

CELEBRATING 70 YEARS



2022 SLA Events Calendar

We hope you will add our events to your calendar, save the dates & plan to join us!

April 24 | **Annual Meeting**
May 30 | **Pick Your Paddle**
June 18 | **Father's Day Kids' Fishing Event**
Date TBD | **Spring Lake Aquatic Plants 101**
August 13 | **Summer Concert**
September 5 | **Pick Your Paddle**
October 8 | **Bonfire & Smores**

Visit us at SpringLakeAssociation.org
For updated details on our events.

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Presidents Message From Wesley Steffan

The Spring Lake Improvement Association, which now goes by the name Spring Lake Association (SLA), was organized in 1952 by interested residents of the lake area and was incorporated by Larry Wood, William R. Jensen and William J. Topka. The Association was originally formed to focus on improving lake quality; their early projects included releasing copper sulfate into the lake to help treat the green algae, concentrating on carp removal and hosting events to help foster the Spring Lake Community. The pursuits of the Association that lead to their formation continue to exist today: Water Quality and Strong Community!



As we celebrate 70 years for the SLA, our board has been busy looking for historical information to share with you. In this newsletter we touch on stories about establishments that left their mark on Spring Lake, including Sunset Beach Resort, Craig's Resort and Ed Schmidt's Tavern. We are also thrilled with discovering that Spring Lake has a lot of water-skiing history, with many of those participants still living on the lake today! The SLA board will continue to explore further into Spring Lake Association history, so if you any have photos or stories to share, please reach out to us.

Water Quality - in 2021, Spring Lake achieved its best water quality in decades and much of the credit goes to the Prior Lake Spring Lake Watershed District (PLSLWD). PLSLWD's efforts in three key areas have helped manage phosphorus in Spring Lake. In 1998, the PLSLWD constructed a **Ferric Chloride (FeCl₃) Treatment System** to precipitate phosphorus out of stormwater from County Ditch 13, the main inflow to Spring Lake. In 2020, the maintenance deck and carp barrier at the plant were replaced with a new structure that will prevent carp from spawning in the wetland. **Aluminum Sulfate (Alum) Treatments** were completed on Spring Lake in 2013, 2018 and 2020 to help reduce internal phosphorus in the lake. PLSLWD works year-round on **Carp Management** as carp are invasive fish that negatively impact habitat and water quality in the lake.

SLA Awarded Grant - In early 2022, the SLA applied for and was awarded a DNR Grant of up to \$50,000. These funds will be used to complement your donations in the management and mitigation of Eurasian Water Milfoil. This work will be coordinated with the DNR, PLSLWD and the SLA in the development and implementation of a widespread Lake Vegetation Management Plan (LVMP). We will continue to keep you updated as plans are finalized.

Member Engagement - In the past, you have heard us talk about increasing our membership growth. In the last six years, we have seen our membership numbers grow from 12 members to a record 170 in 2021! While we want to ensure that we continue to connect with as many Spring Lake residents as we can, our 2022 focus is to increase emphasis on member engagement. The board will be working to provide communication that is of interest to you as well as events that are not only fun but educational as well! And when other significant issues arise, regarding Spring Lake, we will work to share timely information with you so you can make an informed decision.

We hope that you enjoy 2022 as we remember the past, celebrate our present and create cherished memories for years to come!

Spring Lake Businesses Fondly Remembered!

Sunset Beach Resort

Dating back to 1932, Sunset Beach Resort offered an inviting sandy beach and a recreational swimming area on Spring Lake! The resort consisted of trailer lots, camp sites, rental boats, as well as a sandy beach, bath house, refreshment stand and spring board diving docks! They also had gas on hand to sell to customers. Sunset Beach Resort is also remembered as the place to go for vacation and enjoy Spring Lake!



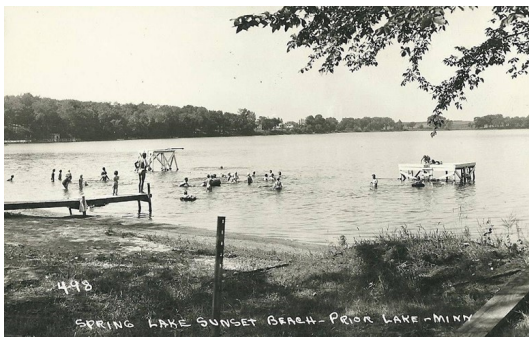
The resort was purchased in the late 1940's by Larry Wood. He was the first superintendent of the Prior Lake Schools. Larry is remembered for attaching his boat motors to the side of the dock to push the "green goop" away from the swimming area. Larry also hired teachers during the summer months when the resort was the busiest. He hired Wally Stock, who helped with the sale of gasoline, boat rentals and management of the swimming beach. Wally later became a Prior Lake Mayor.

