

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

April is here and after the last snowstorm the lake looks no different than it did during the State Ice fishing contest on Feb. 10th. The 22 inches or so of ice remains well entrenched and I believe the “dunk the cluck” car will be on the ice for some time. However; the Board of Directors and I have been busy tending to the Lake District projects and agenda. An application for a WDNR Lake Protection grant to support storm water infrastructure upgrades along Jeffery Blvd. and 3rd Ave. was submitted on Feb. 1st. The proposed modifications will address water and sediment that is currently channeled directly to the Lake.

During Feb. I attended a Zebra Mussel conference that involved a cross section of Governmental, Lake District and Public representatives concerned about the threat of this invasive species to NW Wisconsin Lakes. With the infestation of Zebra Mussels in Big McKenzie Lake and to a lesser degree in Middle McKenzie Lake, addressing the issues, control measures and science related to Zebra Mussels is of foremost concern and is going to be a major 2018 lake news subject. If you do recreate on another lake please clean your boat and trailer off of weeds and drain live well, bladders on Wake boats, etc. before launching your boat in Beaver Dam Lake. By everyone taking a little time to clean your water craft can we prevent invasive species from entering our lake.

The Southwest Library Lake storm water pond project that was started last Oct, will be completed once the weather moderates. This will require Hwy. 63/48 – Elm Street traffic to be detoured for about a week. The detour route approved by the WDOT will begin at 8th Ave. and Elm (by the new Kwik Trip), south to Berdan, then east on Berdan to 4th Ave, turning north on 4th and curving onto Washington to 2nd Ave. A left turn onto 2nd Ave. proceeding north the 2nd Ave./Elm street corner completes the detour route. Travel on Hwy 63/48-Elm St. will be allowed for local travel to businesses and residents. Watch for further notices in the Advocate, local bulletin boards and on-line.

On Jan. 31st, a meeting with the WDNR, Barr Engineering and Lake Restoration was held to plan the 2018 treatment plan for Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) and Curly Leaf (CLP) pond weed. The treatment plan was approved by the WDNR and will consist of herbicide treatment of larger EWM areas especially Tiger Bay, Norwegian Bay and City Bay. Smaller areas of EWM will be removed using the Lake Districts DASH (Diver Assisted Suction Harvester). This involves divers going to the bottom of the lake and hand pulling the EWM plant roots and all, and then placing the uprooted plant in the end of a 3 inch suction hose that brings the plant to the surface where the water and plants are separated. This method of removal prevents plant fragments from floating to other areas of the lake and re-rooting. Anyone interested in volunteering to operate and maintain the DASH or to do diving in waters up to 20 feet deep can contact Tom Schroeder at 618-521-7674.

In mid Feb. some residents along the west lake shoreline may have observed whole trees being dragged down the lake behind trucks or a skid steer. The trees were being used to build “Fish Sticks” which are groupings of whole trees that are constructed on the ice and anchored perpendicular to the shoreline. These “Fish Stick” structures sink to the bottom of the lake when the ice melts and provides a total environment for fish development and habitat. John Epple – BDLMD commissioner coordinated the effort which involved applying for and receiving a 2017 Healthy Lakes Grant and finding shoreline residents that would allow the “Fish Stick” to be placed on their property. Once the “Fish Stick” locations identified another WDNR permit to place the “Fish Stick” structures in the lake was completed. A local contractor was hired to cut and place the trees and finally volunteers cabled the trees together and placed sandbags on the structures to aid in sinking the trees to the lake bottom. Anyone that is interested in having a “Fish Stick” built on their property please contact a member of the BDLMD Board.

One final thought; the 2018 BDLMD Annual Meeting will be held on Sat. July 14, 2018 at the Cumberland City Hall starting at 9:30AM. By then the ice should be off the lake!