

LMA NEWSLETTER

Lake Minnewawa Association

June 2026

2026 is a year of change!

The newsletter will be done electronically starting this year. The board has done a study and concluded that sending a paper newsletter is too costly. The newsletter will be published on the Lake Minnewawa Association website (lakeminnewawa.org), the Lake Minnewawa Association Facebook page and the other Lake Minnewawa Facebook page. You can find this information in 3 different locations. I know some people will be unhappy with this decision.

The facts are the cost of printing, printing supplies, postage stamps and labor to produce a yearly newsletter sent to 550 people has become way too expensive. In our research we found that less and less people responded to "snail mail". People prefer to read their news and updates in a more timely manner. Using our technology of the website and Facebook made it clear that the funds used to send out a paper copy could be put to much better use funding other projects for the lake. You have the ability to read the newsletter and pay your dues online. No more searching for an envelope and stamp to send in your dues. No need to make a trip to the post office to mail your dues in. You are updated often. You can see things happening around the lake quickly. Most of you choose to pay online. For others that still want to write a check and mail your dues in, we are happy to accept payment in that manner as well!

Mail to: LMA, P O Box 58, McGregor, MN. 55760

Thank you for supporting the LMA!

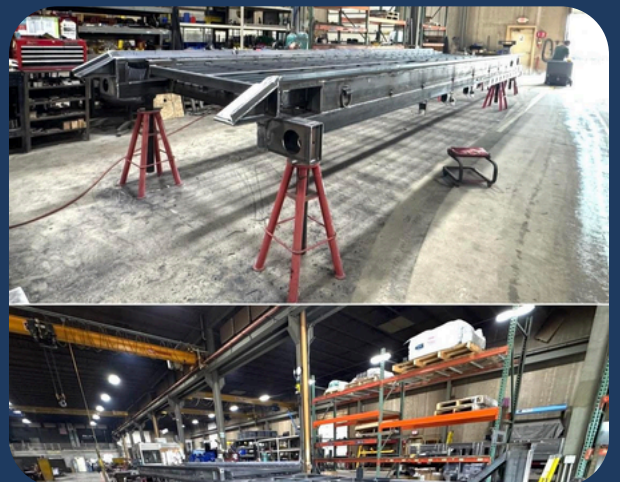
If you encounter someone that wants to become a member, please share this information with them.

Sue Westberg, LMA President, Email: Swestb1069@hotmail.com Phone: 651-587-2614

Update on the New Harvester By: John Montour, Water Quality Manager and Greg Pfeifer

The new trailer and harvester are in the final production phase with delivery scheduled sometime near June 15th. Thank you to all the board members that helped with the fund raising, sale of the existing harvester, and purchase of the new trailer and harvester. Also, a huge thanks to the LMLID and all those that generously donated toward funding the new equipment. This could not have been accomplished without all those involved.

The old harvester has been sold to Norway Lake. They came and picked it up. We wish them success and hope the harvester works well for them as it did for us.



