



October 2023

Message from the President

By Rick Stuebing

It is hard to believe the Holidays are approaching and we are preparing for the 22nd Holiday Boat Parade. On behalf of the board, I would like to thank our sponsors of the parade and we welcome additional sponsors.

The board continues to communicate with multiple government agencies to keep the ball rolling for the required maintenance on our outfall canal. This process is difficult and slow due to the number of government agencies involved.

We have brought back our Stop Light Program to give you visual feedback on where we believe we stand on the five quality indicators that we identified in the past. This is subjective and we realize that some of these indicators are worse in some parts of the lake than others, but we try to use “average” ratings.

And finally, some information from the Environmental Protection Division that describes proper shoreline maintenance critical to the health of Johns Lake has been included.

JLA is a non-profit organization, funded by lakefront owners, 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.

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 and please support our efforts to protect Johns Lake by donating to our cause by going to the following link.

[Please Donate](#)

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.

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Johns Lake Holiday Boat Parade, Sunday – December 10th – 6:15pm

By Karen Quill

This year is the 22nd Annual Johns Lake Boat Parade and with each passing year, boaters and residents alike look forward to this incredibly special holiday event. The boat parade will be held on Sunday, December 10th, starting in the SE corner of Johns Lake at 6:15pm.

There is no registration required to participate in the parade. All that is needed is to decorate your boat, be in place for “line up” no later than 6:10pm and be prepared to show some holiday spirit as we motor around the lake! Throughout the years, the residents have shown their appreciation for the parade by hosting gatherings, cheering loudly from the docks/shores, and making sure the boat parade participants know just how much their boat-décor is appreciated!

For Parade Participants:

All boats should gather by 6:00pm in the SE corner of Johns Lake near Twin Waters. **THIS IS A DIFFERENT MEETING LOCATION FROM LAST YEAR.** The lead boat will start the parade at 6:15pm by blasting an air-horn several times. All boats should follow in-line and slowly head west. **Please maintain a small, but safe distance between boats so there are no large “gaps” in the parade line.** The parade route will follow the eastern, northern, and western shores of Johns Lake (from Twinwaters in Orange County to Johns Lake Landing in Lake County, where the parade ends). The parade will take about 2 hours to complete. Please see the **Parade Route Map** at the end of this article.

If this is your first time decorating your boat for a parade, here are a few tips:

Christmas lights run on 120v AC and are designed to operate from your home electrical current. To operate lights on your boat, you will need to purchase a DC to AC power inverter. Power inverters are available at most auto parts stores, Wal-Mart, and Harbor Freight. Power inverters convert your boat's 12v DC power to 120v AC. Inverters do have a limit as to how much power they can generate from your boat's DC battery. Inverters are rated by watts; the more watts the inverter can handle, the more lights you can put on your boat. Most power inverters above 150 watts will need to be connected directly to your boat's battery terminals to provide full power as 12v outlet plugs (cigarette lighters) are power limited by a fuse.

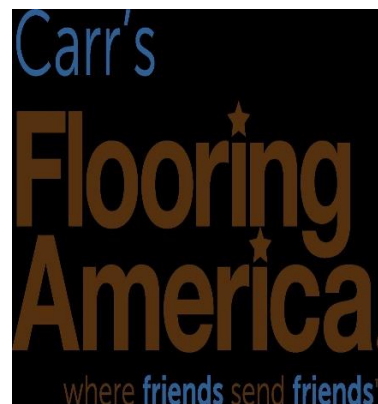
The use of LED lights provides the ability to power many more lights than incandescent lights. A 300-watt power inverter connected directly to your battery could power over 600 LED lights as opposed to 60 incandescent lights! Be careful though, as some units will overheat if too much load is placed on them. **Test your lights for a period before the parade starts.** Make sure you use UL approved outdoor lights as the lights on your boat may get wet and you do not want to cause a fire or shock someone on your boat!



JOHNS LAKE HOLIDAY BOAT PARADE – 2023 ROUTE MAP



Thank you to our Gold Parade Sponsors and we welcome additional sponsorships!



[Johns Lake Association Facebook Page](#)

Outfall Canal from Johns Lake to Lake Apopka Update

By Scott Boyd

The Town of Oakland funded and managed, with some funding from Oakland Park, the restoration of a portion of the canal's outfall channel into Lake Apopka and worked with impacted lake front residents to remove excess sediment collection along their shoreline after Hurricanes Irma, Ian and Nicole.

Orange County funded and completed major stabilization improvements at the West Orange Trail crossing that was significantly eroded due to upstream drainage flows from Tilden, Black Lake and Johns Lake. This includes slope stabilization and filling in a major scour area along adjacent properties both private and HOA property along Winter's Landing and Oakland Park. Please see the picture below.

Oakland Park is in the permitting stage with the Town of Oakland and St. Johns Water Management District to construct a major stabilization project internal to Oakland Park community. More details to follow.

The County is working on engaging the previous hydraulic engineers from the 2021 study to update the study and make recommendations for needed future stabilization improvements.

The County and all local government stakeholders that contribute drainage through this canal have acknowledged that one maintenance entity is likely necessary for long-term management of the canal maintenance versus leaving it in individual landowners control. Further discussion with Orange County will be needed to keep this moving.

The board will continue to work with these entities and will keep you posted.



