



October 2024

**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

Hurricane Milton was a very large storm and many of our lakefront homeowners sustained significant damage. Our lake level went up approximately 27 inches which was close to the normal high-water mark. Many docks are now under water so please stay away from them while boating or go slow at a no wake speed.

The FWC treated our lake this Summer for hydrilla and although some parts of the lake still have a lot of hydrilla, most of the lake has less hydrilla than normal for this time of year. Hydrilla is almost impossible to permanently kill and the FWC allows some hydrilla to live since small amounts are good for the lake.

The County recently closed our public ramp due to high water. As soon as they open it, we will let you know via email and on Johns Lake Association and Johns Lake Life Facebook pages.

The Johns Lake Holiday boat parade will be held on Saturday December 14. We hope to see you then and a big thanks to Karen Quill and our sponsors!

Scott Boyd has included an update on our outflow canal which is currently moving a lot of water out of Johns Lake but continues to require additional maintenance.

Lana Larrivee interviewed Don Hickman who is one of the original members of the Johns Lake Association Board and built his home on Johns Lake over 60 years ago.

I hope you enjoy our newsletter and hope to see you on the lake!

*Rick Stuebing*

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## Johns Lake Holiday Boat Parade

By Karen Quill

This year is the 23rd Annual Johns Lake Boat Parade and with each passing year, boaters and residents alike look forward to this very special holiday event. We tried something new this year, sending out a survey on Facebook asking for input on the day of the parade and 88% of you chose Saturday! Given the overwhelming majority opinion, we will continue this pattern in the future.

To help with your holiday planning, please note the parade will be held **THE SECOND SATURDAY OF DECEMBER**, each year moving forward. We hope this will make it easier for you to plan your festivities at your home, or to participate in the parade. The more boats the merrier! Let's make 2024 the best parade yet. All you need to do is decorate your boat, gather all your fun family/friends, and come out on the water with us. I promise, you won't regret it when you see all the excited faces around the lake cheering you on!

We will take the same route this year, starting at the SE corner of Johns Lake at 6:15pm. Next year we will start on the West side of the lake. The parade **WILL** start on time, so please give yourself plenty of time to position your boat in the parade line.

There is no registration required to participate in the parade. All that is needed is to decorate your boat with lights, 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 **NO LATER** than 6:10pm in the SE corner of Johns Lake near TwinWaters. **THIS IS THE SAME LOCATION AS 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 east. **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 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:

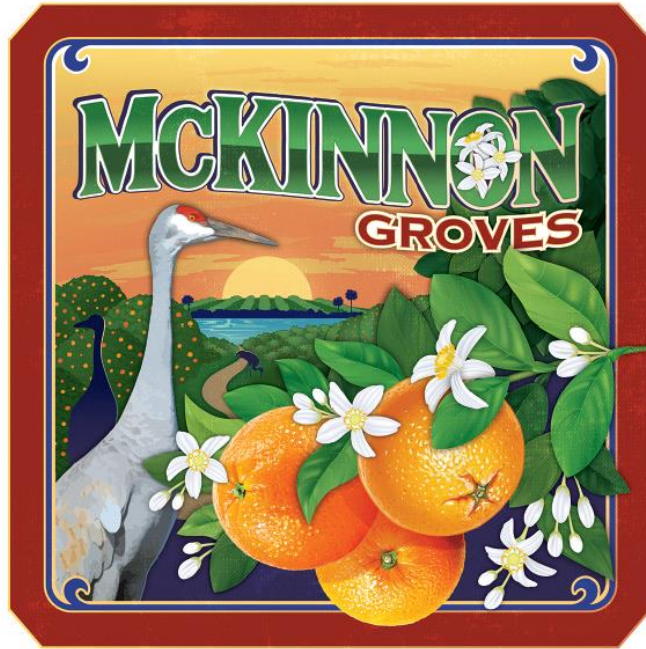
Christmas lights run on 120v AC and are designed to operate from your home electrical current. To operate lights on your boat, you will need to purchase a DC to AC power inverter. Power inverters are available at most auto parts stores, Wal-Mart, and Harbor Freight. Power inverters convert your boat's 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!



**Thank you to our past and new Parade Sponsors! Anyone interested in becoming a sponsor for the 2024 Boat Parade please send us an email at [admin@johnslakeflorida.com](mailto:admin@johnslakeflorida.com) for information.**





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## Johns Lake Outfall Update

By Scott Boyd

I hope everyone managed to make it through the recent storm with minimal damage to your property. On the south side of the lake, we experienced a number of downed trees that continue to be cleaned up. For those of us who live on Johns Lake it's been quite noticeable that the lake level has come up quickly since Hurricane Milton came through. As it has been reported, Johns Lake levels have jumped up over 2 feet in the last couple of weeks. Considering our drainage basin takes in storm water rain fall as far away as the City of Ocoee, Winter Garden, Oakland, Orange County, Lake County and Clermont we can expect significant changes after a storm like Milton. This has been common for decades even without hurricanes and leads to why the outfall canal from Johns Lake and Lake Apopka is important to stay on top of with an annual maintenance program.

