

MCGINNIS LAKE DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

Volume 1 Issue 15

QUICK NOTES

The Fall Weed Harvesting was completed in August as planned.

Future Meeting Dates

Saturday, December 5, 2020

Saturday, March 6, 2021

Saturday, May 29, 2021

Saturday, September 4, 2021

LAKE DISTRICT MAILING ADDRESS

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October 2020

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

The May and September meetings were held as scheduled. The 2021 Budget was approved at the Annual Meeting in September. District Members should see a significant increase in their tax bill!! This is due to increased funds voted on to address future weed control projections and normal operational funding for the District in 2021. An election was held and Ken Roberts was re-elected as Treasurer for another 3 year term. We discussed the planned Lake Maintenance Activities such as Curly Leaf Spraying and Weed Harvesting. These activities will continue as in past years based on the Lake Survey, Weed Growth, CLP Spraying and of course Permit Approvals.

The completed DNR Fish Survey conducted in 2019 is now available on the Lake District Web Page <https://newchestertown.com/mcginnis-lake-district/> and shows we have a healthy fishery.

We have also put the current McGinnis Lake Management Plan on the Web Page (see link above) for your review. This plan was updated in 2017 with help from the Adams County Lakes Department. Originally created in 2002 with updates made every 5 years. This plan is the basis to having the DNR Permits approved and issued. The DNR also reviewed the 2017 plan update prior to its completion and release.

Q: What does the DNR say about McGinnis Lake and Weed Issues?

McGinnis Lakes native species are different and due to the great diversity of aquatic plants, they all grow a little different from each other and have different responses to management. Some like harvesting, some are not affected by the same herbicide as CLP or a different herbicide used for Eurasian Watermilfoil. This is why accurate plant surveys are needed - to determine what you have and the best management options. There's another issue for McGinnis: the lake is an impoundment with the southern lobe consisting of a flooded wetland. The north basin is a natural glacial kettle lake with groundwater input. Prior to the construction of the dam, the water levels were lower and the southern lobe was basically a wetland complex of shallow bog and deep water marsh. These flooded wetlands are rich in organic sediments and nutrients that are now the lake bed of the shallower southern lobe. As you know, that's much different than the northern lobe. Plants will respond to these differences.

The shallow water and nutrient rich bottom of the southern lobe will grow more plants. Because it's shallower the plants get plenty of sunlight, and the nutrients in the sediment are readily utilized by plants. You're going to have more plants in the southern lobe. Coincidentally, CLP likes organic sediments high in nitrogen. It's a monocot type of plant like grass and corn, and like grass and corn, it loves nitrogen. It's a perfect environment for CLP and many other monocots (i.e. native

pondweeds). This fact steers management of nuisance native plant growth to some type of mechanism that removes the plants and removes the nutrients the plant has mined from the sediment. The only option that does both of these is harvesting. Harvesting later in the season when the plants are at nuisance level, will immediately allow access, remove the plants and nutrients from the lake.

You are basically doing everything right now, but due to the growth cycle of CLP and the nutrient rich bottom in the southern lobe, you must plan to continue management long enough to deplete the turion base if reducing CLP to very low levels is your goal. Secondly, controlling nuisance native plant conditions is a little different. Harvesting should only be conducted if there is a nuisance (navigational impairment) present for obvious reasons and done in a manner to maximize nutrient removal.

Curly-leaf Pondweed (CLP) is a strange plant. Its life cycle is vastly different than our native species. Its growing season is very odd, it begins to sprout from turions in the fall and into the spring with just a little growth over the winter. By spring it is racing to reach the sky; out competing the natives. By late May to early June, CLP starts growing reproductive structures called turions (see attached). Once these turions are formed, they fall off and settle to the bottom, the next year crop is pretty much guaranteed then. That means ANY management to control CLP must be completed BEFORE turions are formed. Herbicide treatments won't kill turions, and harvesting will remove some but the turions will fall off during harvesting if they are mature. In addition, some of our research has shown that harvesting CLP before turion production results in the plant producing smaller turions at the root level! Persistent plant! Moreover, some turions do not germinate the following year and can be viable for several years afterwards.

To treat CLP, you must be ready to go with a good plan to know 'where' to treat and 'when' every year. Because this is an annual plant, it must regrow every year from turions or seeds - because the plant can flower as well. That also means annual treatment is necessary if you want to deplete the turion base that's in the sediment to ultimately control CLP. Treating CLP before turion production (early spring) other native plants are not quite growing yet. Thus the herbicide treatment will have little effect on native species. Thus treating effectively for CLP means you won't get significant control on native species.

McGinnis Lake historically has had excessive weed issues especially in the south lobe. This has happened for many years and not until 5 years ago did any weed harvesting provided by a contractor exist to help navigation!! Since the early 1980's CLP has been treated for and we can see today how tough it is to eliminate as explained above. Many challenges lie ahead for McGinnis Lake and a solid management plan and execution of it will pay dividends in the future.

