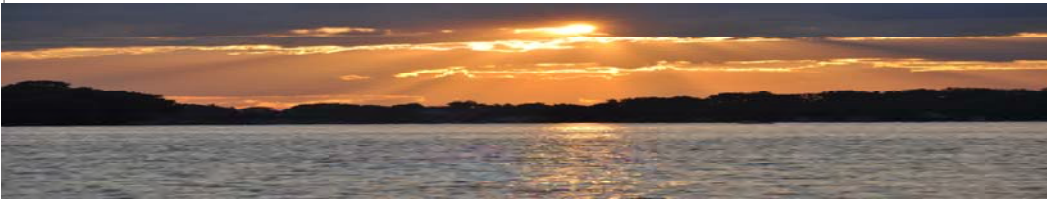


# Big Cedar Lake Protection & Rehabilitation District

Spring 2023

## Greetings from the BCLPRD Board of Commissioners



Each year, Big Cedar Lake gives us something to be grateful for in our lives. From its beckoning waves on a hot summer day to the wildlife and fish we catch and eat, we have reason to be thankful. We owe thanks to the people that help to take care of the lake as well. For that reason, in this newsletter you will find an article about people that make taking care of the lake their daily work. Big Cedar Lake Operations Manager, Jeff Rollins and Julie Riley, and the weed harvesting crew deserve our thanks for keeping the lake navigable for us to enjoy. Bob Lee continues to control the non-aquatic invasive plants on the properties owned by the BCLPRD.

In addition, the BCLPRD has worked on several items this past year that include approving a comprehensive plan for Big Cedar, which will be completed in 2024 by the South East Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC), upgrading equipment, obtaining

new buoys for the channel to better direct traffic, and continuing to improve the Annual Meeting experience for the lake district.

Over the past several months, the BCLPRD has reviewed two presentations on wake boating/surfing. This is a topic of discussion within many lake districts and we understand the many differing opinions that folks in our lake district may have. The board is looking into what other similar lakes have done, in addition to reviewing information to further investigate potential impact and resolution. At this point, we do not have any recommended action but will continue to investigate before any decisions are made. If any restrictions are potentially recommended in the future, this would require legal review and public input, as well as approval by the DNR.

*To receive the latest news and updates, go to [bigcedarlakeprd.org](http://bigcedarlakeprd.org) and "subscribe to updates" under the Information tab.*

## Mechanical Weed Harvesting Permit Information

The Big Cedar Lake PRD is in the process of obtaining a new permit from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to renew our mechanical harvesting permit for the control of the aquatic plants in Big Cedar Lake which will be applied for in late 2023, and the permit is issued for a 5-year period to expire in 2028.

The permit including maps, can be viewed at [bigcedarlakeprd.org](http://bigcedarlakeprd.org) under: PRD < Services < Plant Management Plan and Harvesting Permit.

This Notice is required under Chapter NR 107 of the WI Administrative Code.

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## Big Cedar Lake Water Spirits Trails on the West Side

You may have walked the trails on the West Side of Big Cedar Lake with a parking area on Cedarview Drive. The land preserved by the Cedar Lakes Conservation Foundation and the Big Cedar Lake Protection & Rehabilitation District offers several beautiful hiking opportunities. All trails are intended for the quiet and safe enjoyment of those who visit. For that reason, motorized and non-motorized vehicles are not allowed. These properties are all wildlife sanctuaries, so hunting is prohibited.

There are legal agreements referred to as a Conservation Easements that protect land parcels that possess significant scenic and open space values from development and degradation. There are prohibited uses included in Conservation Easement agreements that can include subdividing, partitioning, construction of structures, placement of signs or billboards that detract from scenic value, commercial or industrial use or activity on the property, alteration of the surface of the land or of bodies of water, and processing, storage, dumping or other disposal of wastes or debris. Properties that share a border with these parcels should practice care in order to not disrupt vegetation and animal habitats. ***ALL visitors are reminded to take with them, what they bring (including disposing of animal waste in provided receptacles), and to leave the area as they find it.***

