

West Battle Lake Bulletin

Spring 2015 Volume 1 Issue 1



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WBLLA Email Address

wblamn@gmail.com



2015 Membership Dues and Email Request

Thanks to those of you that have paid your 2015 Membership dues.

It is not too late to do so!!!

You can also pay 2015 dues by coming to the Annual Meeting June 27th

Please send in your \$25.00 check via mail immediately to:

**West Battle Lake Lakeshore Ass'n
P.O. Box 51
Battle Lake, Mn. 56515**

Please remember to include your Email address on the renewal so that we may contact you in a more timely and efficient manner regarding Association activities and events in the future.

Please forward your email info to our Email address at:

wblamn@gmail.com so that we may record the info for future use.

Thanks **Steve Kirchner**, Treasurer



Mark Your Calendars!



2015 Annual Meeting & Pancake Breakfast Saturday, June 27th

Plus Door Prizes Too !! \$\$

The Annual Meeting of the West Battle Lake Lakeshore Association (WBLLA) to be held **Saturday June 27th, 2015** at the **Lakes Area Community Center** in Battle Lake beginning at **9:00 AM**. Preceding the meeting at 8:00 AM the Battle Lake Lions Club will be serving a pancake and sausage breakfast in the lower level of the Battle Lake Community Center to all members free of charge. Mark your calendar and plan to attend the breakfast and annual meeting on June 27th. Bring a neighbor and meet/visit with other lakeshore property owners. We invite you to take this opportunity to get familiar, or become involved in your lakeshore association and hear about the projects that the WBLLA is working on that will have a positive impact on the lake.

The mission of the WBLLA is to preserve and enhance the ecology of West Battle Lake so that it may be enjoyed by current and future generations. **Membership dues are \$25 mail your check to:**
**West Battle Lake
Lakeshore Association
P.O. Box 51
Battle Lake, MN 56515**

Get Connected!

Bookmark as a Favorite . . .

WBLLA Web Page URL:

<http://www.minnesotawaters.org/westbattlelake>



New City Dock!



Brand new dock is ready for your enjoyment!

Please take some time to enjoy our wonderful state-of-the-art new city dock this summer by boating over to enjoy the wonderful stores, sites and foods our great city of Battle Lake has to offer.

Some History: During the summer of 2013 the previous city dock, which was partially funded by your WBLLA dues, was severely damaged in a powerful thunderstorm. The city management quickly worked with the installing agent and the dock manufacturer. There were many calls and efforts by the city. Complications occurred during this dock replacement process when the dock manufacturer went out of business.

This left the city with no other option but to pursue other manufacturers as a dock solution using the insurance settlement money. As a member of the WBLLA, North Battle Lake Marine (NBL) stepped up and offered the city a generous discount on a beautiful new Floe dock system with six foot wide dock sections including a spacious dock platform with two benches to sit and enjoy the beauty of our great lake!

Please enjoy the pictures below and take time to see it in person!



**New
Cross
Walk
Across
Highway**



**Garden
Area by
Dock**



The Benefits of Being a Member of the WBLLA

It is hard to believe it is already June; hopefully everyone has been able to get outside and enjoy some of the nice weather. Not only does June bring the start of nice weather, June also brings the annual dues notice for your membership with the West Battle Lake Lakeshore Association. This notice got me thinking about the duties of the Lake Association and some of the benefits of being a member. Through your annual dues, you support the important activities undertaken by the association that will help to preserve and enhance the ecology of West Battle Lake so that it may be enjoyed by current and future generations. Here are a few of the duties of the Lake Association and why I feel it is important to be a member of the West Battle Lake Lakeshore Association (WBLLA):

Water Quality. To measure and help control pollution, and study ways to protect the environment and natural resources.

Water Clarity. To check the clarity of West Battle Lake with regular Secchi Disc readings.

Invasive Species Prevention. To operate programs that help to protect West Battle Lake from infestation of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS).

Distribute Information to Members. To publish and distribute newsletters to members, and keep the public informed about key issues affecting the West Battle Lake area.

Website. To communicate and to make online operations more convenient for members. To share information about West Battle Lake with the online community.

Monitor Laws. To monitor existing and proposed township, county and state laws that can have a significant impact on lake use.

Represents You. Represent your interests with a variety of organizations that are concerned with the quality of our lake and our watershed. Some of these are MN DNR, City of Battle Lake, Ottertail County COLA (Coalition of Lake

Associations), and also the Ottertail Soil & Water Conservation District.

Water and Boating Safety. To promote water and boating safety, WBLLA works with the Ottertail County Sheriff and the DNR to keep our lake safe for all lake users.

Promote Membership and Volunteering. To conduct the ongoing responsibilities for maintaining a strong and effective Association for the West Battle Lake area. WBLLA maintains a presence within the community and provides opportunities for the Lake and Battle Lake area residents to get to know one another better.

Finance Activities. To finance all the activities of the Association and establish reserves to handle emergencies.

Endowment Fund. To accumulate funds to ensure the preservation and enhancement of West Battle Lake by means of visionary stewardship of the West Battle Lake watershed.

WBLLA is there to listen to your concerns and to address them as appropriate. Contact us if you ever have an issue you believe should be addressed. Members are welcome to attend any of the Board Meetings. Your participation is encouraged. WBLLA also maintains a website (<http://minnesotawaters.org/westbattlelake/>), email address - wblldmn@gmail.com, and Post Office Box 51, Battle Lake, MN 56515.

AS A MEMBER, MOST IMPORTANTLY, YOU ARE TAKING AN ACTIVE PART IN PRESERVING YOUR LAKE



Bookmark as a Favorite . . .

