

POTTER'S LAKE NEWSLETTER

FALL 2002

ANNUAL MEETING - SUMMARY

First, our thanks to the nearly 50 people who attended the Annual Meeting and to all of you who came by the District's picnic immediately following. We appreciate your input at the meeting and throughout the year. We hope to see more of you at future meetings.

Here's what happened at the meeting....

- * Minutes of the 2001 Annual Meeting were approved as presented.
- * The District had \$149,255.40 in the savings account and \$2,080.00 in the checking account as of August 30. The District has no outstanding liabilities. A year-end Financial Report will be presented at the spring meeting.
- * The District treated 9 acres in July with 2-4-D. The treatment was marginally successful. Some areas of the Lake were not treated because the weed survey done in June did not indicate a need to be treated. A more recent evaluation indicates milfoil growth in those areas. In light of the time of year, no further chemicals treatments or mechanical harvesting is planned.

The District is anticipating another 2-4-D spot treatment early next spring and a whole-lake treatment using Sonar next fall. The District is already pursuing permits for these projects. A permit for mechanical harvesting is in place for an additional two years. District approval will be needed for the Sonar treatment and a special meeting will likely be held next spring to discuss the treatment at length. The District has a standing policy to do spot treatment where and when necessary.
- * Water clarity is at 2.5 to 3.0 feet, less than in previous years. Clarity throughout Walworth County and southern Wisconsin has been worse than usual this year.
- * The public launch will close Monday, September 2 at 11:00 p.m. for approximately two weeks while a new launch, boarding pier, and handicap accessible toilet are installed. In addition, the parking area will be striped for 8 vehicles and no parking signs will be placed on the grass areas.
- * The deeds for the Love/Torpe properties are still in the process of being transferred to the District. The survey of the properties was completed earlier this year. A work weekend will be planned for next year to remove garbage and nuisance plants from the area. A nature trail is also a possibility.

- * The Lake was neither shocked nor stocked in 2002. The District is working with the DNR to become a “baseline” lake, a status that would increase the frequency of stocking. The Lake was last stocked three years ago with 325 Northern Pike.
- * The educational program on shoreline buffers was presented prior to the meeting and was well received. The District will plan additional educational programs in the future.
- * Nearly 30 residents are now receiving their newsletters via e-mail. In addition, these residents are receiving periodic updates about changes to the website and other activities. Residents were encouraged to provide their e-mail addresses to the District to continue to improve communications. (If you haven’t already, send *yours* to jeff@potterslake.org).
- * There were 27 hours of police patrol on the Lake this year. 6 citations were issued, all to personal watercraft (PWC).
- * Residents were thanked for their participation in the Boat Parade and Lighting of the Lake. More than \$700 in flares were sold and the profits were used to pay for the picnic held after the Annual Meeting.
- * Resolution 02-1, designating September 6, 2003 as the date for the 2003 Annual Meeting, was approved.
- * Resolution 02-2, designating F & M Bank of East Troy (or its successor) as the depository of the District, was approved.
- * Resolution 02-3, pertaining to the operating budget (\$11,250.00) of the District for 2003, was approved.
- * Resolution 02-4, pertaining to the lake projects and the weed-harvesting budget (\$38,750.00) of the District for 2003, was approved.
- * Resolution 02-5, authorizing the District to borrow up to \$10,000.00 for operating expenses only, was approved.
- * Resolution 02-6, authorizing the Commissioners to seek any grants available to the District, was approved.
- * The District agreed to recommend that the Town of East Troy modify its speed limit ordinance so that a 10-mile per hour speed limit shall apply on Potter’s Lake, May 1 through September 15, after 7:00 p.m., on weekends and holidays.

- * The District also agreed to recommend that the Town of East Troy modify its direction ordinance so that all motorized boat traffic on Potter's Lake shall be counter-clockwise, May 1 through September 15, on weekends and holidays.
- * Jana Charvat was nominated and elected to a three-year term as a Commissioner (2003-2005). The District thanked Karen Winkelman for her years of service, as Secretary and Chairman of the District, and for her work on the Carp Out.

ANNUAL MEETING - UPDATE

Public Launch: In the couple of weeks since the Annual Meeting, we have a couple of new things to report. First, the public launch repairs have been largely completed. The new ramp has been installed. It is longer, but narrower than the old ramp, but it's a much better way to drop your boat!

Our thanks to the DNR for completing the ramp several days ahead of schedule. The project is still not complete though. The boarding pier is coming later this month or early next month and will be installed to make sure it fits properly. The pier will then be removed for the winter. The handicap accessible restroom facility is also still to come and we're near the top of the list for striping of the parking area. There will be 8 spots in total, one of which will be restricted for vehicles properly displaying a permit to use disabled parking.

