

Lake Redstone

Protection Connection

LAKE REDSTONE PROTECTION DISTRICT • SPRING 2015

Herbicide, harvesting to tackle weeds

Aquatic Plants Focus of New Master Plan

by Dave Blumer and Ken Keegstra

Over the past two years, the District has developed a new Aquatic Plant Management Plan (APMP) with the assistance of our consultant, Dave Blumer of Lake Education and Planning Services, and the efforts of many volunteers.

This plan is the product of a process that began several years ago. Implementation is expected to continue for at least the next five years and most likely beyond. The APMP is intended to be a dynamic document that is changed as more is learned about what works well and what is less effective in Lake Redstone. This plan will help the LRPD focus efforts to achieve a proper balance of plant life in Lake Redstone by controlling nuisance invasive species while encouraging the growth of desirable native species of aquatic plants.

A copy of the recently approved plan is available on the LRPD website (www.lakeredstonepd.org). While the APMP is a large document (over 100 pages when all the appendices are included), we strongly encourage all Lake Redstone residents to at least examine the executive summary.

What is to be learned by reading the APMP? First, the document has considerable background information about Lake Redstone and past management activities that have been pursued to control both algae and aquatic plants. It also contains background information on other management activities, such as fish stocking and erosion-control efforts.

Second, it describes the steps that the District intends to pursue over the coming years. Activities aimed at controlling nuisance aquatic plants will focus on manual harvesting and

chemical control. The latter strategy will include early spring herbicide treatment to inhibit the growth of Eurasian watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*) and mid-summer applications to areas where plants are at nuisance levels. As

LRPD Annual Meeting August 1

Join us for the LRPD Annual Meeting at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, August 1 in the La Valle Town Hall, 314 Hwy 33/58. The meeting features an election to fill open seats on the LRPD Board.

Please consider joining our team!

To become a candidate, submit a brief biography by July 5 to Secretary Geeg Drum at P. O. Box 313, La Valle, WI, 53941 or drumg@mwt.net.

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Swallow, Martin-Meadowlark added for 2015

Experimental Spring Treatments Show Success

by Dave Blumer and Ken Keegstra

As noted in the cover article, an experimental program of early spring treatment for control of Eurasian watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*) is part of the District's new Aquatic Plant Management Plan. This treatment was performed in Mourning Dove Bay in May of 2013. Surveys done in the fall of 2013 showed that the density of EWM in Mourning Dove Bay was significantly reduced, leading to the preliminary conclusion that the treatment was effective. Further monitoring performed in 2014 determined that the treatment had a longer-term effect on the level of EWM and that it did not appear to damage the native plants in this bay.

Based on the encouraging results in Mourning Dove Bay, LRPD is expecting to treat two other bays in the spring of 2015: Martin-Meadowlark and Swallow. You should have already received a letter from Cason and Associates informing you about these spring plans. Additional planning for treatment of other bays in 2016 and beyond is already underway. Until these plans are complete and approved by the Wisconsin DNR, summer nuisance treatments can still be done. The District is also developing a more consistent and efficient physical removal program as well.

According to consultant Dave Blumer, the early spring treatments have several advantages over other more traditional herbicide applications. The major benefit is the selectivity achieved by treating at a time when EWM is growing and the native plants are still dormant. Another advantage is that a whole area, such as a bay, can be treated, as opposed to the very localized treatments performed in mid-summer herbicide applications.

The implementation of early spring treatments requires considerable advanced preparation and follow-up analysis in order to evaluate the effectiveness of the procedures. The levels of aquatic plant growth, both native species and invasive ones, need to be determined by quantitative surveys both before and after the treatment. This allows an evaluation of the effectiveness and the specificity of the current treatment along with an assessment of which areas should be chosen for future treatments. Identifying the proper time to apply herbicides is determined by water temperature, so this needs to be measured regularly from the time of ice-out until the time of the treatment. After an area is treated, herbicide levels in the water need to be measured repeatedly to confirm that the herbicide reached the target levels and stayed at



JOHN ALBANESE

Early season treatments planned for this spring should lower the abundance of Eurasian watermilfoil in

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3 Martin-Meadowlark Bay, seen here in 2014.

Manual Harvesting an Effective EWM Alternative

by Chuck Eckland and Ken Keegstra

One effective and chemical-free way to control nuisance levels of Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM) is to manually remove it. Several Lake Redstone residents used this method last summer and plans are being made to coordinate a manual harvesting program again in the summer of 2015.

If you live in a region of Lake Redstone that is designated as a

“sensitive area,” then a permit from the Wisconsin DNR is required before removing EWM from the lake. However, applying for the required permit can be time-consuming and expensive.

