

**Introducing Your
GFP Officer**

**1978 Big
Fish Kill**

**Lake Poinsett
Outlet Control Gates**

Lakeside

NEWSLETTER / JUNE 2022



A publication for those who love a lake.

Letter from the LPA President

The LPA newsletters are put into production a month before they're mailed. Therefore, at this writing it is unknown how the commissioners decided on the proposed campground ordinance. I hope everyone took this opportunity to voice their concerns at the Public Hearing held in the Hamlin County Courthouse, May 10th.

Annually, our LPA board members look to the community for concerned property owners willing to participate in running the Association, promoting needed change, invigorating others with ideas to make a difference. We need you! Don't think the other guy will do it. There's lots we can accomplish as a director team. Volunteer!

Listen, ask, learn!! at the Coffee Chat with an Expert event on June 11th at Alsville Crossing 8:30-9:30 AM. **Jay Gilbertson** has been my trusted go-to-professional-water quality expert. And he'll be yours too! Jay will be available to answer questions: i.e. will the river water ever be clean enough to fill the lake (that's my question), or is Poinsett dirtier or cleaner than 10 years ago. Ask away, hey, he's the expert!! Please join us at this casual Q & A - LPA event.

A Dock That Anchors Your Soul

Our docks are an extension of the cabin. Sure, a patio is an enjoyable space, but the dock is even more so. Besides being a unique gathering place for friends and family, where else can we sit under the sun or stars and do some casual fishing. Putting the "dock in" becomes an eagerly anticipated spring event, in contrast removing the dock at summer's end triggers feelings of just-glum-sadness.

The aquatic sights and sounds draw more attention from the dock. Even while quietly reading a book there, I'm distracted by the fish swimming underneath or the boats zooming by. My dock was destroyed by a storm. So, standing on the beach with none to enjoy, felt like I lost a friend.

Whether it's the old family dock you've grown up on, or the brand-new one, it becomes the dock you never want to leave. No matter what, the time wasted on the dock is time well spent. It's the waterfront experience that brings a good beginning and ending to a summer day.

By Deb Eisenbeisz

Zip to our website with the QR code!!

Lake Poinsett Association's resourceful website is always ready for you to visit. It's like a good book ready to read 24/7. Enjoy browsing around.



Join our director team

Value a healthy, clean lake?

Help us inspire others to care for it too and bring positive change. This may be the special purpose you're looking for.

**Check out LPA's website
for our mission & goals.**

Email us at directors@lakepoinsett.org



Lake Trivia Challenge

What was Lake Poinsett called by early-day visitors?
(Answer on Back Cover)

Lakeside

Editorial Team

Heather Baymiller
Deb Eisenbeisz

Printing

Borns Group
Watertown

Cover Photo By:

Leslee Lee, South Point Dr., of her grandchildren, Hank and Walt, who love coming for a visit at Lake Poinsett.



CONTACT US

Comments & Concerns
directors@lakepoinsett.org

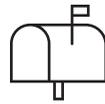
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Lake Norden, SD 57248

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LPA MAILBOX

Is there a lake-related question you'd like an answer to? Email your question to directors@lakepoinsett.org and we'll investigate it.

Are carp good for our lake?

Common carp were introduced to the U.S. in the mid-1800 as a food fish for people. They are considered a rough fish, meaning they have thick scales and skin, and a lot of bones. They can reach 40 to 50 pounds.

People who enjoy eating carp say, it's a tremendous fish, with an abundance of healthy Omega-3 fatty acids. Carp have lower levels of toxins, like mercury, that accumulate in species that eat higher on the food chain. As with all fish, where it is caught, and how it is handled and prepared is a big factor in taste and flavor.

On a downside Common Carp are bottom feeders, uproot plants and cloud the water by stirring the bottom sediment. Cloudy water doesn't grow lake plants very well and the stirred-up sediment contains phosphorus, which contributes to algae blooms.

SDGF&P monitors our lake's fishery. According to Mark Ermer, SDGF&P Northeast Area Fisheries Supervisor, "The carp population in Lake Poinsett is not to the point of negatively impacting game fish." He also mentioned how scientists are researching an eradication technique that involves genetically modifying European carp so they can only have male offspring. The introduction of daughterless carp into a population will lead to an all-male carp population, and the species will eventually die out. This method is being explored for the control of invasive carp populations in Australia.



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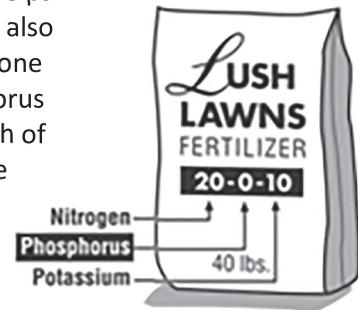
PO Box 623 Brookings, SD 57006 (605) 695-9560

Be Lake Smart - JUNE TIPS

There are preventable actions lake homeowners and visitors can do. Be in the know, read below.

Limit fertilizer use on Lawns and fields.

