

**EMERGENCY  
RESPONSE**

**LAKE POINSETT'S  
NAMESAKE Part 2**

**PUBLIC RIGHTS,  
PRIVATE DOCKS**

# Lakeside

NEWSLETTER / JUNE 2023



**WORKING FOR CLEAN AND HEALTHY LAKES**

From Your LPA President: *Scott Ross*

As the days grow longer, area residents are eagerly anticipating spending more time enjoying Lake Poinsett. Your LPA team is working on new projects such as placement of (AIS) signs on the five area lakes' public landings, these signs will help educate lake users what to look for when launching or landing their watercraft.

We also provided an AIS testing device to one resident on each area of the lake so they will be able to monitor if zebra mussels do appear.

The LPA will continue to test water quality on both Lake Poinsett and Lake Albert. The state will provide the data and the information will be sent LPA so we can inform the members if levels are out of tolerance.

I hope everyone has a safe, enjoyable summer. Remember to spend as much lake time with family/friends as possible. •



WQ volunteers, Gary Hoff and Tammie Jorgensen, are checking the longitude and latitude coordinates for locating the center of Lake Albert. Following these reference points allows them to return to the same location for water sampling and depth measurements.

#### Cover Photo

After the ice melts off of Lake Poinsett, Ethan Knox brings his homemade boat up from the basement to see if it will float around Prestrude's boat landing one more year.

Ethan first built his boat in 2018 using a hot blue gun, duct tape, foam board, silicone caulk, desire and a dream. When

asked why he built it he said, "To see if I could make it float." Ethan graduated May 2023 from Watertown High School. He is the son of Gina and Scott Pantzke of Lake Poinsett, and Jackson Knox.

Ethan's future plan is to pursue a degree in Engineering at the School of Mines in Rapid City.

# 1ST ANNUAL LAKE POINSETT ASSOCIATION



## 18 HOLE GOLF TOURNAMENT

SATURDAY, AUGUST 12TH  
8AM SHOTGUN START

TEAMS OF 4  
DEADLINE TO REGISTER  
MONDAY, JULY 31

**LAKE REGION GOLF COURSE**  
45373 GOLF COURSE ROAD, ARLINGTON, SD  
605.983.5437

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:  
WALLY 605.321.5686  
JOEL 612.270.9227

REGISTRATION BEGINS 7AM  
TOURNAMENT START 8AM  
LUNCH & PRIZES FOLLOWING

Look on **LPA'S WEBSITE** for **LPA Events** and **Things to Do**. Click our lists of fun **ACTIVITIES ON & OFF THE LAKE**.

- [Best Things To Do At The Lake](#)
- [U-PICK FARMS & FARMERS' MARKETS](#)
- [Girls' Day Out](#)

# Lakeside

NEWSLETTER

## EDITORIAL TEAM

Gina Pantzke  
Candy Van Dam  
Deb Eisenbeisz

## PRINTING

Borns Group, Watertown

## COVER PHOTO

See Page 2

The Lakeside Newsletter is published May, June, and July for LPA members. Its primary purpose is to provide reliable information and help build knowledge to address challenges for our lake.

**Our mission is to  
preserve the health and beauty of  
our lake for future generations.**

## **Board of Directors**

President, Scott Ross – NE Lake  
Vice President, Mark Wolff – NE Lake  
Treasurer, Rod McGinnis – West Lake  
Gina Pantzke – E. Lake  
Deb Eisenbeisz – West Lake  
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Mark Kelsey - SE Lake  
Candy Van Dam - NW Lake  
Alan Dixon - South Lake

## **CONTACT US**

- To advertise as business sponsor
- To submit photos or articles
- For questions and concerns

**[directors@lakepoinsett.org](mailto:directors@lakepoinsett.org)**

Membership Renewals, Lake Directory,  
Address Changes  
**[membershipLPAsd@gmail.com](mailto:membershipLPAsd@gmail.com)**

## **MAIL**

Lake Poinsett Association  
PO Box 222  
Lake Norden, SD 57248

## **LPA WEBSITE**

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

## **LPA FACEBOOK**

*Like, Comment, Share, & Interact*



**Have a lake-related question you'd like an answer to?**

Email it to us at [directors@lakepoinsett.org](mailto:directors@lakepoinsett.org)

## **EMERGENCY RESPONSE**

**QUESTION:** *With all the dead ends and missing house numbers around the lake, how does that affect a quick emergency response?*

**ANSWER:**

Emergency situations can be life-threatening, and quick emergency management can make a significant difference. To ensure emergency responders can find your home easily and quickly, there are a few things you can do to help.

