

# The Three Lakes Development Association (TLDA) Newsletter



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## Join the PARADE

It's that time of the year again - plan ahead for the 4th of July Parade, on a Monday this year. Come out to watch or start working on your float now! Parade route is from Bob's to the French Club. Keep in mind – Floats will be judged on 4 categories:

1. Theme – can be anything appropriate to the 4th of July, summertime, or life at the lake. Have a theme, woooo the crowd!
2. Spirit – Put on your best cheerleader face, smile, and wave to everyone on the route!
3. Uniqueness – Come up with a theme or idea that nobody's thought of before!
4. Decorations – Tape and ribbons are the usual standards, but can add balloons etc.

Also decide on a name for your float.

Be creative and have fun. Playing music on a loop from a boombox is allowed.

Be safe too.

This is an event sponsored by TLDA. The winner to be judged the best float will win the trophy.

Keep in Mind – Have Fun but don't get carried away. TLDA officers reserve the right to disqualify any entry for safety reasons. NO open alcohol containers allowed in cars, trucks, or ATV's. All decisions are final.

## TLDA 1st Quarter 2022

### Board Meeting Minutes January 29, 2022

A few highlights:

**Membership Directory:** Michelle Lyons is working on a membership directory

**Dues and Elections:** Dues will be due at the August General Membership Meeting for calendar years 2023 and 2024. Households from Highway 53 to the railroad tracks on Highway 49 are eligible for membership. The secretary position will be vacant. Please consider if this position might be for you.

**Brush Pile:** The burning of the brush pile, originally scheduled for November 27, has been completed.

**Three Lakes Website:** We are still looking for a volunteer to take over the web site. Peter Jongewaard is no longer interested in having full responsibility.

**Stop Signs in Area:** Several would like to see some stop signs added in order to slow down the traffic in the area; however, it is our understanding that St. Louis County has a new stop sign procedure.

**Fourth of July:** The board asks all residents to be mindful and respectful of others should you choose to partake in firework activities. Please be courteous of neighbors with kids and of those who are dog owners - pets get very agitated by the fireworks.

**Fire Concerns:** There are a lot of cut down trees and brush laying around. It was suggested some people might want to join together and contract with Rick's Tree Service.

The picnic will be held on July 30, after having been canceled for two years

## In Remembrance

### Sharon Jane (Mehl) Maeckelbergh



Sharon Jane (Mehl) Maeckelbergh, 79, passed away on April 9th 2022 in Cotton, Minnesota. Sharon was born in Breckenridge, MN on January 27, 1943 to Edward and Alma Mehl. She graduated from Breckenridge High School and attended college at St. Scholastica in Duluth, MN later graduating from St. Catherine's in St. Paul, MN with a degree in Biology. Sharon held jobs in a diverse set of industries working at Pearson's Candy Company, Deluxe, Fannie May and Macy's. Her ability to have a career, be a great mother, wonderful wife and maintain a wonderful home for her family has been an inspiration to her daughters and others in her life. Sharon and her husband Ken Maeckelbergh split their time between their homes in White Bear Lake, MN and Cotton, MN. Together they loved spending time outside on long walks, reading and traveling the world. Sharon was a talented baker with a green thumb and talented craftswoman. Sharon is survived by her husband Ken and her daughters Anne Finch and Michelle Tonkinson and her grandchildren; Zack Kurkowski, Luke Kurkowski, Jesse Tonkinson, Madison Tonkinson, Jordan Tonkinson, Ronald Finch, Bailey Finch and her adorable great granddaughter Magnolia Tonkinson. Sharon is also survived by her siblings Cindy Hogle, Monica Eldien, Mike Mehl and Marica Williams. Sharon is preceded in death by her parents Edward and Alma Mehl and her brother Edward Mehl. In lieu of flowers, memorials are preferred to American Heart Association [www.heart.org](http://www.heart.org). A private family ceremony will be held in celebration of her life. Arrangements by Williams Lobermeier Boettcher Funeral Home.

