



Providing Leadership and Assistance to Protect Our Valuable Resource

www.priorlakeassociation.org

Another Seine May Be Forthcoming

Colossal Carp Catch On Upper Prior Lake

In a record-setting event on January 18th, the Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed District's consultants, WSB & Associates, coordinated the efforts of Geyer Commercial Fishing, LLC to capture an astounding 35,000 pounds (17 tons) of carp with their nets below the ice on Upper Prior Lake.



Maggie Karschnia

According to the project's coordinator, Maggie Karschnia, Water Resources Product Manager at the Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed District, a large hole was cut in the ice and carp were pulled out of the lake over three days. The carp were then loaded onto two semi-trucks outfitted with water tanks to keep them alive on their way to fish markets: one in New York and the other to game lakes in the southern states where carp are prized by fishermen.

"Upper Prior Lake poses many challenges to commercial fishermen like natural rocks and uncharted debris at the lake bottom as well as steep drop-offs and varying bathymetry, curly-leaf pondweed mats, and an infestation of zebra mussels," she explained. "Due to these challenges, this carp removal was the first commercially viable netting of carp ever conducted on Upper Prior."

Karschnia said future carp netting operations will now be met with more optimism, given the success of this harvest. The Watershed has a plan to improve the water quality of Upper Prior Lake and removing carp is the first step.

According to PLSLWDB Board member Woody Spitzmueller, common carp are one of the most damaging aquatic invasive species due to their wide distribution and severe impacts in lakes and wetlands. Their bottom feeding disrupts shallowly-rooted plants,



Shown above is a portion of the massive haul of carp harvested on Upper Prior Lake.

muddying the water and releasing phosphorus that increases algae abundance. As a result, he added, native aquatic plants diminish, along with waterfowl and fish who depend upon them.

This big carp haul represents only a portion of the total carp population in Upper Prior Lake. While approximately 3,000 carp were removed, that's estimated to be just under 20% of the population; an estimated 17,000 carp (approximately 200,000 lbs.) may still be swimming in the lake. The largest fish captured during the netting was over three feet in length and weighed in at a whopping 42 pounds!



2018/2019 Calendar of Events

April

Boat Safety Classes
(DNR online only)

April 21

Ice Out Celebration

July 1

On the Water
Ice Cream Social

July 4

Boat Parade and
Fireworks

July 5

Family Fishing
Tournament

August 4

Lakefront Days Parade

October TBD

PLA Annual Meeting

December 31

Photo Contest Deadline

February 28

Ice House Contest

February 28

Ice Out Contest Deadline

Prior Lake Association

President:

Steve Reinders

Vice President:

Julie Myser

Treasurer:

Woody Spitzmueller

Secretary:

Doug Johnson

Commodore:

Tom Stephenson

Website Manager:

Kristina Kraemer-Johnson

Directors:

Kathy Dawson, Judy Faust,
Pat Hejhal, Trevor Pope

Everybody Loves A Parade

The PLA will again host its annual boat parade on July 4 at 1 p.m. beginning at Charlie's on Prior. Compete for the grand prize by decorating your boat in whatever theme you'd like. Register for free at the Knotty Oar prior to the event. There are three categories: pontoon, runabout and PWC. Start planning your entry today.

Prior Lake Association President Steve Reinders



In 2018, the PLA will be doing a big push to increase our membership. Currently the Prior Lake Association has 295 members. Considering that there are 1,000 homes on the lake, hundreds of boaters renting slips or trailering their boats to the lake, hundreds of ice fisherman, and countless others who enjoy the July 4th Fireworks, we definitely have potential for growth of our important organization.

Increased membership not only allows more funding for our lake events and a better July 4th Fireworks but also allows more communication and education opportunities for lake residents and boating enthusiasts.

Our membership goal for 2018 is 600 members and we hope you can help us attain that goal. Your \$30 membership dues are **TAX DEDUCTIBLE** and can make a big difference in improving everyone's experience on Prior Lake. Thank you for your support of the PLA!

Steve Reinders
Steve Reinders

Join the Prior Lake Association today!
Please go to our website and sign up now.
www.priorlakeassociation.org

Fishing Tournament August 5th

The Prior Lake Association's 18th Annual Family Fishing Tournament will be held Sunday, August 5 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Charlie's on Prior will again be hosting the tournament. Watch the PLA website and Facebook for further details. Trophies, like last year, will be awarded.

The 2017 event, co-sponsored by the Prior Lake Savage Optimists, with bait provided by Prior Lake Bait and Tackle and support from eXtreme Bass, was a huge success with prizes and trophies going to the many participants. Winner's names can be found at www.priorlakeassociation.org.



Learn how you can water your lawn and save money while also protecting our lakes.

Sprinkle With Lake Water

The Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed District provides incentives for practices that protect and improve the quality of water resources located in the District's jurisdictional area. And Prior Lake Mayor Kirt Briggs is hoping local lakeshore owners will take advantage of the financial and technical assistance offered by the District in efforts to lessen the burden on the city's fresh water supply.



Mayor Briggs and the Watershed District are urging lakeshore residents to pump water from the lake for use in lawn watering. That effort will save homeowners money, pull less water from the aquifer and put good nutrients in local lawns.

"With lakeshore residents pumping water from the lake they'll save on their water bill and their efforts will also prevent excess sprinkler water and lawn fertilizers from draining into the lake," explained Mr. Briggs.

The first-term mayor added that rate-payers also benefit. "Watering from the lake is good for all taxpayers and it also reduces peak summer demand on pumps, treatment facilities and water towers."

According to Watershed Board President Fred Corrigan, the District is offsetting the cost of pumps to local lakeshore owners by covering 50% of the cost, up to \$150.