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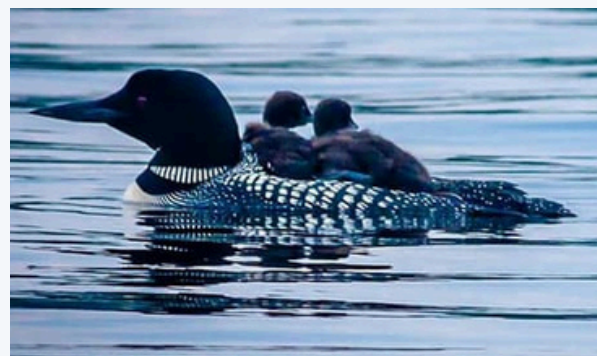
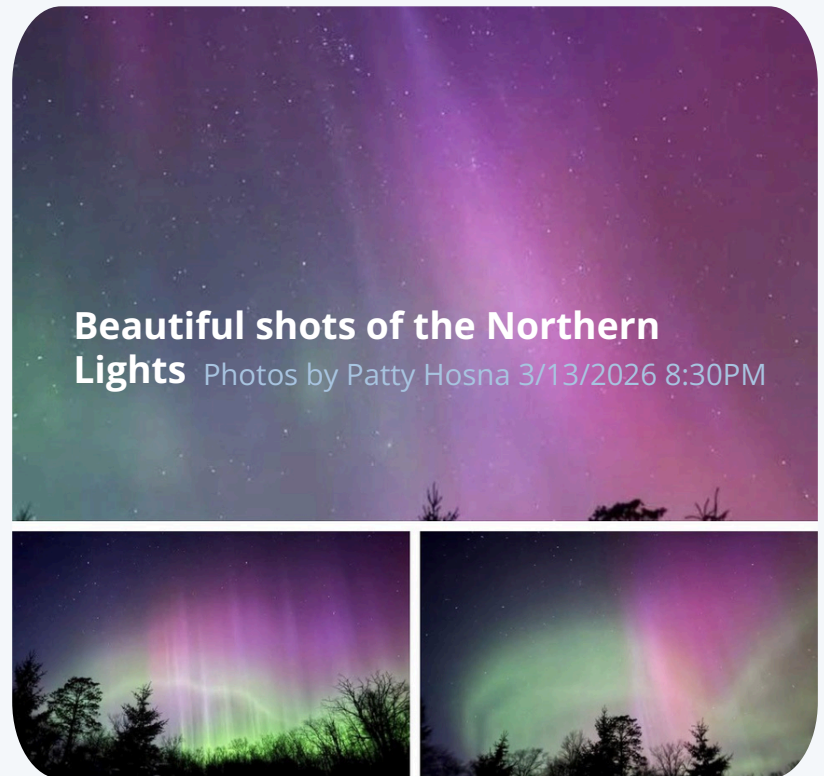
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Looking for a way to add value to your lake cabin? Lake Minnewawa has become a highly sought after lake to own a cabin on. Why? Because of the many projects and programs that protect and maintain this beautiful natural resource. Why not volunteer to be on the Lake Minnewawa Association Board? The LMA meets monthly the second Saturday of the month. May - Oct at 9am at Banns. There are many projects and activities that LMA volunteers are doing to maintain the beauty and health of our lake. Here is a list of some of the things the LMA does for the lake:

1. Aquatic Invasive Species prevention (boat landing monitoring)
2. Zebra Mussel testing
3. Scap testing (counting walleye eggs and reporting findings to the DNR)
4. E-dna testing
5. Kids Fishing Day
6. Maintaining the fish ladder
7. Loon nesting platform project
8. Kids t-shirt give away
9. Water clarity testing
10. LMA BBQ
11. Applying for grants
12. Highway Clean up
13. Working with MN DNR fish stocking
14. LMA apparel
15. Facebook and website updates
16. Fundraising
17. Water Quality
18. YOUR NEW IDEAS!

There is opportunity for everyone.
You can make a difference.
Your ideas and hands are needed!
Now is the time to step up. Your lake needs you!
Make 2026 the year to join the LMA board!

Sue Westberg
Lake Minnewawa Association
President



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Important Dates

- Kids Fishing Day 6/29/26 with ISD#4
- Fireworks (Big Sandy) 7/4/26
- LMA Kids t-shirt giveaway 7/4/26
- Big Sandy Fireworks 7/4/26 at 10:15pm
- LMA Annual Meeting 8/1/26 9am at the Sportsmen's Clubhouse
- LMA BBQ 8/8/26 1-4 pm at Bann's
- Monthly Meetings 9am at Bann's: 5/9, 6/13, 7/11, 9/12

Kids Fishing By: Sue Westberg

Kids Fishing is June 29, 2026! What a fun filled morning on Lake Minnewawa. The LMA works with the McGregor school to host a catch and release fishing event on Minnewawa. This is a very popular event with the kids. We usually have 7 or 8 pontoons staffed by volunteers and helpers. Larry Antonsen, former LMA board member and life long fisherman loved the fact that kids could have a fun time learning to fish. Larry has passed away, his wife Connie and daughter Julia generously pay for bait for this event each year to honor Larry. The kids fish in the morning and return to the boat landing for lunch. The Minnewawa Sportsmen's Club sponsors a lunch for the kids and volunteers. After lunch they have a learning session with the DNR. Consider volunteering this year. You will be amazed how quickly the time flies by! Watching the smiles on their faces and the laughter when they catch a sunfish makes this one of the most rewarding things to do on the lake. Call Sue Westberg if you want to be a part of this event. 651-587-2614. We need pontoons, captains and helpers.



