

Windemere Township Lakes Association

<http://windemere.mnlakesanddrivers.org/>



WINDOW

"If you want information, just open a window"

Fall 2019

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 two times during the summer on 8-1/2 miles of our township.
- Obtain permits for and treat two lakes for milfoil, 20 acres on Sturgeon and 19 acres on Sand.
- Have Rich Rezanka, DNR, survey Island Lake and found NO AIS.
- Have a float in the 4th of July parade.
- Complete our third year of the AIS Early Detection Program.
- Complete our work on replacing the Island Lake outlet.
- Enroll seven (7) corporate sponsors.
- Complete a survey of adverse impact of high lake levels on Sturgeon Lake.

NOTICE

Dennis Huddelston has stepped down as Chair. He and his wife, Dorie packed up their home on Sturgeon Lake and headed south. We will miss his many contributions to our association and his most recent leadership as Chair, and wish them much health and happiness on their new adventure. Terry Peterson has been voted in as our new Chair effective immediately.

Island Lake Outlet Project Completed

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

The Island Lake Outlet project has been completed! The old culverts were removed. In their place, there is an open channel that leads back to the county road culvert. Different sized rocks have been placed in the channel. The banks have been sloped and seeded.

Also, part of the channel further back towards the county road culvert has been cleaned out to allow water to flow freely. There was a lot of sediment back there, prohibiting water flow, which was a big issue in larger rain events.

I am very happy to say “it is done”. This has been a very long process to get to construction and completion. I am very thankful for everyone that helped along the way!



Starting with this issue, we are inviting our members to “Meet our Board”

Dan Benzie – Island Lake: My wife Sue, our two sons and I moved to Island Lake in 1984. We purchased our property from the Longhenry’s whom had operated it as Island Lake Ranch resort from the 1950’s through the 1970’s. As the only resort on the lake they rented cabins and boats, sold bait and offered camping. We are 10 years into retirement and enjoy camping, fishing, hunting and traveling as well as entertaining family and friends at the Lake. My community involvement has included Windemere Sewer District Board and Moose Lake Hockey Board, as well as active membership in Minnesota Forestry Association and Minnesota deer hunters. My background includes biology, environmental health, and medicine. I look forward to working with WTLA board to preserve and improve the water quality and value of our lakes.

Laurie Patrick – Passenger Lake: In 1954 my father, straight out of the Navy, purchased a small parcel of land on a 63-acre lake called “Passenger.” My three brothers and I grew up at the cabin which at the time had no electricity and no indoor plumbing. I remember my father coming home from work on Saturday mornings and packing us all in the truck for a weekend up at the cabin. I credit my parent’s love for the outdoors and for my passion to preserve and care for Minnesota’s many beautiful lakes. So, when my father passed away in 2010, I decided to pursue his position on the WTLA board and am currently representing the “small lakes” of Windemere Township. After 40 years of employment at 3M, in 2017 I retired and my husband and I have been traveling around the world and spending time up at the cabin. The best part of our little piece of land on Passenger Lake is seeing my children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews explore and appreciate the same wonders of the woods that I did!

WTLA High Water Committee - Sturgeon Lake

At the August 2019 Association General meeting a committee was established to seek a solution to the record high level of water on Sturgeon Lake. Bill Yechout, directors Mark Dunaski and Terry Peterson were designated as leads with Bill being designated as chair of the committee. Several other Sturgeon Lake residents also volunteered.

It was decided to gather information regarding the damage caused by the high-water levels and costs associated with repairs. A survey form was developed and mailed to 277 lakeshore owners. Nearly 100 were returned describing the types of damages experienced and costs expected or already incurred for repairs. These costs have exceeded \$1,000,000.

The survey requested information on 12 categories of potential damages. The results of the survey are being tabulated. The results will be provided to all government agency officials who have any level of jurisdiction over public waters and to elected officials for our area and others as appropriate. The goal is to find agreement on the most feasible method to lower and maintain a water level and then seek funds to implement. Some historical documents on this subject are available on the Association website, <http://windemere.mnlakesanddrivers.org/>. Any comments or questions can be directed to: Bill Yechout, yechouts@q.com, 651-247-5470; Mark Dunaski, mdunaski@msn.com, 612-867-3515; Terry Peterson, tatbrd@hotmail.com 218-380-0996.



Eurasian Milfoil Research for Windemere Township Update

By Sherry Lahti, Board Member WTLA

As most of our members know, Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM) samples were collected from Sand Lake and Sturgeon Lake on July 11, 2019, and July 12, 2019 respectively. The EWM samples were sent to the Thum Laboratory at Montana State University where they underwent genetic testing to determine if hybrid milfoil is present in these lakes. The study was funded by a grant from Pine County and over 100 samples from various locations were collected from each lake. The purpose of the study was to investigate if there was hybrid milfoil present, and if so, adjust our treatment protocols

Lab results indicated that all samples were “pure” and no hybrid clones were detected.

Based on the results of this study, the following recommendations were suggested from the AIS researchers;

- 1- Continue tracking future research efforts at University of Minnesota and Montana State.
- 2- Explore experimental approaches to managing EWM within the lakes, potentially with partnerships with the University, Pine County and other agencies.
- 3- Communicate and/or collaborate with other lake associations and lake groups to share and obtain EWM treatment data, information etc.
- 4- Carefully document EWM treatment actions and track effectiveness.

So, the good news is we DO NOT have hybrid milfoil in either lake. The bad news is, we have to go back to the drawing board to try and figure out why our current treatments are less than effective in treating this Aquatic Invasive Species. Stay tuned for more info as we meet with the DNR, Pine County etc.

Remember to: Clean, Drain & Dry!

2020 Lake Association General Meetings: General meetings will continue to 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 13 - Presenter to Be Determined
 July 11- Presenter to Be Determined
 August 8 - Presenter to Be Determined

Check out our new website @ <http://Windemere.mnlakesandrivers.org/>

Windemere Township Lakes Association Board Members			
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A BIG thanks to the following for becoming WTLA Corporate Sponsors: *Moose Lake Golf Club, Sand Lake Resort, Doc's Sports Bar & Grill, Sun Bay Mobile Home Park & Campground, Sturgeon/Rush Lake Owners Association, Weather Gage LLC, and Moose Lake Implement & Sport.* These sponsors donated \$2400 above their \$100 sponsorship enrollment fee. Please patronize the businesses that support our association.