

Windemere Township Lakes Association

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



WINDOW

"If you want information, just open a window"

Fall 2021

Another summer has come and gone and with it the worst drought in 40 years! Although this may have brought us some unique challenges, it didn't stop your Windemere Township Lakes Association board from listening to its members and forging ahead with its goals. Together we were able to:

- **Hold three general meetings with guest speakers.**
- **Staff the airport quarry six times from May-October allowing residents to bring their brush for disposal.**
- **Publish spring and fall newsletters.**
- **Keep our website up to date.**
- **Pick up a little over 10 miles of road trash twice a year in the township.**
- **Purchase and install three "No-Wake" bouys to reinforce Pine County Sheriff's no-wake advisory within 300' feet of shore on Sturgeon Lake.**
- **Obtain permits and grants to treat two lakes for milfoil.**
- **Support and/or participate in the UMN AIS Detectors Program.**
- **Re-appoint the High Water Committee with focus on Sturgeon Lake.**
- **Hire WENCK to conduct a water quality study of Island Lake.**
- **Financially support the University of Minnesota Wake Boat Study.**

WTLA High Water Committee – Sturgeon Lake Update By Mark Dunanski, Windemere Township Supervisor

It is no secret to anyone on Sturgeon Lake that the very dry summer has led to a marked decrease in the water level. Consequently, lakeshore owners are seeing a little sand on their shoreline again. The township zoning administrator indicates that shoreline restoration requests are down for this year as well. While this is very good news, the Sturgeon Lake High Water Committee is continuing to move forward with solicitation for an engineering study on possible strategies to prevent the water from reaching the point of substantially damaging shoreline again. We have cleared some administrative hurdles and are preparing a request for proposal to be approved by the township board at the October meeting. We are confident that the site survey work can be completed this fall and potentially a report before the end of the year.

AIS in Minnesota



Eurasian Milfoil Research for Windemere Township Update

By Sherry Lahti, Former Board Member, WTLA

This spring the board received a grant from Pine County to treat the aquatic invasive species present in both Sand and Sturgeon Lakes. The DNR did a survey and identified areas on both lakes that might benefit from treatment. A contractor was hired to treat 34.91 acres in Sturgeon Lake and 5.63 acres in Sand Lake of Eurasian Milfoil. The treatment was an application of *ProcellaCor*, which is a relatively new chemical. Sand Lake was treated with this in 2020 with good results. So far, the results are promising and much more encouraging than in past years with other treatments.

Remember to: Clean, Drain & Dry!

Protect your Lake in Three Ways

By Paul J. Radomski, author of *Lakeshore Living*

Lakeshore owners have a strong desire to protect their lake. Healthy lakes provide the recreational and aesthetic benefits lakeshore residents value. In addition, healthy lakes enhance lakeshore property values. There are three ways we can reduce pollution and maintain healthy lakes.

1. Reduce runoff by getting rainwater into the ground near where it falls.
2. Beautify the shore.
3. Maintain our septic systems.

Reduce Runoff

Rainwater runoff is a major source of water pollution. Good rainwater management can help reduce pollutants and excessive nutrients from entering our lakes. When rainwater is allowed to infiltrate the ground, the soil and plants can purify the water before it reaches the lake. For Lakeshore owners, a simple start to managing rainwater is to redirect gutter downspouts that run onto impervious surfaces, such as driveways and sidewalks, so they run onto vegetated areas instead. Rain gardens are a good way to capture runoff.

Beautify the Shore

Managing rainwater includes protecting natural areas important for water storage and filtering, such as wetlands, streams, and vegetated buffers near water. A shoreline buffer of natural vegetation traps, filters and impedes runoff. The simplest and sometimes more effective way to recreate this buffer is to stop mowing down to the lake. A smaller lawn with a larger shoreline buffer will help infiltration and reduce runoff.

*For information on excavators, designs and plant lists, please contact the Pine County Soil and Water Conservation District at <https://www.pineswcd.com>.

Maintain Septic Systems

For those lake home owners who use septic systems to treat and disperse waste water and recycle water, maintenance is critical. Sludge builds up in the septic tank and should be pumped out every two to three years. Drain fields can also fail when they are overloaded, either with too much water or too much garbage disposal waste. The average life of a drain field is 10-20 years. Lake home owner management of septic systems is sometimes inadequate. Regular pumping of the septic tank is needed to minimize pollution problems. Consider scheduling maintenance of your system by calling a local septic system pumping provider.



“Meet our Board”

Paula Engstrom is 3rd generation at a cabin property on Sand Lake that has been in the family for over 80 years. Growing up in Duluth, summers were spent with immediate family, extended family and friends who were also at their cabins all or most of the summer. Fishing, swimming, skiing, high school years working at Harts, college with many from the lake, time with friends of my parents and grandparents and watching marriages bring people together has definitely made this lake feel like one big family. I helped my dad rebuild one of our cabins about five years ago and now due to my flexible job I am lucky to work from home and live on the lake full time.

I wanted to join the WTLA Board because many family/friends around the lake feel the same as I do about preserving our quiet, clean, safe lake and having something great to continue to hand down to family. The way we can do that is to educate ourselves and share information about invasive species, beach/land erosion, boat safety, preserving our fishing and water quality.

2022 Lake Association General Meetings: General meeting space has been reserved at the Social Hall in Holy Angels Catholic Church, 60 Hartman Dr, in Moose Lake, at 9:00 AM. Current COVID restrictions will be observed. We encourage everyone to check our website @ <http://Windemere.mnlakesandrivers.org/> before each meeting to ensure COVID-19 restrictions have not forced cancellation.

June 11 - Meg Duhr, MN Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center
 July 9- (TBD)
 August 13 - (TBD)

Windemere Township Lakes Association Board Members

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