The outfall canal where it goes under the West Orange Bike Trail

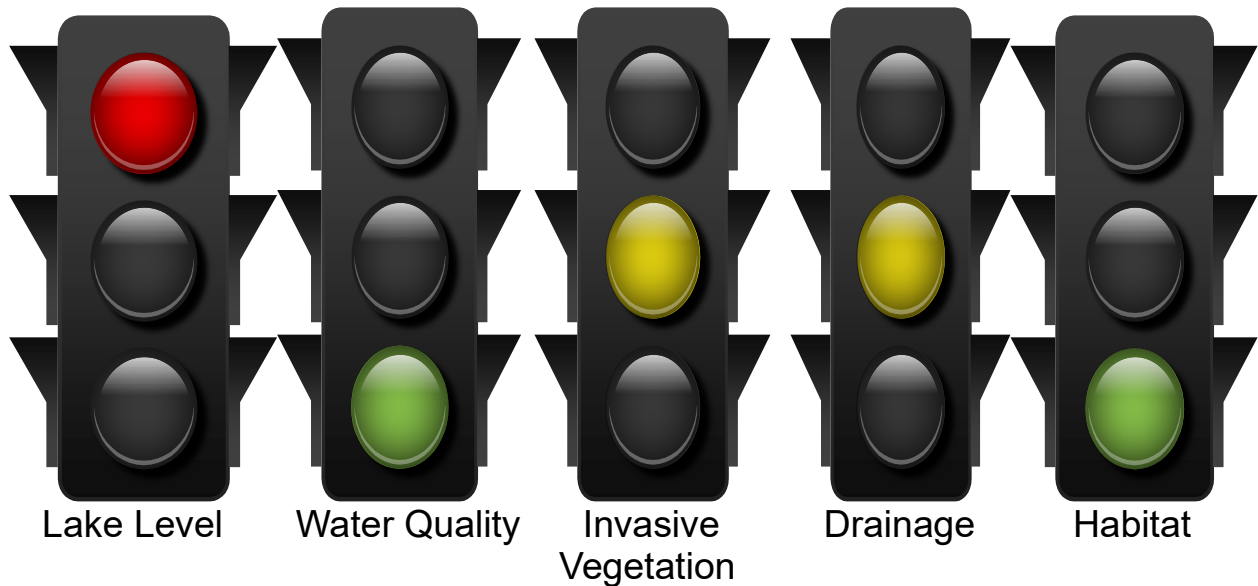
Johns Lake Quality Indicators

By Rick Stuebing

Over the years, the Johns Lake Association (JLA) has dealt with numerous potential problems and threats to Johns Lake. JLA identified five Quality Indicators that are monitored and reported in the newsletters. They included Lake Levels, Water Quality, Invasive Vegetation, Drainage and Habitat.

An easy-to-understand reporting tool was developed using a stoplight approach with a brief explanation for each quality indicator. The JLA uses data provided from the county and other organizations and will make some subjective measurements. The intent is for lakefront owners to be able to easily see where the JLA feels issues involving the lake need attention or additional discussion in the newsletters.

Johns Lake Quality Indicators - Current Status



Lake Level

The lake level is currently at 94.05 which is much lower than normal for this time of year. Although the Winter is usually our drought season, this will be an El Nino Winter which could mean more rain than normal. If we don't get a lot of rain from a Hurricane or a Tropical Storm during the next two months our lake could get quite low this Winter during the drought season. The lake is currently below the level of the outfall canal. The JLA Board has been working closely with the local Towns, Counties and State on this important issue for many years.

Water Quality

Water quality has been steadily improving during the past ten years according to the county testing. During the past ten years the level of Total Phosphorus has slowly gone down, which is a great indicator of improved water quality. Long-term, frequent participants in lake sports activities (skiing, wakeboarding) have reported a significant improvement in water clarity.

Invasive Vegetation

Hydrilla, Cuban Bulrush and other invasive species are an ongoing concern for Johns Lake. The county continues to treat once or twice a year with herbicides and has added additional grass eating carp to augment their efforts. This quality indicator is constantly changing, and a combination of weather, water level and treatments can affect the status either way. Currently, the hydrilla is less of a problem than it normally is for this time of year. However, some parts of the lake are much worse than others. The board interacts with our County Biologist on this on-going issue.

Drainage

Johns Lake drainage (aka outfall) is an ongoing concern. Recent water levels are lower than previous years and are a concern. There has been some work done to the Outfall canal, but more work is needed. The lake is currently below the outfall level but when the lake is high the outfall is still a big concern since it does not drain fast enough. The board is working with the counties, local towns, and the State for assistance with additional maintenance on the drainage canal to Lake Apopka. This is expensive and is an ongoing project.

Habitat

Even with the new developments around Johns Lake, it is still a vibrant habitat for wildlife. We have otters, alligators, turtles, bald eagles, osprey, ducks and many other species of waterfowl. And, as always, the lake is a premier fishing site.

Healthy Lakes Need Living Lakeshores

Understanding Orange County's
Lakeshore Protection (LSP) Permit
By The Environmental Protection Division

Healthy, adequate shoreline vegetation protects water quality, prevents erosion, affords valuable habitat for fish and wildlife, and creates a pleasant place for relaxation and enjoyment. Before beginning any work on a shoreline, it's necessary to find out if a Lakeshore Protection permit is needed.

Here are helpful tips:

- 1) Lakeshore homeowners can keep a vegetation-free access corridor of 30 feet or 20% of total linear shoreline, whichever is greater, without a permit. The access corridor must be located below Normal High-Water Elevation (NHWE) and does not include shoreline wetlands located above the NHWE.
- 2) An LSP permit is required to remove vegetation outside of the access corridor.
- 3) Boat docks must be located within the access corridor.
- 4) The LSP permit only authorizes removal of nuisance and exotic vegetation; however, replanting of beneficial native species is required to meet 80% areal coverage of native vegetation.
- 5) Native trees cannot be removed from the shoreline.

For more information, please go to this link.

[Orange County Lakeshore Protection Permit](#)

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

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[Johns Lake Association Facebook Page](#)