

**Dedicated to
Clean Waters**



**September 2021
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UPDATE

A Message from your President

by Tom Rice

It has been a very interesting summer. Let me start by sharing a few comments received from lake owners who wanted to remain anonymous:

“You cut my weeds and they are growing back. When are you going to finish the job correctly?”

“They didn’t even get all the way to the shore, I still have to plow through 100 feet of muck.”

“Why don’t you use your machines and dredge access channels?”

“If you didn’t cut the weeds, there would be enough oxygen for the fish to survive. Weeds are part of a natural progression”

“The DNR doesn’t know what they are talking about. I am a biologist and the fish died from a nitrogen imbalance – not oxygen deprivation.”

And this comment came attached to our Membership Application Form--with no return address, name or phone number:

“Where does the money go? It sure doesn’t improve the lake quality! I’m not the only lake resident that feels this way. It’s a joke! Lived here for 10 years. This lake is a mess! Weeds, algae, bogs! What do you people do to improve anything here? Waste of money to join – it’s parties, picnics and socializing.”

I am sure each of these individuals feels or believes in the comments they made for whatever their reasons. I don’t think, however, that these comments represent the majority of lake owners who have taken the time to ask questions, get educated about our programs, and get involved in trying to solve and improve a very complicated water quality problem. The PLA has no governing authority to either enact or enforce laws and regulations, but we do work with the DNR, Pokegama Township Board, Pine County, and various State departments to influence legislation and regulations that potentially affect our lake.

Our monthly meetings and occasional “parties, picnics and socializing” bring our membership together and provide a conduit for sharing and exploring solutions. They encourage participation, networking, and provide time to express individual concerns. Our summer “picnic” and silent auction is a great example of our membership coming together to raise money that we can use for much needed equipment maintenance. Local businesses and PLA members were very generous in donating auction items, services, and gift certificates this year—there were so many nice items to pick from. As a result, we were able to raise over \$2400 at this year’s event! The potluck was, as always, delicious and the “socializing” was enjoyed by everyone attending.

I encourage anyone who may have questions and concerns about our mission and programs to attend our monthly meetings. They provide a great opportunity to get educated and involved in the solutions.

UPCOMING PLA EVENTS (at the PLA Building)

Friday, September 17

Board of Directors Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, September 18

General Membership Meeting
9:00 a.m. (Social Time at 8:30 a.m.)

Saturday, October 16

General Membership Meeting
9:00 a.m. (Social Time at 8:30 a.m.)

Greetings from your Editor

by *Becky Gardner*

This past week has seen a shift in both the “feel” of the weather and the traffic on the lake. As summer winds down, school begins, and seasonal lake residents begin packing up their homes, I hope you all continue to cherish the wonderful opportunity we have to live and play on Pokegama Lake.

Please think about what you can do to clean up your lake fronts as you begin wrapping up for the season—empty fire pits and dispose of the ashes (not in the lake), and secure fire wood and your lake items so that they don’t get blown into or float into the lake if/when the water rises.

There are two more issues of the *Update remaining*. If you have any items you would like published before the end of the year, please submit them to me at beckyfgardner@gmail.com. Thank you and enjoy your read.

Lake Improvement Report

by *Al Johnson*

As many of you know, there was a fish kill on the lake this past month. The DNR has concluded the kill, which was pretty much confined to the area east of the island, was due to lack of oxygen. If you recall, we didn’t have much wind for several days before the fish kill, resulting in the lake water not being mixed. The DNR believes this problem was caused, to some extent, by the smoke we endured for a couple of weeks from the wildfires in the Boundary Water Canoe Area and in Canada. Really? Yes! During daylight hours, lake plants undergo a process called photosynthesis where the plants capture sunlight and release oxygen into the water. At night, the plants use the oxygen. If there is inadequate oxygen produced during the day, such as smoke blocking the light, then the plants use up any excess oxygen during the night. Additionally, the very green water conditions also block the sunlight and reduce oxygen production. Therefore, these two conditions have reduced overall lake oxygen levels. When this problem reaches an acute level, there isn’t enough oxygen for both the plants and the fish, and fish are the first to suffer.

This year, the lake has been the greenest and had the thickest weeds I have seen in the 21 years I have lived on the lake. I am certainly not happy about these conditions, and I hope there are others that feel the same way. These problems CAN be fixed—be it the weeds or the algae—but the solution to either of these problems is not cheap. Fortunately, there is a lot of State and Federal money available, but we will also need to invest in this process.

