

It Takes All of Us!!

Fourth Annual Lake John Charity Golf Tournament

Another fantastic day was had for the Fourth Annual Lake John Charity Golf Tournament. The rains ceased and 36 golfers enjoyed a fabulous day at Southbrook. Highlights include creative apparel and a long-awaited win for the young foursome of Abram Johnson, Billy Downs, Caleb Nelson, and Max Anderson, who had narrowly missed the coveted first place trophy the past two years in a row in

a scorecard playoff! Each of the winners received a free round of golf donated by Southbrook. Hole contest winners Linda Jaskowiak, Jalayne Goessl, Caleb Nelson, and Kyle Gaffaney happily accepted their hole contest prizes of \$10 gift certificates to Petty Brothers. We raised nearly \$175 for the Lake John Association, and are looking forward to next year!



The Victors!!

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Become a Lake Steward!

Are you concerned about the health of our lake and ready to take meaningful action to protect it? According to the Shoreland Guide to Lake Stewardship produced by the Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates, overall water quality in MN is declining again! In 2018 the MPCA listed 40% of the lakes and rivers in MN as impaired. By 2021, 56% were impaired. Today's impairments have nonpoint sources. Rainwater is washing phosphorus, nitrogen, cleaning products, automobile oils, solvents, overflow from failing septic mounds and even pharmaceutical drugs off of hundreds of

thousands of properties, off of our properties, and into the lakes and rivers we love. This pollution is not as obvious as the old waste pipes. None of us think that our property could pollute an entire lake. But it is not just one of us contributing! The Lake Steward Program is a social program based in science. Every Lake Steward sign builds a new aesthetic and cultural norm, a shift away from traditional landscaping towards lake-based landscaping. Together we will protect and restore Lake John! The Lake Steward idea is simple and powerful.

Are you willing to be the first Lake Steward of Lake John? Are you willing to inspire others to join you? Check out the MN Lakes and Rivers website for more information at: mnlakesandrivers.org/mlr-lake-steward-program.



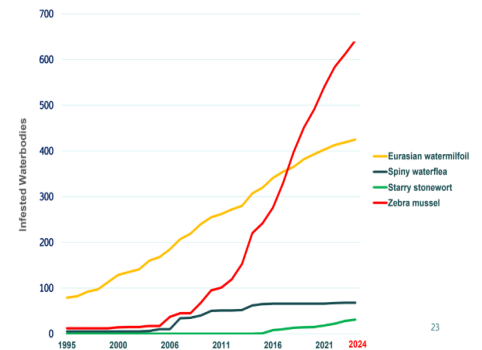
Lake John Association Objectives:

- Promote the care and betterment of Lake John
- Assist in the conservation and preservation of the natural resources of Lake John
- Promote the general welfare of the members of this association as it pertains to Lake John

Governor Walz Proposes Cuts to the AIS Prevention Aid Funding

According to the MN Coalition of Lake Associations, in an unprecedented move, Governor Walz proposed cutting the Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Prevention Aid in half. The AIS Prevention Aid (established 10 years ago) is crucial to prevent the spread of AIS. MN counties share \$10 million annually and most of that money funds AIS inspections for watercraft moving into and out of our public waters. Fewer boat inspections will be the result, and this will translate into greater risk of spreading AIS into the lakes and rivers that we love. Check out

the MNCOLA website: <https://mncola.org> for more information and a template for your letter to the Governor but it may be most effective if you add your own thought and make it your own. **You can send a letter to: Office of the Governor Tim Walz, 130 State Capital, 75 Rev Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd, St. Paul, MN 55155.** Check out the website for online forms to send the Governor a message and letters to your state and local leaders. The MNCOLA website also has great information, resources and upcoming events. LJA is a member of MNCOLA.



Facts About Why We Should Be Concerned About Wake Boats

What are wake enhancing boats and why should we care? In the 2022 UofM study of wake-enhanced boats, they found that popular wakesurf boats require a greater distance (500-600 feet) from the shoreline and other boats compared to more typical recreational boats. This distance is needed to reduce the potential impact of their larger waves. The results provide key insights into differences between specialized wakesurfing boats and more typical recreational boats operating on lakes and rivers. Check out the study here: <https://cse.umn.edu/safl/news/umn-researchers-study-waves-created-recreational-boats>.

According to the MNCOLA December

2024 presentation, enhanced wakes cause environmental and property damage, can cause transfer of aquatic invasive species and large wakes are a safety concern. According to their presentation, wake enhancing boats are boats designed to create massively enhanced wake for wake surfing/boarding that create wakes 4-5 feet high and can have a downward thrust of 20 feet deep that causes damage to the lake floor, vegetation and animal and plant life in our lake. Environmental harm from enhanced wakes is shoreline erosion. Large wakes are a safety concern causing water not suitable for swimming due to sediment resuspension and algae. Large wakes can put non-motorized watercraft and

children swimming at risk. The bow rises and vision forward is obscured with the attention at the back of the boat.

