

Lake Redstone

Protection Connection

LAKE REDSTONE PROTECTION DISTRICT • FALL 2011

‘Hard Water’ Fishing Just Around the Corner

by Gary Herritz

NOT ONLY IS LAKE REDSTONE a great recreational and fishing lake during open water, it is also a great lake during the winter months. Many people use the lake for such things as cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, and also fishing. In this article, I will be covering some of the most frequent questions that I’ve been asked about ice safety, fish locations, and rules and regulations.

You’ll never see me win a “first one on the ice” competition, as there is not a fish anywhere that is worth falling through the ice for! When a lake freezes, it is nothing more than a floating sheet of ice and during early ice, many factors can influence the thickness of that sheet.

The main contributors to ice thickness on Redstone include geese, rocks, and penetration by sunlight. Geese usually hang around near the Eagle Court subdivision, and even though the lake can be completely froze everywhere else, that area will still be thinner than the rest of the lake. Sunlight hitting the rocks, especially in the narrows, warms the rocks and in turn the water around them—always stay a safe distance away from those areas.



GARY HERRITZ.

A short rod and a small hole can yield plenty of fish through Lake Redstone’s ice.

Driving on the ice

LAST YEAR, WE HAD two vehicles break through the ice. One was in the back portion of Eagle Court, and the other out from the beach. In the first instance, only the front end of the car dropped through, but the second vehicle went completely under in more than 30 feet of water! Thankfully, in both cases no one was hurt and all were able to exit their vehicles on their own.

If you decide to drive on the ice, please remember to keep your windows down, seat belts off, and your doors unlocked. Also, since higher speeds generate larger waves under the ice that can make it unstable, you are always safest driving as slow as possible. This is especially true at access points such as Fox Court, Section 11, and the north end. When driving on the lake, I also recommend you stay away from the area between the beach and dam and anywhere that water flows into the lake.

Equipment

REMEMBER, YOU’LL BE ON ice and a great pair of boots will increase your comfort and extend your time on the hard water. All you really need to fish is a rod, an auger (or a friend with one), and some bait. Other items that I put into the category of “productivity

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Though ice shanties will soon be dotting Lake Redstone, the Board continues to explore ways to reduce the silt entering the north end of the lake during spring and summer rains.

Reducing Northern Silting Still Major Focus for District

by **Jim Mercier**, LRPD Chair

THIS PAST SUMMER, the District has been involved determining where the silt plume at the north end of the lake is actually coming from. If you remember the dramatic aerial photo looking south from County Highway F towards the Section 11 boat landing in the past two issues of this newsletter, it is easy to recognize that this is a major problem during heavy rain events. Montgomery Engineering of Cottage Grove was hired to help determine the origin of this silt plume.

Recently, we received the final report from Montgomery and there seems to be various areas in the northern watershed north of County F that contribute to the plume. Montgomery has suggested several alternatives to reduce the amount of the plume. As of now, the District has formed a committee to study these alternatives.

In the near future, the committee plans on having a meeting involving the District, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, the Sauk County Conservation, Planning, and Zoning Department, and others to help come up with a workable plan. One reason for this informal meeting will be to determine exactly what can or could be done to help rectify the problem. We will also be looking to see what funds may be available through grants from the county, the state, and the DNR.

Another project that the District will be involved with is the re-writing of our Aquatic Plant Management (APM) program. The DNR requires this to be done every so many years.

Additional projects that have been suggested for District attention include:

- ◆ Limiting the geese population on the lake;
- ◆ Implementing a shoreline stabilization program;
- ◆ Dredging of the Martin-Meadowlark retention ponds; and
- ◆ Addressing farm runoff.

If anyone has any other suggestions that would fall under the authority of the Lake Redstone Protection District, please feel free to contact any board member with your thoughts.

Last of all, I would like to thank all of the District's volunteers who take water samples for us, take all of our lake readings, and all of those who have helped with various projects over the years. Thank you all very much!

Hope everyone weathers the winter in good health, and we'll see you on the lake next spring.

-Jim



Geeg Drum

Lake Redstone Protection District

Protecting and rehabilitating the water quality of Lake Redstone for its residents and the public.

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tools” include locators, GPS units, underwater cameras, and ice shacks.

Rods are usually 18 to 32 inches in length and feature a light action to detect bites. For line, I like two-pound test and wouldn't go above four-pound, as the line will start to coil from being on the reel. For bait, I use jigs that hang horizontally in the water—color doesn't seem to matter much as it is only a delivery system for whatever is on the hook. I like artificial bait, as I don't have to worry about keeping it alive and can catch many fish on the same lure. Live bait such as waxworms, spikes, and minnows are also fine choices. However, I can say that every area ice tournament in the last five years or so has been won with artificial bait.

