

HORSEHEAD LAKE PROTECTION & REHABILITATION DISTRICT NO 1



May 1, 2023

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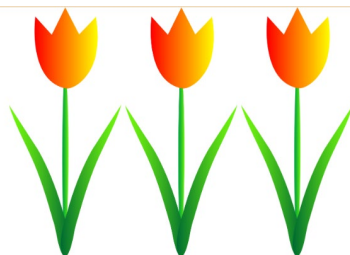
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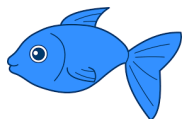
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www.horseheadlake-wi.org

April 8, 2023 Commissioner's Meeting

The balance in the accounts as of March 31, 2023 is \$42,890.96. The annual meeting is August 19, 2023 at 9 AM at the Lake Tomahawk Pavilion at Snowshoe Park in Lake Tomahawk. Please mark your calendar.



Fish Update

We successfully stocked fish on Monday, May 1, 2023, adding 1500 large bluegills, 4030 medium bluegills, 2400 large black crappies and 1015 medium crappie -for a total of 5,530 bluegills and 3,415 black crappies. The medium size fish were still small - about 2". Fortunately, we haven't heard of any winter kill this year.

We stocked bluegills and black crappies in 2021, did not stock in 2022 due to winter kill, stocked again this year and plan to stock in 2024. We will then assess the fish population to see if our stocking has helped our overall population.

A reminder, at the annual meeting in August 2020, residents voted to recommend catch and release for blue gills and crappies from 2021- 2023, giving the fish time to establish in our lake.



Boat Landing

Power loading boats causes the lake bottom to be pushed into a berm at the end of the landing. Please avoid power loading your boat. There is no solution for this as we have a shallow landing with a sandy bottom.

Please only park in designated areas at the landing to ensure others coming to use the landing are unencumbered.

AIS Workshop

Stephanie Boismenu, Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator and Conservation Technician from Oneida County, is coming to our lake for a hands-on workshop on **Monday, June 19, 2023 from 9 AM - Noon**. Stephanie will be taking us around the lake and teaching us to identify aquatic invasive species as well as native plants. Please meet at the boat landing with your kayak to attend the workshop. A flyer is enclosed with the details. Stephanie will also be speaking at our annual meeting this year. Please consider joining us for this great learning opportunity.



Weed Cutting

We have a contract with Aquatic Plant Management LLC for weed cutting in July, if needed. Per our management plan, we will have a committee to assess the weed status and need for cutting in early July.

New Commissioner

We welcome Lenore Lopez to the board as the representative from Lake Tomahawk. Lenore was just elected to the Lake Tomahawk board in April. She taught high school art on the south side of Chicago for 21 years. She became enchanted with the Northwoods in childhood while attending YMCA family camp in Lac du Flambeau. Her family still attends the same family camp going on 67 years. She bought her home in Lake Tomahawk in 2012 and moved here permanently in 2017 after retiring.

Aerator Update

The aerator was turned on October 12, 2022 and turned off April 24, 2023. From appearance, it seemed we had a larger area of open water this

year, but it is difficult to quantify. The aerator seems to be working properly.

In terms of the new aerator, we were pleased we received a grant of \$25,896 from the State. Currently we are in the permitting process with the DNR to allow the aerator. They had requested additional information that Dave Averbeck put together and provided to them. Now we are waiting to confirm that we will get the permit. We are also waiting for WPS to provide a design and cost for the aeration system.

We are working with Wisconsin Lake and Pond Resource in obtaining a bid for the aeration project. An electrician has been identified but cannot quote a price until we have the design from WPS.

We are estimating the total project cost to be \$69,770 and taking the grant into consideration, we will then finance \$43,874 over 5 years at \$10,134 / year. This is within the amount approved at the annual meeting last year.

If all goes well, the plan is to have the aerator installed this coming fall (2023), which is why we stocked the fish this year. A reminder that the aerator will not prevent winter kills but will provide additional refuge of oxygen for the fish. Also, a winter kill does not kill all the fish.

Safe and Courteous Boating

Please be sure to practice safe and courteous boating and jet skiing on the lake. The DNR regulates boat safety and prohibits operating your vessel within 100 feet of a shoreline, dock, raft, pier or restricted area greater than slow or no wake speed. It is unlawful to chase, harass or disturb wildlife.

Personal watercraft (such as jet skis) cannot be operated at faster than "slow, no wake speed" within 100 feet of any other vessel on any waterbody, 200 feet of shore on any lake and 100 feet of a dock, pier, raft, or restricted area on any lake.

Also be careful of the numerous submerged rocks in the lake. Many are located off the points of the peninsula and the island.