Lake John has a maximum depth of 28 feet with a mean depth of 12.9 feet and much less than the required 500-600 feet distance in many areas from shore or other boats for wake wave characteristics and concerns.

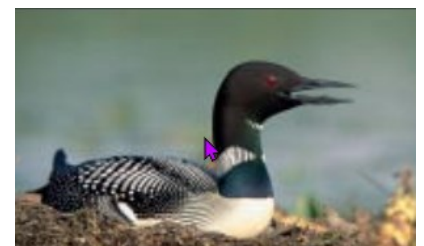
Wake boating accidents are on the rise according to their presentation. The study was funded completely through crowdfunding. One finding was that wake boats produce wave heights 2-3 times larger and wave energies 6-9 times larger. The 2nd phase of the study happens in 2025.

Hoot, tremolo, yodel, and wail

What sounds like summer at the lake? You're at the lake, curled up cozy, the sky is just beginning to lighten in the east and then you hear it...a long, haunting cry from out on the water. Woo—oooo! The call of the common loon means summer at Lake John!! Check out this awesome information and gorgeous pictures of Loons. https://files.dnr.state.mn.us/mcvmagazine/young_naturalists/young-naturalists-article/loons/loons.pdf.

The current national estimate is 25% of adult common loon deaths are due to lead poisoning after ingesting lead fishing tackle. Once sickened with lead poisoning, loons suffer a slow and painful death. How does this happen? Loons eat a fish with ingested or attached tackle, loons grab your bait or fish from your fishing line, or they scoop up lead sinkers at the bottom of the lake when gathering pebbles to aid in their digestions.

For the sake of our Lake John Loons, please use lead-free materials for fishing tackle. Lead-free alternatives are effective, sinks faster, is denser, and more sensitive.



Water Quality is What We All Want—Will You Do Your Part?

Contamination of the lakes and rivers could lead to increased blooms of aquatic plants; murky and green water; and poor conditions for swimming, boating and fishing. Here are some of the more significant things that affect the water:

1. Environmental stresses such as new development, more year-round residents, and the replacement of small cottages with large homes
2. Reductions in surrounding forests
3. Reductions in natural shorelines
4. Landscaping that leaches lawn nutrients to the water
5. Zebra mussels (AIS) that increase algae and may lead to blue-green algae

6. Invasive plants out-competing native plants
7. Failing septic systems
8. Farm runoff
9. Road salt
10. Acid rain

As you can see, the problem is broad and your actions alone cannot solve water quality issues. But here are some of the **actions that you can take to protect and improve the water quality of Lake John:**

- ◆ Avoid the use of phosphorus-based fertilizers that are banned in MN
- ◆ Avoid household products, such as shampoos and detergents containing phosphorus

- ◆ Control stormwater runoff on your property
- ◆ Keep your shoreline natural
- ◆ Maintain your septic system
- ◆ Avoid attempting to treat aquatic weed beds on your own.

For the broader solution, we need to consider and protect the watershed that drains into our waters. The soils in the watershed are great filters and absorb harmful chemicals and excess nutrients from stormwater runoff before they can reach the lake water.



Minnesota's New Boating Laws

Minnesota's new boating laws include a requirement for boater education, watercraft operator permits, and restrictions on the age of boat renters. The laws were signed into law by Governor Walz and are intended to promote safe boating practices.

People born after certain dates must complete a boater education course and get a permit. For 2025, people born on or after July 2, 2004 must complete the course. The online

course is created by the DNR and is approved by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators. Rental businesses must give customers a summary of the rules and provide a short online exam. Watercraft operator permits are required for most boaters. People under 18 are not allowed to rent or lease a motorboat, including personal watercraft. Get your MN Boating Guide!

Check out the MN Boating Guide [here and get a copy:](https://files.dnr.state.mn.us/rfp/regulations/boatwater/boatingguide.pdf)
<https://files.dnr.state.mn.us/rfp/regulations/boatwater/boatingguide.pdf>



Wright County COLA Spring Meeting—May 3rd, 9-11am, Maple Lake

The Wright County Coalition of Lake Associations is working together to protect and improve water quality in Wright County. **SAVE THE DATE—May 3rd, 9:00-11:00 at the Robert Ney Memorial Park Reserve in Maple Lake.** Topics will include the Wright County low cost watercraft cleaning stations, updates on the Boater's Required Education and Certification and lots of other lake news. The meeting is free, no registration is required and all are welcome! Wright County

COLA and the Wright County Soil and Water have partnered to provide a low cost watercraft cleaning station for Wright County lakes. There is one installed at the Lake John public access. Other lakes that have one installed are Bass, Beebe, Ida and Howard. The cost to lake associations is \$150 per station. The goal is to install a total of 30 stations in Wright County. LJA is a member. Check out their website: <http://wrightcola.mnlakesanddrivers.org>.



