



Spring 2019

2019 lake calendar

January 27

WINTER SOCIAL
The Pointe

February 9

PROGRESSIVE APPETIZER
Boathouse Brothers Brewery

April 14

ANNUAL MEETING
The Wilds

August 3

CONCERT IN THE PARK
Raymond Park

October 12

BONFIRE & SMORES
Raymond Park

Are you a current
SLA member?
Sign-up today at
springlakeassociation.org
or apply my mailing your
check with form from
newsletter back page!

Spring Lake Association

Watershed District Leads Effort To Reduce Phosphorous

Improving Spring Lake Water Quality

Spring Lake has a long history of less-than-ideal water quality. The lake is listed as “impaired” for phosphorus which comes from runoff from upstream areas, as well as circulation of phosphorus deposited in lake sediments. This results in poor lake visibility and excess algae growth.

Local government agencies, farmers, and lakeshore residents partnered on many projects to improve Spring Lake, which has led to improved lake conditions and could get Spring Lake off that “impaired” list. This is the first time the state phosphorus standard (<60 µg/L) has been met over a five-year period since the Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed District (PLSLWD) started monitoring water quality in 2003.

Recent projects that have led to improved water quality on Spring Lake include:

Ferric Chloride Treatment Facility

This treatment facility, located just southwest of Spring Lake, removes 51-72% of dissolved phosphorous (the form of phosphorus that is readily available for algae to use) from Spring Lake’s largest tributary.

Wetland Restoration On the west side of Spring Lake, a series of three wetlands was restored to treat incoming water to Spring Lake. An iron-enhanced sand filter was added to trap the stormwater phosphorus.

Lake Shoreline Restoration Projects

Multiple shoreline restoration projects have been completed on both private and public lands on Spring Lake, helping protect the shoreline and filter rain runoff before entering the lake.

Alum Treatments One of the most effective ways to reduce phosphorus is aluminum sulfate treatments. Alum treatments were done in 2013 and 2018, reducing phosphorous levels in the lake. The most current five-year summer

average since the alum treatment (2014-2018) of phosphorus is 53 µg/L, which is roughly 50% lower than the previous five-year average before the alum treatment (2009-2013) of 101 µg/L. The goal is to keep the lake under the state water quality standard of 60 µg/L.

Alum treatments are not a permanent solution and their effectiveness decreases over time. Alum treatments are only meant to provide temporary relief.

Carp Management

Common carp are very detrimental to water quality.

An Integrated Pest Management Plan for managing carp has been developed which includes: netting removal of carp (seines); putting up barriers to their spawning grounds; tracking their movement; and monitoring population levels to ensure the carp population stays below harmful levels. 31,800 pounds of carp were removed from Spring Lake in January 2017.

Septic Systems Updates

In 2011, septic systems were contributing roughly 2.5% of the phosphorus to the lake. Septic systems have since been updated and many residences have hooked up to municipal sewer.

Agricultural Conservation Projects

Every year, more farmers enroll their land in a variety of conservation projects, including grassed waterways, filter strips, cover crops, and no-till farming. These practices reduce sediment and phosphorus from reaching streams, ditches, and lakes. Recently a program was developed by local farmers (the Farmer-Led Council) to identify and publicly recognize existing conservation projects in the watershed and assists farmers in identifying areas for improvement to help protect our lakes. *(Continued inside)*



Spring Lake Experiences Unusual Fish Kill

Beginning approximately August 28, 2018, Spring Lake had a significant fish kill. While fish kills happen in lakes from time to time, this particular fish kill seemed quite large. Here are a few key points of what occurred and what was learned from that smelly phenomenon.

On that warm August day, the Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed District tested Spring Lake's water and determined that the top six meters and bottom four meters of the lake water was without sufficient oxygen. A DNR spokesperson explained that hot temperatures, lack of wind, and rain can cause a lake to have such a significant decrease in dissolved oxygen levels.

Spring Lake Association President Dan Kelly also noted that fish were tested and it was determined, with help from the University of Minnesota, that they had two different types of bacterial infections:


falavorbacterium columnare and aeromonas hydrophila. These bacteria do occur naturally in lake water, however the combination of the bacteria and lack of oxygen strongly stressed the fish and was likely the cause of the 2018 Spring Lake fish kill pictured to the right.

SLA President Kelly said there were many different organizations involved in the response to the fish kill and they deserve the thanks of the community. He cited the Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed District, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, University of Minnesota, Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community Organics Recycling Facility and The Buckingham Companies, as well as the Prior Lake American.

