

Windemere Township Lakes Association

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



WINDOW

If you want information, just open a window

Spring 2026

Talking on Water Dan Benzie Chair Person

Your lake is always changing. Your actions or inaction can affect those changes.

Our lakes have been changing since created by the glaciers retreating from Minnesota 10,000 years ago. Natural disturbances from wind, fires or floods shaped the lakes preceding European settlement when logging then farming then residential development influenced the landscape, the shorelines and lake water quality.

Windemere Lake Association formed in 1972 during a time of environmental awareness. Better logging and farming practices and septic design along with lake owners' awareness gradually improved the lakes over the past 50 years, but there is still much we can do.

Every action we take affects the lake in some way.

Just as time, climate and natural lake succession can have positive or negative effects, so can our actions. How close to the lake we mow, where



and how we recreate on the lake, and decisions to cut or plant a tree.

Things lakeshore owners can do to create positive change on the lake include good buffers along the shoreline; wakes in the middle of the lake to protect the fragile littoral zone; and clean, drain and dry all our watercraft to minimize new invasives.

Association actions for this summer include the treatment of Curly Leaf Pondweed on Island Lake, and continuing the beetle treatment of Purple Loosestrife and milfoil on Sand and Sturgeon. What actions will you and your family take this summer to make improvements in your lake's water quality? See you on the water and at our summer meeting.



Steven Yang

Program Coordinator - Get the Lead Out

Get the Lead Out (GTLO) is a program at the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. Their mission is to promote the voluntary use of lead-free fishing tackle alternatives to benefit human health and wildlife, especially common loons. GTLO achieves this through education and outreach all over the state, such as event tabling, conducting tackle exchanges, and presentations.

Lead is toxic and has been removed from many things, such as car gasoline, household paint, and new water pipes. However, lead is still very common in fishing tackle and ammunition, due to its abundance, low cost, and easy manufacturing process.

Loons can ingest lead fishing tackle in a variety of ways, such as pursuing a fish

that is on an angler's line, or fish that broke off with tackle attached. They may even go after lures directly, too. Loons also mistakenly pick up lead tackle at the bottom of lakes when grabbing pebbles for their gizzards to help with digestion. Once a loon ingests lead tackle, it slowly dies of lead poisoning within 2-3 weeks.

Instead of lead, alternatives you can look for on store shelves or online are tungsten, bismuth, tin and steel. These metals are harder than lead and perform similarly. Tungsten actually performs much better than lead due to its higher density, which makes it more sensitive and able to sink faster (such as those tiny tear-drop-shaped ice fishing jigs). In some cases, alternatives are more expensive, but the extra performance and/or environmental benefits may be worth it for you. Additionally, the cost of lead-free tackle is marginal compared to the cost of other fishing-related expenses (e.g., rods, reels, and boat).

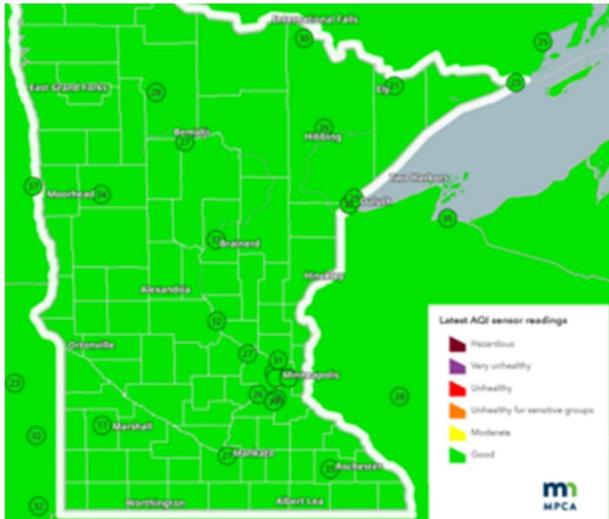
To learn more, visit www.pca.mn.state.us/leadout, and like/follow Get the Lead Out's social media (www.facebook.com/LeadOutMN, www.instagram.com/LeadOutMN). Their email is leadout@state.mn.us

Corporate Sponsors: The WTLA encourages you to support and thank All Out Recreation, Docs Sports Bar and Grill, First National Bank, SunBay Mobile Home Park & Campground, Moose Lake Golf Club, and Sand Lake Resort.

Windemere Township Brush Pile - Open every 3rd Saturday from April through October (10:00am-1:00pm). Windemere Township residents only with proof of property ownership in Windemere Township. Brush and leaf disposal only, no logs, stumps, or construction material. For more information, call Bill Patrick 651-336-3487

Air Quality Forecasting at MPCA – How Do We Do It and Will It Always Be Smoky?

Matt Taraldsen, Supervisory Meteorologist



Did you know that the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) does air quality forecasts? While the agency has been forecasting since 2013, lately more and more Minnesotans have unfortunately had to become accustomed to checking the air quality forecasts due to the increase in wildfire smoke. Forecasting air quality is a challenge, and it fuses all the issues that are well known with forecasting weather, along with atmospheric chemistry. Since weather has such an overwhelmingly large impact on the formation of air quality issues, the

MPCA has a staff of five meteorologists who [forecast the Air Quality Index \(AQI\)](#) every day for the entire state of Minnesota and issue air quality alerts as needed. The AQI is broken down into several color categories. As the concentration of the pollutant increases so do the potential impacts. The MPCA issues air quality alerts for an AQI of Orange (Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups) and higher. The MPCA forecasts for both ozone and fine particle pollution, and the AQI forecast will show the highest value (worst impact) expected between these two different pollutants.

Biological Monitoring Partner Program

Amy Waters, MPCA External Biological Data Coordinator



evaluating aquatic life in Minnesota's rivers and streams. The program will strengthen biological monitoring partnerships by training professional biologists to conduct biological (fish and macroinvertebrate) monitoring to assist with assessing and protecting Minnesota waters. The BMPP currently is not training citizen volunteers.

The BMPP provides a number of benefits to partners, such as:

The MPCA is currently developing the Biological Monitoring Partner Program (BMPP) which is a training and certification program for

- participate in the collection of biological data that will be used to compare with state biological standards;

- unify methods to help facilitate communication among partners;
- gauge the effectiveness of watershed management activities; and
- identify potential point and non-point source impacts to aquatic life.



The partner data submitted to the MPCA will be classified into three data quality categories based on the information provided:

- Level 1 (assessable): Data is similar quality to that produced by MPCA and can be used in surface water assessments.
- Level 2 (reportable): Data can be used in surface water assessments as “supporting information.” Data with minor deviations or omission of required information.
- Level 3 (informational): Data cannot be used in surface water assessments due to collection by non-qualified personnel, missing information, or failure to follow proper procedures.

You can subscribe to our *In the Current* e-newsletter which provides biological monitoring news, updates and information about the BMPP by emailing Biological.Monitoring.mPCA@state.mn.us. You can also check the BMPP webpage for updates.

2025 WTLA 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. Please communicate with your Board by emailing at windemerelakes@yahoo.com.

June 13 - Representative Minnesota Lakes and Rivers
July 11- Maria Young, Wild Rivers Conservancy
August 8 - Richard Rezanka, Aquatic Biologist, Minnesota DNR
 Meetings may also feature other short reports from various speakers during the meeting.

WTLA 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 jmcbaze@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 hunamurphy@gmail.com	Kathy Burkard Cell: 218-485-4866 katburkard@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	