

Windemere Township Lakes Association

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



WINDOW

"If you want information, just open a window"

Spring 2022

Island Lake Water Quality Update

By Chip Wells, Board Member WTLA

The lake association has received preliminary results from Stantec on the water samples that were collected last summer from Island Lake. Stantec is estimating that about half the phosphorus loading is coming from lake sediment and half from tributaries to the lake. However, there is some question about the tributaries due to the limited sampling that occurred during a low flow drought summer. Reductions in nutrient loading from the watershed and the lake sediments will be needed to achieve / maintain good water quality. We will be receiving a comprehensive report shortly that will include recommendations for next steps on constraining loading estimates and management actions for reducing loads from the watershed and within the lake.

Pine County Soil and Water Conservation District has announced that the district has received a two-year \$128,000 grant for Island Lake to improve the water quality. Most of the projects will involve shoreline protection. Island Lake property owners will be receiving more information about the grant this Spring from the district.



The Windemere Township brush pile drop off location will re-open on April 9 from 10:00 am – 1:00 pm and continue every third Saturday through October. It contains two drop off piles, one for brush, branches and small tree trunks, and another for grass, pine needles and leaves. **NO STUMPS ARE ACCEPTED!** If you have any questions, please call Bill Patrick (651-336-3487).

WTLA High Water Committee – Sturgeon Lake Update

By Mark Dunanski, Windemere Township Supervisor

The contract for the Sturgeon Lake High Water feasibility study got delayed from last fall until this spring. The delay was partially due of some legal and timing issues. The township attorney has reviewed the documents and we should be able to proceed. As mentioned previously, even though the water level on Sturgeon Lake again looks like it will be down from the extreme high water, the township is committed to having the study completed. Thank you for your patience.



Eurasian Milfoil Research for Windemere Township Update

By Loren Radke, WTLA Vice Chair

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 will soon be doing a survey to identify areas on both lakes that might benefit from treatment. Please bring your questions and/or concerns to our August 13 General Meeting as Rich Rezanka, Biologist and AIS Specialist with the DNR will be our featured speaker.

Now on Sale!

Pine County Offering Backyard Compost Bins and Rain Barrels



Pine County is partnering with the Recycling Association of Minnesota this spring to provide quality rain barrels and compost bins made from 100% recycled materials at low cost to Minnesota residents. Orders can be placed on line at <http://recycleminnesota.org/work/compost-bins-rain-barrels/>. Once your orders have been placed, our lake association will be helping with the delivery. Supplies are limited, so act fast!

Remember to: Clean, Drain & Dry



For years our association has helped to beautify our township roadways by picking up trash a couple times a year and we are looking for volunteers to continue the good work that has been done around Sand Lake. We currently do the pick up on West Frontage Road (County 161): County Line Road (County 10) to Pine Crest, Pine Crest to Lords Lake Road (County 167). This is approximately 2 miles and we would like to split it up by having help on the frontage road section. If you are able to help, please contact Rita Menke at 218-485-8071.



University of Minnesota lab to study size, force of boat wakes

Did you know that Minnesota is among the top five U.S. states with the most registered boats — topping 830,000 last year? And it's one of the few states that doesn't require any training or education for adult boaters. The brisk sales mean some people buying boats didn't grow up on the water — they've had to learn the ropes.

That is why, as reported in our Fall 2020 newsletter, the Windemere Township Lakes Association, along with other lake associations across the state contributed to the U of M St. Anthony Falls Research Center's study to measure the height and energy of waves and depth and force of propeller wash generated by wake boats and other large watercraft to better understand the impacts on lake bottoms and shorelines.

Findings suggest that wake surf boats should be operated at greater distances from shoreline compared to typical recreational boats

This study found that:

- When researchers compared the wake waves of the four boats during their most **typical mode of operations**, the data indicated that wake surf boats require distances **greater than 500 feet** from the shoreline/docks and other boats (or the distance of a little less than 1.5 football fields) to decrease their wake wave characteristics to levels similar to the non-wake surf boats.

- When researchers compared the wake waves of the four boats **under conditions that generated the largest wake wave**, the data indicated that wake surf boats require distances **greater than 425 feet** from the shoreline/docks and other boats to decrease their wake wave characteristics to levels similar to the non-wake surf boats.
- In both modes of operation, the suggested distance from shoreline/docks for wake surf boats is more than twice the distance of the 200 feet currently recommended by Minnesota guidelines for common recreational boats.
- Under both slow and fast speed conditions, the wake surf boats produced the largest waves in terms of height, energy, and power when compared to the non-wake surf boats.
- Larger, more energetic waves need to travel a greater distance to decrease in wave height, energy, and power.

With record levels of recreation participation on our lakes and rivers and streams, it is more important than ever that we protect and maintain the safety, cleanliness and health of our aquatic ecosystems throughout Minnesota.

The full report on the findings was issued on Feb 1, 2022.

<https://cse.umn.edu/safl/news/umn-researchers-study-waves-created-recreational-boats>

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.

June 11 - Meg Duhr, MN Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center

July 9- Leslie George, Area Fisheries Supervisor

August 13 - Rich Rezanka, Biologist & AIS Specialist, Minnesota DNR

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