



# STAR LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS' ASSOCIATION

SPRING 2021 NEWSLETTER

## Board of Directors

Gary Miller  
President

Dick Fultz  
Vice President

JoLene Kerr  
Treasurer

Gail Hagen  
Secretary

Arnie Schenck  
Director

Tamara Pream  
Director

Kelsey Roth  
Director

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[starlakeassociation.com](http://starlakeassociation.com)

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## Spring 2021 SLPOA President's Message

This will be my final letter while serving as your SLPOA President. When I wrote my Fall 2020 letter, I truly hoped things would have improved; and we would have a clear vision of what 2021 holds for the organization. We do not. I think an in-person annual meeting is possible in late June (I think?). We will plan for our second small northern tournament. We will finalize our review for the installation of digital speed signs on Hwy 41 and Hwy 108. We will continue to work to uphold the SLPOA mission.

I would like to thank the volunteer leaders I have served with over the past seven years. It has been fun to be able to interact with highly talented and dedicated people trying to do their best to make Star Lake a better place. (We may not always have agreed on the method, but we always believed in the mission). Together, we accomplished many good things for the organization. THANK YOU!

I will recap a few things we successfully completed during the "Covid" 2020 year:

- 1) Completed and distributed our 2020 Membership Directory at minimal expense due to support from our sponsors.
- 2) Completed our first "Swamp Shark" small northern tournament successfully

removing 489 small northerns from the lake.

- 3) Approved an additional lakescaping grant to continue to support environmentally friendly land use.
- 4) Completed two newsletters on matters important to members.
- 5) Completed a survey on the reduction in the sunfish limit. Results were shared with members and with Minnesota DNR to request increased surveillance on winter fishing of sunfish on the south arm.
- 6) Completed two Adopt-A-Highway cleanups.
- 7) Completed the addition of PayPal to our website registration screen to allow both the completion of membership renewal and payment on-line.
- 8) Continued to work with the Minnesota DNR fisheries representatives on ways to enhance walleye stocking for Star Lake.
- 9) Continued to work with Star Lake Township, Dora Township, Otter Tail County, and the Minnesota DOT on digital speed signs for Hwy 41 and Hwy 108.

... Continued on page 2

## President's Letter continued

A woman named Rhoda Blecher once wrote a prayer and in it she said, "Thank you for today's blessings and for yesterday's and, in advance, for tomorrow." With all that is going on around us, we truly need to remember God in our lives and pray he will grant us his continued blessings. Only through the support of Star Lake property owners and people willing to dedicate their time, will Star Lake continue to be the natural blessing that it is!

I will leave you with one of my favorite statements. It comes from speaker and best-selling author, Steve Maraboli. He said, "Live your truth. Express your love. Share your enthusiasm. Take action towards your dreams. Walk your talk. Dance and sing to your music. Embrace your blessings and make every day worth remembering." That's good advice to end with! Take good care. See you around the lake.

- Gary P. Miller, SLPOA President

## SLPOA Board Opportunity - Two Openings

Want to spend your time improving the world around you? Want to join an association with a solid track record of service to its members? Want to get elected without the need for campaign signs, TV ads, rallies, or zoom calls? Well, we have a deal for you!

At the end of June 2021 the Star Lake Property Owners' Association (SLPOA) will have two openings on its Board of Directors. Arnie Schneck and Gary Miller will have served out their extended terms. We are searching for members to join with Richard Fultz, JoLene Kerr, Kelsey Roth, Gail Hagen, and Tami Pream to carry forward the mission of the SLPOA.

Typically, the Board of Directors meets monthly between May and October. As needed meetings are held during the winter months. There are challenges ahead involving invasive species control, continued

development, fisheries management, and shoreline management. Star Lake needs your time and talent!

There is a host of good information on the SLPOA website about the association, what the association has been and will be doing, and our mission.

If you are interested in serving as a new BOD member, or have served and would like to re-engage with the Board, please let us know. Your association is only as strong as it's leaders. May the winter snow god's be kind to us all!

