



Whitewater-Rice Lakes Management District

P.O. Box #301 • Whitewater, Wisconsin 53190
www.whitewaterlake.org • www.gwlpoa.org



Chairman's Greeting

As I sit here, the ice is just opening and will be fully open by the time you read this. The season is quickly arriving and I'm sure you are as eager as I am. Most of you may be aware that JNT sold its marina business to the Boat House. The Boat House intends to concentrate on the boat business and piers, but not our contractual business. That means the Lake District will have to adopt new operating processes. If you have acreage within two miles and are interested in selling two acres, let us know. Carol Ducommun and Chuck Chamberlain will expand on this further. Look for some new initiatives on Rice Lake brought to you by the team of Mike Lindenmuth and Stuart Hersh.

Our long time Treasurer Brad Corson is retiring. He has done a tremendous job establishing a high standard of accounting procedures. His annual presentations on the state of financials established a new plateau. He will be missed in those roles. If you have an accounting background and want to run for that role, please send me your CV by June.

In addition, Supervisor Norm Prusener who has been our Town appointee is retiring after 35 years. His knowledge and experience with all the challenges over the years will be missed. It was a pleasure working with Norm.

Our Boat Safety Deputy Sheriff Sean Blanton had a bad health scare and is healing in Madison. He is recovering well but can still use your prayers.

If you are new to the lake, you may have noticed few geese polluting the area. Please fill out the attached form and send it to Ernie Roy allowing his team to enter your property to access geese.

Let's have a fun, safe summer. Take one of the boat safety courses and learn local and DNR regulations. The District and GWLPOA have jointly provided these classes at the Townhall, Lions Club and Scenic Ridge throughout the summer.

Finally, join the GWLPOA and enjoy their ever-expanding season of recreational events. Meet your neighbors and enjoy lake life.

Rich Charts, Commissioner 

Safety Team News

A Boaters' Safety Course will again be offered by the District on May 20 & 21 at the Whitewater Lions Clubhouse (located at 7462 Kettle Moraine Dr.) from 8 am till noon on both days. Students from 10 years to any age may take the course. Operation of a Motor Boat in Wisconsin (& Illinois) requires the operator or supervising adult to have a Boater's Safety Certificate if they were born after January 1, 1989. (one is also required to rent a boat in Wisconsin regardless of age) The course is also available at dnr.wi.gov (cost is \$25). District class cost is \$10 per student. Information on the course is available from Larry Brady at 847-975-6334, larry@whitewaterlake.org or Deputy Sean Blanton at sblatz03@sbcglobal.com.

As the weather warms, let's think "Safety." Please practice safe boating & show courtesy to your fellow boaters/PWCs & skiers. "Safety is NO accident."

Important reminder: The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources no longer requires a "competent observer" to be present in/on the boat/PWC if the boat or PWC is engaged in towing person(s) participating in aquatic activity (skiing, tubing, etc.). The water craft must be equipped with a large convex mirror designed to be mounted where the boat/PWC operator can observe person(s) being towed. The placement of the mirror must not interfere with the operator's line of sight. Questions? Please contact the water Safety Patrol. However, your board strongly urges you to have a "competent observer" present for increased safety during towing activities.

Larry Brady, Safety Team Leader 

Fish Management

Since the end of last summer, it's been an active period in Fish Management. With the help of lots of volunteers, suppliers and Ryan Nottestad's leadership, the first two fish cribs were placed in deep water in Whitewater Lake. Two more are planned for 2023. We are in need of logs... 5-6 inches wide by 6-7 ft long.

Last Fall, DNR did fish population surveys on Whitewater Lake. Results were muddled somewhat by weather, but the walleye population seemed to be doing quite well... 25 adult fish per shoreline mile in a 25 ft slot behind the survey boat. Rice Lake carp were surveyed as part of the new carp netting regulations, and the results indicate the lake qualifies to be commercially netted for carp for the next three years. The task now shifts to finding a commercial netter to take on the task.

Fish stocking for 2023 will include 6-8 inch walleyes from the DNR in Whitewater Lake. 3-4 inch yellow perch and black crappies will be stocked in both lakes using Lake Management funds. Specifics of how many and when after "ice out" at the hatcheries.

Tom Potrykus, Team Leader 

Summary of 2022 Financial Results

2022 finished the year with a net surplus of \$127,270. This is significantly higher, \$65,358, than projected and budgeted for at the annual meeting due entirely to the sale of JNT Marine Pros and the cease of all harvesting operations in late August. This caused an additional surplus in the harvesting budget of approximately \$15,000 and all of the bog budget of \$44,000. The five year lake plan was also not delivered to us in the fall as anticipated creating a \$3,000 budget variance that will have to be paid for in 2023. As presented at the annual meeting, the balance of the surplus that was projected comprised of \$25,000 in the chemical budget, \$10,000 in the harvesting budget and a carry over surplus from 2021 of \$23,000.