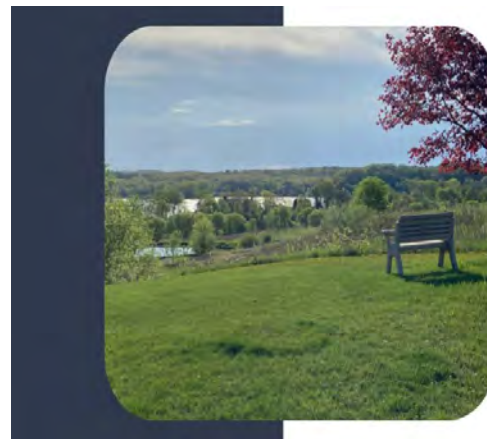


Photo courtesy of Robert Lee

### BCLPRD Barging Policy

It is the BCLPRD policy regarding collection of aquatic plants from landowners that all plants for pick up **MUST** be placed on the end of the pier. This placement facilitates pick up, avoids damage to the hull of the barge on shoreline obstructions (i.e., rocks) and allows the employees to safely transfer the plant material to the barge. Recently some landowners placed plants to be picked up on rocks at the shoreline to avoid discoloration of their pier. BCLPRD employees will not be allowed to risk their safety and personal injury to traverse rocky shoreline areas while carrying pitchforks to retrieve the weeds. It is imperative that the plants be placed on the end of the pier for pick-up.

Plants will be picked up during the week from piers on Fridays, weather permitting. *Please check the BCLPRD website home page ([www.bigcedarlakeprd.com](http://www.bigcedarlakeprd.com)) frequently to review the updated cutting schedule.*

Plants must be free of any trash, such as cans, tree limbs, leaves, etc., as the farmers who receive the plant material will not accept anything except plants. Other yard debris must be disposed of at either the Town of West Bend or the Town of Polk during their posted hours.

<https://townofwestbend.com/yard-waste-brush/https://cdn.townweb.com/townofpolk-wi.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/RECYCLING-CHART-FOR-POLK-CENTER.pdf>

Please note that adequate space is required between piers, boat-lifts, etc. to safely maneuver the barge to the pick-up point (20 feet minimum). If, in the opinion of the BCLPRD Public Works crew, these conditions are not met, the Commission's policy is to refuse pick up of plant material until the above conditions have been met.

### BCLPRD Weed Cutting Operations Soon Underway! Please Review These Safety Rules!

- Please mark any underwater obstacles, such as boat tracks, ramps, raft chains, etc. with a clearly visible buoy. These are unsafe for employees and equipment. If unmarked, these obstacles would prevent us from cutting in your area and could cause harm or damage to people and equipment!
- Placement of personal buoys are not allowed and may affect the ability to cut weeds in that area.
- Do not swim near or around equipment. If you swim between piers, we cannot cut in your area until you exit the water.
- Keep boat/wave runners at least 150 ft. from equipment at all times! We cannot change direction easily to avoid you.
- If passing equipment, please do so without a wake. A wake can cause operators to lose control of equipment.



**Thank you for your cooperation!**

### A Reminder About Slow-No-Wake

"Slow-No-Wake" by definition, means the slowest possible speed by which one can maintain steerage.

Boating violations observed on the lake should be reported through the Big Cedar Lake PRD office at 262-629-9322 or through the Washington County Sheriffs Department at 262-335-4378. WSCO will contact the BCLPRD patrol officer on duty to respond.

***In the event of an emergency, please call 911.***

## Peninsula Narrows/Channel Traffic

The Lake District receives numerous complaints from residents in regards to unsafe boaters traveling in the wrong direction through the peninsula narrows or the channel of Big Cedar Lake. Our Water Safety Patrol Officers regularly warn boaters that are observed traveling in the wrong direction, prior to issuing citations. The citation that is issued for this violation holds a \$169 ticket amount. The BCLPRD has purchased NEW can style buoys for the center lane in the peninsula narrows in hopes of better educating boaters on the directional traffic through that area. *Please share this information to neighbors and politely to any boaters that you notice are traveling through the channel incorrectly.*

There are other violations that are also observed. These include towing through the peninsula narrows/channel which is a very unsafe activity as the distance across is not sufficient to safely tow tubes, rafts, skiers, etc.

