



# District of Powers Lake **NEWSLETTER**

Published for all those who use and love Powers Lake

**AUGUST 2004**

Here we are, mid-summer at Powers Lake, and many activities are buzzing around us. The Annual Meeting is August 6th at 7pm at Randall School and all are encouraged to attend. The Annual Budget is included in this mailing so you can see how we are spending your money. The budget will be voted upon at the meeting.

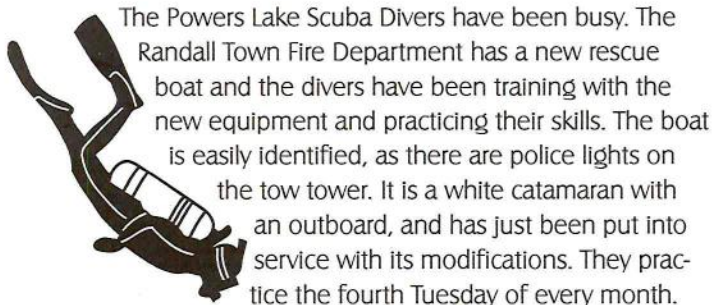
There are 5 board members elected for staggered 3 year terms. This year Jim Michels term is up and he has agreed to run for reelection. Additional nominations may be made from the floor. We have been very fortunate to have Jim as chairman of the District.

Karen Reddin, Randall School teacher, is the featured speaker at the Annual Meeting. Karen is in charge of the "Adopt a Lake Program" at Randall School and you will be thrilled with her enthusiasm and curriculum for the kids.

## **WEEKLY WATER TESTING**

The water is tested for contamination every week at 5 places. The Knolls Beach is always tested and four other varying locations are tested each week to assure there is no pollution.

## **SCUBA DIVER TRAINING**



The Powers Lake Scuba Divers have been busy. The Randall Town Fire Department has a new rescue boat and the divers have been training with the new equipment and practicing their skills. The boat is easily identified, as there are police lights on the tow tower. It is a white catamaran with an outboard, and has just been put into service with its modifications. They practice the fourth Tuesday of every month.

There are 16 divers, rope handlers and drivers. All are members of the Randall Fire Department.

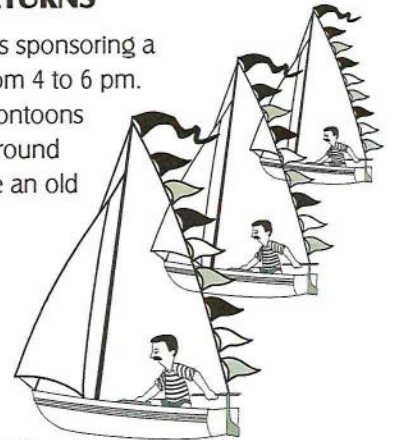
## **TOXIC MATERIAL DISPOSAL - NEW LOCATION**

The annual toxic material disposal will be September 18th at the Pleasant Prairie Municipal Center at 8600 Green Bay Road, Pleasant Prairie. In the past it has been in Bassett at the Village Hall.

## **VENETIAN FESTIVAL RETURNS**

The Powers Lake Yacht Club is sponsoring a Venetian Festival, July 31st from 4 to 6 pm. Decorated canoes, dingys, pontoons and powerboats will cruise around the lakeshore. It's nice to see an old tradition reinstated.

The Inland Lake Yachting Association has named the Powers Lake Yacht Club the "Yacht Club of The Year". Quite an honor!



Sailing is a great spectator sport so try to get out to watch and cheer them on. The phrase "to knock the wind out of your sails" refers to what happens when wakes are made near a sailboat. As a courtesy to sailboats try not to run your powerboat through the race course.

The Yacht Club has been doing a great job with the junior sailors. There are over 45 students who sail and race three times a week. They race mid-day Thursdays and Saturdays plus alternate Friday evenings followed by a Pizza Party for the kids.

## **WINNING THE EURASIAN MILFOIL BATTLE**



When Marine Biochemists and the DNR came to treat the Eurasian milfoil in the lake, there was virtually none to be treated. They will be coming back with the assumption that the growth was slow in starting this year.

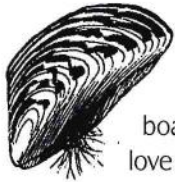
We are making great progress because we are staying with the treatments, but we must not get complacent.

## **OUR GREEN LAKE NEEDS YOUR HELP**

Algae has been one of the big problems for southern Wisconsin lakes in recent years and ours is no exception. This is a wake-up call that there are too many nutrients going into the lake. No matter where you live you are part

of a watershed and we are assured that you will have nice green lawns without phosphorus in your fertilizer. Make sure there is no phosphorus in the lawn fertilizer (the middle number should be 0) or products that you or your lawn care people use. Minnesota has made it illegal to use lawn fertilizer containing phosphorus and Wisconsin is considering it. We all are responsible for protecting our lake.

## BEWARE OF SHARP SHELLS



There is an abundant crop of Zebra mussels in our lake. They are like tiny barnacles and attach themselves to hard surfaces, such as your buoy chain, piers, and boats. Watch your boat water intake as they love to move into that and eventually block it entirely. If you look closely you can see the zebra stripes, but they are quite small clam-like animals.

## 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 add 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.

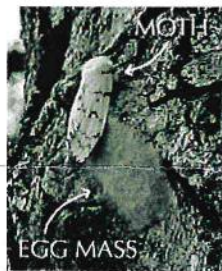
## GYPSY MOTH



Gypsy moths have infested several areas of Randall and Twin Lakes, including a large area on the north side of Powers Lake. Some of these areas were treated with an aerial spray during the spring. Dan Treloar, the county conservation agent, is hoping that the heavy spring rains destroyed many of the caterpillars that might have survived the spraying.

Would you like to organize a gypsy moth patrol for Powers Lake? If so, contact Dan Treloar at 262-857-1895.

The gypsy moth has four distinct developmental stages: egg, larva, pupa, and adult. Each life stage looks and behaves very differently from the other stages. Eggs and pupae appear lifeless, but undergo dramatic changes internally. Larvae eat and accumulate fat that is used when they are adults to find a mate and reproduce. Brochures with excellent photos of the various stages are available at the Randall Town Hall or on the internet at [www.gypsy-moth.wi.gov](http://www.gypsy-moth.wi.gov).



Treatment varies depending on what stage the moth is in. During the caterpillar stage in the spring there are many "home remedies" that can be used. The state of Wisconsin has an aerial treatment program for the caterpillars if the infestation meets certain density criteria. To qualify for the spring treatment homeowners must find, count, document, and report egg cases during the previous fall. Call the Randall Town Hall at 262-877-2165 to report infestations.

### Homeowner Treatment (mid-October thru mid-April)

Destroy egg masses by spraying them with Golden Pest Spray Oil or by scraping off egg masses and killing them. Treating egg masses with Golden Pest Spray Oil is preferred if you hope to participate in the aerial suppression spraying program because it leaves the egg masses in place to be counted. If you scrape off egg masses, use a knife to scrape all of the eggs into a jar. Eggs can be killed by microwaving them on high for 2 minutes or by soaking in soapy water for 2 days before discarding them in the trash. Don't just scrape egg masses onto the ground or try to crush them with your shoe as they will survive to hatch next spring.

**Destruction of the egg masses is the single most important thing an individual can do to help suppress the gypsy moth.**

To qualify for aerial treatment:

- At least 25% of the ground is covered by trees, and at least 50% of the trees present are preferred hosts (such as oak, aspen, and birch)
- At least 20 acres in size
- At least 500 gypsy moth egg masses per acre