



**OLA Annual Meeting
Saturday, May 16th, 2026
(4 - 8 pm) Dinner,
Silent and Live Online Auction
at Osakis VFW**

President's Message

Protecting the Lake We Love. One of our most important initiatives is the Water Level Management Project. Working with engineering experts and the JD2 Ditch Authority, JD2 Ditch Authority has been awarded a grant and they have applied for the permit. If permitted, this improvement will help Lake Osakis recover more quickly during periods of high water while slowing outflow during low-water conditions – stabilizing shorelines, reducing water level variability, mitigating bog movement, protecting infrastructure, and improving fish passage. We are optimistic that visible progress on this project could begin as early as this coming fall.

Bruce Magnus, President, Osakis Lake Association

Protecting Lake Osakis – Together

Whether you live on Lake Osakis year-round, enjoy a seasonal cabin, fish its waters, or gather here with family and friends, Lake Osakis is a shared treasure. Its health today—and for generations to come—depends on people who care enough to invest their time, resources, and voices in its future.

That shared responsibility is the foundation of the Osakis Lake Association.

Who We Are

The Osakis Lake Association (OLA) is a volunteer-driven nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting and improving the water quality, clarity, and sustainability of Lake Osakis. Our Board of Directors is made up of individuals who share a deep commitment to responsible lake stewardship and long-term preservation.

We represent the collective voice of lake users across Todd and Douglas Counties—lakeshore owners, seasonal residents, anglers, recreational users, and community partners—working year-round to ensure Lake Osakis remains healthy, accessible, and enjoyable for all.

What We Do for the Lake

OLA is actively engaged in hands-on efforts financial investments and strategic partnerships that deliver measurable benefits to the lake:

Curly Leaf Pondweed Management: Reducing curly leaf pondweed populations which is reducing nutrients available for algae growth.

Feasibility Study's: investing in future opportunities to improve water management and quality (outlet improvement, septic system management)

Project match: Outlet monetary local match funds (10%), JD2 project Lake bottom sampling and analysis.

Water Quality Monitoring

We regularly collect and analyze water samples for nutrient loading and contaminants, tracking trends and sharing results to guide informed decision-making.

Partnerships That Matter

We collaborate with Todd and Douglas County Soil & Water Conservation Districts, the Sauk River Watershed District, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to address lake-wide challenges.

Fish Stocking & Habitat Support

Lake Osakis is stocked annually with walleye fingerlings to support a healthy, sustainable fishery.

Water Level Advocacy

We actively participate in discussions and planning related to fluctuating water levels that affect recreation, shoreline health, and property.

Who Should Be a Paid Member?

Anyone who benefits from Lake Osakis.

If you fish, boat, swim, recreate, or own property on or near the lake, you benefit directly from its health—and share in the responsibility for protecting it.

Membership is open to everyone, regardless of residency. Seasonal residents, out-of-state property owners, and frequent visitors are encouraged and welcomed.

Lake stewardship does not stop at the shoreline, nor does it depend on a mailing address.

Why Membership Matters

A common question we hear is: “I already pay property taxes—doesn't that support the lake?”

While property taxes fund general government services, they do not fund the Osakis Lake Association or our lake-specific initiatives.

Your membership dues:

- Directly support water monitoring, advocacy, and improvement projects
- Strengthen our ability to qualify for state and grant funding
- Demonstrate broad-based support—critical when working with agencies and decision-makers

Currently, only about 35% of lakeshore owners are members. To secure long-term improvements and additional resources, we must grow that number significantly. Membership is the foundation that allows OLA to advocate effectively for Lake Osakis.

Balancing Lake Stewardship and Community Support

We know that our members join the Osakis Lake Association because they care deeply about Lake Osakis—and they want to see their support make a real difference for the lake. Protecting water quality, sustaining the fishery, and preserving the lake for future generations remain at the heart of everything we do.

At the same time, much of OLA's funding comes from local charitable gambling, which relies on strong relationships within the Osakis community. By supporting local charities, safety services, and community events, OLA helps maintain the goodwill and cooperation that make these funding efforts possible.

These community contributions are not made at the expense of our mission. Rather, they help ensure that OLA remains financially stable and well-positioned to continue its lake-focused work. The Board of Directors carefully considers how resources are allocated, always with an eye toward maintaining this balance.

Simply put, protecting Lake Osakis requires both engaged members and a supportive community. By honoring both partnerships, OLA is able to stay focused on lake stewardship today while building the relationships needed to support that work well into the future.

Our Role in Supporting the Osakis Community

OLA is proud to give back to the community in meaningful ways. Over the years, OLA has supported:

- Osakis Police Department and Fire Department equipment needs
- First Responders' holiday events and safety training
- Osakis Fourth of July fireworks
- Beautification projects, including the Town Pier
- Senior Meals on Wheels
- Osakis Community Easter Egg Event
- Osakis Festival and Taste of Osakis
- Osakis High School scholarships
- Youth safety initiatives, including boating safety programs
- Todd County Foster Care Closet
- Osakis Women's Association Spirit of Giving Project
- Water quality monitoring and lake surveys
- Bog mitigation efforts
- Adopt-a-Highway (3-mile stretch of Hwy 27)

Each of these efforts reflects our belief that protecting Lake Osakis goes hand in hand with supporting the people and organizations that care for it year-round.

How You Can Help

You don't need to live on the lake full-time to make a difference:

- Become a member of the Osakis Lake Association
- Participate in the Lake Stewards program
- Maintain your septic system to reduce nutrient runoff
- Stay informed and engaged—your voice matters

Want Us to Visit Your Group?

