

District of Powers Lake

NEWSLETTER

Published for all those who use and love Powers Lake

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J U N E 2 0 0 1

150 YEAR OLD STRUCTURE NOW JUST A MEMORY

One of Powers Lakes' historic landmarks met its demise this year. At the north east corner on Hwy P sat the wonderful old Tudor building known as the Aquilla. This land was originally settled and homesteaded in 1836 by John Powers when



Wisconsin was a territory, before statehood. In 1850 the octagonal carriage barn was built for breeding and training carriage horses for the Chicago trade and continued through 1900. That year it was bought by Mr. Hirst who put the remarkable 1" plank maple floor in the barn. In 1918 Dan and Lee Kozie's grandparents bought the 300-acre farm and grew wheat, oats, corn and cattle. They had migrated from Europe and realized that it would make a fine resort. Aquilla means white eagle, the symbol of Poland and named to honor their native land. Before long there were bowling alleys, horseback riding, dances, and picnics. In the winter a toboggan slide was featured. But it always maintained its country setting. In the 20's and 30's politicians from Chicago would come. The dining room could seat 450 persons and they often served 2000 meals a day. Companies like Florsheim Shoes would bring 400 to 500 employees out for the day. There was a golf course opposite in an 80 acre field. People would come from as far away as

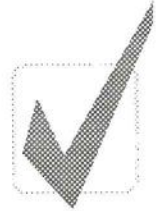
Germany, Poland and Ireland to be at the resort. There were dance bands every night and name bands on the weekends. Dan's father a physician and his mother kept it open 3 months a year as well as a book and candy store. There were 24 cottages, a poolroom, ice cream parlor, two bars and forty slot machines. During prohibition there was a cedar-lined still room and walk in cooler. During WWII, with gas and tire rationing it was too far to travel, and had to close. For a short time it was open in the 50's for weddings and parties on the weekends. It was reopened during the 80's for a short time with rock bands, but those who came were too unruly and it couldn't continue. The beautiful 1-inch maple flooring was taken up and saved. At the end there were two, two story barracks style buildings, each with 20 bedrooms. On a recent weekend 100 firefighters from 9 departments set fire to Aquilla for a training exercise. It had become an attractive hazard and this wonderful 150-year-old structure is now, but a memory.

The 2001 season is off, despite the on and off weather. The ice went out April 5th this year. The earliest date that the ice went out in the last 30 years was February 24, the latest April 14th. The ice this year was exceptionally thick and had a snow cover all winter. Because of the depth of Powers Lake it is thought it would not have too much affect on lake plants and fish since the oxygen level would be all right. A shallow lake might have problems. The ice-fishing derby was a massive turn out, with catch and release the rule.

The DNR have been continuing their fish testing of the lake...a 2-year study. Seven places had net cages set for 10 days to 2 weeks in early April. The men involved have been delighted with our lake, the waters, and the aquatic life in it. Lots of large healthy fish, even some 30" walleyes, nice northern, crappies, yellow perch and other pan fish. They were very excited to find a dozen or more female common map turtles in their nets. A species never found in this area before. A scale is clipped from the fish to determine the age and other factors. Then they went back a week later and shocked the fish in these areas. They can tell which fish they have and haven't caught before and it enables them to determine the fish population in order to plan future stocking of the lake. Fish are denser along natural shoreline where natural vegetation has remained. Few fish are found in front of areas where the owner has "cleaned up" the shoreline. In addition frogs, turtles and other aquatic creatures are dependent on healthy shoreline habitat. Many lakes now limit clearing land closer that 35 feet from shore. Tall plants along the shoreline even if only a few feet wide discourage geese from coming in to graze. If they can't see the lawn they are not interested. This is a double protection, leaving natural shoreline and preventing the geese from making a big mess of lawns.

