



District of Powers Lake NEWSLETTER

Published for all those who use and love Powers Lake

OCTOBER

2011

2011 ANNUAL MEETING

Chairman Jim Michels gave a review of the draft report from Dr. Jeffrey Thornton from SEWRPC on the Lake Protection Plan for Powers Lake. The commissioners are now reviewing this report. The treatment for Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) and Curly Leaf Pondweed (CLP) is completed and involved approximately 1 acre total down from the 78 acres of EWM we treated 3 years ago. A post treatment survey will be available soon and posted on our website:

www.districtofpowerslake.org. At the request of a resident, the channel running between Jefferson Bay and the main body of the lake will be studied for an opinion on the increased plant growth there. Randall Town Board Chairman Bob Stoll stated that the town would be willing to work with the DPL on this.

Weekly water sampling for E coli at the Knolls Beach and other sites around the lake produced no high levels.

A new Mission Statement for the District shown at the end of this newsletter was adopted. There was also discussion and approval on exploration and research for a possible future wetland purchase. Study of this valuable resource is a continuation of our ongoing program to remain proactive in the protection of our lake. Possible grant eligibility and grant restrictions on the purchase price would be explored. Any expenditure exceeding \$10,000.00 would have to be approved at our next annual meeting or a special meeting of the DPL. The 2012 Budget was approved. The tax levy was lowered from \$26,000.00 to \$20,000.00. This decrease results primarily from treatment of fewer acres of EWM due to the success of our continuing aquatic plant management program.

The next annual meeting date was set for Friday, August 3, 2012.

Nomination and election of candidates for office of commissioner resulted in the re-election of Neal Kuhn and Nancy Michael by unanimous vote.

PRELIMINARY DRAFT A LAKE PROTECTION PLAN FOR POWERS LAKE

Your DPL commissioners are currently reviewing this draft which will be discussed at our next quarterly board meeting. Some of the topics covered in detail are:

Water Quality - clarity, oxygen, chlorophyll, phosphorus

Aquatic Plants - diversity, species, management practices

Fish/Wildlife - species, stocking

Recreational Uses and Facilities - watercraft census, recreational use surveys

Lake Outflow - studies

Local Ordinances - town and county

Community Survey Results

After final approval, we will update you on the various findings in our newsletter with even more detail online.

TAKING CARE OF OUR LAKES IN TIMES OF DECLINING WATER LEVELS

Because this newly exposed lake bottom is public land, all Wisconsin residents have a responsibility to be good stewards of this shared resource. During dry times, many calls come into the WDNR Service Center. In general, it is best to avoid removing vegetation and disturbing the exposed lake bed during low water times. These water level fluctuations are important for a lake's health, particularly, in the near-shore zone. Shorelines and shallow areas of lakes play a vital role in providing habitat for fish and wildlife and for protecting water quality. Until water levels return to normal, it is important for lake property owners to avoid inadvertently harming exposed lakeshore areas. Regulations for activities on the exposed lake bed are regulated by the WDNR and each county has a shoreland protection ordinance. The link to this article will show access to these sites. Several studies have found that modest water level fluctuations can lead to increased plant diversity. Periodic low water conditions can be beneficial for lake ecosystems. Sediments can consolidate and allow new plants to colonize the lakebed and provide habitat for rare plants and shorebirds. When water levels return to normal, an expansion of new plants become habitat for fish and wildlife, removes nutrients from the water, and can increase water clarity.

The full article on this subject is available through the Wisconsin Lakes Partnership in the Vol.34, No. 3 Summer 2009 issue at: <http://www4.uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexlakes/laketides/vol34-3/Text-only.htm#1>



THE
DISTRICT OF
POWERS
LAKE
P.O. Box 462
Powers Lake, Wisconsin 53159

Elected Commissioners:

Jim Michels, Chair
Nancy Michael, Sec.
Brooke Jensen, Treas.
Neal Kuhn
Colleen Keating

Appointed Commissioners:

Judy Jooss, Kenosha Co.
Michael Halvorson, Randall Twp.

PURPLE MARTINS KEEPING OUR NATIVE BIRDS COMMON

You may have noticed a bird house which is an extravagant complex with many compartments, each with a tiny balcony. What many people don't realize, however, is that these houses belong, almost exclusively, to the Purple Martin (PM). The PM is a native bird that spends its summers in North America and winters in Brazil and surrounding areas. It is the largest North American swallow and is noted for diving at great speed, with extreme flight agility. These birds are also aerial insectivores who catch insects in mid-flight. The PM has been given the nickname "mosquito-eating bird". While the PM does feast on winged insects, the mosquito makes up a very small percentage of their diet. First of all, mosquito and PM activity overlap for only about 10 minutes after dusk. Secondly, this bird prefers to fly relatively high in open areas, while mosquitoes buzz low over water in dense forests. They spend spring and early summer in WI breeding. The couple cooperates to build their nest and after the chicks have hatched, both parents work to feed the young for about a month and a half.

Just like humans, PMs thrive in colonies and choose to live in pre-made houses. Old woodpecker holes are an example of natural martin housing. In WI, the PM is entirely dependent on humans for its supply of nesting sites. It is for a lack of these man-made nesting sites that the population is decreasing. The trend for WI shows the PM population has decreased 6.2% per year between 1980 and 2007. In neighboring states, the annual decline is as high as 10%. If you would like to help keep these birds common, check out the link below with addi-

tional links and facts. Without an official monitoring or conservation program in place to protect, create and maintain martin habitat, it's up to compassionate individuals to take it upon themselves to become freelance PM landlords and caretakers.

The full article on this subject is available through the Wisconsin Lakes Partnership in the Vol.36, No. 3 Summer 2011 issue at: http://www4.uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexlakes/lake_tides/vol36-3/text-only.html

QUARTERLY MEETING

Our next meeting will be held Friday, September 30th, at 5:00 p.m. The meeting is open to the public at the Randall Town Hall, 34530 Bassett Road, Bassett, WI. Dr. Jeffrey Thornton will be in attendance to present and discuss the Preliminary Draft of "A Lake Protection Plan for Powers lake". This is the conclusion of 3 years of work by the DPL and SEWRPC.

DISTRICT OF POWERS LAKE MISSION STATEMENT

Within the scope of the powers vested in it under Chapter 33 and in furtherance of the Public Trust Doctrine of Wisconsin, the mission of the District of Powers Lake is:

To support, protect, preserve and enhance the native ecosystem of the watershed, shoreline, and waters of Powers Lake as a natural resource for generations to come;

To be responsive to the interests and concerns of the district residents and the public; and

To proactively advocate when faced with potential damage to Powers Lake's environmental values, wildlife, natural beauty, peacefulness, safety and/or recreational value.