

Recycle your fishing line

A new solution to the problem of what to do with old or tangled fishing line is now located at the public launch.

Improperly discarded fishing line can severely harm wildlife and equipment. Animals can become entangled causing amputation, starvation and even death. This simple collection device allows users to discard their spent line which will later be recycled into other objects.

In partnership with area Boy Scout troops, similar devices have been set up throughout Jefferson County. Boy Scouts collect the spent line and send it back to a manufacturer. Hooks and braided line can also be collected and included in the recycling program.

This simple solution is one small step taken to help protect wildlife and lake users from improperly discarded equipment. Thank you John and



New fishing line receptacle on Lake Ripley

Ann Molinaro for your handiwork in making the collection tube. Thank you Boy Scouts and volunteers for your help in ongoing collection and keeping Lake Ripley safe and beautiful!

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Ripples
Lake Ripley Management District
N4450 County Rd. A
Cambridge, WI 53523

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Ripples



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FROM THE HELM

Protect and Preserve, *Protect and Preserve*, **Protect and Preserve, PROTECT AND PRESERVE.** No matter how we say it, since the beginning, this has been the mission of the Lake Ripley Management District. It is what motivates us now, and what motivated us in the past. We do this by educating ourselves as well as all residents of the Lake District.



The challenges we face keep changing and evolving. Whether it is new or hybrid species of weeds, or an invasive plant, animal or disease, we consult with experts both in the DNR and the UW-Extension to lay out the best course of action.



The Lake District does not have the powers of enforcement, but we work with the Town of Oakland, Jefferson County, DNR and others to respond to complaints that come to our attention. As much as we try to educate property owners about best management practices, we inevitably have people who don't ask or won't follow our recommendations. Sometimes it is an unintentional mistake that is quickly rectified. Other times it's the notion that, "my little piece of shoreline or lot won't affect big old Lake Ripley".

What people don't understand is that there is a cumulative effect of every apparently small action. One person installing an impervious surface (sidewalk, driveway, or boat ramp) may not seem like a big deal, but twenty people doing it could throw off the whole balance of the Lake. Any type of activity that causes unfiltered runoff into the lake adds pollutants and nutrients.

These nutrients can increase weed growth. If we harvest too many weeds, the nutrients fuel more algae growth. It's a fine balance that can be tipped by numerous other factors. We live and recreate on an inland lake, which is very different than a river, shoreline on the Great Lakes or ocean front beaches, and we face different challenges.

I have been working with the Lake District since its inception. By far the vast majority of people would never do anything to intentionally hurt the Lake. We need every resident to remind themselves and their neighbors to consider Lake impacts ahead of individual desires. Thank you for your help.

John Molinaro, Chair

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Clean Boats, Clean Waters Updates
By: Lianna Spencer

The Clean Boats, Clean Waters program educates lake users about the threats of aquatic invasive species (AIS), the impacts they can have on Lake Ripley and steps to prevent their spread.



CBCW Intern Lianna hands out ice packs during the statewide Drain Campaign promoting anglers to ice their catch.

Volunteer Stephanie Hansen and I have spent 135 hours at the public launch and have spoken with 440 boaters and anglers. Lake Ripley also participated in two state wide programs, the Drain Campaign and Landing Blitz.

Throughout the season, I've received many questions about zebra mussels. Zebra mussels are filter feeders, which ingest plankton particles. These mussels are able to filter up to a liter of water per day, substantially depleting the amount of plankton available for larval and juvenile fish. This could further impact processes up the food chain by limiting prey for larger fish species.

Two additional invasive species are found in other lakes within close proximity. Both the spiny water flea and starry stonewort are discussed with boaters as part of our educational efforts.

(cont. page 3)

Watch for Purple Loosestrife

Purple Loosestrife is a beautiful plant to look at but looks can be deceiving. This wetland invasive species is a major threat to Wisconsin's wetlands and waterways.

Purple Loosestrife crowds out the real wetland "workhorses", our native plants, there by reducing food for wildlife and diminishing the effectiveness of wetlands to absorb, filter and clean our water.

A few plants have been found in our area. Simple steps to control individual plants can be taken now to help control the population.



Purple Loosestrife flowers.

If you know you have purple loosestrife, cut and carefully bag the plant, and throw it into the garbage: do not compost. For large, older plants, herbicides are most effective in July and August but permits may be required if the plants are in or close to water. Seeds could remain in the soil for some time, so once a site it known to have purple loosestrife, a yearly review of the site is needed.

If you suspect purple loosestrife and would like assistance in identification and information on control options, please contact the district office. Please note, some wonderful native wetland/wet prairie plants are in bloom now that look somewhat like purple loosestrife. Be sure of correct identification before removing plants.

Thank you for your help in controlling invasive species around our area!

