

LILLY LAKE NEWS

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Wisconsin Lake Facts:

- Number of lakes in Wisconsin:
Over 15,000
- Total surface area of Wisconsin lakes:
Over 1 million acres
- Deepest Lake:
Green Lake, Green Lake Co. (236 feet) - natural
Lake Wazee, Jackson Co (350 feet) - manmade

WATER QUALITY MONITORING BY

MIKE ADAM

Keeping track of water quality is an important part of lake management. Professional lake managers rely on a number of techniques including high tech equipment. But professionals can not be on every lake every year and that is where volunteers come in.

Many states have a volunteer lake monitoring program, usually coordinated by a state agency. However, the all-important work is done by the volunteers.

Volunteers observe and document lake water quality by measuring water clarity with a Secchi disk. The 8-inch diameter black and white disk is lowered into the water on a rope until it can no longer be seen, then this depth is recorded. You can track your lake's clarity over time, and if problems are detected, action can then be taken.

After a year of water clarity monitoring some volunteers begin water chemistry and the needs of the lake.

These citizen monitors sample four to five times a year for clarity, phosphorus, chlorophyll, and lake temperature. With this information the trophic state (overall health) of your lake can be measured more reliably. Some chemistry monitors also take a dissolved oxygen profile of their lake. Openings for chemistry monitoring are limited and depend on the interest of the volunteers. There are over 1,000 volunteers now participating statewide in water quality monitoring. The Department of Natural Resources and University of Wisconsin-Extension provides training and equipment, while citizens volunteer their time and energy. The assistance and enthusiasm of local volunteers play an important part in lake monitoring and protection.

Beginning in 2011, Lilly Lake will be monitored by Tom Kaczmarek. Tom will keep us informed of how the lake is doing. More importantly, this information will be used to look at annual and long-term trends in water quality. We can also look at any lake management activities going on and see how the water quality is being affected.

Stay tuned for more updates. For more information on the Citizen Monitor program see:

<http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexlakes/clmn/>

LILLY LAKE BEACH WATER TEST RESULTS

For the most part, 2010 was another good year at the beach!

The beach had two advisories and two closures this past summer. As a reminder, an advisory is issued when the E. coli bacteria reading is between 235 and 1000 colonies per 100

ml. A closure happens when counts are over 1000. The beach was sampled 15 times in 2010.

What causes high bacteria? Anything from geese to storm water to the bathers themselves!! Look for more explanation in future newsletters.



“What were those balls of Algae??”

Several residents commented that they observed small gel-like balls of algae in the lake. Some were taken to a lab and they were identified as *Tolypothrix*, which is a blue-green algae that forms wholly balls, but not one of the toxic producing type of blue-green algae.

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 30th

Lilly Lake Rehabilitation District Meeting (10am, Town Hall)

May 21st

Lilly Lake Summerhaven Association meeting (10am, Town Hall)

June

Movie Night (TBD, Lilly Lake Resort)

July 2nd or 3rd

Holiday Parade

- Do you have a topic that you would like to see in the newsletter?

Please contact Mike Adam at:
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NEW CRAWFISH CRAWLING OUR WAY

North America has about 390 native species of crawfish, 75% of the world's total. A threat to native North American crawfish is nonindigenous (or non-native) crawfish, many of which are from other parts of North America. In many cases nonindigenous crawfish have changed North American lake and stream ecosystems, and harmed fisheries. Red swamp crayfish feed on aquatic plants, snails, insects and fish and amphibian eggs and young. They can reduce amphibian populations through direct predation and competition for habitat and can cause declines in native crayfish species.

The nonindigenous Red Swamp Crawfish (*Procambarus clarkii*) has been found in SE WI. First discovered in a pond in Germantown, WI, the Red

Swamp Crawfish was also recently found last fall in a Kenosha, WI pond. The crawfish is dark red, has red spots on the claws, and is native to the Gulf Coast. The Red Swamp Crawfish is generally larger than the native species. It is likely that these populations are a result of crawfish being used as school projects, imported for crawfish boils, used as fishing bait, or released after being kept as pets. It is the most consumed species worldwide and commonly used for educational purposes.

The Red Swamp Crawfish are well adapted for areas of large water fluctuations and can survive long dry spells by remaining in burrows or crawling to other waterbodies. Males have been known to travel over land for up to several miles at night and during wet weather.

In an attempt to eradicate the Red Swamp Crayfish from Wisconsin, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources used a chlorine bleach mixture to treat the ponds. This chemical solution not only killed the crayfish, but also killed other living organisms in the pond.

Traps were also used to remove as many Red Swamp Crawfish as possible before the treatment and monitoring hasn't found the crawfish in neighboring ponds. Continued monitoring will be used to verify whether the population of Red Swamp Crawfish has been eradicated.

To prevent the spread of invasive crayfish and other exotic species, never release any aquarium pets into the wild and dispose of unwanted plants and animals in the trash.

SUMMARY OF THE DISTRICT MEETING

The annual meeting took place on August 14, 2010 in the Wheatland Town Hall.

The main items discussed include:

- Summary of the weed treatment that was conducted in late May on 3.6 acres of the lake at a cost of \$1239. No big patches of Eurasian milfoil (an exotic invasive species) were found. Roughly 1/2 acre of curly leaf

pondweed (another invasive) was found and treated. A detailed report from Marine Biochemists is available.

- Parking spaces/lock box at launch: the Town will look at marking the minimum required specific parking spots for water craft trailers. The Town Board will make a lock box decision the first weekend in March, 2011 and will install the box by the end of April,

2011.

- Water level monitoring: the Town and a couple volunteers will look into how to monitoring the lake level to collect data that can be used to make lake management decisions.

More details of the meeting can be found at: <http://www.lillylake.org/llprotct.html>.

The next District meeting will be April 30, 2011.