

# Windemere Township Lakes Association

[www.windemere.mnlakesandrivers.org](http://www.windemere.mnlakesandrivers.org)



## WINDOW

"If you want information, just open a window"

Fall 2018

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**In this fall edition of the "WINDOW" we would like to highlight the accomplishments of our Windemere Township Lakes Association (WTLA) Board and to acknowledge and thank our many members and volunteers that helped us along the way. Together we were able to:**

- **Hold three general meetings with guest speakers.**
- **Staff the airport quarry six times this summer allowing residents to bring their brush for disposal.**
- **Publish two newsletters.**
- **Keep our website up to date.**
- **Pick up road trash three times during the summer on 8-1/2 miles of our township.**
- **Treat two lakes for milfoil, 24 acres on Sturgeon, 1.96 acres & 2.8 acres on Sand at a total cost of \$9,592.88.**
- **Have a float in the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade.**
- **Reprint new association brochures.**
- **Increase our membership this year and introduce a new corporate/business sponsorship category.**
- **Complete a two year water quality study of Passenger Lake.**
- **Complete the second year of the AIS Early Detection Program.**
- **Continue to work on replacing the Island Lake outlet.**

**We also had some changes to our board:** After serving 23 years collectively on the Windemere Township Lakes Association Board, Ron Hansen (Island Lake) and Ron Goettsch (Sturgeon Lake) decided to retire.

In addition, Pauline Dee also decided to retire her position on the board. Pauline has been part of the Association Board since 1995 and held various positions, most recently as our leader and chair for the past two years! Although she has stepped down as chair, she will continue to serve on our board.

Dennis Huddleston was elected as our new chair and Vern Anderson will take Dennis' previous position as vice chair.

The leadership of Ron, Ron and Pauline will be missed. They volunteered many hours to the association and contributed significantly to sustain and improve the quality of our beautiful land and lakes in Windemere township. Although we will miss their leadership and expertise, we do look forward to seeing them at the general meetings.



### **2018 Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Early Detector Program Report**

Our lake association's AIS Early Detector Program completed a second year of monitoring our lakes and the only new AIS found were Chinese mystery snails in Island Lake. Sherry Lahti has taken over the responsibility for the program from Chip Wells and was part of a group of early detector volunteers that completed the University of Minnesota's AIS Detector

Program. Collectively Don & Jan Erickson, Paula Gramling & Rick Bloomfield, Deb Griffith, Terry Peterson, Jerry Blazevic, Rich & Rita Menke, Mark Behrends, Rich McNamara, Sherry & Tom Lahti, Bruce Jacoby and Jim Anderson spent about 50 hours looking for AIS.

Tom and Sherry Lahti recently attended the AIS showcase at the University of Minnesota in September 2018 on behalf of our association. They reported learning:

The two biggest threats to all uninfected lakes are zebra mussels and starry stoneworts.

1. Despite continued study, the two most effective ways to control the AIS of Eurasian Milfoil is chemical treatment (for large areas of infestation) and mechanical removal (only effective in very small areas).
2. The University continues to research the treatment of Eurasian milfoil and the genetic variations. Depending on what type of milfoil we have in our lakes will determine the most effective treatment. The association is finding out if the University would consider accepting our new lakes into this ongoing study.

**Remember to: Clean, Drain & Dry!**



Due to enhanced recruitment efforts, our Windemere Township Lakes Association membership rose from 207 members in 2015 to 287 currently which is a 38% increase!!! And we hope to continue this upward trend by targeting our smaller lakes in 2019. In addition, the Board of Directors has approved the below listed recruitment strategies:

1. In 2019 The newly re-printed association brochures with membership forms included will be distributed to businesses in the township and surrounding area which benefit from our members. The businesses will be provided a brochure holder suitable for countertop or hanging.
2. A business/corporate sponsorship program will also be initiated in 2019. Rather than asking businesses to be members at \$25 per year they will be encouraged to become association sponsors at \$100 per year. For the \$100 they will receive a listing of their business name, address and type on our association website and Facebook page. Additionally, business/corporate sponsors will be recognized in the spring and fall Association newsletters. They may also post a small ad on the association website. Finally, they will be provided with a certificate suitable for framing to post in their business identifying them as an Association sponsor.
3. Association membership recruitment signs are being designed for placement at the public accesses of Sturgeon, Sand, and Island Lakes. With these signs will be weatherproof boxes to hold membership applications.
4. Lastly, and likely most important, all association members are encouraged to recruit their neighbors to become members. The personal touch can often be the most effective. Membership forms can be printed from the association website: [www.windemere.mnlakesandrivers.org/](http://www.windemere.mnlakesandrivers.org/) or by contacting membership committee chair Terry Peterson at 218-380-0996(text or voice) or [tatbrd@hotmail.com](mailto:tatbrd@hotmail.com).



