



**Lake John Association**  
**P.O. Box 437**  
**Annandale, MN. 55302**

**Promoting the care and betterment  
of Lake John**  
**[www.lakejohnassociation.com](http://www.lakejohnassociation.com)**

**Volume 6, Issue 2**

**Summer 2017**

## **From the President's Dock**

I was hoping the "Float Your Boat" project would have been finalized & up & running in time to include it in this newsletter but that didn't happen so I'll give you as much information I have at the moment. The project is getting very close to DNR approval for that unprecedented pilot study of mandatory inspection of watercraft, used lifts and docks and other water related items.

Instead of the word "decontamination", that will be scrapped. In its' place it will be called "enhanced cleaning". So....first, watercraft will be inspected" and then go through "enhanced cleaning" if not in compliance. In the first summer, the DNR is requiring us to issue warning tickets. We are asking that the County set the fines as follows...after the first warning the next offense be a \$100 fine, the second offense a \$200 fine etc. The maximum fine for a petty misdemeanor is \$300. The exact wording is still being worked on. Current DNR regulations allow counties to require inspection **before** launching & **after** leaving the lake.

The time table, as it stands now is the Assistant County Attorney gives finished ordinance back to townships June 6th and it would go to the County Commissioners June 13th. Lake Sylvia already has written bids for most of the needed items to start operating the facility.

**Lake Sylvia treatment of Starry Stonewort continues.** Dr. Rodgers, one of the nation's foremost experts on Starry Stonewort, from Clemson University told Lake Sylvia to use "Cutrine plus" to kill it. They will use the trailing hose method where the Starry Stonewort algae is sprouting. It will put the liquid on tops of the algae plants and will be treated very early in the morning. Dr. Rodger's assistant and a diver will be present to monitor the effectiveness after this treatment is finished. Potential of multiple applications as additional plant material sprouts or starts to grow a week, two weeks, or whatever later time will be monitored closely.



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**Be sure and mark your calendar for our annual meeting on June 24th and remember the new place it will be held: South Haven Hall, 521 Oak Ave. in South Haven. Ample parking sides & back of the building.**

**Coffee and donuts at 9:30, meeting starts promptly at 10:00 a.m. Food and fun after. SEE YOU THERE!!!!**

(From the President's Dock, continued from page 1)

**Lake John will be checked to see where we stand.** Steve McComas, Blue Water Science, will be conducting a search at Lake John's public & private landings for Starry Stonewort either the 1st. or 2nd. week in June which would allow SSW to grow a bit & easier to detect **if we do have it.** We will talk about his findings at the annual meeting on June 24th. A monthly check at each landing is necessary because **we have to be vigilant** in catching it early. **Starry Stonewort is a "lake killer" and a hundred times worse than zebra mussels.** Lake property owners are the caretakers of the lake they live on & we want to keep it as clean for generations to come. It is a difficult task because of all the hoops we have to jump through with government.

**Speaking of government.** The Environment & Natural Resource bill has not been disclosed as of this writing. Grants to lake associations to fight invasives could be completely a thing of the past. Each year, the pot gets smaller & lake associations have to foot more & more of the expense through membership dues & donations from lake property owners. Grants from the State used to reimburse us \$150 per acre treated. This year, it is down to \$50 per treated acre. Grants from the County (matching funds) used to be \$5000 per species. This year it dropped to \$3000 per species. We have no idea what it will be next year at this point. (We will discuss this more at the annual meeting).

**Save the date of August 5th.** Wright County is making plans to participate in the state wide search for SSW being led by the MN Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center. More details as they are available will be in an email to members I have email addresses for. (if you are not sure I have your email address, send it to me **now** to stay updated).

**Chemical treatment in the finger.** We are waiting for James Johnson from Freshwater Scientific to do a survey, early June, in the finger area to find out what sensitive native plant species are in the proposed treatment area so Chris, DNR, can decide whether to allow us to chemical treat in there for Eurasian Water Milfoil.

**Open Board position:** The **Secretary** position is open to any member of Lake John. This involves being present and taking the minutes at only 4 (May, June, July & September) board meetings and at the annual meeting. We meet on the 2nd. Monday of those months, 6:00 p.m. at the Southside Township Hall. Step forward...commit to join us in our efforts to safeguard our lovely lake. Please email Elaine at [fleskes@gmail.com](mailto:fleskes@gmail.com) no later than **June 15th** to have your name on the ballot..

