

Your 2022 Lake Belle Taine Association Newsletter



A Letter from Your President

Greetings, friends! This is an exciting time of year when we get to start thinking about returning to the lake and enjoying everything that Lake Belle Taine has to offer.

I'm pleased to report that your Association has never been stronger:

- We are near the peak number of members we've ever had.
- Your generosity last year increased total contributions significantly from 2020, which had already been a record year. Thank you SO MUCH for your support!
- We had a record turnout at our annual meeting last June,
- We have the strongest team of volunteer shoreline monitors ever and Andrea Dutcher is doing a great job of leading our AIS prevention efforts.
- We published a Lake Belle Taine directory for the first time since 2013.
- We had more inspector hours at our public access last year than ever before and we're increasing our funding by another 20% for 2022.

But this is no time to relax. AIS continues to threaten us and in fact we had a zebra mussel incident last year which you can read more about inside.

To those of you who are already members of the Association, thank you for your support! And to those of you who haven't yet joined us, we welcome you! Our goal is that everybody on the lake feels like they're part of the Association because the Association benefits everybody on the lake. Together, all of our efforts will ensure that Lake Belle Taine continues to be the fantastic lake we know it to be.

Have a great summer and we'll see you on the lake!

Kevin Swan

HOW BIG IS THE THREAT?

In 2021, we had **390** watercraft enter Lake Belle Taine that came from a lake designated by the DNR as AIS-infested. That was the **3rd highest** in the county.

Lake Belle Taine is lucky to have Andrea Dutcher serving as our A.I.S. Prevention Coordinator. If you want to help by being a volunteer shoreline monitor or in any other way, please contact Andrea at Andrea.Dutcher@cornell.edu or call her at (607) 227-5931.

Andrea's AIS Update:

There's good news and there's bad news. The good news is that there were no AIS found along the 16 sections of LBT shoreline which were each inspected twice last summer by our wonderful volunteers. This is a testament to our vigilant lakeshore owners, our public landing inspectors and those resort owners who require their guests to have their incoming watercraft be inspected or decontaminated.

The bad news is that zebra mussels were found on the hydraulic lift legs on a pontoon leaving the lake in late July. The pontoon had been used previously on a lake that was infested with zebra mussels but had entered LBT after the inspectors had left for the day. The area where the pontoon was moored in Muskie Bay was inspected several times in August and September with no evidence of zebra mussels found. An additional water test for zebra mussel veligers (larva) was also done in the fall with no sign of infestation. We may be lucky and experience no zebra mussel infestation or it may take a few years for an infestation to appear. The bottom line? We need to stay vigilant and be careful!

How Can I Help?



- Inspect things like a kayak, canoe, or even a diving mask or swim fins that have been used in another lake. They should be cleaned and **bone dry** before they get used in Lake Belle Taine.
- Be an "Eyes on the Water" participant by monitoring your own shoreline. Email jlmosner@gmail.com for more info.

- If you launch a boat from your own property that has been in an infested lake, it should be **absolutely dry** (including live wells or ballast tanks) and have been out of the water for **at least 5 days** or been cleaned at a decontaminations center. **Hubbard County offers a FREE Decontamination Center in Park Rapids.** Call 218-252-6738 to make an appointment.

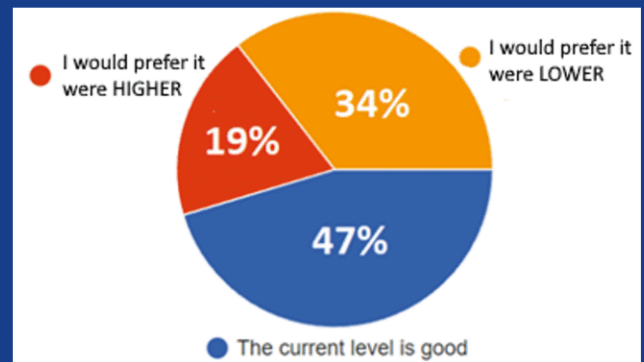


Results of September Lake Level Survey

At the Association's annual meeting in June, the Lake Quality Committee shared a history of the lake levels since the 1930's and previous actions to manage the level. The lake has been volatile with highs and lows, but the trend has been upward with the lowest level rising about 12 inches every 15 years.

In the spring of 2021, our lake was at the highest level since June of 2003 with a Lake Elevation of 1428.29 (equal to the ordinary high-water mark established in 2006 and 18" below the highest recorded level ever). The overwhelming consensus of those present at the annual meeting was that the lake levels were a major concern of lake property owners and the association should be supportive of pursuing lake level management. The committee indicated our next step would be to complete a lake level survey.

