



District of Powers Lake NEWSLETTER

Published for all those who use and love Powers Lake

OCTOBER

2014

DPL ELECTION RESULTS

At the annual DPL meeting on August 1st, elections were held for two Commissioner Seats. Incumbent Neal Kuhn was re-elected, and Deron Johnson was elected to replace vacating Commissioner Nancy Michael. Both Neal and Deron will serve a three year term.

The DPL Commissioners unanimously selected Neal Kuhn as DPL Chairman. Jim Michels, who decided to step down as Chairman on his own accord will continue to serve his term as a Commissioner. Brooke Jenson will continue as Treasurer, and Deron Johnson was elected as DPL Secretary.

A big thank you to Nancy and Jim for their selfless service to the DPL and our residents! Congratulations to Neal and Deron and best of luck to them in their new capacities.

WEBSITE UPDATE

The DPL website is undergoing a make-over. The current website has served us well for at least five years. With changing technology and website design, an update is needed. The update will improve the ease of use, functionality and overall look of our website. If you have any feedback or suggestions on the website make-over, please contact one of your Commissioners. Expect to see the updated website around January of next year!

HONEY BEAR NEIGHBORHOOD UPDATE

Early this spring, there was an unpermitted modification to our shoreline in the

Honey Bear neighborhood. Many mature trees were cut down by an Illinois developer, on the property where the Honey Bear restaurant used to operate. The developer submitted plans to the village of Bloomfield to convert the existing structure on the waterfront lot into three bedrooms. He also stated his intention to construct four additional condominiums on the adjacent vacant lot.

The DPL had serious concerns about the unpermitted tree cutting in the shoreland and the effect this tree removal would have on our lake. In June, DPL President Jim Michels wrote a letter to the village of Bloomfield Trustees and President Ken Monroe. In this letter, he advocated the position of the DPL and reaffirmed our absolute dedication to protecting our lake and the associated shoreland. Chairman Mr. Michels personally requested and conducted a meeting with the Village President, two DPL Commissioners, a Village Trustee and the developer as well, expressing concern over the tree-cutting and vegetation removal. He also asked for clarification of ordinance enforcement and property restoration.

It was learned in this meeting and through subsequent research that since its incorporation in August of 2011, the Village of Bloomfield (formerly a Town) has assumed all responsibility for shoreland protection, meaning all property within 1,000 feet of the lake. Before the incorporation, the DNR and Walworth County were charged with the responsibility for shoreland issues within the Town of Bloomfield. About ten to fifteen percent

of lake properties on Powers Lake are located within the Village of Bloomfield and now look to the Village for all permits, zoning issues and enforcement of ordinances within the shoreland. The rest of the lake is mostly within the Town of Randall, therefore Kenosha County is responsible for shoreland issues.

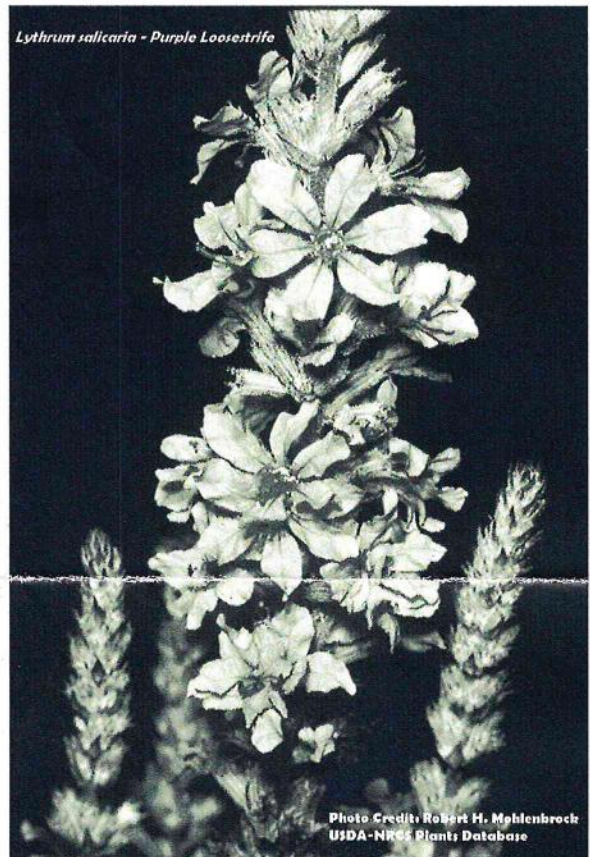
Due to recent events at Honey Bear, several lake residents have asked for additional follow-up DPL support in protecting the future health of our lake. In response, new Chairman Neal Kuhn penned and delivered two letters to all Village Trustees stressing the importance of shoreland protection and supporting a resolution of the dispute between the Honey Bear neighbors and the developer.

