

Lake Redstone

Protection Connection

LAKE REDSTONE PROTECTION DISTRICT • SPRING 2013

LakeFair 2013: All Free, All For You!

by Bev Vaillancourt

Everyone is invited to join the festivities at **LakeFair 2013** on Saturday, June 22, at the Dutch Hollow Lake Clubhouse, E2670 Clubhouse Drive. Activities from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. will highlight native ecosystems, lake safety, and various educational, recreational, and conservation activities. And it's FREE! You might even win one of the terrific door prizes donated by area businesses!

The Lake Fair Committee has been hard at work organizing this day of fun and learning. Wonder about lake ecology? How about shoreline plantings? Where to find our area organic farmers? **LakeFair 2013** has your answers. Just how good is the fishing at Dutch Hollow or Lake Redstone? How can we prevent those pesky invasive species from invading our lakes? What are rain gardens? Come find out!

Explore a wide variety of local vendors including native nurseries, local artists, master gardeners, fishing outfitters, and more!

As a special treat, the Sauk County Dive Team will practice their rescue training on Dutch Hollow Lake and Veterans Equine Trail Service will be bringing over some of the horses used by our veterans at the Douglas Legacy Farm.

Fun for the kids includes La Valle's Bouncy Bounce and a chance to fashion EcoArt from recyclable materials. Lunch is available on-site, with proceeds helping to fund the Clean Boats, Clean Waters program.

LakeFair 2013 is sponsored by Lake Redstone Protection District and Dutch Hollow Lake Property Owners Association, Inc. Please join us, rain or shine! ♦



LRPD Annual Meeting Slated for August 3

Mark your calendar for the Lake Redstone Protection District's Annual Meeting at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, August 3 in the La Valle Town Hall, 314 Hwy 33/58. Meet your neighbors and get an update on what your Board is doing to protect and enhance Lake Redstone water quality.

The meeting also features an election to fill open seats on the LRPD Board. Please consider joining our team for the upcoming three-year term. It's an opportunity to help maintain and improve the quality of the Lake Redstone watershed. To become a candidate, submit a brief biography by July 6 to Secretary Priscilla Bondhus at P. O. Box 313, La Valle, WI, 53941. ♦

Lake Redstone Protection District

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

www.lakeredstonepd.org

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Oxbow Construction: A Viable Option?

by **Ron Grasshoff** and **Dave Marshall**

Throughout Wisconsin's unglaciated Driftless Area, small aging millpond impoundments are common features along many river systems. Communities hold strong ties for their impoundments, but their sentiments often reflect a nostalgia that is tempered by the frustrations and reality that these small impoundments had lost useful storage capacity decades ago. Common carp are often prolific and coincide with poor water quality. Sedimentation rates are typically high since most impoundments drain large agricultural watersheds. The high costs of dam repair, maintenance, and dredging are further obstacles to achieving millpond restoration, a vision often based on fading memories.

In 2000, a partnership including the Sand County Foundation, River Alliance of Wisconsin, Wisconsin DNR, and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service facilitated the removal of a failing dam at the Village of La Valle. Dam removal was controversial, but was tempered by the construction of an off-channel pond or artificial oxbow lake.

The oxbow represented a favorable compromise for the La Valle community by sustaining pond habitat that is locally popular. However, professional opinions remain mixed whether this form of mitigation provides an environmentally acceptable or socially desirable alternative to millpond management. To better understand the potential utility and limitations of off-channel lake construction, the River Alliance of Wisconsin, with funding under Wisconsin's Lake Planning Grant Program, is currently collecting biological, chemical, and physical data within the artificial oxbow, as well as at reference oxbows, to help determine the efficacy of similar projects.

The 2000 removal of the La Valle dam was the sixth of seven dams removed along the Baraboo River. There are now no barriers to fish migration on the 120-mile river.

