

Okauchee Lake Management District

Spring 2015

Okauchee Lake News

Greetings from Carol Wilson, OLMD Chairperson

Spring is here! It's that time of year when the lake is peaceful and reminds us all how fortunate we are to live in this beautiful Okauchee Lake area. Having lived on the lake all my life, I can say each year the peaceful lake keeps things interesting!

This past year the OLMD worked on several necessary projects. Weed harvesting was conducted to improve recreational use and overall lake quality despite hearing reports of less weed growth than in other years. The annual Goose Round-Up collected 47 geese. Cooperative efforts were made in working with the Town Board regarding the design of the detention pond incorporated into the stormwater runoff project on Lake Drive. Commissioners also monitored the expansion of the Road T Launch in conjunction with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

These projects will continue this year and the OLMD Commissioners remain committed to maintain the water quality of the lake in

combination with efforts of other entities, agencies and municipalities.

With the commitment, dedication and enthusiasm of Commissioners Tom Godar, Dennis Johnson, Dee Shriver, and Town Representative Jan Husak, the OLMD will continue to bring positive changes to Okauchee Lake while maintaining or improving water quality through oversight and sound fiscal management.

It is my pleasure to serve as Chairperson of this organization! Wishing you a safe & happy summer,

Carol Wilson, Chairperson



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Spraying Permit Information

The OLMD is in the process of obtaining a permit from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to apply herbicides for the control of the aquatic plants in Okauchee Lake for the 2015 season. A copy of this application is available for your review at www.olmd.org. Any questions that you may have can be directed to: Dennis Johnson at 414-828-5461 or info@olmd.org. This Notice is required under Chapter NR 107 of the WI Administrative Code.



Questions & Answers with Ben Heussner, DNR Fisheries Biologist for Okauchee Lake

We recently had a chance to ask Ben Heussner, DNR Fisheries Biologist, about his work with the Okauchee Lake fishery.

1. What does a DNR fisheries biologist do?

The short answer is, "We make fishing better". How we make fishing better is the exciting and challenging part of my job. Each year we do netting and electrofishing surveys on lakes, rivers and streams monitoring the diversity, abundance and size structure of various fish species. In 2014 our Waukesha County fisheries team completed a comprehensive survey on Okauchee Lake. Okauchee Lake is currently involved in a statewide muskellunge stocking evaluation which has enabled us to conduct more electrofishing surveys than usual. Monitoring the fish communities allows us to make management recommendations for gamefish stocking, fishing regulations, invasive species control and habitat improvement. In addition to lake management, our fisheries program performs education and outreach, water regulations review and access development

2. Have you always liked fish and fishing? What was the biggest fish that you ever caught on Okauchee Lake and where was it caught?

I grew up fishing in Fort Atkinson on the Bark and Rock Rivers. I'm grateful that my dad often took me fishing on lakes in the Madison area. I have been hooked on fishing since I was very young, and especially enjoy passing on this time-honored tradition to my three children. During our last comprehensive survey on Okauchee Lake, we netted a 49 inch muskellunge near the island close to Stumpy Bay. I have a fond memory of catching a 52 inch muskellunge near Party Island back in 1997. The largemouth bass and black crappies in Okauchee Lake provide excellent angling opportunities.

3. What message would you like people to know about the DNR's role in establishing and maintaining fisheries and/or habitats?

Habitat is the biggest factor in maintaining good water quality and healthy fisheries. Managing the watershed, controlling run-off and nutrient loading, preventing the spread of invasive species, maintaining healthy aquatic plant communities and maintaining woody structure are all very important. Implementing best management practices throughout the watershed ultimately results in a healthy aquatic ecosystem with good water quality. We recently started a different walleye stocking strategy and plan on continuing this effort to reestablish a fishable walleye population. One unique fish species found in Okauchee lake is the Cisco. Cisco are included in the state species of special concern and are an excellent forage base for gamefish species.

Please contact Ben at benjamin.heussner@wisconsin.gov or give him a call at 414-303-0109. He likes a good fish story!

2015 Okauchee Lake Trivia What do you know?

1. Okauchee Lake is comprised of _____ acres with a maximum depth of _____ feet.
2. What year was the Okauchee Lake Management District formed?
3. Okauchee Lake once had a mail boat operation. True or False?
4. Okauchee Lake is _____ in a chain of seven lakes on the Oconomowoc River. What lake lies directly downstream?