WATER TESTING

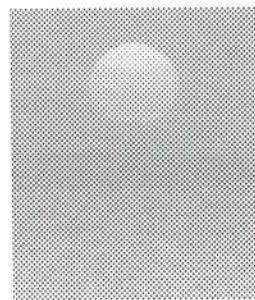
Gil Kroll has begun his water testing for the season, taking water from five different locations in the lake, one always being the Knolls Beach to test for purity and pollution. Samples are sent to a commercial water tester known for their competency.



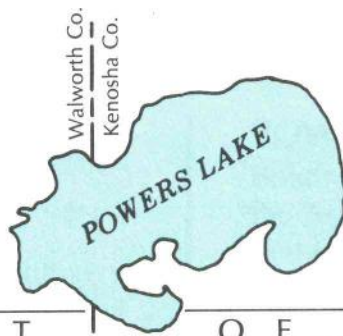
CLEAN SEPTICS

Several issues are brought to mind...when did you last have your septic cleaned? This is an important responsibility for all of us. A good rule of thumb is if you haven't swallowed it – it should not be in your septic. Cigarette butts, chemicals that kill the working bacteria etc. Remember a garbage disposal creates extensive problems for septics. Your garbage pick up is included in your taxes. It is best to dispose of it that way, then overloading your septic system.

LAKE WEED CONTROL



The big project for the District of Powers Lake this spring is to chemically treat Eurasian Milfoil. DNR permits were acquired in five pre-determined locations. The commercial company who was approved to do this job, came in and raked the bottom of the lake in these areas to make sure they are only treating invasive Milfoil weeds. They found that there were only two heavy infestations that needed treatment. Heavy infestation at the Randall township launch was treated as well as the public piers nearby This was good news indeed... makes you wonder if the thick ice and snow cover had anything to do with the undesirable plants lack of growth.

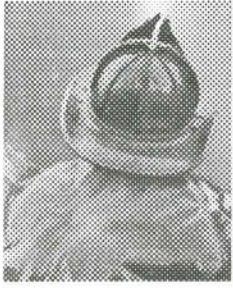


T H E D I S T R I C T | O F P O W E R S L A K E

P.O. Box 462
Powers Lake, Wisconsin 53159

AGENDA
QUARTERLY MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Friday, June 15, 2001, 5 p.m.
Randall Town Hall
34520 Bassett Road, Bassett, Wisconsin 53101

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of minutes
3. Citizen comments
4. Treasurer's Report
5. DNR Grant: Discussion
6. Wetland Purchase: Discussion; Action
7. Aquatic Plant Management: Discussion; Action
8. Newsletter: Discussion
9. Preparation for Annual Meeting (Friday, August 3, 2001 – 7:00 p.m.) including discussion and preparation of the Proposed 2001 – 2002 District Budget, nominating and voting procedures
10. Citizen Comments
11. Other
12. Adjournment



GIL KROLL NAMED FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR

Not only is Gil Kroll a very effective member of our board but he is an outstanding Randall Township Firefighter. At a recent Department appreciation dinner Gil was awarded a plaque and the honor of Firefighter of the year.

POWERS LAKE YACHT CLUB SAILING SCHOOL

The Powers Lake Yacht club sailing school is scheduled for July 2,3,5,6 and 9-13. Contact Mary Pat Follett at 279-6993 or 630-545-0114 for more info. All are welcome to sign up. Boats are provided.

WATER PATROL

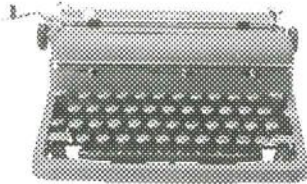
Remember.....to contact the Water Patrol Boat phone 262-206-8564. If there is no answer from the boat and it is an emergency, call 911.



KNOLLS NEWSLETTER

We were delighted to see the Knolls Newsletter encourage residents to not use chemicals and fertilizer on their lawns since the runoff will all go into the lake. This is the same as farm runoff

and will end up contaminating the lake. Great advice for any residents even though they are not lakefront.



