

JOHNS LAKE ASSOCIATION
NEWS LETTER

Oct 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 effecting 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 this year's parade in this newsletter.

Johns Lake is currently at an okay level for this time of the year. We will soon enter our drought period, and the lake will most likely go down. The hurricane season officially ends on November 30.

The hydrilla is less of a problem currently than in the past thanks to the carp that the FWC added. Eel grass is still an issue but there is much less now than at the time of our last newsletter. It is not considered an invasive species like hydrilla, and although it can get tangled in boat propellers, it is for the most part good for the lake. Please read Chris Taylor's article on Eel grass in this newsletter.

Also included in this newsletter is an article written by Lana Larrivee on decorating homes with outdoor lighting. Please be aware and respectful of where your lights are pointed.

The lake water clarity is currently very good. This is partially due to decreasing water temperatures. It is currently around 70 degrees.

Although our lake is very healthy, let's continue to be careful when fertilizing and adding pesticides to our yards and do not remove the non-invasive plants on your waterfront. These plants provide natural filtration for the lake. I included the letter that Orange County sent out that discusses proper shoreline maintenance.

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

The 2026 Holiday Boat Parade
Sunday, December 6, 2026, beginning at 6:15pm

By Karen Quill

This year will be the **25th Annual** Johns Lake Boat Parade and with each passing year, boaters and residents alike look forward to this very special holiday event. For several decades, the parade was held on a Sunday with strong participation. This year, in an effort to increase the size of the parade, we are going back to the "Sunday tradition' in the hope that it will encourage more boats to participate. If you've never participated, why not make our 25th anniversary your year to do it! Having been a boater myself, I can assure you, it is a ton of fun! Especially when you see (and hear) the appreciation of those who are enjoying the spectacle from the shore. So, dress up in your most festive holiday attire, play some music, and bring a BIG DOSE of holiday cheer to the parade with your family and friends!

PRIZES!
This year we are offering two prizes, thanks to our supportive sponsors!
First Place - $500 cash prize
Second Place - $300 cash prize
You'll find more information on our Facebook Page about the boat parade, and our incredible sponsors, @ JohnsLake Association.

PARADE ROUTE
We also took into consideration your desire to change the parade route more often. Last year the parade started in the west and motored eastbound. This year, the parade will begin on the east side and motor westbound. All boats should gather no later than 6:10pm on the SE corner of the lake near the Waterside Community. The parade will start promptly at 6:15pm. We would love to travel the entire shoreline but there are areas that are difficult to navigate due to vegetation as well as the challenge of keeping the parade under two hours.

PARADE PARTICIPANTS (BOATERS)
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", and be prepared to show some holiday spirit as we motor around the lake! 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.

All boats should gather NO LATER than 6:10pm in the SE corner of Johns Lake. 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!

JOHNS LAKE HOLIDAY BOAT PARADE – 2026 ROUTE MAP



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

Yellow Dog Eats

McKINNON GROVES

Carr's Flooring America
where friends send friends™

FLAME BOSS®

T | L | G
THE LARRIVEE GROUP



Last Years's Winner – The Taylor family

Holiday Lighting & Décor: Keeping the Lake Beautiful for Everyone

By Lana Larrivee

The holiday season is a wonderful time to add a little extra sparkle to our homes—and here on Johns Lake, our waterfront decorations can be enjoyed by neighbors all around the lake. Because our homes and yards are visible from multiple properties and across the water, a little thoughtfulness can go a long way toward making sure everyone can enjoy the holiday spirit.

Be mindful of brightness and placement. Beautiful displays don't have to be overwhelming. When possible, consider directing bright lights toward your home rather than across the water or toward neighboring homes. This is especially helpful for waterfront properties where lights can reflect significantly off the lake.

Use timers whenever possible. Timers are an easy way to keep displays consistent and avoid accidentally leaving lights on all night. They can also help reduce unnecessary energy use while still allowing neighbors to enjoy your decorations during the evening hours.

Think about your neighbors. A display that looks beautiful from your yard may have a very different effect when viewed from across the lake, particularly from a bedroom or living room window. Before installing a particularly bright or extensive display please consider the view from adjoining neighbors & homeowners across the water.

Most importantly, let's enjoy the season and the creativity that makes Johns Lake such a special place to live. A little consideration for our neighbors can help ensure that the holiday lights around the lake add to the festive atmosphere for everyone.

Orange County Letter

Orange County sent out the following letter to the Johns Lake residents in Orange County. They did a great job of describing proper care of your Johns Lake shoreline.

ORANGE COUNTY FLORIDA

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September 3, 2026

EDUCATIONAL LETTER

SENT VIA REGULAR MAIL:

[redacted]

RE: Educational Letter – Orange County Natural Resource Protection on Johns Lake
Orange County Commission District: 1

Dear Property Owner:

You are receiving this letter because you reside within Orange County and have Johns Lake shoreline within your property boundary.

