

## A View from the Lake by Tom Schroeder – President, Beaver Dam Lake Management District

For the past few weeks Mother Nature has continued to tease us with warm temperatures one day and near snowy conditions the next. With the ice on Beaver Dam Lake going out well before the fishing opener, I had hopes that docks, pontoons and other watercraft would be in early so residents could quickly forget that past cold winter. Hope we don't have to wait until July for warm temperatures.

During late January, the BDLMD Board members met with the WDNR, Barr Engineering, and Lake Restoration representatives to plan for this year's treatment of invasive aquatic plants. Eurasian Water Milfoil - EWM remains the main threat. Based on last year's plant surveys in July and Oct., it was determined that spot treating localized areas of EWM would be necessary. All of the locations east of the 63 bridge have been treated, while areas of the west lake will be completed before Memorial Day weekend, weather permitting. There should be no impact on the use of the lake over the Holiday. A newly approved herbicide called ProcettaCor will be used on the EWM in a bay that comes close to Hwy. "H". A main benefit of using ProcettaCor is that the application rate is in parts per billion – PPB rather than parts per million – ppm, common with all other herbicides. The test of this new product in Beaver Dam Lake has been in the planning for over 3 years.

The planning on addressing several storm water runoff projects on Jeffery Blvd. and 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave. continues. The engineering and cost estimates are nearly finished. Hopefully the bids for the project will be let during July, with the work commencing after Labor Day. The completion of all work is targeted for mid Oct. This work is being funded by a grant awarded to the Lake District by the WDNR and funded through the US-EPA.

Improving access for water craft to the City Parking area along the east side of Library Lake will continue this year. With the rapid rise of the lake level while there was ice still on the lake, cattails and other plant growth were dislodged from the bottom. You may have observed several "rafts" of cattails floating freely on the lake. These and other obstructions in the channel that was cut last year will be removed so boats should have easier access to the channel and dock. Currently with the lake being 8 to 10 inches above normal, access to downtown via Library Lake is easier than last summer.

Speaking of the lake level, the lake has been well above "normal" since the rapid snow thaw and rains in late March and April. It has been as high as 10+ inches above normal which is close to what it was in 2013 before the "dam" structure was replaced. Before the rain front this past weekend the level was down to about 7 inches above normal. All front facing stop logs and side boards have been opened since Nov. 2018. If the rain would stop, it will take several weeks for the lake to return to normal level.

There have been several occasions of vandalism at the "Dam". There has been damage to equipment and until it was discovered the water flow past the Dam was diminished. There are laws in place covering trespassing and causing damage to Dams and equipment. Also; Wisconsin State Fishing Regulations for 2019-2020, page 9, covers Restricted Fishing Areas including fishing near Dams. Please stay off the "Dam" structure.

You may have seen flags, nets and boats with lots of lights at night on the lake right after "ice out". The WDNR did a creel census on Beaver Dam Lake and according to Aaron Cole – Senior Fisheries Biologist, Barron County the results were encouraging. The last time a census was completed on the lake was in 2013. When the data and report become available, I will include some of the conclusions in a future article. Until then there are a lot of nice fish to be caught. Remember to observe all fishing regulations and the 18 inch minimum length on walleyes.

The loons are back and have been observed nesting. Hopefully we will be seeing some young loons with their parents swimming on the lake soon. New "reminder" signs about Loon protection have been placed at all the boat launches. As tempting as it is to get close to the little ones or to snap a close up picture, please observe the 200 foot distance regulation when approaching loons or any other migratory bird.

Remember, for your safety and others, when you are operating watercraft, please observe all boating regulations and operate your water craft in a safe manner. For paddleboard and paddleboat enthusiasts, remember a Personal Floatation Device (PDF) is required to be on board for each person. Let's make 2019 a safe year on the lake.

There are other lake activities, issues and projects I have not mentioned. Please check the BDLMD website at [beaverdamlake.org](http://beaverdamlake.org), watch for the Annual BDLMD letter coming in late June and plan to attend the July 13, 2019 BDLMD Annual Meeting at the Cumberland City Hall. Doors open at 9:00 AM and the Meeting will start promptly at 9:30 AM. Have a wonderful summer on our beautiful lake.