

HORSEHEAD LAKE PROTECTION & REHABILITATION DISTRICT NO 1



April 24, 2006

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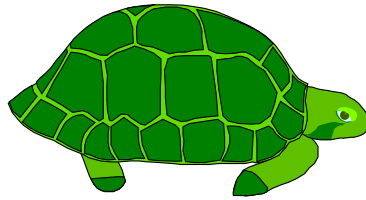
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District Members

Fourteen eagles were seen soaring above the lake as the ice broke up on April 11th. They were undoubtedly looking for the fish that have been hard to find throughout the winter season.

The numerous eagles signaled good things for our Horsehead Lake residents. Not only does it show our area is still environmentally sound, but it was a visible sign that warmer weather is just around the corner. Memories of summers past remind us of recreation and outdoor relaxation we've enjoyed.

And, yes, the turtles will be out before long, together with ducks, loons, and those devilish muskrats.

It's time to get the boat ready and the pier in.

Commissioners' Meeting Notes

- DNR grant proposal denied; we will reapply in

Aug. '06 (see web page & "From the desk of the President")

- Noted DNR lake quality data; unchanged from previous two years.
- Voted to choose Schmidt's Landscaping, Iola, WI, to cut weeds in July, '06.
- Established a "Donations" account to augment web page funding.
- Voted to reimburse Dennis & Kris Batchelet for web site cost.
- Approved purchase of "Otter Sled" to help with roping/staking.
- Changed Annual Meeting date to 9 am, Sat., Aug. 5, 2006.
- Set June 28th for next Commissioners' meeting.

Our new web site

Judging from the number of "hits" on our new web site, it's a big success. Over 570 hits have been recorded so far. Numerous positive comments have been received from Horsehead Lake residents. When you get time, check it out, the site is updated regularly with new information about all sorts of things affecting the lake.

Donations Welcomed

If you like the new web site and want to help defray the costs (\$8/month web host fees), you might consider joining Tom and Bobbie Kocim in making a donation to the web page fund. Should you be so inclined, send your check to Beverly Fagan, our Treasurer, and make it out to Horsehead Lake P&R District.

FISH KILL

When the ice went out on April 11th, it became apparent that a sizeable fish kill had occurred during the winter.

While our aerator does not altogether prevent such occurrences, it does help to minimize them.

Four factors affect the oxygen level of a lake:

- 1) snow depth on ice
 - 2) ice thickness
 - 3) extreme cold weather
- And,
- 4) chemical decomposition of weed biomass which uses up oxygen.

Most of the fish were 1-2" Bluegills, but there were some nice-sized Bass and Crappies as well.

The fish have been seen along the SE, NE, NW, and SW shores.

The problem only underscores the need to address the weed situation ASAP.

"Clean Boats, Clean Waters"

It won't be hard to notice our volunteers (Kris Batchelet, Pat Donnick, & Joanne Erickson) at the boat dock. They'll be wearing Royal Blue T-shirts and they'll be checking to see if boats and/or trailers have weeds or mud attached. So far, Horsehead Lake DOES NOT have the dreaded Eurasian Water Milfoil, but we do have areas of Curly-Leaf Pond Weed. The best time to notice it is just after the ice goes out. It grows thick and makes motoring difficult.

Keep watch for it and notify one of the commissioners if you see it. You can also see the small "turions" in the shallows. If you step on one, you'll say "ouch".

What You Can Do To Help

- 1) Be on the alert for Curly-Leaf Pond Weed and

Eurasian Water Milfoil Plants. If you find Curly-Leaf Pond Weed in your beach area, pull it out by the roots. It is the cheapest and most effective way of getting rid of this near-shore invasive.

- 2) Urge you neighbors to be diligent in their efforts to get rid of invasives and protect our lake.
- 3) Wash your boat with soap and water whenever re-launching from a nearby lake.

Next Annual Meeting Date

Saturday, August 5th,
2006

9:00 A.M.

Sloan Community Center

Commissioners' Meeting Dates

June 28th, 6:00 P.M. Sloan
Community Center in Lake
Tomahawk



From the Chair

By Dennis Batchelet

We were very disappointed to hear about our DNR grant proposal being denied. By way of explanation, there is a great deal of competition for these grants, especially since more lake associations are applying for them. In addition, the legislature has reduced the funding for the grants by about 50%. Money is tight in Madison.

There is an elaborate ranking process that awards points to various facets of each submitted proposal. Then, all proposals are ranked numerically from top to bottom. When the final results were announced, ours would have been the next funded.

But all is not lost. In August, an equal amount of grant money will be available when we will re-submit. In the meantime, Tim Hoyman, our weed consultant, will be

working closely with DNR staff to make minor modifications to our proposal. We are hopeful that our proposal will then be accepted. The downside is that work on our lake study cannot begin until the ice clears in 2007. Until then, we will have to be clever in thinking of ways to minimize the effects of excessive weed growth and the resulting additional biomass that will be created in the lake.

Anything you can do to prevent the decaying weeds from mixing with clean water and lake vegetation, will go a long way toward helping our situation. Slower boat traffic would help.

I am confident that, working together, we can devise a plan that will eventually solve our problem.

Did you know?

Loons are "snow birds", too! They spend the winter in coastal areas of the Deep South from North Carolina to Texas.

Meeting Minutes

Minutes are available by request to Linda Houghton-Bowen, our secretary, or on our web site.

Let's be safe out there.

Sincerely,
Dennis Batchelet,
Beverly Fagan,
Linda Houghton-Bowen.
Tom Rudolph
Gary Sowatzka

