

Peppermill Lake District News

April 2019

Spring Issue

Highlights:

- County flooding
- ACLA Schedule
- iNaturalist
- May—June Calendars
- Agenda

Your Board of Directors

Bill Pegler—Chair
(peglerw@netscape.net)

Jeff Ranous—Secretary
(jranous@gmail.com)

Art Donner—Treasurer
(cpadonr@msn.com)

Bob Cropp—Director
(racropp@wisc.edu)

BJ Schmitt—Director
(bjschmitt7322@gmail.com)

Dan Henning - Town
Representative
(dannylhenning@gmail.com)

Larry Borud—County
Representative
(larry3925@truevalue.net)

Water, Water Everywhere

For many of you who are making plans to come back to Peppermill Lake, now that spring is here, you will be happy to know that lake levels here are fine despite the heavy snow fall, rains, and quick thaw that all seemed to happen at once, here.

However, the lakes around us are struggling. Jordan Lake, which had already asked for a temporary no-wake provision because of the August 2018 rains, is even higher, now. Docks on the north side are covered with water, and on the south side of the lake, water has almost reached Fur Dr. at one location. And a section of Second Ave is still under two feet of water.

A public hearing will be held on May 4 to hear input on a proposed temporary no-wake ordinance for the entire year for Parker Lake.

And Goose Lake is also requesting temporary no-wake status while they deal with the fact that water levels are two feet above normal,

there.

County-wide, we have experienced over \$500,000 in damage to roads. You will see a lot of flooded fields when you return. And if the water is still high at the empty lot at the corner of Fish Ct. and County G, you may see a small beaver having some fun in its new mini-lake.

Ice-on for Peppermill Lake began on Nov. 7 and ended Mar. 31, so the lake has been open for awhile. It's still too early to tell how the plant population will respond to the nearly five-month ice covering. In early March, the ice was still over 12 inches thick.

During the winter months, several of us have been working hard on getting a new lake study grant application in the pipeline. Our goal to meet the Feb. 1 deadline was thwarted when we were told by DNR officials that our Lake Management Plan needed to be updated—again. New

requirements came into play for Plans while our 2017 Plan was caught in administrative limbo.

So we are now reworking our Lake Management Plan while working on the new grant application. We'll share more about this at the Apr. 27 meeting and in this newsletter as we progress. Our goal is to have the Plan approved and the grant submitted by the Dec. 1 deadline. We should have some solid numbers for our July budget prep meeting.

In the meantime, please thank Russ Stearns, Phil Singleton, BJ Schmitt, David Brownstein, and Bill Pegler for their work on these projects.

The last— and only— lake study was done in 2002. In light of the many changes we have seen in our lake over the last few years, it will be good to get a solid scientific perspective on what is going on.

We hope you can make it to the Apr. 27 meeting!

Peppermill Lake

Join the Board!

There are two open positions to vote on this year. Each is a three-year term.

Anyone interested can submit his or her name to Jeff Ranous to be placed on the ballot.

By law, nominations can be taken from the floor at the time of the meeting.

Once elections are completed, an organizational meeting will be held immediately after the Annual meeting to select officers.

The Adams County Lake Alliance has been busy over the last six months and has released its schedule of events for 2019.

The Alliance is comprised of members from Lake Districts, Lake Associations and watershed groups. The goal of the Alliance is to be a resource to lake and watershed groups, to educate, and to serve as a liaison with County government. Tourism brings in over \$300 million to Adams County and lakes play a big part in that. Helping County government to appreciate the importance of protecting our resources cannot be overstated.

On **May 11**, at the Adams County Community Center, two presentations will be given. Jennifer Bergman, our DNR fisheries expert, will discuss improving fish habitat on lakes. Then, Leah Eckstein, the County Public Health Director, will speak about blue-

Adams County Lake Alliance Releases Schedule

green algae outbreaks in the County and about E. Coli testing in lakes.

