

Lake John Association Annual Meeting

Saturday, June 27, 2026

Registration begins at 8:30am

Lake Improvement District starts at 9:00am

Lake John Association follows LID at 9:45am

South Haven City Hall, South Haven, MN

What happens at an Annual Meeting? An annual lake association meeting brings property owners together to vote on leadership, approve the yearly budget, and discuss vital lake management plans. This gathering combines official business with community education to protect Lake John and social time. There are Officer and Committee Reports and member discussions. This is an opportunity to meet your neighbors and friends and make new friends that live on Lake John.

Is there a Guest Speaker? Yes, this year our guest speaker is Joe Shneider, President of the MN Coalition of Lake Associations which LJA is a member of.

Are there elections for Board of Directors? Yes, this year there are elections for President, Treasurer, Section 2, 4, and 6 Representatives which are 2-year terms. There is also a special election for Section 3 Representative which is a 1-year term that fulfills a vacancy. It is very important you learn about each candidate and how he/she will best fulfill the LJA objectives in protecting the health and wellness of Lake John and guard against potential threats.

What is the difference between the LID and LJA? Our Lake Improvement District (LID) is a local governmental unit established in 2019, recognized and approved by Wright County and the DNR, whose primary purpose is to oversee lake management activities including but not limited to invasive species identification, assessment, control, eradication and/or containment and proactively assess potential future threats to the lake. All lake residents contribute financially to the LID through an assessment on their real estate taxes. The Lake John Association (LJA) objectives are to promote the care and betterment of Lake John, assist in the conservation and preservation of the natural resources of Lake John and promote the general welfare of the members of this association as it pertains to Lake John. You can find out more information on the LJA website <https://lakejohnassociation.com> and the LID website <https://www.lakejohnlid.org>.

Electronic Voting This Year

Growth happens through change and this year we are taking a big step forward! **This year the LJA is transitioning to electronic voting following the annual meeting.** "Why" you ask? The Board of Directors wanted to streamline the voting process to save cost, save volunteer time and enhance the integrity of the vote. Our annual meeting on Saturday, June 27th is your chance to hear directly from the candidates. Find out how they plan to support the LJA mission to protect the health, wellness, and beauty of Lake John. This year there will be a Candidate Q & A session at the annual meeting where you can learn more about the candidates you are asked to vote for. We want to make sure your voice is heard! Our Vice President, Chuck Wachter, will be facilitating a live Candidate Q&A session. Have a burning question? Send it over to Chuck at vp@lakejohnassociation.com by Wednesday, June 24th. All submissions will be kept completely anonymous. No paper ballots this year (unless we don't have your email or cell phone on file, we will attempt to mail you a ballot but the response deadline is very short so provide us with your email/cell phone #). Electronic voting will go live after the annual meeting. **Please make sure to get your vote in before the window closes on Monday, 06/29/26 at 11:59 pm.** Please get involved and VOTE!!



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Be a loon-safe boater!



© Sheila Farrell Johnston

Watch ahead! Loons will not dive out of your way when protecting chicks on their backs or on the water.

Water protects us all





WCSWCD Photo Contest

Submit photo(s) in one of the four contest categories by 12/01/26. Select photo entries will be used in Wright Soil and Water Conservation District publications.

1. Photos must be taken between 01/01/26 and 12/01/26
2. All photos entered in the contest must be taken within Wright County
3. No photo shopped pictures will be accepted

Click on the entry form and fill out general information found here: <https://www.wrightswcd.org/photo-contest>. Email the form with your attached pictures to wrightswcdphotocontest@gmail.com.

Wait to see if your photo is selected! The winner will be mailed a check in December.

One 1st and 2nd place winner will be chosen in each of the 4 categories. 1st place winners will receive a prize of \$100 and 2nd place will receive \$50. Multiple entries are accepted.

Categories are:

1. Landscape & Wildlife
2. Active Recreation
3. Humorous or Unusual Observation
4. Conservation Efforts

Enter your photos!! Please let us know if you are a winner - info@lakejohnassociation.com.

Thank you to all the photo enthusiasts that post your pictures on Facebook which have been used in the newsletter!

Lake John Golf Scramble

6th Annual Lake John Association Scramble Tournament

Southbrook Golf Club

Saturday, Aug 22, 4:00 Shotgun Start

Entry Fee: \$30 per golfer

The format is a 9 hole scramble with carts. The entry fee of \$30 per golfer is payable to Lake John Association. Please send your payment to:

Molly Van Metre
5000 France Ave So, Unit #42
Edina, MN 55410.

Your payment guarantees your spot!

If you choose to create your own foursome, please provide all of the individual names. If not, a foursome will be created for you.

There will be prizes for the winning team and individual hole contests and a traveling trophy! (Note: whoever has the trophy, please return to Molly at 7804 Norris Ave NW)

Call Molly at 612-708-2828 with questions.

