



DNR Walleye Stocking 2018

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

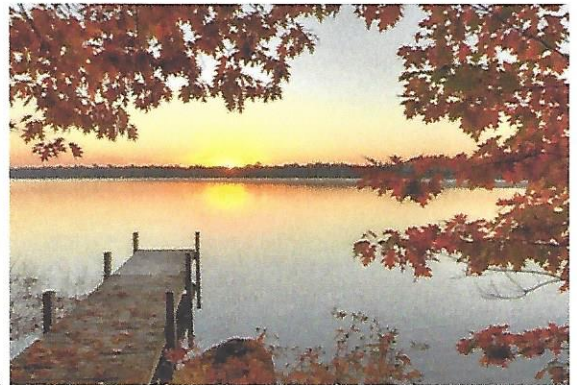
**Promoting the care and betterment  
of Lake John  
[www.lakejohnassociation.com](http://www.lakejohnassociation.com)**

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

Spring finally arrived later than normal this year. Ice left on May 2nd which tied the latest ice out date going back to 2013. No one guessed that date but the closest 2 entries of 4/28 were from Doug Harms & Kirk Linderholm. The winner will be drawn at our annual meeting on June 23rd.

The Wright Regional Inspection Program (WRIP) officially opened on May 10th. The goal of this program is to improve Wright County's success of preventing new introductions of aquatic species (AIS). This pilot of the program will require **free** entry inspections prior to launching water-related equipment at accesses on three lakes near the city of Annandale (Sylvia, John and Pleasant). The inspection takes place at a convenient site near the lakes—in Annandale Business Park at 1300 Business Blvd. Decontamination services are also provided. How it works: You must stop at the regional inspection station **BEFORE** launching; Inspectors will check your watercraft for AIS; you will receive a receipt & your watercraft will be sealed to your trailer with a zip-tie; at the access, place the receipt on the dash of the tow vehicle; break the seal when you launch & place it in the drop box provided; be sure & fill out the online user feedback because that information goes to the DNR & positive feedback is important. Special provisions for fishing leagues: if there are 10 or more boats needing an inspection, contact Alicia O'Hare (AIS@wrightswcd.org) or 763-682-1933 ext.3) **3 business days in advance**. A best effort will be made to arrange "at the access inspections".



We received a permit to relocate migrating bogs. This year there are quite a few big ones due to heavy snowfall and higher precip. A **big thank you** to Denny Kugler, Bruce Berning and Rich Comben who are again heading up the team to relocate the bogs along the West shore on the main basin. **Many pontoons/boats are needed for this task plus people getting in the water after they are pushed to their location and cable them in place. This can't be done by just a few people. Your help is needed!!!! An email will go out to property owners I have contact information for with a time, date and place to get this accomplished.**

25 acres of Curly Leaf Pondweed (CLP) were treated on the evening of May 7th. Thanks to Steve Benzschawel and Craig Mueller, Aquatic Solutions. Bob Fleskes was along if they needed additional help. Weather was perfect, there was no wind. CLP needs to be treated when water temperatures are 50-60 degrees. Cost was \$6,252.85. We also received a permit to treat 14.9 acres of Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) at a cost of \$6095.00. A confirmation survey will need to be completed before treatment costing \$690.00.

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### **WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

Peggy McDougall & Becky Eastman-Section 2

Jim & Lynn Vos-Section 5

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

The Wright AIS treatment Grant had leftover funds from 2017 of \$63,000. Lake John was awarded \$3,000 (matching funds) to treat EWM and a grant of \$1,100 (matching funds) to treat CLP.

The Lake John Board approved \$900 expenditure to Blue Water Science to check for Starry Stonewort (SSW) in September at both landing areas. Discovering SSW early is critical. Lake Sylvia has spent \$30,000 to treat 1 1/2 acres, 4 treatments. They started with 31 sites of detected SSW. End of season, no SSW and only 1 bulbil; no SSW in rest of lake. However, bulbils in sediment are **NOT** killed so plants can start growing again.

A reminder to those who haven't joined or rejoined for 2018....To be a member in good standing, your dues must be paid on or before the annual meeting. To date, we have 104 members out of 142 property owners. We need participation from **all property owners**. Property values depend on the health of the lake. The members are trying their hardest to keep the lake as free of invasives as we can but it takes time and money to accomplish those goals.

