



March 18, 2024

The Blue Lake Bulletin

The Blue Lake Improvement District's Monthly Newsletter

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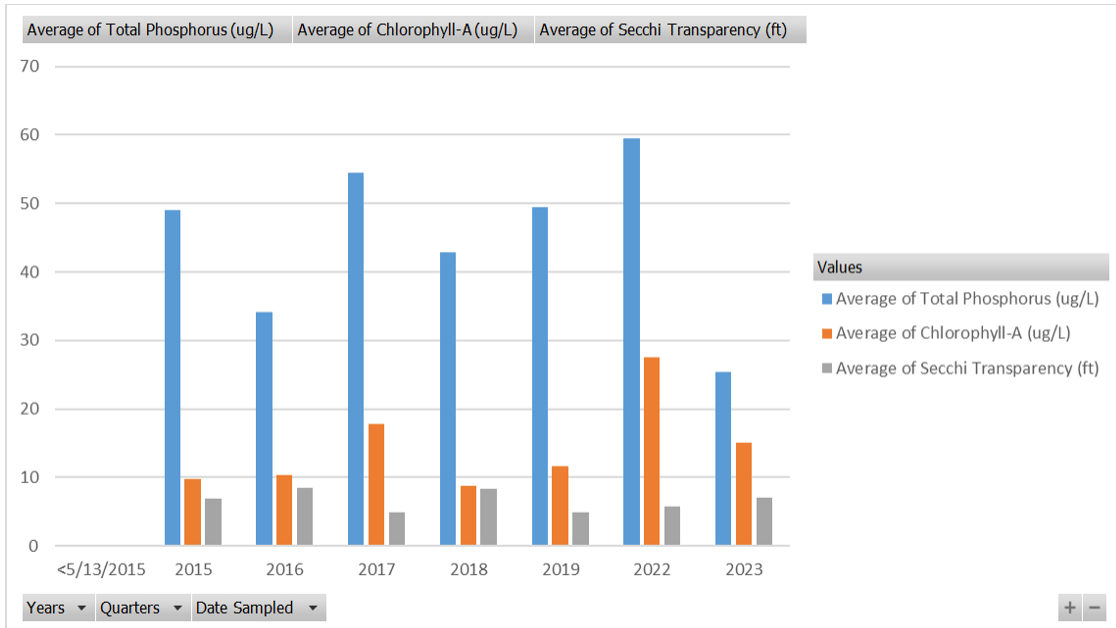
- Results from the Alum Application; Next Steps
- What We Learn from Boat Inspections
- Curley Leaf Pond Weed Control Earlier this Year.
- Lakeshore Restorations get State and County Matches
- Lake Service Suppliers (repeat article from February 2024)

Comments are always welcome: billfredell@gmail.com

The Results are in on the Alum Project, Phase I

Tiffany Determan, Isanti County Soil and Water Conservation District Manager, (ICSWCD) attended the February meeting of the BLID Board. Tiffany shared the results of a study conducted to determine the effectiveness of the first application of Alum Phosphate, completed in September of 2022. The study reveals that the Alum is having a positive effect on the clarity and chemical composition of Blue Lake's waters.

As you can see from the following chart, Phosphorus and Chlorophyll A have been reduced by almost 50%.