In September, our association conducted a survey to see what owners thought about the lake level during August when it was equal to what had been the ordinary highwater mark prior to 2006 (1426.7). We received 166 responses from a good cross-section of all areas of the lake and you can see the results at right. There is currently no action being proposed related to lake levels.



A Potential New Way to Help Take Care of Lake Belle Taine

As the board has researched how best to manage our valuable Lake Belle Taine, now and into the future, the board has become increasingly interested in exploring and recommending the establishment of a Lake Improvement District (LID) for Lake Belle Taine. This tool has been used on a number of lakes within the state of Minnesota and provides an opportunity for owners to have greater control over the management of the lake and in particular lake quality. If you'd like to learn more about what a LID is and how it works, there are additional resources on our website at www.lakebelletaineassociation.org/lid

Your LBTA Board of Directors

JoEllen Bailey, Chuck Blair, Jim Caratozzolo, Rob Hall, Steve Hankey, Phil Krahn, John Maczko, Tom May, Dave McCurnin, Tim O'Neill, Mike Stevens, Lynn Swaggert, Kevin Swan

Choose Your Level of Support

We'd love to see *every family* that owns frontage on Lake Belle Taine become a member of the Association and support our AIS prevention efforts.

While any amount will be appreciated, here are some suggestions:

Muskie: \$145 **Walleye: \$95** **Sunnie: \$35 (Membership Dues)**

Note: In 2021, the average Member contribution was **\$105**.

Lake Belle Taine Association
P.O. Box 141
Nevis, MN 56467

This is Belle Taine **Now:**

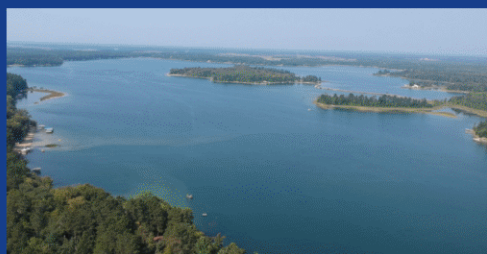


This is Belle Taine **after A.I.S.:**



INSIDE: Your 2022 Lake Belle Taine Association Newsletter

Annual Mtg: June 18, Bethany Lutheran Church, 9:00 am
Annual Picnic: June 18, Muskie Pavillion, 11:30 am



Lake Belle Taine Needs Your Help

Lake Belle Taine is one of the most pristine lakes in northern Minnesota - and we need to do everything we can to keep it that way.

Your generosity has allowed the Board to steadily increase the amount of money we give to Hubbard County to secure more inspection hours at our public access. This is our #1 defense against AIS and your contributions make it possible!

LBTA Funding for AIS Inspectors

2018	\$10,212
2019	\$14,280
2020	\$17,460
2021	\$20,020
2022	\$24,200

The Lake Belle Taine Association is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization.
Every cent of your contribution is tax-deductible as permitted by tax law.

For more info and updates throughout the year, visit our website:

LakeBelleTaineAssociation.org

You can now pay your dues & contribute **ONLINE!**

Easier for You, Easier for Us, Safe & Secure

Just go to... www.LakeBelleTaineAssociation.org/donate

You'll be asked to update your information (same as below) and then you'll be transferred to PayPal where you can enter your debit or credit card information. **Your card information is NOT shared with the LBTA.**

If you'd prefer to pay by check, fill out the section below and mail it in with your donation.



Your Lake Belle Taine Address: _____



What is the informal way you'd like to describe who owns - or is involved with - your place?
(e.g. The Smiths, The Jones Family, An LLC, etc.) _____

To what address should we mail our hardcopy newsletter in the winter?

Street

City

State

Zip

PLEASE PRINT EMAIL ADDRESSES LEGIBLY AND IN ALL CAPITAL LETTERS

Adult #1:

Name: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____

Adult #2:

Name: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____

If there are other adults who would like to receive our e-newsletters or receive a hardcopy newsletter, please write their information on a separate piece of paper and include with your mailing

Circle Your 2022 Amount:

Muskie \$145

Walleye \$95

Sunnie \$35 (Dues)

Other Amount: _____

Please make your check payable to Lake Belle Taine Association and mail to
PO Box 141, Nevis, MN 56467

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Every cent of your contribution is tax-deductible as permitted by tax law.