

MCGINNIS LAKE DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

Volume 1 Issue 19

QUICK NOTES

The Weed Control effort for 2023 was completed with spraying and weed harvesting required.

Future Meeting Dates

Saturday, December 2, 2023

Saturday, March 2, 2024

Saturday, May 25, 2024

Saturday, August 31, 2024

LAKE DISTRICT MAILING ADDRESS

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Email:

McGinnisLakeDist@AOL.com

Website

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

October 2023

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

The May and September meetings were held as scheduled. The 2024 Budget was presented and approved at the Annual Meeting in September. District Members will see an increase on this year's tax bill. This is due to increased expense for Lake Management Activities!! Goose Control Funding was eliminated from the 2024 budget and was voted on by the membership at the meeting.

The election was held and Ken Roberts was re-elected as Treasurer for a 3 year term.

We discussed the planned Lake Maintenance Activities such as Curly Leaf Spraying, Eurasian Milfoil Control and Weed Harvesting. New vendors have been selected for lake surveying and weed spraying. These activities will continue as in past years based on the Lake Surveys, Weed Growth, and CLP/Milfoil Spraying and of course DNR Permit Approvals.

A Lake Management Project Plan has been created and is available for review on the Lake District Web Page. Any questions should be sent to the District email regarding 2024 plan.

Q: What is the Town of New Chester doing to help the McGinnis Lake District?

A: The town board has some government ARPA funds left over from the COVID days. They decided to help out the New Chester Lake Districts which is Patrick, Fenner, and McGinnis. Each District is providing quotes for items to purchase to support the Districts. McGinnis is looking at the purchase of an Oxygen Meter for lake monitoring and upgrading the current Aerator system. The town board is distributing funding equally across the districts and should be voted on by the town board soon as funds need to be spent. Many Thanks to the Board!!!

Q: Is McGinnis Lake a Marl Lake?

A: Only four lakes in Wisconsin carry an Official name of "Marl Lake", but we actually have thousands of marl lakes across our state. A marl lake is one where the sediments are composed in large part of marl, a mineral-based material that accumulates in hard-water lakes, streams, and wetlands.

In areas of the state with “hard” water (containing a high dissolved mineral content), the groundwater delivers a huge amount of minerals to lakes through springs, stream inflows, etc. The lake’s water becomes saturated with dissolved minerals. These dissolved minerals are held in the water solution as long as the pH of the water remains constant or increases this in mind as you read on). Meanwhile, aquatic plants and algae are absorbing carbon dioxide and sunlight as they make food through photosynthesis. As carbon is removed from the water, it causes the pH to increase slightly, and this allows even more minerals to be dissolved in the water. So where is the marl coming from? The same plants and algae that were removing carbon dioxide from the water through respiration, and the pH slowly drops. This forces some of the minerals to solidify and drop out of the water solution, accumulating most noticeably on aquatic plant leaves (where the respiration is happening).

Marl sediments tend to be gray and gooey, often with bits of snail shells mixed in. The high mineral content of marl resulted in this material being dredged out of many Wisconsin lakes in the mid-1900s and incorporated into agricultural fields to raise soil pH. Marl mining scars where a type of dredging equipment called a drag line scooped marl out. Many lakes still bear scars decades after they were dug.

An important characteristic of marl is its ability to bind dissolved phosphorus in the water. As the marl drops out of the water solution, it binds to phosphorus and locks it up in the sediments in an unusable form for plants and algae. This results in high water clarity on many marl lakes. Watch the water of McGinnis and see what happens over each year.

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: 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. We will try to email Lake District members with the time and date or contact Ken Roberts at 608 617-6723.

Q: What about the current lake water level?

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. Currently the level of the lake has settled back to a more normal level. Dry conditions and reduced rain has been the contributor. We are fortunate to be on a spring feed lake as many lakes in the area are now experiencing very low levels. Remember, 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 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!!