



Current Resident Or

PRESRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
LAKE MILLS, WI
PERMIT NO. 45

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

Ripples



Vol. 27, No. 2

Spring/Summer 2020

FROM THE HELM

A lot has sure changed since our last printing of the winter edition of the Ripples, and the Management District has not missed a beat. We have found a safe way to continue our open board meetings with social distancing and the proper use of PPE. We also have provided a way for the public to call into the meetings if they did not feel comfortable coming in person.

As the state starts to reopen, we still have to be concerned about the health and safety around Lake Ripley. We will have lots of visitors from outside the area and we should all continue the practices that we know work for us so we can continue to enjoy the summer activities we all have become accustomed to.

We once again are entering the turtle-nesting season and have had several reports about turtles being run over in the nesting areas around the lake. We are hoping that we can educate drivers to slow down and if possible help them through their Journey. Doug and Leah Maurer have donated 25 yard signs to be put out in areas that have been seen as crossing areas. If you're interested in putting a sign out, please contact me and we can deliver the sign to your property.

At the annual meeting on August 15th we will have 2 board seats up for election. The terms are for 3 years and will start after the annual meeting. If you wish to have your name printed on the ballot please submit your request in writing 45 days before the meeting. You must be present to vote for the elections.

We have been fielding calls about carp in the outlet creek swimming upstream into the lake. We are researching the severity of the problem, and, with DNR approval, may pilot some of the ideas that have worked in other lakes. We encourage anglers to safely harvest carp and hopefully find a good use for them, such as cooking them, smoking them, burying them in your garden, or bagging them and putting them out in the trash. Please do not leave them on the banks or roadside.

As we start to enjoy the summer activities around Lake Ripley please keep in mind that everyone has a different risk level for the Covid virus. Try to be careful around the boat landings, Ripley park, town pier and the preserve.

Have a great summer and I hope to see you on the lake.

Jimmy DeGidio, Chair



LAKE DISTRICT OFFICE

Oakland Town Hall
N4450 County Rd. A
Cambridge, WI 53523
(608) 423-4537
ripley@oaklandtown.com
www.lakeripley.org



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jimmy DeGidio
Chair
(608) 921-1340

Debbie Kutz
Treasurer
(920) 650-9122

Georgia Gómez-Ibáñez
Secretary
(608) 423-9898

Craig Kempel
Commissioner
(608) 423-3605

Keith Kolb
Commissioner
(414) 659-6293

Doug Maurer
Commissioner
(608) 515-3976

Walt Christensen
Jefferson County Rep.
(920) 723-1320

LAKE MANAGER

Beth Gehred
ripley@oaklandtown.com
(608) 423-4537

WEED HARVEST CREW

Ed Grunden
Bruce Crump

Big Thanks for Big Improvement



Thanks to Mike Bennett for donating his time to improve our vintage watershed sign at the Public Boat Launch. Next to receive his TLC is the sign at the corner of Park and Ripley Road. Look for it to return, better than ever, soon.

Save the Date: June 28 for Results of Public Opinion Survey & Chances to Engage Further

The District's public opinion survey results are in and highlights will be shared at a public meeting being held at 4 pm on June 28, at the Oakland Town Hall. All District members are invited to hear the results of the survey and offer reactions. If surveys aren't your thing, or COVID concerns keep you from attending, we offer two additional ways to engage.

Drop us a line with your email address, or phone with your physical address, and we'll send you a copy of the survey results, along with some questions we'll be asking at the live session. Write or call back with your thoughts. All responses, no matter what the format, will be recorded and used to guide the District in the update to the Ten Year Improvement Plan.

If there is enough interest, we also will set up a Zoom (computer-aided) meeting for a virtual live discussion of the survey results and to hear your thoughts. Please contact the Lake Manager by June 20th if this is an option you'd like to take advantage of. If even one district resident is interested, we'll set up a time, and meet over the computer. The District would like to remove barriers that may prevent us from hearing from you.

