

**NEW AIS  
SIGNAGE**

**LAKE POINSETT'S  
NAMESAKE Part 1**

**WHEN GOOD ALGAE  
GOES BAD**

# Lakeside

NEWSLETTER / MAY 2023



**WORKING FOR CLEAN AND HEALTHY LAKES**

OMAHA INDIAN

COUNTRY

From Your LPA President: *Scott Ross*

**Are you prepared?** Lake Poinsett has some of the best Spring and Summer weather, cool mornings and hot afternoons, ideal weather for family fun and lake enjoyment. But with this perfect weather comes the possibility of Spring flooding and the potential of extremely dangerous and intense storms.

In the Spring, our lake can be subject to flooding, with a heavier than normal snowfall, quick melt and a higher-than-average Spring rainfall all can combine to increase the possibility of a flooding event around Lake Poinsett. According to Hamlin County Emergency Management Office (HCEMO) *"We aren't expecting major flooding this year with what we are seeing so far,"* but if it does occur, we will be prepared with sandbags and sand. If flooding does look imminent, people need to remove their valuables to safe locations or get them higher.

To find out what the current lake level is checkout the LPA website at lakepoinsett.org.

Occasionally our lake can experience severe thunderstorms. Thunderstorms are considered severe if they produce hail at least 1 inch in diameter or have wind gusts of at least 58 miles per hour. Severe thunderstorms will also produce tornadoes. Tornado season typically begins toward the end of April with peaks in June and usually ends by mid-October.



Lake Poinsett has four storm sirens Sorenson's Access, Saaranen's Access, Prestrude's Access, and Lake Poinsett Recreation Area. The outdoor warning system is activated when the National

Weather Service issues a Severe Thunderstorm Warning or a Tornado Warning. The system is also activated when Hamlin County SKYWARN Weather Spotters report severe weather in the area. Storm sirens are tested the 1st and 3rd Tuesday at noon, weather permitting from April to September.

It is very important to note that this is an outdoor warning system and as such residents should not expect to hear the sirens in their homes or businesses.

#### **PUBLIC STORM SHELTERS**

When the siren is activated, take cover inside a sturdy building. Get out of mobile homes and find a substantial shelter. Public Shelters in the area include the Lake Region Golf Course and the Methodist Church Camp.

**Front Cover** The cover shows a portion of the map created by explorers: Joseph Nicollet and John Fremont from their expeditions in 1838 and 1839.

**The circled inset** magnifies the broken line marking the expedition's route travelled. The star north of Lake Poinsett is

ALL WATERCRAFT STOP HERE!



**CLEAN. DRAIN. DRY.**

REMOVE AQUATIC PLANTS AND ANIMALS, PULL ALL PLUGS, DRAIN LOWER UNITS, AND DRY EVERYTHING BEFORE LAUNCHING AND AFTER LOADING.



THANK YOU FOR HELPING PROTECT THE LAKE.



## **LPA Takes Action**

### REGARDING AIS PROBLEM

The Lake Poinsett Association is working closely with the South Dakota Game Fish & Parks Department (GF&P) to prevent Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) – both plants and animals – from entering Lake Poinsett's waters.

As AIS become more prevalent in our state's lakes and streams, it is imperative to take a proactive stance to stop the spread.

New signage at the public access points on Lake Poinsett, Lake Albert, Lake Norden, and Lake St. John remind boaters to Clean – Dry – Drain their watercraft before entering the lake. The large signs - 54" x 96" - are bright orange and include photos instructing boaters how to prepare their boats to protect our lake.

The goal of these signs is to educate lake residents and visitors to be on the alert for AIS. A QR code on the sign provides additional information about Aquatic Invasive Species.

Your LPA board contacted the GF&P to request the signage, and agreed to pay a portion of the signage and installation costs. Since the signs are sponsored in part by LPA, the GF&P included LPA's logo on the signs – an indication that LPA is working for our membership.

If you have questions about AIS, we encourage you to visit SD GF&P's website:

<https://sdleastwanted.sd.gov/>

the point where they took Astronomical Observations.

**The photo inset** shows a bronze statue of Joel Roberts Poinsett located in Greenville, SC. On July 4, 1851, Poinsett stood near this site and made a speech in favor of preserving the Union.

