

Windemere Township Lakes Association

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



WINDOW

If you want information, just open a window"

Fall 2023

We hope you are having a wonderful last hurrah out on the lakes as our wonderful summer comes to an end. I want to thank all of our members for their participation in the Windemere Township Lakes Association general meetings throughout the summer and for sharing what matters to you. Face to face meetings with all of you is the very best way to learn what's important and what to focus on throughout the year. I also would like to especially acknowledge our hard-working board members for all that was accomplished in support of our goals and objectives.

Some of the things we were able to accomplish this year were:

- Held three (3) general meetings with guest speakers.
- Increased our staffing of the airport quarry from 6 Saturdays to 12 to allow residents to bring their brush for disposal.
- Published spring and fall newsletters.
- Kept our website up to date with important information you asked for.
- Picked up approx. 10 miles of road trash twice in the township.
- Established a Beautify Your Lakeshore Program with cost share up to \$500.
- Requested and received a report from Houston Engineering, Inc. regarding potential solutions to Sturgeon Lake High Water and escalated those findings to our Township.
- Started the work to become a 501C3 non-profit organization.
- Obtained permits/grants to treat Sturgeon and Sand Lakes for AIS which has resulted in a 50% reduction of Eurasian milfoil present from 2022!
- During our "Get the Lead Out Program" we collected approx. 5 lbs. of old fishing tackle.

Sturgeon Lake High-Water Report

By Vice Chair Noah A. Cashman

The process for action on the chronic Sturgeon Lake high-water continues to move forward. On Monday September 18 the Windemere Township Board of Supervisors officially sent the report to the Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), with copies to state officials, requesting formal comment as soon as possible. Further action awaits formal comment by the DNR.

The WTLA Approves Tax Exempt Status

By Vice Chair Noah A. Cashman

At the August 2023 General Meeting the Windemere Township Lakes Association (WTLA) voted to become a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization. Currently, the Vice – Chair is completing the Internal Revenue Service Form 1023, which is the formal request for 501(c)(3) status. After Form 1023 is filed, the IRS issues a determination letter. Once that is received, we will have completed the process and be formally recognized as a 501(c)(3) organization. Stay tuned.

Let Us Help Beautify Your Lakeshore

By Dan Benzie, Treasurer, WTLA



Your lake association board and members have agreed to partner with two members each year to help stabilize and beautify their lakeshore. For qualified applicants the board will cost share up to \$500 toward developing or improving a lakeshore buffer on your property. The buffer should consist of a mix of native plants, grasses, wildflowers and shrubs or trees. As these are established, they will reduce the sediment and phosphorus run-off into the lake and improve overall water quality. The buffer, while reducing shoreline erosion and creating a colorful lakescape, will also discourage geese from your lawn.

To qualify for the grant, first design a project at least 15 feet from ordinary high-water mark, detail the plantings and who will do the work. Applications are available on WTLA website. You may contact Pine County SWCD at 320-216-4240 for technical information or help with the design. Submit your application by July 1st and If approved WTLA will match up to 50% of your out-of-pocket expense. For questions or further info contact Dan Benzie 218-380-1672 or any board member.

Remember to: Clean, Drain & Dry!



Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)

By Loren Radke, Board Member, WTLA

Eurasian watermilfoil was first discovered in our township twenty years ago, and it has resulted in multiple different approaches over the years to address the issue. With guidance from the DNR and multiple third parties, an aggressive approach was taken over the last two years as part of a non-traditional grant from the state. First, the grant stated that a newer, yet promising herbicide called ProcellaCor was to be used. It is genetically engineered to safely target only milfoil. Second, the surrounding *native* plant data was to be collected for use in assisting invasive treatment programs across the entire state of MN. The total acreage within Sand and Sturgeon that the DNR identified for treatment in 2022 was approximately 57 densely populated acres. When this effort was repeated in 2023, it was approximately 23 less dense acres for treatment. It is our goal to continue this downward trend of acreage that will need to be managed during the coming years. The next steps are 1) continue to research and apply for future AIS grant opportunities, 2) support the DNR next Spring with the annual survey to map all acreage which contains milfoil for focus during Summer 2024, and 3) expand our emphasis on AIS education and prevention.

- Please remember to clean, drain, and dry any watercraft transferred between lakes. This best practice is still one of the most effective methods of prevention.
- Thank you for your financial contributions to our association's AIS fund!

Purple loosestrife is found throughout *Minnesota*. Although it can have a pleasing appearance, it is listed as a prohibited invasive species and is on the control noxious weed list. It is a perennial plant that can reach six feet tall with several flower stalks on a single plant. It blooms from early July to September and then goes to seed. It aggressively invades wetlands impacting hydrology. It displaces native flora and fauna decreasing biological diversity. It forms a single dense stand, or monoculture, that no bird, mammal, or fish depends upon. Purple loosestrife can be found in Windemere Township and has been previously reported to the DNR.



An AIS Identification Guidebook is available from the University of MN bookstore. It contains instructions for identifying aquatic invasive species that are considered high-risk to Minnesota waters, as well as some common native lookalike species. It can be purchased and/or downloaded here: <https://www.maisrc.umn.edu/guidebook>

A BIG THANK YOU! To Clair Strandlie and Chris Birkholz for your years of dedication to the Lake Association. Your participation, input and leadership was greatly appreciated!



“Meet our New Board Members”

1. **John Tasky**-My parents built on Sand Lake in 1956. I was one year old at the time. Being on the lake all my life I have seen many changes. My sister and I now have their house together and use it year-round with what is now the fourth generation of family. I wanted to become a board member to help with water safety and lake water quality for years to come.
2. **Kathy Burkard** -I grew up in Hugo, MN and moved to Sturgeon Lake after retiring from Deluxe Corporation in the cities. I enjoy cheering for the Vikings and Twins, building snow people in the winter, gardening in the summer and caring for my flowers on the land my grandparents bought back in 1937. My grandmother taught me about recycling way before it was popular. Protecting our land and water is very important to me and I look forward to learning more about keeping our lakes clean and beautiful.

YOUR MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Did you remember to send in your annual membership dues? Or perhaps you would like to volunteer for one of our committees.

If so, we hope you will take a moment now to do so? Your support is critical to our existence and our ability to serve you and our lakes.

For membership questions, please contact Joann Murphy at hunamurphy@gmail.com.

For volunteer opportunities, please contact Laurie Patrick at lauriep430@gmail.com. We are currently looking for someone to represent our small lakes and someone interested in putting together our newsletters

2024 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.

June 8 - (TBD)

July 13- (TBD)

August 10 - (TBD)

Windemere Township Lakes Association Board Members

Sturgeon Lake	Sand Lake	Island Lake	Small Lakes
Noah Cashman-Vice Chair Cell: 612-618-8273 noahcashman@gmail.com	Jerry Blazevic Home: 218-626-1651 Cell: 218-213-2797 Lake: 218-485-4026 jmclaze@chartermi.net	Dan Benzie-Treasurer 218-485-4667 danislandlk@gmail.com	Laurie Patrick-Chair Cell: 651-336-1024 Lauriep430@gmail.com Passenger Lake
Loren Radtke Cell: 218-348-1077 Loren.radtke@outlook.com	Joann Murphy-Membership Cell: 651-334-2482 hunamurphu@gmail.com	Kathy Burkard Cell: 218-460-0784 katburkhard@yahoo.com	
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