

# 2023

## SLA Events Calendar

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

### Spring Lake Association Annual Meeting

**Date:** Sunday, April 23, 2023

**Location:** Minnesota Horse & Hunt Club

#### Meeting Timing:

4:00 pm Registration and Social Hour.

Appetizers Provided and Cash Bar

5:00 pm Annual Meeting

6:30 pm Meeting Ends

Mark your calendars and plan to attend. Members and non-members are invited to attend. Paar Sports will be there with some samples of SLA apparel/items.

Please RSVP by responding to this email.

**May 29** | Pick Your Paddle

**Jul 4** | **NEW** 4th of July Boat Parade

**July 22** | Summer Concert

**July 22** | Summer Concert After Party

**July 26** | Spring Lake Educational Seminar

**Aug 1** | **NEW** Night to Unite

**Sep 4** | Pick Your Paddle

**Oct 7** | Bonfire & Smores

**Nov 23** | **NEW** 5k Turkey Trot

Visit us at [SpringLakeAssociation.org](http://SpringLakeAssociation.org)

For updated details on our events.

### 2023 GOLD SPONSORS

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### 2023 SILVER SPONSORS

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SPRING LAKE ASSOCIATION

2023 SLA Photo of the Year by  
John and Kathleen Kroeten



## President's Message From Wesley Steffan

As we proceed into 2023, many of us are focused on the current snowfall and wondering where our lake level will be this year after two years of drought. We are encouraged by the above average snowfall this winter and a forecasted wet spring which will hopefully bring our lake water back up to a more normal level.



### 2023 SLA Objectives |

1. Improve Lake Quality using the DNR Grant & member donations.
2. Increase Sponsor Involvement & Engagement.
3. Increase member engagement through education, social activities & communication.

**Lake Improvement** | This will be the second year of the \$50,000 DNR grant that the SLA was awarded in 2022 to manage and control the spread of Eurasian Water Milfoil.

- In 2022, \$27,000 was used to treat 20 acres.
- In 2023, we will conduct a survey in late April and early June to assess the success of the treatment and to determine the next steps treatments in 2023.
- We will continue to work with the DNR and state leaders on boat ramp improvement.

**Sponsors** | Our Sponsors play a critical role in providing a good portion of our funding. Gold and Silver sponsors are listed to the left and Gold Sponsor Ads are sprinkled through out the newsletter. We hope that you will support our sponsors when you need their services.

**Member Engagement** | Education efforts this year will focus on creating awareness around Safety and Boating Etiquette. Sheriff Hennen has provided an article which discusses the impact that waves have on our shores and lake environment. We hopes this underscores the role that all types of lake users have in creating a safe and enjoyable boating experience. Based on the well-attended Aquatic Seminar that was held last year, plans are to have a another seminar hosted by Steve McCommas from Blue Water Science in July.

Our Social Committee has created an event schedule that brings back the community favorites and introduces some new events that we hope our community will enjoy!

Lastly we are excited that work on the Spring Lake Park on the north side of the Lake will begin this year. Patricia Freeman provided an update on the project in this newsletter.

**Here's to a great, enjoyable and safe 2023!**

## Spring Lake Association

We can't obtain our goals without your financial support!

**Our Objective:** To support, inform and encourage lake users on an enjoyable and safe lake experience, through education, communication and social interaction within our community.

Please use the enclosed membership form to pay the \$30 yearly Membership Fee!

## SLA Announces New Events for 2023

Spring Lake Association announces the 2023 Events calendar that includes great events that we have offered for several years as well as new events that we hope will be a hit within our community. We organize events in our community in an effort to foster a healthy, happy and thriving community.

**NEW - 4th of July Parade** | While the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade is not new to Spring Lake, a decorating contest is! We are excited to announce that we are adding a Boat/Dock Decorating Contest to this year's parade. Start planning your red, white and blue! Some of our SLA Sponsors will be judges.

### NEW - Night to Unite | Tuesday, August 2



We know how important it is to know your neighbors, so this year, we will be assisting members who plan to host a Night to Unite Party. We hope to be able to have 7 – 10 parties throughout Spring Lake Commu-

nity. We will work with party hosts to help them plan a party that makes sense for their neighborhood. We will also work with our community partners (Fire, Police, Sheriff) in an effort to coordinate a visit to all parties.

**NEW - 5k Turkey Trot** | We can't think of a better way to spend your Thanksgiving morning than burning a few calories with family and friends at our First 5K Turkey Trot through Spring Lake Regional Park. Refreshments will be provided after the Trot at Northwoods Park!