Ron Grasshoff is an environmental specialist with an interest in wetland ecology and Dave Marshall is an aquatic biologist and licensed professional hydrologist. ♦

Fisheries Update Offered

by **Nathan Nye**, DNR Fisheries Biologist

Lake Redstone and Dutch Hollow Lake are both unique, and offer special fishing opportunities for anglers. At LakeFair 2013, I look forward to sharing the results of the most recent survey on each lake, highlighting what is good about each fishery—as well the challenges they face—and areas for possible improvement. ♦

**Learn More at
LakeFair 2013!**

*Dave Marshall and
Nathan Nye will
share more of their
research on the lake
ecology of the
La Valle area at
LakeFair 2013 on
June 22. See page 1
for more details.*

Town of La Valle Updates ATV Routes

by **Bev Vaillancourt**, Town of La Valle Chair

Some of you may be aware that the La Valle Town Board passed an ATV ordinance in February. The ordinance must be reviewed next February for renewal or modification.

The action was prompted by a 2012 request from the local ATV club for an ATV route through the town. A survey posted to the town website last fall yielded over 150 responses, including safety concerns about ATV use of East Redstone Road and/or West Redstone Road. After a year of study, discussion, and monthly meetings of citizens and town board members, a new ordinance was written, replacing the lake roads in the proposed ordinance with town roads in order to move ATV traffic away from the lake but still offer access to the boat landings for winter ATV

use on the lake.

Sauk County also passed an ATV ordinance that will allow ATV's to use a small section of County Highway F in order to connect the ATV route to roads headed north. ATV's are not allowed on East Redstone Drive and most of West Redstone Drive. However, there is now a route from La Valle that will take vehicles into Juneau County to the north and the Town of Winfield to the east.

Information on the ATV trail and ordinance can be found on the town website at <http://townoflavalle.us>. Watch for ATV route signs on designated town roads, and please be aware of the presence of ATV's on Section 11 Road, a section of Douglas Road, and others. ♦

Small Projects Show Major Potential for Erosion Relief

by **Brent Bergstrom**, Project Director, Sauk County Conservation, Planning, & Zoning Dept.

Like most impoundment lakes in southern Wisconsin, Lake Redstone is slowly filling in with sediment. Formed back in 1965, the lake drains approximately 18,500 acres, including some of the steep slopes and silty/sandy soils of the Driftless Area, posing an erosion problem for the Protection District almost since its inception.

In 2011, the District hired Montgomery Associates to identify the major sources of runoff and offer options for reducing it. Some of their proposals, such as periodic dredging of the bays, would cost several million dollars and offer only temporary relief from the silt buildup.

One option that offers a long-term solution without a hefty price tag is to build grade stabilization structures in the many ravines that run down to the branches of Big Creek and eventually feed into Lake Redstone. Although this process involves working with many landowners on many sites over an indefinite amount of time, my colleagues in Juneau County and I believe that this approach holds the most promise for reducing the gullies and erosion that impact Lake Redstone.

With this in mind, the LRPD, U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Sauk and Juneau Counties have initiated a pilot project to evaluate the effectiveness of these dry dams and demonstrate their potential to area landowners.

A grade stabilization structure for the Wegner property east of Lake Redstone was designed and bid out last fall. This site will be valuable not only for keeping phosphorus out of the lake, but also for the soil it will retain for agricultural use: currently, the upward expansion of gullies is edging into crop fields and pasture.

Contractors are eager to install the structure as soon as possible, but are now waiting for some adequate weather to work in. The soil will need to dry out to some degree to allow it to be compacted properly so that the structure will hold up in future storm events. The landowner is being very cooperative on trying to reduce the erosion from this sensitive area,

and we are confident that others in the area will follow his example.

Each of these dry dams cost less than \$10,000, and up to 70% of that sum can be covered by existing county, state, and federal programs. The structures are expected to last 20 to 25 years.

Meanwhile, the receding snow of early April allowed DNR Water Regulations and Zoning Specialist Jeff Schure and Steve Sorenson from Sauk County CPZ to examine the lower two basins of the four that make up the silt-plagued Martin-Meadowlark system. Further research will determine whether these basins can be excavated back to their original depth.

Concerns raised 12 years ago about disturbed sediments releasing

phosphorus into the lake remain valid, and Jeff is recommending core sampling of accumulated sediments before any removal plan moves forward. Because these sites include wetlands, any excavated sediment would require hauling to another location, possibly to repair upland gullies. Before any money is spent on sediment removal, though, we should address the upslope soil loss that is filling in these basins.

