



JOHNS LAKE ASSOCIATION NEWS LETTER

May 2026

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 affecting the lake.

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Message from the President

We had another great Holiday Boat parade last year and the weather was perfect. Please see our plans for next year in this newsletter.

In this issue, we have a feature article on our own Jana Shelfer, a World Champion Adaptive water-skiing champion.

Johns Lake is currently at a good level. It is at roughly 94 feet (NAVD88) which is about 16 inches below the normal high-water mark so we should be able to handle large amounts of rain this Summer. The official hurricane season begins on June 1.

The hydrilla is less of a problem then in the past thanks to the carp that the FWC added in the past. Eel grass is currently a larger problem, but it is not considered an invasive species like hydrilla, so the FWC will not treat it. The Eel grass is close to the surface and gets tangled in boat propellers. Once the lake level goes up this will become less of a problem.

The lake water clarity is not currently as good as it was due to pollen. Once the pollen ends and it starts raining the water clarity will be excellent once again.

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 welcome Chris Taylor to the board. He has a strong business background and will offer a lot of great creative ideas.

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

From Johns Lake to World Gold: The Power of Going All-In

By Jason Shelfer

Living on Johns Lake isn't just about the breathtaking sunrises or the glassy water at 7:00 AM; for Jana Shelfer and me, it's about the community that makes this water feel like home. We've always said that the energy of this lake is different—there's a shared respect for the water that binds us all together.

When Jana and I decided to go "All In" on her journey to the Adaptive World Championships in Australia, we knew we had to go BIG. We traded "playing it safe" for pure momentum, and the results were more than we ever dreamed. Representing Team USA (and our little corner of Winter Garden) Jana didn't just compete; she CRUSHED it.

She came home with four Gold medals (including a New World Record in Tricks!) and Silver in Jump. I look at those medals every day, not as trophies, but as reminders of what's possible when you refuse to settle. It's especially wild to think that Jana—who competes as an adaptive athlete—entered her first-ever adaptive water ski competition just 13 months before the World Championship. Talk about a vertical learning curve! She came in last place in her first competition.

But here is the truth: those medals weren't won in Australia. They were won right here on Johns Lake. They were won during those early morning sessions when the mist was still sitting on the water. They were won because of the fellow boaters who saw us training, understood the focus required for an adaptive skier to push those limits, and gave us that extra bit of space or a supportive "thumbs up" as they passed. We know that a dawn practice session can be an interruption to a quiet morning, and the grace our neighbors have shown us is something we will never take for granted.

When I see those medals, I think of the boating community here that cares for each other on and off the water. Whether it's sharing advice on lake conditions or just a friendly wave from a dock, that neighborly spirit provided the "tailwind" Jana needed to reach the podium.

We've learned that when you have the courage to go all-in, the universe—and your neighbors—tend to rise up to meet you. Johns Lake isn't just where we train; it's where we've found the support to turn the "impossible" into a world record. We are so proud to call this lake home and so thankful to have you all as part of our journey.

Next time you see us out there, give us a wave. We're all in this together.

Jana Shelfer



The 2025 Holiday Boat Parade

By Karen Quill

On Saturday, December 13th, we celebrated the 24th annual Johns Lake Holiday Boat Parade. We had many boaters who did an incredible job decorating their boats and showing lots of holiday spirit as they motored around the lake playing festive music and waving to all of us on the shore. For many watching the parade, this night has become a tradition each year; to gather family and friends and “celebrate the season”!

For all the boaters who participated in the parade, **THANK YOU** for taking the time to decorate your boat and putting in the hard work that allows so many of us to enjoy the parade. We sincerely appreciate you!

The top prizes were awarded to the boaters who were super creative and showed amazing holiday spirit. The **Bjorson family** took home first place, winning a cash prize of \$500! And the **Taylor family** won second place, winning a cash prize of \$300! Congratulations to both families!

Over the last few years, we’ve seen a decline in boater participation. JLA has struggled to understand why the parade has gotten smaller when home ownership on the lake has grown significantly. We’ve tried many things to encourage more boats to participate such as better and more frequent communication via social media, road signs with parade info, cash prizes (thanks to our Sponsors), switching the parade from Sunday to Saturday, and alternating the parade route each year to allow most homeowners to have optimal viewing.

In an effort to make the boat parade better each year we are going back to a Sunday night parade. Historically, the boat parade was much larger when it was held on a Sunday evening. For example, during the last parade held on a Sunday (four years ago), we had forty-four (44) boats. We’re also going to shift the date of the parade to early December.

