



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

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

www.lakejohnassociation.com

Volume 9 Issue 2

Summer 2020

From the President's Dock

Peace be with you all. These changing times have caused an increase in our anxieties. We hope and pray that all of you are well and are enjoying the fun and the peace and tranquility Lake John can give you.

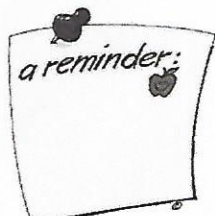
Ice Out contest winner: Lake John has always declared the official ice out date when there was absolutely NO ice on any part of the lake. The O'Connor's, Don Bixby, Ralph Petersen, Annie Doughty and Gary/Carol Weir picked the official date of April 7th. At our board meeting June 8th, a drawing was held and the winner is Ralph Petersen. A check for \$50 will be mailed to him.

Treatment costs for 2020: A CLP delineation survey was done in April for \$790. and a permit was issued by the DNR to treat 15.3 acres of Curly Leaf Pondweed with Aquathol K by the southern area of the DNR public landing area at a cost of \$6,483.74. We were not awarded any grant money this year from the DNR. We were awarded grant money from the County as follows: \$500 for treatment of CLP; \$1000 toward the Point Intercept Survey (will be done in July at a cost of \$2850); \$2925 for treatment of EWM (which is a 50% match for treatment which means we have to spend at least \$2925 to receive the \$2925. We also want Blue Water Science to do a Starry Stonewort Search at both landings this fall which will cost \$900. We also received a relocation bog permit which costs nothing except for volunteer time in getting them relocated & anchored in place which is mandatory!

Bogs: Unfortunately last fall and this spring many bog islands have broken loose and are bouncing around our lake. Most residents are just casting them away from their shorelines and docks, just to go downwind to take out someone else's equipment! We urge you not to do that to your friends and neighbors. May 4th, Elaine sent out an urgent email asking for help to move them across the lake to where we have DNR approval to relocate and anchor them. Fortunately, we had 9 boats and pontoons show up to help move them, and so far they seem to be holding! We are asking people to not just cast them away, but to get help to push them to the SW wildlife area where they can be anchored permanently. As we look into the cost of removing them from the lake we are finding it to be very expensive plus the fact we need DNR approval to remove, dry out and truck them away. Many hoops to jump through!! The cheapest way is to anchor them on our lake which means we all need to **work together** to achieve this goal.
Bruce Berning.



(continued on page 2)



The Lake John Annual meeting will be held July 11th at 9:00 am (provided Governor approves) at the South Haven Hall, 521 Oak Avenue, South Haven. Due to Covid-19, a few changes this year: Max of 2 attendees per family; also, please bring your own refreshments. We will have a zoom option for those who want to distance. Please text Julie Fournier at 612-414-7548 to get on the zoom list. As of this mailing, the Lake Improvement District will conduct their meeting prior to the Lake John annual meeting. If things change, the LID will send out a notice.

Summer Solstice parade: 1st. Annual paddle parade on Lake John! (Socially distant of course!). All non-motorized equipment welcome! When: Sat. June 20th at 9am; where: meet on the water at Lake John's giant golf ball (Ralph's). Where: paddle down the finger and back. Costumes and friends are welcome! We hope to see you there. Julie Dee & Amy Funderburk Chouinard.

Beaver damage by shorelines: The DNR hydrologist stated that it is the property owner's responsibility to deal with nuisance animals much in the same manner that any property owner has to deal with a mouse infestation in their home. He directs them to their local DNR Wildlife Manager for resources that can help them deal with the issue (ie. Trappers). In this case the best person for them to contact is Nicholas Snavely at Nicholas.snavely@state.mn.us

Culvert blockage: The County Engineer was contacted on May 4th about a possible blockage on the east side of CR#3 and that the culvert going into East Lake Sylvia was only about 20% full. We were told the Highway maintenance staff will check it out and take appropriate measures to ensure the culverts under Highway 3 are functioning properly. I contacted the County Engineer on May 15th and according to his reply, they found that there was no evidence of beaver activity or blockage in the culverts under Hwy. 3. The water is backing up through the culverts from downstream. They will be jetting out the culverts later this spring, as part of their culvert maintenance, just to make sure these culverts are completely debris free.

Lake Level: The DNR Survey Crew did not come out this spring to reset the lake gages due to the Stay At Home Order. They instructed Bob & Jean Sutherland to install in a location that is easy for them to read and at a depth that is neither too shallow nor too deep. Jean will give an update at the annual meeting.