Larry Wood began hosting a 4th of July Event for the Spring Lake Community. This free event, included a family picnic, boat parade and a Spring Lake Ski Show. The 4th of July event was held for decades at the Sunset Beach Resort until 1977 when the resort was sold. Jim Dunn purchased the resort in 1977 and eventually sold off the property into individual lots.

Below are Memories from Sunset Beach Resort:

Mary Condon: I Spent many a summer's days there. We would bicycle or walk there from town on a hot summer day or take the bus from school for swimming lessons. I also remember my dad teaching us to swim there, and yes sometimes the water was pretty mucky. But I have so many memories; the snack bar was always a hit! And who could forget the smell of popcorn popping?

Tom Monnens: Sunset beach was a great way to spend a day on the lake. I remember the wooden boxes in the dressing room with numbers on them, and the frozen candy bars. The place was dated when I went there in the early 60s, but no one complained. It was pure fun!



Craig's Resort

In 1951, Dalores "Duffy" & her husband Frances "Tope" Craig bought what came to be known as Craig's Resort on Spring Lake. Craig's Resort was located on Spring Lake Road and consisted of eight cottages, a tavern and more than 20 rental boats. Craig's Resort was one of several resorts on Spring Lake at that time, amidst cow pastures and farms, that helped make up the Spring Lake community. When the Craigs bought the resort, the tavern was located in what would become their living room and they remodeled their garage and turned it into a 3.2 bar with a set-up license and a small bait shop.

The Craig's son John remarked, "The resort was a family friendly place; Some of the customers became really good friends with my parents; many who stayed really good friends and customers for years. The tavern was a socializing place for people from Shakopee, Jordan, Prior Lake and New Prague to come to after work and relax."

The resort was run on the honor system much of the time. If the Craigs were busy, they would tell people to help themselves to a beer, bait or a boat rental. Duffy loved being out and playing with the kids, cooking sauerkraut, hosting a neighborhood dinner, a wild-game feed, a pig roast or a fish fry.

Duffy and Tope ran the resort by themselves for 35 years. Duffy would recruit kids from the neighborhood to help clean the beach, wash the boats and take part in various other chores. She would then reward them with swimming and popsicles.

The Craig's daughter Linda said, Duffy is remembered for her memorable blue hair, fuzzy blue slippers and her willingness to help her neighbors with jobs and money when they were in need. The neighborhood consisted of working families, and people would barter in those days. Neighbors would work at the resort and she would reward them with a six-pack of beer or a free boat rental for the day in exchange for their work."

The Craigs sold most of the cottages and some of the properties in 1986, when Tope became ill. Their son John & Denise Craig still live on Spring Lake. John has lived on the lake since he was three months old!

Ed Schmidt's Tavern

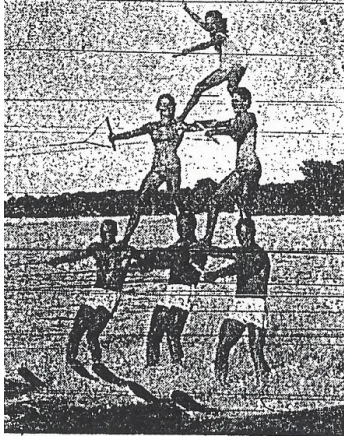
This Tavern was located on Shoreline Blvd and was owned by Ed & Mae Schmidt. Jim Weninger remembers this with fond memories from the 1950's, "They sold ice cream, penny candy, soda pop, burgers and fries and had a seasonal fish fry. They had a bucket on the dock for people to put turtles into that they found. These turtles were later used for a Yearly Turtle Soup Feed. Some of the kids also referred to the Tavern as Spring Lake Yacht Club!"

Ed Schmidt's Tavern was sold and was renamed Terry's Lake Club. This included a walkout basement level with 3.2 beer, pool tables and docks on the lakeside. At some point, Terry's became a place for Bikers Clubs to hang out. This location eventually turned into a residential home.

Water Skiing Memories

on Spring Lake

In the 1950's, the Spring Lake Improvement Association made up of residents from Spring Lake joined forces to form the Spring Lake Ski Club (SLSC). The mission of the SLSC was to provide an enjoyable water activity during the summer for the kids on Spring Lake. There were a few years where the SLSC performed on other lakes but their main mission was to perform for family and friends on Spring Lake. At the height of the SLSC, there were about 20 families participating.



