



JOHNS LAKE ASSOCIATION NEWS LETTER

April 2023

The Johns Lake Association is a Not-for-Profit Corporation with Objectives to:

- Through environmentally appropriate means, reduce the quantity of undesirable aquatic vegetation to an acceptable level.
- Maintain the healthy lake water levels.
- Develop and implement a long-range plan aimed at improving the quality of the lake water.
- Improve all phases of recreation on the lake.
- Provide input to governmental regulation bodies on issues that affect Johns Lake.
- Promote and provide a forum for sharing of information on scientific, administrative and financial aspects of lake and watershed management.
- Affiliate with the Florida Lake Management Society.

The Newsletter is published by the Johns Lake Association and is provided to members and other interested parties to provide information concerning current conditions on the lake and other issues effecting the lake.

Message from the President

By Rick Stuebing

I am pleased to say I was recently elected as the new President of Johns Lake Association (JLA) after John Schmidt announced his retirement from the Board. John served the Board for about ten years and did a lot of really great things to protect Johns Lake. I learned a lot from John and will miss working with him.

JLA is a non-profit organization, funded by members, focused on protecting Johns Lake water quality. JLA's mission is to preserve and restore the high-water quality and the traditional character of John's Lake, watersheds and related natural resources. The long-term survival of Johns Lake is critical to present and future generations.

The paramount goal of the Johns Lake Improvement Association (JLIA) is to educate and connect with the Johns Lake community and local government entities by communicating important information about the environment and related regulatory matters.

The JLA Board supports the lake for **water quality, controlling invasive plants (such as hydrilla), shoreline management, and lake levels.** During the past two tropical storms the lake rose to over the normal high-water mark. This was a serious situation since many of our docks were under water, some shorelines were damaged and some of our older homes were almost flooded. The county was forced to close the lake to all boating activities while the lake level was so high. The Board communicated this critical information to Lake and Orange County. The Board also coordinates the **Holiday Boat Parade** every year.

In the past the Board collected dues to support our expenses, such as insurance, website costs, state fees, and more since we converted to paperless Newsletters, we have been able to get by for several years without dues but now the Board's financial balance is getting low. We can be reached at admin@johnslakeflorida.com Please support our efforts to protect Johns Lake by donating to our cause by going to the following link.

[Please Donate](#)

JLA Board of Directors:

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David Stewart – Director	david@listwithstewart.com

John Yancy – Director	ty33657@gmail.com
Scott Boyd – Director	scottbovd.oranqe@aail.com

Johns Lake Holiday Boat Parade

By Karen Quill

Johns Lake Association is excited to announce that the planning of our 23rd annual holiday boat parade is officially underway!

Over the years, the boat parade has become a time for family and friends to gather and make wonderful memories as they watch the many beautifully decorated boats motor around the lake. The parade participants work very hard designing/decorating their boats and those who watch the parade always do an incredible job showing support and appreciation by clapping and cheering! It's a fun evening for all involved and I'm sure this year will be spectacular!

A big thank you to last year's sponsors who were the **Yellow Dog Eats Restaurant**, **Tommy's Boats** and **Carr Flooring**. Please let us know if you know of a business that would like to donate to the boat parade next year.

We will announce the parade date and route in our next newsletter, and on social media. We continuously post updates on the parade date, route, sponsorships, etc. on Facebook. Our page is titled: Johns Lake Improvement Association. If you haven't visited, click the link and it'll take you to our page!

[Johns Lake Association Facebook Page](#)



Picture of the winning 2022 boat owned by Bill & Linda Stewart
Do you see their dog?

Scrub Point

By Scott Boyd & David Stewart

Scrub Point is a 120 acre preserve located on the southern shoreline of Johns Lake and was opened to area residents on February 24, 2023. The Lake County Water Authority Board Chairman and the Lake County Commissioner welcomed everyone to the ribbon cutting ceremony and kicked off the half mile hike to the point and kayak launch area. The peninsula can be reached by water or road. There is some car parking at the entrance and then you can walk to the point. The address to the parking is 2000 Eddy Drive, Winter Garden.

Ecologically, the site has been well preserved and there are at least seven threatened or endangered species and many endemic species (native species that occur in a limited geographic area). There are some exotic plant species, usually around the boundaries and along roads, which County staff works to control.

One of our Johns Lake Association Board Members, David Stewart, recently visited the preserve and had this to say about his experience with visiting friends.

“We arrived by boat and walked the trail in a figure eight pattern that ended up being about a two-mile walk. The trails were clearly marked and very easy to navigate. The wildlife was amazing and most of the walk was shaded so we didn’t overheat. We ended by sitting down on the picnic tables and enjoyed the relaxing sounds of the small waves hitting the shore, trees rustling and wildlife scurrying around. We had such a great time and plan to make this a tradition each time they visit in the future.”

