



# SYBIL LAKE NEWSLETTER

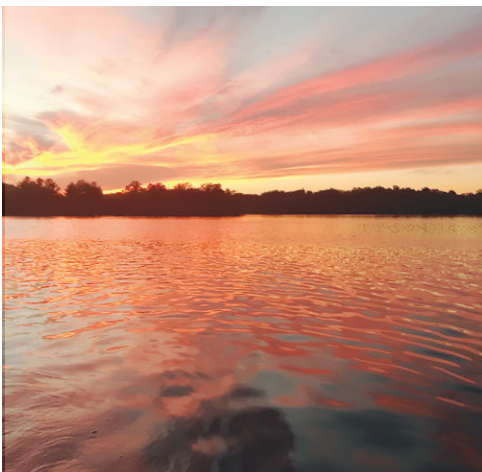
Spring 2023 Issue

November to April was a long stretch, the persistent cold and snow made it seem longer than five months. But here we are, the first week of May and the loons are back, trees are budding and the fishing opener is a few days away. Ice went off Sybil in the overnight hours this past Friday, May, 5th. We'll soon be headlong into long summer days and all that brings. Whether your perfect Sybil summer day means fishing, wake-surfing, paddle-boarding, canoeing, biking, grilling, or relaxing with a cold beverage, it will be here before you know it!

## LAKE ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

Thanks to all that attended the lake association annual meeting last year, we had terrific attendance, discussion and fellowship. The 2023 lake association annual meeting will be **June 10, 11:00 am at the Vergas Community Center.**

It's a great time to connect with lake neighbors, get caught up on all things Sybil, enjoy some coffee and Sandy's Donuts, and work together to keep Sybil the wonderful lake we all love and enjoy.



## LAKE PICNIC AUGUST 2023

Back after a one year hiatus, the annual Sybil Lake Picnic! Music, great food, cornhole, cold beer, and all your Sybil Lake friends. What's not to love? Bring whoever happens to be at the cabin that day, a guaranteed great time. Keep an eye out for a message once the date is finalized.

## ROD AND GUN CLUB DONATION

This spring the Sybil Lake Rod and Gun Club made a generous \$6000 donation to the Sybil Lake Association, thank you! Funding for fish stocking, costs associated with water testing and shoreland stewardship programs, dealing with nuisance beavers, the annual Sybil Lake picnic are just a few of the ways association funds are used. If you know anyone that's part of the Rod and Gun Club, thank them for partnering with us!

## HEART OF LAKES TRAIL

Did you know that there is a new 32 mile multi-use biking/jogging/walking trail that connects Perham to Pelican Rapids via numerous lake areas, the Otter Tail Scenic Byway and Maplewood State Park? There is a trailhead providing easy access to the trail from Sybil Lake just a few miles south of Sybil on County Highway 35. Jump on your bike or lace up your walking shoes and enjoy another great opportunity to get out into lakes country!



## 4TH OF JULY BOAT PARADE

Decorate your boat, pontoon, PWC, kayak and get ready for the 4th of July boat parade! We'll start at **12:00 pm at the point at Bylanders.** Gather whoever is at your place and take part in the parade or enjoy from shore!

## OTC COLA

The Sybil Lake Association is a long time member of the Otter Tail County Coalition of Lake Associations. OTC COLA is organized and exists to "facilitate cooperation among member lake and river associations and to assist in fostering wise use of the lake and river areas in Otter Tail County." Just a few of the issues OTC COLA is involved with: water quality testing (20 years worth of valuable data), shoreland stewardship, aquatic invasive species detection and remediation, "We Love Our Lakes" program, conduit to state and private resources to help keep our lakes and rivers clean and free from pollutants and aquatic invasive species. By joining together with other Otter Tail lake associations we have access to information and resources to protect and preserve Sybil. The responsibility for caring for lakes and preserving them for future generations is primarily borne by lakeshore property owners. Lake property owner **engagement, organization, and data** are the most important components of a successful lake stewardship effort. OTC COLA lake property owner meetings are scheduled for the third Thursdays of **May (18<sup>th</sup>)**, **June (15<sup>th</sup>)**, **July (20<sup>th</sup>)**, and **August (17<sup>th</sup>)**. A bus tour of shoreland restoration sites and rain gardens is planned for September, details coming. All OTC COLA meetings are at the **Otter Tail Community Center at 7:00 pm.**



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## OPEN WATER RECREATION WHAT A PRIVILEGE

