

# MCGINNIS LAKE DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

Volume 1 Issue 18

## QUICK NOTES

The Weed Control effort for 2022 was completed with positive results continuing.

### Future Meeting Dates

Saturday, December 3, 2022

Saturday, March 4, 2023

Saturday, May 27, 2023

Saturday, September 2, 2023

### LAKE DISTRICT MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. Box 134

Oxford, Wisconsin 53952

Email:

[McGinnisLakeDist@AOL.com](mailto:McGinnisLakeDist@AOL.com)

Website

<https://newchester.gov/mcginnis-lake-district/>

## October 2022

### MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

The May and September meetings were held as scheduled. The 2023 Budget was approved at the Annual Meeting in September. District Members should see a reduction on their tax bill this year due to reduced expense for weed treatment!! This Year an election was held and Barry Berndsen was re-elected as Chairman for a 3 year term. We discussed the planned Lake Maintenance Activities such as Curly Leaf Spraying, Eurasian Milfoil Control and Weed Harvesting. These activities will continue as in past years based on the Lake Surveys, Weed Growth, CLP/Milfoil Spraying and of course Permit Approvals.

### Q: Have You Seen The Sign?

#### Friends of McGinnis Lake adopt-a-highway!!!

The adopt-a-highway program is the official coordination system for the generous volunteer efforts to remove trash, recyclables and litter from Wisconsin's roadsides.

Adopt-A-Highway helps reduce litter along Wisconsin's highways, builds statewide support for the anti-litter and highway beautification programs. It educates the public about properly disposing of litter, enhances the environment and allows for more beauty along Wisconsin's roadsides.

Friends of McGinnis Lake adopted a 1.7 mile stretch of Cty Hwy G, from Brooks to Ember Ave. Who are the friends of McGinnis Lake? Everyone can be a friend of McGinnis Lake. Friends of McGinnis Lake are excited to announce the 1st annual clean up in spring of 2023. Follow us in the newsletter for the date and time or contact Ken Roberts at 608 617-6723.

### Q: What about the high lake water levels?

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. Recently (September-October 2022) a blockage occurred in the dam's intake system. The level of the lake rose to the highest I have seen in the 50 years as a lake resident. Fortunately, some residents called the county and they responded to solve the problem. It will take a period of time to settle back to a more constant level as we once enjoyed. Mother Nature can also be a contributor to supplying all the moisture feeding the lake watershed. Many lakes in Wisconsin have faced 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. If you notice an issue with water level or have a question please call!!!

Dustin Grant 608-339-4224

**Q: What do the lake property owners (Riparian Owners) need to do each winter when the Aerator is running on North Lobe of the Lake creating an opening in the ice?**

A: The State of Wisconsin has a statute that governs the creation of ice holes due to Aeration by the Lake District. The McGinnis Lake District will be operating an Aeration system this coming winter as we have in the past. This is done to minimize fish kill that can occur if an adequate air supply is not provided to lake. McGinnis Lake was a victim of a large fish kill years ago when the original Aeration system failed. It is the lake property owners responsibility to post on their property notice stating "DANGER-OPEN WATER" or "WARNING-ICE HOLES" or "DANGER-THIN ICE". This notice shall be the size, lettering, and format that can be readable by the public at a distance of 60 feet. This notice needs to be in place no later than December 15 of each year and maintained throughout the winter until at least till March 30 of the following year. Many signs are currently displayed around the lake by most owners but all should comply (A violation can result in imprisonment or fine per the statute). Plastic Signs can be purchased on web sites for a reasonable price. Please note that any lake property owner who is aware of the existence of the ice opening to which his or her riparian property abuts shall not be exempt from liability if owner fails to warn individuals that they have given permission to cross their property to access the lake.

**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. It's Never too Late!!!! **Don't forget we have a Website with a lot of important information:** <https://newchester.gov/mcginnis-lake-district/>

**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: 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!!