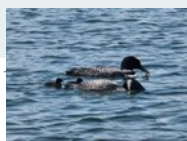


Lake John Association
PO Box 437
Annandale, N 55302
Website: <https://lakejohnassociation.com>
Email: info@lakejohnassociation.com



Winter 2026
Newsletter

Lake John's Inaugural Lake Stewards

The Lake John Association launched the Lake Steward Program through [Minnesota Lakes & Rivers Advocates](#) last summer! This initiative recognizes property owners who take steps to protect our lake through sustainable shoreline practices. Evaluations are underway and conducted by trained Lake Association volunteers John Greenwood and Kelly Kosloski. By participating, association members can earn a Lake Steward sign and contribute to a cleaner and healthier Lake John.

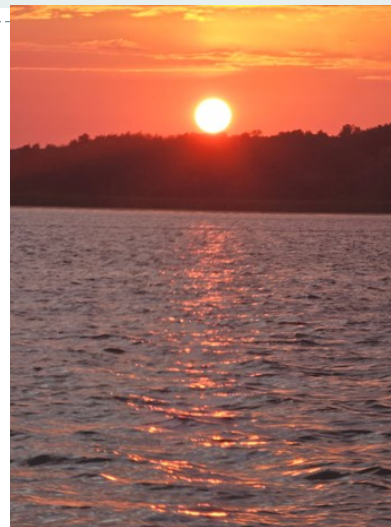
Why Become a Lake Steward? Minnesota's lakes are at risk, with 56% of surface waters now impaired, according to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. While multiple agencies work on water management, efforts are often fragmented, making local engagement even more critical. There are 500 Lake Associations in Minnesota, with an estimated 100,000 members advocating for better water quality policies. By participating in Lake John Association's Lake Steward Program, you are joining a movement to protect our lake and influence statewide water management efforts.

Register today by taking the online [Lake Steward Quiz](#). To date, eight quizzes have been submitted and four site inspections resulting in Lake Steward Awards granted.

Congratulations Fleskes, Greenwood, Kosloski, and Kunelious on your Lake Stewardship Awards.

Bob and Elaine Fleskes

Don & Sue Kunelious



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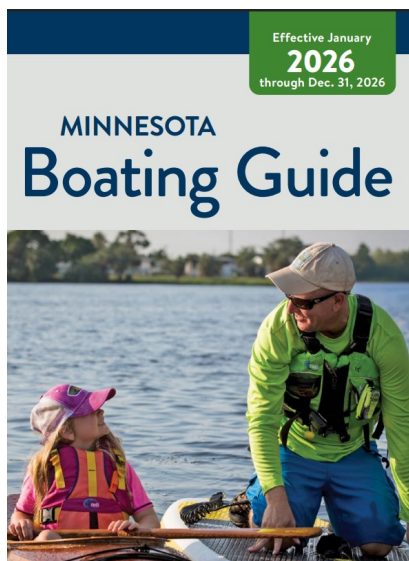
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ACCORDING TO THE LAKE JOHN ASSOCIATION CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS:

The Objectives of this
association shall be:

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

Lake John Connects Us All!



DNR BOAT & WATER SAFETY EDUCATION

Minnesota's new law aims to improve safety on the water by making sure everyone operating a motorized watercraft is trained and qualified. Starting July 1, 2026 operators 26 years and younger must possess a valid watercraft operator's permit for motorboats and PWC (personal watercraft such as a jet ski). The new law applies to anyone born after June 30, 2000, requiring a watercraft operator's permit. The requirement will expand over the next few years, covering more age groups.

The course covers essential water regulations, required safety equipment, navigation rules, and accident avoidance to ensure safe, legal operation of motorboats and PWCs. It includes topics on aquatic invasive species (AIS), boat handling, and emergency procedures.

Captain Adam Block, the Boating Law Administrator with the DNR stated just short of 40,000 adults and youth took the course across all platforms. He encourages all boaters—regardless of their age—to obtain their watercraft operator's permit through this training. It is an excellent way to get a refresher on safe boating. For example, did you know PWCs are restricted to slow-no wake speed (5mph or less) within 150 feet of shore, docks, swimmers, or non-motorized boats? Jumping the wake of another boat within 150 feet is prohibited. PWC hours of operation are ONLY between 9:30 am and one hour before sunset.

