

# Lake Francis

Area Recreation & Conservation Club

Since 1970

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP ISSUE

SPRING 2017



Eagle Creek

## LAKE ASSOCIATION PREPARING FOR 2017

Board members and volunteers are busy preparing for the Lake Francis Area Recreation & Conservation Club's annual events and activities.

"We continue to build a stronger organization year after year," Association President Jan Anderson said. "We're committed to doing all we can to prevent aquatic invasive species like Zebra Mussels and Starry Stonewort from entering Lake Francis, but we're also planning fun events that bring neighbors together."

Meeker County will provide AIS inspections at the main Lake Francis boat launch on weekends from Memorial Day to Labor Day this year. The LFARCC will continue to monitor the Township launch on high traffic weekends. Area lakes are considering pilot programs for a more aggressive inspection program. The Board will discuss this at their April meeting.

In addition to boat launch monitoring, volunteers around the lake have placed Zebra Mussel detectors near their docks and volunteers visually inspect for other invasive species during the year.

The LFARCC will also continue its work in key areas like water quality and recreation, too. The CROW released a water quality study in late 2016. The Board plans to review the results in the near future and possibly invite a representative from CROW to speak at the Annual Meeting in June. The annual Eagle Creek clean-out will be a hot topic in the coming months as the Board looks for solutions to possible clean-out costs in 2017.

Lake residents will soon be able to enjoy a Lake Francis aerial map being produced by area realtor and business member Steve Bruggeman.

## LAKE ASSOCIATION LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE

The LFARCC launched a new website in early 2017. The site features a vibrant new design and content to help members and residents stay up-to-date on lake news and events.

**The new website also has a new address: [www.lakefrancismn.org](http://www.lakefrancismn.org).**

The lake association will continue to add more content and features to the website and hopes to offer electronic dues payment via PayPal in the near future.

The LFARCC will also begin sending more frequent email newsletters in 2017 and continue to use the Association's Facebook page to communicate in a more timely fashion. E-newsletter sign-up information can be found on the new website.

Suggestions and submissions are always welcome. Email Jenn at [lakefrancisnews@gmail.com](mailto:lakefrancisnews@gmail.com) with questions or information.