### Gerald "Jerry" Strum



Gerald L. Strum, 79 passed away peacefully at Ecumen Lakeshore on April 7, 2022 after a brave battle with Lewy Body/Parkinson Dementia. Jerry was born in Duluth, MN on February 16, 1943 and was a lifelong resident of Duluth. He was married to Sharon Skarman in 1965. Jerry was a 1961 graduate of Duluth Central High

School where he excelled at baseball, football, and hockey. He received his teaching degree from UMD. He worked for Duluth Public Schools teaching Elementary School and Special Education at Lester Park, Lincoln Park, and Lowell Elementary until his retirement. Jerry was raised by his Mother and Grandmother on Park Point. He spent time as a child at their cabin at Rocky Run on the Brule River. He spent many years sailing on the Cracklin' Rose' including being the Trans Superior International Yacht Race Overall Winner in 1989. He was an avid curler and member of the Duluth Curling Club, winning the US Senior Men's Championship in 2002. He enjoyed hunting, fishing trips, and golfing. He enjoyed watching the Minnesota Vikings and the Twins. Jerry and Sharon enjoyed many vacations traveling with family and friends. Jerry was fun loving with a quick wit. He valued family and friendships most of all. He had many lifelong friends along with close friendships in Bonita Springs, Florida and their home on Lake Dodo. Jerry is preceded in death by his loving wife Sharon in 2014, his mother Virginia Glass, step father Evan Glass, grandmother Hulda Anderson (Kuehl), father Gerald Strum, brother-in-law Patrick Trihey and close nephew Brandon Carlson. He is survived by his son Scott (Rhonda) Strum and grandson Owen of Duluth. He is also survived by his sister-in-laws Faye Trihey and Priscilla (Don) Olson. Surviving are several nieces and nephews. Scott and Rhonda want to thank Ecumen Lakeshore the Shores and Hospice for their compassionate care. We also want to thank Dr. Timothy Kleinschmidt for his wonderful care.

**What a great idea! Recently, we had a suggestion for a newsletter article. In a nutshell, the article would name handymen or businesses that do electrical, plumbing, carpentry, etc in the Three Lakes Area. Please email names or recommendations to: Elizabeth Simonson at [Lizajanesimonson@gmail.com](mailto:Lizajanesimonson@gmail.com) and we will be sure to send out the list to our members.**

## French Club Coming Events

Mass will be held on Saturdays at 5:30pm in the Clubhouse Memorial day through Labor day.

### June:

4th TLDA meeting in Clubhouse  
21st 6:30PM Board meeting

### July:

2nd 10AM General membership meeting  
4th 10AM Fourth of July parade  
9th BINGO (TBD)  
19th 6:30PM Board meeting  
30th 12:00PM Picnic in ball field

### August

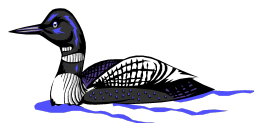
16th 6:30PM Board meeting

### September

3rd 10AM General member  
3rd Spaghetti Dinner (TBD)  
4th 40th Annual 3 Miler  
20th 6:30PM Board meeting

### October

8th 9AM General member  
Closing Work party  
Potluck  
18th 6:30PM Board meeting



## Around the Lakes

*We would love to hear your stories for the fall edition. Send right away to [RodendorfMN@q.com](mailto:RodendorfMN@q.com).*

## Three Lakes Coming Events:

Monday, July 4th 10:00 AM  
4th of July Parade

Saturday, July 30, Noon  
TLDA/French Club Picnic

Saturday, August 27, 9:30 a.m. Fall Membership Meeting (at the French Club)

Saturday, September 24, 9:00AM Fall Road and Garden Cleanup

<https://threelakes.mnlakesanddrivers.org/calendar-of-events/>

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.**



**4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade at 10AM  
Line up at Watt's corner**

## **What is One Thing You Can Do Today to Protect the Lake You Love?**

By Jeff Forester, Executive Director, Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates

***The answer is to join Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates, (MLR) if you are not a member already.*** There is no other group in Minnesota that does so much to protect the lakes and rivers we all love.

