

# Prior Lake Association

Established 1946

## 2022 CALENDAR

- February 5  
**Charlie's Second Annual Winter Beer and BBQ Fest**
- February 6  
**Fish House Contest**
- May 1  
**Fifth Annual Ice Out Celebration**
- June 11  
**Dive The Lake Cleanup**
- July 2  
**On-The-Water Ice Cream Social**
- July 4  
**Boat Parade**
- July 4  
**56th Annual Fireworks**
- August 7  
**Family Fishing Tournament**
- September 4  
**Photo Contest Deadline**
- October 27  
**PLA Annual Meeting**

(All above dates are tentative. Please check our website for timely updates.)

### Can Prior Lake Avoid Invader?

## Starry Stonewort is the newest boat hitchhiker

Starry stonewort. It's Minnesota's newest aquatic invasive. A horror story — a spidery, algae that likes high-quality water, destroys prime fish spawning habitat and forms dense mats that choke out native vegetation and tangle up propellers.

The smothering algae has spread to 17 lakes and the Mississippi River since it was first discovered in Minnesota on Lake Koronis in 2015. On that lake, Starry Stonewort spread to over 250 acres before anyone even noticed. Medicine Lake is the only metro lake with an infestation thus far.

To combat the invasive plant locally, the Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed District Board made the decision to significantly increase funding for boat inspections on both Prior and Spring lakes in order to reduce the chances of the notorious invasive getting a foothold here.

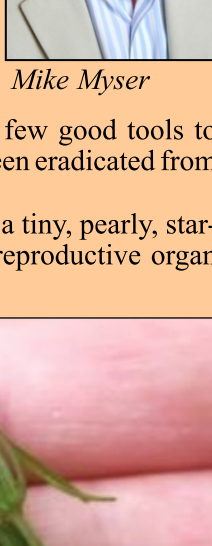
"We've learned the starry stonewort can make a recreation lake unusable," explained PLSLWD Chairman Mike Myser. "It cost another watershed district \$1 million over a three year period just to keep their lake open for recreation. This is quite concerning and it presents a very serious situation that merits

the attention of every lake user out there."

There are about 50 cleaning stations around Minnesota and the DNR owns another 23 portable, hot-water decontamination units that inspection staff operate. In addition, weed removal equipment made by Darwin-based Aqua Weed Stick is installed at about two dozen locations.

Keegan Lund, a DNR biologist said the Starry Stonewort on Medicine Lake has filled the water column for the first five feet from shore. Other researchers say the algae can be treated with herbicides, but it's not very effective. Mr. Keegan added that the invasive is slower to establish itself but once it's in the water, there are few good tools to control it and it has never been eradicated from a Minnesota lake.

Starry Stonewort, sports a tiny, pearly, star-shaped bulbil, which is a reproductive organ that grows new plants.



Mike Myser



### You can win valuable prizes!

## PLA seeks photo entries

The Prior Lake Association is again sponsoring its annual photo contest. The competition is open only to current PLA members and images must feature unaltered Prior Lake scenery or lake-life activities. Email photos by September 4, 2022 to: boardmember@priorlakeassociation.org.

Be sure to include your full name, address and phone number as well as a title or description of your submitted photograph. First prize is a \$100 gift card to Knotty Oar Marina. Second prize is a \$75 gift certificate to Charlie's On Prior and third prize is a \$50 gift card to the Pointe Grill & Bar. The wake surfer photo below, submitted by Cari Goodman, earned Honorable Mention in last year's contest.



## All Hands On Deck!

Help us reach 500 PLA members

As the Prior Lake Association enters its 76th year of public service we're close to record membership with more than 480 members. Our goal is to reach an all-time high of 500 active members in 2022.

Your tax deductible yearly dues of just \$30 per family helps fund fireworks and numerous lake-themed activities as well as boat safety and lake water quality efforts.

You can renew your annual family membership or sign up as a new enrollee today at our website: [www.priorlakeassociation.org/](http://www.priorlakeassociation.org/)

Be a part of a great organization and join us for Ice Out at Charlie's On Prior this Spring.