First off, we need to repair the weed harvesters so they can operate, as much as possible, over the summer months. Secondly, we need more people to step up and volunteer for cutting weeds. The limited number of volunteers has limited us to cutting only in the mornings (for 20 hours/week) versus potentially cutting for 40 hours a week.

In regard to the algae conditions on the lake--we all can do something to improve this condition. Please consider the DNR’s “Ten Shoreline Best Management Practices:” 1) Preserve or create a natural shoreline (buffer strips); 2) Reduce your lawn and keep your trees (reduces run-off); 3) Learn what you can and can’t do to or on the lake and shoreline; 4) Minimize runoff from rooftops and driveways via rain barrels and rain gardens); 5) Maintain your septic system (not an issue for us); 6) Keep native aquatic plants; 7) manage your pets and livestock; 8) be considerate of other lake users; 9) encourage and support land conservation; and 10) Show up. Speak up. Serve or write a check to support local efforts. If we all try implementing even one or two of these ideas, it can be the beginning of a cleaner lake.



In late-August, PLA members John Hoyny , Jon Isabell (checked shirt) and Dave Stone (blue shirt), cleaned out the storage area of at the PLA building.

In total, they hauled away 1,040 pounds of junk and collected \$67.60 in proceeds!

Corn Booth Wrap-up

by *Scott Jeanson*

Following a break in operations due to Covid last year, the PLA was able to run its annual Corn Booth at this year's Pine County Fair. The corn was delicious, and we received a lot of compliments. Additionally, we had excellent weather (except for heavy rain on Thursday night), that also helped with our sales.

Our final accounting resulted in a record year of profits of \$12,511.40! A full report will be presented at the September 18, 2021, General Membership Meeting.

As always, our volunteers are what make this fundraiser such a huge success, and this year was no exception. We also saw a lot of new faces—something that was very good to see. Many thanks to our new volunteers and our experienced “mentors” who helped with training. We hope you all enjoyed the experience. A special thanks to Lee Anderson whose guidance and advice helped things run smoothly. A list of our volunteers and some “scenes from the booth” are posted below. Thanks again and see you next year!

Editor's Note: Our sincere thanks to Scott and Sandy for their work on this major fundraising project. A lot of time and effort goes into this process, and we appreciate their willingness to manage this project. Please thank them both the next time you see or speak with them!

2021 Corn Booth Volunteers (please forgive us for any misspellings or if you were mistakenly left off this list). You are ALL appreciated!

Jordan Ackley	Melody Fraser	Jin Lavin	Chuck Royce
Mike Ackley	Mike Fraser	Nicki Lavin	Gordy Royce
Nancy Ackley	Olivia Hass	Troy LeBlanc	Pauline Royce
Karen Anderson	Danielle Hauge	Lin Linbeck	Jerry Seeman
Pat Anderson	Nicole Heim	Marta Malone-Rice	Steph Seitz
Terri Anderson	John Hoyny	Mike Manther	Larry Setterlund
Lee Anderson 1	Jeff Hughes	Stephanie Massich	Linda Setterlund
Lee Anderson 2	Sue Hughes	Luranne McLean	Mary Silbaugh
Gene Baum	Pat Hurias	Krystal Modine	Ron Silbaugh
Linda Baum	Jon Isabel	Allen Moss	Laurie Simonsen
Denise Bissonnette	Jake Jacobson	Laurie Moss	Steve Simonsen
Collin Bolton	Marietta Jacobson	Matt Nelson	John Sowada
Stacey Bolton	Jeff Jakusz	Jim Nielson	Connie Stone
Tom Brytowski	Jill Jakusz	Kathy Nielson	Dave Stone
Dave Cashman	Grant Jeanson	Jean Norcutt	Don Terhell
Lori Cashman	Sandy Jeanson	Owen Norcutt	Shirley Terhell
Kerry Charlet	Scott Jeanson	Gene Olsen	Aileene Vanderbilt
Curt Christian	Linda Jensen	Marge Olsen	Mel Vanderbilt
Twyla Christian	Al Johnson	Bert Peterson	Joel Ward
Dave Clark	Mary Jungers	Jeff Peterson	Joel Ward
Tamra Clark	Tammy Kraft	Pam Peterson	Vickie Ward
Darlene Collins	Nancy Kreuser	Bruce Phelps	Theresa Watson
Dennis Collins	Rod Kreuser	Lori Phelps	Chris Waxon
Bernie Elliott	Susan Kubitsche	Donna Pingree	Kathy Weber
Brenda Elliott	Tom Kubitsche	Ron Pingree	Kim Weber
Cheryl Emmons	George Kufner	Terry Pittman	Dan Welch
Mike Emmons	Marlys Kufner	Cal Price	Kelly Welch
Augst Family	Karen Kurtz	Caroline Puttin	Ginny Wimberly
Grant Fontaine	JoAnn Laumeyer	Tom Rice	Ron Wimberly



The PLA Corn Booth with some of our volunteers.