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LMA Apparel Moving to Online Store

The Lake Minnewawa Association is in the process of setting up online ordering for Lake Minnewawa apparel with Shirts Plus in Aitkin.

We will be able to purchase most any item, size and color of your choice year around.

The LMA will continue to sell the inventory we currently have at 47175 188th and at our BBQ in August.

We will be posting this information on our Facebook page and new website (www.lakeminnewawa.org) the link and QR code when Aitkin has our catalog and designs ready for us.

SCAP Testing

A big thank you to volunteers Tim Rinowski, Robin Coverdale, Jesse Edelbrock, and Ole Westberg for spending time in early May out SCAP testing. Their work involves counting fish eggs, identifying findings, and reporting the information to the DNR to support ongoing conservation and monitoring efforts.

We appreciate your time, dedication, and commitment to helping protect our natural resources!



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Kids' T-Shirt Give Away

Mark your calendars! Saturday July 4, 2026 10am. LMA Volunteers will be out on the lake distributing FREE t-shirts to your children and grandchildren. Have the kids out on your docks looking for the LMA pontoons. This event is looked forward to each year! Nothing beats the smiles we see on those cute faces!



LMA BBQ

The LMA BBQ will be Saturday August 8, 2026. 1-4 pm at Bann's. Join us for our LMA BBQ.

This is the social event of the year on Lake Minnewawa. Gather from 1-4 pm at Banns to enjoy a meal, visit with lake friends, purchase something at the silent auction and support your lake association. The silent auction has always been the hit of the party. Pick up a beautiful painting, a party basket or perhaps a new patio set. We have it all! This fundraiser has been a huge success each year. The LMA BBQ was created to replace the LMA garage sale. It started out with a bang and has shown no sign of slowing down over the years. People come to support the LMA and are very generous! Let's keep this going! Looking forward to seeing old friends and hoping for new faces this year as well. Save the date! 8/8/26 1-4 pm at Bann's!



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The new harvester is arriving soon!

If you have not had a chance to make a donation now is the time.

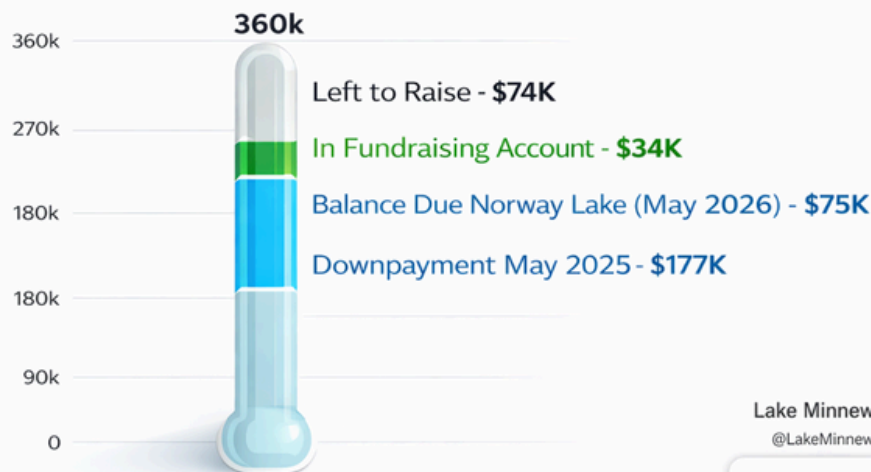
Many of you have made generous contributions towards the purchase and our goal is nearly complete.

Lake Minnewawa has a unique situation. We have the Lake Minnewawa Lake Improvement District that provides funding for operations and projects that improve the lake. We have an active Lake Association that runs a fundraising BBQ each year. We have lakeshore owners that believe it is our duty to care for the lake, and they contribute financially when asked to do so. The combination of these three factors have given us the opportunity to make this purchase of a new harvester. Think about how much you enjoy this lake. Think about the memories you and your family have made here. Think about ways you can help to maintain this beautiful natural resource.

Write a check....Volunteer....Love your lake!