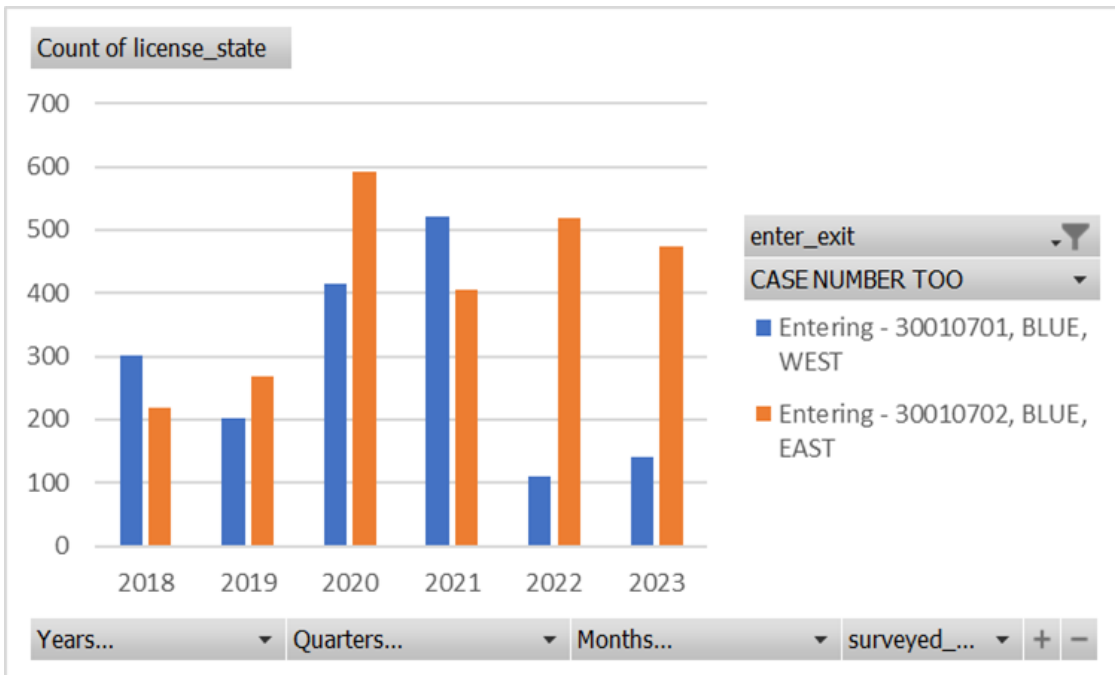


The blue bars show the Phosphorous levels in the water; the orange bars represent Chlorophyll A. Notice how both bars show significant decreases from pre-Alum measurements (2022) to post-Alum measurements (2023). These results have convinced the ICSWCD management and the BLID board to proceed with the plan to make the second application in September 2024.

What We Learn from Boat Inspections

As we prepare again for a season of boat inspections at the boat launches, it's good to look back at the last years to see what happened as a result of having our boat inspection program. Data is collected about the number of boats, the kinds of boats, launch hours, problems with boat plugs, and visible vegetation on the boats, trailers, or towing vehicles.

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Grand Total
Row Labels							
Fishing Boat	399	348	817	688	472	449	3173
Pontoon	39	43	88	78	58	80	386
Runabout or Ski-Boat with no Ballasts	63	46	40	86	61		296
Personal Watercraft	5	12	18	26	19	13	93
Canoe/Kayak/Or Similar	6	8	25	23	3	10	75
Jon Boat	3	5	10	12	5	17	52
Wakeboard Boat with Ballasts	5	9	9	15	9		47
Wakesport Boat (ballast)						25	25
Runabout						18	18
Cabin Cruiser						2	2
Sailboat	1						1
Grand Total	521	471	1007	928	627	614	4168



Conclusions from Boat Inspections:

During 2023 a total of over 614 boats entered the lake and were inspected. The actual number of boats is much higher since the inspectors are not on duty every day or during all of the daylight hours.

During the height of the pandemic (2020), 1007 boats were inspected. Clearly, we have a lot of boats on Blue Lake, both property owners and visitors. The inspectors have been able to catch invasive species threats before entering our lake.

Curly Leaf Pond Weed -- Spraying will be sooner this year.

John Bistodeau, BLID director responsible for arranging weed control for the common areas of our lake, reported that treating invasive Curley Leaf Pondweed (CLD) will be about one month earlier than usual due to the light winter and early spring. Property owners near the treatment areas can object to this treatment near their property and can opt out of the treatment plan. Here's the background.

The BLID Board decided in 2014 to conduct an annual lake survey and treat invasive Curly Leaf Pondweed (CLP). This year, Lake Restoration will do the weed treatment. AIS Consulting will determine which areas to treat in conversation with BLID and the DNR. The DNR requires BLID either to (A) obtain written approval from a lakeshore owner where the water to be treated is within 150 feet of their shoreline OR to (B) use a signature waiver. BLID chose alternative B. Members were notified at the August 2017, annual meeting of the intent to seek a signature waiver.