<https://files.dnr.state.mn.us/rlp/regulations/boatwater/boatingguide.pdf>

**DON'T FORGET TO GET YOUR
2026 MN BOATING GUIDE!!**

“...just short of 40,000 adults and youth took the new boating education course...” - Captain Adam Block, MN DNR Boating Law Administrator

LAKE JOHN ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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General Email
info@lakejohnassociation.com

**2026 ANNUAL MEETING:
Saturday, June 27, 2026**

2026 Board Meetings at 6:30 at
Southside Township Hall
Monday, May 11, 2026
Monday, June 8, 2026
Monday, July 13, 2026
Monday August 10, 2026
Monday, September 14, 2026

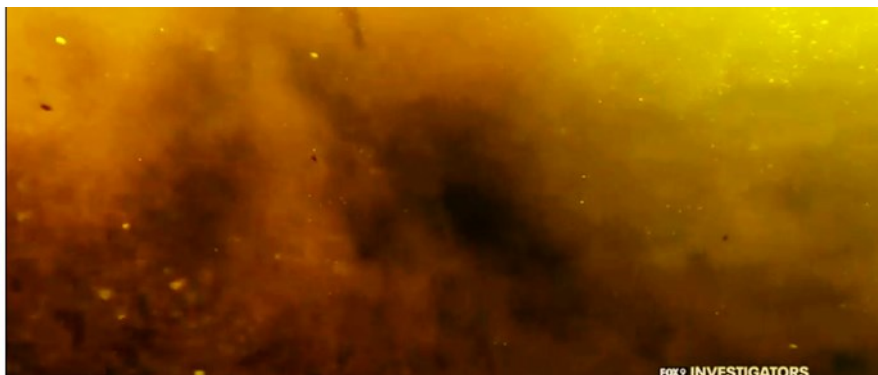
2026 MINNESOTA DNR ROUNDTABLE SUMMARY

The MN DNR held its annual Roundtable on January 9th to a crowd of more than 400 people. The event began with DNR Commissioner Sarah Strommen providing an update on their \$150M “Get Out MORE” campaign begun in 2025 to improve outdoor infrastructure and experiences. This was followed by a panel of legislators with an open questions presentation. All three legislators said they would support using the lottery funds for the environment in the future.

The breakout session on wake surfing was well attended. Jeff Marr and Andy Riesgraf of the U of M's St Anthony Falls Laboratory (SAFL) discussed their findings and presented selected video clips of actions at the lake bottoms when boats pass over. SAFL published in 2022 their Phase 1 report on lateral energy and the impact on shorelines. They then published in 2025 their Phase 2 report on energy directed downward and the impact on lake bottoms. In the room people were genuinely shocked at the Phase 2 videos, and specifically the severe disturbance of the bottoms. Riesgraf noted that he didn't expect to see “the drama at the bottom” in the videos. The tests in both phases were conducted with boats operating in slow operation, in surfing mode, and at planing speeds. The testing found that all motorized boats create a wake, and that all boats should operate at slow speeds in ten feet of water or less, which was an important reminder regarding no wake zones. Jeff Marr explained that SAFL is a testing lab producing useful data that may be used to create policy, but that SAFL itself does not produce policy.

Starry stonewort was the predominant, but not the only concern during the first AIS breakout session. With the reduction in and a possible future loss of state AIS funding, concerns were expressed by many in the audience. New ideas were brought to the second AIS breakout session. It was noted that efforts are underway to develop methodologies to treat multiple AIS species simultaneously. Mike Verhoven of the DNR noted his team is looking for where best to place their limited resources for the best outcomes.

Dorothy Whitmer, creator of the Lake Steward program, and Lily Carr, MN Lakes and Rivers Advocates, led a breakout session on the Lake Steward program. The program was begun on the Gull Chain of Lakes and has now expanded to the state. Carr mentioned there are now 64 lake associations involved, with 80+ volunteer shoreline evaluators and 600+ stewards. Changing ideas and attitudes about what constitutes good shoreline management that is beneficial for the environment is the goal. A Kentucky Bluegrass lawn all the way down to the shore has been the ‘ideal’ as depicted in realtor brochures, but that is changing.



Underwater Video from St. Anthony Falls Study Phase 2

MN COLA SEPTEMBER MEETING FOLLOWS MPR INTERVIEW ON SAFL STUDY

MN Coalition of Lake Associations members rank “enhanced wake activities” as one of their three most pressing issues. To that end, MN COLA has been working for years on the environmental and safety challenges from recreation using enhanced wakes. LJA is a member of MN COLA. The MN COLA meeting on September 16, 2025 followed the MPR radio interview with Jeff Marr, Associate Director of Engineering at the U of M’s St. Anthony Falls Laboratory (SAFL) and Jeff Forester, Executive Director of MN Lakes and Rivers Advocates where they discussed the recent findings of the Phase 2 St. Anthony Falls Laboratory Study. The videos and the key findings of the study discussed are as follows:

1. When operating in planing mode, it is recommended that recreational powerboats similar to the ones studied here, should operate in 10 feet of water or greater to minimize impacts on the lakebed.
2. When operating in sustained displacement mode (e.g. slow cruising), recreational powerboats similar to the ones studied here, should operate in 10 feet of water or greater to minimize impacts on the lake bed.
3. For most recreational boat users, traveling in waters less than 10 feet deep is unavoidable (e.g., going through channels, getting to and from boat lifts, docks and launches, etc.) In these scenarios it is recommended to go as slow as possible to minimize the magnitude of the bow and stern pressure waves.
4. Wakeboats should operate in 20 feet of water or greater when in semi-displacement (surfing) mode to minimize impacts on the lakebed.
5. All boats have the potential to damage aquatic vegetation. The depth recommendations provided above are specified relative to the lakebed but could also be interpreted as relative to the top of submerged vegetation. Since vegetation grows throughout the open-water season, this is a more difficult recommendation to specify. In general, boats should avoid areas of the lake with aquatic vegetation to minimize damage.

