



Manitowoc County Lakes Association

Countywide Lake Reports - Spring 2016

Carstens Lake

Carstens Lake Association is developing a grant application with the help of Stantec Consulting to develop a watershed improvement plan that would identify areas in the watershed to apply abatement practices to obtain a 20% reduction in phosphorus entering their lake. The application can't be submitted until February 2017.

Two volunteers are collecting water samples from six locations in the watershed this summer. A meeting is scheduled with the Manitowoc Soil & Water Conservation Dept. to look at remediation options for the watershed grant application.

Cedar Lake

Lake levels are high this spring with discharge through the outflow. Water clarity has been very good with visibility down to 18 feet. Sanitary District #1 at Cedar Lake has received a grant to do a lake management study in late June or early July. Wisconsin Lake and Pond Resources will be doing a plant survey, sending out a questionnaire to all lake residents and putting together a report. We have also submitted a grant to purchase a new plant harvester next Spring. That grant is hopefully scheduled to be approved late this Summer.

After the first weekend of busy boat traffic yesterday, floating EWM (Eurasian Watermilfoil) was found and removed. It is believed to have come from the boat launching area, based on the wind and wave direction. Monitors are out looking for any new colonies of EWM.

English Lake

English Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District is wrapping up a three year DNR aquatic invasive species grant. Onterra, LLC staff mapped with GPS the Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) and removed over 600 samples to study. Upon completion of the study ecologists recommended that the lake be chemically treated. Staff from Clean Lakes treated the lake in 2012, but unfortunately the chemical did not work. In the summer of 2013 the EWM was again mapped, samples taken, studied, and analyzed. It was found that the EWM was a hybrid variety and thus needed a different compound. In the spring of 2014 Clean Lakes staff applied an experimental chemical to the lake and the amount of EWM was reduced. In the spring of 2015 some colonies of the EWM still existed, but it was decided not to apply another chemical to the lake, but to have divers hand harvest the EWM. Aquatic Plant Management, LLC was hired and staff removed 375 gallons of EWM. Also residents spent 139 hours hand harvesting the EWM. Volunteers logged in 184 hours of monitoring the lake during taking the lake's water temperature and sampling the water for chemical residue. During the first year of the grant a boat cleaning station was constructed at the public boat landing. Residents spent 108 hours maintaining it and volunteers logged in 339 hours inspecting boats for invasive aquatic species. This was the first boat cleaning station in Manitowoc County, and because of its success and popularity with boaters, several other lakes have constructed similar stations at their public boat landings.

Unfortunately, all the above efforts have not eliminated the EWM from English Lake. The District will continue to work with the DNR and Onterra staff to devise means and methods to control EWM in the lake. Applying another chemical treatment to the full lake in 2017 is being considered.

This spring the invasive species, garlic mustard, was discovered on the road leading to the public boat landing. Volunteers immediately sprayed the garlic mustard before it could spread further. Northern Ecological Services did a control burn on the prairie on the north side of the lake that helps filter runoff from area crop fields. In addition, six residents applied weed killer for burdock, dames rocket, and thistle and other invasive species in the prairie as well as the road side.

Gass Lake

Ice out was March 13th, the earliest was March 3rd. Curly leaf Pond weed was discovered at the boat landing this spring by DNR staff. This is the first invasive species identified on little Gass lake.



Curly leaf forms a seed head called a Turion, which resembles a small pint cone that burst and expels seeds. The plant prefers cold water and disappears by midsummer. In some Kewaunee County lakes, the plant has formed dense matts shading out native species and making it difficult to fish or boat through. Photo by Paul Skawinski.

Harpts Lake

The Larrabee Sportsmans Club is working with Manitowoc County Parks Department to replace the public pier at the boat landing on Harps Lake. Pier designs have been drawn and approved. Permits have been applied for and approved. We have filed for a Recreational Boating Facility grant to help offset the cost. The grant has been submitted and we are waiting to hear good news. If approved for the grant, we hope to have the pier replaced in early summer.

In late winter/early spring the Larrabee Sportsmans Club added a walleye spawning reef on the south east side of Harpt Lake. Clean rock was hauled to the lake shore in fall of last year. After the ice was safe, club members loaded the rock onto trucks and placed the rocks onto the ice. In spring, the club

members re-visited this site during the walleye spawning season. It was exciting to see the walleye using this newly formed spawning reef!



