very cohesive group. A new bylaw reflecting national issues may compromise that in our organization.*



#### **Website News**

Have you checked out our website lately? It's a must for all things TLDA: newsletters, minutes, photo, general information. Don't miss out – check it out at:

<https://threelakes.mnlakesandrivers.org/>

## ROAD CLEAN UP

**THANK YOU** to everyone who showed up for Road Clean up. We had a **GREAT** crew of workers (over 30 people) and were able to clean up many area roads.



What are some things that I need to do to get ready for winter?

Great question – here are a few ideas for you to consider:

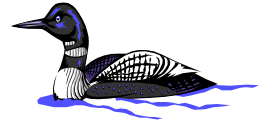
- Change your smoke/carbon dioxide detector batteries
- Service your furnace
- Insulate any windows, external pipes, etc.
- Clean/prepare your fireplace or wood stove
- Make sure any space heaters are vented correctly
- Prepare the snow blower/plow or order snow removal service
- Stock up a bit on pantry items and medications in case you get snowed in
- Pull out the gloves, hats, boots, snow suits, shovels, sand, salt and ice scrapers .... All those important winter tools!
- Create a winter kit for your car ... and for your home in case the lights go out: blankets, gloves, hats, flashlights, snacks, water, mini shovel, etc.





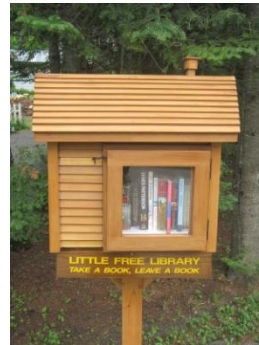
## Around the Lakes

The following is editorial material from TLDA members. You are welcome to submit material for any newsletter. Send to editor e-mail.



We would love to hear your stories for the Spring edition. Send right away to RodendorfMN@q.com.

Remember as you are cleaning up and using the brush and leaf area, **PLEASE, BE SURE TO STACK BRUSH ON THE PILE AND PUT LEAVES IN POSTED AREAS.**



*Have you checked out the new "Little Library?" Need a book? Take one! Have a spare to share? Leave it for someone else. Enjoy!*

Did you know there is a Waste Management dump site at mile marker 28 south of Canyon? They accept construction waste, stumps, garbage and recycling at VERY reasonable rates! If you need a place to dump, go there instead of the Strand Lake Road site, or just dumping it in the woods. They are open on Fri and Sun at 11:00AM.

**Nextdoor** is a free and private social network just for Three Lakes neighbors. On Nextdoor, neighbors share crime and safety concerns, local events, recommendations, items for sale/free, ideas about how to make our neighborhood better, and more. Please join us to build a better neighborhood!

[www.nextdoor.com/join](http://www.nextdoor.com/join) Code: GLHFHT



## Bad weed year for Minnesota lakes

HOFFMAN, Minn. -- If you drove past Elk Lake in Hoffman this summer, you may have seen an unusual sight: A mechanical harvester out on the water, baling up weeds. "It's a big barge that floats with a cutter bar and a conveyer belt, like an underwater combine," said operator Troy Friedrich, co-owner of Ottertail-based Aquatic Weed Harvesting.

This the first time Hoffman, a city about 25 miles west of Alexandria, has hired a mechanical harvester for its lakeshore, and it's not alone in struggling with a bumper crop of lake weeds this summer. Throughout the Alexandria lakes area, as well as the state, lakeshore owners and local government bodies have been contending with an abundance of aquatic weeds. A warm spring, low lake levels and the effects of zebra mussels created conditions where aquatic plants thrived, to the consternation of swimmers and boaters.

So far in 2021, the Minnesota DNR has issued 6,135 Aquatic Plant Management permits, the most since at least 2010, according to Shane McBride, DNR aquatic plant management program coordinator. Throughout the 2010s, the number of permits has grown from about 3,500 in the beginning of the decade to around 6,000 by the end of the decade.

McBride attributes this year's increase to people returning to their seasonal properties, plant abundance amplified by low water levels, and a typical bump in permitting for weed rollers, which need to be renewed every three years.

Zebra mussels have also been found in Elk Lake, and they are notorious for clarifying the water, allowing sunlight to penetrate and spur plant growth. Friedrich said his business is booked every year, and this year was extra busy. "I've had to turn away mountains of work, I'll be honest," he said.

Curly-leaf pondweed has been unusually thick this year, he said, and chara, which covers the lake bottom like carpet, has also been bad. He blames lower water levels and higher water temperatures. "Some of the lakes we've been cutting on are two feet lower than normal," he said. "We're seeing water temperatures at 80 degrees plus." Typically, lake water temperature is in the low- to mid-70s, he said. "The other thing that contributes to the weeds too is a lot of runoff," he said. "You look at all these homes around these lakes, they're all fertilizing their lawns. Well, that fertilizer needs somewhere to go, and it runs into the lake."