To express your interest, please contact any current board member or correspond with me at:

[garypmiller@hotmail.com](mailto:garypmiller@hotmail.com) or  
[president@starlakeassociation.com](mailto:president@starlakeassociation.com)

THANK YOU!

## Treasurer's Report

The account balances for SLPOA (as of April 12, 2021):

Regular Checking Account	\$ 7,870.98
Money Market (Lake Protection Fund)	\$26,121.32
GRAND TOTAL	\$33,992.30



Total number of SLPOA paid memberships: 213

-JoLene Jean Kerr, SLPOA Treasurer

# President's "Drop Offs"

President's "Drop Offs" for Spring 2021:

- 1) **HWY 41 BRIDGE:** I have been checking in periodically with Chuck Grotte, Otter Tail County Engineer, on the Hwy 41 bridge replacement. The most recent update is that KLJ Engineering is working on the bridge design and timeline. The final plans should be completed by mid-April with a bid opening planned for late May. Bid acceptance will be dependent on the availability of Minnesota state bridge bond funding. Also, until the design, contractor, and timeline is finalized, there is no definite information on how water access between the west arm and the main lake will be handled. Common sense tells me there will be extended periods during summer 2021 when we will not be able to travel through the construction area with watercraft. I have expressed concern that such shutdowns will be very disruptive to lake activity. More to come as the construction planning is finalized.
- 2) **ZEBRA MUSSELS:** I expect the MN DNR will be doing more testing/searching for zebra mussels this summer. If you identify these invasive species on your dock, lifts, water toys, etc., please report the location to me. I will log the location and pass it on to the DNR office.
- 3) **EVENTS:** We have established dates for the following events:
  - **Saturday, June 12th, 2021 will be the SLPOA Annual Meeting** at Camp Joy from 9:00 am until 12:00 noon. We will hopefully be able to conduct our normal breakfast and program that morning. Watch your email for specific details on the annual meeting. Mark your schedules NOW to attend!
  - **Saturday, June 19th, 2021 will be the day for our second "Swamp Shark" tournament.** We will again base the event out of Bell's Resort. Mark your schedule NOW for this popular event. I have included some details in another article in the newsletter. We are working to secure a DNR permit to allow us to expand the number of teams. We are in the process of creating a "letter of credit" as required by DNR regulations (we have to follow the rules vs make the rules). Hopefully, we will meet the permit requirements at some point before June 19th!
- 4) **WEBSITE:** Brenda and Aubrey Ebanks have notified us that they will no longer be handling the SLPOA website after years of dedicated service to the Association. MEGA thanks to Brenda and Aubrey for their work on the website as well as our newsletters. If you have searched the web for other lake association information, you will quickly recognize SLPOA has the BEST website of any I have reviewed. I commend Brenda's support to me during my service as your President; and I hope she and Aubrey will continue to be active SLPOA members for years to come! See the article on our need for someone to support the website.
- 5) **DIGITAL SPEED SIGNS:** We continue to work with Star Lake Township, Dora Township, Ottertail County, and the Minnesota DOT on digital speed signs for Hwy 41 and Hwy 108. More to come on that project as well.

- Gary P. Miller, SLPOA President

## Membership: Renewal by Paper or Online

Just a reminder to our SLPOA members....our calendar year runs July to July. We encourage you to renew your membership prior to the annual meeting which is scheduled for June 12, 2021 at Camp Joy.

*Note: If you complete your membership form online, we have implemented a NEW feature allowing you to also pay online (using a debit / credit card or a PayPal account).*

HOW TO complete and submit your SLPOA membership form and dues:

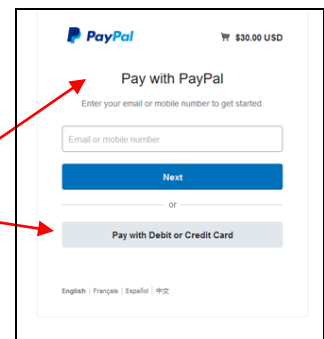
SLPOA membership information is found on our SLPOA website ([starlakeassociation.com](http://starlakeassociation.com)). Click on the word "Registration" (upper right hand corner of website) which will take you to the Membership page. There are two options: you can submit your membership registration ONLINE or you can PRINT/MAIL the membership form. *NOTE: If you use the Online Membership form you will need to also pay your dues online. If you prefer to pay by check, you should print the Membership Form and mail the completed form and dues to SLPOA.*

