



District of Powers Lake NEWSLETTER

Published for all those who use and love Powers Lake

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Aquatic Plant Management

According to the 2016 post treatment survey, overall, the plant community is excellent with great native diversity and high rankings when comparing it to similar lakes in the region.

For the 2016 treatment, conditions were ideal with calm winds. There was some Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) still present, but in highly scattered patches and often times as single clumps. The thickest patches were just west of the DNR launch and spread between the docks by the Knolls launch. In shallow water, the muskgrass limits the spread of EWM to most near-shore areas.

Overall, the plant community is healthy and of relatively good quality, especially for lakes in this part of the state. Many of the native species are doing well and a fair amount more native northern water-milfoil was found this year. This was especially encouraging as they haven't found much in the previous few surveys.

The 2017 treatment will be early spring and dependent on water temperatures. If any treatment is done within 150 ft. of your property, a notification will be posted on your shoreline indicating no swimming in the lake or watering should be done with the lake water for 24 hours.

Ice on/Ice off Dates

Complete coverage for ice on occurred on December 12, 2016. Not surprisingly this year, we had an early ice off date of February 23, 2017.

March Meeting Guest speaker: Karen Reddin, Adopt a Lake Program

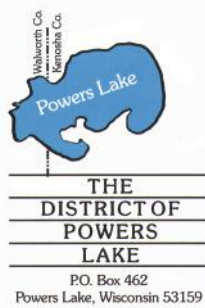
Karen was joined by Sue Herman who took over the 3rd grade program for Karen. Karen has been running this program for 12 years. The 3rd grade has 9 days of classroom

instruction to prepare for the day at the lake. The Program encourages conservation and preservation of our lakes. This year, 67 third graders and 18 7th and 8th graders, freshmen and adult helpers participated. Students then take classroom knowledge and apply it at the 8 stations set up at Lake Park. A catch and release program has doubled in size and time spent and is a favorite. Grandparents and parents who know how to fish have helped so students can have one on one instruction. For most students, this is the first time they have ever fished. Karen also brought the DPL board copies of the field study description, the program packet and photos of the event. Karen and Sue gave an informative and entertaining description of their day at the lake. Their trailer acts as a training classroom for the student helpers. This year's date is to be determined and she will notify us so that anyone that is interested can stop by.

At Randall School, when they ask graduating 8th graders what were the highlights of your time here, almost every student mentions this program. She thanked the DPL for their contributions which have made this program possible and the Town of Randall which provides inside storage for the trailer.

Fish Stocking

Commissioner Dave Anstett contacted Luke Roffler, DNR Senior Fisheries Biologist-Racine, Kenosha and Walworth Counties, regarding future fish stocking for Powers Lake. The online fish stocking database did not indicate any recent stocking but Luke discovered that the problem was the location of the lake in two counties. He will be rectifying that situation. We are on the schedule to receive 4,514 large fingerling walleye again this year (average size 6-7"), which will likely be stocked sometime between late September through October.



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.

The two most recent fisheries monitoring surveys included a walleye electrofishing sample in the fall of 2015. Luke expects that the lake is now home to a good number of 12-13" walleye from the 2015 stocking. The other is the most recent bass/panfish electrofishing survey from 2013. The largemouth bass data is pretty encouraging compared to expectations for a lake like Powers and in comparison to other area lakes. The catch rate is right in line with expectations, whereas many of the lakes have too many bass, which can lead to poor growth rates and size structure. The number of bass is average but they are good sized fish overall. The bluegill data is also better than they often see in this area.

These surveys are a kind of quick snapshot look at a lake so management decisions are typically based on trends observed over multiple surveys throughout the years.

Luke finds the fishing reports and other public comments to be very valuable, so please feel free to get in touch with him about what you are seeing.

Luke.Roffler@wisconsin.gov

Aquatic invasive species not only survives winters, it thrives under the ice.

When winter freezes inland lakes, the threat of the spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS) does not go away. Boats were drawn out of the water, cleaned and stored for winter. Docks that could be pulled ashore were, but then out come the ice fishing gear. Shanties are slid onto the ice, holes are augured and a new season of sport begins and with it the spread of AIS.

Eurasian water milfoil (EWM), zebra mussels, spiny water fleas, and [Viral hemorrhagic septicemia \(VHS\)](#) can innocuously be gathered and spread around our lakes during the winter ice fishing season. According to Montana State University Extension bulletin EB0193, "EWM can maintain a large amount of biomass throughout the winter which aids in rapid and early seasonal growth in the spring." This means that all boater and ice fisher equipment should be carefully inspected for any bits or pieces of plant matter (under 1") and muddy debris that could carry animal or zebra mussel larvae. One AIS Coordinator from Oneida County Wisconsin is quoted on [WJFW news](#) as saying, "Eurasian water milfoil is considered a perennial."

Oneida County AIS Coordinator Stephanie Boismenu says "Eurasian water milfoil is considered a perennial." However, I consider it an evergreen. A lot of people do. The reason being is it's winter-hardy. It's capable to live and grow underneath the ice."

Eurasian water milfoil continues to spread throughout lakes in our area. To slow down that spread, people on the lakes need to be careful, even in the winter.

"If you're drilling a hole in the ice and you get plants that come up with it, you need to be mindful of that and do the same as you would during open-water season," Boismenu said.

Rules prohibit people from transporting plants from lake to lake during open-water season. The same is true in the winter.

Boating Ordinance

Please review the enclosed brochure with your family members and any visitors who will be engaged in any water activities while at Powers Lake. Remember there are ordinances regarding swimming also.

If your property is being rented or loaned, this ordinance should be prominently displayed for non-residents. A copy of the Common Sense mailer and should be available also.

Reminder

Please remember to use phosphorus free lawn fertilizer. Most soils in Wisconsin naturally provide all the phosphorus your established lawn needs. Much of the phosphorus (phosphate) you apply actually runs off the lawn before penetrating the soil. Runoff into our lake could contribute to algae bloom and undesirable aquatic plants.

Check the second number on the package formula. 15-0-10, for example, means zero phosphate. The first number is the nitrogen content, the middle number is the phosphorus content and the last number is the potassium content. **Make sure the middle number on the bag is 0 indicating it is phosphorus free.**

If you use a lawn service, ask your applicator service not to use phosphorus on your lawn. If they are unwilling to do this, contact another provider or consider applying the no-phosphorus fertilizer yourself.

Quarterly Board Meeting



Our next quarterly meetings will be held on Friday, May 12th, 2017 and Friday, June 16th, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. The Annual Meeting will be Friday, August 4th at 7 p.m. All will be held at Randall Town Hall.

The meetings are 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.