



# District of Powers Lake NEWSLETTER

Published for all those who use and love Powers Lake

**JANUARY**

**2019**

## **STRATEGY AGAINST NEW INVASIVE PLANT SPECIES COULD EXCEED \$120,000**



The Geneva Lake Environmental Agency wants to stop an invasive plant from infesting Geneva Lake, but the undertaking could cost more than \$120,000.

Directors of the Williams-Bay based environmental agency want to dredge sediment from a lake lagoon to control its population of “starry stonewort,” an invasive algae that could cause damage to the lake if left unchecked.

“Here we have an epidemic of a weed that could change the whole habitat of the lake. Then we don’t have a lake anymore,” said Lamar Lundburg, chairman of the agency’s board of directors.

Starry stonewort is difficult to control because its reproductive organs, or “bulbils,” embed themselves in sediment. There is no known method of eradication.

Ted Peters, director of the Geneva Lake Environmental Agency, said the best control method would be to hydraulically dredge and remove two feet of sediment from the lagoon’s floor, with the goal of removing embedded bulbils from the site.

“I think what we have here is a good situation where we can control it. It’s very new, and very low-density,” Peters said. “I think if we attack this quick and aggressively, it

may not get out into the lake.”

The agency hopes to begin dredging as soon as April, but Peters estimates the cost will exceed \$120,000.

At a November 20th meeting, the agency’s board of directors agreed to pursue more sources of funding, including partnerships with other organizations, and surcharges for fishing tournaments.

Lundburg and others recommended seeking donations from nearby property owners and recreational lake users.

The agency first received reports of starry stonewort this summer in a lagoon near Trinke Estates in the town of Linn, on the south shore of Geneva Lake.

After officials surveyed Geneva Lake vegetation samples in October, they confirmed the invasive species was present, although it was isolated in about a half-acre of the lagoon.

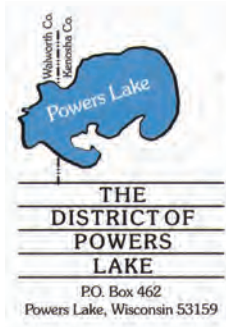
Since the lagoon is connected to the main lake, however, the infestation has the potential to spread if environmentalists do not take action.

This is the first known population of starry stonewort in Walworth County.

If left uncontrolled, the unwanted algae can take over breeding areas for fish, overcome native vegetation and disrupt a lake’s recreational activities.

The Geneva Lake Environmental Agency plans to meet in December with leaders of the Trinke Estates property owners association to discuss a response plan.

“I do feel like we’re probably going to go the route of dredging, and hopefully



**Elected Commissioners:**

Neal Kuhn, Chair  
 Dan O'Connell, Secretary  
 Brooke Jensen, Treas.  
 Jim Michels  
 Dave Anstett

**Appointed Commissioners:**

Judy Jooss, Kenosha Co.  
 Mark Halvey, Randall Twp.

Trinke will go with us," Peters said. To further reduce costs, the agency is applying for a \$20,000 grant from the state Department of Natural Resources. The agency plans to begin fundraising by January. If officials fail to raise enough money to dredge the lagoon, they could also chemically treat and mechanically harvest the plant. Peters, however, said this technique may not be enough; herbicides would kill the plants, but the bulbils in the sediment would survive.

"They're going to come right back up, and you're gonna be constantly treating it," Peters said. "It keeps coming back." In the meantime, the agency plans to work on education and outreach programs to ensure lake users are cleaning vegetation off their boats.

Peters, who suspects a boat carried starry stonewort into Geneva Lake, said cleaning watercraft is crucial for preventing the spread of invasive species and maintaining the quality of the lake.

**FISH STOCKING**

Sportsmen's Club graciously voted to donate \$1,000 to add to the DPL fish stocking budget of \$5,000. DNR Biologist Luke Roffler's recommendation is to stock one species per year since that has proven to be the most successful method to enhance the fishing experience, safety in numbers. We stocked Northern Pike last year so Luke has approved a stocking this fall of 3,600 7 inch Walleye.

On November 1st, Keystone Hatcheries stocked 3,600 Walleyes into Powers Lake. The first half was released at 40209 91st, which is at the base of Jefferson Bay. The Bay leads into the western basin. There is good cover in the form of weed beds and

plenty of minnows this time of year. The other release site was the 396th St. Knolls public ramp. This bay leads into the eastern basin and also has decent cover and plenty of forage. This release strategy has been discussed with Luke Roffler and given the thumbs up.



Dave Anstett releasing walleye in Jefferson Bay. Commissioner Mark Halvey and Judge Charlie Gitzinger supporting the effort.

**ICE ON DATE**

Full cover was achieved on December 8, 2018 and has held even with our warm December and early January.



**QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING**

Our next meeting will be held Friday, February 1st, 2019 @ 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.