The sportsman club created a walleye spawning reef this last year by hauling rocks on the ice after it was safe.



Yellow perch were stocked in Harpt Lake year. The Larrabee Sportsmans Club purchased 2800 perch and stocked them during the evening of April 21st. This is the second consecutive year perch were stocked in the lake.

Hartlaub Lake

Conditions at Hartlaub Lake are less than desirable. Water clarity is at 3 feet as of the end of May. The lake is ringed with algae and both Curly-Leaf Pondweed and Hybrid Eurasian Milfoil are taking over the native vegetation. Fishing success is limited to very small bluegills and a few bass that seem to never get over 14 inches.

On the brighter side, lake conditions usually improve a little deeper into the summer. Historical water clarity levels are about 6 feet by July 1st. The Curly-Leaf Pond weed disappears as the water warms and the Hybrid Milfoil is usually pushed aside by Coon-tail. We expect to see plenty of weeds but fishing is possible.

Hartlaub is one of the county lakes that have a 645 acre watershed with over 350 of that amount in agriculture. The lake is just average size at 38 acres, with a ratio of watershed acres to lake acres of 17/1. The Manitowoc lakes that have a ratio of more than 10/1 generally have high phosphorus readings and water quality issues.

This year the ice left the lake a bit early than normal. The association has 35 years of “ice cover” and “ice out” dates. Our data shows the usual “ice out” week is the last week of March.

This summer, Hartlaub Lake Association is going to construct an osprey nest. We have working plans and a projected location that is about 500 yards from the lake. Ospreys prefer an area with minimal disturbance and an unobstructed view.

Lake Michigan

A two part program for Shoreline property owners to restore their shoreline and habitat was held at the Lakeshore Technical College in Cleveland on May 3rd and May 28th. Both sessions were well attended. Presenters included Stantec, Marek Landscaping, Wisconsin Waterfowl Association, Woodland Dunes, and Glacial Lakes Conservancy. Lake Michigan Advocates and Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership will continue to offer shoreline landowners expertise and resources to manage this unique environment.

Lake Michigan Levels are predicted to continue to rise, peaking in late summer at 36” above datum. That level will be 6” (+/-6”) above current levels. It will be 14” above average, 18” below the 1986 high, and 42” above the 1964 low. (Visit <http://www.glerl.noaa.gov/data/now/wlevels/levels.html> for complete water level predictions from NOAA.

Long Lake

Ice went out all at once on March 16th. Volunteers and County Parks are cleaning up the shoreline restoration project from 2013. Invasive species have moved into the site.

Pigeon Lake

Ice went out mid-March. The Association had a fund raiser, a tree drop, contestants had to guess when the tree would drop thru the ice in the spring. The proceeds went for the fish fund used to conduct a fall fish stocking. A winter golf outing was held with 73 people participating and money went into the stocking fund.

Their DNR application to treat Eurasian Milfoil for this year was denied. The estimated cost is about \$10,000 with an additional \$3,000 to develop an aquatic plant management plan before treatment is permitted.

Silver Lake

Ice fishing this past winter was down with less ice shacks this past winter. Oxygen levels were much better this winter. Grants to reconstruct the boat launch/ box culvert have been submitted. The cost estimate for the new bridge/boat launch is \$300,000. The bridge would be 39ft. wide vs. the existing 24ft. wide box culvert to pass flood water. The parking lot would be bigger and the project should pass a 25-year storm compared to the existing systems 2-year storm capacity.

Spring Lake

Fishing pressure is earliest on Saturday mornings. Residents would like a boat cleaning station erected at their boat launch. Water clarity was over 13 feet in April, the pollen has lowered clarity 8 feet in May.

Weyers Lake

Weyers lake is a small lake that can produce nice size bluegills but they are hard to catch. MCLA is working with the Manitowoc Unit of Fish & Game to replace the aging aerator with a more efficient model. A committee has been formed that is investigating equipment options.

Wilke Lake

Phosphorus levels for ice out were 20 which is good news. Harvesting EWM over the years has helped to remove lake phosphorus. The Association purchased a new weed harvester and the old harvester was sold to someone in Europe.