- **PRINT / MAIL** (Paper): Click the "Membership Form" link to open a PDF copy of the form. Print the form, fill it out and send it along with your check to SLPOA, P.O. Box 155, Dent, MN 56528.
- **ONLINE** (with NEW online payment feature!): From the SLPOA website, Registration page, complete the fields of the online registration form. For security purposes, check the box for "I am not a Robot" and click the Submit button.

This will bring up the online payment feature. You can select:

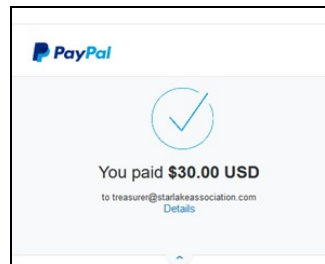
- 1) to use a PayPal account; or
- 2) to pay with Debit/Credit Card (e.g. PayPal Guest Checkout).

*(Along the way PayPal provides opportunities to create a PayPal account, but you don't have to.)*

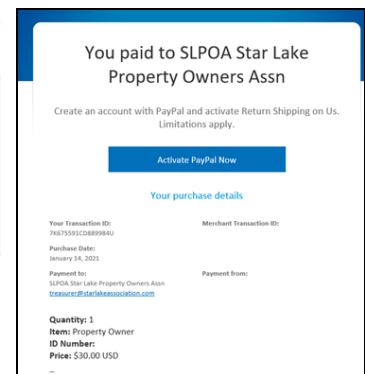


Continue through the payment steps.

You will get a message saying your dues have been paid to [treasurer@starlakeassociation.com](mailto:treasurer@starlakeassociation.com).



You will also get a receipt (with purchase details) at the email address you provided.



If you are not a current member, please consider joining our association. For those of you who continue to support our Star Lake efforts ... THANK YOU!!! See you at our annual meeting!

- JoLene Jean Kerr, SLPOA Treasurer

# 2021 Swamp Shark Tournament

WE'RE BACK! Returning for the second year will be the Star Lake "Swamp Shark" (small northern) tournament. We had great feedback on our first event, so we will host a second tournament on Star Lake. The tournament will be held on Saturday, June 19th, 2021. We expect to expand the tournament from last year. Last year, we were limited to 25 two person teams. We will be able to accommodate up to 50 teams this year, with a Minnesota DNR permit. We had over 30 teams wanting to register last year, so we expect to increase our number of teams this year. With the expansion of teams, there will be some changes to the tournament rules. Those changes are included below. Once our permit process is complete, we will issue a FINAL set of rules and registration information. The listing below should be close to final, but subject to change.

- 1) The tournament may register up to 50 (2) person teams. At least one of the team members must be a currently paid SLPOA member. (\$30 to join SLPOA; see the SLPOA website for details.)
- 2) We highly encourage helping children participate. The only restriction on family teams is that only two lines can be fishing at any one time. That means Dad/Mom, Dad/Daughter, Mom/Son, Son/Son, Daughter/Daughter, etc. You can certainly rotate the people fishing and/or adults may act as guides for children during the tournament.
- 3) The tournament will be a catch and KILL format. All small northern (22 inches or less) caught must be cleaned or properly disposed of after check-in. They are not to be released to the lake.
- 4) Advance registration is required. There is no fee for entry. Watch for details to be posted on the SLPOA website.
- 5) You may begin fishing at 9:00 am anywhere on Star Lake that you select. You must check-in by 4:00 pm on tournament day.
- 6) Cash prizes will be awarded for the first ten teams to check-in with their twenty small northern limits. Team prizes are as follows: \$150.00 first, \$100.00 second, \$75.00 third, \$50.00 fourth, \$35.00 for fifth and \$25.00 for sixth through tenth place. There will also be \$20.00 in Bell's Resort gift cards given to any team that checks in with their twenty fish limits during the day. All teams will receive a "fish ruler" that can be mounted in a boat for taking part in the tournament.
- 7) Each team member is entitled to a Swamp Shark tournament T-Shirt. Sizes can be selected when you submit your tournament registration form. You MUST register to be eligible for prizes. You will be given a registration number when your registration is accepted. Additional T-Shirts will be available for purchase. Details will be posted to the SLPOA website.
- 8) All northern must be 22 inches or less to legally qualify. There will be an additional \$25.00 paid for the SMALLEST northern checked-in by an adult and \$25.00 paid to the youth (12 and under) checked in at the end of the tournament.
- 9) When you register, we encourage you to create a "unique" team name. There will be a \$25.00 cash award presented to the team the SLPOA Board judges to be the most unique.
- 10) Each person fishing is responsible for having the proper fishing license and safety equipment. SLPOA is not responsible for any fines or accidents related to the tournament.

