

Weed Harvesting Updates



Native sago pondweed can form dense mats inhibiting navigation

Weed harvesting commenced on July 14th. Greater ice cover this winter may have led to slow initial growth of our early growing aquatic plants such as the invasive curly leaf pond weed. As in years past, this plant dies and decays becoming nutrient fuel for other aquatic plants.

A combination of thicker ice cover, cooler temperatures, and larger than average lake levels have inhibited early plant growth to the surface.

Again this year we see a large population of native sago pond weed. This valuable plant can become a nuisance with it's long whip-like foliage that can wrap around props. This plant also poses a challenge to weed harvesting operators since it is less dense then milfoil species, and more time is needed to collect a full load.

Milfoil species and coontail are starting to ramp up their growth as the temperatures warm and lake levels return to normal.

Efficient and cost effective cutting is a priority for the Lake District. We have applied to the Wisconsin Water Commission for a 50% cost-share grant to help replace our aging weed harvesting equipment.

We are looking for reliable, hard working, mechanically inclined individuals who can operate and maintain heavy machinery to join our crew. This is a seasonal, part-time position, and are in need of staff who are available Thursdays and Fridays. To be considered for the position, please send us a cover letter, resume , and at least three references.

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FROM THE HELM

I would like to officially welcome Lisa Griffin as the new Lake Manager for the Lake Ripley Management District. Lisa is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater with a degree in Honors Biology with research focused on Aquatic Toxicology. Lisa served as an intern for Paul Dearlove and stepped in as interim Lake Manager when he resigned.



As interim Lake Manager Lisa jumped in with both feet. She finalized the new Ripley Rewards Program, finished a grant application for a new weed harvester, and created the last issue of the *Ripples* newsletter. We had 21 highly qualified applicants for the position and Lisa stood out among them.

On July 5th we had a very interesting and informative Lake Fair to kick off the Ripley Rewards Program. We want to thank our many corporate partners and sponsors and are looking forward to implementing many projects that will preserve and protect Lake Ripley.

We have started active weed harvesting, and ask for your patience as we try to keep up with the weed growth. Also we invite you to take a walk in the Ripley Preserve on Hwy A next to the Conservation Club. We have over a mile of trails, an observation deck, and informational kiosks for you to enjoy.

John Molinaro, Chair

Native Plant Sale offered during Annual Meeting

The LRMD Annual Meeting will be held Saturday, August 16, 2014, at the Oakland Town Hall. The Budget Hearing will begin at 9:00 a.m. with the Annual Meeting to follow immediately after.

Lisa Reas, of LJ Reas Environmental Consulting, will host a native plant sale from 8:00—10:00 a.m. that morning. Native plants are a great way to attract birds or butterflies, stabilize your shoreline, or to use in a rain garden.

A variety of sun, shade, and water loving native plants will be available for sale at discounted prices. Lisa is always happy to discuss your growing conditions and what type of plants are best suited for your area.

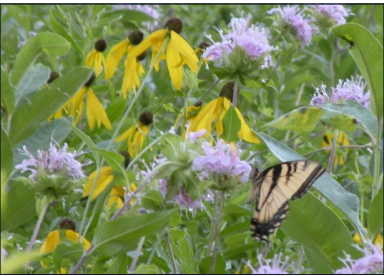


Photo credit: Carrie Bohn

If you are in need of a large order of plants, please contact Lisa directly at 920-291-7787.

LAKE DISTRICT OFFICE

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N4450 County Rd. A
Cambridge, WI 53523
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ripley@oaklandtown.com
www.lakeripley.org



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LAKE MANAGER

Lisa Griffin
(608) 423-4537

WEED HARVEST CREW

Dick Langer
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Bruce Crump
Roger Rude
Robert Henkel
Richard Trailer



Program Highlights:

Ripley Rewards celebrated its initial launch this year. This program empowered landowners to take their own action and become stewards of our watershed.

A total of 21 households pledged 41 actions to reduce storm water runoff and increase habitat. All households were awarded vouchers redeemable for goods or services towards their pledged actions.

We’re working closely with our partners to start the implementation of these projects. Lisa Reas of LJ Reas Environmental Consulting, has conducted a series of site visits for landowners who are looking to install rain and shoreline gardens. These landowners were awarded a voucher for Lisa to consult with them on their site, provide and install plants and mulch, and conduct a follow up visit next year.

Those landowners who pledged to install a rain barrel were rewarded with vouchers for rain barrels provided by Fiskars. This all inclusive package includes a downspout diverter, rain barrel, and an informational video on installation.

