

Current Buoy Situation on Lake Mason

- Lake Mason was drained in 1970 to control the carp population
- After several years allowing the lake to stabilize, weed growth was so great that it regularly entangled boat propellers. Fishing, navigation, water skiing, canoeing were all difficult. Long strands of dead seaweed and vegetation floated to the dam. By mid summer, the lake was not accessible.
- The LMMD, along with the DNR began spraying copper-based weed killer along shorelines for some residents and sprayed a figure 8 channel around the lake. Approximately 32 channel marking buoys were placed. Signage guided boaters to follow the Channel markers.
- The carp population has returned, uprooting seaweed. The DNR does not allow spraying for weeds anymore, so the purpose of the buoys is no longer needed.

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- All buoys are channel marker buoys attached to five-gallon pails filled with concrete. Deano's attaches the buoys in the Spring when they install the handicap accessible pier. They remove the buoys and attach winter buoys in the fall. Winter buoys are smaller and better for ice fishing traffic.
- Prior to hiring Deano's, the LMMD managed buoys through volunteers. There was an annual budget for replacing two buoys every year.
- Since hiring Deano's, the replacement program stopped. The buoys are in various states of disrepair. Two of the winter buoys were not replaced causing a hazard. Two members of the LIMC replaced the buoys just prior to the Fourth Of July Boat Parade.
- Deano's takes out winter/summer buoys and places them at the North Boat Landing. John Konkell takes the buoys and hauls them to his property across the road.
- Many of the buoy anchors have shifted. Only 27 remain.