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS/ AREA REPRESENTATIVES

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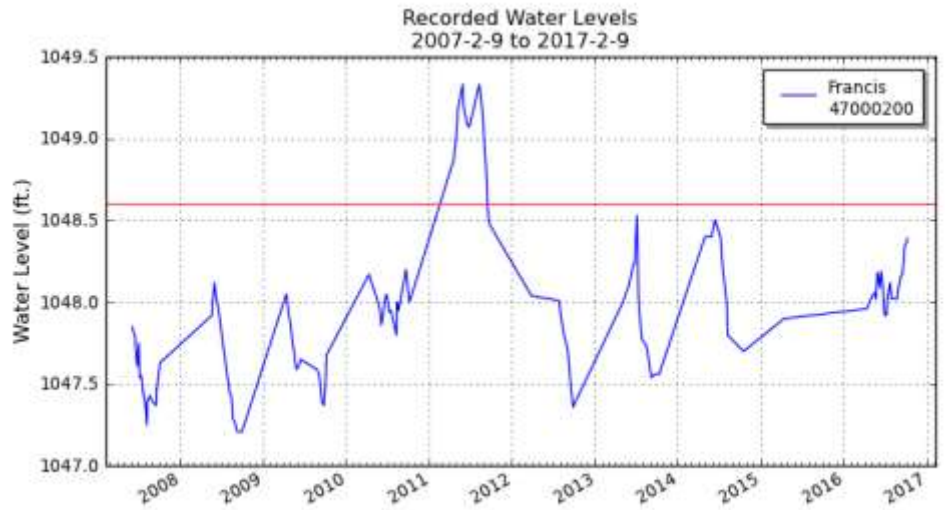
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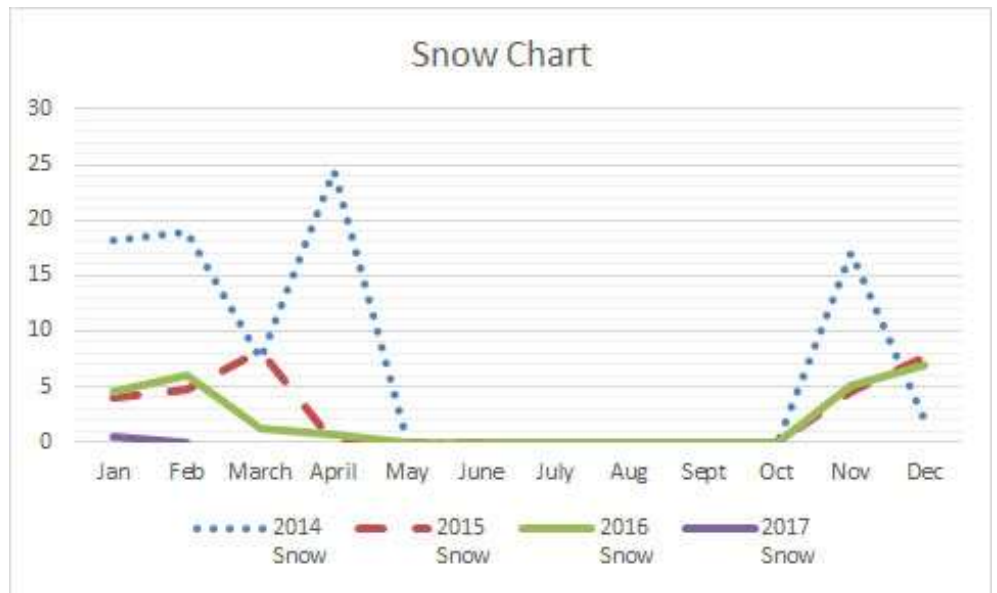
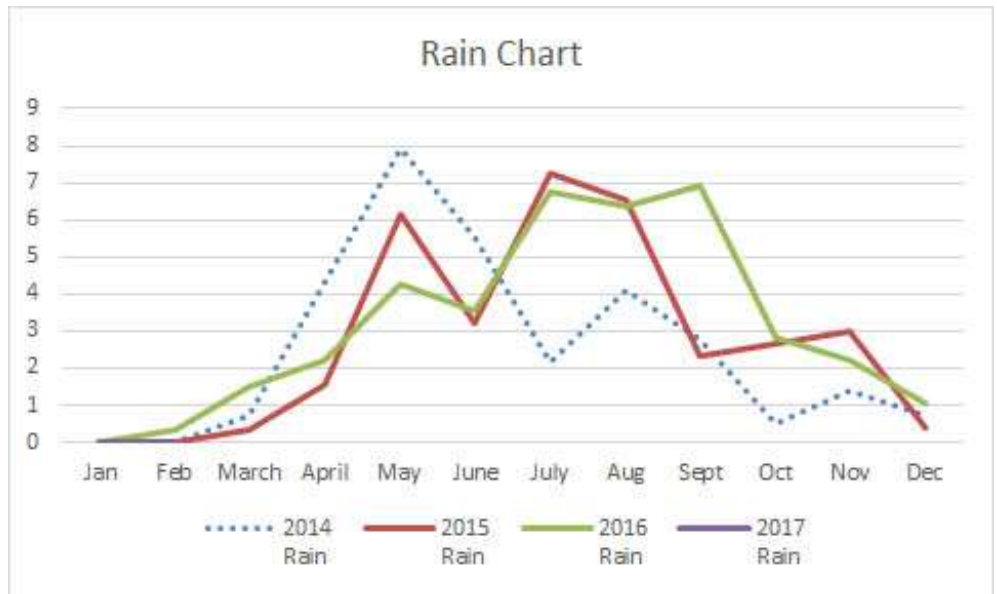
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Precipitation Data ..... Wally Erickson  
Sign Maintenance ..... Craig Panning  
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Water Testing ..... Brian Knox  
Web Site ..... Jennifer Severson

*Thank you to the board, officers,  
volunteers and the many others who  
help make the L FARCC possible!*

## Water Levels & Precipitation



*10-Year History: Data Courtesy of the Minnesota DNR.*



*Rain and Snow Data Courtesy of Wally Erickson, Lake Francis resident.*



# Greetings from Lake Association President Jan Anderson

*Hello everyone,*

While I know that it's still winter, I can't help thinking about summer at the lake. Especially since the ice out last year happened in March! We all know that means that another wonderful summer cabin season is just around the corner.

I'd like to welcome all of our new cabin owners to Lake Francis—we're glad you're here! Please feel free to contact your area representatives if you have questions regarding the lake or surrounding area. And don't forget to pick up one of our New Member Packets from Board Member John Stokes!

If you haven't already joined the Lake Association, please do! Our organization represents members on the issues most important to them. L FARCC volunteers are working hard on conservation, water quality, invasive species and we're always looking for new ideas and talented members to join us.

One of the greatest concerns of our members is the potential for Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) to infest Lake Francis. So far we've remained free of Eurasian Milfoil, Zebra Mussels and Starry Stonewort; however, all of those invasive species have been discovered in nearby lakes. The L FARCC will continue to work closely with the DNR, local officials and nearby lake associations to keep members up-to-date on AIS issues and treatments.