Hoffman city workers found themselves stunned by the weed growth on Elk Lake. "It was just overtaking everything," said Tina McGrath, who manages the city's campground. "The weeds have never been this bad."

Hoffman, with a population of 681, lies about 22 miles west of Alexandria. Its businesses depend on the traffic generated by visitors to the lake. It's so important that the city of Hoffman, the Grant County Lions and the Hoffman Lion's Club teamed up to pay several thousand dollars for the mechanical harvester. Friedrich cleared weeds along 400 feet of shoreline, and 75 feet out, going down five feet. "Elk Lake is very, very important to the community and we do not want that lake to be not good," said Muriel Krusemark, economic developer for Hoffman. "There are lots of people who come to Elk Lake. It's a spring-fed lake and it's never been green, really, and this year it was mostly weeds." "The lake is one of the main attractions here in Hoffman," said City Clerk Janee Strunk. "It's why many people come to town." The city has funded an herbicide in previous years, but it seemed to be overwhelmed by the number of weeds this year, Strunk said. She expects there to be an ongoing battle with the weeds, but was happy with the result of the mechanical harvesting. "We picked right back up as soon as the weeds were gone," she said. "The kids were right back in there."

<https://www.duluthnewtribune.com/northland-outdoors/7174690-Bad-weed-year-for-Minnesota-lakes>

# THREE MILER FUN!



See all the results are the end of the newsletter

## **Rocks Are One Reason Our Lakes Are on the Rocks**

The visual fad set off a chain of events that's impairing our waters. **By Ron Way**

Submitted by Brian Peterson

Stand by the shore of most any Minnesota lake and you'll see something once totally absent: rocks, lots of rocks, stacked mile after shoreline mile. Ask why and the typical response is "erosion control." Landowners believe rocks prevent waves and spring ice from tearing into banks and lawns of their prized lake places.

But wait, those lakes with their waves and ice have been around for eons with shorelines pretty much as they've always been ... without rocks. That's because ahead of the pell-mell rush for lakeside living there were forests of deep-rooted trees, woody shrubs and natural grasses that kept things in place.

Into the 1960s, non-metro lakes were largely forested to water's edge, with sparse development. Boy, that's changed.

Fact is, despite permit requirements, most shore rock has little to do with erosion. It's become a lake fad, with folks spending heavily lest theirs becomes the lone lot with scraggly weeds (i.e., natural vegetation), and unraked sand. They pay yet more for equipment to clear annoying weed-beds (i.e., prime fish habitat).

All those rocks on the lake are signs that lakes are, well, on the rocks — as with too many on the state's lengthy "Impaired Waters" list that grows by triple digits with each biennial update. It's not just the rocks, but all that goes with them.

Paul Radomski, lakes biologist with the state's Department of Natural Resources in Brainerd, says the shoreline-rock craze started in the 1980s and '90s as prosperity ignited a lake-living boom.

The horde of newbies brought with them a suburban landscape ethic that favored clearing the natural stuff and planting nonnative grass, manicured to the water line and lathered with phosphorus-laden fertilizers to keep lawns green — just like home. Gone are shore plants to take up nutrients before they seriously degrade the very waters that everyone loves to love.

Radomski said there are cases where newbies unwittingly caused unwanted erosion by clearing trees and stabilizing plants.

But more and more the rocks have transformed shores into a desert-like sameness. Up to 80% of

some lakeshores are packed with comparably sized boulders 6 feet or more up the bank.

Walking on the sharp, often wobbly rocks invites a bad result, so they're avoided, and a popular activity of yore — beachcombing, and the exciting world of youthful discovery — is nearly extinct. Rocks also dissuade nesting loons, turtles seeking to bury eggs, or ducks seeking cover to hatch a brood. Frogs lost perches to croak into the night with chirping crickets amid the fireflies.

Once a symphony hall for nighttime critter music, shorelines have become as quiet as, well, a rock.

There are better ways to stabilize shorelines, says Jeff Forester of Minnesota Rivers and Lakes Advocates. What's always worked, he said, is planting deep-rooted ground juniper, birch and the hardy basswood along with natural plants available from most nurseries.

Forester and Radomski agree: If your lot is rock-free, keep it that way. If rocks are there, leave an unmowed buffer between the lawn and rocks; let grass grow and plug in natural plants and flowering perennials.

Nearshore soil stores a "seed bank" of natural grasses that sprout and grow on their own. The benefits are nutrient-cleansing (phosphorus levels, a key pollutant, are sharply up), discouraging geese that are wary of predators lurking in long grass, and blossoming perennials that draw butterflies and pollinators by day and might bring back those nighttime music makers.

Let "weeds" grow between rocks, and plant natural grasses by punching through the plastic barrier under the rocks. Beauty abounds while rocks continue to provide whatever "erosion control" some think is needed.

The DNR, the Rivers and Lakes Advocates, and Soil and Water Conservation Districts are working to inform lakeshore owners of the benefits of all that natural growth. Forester's "Land Stewards Project" already has active volunteers on several lakes including Vermilion, and Cass County's Roosevelt and Washburn.