## ICE OUT PARTY WELCOMES SUMMER

The PLA's Fifth Annual Ice Out Celebration is scheduled for Sunday, May 1 from 2 to 5 p.m. at Charlie's On Prior. Admittance is free to all active association members and their families. Attendees will have the opportunity to win numerous prizes and participate in the auction of valuable lake-themed merchandise. Awards for the Ice Out Date contest will also be presented at this fun event and highly anticipated event.

Light appetizers will be served at the party and a cash bar will be available.

Families may renew their yearly membership in advance at the PLA website or at the door the day of the event. This event is open to all current PLA member families only.

## Join the Prior Lake Association today!

Please go to our website and sign up now.

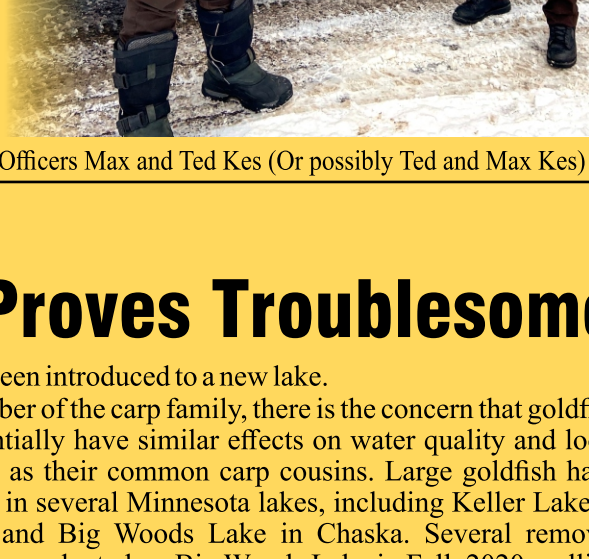
[www.priorlakeassociation.org](http://www.priorlakeassociation.org)

## SHERIFF HENNEN ANNOUNCES NEW LAKE PATROLMAN

Folks recreating on Prior Lake will see a new face on the water this year. As the Scott County Sheriff's Office Recreational Safety Deputy, Max Kes will be responsible for law enforcement, safety instruction and promotion of safe boating and snowmobile riding. Using motor vehicles, boats, all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), and snowmobiles, he will respond to incidents on the water, conduct rescue efforts and recover victims of water related incidents.

According to County Sheriff Luke Hennen, Deputy Kes joined the Sheriff's Office in 2016 as a patrol deputy. He is also a Field Training Officer and part of the mobile Field Force team. Outside of work, Deputy Kes enjoys riding motorcycle, playing with his dog and taking her out onto his boat.

A fun fact from Sheriff Hennen: Deputy Maxwell Kes has an identical twin brother, Ted Kes, who is also a deputy with the sheriff's office. So, if you think you're seeing double, you probably are. Deputy Kes can be reached at 952-496-8330 or at mkces@co.scott.mn.us.



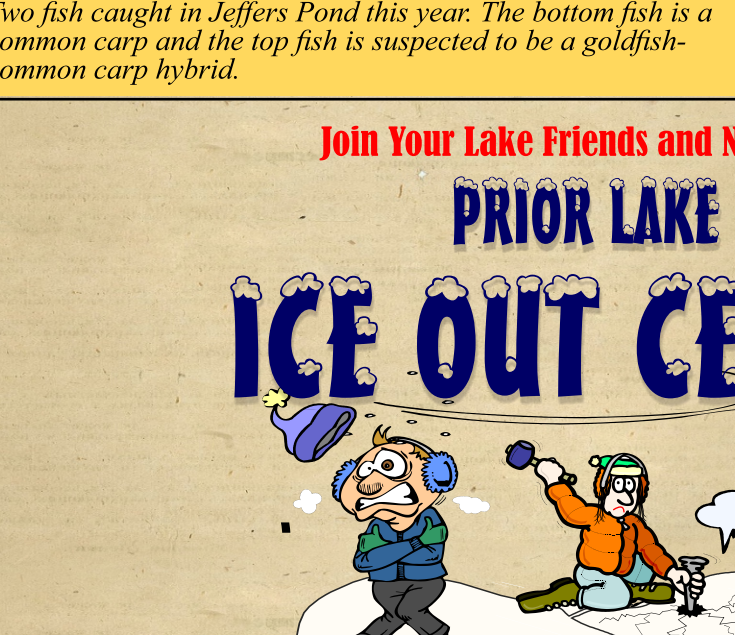
Officers Max and Ted Kes (Or possibly Ted and Max Kes)