None of these projects is a “magic bullet.” But by working on many little sites, we can make a major impact on the lake and surrounding landscape. If you have questions, or would like more information, feel free to contact me at 355-3245 or BBergstrom@co.sauk.wi.us. ♦



BRENT BERGSTROM

Serge Koenig of the Sauk County Conservation, Planning, and Zoning Department braves the February snow to survey the elevation of water and sediment in one of the Martin-Meadowlark basins.

Herbicide Application Still Key to Aggressive APM Plan

by Dave Blumer, Lake Scientist, Short Elliott Hendrickson Inc.

A HEALTHY LAKE SYSTEM must have aquatic plant growth. Plants use up some of the available nutrients that might otherwise be turned into algae and green water, add oxygen to the lake water, protect valuable shoreline from erosion, help hold sediments at the bottom of the lake in place, and provide habitat for many creatures.

It is recognized, however, that too much aquatic plant growth interferes with human lake uses, including swimming and boating. Effective management strikes a balance between what benefits the lake and what benefits the lake user. Creating this balance is the main goal of the new Aquatic Plant Management (APM) Plan that is currently being written for Lake Redstone. It seeks to maintain and improve upon those parts of the existing management routine that seem to be meeting expectations while introducing new alternatives that may help to exceed those expectations.

The mid-summer professional herbicide applications will continue in 2013. These treatments provide property owners with relief from invasive exotic species—primarily Eurasian watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*)—and limit native aquatic plant growth. Treatments will be completed under the same restrictions that have been in place before and will occur primarily in high-use areas in front of developed lots:

- Only 50 feet of shoreline can be treated in front of any one property, and then only if there is a need.

- In “sensitive areas” of the lake previously designated by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR), full 50-foot treatments will be approved only when the offensive plants are mainly Eurasian watermilfoil.

- If native plants comprise some or most of the plant population in a high-use area and there is a navigational need, treatment will be limited to only 25 feet along the shoreline.

- If only native plants are present and navigation is not impeded, no treatment will be completed.

These restrictions are in place in order to protect native plant growth in the system. DNR and LRPD representatives will accompany the herbicide applicator during the summer program and make a final determination on a property-by-property basis as to the level of nuisance relief management that is appropriate.

BECAUSE OF THE ECOLOGICAL VALUE of water lilies (*Nymphaea odorata*), no summer treatments will be completed within beds of lily pads. Water lilies are one of a few native plants that can survive and prosper when other native plants may struggle. They are not as affected by poor water clarity and competition with Eurasian watermilfoil, and provide excellent habitat for fish and other aquatic life.

In order to further protect native plant species, a new component has been added to the 2013 management tool box: early season (spring) treatment of Eurasian watermilfoil. With this approach, plants are chemically treated as soon after ice-out as growing conditions allow. This is a feasible management alternative because watermilfoil typically begins growing sooner than many native plants, including lily pads. Early treatment yields several benefits:

- Reduced concerns about harm to native aquatic plants as a result of herbicide use;
- Fewer restrictions on treatments completed in “sensitive areas”;
- Reduced conflicts with swimming, fishing, and irrigation;
- Less plant material left to die and decay in the lake and use up oxygen;

The Good . . .

Water lilies are among our hardier native species, and provide excellent habitat for fish and aquatic animals . . .



R. KORTH, UWEX LAKES

continued on page 5

- Longer-lasting control of target plants at lower herbicide concentration rates; and
- Fewer complaints about summer growth of nuisance vegetation.

To test this alternative in Lake Redstone, a 16.26-acre early season treatment in Mourning Dove Bay will be completed using DMA 4, a 2,4-D-based liquid herbicide. Previous herbicide treatments in Lake Redstone have used a similar herbicide in granular form. The amount of herbicide used in the treatment is based on the volume of the area to be treated. The larger the treated area, the longer the applied herbicide is expected to stay around. Although only 4.5 acres of Eurasian watermilfoil is present in Mourning Dove Bay, by treating the entire bay, we ensure the herbicide is in contact with the target plant long enough to kill it.

