

District Of Powers Lake NEWSLETTER

Published for all those who use and love Powers Lake

SPRING 1999

District Grant Application Gets DNR Approval !

Due to the dedication and continual efforts of Commissioner Ed Burke, the District of Powers Lake was recently awarded a grant from the Dept. of Natural Resources. Funding was requested to assist the District in conducting studies relating to the overall lake management of Powers Lake. Five elements were included in the program in which grant funding was requested and approved.

1. Water Quality Monitoring and Quantification:

Water quality data will be gathered by citizen monitors under the auspices of the DNR Self-Help Monitoring program and by a U.S. Geological Survey trophic state index (TSI) water quality monitoring program designed to quantify the water quality of Powers Lake.

2. Assessment of Water Quality Trends:

Based on an assessment of past and current water quality data, an assessment of the changes in water quality within the Powers Lake basin will be made. Specific attention will be given to the trends in chloride concentrations, and the potential for internal phosphorus loading within the lake.

3. Identification of Elector Concerns:

The active participation of the District Electors (lake-front property owners) in the determination of policies and programs of the District is imperative. For this reason, a questionnaire survey to identify issues of concern among the Electors will be used by the Commissioners to determine both citizen needs and perceptions relative to lake management issues.

4. Refinement of the Adopted Lake Management Plan:

The above studies, combined with information gathered during the previous lake management planning program, will be used to determine the possible existence and nature of any water quality and other threats or concerns facing Powers Lake.

5. Public Information:

The Commissioners recognize the importance of an informed and active electorate. At least four public meetings are held to relay information and to identify needs within the Powers Lake community. In response to these needs, the District will obtain appropriate educational materials from UWEX and other State agencies, and if possible, distribute these materials to lake residents. Also, this DOPL Newsletter, a product of the grant, was produced for direct circulation to the electors of the District to inform them of issues facing Powers Lake and its watershed.

Public support and participation is very important. The District Commissioners do not receive monetary compensation for their efforts, they work because they want to insure that the beauty of Powers Lake will remain for future generations. More volunteers are needed to help implement the Powers Lake studies and programs that this grant will fund. Please Help!

PUBLIC NOTICE

**Date Change for Next Quarterly Meeting
of the Board of Commissioners**

JUNE 11th, 1999

WANTED

**Candidates for Commissioner Position
for election at Annual Meeting
Friday August 6, 1999**

Must be fair, honest, civic minded and trustworthy. Must love Powers Lake and want to preserve its beauty for the next generation. Must be willing to work long hard hours at no pay. Term of position - three years.

Contact Bob Laurine for more info 279-2992

Aquatic Weed & Plant Survey Scheduled

Although excessive plant growth isn't good for recreational activities or fishing, the extreme opposite - a plant-barren lake bottom - is much worse. Aquatic plants play an essential and beneficial role in the life systems of most lakes:

- ✧ plants produce oxygen and organic material which help keep the lake and organisms in the lake alive;
- ✧ plants provide spawning areas, food and protective cover for fish; and
- ✧ plants help purify the water by absorbing nutrients like nitrates and phosphorus and other pollutants.

The last aquatic plant survey of Powers Lake was conducted in 1993. It is time to do another survey. Why? It is a measurement of the quality of the lake, and it will show a trend in the aquatic plant population and the possible need for a plant control program.

Aron & Associates, Lake Management Consultants, will be contracted to conduct an aquatic plant survey, including a line transect survey and a general survey. There will be one sampling period between mid-June and mid-July. The sampling will follow the transects established during the last 1993 survey. A strip chart recorder will be used to record the plant densities along these transects. The general survey will consist of a visual inspection of as much of Powers Lake as possible to document the existence of plant species and areas in need of control or protection. Samples of any species not previously identified in Powers Lake will be collected, mounted and preserved. The survey will document the location and density of Eurasian Water Milfoil, in order to quantify the spread of this nuisance plant.

The plant communities will be illustrated on a lake map and a comparison will be done with the data collected in 1993. The Aquatic Plant Management Plan will include a discussion of changes found in the lake as well as activities that may have influenced those changes. Sources of plant problems will be discussed, and recommendations in the Powers Lake Plant Management Program will be reviewed for possible changes based on needs, in-lake vegetation and user impairments.



