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A SUPPLEMENT TO THE PAYNESVILLE PRESS & EDEN VALLEY-WATKINS VOICE

JUNE 7, 2023



The More You Know:
Temporary Road &
Trail Closures

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources will begin temporarily closing some roads and trails in state forests, state parks, recreation areas, and wildlife management areas as the spring thaw impacts road conditions. Seasonal melting makes these roads and trails too soft to support vehicle traffic without damage.

"Closures protect roads and trails from damage when cars, trucks, ATVs, or any vehicles travel on the wet, unstable road conditions present during spring thaw," said Matt Huseby, roads coordinator for the DNR's Forestry Division. "Please check the DNR road closure page for updates, follow the closures, and use good judgement wherever you drive or ride."

After a lengthy winter, the warmer spring weather inspires many people to hit the trail in one of Minnesota's state forests. To prevent unwanted surprises, please check for road and trail closures before heading out. In addition, be aware that roads that can handle vehicle traffic will remain open but might have vehicle weight restrictions.

For information on road and trail closures, visit the DNR's road and trail closure page. Information is updated weekly on Thursdays by 2 p.m. Signs will also be posted at entry points and parking lots. Closure signs may be in place before the website is updated.

For information on roads and trails on county land, contact the county directly.

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Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
DNR reminds public to not prune,
cut oaks spring through July

Originally Published
April 6, 2023

Despite a cool and snowy spring, oak trees will soon be at risk of oak wilt infection. Oak wilt is an invasive fungal disease that kills all of Minnesota's oak species. Not pruning or cutting oaks from April through July is the easiest way to prevent the spread, according to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

April is the average start of the period when there is risk of oak wilt infection on fresh cuts or wounds. Spring temperatures can be unpredictable, so the exact date varies. You can use the University of Minnesota Extension's oak wilt in Minnesota opens in a new browser tab page to find daily updated oak wilt risk for your part of the state.

Oak wilt is spread to new areas by beetles carrying oak wilt spores. These beetles are attracted to fresh wounds on an oak. Oaks can become infected with oak wilt if they are trimmed or damaged in spring and early summer. Once beetles introduce the fungus, it may spread to neighboring oaks underground through connected roots. In recent years, the disease has expanded into northern forests in Crow Wing, Cass, and Pine counties.



"Controlling oak wilt can be very expensive and often requires removing many dying and healthy oak trees to save others on a property," said Rachael Dube, DNR forest health specialist. "The good news is that by following pruning guidelines, people can reduce spread of oak wilt in their yards, woods, and communities."

Dube encourages residents to prune and cut oaks in November through February, when there is no risk of oak wilt transmission. If residents must prune or cut oaks before July, they can greatly reduce infection risk by immediately applying a pruning paint to the fresh cut or stump.

In addition to following pruning guidelines, Dube cautions campers, cabin owners, visitors, and hunters not to move infected firewood.

Moving oak firewood can spread oak wilt over long distances. Use locally sourced firewood or firewood certified by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture opens in a new browser tab to prevent transporting oak wilt and other invasive species.


For more details on oak wilt prevention and how best to deal with infected trees and wood, visit the DNR's oak wilt management page.

Visit the Minnesota DNR Newsroom at www.dnr.state.mn.us/news for more great articles and news releases!



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Lake Moment of the Month

Recalling the Search for Our Cabin



By Ann Koktan

Owning a cabin on a lake in Minnesota is a dream for many people. Some might say, it could also be a nightmare!

My husband and I both had parents who loved to fish. It has been a family tradition. We also had the dream of owning our own cabin for quite a while and were ready to get serious about purchasing one.

Before buying the cabin, we would take our boat out to Lake Minnetonka, and it was a bit of a complex and time-consuming ordeal to get it launched. We often had to wait in line for quite a while at the boat launch for our turn to put the boat in. After that, one of us would park the boat trailer in the lot by the lake and run back to the launch for our day of boating. At the end of the day, we'd have to do the same process in reverse.