Our capital fund had a starting balance of \$107,367. We had budgeted contributions of \$60,000 and interest of \$102. We had capital expenses of \$44,785 for the balance of the new weed trailer offset by the remainder of the DNR grant of \$13,800. This gave us an ending balance in the capital fund \$136,484.

Brad Corson, Treasurer 


Equipment Report

As you may be aware, our weed harvesting subcontractor for many years, JNT's Marine Pros, sold its business operations last September. With no employees of our own, the Lake Management District's 2022 weed and bog removal operation came to an abrupt halt when the new owner of JNT chose not to continue our harvesting work. Additionally, the new owner declined to honor our indoor storage contract with JNT, which had two years remaining. The Board quickly made plans to remove the harvesting equipment from the water and to find viable storage for the winter.

Presently, we are looking at various options to launch the weed harvesting equipment by the end of May and to carry out our 2023 harvesting operation. If you are interested in job opportunities this summer, please see "Employment Opportunities" in this issue or the News page at www.whitewaterricelakesdistrict.org.

The Lake Management District is also looking to buy a roughly two-acre property that either has or can accommodate a pole barn large enough to store approximately 5,000 sq. ft. of equipment and trucks off-season. Please contact me if you have any leads for us to pursue.

At the 2022 Annual Meeting, voters authorized the Board to replace our 7-foot aquatic plant harvester which is 27 years old. We applied for a 50/50 matching grant with the Wisconsin Waterways Commission, but it has not yet made grant decisions for 2023. If we are awarded a grant, we anticipate the new harvester would be delivered in time for the 2024 season. This harvester will be stationed on Rice Lake for its harvesting needs.

Chuck Chamberlain, Commissioner 

Weed Spraying

Whitewater and Rice Lakes' weed management is strictly regulated by Wisconsin DNR. We have two strategies that can be used on our lakes; one is weed treatment with herbicides, and the other is weed harvesting. Solitude Lake Management will be doing our weed treatment (Eurasian Water Milfoil and Curly-leaf Pondweed).

The algae blooms are considerably impacted by rainfall and temperatures. Algae blooms are also caused by significant phosphorus concentration in the lake bottom. Disturbance of the bottom increases the phosphorus content in the water.

WRLMD partnered with the UW-W to measure sediment phosphorus concentrations in Rice Lake. The full report can be found on our website (whitewatericelakesdistrict.org). With this information WRLMD explored available options to lessen the phosphorus laden sediment in Rice Lake. Available options include a drawdown of the lake, dredging the lake and planting favorable vegetation. A drawdown has significant disadvantages, planting vegetation is a long range approach that is being explored and dredging the lake is cost prohibitive.

However, studies have shown barley straw to be useful in the treatment of algae. There is something unique to barley straw (unlike other forms of straw) that helps to control the amount of algae in the water. As the straw decomposes in the lake, it releases a natural chemical which inhibits algal growth. It is a cost-effective and environmentally acceptable way to control algae in ponds and lakes (extension.psu.edu). WRLMD is planning to conduct a limited study on Rice Lake this summer to gauge effectiveness of barley straw on our lake.

During April and May, our web site will post the DNR permit, and the Lake Maps identifying the extent of weed distribution after the Spring weed survey along with timing for chemical spraying. We will use Facebook and our web site for continued updates. Prior to lake treatment, a notice will be attached to all docks in the vicinity of treatment with precautions. **Please note, turf irrigation immediately following application is fine.**

Mike Lindenmuth, Commissioner 

Lakes Management District NOTICE

Proposed Aquatic Herbicide Application for Eurasian watermilfoil and Curlyleaf pondweed control on Whitewater and Rice Lakes.

The Whitewater and Rice Lakes Management District (the District) with support from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) and Solitude Lake Management (Solitude) proposes to manage up to 175 acres on Whitewater Lake and up to 65 acres on Rice Lake with aquatic herbicides to control the excessive growth of the aquatic invasive species, Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM), its hybrid (HWM) and Curlyleaf Pondweed (CLP). The District proposes to first assess populations of the invasive plants and then if warranted, conduct applications of ProcellaCOR EC (liquid floryprauxifen-benzyl) and Aquathol K (liquid endothall) to infestations sometime in spring, 2023 to be performed by Solitude. The project will proceed only after the District obtains a permit from the WDNR.

