



George Lake Newsletter

Issue No.16

Aug 2014

Annual Meeting

Your Lake District Annual meeting will take place on **Friday, Aug 22** at 7pm, at the Bristol Village Hall.

IT'S YOUR LAKE

We have a beautiful natural resource in George Lake. Participate in the Lake District, come to the meetings and express your opinions. Help protect it for all of our uses and future generations.

State Lake Conference

The Wisconsin Lakes Convention will be held in Green Bay, in April of 2015. Money is provided in the budget to send two individuals. If you are interested, call Jeff Coultrip at 857-2834.

Purple Loosestrife

Bev Chudy, Charlotte Schroeder and Meredith Favorite, an intern student from University of Whitewater, a water resources major, along with students and staff at Hillcrest High School, in Kenosha worked many long hours raising beetles again this past winter and spring to place out near stands of Loosestrife. The beetles have now left their pails and are feasting on the host plants. If you would be willing to help, contact either of the ladies.

Please check your water frontage. The recommended procedure for dealing with loosestrife is to put a plastic bag over the flowers, cut them off and treat the stems with weed killer. One plant can produce thousands of seeds. Please be careful with the weed killer around the water.

Beaches

We seem to be having a problem of children playing near and hanging on to the buoys that have been placed at the beaches for your safety. When they are submerged, they fill with water and sink. Please supervise your children. When you use the beaches-please pick up any litter and place it in the garbage cans. Weeds and debris accumulate on the beaches so when you use the beach, take a rake along with you and rake it into a pile at the edge of the beach.

Boat Safety

Please limit your wakes, skiing, and tubing to the hours of noon to 6pm. Also remember that a spotter is required at all times during skiing and tubing and that boats must travel in a counter-clockwise direction. Please make sure your guests are aware of these rules. Also, parking is not allowed on the North side of the road at the boat launch area. The roadway becomes too narrow with cars and trucks parked on both sides and emergence vehicles cannot pass. It is now a tow-a-way zone and the Kenosha sheriff's will enforce.

Harvesting

Our vendor treated the lake in May of this year for Eurasian Water Milfoil and in June for the algae bloom that occurred. He was recently on the lake and reports that while the milfoil is diminished except along the South shore, the predominate weeds present are coontail and sago pondweed. We are cutting the coontail and skimming off the algae when we can. The DNR has asked us to refrain from cutting milfoil as it has now been determined that cutting only creates fragments which reseed themselves. The preferred remedy for milfoil is to treat it with a herbicide.

We are attempting to pick up weeds from docks and piers each Friday or Saturday. Recently, we have encountered foreign objects mixed in with the weeds and in some cases, weeds have to be left on the pier. Our machinery cannot accept sticks, rope, socks and mud. Please see that your weeds consist only of weeds. Weeds containing any of the above WILL NOT be picked up.

WATER QUALITY

The water at our two beaches has been tested and found to be safe. We have seen very few geese and seagulls on the lake this year. Could this be the reason for the low e-coli readings? Thank you Bob Chudy .

Preventing Algae Blooms

Hot summer days on the lake! Many of us share common memories of good times on the water. Unfortunately, smelly, soupy algae blooms can be a problem on our beautiful lake. These blooms are fed by fertilizers containing phosphorus. Fortunately, the state of Wisconsin has banned their use in lawn fertilizers.

The algae in our lake continue to be fed by runoff from fertilizer on farm fields. The board and the lake rehab district is working closely with the Wisconsin DNR to address this issue. The board has sampled the inlets to the lake to identify which inlets are the greatest contributors of pH and will continue to sample next spring when we see the largest flow of runoff entering the lake. The Board will also assess the contribution of pH containing sediments in the lake.

How can I help?

These are steps you can take to help prevent pH from entering the lake. All plant materials contain phosphorus, so avoid placing grass clippings, raked leaves and other plant debris in the lake or any of the inlets flowing into the lake. Do not use pH containing fertilizers on your lawn.

The soil, especially heavy clay soil, retains pH for a long time. Loss of soil into the lake and drainage ditches can allow soil-bound pH to be carried into the lake.

Consider planting native plants along your property that drains to the lake. Native plants are much more effective in removing pH than blue grass lawns. The addition of a small native plant buffer strip along shorelines and drainage ditches can be effective in preventing pH from entering the lake. Contact the Wisconsin Agricultural Extension Master Gardener Helpline at (262) 857-1941 or Andy Yench at (414) 256-4631 for information on the types of plants you can use for a small native plant buffer strip on your property. You can also find information at learningstore.uwex.edu on preventing shoreline erosion and establishing natural plantings in your yard. (by- Lucy Elam)

Boat Parking

You may have noticed a new operation at the boat ramp on the South shore of the lake. FREE Annual passes are available from the Bristol Village Hall, to residents of the Lake District. Funds from this project are being accumulated to provide improvements to the parking and launch area. Thanks to Adam Anderson for setting this up.