## Boater Safety Classes for 2023

Boater Safety Classes are offered *ONLINE* through the WI DNR at [boat-ed.com](http://boat-ed.com)

In-person classes are offered at The Big Cedar Lake District Office, located at 4480 Gonring Drive, West Bend, WI 53095



### Session One Dates (must attend all three days)

Monday, May 15	6-9PM
Wednesday, May 17	6-9PM
Monday, May 22	6-9PM



### Session Two Dates (must attend all three days)

Monday, June 12	6-9PM
Wednesday, June 14	6-9PM
Monday, June 19	6-9PM

Anyone interested should check out the BCLPRD Website at [bigcedarlakeprd.org](http://bigcedarlakeprd.org) for more information. Under "information", "subscribe to updates" will pass on updates to you via email.

## Water Safety Patrol Report

The following information was provided by Jeff Rollins, BCLPRD Operations Manager/Water Safety Patrol Chief at the 2022 Annual Meeting. BCLPRD Water Safety Patrol operates on a part-time basis from mid-May through Labor Day and beyond. Water Safety Patrol also provides patrol hours to Little Cedar Lake and Silver Lake in Washington County. The following were reported for 2022:

Total patrol hours: 1300+ Big Cedar  
Citations: 81  
Warnings: 297  
2022 Boater Safety Class : 29 students

During the summer of 2022, there were NO serious incidents reported on the lake. *Please continue to use safe boating practices.*

The Big Cedar Lake PRD is also on Facebook "Big Cedar Lake PRD", and there is a public group on Facebook page titled "Access Big Cedar", where people post lost and found items to be retrieved.

## Thank You Weed Harvesting Crew!

### A Few Words about BCLPRD Aquatic Weed Harvesting Operations



The BCLPRD has established the means to offer aquatic weed harvesting operations for a number of years on Big Cedar Lake. There is also an Intergovernmental Agreement between the Big Cedar Lake PRD and the Little Cedar Lake PRD to provide aquatic weed harvesting services and also water safety patrol services to residents of Little Cedar Lake.

As you can imagine, weed harvesting on Big Cedar Lake is a very large job. The BCLPRD works very closely with the WI Department of Natural Resources in order to properly manage the lake's water quality, offer Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) controls, and many other lake management projects in order to keep our lake beautiful. Common questions about weed harvesting...

#### How many people are in the summer weed cutting crews?

There are 6+ crew members (mostly comprised of high school students) that begin assessing the weed growth in early June. Ideally the crew is split between the weed harvesting schedules on Big Cedar Lake and Little Cedar Lake. Big Cedar Lake also has two weed harvester operators that harvest on Big Cedar and Little Cedar. Once weed growth is observed, harvesting begins. Gilbert Lake is connected to Big Cedar Lake by an inlet on the North end of Big Cedar Lake. Our current DNR approved permit allows only a short window for our harvesting operations in Gilbert Lake and the channel to it.

We try to get to "hot spots" first. The lake cutting gets split up a bit after that due to different factors, such as weed growth, inclement weather, and crew availability. The weed harvesting permit for Big Cedar Lake allows for certain areas to be harvested. There are sensitive areas that the WI DNR does NOT permit harvesting. We keep the cutting schedule to mid-week, to allow Mondays and Fridays for pier-pickups, prior to weekend traffic.

#### What is the most challenging area of the lake and why?

The north end and the north bays of the lake. There are weed beds all over the lake, however, boat traffic contributes to "cut" weeds that blow where the wind takes them. Big Cedar Lake runs North/South therefore certain areas have more shoreline weeds. There are nutrients from farm fields coming into the lake in many areas that contribute to weeds' growth and we do our best to manage them.



#### What do you wish residents knew about cutting and barging the lake?

Residents should know that the crew is always training new members to continue providing pier pickups and weed harvest offloading among other public works responsibilities including building and grounds maintenance. With our crew providing services to Little Cedar Lake as well, there is A LOT of scheduling!

We really appreciate helping residents to beautify their shoreline especially when they hop in the water and help! It really is a team effort to keep our lake and shorelines healthy. Along with pier pickups, our crew also tends to focus on troubled areas.

**Thank you to the Weed Crew for all that you do!**

## Big Cedar Lake Independence Day Celebration Fireworks

Big Cedar Lake Fireworks  
show put on by the Big  
Cedar Lake Yacht Club

Date: Tuesday, July 4, 2023

Time: 9:30 p.m., approximately  
rain date is the following  
Saturday

If you would like to donate to  
this fireworks display please  
contact the Cedar Lake Yacht  
Club for more information.



