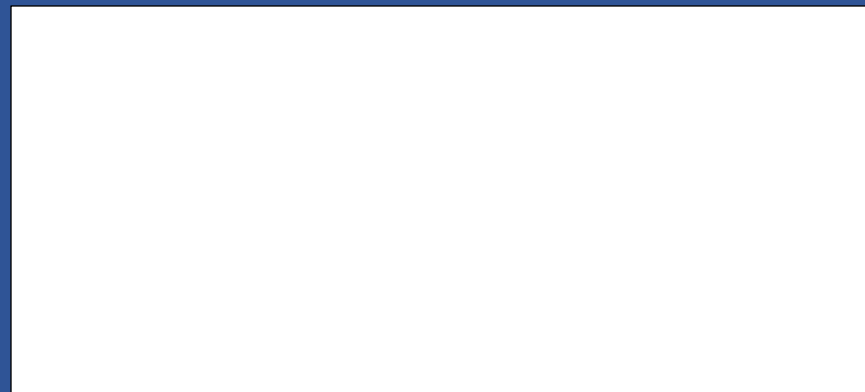


Lake Belle Taine Association
P.O. Box 141
Nevis, MN 56467



Photo of Loon and Chicks in spring by Linda Fox

INSIDE:
Your 2023 Lake Association Newsletter!



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.

Lake Belle Taine Needs Your Help

Our Lake 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 us to steadily increase what we send to Hubbard County to secure more inspection hours at our public access. This is our best defense against AIS and your contributions make that possible.

LBTA Funding for AIS Inspectors

| | |
|------|----------|
| 2019 | \$14,280 |
| 2020 | \$17,460 |
| 2021 | \$20,020 |
| 2022 | \$24,200 |

Choose Your Level of Support

Muskie: \$195

As a thanks you'll get a card good for 5-10% off every time you visit these local businesses in 2023: Iron Horse, Muskie Waters, Two Loons Candy, Red River & Northwoods Cafe. (Businesses subject to change and more to come!)

Walleye: \$145

Bass: \$95

Sunnie: \$35 (Membership Dues)

(In 2022 the average contribution was \$114.)

A Letter From Our President

Greetings from a Wintry Lake Belle Taine!

I am excited to be your new president of the Lake Association. We are just finishing our second winter living here full time and there are many things that have kept us busy. We are all very fortunate to be on such a spectacular and beautiful lake. During the winter season there is snowshoeing, snowmobiling, skating, and hockey to name a few. If you have not experienced a bonfire out in the snow there should be one in your future.

Let's focus on something near and dear to all of us – **SPRING!!** We are looking forward to green grass, flowers and a beautiful lake that is not frozen! We are excited to have all of you back and enjoying all that Lake Belle Taine has to offer.

We are so fortunate to have such a talented and involved board of directors. They have made significant time commitments to everything happening on Lake Belle Taine, including a new website, AIS, lake quality, our loons, our newsletters and social events for all of you to attend. We also have many on the lake that volunteer to help with our loon count and AIS inspection. We appreciate your help so very much!

Another summer season on the lake is here as this newsletter arrives! That means it's time to renew your Belle Taine membership. Information on how to pay dues online or through the mail is inside. If you are new to the Belle Taine community, we hope you will consider joining our Lake Association. Please make sure that we get your email address - that way we can keep you included.

Please let me or one of our directors know if you have questions, concerns, or suggestions. Let's all try and "Think Spring!" I am looking forward to meeting as many of you as possible.

Lynn Swaggert
lynn.swaggert@gmail.com
612-716-5115

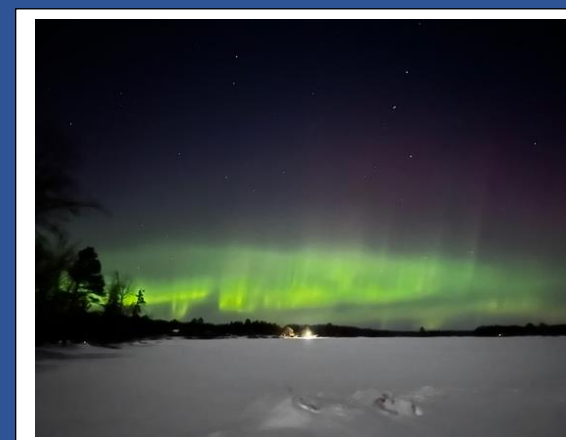


Photo by Linda Fox 2/27/2023



Photo by Dean Watterman 5/24/2022

For more information and updates throughout the year, visit:



www.lakebelletaine.org

Help protect Minnesota waters from aquatic invasive species

Minnesota law requires docks and boat lifts to be out of the water for at least 21 days before putting them in another body of water.

