



Photo by Joe Fleskes

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

**Promoting the care and betterment
of Lake John**

www.lakejohnassociation.com

Volume 8 Issue 2

Summer 2019

From the President's Dock

After a long, cold, snowy winter we all looked forward to Spring. The old adage "April showers bring May flowers" didn't seem to hold true this year. "May showers bring June flowers"? There is a lot to fill you in on, so here is the news:

Ice Out contest winner: Lakes judge their ice out date by different criteria. Some guess the official date when a person can navigate from point A to point B. Lake John has always declared the official ice out date when there was absolutely NO ice on any part of the lake. This year the 3 judges declared April 20th as the ice out date. Only one person guessed that date correctly....Marty Lass, Section 6. He will receive the \$50 at our annual meeting in June.



Treatment costs for 2019: We received a permit to again treat 25 acres of Curly Leaf Pondweed with Aquathol K by the southern area of the DNR public landing area at a cost of \$6,712.44. We also received a permit to treat a total of 22.1 acres Eurasian Water Milfoil along the southern area and along the Southeast shore line and 4 acres of EWM in the bay area, the same areas that were treated in 2018. Combined costs of the EWM treatment is \$10,623.09 We also need to do an EWM survey before treatment (costing \$740) to be eligible for a grant of \$2,275 in 2019. There is no grant money available for CLP treatment. We also want Blue Water Science to do a Starry Stonewort Search at both landings this fall which will cost \$900. So...adding all the expenses up, it comes to **\$18,975.53. PLUS, our contribution to the Wright Regional Inspection Program (WRIP) of \$5000 so grand total comes to \$23,975.53 spent to fight AIS.** We also received a relocation bog permit which costs nothing except for volunteer time in getting them relocated & anchored in place which is mandatory! What angers me the most is approximately 42 property owners give absolutely NOTHING to the lake association to fight invasives. I don't know how they justify their decision but it is so unfair to the rest who join year after year & help with volunteering any way they can. More on a solution to this on page 2.

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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Patrick & Leanne Liebsch-Section 1

Scott & Neysa Silver-Section 2

Paul & Amy Chouinard-Section 2

Justin Rannow & Erin Hilliard-Section 2

David & Erin Johnson-Section 2

Andy & Trudy Clough-Section 4

Peter & Kelly Ekenberg-Section 4

Cameron & Michelle Sucik-Section 4

Carolie Hullander-Section 5

Perry & Andrea Hurth-Section 6

Lake Improvement District (LID): In January of 2018, along with the newsletters, information was sent out regarding Lake John becoming a Lake Improvement District. This included a form to send back whether the property owner was in favor or opposed to the plan. We received 87 votes in favor, 7 against and 48 never responded back. Not much was done pursuing it since that time. The busyness of life is stingy on divvying up extra time.. Members of that committee had their own businesses to take care of and that came first as it should be. We had almost 13 new property owners since that information went out. So, on May 1st. information and a form was emailed to vote either for or against. **11 responded back.** To date we now have 91 voting FOR. Some of the properties changed hands and therefore the previous owners signatures were no longer valid. Lake Charlotte, Pulaski, Mink./Sommers, Indian and Maple Lake all have these plans in place. And there are many other lakes who are in the Crow River Watershed District or the North Fork River Watershed District who also have implemented LID's as a fair and equitable means to handle funding Aquatic Invasive Species. From what I've been told it is a tedious, time-consuming venture. The purpose of our LID is to provide steady reliable funding to continue treatment and control of the existing invasive species already in Lake John and to try and prevent new invasives from entering our lake in the first place. This would be accomplished through taxation instead of the Association collecting donated funds for invasive species projects. This new funding mechanism would take its place in 2020. **Please plan to attend our annual association meeting on the 22nd.** The public hearing is set for Tuesday, July 16th in the Buffalo County Board room at 9:30 a.m.

