

Dedicated to  
Clean Waters

Pokegama Lake Association  
**PLA**  
**UPDATE**

September 2020  
Vol. 34, No. 6

## A Message from our President

by Tom Rice

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS! Our organization is driven by people—people just like you. Please take a moment to consider how you can help!

First, we all know that the Covid-19 crisis will eventually end and before it does, we need to be ready. We need someone to step up and take over the Social Committee chair position. This would be a great opportunity for one of our new members to get involved and get to know us. Please contact me if you are interested in this position.

Additionally, we also need someone to take over the remainder of Jack Swanson's term on the Board of Directors. Jack has sold his place on the lake and is moving out of the area. Jack has been an active member of our organization, serving as Vice President and sitting on the Board of Directors. Additionally, Jack has been an essential part of our annual weed-cutting operation, performing maintenance on the machinery and operating the cutters for many years. Jack's work should be appreciated by everyone on the lake, whether they are PLA members or not. Please join me in wishing our best to Jack--thanks for your contributions! And if you'd like to be considered as a replacement member of our Board of Directors, let me know.

I would also like to welcome our new members who joined as part of our successful mid-summer membership drive.

One final note, as you prepare for fall/winter, don't forget to clean out your lakeside fire pits that can be subject to spring flooding and runoff.

## Greetings from your Editor

by Becky Gardner

This past Labor Day weekend certainly felt like the end of summer with a beautiful Saturday followed by cooler conditions and consequently a quieter lake. The flyover was certainly a highlight of the weekend!

## Upcoming PLA Events

(at PLA Building unless otherwise noted)

- |            |   |
|------------|---|
| Sept. 18   | Board of Directors Meeting at 7:00 p.m. (Election of Officers)<br><b>Via Zoom</b> |
| Sept. 19   | General Membership Meeting<br><b>Via Zoom</b>                                     |
| October 17 | General Membership Meeting  |

The PLA was able to have a social-distanced in-person August Membership Meeting that was held in the PLA Building parking lot. Members enjoyed seeing each other in person after so many Zoom meetings these past few months. Unfortunately, given the cooler weather conditions, we will be going back to a Zoom meeting format.

There are only a couple of *Update* editions left for the season (the last issue will be sent in mid-November). I welcome any interesting lake-related or amusing submissions (jokes, recipes, photos) you might want to share with your fellow PLAers. Please send your items to me at [beckyfgardner@gmail.com](mailto:beckyfgardner@gmail.com). Submissions for the October 2020 *Update* are due by Friday, October 9.

Enjoy your read!

## Lake Improvement

by Al Johnson

The recent rain has allowed us to take samples on South Jarvis Creek and North Jarvis Creek. The results still indicate high levels of phosphorus in South Jarvis Creek. Hopefully, we have enough data to determine some actions we can take to alleviate the high phosphorus.

We have submitted survey data to Pine County for the "No Wake Ordinance." To collect this data, we

had to determine the number of watercraft (boats, pontoons, jet skis, etc.) using the lake in the morning, afternoon and evenings on a typical weekday and weekend day, including the number of trailers at each of the landings. Thanks to Dennis & Darlene Collins, George & Marlys Kufner, Lyn Johnson and Chuck Royce for their help with the survey. Other data we submitted included: the number of boat slips in marinas; the number of residents on the lake; and obstructions (such as rocks close to the surface). Pine County will hold public hearings to determine the fate of the ordinance, before it goes to the DNR for final approval.

The Quality Bluegill Initiative was introduced to the PLA during our July Membership Meeting. The plan is to decrease the daily limit to 5 or 10 so we can improve the overall size of bluegills in the lake. This winter the local DNR office will decide whether to recommend the reduction in limits. If they do decide to pursue the plan, there will be an official comment period starting in Spring 2021 that will run through the open water season. Signs will be posted about the Initiative at the boat landings and a public meeting will be held in the Fall of 2021. The soonest the changes would go into effect would be the 2022 season.



Aitkin County Soil and Water has started a program to help shoreland owners install buffer strips on their property. Recently, I helped with some shoreline planting on private property on Pine Lake (see photo above). Pine County Soil & Water is looking at this program to see if shoreland owners on Pokegama and Cross Lake would like a similar program that could be implemented as soon as 2021. Most likely, 75% of the cost would be shouldered by the local Soil and Water District and 25% by the property owner. All labor is donated (i.e. via volunteers) and is valued at \$18.00/hour. The “cost”

of the labor is credited towards the 25% contribution required of the land-owner. Additionally, most of the projects do not involve excavation and therefore are low in cost.

I have obtained a list of plants that will withstand our high water. These same plants were used on Big Sandy Lake after its 6-week major flood incident in 2012. The areas where they planted these buffers remain energetic, while other untreated areas were brown and dead (see photos below of neighboring properties). I will pass along more information as it becomes available.



