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District of Powers Lake NEWSLETTER

Published for all those who use and love Powers Lake

OCTOBER

2020

Annual Meeting

Thanks were extended to all the volunteers who aid the DPL in its endeavors.

Water Treatment:

Approximately 5 acres were treated this year for invasive species. The post treatment survey was delayed this year and will be done the 3rd week in September.

Graphs created from the water monitoring system showed the high water levels around 4th of July and then low levels lately. The lower water levels allow sunlight to penetrate more deeply and therefore, result in more plant growth.

Dave Anstett has taken over doing the secchi disk readings for water clarity. These were done for many years by Gil Kroll. He said the readings have been good this year.

Aquatic Invasive Species {AIS}:

Starry Stonewort's appearance in Lake Geneva has caused the board to think even more diligently as to how to continue to protect our lake. In the past, we have provided tools and signage at the launches for removal of plant material on trailers or boats. The major concern is the in and out traffic at the launches. If boaters are not mindful, the lake is put at risk. Discussion was held to decide whether to open a capital fund to begin earmarking money for a boat cleaning station. Lou Manfredini has done extensive research on a company which manufactures these. The board is hoping to be able to come up with a much less expensive and equally effective alternative for each launch. This capital fund would be specific to enhancing signage, raising awareness, education and provide a boat cleaning station. Driving a trailer with plant material collected on it is a violation of WI state law and subject to a fine.

Resident Opinion Survey {ROS}:

To date it appears there will be a 35% return rate on the mailing. SEWRPC will be releasing the results of the survey in late September.

Fish Stocking:

Dave Anstett has checked with the Powers Lake Sportsmen's Club and they will again donate \$1,000 for fish stocking of Walleyes. That is in addition to the \$5,000 the board has allocated. Dave said our choice this year is 5-7" vs. 6-8" Walleye. He will consult the hatchery and see which size is recommended for best survival rate.

2021 Annual Meeting Date:

The next Annual Meeting will be Friday, August 6th, 2021 Meeting location to be determined.

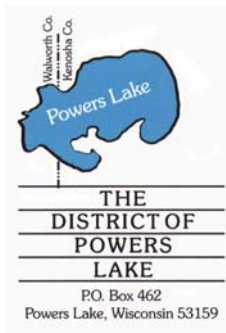
Election of Commissioner:

Jim Michels was unopposed for the position and was elected by acclamation for another 3 year term.

Starry Stonewort Update

As soon as the ice cleared, the Geneva Lakes Environmental Agency {GLEA} investigated the infestation level of the Starry Stonewort {SS}. Plans to combat its existence were re-activated. In July, GLEA finished up a plant report for the lake on the SS and other existing plants in the lake. This report produced information to gauge the severity of the growth of SS. GLEA also took a camera to the last 2 known locations of SS and Trinke Lagoon so the size of the invasive plant beds could be determined.

With this information, divers went into the lake the first week in August and began hand pulling as much as possible. Citizen

**Elected Commissioners:**

Neal Kuhn, Chair
Lou Manfredini
Brooke Jensen, Treas.
Jim Michels
Dave Anstett

Appointed Commissioners:

Judy Jooss, Kenosha Co.
Bob Stoll, Randall Twp.

volunteer kayakers were asked to help with the hauling of the bags of unwanted plants to get them from the divers to the transport barge. This decision to hand pull was made since Little Cedar Lake, in Washington County, and Pike Lake, near Hartford, have taken that action and it seems to be going well. Hand pulling relies on native plant species regenerating and growing in the area, blocking SS from regenerating there. Ted Peters, Director of GLEA, is working on a post event evaluation to determine the agency's next actions.

After two days of uprooting mounds of SS, officials say some areas have been mostly cleared but others still have dense patches remaining.

The first day, crews removed about 25 mesh bags of SS amounting to 250 gallons, enough to fill up a trailer that hauled the plant material away. Due to the other plants and sediment surrounding the SS, bags may have only been halfway full of SS. The operation then moved to an area near Big Foot State Park where an area of about a half acre of dense patches of SS was found. Unlike the other areas, SS was not mixed in with other plant life and dominated the lake bottom. This day of pulling removed about 600 gallons of SS which was probably only 5% of the population. It is possible that it may take two to five years of this process before you can get it to a 100% manageable level. Peters also indicated the hand pulling will likely become a yearly activity to ensure the SS does not spread throughout the lake. Prevention of the introduction of invasive species obviously is the best method initially. For now, the WI DNR feels the hand pulling seems to be a reliable method for the time being.

Website Signup

If you have not already done so, please visit our website and sign up for notifications of lake events such as E. coli advisory/closure at the Knolls Beach or Slow No Wake.

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Help Wanted:

The board is looking for a volunteer to update the website. This would be an easy job for a tech savvy individual and would not require a great deal of time. Please check with family and friends to see if anyone is willing to help out.

Quarterly Board Meeting



Our next quarterly meeting will be held on Friday, October 9, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. This date is tentative pending any changes due to COVID-19 regulations.

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.