

Lake John LID

We have completed the formation of a new group called the Lake John Improvement District and we are up, funded and running. We thank Elaine Fleskes for pushing this LID formation project to the finish line, she deserves all the credit.

Our main mission is to control invasive plants and aquatic creatures when possible. All of this must be with the approval from the DNR with permitting and surveys required. The two main invasive species we deal with are the Curly Leaf Pond Weed, also referred to as CLP and Eurasian Water Milfoil or EWM. LID's were allowed to be formed when the state government passed legislation creating a framework to create LID's. The LID allows us to tax properties and use those funds to do projects that help improve our lake. 2020 is really just our first partial year of actual operations, the reason being our first funding didn't arrive until June of this current year.

We have nine property owners making up our board and they are Pat Liebsch, Alan Isaacson, Peter Mac Millan, Jim Splinter, Deb Johnson, Paul Fliegel, Dan Ventrelli, Dave Owens, and Steve Benzschawel. Information can be accessed on the Lake John Associations web site under the LJID links. You can get information on our meeting schedules, reports, minutes, and other information there. We are adding more information all of the time. Our meetings are the 3rd Thursday of every month at 6:30. Previously we met in person, but due to Covid we now use Zoom meetings at the same times and dates above. These meetings are open to Lake John property owners and this should also make it much easier more attend these meetings. Link information for the Zoom meetings through June will be posted if they aren't already.

We encourage anyone with an interest, to look into joining our board to contact one of our current board members. We have one-year, two-year, and three-year terms, so some positions will be open in 2021. We do need to maintain a majority of the board members that are year-round residents. Currently seven of nine positions are year-round residents.

2020 was a good year for plant growth in Lake John. The vast majority of those plants were what are considered the good plants. We were told the excessive plant growth was due to two factors, one being our warmer than normal water temperatures in June 2020. Secondly our water is much clearer now than in the past, due to the zebra mussels filtering our water and making it clearer. Clearer water lets the light penetrate deeper creating more plant growth. Other lakes in our area had excessive plant growth in 2020 also.

The good plants growing to the surface may not be ideal for boating but thick native plants help keep out the invasive plants. You don't want to kill off too many of the good plants. Just like if you took a patch of your lawn and killed off all the grass. What you would get is probably all the really noxious weeds growing in that patch. In a lake if you kill off all plants in an area, something will replace them, and most likely it will be the most aggressive noxious plant of the bunch. This is why plant control is a real balancing act and it is regulated to maintain Lake Johns health status from going in the wrong direction. All native plants fall into the good category according to the DNR and our group is not allowed to target any of those native species plants.

Here's to 2021 boating,
Steve Benzschawel
LJID Chairman