### Lake Items for Sale/Lost and Found

Aluminum Shore Station 1800 lb. boat lift. \$500.00 or best offer! Call Steve at (952) 457-2908.

Missing beanbag. After last year’s annual PLA picnic, we discovered we are missing an orange beanbag and we found a Vikings beanbag in our set. Please contact Connie at (612) 799-2955 to arrange an exchange.

## 2020 Calendar of Events

(All events held at PLA Building unless otherwise noted)

January 17	Board of Directors Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
January 18	General Membership Meeting
February 15	General Membership Meeting
March 21	General Membership Meeting ( <b>Cancelled</b> )
April 17	Board of Directors Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
April 18	General Membership Meeting ( <b>Zoom Meeting</b> )
May 14	Fresh Water Fair at Fairgrounds and VFW from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. ( <b>Cancelled</b> )
May 16	General Membership Meeting ( <b>Via Zoom</b> ) Welcome Back Potluck at 5:30 p.m. ( <b>Cancelled</b> )
June 20	General Membership Meeting ( <b>Via Zoom</b> )
June 23	Food Booth Cleanup at 9:00 a.m. at the Fairgrounds ( <b>Cancelled</b> )
June 27	Freedom Fest, Fundraiser at PLA Food Booth ( <b>Cancelled</b> )
July 17	Board of Directors Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
July 18	General Membership Meeting ( <b>Via Zoom</b> )
July 29 to August 2	Pine County Fair Corn Booth ( <b>Cancelled</b> )
August 15	General Membership Meeting and Election of Board of Directors PLA Member Picnic and Silent Auction at 1:30 p.m. ( <b>Cancelled</b> )
September 18	Board of Directors Meeting at 7:00 p.m. Election of Officers ( <b>Via Zoom</b> )
September 19	General Membership Meeting ( <b>Via Zoom</b> )
October 17	General Membership Meeting
November 21	General Membership Meeting
December 12	Holiday Party (Location TBD)
December 19	General Membership Meeting

**General Membership meetings are held at 9:00 a.m. at the PLA Building. Coffee and doughnuts are served beginning at 8:30 a.m.**

### Please Remember To Visit Our Gambling Sites

Bear Creek Tavern, Hinckley  
Braham Event Center, Braham  
Brass Rail, Grandy  
Floppy Crappie, Pine City  
Lake Appeil (formerly Vannelli's Landing),  
Pokegama Lake  
Northwood's Steakhouse, Knife Lake, Mora  
Off the Road, Brook Park  
Side Tracked Bar and Grill, Brook Park  
Wings North, Pine City

## Officers and Directors

Tom Rice, President (612) 781-3101  
Jack Swanson, Vice President (218) 380-0257  
Carol Pederson (320) 629-8073  
Luranne McLean, Secretary (612) 716-9022  
Dennis Cheesebrow (651) 387-0827  
Larry Eich (612) 868-1243  
Tom Hollingsworth (651) 248-0569  
John Hoyny (612) 644-4297  
Bruce Phelps (507) 649-0474  
Chuck Royce (320) 629-2805  
Laurie Simonsen (952) 892-0425  
Steve Simonsen (952) 334-4678  
Connie Stone (612) 799-2955

### GAMBLING

Laura Hollingsworth, Manager (651) 248-0819

### COMMITTEES

#### Audit

Bruce Phelps, Chair (507) 649-0474  
John Hoyny (612) 644-4297  
Jake Jacobson (320) 629-2430  
Luranne McLean (612) 716-9022  
Gene Olson (320) 629-3842

#### Building Management

Chuck & Pauline Royce (320) 629-2805  
Tom Hollingsworth (651) 248-0569

#### Clothing

Bonnie Cheesebrow (651) 216-2833  
Melody Fraser (612) 599-4326

#### Corn Booth

Scott & Sandy Jeanson (651) 341-2103

#### Donations

Chuck Royce (320) 629-2805  
Tom Hollingsworth (651) 248-0569

#### Education

Marietta Jacobson (320) 629-2430

#### Freedom Fest

Tom Rice (612) 781-3101

#### Freshwater Fair

Lyn Johnson (320) 629-7744

#### Lake Improvement

Al Johnson (320) 629-7744

#### Membership

Mary Holmgren (612) 481-2223

#### Silent Auction

Marta Malone-Rice (612) 781-3101  
Connie Stone (612) 799-2955

#### Social and Holiday Party (New chairpersons needed!)

Social -- OPEN  
Holiday Party -- OPEN

#### SRWMB & DNR

Henry Fischer (651) 253-9377

#### Update

Becky Gardner  
(507) 271-4237 or beckyfgardner@gmail.com

#### Webpage

Dennis Cheesebrow (651) 387-0827  
<https://www.pokegamalakeassociation.com>

#### Weed Harvesting

Bruce Phelps (507) 649-0474