Commissioner Resigns, Appointment Pending: It is with great regret that the District accepted the resignation of Tom Jordens as Commissioner and Treasurer, effective December 31, 2002. Tom has been great to work with and he has served the District well as our primary liaison with the DNR and others on lake quality issues. In accordance with the Bylaws of the District, the Commissioners will appoint a replacement for Tom, whose term ends December 31, 2003.

WALWORTH COUNTY LAKES ASSOCIATION (WCLA)

Shoreland Zoning: At one of the WCLA's recent meetings, representatives from Walworth County were present to discuss zoning issues. One message was clear: You may own the property, but when it comes to living on the lake, you can't just do whatever you please. Failure to comply with County/State zoning ordinance can result in serious penalties and significant cost in redesigning, demolishing, or rebuilding a structure. Make sure you have permits for your projects and that they have been reviewed and approved for compliance with zoning regulations.

Generally, projects such as new home construction, porches, decks, garages, gazebos, swimming pools, storage buildings, patios, retaining walls and the like are subject to shoreland zoning if they are within 1,000 feet of the ordinary high water mark of a navigable lake such as Potter's Lake. Shoreline alterations such as rip rap, dredging and the introduction of anything into the lake – sand, pea gravel, etc. – require DNR permits.

A list of key contacts is included with this mailing. We also have a guide to shoreland zoning put together by the Walworth County Land Management Department. If you are interested, you can find the guide at www.potterslake.org or you can contact us and we'll get one to you.

Shoreland Buffers: At another recent meeting of the WCLA, we had an opportunity to tour the shoreland buffer demonstration project on Delevan Lake. More than 4,000 plants were selected and planted along the shoreline. After a year, most of the plants have taken hold. The difference in the aesthetic quality in the area is spectacular. The area also provides a shelter for animals living near the shoreline and there have been far fewer problems with geese.

Audrey Greene, the Walworth County Lake Specialist, made the presentation. Audrey did a similar presentation for about 20 Potter's Lake residents prior to the Annual Meeting. If you would like more information, you can find useful links at www.potterslake.org or you can contact us and we'll get information to you. Your best bet, however, is to contact Audrey Greene directly. If you're interested in doing a shoreland project, Audrey will come right to your home, take photos, make site and plant recommendations and more! Right now is the time to call, since the spring is the time to get started planting. You can contact Audrey Greene at (262) 741-3450.

“DOCKOMINIUM” CASE DECIDED

Some of you will remember that the Wisconsin Supreme Court was being asked to decide a case that involved a Lake Geneva developer. The developer had lake property and wanted to sell his “private” property - rights to use his pier - to others.

The Supreme Court decided that the developer could not do this, noting the harmful effect this would have on the aesthetics and water quality of Wisconsin's lakes. Put another way, the Court decided that public's right to use and enjoy Wisconsin's lakes is held in higher regard than the rights of riparian (lakefront property) owners.

Like most lake associations and districts, we've watched this case closely. While it was unlikely to be a problem on Potter's Lake, you just can't tell sometimes. The decision of the Court should put the issue to rest once and for all.

SWIM RAFTS

The DNR recently approved an Administrative Rule that regulates the use of swim rafts. Before the rule was adopted, riparian owners could place any size swim raft within 200 feet of the shore without a permit, as long as it didn't interfere with navigation or other public rights.

The DNR noted that near-shore areas are the most heavily used and are also the most ecologically sensitive. Once beyond a certain size, the damage done by the swim rafts outweighs the rights of riparian owners. Therefore, beginning September 1, 2002, all swim rafts in excess of 200 square feet or higher than 38 inches (not including ladders, slides, protective covers) must be permitted by the DNR unless they are removed daily or are anchored in a properly marked and approved swim area.

For more information, see the Administrative Rule at DNR's website at http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/fhp/waterway/permits/nr326_changes.pdf.

POTTER'S LAKE ON-LINE

Don't forget to visit us on-line at www.potterslake.org. We're planning monthly updates to our website – sometimes minor, like adding a link to a recent newsletter, and sometimes major – like adding photos or hot-links to other sites of interest to District residents and others interested in lake living.

Throughout the summer, we provided updates on many issues of interest – the chemical treatment, the closing of the public launch, and more. Those of you who are on our e-mail distribution list gave us rave reviews on this service. We like it too, since doing a mailing every time an issue comes up is both cost and time prohibitive.

Please keep checking the website and be sure to send us your e-mail address if you have one. If you don't have Internet access at home, you can get access at a neighbor's house or through the East Troy Public Library. A librarian can also help set up an e-mail account for you at one of the popular, no-cost e-mail services such as Yahoo!

DATES TO REMEMBER

Spring Meeting	To Be Determined
Door-to-Door Flare Sales	June 28-29, 2003
Boat Parade – 6:00 p.m.	July 4, 2003
Lighting of the Lake – 9:00 p.m.	July 4, 2003
Annual Meeting	September 6, 2003