Q: What about the high lake levels that continue?

A: The McGinnis Lake level is controlled by the dam and continues to dump the maximum amount of water it can into the Neenah Creek Watershed. The levels are the highest I have seen in the 40 years as a lake resident and will take a period of time to settle back to a more constant level as we once enjoyed. Mother Nature has been the contributor to supplying all the moisture feeding the lake watershed. Many lakes in Wisconsin are facing similar problems but we are fortunate to have the dam to provide some water release. Of course nature will dictate the future and we will continue to enjoy our beautiful lake!! FYI - The dam is owned and operated by Adams County Land and Water Department.

Q: What can I do to help the McGinnis Lake District?

A: We are currently looking for volunteers to help the District doing water quality surveys. These surveys don't require a lot of time but need to be completed to insure the lake quality is the best it can be. The surveys begin in the spring and take less than an hour of your time throughout the summer at your convenience. Training is available and all the necessary items to complete the tests are supplied. Please contact Ken Roberts (608-617-6723) regarding helping us with this activity.

Q: What if I want to become a member of the Lake District Board?

A: All members of the Lake District are eligible to join the board as an elected member. The Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer are elected to terms of 3 years. Not all of us are full time residents of the lake but know how important it is to insure the quality of the lake is preserved!!! A couple of us have served on the board since the District was formed many years ago and would welcome new individuals to take over in the future. Please contact me if you're interested in reviewing the future opportunities as a board member!!! Barry A. Berndsen (630-452-6645)

Q: What can the new McGinnis Lake District EMAIL address mean to me? (McGinnisLakeDist@aol.com)

A: Yes we have established one and would hope it can be used for communication to and from the Lake District Board. As a member we encourage you to use it for any questions you might have regarding McGinnis Lake District Operations. But most importantly we would like to be able to communicate to you (our members) directly via EMAIL. Sending meeting notices, newsletters, and other important communication in a timely manner is important to us. Please help us by sending your EMAIL address to us and we will add you to the EMAIL mailing list. This mailing list has only **one purpose** and is for the board to communicate to you quickly in a cost effective manner. Once we receive your address we will begin to use it for future communications and remove you from receiving information via US MAIL. (I have received 30 to date☺) Its Never too Late!!!!

Q: Adams County Riparian owner's information packets are still available? (New and Old Owners!!)

A: Yes we have them and are **still available** by contacting Barry Berndsen to make arrangements to pick one up. These packets are quite informative and are a must for each shoreline property owner. Please call Barry at (630) 452-6645 or pick your copy up at the next Lake District Meeting. (We'd love to see you!!)

Q: What if I want to make changes to my shoreline or cut down trees?

A: Any actions within the lake buffer zone and outside for tree cutting requires Adams County Zoning and Planning Approval similar to a building permit application. Failing to do that may result in fines in accordance with county laws. Please contact the Adams County Zoning and Planning for permit information.

Q: Burning Permits!!! Everyone should have one??

A: The DNR offers you an easy way to acquire a permit by using the self-service website or are available from your local fire marshal (IT'S FREE). For your information burning is only permitted between 6:00pm and midnight and never on Sundays and holidays. Without a permit you could be found guilty of either a civil or criminal charge when burning in violation of Wisconsin laws. <http://dnr.wi.gov/burnpermits/>

Q: Are we still members of the Central Sands Water Action Coalition?

A: We continue to be participants in the Central Sands Water Action Coalition and have attended many steering committee meetings to date and have found this to be a beneficial cause for us to support. I continue to encourage you to look at the website www.centralsandswater.org to review current actions and information.

Q: Do we have a Lost and Found?

A: Periodically items end up in the lake like rafts, paddles, various swim toys and etc. People find these items and are not sure who's they are or what to do??? If you find something and/or lost something please email the Lake District email or call Barry Berndsen at 630-452-6645. We will try our best to help find the happy homes for these items noted based on the input we receive!!

McGINNIS LAKE DISTRICT QUARTERLY MEETING

The McGinnis Lake District Quarterly Meeting will be held at 10:00 a.m. Saturday December 5, 2020 on a **conference call**. This is due to the COVID-19 restrictions currently enacted by Wisconsin regarding meetings and use of the New Chester Town Meeting Room.

Please dial conference call number and enter access code number to join meeting at 10:00am on December 5, 2020.

Conference Call Number: 1-978-990-5450

Access Code: 4772294#

AGENDA

1. Call to order
2. Approval of May 23, 2020 minutes
3. Treasurers report
4. Old Business
5. New Business
 - A. Lake Maintenance Activities
 1. Curly Leaf Weed Spraying Plan for 2021
 2. Weed Harvesting Plan for 2021
6. Open Discussion
 - B. Next meeting
 1. Saturday, March 6, 2021
7. Adjourn