The boat we drove on Lake Minnetonka was our 15.5-foot Silverline with a 55-horsepower Johnson outboard motor. It was also our first boat on Lake Koronis.

Then it was time to look for a cabin to buy. I wish I had written down how many cabins we looked at, because it was quite a few! Many cabins had one large bedroom on a large lake, while others had 2-4 bedrooms on a small lake! We wanted to be on a large lake with more than one bedroom. Another dealbreaker for us was we wanted to drive less than three hours to get there. We eventually hit the jackpot!

It was a dilemma, but we were on a mission! We didn't especially

care for the cabin that had the shower curtain and shower head in the "great outdoors," or the one-bedroom cabin with the curtain in the center of the room pulled across on a rope to make it into two bedrooms! Even the ones with the five-hour drive to and from home didn't meet our wishes.

We persevered AND found a beautiful cabin on Lake Koronis with five nice-sized bedrooms, three gorgeous islands to look at, and it's 75 miles from home! This was the one! We knew it right away and have owned it now for 37 years.

The first time, we drove to our cabin we saw our elderly neighbor, Jack. He was walking across our back yard, hand extended, welcoming us to Lake Koronis on a freshly mowed lawn. He told us that he didn't want us mowing the lawn on our first day here. That's "Minnesota Nice"!

My husband and I were 36 years old when we purchased the cabin. We will both turn 73 this year. He mentioned to me that we have owned our much loved "Minnesota" cabin for more than half of our lives. Our son was born in 1987, and our daughter in 1989. They have never known life without the cabin.

Our Silverline made it at Koronis for only one year. In 1987, we bought an 18.5-foot 1986 Regal, which we drove until 2020 when we saw the light and now cruise the lake on our spacious Starcraft pontoon. No nightmares, only great memories as we continue to enjoy the cabin with our family and friends!

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Fish and Wildlife Almanac

May 30, 2023

DNR invites public comment on Red Lake WMA master plan update

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources invites people interested in the Red Lake Wildlife Management Area to share their thoughts on a draft update of the WMA's master plan, which will guide management of the popular hunting, fishing and wildlife-watching destination in northwestern Minnesota.

Red Lake WMA staff will explain the plan and its purpose, answer questions, and collect input at an in-person open house and on a webinar. No registration is required for either event.

The in-person open house is 6-8 p.m. Tuesday, June 6, at the Big Bog State Recreation Area Visitor Center, 55716 Highway 72 NE, Waskish.

The webinar is 6-8 p.m. Thursday, June 8. A link to join the webinar is available on the Red Lake WMA page of the DNR website.

Review and comment on the plan

The draft master plan update is available for review on the DNR website.

People can comment on the draft plan through Tuesday, June 20, in a variety of ways, including: using the online form on the Engage with DNR website; providing verbal and written comments at the June 6 open house or June 8 webinar; emailing redlake.wildlife@state.mn.us; or mailing comments to Red Lake WMA Master Plan, Fish and Wildlife Division, 500

Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN, 55155.

DNR webinars cover muskie diets, launching a boat

The Minnesota DNR invites people interested in fishing, wildlife and outdoor skills to tune in to upcoming webinars that feature discussions about muskellunge diets and launching a boat.

The first webinar is Wednesday, May 31. DNR fisheries experts Brian Herwig, Jim Wolters and Kamden Glade will share the results of their recent research projects providing new insights on the diets and ecology of Minnesota muskie and related fishing tips for catching Minnesota's top aquatic predator.

The second webinar is at noon Wednesday, June 7. Boating is woven into Minnesota culture – along with a culture of safety that needs to be modeled and reinforced both at the ramp and on the water. Lisa Dugan, DNR's recreation safety outreach coordinator, will review important safety preparations and etiquette for those launching a boat.

The webinars are part of the DNR's Minnesota Outdoor Skills and Stewardship Series. The webinars are free, but registration is required. More information is available on the outdoor skills and stewardship page of the DNR website.

www.dnr.state.mn.us



Did You Know?