Last summer, LRPD applied for a single permit that covered all those who wanted to manually harvest EWM. The District also covered the cost of the permit. We plan to repeat that process again this year.

The best way to be included in the 2015 communal permit is to visit the “Manual Harvesting Booth” at the Lake Fair that will be held on Saturday, June 27. At the booth, you can learn whether you live in a “sensitive area,” enroll in the program, learn how to identify EWM, how best to harvest it, and get information on how you can hire someone else do the harvesting for you.

If you cannot attend the Lake Fair, please contact Ken Keegstra (ken.keegstra@gmail.com or 608-985-8259) or Chuck Eckland (cecklund@mwt.net or 608-985-8280) to enroll. In order to list you on the permit, we will need to know your name, your lake address, and your contact information (email address, phone number and/or mailing address). ♦



PRISCILLA BONDHUS

LRPD intern Tanner Ruechel and DNR Water Resources Management Specialist Susan Graham (center, with tools) discuss manual removal of Eurasian watermilfoil with landowners during a June 2014 workshop at the County F boat landing.

Spring Treatments . . . CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

those levels for sufficient time to have the desired impact on plant growth.

The performance of all of these activities requires considerable financial resources and volunteer assistance. Thus, it is important for all of us, both Lake Redstone property owners and the LRPD board members, to make informed choices about where to treat and when. Your comments about the management of aquatic plants in Lake Redstone are not only appreciated, but necessary if the LRPD is to successfully implement the new plan. ♦

For more information on this topic, see Dave Blumer’s article in the Spring 2013 Protection Connection (www.lakeredstonepd.org/newsletter).

Last spring, the District introduced two interns from UW-Platteville to help tackle the problem of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS). We are very pleased to share the results of our

GOOD INVESTMENT

Tanner Leads CB/CW Effort

Thanks to a DNR grant and our creative partnership with the Dutch Hollow Lake Property Owners Association, biology major Tanner Ruechel assessed the threats posed by Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) and developed a team of volunteers to educate boaters about steps to prevent the spread of these troublesome plants, snails, mussels, and fish.

He and his volunteers spent over 200 hours interviewing and educating lake users at boat landings on both lakes about invasive species and their impacts. Additionally, Tanner posted "Invasive of the Week Watch" articles on the Lake Redstone Property Owners' Association website, which proved an important tool in public education.

In compliance with our DNR grant, Tanner submitted a comprehensive report, which is available for review at the La Valle Town Hall. The following is excerpted from his concluding statements:

Based on data collected the summer of 2014, boaters travel most frequently between Lake Redstone and Dutch Hollow Lake. While this does not put Dutch Hollow Lake at very high risk of being exposed to AIS, it does put Lake Redstone at risk of being invaded with the mystery snail. The Wisconsin River as well as a few less frequently visited lakes also contributes to Lake Redstone's risk of mystery snail invasion.

In reality, the risk of purple loosestrife invading Lake Redstone could be higher than the data suggest due to its presence in the Town of La Valle and Reedsburg.

Zebra mussels are a household name when talking about AIS and surprisingly fall in the middle of the pack for risk of invasion on Lake Redstone.

Rusty crayfish are found in relatively few lakes and should pose less of a threat due to the difficulty in accidental transportation. As AIS awareness increases and boat laws become stricter they should be a minor focus for Lake Redstone.

Cylindro is primarily a risk due to Castle Rock Lake visitors. These invasive blue-green algae could easily spread on a boat or trailer during blooms to Lake Redstone or Dutch Hollow Lake.

Lake Redstone should focus on education and prevention of the mystery snail, purple loosestrife, zebra mussels, and Cylindro. ♦

Tanner Ruechel developed a team of volunteers to assess and combat the spread of invasive species.



Working Together to Monitor and Prevent the Spread of Aquatic Invasive Species

Town of LaValle



EVENTS

by Geeg Drum

Trevor Tackles Runoff in North Watershed

Trevor Rundhaug's intern position was funded jointly by the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service and LRPD. Working under the Juneau County Land and Water Resources Department, the environmental engineering major focused his time and energy on ways to reduce sediment and runoff from the large northern watershed that flows into Lake Redstone.

Performing on-site inventories on agricultural lands within the Lake Redstone watershed, Trevor looked for gully erosion sites within crop fields and pastures that could be repaired with best management practices, including grassed waterways and grade stabilization structures such as embankment dams and rock chutes. The inventory was done on a strictly voluntary basis and many successful interactions were held with agricultural landowners in the area.