Again this year, the main Lake Francis boat launch will be monitored by trained AIS inspectors from Anchor Dock & Lift and Bishop AIS Services from May to September. Boats will be inspected for invasive species and boaters educated in identifying invasive species and how to properly clean their boats.

Trained AIS volunteers from our organization also perform monthly AIS weed and Zebra Mussel inspections of all nine areas of the lake. We also ask you to be on the

lookout for any suspicious invasive species. If you see what you suspect may be an AIS, please contact your area representative so we can have it checked out.

Please join us on June 24 for the Lake Association's Annual Meeting held at the Kingston Community Center. Board members and special guests will share updates on association projects and issues that effect Lake Francis.

I'm very excited to announce that the L FARCC will once-again host the annual picnic, which will be held on Saturday, August 5. Our 2nd Annual Golf Outing will be the next day—Sunday, August 6. Last year over 25 people enjoyed a round of golf at the Kimball Golf Course to raise funds for the L FARCC.

The way to connect and stay informed is always with a smile and handshake over conversation with neighbors and friends, but don't forget to sign up for our monthly e-newsletter, too. We'll keep you up-to-date on event and issues via email and on our Facebook page and new website.

The L FARCC has been in existence for over 45 years. Some of our members have been with us since beginning and some have joined in the last year or so. No matter who you are or how long you've been a member... the L FARCC would like to say THANK YOU for your support. We have accomplished a lot together!

As an Association, there's much more work to be done. Like they say, "many hands make work light!" If you have ideas or are willing to donate time or money to help ensure the future of Lake Francis, we welcome your support. The Board would love to hear from you and have you be a part of the L FARCC Team!

See you at the lake!

*Jan Anderson, L FARCC President*

## BOARD SPOTLIGHT

### Jan Anderson, Wildwood Terrace

#### When did you become an L FARCC Board Member?

I started on the Board in 2013 as Vice President and have been President since 2015.

#### What is the Lake Association



#### doing that you're most proud of?

I've always liked the sense of community and friendships the Lake

Association has developed. The annual picnic has always represented that to me. I also like that the Lake Association is very concerned and involved with keeping the lake healthy and clean for everyone's enjoyment. The programs we have in place and the relationships we have working with the DNR and Meeker and Wright Counties are our ongoing commitment to keep Lake Francis a clean and healthy lake for generations to come!

#### What do you enjoy most about Lake Francis?

I enjoy the time spent at the lake with my family and friends mostly. Also the fact that we can keep our horses at the farm and be so close to them all summer!

#### Tell us more about yourself...

I'm from Richfield and graduated from Holy Angels High School and the U of M. My wife Korie and I have been together 30 years and were married in 2013. My hobbies are spending time with family, golfing and caring for our two horses and dog, Oreo. I've been an American Airlines pilot with since 1988 and currently Captain a Boeing 737, and serve as a pilot recruiter and mentor at American Airlines, Women in Aviation and the National Gay Pilots Association.

## BOARD SPOTLIGHT

### Craig Panning, Pirate's Cove

**When did you become an LFARCC Board Member?**

I joined the Board in Fall 2012.



**What is the Association doing that you're most proud of?**

The Lake Association activity I'm

most proud of is the on-going effort to raise funds and apply for grants that

contribute to the effort of keeping invasive species out of the Lake. Based on all the bad things that could get into the lake, I believe this is the most important thing the Association should continue to work for.

#### **What do you enjoy most about Lake Francis?**

The thing I enjoy most about the Lake is watching the trees get covered with snow during a big winter snow storm, and trolling for Northerns in the summer. (Believe it or not, there are some nice Northerns in the Lake).

#### **Tell us more about yourself...**

I worked in the Parks and Recreation Administration field for 40 years. I retired from the City of St. Louis Park in May of 2012, after 37 years with the City.

I met my wife Patty in the late 1960s, while attending college in Mankato. Our city home is in Richfield, where we have lived since 1975. My hobbies include home construction and remodeling specializing in tile work, financial planning and investing, hunting, fishing, walking and feeding deer, birds and squirrels.



## LAKE FRANCIS AIS MONITORING SUCCESSFUL IN 2016

**Monitors make 823 inspections, educate boaters**

*By Jefferson Bishop  
Bishop AIS Services*

When Lake Francis teamed with the CROW and charged Bishop AIS Services with the 2016 AIS monitoring initiative on Lake Francis, we set two goals for our program.

First and foremost, we endeavored to educate users and boaters of Lake Francis of the seriousness of AIS and, specifically, Zebra Mussels. The second goal of the program was to reduce the chance of AIS introduction to Lake Francis.