Management Plan / Point Intercept Survey

The board met with Onterra following the Point Intercept Study that was conducted last summer. Based on the study and the meeting, we are revising and updating our management plan. The update to the plan is available on our website with their further recommendations. Please contact Deb Bursik by June 20, 2023 if you have any

comments / questions on the management plan. The commissioners will be voting on accepting the plan at the next commissioner meeting on Tuesday, June 27. In summary, our lake is doing well. No further Eurasian Water Milfoil was found and this year the Curly Leaf Pondweed was only found near the boat launch. The native plant community is also healthier in that the number of plant species found is more diverse.



From the Chair

By Deb Bursik

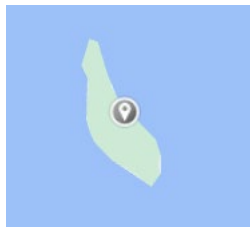
My commissioner position is up for election this year and I will not be running for re-election. It has been my pleasure to serve on the board for the last 6 years, but I'm working full time and have large personal commitments at the moment that make this job difficult for me to continue. I need to clear my plate a bit from all the commitments I have.

As I have mentioned before, the board tries to disburse duties so no one position is overwhelmed. I am happy to help guide the new person to allow for a smooth transition. The lake district is important for the health of the lake, but it depends upon people volunteering and taking part. The main duties of the chairperson are running the meetings, putting together the agenda, putting together the newsletter and coordinating the contracts for weed cutting. It is healthy and important for board positions to rotate and the work to be shared among the district members. Please let me know if you would be interested in running for a board position. It is a great opportunity to learn about the lake.



Shhh...Loon Nesting

For years, the loons have nested on the northeast side of the island:



Please be respectful coming around the corner of the island so as not to disturb the nesting loon and keep in mind the boating regulations mentioned above.

If we have your Email address, we can keep you up to date on lake events. If you haven't received an email lately regarding Horsehead Lake, it means we do not have your email. Please send your email: horseheadlakePRD@gmail.com

Our Volunteers

Webmaster:

Deb Bursik

Aerator:

Dave Averbek

Secchi testing/water

sampling:

Kevin Collins

Dissolved Oxygen Testing:

Paul Bursik

Audit Committee:

Hans Delius

Did You Know?

Cooler water is more dense than warmer water. In the summer, cooler water is found at the bottom of the lake and warmer on top. Once the water cools to 32 degrees Fahrenheit and freezes, ice is less dense than water, and therefore the colder water is on top. Water is heaviest at 3.98 degrees Celsius (39.164 Fahrenheit). Anything warmer or colder floats.

(See Lake Tides 47/3 (Summer 2022 p. 10.)

Sincerely,

Debra Bursik

David Averbek

Laurie Barret

Lenore Lopez

Jim Winkler

Horsehead Lake's Aquatic Invasive Species Identification and Monitoring Workshop

Join us for an engaging, hands-on workshop to learn about the lake you love and how you can help protect it.

Date: **Monday, June 19, 2023**
Time: **9:00 am to 12:00ish**
Location: Bring your canoe/kayak and meet at the Horsehead Lake Boat Landing
Presenter: Stephanie Boismenu, Oneida County AIS Coordinator & Conservation Technician,
Oneida County Land & Water Conservation Department

- **9:00 am - 9:45 am.** At the boat landing:
The morning will be at the landing to learn about the impacts of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) and how to identify, monitor, report, control, and remove AIS.
- **9:45 am - 12:00ish.** On the water:
Join us for a fun and engaging paddle around the lakes shoreline to search for AIS and explore the native plant communities. This paddle will provide the perfect opportunity to strengthen your AIS identification skills, discover the underwater gardens and life below the surface, learn the value of healthy shorelines, and learn how to be a steward of the lake you love.

Topics include:

- Learn how to identify, monitor, and report AIS
- Learn about the native species in Horsehead Lake
- AIS impacts to the lakes ecosystem, fisheries, recreational activities, and shoreline property values
- AIS hand removal tips and tricks
- The value of a healthy lake and shoreline
- Return home with a whole new appreciation of your lake and the life below the surface.

What to Bring: Canoe/kayak. Please dress for the weather and for water activities. Polarized sunglasses aid in looking at the bottom substrate.

What to expect on the water: The Oneida County AIS Team will conduct a visual search for AIS between the shoreline and the maximum rooting depth of aquatic vegetation, around the entire perimeter of the lake. Participants are welcome to join them for any or all of the time on the water.

This workshop is hosted by the Horsehead Lake Protection & Rehabilitation District and the Oneida County Land & Water Conservation Department's Aquatic Invasive Species Program.

For information contact: Deb Bursik dbursik@new.rr.com