The following day, a compromise between the developer, and the Honey Bear lake residents was reached. It appears that there will be a maximum of 3 new condos being converted/built within the current structure. A single family home will be allowed on the currently vacant lot. The developer has planted some six smaller trees and has indicated his willingness to pursue additional mitigation for the property.

It appears that the Village of Bloomfield and Kenosha County are examining their current shoreland ordinances, and are considering making changes to them. The DPL will continue to monitor the situation and advocate for lake health.

PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE: IT'S A PRETTY BIG PROBLEM

Between July and September, you may notice a tall, bushy plant with very attractive magenta colored flowers growing along your shoreline, perhaps in a wetland, along a wet ditch area or maybe in your garden. This striking plant is tall enough to shield unwanted views and grows with little or no care so the uninformed might see it as a charming shrub. But once the facts are presented, it becomes very clear that this plant, Purple Loosestrife, *Lythrum salicaria* is nothing but trouble.



A native of Europe and Asia, Purple Loosestrife was introduced in the United States as a garden plant. It reproduces predominantly by seed however reproduction by roots and underground stems is also common. Due to rapid reproduction (a mature plant can produce up to 3 million seeds), vigorous growth and lack of natural predators, Purple loosestrife quickly escaped cultivation and has since invaded many of our valuable natural areas.

Purple Loosestrife can take over wetlands and lakeshore areas within a few years. These natural areas are important habitat for many native species of plants, birds, insects, amphibians, and animals, which often disappear when Purple Loosestrife outcompete the native plants in an area. Purple Loosestrife is so detrimental that it has been added to the Wisconsin's Invasive Species law, Chapter NR 40 as a restricted species. As a restricted species, it is illegal to transport, transfer or introduce all cultivars, hybrids and varieties of *Lythrum salicaria* and *L. virgatum*.

In order to prevent new infestations it is important to identify and eliminate large and small populations of Purple Loosestrife. If care is taken to minimize soil disturbance, single plants or small populations can sometimes be carefully dug out and disposed of. It is important to make sure all of the root is removed or new shoots will grow. Once plants start to flower it is important to remove the flowering stalks carefully and dispose of them away from water. This is done by bending the flowering stalk into a bag and cutting it so that it falls into the bag. Allow the plants to dry and burn if possible so that seeds do not disperse. On large sites, chemical control may be an option. If the Purple Loosestrife is growing near water, a DNR permit may be required and the chemical may need to be one that is acceptable for use on water. For more information about aquatic plant management and control visit the WI. Department of Natural Resources (DNR) website at:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/lakes/plants/> and/or contact Heidi Bunk, DNR Water Resources Management Specialist at (262) 574-2130. Using either control method will require continued monitoring and control efforts because seeds in the soil will continue to germinate for several years.

In larger, more severe infestations, manual and chemical control may be too expensive or labor intensive. However, the use of specially selected and highly tested insects that feed on Purple Loosestrife have been shown to be highly successful. This method is known as biological control (biocontrol) and research has shown that these specialized insects reduce both plant height, seed output and overall plant numbers. This allows other, native plants to regain control in a few years. Wisconsin DNR and UWEX have created a program in which hundreds of citizens have raised and released millions of beetles that feed on Purple Loosestrife.

