

Peppermill Lake District News

March 2014

Spring Issue

Your Board

- Bill Pegler —President — peglerw@netscape.net
- Art Donner —Treasurer — cpadonr@msn.com
- Candy Pegler —Secretary — candy.pegler2@gmail.com
- Bob Cropp—member — racropp@wisc.edu
- BJ Schmitt —member— jbjanddavid@foothill.net
- Dan Henning —Town Rep — dhenning1@tds.net
- Al Sebastiani —County Rep— mapres@maqs.net

Your Shoreline and the facts about Chara

Last year there were two major issues that rose to the top of everyone's concerns. The first is chara management, and the second is compliance with the county shore land protection ordinance that goes into effect July of 2015.

Both of these issues will be addressed directly by Reesa Evans who is our lakes specialist from the Adams County Land & Water Conservation Department at our April 5 meeting at the town hall.

Since 2009 we have reported on the growth of the algae, chara, on our lake. The hard winter of 2008-2009 (coupled with an aerator failure) set the stage for chara advancing from west to east, replacing Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) as our primary aquatic plant management challenge. In 2007 we spent over \$17,000 on aquatic plant management primarily using 2-4,D to treat EWM. In 2013 we spent over \$14,000 on plant management, all of it in the form of harvesting, and most of it dealing with chara mounds. This is our frame of reference.

And while chara is very beneficial for water clarity and phosphorus absorption, it still presents navigational challenges, especially during hot summers.

Because chara presents us with

unique management challenges, we have invited Reesa Evans from the Adams County Land & Water Conservation Department to answer your questions relating to chara.

At this meeting Reesa will also educate us on what we have to do before July 2015 in order to comply with the new shore land protection ordinance. Many of you have already received a second mailing from the Adams County Planning & Zoning Department relating to this issue. Reesa will explain how the county can help us to meet this deadline.

While July of 2015 seems far far away, creating the maps and taking the pictures needed to back up the information for the forms should be done sooner than later. We know that sounds trite, but there aren't many summers left.

And please note, we are not the only lake in the county. There are 27 lakes in Adams County which means a lot of people will need to

submit their data.

If you cannot meet the July 2015 deadline, you will have to pay a \$100 fee and run the risk of not being able to get a building permit until you are in compliance.

If you cannot make it to the April 5 meeting, please contact Bill Pegler or Candy Pegler for guidance. We plan to have specifics available at the Annual Meeting around Labor day, also.

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2014 Harvesting Schedule

The bid for harvesting for 2014 has been awarded again to Frank Knaus. The tentative schedule for harvesting, this year, minimally, includes these dates;

June 16 (Bloomsday, for any literary folks out there)

July 21

August 18

September 15

Please note that these dates are highly variable.

This has been a long hard winter and, as of 3/22, there is still

12 inches of ice the lake. Predicting when plant growth will reach the point where harvesting is necessary is always a challenge. We could have a very late Spring this year given the ice and the temps (19 degrees on 3/22), so we cannot guarantee these dates.

If we have an extremely hot summer again, these dates will likely change for very different reasons. As many of you know, lakes are dynamic and unpredictable given the shallowness of our lake, extreme plant

growth is always a possibility when the temperature increases.

These dates will also be posted on the Peppermill Lake Website on the Calendar menu option and updated accordingly.

Next Board

Meeting is April 5

2014 at 9 AM at

the Jackson Town

Hall.

Lake Plan Update

Year over year, we have had little input from the public relating to the Peppermill Lake Management Plan, the plan that is our overall roadmap for 2014-2016, and onward.

Some may say that signals "all is well". "We don't know what we don't know," is all too true, unfortunately. So, we have been asked, as part of our Management Plan, to capture, on a monthly basis, the dissolved oxygen (DO) readings

year round. By gathering these readings we can validate our aeration efforts and establish best practices. And, in the summer, these readings will help benchmark the impact our aquatic plants have on the lake, especially as temps increase.

