

Lakeside

NEWSLETTER

May 2026

Photo by Geoff Tufty

Lake Poinsett Management Plan



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Lake Health, Fertilizers and Soil Testing

Lakeside

NEWSLETTER

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

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The Lakeside Newsletter is published
May, June, July, and August for LPA
members.

Its primary purpose is to provide reliable
information and help build knowledge to
address challenges for our lake.

Mark Your Calendars



- May 9 - Beach Trash Bash, 9-11 AM
- May 16 - 2026 Open House, 9-11 AM
- June 13 - Coffee Chat with an Expert, 9 AM
- June 19-20 - Lake-Wide Rummage Sales Weekend
- June 22-23 - Lake-Wide Garbage Clean-Up
- August 1 - LPA Annual Meeting
- August 1 - LPA Family Fun Day
- August 22 - 4th Annual LPA Golf Tournament



CONTACT US:

- To advertise as Business Sponsor
- To submit photos or articles
- For questions and concerns
directors@lakepoinsett.org

MAIL:

Lake Poinsett Association
PO Box 222
Lake Norden, SD 57248

LPA WEBSITE:

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From Your LPA President: Scott Ross

I am continually inspired by the power of **community-driven stewardship**.

Volunteer monitoring of water quality tracking, gathered year after year, strengthens the foundation for smarter action and lasting results.

Greetings Lake Poinsett Community!

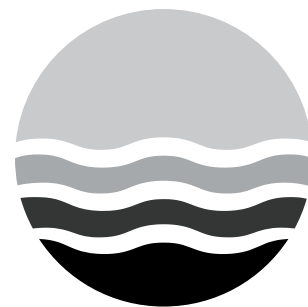
Welcome back to another year of lakeside fun. As an LPA community, we know that maintaining and improving water quality is a long-term process. It requires disciplined science, coordination across partners, and transparency about what we know, what we are still learning, and what comes next. In this month's Lakeside Newsletter, I want to share a few meaningful steps forward.

The Lake Management Plan was developed to help ensure future decisions about the lake are guided by the best available data and a shared roadmap. We will continue sharing updates as the plan moves forward — so our community understands what we are learning and how it's shaping the path ahead.

Because **trust is built through connection**—not just information—our organization is a welcoming space for current and interested volunteers to connect, ask questions, and learn more about getting involved.

We are all looking ahead to those warm summer days, cooking hot dogs and hamburgers on the grill, and having hours of enjoyment on the water, so stay safe and have fun!

Sincerely,
Scott Ross
President, Lake Poinsett Association



Hamlin County Notification Line

To receive notifications regarding Hamlin County, text your zip code to 888777. After entering your zip code you will begin receiving messages from Hamlin County regarding weather, road conditions and other important updates for county residents. You will also be given the option to receive updates by email.

Again, text your zip code to 888777.

Lake Poinsett Management Plan Completed

The Lake Poinsett Management Plan is done! Five years in the making, the plan is the work of and funded by the Lake Poinsett Association, the Lake Poinsett Sanitary District, the Lake Poinsett Water Project District and East Dakota Water Development District.

The plan was quarterbacked by Keli Buscher of Banner and Associates headquarters in Brookings. Involved in creating the plan were its sponsors above, along with the SD Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources, SD Game, Fish and Parks, Lake Poinsett Camp & Living Waters Retreat Center, the Hamlin County Conservation District, Hamlin and Brookings Counties, Estelline Township, the SD Dept of Transportation, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service. The cost of the completed management plan is ~ \$110,000.

The priorities and goals - those things to pay attention to - were not pre-established by the sponsoring boards or involved governmental entities, but by input from public open houses and an on-line survey. The 340 plus responses to the survey produced priorities that are statistically reliable and a good measure of public sentiment. Expectably, there were no real surprises in the polling results.

The management plan of some 200 pages with related appendices is or will soon be available on the website (the appendices themselves are 140 pages of the plan). The appendices document historical details and project and funding sources, many of which involve a complex and interrelated array and networks of governmental entities.