Healthy shorelines play a critical role in maintaining water quality, preventing erosion, and supporting wildlife. Shoreline vegetation acts as a natural filter for sediments and nutrients washed from stormwater runoff, helping to maintain lake water quality. The removal of native vegetation and the addition of sand to create artificial beaches can disrupt these natural functions and degrade habitat, contributing to far reaching ecological harm.

Although Johns Lake is no longer on the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) Impaired Waterbody List for mercury, it is on FDEP's study list for Biology which includes submerged and emergent vegetation. Therefore, the waterbody is more sensitive to the negative impacts of shoreline clearing and sand beach creation. For additional information about the health of Johns Lake, please visit: https://orange.wateratlas.usf.edu/upload/documents/Lake-Fact-Sheet_Johns.pdf.

Please note that the County's environmental codes may be more stringent than other local or State of Florida regulations, like those of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) as related to shoreline clearing and lake access. While a permit may not be required or regulatory standards may be met through a permit from another agency, the property owner must adhere to the more restrictive code for all agencies, including federal, state and local levels.

We urge property owners to take the necessary steps to restore and protect the natural integrity of the Johns Lake shoreline. Please note that other types of shoreline impacts, such as seawalls or vegetation removal, require permits from Orange County under the following Codes:

Educational Letter – Orange County Natural Resource Protection on Johns Lake
Orange County Commission District: 1

Wetland or Shoreline Impacts: Orange County Code Chapter 15, Article X, Section 15-376 states in part that: *"No person shall conduct any activities within or immediately adjacent to any wetland or surface water that would adversely affect any wetland, surface water, or their functions without first obtaining a permit"*

Seawall Construction: Orange County Code Chapter 15, Article VI, Section 15-218 states in part that: *"It shall be unlawful for any person, firm, partnership or corporation to do any dredging, pumping of sand, extension of lands, construction or extension of islands, creating canals, basins, inlets or bays, filling or creating obstructions in, on, or under any of the waters of the county...(a) Any person, firm, partnership or corporation desiring to perform or cause to be performed any of the activities listed in this section, shall apply to the county for a permit in order to lawfully perform the desired activity.."*

Lakeshore Clearing: Orange County Code Chapter 15, Article VII, Section 15-254 states in part that: *"All those persons desiring to perform or cause to be performed any clearance of shoreline vegetation shall be required to obtain a permit..."*

Regarding lakeshore clearing, Orange County does have an exemption that allows clearing of vegetation within what is called the "access corridor." This exemption allows a lakefront homeowner to clear vegetation across 30 feet or 20% of their shoreline, whichever is greater, without a permit. However, the access corridor must include the boat dock on the property and vegetation can only be cleared from the Normal High-Water Elevation (NHWE) waterward. Any clearing outside of the designated "access corridor" would require a Lakeshore Protection Permit issued by EPD. Please note that there is no allowed access corridor in a shoreline wetland above the NHWE or within a conservation easement.

For additional information about Orange County lakeshore regulations please visit: https://www.orangecountyfl.net/Environment/HealthyLakesNeedLivingLakeshores.aspx.

If you are considering any shoreline modifications, EPD strongly encourages you to review applicable regulations and obtain necessary permits before proceeding. For guidance on permitted activities visit the link above or contact EPD by either emailing WetlandPermitting@ocfl.net or calling (407) 836-1402.

Eel Grass

By Chris Taylor

Over the past two summers, we've seen a noticeable increase in floating eelgrass collecting along shorelines throughout Johns Lake. While some of this is natural, much of it appears to be the result of shoreline vegetation being cut and left floating. Eel Grass is non-invasive and is good for the lake. If you maintain the aquatic vegetation along your waterfront—or hire someone to do it, please make sure the cut vegetation is collected and removed from the lake, not left to drift and eventually rot.

Why does it matter?

Wind and currents carry floating eelgrass to other properties, leaving neighbors with an unexpected cleanup job. As it decomposes, large mats of vegetation can affect water quality and add unnecessary nutrients back into the lake. Healthy native aquatic vegetation provides important habitat for fish and wildlife, so responsible management benefits everyone who enjoys Johns Lake.

Did you know?

Florida regulations allow waterfront owners to manually clear non-woody vegetation and shrubs along 50 feet or 50% of your shoreline (whichever is less) without a permit. Any use of chemicals as well as larger aquatic vegetation projects require approval from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC).

Whether you do the work yourself or hire a contractor, responsible cleanup is an important part of the job. Johns Lake is one of the reasons we all love living here. A few extra minutes spent removing cut vegetation helps protect our lake, respect your neighbors, and keeps our shoreline beautiful for everyone. Thank you for doing your part to keep Johns Lake clean and healthy!

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