## Illegal Dumping Of Goldfish Proves Troublesome

Releasing a pet goldfish into a lake or pond may seem like the humane thing to do, but their impact as a non-native species on lake water quality and habitat is not yet fully understood. It is also illegal to release goldfish in the state's public waters. Although a pet goldfish will typically only grow to a few inches in length in an aquarium, they can grow to over one foot in lakes. According to the Carver County Water Management Organization (CCWMO), goldfish can live for up to 25 years in the wild. They are also capable of surviving harsh conditions and re-producing rapidly, rendering them quite effective at establishing themselves once

they have been introduced to a new lake.

As a member of the carp family, there is the concern that goldfish could potentially have similar effects on water quality and local ecosystems as their common carp cousins. Large goldfish have been found in several Minnesota lakes, including Keller Lake in Burnsville and Big Woods Lake in Chaska. Several removal efforts were conducted on Big Woods Lake in Fall, 2020, pulling approximately 100,000 goldfish from the lake according to Tim Sundby of the Carver County Water Management Organization headquartered in Chaska.



Two fish caught in Jeffers Pond this year. The bottom fish is a common carp and the top fish is suspected to be a goldfish-common carp hybrid.

Cates Lake, located in Savage, has also recently become infested with goldfish. This lake has historically had excellent water quality and biodiversity, providing a pristine home for loons, otters, swans and the protected American Water Lotus. Goldfish were spotted and reported in the lake for the first time by one of the Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed District's lake sampling volunteers in 2020.

Although it is too soon to say for sure if goldfish are having a direct impact on the lake, Cates Lake did experience a decline in water clarity in 2021. Further monitoring by the PLSLWD is necessary to determine if goldfish have a direct effect on Cates Lake's water quality.

The issue of releasing aquatic pets into lakes extends beyond goldfish. Any aquarium fish can have unintended consequences when released, such as spreading disease to native fish. The best thing to do is to keep all aquarium fish out of our local waters, especially as research on the implications of their presence in Minnesota lakes continues. If you can no longer care for a pet, consider re-homing or donating it to a pet store.

## Join Your Lake Friends and Neighbors at the Fifth Annual PRIOR LAKE ASSOCIATION ICE OUT CELEBRATION

It's a FREE PLA Spring Social at Charlie's On Prior

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

Sunday, May 1 from 2 to 5 p.m.

No Admission - Light Appetizers - Cash Bar - Auction - Prize Drawings and Ice Out Contest Award Presentation

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

### Prior Lake Association President Adam Proehl

2021 was quite a year for our all volunteer association! It was our 75th anniversary and all PLA projects and festivities set new records for participation and fundraising. There remains one record we are hoping to break in 2022 however and that's the number of association memberships.

The Prior Lake Association has never topped 500 active members but we are within striking distance and I'm hoping we will hit that goal in the current year!

Meeting this objective will enable us to launch even more July 4 fireworks as well as continue our efforts to promote lake safety, improve water quality and enhance the overall recreational experience on our precious natural resource - Prior Lake.

Our PLA board believes we can reach this goal if our current members faithfully renew their \$30 family memberships.

