

Peppermill Lake District News

7/7/2017

Summer Issue

Highlights:

- Lake update
- Well Testing
- Healthy Lakes
- Proposed Agenda
- Calendar of Events

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Gearing up for 2018 Already

By the time you receive this newsletter our second plant harvesting should be on its way. We've had an incredible amount of rain which has kept the chara mounds in check so far. So that is good news for now. Two more harvesting are scheduled, one in mid-august and the last in mid-September.

I bring this up because plant harvesting is our single largest budget item and it is the most critical task we do in terms managing the lake. We capture a lot of data about our lake in order to understand our role in how we affect it. And nutrient management, in this case plant removal, can have a significant impact if we do too much or too little.

The three big contributors of nutrients in lakes are , farm runoff, septic system leakage and lawn fertilization. Too much phosphorus and nitrogen can create a range of problems for us. Cranberry bogs don't want nitrogen in

their water, for example, and they do whatever they can to control nitrate contamination.

So from a strictly Peppermill Lake perspective, we need to manage our plants for navigation and nutrient management. But from a county level we need to be aware of what could affect the quality and quantity of our water.

On the quantity side of the story, there is the concern about the proliferation of high capacity wells and their possible impact on rivers, lakes and streams. A single well can extract 100,000 gallons of water a day. While there is evidence that some lakes and rivers are drying up where high cap wells exist, there is not enough scientific evidence to prove causation. The trouble is, state government policies are making it hard to do the science necessary to articulate the causation.

Then on the quality side we

face the possible influences of Concentrated Animal Farming Operations (CAFO) where thousands of heads of cattle are raised in a way to be as efficient as possible. This often requires the use of high capacity wells and the creation of liquid manure that is spread on local farm land. The more CAFO's, the more manure. Not necessarily a bad thing but if our drinking water shows nitrate contamination , the cranberry farmers won't be the only folks upset. A CAFO is near us, in New Chester.

Again we need more science to prove causation. But in the short term our lake would benefit from having a baseline set of data identifying the quality of our well water in case outside influences change our water one way or the other.

So the July meeting will give members a chance to set the table for how we continue to harvest and how we want to keep track of our water quality.

- Jackson Township's website is now at www.townofjackson.us
- Peppermilllake.us now has a new Shoreland Protection page.
- Stay current with area activities. Check out the Event Calendar at our Website.
- To find high capacity well applicants in Adams County go to http://dnr.wi.gov/wateruse/pub_v3_ext/

Please support the local economy!

July 2017						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10 <i>Harvesting</i>	11 <i>Town BD Mtg</i>	12	13	14	15 <i>PML BD Mtg</i>
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					



Well Testing Kits

Private Well Testing Kits can be obtained through the UW Extension Office in the City of Adams. The Extension Office is located in the Adams County Community Center at 56 N Cedar St..

The Office offers two kits. The Basic Homeowner's Package (\$49) checks for coliform bacteria, nitrates, chloride, pH, total hardness, alkalinity, conductivity, and saturation index.

The Nitrate and Chloride Package (\$26) checks for

nitrates and chlorides which are often indicators of fertilizer usage, septic tank issues and other land use impacts.

The kits are mailed to the UW Stevens Point testing lab. It takes about three to four weeks to get the results mailed back. The testing lab also keeps a record of all test results. The Adams County Health Dept. will maintain the data in its water quality database. The results are stored with homeowners' names removed.

The Town of Rome has set up a program to sponsor the collection of 120 samples, working with the town of Saratoga, just over the border in Wood County in response to the 5300 cow CAFO established in Saratoga.

It is recommended that homeowners test their wells annually.

August 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8 <i>Town Bd Meeting</i>	9	10	11	12 <i>Lake Alliance Mtg</i>
13	14 <i>Next Harvesting</i>	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		Sep 2

Annual Meeting Coming Soon!

- Usually held on Labor Day weekend, which means September 2, this year. So plan ahead.
- One Board Position is opening this year.
- This is your chance to help set the budget and the mill rate that affects your taxes.
- The Annual meeting is preceded by a budget hearing (as required by law).
- The Annual meeting is your chance to propose actionable items that can be taken up by the Board in the future.
- You must be present to vote, so make your voice heard.
- A great opportunity to meet other folks from the Lake! We have a lot of new people. Please come!

Healthylakeswi.com

Healthy Lakes Wisconsin is a website that offers guidance on best practices for lake property owners while also offering grant opportunities for local governments and lake associations for small targeted projects. There are 5 best practices highlighted at the website, The first is the addition of “fish sticks” or tree drops into the lake . The fallen trees provide great fish habitat. We have done many drops in the past .

The second best practice addresses the encouragement of planting plants that are native to our ecosystem. The site provides guidelines, a factsheet and tools for managing runoff. Diversion of water to prevent runoff and soil loss is the third recommended best practice, Rock infiltration is the next practice. the goal being to capture and clean water runoff.

Related to this is the 5th best practice, creating rain gardens. Rains gardens create wildlife habitats and capture and clean runoff before the water reaches the lake. Goose Lake has been working on a rain garden and diversion program because of all the runoff occurring at their public landing, For more information and ideas please check out healthylakeswi.com

Peppermill Lake District

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Peppermill Lake District

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Life is short, it's full of stuff,
don't know what for, but I aint
had enough. —The Cramps

VISIT US AT

WWW.PEPPERMILLAKE.US

July 15, 2017 Proposed Agenda

9 AM - Jackson Town Hall, 4th & HWY 82

Call to Order/Certification of Meeting Notice/Approval of Minutes/Treasurer's Report

Committee Reports (Aquatic Plants, Aeration, LAG)

New Business

Lake Alliance Donation

Private Well Testing

2018 Budget Preparation of Annual Meeting

2018 Board Position Opening

CSWAC update

County Update

Lake Alliance Update

Unfinished Business—Lake Directory

Citizen Comment/ Next Mtg/ Adjourn