May 2026



- Down Payment to Aquarius
- Balance due by Norway Lake
- Current Fundraising Balance
- Remaining Need

Lake Minnewawa
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Fundraising Update By: Robbie Danko

Community Powerhouse: How Lake Minnewawa Rallied for a New Harvester

It was only twelve years ago that the Lake Minnewawa Association (LMA) relied on what could best be described as a vintage relic to manage our lake's water quality needs. Today, we are thrilled to announce a historic milestone for our community: the fully funded harvester and trailer, acquired completely loan-free! This incredible achievement wasn't built by chance; it was built on a decade of community spirit, dedication, and an unmatched willingness to rally together for the lake we love.

Years of Dedication: The Foundation of Our Success

Before we launched the official fundraising campaign, our community had already laid a powerful foundation. Over the years, attending LMA annual BBQs, buying tickets, participating in silent auctions, and supporting local apparel sales helped us build a substantial nest egg. Every burger flipped, t-shirt purchased, and donation over the past decade has directly contributed to the savings we used to jumpstart this project.

When we placed the order with Aquarius Systems, our long-term stewardship meant we were already on firm financial ground.

A Wave of Generosity: Raising \$75,000 Together

To close the final gap and avoid taking on any debt, we launched a fundraising campaign with a clear target. Our community answered the call in ways that exceeded our wildest expectations, ultimately raising nearly \$75,000 for this capital project.

The success of the campaign highlights the deep, creative, and varied ways our local network pitched in: Local Organizations Leading the Charge: Massive gratitude goes out to our pillars of local support.

Organizations like Banns Bar & Grill, the Sno-Flyers, the Sportsmans Club, and the Lions Club stepped up beautifully with direct funding assistance.

Employer Matching Programs: Several forward-thinking property owners amplified their impact by applying for employer-matched charitable gifts—effectively doubling their personal contributions with the click of a button.

We also owe a massive debt of gratitude to our anonymous donors, including individuals who quietly made significant pledges behind the scenes, asking for nothing in return but a cleaner lake.

From a Relic to a Custom-Built Solution

The transition over the last 12 years is nothing short of incredible. Our new harvester represents a long-term investment in the ecological health, recreational beauty, and overall water quality of the Lake Minnewawa community. We did this together, as a deeply committed neighborhood.

Thank you to every resident, business, volunteer, and donor who helped turn a lofty dream into open-water reality! Keep an eye on our Facebook page and upcoming association notices for details on our launch day, where you can see your community investment hard at work.

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WEBSITE

Welcome to the New Look of Lake Minnewawa's Website

We're excited to introduce the refreshed design of www.lakeminnewawa.org—a more modern, user-friendly experience created with our community in mind.

The new website features a clean, streamlined layout that makes it easier than ever to find the information you need. Whether you're looking for association news, lake updates, or event details, everything is now organized in a clear and intuitive way. You will also be able to renew your lake association membership right on the website.

What's New

- Improved Navigation
- The site has been reorganized so you can quickly access key sections like membership information and upcoming events.
- Mobile-Friendly Design
- The updated layout is fully responsive, meaning it looks great and functions smoothly on phones, tablets, and desktops.
- Enhanced Visuals
- Updated photos and a fresh design better reflect the natural beauty of Lake Minnewawa.
- Simplified Content
- Information is presented more clearly, helping visitors and members stay informed without having to search through clutter.
- The new platform allows for more timely updates, announcements, and sharing of important information with members.

Built for Our Lake

This redesign is all about improving communication and connection within the Lake Minnewawa community. Whether you're a long-time member or new to the area, the updated site is designed to keep you informed, engaged, and connected.

We invite you to explore the new website and see what's changed. Your feedback is always welcome as we continue to improve and grow! Visit us at www.lakeminnewawa.org!

Memberships can now be completed online at
<https://lakeminnewawa.org/membership/>

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Loon Nesting By: Greg Pfeifer

Loon Platforms have been placed in (4) locations on the lake with warning buoys. New information and warning signs have been placed at 2 of the landings and addition signs will be installed at other landings. Currently, there is a loon nesting on the platform near Banns so please avoid boating too close in that area. Thanks to Willeys Marine for once again helping with the placement of the loon platforms right after ice out.

The new trailer and harvester are in the final production phase with delivery scheduled sometime near June 15th. Thank you to all the board members that helped with the fund raising, sale of the existing harvester, and purchase of the new trailer and harvester. Also a huge thanks to the LMLID and all those that generously donated toward funding the new equipment. This could not have been accomplished without all those involved.