According to Brett Schutt, the Director of Emergency Management for Hamlin County, the most important thing you can do is to ensure your house number is marked and clearly visible from the road. It's also important to ensure that the roads leading to your home are clearly marked. This will help emergency responders locate your home as soon as possible and not waste precious time.

A second crucial step is to provide a clear address and directions when calling 911 to allow emergency responders to locate your home without unnecessary delays. You should provide the address and any identifying information such as house color, landmarks, or nearby intersections to clarify location and routes. (Rest assured - if you are providing further detailed information, dispatch has already begun the process of notifying the appropriate agencies or departments to your location and any additional information is NOT delaying dispatch.)

- House numbers can be purchased from local businesses or online. When selecting a design, make sure the numbers are large enough to easily be seen and have good contrast from the house color.
- Do look for missing or damaged AVE, STREET, and LAKE DRIVE road signs in need of replacement and report it to your Township: Estelline, Norden, or Laketon. Signs are replaced on a schedule and funded by federal grants. Private roads are marked and maintained by private organizations.

By following these steps, you can help emergency responders provide the necessary assistance as quickly as possible. Remember, quick action can save lives in emergency situations.

Large size numbers, good contrast



Poor contrast, difficult to read



WE'LL PROTECT YOUR HOME OR  
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# HIDDEN BEAUTY

*Salon & Boutique*

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ESTELLINE



605-873-2199

# WARD'S

*Shopping Center*

ESTELLINE, SD

605-873-2468

Part 2 of 3

## LAKE POINSETT'S NAMESAKE: *The Expedition of 1838*



*In 1838, Joseph Nicolas Nicollet and John Charles Fremont led a surveying expedition into the great prairie region between the Missouri and Mississippi rivers that is now Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota.*

*They were to create a map including all landmarks, waterbodies, prairie, woods, hills, and vales. Nicollet's resulting map of the area was extraordinarily accurate for its day, and remains a monument of achievements to western explorers.*

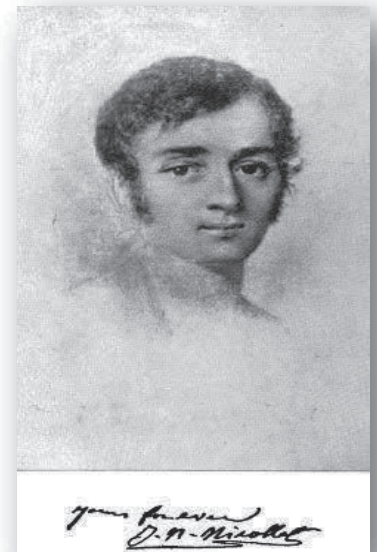
*They gave Lake Poinsett its name in honor of Joel Roberts Poinsett, Secretary of War.*

### **Joseph Nicolas Nicollet 1786-1843**

Also known as Jean-Nicolas Nicollet, he was a lively and sociable man, fond of music and a welcome guest wherever he went. In France, he worked as a mathematics professor and an astronomer at the Paris Observatory. Nicollet discovered a comet and built a reputation as an expert in astronomy and physical geography. Hard times came upon him, so he travelled to America seeking better opportunities.

In the U.S. the strong push of Americans moving westward into the country's unknown interior emphasized the nation's need for reliable communications.

