

Spring 2017

Okauchee Lake News

Greetings from OLMD Chairperson Carol Wilson



I hope you are enjoying the spring weather! The ice left the lake early this year and people are anxious to put boats and piers back in Okauchee Lake for another season of fun. The OLMD works hard year round to maintain the quality of the lake and the surrounding area that we all are lucky enough to call "home".

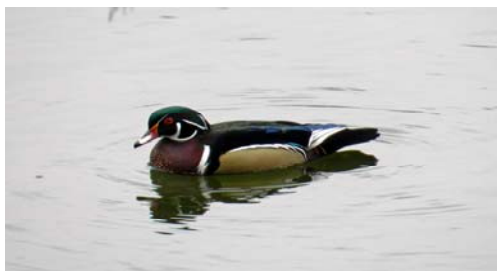
From the completion of a major stormwater retention pond to monitoring small aquatic invasive species, the

OLMD endeavors to maintain and improve the water quality of Okauchee Lake.

It is a pleasure to serve alongside Board members Tom Godar, Dennis Johnson, Dee Shriver, and Town Representative Bruce Mueller in providing another year of oversight and sound fiscal management to the OLMD.

Wishing you a safe & happy season!

Carol Wilson



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 2017 season. A copy of this application is available for your review at www.olmd.org. Any questions 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.

Inside This Issue:

Greetings from OLMD Chairperson Carol Wilson	1
Spraying Permit Info	1
Where Does All That Water Go?	2
Barging Policy	2
Okauchee Lake Trivia	2
Goose Round-Up	3
It's Water Over The Dam	4
What's Missing At The New Road T Launch?	4
Fireworks & Venetian Boat Parade	5
Police Report	5
Weed Cutting & Safety	5
Okauchee Lake Trivia Answers	5
District Meetings	6
Commissioners	6



Where Does All That Water Go?

Do you wonder what happens to all the stormwater that runs along Lake Drive before it goes into Okauchee Lake? In 2015 the OLMD partnered with the Town of Oconomowoc to purchase land for construction of a stormwater retention pond near Foolery's. Last year the pond was constructed to collect stormwater runoff from Lake Drive and the surrounding areas.



The pond filters stormwater by allowing the water to collect in the basin. The sediment settles out to the bottom of the pond before the outflow enters the lake through a pipe on the easterly side of the pond.

Some people wonder why the pond is

looking green and slimy around the edges. That is because it is doing its job! The remaining pond sediment interacts with the sunlight to start the growth of small plants and algae that cling to the rocks and edges of the pond basin. While quantitative data has yet to be collected on the change in the sediment outflow in the lake, the water entering the lake is visibly cleaner than that of the pond.



Feel free to drive/walk past the pond to see it in action as it slowly cleans the water before entering the lake. You will see the results for yourself!

OLMD Barging Policy

It is the OLMD policy regarding collection of aquatic plants from landowners 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 employees to safely transfer the plant material to the barge.

Plants will be picked up during the week from piers in the sections being cut 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 except plants.

In the rare event plants must be on the shoreline, they must be in one pile in a location allowing the employees to easily transfer the plants directly to the barge. Please note adequate space is required between piers, boatlifts, etc. to safely maneuver the barge to the pick up point (20 feet 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.

Back By Popular Demand...

Okauchee Lake Trivia!

Do You Know Okauchee Lake Ice?

1. What two months of the year does ice typically form on Okauchee Lake?
2. What is the earliest ice cover date recorded since 1977? Latest date of ice out?
3. Conversely, what was the latest ice cover date and earliest ice out date?
4. In December 2002, the ice formed and melted in the same month. True or False?
5. Who has been collecting Okauchee Lake ice cover and ice out dates since 1977?



Answers can be found on Page 5.

Goose Round-Up

In 2017 the District will once again cooperate with the USDA Fish and Wildlife Service to round up non-migratory Canadian Geese on Okauchee Lake. 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. **We are required to have your consent to access your property before the Round-Up. Once you provide consent, you are no longer required to complete it annually.** IF YOU SUBMITTED THE CONSENT FORM TO THE OLMD AFTER 2012, YOU DO NOT NEED TO FILL OUT THE FORM EACH YEAR. IF YOU HAVE NOT COMPLETED THE CONSENT FORM SINCE 2012, PLEASE RETURN THE COMPLETED GOOSE ROUND-UP CONSENT FORM BELOW **BY JUNE 15, 2017.**

Return the consent form to:

OLMD
P.O. BOX 526
Okauchee, WI 53069

This form can also be completed online. To do so, please visit 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.