LAKE RIPLEY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
2016 PROPOSED BUDGET

	2014 ACTUAL	2015 BUDGET	2015 JAN-JUNE ACTUAL	2015 JAN-DEC ESTIMATED	2016 BUDGET
Revenues:					
Real Estate Tax Levy	\$ 127,469	\$ 118,270	\$ 81,821	\$ 118,270	\$ 117,665
Grants	36,262		2,292	2,292	
Interest Income	816		399	550	
Carryover	2,055	24,135	24,135	24,135	27,820
Restricted Funds, Net	<54,715>			<760>	
Authorized Use of Unrestricted Funds	17,500				
Other	4,880				
Total Revenues	134,267	142,405	108,647	144,487	145,485
Projects:					
Various	11,684	3,000		2,000	3,000
Operations:					
Landowner Cost Sharing	8,300	30,000		7,000	30,000
Weed Harvesting	6,947	10,085	81	7,735	10,700
Preserve Restoration/Management	2,603	11,500	1,373	11,500	11,500
Staff Payroll/ Fringes/Taxes	49,941	50,700	25,406	50,811	51,735
Insurance	6,189	6,400	7,134	7,134	7,200
Legal Counsel		1,500	1,508	1,508	1,500
Dues & Conferences	564	2,650	907	2,550	3,050
Office & Community Outreach	6,616	6,670	2,567	7,084	7,200
Commissioner Stipends	4,400	4,900	2,000	4,200	4,400
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	1,088	3,200	1,686	3,345	3,400
Total Disbursements	110,132	142,405	43,712	116,667	145,485
Balance	\$ 24,135	\$ 0	\$ 64,935	\$ 27,820	\$ 0

THE LRMD HAS NO INDEBTEDNESS

	LAKE RIPLEY PROTECTION FUND
Restricted Funds:	
Estimated Balance (12/31/14)	\$ 95,697
Additional 2014 Activity	
Increase	45,977
Decrease	<68,455>
Final Balance (12/31/14)	73,219
2015 Estimated Activity	
Interest Earned	263
Increase	67,519
Decrease	<116,800>
Estimated Balance (12/31/15)	\$ 24,201

Budget Hearing
August 22, 2015
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 2014 Annual Meeting Minutes
- III. Nomination of Board candidates (Names on Ballot: Georgia Gomez-Ibanez, incumbent)
- 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

Summer Highlights

The Lake District preserve has seen quite a bit of foot traffic lately.

Throughout spring, many nesting birds were busy defending their nests. Many times while walking the main trail, red-wing black birds and tree swallows would dive towards trail users.

The sand hill cranes can be seen with their young. The young birds grow quite quickly and are now spotted leaping while strengthening their wings for a long migration.



Dr. Tippery and students identify native plants based on physical characteristics.

Signs have been posted to remind users that motorized vehicles are not allowed on preserve lands, except for restoration purposes. In a recent survey, numerous boundary posts were found broken.

The additional costs to replace these posts detract from other areas in our preserve budget, limiting management funds. Users are encouraged to notify our office if they see any damage.

With fall quickly approaching, now is a great time to soak in the summer colors and to see wildlife. Additional wildlife use the preserve as a resting spot during fall migration, so be sure to stop by and look or listen to our new visitors!



Color abounds with native wildflowers currently in bloom.



Prairie clover (*Dalea purpurea*) not only feeds the grateful bee, but also helps to fix nitrogen from the air into the soil.

Numerous wildflowers and grasses are in bloom. Unique plants like rattlesnake master are sending up their beautiful flower stalks.

Frogs can be heard in wetland areas and turtles enjoy basking in the warm sun on downed trees or muskrat huts.

Recent visitors include a group of students from the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater. With guidance from instructor Dr. Nicolas Tippery, students are shown methods to identify different species of plants.

Maintenance of the preserve continues throughout summer. Monitoring and treatment for invasive species threats are an integral component of spotting problems while they are small.

Boat Patrol Updates

Lake Ripley is highly valued for the many types of recreational activities it allows. To ensure the safety of all lake users, the Town of Oakland supports enforcement of both state and local laws through an active Boat Patrol.

This year we are fortunate to have two officers who keep our lake safe. Officer Brazzoni and Officer Warner are charged with enforcing local town ordinances along with Chapter 30 rules of the Wisconsin State Statute.

The law's revision adds a slow-no-wake zone within 100 feet of patrol boats displaying emergency lights. The revisions took effect on June 1st of this year.

Additional changes include the use of blue lights on boats in operation. Boaters can no longer display blue colored lights, which have been mistaken for law enforcement lights and caused public confusion.

Bruce Gondert, Town of Oakland Police Chief provided a rundown of most common boating violations. They include:

- ⚠ Violation of established slow-no-wake times
- ⚠ Failure to possess a fire extinguisher on boats of closed construction that could trap combustible fumes.
- ⚠ Batteries that are not secured and/or both positive and negative terminals are not covered.
- ⚠ Not having the correct number and size of personal flotation devices for all passengers on board or not having a Type IV throwable for boats 16 feet or greater.

Officers Brazzoni and Warner have stated they are always willing to answer any questions and provide a free safety inspection prior to launching a watercraft.

Additional information on boating laws can be found at the WDNR website, dnr.wi.gov using the keyword "boat". Information on rules particular

to Lake Ripley can be found on our website at www.lakeripley.org under "rules".

For additional information on the Town of Oakland Boat Patrol, please contact Police Chief Bruce Gondert @ 608-423-7415.