• The Crow River, North Fork is about 125 miles as it flows southeast from Lake Koronis until it joins the Mississippi River in Dayton, according to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. The Crow River borders the east portion of Wright County.

• Most portions of the river are considered to be part of a state-designated canoe and boating route, "the North Fork is generally considered to be the main stem, the best maintained, and the best canoeing."

• The North Fork of the Crow was added to Minnesota's Wild and Scenic Rivers Program in 1976.

• Wright County has several park locations to access the river, including Riverside County Park in Hanover and Crow Springs County Park near Buffalo.

• Some of the fish in the Crow River have included, according to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, carp, redhorse, white sucker, channel catfish, black bullhead and bass.



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Minnesota Lakes & Rivers Advocates

MLR's Stop Starry Stonewort Program Helps Protect Your Lake

By Jeff Forester, Executive Director

Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates' Stop Starry Stonewort Program is a statewide initiative to contain starry stonewort (*Nitellopsis obtusa*), in the 20 lakes where it currently exists, and prevent it from spreading to any other area lakes. Said Jeff Forester, Executive Director of Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates, "We hope that by containing starry stonewort in the lakes where it is currently found, we can lower the risk that it infests other lakes in the state."

Said Forester, "In Michigan there are almost 2,000 starry stonewort infested lakes. That is simply unacceptable to me. Minnesota can do better."

With funds from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund, Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates is working with the Stearns County AIS Task Force, the Rice Lake Association, Grand Lake Improvement District, the Lake Koronis Association, the City of Paynesville, the North Fork of



the Crow River Watershed District, City of Starbuck, Wright County and MN DNR to install free to use, self service CD3 waterless watercraft cleaning stations at the boat ramps on Grand, Rice, Pleasant Lake, Lake Minnewaska and Koronis Lakes.

Starry Stonewort is an invasive algae that is distinguishable from native stoneworts by its small, white bulbils. It grows in water from 2 to 25 feet deep in dense stringy matts, making navigation

and/or recreation difficult. It is aggressive and can quickly overwhelm native vegetation and fish spawning beds.

While other state programs are working to maintain the water bodies that Starry Stonewort has already taken over, MLR has a plan to end the spread of the invasive algae to protect the rest of Minnesota's naturally occurring aquatic landscapes.

MLR is calling for lake-goers and

their friends, family, neighbors, and communities to rally support behind the use of CD3 Waterless Cleaning Stations. Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates has received funding through the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund that will allow CD3 Station to be installed near each Starry Stonewort infected area.

MLR is asking for your help to stop the spread of Starry Stonewort. Research by the Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center at the University of Minnesota has found that once starry stonewort establishes itself in an area, all waterbodies within a 50 mile radius are at much higher risk of becoming infested. Local engagement to encourage use of this free boat cleaning equipment is critical.

Surveys from Cornell University and replicated by MN Sea Grant found that over 90% of anglers believed AIS were a significant threat, that Clean, Drain and Dry best practices would protect the lakes they loved, and knew

Continued on page 8...