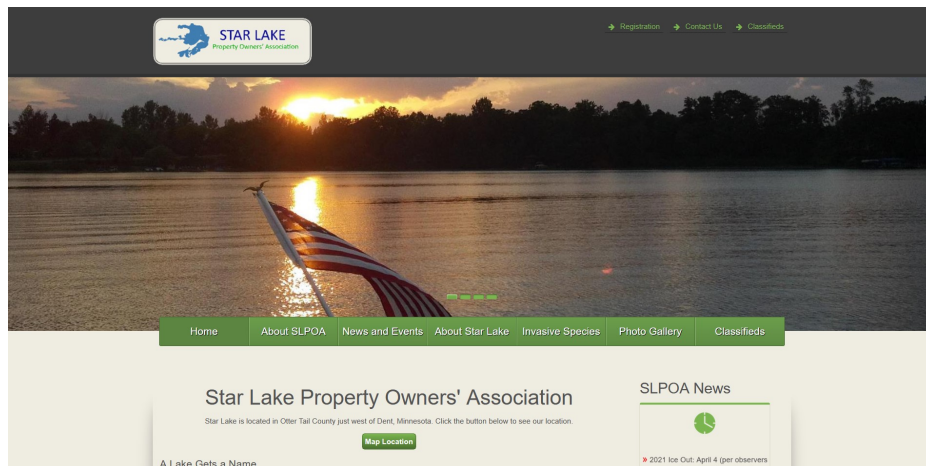
Currently, Star Lake has a large number of small northern (85% of the northern pike in our 2018 test netting were 22 inches or less). Research has shown that too many small northern impact other fish populations like perch, sunfish, whitefish, and walleyes. This tournament is one part of trying to improve our fishery along with promoting the release of large northern that exceed 28 inches.

Smaller northern pike provide excellent table fare in many different forms from straight filleting, to pickling, to making "fish balls." Try some! There are multiple recipes available on the internet to help you with cooking. Look for more announcements in the Spring of 2021. *-Gary P. Miller, SLPOA President*

## Calling All Techies!

I will begin with another huge THANK YOU to Brenda and Aubrey Ebanks for developing and maintaining the SLPOA website over many years. As someone who has reviewed a number of other lake association sites, I can honestly state that SLPOA has the best of any I have reviewed. Our website is well organized, maintained, updated, and full of useful information for members.

With Brenda and Aubrey's decision to retire from website support at the end of May 2021, we need somebody else to take over the site. The site is developed in "Joomla" for those of you skilled and knowledgeable in computer/website development tools. If you have interest (and the skill) to take on our website development and hosting, please contact me, Gary Miller SLPOA President, (or any Board member) to express your interest. Again, MEGA thanks to Brenda and Aubrey for their dedication to SLPOA.