# 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  
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## **CONTACT US**

- To advertise as Business Sponsor
- To submit photos or articles
- For questions and concerns

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

Membership, Lake Directory,  
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[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)

**QUESTION:** *Is there a dog ordinance?*

*We are having issues with dogs from neighbors and cabin renters. Their dogs run freely over our property, and we have to clean up after them. It has gotten very frustrating.*

**ANSWER:**

Pet owners should follow the Lake Park District's pet ordinance; it includes keeping dogs leashed in recreation areas and contained on property when at home. There are two pet ordinances that cover the Lake Park District and Brookings County. Learn more about these important rules from our LPA website: <https://www.lakepoinsett.org/government>

Compliance with our local dog regulations makes for a pet friendly vacation for both cabin renters and lake homeowners.

Providing Pet Do's and Don'ts Tips to renters and visitors may improve neighborly respect when each of us understand what's expected. We want everyone and our furry friends to enjoy their time at the lake.

*Part 1 of 3*

## **WHEN GOOD ALGAE GOES BAD**

*Knowing about bad algae is important to our health.*

### *Define Algae*

Algae are "simple plants" that live in the sea or freshwater. They produce oxygen and serve as food for many creatures. When they grow out of control they become visible to the naked eye and can be different colors depending on the type of algae.

### *What is a Harmful Algae Bloom?*

Sometimes tiny algae can cause big problems. If too much algae grow at once or if they make toxins, they can harm people, animals, and the environment. Harmful algae blooms (HABs) are typically caused by cyanobacteria formerly known as blue-green algae. (The prefix "cyano" means a dark blue-green color.)

A harmful algal bloom (HABs) includes cyanobacteria and can appear in various shades of green, blue or brown and form scum, foam, or mats. Blooms can also resemble spilled paint, green globules, or grass clippings. Algae and Cyanobacteria are usually neutral in scent, but when dying or dead they smell, sometimes described as gasoline, rotten eggs or fishy.

*Cont'd on Back Cover*

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Part 1 of 3

## LAKE POINSETT'S NAMESAKE

*In 1838, the Lake Poinsett area was visited by the expedition of Joseph Nicollet and John Fremont, who camped on the lake's north shore. The two explorers named our gem of a lake after the U. S. Secretary of War, Joel Roberts Poinsett, who was instrumental in funding their expedition.*

**So, who was Joel Roberts Poinsett?**

### JOEL ROBERTS POINSETT

-1779-1851 was a fascinating figure of the Early Republic era. Poinsett was a scientist, amateur botanist, and American statesman during the time of American expansion across the continent and even around the globe. His skills as a diplomat were relied upon by five consecutive American presidents in the early 1800s from James Madison to Martin Van Buren.



Joel Poinsett was born in Charleston, SC, educated in this country and Great Britain. He became proficient in several languages including Spanish, French, Italian, and German.

Poinsett desired a military career, but his father was against his son being a soldier and persuaded him to study law. However, it became clear Joel had little interest in becoming a lawyer. Instead, this restless young man convinced his parents to approve his travels throughout Europe and Asia for the next seven years. While abroad he learned of his father's death and sailed home. Poinsett inherited a small fortune of town houses and lots, plantations, bank stock and English Funds. Having no one to keep him home he yearned to travel again and left for Russia.

After his return to America, Poinsett became an eternal public servant during a time when America was profoundly transformed. He served South Carolina in

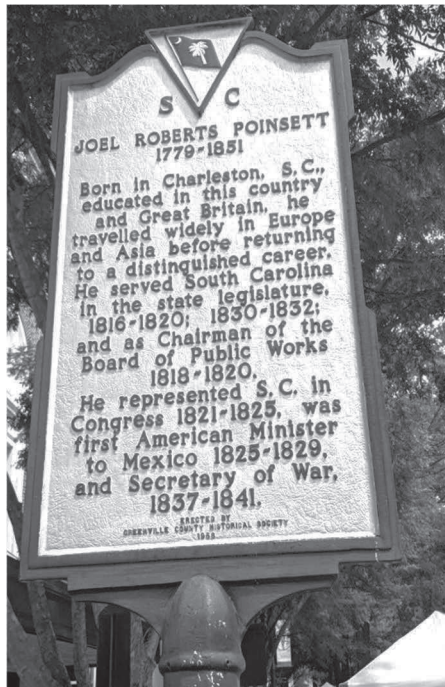
the state legislature 1816-1820, 1830-1832 and as Chairman of the Board of Public Works 1818-1820, supervising the construction of roads and bridges. He represented South Carolina in Congress 1821-1825, was the first American Ambassador to Mexico 1825-1829 negotiating the promises and demands of the new US Republic, and lastly he served as Secretary of War 1837-1841.

As a statesman Poinsett worked to preserve the Union during the antebellum period (pre-civil war). Seeing slavery as an evil that would slowly die out, Poinsett clashed with the pro-slavery faction when he sponsored a bill to limit the importation of slaves into the state.