If you are part of a resort association, lake group, or seasonal gathering, OLA board members are happy to attend a meeting for a brief presentation and Q&A. **Contact:** Mark Durst, 763-370-7294 Niel Meierhofer, 320-250-9760

OLA Gambling Locations

All donations are made possible with gambling proceeds and the cooperation of our gambling sites:

- Head of the Lakes
- The Bowling Barn
- The Osakis Pub
- Osakis Country Club

Together, we can protect Lake Osakis while sustaining the community that surrounds it—now and for generations to come.

Helping More Neighbors Attend Our Annual Meeting

One of the goals of our association is to make sure as many members as possible can take part in important conversations. With that in mind, the Board recently discussed whether the timing of our Annual Meeting could be improved.

A suggestion was made to move the meeting to early June, when more seasonal residents are typically back at Osakis Lake. Holding the meeting earlier in the spring can sometimes limit attendance due to school schedules, travel, or other pre-Memorial Day commitments.

This is only a discussion — not a decision. Before anything changes, the Board wants to hear from the community.

Your thoughts, preferences, and ideas will help guide the conversation. Please share your feedback by emailing

Bruce Magnus at bbmagn@gmail.com.

Thank you for being an active and valued part of our Osakis Lake community.

Display Plaque/Plate: OLA will be providing exterior plaques (like an auto license plate) with a yearly sticker for each paid membership. Display it on your mailbox, signpost, fence rail, etc. When you pay your dues, you will be able to pick up your plate or yearly sticker at the Annual Meeting or at one of our gambling sites.

Display Plaques and Stickers are available at Head of the Lakes, and the Bowling Barn



Annual Meeting - Silent & Live Auction

Join us **Saturday, May 16th** for our **Annual Meeting, Dinner, Silent Auction** and **Online Live Auction**.

Meeting starts at 4:00 pm, followed by dinner and auctions.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION & RENEWAL FORM

- New Member
- Renewal Member
- I need a Display Plate
- I Need Yearly Sticker Only

Please send a Self-Addressed Stamped Envelope.

Name (s): _____

Mailing Address:

Street _____

City _____ St _____ Zip _____

Cabin Address:

Street _____

City _____ St _____ Zip _____

Contact Phone # _____

E-mail address: _____



DUES ARE \$50.00 PER YEAR.

Dues for Jan. 1st to Dec. 31st

Dues: \$ 50.00

Extra for Bog: \$ _____

General Donation: \$ _____

Total: \$ _____

Ck# _____ Cash _____

Mail To:

OLA

PO Box 102

Osakis, MN 56360

Thank You for your tax-deductible donation.
OLA is a 501 c(3) non-profit organization.

Osakis Lake Association
secure payment QR code:



To pay online: Secure payment link:

<https://www.paypal.com/ncp/payment/2TXYK4BF8CSA2>

(If this link does not work when clicked on, copy and paste the URL above into your internet browser to connect.)



Detach here and return with payment

50 Years - The Honest Reality

What's better today:

- Stronger data and monitoring
- Reduced sediment through JD2 work
- More shoreline best practices
- Better coordinated lake management



If you **move** or **sell**, please inform us of your new mailing address and/or new occupant information via phone at 320.293.4491 or info@OsakisLakeAssociation.org

All association information for members is being updated on our website, OsakisLakeAssociation.org (under Recent News), including monthly meeting minutes and updates on anything lake related.

How to Join or Renew

- A 2026 membership application is included with this newsletter
- Join or renew online anytime at OsakisLakeAssociation.org using our secure credit-card option

To our renewing members: Thank you. Your continued support makes everything we do possible.

Ongoing challenges:

- Nutrient and sediment pressures continue
- Aquatic invasive plants require constant vigilance
- Watershed work must be maintained and expanded

Bottom line:

Lake stewardship is a marathon, not a sprint — and Lake Osakis is better positioned today because OLA stayed engaged.

Looking Ahead (2026–2030)

- Continue aggressive AIS monitoring and response
- Expand watershed nutrient reduction projects
- Support strong fisheries management
- Strengthen member engagement and education
- Evaluate future outlet and water-level strategies

Thank You! — *To every member, volunteer, partner, and lake supporter — thank you for 50 years of caring for Lake Osakis. The next chapter starts now.*

Osakis Lake Association Board of Directors

Bruce Magnus – President, 507-951-1332

Doug Schmidt – Vice President, 320-760-5424

Open– Secretary

Roxanne Malum – Treasurer, 715-688-9283

Tara Gimbel – Gambling Manager

Stephanie McKee, 469-693-6566

Brad Forsell, 320-491-8148

Greg Trende, 612-201-4378

Mark Durst, 763-370-7294

Niel Meierhofer, 320-250-9760

Ron Boerboom, 612-759-2822

Deb Murphy, 320-293-4491

Dave Meyer, 320-212-1325

Steve Baloun, 763-238-8025

Tom Johnsen, 952-451-8278

Tim Green, 612-889-9939

Janice Hauri, 612-366-1831

BULK PERMIT
POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT #
123456

Annual Meeting
and Live Auction
Notice
Sat, May 16, 2026
4-8 PM



Osakis, MN 56360
P.O. Box 102



Osakis Lake Association Sponsors:



Leslie Community Church, Osakis



Two Mile Trailer Park & Campground



THE GENERAL STORE
SINCE 1987



Thank you