WBLLA Web Page URL:

<http://www.minnesotawaters.org/westbattlelake>

COLA Awards

Volunteer of the Year

Lake Shore Association of the Year

COLA Awards

Volunteer of the Year Award and Lake Association of the Year Award

Presented on August 20, 2015 at the COLA Meeting

Dear Otter Tail County COLA General Directors and Friends:

Please pass along this notice to the Officers of your Lake Association and others that may find it of interest.

As we approach the **August 1, 2015 deadline** for acceptance of Nominations for Volunteer and Lake Association of the year, we ask that you honor your volunteers who tirelessly share their time and talent, either individually or as a group.

The OTC COLA's **Volunteer of the Year and Lake Association of the Year** is about inspiring, recognizing and encouraging volunteers to assist in protecting and preserving the lakes they love. Self-nominations are accepted.

Do not pass up this opportunity to inspire, recognize, encourage and engage your volunteers who have demonstrated that they have the fortitude to meet challenges and accomplish goals.

Volunteer of the Year Nominee Criteria:

Can be a past or present volunteer; and
Has made a significant investment of their time and talent to protect and preserve their lake; or

Has demonstrated an ability to bring people together and engage them in activities that protect and preserve the lake; or

Has demonstrated an ability to bring about positive change.

The Lake Association of the Year Nominee Criteria:

Must be a present member of the OTC COLA; and Successfully implemented a lake improvement project; or Successfully implemented an educational or outreach program; or Has substantially increased membership or participation of members; or Has successfully partnered with the local/county/state or federal government or agencies.

In no more than two (2) pages, describe the nominee's specific achievement (s). Please be sure to include the name and contact information for the person submitting the nomination, including e-mail address and phone number; the name of the Lake Association/Volunteer, their contact information, including e-mail addresses and phone numbers.

The letter of nomination should be emailed to: jhorgen@arivg.net and electronically dated by **August 1, 2015**. It may be mailed to: The COLA Selection Committee, C/O **Jerry Horgen**, 41708 Grace Etta Road, Henning, MN 56551 and postmarked by **August 1, 2015**. The awards presentations will be on August 20, 2015

Otter Tail County COLA

Coalition of Lake Associations



“Train the Teachers to Train the Kids”

Jerry Horgen – Program Director

“Train the Teachers to Train the Kids” is a program funded by the Otter Tail County Commissioners and approved by the Otter Tail County Aquatic Invasive Task Force. The purpose of this program is to give accurate data on aquatic invasive species (AIS) to science teachers (in eleven school districts) in order that science teachers inform their kids and in turn “kids train other kids” on the prevention of aquatic invasive species-in a format that is unique to kids. A unique format, if you will, using perhaps some form of technology, then broadcasting the information to other students, in each school district, again, in a format that other kids will respond to-“kids training other kids.”

Moriya Rufer, a biologist from RMB Labs in Detroit Lakes is the content expert in this program and Jerry Horgen is the program developer. Thus far, three workshops have been provided for science teachers whereby school districts have been given aquatic invasive species curriculum materials that meet Minnesota Curriculum Standards; provided aquatic invasive species kits to each school district and last fall provided two Aquatic Invasive Species Workshops on an infested lake to students from Underwood, Fergus Falls and Perham.

Beginning in January of this year, Moriya and I have given presentations to seven school districts-Battle Lake, Parkers Prairie, Ashby, Henning, Rothsay, Perham and New York Mills. Underwood, Fergus Falls and the Alternative School of Perham have participated in Outdoor Workshop on an infested lake in Otter Tail County last fall. This May 25-28th, we will be providing three Outdoor Workshops on an infested lake to school districts based upon the school's availability. We have a four hour cruise on a lake with 45 students per workshop and each student is tested on their knowledge of aquatic invasive species upon their completion of the Outdoor Workshop-due to MCA Testing issues from the state, we had Perham.

The key to this program is an aquatic invasive species contest whereby “kids train other kids” on aquatic species invasive issues. In this contest, which ends May 22, 2015, students in the eleven

school districts may submit a three minute video (You Tube/Vimeo) or another student friendly format that other kids will listen to and which spreads accurate information on aquatic invasive species from-“kids training other kids.” Moriya Rufer and I will announce the winners May 29, 2015. The first prize winner will receive \$100 in cash and the science teacher will receive \$900 for classroom use on aquatic invasive species. The second prize winner will receive an AIS Fighter T-Shirt and \$200 to the school district for science materials. The winning video/unique idea will then be disseminated to other school districts and highlighted at an Otter Tail County Commissioners Meeting.

One final component of the program is to “hook up” lake associations with the science teachers to give science kids/students “real world projects” to do as extra credit and to bring in speakers into the classrooms, from the lake associations, to make “real” what is being taught...applies to their lake locally.

Wish more Info?

Email Jerry at jhorgen@arivg.net



Eurasian Watermilfoil



Zebra Mussels

**West Battle Lake
Lakeshore Association**

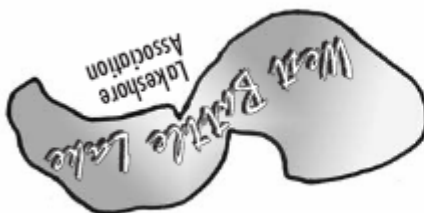
PO Box 51
Battle Lake, MN 56515



WBLLA Web Page URL: www.minnesotawaters.org/group/westbattlelake E-mail: wblam@wbllla.com for WBLLA future communications
Please E-mail your personal e-mail account to wblam@wbllla.com

West Battle Lake Bulletin

Spring Newsletter



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Lakeshore Association**
PO Box 51
Battle Lake, MN 56515