

JUNE 2003 NEWSLETTER

Note from the Chairman Bernie Tangney

As always I start by thanking our very capable elected board: Gary Marvin secretary and chemical treatment chair; Gordon Philip, treasurer and bog committee chair, Art Schmitz equipment chair and Doug Goodrich, harvesting. These people really are what make the district run. They give so freely of their time and talent we cannot thank them enough. Jerry Grant "county appointed representative" and Norm Prusener "township appointed" are valuable assets to our board in our day to day decision making and long range planning. Last but not least our clerk, Rose Marie Berg not only keeps our records but also helps us in so many other ways. Tom Ponyicsanyi chairs the fish committee. Mark Muschinski and Tom Ganfield are lake help volunteers on Rice and Whitewater Lakes. Thanks to all of our volunteers.

Lake Management Commissioners

Two commissioners will be elected to the board at the August 23 annual meeting. We need good candidates willing to fill these positions. Any one interested should contact Brian Morris 473-6081, nominating committee, to furnish information for a brief biography printed in the July newsletter



Weed Rake

This ten foot wide rake approved for purchase at the 2002 annual meeting will arrive soon. It's intended use is to come close to shore and lower the rake, then back out pulling the floating weeds out to deeper water where the harvester can pick them up. We intend to use this machine in areas where the wind or whatever, created large quantities of weeds at the shorelines.

Saturday Pickup

We intend to continue the Saturday pickup of weeds on the **“lake end of piers by 10 am.”** Hopefully, the weed rake will reduce the amount of weeds to be picked off piers.



Weed Harvesting

Weed harvesting started with training of the new crew Monday, May 19. We should be going with trained personnel by May 27.

We again ask all residents to direct requests for service to the Lake Management Board and not the crewmembers. Doug Goodrich 472-9722 and Art Schmitz 473-0777 are in charge of the day to day harvesting operations. Or you can call me, Bernie Tangney 473-8525 and I will contact Doug or Art with your concerns. Please do not expect the crew to alter their scheduled work directions per your request.

West Niles Virus

A concerned member asks, “Can Lake Management do anything to help prevent the West Niles Virus?” The information I have received from the DNR and other sources indicate the primary carrier of this virus is a species “*Cules pipiens*”. This specie of mosquito breeds in water in small containers, not lakes or streams.

To control this species it would be best for everyone, not only lake property owners, to empty anything that would provide a breeding place for these mosquitoes. That includes old tires, birdbaths and tin cans - anything that would hold water and allow the larva to hatch. To avoid contracting the virus it is advised to not be bitten by any mosquito. Go inside in the early evening and use a repellent when in an area where you may be bit.

Chemical Treatment

Gary Marvin, 473-3771, is working with the chemical application. First treatment is scheduled for June 4 with a follow up June 26.

Bog

Gordon Phillip Chairman, 608 883-6882, reports a total of 14,000 sq. ft. of the bog has been removed in the last two years completing Phase One. We are presently waiting for a permit from the DNR to begin Phase Two of removing the bog at the rate of approximately 12,000 sq. ft. per year, which would remove the 90,000 sq. feet originally planned, in six more years.

Fire/Address Numbers

Whitewater Township will be replacing the existing fire/address numbers located at the road. When this happens (they cannot tell me exactly when it will occur) the old signs and posts will be removed and laid by the new number post. The numbers will not change. We request lake property owners take the old post with the numbers and place it by the lake where it will be visible from the water. There are many positive reasons to do this. First and most importantly, if water rescue were called to an area, your property or your neighbors can be identified easier. Second, because Lake Management works on the lake, it is very beneficial to clearly identify locations.

***Fertilizer article provided by Tom Ganfield -
Excessive Phosphorous Leads to Poor Water Quality***

Excessive nutrients, especially phosphorous, can lead to increased weed growth, low dissolved oxygen, and poor overall water quality in our lakes. A recent study conducted by the U.S. Geological Survey on lawns immediately adjoining Lauderdale Lakes revealed several conclusions:

- A high percentage of storms resulted in surface runoff to the lakes.
- The amount of fertilizer use did not affect nitrogen concentration in runoff.
- Near-lake surface runoff and septic systems were the dominant sources of phosphorous loading to the lakes.
- The median concentration of phosphorous from regular-fertilized sites was twice as high as for unfertilized sites. Median concentrations of phosphorous from runoff were similar between unfertilized and phosphorous-free fertilized sites. An indication that non-phosphorous fertilizer may be a low cost method of reducing phosphorous in lakes.

What Can I Do?

Whitewater and Rice Lakes are classified as eutrophic, the excess nutrients contribute to high growth rates of aquatic weeds and lower dissolved oxygen levels. Homeowner actions can markedly reduce phosphorous and other nutrients to our lakes. Recommended actions include:

- Use nonphosphorous fertilizers. The best time to fertilize (any type of fertilizer) is in the fall, which promotes root growth.
- Mulch grass clippings and aquatic weeds into the lawn. Mulch is also a good organic source of nutrients, thus reducing the amount of commercial fertilizers needed to maintain a healthy lawn.
- Filter stormwater runoff through natural planting areas, which help absorb nutrients.
- Properly maintain septic tanks. When a septic field has to be replaced, consider locating as far from lake as possible.

What Others Are Doing:

Locally, three communities have written ordinances to reduce the amount of phosphorous that could drain into lakes. Delavan Lake, Lauderdale Lakes and Twin Lakes have ordinances banning the use of phosphorous in fertilizers for home use near their lakes. Non-phosphorous fertilizer can be obtained from the Lauderdale Golf Course, as well as from some nurseries. One bag of 28-0-7 covers 5,000 square feet at a cost of \$7.00.

ENJOY OUR BEAUTIFUL LAKES