Buoy Storage at John Konkel's Property



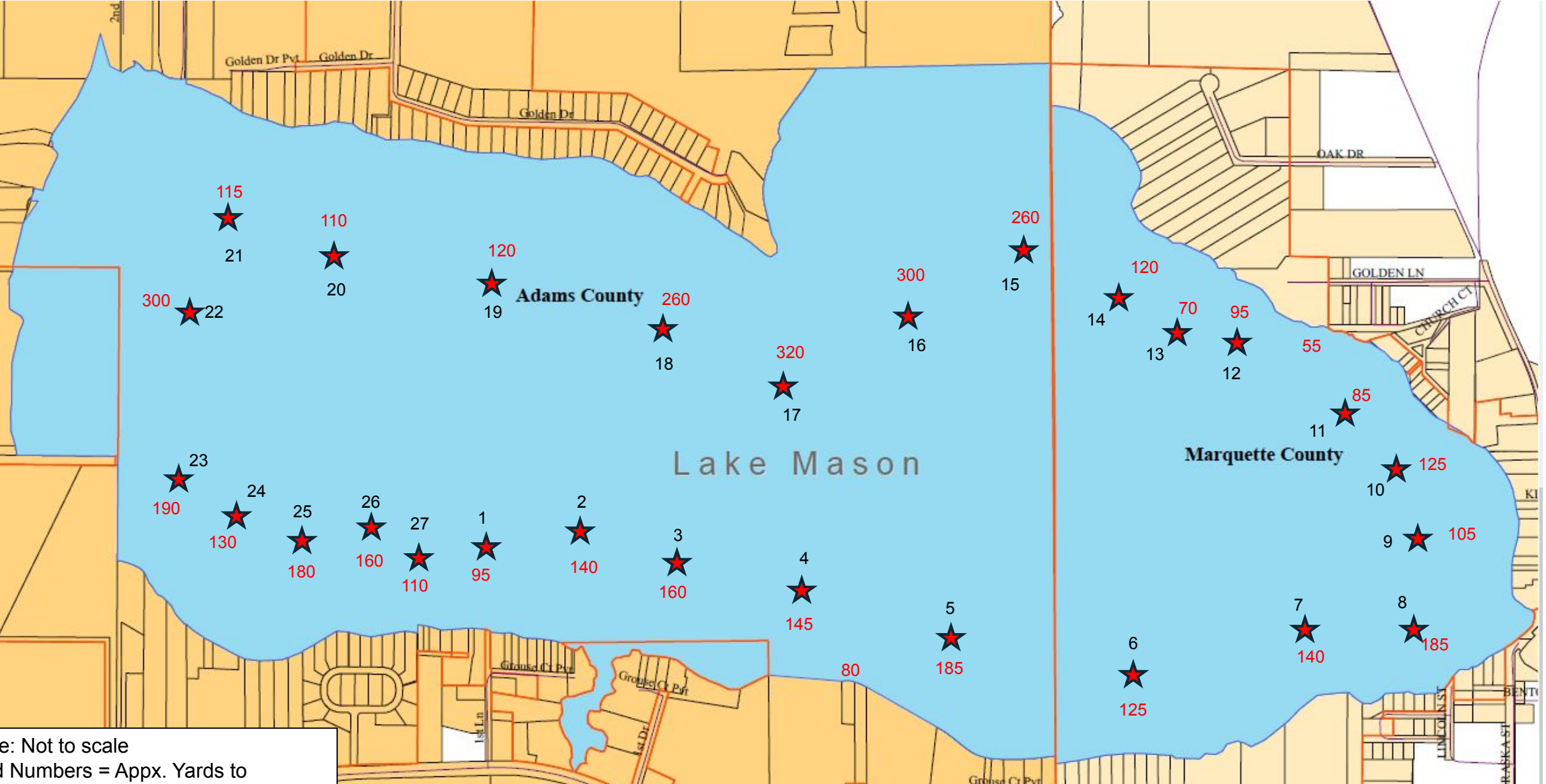
Current Condition of Buoys



Signage at Mason Station and Boater following the channel



Current Buoy Locations



Note: Not to scale
Red Numbers = Appx. Yards to
Shoreline

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- Cost of buoy replacement: ~ \$500 per
- Cost of winter spar buoy replacement: ~ \$150 per
- Cost of Insertion/retrieval: ~ \$35 per buoy
- Current contractor Deanos
- Cost of repainting/repairing: Not recommended.
- Anchor device: Five Gallon Pail Filled with Concrete
- Current Storage: Outdoors. The Lake Mason Campground has offered to rent a storage facility to us.
- Storage Location: John Konkel's property.

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- Many residents and lake guests are misinformed about the meaning of the buoys.
- The buoys are not navigational buoys. They do not mark a safe channel through the stumps because stumps shift. Many residents want to have navigational buoys and mistakenly count on them to avoid stumps.
- The buoys do not indicate No Wake between buoy and the shoreline. Some residents feel that they should provide this.
- Boats speed on both sides of the buoy. Over the Fourth there was an incident reported to the DNR/warden of a large speed boat driving on the inside of the buoys close to a person floating off their pier.
- The lake survey of residents found that Lake Mason is split between fishing and recreation. Fisherman populate the stumps on the West End and skiing and tubing is done on the East End.

Status Quo – Do Not Change Anything.

Pros –

- Minimal Effort

Cons –

- Buoys have been lost, need to be replaced. Over \$500 each.
- We would have to replace around 10 buoys.
- Some anchors have been lost. Need DNR Permit to replace.
- Buoys have lost original meaning. Re-education through new signs at the 3 main launch sites. What is their meaning?
- People may continue to speed near buoys unnecessarily
- We continue paying ~\$2000 annually to place and remove the buoys.
- We will need a place to store the buoys and pay rent.

Repurpose Buoys – Navigational on West End and No Wake on East end.

Pros –

- Safe Channel around stumps
- Designated No Wake Zones – 2 Coves, 3 Boat Launches, 1 Sand Bars

Cons –

- Moving and re-marking navigational channels requires a new lake survey and DNR permit – Cost\$ Annually?
- Will need LMMD vote and DNR permit for No Wake Buoys
- All buoys will need to be replaced
- We will need to change the signs at the boat landing
- There is liability with marking a navigational route and damage to boats and watercraft. The channel will need to be professionally maintained.
- Will need to find a storage space for the buoys and pay rent.

Remove Buoys

Pros –

- Eliminate costs
- Eliminates confusion as to the current meaning of the buoys
- Other lakes do not have channel buoys.
- No liability
- Removes false sense of security around stumps. People will need to learn the lake and proceed with caution.

Cons –

- Will need new signs at landing warning people of the stump danger at west end of lake, and beware of loosened, floating stumps.
- Some people may be upset at the change.
- Will need to inform the public.

The Buoy Committee

- Bob Carlson
- Mike Atterberry
- Sal Danke
- Dale Sankey
- John Konkel
- Deana Wenker