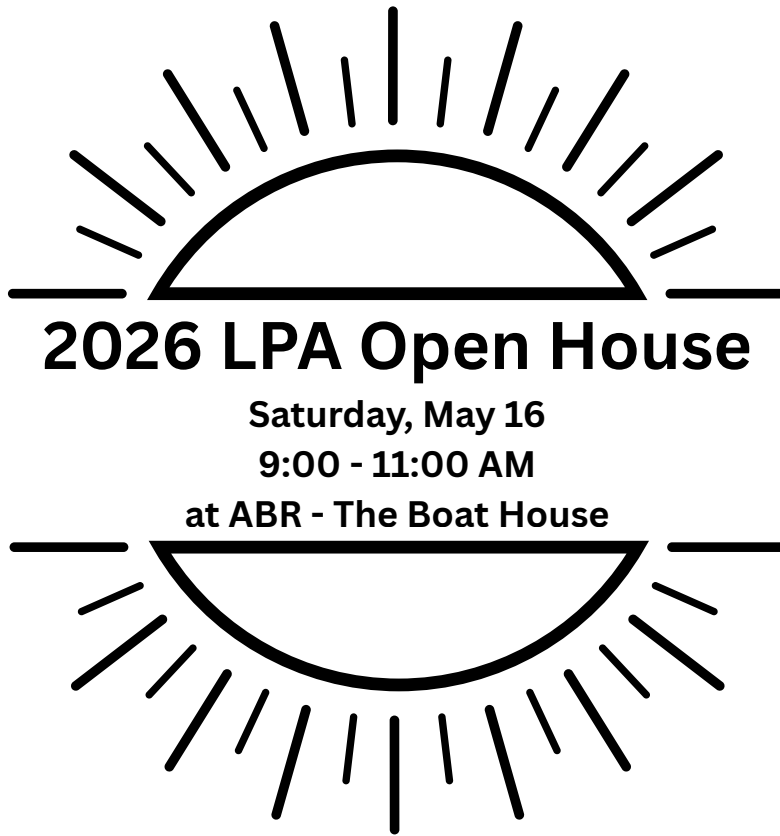
A key aspect of the plan was to not only identify key problems but also to identify and clarify key funding sources, especially those funding sources that are themselves advocates for the very projects we need. In addition, on the LPA website will be a shorter version of the plan without all of the detail and "footnotes."

The plan itself is some fifty pages broken into the key areas of water quality, water level, transportation and public safety, recreation and amenities, land use development, and zebra mussels. The plan is specifically designed to not only be a source document for reliable and detailed information, but to evolve into an action plan with priorities, timelines, and deadlines. As such, in each of the key areas above - water quality, water level, transportation and public safety, recreation and amenities, land use development, and zebra mussels - is a statement of the problem with checklists for implementation of solutions so the plan is done.

This is an exciting and very positive time. And now the real work begins - the implementation of the plan. As an aside, a positive benefit of the management plan is that the three entities - the LPA, the sewer district and the water board together sponsored the plan. The LPA is looking for additional board members and board spots routinely open on the sewer and water board. Your muscle, intelligence, and abilities are needed for these next important steps.

Submitted by Tom Dempster

Upcoming May Events



2026 LPA Open House

Saturday, May 16

9:00 - 11:00 AM

at ABR - The Boat House



- *Pick Up Your Directory*
- *See Your Lake Friends*
- *Have a Donut & Coffee*
- *Join or Renew Your LPA Membership*
- *WIN a New Smoker!*
 - *Enter for a chance to win this SMOKER donated by an LPA member!*

****Limited Soil Test Kits
Available****

Spring Beach Clean-Up

Saturday, May 9

9:00 AM

Lake Poinsett Recreation Area Boat Launch

We love clean shorelines and hope you do too! Trash left on the beach is unattractive and can create safety hazards for boaters, swimmers and aquatic life. Come and volunteer to clean up shoreline trash!

- Meet at the Recreation Area Boat Launch.
- Plans and team locations will be shared to ensure lake-wide coverage.
- Trash bags and nitrile gloves will be provided.
- Foster the next generation of lake caretakers by bringing the kids to join this fun, hands-on experience.