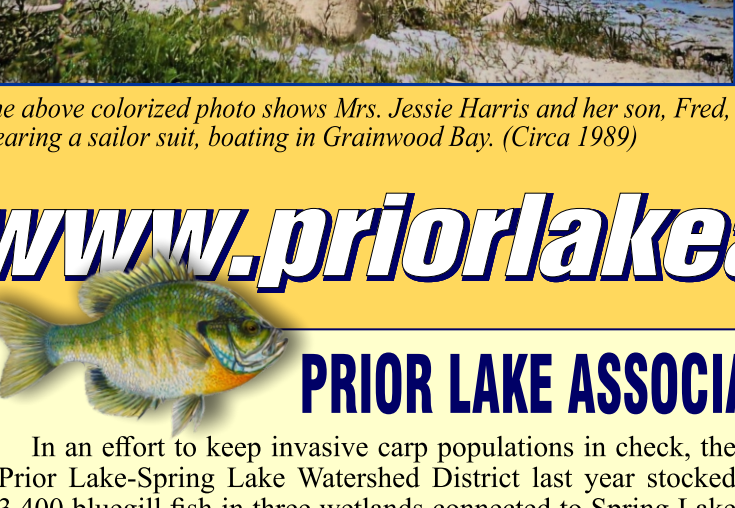
Equally important we are hoping you will encourage your neighbors and friends to join our organization. It only makes sense that anyone and everyone who enjoys our waters would make this tax deductible \$30 donation. Please pass this newsletter along to your neighbors, inspire them to become members and help your PLA reach 500 enrollees!

As members they too can then participate in our activities, contests and celebrations throughout the year. You can sign-up or renew your membership at our website: [www.priorlakeassociation.org](http://www.priorlakeassociation.org). See you on the water!

Adam Proehl

#### Prior Lake Association Officers

<b>President:</b> Adam Proehl	<b>Directors:</b> Jen Longhenry
<b>Vice President:</b> Trevor Pope	John Tellborg
<b>Treasurer:</b> Woody Spitzmueller	Amy Marcus
<b>Secretary:</b> Amy Card	Tom Stephenson
<b>Commodore:</b> Steve Reinders	Ron Hoffmeyer



The above colorized photo shows Mrs. Jessie Harris and her son, Fred, wearing a sailor suit, boating in Grainwood Bay. (Circa 1989)

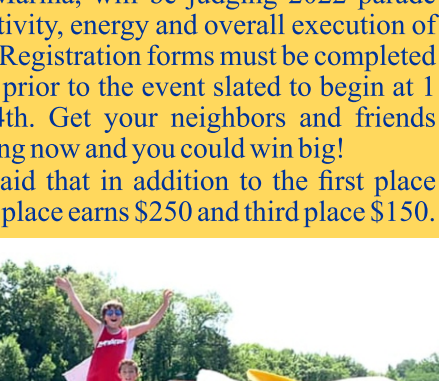
### The Prior Lake Association will again offer free ice cream on Saturday, July 2 from 1 - 3 p.m. during its annual On-The-Water Ice Cream Social.

Boat up to the PLA floatilla in the no-wake zone north of the Wagon Bridge.

## Boat Parade Is Biggest Ever

It was a record turnout of entrants for the 2021 PLA July 4th Boat Parade according to association parade chairman Woody Spitzmueller, who along with City Manager Jason Wedel were two of the volunteer judges. The "top dog" or in this year's case, the "top cow" was the "Cow's Baywatch" float sponsored by the Goodman family and friends (at right).

The group's name is forever engraved on the much sought after boat parade trophy on display throughout the year at Charlie's On Prior.



Again this upcoming summer the PLA, along with co-sponsor Knotty Oar Marina, will be judging 2022 parade entrants based on creativity, energy and overall execution of their floating projects. Registration forms must be completed at Knotty Oar Marina prior to the event slated to begin at 1 p.m., Monday, July 4th. Get your neighbors and friends together to start planning now and you could win big!

Mr. Spitzmueller said that in addition to the first place award of \$500, second place earns \$250 and third place \$150.



Join the Prior Lake Association today! [www.priorlakeassociation.org](http://www.priorlakeassociation.org)

## www.priorlakeassociation.org

## PRIOR LAKE ASSOCIATION JR. FISH STOCKING EFFORT

In an effort to keep invasive carp populations in check, the Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed District last year stocked 3,400 bluegill fish in three wetlands connected to Spring Lake and Upper Prior. Bluegills are voracious eaters with an appetite for carp eggs and they were stocked in connected wetlands where carp have been known to spawn in this watershed.