Answers can be found on Page 4

Barging Policy

The OLMD policy regarding collection of aquatic plants from landowners specifies that all plants for pick up MUST be placed on the end of the pier. This placement facilitates pick up, avoids damage to the hull of the barge on shoreline obstructions (i.e., rocks) and allows the employee to safely transfer the plant material to the barge.

Plants will be picked up during the week from piers in the sections we are cutting on a particular day and every Monday and Friday, weather permitting.

Plants must be free of any trash, such as cans, tree limbs, leaves, etc. as the farmers who receive our material will not accept anything but plants.

In the rare event plants must be on the shoreline, they must be in one pile in a location that allows the employee to easily transfer the plants directly to the barge. Please note that adequate space is required between piers, boat-lifts, etc. to safely maneuver the barge to the pick up point (20 foot minimum). If in the opinion of the foreman (and after discussion with the riparian owner) these conditions are not met, the Commission's policy is to refuse pick up of plant material until the above conditions have been met.

If you have any questions, please call 262-966-0286.



Goose Round-Up

This year the District will once again cooperate with the USDA Fish and Wildlife Service to round up non-migratory Canadian Geese on Okauchee Lake. There have been years when a Round-Up is not necessary; however, this year the Goose Round-Up will take place in mid-June when the birds are flightless.

In order for this project to move forward we need your consent. **IF YOU HAVE NOT ALREADY SUBMITTED THE CONSENT FORM TO US, PLEASE RETURN THE COMPLETED GOOSE ROUND-UP CONSENT FORM BELOW BY JUNE 15, 2015.** We are required to have your consent to access your property before the Round-Up. Once you do so, you are no longer required to provide consent on an annual basis. Return the consent form to:

OLMD
P.O. BOX 526
Okauchee, WI 53069

You can now fill the form out online. To do so, please go to our website, www.olmd.org and click on "Forms".

We need to know where the geese hang out! Please let us know where you have seen geese by calling the OLMD office at 262-966-0286 or emailing us at info@olmd.org.

Permission for Entry to Property for Goose Round-Up

I authorize representatives from the United States Department of Agriculture—Wildlife Services and the Okauchee Lake Management District (OLMD) to access the property/properties listed below for the purposes of goose round-up. This permission form has no expiration date and remains in effect unless you request to be removed from the approved site list. Decisions on goose management will be made on an annual basis. Please contact the OLMD by calling its office at 262-966-0286, Carol Wilson at 262-367-7363, or by emailing info@olmd.org if you wish to be removed from the list, have problems with geese on your property, know of a nest, or have any questions or concerns. Thank you for your assistance.

Printed Name:

Address:

Phone:

Signature (Mandatory):

Please return this form as soon as possible, no later than June 15.

DNR Road T Launch E-x-p-a-n-s-i-o-n

Construction on the Road T Launch expansion is scheduled to begin on or around May 8. Once the contractors are mobilized, the launch will be **CLOSED**. As more information becomes available, it will be posted on our website www.olmd.org. The Golden Mast also has a launch, in addition to limited access at the end of Bauer's Lane.

In 2014, the DNR proposed expansion of the Road T launch. The project will reconfigure the parking lot to include a total of 23 car/trailer parking stalls and 10 stalls designated only for cars. These changes should alleviate traffic congestion along Road T. A restroom facility and site landscaping improvements are also part of the renovation.



Answers to Page 2 Trivia Questions

1. Okauchee Lake is comprised of 1,210 acres with a maximum depth of 115 feet.
2. The Okauchee Lake Management District was formed in 1975.
3. True. A mail boat was put into operation on the lake in 1910 and ran until the 1950's.
4. Oconomowoc Lake.