Fertilizer on land helps things grow, but it also grows algae. Just one pound of phosphorus can fuel the growth of 500 pounds of lake weeds and algae. Limiting fertilizer use on your yard, garden or field



directly helps the lake's water quality.

Prevent Soil Loss into the Lake

Phosphorous binds with soil. New lawns, gardens, and construction dirt piles can lose soil. Rain events will wash soil into the lake. Create barriers to stop sediment from runoff.

Do Not Clean Items In or Near the Lake.

Pets, People, Boats, Lawn Furniture, and anything you chose to wash should be cleaned where the water can't run into the lake. Keep soap and chemicals out of the water.



Lake-Wide Rummage Sales

On Poinsett & Albert

June 17 & 18

June is rummage sale season at Lake Poinsett and Lake Albert. If you're not selling something, then drive around the lakes and find a great bargain.

Print off a Lake Poinsett Map from our LPA Website under the Events Tab. Use it to steer around dead ends, locate Lake Drives, and house numbers.

Senior Care for Summer Getaways

Need support to make family lake time easier? Interim HealthCare® offers personal care and support for aging parents and family so you can enjoy your time together. Our aides can assist with bathing, dressing, meals and more—so you don't have to worry and everyone can relax. Since 1966, Interim HealthCare has been helping seniors find the care they need to embrace life. Plan your summer getaway and call us for support!

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Interview

Introducing Your GFP Officer

By Heather Baymiller

Logan Hammer is our local Game Fish & Parks (GFP) officer serving the Lake Poinsett area since August 2021. A South Dakota native, Logan grew up in Wilmot, SD. After receiving his Wildlife and Fishery degree from SDSU in 2019, he trained to become a GF&P officer. Lake Poinsett area is his first official post.

Logan's focus is clear: he supports enforcement of the area's wildlife, game, fishing, and boat laws. In summer months, GF&P also focuses on performing boat safety checks on the local lakes. Boat safety requirements include a life jacket for each boat passenger, a throwable device, and a working fire extinguisher (not expired).

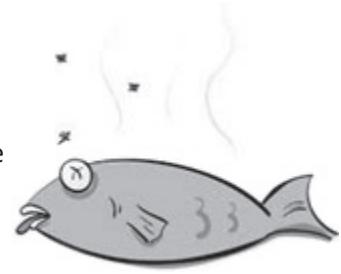
Year round, Logan cares for local hunting and fishing by hosting Hunt Safe Programs and various fishing events promoting safe practices. He also performs wildlife surveys and helps the state determine local hunting license numbers, based on the population of wildlife.

Logan is looking forward to his first summer supporting Lake Poinsett and the surrounding area. He can be contacted at Logan.Hammer@state.sd.us. Welcome to the Lake, Logan!



Reporting a Large Fish Kill

If you see a fish kill — a localized, mass die-off of fish — report it to our Conservation Officer: Logan Hammer (605) 881-0018. Be sure to note the location of the event, details about the weather, the types of fish that were affected, as well as anything unusual about the scene such as an odd smell or a sheen or algae bloom on the water.



Do not clean up or try to collect the accumulated dead fish as they may carry bacteria or toxins. Once a fish kill is reported and if appropriate, a trained biologist will collect samples to diagnose the cause of mortality. Do your part to protect our waters by reporting fish kill events.

WF

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Coffee Chat
with an **EXPERT**



Jay Gilbertson
East Dakota Water Development District
Saturday, June 11th
8:30 AM - 9:30 AM
At Alsville Crossing on HWY 81

Grab a complimentary coffee and pastry.
It's your Q & A hour with a
lake and river water quality expert!

**"The worst thing we can do is pretend
our lakes will take care of themselves."**

Hosted by Lake Poinsett Association

Please support your LPA Events.
We'd love to see you.

WALK FOR HEALTHY
LAKE AWARENESS

**5K LAKE
WALK**

Sat. July 16th, 2022 @ 9am
Park at Prestrude's Lake Access

*Join us on the east side of Poinsett. Walk in support of a
clean, healthy lake and enjoy its beautiful views. What a
great way to spend a summer morning!"*

Sponsored by Lake Poinsett Association
For more information visit our website: www.lakepoinsett.org/
Or email: directors@lakepoinsett.org



1978 Big Fish Kill

The residents around Lake Poinsett experienced a massive winter fish kill in 1978. Buffalo Fish and Common Carp were the primary fish to die from low oxygen levels due to the heavy snow cover over the lake. The Lake Poinsett Association known then as Lake Poinsett Area Development Association (LPADA) was instrumental in organizing the groups assisting with the clean-up. Donald G. Nelson, LPADA's President wrote the South Dakota Governor Richard Kneip stating the possibility of millions of pounds of dead fish could create possible health and environmental problems and requested the aid of the National Guard in clean up.

