



District of Powers Lake NEWSLETTER

Published for all those who use and love Powers Lake

A P R I L

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Below The Ice

While the ice depth this year was between 12-14 inches, it was hard to imagine life under that layer of ice or snow. The ice fisher folk know that aquatic life is alive and well.

The water under the ice is wavering just above freezing closest to the surface, gradually warming in the deeper areas. Fish are cold blooded, meaning their body temperature varies with the temperature of the water, enabling them to survive the cold waters. Oxygen is also trapped beneath the ice layer. These factors are what allow fish and other aquatic animals to live easily in the frozen lakes or ponds.

Over the long winter, the frozen lake is sealed off from the atmosphere so recharging with oxygenated air is impossible. Oxygen is used up by fish and aquatic organisms and when not replenished, oxygen levels can get too low for them to survive. Distressed fish will head for air at holes in the ice as spring arrives. During an extreme winter, there is always the possibility for a large winter fish kill. Once the water warms in early spring, the cycle ends.

The solution to winter fish kills are aquatic plants. Some people see the plants as a nuisance to some of our lake activities. There can be too many. However, they are essential to the survival of all aquatic organisms; especially during the winter. The penetration of light through the ice allows the plants and algae to create oxygen through photosynthesis. Heavy snow cover can negatively affect this process. Reduced light penetration results in less oxygen causing the plant to die. Decomposition of the plant also consumes oxygen.

We never know what type of winter weather we will have, but it is certain that aquatic plants are necessary for fish survival under the ice.

Convention:

For anyone interested in lake issues and ecology, there is a great resource in WI Lakes Association Convention. This year it will be held at the Holiday Inn Convention Center in Stevens Point, WI April 18-20, 2018.

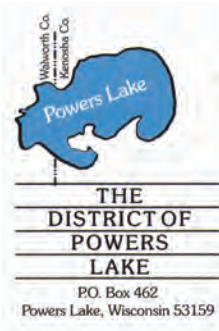
Their theme this year is Heeding the Call.

What Goes Up Must Come Down

A balloon release is great for weddings, graduations, prayer ceremony, or to raise awareness of a cause, but balloons can pose a threat to many animals.

It may seem harmless, but balloons do not go away once they float into the sky. They come to the ground sometimes in woodlands and bodies of water. They pose a threat to birds, turtles and other animals that commonly mistake balloons for food. Strings and ribbons wrap around birds and bird wings. Tangled birds become helpless and more likely to die as they are hunted. Some just weaken and die, trapped and unable to free themselves.

Chinese lanterns, also known as sky lanterns, have really been gaining popularity over the last couple of years. They work in much the same way as large hot air balloons, in that the flame heats the air inside the lantern, lowering its density and causing it to rise. When the fuel is gone, what is left of the lantern sinks back to the ground, along with the wire frame used to support the paper.



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.

As lantern popularity has spread across the world, so have the accidents. They have caused fires and the wires left behind are often ingested by wildlife and cause harm. Please consider the fact that you are releasing litter into the environment even though the occasion might be meaningful and the release itself pleasing to the eye.

Ice On/Ice Off Dates

December 28, 2017 was our ice on date and this approximately 11 inch ice cover went off on March 21th, 2018.

Reminder

Please remember to use phosphorous 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 meeting will be held on Friday, April 6th, 2018 at 5:00 p.m. 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.