

HORSEHEAD LAKE PROTECTION & REHABILITATION DISTRICT NO 1



June 15, 2005

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Dear District Members :

Those who live in the lake country spend lots of time waiting. Waiting for the ice to break up; waiting for the loons to return; waiting for spring; and finally, waiting for good weather !

Most people launched their boats in May or June and are hoping for good fishing, boating, water skiing, swimming, bird watching, and gorgeous sunsets.

All of those things depend on a healthy lake, free from invasive weeds. Since our lake is near many others we must learn to be vigilant in spotting Curly-Leaf Pondweed, Eurasian Water Milfoil, Zebra Mussels, and rusty crayfish that can hitchhike on boats from

other places. The DNR has identified Eurasian Water Milfoil on Minocqua Lake, Kawaguesaga, Lake Tomahawk, and the Rainbow Flowage. While our lake hasn't been taken over by either Curly-leaf Pondweed or Eurasian Water Milfoil, we all need to learn how to spot these and report their occurrence to the commissioners. As far as we know, neither Zebra Mussels, Eurasian Water Milfoil, nor rusty crayfish have been seen in Horsehead Lake, but we need to keep it that way.

Unfortunately, we do have Curly-Leaf Pondweed. To help learn to identify these two invasive species, would you place the pictures of invasive plants in a place where they can be seen often? This will help us learn what to look for.

Here's an update on what's been happening.



Lake Activity

Daryl Dvorak proudly displays the 30" Northern Pike he hauled up through the ice on a nice day in early February. He was not alone on the lake, as several sheds, and cars with their complement of fishers were seen on the lake. While the vast majority of fishers respect the lake, a few beer bottles had to be pried from the ice, abandoned without regard for keeping our lake clean.



Lake Level

The water level has been rising slowly, following replacement of the boards and should be at last summer's level soon.

Your commissioners will be making a recommendation for the water level at the

annual meeting. Discussion and action by district members will follow.

Water Quality Report

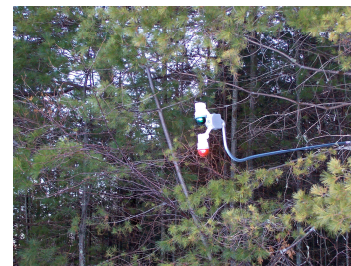
The final 2004 DNR lake report has arrived with not earth-shattering results. While our own records show the lakes' average Trophic State Index (TSI) is slightly improving, especially the phosphate level, the state report says we are still "Eutrophic". Our lake isn't getting more fertile, but it's not much better, either. So, we have to continue our efforts to abstain from high-phosphorus lawn fertilizers, limiting burning dioxin-producing materials such as plastic & styrofoam, and maintaining a 38" buffer zone adjacent to lake.



Aeration System

The aerator performed exactly as designed throughout the winter, keeping a large area of the lake open. Inspection of the shoreline in April showed no signs of fish kill. Mike Vogelsang, DNR fish biologist who spoke at our 2004 annual meeting, noted that bluegill and crappie populations are most likely to be affected by low oxygen levels while pike populations can survive on a much lower oxygen content.

Jim Goheen, of Aquatic Biologists, Inc. will be making a short presentation at our annual meeting regarding aeration issues. He's got over 30 years of experience in this field. Since he installed and maintains our system, he's well-qualified to address our particular situation.



Governor Declares June Invasive Species Month

Throughout the state numerous private groups and government agencies are teaming up to tackle the newest threat to our clear water in Wisconsin. Check out the Invasive Species Association at www.ipaw.org for more information. The featured D.N.R. speaker at our annual meeting, Sandra Wickman, will explain the problem and what we can do to protect Horsehead Lake. The "Clean Boats, Clean Water" boat inspection program aims to keep our lake free invasive species. Always dispose of unwanted bait in the garbage - **NOT** in the lake.

Meetings & Conventions

Mark your calendar now for the next annual Horsehead Lake P&R District meeting in the Lake Tomahawk Sloan Center, Saturday, August 20th, 2005 at 9am.

Clean Boats, Clean Waters

"Clean Boats, Clean Waters" is a statewide program to prevent the spread of unwanted (invasive) weeds that "hitchhike" on boats and trailers. Volunteer data show that in 2004 17% of boats leaving boat landings had vegetation attached to boat or trailer while 3% of the boats contained vegetation when they attempted to launch at a landing.

To stop the spread of "hitchhiking" invasive species, the following needs to be done:

- 1) inspect and remove aquatic plants, animals, and mud from boat, trailer, and equipment before leaving the water access,

- 2) Drain water from boat, motor, bilge, live wells, and bait containers before leaving water access,
- 3) Dispose of unwanted bait in trash,
- 4) Spray/rinse boats, trailers, recreational equipment with high pressure and/or hot tap water (above 104 degrees) OR dry boats and equipment thoroughly for at least 5 days before relaunching elsewhere.

Did you know?

Wisconsin has more lakes than Minnesota; 15, 081?

WAL Newsletters

Call (608) 662-0923 or (800) 542-5253; email: wal@wisconsinlakes.org

Let's be safe out there.

Sincerely, Dennis Batchelet,
Beverly Fagan, Linda
Houghton-Bowen.