Natasha and Mariner enjoying the Lake.

Clean Boats, Clean Waters (cont.)

We've inspected 307 boats this year surpassing our highest total of 262 in 2013. Of those inspected, 61% have not been contacted by an inspector this season. This is important because 17% of boaters contacted have been to another waterbody within the past 5 days. Some boaters have traveled from as far away as Canada!

My experiences at the boat launch have been positive. It's encouraging to know that most boaters/anglers are willing to perform these simple steps to help prevent the spread of AIS. I look forward to seeing many more of you out on the lake this summer!



The importance of Citizen Scientists

Lake Ripley is fortunate to have a long history of data collection to help determine past and current conditions. Our earliest records show lake data collected as far back as 1946.

As one of the DNR's Long Term Trend monitoring lakes, data has been collected by DNR staff. However, additional information at different times of year provide valuable information that may not be collected due to funding or staffing issues.

That's where citizen scientists step in. We are fortunate to have had several volunteers assist us over the years on various monitoring programs.

Currently lake monitoring is conducted through the DNR Clean Lake Monitoring Network by Board member Craig Kempel. Both our inlet and outlet streams are also monitored. Kyle Whalley monitors three sites on our inlet as part of internship responsibilities. The outlet is currently monitored through a partnership with the Rock River Coalition by two UW-Whitewater students.

All data collected is then entered into the DNR database. This central location allows scientists, resource managers, and the public access to the same information and allows stakeholders to see first hand current and past conditions. This wealth of information would not be possible without these great volunteers.

Additional citizen scientists are needed to assist in monitoring for invasive species. Numerous programs are in place to train volunteers to monitor for both aquatic and terrestrial plants.

It is important to find invasive species when their population is small enough that they can be removed before damaging our lake or preserve. Citizen scientists help is achieve that goal by being alert to any invasive species.

Lake residents have always been helpful reporting problems they observe. If you would like to learn new skills to help our lake stewardship efforts, please contact our office. Additional

monitoring efforts are needed in the area. We welcome you to join us!

2015 Data

Average secchi depth is 6.5 feet which is normal for this time of year. Total phosphorus, chlorophyll, and dissolved oxygen are also measured throughout the season.



Kyle at the Ripley Road site calculating the stream flow rate.

Be the change you want to see in the world

- Mahatma Gandhi

Did you know?

Did you know the LRMD is a member of Wisconsin Lakes? This valuable membership provides information to lake districts, associations, and landowners on various topics ranging from policy changes to interpreting lake data.

Wisconsin Lakes provides two free newsletters to share information on the latest lake issues. Opportunities to learn about aquatic plants and healthy lake practices are also available.

Please check out their website at www.wisconsinlakes.org to learn more about this great resource.

Weed Harvesting Updates

This year we launched our new weed harvester and shore conveyor early in June to prepare for another full season of harvesting. However, a cooler spring slowed plant growth considerably in early summer.

Recent warmer weather and large rain events have again increased plant growth. Sago pondweed, which tends to wrap around boat props, has especially been at nuisance levels.

So far, our harvesting crew is pleased with the performance of our new harvester and conveyor.

We remind lake users that we are governed by a DNR permit as to where and what species of plants can be harvested. We ask that you please contact our office for any issues pertaining to weed harvesting.

Recent Fish Kill

Thanks to observant landowners and lake users, the district office was notified of numerous carp that were recently found dead on Lake Ripley. This information was then shared with the DNR's local fisheries biologist for their review.

Summer fish kills are an unpleasant occurrence on inland waters. Causes of fish kills can vary, and many times are hard to determine the cause. Analysis can be expensive and many times fish are found in a condition that would cause tests results to be inconclusive.

We ask that property owners dispose of dead fish either by composting or bagging and placing them for garbage pick up.

Viral and bacteria linked to fish kills are not known to be pathogenic to humans and pets. The DNR asks the public to exercise good judgment in deciding to participate in recreational water activities in areas where dead fish have accumulated. It is always a good practice to rinse off after all water activities.

Starry Stonewort Updates

In the spring edition of the *Ripples*, we highlighted a new invasive algae found in Wisconsin called starry stonewort. At that time, starry stonewort was found in only one inland lake. Unfortunately, three additional lakes in Waukesha, Washington, and Racine counties are now known to have this new invasive algae.

Originally found in St. Lawrence River in 1978, it is now present in inland lakes in New York, Michigan, and Indiana. It is believed to have been delivered to the U.S. in ballast water.

Starry stonewort is an algae but acts more like a plant. It has the ability to take over natural plant communities. Most recent findings of this plant are located around boat launches. It is suggested the most plausible method of transport are small segments of plant being moved by boats or trailers and not by water fowl.

In the next few weeks the DNR will be conducting a plant inventory on Lake Ripley and will be on the look out for starry stonewort. Additional information from the plant inventory will help gauge the current plant community.

We ask users of both Lake Ripley and all inland waters to carefully check boats when entering and leaving water bodies. Thank you for all you do to protect Lake Ripley!



Photo Credit: Paul Skawinski UW-Extension Lakes