



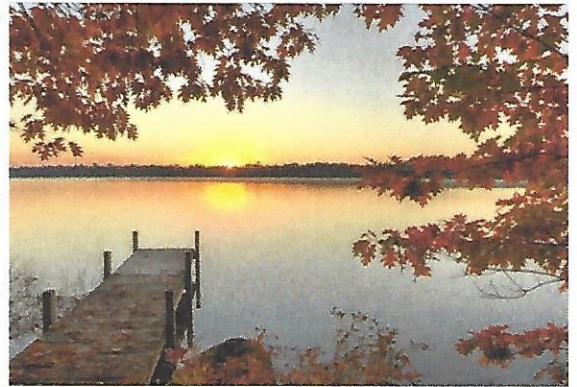
**Lake John Association
P.O. Box 437
Annandale, MN. 55302**

**Promoting the care and betterment
of Lake John
www.lakejohnassociation.com**

Volume 9 Issue 1 Winter 2020

From the President's Dock

If you have been feeling particularly waterlogged last season at the lake, you have good reason. The areas around the Twin Cities had their wettest year on record. From flooded streets to high lake levels, Minnesotans have been feeling...well...damp. But, if it helps to say it, we aren't alone. 2019 has been the wettest year on record across much of the 48 contiguous United States. July 11th and 12th, Lake John volunteers (Patrick Splinter, Dave Owens, Bruce Berning, Patrick Liebsch and Steve Benzschawel) cleared one CR 3 culvert which dropped the level of Lake John about 1 1/2 inches. (see top photo of what was taken out of the east side CR 3 culvert). With the help of the DNR hydrologist, James Bedell, and county engineer, Virgil Hawkins, the County hired Mares Excavating to come out with their jetter hose to clear both culverts. One of the Lake John volunteers almost got sucked in the culverts and from now on, we are to report a possible blockage to the County engineer and they will take care of it. To our surprise, the County even paid to hire a trapper to get rid of 2 beaver on the east side of the culvert.



Abundance of Native Weed Growth

You might have seen more weed growth this past year and assumed it was Curlyleaf Pondweed or another invasive weed. However, I sent pictures to James Johnson at Freshwater Scientific who noted it to be native pondweed (Illinois pondweed), definitely not Curlyleaf. "More growth was likely due to the weather; the plant is great cover for larger gamefish". "Beauty is in the eye of the beholder", he said.

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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Patrick & Leanne Liebsch—Section 1

Scott & Neysa Silver—Section 2

Paul & Amy Chouinard—Section 2

David & Erin Johnson—Section 2

Justin Rannow/Erin Hilliard—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

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

Sales Tax Exemption of Chemicals

For several years, the organization, Minnesota Lakes and Rivers has lobbied to remove the sales tax on chemicals lake associations must buy to treat lakes for Aquatic Invasive Species. Last session their advocacy was finally successful. Herbicides used under an invasive plant management permit are now exempt from sales tax.

Lake Improvement District Update

On August 20, 2019, the County Commissioners voted 4-1 in favor of our Lake John Improvement District (LJID). We were successful in getting the Sunset Acres Property Owners included in the LID. Since we were not able to hold an annual Lake Improvement District meeting in August (no time since the County approved it on the 20th), what was approved is a \$20,000 service fee to the LID in 2020, with the LID not being able to expend the money until AFTER it's annual meeting in July or August of 2020. For the year 2020, each will be assessed a service fee of \$138.89. (Note: special assessments are not reported on proposed tax notices. You will not see that amount until the tax statement is in the mail this spring.) The full resolutions (#19-92 and #19-104) can be found on our website, www.lakejohnassociation.com. The LID is a completely separate entity from the Lake John Association...separate checkbooks, separate P.O. Box, separate board of directors except for 2 serving on both boards. The first board of directors are: Peter MacMillan, Steve Benzschawel, Dan Ventrelli, Alan Isaacson, Dave Owens, Deb Johnson, Elaine Fleskes, Jim Splinter, and Paul Fliegel. The terms will be staggered, so the first board will have 3 with a one-year term, 3 with a 2-year term, and 3 with a 3-year term. All elections after that are for 3-year terms.