Effectiveness of summer treatments depends on using high concentrations of herbicide to account for shortened herbicide contact times due to dilution and dissipation of that herbicide away from the target plants in the small 25- or 50-foot wide treatment areas. In areas where the applied herbicide quickly dissipates, a herbicide concentration high enough to completely kill the target plant may not be reached even when it is applied at its maximum label rate.

Mourning Dove Bay was chosen for the early season treatment because it extends far inland, is protected from prevailing winds, is lined with mostly dense growth Eurasian watermilfoil on both shorelines, and has an established population of lily pads in summer. Although each bay in Lake Redstone is a little different, this one will provide a good indication of what early season treatment in Lake Redstone can do. In addition, recent research conducted by the DNR and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has shown that a liquid herbicide is just as effective as a granular one, and at about half the cost.

It is probable that early season management of Eurasian watermilfoil will be included in the new APM Plan that is currently being drafted. But before this is done, more information on its effectiveness in Lake Redstone is desired. To that end, the LRPD, DNR, Army Corps, and SEH will team up to collect pre- and post-treatment aquatic plant survey data in the treated area to determine the impact of management on both the plants we want to kill (Eurasian watermilfoil) and those we don't (lily pads). Herbicide concentration testing will also be completed to determine the level of herbicide actually reached in the bay, and how fast the herbicide dissipates from the treated area. This information will be incorporated into the new APM Plan and used to better plan future aquatic plant management in Lake Redstone.

It is expected that the early season treatment will occur sometime in early to mid May, if the winter-like weather ever goes away. Mid-summer nuisance relief treatments are expected in late June or early July. Follow-up treatment could occur later in the summer, if deemed necessary.

CONSIDERABLE TIME AND RESOURCES have gone into planning the 2013 APM actions. As with any management plan, different people will have different opinions about it. As property owners on Lake Redstone, please realize that a great amount of effort is exerted to make management decisions that truly will benefit the lake and its users.

2013 is an interim year, a time to take small steps toward implementing new ideas that will help make aquatic plant management in Lake Redstone more efficient, more cost-effective, and better for the lake. Above all, we strive for a plan that the majority of stakeholders—including Lake Redstone residents, outside lake users, the DNR, and others—can accept, support, and understand, both now and in the future.

Please do your part by attending LRPD meetings, participating in civil discourse about the management actions being considered, and by asking questions when you are not clear on a topic. We will do our best to answer them.

Dave Blumer is a project manager with Short Elliot Hendrickson Inc. (SEH), a St. Paul-based engineering and planning firm hired to update Lake Redstone's Aquatic Plant Management Plan. He may be reached at (715) 236-4028 or dblumer@sehinc.com. ♦



WISCONSIN DNR

. . . and The Bad

. . . while the exotic Eurasian watermilfoil forms dense mats of floating vegetation that choke out native species and interfere with water traffic and recreational uses.

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

PROTECTION DISTRICT

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Prefer digital over paper?
To have the *Protection Connection* delivered to your email inbox, contact Priscilla at pbondhus@charter.net.

PROPERLY
DISPOSE OF
HAZARDOUS
WASTE!

Sauk County Clean Sweep Saturday, June 1

8:30 a.m. - noon

Former Sauk County Landfill: E8795B Evergreen Lane

(Just south of Hwy 33/23 between Reedsburg & Baraboo)

Take advantage of this opportunity for safe and **FREE** disposal of:

- Herbicides, insecticides, fungicides, rodenticides, and wood preservatives;
- Waste motor oil, oil filters;
- Latex, lead-based, and oil-based paint;
- Home products: oven cleaners, spot removers, drain cleaners;
- Batteries (watch, calculator, etc.);
- Light bulbs/fluorescent tubes;
- Other products: solvents, animal health products, teat wash, degreasers, wood finishes, paint additives, hydraulic fluid, pool chemicals, strippers, photographic chemicals;
- Tires will be accepted for a charge of \$1 to \$25 per tire.

Helping Hands Recycling will also be accepting electronics, appliances, scrap metals, and batteries (automotive, li-on, ni-mh, ni-cad) from households (not businesses) at no charge!

For more information, contact the Sauk County Conservation, Planning, & Zoning Dept:
(608) 355-4839 ● www.co.sauk.wi.us ● ppohle@co.sauk.wi.us