Please remember to also respect other people that use the lake, in particular with auger sizes. Wisconsin allows up to a 12-inch hole, which is huge. I can drop my foot through even a 10-inch hole, and for anyone who has not had that happen, let me tell you, it will ruin your day in quick fashion! I prefer a 7-inch to 8-inch hole and have never had a problem getting a fish through the ice.

Finding the fish

NOW THAT WE HAVE our equipment ready, it's time to find the fish!

Fish need three things: oxygen + food source + structure = great spot to fish. The water I mainly fish is never over 20 feet deep and never less than 8 feet. With the cover of ice, oxygen is in low supply, and I believe these depths have the most. Without a locator, it is tough to find any type of structure, so another idea is to go talk to some of the other folks out fishing. Most of the time, people are more than happy to give advice, especially to those just getting started.

When the ice gets thick enough we have all seen the “shanty towns” and believe me, they are there for a reason. In the southern portion of the lake, look for broken-off tree stumps or large branches on the shore—this is almost always an indicator that structure is laying on the bottom. Sometimes the structure is so thick you will have to drill multiple holes to even be able to get your presentation down.

The fish in the last three years have been getting larger, which I attribute mainly to the health of the lake and also the new food source we have all come to love: the gizzard shad. Although they may be annoying while they are on the shorelines, they are a fantastic food source for everything from bluegill to musky. During the last tournament before the shad became prolific, the largest crappie weighed in at 0.63 pounds; since that time, we have weighed in numerous fish over one pound at each tournament.

Looking ahead

ALTHOUGH I DO NOT HAVE the exact dates, the La Valle Sportsman's Club will be having their yearly fisheriee on the lake. I'm also looking forward to the third annual Ralph Kosch Tournament. Both events are usually in late January. The fish from the tournament are all donated for a fish fry held during the kids clinic at Plenke's Pond in Reedsburg the first Saturday in June.

Some final points to keep in mind:

- ✓ Respect the lake and the people who use and live on it;
- ✓ Always leave the lake as clean—or better yet, **cleaner**—than when you got there;
- ✓ Take only the fish that you need and release the rest; and
- ✓ Introduce someone new to the outdoors whenever possible.

Have a great winter and stay safe! ♦

Gary Herritz is the former manager of La Valle Trophy Tackle and is always happy to answer any questions about the lake. He can be contacted at gherritz@gmail.com.



GARY HERRITZ.

Driving on the ice is not without its perils, as the owners of this truck learned in February.

Take a Stake in Your Lake!

Here are a few simple ways you can help enhance Lake Redstone and protect your property investment:

- **Establish a rain garden;**
- **Use low- or no-phosphate detergents;**
- **Ensure proper maintenance of your septic system;**
- **Keep hard surface on your property to a minimum;**
- **Choose zero phosphorus fertilizer or use no fertilizer at all;**
- **Properly dispose of household hazardous wastes and medicines;**
- **Protect your property from soil erosion by maintaining shoreline buffers;**
- **Keep garden refuse, grass clippings, leaves, pet waste, and campfire ashes out of the water; and**
- **Don't feed the geese.**

You can learn more at:

- www.dnr.wi.gov/lakes
- www.uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexplakes/
- www.wisconsinlakes.org/

Lake Redstone

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Snails the Latest Threat to Area Lakes?

by Amanda Kinsman

The stated problem was the effects of invasive Chinese Mystery Snails on native snail populations. We hypothesized that if an invasive species, such as the Chinese Mystery Snail, were introduced to an area, say Dutch Hollow Lake, the invasive species would drive out the native population.

Our experiment to test the hypothesis was to go out to Dutch Hollow Lake and take some random samples of the shoreline. To do this, we put together 1 m by 1 m of PVC pipes to measure out the same quadrant all four times. We had to measure out 100 m of shore line to walk along and randomly drop our quadrants. We counted the number of native snails and the number of Chinese Mystery Snails in each separate quadrant. Along with taking down the number of snails, we measured the size of a few random snails in each quadrant. Along with counting and measuring the snails, we recorded conditions of the quadrants such as sandiness, rockiness, or weeds.

In the end, the data collected showed that there were at least 45 Chinese Mystery Snails in each and we found only one native snail out of all the four quadrants we looked in. To have a better picture of how the Chinese Mystery Snails have affected the area, we should first find out the original population of the native snails. But from what we can conclude from the information collected, one can deduct that the Chinese Mystery Snails have, in fact, driven out the native snails.



Environmental Studies students at Reedsburg Area High School recently conducted research on the impact of invasive species in area waters. In this report, Amanda Kinsman discusses her group's study of the Chinese Mystery Snail. Now found in roughly half of the lakes in northern Wisconsin, the non-native snail was discovered in Dutch Hollow Lake this past summer.