When removing boats, docks, lifts, or other water-related equipment from lakes and rivers, carefully inspect everything to make sure there are no aquatic invasive species (AIS) such as zebra mussels, Eurasian watermilfoil, or New Zealand mudsnails attached.



Illustration of a zebra mussel.

Look on the posts, wheels, and underwater support bars of docks and lifts, as well as any parts of boats, pontoons, and rafts that may have been submerged in water for an extended period. In newly infested waters, adult zebra mussels may not be abundant and you might notice only a few mussels on your equipment.



Zebra mussels found on a boat lift.

If you think you have discovered an invasive species that has not already been confirmed in your lake, [contact your area DNR aquatic invasive species specialist](#).

Early detection for zebra mussels is important in protecting your property and Minnesota's water resources. Learn how you can become a [volunteer zebra mussel monitor](#).



A hard-to-spot zebra mussel on a trailer.

Many different invasive plants and animals harm Minnesota waters. Learn to identify [aquatic invasive species](#).

35+ people enjoyed the holiday dinner at Cindy Lou's on Dec. 4th.



LBTA Annual Meeting & Picnic - June 17th

The Annual Meeting will be on June 17th at 9am at Bethany Lutheran Church. We will discuss topics affecting the lake and elect members for the Board of Directors. We are always looking for people that love our lake and have the time and passion to serve on the Board. Anyone that has an interest in serving is asked to reach out to any current board member. A picnic will follow the meeting at the Muskie Pavilion starting at approx. 11am. Hamburgers, brats, condiments, plates and silverware will be provided. Please bring a salad or dessert to share. For more info visit:

www.lakebelletaine.org

Your LBTA Board of Directors

JoEllen Bailey, Chuck Blair, Jim Caratozzolo, Steve Gossen, Rob Hall, Steve Hankey, Camille Heyman, Phil Krahn, John Maczko, Tom May, Tim O'Neill, Mike Stevens, Lynn Swaggert

Has the Sheriff knocked on your door telling you to license your swim raft?



Registration on swim platforms is a requirement. In 2022 the Deputy Sherriff was busy verifying several swim platforms that did not have registration numbers attached to them. Many people reported that the platforms were registered however the numbers tend to not stay on them and over time, they typically peel off and disappear.

Helpful Tip: Try to use a few layers of fingernail polish to document the registration number. This is more likely to stay on better and last longer.

Water Quality Committee Update

As we move into spring it is hard to avoid cabin fever. It also marks the time that we finalize our schedule for AIS inspection at the lake accesses with the county. Inspections are one of the best ways to help prevent AIS from entering our lake, but we also realize that we do not have the financial resources to check every boat. Over the last two years our committee has increased coverage hours to allow collection of data to determine our busiest days and hours. The county has allocated 632 state funded hours and after reviewing the data and with the generosity of YOU/our members, we decided to fund an additional 848 hours of inspection for a total financial commitment of \$21,200. Thank you!

On April 9 our lake level was unofficially at 1428.1. This is about 1.5" lower than it was last spring at ice-out on May 7th. There is still a lot of snow on the ground and ice on the lakes.

The lake quality committee met with the County Commissioners in September to discuss their willingness to approve the creation of a Lake Improvement District (LID) if a majority of Lake Belle Taine property owners presented them with a petition to create one. While there was unanimous agreement of the commissioners that the water levels on Belle Taine are an issue there was little interest by the county board in creating a LID at this time. The board prefers that the issue be dealt with through the One Watershed – One Plan process and they would like to have a Lake Belle Taine representative on one of the committees. The State Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) approved a work plan in February and are currently in the process of filling Policy committee membership. They anticipate starting to fill additional committees in April and the process is anticipated to take two years to complete.