The first SLSC Show took place at Sunset Beach Resort on the 4th of July in the early 1950's. This turned into a yearly activity on the 4th until 1976. Sunset Beach Resort was sold in 1977, and the Annual 4th of July Celebration and SLSC Show moved to Craig's Resort for a couple of years, followed by one summer near Sunset Avenue in Shakopee. The club disbanded in 1979.


In December of 1955, Herb Schulte and his family moved onto Spring Lake where he quickly became involved in water skiing and the SLSC. Herb recounted, "In the beginning, the show directors were the parents of the skiers. As the kids got older, we would take turns being the show director. I was a show director for the last four years of the SLSC. It was truly a blast growing up on the water. Water skiing has continued to be a part of my life ever since!" Herb continues to live on Spring Lake and cherishes the memories of cabin life.

Longtime Spring Lake resident, Jim Weninger remembers all of the water ski routines they used to perform: "A mixed double adult five and six person pyramids along with the kids' three person pyramids. There were also several jump acts which included 360-degree helicopter jumps with up to 4 guys and a shoe ski act that also turned a complete circle in the air, as well as a one-person hand stand. Distance ski jumps were also performed with guys that would hit the ramp and were known to jump 100 feet." Jim remembers his best jump was 89 feet out. Herb remembers the longest jump was closer to 75 feet! The actual length may be disputed, but one thing is for sure, they had a blast performing and have a lifetime of memories to share!

In 1956, the SLSC bought its first wooden ski jump and volunteers helped to put the ramp in and out every year. The first one was located near the shores of Sunset Avenue. When that jump rotted and was no longer functional, they built a second one based on water ski standards, and placed it near the bank of Shoreline Blvd. This jump was later moved close to South Shore Road in Raymond Park Bay and was taken out when it eventually deteriorated.

Ski memory from Denise Gjerde: "In 1977 I was in the SLSC and at one of the practices five of us were preparing to do a pyramid. We were starting off the dock (sitting position) and after the boat took off I felt my swimsuit bottom flopping around. I told the guys, "Sorry I have to drop off"! I then realized my swimsuit had gotten caught on the dock nail and my suit was ripped almost completely off. During the live show that followed, I heard that the announcer shared my "dilemma" with every one! Many people approached me once we were done skiing and shared that they were glad to see I was in a new swimsuit."

Current residents, Denise Gjerde, Rick Heinz, Betsy Miller, Herb Schulte, Jim & Liz Weninger were all involved in the original Spring Lake Ski Club.



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Water Skiing Memories Continued ...

In the late 1970's, some of the water skiers also performed with the Prior Lake Water Ski Association (PLWSA). Both Clubs used Spring Lake for practicing their routines. When the SLSC disbanded in 1979, these Spring Lake skiers continued skiing with PLWSA. As new residents moved onto the lake, they too got involved with the PLWSA; practicing on Spring Lake and performing on Prior Lake and other lakes around the area.

Ski memory from Marti Auringer: "My husband Dave and I moved to Spring Lake in 1984 and joined the PLWSA. We started out show skiing, traveling with the group that performed several different acts; included jumping, pyramids, mixed doubles, bare-footing, slalom ballet and many others. We developed a camaraderie and were dependent upon each other which helped the show to be successful. We also competed in The 3- Event Tournaments: trick skiing, slaloming and jumping. Over the years, our friends would have children and we watched these kids become junior skiers and more. We have spent the last 38 years going through life with many of these same friends, enjoying a bond that can never be forgotten or broken."

In 1987 a third ski jump was built with steel and a MasterCraft fiberglass surface. This was made possible with the approval

from the Spring Lake Association, the DNR, with financial backing from the PLWSA. The jump was placed offshore just east of where Spring Lake Estates docks are located. This jump was used as a practice jump for the PLWSA as well as member residents from Spring Lake or whoever had access to the padlock! The ski jump returned to this location each summer until 2017. The ramp was then moved to Quarry Lake, where it is still being used by the PLWSA.

Current residents who were involved with the PLWSA and/or still involved with the SPLWSA: Dave & Marti Auringer and daughter Heidi, Randy & Nancy Baldwin; Maddi & Thomas, Mike & Barb Baldwin, Ken Berens & daughter Lexi, Scott & Joyce Breuer, Rick Heinz, Don & Pam Kruschke and son Nick, Brad & Susie Lindaman; Gabe, Garrett & Abby, Ken & Marcia Rodning and son Mike, Herb Schulte and son Mark, Mike & Suzy Schipper; Grant, Brandon & Ryan, Jim & Liz Weninger and Ken Zylstra!



