

POTTERS LAKE NEWSLETTER

June 2001

So When's The Meeting?

Many of you have come to expect a spring meeting of the District. Fact is, the only *required* meeting is the one which happens each August or September – the Annual Meeting of the District. The spring meeting, in many respects, is a product of the planning meetings that used to take place in anticipation of the Carp Out & Jamboree.

Over the last few years, we've continued having the spring meeting, mostly because there were pressing issues facing the District – notably, the lake treatment for milfoil. With that behind us, and with little to report since the Annual Meeting, we decided to forego the spring meeting and to provide you an update through this newsletter.

And so, without further adieu, here's what's new around the lake....

- The Love and Torpe properties, approximately 31 marshy acres on the west side of the lake, were to be surveyed this winter, but the survey has not yet been completed. The survey is expected to be completed this summer and we can begin to work on improving the properties as early as this fall. We have a specialist coming to review the properties to evaluate what plants should stay and which should go – purple loosestrife being one example of a plant we will remove.
- The parking lot for the public launch will be re-striped for 8 parking spaces. No parking signs will be placed on the grass and other areas around the launch. If necessary, we'll install boulders around the grass area to prevent parking there.
- Gravel was added to the ramp to try to improve the launch. The launch will be replaced in either 2002 or 2003 – if the money is there. In the interim, the DNR is continuing to look for spare ramps to hold us over. If necessary, the District may purchase a ramp and donate it to the DNR – but probably only as a last resort.
- We continue to monitor clarity and other aspects of water quality on a regular basis. The lake level was higher than average, in large part because of increased snowfall and rainfall. Most residents indicated that the lake level last year was ideal and the dam has been set accordingly. When the rains stop, the lake level will drop to its normal level.

- We are still seeking to purchase a property in the watershed that adversely affects the water quality because of silt and fertilizers that run off into the lake. That purchase, we know, will not occur this year, but we have negotiated something of a first right of refusal agreement with the owner. If and when we purchase the property, the District would need to do some remedial work to redirect the water flow away from the lake.
- The Town of East Troy is planning frequent patrols again on the lake.
- A 12-15 foot fishing boat sank in the lake this spring – about 300-400 feet from shore, along the Shorewood Drive shoreline. We approximate the location to be in the area of the point on Shorewood, or perhaps a few hundred feet east – nearer the public launch. As of a week ago, we had not been able to identify the exact location visually or by using a fish finder. When we have located the boat, we'll mark it and, of course, attempt to have it identified and removed. We do not think it poses a boating risk, but be careful!
- The native weeds are coming back and the milfoil hasn't returned to any great extent. We do not expect to launch the weed harvester this year.

Potters Lake On-Line?

That's right, Potters Lake is going into cyberspace! We're working right now to develop a Potters Lake web-site – www.potterslake.org -- that will provide you with all sorts of information about the lake, the District, and link you to information about boating safety, shoreland restoration, fishing and other lake-related links. For those of you not on-line yet, the web page will not replace this newsletter -- at least not for a long time! Maybe a day will come when everyone will be on-line, but that day isn't here yet.

We can, however, start to send this newsletter out electronically for those wishing to receive it. Send an e-mail to jjbeab@netwurx.net and we'll put you on the electronic distribution list. Let us know whether you would still like to receive your newsletter in printed format as well – otherwise, we'll switch you to electronic-only distribution to save on printing and postage. Plus, if you have multiple e-mail addresses for your family, we can send multiple copies since it doesn't cost us anything more to send them!

We hope to have our web site up and running in mid-August (about two weeks prior to the Annual Meeting) so that you all can provide us with your thoughts and comments at the meeting. If you have ideas about web site content, give one of us a call.

Annual Meeting Set – Picnic To Follow

The Annual Meeting for the District has been set for Saturday, August 25th. We plan to have a Walworth County representative present to talk about our shoreline and landscape alternatives to protect from continued erosion.

One difference we have planned for this year is a change in the time of the meeting. We plan to meet beginning at 10:00 a.m. and conduct business for approximately 90 minutes. After the meeting, we will gather at Town Hall Park, just north of Town Hall, for a family picnic luncheon of burgers, brats, and hot dogs – courtesy of the Lake District. Plan now to come out and meet and greet your neighbors!

Looking For A Few Volunteers

The Walworth County Lakes Protection Program is looking for ten volunteers for lakeshore planting demonstrations. A plan will be prepared, plant materials will be cost-shared, and volunteers will be provided to help with planting. Later, the County will promote lakeshore tours of these homes so that others can learn from the demonstration projects.

The Lakes Protection Program is also looking for 100 volunteers who would allow the County to test their soils before starting a fertilizer program. A lake specialist will explain how to take the sample or come out and take it for you. A small lab fee is charged to each participating homeowner.

For more information about these programs, contact Audrey Greene, Lake Specialist, at 262/741-3460.

Clinics Considered

We are considering putting on several clinics throughout the year on topics ranging from boating safety, to water skiing, to boat maintenance, to shoreland planting. Before proceeding, however, we'd appreciate your comments. Please contact a Commissioner and let us know what you think about the clinics and, if you like them, other suggestions for topics and speakers you might have.

Information Available

We have several publications available from the County, UW-Extension, DNR, and others dealing with numerous topics of interest to those living on the lake. If you are interested in getting a copy of these publications, let us know and we'll put a packet together for you to review.

If you're looking for information about lakefront living, you might also try the following web sites:

www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/fhp/lakes/
www.nalms.org

Boat Parade & Lighting of the Lake

When the Fourth of July holiday falls in the middle of the week, it makes the selection of a day for the boat parade and the lighting of the lake difficult. After much discussion, we chose Tuesday, July 3 for the Lighting of the Lake and Wednesday, July 4 for the Boat Parade. Details are enclosed.

We can use some helpers around the lake to sell flares. Please give Jeff Beiriger a call at 262/642-8742 or e-mail him at jjbeab@netwurx.net if you can help.

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