

KIRBY LAKE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

P.O. Box 603, Cumberland, WI 54829

2013 NEWSLETTER

Kirby Lake District Officers

Mr. Stu Ketz
Chair

The Board of Commissioners wishes the residents of Kirby Lake all the best in 2013!

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES FOR 2013

Ms. Gloria Meyer
Treasurer

Board Meeting January 12 at 10:00 AM at Maple Plain Town Hall
Board Meeting March 2 at 10:00 AM at Maple Plain Town Hall (**see note**)

Mr. Dan Boxrud
Secretary

Dock & Boat-In Day April 20 at 10:00 AM at the Landing
Board Meeting May 25 at 10:00 AM at Maple Plain Town Hall

Mr. Ron Stewart
At Large

Annual Meeting July 6 at 10:00 AM at Maple Plain Town Hall
Special Board Meeting After Annual Meeting, elect officers, set next meeting date

Mr. John Schultz
At Large

Annual Picnic July 6 at 1:00 at [**volunteer host needed**]

Boat Parade September 1 at 1:00 PM

Dock & Boat-Out Day October 5 at 10:00 AM at the Landing

Ms. Thelma Johnson
Maple Plain

During 2012, several new activities were initiated to improve Kirby Lake. Development of an Aquatic Plant Management (APM) Plan for Kirby Lake was started and will soon be complete. The APM Plan will provide necessary documentation of nuisance aquatic plant growth and appropriate recommendations for management that will facilitate access to open water and general navigation without compromising lake and water quality. The APM Plan will also provide recommendations for protecting valuable aquatic plant, fish, and wildlife habitat in the lake, and support aquatic invasive species (AIS) prevention and education efforts. At the present time, the only confirmed AIS in the lake is a shoreland plant called reed canary grass, which has been around this region for so long it seems native. It is this plant that harvesting operations removed in 2011.

Mr. Don Horstman
Barron County

Kirby Lake continues to have a large quantity of native aquatic vegetation, which helps absorb nutrients to keep our water clearer but is also increasingly making boat travel and general enjoyment of the lake more difficult. Management recommendations focused on mechanical harvesting are being proposed by our consultant. Aquatic herbicides are not being recommended at this time except to possibly facilitate interim plant management in 2013 while final harvesting plans are being completed. Of course, should these management recommendations be approved by you and the WDNR, the District will face harvesting costs, either through contracting harvesting services, or buying and operating a harvester of our own. Recommended plant management plans and any such proposal to harvest vegetation or purchase a harvester will be discussed fully with the district membership before proceeding. **A presentation on aquatic plant management recommendations by our consultant is planned for March 2, 2013. You are invited to attend this meeting to provide your input to the Board. However, prior to that meeting we would appreciate your response to the attached survey. Please send your responses or other comments to APM Plan author Dave Blumer by February 19 at dblumer@sehinc.com, or call him at 715 236 4000, or mail your response to Dave Blumer, SEH, 1701 W Knapp St, Suite B, Rice Lake, WI, 54868.**

In September the Board established an Aquatic Plant Research Committee (Bob Busby and Katie Cook) to function as communicators with district property owners and the WDNR. If you have concerns, preferences or opinions, they may be able to get responses for you.

This past summer we got our third fish stocking in as many years. Overall, the WDNR has provided 460 9" Northern Pike, 524 6 ½ inch Northern Pike, 2300 3" Bass, and 200 8" Northern. It is hoped that the Northern will eat small Sunfish which can become stunted and a nuisance. You can do your part to improve fishing in Kirby Lake by keeping small Sunfish when you catch them and releasing Northern and Bass when possible. Releasing these predators will improve the game fish stock while also ridding the lake of stunted fish.

We continued lake monitoring activities to look out for the future of Kirby Lake. The Andreasen's have again been collecting water quality samples under a project for the DNR, using specialized equipment funded largely through the WDNR. The project is very involved and throughout the summer they took dozens of lake observations and samples. When compared to previous years, the water clarity was the same as 2011 and about the same as our long term average. The vibrant aquatic vegetation community has, so far, absorbed most of the increased nutrient loading to avoid algae blooms. The lake monitoring data can be seen at DNR.WI.GOV/LAKES/CLMN, searching under Barron County, then Kirby Lake. The Board would like to thank the Andreasen's for all their hard work.

Aquatic Invasive Species, in particular Eurasian Water Milfoil and Curly Leaf Pondweed, were monitored again with these invasive species not seen so far. Thanks to all of last year's monitors who all returned to the job from 2011: Andreasen, Stewart, Rubenzer, Schmidt-Dannert, Meyer, and Boxrud. The aquatic vegetation consultant working on our APM Plan also found no invasive species. The time spent by our volunteers will partially offset our financial obligation toward the APM Plan cost, the bulk of which is being covered by WDNR grant monies awarded in early 2012. Looking forward, we always need more people looking for invasive species. If you would like to officially become part of the Kirby Lake AIS monitoring team, attending the excellent WDNR seminar in Spooner is well worth the investment of a Saturday morning. An hour or two each summer month slowly scanning and sampling a small part of the lake is all it takes after the training. If you'd like to join the team, please contact Dan Boxrud at dnboxrud@aol.com.

In addition, we will be recruiting inspectors to check incoming boats at the landing in May. Look for another volunteer opportunity.

In honor of George Moore, long time Town of Maple Plain representative on our Board who passed away more than a year ago, the Board "adopted" County Highway H from the Town Hall northerly past the Moore farm to the county line. The Moore family has expressed their thanks for recognizing George in this way. If you could assist with roadside cleanup three times this summer, please contact John Schultz at 651-770-2826. Although it's a long stretch, it's a fairly "clean" section of roadway and doesn't take long to complete.

Along the same line, the Board instituted a recognition program for those who give "above and beyond" to the benefit of the District. Although there will likely be one or maybe no recipient in any given year, three people were recognized in 2012. Bill Bay was recognized as the driving force in converting the Kirby Lake Association into the more formal Kirby Lake Management District. Mike Boland was recognized for his many years of service as an officer plus spearheading several efforts with the WDNR and other agencies. Bob Busby was recognized for his many years of diligent service, particularly in installation and operation of the aerator.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer at Kirby Lake!