

Dedicated to  
Clean Waters



October 2021  
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## UPDATE



*It is time to renew your PLA Membership for 2022. Please see the "2020 Membership Renewal Drive" article for further details.*

### UPCOMING PLA EVENTS (at the PLA Building)

**Saturday, October 16**

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

**Saturday, November 20**

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

**Saturday, December 11**

Holiday Party at Northwoods Steak House

**Saturday, December 18**

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

### A Message from your President

*by Tom and Marta Rice*

Life is what happens when your plans don't work out! A few years back, Marta and I stumbled upon an advertisement for a 3-season trailer, located at what was previously known as Muffie's. It was not what we expected and so we decided to check out Woischke's. Two weeks later, after a little negotiating, we were making plans to set up weekend living in a 4-season double wide. We enjoyed our first two years on Pokegama Lake so much that we decided to buy a home on the main lake. We purchased a home on Sunset Trail and looked forward to a nice relaxing retirement...then came the high-water floods, shifting ice, low water, rocks, and snags. Not to mention the fish kills, masses of floating weeds and of course "bog wars".

In spite of these issues, each spring the hummingbirds and orioles show up to entertain us throughout the summer and the migratory ducks speckle our lake with a splash of color as they fly on to their summer nesting homes. The evening sunsets are spectacular and the sound of waves bumping on the rocks is intoxicating. We have been blessed with great memories, wonderful neighbors, and lasting friendships. We stumbled upon our lake, quite by accident, but we would not trade it for anything.

### Greetings from your Editor

*by Becky Gardner*

What a beautiful start to our fall season! While we have not been able to enjoy the colors on the water, since we had to store our boat and pull our dock early this year, we have been able to enjoy many morning "deck coffees" and evening "sits" out on our deck, waving to boaters out for an evening cruise.

We are winding down the newsletter this year, with one last issue that will be published in mid-November. If you have news or other items you would like included in that edition, be sure to get them submitted to me by Monday, November 8.

Thank you and enjoy your read!

## Lake Improvement Report

by Al Johnson

We are finally seeing the lake cleaning up a little, helped by some recent rain, but more importantly, by the fall turn-over. The fall turn-over occurs due to shorter days and cooler nights. The cool air reduces surface water temperature and as the water cools, it becomes denser and sinks to the bottom of the lake which brings more oxygen to the bottom. When the bottom of the lake lacks anaerobic oxygen, the phosphorus in the muck is released and causes algae blooms. This year was especially bad because we did not have enough rain to flush out and oxygenate the water and we did not have as much wind to turn-over the lake.

We have taken on a couple of projects this year that are going to reduce runoff from our property. First, we installed a rain barrel for collecting water from a fourth of our house. What amazed us was how a small quantity of rain could fill our 40-gallon drum—it took just 0.2” of rain! We used the rainwater to water our flowers and the plants in our small garden. Therefore, we reduced run-off and saved energy needed to pump water for the plants.

The other project I recently completed was some settling pits for our boathouse eaves. I dug the pits about 3-feet deep where I ran into nice sand—each pit was about 1.5-foot in diameter. I then lined the pits with landscape fabric and then filled the hole with small rocks. Surprisingly, it took less than two hours for each of the two pits. The pits have performed well, even with the 1.25” of rain we received in early October. The settling pits will reduce run-off, and that helps improve the lake water quality. (See photos below).

Last week I accompanied Pine County Soil and Water Technician, Zach Van Orsdell, upstream on south Jarvis Creek. It looks like there is a good location for a small pond to be installed that could delay water flow, allowing plants to remove the phosphorus. This project is going to be very expensive and Soil and Water thinks we should wait for the 1W1P (One Watershed, 1 Plan) to get established, which will open more funding to fix this problem. Hopefully, this will be done in the next year or two.

In summation, it takes time to accomplish large projects, but smaller projects, like buffer strips, rain gardens, rain barrels, or run-off settling basins can be accomplished in a very short time. Let’s all work to improve the lake quality by reducing run-off!



*Settling Pit in Progress*



*Settling Pit Completed*

## **2022 Membership Renewal Drive**

*by Mary Holmgren and Becky Gardner*

It is time for the PLAs 2022 Membership Drive. We hope to get a head start on our membership renewals by catching our snowbird and seasonal members before they leave their lake homes. **This past year we had a total of 205 households participate as members.** Our goal is to increase our membership rolls for 2022 and you can help the PLA accomplish this goal by asking your friends and neighbors to join our association, which in turn gives them the opportunity to support the PLA's mission: keeping our lake clean and enjoying the many lake activities available to them.

This year's membership form will be available to you as an attachment (included with this newsletter mailing) or online at our website, <https://pokegamalakeassociation.com/#membership>, where you can either complete the membership form and pay online via PayPal or download and print the membership form. Your commitment to the Pokegama Lake Association and its mission is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions regarding membership or need a printed copy of the membership application mailed to you, please contact Mary Holmgren by phone at (612) 481-2223 or email at [mlsholmgren@gmail.com](mailto:mlsholmgren@gmail.com). Thank you for your support.

## **PLA Officer and Board of Directors Elections**

*by Becky Gardner*

Elections for the PLAs 2021-2022 Board of Directors (BODs) and Officers were held in August and September. We would like to thank those PLA members who formerly served as an officer and/or on the Board and welcome our new BODs and officers.

A complete list of all officers and board of directors is available on the last page of the newsletter.

## 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.-- <b>Cancelled</b>
May 15	General Membership Meeting at 9:00 a.m. Welcome Back Potluck at 5:30 p.m. -- <b>Cancelled</b>
June 19	General Membership Meeting at 9:00 a.m.
June 22	Food Booth Cleanup at 9:00 a.m. at the Fairgrounds-- <b>Cancelled</b>
June 26	Freedom Fest, Fundraiser at PLA Food Booth— <b>PLA will not participate this year</b>
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  
Marge's Pub and Grub, Brook Park  
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  
Scott Waste, Vice President (763) 238-6310  
Bobbi Eich, Treasurer (612) 202-1723  
Luranne McLean, Secretary (612) 716-9022  
Larry Eich (612) 868-1243  
John Hoyny (612) 644-4297  
Shaun Nelson (612) 860-8555  
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

Melody Fraser (612) 599-4326  
Stacey Bolton (651) 336-2259

#### Communications Committee

Stacey Bolton, Social Media (651) 336-2259  
Becky Gardner, Newsletter and Website (507) 271-4237 or bekyfgardner@gmail.com  
Mary Holmgren, Membership (612) 481-2223  
Susan Kubitschek

#### 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

#### 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 Laumeyer

#### SRWMB & DNR

Henry Fischer (651) 253-9377

#### Weed Harvesting

Bruce Phelps (507) 649-0474

**The article submission deadline for November 2021 Update is Monday, November 8. Thank you.**