Common carp are a non-native species that decrease water quality as a result of their bottom feeding habits which stir up the lake bottom and uproot beneficial plants. Stocking bluegills will help reduce the reproductive success of the carp and keep their numbers down in Spring and Upper Prior lakes, contributing to cleaner, clearer water for the community to enjoy.

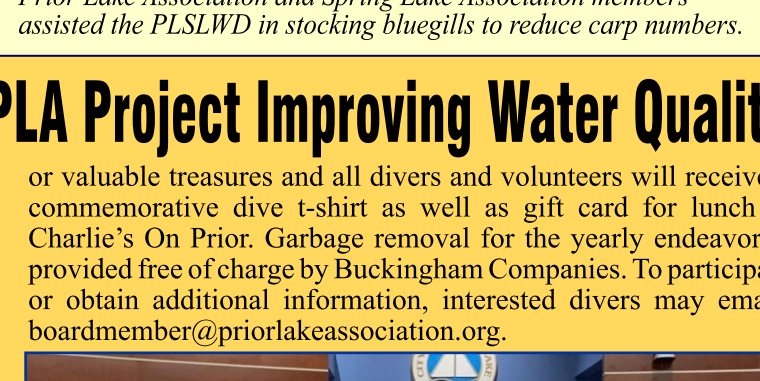
the PLSLWD and the vision the SLA has for Spring Lake [to] flourish in water quality, environmental impact, natural habitat for wildlife and recreational use."

Adam Proehl, PLA Board President noted, "We appreciate the close working relationship the Prior Lake Association has with the watershed district and the efforts they make regarding water quality and controlling the carp population."

Bluegill stocking is just one part of the district's larger carp management program which uses a number of control methods to reduce carp numbers. These methods include tracking carp locations and populations, blocking carp from their spawning areas, and removing carp by netting and electrofishing.

"We appreciate the close working relationship the PLA has with the watershed district and the efforts they make regarding water quality."

-Prior Lake Association President Adam Proehl



Prior Lake Association and Spring Lake Association members assisted the PLSLWD in stocking bluegills to reduce carp numbers.

## Dive The Lake Clean-Up is Another PLA Project Improving Water Quality

In 2021 the PLA partnered with Free Daptive Divers in a scuba dive and clean-up of the lake event. Bringing up trash such as bottles, sunglasses, anchors, tools and other litter from the lake bottom was the objective with the highlight of the dive being the recovery - and eventual re-starting - of a long submerged snowmobile.

or valuable treasures and all divers and volunteers will receive a commemorative dive t-shirt as well as gift card for lunch at Charlie's On Prior. Garbage removal for the yearly endeavor is provided free of charge by Buckingham Companies. To participate or obtain additional information, interested divers may email: [boardmember@priorlakeassociation.org](mailto:boardmember@priorlakeassociation.org).

Project chairman Dr. Steve Reinders said the 2022 event is scheduled again for Saturday, June 11 with check-in at 8 a.m. and the dive from 9 to 11 a.m. with volunteer boats departing from Knotty Oar Marina. Special awards will be presented for unique