Elaine Fleskes, President of Lake John

### Results of water level survey-77 responses, 74% of membership & 55% of total mailings

89% are aware of recent (high water) conditions

69% have had shoreline damage

83% have NOT had damage to personal property

64% have been adversely affected by "loose bogs"

57% have lost sandy beach conditions

60% have trucked in sand or rock to restore shoreline

68% have observed destruction of wildlife habitat

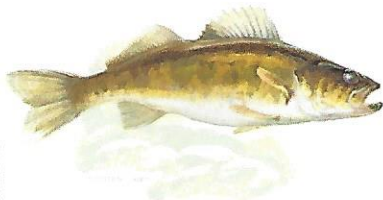
68% have NOT reviewed the DNR website regarding the lake levels in our area & ours

53% are informed about our local watershed

77% are NOT adversely affected on their lot, driveway, or street

92% do NOT regularly operate any pump to drain basements or crawlspaces

90% ARE NOT SATISFIED WITH THE STATUS QUO OR OF AN OPTION TO LEAVE THINGS ALONE!



### Nice surprise from DNR Fisheries

DNR was out harvesting walleye ponds early May and since we were scheduled to be stocked this fall, they decided to stock now. We were slated to receive 353 lbs. of walleye fingerlings; however due to the size of the fish (yearlings-10"-12" and adults-15"-20") they stocked 594 lbs of walleye.



Our annual meeting will be held at the South Haven Hall, 521 Oak Avenue, South Haven, Saturday, June 23, 2018. 9:30 coffee and donuts, meeting starts promptly at 10:00 am. This a good way to meet your neighbors, get caught up on what we have accomplished this past year and enjoy a nice lunch as well. Hope to see you all there!!!!!!

## LAKE IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT UPDATE

In 2017 at our Lake John Association annual meeting it was decided that we should continue toward being approved for a LID. The LID provides a steady source for funding that we can count on for fighting invasive species. We currently have two invasive species we treat most years. They are Curly Leaf Pondweed and Eurasian Water Milfoil. We also have Zebra Mussels but at the current time there is no cost effective approved method to control Zebra Mussels. The LID fund would provide money to fight invasive species and provide for our participation for the Regional Decontamination Station.

Our January newsletter included a ballot which is one of the needed steps to proceed down the path for a LID approval. We needed 71 votes in favor of the LID for it to pass and we got 87 votes in favor, 7 against and 47 people did not return a vote. We have also formed a small LID committee to follow the path for County approval of the LID.

Maple Lake went down this same path last year for LID approval. Their original source of funding was their annual fishing contest, but after the winters of 2015 and 2016 when they could not hold a fishing contest due to poor ice, they needed a steady source of funding and formed their LID.

We are using the Maple Lake LID as a blueprint for our LID plan. You can view the Maple Lake LID process for their approval on their website if you have an interest. There are still many steps and approvals that need to be done for our LID. All aspects for this program need to be approved by the County Board because this will be added to the annual taxes assessed to each property. This is not some plan that we are locked into for perpetuity. We can vote to discontinue and if that vote passes the plan is abolished.

The real basics of the plan are: a LID board must be established for our lake; it would be separate from the Lake John Association board. The board is composed of 5 to 9 members. The board must be an odd number of members. The number of members is determined by the county. The majority of members must be year round residents. The other members can be seasonal or year round members. A budget must be set every year and that budget needs to be approved by this LID board and also approved by the county board. This budget is set for the next year and that money must be spent. Funds can't be held over for the year after that.

We are hoping that we will be approved to a nine member board because this gives us a larger cross section of people for a better representation of membership. This board will be composed of members that are not on the Lake John Association board except for one person that will be on both boards. This is to create separation but at the same time gives a direct communication channel for information. We will keep our Lake John Association board for all other projects and topics other than invasive species items.

(Over)

We expect the cost of this program to be \$85 to \$220 depending on the invasive species treatments for that year, and the decontamination station cost. We would anticipate being on the low end of this cost range currently. There are a couple of wild cards here in our future however. We have been getting grants to cover substantial amounts of the costs to treat invasive species in the past, but those grants are being reduced as more and more lake are getting invasive species. Some grant reductions have already happened. Other grant eliminations have happened but were then reinstated. The state has been changing grant funds a lot, so we can't count on them in the future. We also don't know what other invasive species might be coming in the future. The list of invasive species is growing every year. Some of these are worse than the ones we already have. For real bad ones we know of three plant types and one animal type invasive species, three of which are already in the state. These three are far worse than any invasive species we already have.