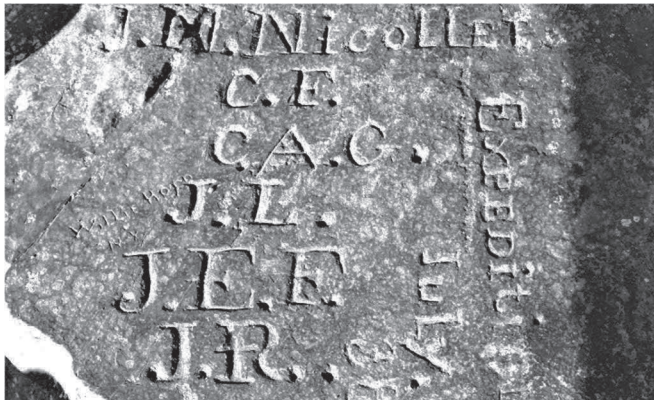
U.S. Secretary of War Joel Poinsett commissioned Nicollet to complete an examination of the region between the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers. Poinsett also appointed 23-year-old John Fremont, a second lieutenant in the Army Corps of Topographical



Engineer, to join Nicollet's group as an assistant. They set out in June 1838.

They stopped at the Pipestone Quarry in Minnesota and carved their initials into the stone. Nicollet visited often with the local Dakota Native Americans and his written observations are a valuable record of their way of life.

In recognition of the Dakota tribes' valuable assistance during his explorations, Nicollet named many places on his map with the regional names they used. By doing so he preserved Indian placenames and their locations.



The two explorers used their knowledge of math and science to create accurate maps of physical landscapes, describe the climate, soil conditions, and give detailed reports about the humans living in the areas of study.

Nicollet was among the first to show on his maps a sense of land elevation and shapes of terrain by "hachuring"- (like shading to produce a 3D look). To reach absolute positions on the earth's surface he recorded latitudes and longitudes (taking sightings of the sun or stars) and recorded land elevations using a large mercury-filled barometer.

His work produced the first authentic map of the region, a document that influenced mapmakers in the United States for generations. He died at the age of 57 and before his report to the Senate was published in 1843.

### More Honors to Joseph Nicollet.

In Minnesota:

Nicollet Island, Nicollet Avenue in Minneapolis, Nicollet County, and the city of Nicollet.

In South Dakota:

Nicollet Tower and Interpretive Center near Sisseton.

READ MORE on LAKE POINSETT'S NAMESAKE Part 3, The 1838 Explorer: John Fremont in the July Lakeside Newsletter.



**COMPLETE HOME REPAIR**  
**TRAVIS PAGE**  
**605-651-5719**

**HANDYMAN SERVICES**  
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**DOORS, WINDOWS & SIDING INSTALLATION**

### LAKE PARK DISTRICT

## UNDERSTANDING ORDINANCES

Sometimes confusion over an ordinance or state law compels us to research its actual meaning. We chose to examine **Public Rights and Private Docks** and consulted with the SDGF&P.

Docks are regulated by the SDGF&P. For allowable dock size, how many, floating, and configurations see our website: [www.lakepoinsett.org/state](http://www.lakepoinsett.org/state)

A dock owner is responsible for protecting the safety of family and guests on the dock. Electrical installations must comply with NEC standards to prevent fires and electrical accidents.

Like your private driveway connects to a public street, your private dock connects to the public waters. A residential dock extending over water from private property of a riparian landowner is not available for public use.

A RIPARIAN LANDOWNER – owns land that borders a lake. You have rights to access the water, install a **private** dock, gain or lose beach depending on changing water levels.

South Dakota Codified Law [43-17-29](#).

### **Public rights in lake above high-water mark.**

*"If any water level rises above the ordinary high-water mark of a navigable lake, the right of the public to enjoyment of the entire lake may not be limited, except that access to the lake shall be by public right-of-way or by permission of the riparian landowner."*

This law means the general public can access the lake only through public access points, not through private property. Individuals who enter private property without permission from the landowner are trespassing and may be prosecuted.

On Lake Poinsett there are five developed public lake accesses for public use: Sorenson, Saaranen, Prestrude, Hammer's Beach (*Lake Poinsett Access off of HWY 28*), LP State Recreation Area, and one on Lake Albert.

JOIN US TO KEEP OUR LAKE TRASH FREE

# Beach Trash Bash



**Saturday, July 8<sup>th</sup>**  
 Prestrude's Lake Access, 10 AM  
 Enjoy juice and donuts before we start.

HOSTED BY  

 Trash bags & plastic gloves will be supplied.  
 We'll clean Prestrudes, Hammer's Beach, Saaranen, and Sorenson too.  
 Help as much as you can.