I-LIDS (which stands for Internet Landing Installed Device Sensor): Wright Regional Inspection Program (WRIP) did not pass in the legislature for the 9 lakes. The board felt we needed to do more in trying to keep the lake as free of invasives as we can. With very few random inspections offered for Lake John, we heard about the I-LIDS monitoring systems which provide oversight of boaters visiting lakes especially even when inspectors cannot be there. The system's typical operating hours are from 6am to 10pm on guard 2500 hours per season. It's proven to work. People react to the audio message knowing they are on live camera, read the sign and then inspect their boat and trailer for attached plants before launching and after pulling out. The I-LIDS continues to be the most economical method of creating boater awareness of the need to inspect and clean their boats. The system uploads all videos captured within seconds to a remote cloud server where they process the compressed video into a form that can be played back on the website. The new controller can rotate through multiple audio messages that are targeted at the boater. The I-LIDS can operate at night using an LED that fastens to the side of the housing and is turned on by a vehicle being present. There will be additional hidden cameras to catch those that would try to vandalize it. These are hidden cameras the size of a quarter and are motion activated. We will prosecute anyone damaging or trying to damage the equipment. Law enforcement will be involved if violations are blatantly shown and prosecuted. We are incrementally trying to lessen the probability of the spread of invasive species. If we do end up getting something, some people will say it is just wasting money because it doesn't work. Those people need to know that short of limiting every boat in Minnesota to just one lake for the entire summer, nothing will guarantee 100% to stop invasives. What the camera system does is educate people, remind them and capture images of the most flagrant offenders. Each thing the lake association does is a step in the direction of helping the situation but nothing is foolproof. We are taking steps to reduce the problem as new technology becomes available. Cost of the I-LIDS, with tax and insurance, is \$11,966.47.

Elaine Fleskes, President of Lake John



Our annual meeting will be held at the South Haven Hall, 521 Oak Avenue, South Haven, Saturday, June 22 2019, 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!!!!!!!

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!!!!!! Many hands make light work. Just a little goes a long way.

- **Website:** Dana O’Connor for creating and keeping website up to date.
- **Lake Water testing:** Kirk Linderholm
- **Bog Moving Organizers:** Denny Kugler, Bruce Berning, Mike Murphy, Rich Comben **and** to the **many** people/ neighbors who answer their call to help relocate bogs & cable them.
- **Lake Water level:** Jean Sutherland
- **Annual Food Committee:** Paul Fliegel, Lee Custer, Jon Navratil, Bob & Jean Sutherland, Joyce Nuernberg
- **Official Ice Out Committee:** Bruce Bartels, Paul Fliegel, Mike Jaskowiak
- **LID Committee:** Dan Ventrelli, Paul Fliegel, Jean Sutherland, Jim Splinter, Elaine Fleskes
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- **Lake John Board of Directors:** for participation and answering the call to serve
- **Expired terms:** Steve Benzschawel, Karen MacMillan and Joyce Nuernberg
- **Helpers with the chemical treatment:** John Larson, Jim Vos, Joe Fleskes, Steve Benzschawel, Steve Campbell
- **Annual Meeting volunteers:** those who step up and help in any capacity we need help with: (cleanup volunteers): Bob & Jean Sutherland, Jeff Gavin, Michelle Sutton, Bob Fleskes, Lee Custer and anyone else I forgot to mention, I deeply apologize.
- **Property Owners:** who pay their membership dues year after year and those who donate extra.
- **Auditors of Lake John Books:** Peter & Karen MacMillan
- **A special thanks to all those who sent emails to the legislators.**

OPEN BOARD POSITIONS

The following board position are open & need to be filled: **Secretary** and **Section 3 rep.** John Larson volunteered for the Section 1 rep. Bruce Bartels volunteered for the VP position. We meet for about an hour on the second Monday of May, June, July and September at 6:30 pm. Please contact Elaine Fleskes at fleskese@gmail.com **by June 10th** for the Secretary position or Section 3 rep. if you are interested in running for these positions so your name can be on the ballot. (For a section rep, you must reside in that section.) Thank you for stepping up.



Our condolences and prayers to Sandy Gerard on the loss of her husband, Duane, Section 4, on April 21st; to Don Gipp, a former property owner, Section 5, on the loss of his wife Lila who passed away on April 24th (a member of the Lake John Association gave a donation to the AIS fund in memory of Lila); to Tony Raugust, Section 4, on the loss of his wife Sue in early October; to Lila Greenwood, Section 4, on the loss of her husband Eldon in early October. All were members of the Association for over 20 years.



Elaine Fleskes, President—274-5399
Steve Benzschawel, Vice Pres.—612-558-0215
Randy Austin, Treasurer—612-590-9222
Secretary: Joyce Nuernberg—274-5889
Karen MacMillan, Section 1—274-3893
Jim Splinter, Section 2—320-980-0560
Section 3—open position
Bob Fleskes, Section 4—274-5399
Jean Sutherland, Section 5—612-644-0862
Bruce Berning, Section 6—274-7129

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

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