### 2023 Returning Events

**Pick your Paddle** | We host these events on Memorial Day and Labor day and these events have been a community favorite. Thanks in part to Lauren Peters from RE/MAX Preferred for sponsoring both events. What is unique about these events is attendees decide how to paddle around the lake and/or if they just want just attend the social hour before the paddle begins. We love this tradition of bringing our community together for the unofficial start and end to the Summer season!

**Summer Concert** | We sent out a survey and you told us you want the Summer Concert with a band and a Food truck. During this year's concert, we will also bring lawn games (Bags, Bocce, Jenga, Ladderball, etc.) for you to enjoy while you are listening to great music and enjoying the company of your neighbors.

**Date:** Saturday, July 22  
**Concert Time:** 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm  
**Location:** Raymond Park  
**Band:** Chad Edwards Band  
**Food Trucks:** Brick Oven Bus and Snowballs Shaved Ice.



### Let's continue to the party...

**Concert After Party:** 8:00 pm - 11:00 pm  
**Location:** Boathouse Brother's Brewery

**Bonfire & S'mores** | As the temperatures start to dip in October and people need a reason to get outside, the Bonfire & S'mores event has proven to be a great time for kids and adults.

Please consider this your invitation to attend any and all events in 2023! If you haven't attended our events in the past, please know that we invite everyone to participate. We promise you will have a great time and may even meet someone new!


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# Boating Etiquette – The Unspoken Rules of the Water

Recreational boating has an etiquette – the customary code of accepted behavior on and around the water. Boating etiquette is about safe behavior, as well as what’s socially accepted. Here are some of the basics to help you navigate the boating world with ease while not creating a stir among fellow users of the water.

**Respectable Boating Rules |** Make the right kind of waves!

**Dispose of your trash properly.** Trash and recycle bins are available at the Spring Lake Boat Ramp all yearlong.

**Respect the ramp.** Good boating etiquette starts before you enter the water - at the dock. Prepare your boat and equipment before getting into position to launch.

**Own your wake.** The fastest way to make the wrong kinds of waves is to literally throw a big, obtrusive wave at another boat, swimmer, angler or shoreline owner. This is dangerous to those unable to tolerate a large wake. Stay at least 200 feet from the shoreline and other boaters. Boat in the center of the lake away from shore and in water depths greater than 15 ft.

**Keep the tunes in check.** Sound is amplified over the water, so keep the music at a decent level.

**Slow your roll.** Does the body of water you’re on have a speed limit or slow-no-wake restriction? It’s your responsibility to know it and respect it.

**Rules of the road.** Become familiar with waterway markers and navigation rules, which dictate how you operate your vessel in order to prevent collision.

**Be prepared.** If you are the captain, you need to be prepared with the safety rules for your craft and make your guests aware as well. Know state and local laws for the body of water you’re on. Set a good example by always wearing a life jacket and have enough life jackets for each person onboard. Beyond that, make sure to have the appropriate fit.

**Anchoring and mooring.** Enter an anchorage or mooring area at a slow speed. Don’t create a wake that will disrupt other anchored boats. The first boat sets the tone. Mimic how they tie off, how much line you use and how much distance you allow between you and other boats.

**Be polite – give a wave.** When passing another boat, give a little wave hello. Boating is all about having fun and being part of a community. Embrace it, enjoy it, and share it for generations to come.

**Spring Lake Boat Ramp |** In 2022 Low water levels, ramp damage from boat power loading, made accessibility of the Spring Lake boat ramp difficult. SLA worked with Spring Lake Township and City of Prior Lake for funding to make temporary repairs. In 2023, we are working with PLA, the DNR, State Senator Erik Pratt & Representative Ben Bakeberg on a bonding bill to improve boat launches on all lakes in Scott County.



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# Spring Lake Regional Park Expands on the Shores of Spring Lake in 2023