We also are in need of volunteers to check the public and private landings for any violators of the "Float Your Boat" project. There will be no paid inspectors as in the past 2 years at the public landing anymore. It doesn't need to be a big time commitment...maybe just a half hour to an hour of your time. One example is checking the landings X amount of times a day and simply take pictures of vehicles in violation of not having been to the inspection facility & not having the proper documentation displayed on the vehicle dashboard...making sure vehicles/watercraft are in compliance with the new required inspection. All three lakes (Sylvia, John and Pleasant) will try to standardize this approach in patrolling their landings to be consistent. Violators will be reported to an authority which is a level 1 inspector at the cleaning facility. That person will report violations from the three lakes to the County attorney. Otherwise it is putting too much of a burden on the sheriff's department. Volunteering to help with this can be as little as an hour thing, a day thing, or a week or **whatever you could spare. Just call us...no commitment.** It gives us a heads up as needs arise. Let us know your possibilities. **WE NEED COOPERATION FROM ALL 137 PROPERTY OWNERS, NOT JUST THE 102 MEMBERS. THE VALUE OF YOUR PROPERTY DEPENDS ON THIS. STARRY STONEWORT IS A LAKE KILLER.** Contact any of the board members on page 4 of this newsletter. Lake John is depending on you!!!!!!!!!!!!

Elaine Fleskes, Lake John President

2 videos to watch: <https://www.fox.9.com/news/194935704-story> (which shows the devastation of SSW.) [www.lakejohnassociation.com](http://www.lakejohnassociation.com); click "Invasive Species" at top right, next lines are a Wildlife Forever Video, click on "watch the video". Two **excellent** videos about the effects of SSW and how to identify it.

I am sure you have heard the saying “It takes a village to raise a child”. Well....”it takes the many volunteers, memberships/donations to make a successful lake association”. Listed below are committees/people that need to be thanked for their service. There are many people involved and names of people I do not know who helped with these tasks and so, I am only mentioning the names I was given or know. Please forgive me if I left anyone out.

**Website:** Dana O’Connor, for creating and keeping the website up to date.

**Lake Water testing:** Kirk Linderholm

**Inlet Testing:** Bob Fleskes

**Bog Moving Organizers:** Denny Kugler, Bruce Berning, Rich Comben **and** to the **many** people/neighbors who answer their call to help relocate bogs.

**Lake Water Level:** Karen MacMillan

**Annual Food Committee:** Paul Fliegel, Mike & Linda Jaskowiak, Alan Isaacson, Diane Asher, John Larson, Dan Ventrelli, Denny & Barb Kugler, Karen MacMillan.

**Loon Watchers:** Bruce Nystrom, Alan/Aleta Isaacson

**Certified Divers on standby:** Randy Mattson, Rob & Dana O’Connor to search for any possible Starry Stonewort

**Official Ice Out Committee:** Bruce Bartels, Mike Jaskowiak, Paul Fliegel

**Eurasian Water Milfoil Disposal:** to Leighton Arenson & Bruce Kiehn for their permission to the Dive Guys to dispose the EWM onto their property last fall.

**Advice on Lake John Issues:** Peter MacMillan, Attorney

**Lake John Board of Directors:** for participation and answering the call to serve.

**Annual Meeting Door Prizes:** soliciting businesses and organizing them: Kevin Scott, Rose Mattson, Steve Benzschawel, Molly VanMetre, Elaine & Bob Fleskes; Jean & Bob Sutherland. In addition, thanks to these unsolicited individuals & corporate contributors: John & Angie Bernardy, Mike & Linda Jaskowiak, Jon & Kristy Bigalk, John Peery, Dan Ventrelli, and Dawn Becker. Past solicitors: John Bergstrand, Diane Asher.

**Annual Meeting volunteers:** those who step up and help in any capacity we need help with.

**Expired Past Terms:** Kirk Linderholm, Alan Isaacson and Mike Jaskowiak for serving on the board these past 4 years and all the past board members who have brought this Lake Association to its’ meaningful present day fruition.

**Zebra Mussel search:** to the **MANY** volunteers who helped on September 26, 2015.

**Property Owners:** who pay their membership dues year after year and those who also donate extra.

### **DO I NEED A PERMIT?**

If you ever wondered whether you need a permit to remove aquatic vegetation, haul in a sand blanket to your shoreline, build or repair a boat house, install a swimming platform on a lake, install riprap along your shoreline, remove a bog etc. you can find the answers at the DNR website: [www.dnr.state.mn.us/permits/water/answers](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/permits/water/answers).



Elaine Fleskes, President—274-5399  
Steve Benzschawel, Vice Pres.—612-558-0215  
Amy Comben, Treasurer—612-245-7625  
Jean Sutherland, Secretary—612-644-0862  
Karen MacMillan, Section 1—274-3893  
Jim Splinter, Section 2—320-980-0560  
Mike Jaskowiak, Section 3—274-7423  
Bob Fleskes, Section 4—274-5399  
Alan Isaacson, Section 5—274-5035  
Paul Fliegel, Section 6—320-260-5674

### MISSION STATEMENT

- To assist in the conservation & preservation of the natural resources of Lake John.
- To promote the general welfare of the members as it pertains to their personal & property interests related to Lake John.
- To serve as an information resource for concerned citizens and an advocate for our members in appropriate matters.

### **MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

**Our annual association meeting will be held on Saturday June 24, 2017, 9:30 AM with coffee and donuts, meeting starting promptly at 10:00 AM at the South Haven Hall, 521 Oak Ave. Hope to see you all there.**

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