Cedar Lake Yacht Club  
4734 Yacht Club Drive  
Hartford WI 53027

Online donations are  
accepted at [www.clyc.com](http://www.clyc.com) or

Check out the CLYC  
Facebook page for up to  
date information



Please join the Big Cedar Lake community in celebrating our  
Independence at the Fireworks Extravaganza Enjoy!



### Aquatic Invasive Species Reminder from AIS Coordinator at Washington County, Amanda Schmitz

As we quickly approach the warm summer months,  
many eager anglers and boaters are prepping to get out  
on Wisconsin's beautiful lakes and rivers. With  
increased boat traffic also comes the risk of boaters  
spreading aquatic invasive species! It is important for  
anglers and boaters to remember to make sure boats  
and gear are clean before entering a water body.  
Remember to:

- **CLEAN** off all plants & animals from your boat,  
trailer & gear
- **REMOVE** attached aquatic plants or animals from  
your boat, trailer & gear
- **DRAIN** all water from your boat including livewells  
& bait buckets
- **NEVER MOVE** animals, plants or live fish away  
from a water body

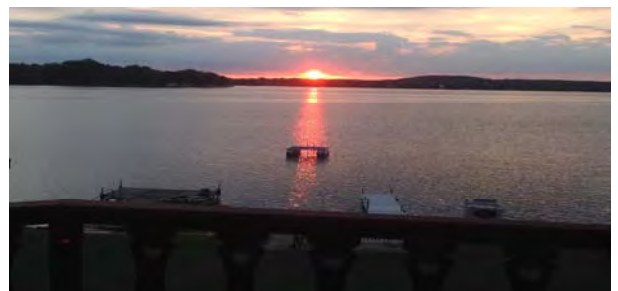
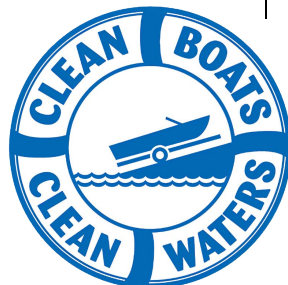


Please help keep  
Big Cedar Lake  
nice for future  
generations



**STOP AQUATIC  
HITCHHIKERS!**

Be A Good Steward. Clean. Drain. Dry.  
[StopAquaticHitchhikers.org](http://StopAquaticHitchhikers.org)





PROTECTION AND REHABILITATION DISTRICT

4480 Gonring Drive  
West Bend WI 53095  
[www.bigcedarlakeprd.org](http://www.bigcedarlakeprd.org)

**IMPORTANT  
INFORMATION  
INSIDE!**

## District Meetings

Big Cedar Lake Protection & Rehabilitation District meetings are held the third Wednesday of every month, unless there are meeting room conflicts. The meetings are held at the BCLPRD office located at 4480 Gonring Drive, West Bend. Check the website at [www.bigcedarlakeprd.org](http://www.bigcedarlakeprd.org) for agendas, minutes and updates. You are also asked to "subscribe to updates" to receive additional information available to all Lake Residents. Please reserve the date of Wednesday, August 23, 2023 on your calendar for the Annual Meeting! All are welcome to attend.

## Commissioners

Chris Genthe	Chairperson	<a href="mailto:cgenthea10@charter.net">cgenthea10@charter.net</a>
Christina Fiasca	Treasurer	<a href="mailto:christina.fiasca@gmail.com">christina.fiasca@gmail.com</a>
Dave Baldus	Secretary	<a href="mailto:dbaldusa77@gmail.com.com">dbaldusa77@gmail.com.com</a>
Matt Haldemann	Commissioner	<a href="mailto:mattprd44@gmail.com">mattprd44@gmail.com</a>
Jeff Braun	Commissioner	<a href="mailto:jbtttype@charter.net">jbtttype@charter.net</a>
Linda Bott	Town of West Bend Rep.	<a href="mailto:Linda.J.Bott@outlook.com">Linda.J.Bott@outlook.com</a>
Keith Stephan	Washington County Rep.	<a href="mailto:kstephan60@yahoo.com">kstephan60@yahoo.com</a>