So far we have data from January, February, and March.

Gregory Bateson once defined "information" as "any difference that makes a difference."

If you want to help us find that difference and have fun (really!) slogging on the lake (well, at least till we get the boats in the water), please contact a Board member now.

In the meantime, thanks to Jay Crawford, Bj Schmitt, David Brownstein, and Bill Pegler for putting the DO in "Doh! as we discover new things on the lake, even as we slip and slide from one end to the other.

Wisconsin Lakes Partnership Conference April 24-26

Spring Issue

The Annual Wisconsin Lakes Partnerships Conference is now being held at the Holiday Inn in Stevens Point. In the past, the conference had been held in Green Bay –and in the middle of the week.

Now that the conference is being held at Stevens Point, this is a great opportunity to learn more about lake ecology while only being a hour away from your Peppermill Lake home.

Details about the conference can be found here:

<http://www.wisconsinlakes.org/index.php/wisconsin-lakes-partnership-convention>

Issues about Wisconsin water will only increase over time, Between high capacity wells, (most of which are in central Wisconsin, which includes Adams County), to sand mining for hydraulic fracturing (Fracking), to invasive species control...all of these issues will play a role as to how our lakes

thrive in the future.

Please take a day or two to attend, and urge your Board members to attend, as well.

Your investment in Peppermill Lake doesn't stop at the water's edge — it goes well beyond and well below.

Shoreland Protection

We reported in an earlier newsletter that a new shoreland protection ordinance had been adopted by Adams County (<http://www.co.adams.wi.gov/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=JsWFljcbdeY%3d&tabid=81&mid=725>).

This ordinance requires all riparian owners to submit a map that details the buffer

zone in existence for each property by July of 2015. Prior to July of 2015 there is no fee, Afterwards, there will be a \$100 fee.

The **General Permit Application** located at the link to the left must be filled out by all of us who have lakefront property including a map that details the size of our buffer zone, While it is probably getting late

in the year to do much of this now, it is definitely something you will want to put on you radar for the coming Spring.

If you have any questions about this, please contact Matt Bremer at the Adams County Planning & Zoning Dept. Can-dy and I can also help with getting you a map of your lot.

More to come on this in upcoming newsletters.

Adams County Lake

Alliance

Website can be found here:

<http://>

[www.adamscountylakeswi.o](http://www.adamscountylakeswi.org/)

rg/

<http://dnr.wi.gov/lakes/>

If you visit the link above you will find a very useful resource for all the lakes in Wisconsin. If you search for "Peppermill Lake" you will be taken to a page that has general information about our lake, links to an interactive map and a bathymetric map and much more.

This site is also the entry point for the data we collect for water quality testing, ice on/off

reports, and Clean Boats Clean Water survey submissions. Eventually we will be able to do much more data sharing using this site and it will become a great tool for generating data to share at our annual meetings or quarterly meetings.

This site has just undergone a major revision and is getting more and more powerful with

each iteration.

Just as a note, some of the information relating to current board members is obsolete. Corrections have been submitted to the appropriate parties and should be updated shortly.

Peppermill Lake District
P.O. Box 406, Oxford, WI 53952



P.O. Box 406
Oxford WI 53952
peglerw@netscape.
net

Forward—In All
directions!

WE'RE ON THE WEB AT
WWW.PEPPERMILLLAKE.US

PMLD Proposed Agenda

04/5/2014 9 AM Jackson Town Hall

Call to Order—Certification of Notice posting - Approval of Agenda - Approval of Minutes—Treasurer's report

Old Business

- 1) Committee Reports - Aeration, Aquatic Plants**
- 2) Long Term Harvesting Plan (deferred from last meeting)**

New Business

LWCD presentation (Chara, Shoreline Buffer Compliance)
LWCD Financial support (letter of 3/17/14 from LWCD)
Spring Preparation (bouys, etc)
Website maintenance
Lake Alliance News
Citizen Comment
Next meeting (s)
Adjournment