



District of Powers Lake **NEWSLETTER**

Published for all those who use and love Powers Lake

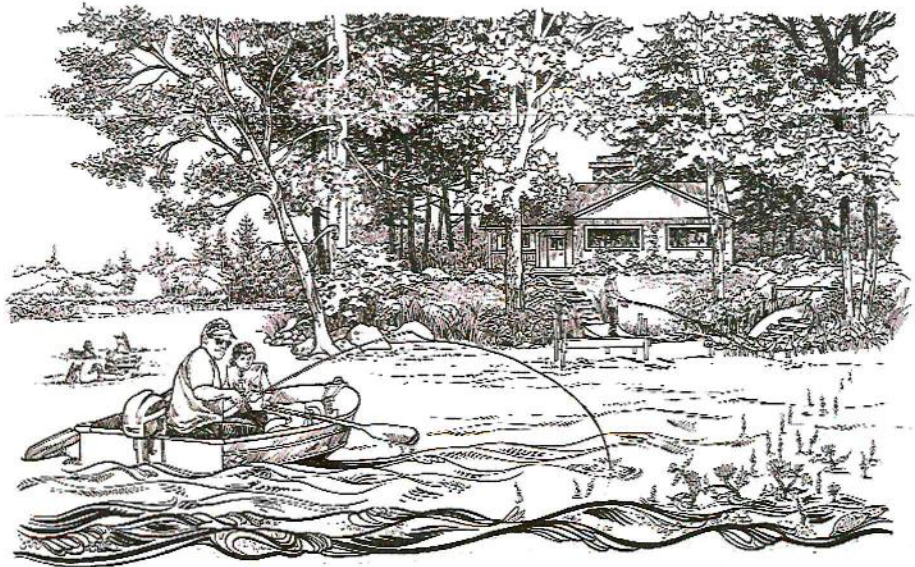
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NATURAL SHORELINES – WHY SHOULD YOU BE PART OF THIS GROWING MOVEMENT?

Several of the Powers Lake District commissioners recently attended a seminar where they learned that natural shorelines are a key piece of the strategy to maintaining clean healthy lakes.

The DNR has informed some of our new homebuilders that they can't have lawn up to the edge of the lake. Trophy lawns can make dirty water— rain runoff carries fertilizers, chemicals, pesticides, pet waste, and lawn clippings to the water. These contaminates fuel algae blooms which make the water less appealing and potentially toxic to some animals. Just as there are restrictions that a house may not be built closer than 75 feet to the water there are also state laws requiring natural shorelines, but they have not been actively enforced. Current laws allow 30% of your frontage to be clear cut for a viewing/access corridor. A city or suburban property has a lawn that is short, green and weed free — wise lake culture is just the opposite. Even fallen trees and branches are encouraged to be left in the water for fish cover.

A healthy lake has as much natural shoreline as possible. You can only fool Mother Nature so long and then you ruin your property and the lake. By having a buffer area of natural vegetation along the shoreline, property owners can



reduce erosion, help maintain water quality, help prevent pollution, and provide habitat and corridors for wildlife, and create privacy for themselves. After all this is a "Wisconsin Get-A-Way" that you own.

The best lawn care is no-care. It takes some mental adjusting to learn this technique but in the long run the best investment for your property is protecting the quality of the lake. Southeastern Wisconsin has naturally nutrient rich soils – they contain more phosphorus than your grass will ever need. Many communities have banned the use of fertilizer containing phosphorus because it is so detrimental to our lakes and rivers. Nutrient contamination also comes from across the street and across town therefore all property owners need to act responsibly. If you feel you must fertilize or if you have a lawn care service be sure you only use phosphorus-free fertilizer products. Excess phosphorus will end up in the lake and produce algae. Once a lake "shifts" to being dominated by algae it is very hard to reverse it.

Your natural shore area should extend 35 feet inland from the water's edge. It should be planted with native grasses, wildflowers, shrubs and trees. This provides a wildlife habitat for frogs, ducks, songbirds, butterflies and other wildlife and it acts as a natural barrier to geese. Sand put along the shore is also detrimental to the quality of the lake as it rarely stays where it's been put.