A Reminder

Due to the Lake Improvement District requirement from Wright County that the annual meeting be held in July or August this first year, we are going to hold both the LID annual meeting **AND** the Lake John Association annual meeting on the same day...**July 11th at the South Haven Hall**. The LID annual meeting will start at 9:00 am (coffee and donuts at 8:30 am) followed by the Lake John Association annual meeting. To keep these meetings short, we will not serve a luncheon as in past meetings. We will be voting on a number of issues so **all property owners of Lake John** are encouraged to attend this important meeting. In 2021, we will again hold both meetings either on the 3rd. or 4th Saturday in June as the bylaws state. After the LID board conducts an unofficial organizational meeting on January 4th and discusses times, dates & place for the board meetings, they will be posted on our website (see above).

Bits and Pieces

- . The boat inspection program of 2 years (WRIP) was killed mainly due to no support from the DNR and Wright County not wanting to take the chance it would be stuck with any cost to continue it. We, however, continue to try and protect Lake John by:
 - . Doing an annual invasive species control program for 2 species: Eurasian Watermilfoil and Curlyleaf Pondweed.
 - . Trying to keep our water level under control by keeping CR 3 and 68th St. culverts open and flowing properly.
 - . By setting up the ILIDS video/message system at our public boat landing on the south end of Lake John.
 - . By establishing a consistent and dependable funding source to do all of the above in creating the LID for Lake John. This will ensure funds & make it fair to all. Also, donations/grants will supplement this to everyone's benefit.
- . The floating bogs remain a problem. As long as we have high water, there will most likely be floating bogs. Other lakes are having this same problem. We have established a volunteer bog committee, plus the proper permits from the DNR to move/anchor them. You still need to help but will not be alone. It is against the law to just push huge ones away from your shoreline and to have it be someone's else's problem. The bogs need to be anchored and reattached in the cattail area along the West shore on the main basin as long as they are not reattached in an area adjacent to private property and blocking their access to the lake. Be a good steward of the lake and abide by the rules. Think of your neighbors as well.
- . Blue Water Science did a Starry Stonewort Search at both landings on October 1st..and found no SSW. Full survey can be found on our website.

Lake John Association---Time to Pay 2020 Dues

Annual dues to Lake John Association are \$50.00. (\$30 goes to the General Fund and \$20 to Critical Needs/ Invasive Species Fund.)

Lake John Association is a 501 C (3) tax exempt organization, so dues and gifts are tax deductible.

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Lake Address: _____

Lake Phone: _____ **Home Phone:** _____

Email Address: _____

(only if different from roster listing)

Lake John Annual Dues (\$50) _____
(We truly appreciate any additional support)

<u>GEM CLUB</u>	
Sapphire	(\$1-99)
Emerald	(\$100-499)
Diamond	(\$500-999)
Ruby	(\$1000+)

Add My Additional Gift To:

General Fund _____

Invasive Species Fund _____

TOTAL _____

(Gifts not indicated to a specific fund will go to the Invasive Species)

check here ___ if you wish to remain anonymous.

\$50.00 ICE OUT CONTEST*

As a member, you have a chance to WIN \$50.00 if you guess the correct date ice is gone from Lake John.*

(In case of a tie, winner will be selected in a drawing). **ONE ENTRY PER MEMBERSHIP.**

Name: _____

Ice Out: Month _____ **Date** _____

***ENVELOPE MUST BE POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN MARCH 1 TO QUALIFY**

Send entire page to: Lake John Association, P.O. Box 437, Annandale MN. 55302



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Adrienne Owens/ Secretary—651-398-6562
John Larson/ Section 1—651-270-5239
Jim Splinter, Section 2—320-980-0560
Julie Fournier/Section 3—612-414-7548
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

The annual LID meeting will be held on Saturday July 11, 2020, 8:30 coffee and donuts, meeting starting promptly at 9:00 AM followed by the lake association annual meeting at the South Haven Hall, 521 Oak Avenue, South Haven. Hope to see you all there.