During President Martin Van Buren's administration Poinsett was appointed Secretary of War in 1837. This was the opportunity Poinsett waited for all his life. He improved and expanded the nation's army of poorly trained soldiers. He raised standards for officers, and created artillery improvements. He reorganized the lowly Topographical Engineers into a highly regarded Corps that answered directly to the Secretary of War.

Poinsett encouraged U.S. exploration by authorizing the western land expedition of John C. Fremont and Joseph Nicolas Nicollet as well as the Pacific voyages of Charles Wilkes.

In 1838 Nicollet and Fremont's Exploration team visited the eastern portion of our state, and made the first scientific examination of it, measuring prominent points and naming many of the lakes, among them: Lake Benton, Minnesota, Lake Preston in Kingsbury County, Lake Albert and Lake Poinsett in Hamlin County. Lake Benton was named after Senator Thos. H. Benton of Missouri, Fremont's father-in-law. Lake Preston, for Senator Preston of North Carolina, Lake Albert for Colonel John James Abert and Lake Poinsett for Joel Roberts Poinsett, Secretary of War.



Poinsett presided over these U.S. Exploring Expeditions and insisted on the inclusion of scientists who collected geological and biological specimens. The amazing collections were brought back to Washington DC. However, these overwhelming number of items sat in storage, decayed, were lost, or missing identifying labels.

Poinsett wanted a national museum to store these collected items of natural history and physical science for promoting in-depth study. In 1840 he became the co-founder and first president of the *National Institute for the Promotion of Science and Useful Arts* (later renamed the Smithsonian Institute). The collections from the Exploring Expeditions finally were out for public display which became enthusiastically popular with visitors.

The Indian Removal Act of 1830 finally became a reality under Poinsett's tenure. In 1838 he was tasked with the removal and escort of more than 20,000 Cherokee from east of the Mississippi River to an area west of the river. This was done to make room for settlers and speculators' demand for more land.

Poinsett was married to Mary Pringle, but their union never resulted with children. In 1851 Poinsett died at the age of 72 of tuberculosis, hastened by an attack of pneumonia. On his tombstone it reads, "A pure patriot, an honest man, and a good Christian."

**More honors to Joel Roberts Poinsett:**

1. Lake Poinsett, Brevard County, FL – 4,334-acre lake.
2. Lake Poinsett 640-acre lake & Lake Poinsett State Park, AK
3. Poinsett County, Poinsett Ave; Poinsett District in AR.
4. Poinsett Bridge, SC built in 1820.
5. Poinsett Club, Greenville, SC – 5-star private social club.
6. Poinsett Highway - from Blue Ridge Mountains into Greenville, SC.
7. Poinsett Hotel- a 12 story skyscraper and historic landmark in Greenville, SC.
8. The Poinsettia Plant - a red-leaf plant native to Mexico and popularized in America after Poinsett sent samples home in 1825.
9. National Poinsettia Day is December 12<sup>th</sup> in honor of Joel Robert Poinsett, who died on Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>.
10. A Lizard!! The Sceloporus Poinsettii

READ MORE of *LAKE POINSETT'S NAMESAKE Part 2 & 3 The 1838 Explorers: Nicollet and Fremont* in the June and July Lakeside Newsletters.

LPA EVENTS on MAY 20<sup>th</sup> please join us!

*Welcome Back to the Lake*  
**OPEN HOUSE**

Pick up your LPA Lake Directory,  
Enjoy Coffee & Donuts

**Saturday, MAY 20<sup>th</sup>**  
**ABR's Boathouse, 9AM – 11AM**

*Donuts & Directories*

*Not an LPA Member?  
Come, sign-up and  
take home your  
Lake Directory.*

*Hosted by*  
**LAKE POINSETT  
ASSOCIATION**

## Be Lake Smart MAY TIP



In your yard  
or on a walk,

**Scoop it, Bag it, Trash it.**

Pollution from pet waste is a potential problem for lake water quality.

We'd like to clear up some misinformation about it in order to enjoy our healthy pets, healthy lake, happy neighbors, and clean shoes.

### 1. Doesn't dog waste naturally break down?

Nope. Dog poop can contain E.coli, giardia, parvo virus, hook worms, tape worms, round worms, and other pathogens. Even though the poop appears to break down, the germs and parasites stick around in the soil for years and can be tracked indoors on paws, shoes, bare feet, and flies! By not picking it up the health of those who come in contact with it are at risk. Children who play outside and gardeners are at the most risk for contamination.

