



District of Powers Lake NEWSLETTER

Published for all those who use and love Powers Lake

OCTOBER

2015

Letter from Judge Gitzinger

We were asked to share the following letter from Judge Gitzinger, Municipal Judge, Town of Randall.

August 20, 2015

To the District of Powers Lake,

The Municipal Court of the Town of Randall is asking the District of Powers Lake to convey a very important safety concern regarding Lake Homeowners letting their guests borrow their boats and waverunners.

We've had several parents who have juveniles experience getting a citation and not knowing any of the rules of Boating on Powers Lake. The parents of these Juveniles were not present at the time as the Juvenile was a guest at a Lake Homeowners place.

These Parents asked us to at least mention their concern as well as they didn't feel their child should have to pay the fine. They felt it was the responsibility of the owner of the Boat/PWC who didn't take the time to explain the Rules and Regulations.

Also people need to remember that anyone born after 1989 needs to have a Safety Certificate, which is obtainable online through the US Coast Guard Site. This could turn out to be a very serious situation and we are asking you to pass this on at your Annual Meeting and also put it in the Newsletter.

Be part of the solution!



The Clean Boats, Clean Waters watercraft inspection program is an opportunity to take a front line defense against the spread of aquatic invasive species.

AIS Prevention Steps

INSPECT boats, trailers, and equipment.

REMOVE all attached aquatic plants and animals.

DRAIN all water from boats, vehicles, and equipment.

NEVER MOVE plants or live fish away from a waterbody.

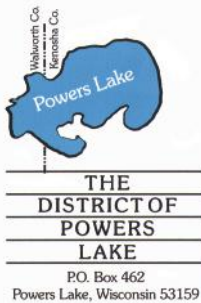
Invasive species: Starry Stonewort

Starry Stonewort is a recently discovered invasive species in our area. It has been found in several lakes in Southeast Wisconsin.

Description: Starry stonewort is a non-native species of large algae in the Characeae family. It has whorls of 4-6 long branchlets. It is more robust than most members of its family, and can grow to over two meters tall. Anchored by colorless filaments (rhizoids) that contain up to several dozen 4-5 mm, star-shaped bulbils, starry stonewort typically grows in marl sediments of alkaline lakes, up to 9 meters deep. Orange reproductive structures are located in the axils of the upper branchlets. Starry stonewort is typically an annual, but can behave as a perennial during mild winters.



Starry stonewort has many whorls of long branchlets. Some branchlets may appear forked due to short bracts where reproductive structures are forming.



Elected Commissioners:
 Neal Kuhn, Chair
 Deron Johnson, Sec.
 Brooke Jensen, Treas.
 Jim Michels
 Mary Adams

Appointed Commissioners:
 Judy Jooss, Kenosha Co.
 Mark Halvey, Randall Twp.

North American Distribution: Michigan, northern Indiana, and the northeastern United States. Recently found in southeastern Wisconsin.

Dispersal Vectors: Starry stonewort is native to Europe and western Asia. It was probably introduced to the Great Lakes via ballast water carried in trans-oceanic ships. Fragments of starry stonewort can easily be spread between lakes by boats, trailers, and anchors holding sediments. Local dispersal occurs by bulbils or fragments being transported by water currents or boats within the lake. Since only male starry stonewort exists in the U.S., no viable "seeds" are produced.



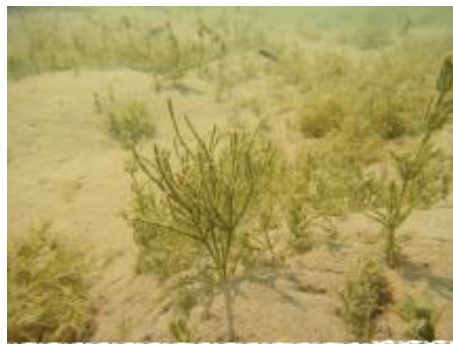
Star-shaped bulbils are produced in the sediments, and give starry stonewort its name.

Ecological Impacts: By forming dense mats of vegetation, starry stonewort can greatly reduce the diversity of aquatic plants in a lake. It can also impede movement of fish and other animals, and can decrease successful spawning activity. Mats growing to the surface can reduce water flow and make recreational activities difficult.

Control Options: Manual removal of starry stonewort is difficult and may be impractical on a large scale. Abundant bulbils on the rhizoids can dislodge if disturbed, and will sprout new individuals. Manual removal efforts must emphasize careful removal of these bulbils. Some chemical herbicides and algaecides have been effective at suppressing starry stonewort.

Herbicide applications may be less effective on tall stands of starry stonewort, as the chemical is quickly absorbed into the upper parts of the algae, leaving the lower parts unharmed. Most states require chemical use permits for any herbicide/algaecide treatments in standing water or wetland situations.

An effective biological control agent is not known at this time.



Starry stonewort (front, center), much more robust than the surrounding native musk grasses.



QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING

Our next meeting will be held Friday, October 2nd, at 5:00 p.m. The meeting is open to the public at the Randall Town Hall, 34530 Bassett Road, Bassett, Wisconsin.

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.