What this notice means to you as a Blue Lake property owner is:

IF YOU DO NOT RESPOND, you give permission to BLID and Lake Management to treat the Curly Leaf Pondweed area of water that is within 150 feet of your shoreline. YOU NEED TO OPT OUT by alerting John Bistodeau if you do not want herbicide treatment adjacent (within 150 feet) to your shoreline property.

Opt out Response Deadline is no later than April 1, 2024

Contact BLID Committee Chair of Invasive Weed Treatment, John Bistodeau:
763.245-2852 or johnbistodeau@gmail.com

PERFECT TIME FOR LAKESHORE RESTORATIONS

On February 29, Todd Kulaf and Lydia Godfrey hosted a well-attended workshop at the Cambridge Library to discuss approaches and progress in restoring lakeshore property in Isanti County.

Blue Lake is a targeted lake for lakeshore restoration projects. The 26 property owners who participated in the Lakeshore Days Evaluations in the spring of 2023, already have their completed preliminary evaluations. Sheila Boldt, an independent consultant and lakeshore restorer has reached out to all the 2023 participants in the Lakeshore Days Project. To a large degree, these evaluations reveal that some projects are shovel-ready and available for funding match considerations. Workshop participants learned that there will be State and County matches for projects in 2024 and 2025, but they are on a first-come, first-served basis. The earlier you act, the better.

For more information, contact Todd Kulaf, tkulaf@isantiswcd.org or 715-370-3838

Getting Ready for an Early Spring?

Local Boat, Dock, and Lift Services

Those teams that muscle in – and muscle out -- the docks and boat lifts become very busy as spring beckons and when winter threatens. Understandably, they are all extra busy at these times of the year, so it's wise to be on their list early to ensure that your equipment is ready when you want to use it.

Due North Docks and Lifts -- Zimmerman
www.duenorthdocks.com
Contact: Myles Johnson, 763-856-8020
myles@duenorthdocks.com

Joe Jendro Services – Princeton
Contact: Joe Jendro, 612-685-2356
jjendro@gmail.com

Moody Services -- Princeton
Contact: Cleigh Moody, 612-454-9114
moodycleigh@gmail.com

Weed Control and Removal

Meteorologists predict that the snowless, warmer-than-usual winter coupled with an early spring may lead to more lake vegetation than usual. It's time to prepare. A word of caution. We learned last year that it is becoming more and more difficult to find services that will spray your beach area for weeds. Check carefully and plan early. Labor shortages are creating problems for some of these services.

Midwest Aqua Care: 952-403-6879. Their website is www.midwestaquacare.com. This company uses chemicals to control weed growth.

Lake Restoration: 763-428-9777. This company may again be offering spraying services to Blue Lake beach owners. Some owners have already signed up for 2024. Call now.

Dive Guys Minnesota: 651-528-6600. This organization sends divers to your swimming area to remove the weeds and then haul them away. No chemicals are involved.

PLM Lake and Management Corporation. This company was referred to us by Pete Pouliot. He used this service last year to remove lily pads in his beach area. Pete was

pleased with the results, and he discovered that PLM was the only company that met DNR requirements for the removal of lily pads. The nationwide company has an office in Brainerd, Minn. Telephone: 218-270-3338 or 866-687-5253. Contact Patrick Selter: patricks@plmcorp.net

Time to Pay your BLA dues.

Blue Lake Association dues of \$25 per property have remained unchanged for several years. Send a check to BLA Treasurer, Teresa Bouten, at 28608 Tiger Street NW, Zimmerman, MN 55398. While you're at it, consider an additional donation to pay for the band that will play on July 4th.

Officers and Directors of the Blue Lake Improvement District

David Badger, Chair	John Bistodeau, Weed Control
Bill Fredell, Vice Chair/Secretary	Dennis Bouten, Water Quality
Don Davies, Treasurer	Teresa Bouten, Invasive Species
Tayler Guinn, Community Engagement	

Blue Lake Improvement District, PO Box 353, Zimmerman, MN 55398, United States

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