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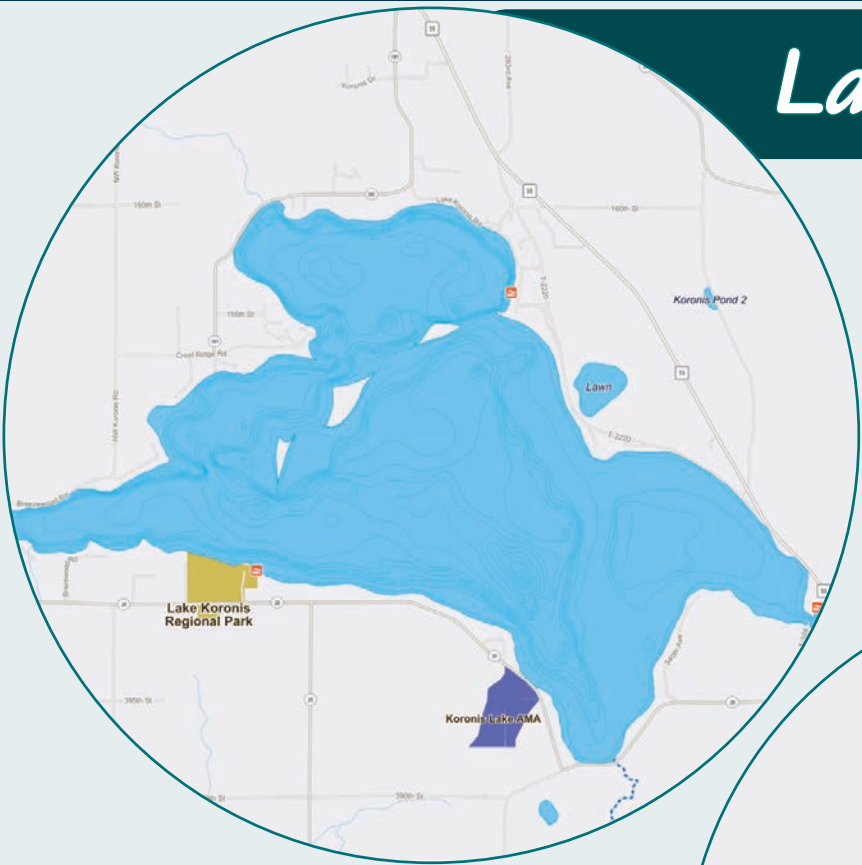
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Lake Koronis

Lake Koronis near Paynesville is 3,014 acres in size. It is approximately 132 feet deep at its deepest point. When fishing, anglers can expect to catch a variety of fish including Black Bullhead, Bluegill, Brown Bullhead, Green Sunfish, Largemouth Bass, Northern Pike, Rock Bass, Smallmouth Bass, Walleye, Yellow Bullhead, Yellow Perch, and Pumpkinseed.



Eden Lake is just north of Eden Valley and boasts 278 acres in size. It is approximately 77 feet deep at its deepest point. When fishing, anglers can expect to catch a variety of fish including Black Bullhead, Bluegill, Brown Bullhead, Channel Catfish, Green Sunfish, Largemouth Bass, Northern Pike, Walleye, Yellow Bullhead, Yellow Perch, Pumpkinseed.

Special Fishing Regulations: This lake has special fishing regulations that differ from statewide or border water regulations for those species identified below and take precedence.

Eden Lake



Let's Go Fishing!

Article By: Townsquare Media

EXPLORE THE LAKES OF CENTRAL MINNESOTA

STRANGE FACTS ABOUT MINNESOTA LAKES

Minnesota...Land of 10,000 Lakes. But does it really have 10,000? It is the 12th largest state in the U.S. We all know Alaska is the largest state, and it has 3,197 named lakes (and over 3 million unnamed lakes!). Minnesota actually has 11,42 lakes (10 acres or more), and if you counted water bodies of 2.5 acres or larger, Minnesota would have 21,871 lakes. That's just one interesting fact about Minnesota lakes.

- 1.) **Lake Superior's port in Duluth is the most inland in the world.** Most major ports near oceans but Duluth is 2,300 miles away from the Atlantic Ocean.
- 2.) **Angle Township in Minnesota can only be reached by crossing Lake of The Woods or through Canada.** Angle Township, the little notch at the very top of the state, is cut off from the rest of Minnesota by Lake of the Woods. It's only up there due to a cartography error that was never cleared up by the time the Treaty of Paris established the United States/ Canadian border.
- 3.) **An elf door at Lake Harriet.** There's a tree near Lake Harriet that used to be the home of an elf, who would reply to letters that were left at his home.
- 4.) **Recording artist Prince owned 150 acres of land between Lake Lucy and Lake Ann.** Prince owned a lot of land in the area, some of which is prime lake front property.
- 5.) **Moose Lake isn't in Moose Lake, Minn...but Moosehead Lake is! Wait, What!?!?** Moosehead Lake is in Moose Lake. Not to be confused with Moose Lake, which isn't in Moose Lake. Get it?
- 6.) **Water skiing was actually invented on Lake Pepin by Ralph Samuelson.** Water Skiing was not as easy as it looked back in 1922. Ralph Samuelson was the first to do water skiing and from his achievement, it became a nationally known sport. This took place on Lake Pepin in the appropriately named Lake City, Minn.