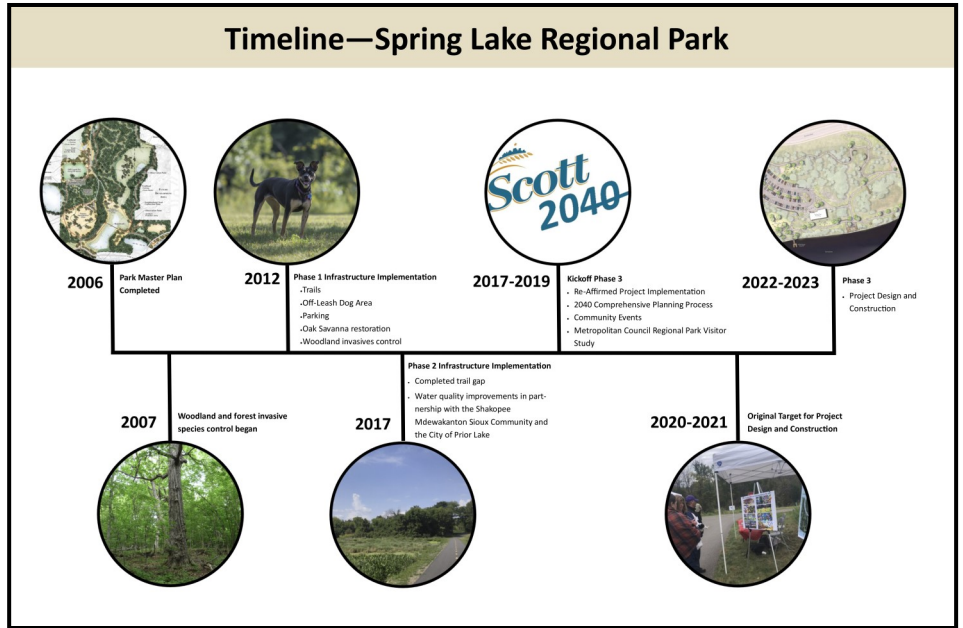
The current Spring Lake Regional Park project is part of the larger plan for Scott County Parks and Trails. The original master plan was completed in 2006. In 2011, Scott County established a new partnership with Three Rivers Park District. Construction of the in the 14-acre undeveloped area on the north shore of Spring Lake and south of County Road 12 is to take place in 2023 and 2024. Currently, the park has two wetlands, a gravel parking area and some natural paths along the shore. This phase will include a combination of parking, woodland enhancements, and walking trails as well as some level of water access. Amenities will include a children's play area, kayak launch, fishing piers, walking paths and an event center with a 125-car parking lot suitable for weddings and meetings.

At the County Board Meeting on February 21, 2023, the Scott County Board of Commissioners awarded the Spring Lake Lakefront site construction contract to Peterson Companies.

The project cost, including design and construction and the purchase of a fishing pier and canoe/kayak hand carry launch, is approximately \$3 million. Funding for the project is provided through the Parks and Trails Legacy Fund, a donation from Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community for the fishing pier and canoe/kayak amenities, and from Scott County.

The planned construction timeline is mid-April to early November, 2023 for substantial completion.

Final completion is targeted for May, 2024. The exact construction start date will be confirmed when the project team completes their pre-construction meeting.



The first activities that will be noticeable in April will be construction vehicles and equipment on site and the felling and grubbing of trees and brush.

The site, along with the gravel parking lot, will be closed to public use throughout construction.



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## PLSLWSD | Carp Management

One of the Prior Lake Spring Lake Watershed District's top water quality priorities for Spring Lake continues to be the management of common carp. Carp, which are invasive, forage along the bottom of the lake, uprooting aquatic plants and stirring up bottom sediment. Their foraging behaviors release excess phosphorus, which fuels algae growth.

This can quickly develop into a harmful cycle: higher phosphorus levels and murky water makes it hard for plants to grow, and less aquatic plants means that less phosphorus is absorbed, and less oxygen is produced, which makes an ideal environment for algal blooms. Breaking this cycle and encouraging healthy native aquatic plants is crucial to improving water quality, and reducing the carp population is a key component.

Effectively managing carp in Spring Lake requires a multifaceted approach. In addition to removing the existing population from the lake, preventative measures have been taken to prevent reproduction. Over the last few years, barriers have been installed to stop carp from migrating to their preferred spawning habitats. Recent surveys conducted by the District show a rise in in-lake spawning, which is a promising sign that our efforts are working, as this is not a preferable spawning habitat for carp.

Outside of the safety of smaller ponds and wetlands, carp eggs and young of year are susceptible to predation, making in-lake spawning less effective. Additionally, Spring Lake's aquatic vegetation has been steadily improving, which helps to make the lake a good environment for native game fish, further inhibiting carp reproduction in the basin.

The District has a variety of tools to remove carp. Each method takes advantage of different carp behaviors and their lifecycle. Even with staff's extensive knowledge of carp behaviors and patterns, no single removal effort or technique is guaranteed to

remove a predicted number of fish. Nonetheless, the District is committed to making progress on Spring Lake, and 2023 is already off to promising start. District staff monitored the locations of radio tagged carp throughout the winter and identified an aggregation this winter.