Both goals were driven by inspections at the access. In our efforts to educate boaters, hundreds of regular users of Lake Francis that had no knowledge of the concern now appreciate the seriousness of the issue and understand the mantra from the DNR "clean, drain and dry" as well as the options they have to comply with either best practices or a complete decontamination. We taught boaters that this matter is simultaneously important, eminent and actionable.

In our efforts to reduce the change of AIS introduction, it was understood that 24/7 inspection coverage is untenable given the funding so we would utilize a "best effort" approach.

Based on predicted boater traffic, we generated an inspection staffing

schedule that tried to maximize the number of boats that would be inspected. To my knowledge, no AIS was introduced to Lake Francis in 2016.

In summary, we succeeded in both goals of the 2016 AIS monitoring initiative on Lake Francis. In addition to our goals, as part of the delegation agreement between the DNR and CROW, our monitors collected a significant amount of data about traffic totals, traffic patterns, violations of DNR rules and best practices found at the Lake Francis access. The data was gathered by our monitors using the DNR software and is available for public review via the DNR.

Despite our successes, in 2016 we received extremely disheartening news about your closest neighbor to the northeast, Lake Sylvia. In June 2016, it was confirmed that Lake Sylvia contains Zebra Mussels. Then in September, the DNR confirmed the presence of Starry Stonewort. In my opinion, these both present a clear and present danger to the health and quality of Lake Francis, as well as all lakes in the area.

To my knowledge, there are no known "silver bullet" solutions for treatment or containment of either of

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# LAKE FRANCIS AIS MONITORING SUCCESSFUL IN 2016

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these threats to our lakes. The biology of Zebra Mussels are fairly well understood in terms of their lifecycle, ways to inhibit their spread, and means to decontaminate marine equipment. Unfortunately the same information about Starry Stonewort is not yet available. Based on anecdotal evidence, Starry Stonewort may be even more detrimental to lakes than Zebra Mussels.

I would urge anyone with an interest in the health and quality of Minnesota lakes (and I would argue that includes everyone because the economy of Minnesota is significantly affected by our lakes) become educated and proactive at the

## Learn to identify Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)



Zebra Mussel



Starry Stonewort

legislative and regulatory level to encourage the MN DNR and local legislators to become extremely proactive and aggressive in their efforts to stop these threats.


*Photos courtesy of Minnesota DNR*




Eurasian Milfoil

*Check out our new website at [www.lakefrancismn.org/](http://www.lakefrancismn.org/)!*

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## YOUR BUSINESS HERE

Business membership benefits include listings in printed and electronic newsletters, and on the LFARCC website and Facebook page.



**SAVE THE DATES!**  
**Lake Association Annual Meeting**  
Saturday, June 24, Kingston Community Center

**Annual Picnic Lake Francis Picnic**  
Saturday, August 5, Hosted by Ranta Lane & Pirate's Cove

**2nd Annual Golf Outing**  
Sunday, August 6, Kimball Golf Course



Thank you for your continued support!

# Lake Francis

Area Recreation & Conservation Club, Inc.  
PO Box 81  
South Haven, MN 55382

Interested in Volunteering? The LFARCC has opportunities to give back and ensure that Lake Francis thrives for years to come!



## 2017 MEMBERSHIP INFO ENCLOSED

For only \$35/year, you'll enjoy up-to-date lake information, special events, a printed lake directory, water level monitoring, lake stewardship, and access to the DNR, Wright & Meeker County, area watershed and other representatives and expertise. **Memberships forms are due May 15, 2017.**

## 2017 Calendar of Lake Events & Area Happenings

- April 1 ..... Kimball Area Business & Community Expo
- April 8 ..... LFARCC Board Meeting**
- May 13 ..... Fishing Opener
- May 15 ..... Membership Registration Deadline**
- May 27 ..... Smallmouth & Largemouth Bass Seasons Open
- June 9-11 ..... Take a Kid Fishing Weekend in Minnesota
- June 24 ..... LFARCC Board Meeting & Annual Member Meeting**
- July 26-30 ..... Wright County Fair, Howard Lake
- Aug. 3-6 ..... Meeker County Fair, Litchfield
- Aug. 5 ..... Lake Francis Annual Picnic**  
**Hosted by Ranta Lane & Pirate's Cove**
- Aug. 6 ..... LFARCC Golf Outing. Kimball Golf Club**
- Aug. 11-13 ..... Kimball Days
- Sept. 16 ..... LFARCC Board Meeting & Volunteer Dinner**

*Watch the LFARCC Facebook page for updates!*

*Contact your Area Representative with concerns, comments or questions you'd like the Lake Francis ARCC Board of Directors to address.*