Trevor identified 15 possible sites that could be worked on. Prioritizing the sites and looking at funding options for 2015, three sites were chosen for funding jointly through the USDA Environmental Quality Incentives Program and the LRPD. These projects will involve three grassed waterways and two grade stabilization dams to be installed this spring. This will have a huge impact on sediment delivery off these properties to the lake and will serve as demonstration projects for other landowners in the watershed. We expect more of these projects to be cost-shared and built in the future.

During his internship, Trevor also spread the word about the USDA Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). CRP is a voluntary conservation program that puts highly erodible cropland under a grass cover. In exchange for an annual rental payment from the federal government, landowners agree to take sensitive land out of agricultural production for 10 years. Typical farmed soils in the Lake Redstone watershed would receive around \$120/acre rent.

Meeting with both crop renters and landowners, Trevor discussed the positive changes in the program rules that make CRP much easier to manage from year to year. He also explained the wildlife benefits and soil conservation benefits of putting lands under a grass cover and how this will ultimately reduce sediment and nutrients reaching Lake Redstone.

Already, several Lake Redstone area landowners have chosen to put their lands into the CRP program. ♦



PHOTOS BY JON FIELD

A newly-constructed grade stabilization dam, above, is an effective technique for preventing gullies like the one shown at top.

USDA Program Targets Baraboo River Watershed

by Jon Field and Melissa Keenan

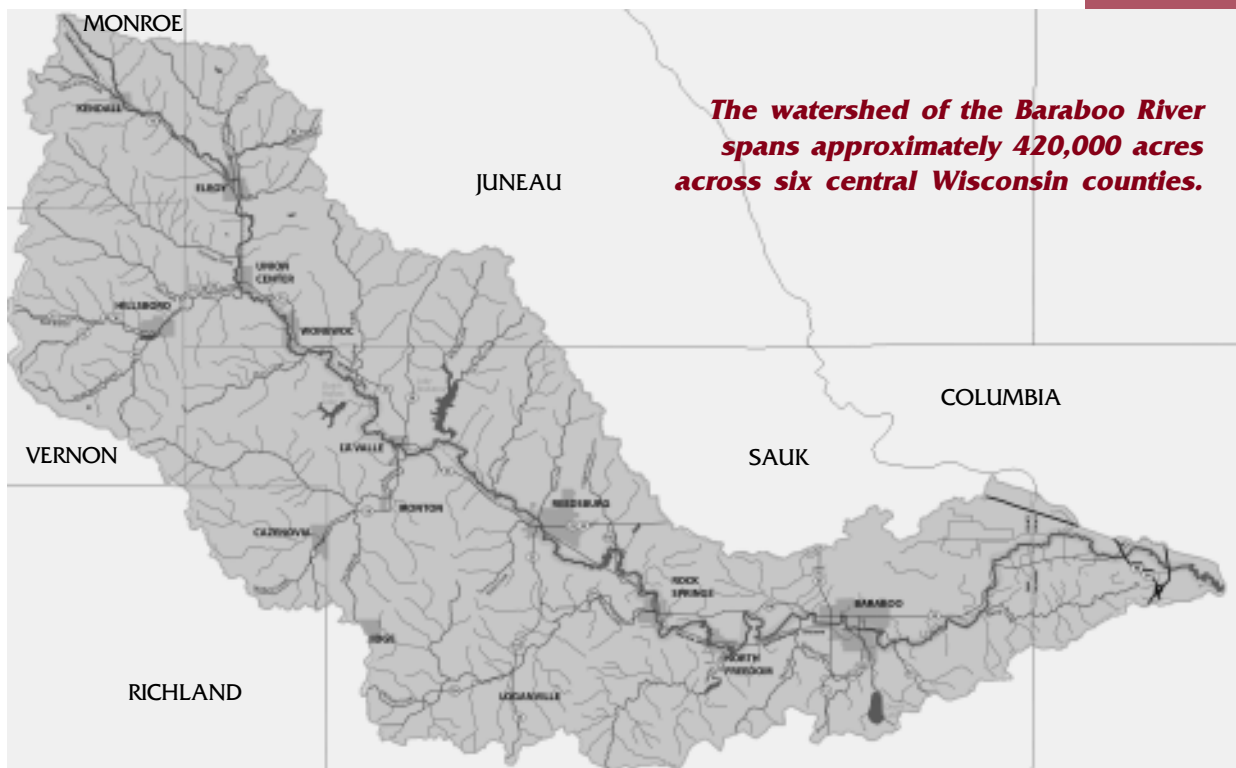
Area agricultural landowners stand to benefit from a new program by the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced in January that 100 high-impact projects across all 50 states will receive more than \$370 million as part of the new Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP). One of the projects that was funded aims at reducing sediment delivery and increasing soil health on agricultural lands in the Baraboo River watershed.