For more information about Purple Loosestrife biocontrol, contact Brock Woods, WI Purple Loosestrife & Wetland Invasive Plant Program Coordinator at (608) 266-2554, email at: brock.woods@dnr.state.wi.us

For those gardeners that enjoy the magenta flowers, there are several attractive alternatives, such as: Blazing star, *Liatris pycnostachya*. Foxglove, *Digitalis purpurea*, Obedient Plant, *Physostegia virginiana* and Steeplebush, *spiraea tomentosa*. These, and a few other look-a-like plants can sometimes make identification difficult. For assistance with identification of Purple Loosestrife in Walworth County, please feel free to contact Audrey Greene, Lake Specialist & Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator at 262-741-7902 or email her agreen@co.walworth.wi.us



QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING

Our next meeting will be held Friday, October 3rd, at 5:00 p.m. The meeting is open to the public at the Randall Town Hall, 34530 Bassett Road, Bassett, WI.

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;

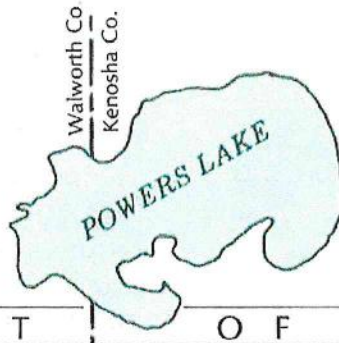
To be responsive to the interests and concerns of the district residents and the public; and

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



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

Elected Commissioners:
Jim Michels, Chair
Deron Johnson, Sec.
Brooke Jensen, Treas.
Neal Kuhn
Mary Adams
Appointed Commissioners:
Judy Jooss, Kenosha Co.
Mark Halvey, Randall Twp.



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

RESOLUTION of the District of Powers Lake
Counties of Kenosha & Walworth, WI

WHEREAS the District of Powers Lake (DPL) was formed on February 19, 1985 by the adoption of Resolution No. 168 by the Kenosha County Board of Supervisors, Kenosha, WI; and

WHEREAS on August 1, 2008, Nancy Michael was willing to apply her experience in the medical and journalism fields, and was also able to tap her experience and knowledge as a long-time resident of Powers Lake. Nancy Michael ran for the position of Commissioner of the DPL and was elected with overwhelming enthusiasm and support.

WHEREAS the DPL, recognizing Nancy Michael's abilities and knowledge of the community, increasingly relied upon Nancy Michael's contributions and elected her to the position of Secretary for the DPL shortly thereafter.

WHEREAS the Commissioners of the DPL relied upon Nancy Michael's diverse skills and wide-ranging experience in order to facilitate an efficient and well-informed organization of the DPL.

WHEREAS the DPL utilized Nancy Michael's ability and willingness to carry out the following responsibilities:

- A. Composing, editing, publishing, and mailing the DPL quarterly newsletter;
- B. Taking, creating and editing the minutes for DPL's meetings;
- C. Performing weekly water quality sampling, surface water measurements, and reporting of results;
- D. Executing administrative tasks of maintaining mailing and tax roll lists of residents;
- E. Coordinating and circulating of all of the above for the benefit of the community of Powers Lake.

WHEREAS at all times, the Commissioners leveraged Nancy Michael's judgment along with her extensive and informed history with the community in order to address our residents' concerns and needs.

WHEREAS it is with great regret that the DPL acknowledges Nancy Michael's decision to change her residency from the District of Powers Lake, removing herself from eligibility to run for another term as a DPL Officer and Commissioner.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the District of Powers Lake, on behalf of the entire community of Powers Lake, sincerely celebrate and recognize Nancy Michael's significant contributions to the District of Powers Lake, its growth and success, and wish her heartfelt enjoyment in this new chapter of her life by way of this certificate of appreciation and service presented at this Annual Meeting of the District.

Adopted this 1st day of August, 2014

BY: 
Jim Michels, Chair of the District of Powers Lake

and


Neal Kuhn, Commissioner of the District of Powers Lake