In coordination with local commercial netters, an under-ice seine was done on February 16<sup>th</sup>, and approximately 12,000 pounds of carp were removed from the lake. In addition to the benefit of removing the carp, there was also an abundance of healthy native game fish captured in the net. Pictured below is Jeff Anderson from PLSLWD with a good looking Walleye. These fish were promptly returned to the lake, but catching a glimpse of them was very encouraging.

At the close of 2022, the carp population in Spring Lake was approximately 223 kilograms (kg)/hectare(ha). The District's goal is to get below 100 kg/ha, which has been identified through studies as the threshold for when carp have a significant impact on the lake. To put those reduction efforts into perspective, the removal of around 12,000 pounds of carp during this year's under-ice seine lowered the carp population by about 22 kg/ha.


The District looks forward to continuing to make progress on Spring Lake by taking advantage of commercial seining conditions when possible and combining those efforts with staff-led removals.



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## SLA President Wesley Steffan, works on our behalf with Minnesota Law Makers!

Below is a list of bills that are making their way through the MN House and Senate.

Bill SF2540 & HF2653. We are currently working with PLA, the DNR, Senator Pratt & Representative Bakeberg on a project to provide bonding to improve access to boat launches on all lakes in Scott County.

Bill SF553 & HF9490 will require anyone born after 1987 to complete a Boat Certification Course.

Bill SF2789 & HF2745 deals with trash and debris left on the ice after fish house removal. This is an Extension of the Keep it Clean Campaign regarding the proper removal of Winter Trash.



**Pictured:** Adam Proehl, Prior Lake Association President, Senator Erik Pratt and Wesley Steffan, Spring Lake Association President



## A Message from Luke Hennen, Scott County Sheriff

As the popularity of wake boarding and wake surfing increases, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has created a new campaign focused on the effects of wakes and wake boats and creating public awareness.

### The main points of this campaign are:

- Be aware of your environment and what's going on around you. This applies to all types of boats, including paddlers, and those on and around the water.
- Stay at least 200 feet away from shorelines, docks and other structures. Backing a boat up to a lakeshore can damage the area and lead to erosion. Travel slowly in shallow waters.
- Minimize repetitive passes. Once you've run a line, move on to another area. Comply with all signs and respect barriers.
- Respect the rights of others so everyone can enjoy their time on the water. Keep the noise down, be courteous to other boaters and show consideration to all recreationists on and around the water.

Almost every motorboat can create a wake, which is why boaters must be aware of the danger wakes present and the damage they can do. While common courtesy dictates boaters should control their wakes, there are consequences beyond how wakes may affect people. Boaters must also be aware that their actions directly impact the environment.

If you have questions about this topic, water patrol, or other public safety questions you can contact Scott County Sheriff's Recreational Safety Deputy Max Kes at 952-496-8330 or [mkes@co.scott.mn.us](mailto:mkes@co.scott.mn.us). In case of an emergency, always dial 9-1-1.



## SPRING LAKE ASSOCIATION Don't forget to order SLA Apparel!

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



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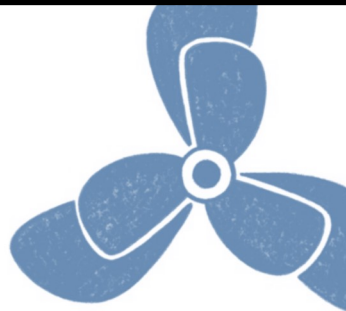