We need to be prepared for the future and with most of the invasive species if you get them they will be here to stay. In most cases you can only treat them to reduce them. In most cases there is no eradication of an invasive species once they are in your lake. Successful eradication of zebra mussels in the entire US is under five cases, and in those were cases where they were caught very early. One of those cases was in a very small body of water about 3 acres.

We have seen our neighbor, Lake Sylvia, try to monitor their landing year after year and they still got Zebra Mussels and Starry Stonewort while monitoring the landing. Prevention is the key but landing monitoring was not 100%. The decontamination station is an attempt to improve the inspection and detection of invasive species.

We do not want to price anyone off our lake with this taxation method of funding for invasive species control and the decontamination station. We are working on coming up with a plan for hardship in cases where this special tax could be refunded by some mechanism. Naturally there would be a list of qualifications to be met. With the new federal tax legislation, charitable contributions are no longer being deductible, which means this new funding method using taxation will makes these funds deductible as long as you fall under the new guideline limits.

This new board will be appointed by the county for one term and then these positions will be elected by the members that are owners of property in the LID district. We encourage people to run and have a voice in how the money is being spent battling invasive species. Our issues dealing with invasive species is the biggest expense we have and the most important on-going issue.

Steve Benzschawel, LID Chairperson

The Summer newsletter seems to be a fitting place to say “thanks” to the volunteers who don’t just live on the lake, but volunteer their time and talents as well. Without you, we would not be a successful lake association. But, as all of us age, we need the younger property owners to step up and do their share in being caretakers of Lake John. Volunteering is very rewarding. Try it!!!!!!!

- **Creative Director:** Dan Ventrelli designed the logo for WRIP, designed the access site printed materials and directional signage; worked with the DNR to get approval on the access signs. For 2018, Dan will be helping design posters for retail businesses & a “Dear Boater” card for use at accesses in the program.
- **Website:** Dana O’Connor for creating and keeping website up to date.
- **Lake Water testing:** Kirk Linderholm
- **Bog Moving Organizers:** Denny Kugler, Bruce Berning, Rich Comben **and** to the **many** people/neighbors (Mike Murphy already volunteered) who answer their call to help relocate bogs & cable them.
- **Lake Water level:** Bruce Nystrom and to Karen MacMillan who volunteered last year.
- **Annual Food Committee:** Paul Fliegel, John Larson, Dan Ventrelli, Rose Mattson, Mike Jaskowiak
- **Official Ice Out Committee:** Bruce Bartels, Paul Fliegel, Mike Jaskowiak
- **LID Committee:** Steve Benzschawel, Peter MacMillan, Doug Van Metre
- **Loon Watchers:** Bruce Nystrom, Alan/Aleta Isaacson
- **Lake John Board of Directors:** for participation and answering the call to serve
- **Expired terms:** to Paul Fliegel and Amy Comben for their service on the Board.
- **Annual Meeting volunteers:** those who step up and help in any capacity we need help with
- **Certified Divers on standby:** Randy Mattson, Rob & Dana O’Connor
- **Property Owners:** who pay their membership dues year after year and those who donate extra.
- And a special thanks to Paul Fliegel and Randy Mattson for loading the 6 milfoil buoys and bringing them to Lampi Auction.



Our condolences and prayers to Kris Dunham, Section 4, on the loss of her husband Bruce and also her mother-in-law Mary Dunham. Mary passed away February 10, 2018. Bruce passed away February 28, 2018. Mary purchased the cabin on Lake John in 1958. She continued to come to the lake for many years after Darrell’s death. Bruce was an avid fisherman and will be missed.

*Laughter is the shock absorber that eases the blows of life. (Author unknown)*

*Live simply, love generously, care deeply, speak kindly, leave the rest to God.  
(Author unknown)*



Elaine Fleskes, President—274-5399  
Steve Benzschawel, Vice Pres.—612-558-0215  
Amy Comben, Treasurer—612-245-7625  
Bruce Nystrom, Secretary—274-2205  
Karen MacMillan, Section 1—274-3893  
Jim Splinter, Section 2—320-980-0560  
Jon Navratil, Section 3—274-5350  
Bob Fleskes, Section 4—274-5399  
Jean Sutherland, Section 5—612-644-0862  
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 23, 2018, 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.**