Spring Lake Association ... Celebrating 70 years of providing great experiences and even better memories!

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Starry Stonewort Invasive Plants Hitchhike on Minnesota Lakes

Starry Stonewort is Minnesota's newest aquatic invasive horror story - a spidery, algae that likes high quality water, destroys prime fish spawning habitats 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. Starry Stonewort spread to over 250 acres on that lake 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 (PLSLWD) Board made the decision to significantly increase funding for boat inspections, on both Spring Lake and Prior Lake, in order to reduce the chances of the notorious invasive plant 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 one million dollars 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 location.

Keegan Lund, a DNR biologist said the Starry Stonewort on Medicine Lake has filled the water column extending out to 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 plant is slower to establish itself 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, starshaped bulbil, which is a reproductive organ that grows new plants.



Don't forget to order Spring Lake Association

Apparel with our new logo.

Visit our website at

www.SpringLakeAssociation.org

Apparel will also be on display at the SLA Annual Meeting!



Max Kes (left) and his brother Ted Kes (right).

Meet our New Recreational Patrol Deputy, Max Kes!

Folks enjoying Spring Lake will see a new face on the water this summer. Max Kes has been appointed the new Scott County Sheriff's Office

Recreational Safety Deputy. Kes is responsible for law enforcement, safety instruction, and promotion of safe boating and snowmobile riding habits on the county's lakes, riverways, and trails. Kes uses motor vehicles, boats, all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), and snowmobiles as he responds to incidents on the water, conducts rescue efforts, and recovers victims of water related incidents.

Deputy Kes joined the Sheriff's Office as a patrol deputy in 2016. He is also a Field Training Officer and part of our Mobile Field Force team.

Outside of work Deputy Kes enjoys riding his motorcycle, playing with his dog and taking her out onto his boat. A fun fact: Deputy 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 and mkes@co.scott.mn.us.

SLA 70th Anniversary Wine

Spring Lake Association is partnering with our Sponsor **Viking Liquor Barrel** in Prior Lake to feature a Spring Lake Association 70th Anniversary Wine of the Quarter.

The second quarter 2022 wine is:

- ◆ Dao Chardonnay - \$17.99
- ◆ Pessimist Red Blend - \$23.99



Spring Lake Association Annual Meeting
CELEBRATING 70 YEARS!

Sunday, April 24, 2022

4:00 pm - 6:00 pm

The Wild's Golf Club

Members and non-members invited to attend.
Mark your calendars and plan to attend!

2022 MEMBERSHIP / DONATION FORM

You are invited to renew your **Spring Lake Association (SLA) Membership** for 2022 Season! If you are not a member, we hope you will consider joining!

Name: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Membership: \$30 Annual Yearly Dues (January - December)

Donation: Please consider adding a donation to SLA

If your donation is \$50 or higher, please select one:

70th Anniversary Lease-Fitch Cabernet Bottle of Wine

70th Anniversary T-Shirt (Enter Preferred Size XS - 4XL) _____

(Donation must be made by May 1 to be guaranteed your t-shirt size)

Pay with Check by Mail | Complete this form and send check made payable to:

Spring Lake Association
P.O. Box 631, Prior Lake, MN 55372

Pay via PayPal | Visit our Membership page to pay online via Paypal at SpringLakeAssociation.org

Illegal Dumping of Goldfish Proves Troublesome

Did you know that it is illegal to release goldfish or any aquarium fish in the state's public waters. Although a pet goldfish will typically only grow a few inches in length in an aquarium, they can grow over one foot in lakes. As a member of the carp family, there is concern that goldfish could potentially have similar effects on water quality and local ecosystems as their common carp cousin. In recent years, large goldfish have been found on several Minnesota lakes. Removal efforts on Big Lake resulted in 100,000 goldfish being removed. If you can no longer care for your pet fish, consider re-homing it or donating it to a pet store.



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Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

- Membership:** \$30 Annual Yearly Dues (January - December)
- Donation:** Please consider adding a donation to your membership payment.

If your donation is \$50 or higher, please select one:

- 70th Anniversary Leese-Fitch Cabernet Bottle of Wine
- 70th Anniversary T-Shirt (Enter Preferred Size XS - 4XL) _____
(Donation must be made by May 1 to be guaranteed your t-shirt size)



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