GFP and National Guard units did come and provided the heavy equipment and manpower, joined by scores of volunteers to move dead fish from lake to pits. 14 disposal pits were dug, most were 12-15 feet deep with the deepest one at 25 feet. What hit every worker and volunteer at the site was the nearly overwhelming odor of rotting fish. Once people saw the disposal pits the magnitude of the fish kill "slaps you in the face!" as stated by an onlooker.



More "Fish Kill 1978" photos and reports
can be found on [LPA's website](http://www.lakepoinsett.org/)

<https://www.lakepoinsett.org/library>

Click Programs Tab, then LIBRARY from drop down menu,
finally click [Magazine and News Coverage](#).

Lake Poinsett

Outlet Control Gates

Lake Poinsett's single natural outlet channels water under the HWY 28 bridge (northeast section of the lake) and under the 459th Avenue bridge, then opens into a three-mile-long tributary to the Big Sioux River.

After flooding in 1986, the natural outlet of Lake Poinsett was modified to include a control structure preventing the backflow of high waters from the Big Sioux River into the lake. The structure was completed in 1989 and constructed to an elevation of 1,650.5 feet above mean sea level (fmsl), that's one foot below the ordinary high-water mark of 1,651.5 fmsl.

These outlet gates beneficially affect the lake's water quality. The river holds pollutants and high nutrient levels that could harm recreational activities enjoyed by all and reverse the collaborative environmental efforts by many organizations. The Sioux City Journal (May 7, 2012) reported that the advocacy group, Environment America, ranked the Big Sioux River as the nation's 13th dirtiest river.

The Lake Poinsett Water Project District (LPWPD) also known as the "Water Board" manages these control gates. A permit administered by the SD WATER MANAGEMENT BOARD (affiliated with DANR with all 7 members appointed by the governor) authorizes the local Water Board to maintain the strict, black and white regulations: Gates closed if the Big Sioux is higher than lake. Gates open when the lake is higher.

Contact the SD WATER MANAGEMENT BOARD in Pierre about regulations.



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LPA EVENTS 2022

June 11th Coffee Chat with an Expert: *Jay Gilbertson*
8:30 AM – 9:30 AM at Alsville Crossing
17-18th Lake Wide Rummage Sales
Week of 20th Lake Wide Garbage Cleanup,

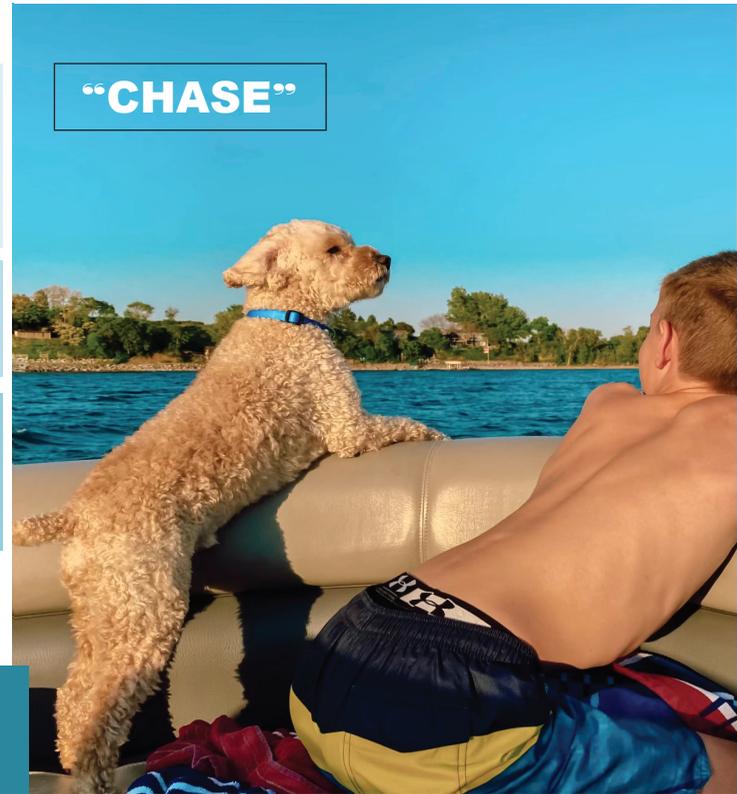
July 16th Healthy Lake 5K Walk,
Meet at Prestrude's Public Lake Access - 9AM
July is Lakes Appreciation Month

Aug. 6th Annual Meeting @ ABR 9AM- 10AM

Sept. 10th Beach Trash Bash
9 AM – 10 AM, Meet at Prestrude Public Lake Access.

**Support your lake association events,
bring friends and family.**

**Owners: Chad and Julia Focht, North Lake Drive.
Chase, a Doodle, loves greeting neighbors, digging up
rocks on the beach, and boating with his family. Woof!**



Lake Trivia Answer: Lake of the Prickly Pears, due to the profuse cactus covering its shores.

DISCLAIMER: The LPA's newsletter is provided by dedicated volunteers as a service to our readers. Information is compiled from many sources and assumes no responsibility or liability for errors or omissions. While we work to provide the most correct and timely information, there are no guarantees of completeness or accuracy.

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