### **Northern Central Pike Special Regulation** **Leslie George, DNR Area Fisheries Supervisor/Division of Fish & Wildlife**

Hinckley Area Fisheries' netting results suggest that the current Northern Pike special regulation (24-36" protected slot, 3 fish bags, 1 over 36") in place on Sturgeon Lake since 2008 has been ineffective. Data suggests that there are proportionally more small Northern Pike now than before special regulations went into place. No pike longer than 24 inches were observed during the 2018 netting effort and fish under 20 inches made up 95% of the catch.

The issue of high densities of small pike is not limited to Sturgeon Lake. The loss of medium- to large-sized pike typically leads to increasing numbers of small pike that grow quite slowly. Abundant small pike can lead to increased predation of stocked Walleye, significant decreases in Yellow Perch populations, and stunted panfish populations.

The Department of Natural Resources made changes to the statewide Northern Pike regulation in 2018. The new regulation for pike breaks the state into 3 zones – this area is within the ‘north-central zone’ where a 22-26” protected slot with a 10 fish bag (only 2 can be longer than 26”) applies. Its objectives are to reduce small pike abundance, increase the abundance of medium- to large-sized pike, and restore the suppression effect on young pike (i.e., impact of cannibalism). *The new zone regulations apply anywhere that a Northern Pike special regulation is not in place.*

**The Hinckley Area Fisheries office has proposed to drop Sturgeon Lake’s Northern Pike special regulation in favor of the newly-enacted, above-described statewide ‘north-central zone’ regulation.** It is hoped that this regulation will increase pike survival to medium size, reduce consumption of Yellow Perch and stocked Walleye, improve the population’s size distribution, and improve harvest opportunity.

Hinckley Area Fisheries held a public input meeting on the evening of October 9 at Camp Miller to discuss the proposal and continued to take additional comments through the 19<sup>th</sup>. Although very few comments were received, none opposed the proposal. The recommendation to drop the existing pike special regulation on Sturgeon Lake (in favor of the zone regulation) has recently been submitted to Department headquarters in St. Paul, with the final decision expected this winter.

If dropped, the special regulation sign at the public access will be removed prior to the 2019 fishing opener.

For additional information on the new Northern Pike zone regulations, please visit:  
<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/pike/index.html>

**2019 Lake Association General Meetings:** All general meetings will now be held at the YMCA Camp Miller, 89382 E. Frontage Road, Sturgeon Lake at 9:00AM. Mark them on your calendar now. We hope to see you at these meetings. Coffee and cookies are served!

June 8 - To Be Determined  
 July 13- To Be Determined  
 August 10 - To Be Determined

**Windemere Township Lakes Association Board Members**

<b>Sturgeon Lake</b>	<b>Sand Lake</b>	<b>Island Lake</b>	<b>Small Lakes</b>
Mark Dunaski Cell: 612-867-3515	Jerry Blazevic Home: 218-626-1651 Cell: 218-213-2797	Paula Gramling Home: 715-273-6474 Cell: 715-523-9444	Vern Anderson II Cell: 218-522-0301 Johnson Lake
Dennis Huddleston Cell: 651-900-9085	Pauline Dee Home: 218-485-8578	Clair Strandlie Home: 218-485-8868	Bruce Jacoby Home: 651-458-0491 Cell: 651-600-7193 Passenger Lake
Terry Peterson Cell: 218-380-0996	Barb Krig Home: 952-474-2041 Lake: 218-485-8862	Chip Wells Home: 218-485-8254	Laurie Patrick Cell: 651-336-1024 Passenger Lake
Dave Yost Cell: 763-742-6302	Rita & Richard Menke Home: 218-485-8071		
	Patty Stasson Cell: 952-240-8016		

Check out our new website @ [www.windemere.mnlakesandrivers.org](http://www.windemere.mnlakesandrivers.org)