Notification of the exact date of application and water use restrictions (should there be any) associated with the use of ProcellaCOR EC and Aquathol K will be provided by the posting on the shoreline in and adjacent to management areas, and public access points.

The water uses restrictions associated with the products mentioned above are noted below:

There are no swimming, fishing, or other recreational restrictions. Do not use water from application area for non-turf irrigation purposes for 3 days, turf irrigation is fine immediately following applications.

Additional information on the proposed management including a completed copy of the permit applications, site map and WDNR Chemical Fact Sheets on floryprauxifen-benzyl and endothall can be found at whitewaterlake.org.

Navigator Teams

In 2021, five Navigator Teams were formed by the Lake Management District and the GWLPOA to address issues raised in a survey of District homeowners that year. The five Teams are Boating Safety; Wakes and Shoreline Erosion; Good Neighbors; Government Support & Activities; and Boat and Pier Density. The survey and a summary of the Teams' work can be found on the District's website at www.whitewaterricelakesdistrict.org.

Here's a few reminders from the Teams' recommendations, with more details on our website:

- 1. Boating Safety:** a boater safety class is required for all boat drivers born after Jan 1, 1989; on Fridays, Saturdays, holidays and the day before a holiday, slow no wake starts at 7 pm or sunset, whichever is earlier, and on all other days, slow no wake starts at sunset; on all days, slow no wake extends until 9 am each morning; skiers, tubers, etc. should be pulled counterclockwise.
- 2. Wakes:** per WI law, boaters are responsible for all lake users impacted by their wakes; boats with large wakes should stay at least 300' from shore, get quickly on plane, avoid sharp turns, and empty their ballasts when not wakesurfing.
- 3. Pier Regulations:** per WI and Walworth County - only homeowners may place/maintain a pier on their property; two boat slips are allowed for the first 50' of shoreline plus one additional slip for every full 50' of shoreline thereafter; only commercially zoned properties may rent out boat slips and require a State marina permit.
- 4. Good Neighbors:** existing County and Township laws govern such things as fireworks usage, noise, pets, short term rentals, and property maintenance; a Town permit is required to use fireworks
- 5. Government:** no parking is allowed on the boat ramps around the lake, including Cruse Lane; watch your speeds on roads around the lake

Carol Ducommun, Vice Chair and Commissioner 

Weed Harvesting Report

Our Summer 2022 weed harvesting ended abruptly last September when JNT's new owner declined to subcontract work for the Lake Management District. Fortunately, the weeds were light last summer, consisting primarily of Curley Leaf Pondweed and with no significant Eurasian Milfoil on either lake. We will begin to anticipate 2023 weed growth after we complete our lake surveys in May, but we won't know how dense the weeds will be until the summer progresses. We plan to begin mechanical harvesting after our herbicide contractor sprays the shorelines in early June in areas where the weeds are heaviest and which are not accessible to harvesters.

The Board is planning to manage our harvesting operations this summer since we have been unable to locate a new subcontractor. We are consulting with our equipment suppliers and nearby lake management districts to research best practices and devise plans to operate safely, efficiently, and effectively. If you are interested in being part of our harvesting team this summer, please see "Employment Opportunities" in this issue or the News page at www.whitewaterricelakesdistrict.org.

We have learned that some nearby lakes do not operate harvesters on Fridays or make weed pickups from piers, citing both expense and safety concerns. Traditionally, we scheduled crews six days a week, operating harvesters Monday to Friday and doing weed pickups on Saturday mornings. To ensure safe and efficient operations, we are planning to operate the harvesters four days a week, Monday to Thursday, keeping our heavy equipment off the lake on the weekends. If you would like a weed pickup from your piers on Whitewater Lake, please send an email to weeds@whitewaterlake.org. We will note these requests and find a time to pick them up during our regularly scheduled shifts. Please note that as we embark on our new operations, it will be important for you to provide feedback to us so we can best serve the needs of homeowners in our Lake Management District.

Carol Ducommun, Vice Chair and Commissioner 

Congratulations to the 2023 Fish-A-Ree Fish Prize Winners!

Bass	C. V. Rudomsie / Mark Miller	18.75"	.....	3.4 lbs
Blue Gill	Ade Runnoe	7"	.....	0.243 lbs
Crappie	Paul McNally	8.34"	.....	0.6 lbs
Northern Pike	Annette Snyder	27"	.....	4.2 lbs
Perch	Tanner Brotzman	8"	.....	0.155 lbs
Walleye	Josh Schiller	15.5"	.....	2.0 lbs

The Lions thank everyone who participated in the fishing, pancake breakfast and the raffles.

