

ILA News

The Official Newsletter of the Ida Lake Association

TO PRESERVE AND PROTECT THE SERENITY, QUALITY, AND NATURAL BEAUTY OF LAKE IDA

2022 Spring Membership Meeting

Mark your calendars now to attend the 2022 Spring Membership Meeting at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 28th. Three guest speakers have been invited to give short presentations on fishing, shoreline modifications, and boat inspections.

**Saturday, May 28
9 a.m.
Ida Township Hall
4700 County Road 6 NW**

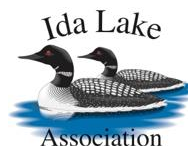


From the Outgoing President Elaine Greer

The past two years were challenging indeed with Covid restrictions affecting our meetings. We still accomplished much, moving forward with Ditch 23, treating for invasive species, and keeping involved with Pilgrim Point Park development and Lake Nelson runoff issues. I am grateful for the excellent support of the ILA Officers: Past President Dick Sudmeier, VP David Geddes, Treasurer Mike Kleve, and Secretary Pam Phillips! These individuals are smart, caring, and committed to the goals of our mission to preserve and protect the serenity, quality, and natural beauty of Lake Ida. I also deeply appreciate the dedicated group of District Directors who generously care for our beautiful lake by volunteering their time and talents, working to increase membership, serving on committees, and representing our group. I do not say farewell, as I am pleased to serve as Past President Advisor for the next 2 years. Looking forward, ILA will thrive in the capable hands and strong leadership of our new president, Lee Gustafson, who is dedicated to our goals. Welcome Lee!!

Welcome Message from the New President

Hi everyone! My name is Lee Gustafson and I was elected as your new president last fall. I decided to get involved in the Ida Lake Association because my family simply loves this lake! We've been on the lake for 20+ years and have thoroughly enjoyed everything about it. About 10 years ago, I told my family that I would like to find a different cabin. They all said – that's fine, but we are not leaving Lake Ida! The rest is history....and yes, our next cabin was on Lake Ida. Another reason I decided to get involved in the association is because I thought it would be a great way for me to essentially help pay back the 20+ years of enjoyment this lake has provided my family. I also thought that I could use my education and work experience as a civil engineer and water quality project manager to hopefully help protect the lake for the many generations after me. If you ever have any thoughts or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to me or one of the lake directors. Thanks!



Shoreline Modifications



A Shoreland Alteration Permit is required for alteration to any land within 1000 feet of a lake (Shore land Impact Zone) in Douglas County, to include all tree/vegetation clearing, landscaping, construction, dirt work, or excavation. To apply for a permit, contact the Douglas County Land & Resource department at (320) 762-3863 to discuss your situation with a technician. Usually, the L&R technician will want to view your property and the intended project. If you will be hiring a contractor to complete the project, be certain that the contractor has proper approvals and permits to work in the shore land impact zone.

If the proposed project passes visual muster with the technician, a formal written proposal will need to be submitted and can be found online at: <https://douglasctmn.portal.fasttrackgov>. The County L&R department is diligent in responding to written formal requests for alteration, usually not exceeding 2 weeks for a simple project. When the project is approved, you will receive an invoice from Douglas County which must be paid prior to issuance of the permit. Post the permit in a visible location observable from the shore so all boaters passing by know you are in compliance with protecting Ida Township's most valuable asset!

Boating Restrictions and Courtesies

We all love the activities available to us on Lake Ida, whether it be fishing, skiing, Personal watercraft use, or just sitting outside enjoying the birds and sounds of the lake. Spring is a great time to remind ourselves *and our guests* of the rules and restrictions meant to keep others safe and protect this great resource. Let's be considerate of all recreationists on and around the water by keeping the noise down and being courteous to other boaters and lakeshore owners. Boaters should be aware of the danger wakes present and the damage they can do.

As a reminder, it is illegal to operate a watercraft within an area legally marked off as a swimming area, or within 150 feet of a diver's warning flag. Water-skiing, tubing, wake-surfing and similar acts are prohibited between one-half hour after sunset to sunrise of the following day. **Personal watercraft (PWC) must stay at least 150 feet from shore.**

Operation of personal watercraft is allowed only from 9:30 a.m. to 1 hour before sunset.

PWCs must travel at slow no-wake speed (5 mph or less) within 150 feet of nonmotorized boats, shore (unless launching or landing skiers directly to or from open water), docks, swim rafts, swimmers, or any moored or anchored boat.



While common courtesy dictates boaters should control their wakes, there are consequences beyond how wakes may affect people. What do boaters really need to know when it comes to owning their wake? Under Minnesota law, the damage your wake causes is treated the same as damage caused by an actual collision. While there is no required distance from shore for boats, staying at least 200 feet from shore or other structures boaters can reduce the likelihood of accidents or that wakes will cause shoreline damage. Travel slowly in shallow waters.

Lake Ida's Guardians of the Lake

If you have visited either of the two boat launches on the East side of Lake Ida, you may have interacted with the Douglas County employees working to prevent Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) for the Douglas County area lakes. Douglas County utilizes a variety of means to attract Inspector applicants each year and has also raised the starting wage for those new to AIS to \$15.15, offering a \$.50/hour increase for each year of experience for those rehired.

Douglas County recognizes the importance and impact of maintaining healthy lakes, and they work with local lake associations to protect this major area asset. This investment in area lakes is focused on the following components as AIS employees conduct their work.

- Inform and educate the public of threats of ecologically harmful aquatic invasive species (AIS) to Minnesota's waters.
- Inspect incoming and outgoing watercraft for attached plant growth, proper drainage of live wells, and watercraft hulls/etc.
- Conduct surveys to report to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources on history of lake visits along with other boater related data to track and prevent AIS.
- In addition, the county provides level II Inspectors who can decontaminate watercraft through use of a pressure washer. This currently is not a service available at either of the Lake Ida boat landings.

