

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

During my lifetime, I remember a number of significant events that I have never forgotten but the continuing Covid-19 pandemic is one that will be at the top of the list for a long time! We will get past this challenge and be a stronger nation going forward. Remember; “We are in this together”! The Lake District commissioners and I continue to work on matters that will improve Beaver Dam Lake, so we can soon use our wonderful asset to help erase some of the pain and anguish we are experiencing.

This year you should find that the Eurasian Water Milfoil – EWM is all but non-existent in the Lake. We will be treating a few localized locations this year with hopes that the July and October plant surveys will reveal that the invasive species is all but eradicated from our lake. EWM may continue to exist in the lake but hopefully with close monitoring it can be minimized. Parts of Beaver Dam Lake, east of Hwy. 63 will be monitored for “fern grass” (not considered invasive) which has been prolific and bothersome for boaters for the past few years. The plant has been most annoying in the City Bay part of the lake north of Hwy. 48 and Cemetery Bay. Hopefully with this year’s earlier ice out, the non-emergent aquatic plants (those that stay below the top of the water) will start to grow before the fern grass and will choke out the troublesome plant.

We plan to continue to improve watercraft access to the downtown parking lot on Library Lake. This will include some additional hand removal of cattails and herbicide treatment. Remember to lower your pontoon canopy when going under the Grove Street Bridge.

In the Dec. 2019, A View from the Lake article, I mentioned that the WDNR had done an extensive fish survey and study in the spring of 2019. As a result of the study data and at the request by the WDNR, the Lake District will not be stocking extended growth walleyes in 2020. The WDNR stocked 16,500 extended growth walleyes in Oct. 2019 and plans are to continue stocking walleyes at a rate of 15 walleyes per acre or approx. 16,500 walleyes on the odd numbered years. Your continued practice of keeping only 18 inch or longer walleyes will help to improve the walleye population.

The BDLMD has recently acquired the first 2 of the 3 properties located along Elm St. just west of the Corner Bar. The third property will be purchased before July 1, 2020. The three properties along with a parcel (the former antique store) that was purchased in 2013 just to the east of the property at 1260 Elm St. will be used for the Library Lake SE storm water pond. The SE storm water pond will be the last of 4 storm water filtration projects that will eliminate over 95% of storm water runoff from going untreated into Library Lake. The completion of this 4th project will create the opportunity for the community to discuss to what extent sediment, cattails and other invasive plants that has been allowed to build up over the past 120 years should be removed. To help offset the costs of planning the design and acquiring the properties including demolition, the commissioners approved applying for a \$25,000 and a \$200,000 planning and acquisition grant respectively. These Grants are not automatically awarded. I am pleased to

report that both grants applications were approved and requested funding was awarded to the BDLMD.

Mark your calendars; the BDLMD 2020 Annual Meeting will be held on July 11, 2020 at the Cumberland City Hall starting at 9:30 AM. The Meeting agenda and the 2020/2021 Budget will be mailed to your address in June. It will also be published in the Advocate as the meeting date approaches.

Hopefully the weather and air/water temperatures will improve soon so we can all enjoy the lake as we deal with the social distancing and other ramifications of the Covid-19 virus. Take care, be safe and remember to observe safe boating practices. See you on the lake.