"They all played important roles in helping us identify and address this unusual situation," he concluded.



The scene of the 2018 Spring Lake fish kill resulting in thousands of dead crappies.


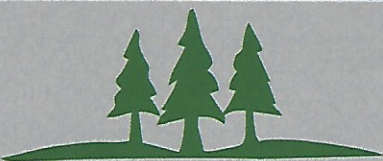


**Sailer's
greenhouse**

1610 170th Street East
Shakopee (Prior Lake), MN 55379

Greenhouse 952.403.9957
Office 952.403.0630


www.sailersgreenhouse.com

**Great Outdoors
Dock & Lift**

DOCK & BOAT LIFT SALES
REMOVAL and INSTALL
BARGE SERVICES
BOAT STORAGE
BOAT WINTERIZING & SERVICE

SHOREMASTER



612-470-DOCK



**Viking
Liquor Barrel**
Corner of Hwy 13 & 21 • Prior Lake



Locally owned by
John and Wendy Parrish

We Deliver
952-447-2127
directly to your dock or home!

Open Monday-Saturday
9 am to 10 pm 

See vikingliquor.com for
WINE TASTING EVENTS & SPECIALS

Learn more about the SLA and join as a member at springlakeassociation.org

Spring Lake

Spring Lake's Airport: "Marty's Tranquility Base"

In the early 1970's a seaplane crashed into a swimming area in the Northeastern Twin Cities. As a result of that fatal accident, the Minnesota Department of Transportation established rules for the operation of seaplanes in the Twin Cities seven county area. The DOT regulations designated specific lakes on which seaplanes could be operated in the metro area. In Scott County it is estimated that six such lakes, including Spring Lake and Prior Lake, carry that designation.

At about that same time, a commercial pilot with both single and multi-engine seaplane ratings, was looking to establish a new residence with his growing family on a lake that was specifically designated for seaplanes. In 1974 that pilot, Marty Coddington, was promoted by the FAA to a supervisory position at the burgeoning Minneapolis/St. Paul airport which at one time carried the name of Wold-Chamberlain Field. On the first day of their real estate search Marty and his wife, Liz, found what they were looking for on Spring Lake.

"Sometime later, after we were established and living on what is now called South Shore Drive, Liz's dad was visiting one day and as we were standing at the top of the hill in the back yard, he commented 'My, it's tranquil here'" explained Mr. Coddington. "As a result of my father-in-law's comment, we named our location Tranquility Base."

The FAA eventually changed the official name to Marty's Tranquility Base and that moniker remains in effect today. From that Spring Lake location, with the coordinates of 44°41'59"N 093°28'19"W, Marty hoped to assist transiting pilots with local flight information. That became a reality when, after visiting the "Fly Market" at the Oshkosh Air Show and purchasing a used radio, he applied for and received the appropriate frequencies and his FCC operating license.

"We operated our radio base for about 30 years. Our son Dean always checked in when he was a student pilot and airline pilots from all over the country would call to say 'hi' when they were within a couple hundred miles," explained the local pilot. "But about ten years ago the flight school at Mankato applied to the FCC for a new frequency because their's was getting too busy. The FCC, without studying the aeronautical maps, gave them our frequency."

Suddenly, the "tranquility" of the Coddington household was disturbed by the many student pilots reporting their positions to other pilots. Marty protested to the FCC and the governmental entity apologized and offered him a different frequency. "Changing the crystals on an old radio like ours would be an expensive project and I didn't have time to deal with it," he continued. "I clearly expressed my views to the FCC on their unprofessional behavior but let it go and did not renew our license the next time it came due."

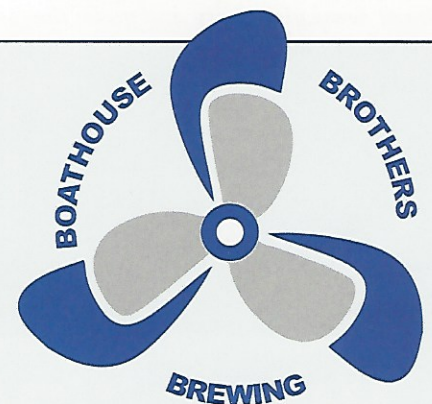
Marty's Tranquility Base on Spring Lake remains a privately owned, public-use seaplane base at an elevation of 911 feet above sea level. Only now it's an airport absent a radio frequency.