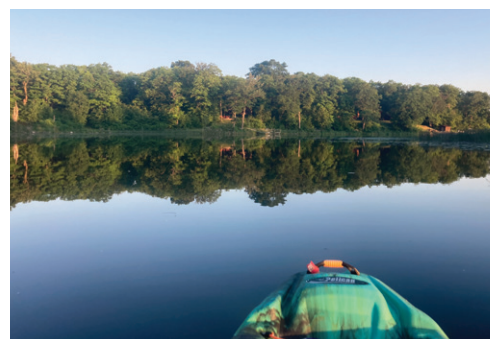
Oh my it's 30 degrees and snowing and it is April 16th. I am at my desk here thinking about SAND BEACH throwing a rubber foot ball around with my grandkids and having a cold one on the old aluminum chair in the water. Well hopefully sooner than later. Most of us who enjoy the lake have some type of water craft to suit their fancy. Pontoons have really become popular and a slow cruise around the lake on ones arrival on Friday is certainly a great tradition to kick off the weekend. Jet skis, sail boats, fishing, boats paddle boards, wake boats, and others all share the water. It seems to me that conflict on our lake is rare, thanks to the good common sense of my fellow residence on the lake. If you are on a paddle board or fishing in a boat no one enjoys being bounced around by waves. Try to stay at some reasonable distance from the folks if you are pulling the kids on a tube or wake boating. There is the issue of large waves contributing to shore erosion or messing up a loon nest. When it comes to wake boats, well, that ship has left the port so to speak. What I have observed is that the boaters with wake boats have been very responsible in their use of sport. One place where it is not a good idea to create a big wake is on Little Sybil. Prop wash can easily reach the bottom in shallow water and disrupt bottom sediments which will release tied up nutrients back into the water column enhancing algal growth. Dislodging rooted vegetation also likely. I am looking forward to a great summer and really enjoy seeing all sorts of water recreation and my fellow lake lovers enjoying themselves. Have a great summer!

*Kit Nelson*

## SUMMER KILL

Why were there so many dead fish last summer? The vast majority of the fish were tullibees and the most likely reason for their demise was water temperature that was too warm. Tullibees are very sensitive to temperature fluctuations. 54 degrees is their comfort zone, but 76 degrees is lethal. Sybil Lake is a clean deep lake that has been a good environment for them to have a historically healthy population. When the cool deep water gets depleted of dissolved oxygen the only option is shallower water that may be too warm for them to survive. One reason is that there could have been excessive algae in the lake that caused the deep water to run low on oxygen. I do recall seeing a large algae bloom very early in the season last year. Hopefully this was just a rare occurrence and not a trend. What all lakeshore owners can do to help is to limit fertilizer use that can runoff into the lake.

*John Einhorn*



## BOATERS HELPING BOATERS

Anyone who owns a boat knows that it's not a matter of if you will have a breakdown, but when. And for some reason breakdowns seem to happen when you're in the middle or the far end of the lake. A good friend once told me the two best days of a boat owner's life are the day they buy a boat and the day they sell it. I don't know if I totally agree with him, but when I'm sitting "dead in the water" his words cross my mind. Especially when I know I'm probably looking at a costly repair. Luckily, we live on a lake with friendly and helpful neighbors who are willing to tow us back to our dock or the public landing when our boats fail us. Years ago when I was learning how to windsurf, the next door neighbor would sit on his dock and watch me sail downwind. He knew there was little chance a windsurf newbie would figure out how to navigate against the wind and make it safely home. He was right. I did not know what I was doing. Eventually I got tired, gave up, and sat on the board and waved my arms, hoping he would see my distress signal. I would soon see him lower his boat and come to my rescue. This happened many times before I learned how to navigate upwind and downwind. I've also had to be rescued on my sailboat. One time it was because of a hardware issue and another time because mother nature decided to stop blowing when I got to the far end of the lake between Bylanders and the public access. My watchful neighbor would have noticed the calm lake and would have come to my aid, but he moved to another state. I must have sat for about half an hour before a Sybil Lake resident, enjoying the peaceful lake, noticed my predicament and was kind enough to offer me a tow. I really appreciated his willingness to help. We had a great conversation as he slowly towed me back home. He told me of a time he needed a tow and how grateful he was that someone assisted him. Over the years, we've also had mechanical issues with our ski boat, and of course it happens at the most inopportune time and always in the middle or end of the lake. Thankfully, each time other boaters out enjoying the lake noticed the universal boater distress signal (waving the arms)

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and towed us back to our dock. It is comforting to know that Sybil Lake residents are willing to help fellow boaters. I am willing to guess that many of you have experienced similar situations. Our family has been on the lake for more than 50 years. In that time, we have assisted and have seen other people assist stranded boaters. I find that whether you're the person being helped or the person doing the helping, you feel grateful to be on a lake with friendly folks. In fact, I have never encountered an instance where someone ignored a signal for help. I trust it will always be that way. However, it's probably a good idea to let family and friends know that you're going on the water and if possible, carry a cellphone in case something unexpected does happen. But rest assured, if you do venture on the lake and you encounter a mechanical or other issue, there's no need to panic. Be patient, wave your arms, and help will arrive in short order. And as you are being towed back home use the opportunity to get to know another Sybil Lake boater. More than likely you'll discover that the person helping you has been rescued by others too. See you on the water.

*Marv Leier*



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