Information Every Minnesota Fisherman Should Have:

BOATING INFO

Boat, canoe and kayak licenses required: All boats, canoes and kayaks (unless non-motorized and 9 feet or less) used in Minnesota must be licensed in Minnesota or the owner's home state. Most states will register any boat upon request.

Contact the Minnesota DNR at:

800-285-2000 or info.dnr@state.mn.us for information about licensing your boat.

Boat access: More than 1,900 public accesses have been built on Minnesota's lakes and streams. Many of these are equipped with concrete boat ramps. The locations of most are shown on county water access maps, available from

the Minnesota DNR Information Center:
651-296-6157 or 888-MINNDNR (646-6367).

INVASIVE SPECIES AWARENESS

Minnesota waters are threatened by many invasive species of plants and animals. It is illegal to transport any aquatic plants, zebra mussel, New Zealand mudsnail or other prohibited invasive species on public roads, or to launch a boat or trailer with these species attached.

Required Actions:

- Remove visible aquatic plants and animals from your boat, trailer and other water-related

equipment before leaving the water access.

- Dispose of unwanted bait in the trash – it is not legal to release bait into state waters.
- Drain water from your boat, motor, live well and bait containers before leaving the water access. Drain plugs, bailers, valves or other devices used to control the draining of water from ballast tanks, bilges and live wells must be removed or opened while transporting watercraft (marine sanitary systems are excluded from this requirement).

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Continued from page 6...

the actions they should take to prevent AIS spread. Yet only 30% took all the actions every time they left a waterbody. The reason they gave was that they did not have the tools they needed at the access.

CD3 Stations are free to use, and include a variety of tools to help users take all the actions to fully Clean, Drain and Dry their equipment before traveling to another waterbody (and bringing Starry Stonewort along for a ride).

Tools included in CD3 Wayside Stations are:

Wet/Dry Vacuum

- Use to clean and dry spaces that are difficult to reach, live wells, and decks and carpeting
- Can be used to dispose of remaining bait

Air Sprayer

- Great for eliminating algae and plant matter from under the boat, along trailer bunkers, and lower units
- Blow out engine cavities,

bilge and hoses

- Can be used to gently clean fishing nets, life jackets, and other gear

Grabber/Reach Tool

- Pressing the "Lights On" button turns on a beam of light that allows the user to easily view and locate vegetation underneath their boat
- The grabber tool allows for a longer reach when cleaning plant debris from underneath pontoons and other high-sitting boats and attachments

Brush

- The brush tool is for cleaning small and dense particles of invasive plant and algae mater that sticks to boat siding, trailer bunkers, wheels and frames
- Also equipped with a scraper tool to remove zebra mussels and veligers

Drain Plug

- To remove the boat plug and fully drain the watercraft.

Said Jeff Forester, "Hopefully you will see some of the work these

lake partners are doing at key boat launches, articles in the local papers about AIS and Clean, Drain Dry best practices, and outreach at community events. The equipment is free to use and easily available."

The MN DNR recently launched a Community Based Social Marketing tool where community members earn a badge if they Take the Pledge to always Clean, Drain and Dry. "This summer we are asking all of the people lucky enough to live in this area to "Take the Pledge" to Clean, Drain and Dry," said Forester, "to always Clean, Drain and Dry before launching or when leaving a watercraft access site."

Please go to <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/data/ais-pledge> and

take the pledge. Share this email with your friends, neighbors, company or VRBO renters. Be safe, enjoy the open water, and don't forget to Clean, Drain and Dry every time you move a boat from one water body to the next.