Water Quality: I did the water quality testing on May 17th. Phosphorous level was 21 ug/l; chlorophyll a was 8.9 ug/l and the secchi disk reading was 8.5 feet. I am looking for person or persons to assist in monthly sampling and weekly lake clarity readings. Pretty simple, takes about 1/2 hour to do sample and 5 minutes to do clarity check. For water samples take on Sunday afternoon or Monday morning and bring into SWCD in Buffalo on Monday. Have been doing it for about 10 years and need someone for backup or to take ownership for the betterment of Lake John. Will train and can provide instructions for interested people. Thank you, Kirk. Email is kwl55302@midco.net

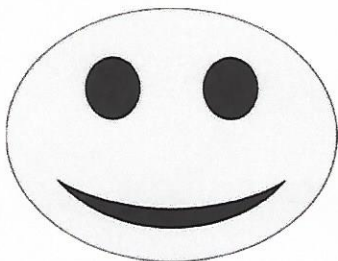
Bylaws revision: The bylaws have not been updated since 2014. The Lake John Board updated them and copies will be mailed out to the membership on June 24th for members to vote on them.

ILIDS: (Internet Landing Installed Device Sensor): The ILIDS camera was installed May 8th and it received many updates to improve the quality and performance of the overall system: video caching; updated firmware will power up the modem twice an hour for several minutes to upload cached videos to the server. It can also be triggered by the magnetic sensor being tripped. The benefit is this reduces the power usage of the system and therefore allows hours of operation to be extended.

OPEN BOARD POSITIONS: The President, Treasurer, and Section 2, 4 and 6 need to be filled. Amy Chouinard volunteered to run for Section 2 rep; Cameron Sucik volunteered to run for Section 4 rep. Bruce Berning will run for his second term in Section 6. These positions need to be filled. If you are interested in serving on the board, please email me by June 20th, at fleskese@gmail.com (or contact any of the board members on page 4) so I can put your name on the ballot. To be a section rep, you must reside in that section.

There are several items that need to be voted on along with the ballot. Please vote and return that one page to our PO Box no later than July 8th. An envelope is provided.

Elaine Fleskes, Lake John President



Since this is my last newsletter, I leave you with a bit of humor. Elaine
 Women are like angels
 and when someone breaks our wings
 we continue to fly on a broomstick
 because we are flexible like that.

Author unknown

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 Relocating Volunteers:** Bruce Berning, Kevin Scott, Nathan Domagala, Steve Prinson, Denny Kugler, John O’Donnell, Mike Murphy, Jim Vos, Cameron Sucik, Chris Snowden, Patrick Splinter, Perry Hurth, Lee Custer, John & Kayla Tsuchiya, Mark Sytsma, Paul Fliegel **and** to the many neighbors who answer their call to help relocate bogs & cable them.
- **Lake Water level:** Jean Sutherland
- **Annual Food Committee:** Paul Fliegel, Bob & Jean Sutherland.
- **Official Ice Out Committee:** Bruce Bartels, Paul Fliegel, Mike Jaskowiak
- **LID Board of Directors:** Steve Benzschawel, Dave Owens, Dan Ventrelli, Peter MacMillan, Alan Isaacson, Deb Johnson, Jim Splinter, Paul Fliegel (one open position)
- **Lake John Board of Directors:** Elaine Fleskes, Bruce Bartels, Randy Austin, Adrienne Owens, John Larson, Jim Splinter, Julie Fournier, Bob Fleskes, Jean Sutherland, Bruce Berning
- **Culvert Monitors:** Dave Owens, Jim Splinter
- **ILIDS:** John O’Donnell, Doug VanMetre, John Larson, Dan Ventrelli, Jim Vos, Don Kunelius
- **Helpers with the chemical treatment:** John Larson, Jim Vos and his grandson Gavin, Steve Benzschawel.
- **Expired terms:** Elaine Fleskes, Jim Splinter, Bob Fleskes
- **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, and anyone else I forgot to mention, I deeply apologize.
- **Auditors of Lake John Books:** Doug and Molly VanMetre
- **Property Owners:** who pay their membership dues year after year and those who donate extra.
- **A special thanks to all those who send emails to the legislators.**