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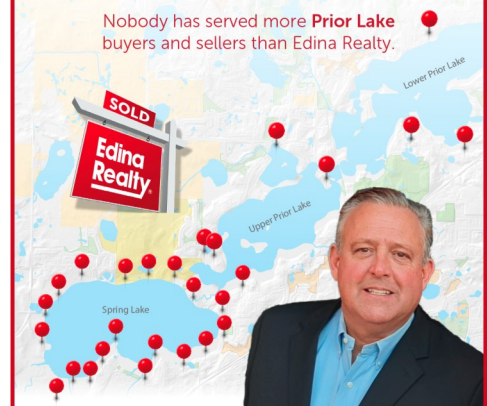
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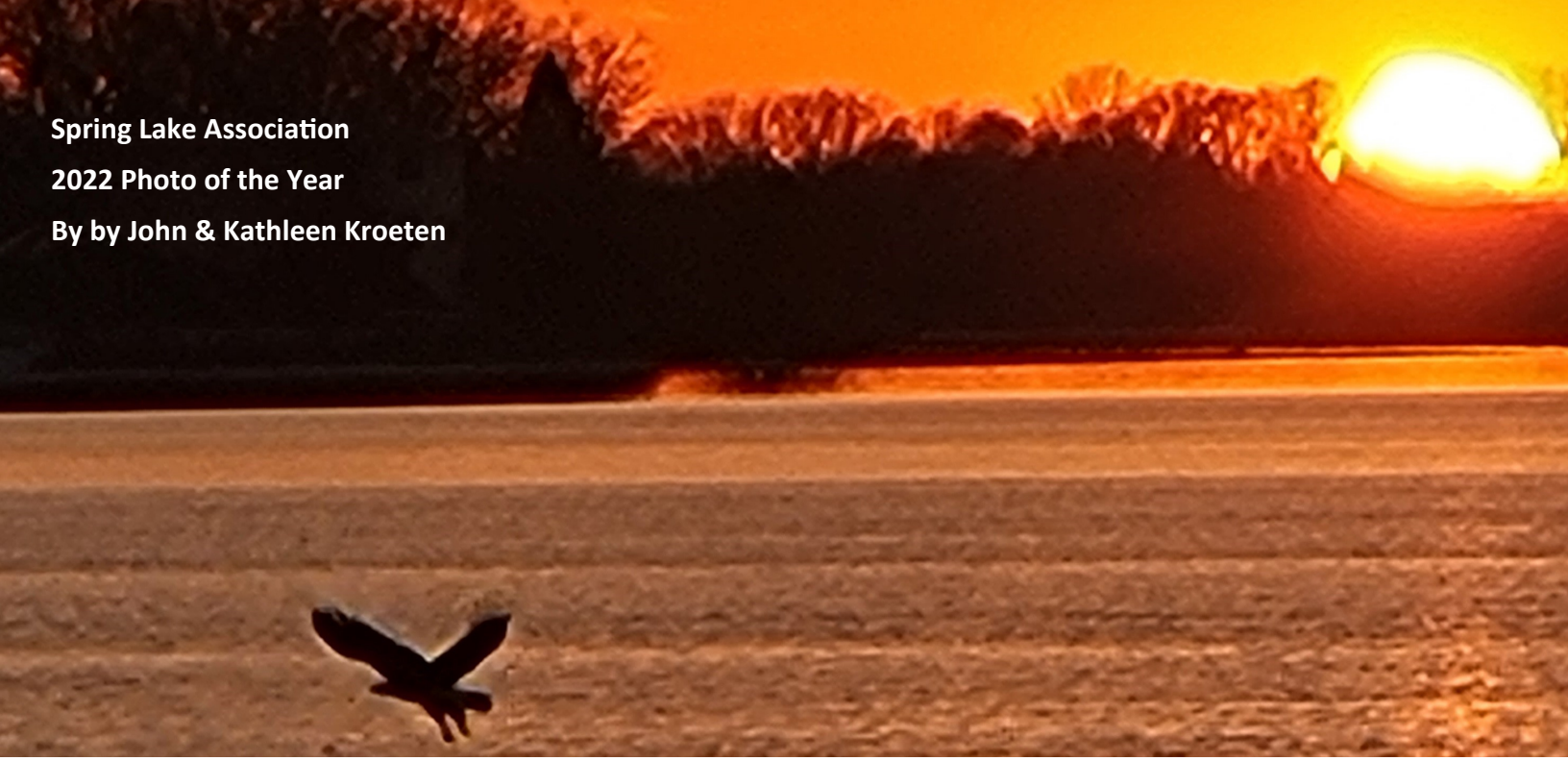


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Spring Lake Association  
2022 Photo of the Year  
By John & Kathleen Kroeten



## 2023 MEMBERSHIP / DONATION FORM

The **2023 SLA Membership & Donation Drive!** Please use the form below and pay via check or visit our website and pay via paypal!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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**1-Year Membership** | \$30 Annual Yearly Dues (January 2023 - December 2023)

**Donation** | Please consider adding a donation to help with Spring Lake Water Quality & Education Initiatives.

**If your donation is \$50 or higher and you are a paid 2023 member, you will receive a Spring Lake Association Tumbler.**

### Payment Options |

- **Pay with Check by Mail** | Complete this form and send check made out to Spring Lake Association with payment to P.O. Box 631, Prior Lake, MN 55372.
- **Pay via PayPal** | Visit our website to pay online via Paypal at [www.springlakeassociation.org/Membership](http://www.springlakeassociation.org/Membership).

\* **Note:** \$3 fee for membership payment applies if paying via paypal.

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