



JOHNS LAKE ASSOCIATION NEWS LETTER

Nov 2025

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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| | |
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Message from the President

The 24th annual holiday boat parade will take place on December 13. We will start at 6:15 PM on the far west side of the lake.

Johns Lake is currently at a decent level. It is at roughly 96 feet (NAVD88) which is about 15.6 inches below the normal high-water mark so we should be able to handle large amounts of rain in case we get a hurricane this month. The official hurricane season ends on November 30. Additionally, we probably have enough water to get us through the Winter drought season.

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) recently added 800 hydrilla eating carp to Johns Lake which is great news! Hydrilla will always be a problem for Johns Lake. Although it is bad in some parts of the lake there is much less of it now than normal. We currently have a lot of Eel Grass and Eurasian Watermilfoil.

Although our lake is very healthy, let's continue to be careful when fertilizing our yards and don't remove the non-invasive plants on your waterfront. These plants provide natural filtration for the lake.

I would like to thank Elisabetta Garcia for serving as a board member for several years. She recently left the Board for family reasons. If anybody wishes to join the JLA Board, please send me an email and say why you would like to be on the Board.

If your neighbors are not on our email distribution list, please have them go to our website www.johnslakeflorida.com and sign-up.

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

Rick Stuebing
President, Johns Lake Association

Johns Lake Holiday Boat Parade – Saturday, December 13

By Karen Quill

This year is the 24th Annual Johns Lake Boat Parade and with each passing year, boaters and residents alike look forward to this very special holiday event. To help with your holiday planning, for all future years the boat parade will be held on the second Saturday of December.

Thanks to our sponsors this year, we have some BIG PRIZES to award in two categories: 1st place winner (best decorated boat) wins \$500! The 2nd place winner (boat with most holiday spirit) will win \$300!

To participate in the prize awards, you must register for the parade. **There is no cost to register!** The registration process is simply a way to identify and contact the winners after the parade to award their prize. If you don't want to register, that's OK! It is only if you'd like to participate in the prizes that registration is required. All boats (registered or not) are welcome and encouraged to be in the parade!



So “let’s go” all you creative boaters! Decorate your boat, grab some friends and family for the ride, and be in place for line-up no later than 6:00pm. Throughout the years, the residents have shown 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.

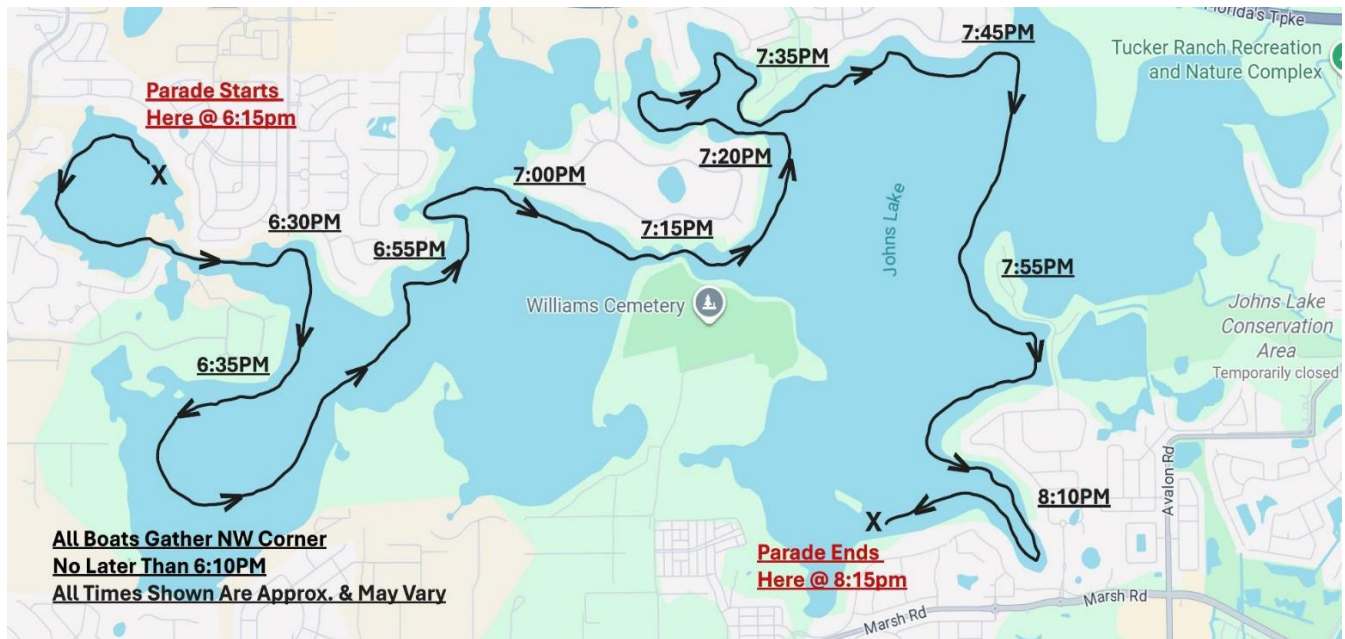
For Parade Participants:

All boats should gather NO LATER than 6:00pm at the West end of Johns Lake near Johns Lake Landing which near Hartle Road and Good Hearth Boulevard. **THIS IS NOT 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 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!



We’d like to thank our sponsors for this event! These are local business owners who are BIG supporters of our mission of keeping Johns Lake clean and healthy! We encourage you to patronize and support these great businesses that reside right here in our own community!

Carr Flooring America: www.carsflooringamerica.com

Central Florida Boat Lift & Repair: www.centralfloridaboatlift.com

Flame Boss: www.flameboss.com

Orlando Trim Light - Get Lit Productions: www.getlitproductions.com

McKinnon Groves (no website)

The Larrivee Real Estate Group: www.LanaLarrivee.com

Veterans Marine Repair: www.veteransmarinerepair.com

Yellow Dog Eats: www.yellowdogeats.com



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Healthy Lakes Need Living Shorelines

Everyone has a different opinion about what their shoreline should look like. Both the Counties and FWC have guidelines and rules to try and help with consistency. It's critically important for our beautiful lake that we do everything we can to protect it. This year we had the first algae bloom alert in recent memory on part of the lake. Other Florida Lakes have had warnings and restrictions for boating, swimming and fishing due to these potential toxic algae outbreaks. Keeping nutrients and pollution out of the lake is a must. Educating yourself about the impacts is key.

Living Lakeshores

Shoreline vegetation is essential for the health and vitality of lake systems. It acts as a natural filter for sediments and nutrients from stormwater runoff and recirculated lake water, helping maintain water quality. Shoreline plants also stabilize soil, can prevent erosion, and provide critical habitat for fish and wildlife, offering scenic and recreational value for lakeshore residents. To maintain these benefits, it's important to avoid extensive clearing of shoreline vegetation. Before starting any shoreline projects, be sure to check if a County Lakeshore Protection (LSP) permit is needed to safeguard the lake's environment.

UNDERSTANDING ORANGE COUNTY'S LAKESHORE PROTECTION (LSP) PERMIT

Lakefront homeowners can keep a vegetation-free access corridor of 30 feet or 20 percent of total linear shoreline, whichever is greater, without a permit from Orange County. The access corridor must be located below the Normal High-Water Elevation (NHWE) and does not include shoreline wetlands located above the NHWE. For Johns Lake the NHWE is 97.3 ft.

- An LSP permit is required to remove vegetation outside of the access corridor.
- Boat docks must be located within the access corridor.
- The LSP permit only authorizes removal of nuisance and exotic vegetation; however, replanting of beneficial native species is required to meet 80 percent areal coverage of native vegetation.
- Native trees cannot be removed from the shoreline.
- Irrigation controls like berms, slopes away from the lake, vegetation barriers and other methods should be properly maintained.