Do I Need to Fertilize my Lawn?

Soil test first to find out...

Submitted by Mark Kelsey

For years we have written about and discussed the negative effects nitrogen, phosphorous and other chemicals have on the health of our lake. We have also identified the source of these harmful chemicals. Farm and feedlot run-off and lawn chemicals are our largest sources of pollutants in our lake. We must all work together with our local, state and federal governments to reduce the harm from farming practices, but what can we do personally to make sure we are not contributing to the problem? We all like a good-looking lawn, but do you need to use fertilizers and are you using the proper chemicals at the appropriate time?

We have been overwhelmed by advertisements, TV commercials, and social media telling us we must fertilize 3 or 4 times throughout the growing season, and we do what the ads say. This is not always necessary to maintain a healthy lawn and this practice is contributing to the problem of harmful chemicals being introduced into the lake.

Soil Testing

Soil testing is the best way to provide some answers and help you make good decisions on what is best for your lawn and the lake. There are many different types of soil testing equipment available at your local outdoor stores or online depending on how involved you want to be in the testing.

Soil testing measures chemicals like Nitrogen, Phosphorous and potassium, the same chemicals labeled on your fertilizer bag. It will also tell you the PH of your lawn, which is very important because if your PH level is off, your lawn cannot absorb nutrients, even with the use of fertilizers. If your plants, bushes and lawn cannot absorb the fertilizers you are using, these chemicals will end up in the lake.

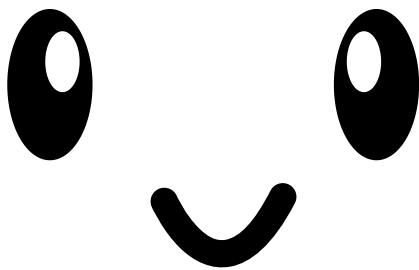
A limited number of soil testing kits will be available at the LPA Open House on May 16.

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Smile for the Camera



Show us your smiles and lake activities by submitting photos of the fun times you have at Lake Poinsett. We are looking for action photos that can be used in upcoming directories and newsletters.

**Send your photos to:
directors@lakepoinsett.org**

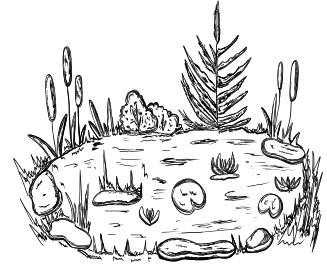
Do I Need to Fertilize? cont. from page 6

This may be confusing or time consuming so if soil testing is something you are not yet ready to pursue, here are some basic principles that you can follow that will make you a good steward of the lake.

- Our soil around the lake is generally high in phosphorous. USE PHOSPHORUS FREE FERTILIZERS. (the middle number on your fertilizer bag).
- Mulch your lawn and your gardens. Do not pick up grass clippings. Grass clippings will help your lawn absorb the nutrients they need. It also helps your budget instead of buying expensive lawn fertilizers.
- Use natural fertilizers. There are many available at Lowes and other lawn and garden centers.
- Cut down on nitrogen. Many fertilizers on the market have “30” on the first label of their fertilizer bags. (30-20-4). That much nitrogen is not necessary and not good for the lake. Many natural fertilizers have a 17-0-4 option, and this is a good choice.
- If in doubt about all of this, cut the amount of fertilizers you use in half. See how it plays out. Fertilizer recommendations on the label are there to sell fertilizer. Find your own comfort zone.
- Provide buffer zones around the lake. Bushes, ground cover, natural grasses, flowers, etc. absorb nutrients at a faster rate than your lawn and it looks good from the lake when people go by on the pontoon.