"We are still an airport but now without the radio." said Mr. Coddington. "The recent rules regarding drones requires that drone pilots call us for approval of their operation. In the summer we get maybe two calls a week. I ask where and when they will be flying and tell them thanks for the call. It's easy."



The Spring Lake aviator, Marty Coddington, is pictured above with his first seaplane, a 1968 Cessna 172. In the photo Marty is seen holding their Norfolk Terrier, Oliver. To his left are sons Dean and Mitch and wife, Liz.

Tranquility's first seaplane, according to Mr. Coddington, was recently restored and is now based in the state of Maine.



Cheers to Lake Life.

**From the Brothers
at Prior Lake's
First Taproom.**

BOATHOUSE BROTHERS BREWING

Association

This Is The Sign That Jack Built.

Senior year in high school is a hectic time and for John "Jack" Erickson of Savage, the spring of 2018 was especially hectic. Jack, while busy finishing up at Prior Lake High School, was also enlisted in the U.S. Army and would be heading off to basic training shortly after graduation.

But first he really wanted to achieve one more goal and that was completing his Eagle Scout Service Project. Jack needed a project, and was recruited by the SLA to build a sign to promote the organization and any other lake information.

A few complications arose to hinder the completion of the project including a wet spring that delayed the completion of the new asphalt parking lot at the public water access and Alum treatment tanks in close proximity to the sign location.

On the weekend of May 19, Boy Scout Troop 331 of Prior Lake, under the



Spring Lake Association Board Member Dan Field is pictured with signmaker Jack Erickson.

direction of Jack Erickson, completed the sign project. On June 8 Jack graduated from Prior Lake High School and by June 15, he was off to basic training and the proud holder of his Eagle Scout achievement.

34 Transactions On Spring Lake!



Edina Realty

jimgilbertson@edinarealty.com

Are you a current SLA member?
Sign-up today at
www.springlakeassociation.org

ERIK WESTRUM

14033 Commerce Avenue NE
Suite 102, Prior Lake

952-447-8700

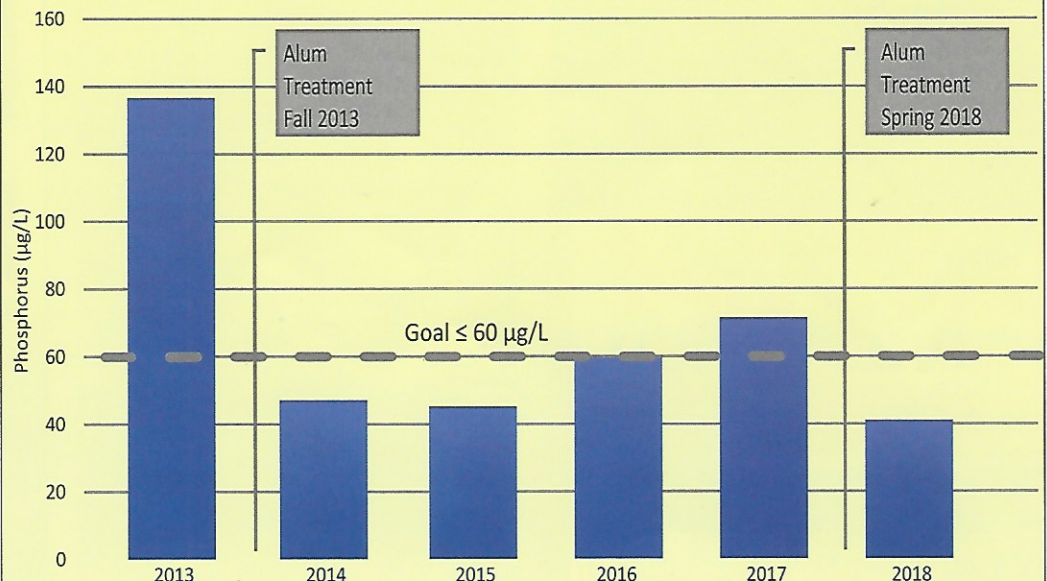
Auto Insurance
Home Insurance
Property Insurance
Business Insurance
Life Insurance
Health Insurance
Banking Products
Annuities
Mutual Funds

 **State Farm**™

Phosphorus in Spring Lake

Summer Average

(Source: Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed District)





PRESIDENT Dan Kelly
VICE PRESIDENT Conrad Ketelsen
SECRETARY Kerry Schmid
TREASURER Jeff Will
COMMUNICATIONS Tim Bruss
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
 Jaime Berry, Dan Field, Christian Morkeberg, Alex Nelson, Tad Tewes
HISTORIAN/PHOTOGRAPHER
 Camille Will

WEBSITE www.springlakeassociation.org

EMAIL board.sla@gmail.com

SLA BOARD MEETINGS

Typically held the second Monday of each month. Always check the calendar to verify times.