It's Water Over the Dam

Have you ever been curious about the flow of water in Okauchee Lake, Upper Oconomowoc Lake and Oconomowoc Lake? Water levels are controlled through a dam structure visible from Highway 16 on the north side of the roadway just east of Brown Street in the Town of Oconomowoc. Water from Okauchee Lake flows through Upper Oconomowoc Lake, through the dam, under Highway 16, and into Oconomowoc Lake.

The dam has been checked daily by Town of Oconomowoc and/or Village of Oconomowoc Lake police officers for at least 22 years. Levels are determined by a fixed gauge and are reported to the Village of Oconomowoc Lake, the Town of Oconomowoc and the City of Oconomowoc each day. The dam is opened or closed based on designated summer and winter levels. The goal is to keep the water level within one inch of these seasonal levels. The difference between the summer lake level and the "Slow No Wake" designation is only 3.5 inches. Typically the dam is opened approximately 16-17 inches despite having the capacity to open to eight feet. The dam has



never been "wide" open. The Village of Oconomowoc Lake has to release the equivalent of double the amount of water received plus any rainfall into the Oconomowoc River as it flows into Fowler Lake in the City of Oconomowoc.

The three municipalities, City of Oconomowoc, Town of Oconomowoc and Village of Oconomowoc Lake, work in conjunction with one another to make sure enough water is released to avoid flood damage to structures and piers but not so much that areas down-stream are flooded. This is not an easy task

due to the topography of the river that flows from one lake to another before reaching the Oconomowoc River outflow via Lac La Belle. While there is a ten foot difference between Okauchee Lake and the Oconomowoc River flowing into Fowler Lake and Lac La Belle; there is only a one foot difference between Lac La Belle and the Rock River downstream. If you are concerned about the dam or water being released, please contact the municipality in which the concern is occurring. Otherwise, it's all just water over the dam!

What's Missing at the New Road T Launch?

As the spring weather continues to improve, boaters will enjoy another season of the redesigned Road T public boat launch. Be sure to notice what's missing from the launch area this year when launching your boats! In the meantime, check out these photos of improvements to the launch site!

Photos and article courtesy of Dee Schriver.



Musk rats! A few riparian owners have brought significant shoreline problems caused by muskrats to our attention, suggesting this is a lake-wide problem. We would appreciate you informing us if muskrats have caused damage in your area of the lake, identifying that area, so we can determine if a lake-wide solution may be explored. Please report muskrat problems at info@olmd.org. Thank you.

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

Date: Monday, July 3, 2017

Time: 9:00 p.m.

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

On Okauchee Lake

The Venetian Night 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 about the Boat Parade or the Okauchee Lake Yacht Club, please contact

Susan Kay at 262-569-5993

or visit the OLYC website at: www.olyc.org.

OLMD Weed Cutting Operations Soon Underway!

Please help keep our employees, equipment & yourself 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 without a 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.
- Placement of personal buoys may affect OLMD's ability to cut weeds in that area.

Police Report

The following information was provided by the Town of Oconomowoc Police Department at the 2016 Annual Meeting. Town Police patrol Okauchee Lake on a part-time basis 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 29, 2016:

- Total patrol hours: 412.5
- Citations: 74
- Warnings: 429
- Boater Safety Class : 1



During the 2016 Tie-Up, the DNR, Waukesha County Sheriff's Department, Town of Oconomowoc and the Town of Merton provided boat patrols.

Of the nine OWI arrests made, the DNR made five arrests, the Town of Oconomowoc made three arrests and the Town of Merton made one arrest. The Sheriff's Department did not make any arrests.

Answers to the Okauchee Lake Ice Trivia

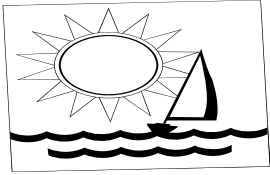


1. Okauchee Lake typically forms ice in the months of December and January.
2. December 6, 2002. Latest date for ice out was April 27, 2001. Yikes!
3. Since 1977, the latest ice cover date was January 22, 2013. Earliest ice out was January 19, 2002.
4. True. The ice formed December 6, 2002 and was out again on December 19, 2002.
5. Thanks to Carol Wilson for collecting ice dates annually since 1977!

For additional fireworks fun...On Saturday, July 1, another fireworks display will begin at dusk near Whittaker Bay.



Okauchee Lake Management District



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



District Meetings

Okauchee Lake Management District meetings are held the second Monday of every month from April through October at 7 p.m. at the Town of Oconomowoc Town Hall located at the junction of Brown Street and CTH K. Check the website at www.olmd.org for agendas, minutes and updates. Please reserve the date of August 28, 2017 on your calendar for the Annual Meeting! All are welcome to attend.

We hope to see you soon!

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
Bruce Mueller	Town Representative	414-704-5420