Powers Lake Yacht Club 1949-1999

To commemorate PLYC's 50th Anniversary a special event is being planned for this Summer.

There will be a Pig Roast featuring games and prizes for the children, and music by a Live Band. Let's All Party!

The Powers Lake Yacht Club has many other exciting events planned throughout the Summer.

For additional information please contact:

Dale Bonifas
1100 Church Road
Aurora, IL 60505
(630) 844-6317

LOCAL NEWS

A \$2.00 parking fee for the DNR boat launch is being implemented by the Town of Randall. A payment envelope with a tear-off portion is to be placed on the vehicle and the balance placed in a collection box. The parking fee would be used for maintenance and clean-up of the boat launch area.

Randall has also recently passed an ordinance requiring all power boats to stay 100' from any other boat. A boating accident prompted this ruling for safety reasons and will be strictly enforced this Summer by the Randall Water Patrol. Pass this info on to all members of your family.

Lake Use Survey

During the Summer you will receive a survey from the District Commissioners. Please take the time and respond to this questionnaire; because it will be used to determine the the direction of future goals that District of Powers Lake will follow and it is your chance to express your opinions. As earlier mentioned, this survey is part of a DNR grant program, and our goal is to have a 100% electorate response! If we, the homeowners on Powers Lake, don't show an active concern for our lake, how can we expect the other governing bodies to show concern? This is *your* District, and it is time for all of us to become united.

A Word of Thanks!



Last year the District of Powers Lake started a Self-Help Program and asked for a volunteer to do water quality monitoring around the lake.

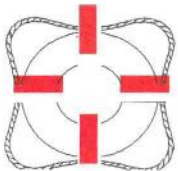
We should all give a big "Thank You" to Mr. Gill Kroll for his conscientious performance.

Every Tuesday last Summer, Gil Kroll would take five water samples from various shoreline locations of Powers Lake. He would then catalog the collection, map the location of each sample, and transport the samples to the City of Burlington Water Pollution Control Facility for analysis.

The water samples were tested for Fecal Coliform (which is a bacteria measurement of feces and excreta from warm blooded mammals - humans, dogs, birds, etc.). We were informed that counts of less than 200 are desirable. Each week, a water sample was taken at the Lakeside Beach in cooperation with the Town of Randall. A count in excess of 1000 from that sample would have called for the immediate closure of the beach.

Gil Kroll spent a lot of time on this project and has agreed to continue with the testing this year.

Gil, Thank you!



Boating Safety Course Planned

A Boating Safety Course is being offered to all Powers Lake District members at least 12 yrs. old.

Last year we had a very serious boating accident on Powers Lake and we need to promote safer boating operations in the future. The three day course will be taught in the evening on June 16 & 18 and the morning of June 19. The District will provide all necessary materials and a certified instructor. This class will be limited to the first 20 students, if needed additional classes will be scheduled. Parents are encouraged to enroll their children.

Please contact Commissioner Kim Kipp to enroll.

Phone (847) 821-7283

Fax (847) 821-7285

E-Mail Kipp888@aol.com

SEPTIC SYSTEM CHECKLIST

Lake community homeowners have a special responsibility to ensure that their septic systems are not polluting Powers Lake. Septic systems can be safe and effective so long as homeowners actively monitor and maintain them.

- ✓ Inspect your septic tank once a year to discover the level of scum and sludge that has built up, and pump your septic tank when necessary.
- ✓ Read product labels! Use low phosphorus detergents and cleaning products whenever possible. Phosphorus is the nutrient most likely to cause damage to Powers Lake after leaving your septic system.
- ✓ Avoid using a garbage disposal. Garbage disposals adds tremendously to the amount of solids entering your septic tank.
- ✓ Do not pour strong cleaning agents, chemicals, or old medicines down the drain. These kill beneficial bacteria that break down septic waste.
- ✓ Keep all non-biodegradable items such as sanitary napkins, disposable diapers, paper towels, cigarette butts out of your septic tank. These items will not degrade in your tank, and can clog inlets, outlets, and absorption fields.
- ✓ Remind your guests that they are "in the country", and that they should be careful as to what they flush and wash down the drains.

Keep your septic system working properly. Much of the value of your property is dependent on the cleanliness of Powers Lake. Help protect the waters of Powers Lake and it will protect your investment.