Back row: Linda Jensen, Kathy & Kim Weber

Front row: Steph Seitz, Denise Bissonnette & Chris Waxon.



Grant Jeanson, the grandson of our Corn Booth Committee Chairs, Scott and Sandy Jeanson, was a tremendous help this year, and he worked at the booth 5 out of the 6 days!



Members of the Augst Family have been working shifts together at the Corn Booth for over 20 years. What a great family tradition!

2021 Calendar of Events

All meetings will be held at the Pokegama Lake Association Building located at 12965 Lake Line Road, Pine City, MN

(In regard to Covid protocols, the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) **strongly recommend** that anyone who is not fully vaccinated continue to wear a mask when attending indoor gatherings in group settings. Thank you for your consideration.)

January 15	Board of Directors Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
January 16	General Membership Meeting at 9:00 a.m.
February 20	General Membership Meeting at 9:00 a.m.
March 20	General Membership Meeting at 9:00 a.m.
April 16	Board of Directors Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
April 17	General Membership Meeting at 9:00 a.m.
May 13	Fresh Water Fair at Fairgrounds and VFW from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.-- Cancelled
May 15	General Membership Meeting at 9:00 a.m. Welcome Back Potluck at 5:30 p.m. -- Cancelled
June 19	General Membership Meeting at 9:00 a.m.
June 22	Food Booth Cleanup at 9:00 a.m. at the Fairgrounds-- Cancelled
June 26	Freedom Fest, Fundraiser at PLA Food Booth— PLA will not participate this year
July 16	Board of Directors Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
July 17	General Membership Meeting at 9:00 a.m.
August 3-8	Pine County Fair Corn Booth
August 21	General Membership Meeting and Election of Board of Directors at 9:00 a.m. PLA Member Picnic and Silent Auction at 12:00 p.m.
September 17	Board of Directors Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
September 18	General Membership Meeting at 9:00 a.m.
October 16	General Membership Meeting at 9:00 a.m.
November 20	General Membership Meeting at 9:00 a.m.
December 11	Holiday Party at Northwoods Steakhouse
December 18	General Membership Meeting at 9:00 a.m.

Please Remember to Visit our Gambling Sites

Bear Creek Tavern, Cloverdale
Braham Event Center, Braham
Brass Rail, Grandy
Foamers, Brook Park
Marge's Pub and Grub, Brook Park—New Site!
Northwood's Steakhouse, Knife Lake, Mora
Red's Liquor Box, Pine City
Side Tracked Bar and Grill, Brook Park

Officers and Directors

Tom Rice, President (612) 781-3101
Chuck Royce, Vice President (320) 629-280
Bobbi Eich, Treasurer (612) 202-1723
Luranne McLean, Secretary (612) 716-9022
Larry Eich (612) 868-1243
John Hoyny (612) 644-4297
Bruce Phelps (507) 649-0474
Laurie Simonsen (952) 892-0425
Steve Simonsen (952) 334-4678
Connie Stone (612) 799-2955

GAMBLING

Kim Erickson (763) 300-7181

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
Clothing (Seeking new Clothing Sales Coordinator!)
Melody Fraser (612) 599-4326

Corn Booth

Scott & Sandy Jeanson (651) 341-2103

Donations

Chuck Royce (320) 629-2805

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 Outreach

Becky Gardner, Newsletter and Website, (507) 271-4237 or
beckyfgardner@gmail.com

<https://www.pokegamalakeassociation.com>

Mary Holmgren, Membership (612) 481-2223

Silent Auction

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

Social

Committee Chairperson--OPEN

Annual Picnic—Tammi Kraft, Theresa Watson

Holiday Party – Terri Anderson & JoAnn Laumeier

SRWMB & DNR

Henry Fischer (651) 253-9377

Weed Harvesting

Bruce Phelps (507) 649-0474

The article submission deadline for the October 2021 Update is Monday, October 4. Thank you.