CPR & AED Training Class Offered May 9 from 10 a.m. to Noon

Did you know that first five minutes following an injury, and the immediate response from those on the scene, can mean the difference between life and death? Recently the Okauchee Lake Yacht Club (OLYC) purchased an automated external defibrillator (AED) device to be maintained and utilized at the Club facility. An (AED) is a device that automatically diagnoses life-threatening cardiac heart rhythms and assists in treating them through defibrillation (the application of an electrical shock which stops the arrhythmia, allowing the heart to reestablish an effective rhythm). The OLYC believes it is of great benefit for

all lake residents to know CPR and AED training in the event of a boating accident or emergency on Okauchee Lake. To that end, **Okauchee Lake Sailing School and Club is hosting a CPR & AED Training for OLMD residents on Saturday, May 9, 2015 from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon at the OLYC facility. Adults and youth are welcome! Training is being provided by Tammy Derynda, R.N./B.S.N. Certified CPR Instructor and will provide two-year certification. The cost is \$25 per person for OLMD residents and \$50 for non-residents.**

To Register Contact Tim Kay (OLYC) – 262-784-7110

OLMD Weed Cutting Operations Soon Underway!



Please help keep our employees, equipment & you safe!

- Do not swim near or around equipment. If you swim between piers, we cannot cut in your area until you exit the water.
- Keep boat/wave runners at least 150 ft. from equipment at all times! We cannot change direction easily to avoid you.
- If passing equipment, please do so with no wake. A wake can cause operators to lose control of equipment.
- Please mark any underwater obstacles, such as boat tracks, ramps, raft chains, etc. with a clearly visible buoy. These are unsafe for employees and equipment. If unmarked, these obstacles would prevent us from cutting in your area.

Okauchee Lake Independence Day Celebration Fireworks & Venetian Night Lighted Boat Parade

Date: Saturday, July 4, 2015

Time: 9:00 p.m.

Location: The Island Between
The Golden Mast & The Hideaway Bar &
Grill

On Okauchee Lake

The Lighted Boat Parade is sponsored by the Okauchee Lake Yacht Club (OLYC). Entrants should meet at Party Island at 8:00 p.m. Prizes will be awarded to the best lighted boat! The parade leaves Party Island at 8:30 p.m. and will arrive at the mouth of the Channel at 9:00 p.m. Spectacular fireworks to follow! There is no cost to register your boat and participants will be escorted by local boat patrol for front row viewing! This fireworks display is funded solely by donations from local residents and businesses. To help continue this yearly tradition, please call Monica Pakalski at 414-801-4888 or send your donations to:

Okauchee Fireworks Fund
W353N6220 Marina Drive
Oconomowoc, WI 53066



For more information or to register for the boat parade, please contact:

Terry Brandl at 262-617-0215 or visit the OLYC website at: www.olyc.org.

Police Report

The following information was provided by the Town of Oconomowoc Police Department at the 2014 Annual Meeting. They patrol Okauchee Lake part-time from the first weekend in May through Labor Day and beyond.

Officer Rob Wiercyski was present at the Annual Meeting and reported the following as of August 25, 2013:

- Total patrol hours: 534
- Citations: 67
- Warnings: 194
- Boater Safety Class : 1

During the 2014 Tie-Up, the DNR and the Waukesha County Sheriff's Department provided boat patrols along with police departments from the Town of Oconomowoc and the Town of Merton. During the tie-up, all patrols reported a total of 11 OWI arrest with 9 of those conducted by the Town of Oconomowoc. This decrease was believed to be the result of many shuttles offered this year, numerous designated drivers and several boats being towed.

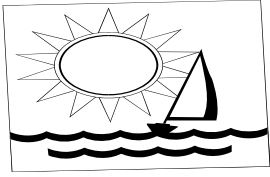
Be Safe and Have Fun!

Do You Have any Photos to Share for Our Website?

Do you love taking pictures of Okauchee Lake? Our website gallery always needs more photos. We LOVE to receive pictures of native bird, animal or plant species in addition to fun appropriate activities that take place on Okauchee Lake! If you have any photos to share, please send them to www.olmd.org in JPEG format. Thank you!



Okauchee Lake Management District



PO Box 526
Okauchee, WI 53069
www.olmd.org



Commissioners

Carol Wilson	Chairperson/County Rep.	262-367-7363
Tom Godar	Secretary	608-577-9235
Dee Schriver	Treasurer	262-560-1487
Dennis Johnson	Lake Operations	414-828-5461
Jan Husak	Town Representative	262-569-2713

District Meetings

Okauchee Lake Management District meetings are held the second Monday of every month at 7 p.m. at the Town of Oconomowoc Town Hall located at the junction of Brown Street and CTH K. As always, everyone is welcome. Check the website at www.olmd.org for agendas, minutes and updates. Keep the last Monday of August open for the annual meeting. Check our website for updates. We hope to see you soon!