Phosphate-Free Fertilizers

Healthy lawns, trees and shrubs add to the beauty and value of a home. Maintaining healthy lawns, however, often requires the use of fertilizers; and improper fertilizer use can cause water pollution. When nitrogen and phosphorus wash into the lake it can

- * promote unsightly algae blooms and aquatic weed growth,
- * lower dissolved oxygen levels in the water, and
- * may release ammonia -- which is toxic to fish.

We must all try to reduce the phosphorus level in our lake. IT ALL ADDS UP! Fertilizer carelessly applied on one lawn may seem insignificant. On hundreds of lawns, however, careless applications add up to a major problem for Powers Lake.

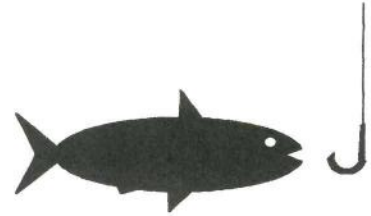
A fertilization program should begin with a soil test. Soil tests provide specific fertilizer recommendations for your lawn and can help you avoid excessive fertilization. For more information on soil testing, contact the Kenosha UW Extension Office. Should you need to fertilize, do it in early October, NOT early May. Spring applications tend to wash into the lake during spring rains, and can actually harm your lawn by promoting more top growth than root growth. Shallow root systems are unable to sustain lawns through drought or a harsh winter. Fall fertilizer applications, however, promote a deep healthy root system. Also, the fertilizer is less likely to be washed into the lake.

Avoid the use of fertilizers that contain any Phosphorus, a major water pollutant. The phosphorus level in our lake has been climbing, and most soils already contain enough phosphorus for a healthy lawn.

Low-phosphorus or phosphate-free fertilizers can provide the necessary nutrients while avoiding a threat to Powers Lake water quality.

Please, be sure to tell your landscaper that you only want PHOSPHATE-FREE fertilizer applied to your lawn. If you apply your own, the Burlington Co-Op sells a full line of lawn care products called "ClearLake". IT ALL ADDS UP!

DNR FISH SURVEY




In the Spring of 1998, the Senior Fisheries Biology Department of the Wisc Dept of Natural Resources conducted a Fisheries Index Survey for Powers Lake. This initial survey was the first step toward providing a fisheries management service for our lake. A Comprehensive project to gather more detailed information about the fish population is scheduled for the Spring of 2001. Once that project is completed and some base line data is documented, a recommended fishery program will be presented by the DNR for implementation on Powers Lake.

The initial index survey was conducted by electro-fishing (boat mounted DC pulsed electroshocker) along 2 miles of Powers Lake shoreline for a 1-1/2 hour period. 217 gamefish, panfish and non-game fish were identified, counted, measured and released. The most common fish counted were Bluegills followed by Largemouth Bass and Pumpkinseed. Other fish identified in the survey were Yellow Perch, Rock Bass, Yellow Bullhead, White Sucker, Northern Pike, Warmouth, Longnose Gar, Bowfin and Brown Bullhead.

Copies of this report will be available at our Annual Meeting on Friday, August 6, 1999.

Powers Lake Yacht Club



Sailing School

A two week class is tentatively scheduled to begin July 5, '99. Adults and children over 7 are welcome to enroll. Classes will be formed according to skill level and boat availability. For further information on fees, times and place, contact Jim & Cindy Leparski (847) 359-7290 or (414) 279-3551

Swimmer's Itch - "June Itch" (cercarial dermatitis, schistosome dermatitis)

What is swimmer's itch?

Swimmer's itch is a skin rash caused by a parasite that penetrates the skin. Only about one third of the people who come in contact with the parasite develop the rash. When infected, a reddened spot appears within a few hours. The spot may grow in size - especially if scratched - and the skin surface swells, sometimes appearing as red welts. The irritated spot reaches its maximum size after about 24 hours; the itching may continue for several days. The symptoms should disappear after a week. The parasite in man does not mature, reproduce or cause any permanent infection.

How do you get swimmer's itch?

The first outbreaks of swimmer's itch usually occur in late May or early June. However, there's no way to predict how long an outbreak may last. The parasites are found in shallow water near the shoreline. The parasites penetrate the outer layer of skin within several minutes after making contact. All age groups and both sexes are vulnerable, but children are most often infected due to their habits playing on the beach in shallow water.