### 2. Isn't dog waste a fertilizer?

NOPE. Most dogs, eat a protein-rich commercial diet. Dog poop is exceptionally high in nitrogen and phosphorus, because it's so acidic, it will actually kill your grass if it isn't picked up. In fact, dog poop can contaminate fruits, vegetables, and surrounding areas with harmful bacteria. Dog waste isn't the same as cow manure as compost since cows eat plant matter.

### 3. What about fish and wildlife waste?

Fish and wildlife only eat things from their natural environment so as their digestive systems process food the waste they send out the other end generally doesn't introduce new ingredients to the local flora and fauna. Healthy watersheds are able to handle natural levels of animal waste without impacting water quality. However, when wildlife populations become highly concentrated, they can also contribute to bacterial pollution in the lake.

**5K** MAY 20

Enjoy the scenic beauty while walking the trail between lakeshore and woods.

**LAKE  
WALK**

Through the  
State Park



Meet 11:15 AM  
Lake Poinsett State  
Recreation Area  
@ the "old boat launch"  
parking lot.

**FREE**  
Entrance into the  
park.

Hosted by LAKE POINSETT ASSOCIATION

## SCOOP IT, BAG IT, TRASH IT.

### 4. How does dog waste affect lake water?

Dog waste can take up to 12 months to fully break down. Poop left on lawns, beaches, fields, and in ditches is rain washed into our lake. Poop is raw sewage and contains two primary pollutants that harm local waters: *nutrients and pathogens*. Nutrients stimulate the growth of algae and weeds in the water. Algae growth potentially can become a toxic blue-green algae bloom aka Harmful Algae Bloom.

The other pollutant are pathogens such as bacteria. Dogs have a lot of bacteria in their guts, but their digestive systems are usually healthy enough to eliminate it. One gram of dog poop can hold 23 million fecal bacteria. That one gram is equal to the weight of a paperclip. The increase of harmful bacteria in lake water creates unsafe conditions for swimming and fishing and causes illness in humans. Dog - Poo doesn't simply decompose.



### 5. What about other pet waste?

Other pets and livestock can cause poo-llution. Dogs, cats, goats, chickens, all can. If it poops, you scoop!

### 6. My neighbor's dog poops in my yard!

Picking up after our animals is our doo-ty as a pet owner. If you've noticed your neighbor being "forgetful" about bagging the doo, try a friendly chat. Mention that you've noticed the issue and it's bothering you. Keep calm and keep it friendly. Living with neighbors who don't clean up after their dogs can be frustrating, but it's possible to coexist without resorting to extreme measures.



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Our business sponsors' contributions help support LPA's programs towards a clean and healthy lake, which is valued by all of us.

- Ward's Shopping Center
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- Travis Page, HOME REPAIR
- Country Corner
- Hidden Beauty

These fine sponsors are also listed on our website. Please support their businesses; we recommend them!

## **JOIN OUR Q&A HOUR** **on the critical impact of** **Harmful Algae Blooms for our lake.**



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

### **JOSH STROBEL**

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



### **Meet our guest expert:**

Josh is originally from New Hampshire, he attended undergrad at Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) in Rochester, New York.

Now currently working on his Graduate Degree, Josh plans to use remote sensing and Satellite Imagery to help detect and monitor Harmful Algal Blooms.

When Josh isn't collecting water quality samples or investigating harmful algal bloom events, he is working in the office conducting data analysis, water quality assessment and writing reports.

**Hosted by your Lake Poinsett Association.**

## LPA EVENTS 2023

Check our LPA Website for more event information.

May 20<sup>th</sup> **LPA Open House & Directory Pick-up**  
9 AM – 11 AM at ABR Boathouse

20<sup>th</sup> **5K Lake Walk**  
11:15 AM @ Lake Poinsett Recreation Area

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**  
10 AM Meet at Prestrude's Public Lake Access

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

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

### When Good Algae Goes Bad

*Cont'd from page 3*

In some cases, the smell can cause nausea.

#### *What are some impacts of a HAB?*

In addition to human, pet, livestock, and wildlife health concerns, HABs can damage the aquatic environment while it decays depleting oxygen in the water, which can cause fish kills, or simply by blocking sunlight from reaching organisms deeper in the water. HAB's degrades the scenic value of a lake and the disruption of recreational activities.

#### *What can I do about HABs?*

Learn about the risks when a HAB is present. Attend the **Coffee Chat with an Expert Event**. It's a one hour Q&A with HABs Expert: Josh Strobel. It's the best way to become informed about a serious lake issue.

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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