

Windemere Township Lakes Association

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



WINDOW

If you want information, just open a window”

Fall 2024

We hope you are having a wonderful last hurrah out on the lakes as our summer comes to an end. We also 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. Our board was exceptionally accomplished this year in supporting those goals and objectives. In this addition of the “WINDOW” you will find:

- **Information on AIS (Eurasian Milfoil, Spiny Water Fleas, Purple Loosestrife)**
- **Best Methods to Clean Your Boats**
- **Improvements to Sturgeon Lake Boat Ramp**
- **Island Lake Outlet Updates**
- **How to Install our New Signage**
- **Association Meeting Dates and Board Member Information**



Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)

By Loren Radke, Board Member, WTLA

Eurasian Milfoil This recent season presented challenges beyond the routine annual milfoil treatment procedures. Although the milfoil on Sand Lake continued to trend successfully downward, it increased on Sturgeon Lake to a record 70 acres. The cost to manage this acreage exceeded our typical annual grant amount from Pine County resulting in three actions that were undertaken:

1 The association changed to a new herbicide applicator. The primary criteria for selection were that the new vendor be willing to stand behind a warranty. The new applicator is PLM Lake & Land Management out of Brainerd. PLM has successfully reduced milfoil on nearby Chub Lake and Bear Lake.

2 The association requested and received additional unused AIS grant funding from the Pine County Board of Commissioners.

3 The association used half of our dedicated and reserved AIS Fund which has not been necessary for quite a few years.

By early September, we had raised the additional funding to pay for about 85% of Sturgeon Lake to be treated. Thanks to Windemere Township, Pine County, DNR, PLM, and everybody from our community who rose to these challenges. It was a team effort. One of the positive outcomes was that as lake association volunteers, we learned a great deal about the engineering behind the process of planning an effective milfoil herbicide application.

The challenges to fund the treatment of milfoil may continue through 2025. When renewing your membership to *your* lake association, please consider an extra contribution to the AIS Fund. Thank you!



Spiny Water Flea These tiny invasive species are freshwater zooplankton that invade lakes and can take over the bottom of the food chain disturbing the entire food web. Their barbed tails can also clog fishing reels and other common boat equipment. They are present in Mille Lacs, some of the Duluth area lakes, and many of the waters along the Minnesota and Canadian border. The lakes with a public access in our township have begun to be surveyed annually for this species. **NOTE: The association purchased \$500 of monitoring equipment with grant money this summer. We monitored Sturgeon, Sand, and Island lakes and found NO presence of this specie.**



Purple Loosestrife This invasive plant is present in Windemere. An easy identifying characteristic (besides the purple flowers in late Summer) is its square stem. The action item identified this past Spring was to report as many geographical locations to the DNR as possible which contain tall stands of this plant in our township. The areas around Island Lake and the South end of Sturgeon Lake have been reported. This task was completed using a nationwide mapping database called EDD Maps which uses a free phone app allowing anyone to report any invasive species. The information is received by the DNR who will follow up, verify, and develop a treatment plan. The DNR has been using a successful biocontrol method across Minnesota since approximately 1980 with this wetland plant.

New Research on Best Methods to Clean Your Boat

Preventing the spread of aquatic hitchhikers like spiny water flea and Eurasian water milfoil starts with responsible boat cleaning. While "Clean, Drain, Dry" is essential, the "clean" step is especially critical. [A recent study from the Natural Resources Research Institute \(NRRI\) highlights the most effective cleaning method.](#) Researchers Holly Wellward Kelly and Valerie Brady found the best approach involves three steps: hand-picking debris, rinsing with a hose, and drying with a wet vac. This process removed 95% of material mimicking aquatic invasive species in just 7 minutes, even from heavily coated boats.

Remember to: Clean, Drain & Dry!

This Summer Sturgeon Lake was the beneficiary of the DNR'S \$35M Plan to Modernize State Boat Access

Public water access sites are the vital arteries connecting Minnesota's conservation efforts with recreational pursuits. The Minnesota DNR is launching a major upgrade to over 40 sites, with 75 more slated for smaller-scale improvements. By fortifying stormwater management systems, implementing accessible parking solutions, and enhancing AIS inspection areas, the endeavor seeks to erect formidable barriers against the incursion of harmful species into Minnesota's precious waterways.



Island Lake Outlet Inspection

On Tuesday September 17th with the permission of the property owner the outlet of Island Lake was inspected. Two lake association board members and an official from the township reviewed the open channel leading from the lake. With a low lake level, the water was barely flowing, and no obstructions were found. The parties agreed to return in the Spring for another inspection.

Communication with Members

The most cost-effective method to communicate with our members is to use email. Many of you have provided your addresses to us. If you have not been getting emails from the lake association, please provide your email address to us at windemerelakes@yahoo.com. We will not share your address with anyone.

Are you a GEEK, do you have Software Expertise? If the answer to the above is YES, we need you. The board is interested in computer software that will enable us to better manage our membership. If you have experience and would like to volunteer, please contact us at windemerelakes@yahoo.com.

WHERE'S YOUR SIGN?????

You may have seen these around our lakes this summer. If you are a member of the Windemere Township Lakes Association, you can have one too! All you have to do is let us know and we will install one for you. So, tell your neighbors and let's get the word out!



2025 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 14 - (TBD)
 July 12- (TBD)
 August 9 - (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-Chair 218-485-4667 danislandlk@gmail.com	Laurie Patrick-Membership Cell: 651-336-1024 Lauriep430@gmail.com Passenger Lake
Loren Radtke Cell: 218-348-1077 Loren.radtke@outlook.com	Joann Murphy-Treasurer Cell: 651-334-2482 hunamurphu@gmail.com	Kathy Burkard Cell: 218-460-0784 katburkhard@yahoo.com	Bill Lyon Cell: 651-797-3063 Billlyon45@gmail.com Lords Lake
Bill Yechout Cell: 651-247-5470 yechoutb@gmail.com	John Tasky Cell: 763-360-4603 Tasky9012@gmail.com	Chip Wells-Secretary Home: 218-380-0409 fawells3@gmail.com	

Corporate Sponsors The lakes association would like to thank the following organizations for being corporate sponsors. We encourage you to support these businesses: Moose Lake Auto Parts/ Auto Value, Docs Sports Bar and Grill, JJ's Bottleshop, SunBay Mobil Home Park & Campground, Moose Lake Golf Club, and Sand Lake Resort.