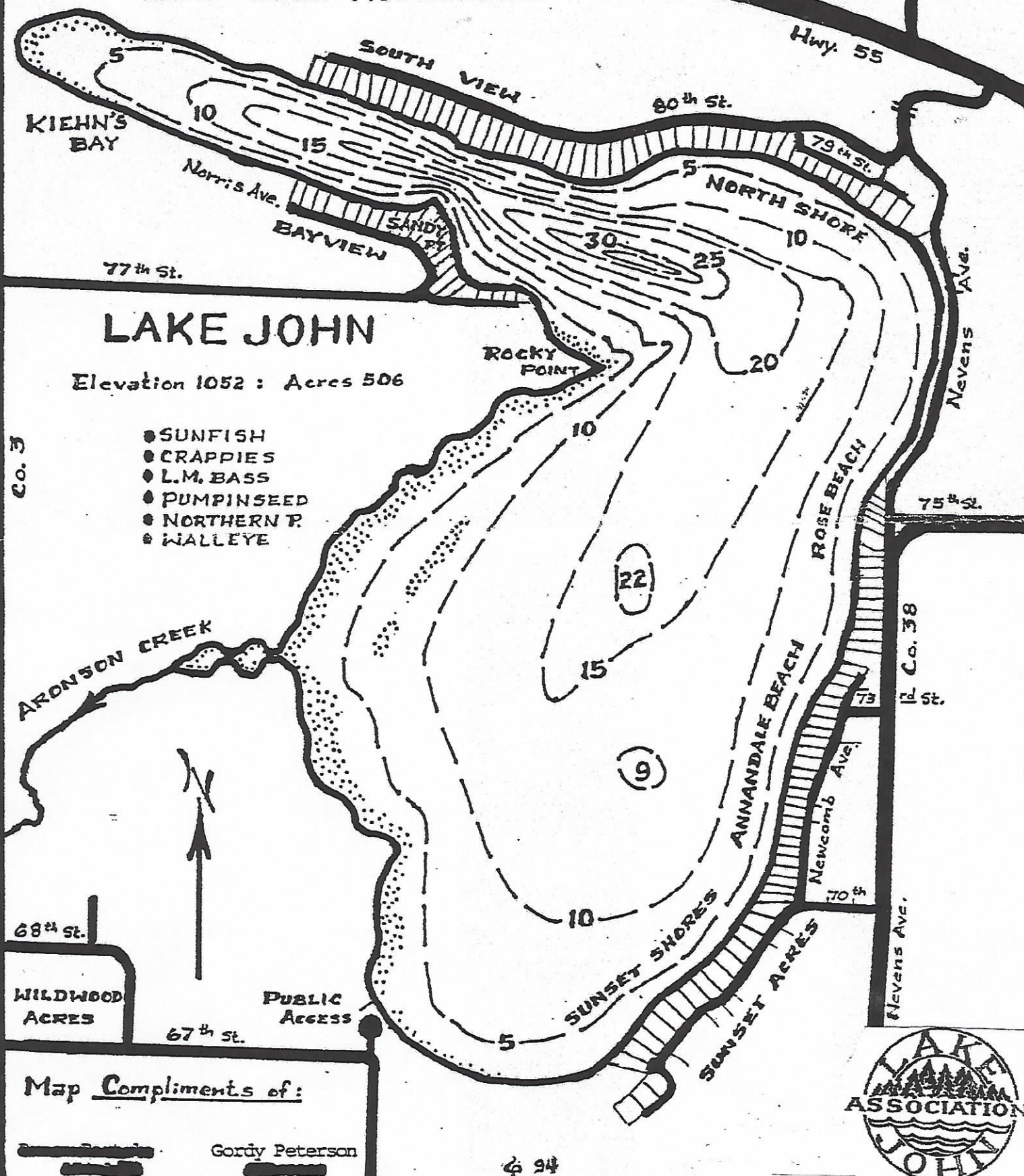
When this pandemic is over, may we never again take for granted...a handshake with a stranger, full shelves at the store, conversations with neighbors, a crowded theater, Friday night out, the taste of Communion, a routine checkup, the school rush each morning, coffee with a friend, the stadium roaring, each deep breath, a boring Tuesday, life itself. When this ends may we find that we have become more like people we wanted to be, we were called to be, we hoped to be, and may we stay that way——better for each other because of the worst.

(excerpt from St. Ignatius church bulletin)



Our condolences and prayers to the family of Tony Raugust, Section 4, who passed away December 5, 2019. Tony was a long time member of Lake John Association. Our deepest sympathy to daughters Karen, Ellen and Sue. Also, Paula Petty passed away on May 7th. Our deepest sympathy to her children, Bob, Nicole and Tom.

Lake John Association



Elevation 1052 : Acres 506

- SUNFISH
- CRAPPIES
- L.M. BASS
- PUMPINSEED
- NORTHERN P.
- WALLEYE

Map Compliments of:

Gordy Peterson



Lakes Learning

Good Boat Stewardship

Recreational enjoyment, fishing quality and property value is all tied to lake water quality. In order to protect your water quality, there are certain responsibilities for boat owners using the lakes.

The area of the lake that is less than 15 feet deep and where sunlight can reach the bottom is usually where you will find the majority of aquatic plants since they need sunlight to grow. These areas are important habitat for fish, shorebirds and aquatic invertebrates because the plants give them refuge from predators and there is abundant food available.