Website: [starlakeassociation.com](http://starlakeassociation.com)

## DNR Rule Change - 2021 Fishing Season

We certainly are living in challenging times, with many disjointed procedures. While there is a push to eliminate the need for any kind of ID to vote in elections, the Minnesota DNR has added a new rule for the 2021 fishing season, if you are married and want to buy a combination license. Beginning on February 18th, 2021, BOTH members of married couples who want to purchase a combination angling or hunting license will need to be PHYSICALLY PRESENT at the sales location. The Minnesota DNR will begin requiring both spouses to provide and verify their own complete customer records on file to complete the purchase of a combination license. Remember you will need your Minnesota DNR Customer ID number (shown on your current license), your driver's license number, your social security number, and current valid address to complete the purchase. No ID to vote. Physical validation of personal information to buy a combination license. File under an updated definition of disjointed. Good combining!

- Gary P. Miller, SLPOA President

## Lake Stewardship Program

We want to make SLPOA members aware that the Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates (MLR) has launched their lake steward program to support lake associations as they work to improve water quality, increase lake association visibility, and boost membership efforts. Your SLPOA Board of Directors will be reviewing the program for use by Star Lake members during its 2021 operational year.

The Lake Steward program may succeed where other such efforts have failed. The program uses a quiz to get lakeshore owners interested, and then follows up with contact which is personal and centered on the individual lakeshore owner, their family, and their relationship to the land and water. The Lake Steward program by its nature, builds the feeling of community around the lake while seeking to improve overall water quality.

The Lake Steward program is simple and has proven effective. SLPOA would send out an evaluation worksheet that members can take to “score their shore.” Results are sent back to SLPOA for review. A SLPOA representative meets with the property owner to confirm the results. If the property meets the standards established by the Lake Steward program, the member is awarded a sign designating them as a confirmed Lake Steward. The sign with an SLPOA logo is displayed at the end of the owner’s dock to promote the program.

If the members shoreline does not meet the criteria, the member is notified regarding actions they can take, if they so desire, to improve their shoreline in order to meet the program criteria. The Lake Steward program would be an adjunct to the Lakescaping Grant Program that SLPOA already offers to members in conjunction with the Otter Tail County Office of Land Resource Management.

Results from the Gull Chain of Lakes Association has shown that in two seasons of promotion, 51 Lake Stewards awards have been attained from their 614 members. A good start for the program.

The SLPOA Board will review the materials and costs for entry into the program, this is another way your association is working to uphold its mission and improve the tremendous resource that is Star Lake. More information will be forthcoming on this program in 2021.

- Gary P. Miller, SLPOA President



## Adopt-A-Highway: May 1st

We have renewed our agreement with Otter Tail County to maintain the ditches along Highway 41 from Bell's Resort Bar & Grill to the Camp Joy Road (380th Street). The SLPOA is committed to clean trash from the ditches twice per year in the spring and fall. Our thanks to the previous volunteers who have helped with the cleanup. It typically takes about an hour with a crew of volunteers.

Being there has not been a bridge closure notice issued as yet, we will assume we can cross the bridge, as of the day of this cleanup effort.

Our spring 2021 cleanup is scheduled for Saturday morning, **May 1st, 2021 beginning at 10:00 am.** Volunteers will meet in the parking lot of Bell's Resort. Trash bags and safety vests will be available. See you on May Day morning!

- Gary P. Miller, SLPOA President



## Mark your calendars

### Some dates to take note of:

- May 1: Adopt-a-Highway (meet at Bell's Resort @10am)
- May 8-9: Take a Mom Fishing Weekend (Mother's Day)
- May 13-15: 73rd MN Governor's Fishing Opener in OTC
- May 15: MN Fishing Opener for walleye, bass, trout in lakes and northern pike
- June 12: SLPOA Annual Meeting at Camp Joy
- June 19: 2nd "Swamp Shark" (small northern) tournament





As a reminder ... the SLPOA website has a CLASSIFIEDS page where you may list items to sell, trade, or find the owner if you have found an item that needs to be returned (i.e. maybe after a strong wind/storm).

The listing can contain one picture and up to a fifty word description. Your request should contain:

- Your name
- Your contact information (phone number, email, etc.)
- Description of the item (fifty words or less)
- One picture of the item (in digital format)
- Asking price if for sale



## Ads

Please be aware that SLPOA is not responsible for the condition of the item, the payment or exchange of funds for any transaction agreed upon, the items title or rightful ownership by the poster, or accepts any liability for what is posted in this CLASSIFIEDS section of its website. The section is strictly provided as a free service for members.