Saturday, June 10<sup>th</sup>  
 9-10 AM  
 Alsville Crossing  
*Coffee and Rolls*

IT'S YOUR Q & A HOUR WITH STATE  
 DANR HARMFUL ALGAE BLOOM EXPERT,

## Josh Strobel

Environmental Scientist III and Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) Coordinator for the State of South Dakota

### LEARN ABOUT THE CRITICAL IMPACT OF HARMFUL ALGAE BLOOMS ON OUR LAKE.

- How does a bloom make our pets sick.
- If we're exposed to it what do we do?
- How do satellites help detect algae in our lake?
- How can we reduce harmful algae blooms?
- Do we report Harmful Algae Blooms?

Hosted by your LAKE POINSETT ASSOCIATION

## Be Lake Smart JUNE TIP

We can make a difference for our lake by following **Be Lake Smart Tips** - which are science-based clean lake practices.

### LEAVES - mulch, rake, compost, burn, or leave natural?

Here are some **DO's & DON'TS** about leaves this Fall.

**DON'T** rake leaves into the lake! Adding leaves to the lake acts like a brewing cup of phosphorus tea. We already know phosphorus and nitrogen fuel growth of blue-green algae or Harmful Algae Blooms. That's bad for lake recreation, and the health of humans and pets.

**DON'T** burn leaves, their smoldering smoke is a health hazard. The EPA reports leaf burning gives off carbon monoxide, and benzo(a)pyrene, a chemical byproduct that may also be a potential factor in lung cancer.

**DON'T** create a fire hazard. Follow precautions, such as watching over the fire until it is extinguished and assuring smoke/air pollutants do not impact neighbors. According to the DANR, anyone who conducts open burning "assumes all liabilities for property damage or impacts to public health as a result from the burn."



**DO** the alternative to burning. The EPA recommends composting as the safest and environmentally sound way to dispose of fallen leaves. Composting allows leaves (and other organic materials) to break down naturally, disposing of them without releasing any nastiness into the air or starting any fires.

**DO** skip raking leaves completely by mowing and chopping or mulching them into small pieces. As the leaf bits settle onto soil between glass blades, the process of decomposition starts.

**DO** rake, yes rake, to pile, bag, and transport leaves to regional collection sites. Both landfill sites listed below compost yard waste - grass clippings, leaves, branches, natural wood, and garden vegetation.

• **Watertown Regional Landfill 605-882-6219**

Located south of Watertown. Open M-Sat.

• **City of Brookings, Solid Waste Dept.**

**Brookings Regional Landfill 605-693-3667**

They serve our lake residents. Open M-Sat.

## **WHEN GOOD ALGAE GOES BAD**

### **State HABs Advisories**

If too much algae grow at once they create an algae bloom that can spread across the lake's surface and below. Harmful Algae Blooms (HABs) are usually caused by toxic cyanobacteria (blue-green algae).

Cyanobacteria grow rapidly in water that is nutrient-rich (phosphorous and nitrogen). Excessive nutrients could come from lawn and field fertilizers, septic system failures, and animal waste. A bloom can last for several weeks until conditions in the lake change, and algae die and decompose.

Toxic cyanobacteria blooms can harm people and animals. We can't tell if a bloom is toxic by looking at it, a sample has to be tested.

Our LPA volunteers perform water quality (WQ) sampling once a month on Lake Poinsett and Albert, May – Sept. The state DANR does provide HABs Advisories based on data from these tested samples and alerts us to post it. Last year a Lake Albert sample for HABs exceeded the safe level. When alerted by the state we'll post HABs ADVISORIES on LPA's Facebook Page.

To read more on this topic, we have placed vital HABs information for you to access on our website: <https://www.lakepoinsett.org/water-quality-reports>

## **CAUTION**

**Harmful algae may be present in this water.  
For your family's safety:**



You can swim in this water, but **stay away from algae and scum** in the water.



**Do not** let pets and other animals go into or drink the water, or eat scum on the shore.



**Keep children away** from algae in the water or on the shore.



**Do not** drink this water or use it for cooking.



For fish caught here, **throw away guts and clean fillets** with tap water or bottled water before cooking.

Call your doctor or veterinarian if you or your pet get sick after going in the water.