As Bernie Steves, President of the Otter Tail County AIS Task Force, says ***“No group has done more to protect water than Minnesota Lakes and Rivers.”***

**JOIN Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates  
NOW to protect the lake you love!**

**You can make a contribution online at  
[www.mnlakesandrivers.org](http://www.mnlakesandrivers.org).**

**Or, mail a contribution to MLR, PO Box 22262,  
St. Paul, MN 55122**

Your membership in Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates provides a significant Return on Investment. MLR has successfully lobbied to lower property taxes on lakeshore, create grant programs through DNR that support lake association programming, trainings and education from the Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center for lake home and cabin owners, and technical assistance from local units of government to support property owners and lake associations.

When our members told us they were seeing more boating conflicts, dangerous boating, damage to shorelines and lake bottoms, and rude boating behavior, MLR took action.

Last year we worked to ***fund research (\$160k) at the St. Anthony Falls Lab***, the oldest fluid dynamics lab in the US, to study the height and energy of different wakes, from an 18 foot runabout to a wake surfing boat. The study was released in February. Check the blog section of the new MLR website (<https://mnlakesandrivers.org/>) to see the released study.

Last fall we worked to build a broad base of partners, including Hennepin and Goodhue County sheriffs, the National Marine Manufacturing Association, Marine Retailers Association of the Americas, the Community of MN Resorts, Tonka Bay Marina, and MN DNR in ***support of a new boater education and certification requirement.***

- Minnesota is one of only 8 states without a watercraft certification program,
- Boating deaths broke a decades old record the summer of 2021,
- Boating sales of paddle craft and larger pontoon and wake surfing craft have been up over 30%, escalating conflicts among user groups,
- Training will include Best Practices for safety, reducing user conflicts, preventing the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species, preventing damage to shorelines from wake action and protecting lake bottoms from prop thrust.

During the pandemic more and more people bought lakefront property to self isolate. More sales created a spike in the value of shoreline. The resultant increases in property taxes are now starting to show up on proposed property tax statements. This is resulting in a rise in market driven property taxes. ***MLR is working this session to create a state buydown to offset these market driven tax increases.***

MLR has gotten calls about both the cost and red tape lake associations must navigate to manage aquatic invasive species in infested lakes. The DNR does not typically take any action to treat AIS once they are in a lake, yet the DNR has stringent and costly permitting requirements. Local governments and lake associations bear the cost of lake management and are required to do the planning and execution of the work. Lake home and cabin owners like you pay the costs directly through contributions to your lake association or through local property tax levies. MLR took action, we:

- ***Surveyed Lake Associations about the DNR aquatic plant management programs*** to document the issues. You can find a

report of the results on the blog on our website.

- ***Lobbied to create a \$850k grant program*** for lake associations working to control AIS.

MLR has launched four programs as well in our efforts to protect your lake and river heritage and investment. While COVID-19 disrupted our pilots last summer, we had good feedback and impact and will work this summer to expand them.

- ***Stop Starry*** - with funding from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund, MLR is providing boat cleaning stations at the public accesses of lakes infested with Starry Stonewort so boaters can Clean, Drain and Dry as they leave. This will lower the risk of AIS spread to the lake you love.
- ***Lake Steward*** rewards and recognizes property owners who have preserved their shoreline and supports those who want to restore their shore.
- ***Up the Creek Meats*** connects lake associations with meat producers in their watershed that use regenerative agriculture practices and work to protect water in their operations. You can buy food directly from producers that farm in a way that protects the water in
- ***Project WET*** is a national program that trains people and provides curriculum so they can engage audiences from classrooms to fair booths to Chamber of Commerce events. Education is the first step in protecting our lake heritage.

MLR's mission is to, "Protect Minnesota's lake and river heritage for current and future generations by forging strong links among lakes, lake advocates and policy makers." ***Our strategy focuses on four legs: (1) advocacy at the Minnesota Legislature, (2) promotion of aquatic science, (3) education and organization of lake home and shore line owners to create a strong advocacy base, (4) professional media outreach to get your issues and accomplishments into local and state media.***

We cannot do this work without your generous contributions. Unlike most conservation groups, MLR receives the majority of its funding from individual members like you. There is no other group so focused on the issues important to you and we have a long track record of success.

