

Windemere Township Lakes Association

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



WINDOW

"If you want information, just open a window"

Spring 2024

A note to our members

By Laurie Patrick, Chair WTLA

The Windemere Township Lakes Association's mission is to work to protect and improve the quality of the lakes and rivers in our Township, the intrinsic values of the property impacting the township lakes and rivers and the natural recreation facilities of our Township. Our board researches the issues, educates our members and the public and advocates for tangible results. In this issue of the "WINDOW" we will highlight our successes and what we have been working on. For more information please see our website @ <https://windemere.mnlakesanddrivers.org>.

Clean Water Island Lake Grant

By Dan Benzie, Treasurer WTLA

This is the final year for the Clean Water Island Lake Grant through SWCD. So far 35 lakeshore owners have applied. Six projects have been approved and designed. One completed, several waiting for appropriate weather conditions and others waiting for contractors. There are still funds for several more projects this summer so don't wait! If you are interested, contact Mara Jade at Pine SWCD. Please note that Mara will be presenting on this topic at our July 13 meeting.

This summer WTLA will again offer matching buffer grants to two lakeshore owners. For details, please see the WTLA website.



Windemere Township Brush Pile -

Last year was a very cluttered year at the brush pile drop off location. But it has been cleared and will be open again every 3rd Saturday (10:00 am – 1:00 pm) April through October. Grass clippings, leaves, pine needles are accepted but please NO stumps or wooden construction material. You can check the Windemere Township website for any new postings for changes or call Bill Patrick at (651) 336-3487.

WTLA High Water Committee – Sturgeon Lake Update

By Bill Yechout, Board Member WTLA

Last summer Windemere Township reviewed the report which was received from Huston Engineering. The Township had asked the DNR for input last fall on the feasibility study.

The DNR did respond around the first of the year. They evaluated all the proposed routes and offered several concerns. All of the options that were suggested in the report would involve pumping the water at some point. This would be very expensive and would require yearly maintenance. The only way to fund a project like this would be through state bonding or creating a lake improvement district. The lake water has been down around 2 feet since 2019. I feel the support for funding a project of this size at this time would be hard. We will talk more about it at our first meeting.

Last fall the creek on the west side of Sturgeon was cleaned out and the culvert under Lakeland road was cleared. Hopefully this creek will be able to take some of the pressure off of Sturgeon during high water events. You can view both the engineers report and the DNR report on our web site



Aquatic Invasive Species Research for Windemere Township Update

By Loren Radke, Board Member WTLA

As mentioned in the previous fall newsletter, the goals for the AIS committee were: 1) continue to research and apply for future AIS grant opportunities, 2) support the DNR in 2024 with milfoil surveys in order to produce maps for guiding treatment activities, and 3) expand our emphasis on AIS education and prevention.

- During this past winter, we applied for and received, two traditional grants from the state/county which historically have helped to supplement the association's AIS fund when addressing milfoil on Sand and Sturgeon. In addition, we identified some exciting future grant opportunities with the DNR which could benefit an array of naturalist and sustainability type projects throughout our *entire* township. We are currently in the process of developing the lake association's ability to meet these grant requirements. Regarding these grant possibilities, we are looking forward to hearing ideas from members about what we could create together regarding improving and protecting our lakes and their associated ecosystems.
- The DNR will survey Sand and Sturgeon for areas containing milfoil when the lakes have warmed and lake vegetation is growing. Our association will provide support as we always have. **Last**

year was a significant downward trend in acreage requiring treatment, and our association is positioned well again this year to continue with the same methodology and milfoil management practices used in recent years. We will have aerial maps of these two lakes by July representing any areas of infestation. Per the DNR, the recommended window in the growing season for any milfoil treatment by a third-party is typically late summer. Please remember to clean, drain, and dry when transporting watercraft between bodies of water.

- Let's continue the conversation about Purple Loosestrife. It does exist in Windemere Township. It invades wetlands, impacts hydrology, and reduces biodiversity. It has been reported to the DNR. In January, some of the board met with our DNR representative and received an insightful presentation of what this invasive wetland plant is, how it functions, and how the DNR has been managing it across other parts of MN since the 1980s. We are planning to share the same presentation at one of our general membership meetings this summer. Fortunately, the DNR has developed some successful (and interesting) methods for managing large stands of this plant. In addition, our lake association can participate at no cost. The initial action item will be to identify and report as many geographical locations as possible which contain stands of this plant when it blooms July to September. The follow up action during this same time period will be verification and assessment by the DNR before they assign additional resources to this risk.

A big thank you to all WTLA members who continue to support these efforts!

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>

To learn more about AIS please visit the University of MN > AIS Research Center here:

<https://www.maisrc.umn.edu>

The MN Department of Natural Resources (DNR) > AIS can be found here:

<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/ais>

Get Your Neighbors Talking and Post our Signs!



This year we are excited to be offering our members a Windemere Township Lakes Association sign to display on your fire posts. Our signs are multi-colored and can be easily bolted under your fire number. In fact, all you have to do is check the appropriate box on your membership form and we will install it for you! So, show your support of our lake association and get your neighbors talking. Signs will be available at our June 2024 meeting.

Remember to: Clean, Drain & Dry



For years our association has helped to beautify our township roadways by picking up trash spring and fall. We are looking for volunteers to continue the good work that has been done in the past. Partner up with a friend or family member or pick up while taking a walk. The first weekend in May the 2nd-4th would be our first road pick up. I'm more than willing to work with people when they are available. If you are able to help, please contact Kat Burkard at 218-485-4866 or katburkard@yahoo.com. Thank you in advance for your help.

Meet Bill Lyon, Lords Lake, Small Lakes Representative



Jane and I bought our lake house in 2007, enjoying all 4 seasons with enthusiasm. We retired to MN (Woodbury) in 2014, having lived in 10 different USA locations during my career. We are the second owner of our lake house, sharing that ownership with at least two groups of deer! We are committed to community service which prompted me to volunteer for this Small Lakes Rep role, If you have a home on a small lake and have concerns, please contact me on 914-204-2460 or billyon45@email.com.

2022 Lake Association General Meetings: General meeting space has been reserved as Follows:

June 8-Moose Lake Community Center, 313 Elm Ave., Moose Lake, at 9:00 AM.

July 13 and August 10-Social Hall in Holy Angels Catholic Church, 60 Hartman Dr, in Moose Lake, at 9:00 AM.

June 8 - Rich Rezanka, Biologist & AIS Specialist, Minnesota DNR
 July 13 - Mara Jade, Water Resource Technician, Pine County SWCD
 August 10 - To Be Determined

Windemere Township Lakes Association Board Members

Sturgeon Lake	Sand Lake	Island Lake	Small Lakes
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