Please email your ad/item to SLPOA President at: [president@starlakeassociation.com](mailto:president@starlakeassociation.com). If approved, your item may remain on the website for up to 30 days. Please notify us if the item has sold or been claimed and no longer needs to be listed.

*-Gary P. Miller, SLPOA President*

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## Amazon Smile Program



You can further support SLPOA when ordering items through Amazon Smile. Amazon Smile is a simple and automatic way for you to support your lake every time you shop, at no cost to you. You will find the exact same low prices, vast selection, and shopping ease as Amazon.com with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of your purchase price to SLPOA!

If you currently use Amazon.com or Amazon Prime, you can order the same products at the same prices, but benefit your lake by selecting STAR LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION (identifier number 80-0594188). The value of your purchase will be credited to SLPOA and, at the end of each month, Amazon will donate a percentage of the total purchase value to our lake association. Any donations received will be credited to our "lake protection fund." That fund is restricted to projects that directly benefit the lake.

That's it! No fees, no obligations, no catch for you to help support your lake. All you need to do is select SLPOA as your charitable organization when you first sign in to Amazon Smile. After that, shop away!

We have put a link on the SLPOA website to enable you to access the Amazon Smile site as well. EASY, SIMPLE, IMPORTANT as we continue to try to find ways to increase our revenue and our ability to have the funds needed to help maintain Star Lake as the tremendous resource it is.

# Lake Property Valuations per OTC

To: Star Lake Property Owners' Association

Minnesota law requires that all real property be valued at its market value. Assessors are required to determine the value of the land, the value of the structures and improvements to the land, and the resulting total market value.

The “market value” used for property tax purposes is the “open market value,” which is the price a property would sell for under typical, normal, and competitive conditions. It is also called the estimated market value (EMV).

To evaluate the accuracy and uniformity of real property assessments within the state (and to ensure compliance with property tax laws), the Minnesota Department of Revenue conducts annual **sales ratio studies**.

**Sales ratio studies** measure the relationship between appraised values and the actual sales price. A sales ratio is the assessor’s estimated market value of a property divided by its actual sales price, as seen here: **Sales Ratio = Assessor's Estimated Market Value / Sales Price**

For example, assume a home was valued by the assessor at \$100,000. The home sold for \$105,000. The sales ratio would be calculated as follows: **Sales Ratio = \$100,000 / \$105,000 =95%**

The **sales ratio studies** period each assessment year is from October 1 to September 30. All typical, normal, and competitive sales within this time have a sales ratio calculated. The acceptable targeted range required by the Minnesota Department of Revenue is 90% to 105%. The statistical measure that is predominately relied upon by the Minnesota Department of Revenue is the median ratio which is the percentage that is in the middle of a group of sales.

### Star Lake Residential Seasonal Sales

(sales used in the Minnesota Department of Revenue 2020 sales ratio study from October 1,2018 to September 30, 2019)

	Primary Parcel ID	Sale Month	Sale Year	Adjusted 2019 EMV	Water Status	City Town	Net Sale Price Adj. to 2020	PRELIM Ratio
1018520	56000990320000	9	2019	\$133,100.00	W	Star Lake	\$203,510.00	0.654
993915	56000990276000	8	2019	\$185,000.00	W	Star Lake	\$275,935.00	0.6704
922263	56000990561000	2	2019	\$202,300.00	W	Star Lake	\$283,126.00	0.7145
979403	56000990401000	7	2019	\$109,500.00	W	Star Lake	\$138,569.00	0.7902
981352	56000990663000	7	2019	\$284,600.00	W	Star Lake	\$356,174.00	0.799
897443	56000990627000	11	2018	\$187,200.00	W	Star Lake	\$223,183.00	0.8388
945509	56000340260000	4	2019	\$382,100.00	W	Star Lake	\$436,765.00	0.8748
952230	56000990365004	5	2019	\$373,500.00	W	Star Lake	\$414,231.00	0.9017
919364	56000340259003	1	2019	\$551,000.00	W	Star Lake	\$599,484.00	0.9191
964360	56000990361000	6	2019	\$172,100.00	W	Star Lake	\$100,241.00	1.7169

# Lake Property Valuations ... cont'd

Star Lake Median Ratio- 81.89% (ratio between 79.9% and 83.88%). This ratio is out of compliance with the standards set by the Minnesota Department of Revenue.