Perhaps the state's most active volunteer is Nancy Moe-Mergun of Lindstrom, who doggedly led a yearslong team effort to reverse serious damage to Center Lakes — that recently were removed from Minnesota's Impaired Waters List. Laudable, but there's still 1,600 to go.

*Ron Way lives in Minneapolis.*

## Fourth of July Parade

This year there were 18 total units in the parade. Thanks to everyone who took the time to have a float as well as cheer on the participants. The winners of the parade contest were:

#1: Christmas in July by the French Club

#2: Surfing USA by the Malark family

#3: It's a Grand Old Flag by the Peterson family.

Congratulations everyone and we'll see you again next year.





<b>Name:</b>	<b>Division</b>	<b>Division Placement</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Overall Placement</b>
Clayre Robbins Vandenheuvel	Female 11 & Under	1st	35.41	48
Layla Sheets	Female 11 & Under	2nd	39.42	53
Aria Lindquist	Female 11 & Under	3rd	39.46	54
Norah Elden	Female 11 & Under	4th	50.12	57
Lillian Fisher	Female 11 & Under	5th	58.12	61
Sydney Albrecht	Female 12-15	1st	30.42	36
Annika Chashi Berg	Female 12-15	2nd	30.43	37
Faith Hoff	Female 12-15	3rd	35.43	49
Halle Zuck	Female 16-19	1st	22.16	6
Isabel Miller	Female 20-29	1st	30.44	38
Julia Hill	Female 20-29	2nd	43.05	56
Emily Halbakken	Female 30-39	Overall Female 1st	22.06	5
Katie Sheets	Female 30-39	1st	24.33	13
Lindsey Larson	Female 30-39	2nd	25.53	15
Breanna Johnson	Female 30-39	3rd	26.03	16
Courtney Murphy Bakken	Female 30-39	4th	28.53	29
Kaitlyn Murphy	Female 30-39	5th	31.20	39
Sara Schafhauser Wright	Female 30-39	6th	31.26	40
Carrie Erickson	Female 40-49	1st	27.00	23
Katie Erickson	Female 40-49	2nd	30.24	34
Patricia Sulzbach	Female 40-49	3rd	37.10	50
Tina Hoff	Female 40-49	4th	37.51	51
Katie Elden	Female 40-49	5th	51.25	58
Julie Heimbach	Female 50-59	1st	25.25	14
Mary Jo Hill	Female 50-59	2nd	59.06	62
Lisa Jeanetta	Female 60 & Over	1st	28.24	26
Arlene Elden	Female 60 & Over	2nd	30.25	35
Barbara Spencer	Female 60 & Over	3rd	34.20	42
Mardy Rodman	Female 60 & Over	5th	52.45	60
Anne Hegg	Female 60 & Over	4th	34.50	44
Jacob Erickson	Male 11 & Under	1st	22.52	7

Zach Sulzbach	Male 11 & Under	2nd	26.05	17
Luke Sulzbach	Male 11 & Under	3rd	26.26	18
Andrew Elden	Male 11 & Under	5th	28.44	27
Alex Stadelman	Male 11 & Under	6th	29.53	31
Thomas Hill	Male 11 & Under	8th	41.30	55
Mikko Erickson	Male 11 & Under	4th	26.57	22
MJ Robbins	Male 11& Under	7th	35.27	46
Hayden Hoff	Male 12-15	1st	26.43	19
Owen Strum	Male 12-15	2nd	26.54	21
Isaac Hill	Male 12-15	3rd	28.15	25
Kyle Erickson	Male 30-39	1st	21.22	3
Todd Halbakken	Male 30-39	2nd	21.31	4
Erik Parks	Male 30-39	3rd	24.17	11
Brian St. George	Male 40-49	Overall Male 1st	16.39	1
Jeremy Erickson	Male 40-49	1st	20.34	2
Jason Erickson	Male 40-49	2nd	22.54	8
Matthew Kreilich	Male 40-49	3rd	23.57	10
Brad Roden	Male 40-49	4th	24.25	12
Lane Soderberg	Male 40-49	5th	27.20	24
Jeff Elden	Male 40-49	6th	28.46	28
Dan Williamson	Male 40-49	7th	29.11	30
John Stadelman	Male 40-49	8th	29.53	32
Theodore Johnson	Male 40-49	9th	35.18	45
Chris Robbins	Male 40-49	10th	35.40	47
Don Kuchenbecker	Male 50-59	1st	26.46	20
Tom Hoff	Male 50-59	2nd	30.18	33
Jeff Sulzbach	Male 50-59	3rd	38.06	52
Chris Hegg	Male 60 & Over	1st	23.32	9
Richard Ryan	Male 60 & Over	2nd	34.05	41
Kurtis Ulrich	Male 60 & Over	3rd	34.26	43
Daryl Soderberg	Male 60 & Over	4th	52.45	59