

# PRAIRIE LAKE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Spring 2021 Newsletter

Prairie Lake Improvement Association's priorities support responsible lake use, water quality and shoreland management.



**JOIN the Prairie Lake Improvement Association!**

**Thanks to 81 of 181 owners that joined in 2020!**

Make \$20 checks payable to "Prairie Lake Improvement Association" and send to your Treasurer:

Mike Bottila  
1947 W Chub Lake Road  
Carlton, Mn. 55718

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone\* \_\_\_\_\_ Email\* \_\_\_\_\_

\*Please list if you want this information included in the Prairie Lake Directory, which is mailed out to the address we have on file.

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*We hope that Spring finds you safe and healthy*

**Winter 2020-21:**

Overall it looked like the lake was quite useful to many of you. Good crappie fishing was had. There were a few "villages" that formed again this year as the ice was in good shape to get around. I am sure all of you enjoyed the camaraderie that comes with those "villages"!!!

**LAKE CLARITY:** As measured with a Secchi disk, clarity during June and July measured a quite normal 5 to 5 1/2 feet. In August and September the clarity dropped to 3 1/2 to 4 feet. The very hot weather created a very early algae bloom which noticeably impacted water clarity. The lack of rain early in the summer and the lower lake level probably was a factor as well in raising the water temperature.

**HASTY BROOK CLARITY:** As measured with a Secchi tube, over the summer clarity averaged 76 centimeters, which is considered good. However, the variation from test-to-test was much greater than normal, largely because of long periods of rain and no rain. Readings ranged from 43 to 100 centimeters. The 100 is higher by far than any previous reading and is likely due to the fact that at that time in July there was so little precipitation that there was no water flow and thus most of the sediment settled out.

**PRAIRIE RIVER CLARITY:** Since we normally see Prairie Lake retaining most of what impacts clarity, Secchi tube clarity usually reads at least 100 centimeters. That continued to be true this year most of the summer. However, we had a reading of 64 in May and 46 in mid July. Both unusually low for Prairie River and difficult to explain.

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As I write this, the ice has been out for weeks and some docks and pontoons are in. Congratulations to whomever the winner was for 1<sup>st</sup> Dock in 2021!!!!

We WILL hold a Spring Meeting at the normal date/time. Although it will not be “normal” as we will hold it outside in an open area at the Fine Lakes Township Hall. (**Memorial Weekend Sunday at 10:30am.**) Please bring your own chair and drink if you want. CDC says masks are required if not vaccinated or cannot social distance. Of course, that issue is the elephant in the room..... “Covid times” change so quickly, so keep posted to the website and Facebook for any last minute changes to the meeting, and of course the Weather of course will play a part. If it is cold, rainy, windy, “it ain't happenin”..... :)

Of course every Spring meeting brings Annual Board elections. Due to the covid situation and potentially not having a good representation of members, I ask that the current board members hold onto their positions for this year and we can get back to elections in Spring 2022. If this is an issue, please bring it up at the meeting within the “new business” portion of the meeting.

Facebook:

The Prairie Lake Improvement Association Facebook page has been updated to a Community page. This will allow users to post their own lake related questions, comments or pictures. PLIA members comments will show on the Community tab versus the Home tab. Check it out!

Prairie Lake Fishin: \*\*Obviously fishing is always a topic on the lake. Whether it be Northerns, Panfish, Walleyes or any other species people like to fish for. I have been in contact with the Mn DNR. Prairie Lake is on a list to receive a grant to help “reclaim” the fish spawning habitat upstream in Hasty Brook. Please note we are only on the list. I have received positive feedback from the DNR in Grand Rapids who handles these types of projects who will be doing research this Spring/Summer to find some areas of concern that could possibly be reclaimed. Both Humans and Fish should keep their fingers/tails crossed if they are concerned about the issue. :)

Thanks again to all who take care of the buoys, and to all who keep track and notify us when they break loose!!!

Hope to see you this Spring!!

Joe Beaupre (President)

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VISIT the Prairie Lake web site at <http://www.prairielake.org> and "Like" us on Facebook. Jill Beaupre is the site editor at [jbeaupre@ymail.com](mailto:jbeaupre@ymail.com)

\*For more information about water conservation, shoreline restoration, and any grants available for rain gardens contact the Big Sandy Area Lakes Watershed at [www.bsawmp.org](http://www.bsawmp.org)