

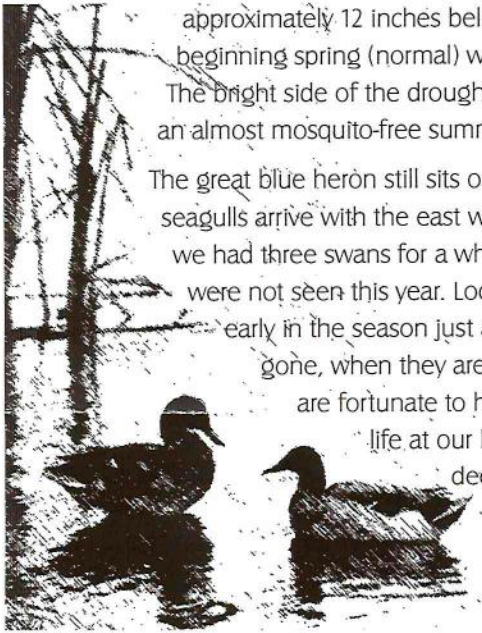


# District of Powers Lake **NEWSLETTER**

Published for all those who use and love Powers Lake

**O C T O B E R                      2 0 0 5**

**A**nother summer, another lake season has passed. We have experienced a severe droughts causing the water to be at perhaps its all time low, approximately 12 inches below the beginning spring (normal) water level. The bright side of the drought was enjoying an almost mosquito-free summer. The great blue heron still sits on my pier. The seagulls arrive with the east winds. Last year we had three swans for a while, but they were not seen this year. Loons are seen early in the season just after the ice is gone, when they are migrating. We are fortunate to have great wild life at our lake, including deer and fox. Hope you enjoy seeing them too.



## **WATER CLARITY**

The water is extremely clear. A device called a secchi disk tests water clarity. It is a round disk divided into 4 black and white quadrants. It is named after a Jesuit priest who first used the disk more than 150 years ago. The disk is lowered into the water, and the depth at which the black and white are no longer distinguishable is a measure of the clarity of the water. Gil Kroll measured the clarity in the spring and the lake was at an outstanding 22.5 foot reading. In the late summer it was at 9.5 feet, still a good reading for that time of year in these waters. Powers Lake can be very proud of its water quality.

Many area lakes have experienced better than usual water clarity this year. There are probably a couple of reasons for this. One is the lack of rain which washes nutrients off the land and into the lakes. More nutrients in the water result in greater algae growth which reduces the water clarity.

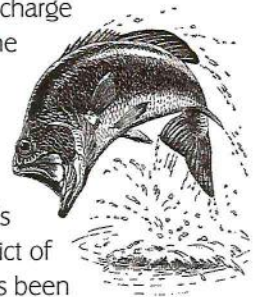
Zebra mussels, pea sized to one-inch barnacle type shells with black and white stripes, might be another reason.

Their shells are very sharp and can cut feet and hands so take appropriate precautions. The zebra mussels actively filter the tiniest forms of life from the lake which results in the lake appearing clearer. When zebra mussels first infect a lake they seem to have an unlimited food supply and their population grows rapidly. After they reduce that food supply their numbers diminish, the food supply regenerates, and the zebra mussel population once again increases. This cycle will continue to repeat itself, but we probably will not see the huge numbers that we saw in the early stages of infestation.

There is currently no way to get rid of Zebra mussels once a lake is infested with them. Powers Lake boaters who take their boats to another lake should take precautions not to transport the microscopic larvae to an uninfected lake. The larvae can survive for over a week on a boat that is out of the water. Boats, motors, anchors, and lines should all be thoroughly washed before going to another lake.

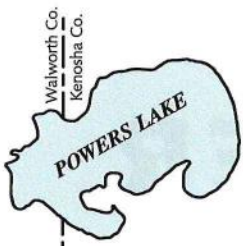
## **LAKE STOCKING**

The Department of Natural Resources stocked the lake in late June or early July with 25,000 Walleye fry, and are minnow size fish. The DNR will be in charge of stocking the lake with walleye in the future. The Powers Lake Sportsmen's Club has arranged to stock the lake with 1,000 small mouth bass, 6-9" long in October. This is a \$2500 investment shared by the Sportsmen's Club, Randall Township, and the District of Powers Lake. It seems that fishing has been a very popular activity this summer.



## **LOW PHOSPHORUS FERTILIZER RESOLUTION**

In order to protect our lake we have encouraged Randall Township to pass a resolution restricting the use of lawn fertilizer containing phosphorus. Many lakes including Twin Lakes have passed this resolution. Lakes that are low in phosphorus generally face less of a problem with algae and excessive growth of aquatic plants. This resolution is in the works.



THE  
DISTRICT OF  
POWERS  
LAKE

P.O. Box 462  
Powers Lake, Wisconsin 53159

ELECTED COMMISSIONERS:

JIM MICHELS, CHAIR  
PAT MILLER, SEC  
BROOKE JENSEN, TREAS  
GIL KROLL  
PAUL DeMICHELE

APPOINTED COMMISSIONERS:

JUDY JOOSS, KENOSHA CO.  
ROSE NOLAN, RANDALL TWP.

## DREDGING

Randall Township is in the processing of dredging the town pier areas at the Knolls. The DNR must check sediment samples before they approve the work to be done. The dredging is expected to be accomplished this fall.

## ADOPT-A-LAKE UPDATE

On August 12th, Karen Reddin presented a session of her Adopt-A-Lake program to 19 Powers Lake children, from 9 am to 12 noon. It was a hands-on session at the lake where they learned a lot about water, wetlands, plants, and animals first hand. Karen is outstanding and enthusiastic in teaching the third grade at Randall School about the lake, both with classroom lessons and at the lake. She will extend it this year to another grade and intends to eventually include all grades. The children are as excited as she is about the course.

## ANNUAL MEETING REVIEW

Our Annual Meeting and election of officers was August 9th. The past officers agreed to continue with their responsibilities. There was a very interesting and educational presentation by Mr. Vince Mosca, who is a consultant with Hey and Associates, Inc. His specialty is wetlands and since he lives in Wheatland, he is very knowledgeable about our area and activities.

## REMINDERS



Has the digital camera bug bitten you? If you would like to share some of your outstanding photo memories

of lake experiences with your neighbors around Powers Lake please email the photos to [jdj53181@charter.net](mailto:jdj53181@charter.net) or send us a CD at the address on this newsletter.

If you would like to learn more about lake management and ecology consider attending one of the Wisconsin Association of Lakes (WAL) workshops. Every year, usually on a Saturday in February, there is a series held in Waukesha. The annual state lake convention in April provides three days of a wide variety of lake topics. It is well worth your time to attend either of these. More information will be provided in the next newsletter or you can check out the WAL website at [www.wisconsinlakes.org](http://www.wisconsinlakes.org).

## MEETING NOTICE

The next District of Powers Lake meeting will be Friday October 7 at 5:00 pm in the Randall Town Hall.