Wildlife Control

We do an annual goose roundup to protect the lake and shoreline property from the goose droppings. If you are new or have not filled out the permission slip previously, please do so and send it to me.

Ernie Roy, Wildlife Manager 

Permission for Entry to Property for Goose Management

I authorize representatives from United States Department of Agriculture – Wildlife Services and Whitewater/Rice Lakes Management District to access the property listed below for the purposes of goose management (egg oiling and/or a round up). ***This permission form has no expiration date and remains in effect until you request to be removed from the approved site list.*** You will have an annual opportunity via newsletter or direct mailing to remove your property from the approved site list. Thank you for your assistance. Ernie Roy, Wildlife Manager

Printed Name: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Lake Address: _____

Signature (Mandatory)

Mail to: Whitewater/Rice Lakes Mgt Dist, P.O. Box 301, Whitewater, WI 53190

2023 Boat Launch Fees

As a **reminder**, all Town of Whitewater Boat Launches require a launch fee as suggested by the guidelines of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Envelopes will be available at the Self-Pay Boxes located at each launch site beginning with the Spring/Summer Boating Season. **Launch Fees for Calendar Year 2023** will remain the same as last year and are as follows:

Daily Fee: Lake District Resident (\$4.00)
Non-Lake District Resident (\$6.00)

Annual Fee: Lake District Resident (\$20.00)
Non-Lake District Resident (\$30.00)

The fees listed above apply **ONLY** to the *Town of Whitewater Boat Launches* on Whitewater Lake.

These are located at:

- Cruse Lane
- R-W Townline Road and Krahn Drive
- R-W Townline Road and Chapel Drive

Fees at the **State Park Boat Launches** located on Whitewater and Rice Lakes are set by and are under the jurisdiction of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

Boater Safety Tips

1. Anyone born on or after January 1, 1989 - may operate a motorboat only if they have completed a boating safety course accepted by the WI DNR. For more info: <https://dnr.wi.gov>
2. You need a life jacket on board for each person. Plus, a throwable if your vessel is larger than 16 feet. This includes canoes/kayaks/paddleboards.
3. When pulling a skier/tuber/boarder you need to go counterclockwise. There must also be another competent person to act as an observer (recommended) or the vessel must be equipped with a wide-angle review mirror.
4. No boat towing persons engaged in water skiing, tubing, boarding, aquaplaning or similar activity on any lake shall engage in such activity within 100 feet of any occupied anchored boat, any PWC or marked swimming area or public boat landing.
5. When skiing/tubing/boarding only 2 people may be pulled behind the boat. 2 people on one tube or 2 tubes with 1 person each tube.
6. PWCs are not to exceed slow no wake speeds within 200' of shorelines or within 100' of any other watercraft.
7. Never allow passengers to ride on gunwales or seatbacks or outside of protective railings, including the front of a pontoon boat. A sudden turn, stop or start could cause a fall overboard.
8. Swimming from boats is prohibited unless the boat is anchored, and the swimmers stay within 25 feet of the boat.
9. It is illegal to move, displace, tamper with, damage or destroy any navigational aid (buoys). Most of the buoys are placed at 100 feet from shore.
10. Slow no wake speed means a speed at which a vessel moves as slowly as possible while still maintaining steerage control.
11. All channels shall be deemed a slow-no wake area and no boat shall anchor in any channel and no boat shall anchor for a distance of 100 feet in either direction from the tip of the Ridge and the point opposite. NOTE: In 2022 - 4 new Black & White striped channel marker buoys were added in this channel.
12. On Fridays, Saturdays, Holidays, and the day before a holiday – slow no wake starts at 7:00 PM or sunset, whichever is earlier. On all other days – slow no wake starts at sunset. Every day of the week – slow no wake goes until 9:00 AM.
13. For more information on boating on Whitewater and Rice Lakes, visit <https://www.whitewaterlake.org/boating>

This is not a complete set of boating laws! Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information in this pamphlet at the time of its printing. We cannot guarantee the correctness of all information and assume no liability arising from errors and omissions. If you have any questions, contact DNR personnel or your local law enforcement authorities. ALL STATE OF WI BOATING LAWS APPLY. THE TOWNS OF WHITEWATER AND RICHMOND HAVE ADDITIONAL ORDINANCES SPECIFIC TO THE LAKES.

