



P.O. Box 93
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cedarlake-wi.org



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A NEWSLETTER FOR OUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS

March 2016

BOARD INFORMATION:

The Lake District web site Cedarlake-wi.org has additional information about District activities including board meeting minutes, links to lake studies and past newsletters, lakefront landscaping ideas, and more.

The Special Lake District Meeting scheduled for April 30, 2016 has been postponed pending new information regarding the alum treatment. See article on page 1.

WEB/EMAIL NOTICES

To receive this newsletter and other lake notices electronically, subscribe to our email list!

Go to <http://cedarlake-wi.org> and join our list in the upper right corner of the home page.

ALUM UPDATE

The board continues to carefully study the most effective and efficient means to implement the alum treatment. Following board approval of the lake management plan, Lake District members approved a resolution for borrowing and a special assessment to pay for the alum treatment in August 2013. Alum is aimed at controlling phosphorus released from lake-bottom sediments. An alum treatment was selected for Cedar Lake because lake sediment release contributes over 85% of the summer phosphorus that leads to algae blooms in Cedar Lake.

UW Stout Lake Scientist, Bill James and WDNR Lake Coordinator, Buzz Sorge are helping to guide the treatment strategy. The original strategy included in the lake study and the lake management plan was to split the alum treatment into 2 doses made 2 years apart. Bill and Buzz recently informed the board that new information suggests that smaller, more frequent treatments will likely improve alum performance.

Meanwhile some lake district members expressed reservations about the alum treatment in a petition for a special meeting for revote regarding the alum treatment. The Lake District board had tentatively scheduled this special meeting for April 30, 2016. However, the meeting was postponed because of potential for a new alum application and funding strategy. We hope to have this new information available to present at the 2016 annual meeting.

Thanks go out to ad hoc committee members who examined alternatives and made recommendations for special assessment allocations for the alum treatment.



Alum applications are aimed at reducing algae blooms like this one at the Cedar Lake boat landing in 2011

This group recommended varying levels of assessment based on proximity and access to the lake and size of parcel. The board will consider their recommendation further along with the revised funding strategy. Ad hoc committee members included Jim Groth, Norman Hornbostel, Dan Michaelis, Bob Goodlad, Jim Reckinger, Regan Brown, Nick Rude, Mark Polski and Tom Deans.

Grant funding secured for the alum treatment from the Wisconsin DNR includes a \$200,000 grant from the Lake Protection Grant Program and a \$165,000 grant from the Targeted Runoff Management Grant Program.

MORE INVASIVE SPECIES INFORMATION

Rusty Crayfish

Rusty crayfish are another aquatic invasive species to be on the lookout for in Cedar Lake. Marty Engel, DNR Fisheries Biologist, reports pulling out “rusties” in nets daily over this past week in Cedar Lake. Rusty crayfish are also confirmed in 3 waterbodies in St. Croix County (Lake St. Croix, Mallalieu Lake, and the Willow River) and 9 waterbodies in Polk County (including the Apple River and Osceola Creek).

Outside their home range, rusty crayfish are likely to displace native crayfish and reduce aquatic plant abundance and diversity. In some northern Wisconsin lakes it has eaten most of the aquatic plants, hurting the quality of the lakes. Aquatic plants provide important habitat for fish and other aquatic animals. By damaging underwater habitat, fish also lose their spawning areas, protective cover, and food. Fish that normally eat crayfish don't like the feisty, aggressive “rusty.” It takes over the homes of native crayfish and has been known to eat fish eggs. Rusty crayfish reproduce quickly and females lay from 80-575 eggs!

To identify rusty crayfish, look for their large claws with black bands on the tips and dark, rusty spots on each side of their carapace (hard outer body covering). Their claws are grayish-green to reddish-brown and smoother than most other crayfish. The rusty spots may not always be present or well developed.

Effective control measures are not currently available. However, harvesting and removing the crayfish is recommended. Their tails are tasty boiled and dipped in butter! For more recipes go to: http://www.seagrant.umn.edu/fisheries/craving_for_crayfish

Rusty crayfish information from: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Invasives/fact/RustyCrayfish2012.html>



Rusty Crayfish

Zebra Mussels

Now is the time to be on the look-out for invasive zebra mussels as you put your docks and lifts out into the water. This is true especially if you bring them from other lakes. Zebra mussels are found nearby in Lake St. Croix and the St. Croix River, Bass Lake, and many Minnesota water bodies.

Zebra mussels look like small clams with a yellowish or brownish D-shaped shell, usually with alternating dark and light-colored stripes. They can be up to two inches long, but most are under an inch.



Zebra Mussels

EURASIAN WATER MILFOIL UPDATE

Eurasian water milfoil (EWM), an invasive aquatic plant, was discovered on the south end of Cedar Lake in June of 2015. The Lake District immediately implemented our rapid response strategy for aquatic invasive species by initiating a lake-wide survey (supplemented by a WDNR survey), implementing control measures, and applying for grant funding.

Control measures included chemical treatment of 3 acres on July 15, 2015. This treatment covered areas of dense EWM growth and nearby scattered plants. Follow-up hand-pulling was planned, but limited visibility due to algae growth in early August made it impossible to see plants to pull them. The chemical treatment was quite successful. Plant surveys conducted prior to and after treatment indicated that frequency of EWM occurrence at sample points was reduced from 81% to only 20%. One native plant species was also negatively impacted.

To avoid impact to native plant species, the EWM chemical treatment will occur earlier this year. Plant monitor, Steve Schieffer, of Ecology Integrity Services will conduct the pretreatment survey as soon as the EWM is actively growing. The Lake District hired Dale Dressel with Northern Aquatic Services in Dresser, WI to conduct the treatment. A DNR permit authorizes the treatment. Divers will back up the treatment by hand pulling remaining plants in following weeks. Let's hope for clear water this year!

The Lake District is making every effort to control and contain this plant with aggressive treatment measures. A full lake survey to check for EWM will also be conducted in 2016.

The work is supported by a Rapid Response Grant from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. This 75% (state share) grant covers the initial response, continued control measures outlined above, monitoring before and after treatment, and annual monitoring to see if further control measures are needed. The grant will also support the incorporation of an aquatic plant management strategy into the existing lake management plan.

Please be on the look-out for Eurasian Water Milfoil as you boat around the lake. If you think you see this plant on the lake well beyond the mapped area (in red at the south end of the lake in the map above and to the right), please call Dan Early 763-442-2666 or Doug Dickson 715-410-5105. Eurasian water milfoil might be confused with a number of other submersed plants, including other water milfoils. Northern water milfoil (present in Cedar Lake) has fewer than 12 leaf segments on each side of the leaf axis, whereas Eurasian water-milfoil has 14 or more leaf segments on each side of the leaf axis. Northern water milfoil has somewhat stouter stems than Eurasian water-milfoil.