MN Boater Education and Guide

Minnesota's watercraft operator's permit law continues to expand to additional age groups. Starting July 1, 2026 operators 26 years and younger must possess a valid watercraft operator's permit for motorboats and personal watercraft (PWC). Adults born after June 30, 2000 must hold a permit to operate motorboats and PWC with the requirement expanding over the following two years to include older age groups. Youth operators, younger than 12 years of age, may operate motorboats with less than 75 horsepower if an accompanying operator is in the motorboat. The law is designed to improve water safety by ensuring that all operators are properly trained, with full enforcement in place by 2028. See mndnr.gov/boating-safety for more information.

You can obtain an operator's permit by successfully completing the MN, NASBLA-approved boating safety course available at mndnr.gov/boatingcourse.

PERSONAL WATERCRAFT (PWC) LAWS:

1. Anyone operating or riding on a PWC must wear a US Coast Guard approved wearable life jacket that is compatible with that activity (check the label).
2. PWC must travel at slow no-wake speed (5 mph or less) within 150 feet of nonmotorized boats, shore (unless launching or landing skiers directly to or from open water), docks, swim rafts, swimmers, or any moored or anchored boat.
3. Operation of PWC is allowed ONLY from 9:30 am to 1 hour before sunset.
4. If you tow a person on water skis, or any other device, there must be an additional person on board the PWC to act as an observer (mirrors do not qualify for the observer exemption).
5. You may not chase or harass wildlife. Stay 150-200 feet from the loons.
6. You may not weave through congested watercraft traffic, or jump the wake of another watercraft within 150 feet of the other watercraft including another PWC.
7. See more laws in the 2026 Minnesota Boating Guide. <https://files.dnr.state.mn.us/rlp/regulations/boatwater/boatingguide.pdf>

Water Quality & Water Level & Bogs

The LID funds ongoing water quality monitoring with a dedicated volunteer LID Board member collecting monthly samples from May to Sept. The samples are delivered to WCSWCD and analyzed by RMB Laboratories and posted publicly at <https://lakes.rmbel.com>. This long-term monitoring provides essential insight into lake health, tracking nutrient levels, water clarity, and the Trophic State Index (TSI) with a particular focus on phosphorus that directly influences algae growth and water clarity.

The LJA monitors monthly lake elevation data to track conditions relative to the Ordinary High Water Level (OHWL). Based on 5 readings so far in 2026, the lake is averaging 7.73 inches above OHWL. Lake John's levels remain notably elevated and are tracking slightly higher than 2025

conditions. LJA will continue to monitor both water quality and water levels. **THANK YOU to the volunteers** that give of their time so that we have long-term data for decision-making. <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/lakefind/showlevel.html?downum=86028800>

Due to the new developments on Lake John, LJA no longer has a place to remove bogs or a place to take them. Unfortunately, our only choice is to stake the bog and hope it takes root before it breaks loose. The LJA Bog Permit is on the LJA website <https://lakejohnassociation.com/more>.

Please report floating bogs to :

info@lakejohnassociation.com.

Volunteer for the Bog Committee!!

The Owens invite you to 4th of July music featuring Kat Perkins (2nd place star of The Voice) and The Country Roads Band starting at 6:00pm with Fireworks at dusk!

Minnesota Coalition of Lake Associations

MN COLA recognizes that wake surfing activities are fun water sports. Yet, if done where inappropriate, it/they can impact water quality, fishing, and threaten personal safety. Our goal is to keep Minnesota's public waters healthy, safe, and available for all.

Position Statement – Enhanced Wake Activities

We support best practices for watercraft users, uses, and enhanced wake activities as prescribed in the MN Watercraft Operator's Permit. These best practices address approaches:

- for the personal safety of other water users
- to avoid conflict on the water
- to reduce shoreline erosion and the resultant water quality degradation
- to minimize lakebed disruption to plants and fish spawning beds, and the resuspension of embedded materials.

We support regulations for watercraft uses and wave actions intended to minimize the negative effects of enhanced wake activities based on research from the St. Anthony Falls Laboratory at the University of Minnesota.

- A minimum depth of 20 feet to minimize subsurface ecological impact, combined with
- A minimum distance from shore of 500 feet; however, at least 575 feet from shore is recommended to reduce the wave energy impact on shorelines to a level like non-enhanced wake watercraft.

We support an increase in funding to better address water patrol services and enforcement of enhanced wake regulations. We support the use of readily available location technology for enhanced wake boat operators to locate the safe surfing zone as defined by water depth and distance from shore combined. <https://mncola.org/>

U of M St. Anthony Falls Lab Study, Phase I & II

In recent years, powerboats have become larger, with increased horsepower and new wake-enhancing technologies to aid in sports such as wakesurfing. As these boats grow in popularity, there is a need for science-based information about their environmental impacts.