The project, submitted by the Sauk County Conservation, Planning, and Zoning Department, will be a collaborative effort between the NRCS and the six counties (Sauk, Columbia, Juneau, Monroe, Vernon, and Richland) included in the 420,000-acre watershed. For five years, \$200,000 in cost sharing will be made available annually to help landowners in the Baraboo River watershed improve soil health, protect water quality, and restore wildlife habitat. Common conservation practices include streambank stabilization, nutrient management, grassed waterways, and cover crops.

LRPD is poised to take advantage of these funds and the technical assistance that the conservation offices can provide. This will add to the District's current efforts on reducing sediment runoff into Lake Redstone.

The District is very proud of Sauk County's efforts in bringing this project to the Baraboo River watershed. This was one of only four Wisconsin projects that were funded from a total of over 600 proposals submitted to USDA.

For more information about the RCPP, you can visit www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/wi/home/. To learn about resources available in Sauk County, visit www.co.sauk.wi.us/cpz or call Melissa Keenan at 608-355-4838. 🍷



Lake Fair Returns June 27!

by Tom Happ

Lake Redstone and Dutch Hollow Lake are planning our second Lake Fair for Saturday, June 27 at the Dutch Hollow Lake Clubhouse, E2670 Clubhouse Drive, with a theme of **“Recreation, Education, and Conservation.”**

Educational presentations on topics such as erosion control, till/no till, boat safety, and mow/no mow are planned. We'll have water rescue demonstrations, local vendor tables for displaying products, and fire and rescue touch-a-truck. There will be additional attractions for kids, such as junk critter building and fishing demonstrations. Drawings will be held throughout the day, and food and drinks will be available.

Like our first Lake Fair in 2013, this event is for all; local residents, visitors, and lake property owners. Anyone would enjoy a day of learning about how we all can help preserve our lakes.

Please join us from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and have some fun! ♦

Did you know?

by Geeg Drum

LRPD Bylaws require formal committees for several lake issues and allow them for other topics. Some committees have been in place informally, but last fall the Board formalized these committees and broadened participation by recruiting constituents and other volunteers to serve. A current board member must be on each committee, but not necessarily as chair.

Below are our current committees, with chairs listed first. Any questions, concerns, or interest in participation can be directed to the Board members on the committee. Contact information can be found on the back page of this newsletter or on our website:

www.lakeredstonepd.org

ELECTIONS COMMITTEE: Geeg Drum, Paul Burke, Don McCune;

AUDIT COMMITTEE: (Current LRPD Treasurer serves as chair) Glenn Choroszy, Chuck Ecklund, Nick Ladas;

WATER QUALITY PROJECTS COMMITTEE: (per bylaws, must have three electors) Ken Keegstra, Carolyn Guss, Tom Happ, Dave Starin, Tom Walters;

DREDGING COMMITTEE: Jim Mercier, Glenn Choroszy, Brad Horner, Nathan Johnson, Dave Pfefferle;

WEBSITE COMMITTEE: Tom Happ, Bev Vaillancourt;

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE: Tom Happ, Priscilla Bondhus, Geeg Drum;

VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE: Al Baade, Geeg Drum;

WATER SAMPLING COMMITTEE: Geeg Drum, Carolyn Guss, Tom Happ;

CLEAN BOATS, CLEAN WATERS COMMITTEE: Bev Vaillancourt, Chuck Ecklund;

NORTHERN WATERSHED COMMITTEE: Geeg Drum, Nick Ladas;

LAKE FAIR 2015 COMMITTEE: Tom Happ, Chuck Ecklund, Carolyn Guss, Bev Vaillancourt, Sue Walters, Joan Whitehurst.

Take a Stake in Your Lake!

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

- **Protect your property from soil erosion by maintaining shoreline buffers;**
- **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;**
- **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/uwexlakes/
- www.wisconsinlakes.org/



P.O. Box 313
LA VALLE, WI 53941
www.lakeredstonepd.org

Lake Redstone Protection District

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

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Protection Connection edited by Rob Nelson (608-356-7662 rob@nelsonadmirals.com).

Regular meetings of the Board are scheduled for the second Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. at the Town of La Valle Hall, 324 Hwy 33.

Agendas posted at the Town of La Valle Hall, Bare Necessities, and Hartje Farm, Home, & Sports.

Agendas, minutes, newsletters, and other information always available at

www.lakeredstonepd.org

APMP . . . CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

in the past, summer treatments require action by several groups and approval from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources before herbicides can be applied.

We encourage all Lake Redstone residents to learn

about the aquatic plant management activities planned for 2015 and the coming years. Another great venue for learning about these activities is the Lake Fair planned for June 27 at the Dutch Hollow Lake Clubhouse. ♦