ANNUAL MEETING

April 14, 6 p.m., The Wilds

SPRING LAKE ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT DAN KELLY



A Busy Year on Spring Lake!

2018 was an eventful year on Spring Lake with a new boat access, an alum treatment, summer concert and the unfortunate fish kill! Thinking about all those different events there is still one that stands out as number one in my mind and that's the fact that the **Spring Lake Association grew to 100 households.** When I became president of SLA in 2014 there were only 12 household members so to grow to 100-plus households is an amazing accomplishment and one of which I'm very proud.

I want to personally thank the dedicated SLA board, past and present, for the hard work they did to get us to where we are today. I also want to thank all members for making Spring Lake great!

Our board is busy looking for opportunities to volunteer time and money to efforts that positively impact Spring Lake. And we want to continue to grow our SLA membership. Please visit our website or follow us on social media to learn more.

I would also like to invite everyone to attend our **Annual Meeting Sunday, April 14 at the Wild's Clubhouse from 6 – 8 p.m.** This is a great opportunity to learn more about the SLA, enjoy some complimentary appetizers, meet others on and around the lake and renew your 2019 membership.

The Spring Lake Association hopes to see everyone at multiple events throughout the year!

Cheers

Dan Kelly

(Learn more about the SLA at www.springlakeassociation.org)

Improving Water Quality

(Continued from front page)

Local agencies and residents have made great strides to improve the water quality of Spring Lake, but the work is not yet done. The following is a list of a few projects planned by the Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed District:

- 1) Third and final alum treatment in coming years, completing the overall treatment plan.
- 2) Continue operating the ferric chloride treatment plant to remove phosphorus.
- 3) Maintain stormwater retention areas around lake.
- 4) Reduce amount of salt used in the watershed (road salt and water softeners).
- 5) Reduce grass and leaves on streets that are washed into Spring Lake during rainstorms.
- 6) Encourage lakeshore owners to create more rain gardens and shoreline restorations.
- 7) Install more projects to capture phosphorous before it enters Spring Lake.
- 8) Implement flood control projects, including more upstream wetlands to store and slowly release water.

Lake residents' efforts and input make a difference! A cleaner lake starts with *your* land. That's why it is important that everyone works together towards the goal of a clean and healthy Spring Lake.

Phosphorus level graph and this article compiled and written by Jaime Rockney, Water Resources Specialist of the Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed District.



Your Neighbor on Spring Lake.

Trusted. Knowledgeable. Committed to You!

RE/MAX PREFERRED

LAUREN PETERS

Your Local RE/MAX PREFERRED Agent

612-751-9620

LaurenPetersRealtor.com

adventures.polaris.com

UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCES

A premium network of ride and drive destinations nationwide

SAFE. MEMORABLE. ADVENTURES.



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

SLA ANNUAL MEETING

6 - 8 p.m., Sunday, April 14
Wild's Clubhouse

Enjoy complimentary appetizers

Register for prize drawings

Renew or become an SLA member

A cleaner Spring Lake starts with you
Enhance water quality and improve wildlife habitat by adding native plants to your shoreline. Funds and free technical assistance are available to plan a lake-friendly shoreline or raingarden. Visit the Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed District's website at www.plslwd.org and go to the "Get Involved" tab.



The Music Is Pumpin' and Spring Is Jumpin'!

If you were near Spring Lake last July, you heard one of the liveliest events on the lake in recent memory. In what the SLA hopes was the first of many fun summer concerts, the association hosted the cover band Bootleg. The group provided hits of the 80's and 90's, from Johnny Cash to Green Day.



Almost 300 attendees were present at Raymond Park along with more than 30 boats. There was also a food truck and ice cream vendor, as there will be again this year for the Saturday party.

Mark your calendars for August 3, 6-10 p.m. when Bootleg will again perform. Go to www.bootlegrocknroll.com to catch the excitement they'll be bringing to Spring Lake this summer!

Spring Lake Association Membership Form

Please make your check payable to Spring Lake Association

Name: _____ Email: _____

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

- Dues: \$30 per household per year (Valid until April 2020)
- Additional donation
- I would like to help with _____

Please return to: Spring Lake Association, P.O. Box 631, Prior Lake, MN 55372