



District of Powers Lake NEWSLETTER

Published for all those who use and love Powers Lake

JUNE

2012

CHEMICAL TREATMENT FOR EURASIAN WATER-MILFOIL & CURLY-LEAF PONDWEED

Dear Powers Lake Property Owner or Occupant:

The District of Powers Lake (DPL), with support from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (the WDNR) and Stantec, assessed and chemically treated nuisance areas of Eurasian water-milfoil (EWM) and Curly-leaf pondweed (CLP) in Powers Lake. The areas treated include approximately 38 acres.

EWM and CLP are submergent (growing underwater to water surface) aquatic plants native to Europe, Asia and northern Africa. Aquatic biologists know this plant as, **Myriophyllum spicatum**, a cousin to the native northern water-milfoil. Most submergent aquatic plants are beneficial to the health of a lake providing food and habitat for many animals using the lake including fish, frogs, and insects.

EWM and CLP are exotic plants, not native to the region, with aggressive growth habits that can progress to nuisance levels and can interfere with navigation and recreation. When CLP dies back, usually in July, the decomposing plants release phosphorus into the water that may feed algae. However, with an early season herbicide application and with plant growth having little biomass, internal loading due to treatment is greatly minimized.

The proposed treatment of up to 38 acres took place on Friday, May 12th, and was designed to target EWM and CLP. The potential areas near your property were selectively treated to help reduce a nuisance population of EWM and/or CLP, and to help restore native aquatic plant populations in Powers Lake. At the time of treatment, a bright yellow sign was to be placed on each dock or shoreline within 200' of any of the affected treatment areas. Areas of EWM were treated with **DMA-4®** while areas of CLP were treated with **Aquathol Super K®**.

Aquatic plants are extremely important to the health of a lake. Non-invasive aquatic plants, such as small pondweed and water

lilies, are desirable and contribute to the overall health of the lake. Aquatic plants also improve water quality by protecting shorelines from erosion, while consuming phosphorous and improving water quality.

Proposed treatment areas were identified based upon the presence of the invasive plants EWM and CLP during a recent aquatic plant survey of the lake. Only those areas that were designated in the permit application were to be treated with the final determination of where treatment might occur to be made by the on-site WDNR supervisor.

DMA-4® liquid 2,4-D Treatment Areas for EWM:

Lake users are able to use the treated water for any recreation activities (boating, swimming, fishing, etc) without restriction immediately after treatment, but should refrain from irrigation uses for 21 days after treatment, or until an approved assay indicates the 2,4-D concentration is 100 ppb (0.1 ppm) or less.

Aquathol Super K® Treatment Areas for CLP:

Lake users will be able to use the treated water for any recreation activities, such as boating, swimming, fishing, etc., without restriction immediately after treatment. Do not use water from treatment areas for irrigation, for agricultural sprays on food crops, animal watering, or for domestic purposes for seven (7) days after treatment occurs.

If you have questions please contact Stantec directly at (920) 324-8600 or to request a current copy of the manufacturers' label for the herbicide to use for this treatment. Neither the DPL nor the applicator can answer specific questions about herbicide use and possible effects other than what is represented on the approved label. The EPA registers all products for use within the U.S. and answers to most questions can be found at:

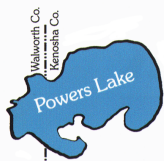
<http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/about/index.htm>

Sincerely,

District of Powers Lakes

AQUATIC INVASIVE HYDRILLA

Native to Africa and believed to have been introduced to American waters from the aquarium trade in the 1960's, hydrilla has quickly spread across the southern U.S. from Connecticut to California. By the 1990's, millions of dollars were spent yearly on its control, but this year



**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.

New York alone has budgeted \$800,000 to fight the invasive aquatic plant. Currently in Wisconsin, only isolated incidences have been found in farm ponds.

Hydrilla forms dense mats of vegetation that interfere with recreation and destroy fish and wildlife habitat. Hydrilla has several advantages over other plants; it will grow with less light, and is more efficient at taking up nutrients than native species. Hydrilla also has extremely effective methods of propagation; it produces seeds and it can also sprout new plants from root fragments or stem fragments. These fragments can be transported to other areas of the lake to produce new plants or hitch rides on boats and trailers to invade other waterways.

Hydrilla is a federally listed noxious weed and in accordance with the Federal Noxious Weed Act of 1974 the movement of the weeds in interstate or foreign commerce is prohibited except under permit.

Authority is also given to inspect, seize and destroy products, and to quarantine areas, if necessary to prevent the spread of such weeds. Biological, Chemical, manual, and Mechanical Control have all been used to manage hydrilla. Each control method has advantage and disadvantages and often times combined methods are successful.

- **Biological Control**

Grass carp, a herbivorous fish with a ferocious appetite has been proven effective to help control hydrilla. Unfortunately, the fish does not eat only hydrilla and also will consume most submersed and emersed aquatic plants once hydrilla is depleted.

- **Chemical Control**

Herbicides offer an effective control for hydrilla and are often fast acting. Regulated by the EPA and applied by certified applicators it has been deemed a safe option for control. One danger with any chemical control method is the chance of oxygen depletion after the treatment caused by the decomposition of the dead plant material. Plants can also become resistant to herbicides which then requires the use of a new chemical.

- **Physical Control**

Physical control includes a number of techniques such as hand pulling, draw downs, and aeration. While all are somewhat effective, they are labor intensive and expensive.

- **Mechanical Control**

Mechanical control cuts and collects the hydrilla for on shore disposal and offers an environmentally friendly option with immediate results. While effective in managing hydrilla and removing the

plant material to prevent them from decaying and adding additional nutrients to the water, aquatic weed harvesters require a capital investment and needs to be done more than once a season.

WATERCRAFT AND BOATING USE SURVEYS 1990 AND 2009

To evaluate boating pressures, the WDNR applies a maximum recommended boating density of one boat per 10 acres of total lake surface area. This criterion applies to all boats. Applying the DNR guidelines to the total lake area of 459 acres, a total of 46 boats could utilize the lake safely at one time.

The 1990 survey indicated that the average number of boats on the lake during weekend surveys was 67, the weekday average was 19.

The 2009 survey indicated that the average number of boats on the lake during weekend surveys was 32, the weekday average was 21.

1990 docked/moored boats and watercraft

Powerboat	264
Fishing boat/Rowboat	123
Pontoon Boat	115
Personal Water Craft (PWC)	16
Canoe/Kayak	42
Sailboat	129
Paddleboat	56
Total	745

2009 docked/moored boats and watercraft

Powerboat	250
Fishing boat/Rowboat	102
Pontoon Boat	220
Personal Water Craft (PWC)	148
Canoe/Kayak	102
Sailboat	86
Paddleboat	66
Total	974

QUARTERLY MEETING

Our next meeting will be held Friday, June 8th, 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.