By joining MLR you will receive communications on our legislative efforts, action alerts that make it easy for you to contact your legislators on important legislation, an invite to our annual "Water Connects Us All" annual meeting as well as free webinars and events. But more than that, you will be supporting the statewide lake group that does more to protect the lake and the good times you have for the future.

[www.mnlakesandrivers.org](http://www.mnlakesandrivers.org) ~ 952-854-1317 ~ [judy@mnlakesandrivers.org](mailto:judy@mnlakesandrivers.org)



## **MLR's Stop Starry Program is Critical Shielding Strategy to Protect Lakes and Lake Communities**

by Jeff Forester, Executive Director of Minnesota, Lakes and Rivers Advocates

In 2015 the invasive algae starry stonewort was confirmed on the first Minnesota lake, Lake Koronis near Paynesville. Initial investments into treatments totaled over \$800,000, but despite this aggressive and ongoing management, the infestation spread 7% a year. It now covers about 70% of the littoral area of the lake.

Starry stonewort is a fast-spreading invasive algae that can form dense mats on a lake's surface, choke out native species and overwhelm fish spawning beds. It is highly transferable and has now been confirmed in 19 water bodies in Minnesota. Lake Koronis, like many lakes in Minnesota, is a core community resource to Paynesville and Stearns County.

"Anything that impacts a Minnesota lake," said Kayla Hanke, Program Manager and Civic Organizer for MN Lakes and Rivers, "impacts the entire community. One of the most important aspects of the Stop Starry Program is the work we will be doing to engage the entire community in lake protection."

In 2021 the Minnesota Legislature awarded Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates a \$1 million dollar grant from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund to give these communities a new tool to help fight against aquatic invasive species. The grant will allow MLR to install self-service boat cleaning stations at the public accesses on lakes infested with starry stonewort. The goal is to shield all the other lakes in Minnesota from this aquatic invasive species.

"Starry stonewort can move very quickly within a 50-mile radius of an infested water body," said Jeff Forester, executive director of the nonprofit Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates. "So it's local movement to adjacent lakes that's really the concern."

Multiple studies have found that while over 90% of boaters know the steps they need to take to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species, only about half fully cleaned, drained and dried their watercraft every time they were leaving an access. The reason, according to this research, is that

boaters do not have the tools they need when and where they need them so that they can fully clean, drain and dry their watercraft.

"The boat cleaning stations being provided by MLR, with funding from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund," said Jeff Forester, Executive Director of MN Lakes and Rivers Advocates, "provides the tools boaters need; a wet-dry vacuum, high-pressure air hose, scrubbing brushes, grabbing tools and under carriage/overhead lights to help boaters see at night. Our goal is to prevent starry stonewort from ending up in hundreds or thousands of lakes in the state."

A Minnesota company, CD3 General Benefit Corporation, makes the best free standing boat cleaning stations in the country. Last month CD3 delivered stations to remote accesses on the Leech Lake Reservation. Five more stations were delivered to Beltrami County. "We hope to have twenty-eight stations in place and operational by open water, 2022," said Forester.

Clean water, and the wild river dependent on that clean water, is a primary resource for the Leech Lake Band. The starry stonewort infestation on Leech Lake threatens this critical resource. Said Kate Hagsten, Division of Resource Management (DRM) with the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, "By protecting our natural resources we are protecting our community, our cultural heritage and our future."

More stations are planned for later this year at lakes in Itasca, Beltrami, Meeker, Pope, Stearns and Wright counties. MLR will work with local partners to build support among boaters and the boating community to use the CD3 stations and Clean, Drain Dry their boats every time they leave a waterbody, but particularly when leaving a lake or river infested with starry stonewort. By protecting their lakes, they are protecting their local tax base, their heritage, and their way of life.

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