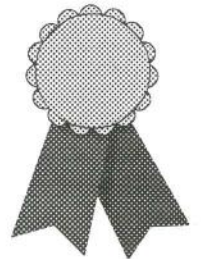
POWER BOAT CLASSES

Boating Safety Classes are given each year at the Twin Lakes Village Hall by Officer Prudik of the Twin Lakes Police Department. All kids wishing to drive a boat need these lessons in order to have a certificate permitting them to drive before the age of 16. All adults who take these lessons will find that their boat insurance may be reduced by 10%. Here's the scoop. Three series of classes each year. #1 is already over. 2nd class is June 5th, 7th, 14th, & 23rd. The 3rd class is June 19th, 21st, 26th, and 28th. All classes are from 6PM to 9PM and are mandatory to attend. The last class is an exam. Cost is \$10.00 for the series. Youngest age is 11 years old. Call Officer Prudik at non-emergency Twin Lakes Police 877-9056 or at his home 877-3162

HURRAH! HURRAH!

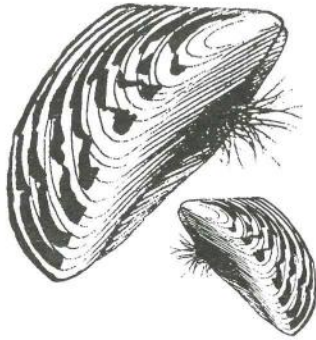
Check out Nancy and Dick Crabtree's lake front this summer and watch it change. They are the dark brick house, third from the corner, facing east in the main lake just north of the rock bar.

They began several weeks ago taking out an ancient cement seawall that had settled so that it appeared to be a walk, but much too thick to have been a walk. The frontage will become a natural shoreline with 850 native plants, to be planted in late June and will be color throughout the year. It will take three years for it to mature so watch the change. A limestone area has been made for winter storage of piers. This is the type of frontage all Wisconsin officials are recommending and holding seminars with landscapers to promote! It takes time to achieve the right appearance, but it is underway.



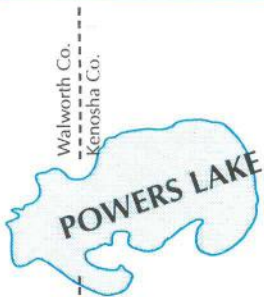
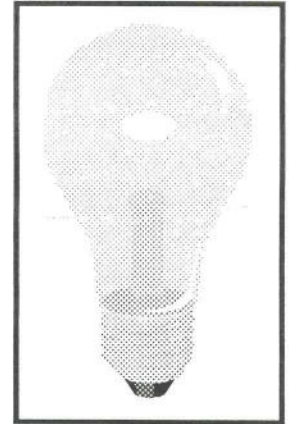
ZEBRA MUSCLES

Our lake has not yet been invaded by zebra muscles, but the experts tell us all lakes eventually will be. They are brought in by foreign ships when they empty the water in their holds used for ballast before they take on their return cargo. Eurasian Milfoil, purple loosestrife and rusty crayfish are other foreign invaders that were transplanted this way.



LIGHT POLLUTION

A quick reminder about your lake front lighting. What might look nice to boats going by in the evening may be a nuisance to a home across the lake. Lights carry across the water more than we realize and those people across the lake don't have a switch to turn them off.



THE
DISTRICT OF
POWERS
LAKE

P.O. Box 462
Powers Lake, Wisconsin 53159

ELECTED COMMISSIONERS:
JAMES MICHAELS, CHAIR
PAUL DEMICHELE, SEC
ROBERT LAURINE, TREAS
GIL KROLL
PAT MILLER

APPOINTED COMMISSIONERS:
JUDY JOOSS, KENOSHA
MARK PELZ, RANDALL



MICHELS, JAMES & CAROLE
43 W 852 OLD MID TPK
ELBURN IL 60119

60119/9662