Get the Lead Out!

Please consider eliminating lead weights from your fishing tackle. Biologists have studied the effects of lead sinkers and jigs on water birds and birds of prey since the 1970s. In areas where loons breed, lead poisoning from sinkers or jigs may account for up to 50 percent of the dead adult loons found by researchers. Loons routinely swallow pea-sized pebbles on the bottom of lakes. The pebbles pass to the stomach and help in digestion, like grit in the stomach of a chicken. When fishing sinkers are lost during fishing and drop to the bottom of the lake, they can be picked up by loons or by waterfowl like ringneck ducks and trumpeter swans. Some loons also swallow fishing jigs when they mistake them for minnows. As the lead sinker or jig is exposed to the acids of the stomach and to other pebbles, lead enters the bird's system and slowly poisons the bird. For more information on how to "Get the Lead Out," please look online at <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/eco/nongame/projects/leadout.html>. You can seek out non-toxic fishing tackle at your local bait and tackle store, or there are many available online.

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Management



The Lake Association will continue Curlyleaf pondweed (CLP) management in 2022. James Johnson of Freshwater Scientific Services will conduct the spring delineation survey (that helps determine treatment areas). PLM Lake & Land Management will conduct the herbicide treatment. The survey and treatment will be conducted at the end of May. We will treat CLP in the same four zones as in previous years: (i) a small patch in Schwab's Bay, (ii) a small patch in Camp Omaha, (iii) a small patch in Christopherson's Bay, and (iv) extensive beds in Little Ida. Deep water treatment is not recommended unless the CLP interferes with boating. Come to the May meeting for further information.

The survey and treatment cost for 2022 is \$18,872, offset by grants from Douglas County (\$12,511.50) and the DNR (\$2,850.50). ILA's purposeful leveraging of grants results in keeping costs to ILA low (only \$3,510.50). Hearty thanks to the County Commissioners, Land & Resources, and our State Legislators for their support!

What can you do to help? Keep an eye out around the lake, and contact ILA members Bob Reed and David Geddes with any concerns (you can use the form on our website <https://www.lakeidamn.org/contact-ais-inspectors.html>). If you travel to another lake, clean and dry your boat and trailer before you return. Ask visitors to do the same.

We have received complaints the past few years in July about large quantities of fresh, green aquatic plants, many with roots, washing up on shorelines, especially in Schwab's Bay and Little Ida. Property owners may apply for a DNR permit to mechanically remove limited amounts of aquatic plants that interfere with swimming and boating. **The DNR requires that all plant material be removed from the lake. It is neither neighborly nor lawful to uproot aquatic plants and then dump the plant material back into the lake.** See <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/shorelandmgmt/apg/regulations.html> for more details.

Do You Have a Few Hours to Spare?

Do you enjoy fishing, swimming, and just enjoying the gorgeous lake views? Could you spare a few hours each year to help protect and improve the lake? There are many ways that you can help, and some take very little time. The Ida Lake Association has several committees that could use your help: fish stocking, aquatic invasive species (AIS), and other volunteers. You don't need to be an expert (or a Director) – you just need a love for the lake. I promise you it will be rewarding, and you will likely learn something about this great lake of ours.

Ida Lake Association is comprised of 18 districts, consisting of two District Directors for each district, representing and serving the property owners of Lake Ida. Get to know your neighbors and your Directors – together we can keep our lake healthy and enjoyable for generations to come. **Visit our website www.lakeidamn.org** (a great resource).

Annual Due\$

As property owners on Lake Ida (760 of us!) we have a major interest in the well-being of our lake, as water quality directly affects property values and our enjoyment of lake activities! We appreciate your financial commitment to support the mission of the Ida Lake Association to preserve our lake by keeping it clean and healthy. It takes effort and dollars, and your dues help to fund treatment for AIS and provide leverage to obtain grant monies for runoff and water quality improvement projects. The annual membership has increased to \$30 for 2022. You may pay in person at the Spring membership meeting on May 28th, remit a check with the form included in this newsletter, or pay with a credit card through the website (<https://www.lakeidamn.org/join-or-donate.html>). This is YOUR Lake Ida!

Memorials

ILA received several memorial donations since the May newsletter through March 31, 2022. Thank you for your generous donations!

Erstad Family for Donald Erstad
Dave Murphy and Kelly Vossberg for Donald Erstad
Jim & Terry Sullivan for Larry Curwick
Janet & Tom Vandendriessche for Laura Carlson
Wayne Kuehl for Elaine Kuehl
Hank Wessel & Phyllis Turner for Bing Wessel

Glenn & Mary Ann Dettman for Becky Hagemann
Becky & Rod Saar for Becky Hagemann
Denny Haak & Floyd Montgomery Dianne Hallman
Dennis Nunes & Anita Martin for LaVonne Hildebrandt
Cheryl & Dave Swenson for LaVonne Hildebrandt

Become a 2022 dues-paying member!

Ida Lake Association Annual Dues and Fees Statement

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

First Name(s): _____ Last Name(s): _____

Lake Address: _____ Lake Phone: _____

Preferred Mailing Address (if different): _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Other Phone: _____

E-mail (list any and all e-mail addresses you wish to be used for ILA business only): _____

Annual Dues: \$30.00

Memorial: \$_____ for: _____

Walleye Stocking: \$_____

TOTAL: \$_____

Comments:

Remit payment to:
Ida Lake Association
P.O. Box 175
Garfield, MN 56332-0175

Return Service Requested

Ida Lake Association
P.O. Box 175
Garfield, MN 56332-0175