However, the maintenance study Orange County is conducting is now again in another update according to the County. Recently Orange County Public Works Storm Water Management Division was asked to clean out a section of the canal south of 438/Oakland Avenue to allow for the County's storm water consultant to access the canal. The cleanup work has been completed and we await the study recommendations. Numerous community partners including the Town of Oakland, Oakland Park and Johns Lake Association will continue to monitor the study and conversation. We will update you through our newsletter or social media when appropriate.

The primary ongoing issue is canal maintenance funding and possible improvements needed along the route of the canal to Lake Apopka. JLA has been an advocate for this important issue for years and will continue to do so and will keep you updated on future developments in our upcoming newsletters. The canal was recently dry until Hurricane Milton.

## Interview with Longtime Johns Lake Resident & Former JLA Board Member Don Hickman

By Lana Larrivee

I had the great pleasure of interviewing Mr. Don Hickman at his home here on Johns Lake, accompanied by his daughter Janet and son Rick. We spoke about their time here as a family and his time as a Johns Lake Association (JLA) board member.

Don joined the board just two years after it was formed and was a member for over 40 years. He told me he was responsible for writing the newsletter mostly, which was a great way to keep everyone informed. Sometimes, the neighbors would pitch in with articles they had written, too. Don also served as President for a time, helping to guide the association.

Next, we discussed Don's experiences as a longtime Johns Lake resident. I asked Don to tell me just how he and his wife ended up living on the lake. He said that after driving around for days looking for their next home, Don and his wife found the perfect plot of land and decided they would build. They bought the lot and had their forever home built soon after. That was over 60 years ago. When I asked what drew them to the area I was not surprised at his answer, the lake! They were constantly out on the water skiing and fishing and would pull all the neighborhood kids behind the boat. As Don says their home was a revolving door of all the neighbors and his wife wanted it that way. Their son, Rick, and daughter, Janet, loved digging for arrowheads on the lakeshore and it was not uncommon for them to find these treasures right here on our beautiful lake! Since they've lived here so long, I had to ask what's something memorable they could share with me about the lake. I was thrilled to hear that each year the entire Hickman family comes to Don's home to watch the annual Christmas boat parade! They grill, cook out, and have their cowbells ready to celebrate as the boats pass by.

Needless to say, Don and his entire family truly love being "lake people" as his daughter Janet said. They've made and continue to make great memories here. I'd like to personally say "Thank you" to the Hickman family for their time and continued contributions to the neighborhood and the JLA.



Don Hickman

## Lakefront Homeowner Responsibilities

*By Rick Stuebing*

In order to preserve the water quality of Johns Lake we need to be responsible. Homeowners should feel a responsibility to the environment to do their part to keep the lake as pristine as possible. There are really only a few precautions and actions needed to accomplish this:

### Do's

**Reduce Chemicals** - Minimize herbicide, pesticide and fertilizer use. Never apply these chemicals before heavy rains. Spread mulch to prevent weeds and erosion. Identify pests before spraying and use the least-toxic pesticide available. Follow label directions for all pesticide, herbicides, and fertilizers.

**Manage Yard Waste** - Never blow lawn clippings into streets, lakes, or storm drains. Use leaves and pine needles as mulch. Compost yard waste and kitchen scraps. Pick up trash, litter and pet waste.

**Conserve Water** - Plant native or Florida-friendly plants. Turn off irrigation systems during the rainy season (June 1 - Sept. 30) or make sure your rain gauge is working properly. Install a moisture sensor on old irrigation systems, or make sure your sensors are working correctly. Direct sprinkler heads toward the landscape, away from pavement. Inspect sprinkler heads often and repair when needed.

**Obtain Permits** - If you plan to change anything on your lakefront like removing or planting vegetation or changing some aspect of the berm or swale, permitting will ensure it's done properly and within guidelines. It only requires filling out a form and paying a small fee and it is the proper way to conserve our water quality.

### Don'ts

**Modify a Berm or Swale** - Lakefront homeowners should never fill in a swale and remove or relocate a berm. These features are not designed for individual properties, in nearly all cases, berms and swales are tied into adjacent properties, sometimes through whole subdivisions and for miles in some instances. Any changes made to them can negatively affect other berms and pollute the lake. Also, modifying the berm can start the process of erosion which will eventually make the berm ineffective.

**Dump Chemicals in Berm or Swale** - Do not dump anything hazardous into the vicinity of the berm system since this defeats its purpose. Automotive fluids, petroleum products and even drainage from a swimming pool are harmful. You should drain swimming pools slowly, on your land, and not into the berm and swale system or anywhere near the lake.

**Plant Any Unapproved Vegetation in Berm or Swale** - The lakeside of the berm is very important and presents the "filtered" side of runoff and drainage to the lake. Planting anything on that side of the berm that requires fertilizer or pesticide should be avoided and completely defeats the purpose of the berm and swale feature.

**Never Place Anything in the Swale** - Do not put yard waste trash, clippings or leaves in the swale. This impedes storm water runoff and increases the amount of pollutants that would flow into the lake.

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

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