We tend to think of aquatic plants as bad for recreation, but they are very important to organisms living in the lake. When a boat or jet ski speeds through reeds or aquatic plants, it can cause disturbance to these sensitive areas. First, it stirs up the lake sediment, re-suspending nutrients (Phosphorus) that are at the lake's bottom. When these nutrients reach the surface of the water where the algae are, they can feed algae and cause an algal bloom. This stirring can also decrease the water clarity because of additional particles suspended in the water column.

Secondly, props can cause direct damage to aquatic plants, cutting them up and decreasing their use as a shelter for fish. Please avoid driving through reeds and bulrushes with jet skis and boats. Thirdly, props and wave action can disturb sensitive habitat for spawning fish and other organisms.

What you can do is make sure you drive slowly through littoral areas or avoid them entirely. If your dock is in a shallow area, go slowly without a wake out into the deeper part of the lake instead of going full throttle right away.

"Slow no wake" means operation of a watercraft at the slowest possible speed necessary to maintain steerage, but in no case greater than 5 miles per hour.

If you want to see how the July weekends affect water quality, you can take a secchi disk depth reading on Friday afternoon and another reading on Sunday afternoon. You may find that on lakes with a lot of recreation and boat use, the water clarity will decrease temporarily after the weekend. Being a good lake steward will protect your investment and water quality for the future.

This article was written and shared by Moriya Rufer at RMB Labs as part of continuing education for the Lakes Monitoring Program. To learn more, visit www.rmbel.info

Clearing up confusion around beach sand blankets

Earlier this spring the DNR was notified of sand being placed on Lake John below the Ordinary High Water Elevation. This notification spurred a review of all locations where sand was being placed, many of which had already had a beach sand blanket established in the past. Because of this, the DNR felt it was important to point out some of the guidelines for establishing a beach sand blanket without a permit as DNR hydrologists have heard of some confusion among shoreland owners on this topic.

The following guidelines must be followed to comply with state rules allowing establishment of a beach sand blanket without a permit:

- A beach sand blanket can be no wider than half the lot width or 50 feet, whichever is less.
- The depth of sand can be no more than 6 inches.
- The sand can extend no further than 10 feet waterward from the Ordinary High Water Elevation.
- Sand may be placed without a Public Water Work Permit only twice over the history of each shoreland lot. That means sand can be placed once when first constructing the beach sand blanket and once more if sand needs to be placed to replenish the sand area. **Sand cannot be replaced annually without a permit.** There is much confusion around this restriction.

Establishment of beach sand blankets is regulated in order to balance use of shoreland with preservation of water quality and aquatic habitat, while also protecting against flooding. Placing sand in a lake where it doesn't occur naturally degrades habitat and reduces water storage capacity, which can make flooding worse. These guidelines are meant to recognize a property owner's recreational interests while protecting the lake's ecosystem.

If you would like more information on beach sand blankets, please refer to the following DNR website which contains answers to many common questions:

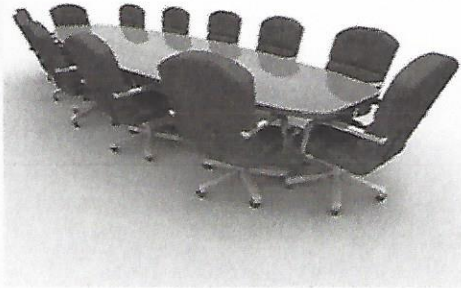
<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/permits/water/needpermit.html>.

If you have additional questions that are not addressed on the website, contact your DNR Area Hydrologist, James Bedell, 320-223-7850, james.bedell@state.mn.us. You should also contact your DNR Area Hydrologist if you have placed sand below the OHW more than twice and have just had more sand placed this year.

If you think you may need a DNR permit, visit DNR's online permitting website MPARS at <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/mpars/index.html> to begin the process.

Thanks for your help in taking care of Minnesota's 10,000 lakes!

James Bedell
MN DNR Area Hydrologist
Wright and Sherburne County



Elaine Fleskes, President—274-5399
Bruce Bartels, Vice Pres.—320-291-1143
Randy Austin, Treasurer—612-590-9222
Secretary, Adrienne Owens—651-398-6562
John Larson, Section 1—651-270-5239
Jim Splinter, Section 2—320-980-0560
Section 3, Julie Fournier—612-414-7548
Bob Fleskes, Section 4—274-5399
Jean Sutherland, Section 5—612-644-0862
Bruce Berning, Section 6—763-218-4988

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.

Our Annual meeting is still planned for July 11th at 9:00, South Haven Hall, 521 Oak Avenue, South Haven, provided the Governor approves. Due to the Covid-19, we will not be serving refreshments this year so please bring your own. Maximum of 2 attendees per family.

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