He encouraged local lakeshore residents to contact the District at 952-440-4166 or go to the Watershed District website at: www.plslwd.org and click the "Get Involved" link to complete an application and/or learn more about this and other cost share project programs offered.

The district also provides grants for projects such as lakeshore restorations, rain gardens and rain barrels.

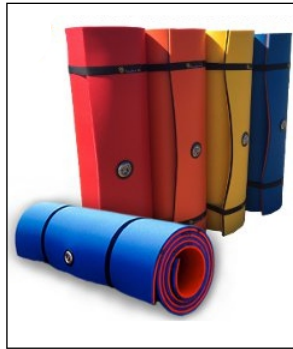


PLA Members and Public Invited to Organization's First Ever Ice Out Celebration!

Ice Out Event Features Auction

In an effort to encourage PLA membership, PLA board member and Great Outdoors Services owner Trevor Pope is contributing a Paradise Pad which will be auctioned off to an existing or new association member who is present at the upcoming **PLA Ice Out Celebration** scheduled for 3 - 6 p.m., Saturday, April 21 at the Pointe in Prior Lake. This giant pad measures 6' by 18,' holds a whopping 3,000 pounds and has a retail value of \$599!

Association members in attendance will also be eligible to participate in the auctioning of two pairs of Maui Jim sunglasses donated by Complete Family Eye Care's Dr. Steve Reinders and wife, Jennifer. Individually, these glasses retail for \$300 each.



Current members and any new members who sign up between now and the Saturday auction and are in attendance at the Ice Out Celebration, are eligible to participate in the private auction according to PLA President Steve Reinders. New member signup and membership renewal will be available for all those attending the Saturday afternoon event.

"It's wonderful of Trevor to make this contribution and it exemplifies his commitment to the association and his recognition that the more folks that make up our membership, the more we can offer our lake community in the way of boat safety, fireworks and other projects," explained Mr. Reinders. "But you must be a PLA member to qualify for our auction on April 21."

PLA Vice President Julie Myser added that all attendees - members and non-members alike - will receive Prior Lake Association waterproof boat containers and also be eligible for prize drawings which will include lake-themed apparel, vintage sign boards and floor mats as well as many other items.



"We will also have seldom-seen, very old Prior Lake photos, dating back to the early 1900's, from the collection of the Simpkins/Cates Foundation," she explained. "In addition, attendees will also have the opportunity to view that foundation's recorded video of Prior Lake history showing images of long-gone lakeside resorts such as the Grainwood Hotel and countless other lake businesses that dotted the area years ago."



Boat and Water Safety Classes

In years past the Prior Lake Association, with leadership from Woody Spitzmueller, in conjunction with the Minnesota DNR conducted yearly boating safety classes and testing. The DNR, however, now provides the classes, as well as the testing, solely online as they no longer print instructional materials for classroom use.

According to Mr. Spitzmueller, persons 12 to 17 years old, who are unsupervised, and will be operating a boat over 25 hp, require a youth watercraft operator's permit. Education is also necessary for unsupervised 14 to 17 year olds who will operate a PWC. Go to www.dnr.state.mn.us to register for the online course.

Adults wishing to learn more about boating safety are encouraged to take the course and may be eligible for a discount on boat insurance.



When your doggie goes doo-doo, where does your doggie doo-doo go?

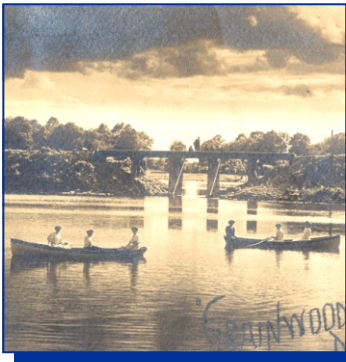
Did you know pet waste is considered raw sewage? Did you know the storm sewers in our streets often drain directly into our lakes without any filtration system in between?

When pet waste remains on our yards, rain water will break apart the feces and slowly leach the particles into local water sources. If it's left on sidewalks or in the street, it will be carried by rain water and likely drain directly to a local water source - like our beautiful Prior Lake. Dog feces can carry disease pathogens such as E.coli, campylobacter, streptococcus, salmonella; parvovirus and coronavirus; as well as parasites such as roundworm, tapeworm, pinworm, hookworm and threadworm. This can be hazardous to us, our kids and our pets!

It's up to the pet owner to pick-up and remove your pet's waste and dispose of it properly - and keep our lake blue.

From Days Bygone

Boats On Prior Lake and Grainwood Bay



See these vintage Prior Lake photos from the Scott County Historical Society as well as images from the collection of the Simpkins/Cates Foundation at the association's upcoming **ICE OUT CELEBRATION** slated for 3-6 p.m., Saturday, April 21 at the Pointe Grill and Bar in Prior Lake.

Thanks!

Fireworks Contributors

PLATINUM

City of Prior Lake
Pamela Bakken Foundation
Prior Lake Lions Club
Prior Lake Rotary

Jerry Young - 1st MSP Realty
Dr. Steve & Jennifer Reinders
Viking Liquor Barrel
Village Liquor
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Prior Lake Rental Center

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Swanke Financial Group
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Members

JOIN YOUR LAKE FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS AT THE FIRST ANNUAL

PRIOR LAKE ASSOCIATION ICE OUT CELEBRATION



It's A FREE Prior Lake Association Spring Social at The Pointe in Prior Lake.

Join us in celebrating the arrival of the coming boating season! (Beach attire highly recommended!)

Saturday, April 21 from 3 - 6 p.m.

**No admission - Light appetizers - Cash bar - Auction, Prize Drawings and Giveaways
Special Celebrity Appearance - Award Presentation of PLA Ice Out Contest**

Join us and consider becoming a member. Win some great prizes!