**City Approves Proclamation Honoring PLA**

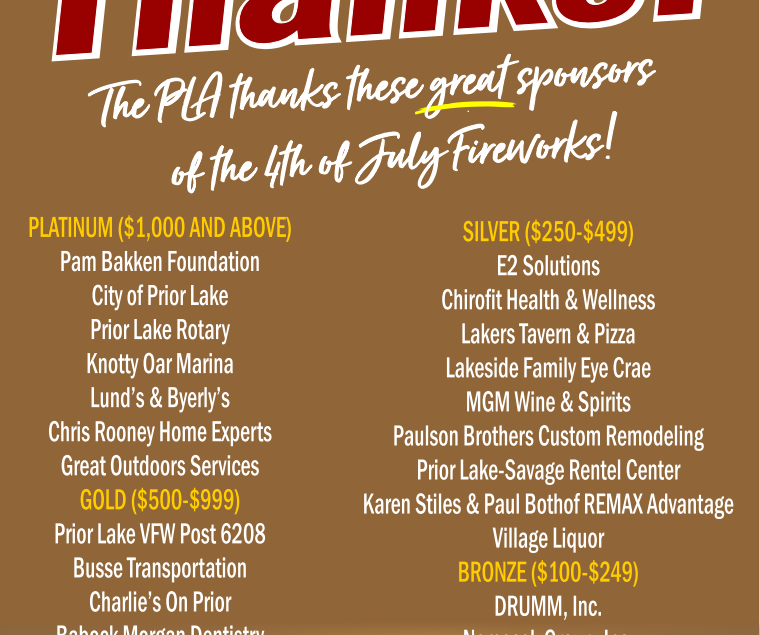
The City of Prior Lake, in honor of the Prior Lake Association's 75th anniversary last year, passed a proclamation acknowledging the organization's many contributions to the community. Pictured above, left to right, is councilmen Zack Braid and Kevin Burkhardt, PLA Commodore Steve Reinders, PLA President Adam Proehl, Councilwoman Annette Thompson, PLA Treasurer Woody Spitzmueller and Councilwoman Kim Churchhill.



2021 Family Fishing contest first prize winner in the Bass division was Ryan Longhenry. The Northern Pike division winner was Jackson Koenig (at top) while various other winners displayed their awards.



Chris Thydean won second place in the 2021 photo contest with this image.



Above is the association's grand prize photo entry by Greg Thomas who was the recipient of a \$150 gift card to the Knotty Oar Marina.

### Moms, pops and kids are the real winners!

## PLA Promotes Family Fishing

The 2021 PLA Family Fishing Contest, co-sponsored by the Prior Lake-Savage Optimist Club, the 21st year the organization has held this much-anticipated event for Prior Lake families. Event Chairman Tom Stephenson (who said this past year's event was a new record with 25 families registering more than 50 participants.

"We want to promote another generation of anglers and expose young anglers to a fun, low-key tournament environment and give them more ways to enjoy this sport of fishing," explained Mr. Stephenson. "It's a great opportunity for a young family to improve their fishing skills."

There is no admittance charge and bait will be provided. Additional supporters of this event include Prior Lake Bait & Tackle, Mills Fleet Farm and Charlie's On Prior. Tracker Marine of Shakopee also donated a trolling motor which was won by angler Brent Henry.

According to Mr. Stephenson plans are underway for the 2022 version of the fishing event which is scheduled for Sunday, August 7 starting at 10 a.m. at Charlie's On Prior.



## Thanks!

The PLA thanks these great sponsors of the 4th of July Fireworks!

- |                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| <b>PLATINUM (\$1,000 AND ABOVE)</b> | <b>SILVER (\$250-\$499)</b>                |
| Pam Bakken Foundation               | E2 Solutions                               |
| City of Prior Lake                  | Chirofit Health & Wellness                 |
| Prior Lake Rotary                   | Lakers Tavern & Pizza                      |
| Knotty Oar Marina                   | Lakeside Family Eye Care                   |
| Lund's & Byerly's                   | MCM Wine & Spirits                         |
| Chris Rooney Home Experts           | Paulson Brothers Custom Remodeling         |
| Great Outdoors Services             | Prior Lake-Savage Rental Center            |
| <b>GOLD (\$500-\$999)</b>           | Karen Stiles & Paul Bothof REMAX Advantage |
| Prior Lake VFW Post 6208            | Village Liquor                             |
| Busse Transportation                | <b>BRONZE (\$100-\$249)</b>                |
| Charlie's On Prior                  | DRUMM, Inc.                                |
| Booback Morgan Dentistry            | Nemecek Group, Inc.                        |
| Carlson ACE Hardware                | Allen Iverson, American Family Insurance   |
| Complete Family Eye Care            | Genesis Heating & Air Conditioning         |
| Nuvera                              | Gunnar Electric                            |
| Prior Lake-Savage Optimist Club     | Haugen                                     |
| Viking Liquor Barrel                | Financial Group                            |
| Edina Realty Home Services          | Johnson Spinal Care Associates             |
| Pro Service Automotive              | Lakeside Recreation                        |

