

## **WAL Workshop**

Our DPL was well represented at the February 13<sup>th</sup> Changing Lakes, Changing Policy Workshop sponsored by the Wisconsin Association of Lakes in Pewaukee, WI. Attending were Jim and Carole Michels, Judy Jooss, Brooke Jensen, Colleen and Keith Keating and Nancy Michael. Subject matter included science, policy and case studies in aspects of lake management and lake living. A few of the topics discussed were:

- Updates on new Aquatic Invasive Species laws, new state shoreland zoning rules, and groundwater legislation proposals
- Lake-friendly landscaping methods for waterfront property owners
- Changing lake levels in Wisconsin

With our large contingent, we were able to cover nearly all of the workshops and also network with representatives from other lakes.

## **Grant Proposal**

We have applied for funding assistance in our fight against AIS and submitted our AIS Grant application to the WDNR. If successful, the grant could possibly fund up to 50% of our expenses in treating the Eurasian Water Milfoil and Curly Leaf Pond Weed over the next 3 years. Recent history has shown a trend of the most grant dollars being spent in the northern part of the state. If we are successful, it would be a significant departure from the trend and bode very well for Powers Lake.

## **Consultant Proposal for the Powers Lake Outlet and Outlet Channel**

At our January meeting, Vince Mosca, of Hey and Associates, gave a presentation outlining their assistance and technical advice to the DPL. The outlet channel from Powers Lake Road west and south to Nippersink Rd./Powers Lake Rd. is approximately 2,650 feet. Vince will attend our April meeting to present a draft report and the June meeting to present a final report.

## **Why Zero-Phosphorus Fertilizer?**

Phosphorus accelerates algae growth in our lakes and rivers. Most lawns and gardens already contain adequate and often excessive amounts of phosphorus. Based on a study of 236 lawns sampled in Dane County WI, the average available soil phosphorus concentration was approximately four times higher than the amount needed to maintain a healthy lawn. Consider this-one pound of phosphorus in runoff can result in 500 pounds of algae growth!

Phosphorus is an essential nutrient for plants. However, when too much makes its way into our lakes and streams it promotes the rapid growth of weeds and algae and decreases water clarity, often turning lakes green. Decaying algae also depletes oxygen in the water, so that fish can no longer thrive. Human activities contribute a great deal to the amount of phosphorus that enters a lake or stream. So, as state law now requires, make sure if you do fertilize your lawn that the middle number indicating phosphorus is zero!

(excerpted from Protecting Your Waterfront Investment by Lynn Markham and Kate Demorest, Center for Land Use Education, UW-Extension)

## **2004-2009 Watercraft Inspection Data**

Since 2004, watercraft inspection has been a significant part of Wisconsin's AIS prevention efforts. Research has shown that inspections play an important role in helping contain AIS to already affected waterbodies, preventing the spread of AIS to new waters.

Below are some data totals for 2009 from across the state:

- 52,777 boats were inspected
- 114,202 people were contacted about the 'Clean Boats, Clean Waters' message
- Over 32,387.9 hours were spent conducting inspections- 70% by paid inspectors, 30% by volunteers
- 16% of all boats inspected had plants attached
- 25% of the boats had been in another waterbody in the last five days
- 94% said they inspected their boat and equipment for plants and removed any found
- 90% said they drained all water from their boat and equipment
- 70% said they disposed of their unused bait
- 63% said they put their fish on ice to ensure they were not leaving the landing with any live fish
- 70% said they either washed their boats and equipment with hot or high pressure water or dried them for five days
- 91% of boaters stated they were aware of the AIS launch law

(Full article can be found in the Winter 2010 Lake Tides, Wisconsin Lakes

## **Partnership**

[www.uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexplakes](http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexplakes))

As an update, Audrey Green, Walworth County Lake Specialist, is implementing her new grant program for AIS. Part of her education program is to assist boaters that wish to wash their boats and trailers before going to a different lake. If you know of any car washes that can accommodate boats and trailers please let her know at [agreen@co.walworth.wi.us](mailto:agreen@co.walworth.wi.us). She will also be talking to bait dealers to educate them and their consumers about prevention of AIS.

## **Quarterly Meeting**

Our next meeting will be held Friday, April 9th, at 5:00 p.m. The meeting is open to the public at the Randall Town Hall, 34530 Bassett Road, Bassett, WI.