**A HABs Advisory would be like this sample chart.**

To interact with a HABs EXPERT we organized a Coffee Chat with JOSH STROBEL from the state DANR. Please attend this casual Q&A to be more informed for your family, guests, and cabin renters.

*See our Ad for the Coffee Chat Event on page 6.*

We can't test every possible algae bloom, so all lake users must be aware of what protective actions they should follow with or without a state HABs advisory.

## *Getting to know the* **American White Pelican**

*Every Spring the American White Pelican returns to our lakes. We know a few facts about them: they migrate, eat fish, are mostly white and sport a really big beak.*

*Well, here are a few more fun facts to help us appreciate these majestic birds.*

- This species is protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918.
- They have an impressive 9-foot wingspan. The California Condor is slightly longer.
- Weigh 12-20 pounds.
- Can hold 3 gallons of water in their bill.
- Each bird eats 3-4 pounds of food a day, mostly fish like common carp and minnows.
- During breeding both male and female develop a pronounced bump on top of their large beaks, called a "Breeding Sail" or "Nuptial Tubercles." This later is shed by the end of breeding season.
- Also during breeding season some have dark crown plumage, looking like a black toupee.
- Their nesting grounds can be as far north as Canada.
- American White Pelicans uniquely work together in groups of a dozen or more to feed, as they can cooperate to synchronize movement and corral fish.
- They maintain a close family bond until late summer or early fall when they migrate south.
- In the wild they may live up to 16 years.
- Pelican deaths resulting from humans are due to shooting, pesticides on shoreland and other environmental contaminants, and habitat degradation.

## LPA EVENTS 2023

Check our LPA Website for more event information.

June 10<sup>th</sup> **Coffee Chat with an Expert: *Josh Strobel***  
9 AM – 10 AM @ Alsville Crossing

17<sup>th</sup> **Lake Wide Rummage Sales**

19<sup>th</sup> **Lake Wide Garbage Cleanup**

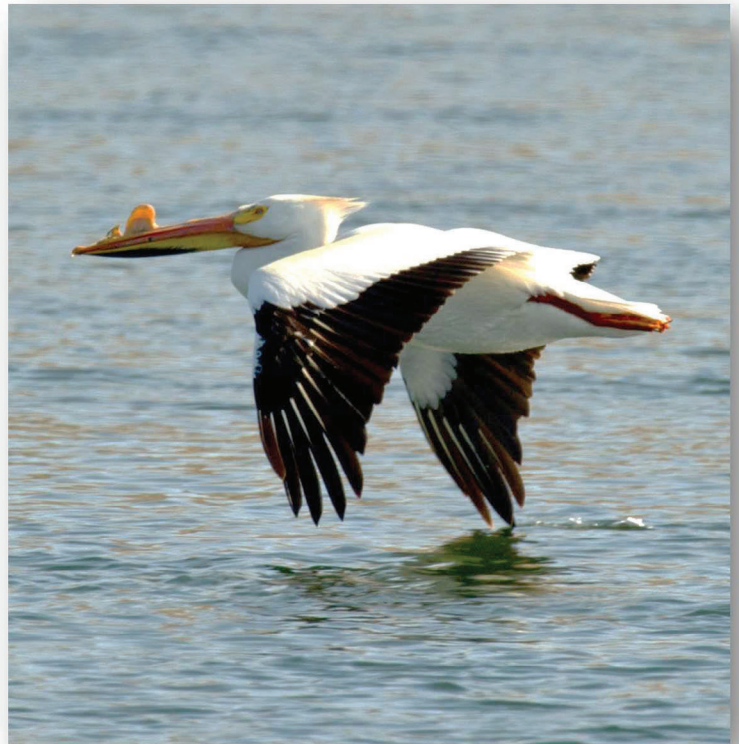
July 8<sup>th</sup> **Beach Trash Bash**  
Meet at Prestrude's Public Lake Access, 10 AM

Aug. 5<sup>th</sup> **LPA Annual Meeting**  
9 AM – 10 AM @ ABR – Boathouse

12<sup>th</sup> **Lake Poinsett Association -  
1<sup>st</sup> Annual Golf Tournament**  
Lake Region Golf Course, Shotgun Start 8 AM

Photo Credit: GREG LATZA

## AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN



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 and accuracy.

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