Town of Whitewater/Richmond Ordinances specific to Whitewater and Rice Lakes. <https://ecode360.com/32933978>

Wisconsin DNR Boating Laws Handbook – read the entire handbook online: <https://widnr.widen.net/s/0vw8hwrae3>

You can review Wisconsin boating regulations, register your boat, or sign up for a safety class at the Wisconsin DNR website at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/boat/>

From The Combined Boater Safety Team 

Lakeshore Management

Permit Requirements for Shoreland Landscaping

Did you know that trees and shrubs within the first 35 feet of shoreline cannot be cut down or trimmed without a permit? And that a permit may be required to remove trees and shrubs within the area between 35 feet and 75 feet from the shoreline, or up to 300 feet on steep slopes? Read on for further details.

'NO TOUCH' BUFFER ZONE

The first 35 feet of the shoreland is called the 'NO TOUCH' Buffer Zone. To remove or trim trees and shrubs OR to use herbicides on vegetation other than lawns in this zone, homeowners must obtain a permit from Walworth County. To remove a tree in this zone that is dead, dying or diseased, the property owner may EITHER mitigate the tree's removal by planting a native tree OR obtain a Shoreland Vegetation Removal Exemption Certificate from Walworth County.

SHOREYARD

The SHOREYARD is defined as the first 75 feet from the shoreline, including the 35-foot 'NO TOUCH' Buffer Zone. Property owners must contact Walworth County Land and Use Resource Management for any landscaping project in their SHOREYARD. For instance, a propertyowner may need to obtain a permit from the County to remove a tree or shrub in the upland portion of the SHOREYARD (35 feet to 75 feet.) Homeowners

are also required to obtain a land disturbance and erosion control permit any time the soil in the SHOREYARD is disturbed, including from activities such as grinding stumps or removing ground cover.



STEEP SLOPES

Property owners with steep slopes up to 300 feet from their shoreline are required to contact Walworth County Land and Use Resource Management before they begin any landscaping projects on that slope. The County may require the property owner to obtain a permit to remove vegetation on steep slopes within 300 feet of the shoreline, and will require a permit for land disturbances, including ground cover removal, on shoreland within 1000 feet of the shoreline.

BARE SOIL

Anytime a property owner creates a situation that exposes bare soil on the shoreland, even if it is temporary, the owner must contact Walworth County Land Use and Resource Management about obtaining land disturbance and erosion control permits.

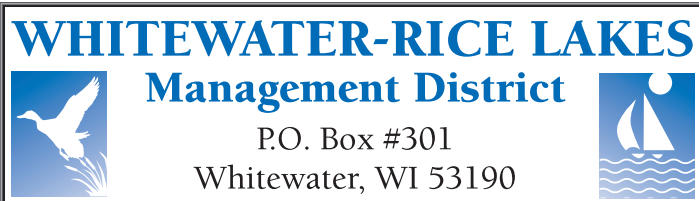
Always make sure to contact Walworth County, Land Use and Resource Management (262-741-4972), to verify permit requirements before you begin any type of vegetation management, land disturbance, or construction project on your shoreland.

To report violations, or suspected violations, please contact: Lindsey Smith, Whitewater and Richmond Code Enforcement Officer (262-741-7917 or lsmith@co.walworth.wi.us)

Theresa Stegemann,
Lakeshore Management Team Leader
262-458-4226
theresa.stegemann@gmail.com 🐦

About GWLPOA

The Greater Whitewater Lake Property Owners Association (GWLPOA) connects property owners around Whitewater and Rice Lakes to their community. Our commitment to you is to provide timely communication, opportunities to meet and socialize with your lake neighbors and keep you "in the loop" with pivotal happenings around the lake. Your \$40 annual dues help fund the lake resident directory published in even numbered years, 6-8 newsletters per year with important local lake info, discounted tickets to events which have a fee like Comedy Night and the Golf Outing, and an invite to non-fee events including the annual picnic, CPR & First Aid classes, pontoon parties and lake neighbor happy hours. These dues also help fund the popular Music on the Lake concerts! Please visit our new website: www.WhitewaterLake.org for more information and to join! We have a great lineup of events this summer!!



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Summer Employment Opportunities

The Lake Management District is seeking employees for our summer weed harvesting operation. We plan to operate four days a week, Monday to Thursday, and will pay competitive wages. We are looking for:

- One or two crew chiefs to manage and be part of the weed harvesting team, working eight to ten hours a day, either two or four days a week.
- Four or five operators to work four to five hours daily, either mornings or afternoons; full-time options are available.

Applicants for crew chief must be at least 21 years old while operators must be at least 18. All employees must have a valid driver's license, and employees born after January 1, 1989 will need a valid Boater Safety License.

Please see www.WhitewaterRiceLakesDistrict.org for more information and job descriptions (under Documents, then Operations.) If you have questions or are interested in applying, please email carol@whitewaterlake.org.

Chuck Chamberlain and Carol Ducommun, Commissioners 