To help fill this gap, researchers at the St Anthony Falls Laboratory (SAFL) have spent the past five years studying how recreational powerboats affect lake ecosystems. Their goal is to provide data that can contribute to boater education and help stakeholders make decisions that protect freshwater resources.

"Staying in deep water when you're out on the water—especially when wakeboarding or surfing—is an easy and effective way to enjoy and protect our waterways. Also, give space between your boat and other boaters and the shoreline," says Jeff Mar, the principal investigator for the project.

Phase I Report focused on characterizing wake waves. Phase II study concludes by outlining the minimum operational depths all recreational power boats, under their typical modes of operation, should maintain to minimize impacts to the lakebed.

Learn more about the study and watch the videos here:

<https://cse.umn.edu/safl/news/below-surface-new-study-considers-impacts-powerboats-lakes>

Lake John Association

OBJECTIVES:

1. **Promote the care and betterment of Lake John; and,**
2. **Assist in the conservation and preservation of the natural resources of Lake John; and**
3. **Promote the general welfare of the members of this association as it pertains to Lake John.**

<https://lakejohnassociation.com/home/about/by-laws/>

The State of Our MN Lakes

According to the “Shoreland Guide to Lake Stewardship” produced by the MN Lakes & Rivers Advocates (which your LJA dues go to support), lakes in Central Minnesota have lost the most natural shorelines than other regions in MN. These findings underscore the need for stronger protection and restoration efforts, especially in developing regions. By restoring native vegetation, reducing runoff, changing our mindset on what is a “beautiful” lawn and rethinking how we build near the water, Minnesota can preserve its lakes for future generations—keeping them clear, healthy and full of life. When natural shoreline buffers are lost, lakes that were once clear, healthy and full of life can quickly become choked with algae, depleted of oxygen and unsafe for swimming or fishing. Protecting natural shorelines isn’t just about preserving scenic beauty; it’s about keeping lakes resilient, balanced and alive!

So what can YOU do? See the actions listed below. Lake John Connects Us All and it takes ALL of us to protect Lake John, not only for today’s enjoyment but for future generations! **Pick up your guide at the annual meeting paid for by your LJA Dues.**



Upland Zone Actions of A Lake Steward

- Pick up pet waste and dispose of it away from the lake.
- Keep fire pits at least 50 feet from the shoreline and manage ash waste carefully.
- Manage rainwater using Low Impact Development (LID) techniques and reduce runoff with rain barrels, rain gardens, and pervious pavements.
- Avoid installing hard surfaces or large patio areas on your property.
- Inspect your property's septic system every two to three years
- Plant native trees, shrubs, and grasses.
- Avoid introducing non-native plants and watch for invasive species.
- Leave a 25-foot shoreland buffer by not mowing between the lake and the upland zone.
- Do not use herbicides or pesticides on your property.
- Do not use fertilizers on your property.
- Compost away from the shoreline to prevent phosphorus contamination in runoff.

Buffer Zone Actions of A Lake Steward

- Stop mowing in the buffer zone of their property.
- Reduce the amount of lawn near the lake and plant native vegetation in the buffer zone.
- Plan landscaping projects around the use of a natural buffer zone.
- Restore previously mowed areas, such as around trees, by planting native plants.
- Maintain restored shoreland by watering with water from the lake.
- Hire professionals for revegetation projects if needed.
- Maintain a shoreline buffer zone of at least 25 feet.
- Identify and remove invasive plants from their property as soon as possible.
- Provide a wave break for newly planted vegetation using coconut coir fiber logs.
- Monitor the shoreline for signs of erosion, such as excessive sand deposits or unusually muddy areas.
- Stabilize the shoreland in cases of erosion and consult professionals as needed.
- Avoid using artificial beach filler.
- Store docks and equipment on the shore in a way that protects buffer zone vegetation.

Aquatic Zone Actions of A Lake Steward

- Allow the emergence of aquatic and floating plants along the waterline.
- Leave fallen trees and branches in the water to provide habitat.
- Maintain a respectful distance from the shoreline while boating.
- Do not store motor fuel near the lake.
- Practice Low-Impact Boating.
- Travel slowly at boat accesses.
- Do not install riprap or retaining walls on the property.
- Allow plants and natural vegetation to grow in existing riprap or retaining walls.
- Allow aquatic plants to grow where they do not interfere with boating, fishing, or other recreation.
- Clean boats and trailers after removal from the water.
- Drain all excess water from boat livewells and compartments after use.
- Dry boat exteriors and parts to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species.
- Dispose of unused bait properly after fishing.
- Follow regulations regarding dock and water equipment removal.
- Ensure that service providers for dock and equipment removal are permitted by the DNR.

Lake John Association

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info@lakejohnassociation.com

Website:
<https://lakejohnassociation.com>