The County Assessor is responsible for bringing sales ratio's in compliance with the requirements of the Minnesota Department of Revenue through market adjustments. The sales market in Star Lake was analyzed, 8 of the 10 sales in the sales ratio study were located on Star Lake. The market adjustment made by the County Assessor to the 2020 EMV's was a land adjustment from \$1,150 per front foot to \$1,400 per front foot. Below are the results of this change to the 2020 EMV's change:

eCRV #	Primary Parcel ID	Sale Month	Sale Year	Adjusted 2019 EMV	Adjusted 2020 EMV	Water Status	City Town	Net Sale Price Adj. to 2020	FINAL Ratio
1018520	56000990320000	9	2019	\$133,100.00	\$152,400.00	W	Star Lake	\$203,510.00	0.74886
993915	56000990276000	8	2019	\$185,000.00	\$211,400.00	W	Star Lake	\$275,935.00	0.76612
922263	56000990561000	2	2019	\$202,300.00	\$227,400.00	W	Star Lake	\$283,126.00	0.80318
981352	56000990663000	7	2019	\$284,600.00	\$310,000.00	W	Star Lake	\$356,174.00	0.87036
945509	56000340260000	4	2019	\$382,100.00	\$396,200.00	W	Star Lake	\$436,765.00	0.90712
979403	56000990401000	7	2019	\$109,500.00	\$125,700.00	W	Star Lake	\$138,569.00	0.90713
897443	56000990627000	11	2018	\$187,200.00	\$211,400.00	W	Star Lake	\$223,183.00	0.9472
919364	56000340259003	1	2019	\$551,000.00	\$570,200.00	W	Star Lake	\$599,484.00	0.95115
952230	56000990365004	5	2019	\$373,500.00	\$414,200.00	W	Star Lake	\$414,231.00	0.99992
964360	56000990361000	6	2019	\$172,100.00	\$189,800.00	W	Star Lake	\$100,241.00	1.89344

Star Lake Median Ratio after local effort- **90.71%**

The Minnesota Department of Revenue annually holds a State Board of Equalization to review all ratios throughout the State of Minnesota for compliance issues. If the median ratio falls outside of the 90% to 105% acceptable range, the State Board will issue corrective orders to bring tax jurisdictions in compliance. The Star Lake residential/seasonal properties would have received a 10% state order if the local adjustment had not taken place. The local market adjustment made to the 2020 EMV's brought this property type into compliance avoiding a state order.

My hope is that I have walked the "Star Lake Association" through the "Estimated Market Value" process that the State of Minnesota has in place for all real property. Thank you for this opportunity to communicate with you.

- Doug Walvatne, Ottertail County Assessor



## Invasive Species Monitoring

### Monitoring AIS for the Future of Star Lake

One of the areas that your Star Lake Board continues to be involved with is the constantly changing challenge of aquatic invasive species. A new University of Minnesota study has found that, when lakes are infested with two common aquatic invasive species – zebra mussels and spiny waterfleas – young walleyes do not grow as large as quickly, as they did before the invaders arrived.

The AIS Research Center Study at the U of M focused on nine large Minnesota lakes that are prime destinations for walleye anglers: Lake of the Woods, Rainy Lake, Kabetogama, Vermillion, Red, Cass, Winnibigoshish, Leech, and Mille Lacs. Lead researcher, Gretchen Hansen, analyzed data the MNDNR has been collecting from fish in those lakes over the past 35 years. Hansen found that walleye in lakes infested with zebra mussels or spiny waterfleas were 12 to 14 percent smaller after their first summer than before the lakes were infested. That equates to about half an inch to three-quarters of an inch for a 5-6 inch walleye.

