

Windemere Township Lakes Association

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WINDOW

"If you want information, just open a window"

Spring 2019

Island Lake Outlet Project Update

By Jill Carlier, District Manager Pine Soil & Water Conservation District

As many of you know, Pine SWCD has been working to try and find a "fix" to the Island Lake Outlet. The original plan to fix the lake outlet was to install a box culvert where the old pipe culverts were. The problem with this plan was the cost. The culvert itself was approximately \$60,000, plus there would be excavation and seeding costs too. Such a high price tag made finding the funds for this project impossible. After a little 'cooling off' period, a few entities started meeting again to try to find a better solution to the lake outlet problem. We finally agreed on an option that we think will work best for everyone involved.

The current lake outlet will become an open channel from the edge of the lakeshore back to the county road culvert. It will be at an elevation set by DNR Waters. It will be designed by TSA III engineers, which is a group of engineers and technicians that work solely with SWCD's designing projects and over-seeing construction. The county road culvert will become the actual "outlet structure".

Several meetings and site visits were held between DNR Waters, TSA III, Pine SWCD and the Webb's. A meeting was held in December at the Windemere Township Hall with approximately 20 people present, consisting of lake association, township, lakeshore owners, Pine SWCD, DNR, Representative Mike Sundin, the Webb's, and TSA III. The idea was presented and discussed, and it was the general consensus of that group to move forward with the project.

Since then, the county attorney has been working on an easement for the property. This easement will allow the work to be done on the property, and ensure the project is not removed in the future. Also a survey of the property has been done (upon recommendation of the county attorney) to be used in conjunction with the easement. The engineers are fine-tuning the design working with DNR Waters on getting the elevation of the channel set at the right depth.

Windemere Township Lakes Association has agreed to monitor the project in the future, checking a couple times a year to see if any maintenance is needed. Pine SWCD is still looking for a group/organization/entity to step forward to handle the maintenance on the channel, if necessary. The Windemere Township will be doing the excavating work during construction. Construction is expected to take place in the early summer of 2019.



Eurasian Milfoil Research for Windemere Township

By Sherry Lahti

Last fall my husband Tom and I had the opportunity to attend a conference at the University of Minnesota which focused on Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) and new research on this topic. There were professors, scientists, politicians, lake association members (like us), students, and private corporations (who specialize in the treatment and mitigation of AIS statewide) in attendance. Symposiums, breakout sessions, lectures, and hands on displays and tours were available; but the topic that caught my attention was the discussion on “hybrid Eurasian milfoil genotyping”. So, I spent the majority of my time at this conference learning all I could about current research and speaking to the Professors who were leading this new analysis.

Eurasian Milfoil can cross pollinate with native milfoil and populate lakes with a hybrid milfoil. This new hybrid milfoil is much more resistant to traditional chemical treatments than either pure strains. In some cases, the treatments can cause the hybrid milfoil to actually increase its population! The only way to effectively treat hybrid milfoil, if it exists, is to have a genotype done on the plants and create a treatment plan based on the genotyping results.

So, could this be the problem we are currently experiencing in Sturgeon and Sand Lake? Our treatment protocol last season did not yield the results we were expecting and hoping for. And in some treated areas on our lakes, the Eurasian Milfoil has become more prevalent after treatment.

I proposed the idea of contacting the Professors and researchers who are currently doing genotyping of Eurasian Milfoil, and requesting a genotyping of the Eurasian Milfoil in Sturgeon and Sand Lake. Then, our Lake Association would have accurate empirical data on the type of milfoil which exists in our lake and be able to create an effective treatment program for the reduction/elimination of the AIS currently taken over two of our lakes.

With the support of our Lake Association, I wrote a grant proposal to Pine County, requesting funds to support this project. Pine County accepted our proposal and Wenck will be collecting milfoil from both lakes this spring/summer for analysis and a Lake Association volunteer will be providing a boat to pilot the Wenck folks during plant collection for an in-kind contribution for the grant.

At the conclusion of this study, our township will have a map of each lake, with GPS points identifying the type of milfoil present. The Lake Association, in conjunction with Pine County, can then use this new information to create an effective treatment strategy for our type of milfoil. So, look for researchers to be out on Sturgeon and Sand lakes this spring (or summer, if the ice doesn't come off) collecting plants and beginning this process!

Remember to: Clean, Drain & Dry!

CLIMP+ Report on Passenger Lake is Ready!

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) conducts and supports lakes monitoring activities to determine if water quality is suitable for recreational uses (swimming, wading, boating, etc.) of lakes. This information is also used to measure and compare regional differences and trends in water quality with lakes all over the state. As part of the MPCA's Advanced Citizen Lake Monitoring Program (CLIMP+) Laurie and William Patrick measured water clarity, collected temperature and dissolved oxygen (DO) profiles and collected water chemistry samples on Passenger Lake from May-September in 2017 and 2018 and the results are in! For more information on these Lake results, the CLIMP+ Program, and how you can get involved, please attend our general meeting on July 13 as Shannon Martin with the Citizen Lake Monitoring Program will be our guest speaker.



UPDATE **Northern Central Pike Special Regulation**

Last fall our newsletter contained information from Leslie George, DNR Area Fishers Supervisor/Division of Fish and Wildlife regarding a proposed change to drop Sturgeon Lakes Northern Pike special regulation in favor of the newly-enacted statewide 'north-central zone' regulation.

Please note effective March 1, 2019 Sturgeon Lake's Northern Pike special regulation was dropped and the signage was removed from the public access as well as the small private access on the south end. So now, like our other area lakes without pike-specific special regulations, Sturgeon falls within the 'north central zone.' Summary handouts about the pike zones will be available at our 1st general meeting on June 8, 2019 at Camp Miller. For additional information on the new Northern Pike zone regulations, please visit: <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/pike/index.html>

2019 Lake Association Board Meetings:

May 4, 2019 (9:00 AM) – Doc's

September 14, 2019 (9:00 AM) – Ray & Marges

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

June 8 - Caleb Anderson, Pine County Zoning & Planning

July 13- Shannon Martin, MPCA, Citizen Lake Monitoring Program Coordinator

August 10 - Rich Rezenka, Biologist & AIS Specialist, Minnesota DNR

Windemere Township Lakes Association Board Members

Sturgeon Lake	Sand Lake	Island Lake	Small Lakes
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