This year’s boat parade will be held on Sunday, December 6, 2026. If you have feedback on what we can do to help grow the parade, or other thoughts related to the lake, please don’t hesitate to comment on our Facebook page. We welcome your input. JLA has also wondered whether we need to form a “boat parade committee” and include homeowners from various parts of the lake to assist with transforming the parade into something even more special. If you have any thoughts or would like to participate in discussions about the boat parade, please visit our Facebook page using this link: [Facebook](#)



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!

Yellow Dog Eats Restaurant: yellowdogeats.com

Carr's Flooring America: carsflooringamerica.com

Central Florida Boat Lift & Repair: centralfloridaboatlift.com

McKinnon Groves (no website)

The Larrivee Real Estate Group: LanaLarrivee.com

Flame Boss: flameboss.com

Veterans Marine Repair: veteransmarinerepair.com



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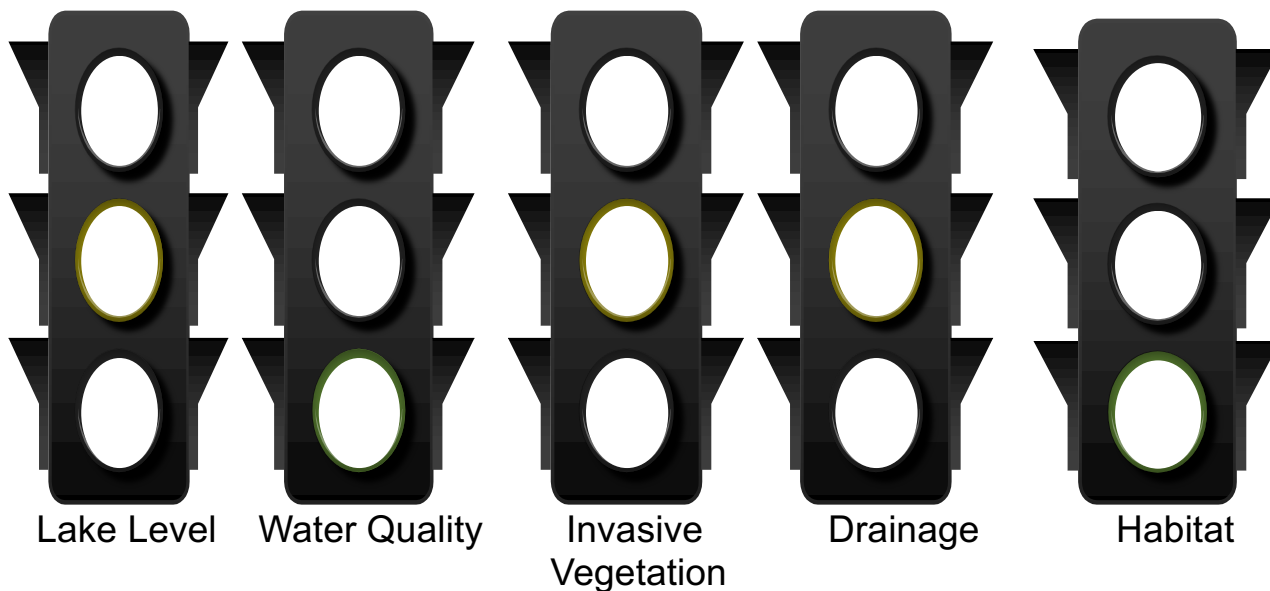
Johns Lake Quality Indicators

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 has been 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

(Improving)

The lake level is currently around roughly 94 feet (NAVD88). Significant rainfall and/or future hurricanes will most likely raise it again. It is good that the lake is currently low so there is sufficient room for the level to go up this Summer. This is a normal cycle for Johns Lake.

Water Quality

(Stable)

Water quality has been steadily improving during the past thirteen years according to the county testing. As the Citrus Groves are replaced with homes, the amount of run-off into the lake has decreased considerably which has contributed to better water quality.

Invasive Vegetation

(Improving)

Hydrilla, Cuban Bulrush and other invasive species are an ongoing concern for Johns Lake. The county will continue to treat as needed and will occasionally add additional grass-eating carp to augment their efforts. If you catch a carp, please put it back. This quality indicator is constantly changing, and a combination of weather and treatments can affect the status either way. The hydrilla issue will never go away. Although Eelgrass is not an invasive species, it is currently a problem and the county will not treat it.

Drainage

(Improving)

Johns Lake drainage (aka outfall) into Lake Apopka is an ongoing concern. The canal requires regular maintenance to keep it flowing. When we experience heavy rain and high water the canal is the only way to keep the lake from flooding. Also, we are working with the county and other Government entities to get funding for regular maintenance. The maintenance is expensive, and it takes a lot of effort to get the funding approved.

Habitat

(Stable)

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

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

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](#)