If you would like to see the full study, you can find it here: <https://cse.umn.edu/safl/news/below-surface-new-study-considers-impacts-powerboats-lakes>.

As they say, “pictures are worth a thousand words” so if you want to see the study’s videos you can find them here:

- <https://youtu.be/HX4rAV5h328>
- <https://www.fox9.com/news/lake-minnetonka-wakesurfing-boat-impact-videos>
- <https://www.fox6now.com/news/wakesurfing-lakebed-impact-study-video-released-university-minnesota>
- <https://www.fox9.com/news/wakesurfing-critics-pushing-local-bans-limits-minnesota-lakes>

LAKE JOHN SURVEY RESULTS

The following are the numerical totals from the questions asked on the Lake John Survey:

Do you think that any of the watercraft identified below impacts your property shoreline, the lake’s ecological system or sub-surface or ability to use the lake for recreation?

190	Wakeboat
125	Jet Ski
117	Runabout
86	Fishing
74	Pontoon
58	Non-motorized
55	Sailboat

Have you observed any damage to property or shoreline caused by boat wakes or instances of personal safety?

35	Shoreline
20	Personal Safety
15	No Damage
11	Other
4	Docks
2	Boat Lifts

Have watercraft activity or boat wakes had an impact or affected your water activities while doing any of the activities listed below?

114	Sightseeing
112	Fishing
104	Pontooning
103	Non-motorized
101	Swimming
95	Water skiing/ tubing

The results and the additional comments by lake property owners will be posted on Lake John’s website or may be emailed out to everyone at a future date.

WHO CAN HELP ME WITH A LAKE QUESTION?

Contact the Minnesota DNR Questions?

Email: info.dnr@state.mn.us
Website:
<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/>

Call: 651-296-6157 or 888-MINNDNR (888-646-6367)

DNR information center (St. Paul)
Phone hours: 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday.

DNR license center (St. Paul)
Licensing, registration and titling service in-person hours: 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday-Fri day.

Watercraft Registration and titling questions: 651-296-2316 or online.

Mailing address:
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
500 Lafayette Road
Saint Paul, MN 55155-4040

DNR local offices (statewide)
In-person services are available but may have limited hours depending on staff availability. Please contact your local office before visiting to schedule an appointment.
Sauk Rapids Office
1035 South Benton Dr,
Sauk Rapids, MN 56379
Phone: 320-223-7878

Wright County Soil and Water Conservation District
311 Brighton Ave South, Suite C
Buffalo, MN 55313
763-682-1933 ext. 3
Website:
<https://www.wrightswcd.org/>

To reach a Conservation Officer contact the DNR Information Center. To locate an officer in your area go to mndnr.gov/enforcement and click on Locate a Conservation Officer. You can also contact the MN State Patrol or Wright County Sheriff to reach a MN DNR Conservation Officer.

BOATING IN COLD WATER

Resist the urge to fight the water: rest and recover
If wearing a life jacket, the 1-10-1 principle may save your life:



1 minute

- Get breathing under control.



10 minutes of meaningful movement

- Assess the situation and make a plan.
- Perform most important functions first, such as locating other party members.
- Self-rescue if possible.
- Signal or call for help.



1 hour (or more) of useful consciousness

- Focus on slowing heat loss.

One-third of boating fatalities in Minnesota occur on cold water. Always wear a life jacket when on or working near cold water. Dress in several layers of clothing under your life jacket.

If you fall into cold water:

1. Put on your life jacket, if you are not wearing one.
2. Keep boots and clothes on. Almost all clothing, even hip boots and waders, will float for an extended period of time.
3. Don't thrash or move about. Excess motion consumes energy and increases loss of body heat.
4. Draw your knees to your chest and your arms to your sides, protecting the major areas of heat loss.
5. If others are in the water with you, huddle together with your arms around their shoulders.

BE RESPONSIBLE WITH SALT USE ...

"How we are loving our lakes to death." - Ted J. Rulseh "Ripple Effects"

Road salt is the biggest contributor to the salting of lakes, but lake residents can avoid adding to the problem by using salt responsibly on their properties.

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency offers several recommendations:

1. Shovel and scrape as much snow and ice as possible; that way less salt will do the job, and sand may suffice to provide traction.
2. Don't apply salt if it is 15 degrees F or colder: salt will not melt ice at those temperatures. Apply salt sparingly: more salt does not mean more melting.
3. Four pounds of salt is enough for one thousand square feet. A heaping 12 ounce coffee mug is about a pound of salt.
4. Sweep up the excess.
5. If you see salt on dry pavement, it is not helping and will be washed away. Save this salt for later or put it in the trash.



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