Nearby communities like Delavan that have done shoreline restoration projects in their public parks soon find that homeowners around the lake are asking how they can create similar beautiful shorelines for themselves. Restoring natural shorelines is fast becoming a big business in Wisconsin and there are a few local landscaping firms that have been certified in shoreline restoration procedures.

LIFE ON THE EDGE

Last year we provided all of our lakeshore residents with a copy of "Shoreland Property" to introduce this concept. This April/May you will receive a copy of "Life On The Edge" a book that goes into greater detail about the special responsibilities (and joys) of being a waterfront property owner. This will be hand delivered by your lake district commissioners and other volunteers. We hope you will take the time to read this book and use the lake stewardship practices described there. If you have questions please contact one of the lake district commissioners or attend our next meeting in June.

A REMINDER ABOUT THE BOOKMOBILE

It is at the Sit N' Bull parking lot across from the post office every Tuesday from 10:00 to 11:00 at Powers Lake. A real convenience and you get a cheery welcome.

ICE FISHING DERBY RECAP

The 49th annual Powers Lake Sportsman's Club Ice Fishing Derby was held on February 13th and the fish were really biting. It was well attended and no one left when it started to rain later in the day. They all said they were dressed well and the rain didn't bother them at all. A big tent with good food and wonderful aromas warmed up many chilled fishermen. The Sportsman's Club was delighted that so many families take part in this annual event. Mark Pelz was one of the fish weigh and measure specialists and has supplied us with the results. All the fish have to be alive and wiggling to be eligible.

There were several hundred door and raffle prizes given out plus \$1500 in cash. Among the raffled items were power augers, fishing equipment and a wheel barrel full of booze.

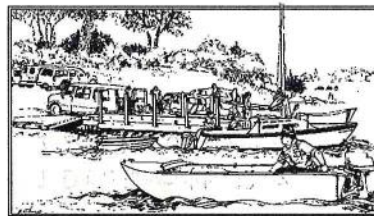
Next year will be the 50th Powers Lake Sportsman Club Ice Fishing Derby. You can be sure it will be extra great!!

BOATING SAFETY CLASSES

The Water Patrol will again hold Boating Safety classes in May and June. Kids that complete these lessons may drive a boat when they are twelve years old, otherwise they must wait until they are sixteen. The dates have not been set, but a call to Randall Town Hall (262-877-2165) later in April will provide you with dates and registration information. One advantage of taking these classes is that the Water Patrol will know your kids and they will know the officers. This helps assure better and safer behavior.

DREDGING PLANNED

Randall Township has arranged to have the lake bottom dredged under the town piers at the Randall Launch and the piers south of the Lakeside Beach so that the boat motors don't stir up the bottom. The dredged areas will be 45 x 300 and 45 x 125 feet respectively. This has been a problem and keeps these areas quite messy. The piers will be temporarily removed while the dredging is accomplished. This activity requires permits as well as careful



supervision by the DNR. The project will cost \$7,850 and will make the boat access to these piers much better.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

The next District of Powers Lake meeting will be the first Friday in April at 5pm at Randall Town Hall in Bassett. See you then!

Northern Pike

1. Mike Schwudlou 10# 12 oz.
2. Allan Kapp 9# 6 oz.
3. A.J. Johnson 7# 0 oz.

Large M. Bass

1. Rob Gauger 3# 11 oz.
2. Nick Masek 3# 10. oz.
3. Tom Margraf 3# 9 oz.

Walleye

1. Les Skinner 4# 3 oz.
2. Dave Wilkins 3# 9 oz.
3. Dave Wilkins 1# 13 oz.

Pan Fish —

Perch

1. Kala Redin 1# 0 oz.
2. Phil Reid 11 oz.
3. Jake Reinel 11 oz.

Blue Gill

1. Nate Revea 8 oz.
2. Jamie Karow 8 oz.
3. Mat Brawner 8 oz.

Crappie

1. Dave Reynolds 12 oz.
2. Dan Reynolds 12 oz.
3. Jamie Karow 11 oz.

Odd Fish!

- Jeff Butler 13 oz.
(Bullhead)

Entered Fish

13 Northern were entered - 3 kept, 10 released; 3 Walleyes - 2 kept, 1 released; 6 Bass - all released; 15 perch - all kept; 11 blue gills - all kept; 13 Crappies - all kept