**Lake John Association
Newsletter**

Lake John Association
PO Box 437
Annandale, MN 55302

IT TAKES ALL OF US!!

A huge THANK YOU to CAMERON SUCIK for all his time (and there was LOTS of it!) in getting the bog removal permit and arranging the removal of the bog with Rachel Development and to ALL who helped move the bogs that day!

Also a big THANK YOU to Rachel Development for their \$2,500 cost sharing contribution to the bog removal. LJA share of the cost was \$4,660.

Let's Talk Trash!!

Ice fishing is in full swing this winter! The Keep It Clean campaign addresses the growing problem of garbage and waste left on the ice by anglers, campers and recreationists through education, legislation and enforcement. The Keep It Clean law, passed in 2023, makes it illegal to place garbage and waste on or under the ice on MN lakes and rivers.

Watch and share Ron Schara's Keep It Clean Youtube Video:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zwa4mSuK5m8>.

Check here for recent legislative update on this program:
<https://www.outdoornews.com/2025/01/09/push-against-litter-on-lake-ice-to-continue-this-legislative-session-in-minnesota>.

**Annual Membership
Renewal & New Members**

Enclosed with this newsletter, please find your 2025 New & Renewal Membership form and Ice Out entry form. Please consider inviting a neighbor who may not be a member to join this year.

Mark you calendars!!!

Annual Members Meeting

Saturday, June 28th at 9:00am

South Haven Town Hall

521 Oak Ave N, South Haven

LJA Board Meetings (All Welcome)

Southside Township Hall at 6:30pm

Mondays, May 12th, June 9th, July 14th,

August 11th, September 8th

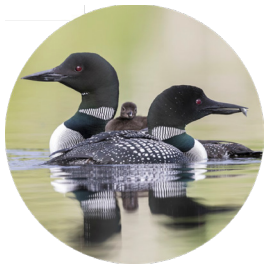


Lead-free tackle works!

And it protects our state bird, the common loon



What's the problem with lead?



Lead is toxic to wildlife. Even in small amounts, it is lethal to loons, eagles, and trumpeter swans. It is estimated that lead is responsible for up to 25% of loon deaths.



Loons pick up lost lead tackle while gathering pebbles for their gizzards. Loons are also exposed when eating fish that have ingested lead.



Lead is toxic to people, both when handling lead products and in the manufacturing process.

Teach your tadpoles!

Create a lead-free tackle box for your kids or grandkids.



Non-toxic alternatives

- Tungsten
- Bismuth
- Steel
- Tin
- Glass
- Stone
- Metal composite



Don't throw lead in the trash! Bring it to your local *Household Hazardous Waste* dropsite.

For a list of **lead-free tackle manufacturers**, visit our website!



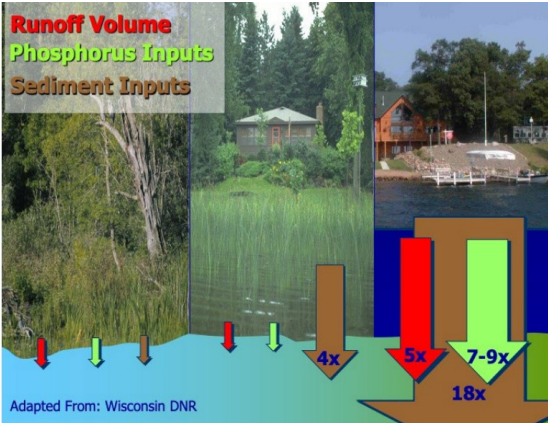
Priorities to Protect our Public Waters



Healthy public waters are a major economic engine in Minnesota and a foundation of our high quality of life.

- Tourism is big business in Minnesota—\$22B per year.
- Fishing industry is 4.4B per year and employs 30K people.

Water Quality



Working to improve water quality by addressing lakeshore and new property developments, as well as from degradations from septic systems.

- Many of Minnesota’s lakes are in trouble. About 1/2 of the natural shorelines have been lost.
- For lake quality, wildlife habitat, and to sustain the health of Minnesota lakes, a reasonable goal would be that 75% of a shoreline be un-mowed with natural vegetation.

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)



Photo credit to Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species

Getting more money for the State’s Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Prevention Aid program, inspecting boats at the boarders, and raise fines to change behavior.

- Most popular lakes have AIS.
- 18 of 20 of our largest lakes have AIS.
- AIS continues to spread with troublesome new invaders such as hydrilla.

Enhanced Wake Activities



Addressing enhanced wakes to avert ecological damage and increase personal safety.

- Artificially enhanced wakes created by wake boats and wake enhancing devices cause environmental damage to lakes and lakeshore.
- Large wakes cause physical damage to property and shorelines
- Monster wakes are a safety risk for people on the water and shore.





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