10 WAYS TO PROTECT OUR LAKE

*DO's & DON'Ts for taking care
of the biggest threat to our lakes –
Nutrient Pollution.*



1. **Don't use lawn fertilizer that contains phosphorus.** If you use a professional lawn care service, insist upon a fertilizer that does not contain phosphorus.
2. **Use the minimum amount of fertilizer** recommended on the label – more is not necessarily better!
3. **Water the lawn sparingly** to avoid washing nutrients and sediments into the lake.
4. **Don't feed ducks and geese near the lake.** Waterfowl droppings are high in nutrients and may cause swimmer's itch.
5. **Don't burn leaves and grass clippings near the shoreline.** Nutrients concentrate in the ash and can easily wash into the lake.
6. **Establish a green belt or vegetive buffer along your riprap.** A greenbelt will trap pollutants and slow down runoff. A greenbelt minimizes lawn area. Less turf means less fertilizer, less pesticides – and less mowing. Its healthier for the lake and easier for you.
7. **Where possible, promote infiltration of stormwater into the ground.** Slowdown runoff from driveways and downspouts that flow into the lake.
8. **Don't dump anything in area wetlands.** Wetlands are natural purifiers.
9. If you have a septic system, **have your septic tank pumped every 2 to 3 years.**
10. **Don't be complacent – your collective actions will make or break the lake.**

Coffee Chat with an Expert:

- Steve Charron
- June 13 - Alsville, 9:00 AM

Join us on June 13 for the Annual Coffee Chat. Our guest speaker/expert will be Steve Charron, President of the South Dakota Lakes & Streams Association. He will be speaking on the transition of an infested lake (which Poinsett is now considered) to the zebra mussel taking over our lake environment. He will address the danger of all users of surface water infested with zebra mussels, as well as discussing the \$100,000 economic impact study that will be concluded by the date of our Coffee Chat. Mark your calendars and plan to join us to hear about this important topic.



For more information visit:

<https://www.sdlakesandstreams.org/resources>

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LAKE POINSETT'S STORM SIRENS

Lake Poinsett has a Severe Weather Outdoor Warning System. This system of sirens gets activated anytime severe weather threatens Lake Poinsett or the immediate area. Severe weather can include damaging straight-line winds, lightning, large hail and tornadoes.

LOCATION OF STORM SIRENS

- Lake Poinsett has four storm sirens stationed on GF&P owned land: Sorenson's Public Access, Saraanen's Access, Prestrude's Access, and the Lake Poinsett Recreation Area.

ACTIVIATED SIRENS

- 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.

A STEADY BLAST

- The outdoor warning system will sound for three minutes with a steady blast and may be reactivated if conditions require additional warning. **SEEK SHELTER IMMEDIATELY!** Storm sirens are tested the 1st and 3rd Tuesday at noon, weather permitting from April to September.

STORM SHELTERS

- When the siren is activated, cover should be taken 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.



Golf Carts Not Permitted on Lake Roads

The Hamlin County Sheriff's Office reminds us that none of the townships around Lake Poinsett currently have an ordinance allowing golf carts on their roads.

- **This means golf carts are not permitted for road use in the area.**
- Furthermore, any individual operating a golf cart on **permitted roads** must possess a valid driver's license and be insured (SDCL 32-14-14).
- The Sheriff's Office also issued a strong warning to parents: allowing a child to operate a golf cart on a road where it's not permitted could result in a Class 2 misdemeanor charge for the parent (SDCL 32-12-72).
- Questions related to golf cart usage on lake roads should be directed to the Hamlin County Sheriff's Office.

Seeking Members to Join our LPA Director Team

If you care about our lake, want to help plan and organize lake events and inspire positive change, this may be the opportunity and special purpose you are looking for. Check out our mission, goals and committees on our website and please consider joining our Board to help promote the vitality of Lake Poinsett. We need your voice and your talent!

***Email your interest to
directors@lakepoinsett.org.***

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Website Updates Coming Soon

Lake Poinsett Association's website is being updated, with a release date coming soon. The Lake Poinsett Association is partnering with other organizations serving our lake community – the Lake Poinsett Water Project District and the Lake Poinsett Sanitary District – to launch a combined website. For now, continue to use www.lakepoinsett.org as your resource for “everything Poinsett,” and stay tuned for the unveiling of the updated site soon.



Photo by Michele Tufty

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