What is the treatment for swimmer's itch?

While all cases do not require treatment, some people may seek relief by applying specific skin lotions or creams to minimize the itching. Consult a physician if you are not sure what caused the rash, if the symptoms intensify or persist longer than a week, or if the symptoms cause undue discomfort. Some physicians will prescribe oral "Benedryl" type medications to reduce itching and swelling.

What can be done to reduce the chances of getting swimmer's itch?

- * Swim in water away from shore.
- * Avoid swimming immediately after an onshore wind if the lake is having a problem with swimmer's itch.
- * Avoid swimming in areas where snails have accumulated.
- * Toweling off immediately after wading in infested water can be very helpful in preventing the rash.
- * DO NOT feed or encourage birds to stay near swimming areas. Ducks are carriers of the parasite.

Know the rules, they are for our own good

Do you know the current recreational use regulations which apply to Powers Lake?

Here are a few selected requirements of the Town of Randall ordinances:

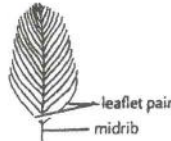
1. **Speed Restrictions.** No motorboat shall be operated at a speed greater than "slow-no-wake" between the hours of sunset and 10:00 a.m. No motorboat shall be operated at a speed greater than "slow-no-wake" within 200' from the shore. No motorboat shall be operated at a speed greater than "slow-no-wake" within 100' of any other boat.
2. **"Slow-No-Wake".** Means the slowest possible speed so as to maintain steerage.
3. **Swimming from Boat.** No person shall swim from any boat unless such boat is anchored. There shall also be at least one throwable personal floatation device for each person swimming.
4. **Water Skiing.** Any person being towed on water skies, surfboard, aquaplanes, or similar contrivances must wear a lifesaving device approved by the USCG of type 1, 2, or 3. The direction of travel of such towing must follow a counterclockwise direction in the designated traffic lanes.
5. **Littering Water.** No person shall deposit, place, or throw away from any boat any cans, bottles, debris, refuse, garbage, solid or liquid waste, sewage, or effluent into the water

Eurasian Water Milfoil



Eurasian water milfoil is a submersed aquatic plant with feather-like leaves arranged in whorls (circles) on the stem.

There are usually more than 14 pairs of leaflets per leaf.



The leaves have a distinct feather-like appearance, with the lower leaflet pairs about half the length of the midrib. The leaflets are more equal in length than those of northern water milfoil, creating a more uniform leaf margin.

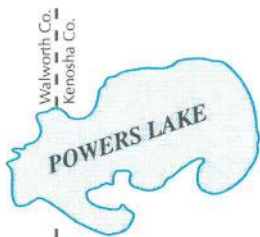
Stem tips are tassel-like. No winter buds are formed.

Branching is abundant in water 3-10 ft. deep.

Eurasian Water Milfoil is an exotic plant species. Its first documented sighting was in 1942. This plant has expanded its range to at least 36 States, and Canada. The plant forms thick underwater tangles of stems with vast mats of vegetation breaking the surface. The stems become wrapped around boat propellers, and the vegetative mats are nearly impossible to swim through. Because the mats are so thick, it impairs the ability of predatory fish to catch smaller fish, often leading to an over population and stunted fish community.

Eurasian Water Milfoil has the ability to grow from stem fragments and stolons (specialized stems that "creep" over the lake bottom). A fragment as small as one stem segment with leaves can take root and grow. Its growth habits allow it to rapidly dominate a lake and shade out native plants. It is very easy to transport Eurasian Water Milfoil from lake to lake on boats, trailers, anchors, personal watercraft, or any other equipment that moves from lake to lake.

The District is trying to locate any infestation locations on Powers Lake, and to have those areas documented by Arons & Associates during the plant survey. If any property owner believes that this plant exists at their waterfront please call Jim Michels at (630) 466-9350 or (414) 279-6378.



THE
DISTRICT OF
POWERS
LAKE

P.O. Box 462
Powers Lake, Wisconsin 53159

ELECTED COMMISSIONERS:

JAMES MICHELS, CHAIR
PAUL DEMICHELE, SEC
ROBERT LAURINE, TREAS
EDWARD BURKE
KIM KIPP

APPOINTED COMMISSIONERS:

JUDY JOOSS, KENOSHA
MARK PELZ, RANDALL