



# District of Powers Lake NEWSLETTER

Published for all those who use and love Powers Lake

## JANUARY

## 2015

### SHORELAND PROTECTION

The issue of Shoreland Protection for our lake has been a hot button this year. Shoreland Protection is nothing new, but it inspires our passionate reactions! Shoreland protection has been championed by the State of Wisconsin for decades. We have been the fortunate beneficiaries for many years while the DNR has acted in concert with our counties and towns to establish special protections for our lands within 1,000 feet of our lake's watermark. All governing bodies recognize our need to protect lakes from increased density and the consequential runoff of pollutants into our lakes. As an example, the recent sale of Honey Bear Farm's two plots to a developer caused quite a stir this year. Many residents were concerned about the "clear-cutting" of the property in anticipation of the development of this property, including proposed condominiums on our shoreland. Given that the clear-cutting was executed without any permits, a controversy ensued and the neighbors in the Honey Bear area initiated action. The neighbors, the developer and the Village of Bloomfield actively addressed the issues and an agreement was ultimately negotiated between the neighbors. The Village approved of a restoration plan, but the final outcome for this property is uncertain at this point.

In another area of the lake, residents verbalized concerns of the tree-cutting on the East side of the lake, also generating questions about shoreland protection. The Town of Randall and Kenosha County responded to the concerns of the constituents and have responded to ensure the shoreland's protection. We look forward to updated information regarding this property.

Our lake is governed by different entities. We have 2 counties, Walworth & Kenosha, and three towns, the Towns of Randall and Wheatland, and the Village of Bloomfield. If you are worried about a violation on our shoreland, what do you do? It is important to understand that depending on where you live will dictate who has responsibility.

If you reside in the Village of Bloomfield, you need to call the Village of Bloomfield or Walworth County or the DNR. If you live on the Eastern side of the lake, you may call the DNR, or the appropriate town or County.

Please keep your DPL commissioners informed of your concerns of perceived violations.

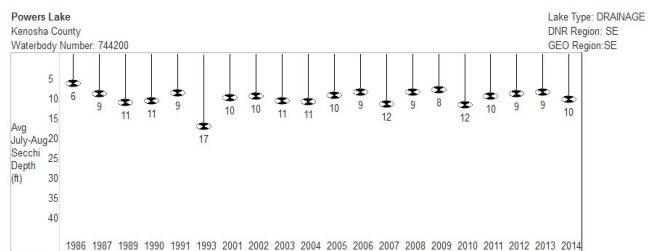
### SECCHI DISC & WATER CLARITY

Water clarity is important to all of us. As with most important things, there is a method to measure and quantify water clarity. This data is available on the Wisconsin DNR website.

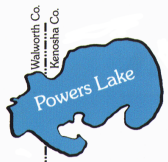
[www.dnr.wi.gov/lakes/waterquality/](http://www.dnr.wi.gov/lakes/waterquality/)

To measure water clarity, a volunteer lowers an 8" diameter, black & white disc ("Secchi disc") into the deepest part of the lake to determine how far down they can see disc as it is lowered. Water clarity plays an important role in determining the types of plants and animals that a water body can support.

Powers Lake is extremely fortunate to have dedicated volunteers, like Gil Kroll, who has been diligently testing the lake for years . . . Here are the results from our water clarity testing this year (2014) for Powers Lake:



Secchi disc



THE  
DISTRICT OF  
POWERS  
LAKE  
P.O. Box 462  
Powers Lake, Wisconsin 53159

**Elected Commissioners:**  
Jim Michels, Chair  
Deron Johnson, Sec.  
Brooke Jensen, Treas.  
Neal Kuhn  
Mary Adams  
**Appointed Commissioners:**  
Judy Jooss, Kenosha Co.  
Mark Halvey, Randall Twp.

Year	Secchi Mean	Secchi Min	Secchi Max	Secchi Count
1986	6.5	5.5	8.5	6
1987	9.25	7	11	4
1989	11.44	9	13	8
1990	10.92	9.5	12	6
1991	9	7	10	6
1993	17.33	10.25	21	6
2001	10.25	6.75	13.75	2
2002	9.88	9.5	10.75	4
2003	11	10.5	11.5	2
2004	11.13	10.5	11.75	2
2005	9.5	9.5	9.5	1
2006	8.75	8.5	9	2
2007	11.83	8.5	16.5	3
2008	8.75	8.25	9.25	3
2009	8.25	8	8.5	3
2010	12	10.5	13.5	2
2011	9.75	8	11.5	2
2012	9.17	8.5	10.5	3
2013	8.88	7.5	10.25	2
2014	10.5	10.5	10.5	2

During the summer, we perform weekly “bacteriological” sampling at five locations around Powers Lake. Ms. Nancy Kemp has graciously volunteered to perform this sampling for 2015. A big thank you to Nancy!

### WEBSITE UPDATE

A “refreshed” DPL website will be up and running soon. The updated platform will encourage education and involvement for those who value our beautiful Powers Lake.

### Brrrr!

As of December 30th, our lake has not fully frozen over. This is always a fun “party game” to see who guesses the “ice on” date or “ice off” date next spring.

### Q & As

Q: What causes the foam on my shoreline?

A: In most instances the “foam” we see on the surface of our lakes is natural, and while it’s not aesthetically pleasing, it’s harmless. The foam is created when natural organic compounds, such as those from decomposing plants and animals are mixed with air as a result of wind and waves. The foam often will collect on a downwind or downstream shore. In some cases, the foam appears

after a bloom of a species of algae called a diatom, which has silica-based shells that break down.

### Q & As:

Q: How can I get rid of all these weeds by my dock?  
A: Hold on - that might not be such a good idea! Aquatic plants form the foundation of healthy and flourishing lake ecosystems - both within lakes and rivers and on the shores around them. They not only protect water quality, but produce life-giving oxygen. Aquatic plants are a lake’s own filtering system, helping to clarify the water by absorbing nutrients like phosphorus and nitrogen that could stimulate algae blooms. Plant beds stabilize soft lake and river bottoms and reduce shoreline erosion by reducing the effect of waves and current. Healthy native aquatic plant communities help prevent the establishment of invasive non-native plants like Eurasian water-milfoil. They provide important reproductive, food, and cover habitat for fish, invertebrates, and wildlife. So in order to maintain healthy lakes and rivers, we must maintain healthy native aquatic plant communities. Removing any aquatic plants should be done in a manner that limits the disturbance to the overall plant community and may require a permit from DNR. A healthy diversity of native aquatic plants can also help prevent exotic species from becoming established in the lake.

**The District of Powers Lake seeks to be diligent about keeping you informed of all issues affecting our lake and community. Please come to our next meeting to vocalize your concerns. You can make a difference! We welcome your feedback!**

### QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING



Our next meeting will be held Friday, January 9th, 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.