Scrub Point Preserve will provide numerous experiences and traditions like David’s for decades to come not only for our area residents but also those who visit. The preserve is opened from sunrise to sunset. Please enjoy this this special preserve but help to keep it pristine by following the rules of not leaving any trash, do not step on the plants that are not on the trails, and no bicycles, motorcycles, or cars. Also, no alcohol, pets, hunting, trapping, and camping are allowed on the preserve. All plants, animals, and cultural and historic resources are protected.



Entrances to Scrub Point by water & Eddy Road

Outfall Canal

By Scott Boyd

The Johns Lake outfall canal was built well over 70 years ago and serves to regulate the water levels for Johns Lake, Black Lake and Lake Tilden. Those of us who have lived in the area know that our lake level can fluctuate several feet per year during rainy and dry periods. In my lifetime, I have witnessed Johns Lake dry up twice.

Recently the canal has made headlines due to flow issues and sediment discharge into Lake Apopka from heavy rain fall followed by several named hurricanes. The canal stretches from the north end of Johns Lake to under the Florida Turnpike, State Road 50, Oakland Avenue (438) and the West Orange Trail. The increased volume of water has eroded certain areas along its structured path and caused significant discharge of sand material impacting several homeowners on Lake Apopka. Homeowner Association groups like Winter Landings and Oakland Park are also dealing with erosion issues along the path of the canal as well.

While the canal serves as a function of water level control there has never been established an entity to manage the outfall canal and it requires ongoing maintenance since its creation. This includes removal of fallen trees, overgrown brush, and blockage under road crossings. While on the County Commission in 2014 my office coordinated Orange County Public Works with Lake County to fund the cleaning of a majority of the canal during high water levels occurring at that time. Johns Lake is divided among two counties and several cities. The canal was cleaned again in the same manner years later. A detailed study of the entire storm water discharge area flowing into our lake system and its discharge into Lake Apopka was next completed.

Recently the Town of Oakland took on the leadership position to fund and clean the northern portion impacting their residents on Lake Apopka near the canal. The Town of Oakland in partnership with Landeavor the developer of Oakland Park is coordinating this effort.

Members of the Johns Lake Association Board recently attended and presented at the Town of Oakland Commissioners Meeting and are in discussions with our State elected leaders on possible solutions to provide regularly scheduled maintenance procedures that would possibly include local jurisdictions in Orange and Lake County. This maintenance is critical to protect the entire Johns Lake Watershed that include several lakes, canals and wetlands during future tropical storms and hurricanes.

For more information, please see the article link below to the West Orange Observer dated Feb 1, 2023.

[Link to West Orange Observer Article](#)



A portion of the outflow canal next to Oakland Park and The West Orange Bike Trail. It appears that Landeavor Developers recently cleaned out this portion of the canal. It was full of bushes and fallen trees.

Lakefront Fertilizer Guide

Each Spring we are noticing higher levels of algae blooms. With all the new development on Johns Lake we must try to minimize lakefront runoff. One of the causes of algae blooms is improper use of fertilizers.

Many fertilizers contain nitrogen and phosphorus. Excess nitrogen and phosphorus are known to cause excessive hydrilla growth, algae blooms, fish kills, and other water quality problems. Anyone applying fertilizer should understand how to prevent pollution from the nutrients they spread on their landscape.

Orange County Lakefront Fertilizer Ordinance Requirements

Orange County has regulated fertilizer application since 2009 to help protect our lakes, rivers, springs, and groundwater. This ordinance was updated in 2017 and Lake County has a similar ordinance.

- Stores that sell fertilizer must display information about our ordinance
- Never use fertilizer containing phosphorus (unless a soil test proves it is needed)
- Never use fertilizer containing nitrogen in summer months (trained people are exempt)
- If you choose to apply fertilizer with nitrogen, make sure 50% is slow-release nitrogen type
- Keep fertilizer *more* than 15 feet away from wetlands and water bodies
- Use a broadcast fertilizer spreader that has a deflector shield up fertilizer that spills or could end up on sidewalks, driveways, or streets
- Keep your grass clippings and yard debris out of roads, gutters, and storm drains
- Ensure your landscape contractor complies with the fertilizer ordinance, too!

You can buy fertilizer that contains zero nitrogen or phosphorus. Look for products that contain minerals such as iron and magnesium, or are labeled as containing, “micronutrients”.

When shopping for fertilizer, please use the following helpful information that is found on the fertilizer bag:

- Where to use the fertilizer (turf, trees, plants?)
- Percentage of Nitrogen, Phosphorus, and Potassium
- How much of the nitrogen is “slow release” type
- How much to apply
- How much area your bag of fertilizer will cover
- Which number to choose on your spreader dial

Soil Tests in Orange County

In Orange County, you must always get a soil test before applying fertilizer that contains phosphorus – all year long, not just during the rainy season. Contact the Orange County Agricultural Extension Service (also known as IFAS) for information about having your soil tested: 407-254-9200.

Let's all continue to do our part to keep Johns Lake an enjoyable place to live!

www.johnslakeflorida.com
admin@johnslakeflorida.com
[Johns Lake Association Facebook Page](#)