(Web)Surf Lake Ripley

Our website, created in 2010, is ready for a new look and improved performance. We are in the process of spiffing it up, and are taking suggestions for things that you turn to our website to find and things you wish were there. How do you use the website? When is the last time you visited and for what? All suggestions, comments, and complaints welcome – yes, even complaints – as we will be working to make improvements over the next several months.

Swimmer's Itch

Swimmer's itch is a temporary skin infection acquired by some lake swimmers when they accidentally become involved in the life cycle of microscopic parasites called schistosome. The larva of these parasites penetrate the skin and may cause allergic reactions.

The parasites are found in shallow water near the shoreline. Snails are a common host during its life cycle, but other creatures, such as grackles, ducks, muskrat and moles can also be carriers.

Severity of the outbreak varies between humans, with children often more susceptible. To reduce risks, towel down immediately upon leaving the water, avoid areas where snails have accumulated, and when possible, swim in water away from the shore.

If Only I Had Help, I'd . . .

One standout revelation from compiling the results of our Public Opinion Survey was that many residents are unfamiliar with our **District Cost-Share Program**. This program, funded by the District, shares the cost with landowners for landscaping projects that benefit water quality in Lake Ripley. These efforts can range from major shoreline stabilization projects to rain gardens that capture run-off before it reaches the lake. If you are considering a project that would benefit the whole lake, and would like us to "share the cost" with you, please call the District office at 608-423-4537. We can send our cost-share packet to you and answer questions.

Boat Safety Checks

Oakland Town Water Police inspect any vessel free of charge to ensure the vessel is up to WDNR Boat-ing standards. No fines are issued during voluntary inspections. If interested, contact the police department at 608-423-7415 to make an appointment with an officer.

Assess, Monitor, Evaluate, Repeat

You will be seeing a lot of our little red motor boat this summer! Scientists funded through our DNR Large-Scale Planning Grant will be conducting five special surveys on the lake.

In mid-June, there will be a plant survey to assess the growth of curly-leaf pondweed, a non-native invasive species that can become a problem in early summer. We monitor it and the development of other lake plants, to determine when to start weed harvesting.

In late June researchers will be conducting a near-shore, non-game fish survey. Results of the findings will let us know how well Lake Ripley is able to support the species of fish that are important parts of the lake food web.

In July comes a shoreland and shallows survey. District staff in canoes or our small boat will be following DNR protocol to assess the lake buffer, bank, and "shallows" – or littoral zone. Data that is being collected will help us identify areas for protection or restoration, assist in making our aquatic plant management decisions, and evaluate trends in lakeshore habitat and lake ecology over time.

In August, we will perform a late-season survey to catch the plants that need warmer water temperatures to grow and were not in evidence in June. Most aquatic plants are warm-season plants. Comparing the results of these surveys with earlier year surveys has direct bearing on the weed harvesting program permit application we submit to the DNR every five years.

In addition to these surveys, there will be a multi-month recreational boat-user study to augment the information we track in our yearly docked boat and pier count – due in July. Knowing how and when the lake is being enjoyed by people matters for safety and policy decisions.

We will do our best to post on our website and in social media when these surveys are occurring. Weather no doubt will adjust our plans! Please know that safeguards in response to COVID-19 will be in place.



Lianna Spencer



Dwight Osmon

Meet the Scientists

Lianna Spencer, MS, Environmental Conservation, Nelson Institute, University of Wisconsin. Before joining the Lake Ripley Management District as our Lake Researcher, Lianna worked for Onterra Consulting, DePere, leading crews conducting plant inventories, shoreline assessments, and water quality monitoring. Lianna lives in Lake Mills.

Dwight Osmon, MS, Environmental Science with an emphasis in Freshwater Ecology, Western Washington University. Dwight earlier worked for Hey and Associates, Brookfield, as a water resources planner/aquatic biologist. In that position he compiled and analyzed new and existing biological and water quality data, coordinated extensive field monitoring, and drafted and implemented lake and aquatic plant management plans. Dwight, our Field Technician, lives in Oconomowoc.

We look forward to getting a lot of work done this summer with the assistance of these excellent new members of staff.



A Midland Painted Turtle loafing on a log in Milwaukee Bay.