Hansen said that might not seem like much, but the size of a fish after its first summer can affect its chances of survival. With the identification of zebra mussels in Star Lake last summer, it continues to be important for SLPOA to explore ways to improve the fishery and reduce the impact of such species on the fishery. We continue to work with fishery representatives from Fergus Falls on stocking and small northern control as well as monitor our walleye population.

Also, a report issued by the Lake Minnetonka Association in late 2019 is worth paying attention to. After months of fact-finding, Tonka Bay owner Gabriel Jabbour and the Lake Minnetonka Association concluded that the current methods of harvesting invasive species such as Eurasian Watermilfoil do more harm than good to the lake.

“A complete overhaul of the harvesting program is needed,” said Jabbour. “All of the stakeholders need to sit down and work together for the future. If we don’t this could become an even worse problem.” The investigation and research revealed that while intentions may be good, the mechanical harvesting done by the Lake Minnetonka Conservation District (LMCD) is potentially spreading other invasive species like flowering rush, instead of controlling it. Research has shown that flowering rush, starry stonewort, and other AIS can be spread by mechanical harvesters. The research recommended that to prevent such spread, the current harvesting methods need revision and the operators need additional training.

Although Star Lake is not currently faced with the same level of infection as Lake Minnetonka on these species, it again highlights the need for continued education on AIS and the coming together of property owner’s, their association leadership, representatives of the MNDNR, and local resource officials to combat the growing threats from AIS species. The SLPOA Board remains committed to staying updated on these type of issues to insure AIS efforts are coordinated and appropriate given the evolving research.

## AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES IDENTIFICATION



**EURASIAN WATERMILFOIL**

Forms dense mats that interfere with recreation. Long spaghetti-like stems and 3-5 feathery leaves arranged in whorls (circles) on stems. Each leaf has 12-21 leaflet pairs. Northern watermilfoil, a native look-alike, has 5-10 leaflet pairs.



**STARRY STONEWORT**

A large non native algae. Has whorls of 4-6 long brachlets. Can grow over 6' high. Spread by fragments attached to boats and other water equipment. Readily identified by its very small white star shaped bulbils.



**ZEBRA MUSSEL**

Adults are 1/2" to 1 1/2" long, D-shaped shell with alternating yellow to brownish stripes. Damages ecosystems. Uses byssal threads to attach to all hard surfaces.



**PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE**

3-7' spike with small purple flowers. Downy, smooth-edged leaves usually paired, opposite. Mature plants have main stems that grow from a root crown.

### Invasive Species Laws

It is **UNLAWFUL** to:

- Transport water-related equipment without draining all water (including livewells, bilges and bait containers.)
- Transport aquatic plants, zebra mussels, or other prohibited species.
- Place or attempt to place into waters of the state a boat, seaplane or trailer that has aquatic plants, zebra mussels, or other prohibited invasive species attached

### Reminders:

- Check for and remove plants before you leave
- Take out drain plug



**PROHIBITED INVASIVE SPECIES:** includes silver and bighead carp, Eurasian watermilfoil, faucet snail, New Zealand mudsnail, round goby, ruffe, and zebra mussels. A complete list of prohibited invasive species can be found at [www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/laws.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/laws.html) prohibited or by calling the DNR information line at (651)-296-6157 or 1-888-646-6367



<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/aquatic/index.html>



Already present in Otter Tail County.

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Funding provided by an appropriation by the Minnesota Legislature

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP!

Star Lake Property Owners' Association, Inc.  
P.O. Box 155  
Dent, MN 56528-0155

## Star Lake Property Owners' Association 2021 SPRING NEWSLETTER



### Reminders:

- May 1: Adopt-a-Highway (meet at Bell's Resort @10am)
- May 8-9: Take a Mom Fishing Weekend (Mother's Day)
- May 13-15: 73rd MN Governor's Fishing Opener in OTC
- May 15: MN Fishing Opener for walleye, bass, trout in lakes and northern pike
- June 12: SLPOA Annual Meeting at Camp Joy
- June 19: 2nd "Swamp Shark" (small northern) tournament