DO'S & DON'T'S:

DO'S

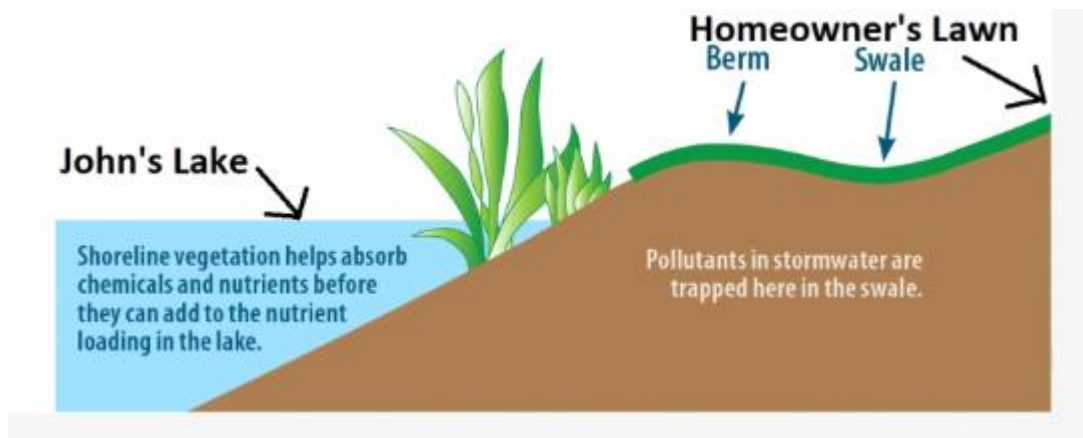
- Do obtain a permit for clearing shoreline vegetation.
- Do submit your application to WetlandPermitting@ocfl.net
- Do complete the [No Objection Form](#).
- Do review all general and special conditions listed in the permit.
- Do plant/replace your shoreline with native vegetation.
- Do learn the difference between good vegetation and invasive species
- Do plant at least three (3) different species, or five (5) if located on an Outstanding Florida Water.
- Do review your permit thoroughly and communicate the regulations with your contractor.

DON'T'S

- Don't clear your shoreline vegetation without reviewing [Chapter 15 Article VII County Code and completing the LSP permit application](#).
- Don't remove native vegetation at any time.
- Don't use heavy equipment or machinery if permitted work is located within a Conservation Easement.
- Don't hesitate to call Orange County EPD at 407-836-1402 for shoreline clearance inquiries.

Failure to adhere to [Chapter 15 - Article VII - Lakeshore Protection](#) by obtaining the required permit for clearing lakeshore vegetation may result in significant penalties. The property owner and contractor are responsible for addressing any consequences that may arise from non-compliance.

Lake County has a similar program as part of the Lake County Water Atlas Healthy Shorelines Program. They have links and QR codes for all types of vegetation and helpful tips. You can join the team, attend workshops, apply to submit your shoreline for support and assistance. The contact person for Lake County is Luke Vallentine at 352-253-4950.



For more Lake County information got to this link - [Healthy Shorelines Program - Lake.WaterAtlas.org](#)

For more Orange County Information go to this link - [Healthy Lakes Need Living Lakeshores](#)

Invasive Apple Snails

By Rick Stuebing

Nonnative apple snails came to Florida in the 1980s as a popular aquarium trend but have since been released into the wild by hobbyists and have become a rising threat to wetlands in the Sunshine State.

The available research on the giant freshwater apple snail species tells us they originated in South America and are known to rapidly alter the ecological makeup of wetlands when introduced to non-native areas in other parts of the world.

Florida has one native type of apple snail and three nonnative species, all of which can easily overpopulate areas by outcompeting native species. They destroy aquatic vegetation, damage agriculture and adjacent communities, and can impact human health.

The pink eggs of invasive apple snails contain a neurotoxin that can cause skin and eye irritation and should not be touched. To control the population, the eggs should be destroyed by using a stick to knock them into the water to prevent them from hatching. Avoid consuming the snails themselves, even cooked, as they can carry the rat lungworm parasite, which can cause a severe form of meningitis if raw or undercooked.



Apple snail with eggs

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](#)