June 8th, at the Town of Rome Town Hall, there will be a presentation about the efforts to protect the 14 Mile Creek Watershed. That meeting begins at 11 AM and food will be provided.

July 13th, a tour of Wallendal Farms (just north of us on 5th Ave) will be given to understand best practices relating to soil and water conservation in an agricultural context.

August 10th is the date for the ACLA annual meeting where officers and budget will be voted on.

September 14 will be set aside for a presentation about the Wisconsin River Basin TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) Project which begins in 2020 after years of study and preparation. For those of you who have boated and fished on Castle Rock Lake or Pettenwell Lake you may have

been concerned about the lack of water clarity and the large swathes of slimy green algae in portions of both lakes.

The TMDL project aims to reduce the release of phosphorus all along the Wisconsin River so that phosphorus levels in those lakes will also be reduced.

This systemic approach to phosphorus load management will affect agriculture, waste management, paper production—anything that influences the Wisconsin River.

The presentation will give you an overview of the science and the politics that made this first -of-a-kind effort possible. 9 AM at the Adams County Community Center.

Explore iNaturalist

“iNaturalist is a citizen science project and online social network of naturalists, citizen scientists, and biologists built on the concept of mapping and sharing observations of biodiversity across the globe. iNaturalist may be accessed via its website or from its mobile applications.”

Once you download the free app onto your iPhone or Android device you can take pictures of plant life, insects, birds, reptiles and other wild life and submit them for identification. The app will then attempt to identify what you have photographed and offer possible names. Once you select the best fit, your picture is referred to an expert for further refinement. Your information then becomes part of an international database.

“Every observation can contribute to biodiversity science, from the rarest butterfly to the most common backyard weed. We share your findings with scientific data repositories like the [Global Biodiversity Information Facility](https://www.gbif.org/) to help scientists find and use your data. All you have to do is observe.” Go to inaturalist.org or to your favorite app store. “Its critter-recognition software is amazing.” —Bill Pegler

May 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4 <i>Parker Lake Public hearing Bass Season begins</i>
5 <i>First fireflies can be seen.</i>	6	7 <i>Indigo Buntings arrive</i>	8	9	10	11 <i>International Migratory Bird Day</i>
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24 <i>Wild Asparagus emerges</i>	25
26	27 <i>Rachel Carson's Birthday</i>	28	29 <i>Beavers begin birthing kits</i>	30	31 <i>Monarch Butterflies arrive</i>	

June 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 <i>Black Bears begin mating</i>	3 <i>Common milkweed begins to bloom</i>	4 <i>Gaylord Nelson's Birthday</i>	5	6 <i>Purple Coneflower begins to bloom</i>	7	8
9 <i>Butterfly weed begins to bloom</i>	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17 <i>Full Moon</i>	18	19	20 <i>Canada goldenrod begins to bloom</i>	21 <i>Summer Solstice</i>	22
23	24	25	26	27 <i>Prairie dock begins to bloom</i>	28	29
30						

Peppermill Lake District

P.O. Box 406, Oxford, WI 53952



Peppermill Lake District

Phone: 608 586 5238

Email: peglerw@netscape.net

VISIT US AT

WWW.PEPPERMILLAKE.US

Proposed Agenda – Quarterly Meeting - 9 AM Apr. 27, Jackson Town Hall, Hwy 82 and 4th Ave.

Call to order—Proper Meeting Notice notification—Approval of Agenda—Approval of Minutes—Treasurer's Report

Citizen Comment

Reports - grant committee, harvesting, lake management plan

Unfinished Business

- Discuss/Act on allocating funds for lake/groundwater studies

New Business

- Reappointment of Dan Henning as Town Representative (no action required)
- Discuss County Representative options
- Spring Preparation (Buoys, repairs, gen. maintenance, volunteers, signage, Barley bags, etc)
-

Announcements/Correspondence

- County Update
- Town of Jackson update
- ACLA Update
- CSWAC Update

Calendar update — Next meeting(s)—Adjourn