For those pledging to plant a native tree, vouchers were awarded for a tree that will be available later in August for pick up from the Oakland Town Hall. With coordination from Mike at Sustainable Wildlife Habitats, a selection of trees will be available to plant when weather is more favorable.

The program had a good response from the community in its pilot year. It will be great to see the implementation of these projects and hope they inspire future interest from neighbors to establish these lake friendly practices.

We would like to thank our partners and sponsors who helped contribute to this program. Their contributions helped to stretch dollars further, allowing us to assist all who made pledges.

Latest Boat and Shore Survey Results

Each year the LRMD conducts a boat survey gathering data on the types of watercraft and number of piers and boat lifts on the lake. This information is useful in determining what recreational uses may be increasing or decreasing, which may influence best management practices.

Pontoon	Runabouts	Fishing boats (motorized)	Paddle Boats (non-motorized)	Sailboats	PWC's	Raft's	Piers	Boat Lifts
165	120	38	134	7	53	16	176	235

A total of 512 watercraft were counted. Runabouts and paddle boats show the greatest increase from last year. However, piers and boat lifts are slightly lower than last year. Overall trends indicate an increase in PWC's, non-motorized boats, and pontoons with a decrease in sailboats, runabouts, and fishing boats.

Pontoon Fleet– an Educational Outreach Opportunity

Local schools and neighboring universities have done an excellent job in natural science education and fostering young conversationalists. However, with limited budgets and emphasis placed on school standards, valuable hands on experience may not be available. With the wonderful resource of Lake Ripley, we are hoping to engage our young citizen scientists and provide them with tools they need to gain access to Lake Ripley.



Photo credit: msuw.anr.msu.edu

We are looking to form a pontoon fleet of 4-5 boats who would be willing to volunteer their time and use of their boat, in order to provide educational opportunities to our youth and neighboring college students. If interested, please email or call our office.

LAKE RIPLEY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
2015 PROPOSED BUDGET

	2013 ACUTAL	2014 BUDGET	2014 JAN-JUNE ACTUAL	2014 JAN-DEC ESTIMATED	2015 PROPOSED BUDGET
Revenues:					
Real Estate Tax Levy	\$ 118,320	\$ 127,469	\$ 86,075	\$ 127,469	\$ 122,605
Grants	8,977		2,347	2,347	
Interest Income	790		417	800	
Carryover	680	2,055	2,055	2,055	24,135
Restricted Funds, Net	<419>		2,230	<3,297>	
Authorized Use of Unrestricted Funds	17500	17,500	17,500	17,500	
Other	150		150	150	
Total Revenues	145,998	147,024	110,774	147,024	146,740
Projects:					
Various		3,000		3,000	3,000
Operations:					
Landowner Cost Sharing		11,000		11,000	30,000
Weed Harvesting	12,177	10,085	362	9,009	10,085
Preserve Restoration/Management	26,930	15,400	818	15,400	11,500
Staff Payroll/ Fringes/Taxes	70,712	72,919	24,614	50,684	55,035
Insurance	6,450	5,600	6,347	6,347	6,400
Legal Counsel	1,553	1,500			1,500
Dues & Conferences	385	1,150		1,150	2,650
Office & Community Outreach	7,063	6,470	2,382	6,399	6,670
Commissioner Stipends	4,550	4,900	2,100	4,900	4,900
Rent	1,800	1,800	1,050	1,800	1,800
Capital Reserve, Land/Equip Acquisition	10,000	10,000		10,000	10,000
Miscellaneous	2,323	3,200	964	3,200	3,200
Total Disbursements	143,943	147,024	38,637	122,889	146,740
Balance	\$ 2,055	\$ 0	\$ 72,137	\$ 24,135	\$ 0

THE LRMD HAS NO INDEBTEDNESS

	LAKE RIPLEY PROTECTION FUND
Restricted Funds:	
Estimated Balance (12/31/13)	\$ 91,259
Additional 2013 Activity	
Increase	0
Decrease	<296>
Final Balance (12/31/13)	90,963
2014 Estimated Activity	
Interest Earned	450
Increase	6,631
Decrease	<2,347>
Estimated Balance (12/31/14)	\$ 95,697

Budget Hearing
August 16, 2014
9 a.m. at Oakland Town Hall
(see proposed budget listed above)

- Annual Meeting**
Immediately following budget hearing
- I. Call to Order
 - II. Approval of 2013 Annual Meeting Minutes
 - III. Nomination of board candidates (Names on Ballot: John Molinaro and Dennis McCarthy, incumbents)
 - IV: Chairman's report
 - V. Treasurer's report
 - VI. Approval of budget and tax levy
 - VII. Tabulation of vote and election of board members
 - VIII. Adjournment