These tools will be a lake's best friend as we move into boating season in 2023. With your activism and leadership, we can prevent any more lakes in Stearns, Wright, Pope and Meeker Counties from becoming infested with starry stonewort.

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Valley Daze 2023

June 22-25
THE PLACE TO BE

Thursday, June 22

Music in the Park ~
Friederichs Park
6:30 pm - 8 pm
KINGERY FAMILY
SINGERS

FRIDAY JUNE 23

10:30 a.m. Hawks Hamburger Stand - Joanne's Place
11 a.m. Food Court - Downtown
12 p.m. - 8 p.m. Dilley Bars (C4P) - Outside Community Center
1 p.m. - 5 p.m. Book Sale - Library
Noon - 5 p.m. Silent Auction - (EVC4P) Community Center
2 p.m. - 1 a.m. Beer Garden (EV Fire Dept.) - Downtown
4 p.m. - 6 p.m. Sidewalk Chalk Art Contest - NW of High School
4 p.m. - 9 p.m. Annandale Laser Tag - Downtown
4 p.m. - 9 p.m. Annandale Paintball - Downtown
6 p.m. Kiddie Parade (Valley Victor 4-H) - Main Street
6 p.m. - 9 p.m. Bungee Ride (Co Sponsored by Thrivent) - Main Street
6 p.m. - 9 p.m. Food Shelf Donation (Thrivent)
6:30 p.m. - 10:30 p.m. Escape Room - Civic Center
6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. Axe Throwing - Front of Civic Center
7 p.m. Kids Tractor Pull - Next to community Center
7 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. River Canyon Band - Food Court
7:30 p.m. Bingo (EV Fire Dept) - Food Court
10 p.m. Fireworks (Sponsored by EV Lions) - EVW Elementary

SATURDAY, JUNE 24

8 a.m. 5K Run/Walk - EVW Elementary School
Register at 7:15 a.m.
8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Coffee Truck - Cossairt Ave.
8 a.m. Craft and Vendor Sale - Cossairt Ave.
8 a.m. to 12 noon Library Bake Sale - Community Center
8 a.m. to 2 p.m. 25th Annual Car Show - EVW Elementary
8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tractor Show - EVW Elementary
8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Book Sale at the Library
8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Silent Auction (EVC4P) - Community Center
9 a.m. Scavenger Hunt
10 a.m. Coin Hunt - New Bank Parking Lot
10 a.m. Youth Run/Walk - EVW Elementary
10:30 a.m. Hawks Hamburger Stand - Joanne's Place
11 a.m. Food Court - Downtown
11 a.m. to 1 a.m. Beer Garden (EV Fire Dept) - Downtown
11 a.m. Pet Show (Valley Victor 4H) - Water Tower Park
11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Kat Lampman Music - Food Court
11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Corn Hole - Beer Garden
11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Caricaturist, Face painter, Balloon Artist - Water Tower Park
12 p.m. Bingo (EV Fire Dept) - Food Court
12 p.m. to 2 p.m. Kids Fest - Water Tower Park
12 p.m. to 4 p.m. Inflatables - Water Tower Park
12 p.m. to 8 p.m. Dilley Bars (C4P) - Outside Community Center
12 p.m. to 9 p.m. Annandale Laser Tag - Downtown
12 p.m. to 9 p.m. Annandale Paintball - Downtown
2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Minn-e-rods - Central Ave. E.
4:30 p.m. Line up for Parade - Elementary School
6 p.m. Parade - prizes for best floats
7:30 p.m. to 11 p.m. Axe Throwing - Front of Civic Center
8:30 p.m. to 12:30 p.m. Stifl band of Brothers (EV Fire Dept) -Downtown
10 p.m. Fire and Rescue Raffle - Downtown

Sunday, June 25

Youth Fishing Contest
Sunrise-3:30 pm
Youth Fishing Tournament
(Richmond Rod & Gun Club) at
Eden Valley Sportsman's Club