



The Christmas Lake Home Owner's Association Newsletter
Fall 2005

Due to the number of significant events impacting Christmas Lake residents, this edition of the newsletter is issued as an interim report prior to the next annual newsletter in the spring.

The first cutting of milfoil was done in late June and early July. Many tons of milfoil were removed for the association dues. More cutting and removal were done for individual lake shore owners. The removal was critical as the density of the milfoil was spoiling lake access and mobility. The cutting seemed to have a dampening effect on the re-growth of the milfoil. A four day second cutting was done in late August to clean up areas where the milfoil had returned to the surface.

There was an article published in the Star Tribune on August 12 titled "Lake lovers want aggressive milfoil attack". It described fluridone, a chemical that has been used to arrest milfoil in other states. The DNR has been reluctant to approve fluridone even though it has been tried on smaller lakes on the past. The Lake Minnetonka Association wants to try a test on the lake as they are spending \$100,000 in harvesting every year. Fluridone has been used to safely arrest the growth of milfoil for 3-4 years after an application.

On August 25, Congressman Jim Ramstead, Dick Osgood (Executive Director), the Mayor of Wayzata and the Lake Minnetonka Conservation District met with Gene Merriam, DNR Commissioner. They agreed to study a fluridone application in Gray's Bay. This test should be done in the summer of 2006. This means that the earliest the DNR would allow fluridone use in other lakes would be 2007. In the meantime, we should continue with our harvesting program until there is another solution.

We have joined the Minnesota Lake Association (MLA). The cost is \$100 per year. By joining, we amplify our voice with the Legislature and the DNR on issues affecting many lakes, such as Eurasian milfoil. In addition, the MLA is trying to obtain grant money which could be used by individual lakes in addressing lake issues. You can reach them at <http://www.mnlakes.org>.

I have been in contact with Wayne Nelson, President, Lake Minnetonka Association. He talked about the long running battles with the DNR and that the MLA has been helpful in getting their message through. The Lake Minnetonka Association web site can be found at <http://www.mnlakes.org/minnetonka>.

I am in the process of formalizing the Christmas Lake Homeowner's Association as a non-profit 501(c)3 entity. We will form a nonprofit corporation and then qualify it for 501(c)3 status. This legal status will give the CLHA more legal stature and will allow dues paying members to deduct their dues from their income taxes. More information will follow as the legal work progresses.

Finally, the CLHA has a new web site at www.christmaslake.org. The latest lake information, past newsletters, Fourth of July pictures, Board of Directors contact details and other information is now available all of the time. If you have additional suggestions for the site, please let me know.

I hope that you have had a great summer on the lake. We will let you know about the annual winter party as soon as the planning is complete.

Harley Feldman