

## Okauchee Lake News

### Report From The Chairperson

Dear Okauchee Lake Management District Members,

Welcome to our 2010 Spring Newsletter. I hope that our weather will be great so we can enjoy our lake for the next five months.

I would like to personally thank our board members that you have elected to the Okauchee Lake Management District; (OLMD) they are: Tom Godar, Dennis Johnson, and Dee Schriver. It is because of their hard work and dedication that OLMD is a viable and successful organization that is truly outstanding!

The following are updates and reminders that concern all of our OLMD members:

- Goose Round-up—The goose round-up will begin again this year during the middle of June. Please read the article that is inside of this newsletter for details!
- Website—Our website is up and running. Check it out at [www.olmd.org](http://www.olmd.org). If you have any pictures of the lake that we could put

on the website, please call me at 262-367-7363 and we can work on it.

- Boat Safety & Law Update—Please see the article inside of this newsletter from our Police Department regarding safe boating reminders and law updates.
- Update on the DNR's Land Purchase next to the Road T Boat Launch—An update is included inside this newsletter!
- New Cutter!—OLMD purchased a new cutter to replace the old Cutter #1 which was purchased in the mid-1980's. We received 40% in grant money from the State of Wisconsin. The new cutter will be in service this month.
- Chemical Permit Application—The permit notice was put in the Oconomowoc Enterprise. For more information, please see the article in this newsletter.

Wishing you a safe summer,

Carol Wilson  
Chairperson

### Inside This Issue:

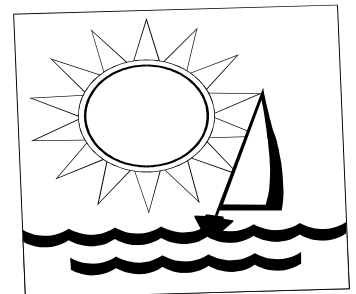
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### Aquatic Plant Management Report

Permits for weed spraying on Okauchee Lake have been issued by the WDNR. The total permitted area is 242 acres. We will be treating approximately 80 acres.

By having a larger permitted area it allows more flexibility in treating trouble spots without additional permitting and delay. We hope to do an initial spray the third week of May, although actual target areas will not be determined until the week before. If you are located in an area that will potentially be sprayed and do not wish to participate, please notify OLMD at 262-966-0286.

Weed harvesting is scheduled to begin June 1<sup>st</sup>. As always, your feedback is important to our operation, so please don't hesitate to call with questions or comments as to how we can improve our operations.



## Okauchee Lake Independence Day Celebration Fireworks

This year's "Okauchee Lake Fireworks" display will again be held on the island between the Golden Mast Restaurant and The Hideaway on Okauchee Lake, on Saturday, the 3rd of July. The Venetian night-lighted boat parade will start the event at approximately 9:00 p.m., followed by the Fireworks Display. This event is funded solely by donations from local residents and some businesses. To help continue this yearly tradition please send your donations to:

Okauchee Fireworks Fund  
W340N4975 Road O  
Nashotah, WI 53058

For more information or to register for the boat parade, contact: Carol Euringer at 262-567-3495 or Linda Johnson at 262-569-2914.



### Launch Site Agreement Finalized with DNR

More than a year ago, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources moved forward to purchase the site adjacent to the current Road T boat launch on Lower Okauchee Lake with a view to expanding the launch site to accommodate more boat/trailer combinations as well as additional parking spaces. Many members of the Okauchee Lake Management District were concerned that this launch would put even greater pressure on one of southeastern Wisconsin's most heavily used lakes. When OLMD learned about the DNR plans, they ultimately negotiated with the DNR to achieve a reasonable and responsible plan for development of the launch site and regulation of the impact that non-riparian owner boats might have on the lake and lake users.

As a result, the initial action planned by the DNR to purchase the launch was postponed and intense negotiations were entered by OLMD with the DNR, led by OLMD member Tom Godar and assisted by counsel hired by the District, Mr. William O'Connor. A tentative agreement was reached last year. The agreement was then reduced to writing, and signed both by the DNR secretary, Matthew Frank and members of the OLMD. A copy of the agreement is posted on the OLMD website, but highlights include the following:

Before the development of the property, the DNR will prepare a plan and hold a public informational meeting on the proposed site plan. The plan would identify the anticipated environmental impacts related to the construction, operation and use of the site and the effects of the increased use of boats on the Lake;

The current site, with its 18 qualified spaces, combined with the 13 qualified spaces under contract between the DNR and the Golden Mast, will expand, in any initial phase, to include five additional car only spaces and an additional six car/trailer spaces. Only when the number of qualified and non-qualified spaces is then reduced at the Golden Mast would any additional spaces be created at the launch site.

OLMD is confident that the end result is a reduction in the over all number of spaces, both qualified and non-qualified, on Okauchee Lake. We thank the OLMD members for their expressions of support in this process.

### Barging Policy

The policy of OLMD regarding landowner aquatic plant pick up is that the plants must be placed on the end of the pier. This 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.

The plants must also be free of any trash such as cans, tree limbs, leaves, etc. as the farmers will not accept anything but plants.

In the rare event that the plants must be on the shoreline, they must be in one pile in a location that allows the employee to transfer the plants directly to the barge. Also for shore pick up there must be adequate space between piers, boatlifts, 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 not pick up the plant material until the conditions above have been met. See foreman regarding getting a notice to be posted on the riparian pier.

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

### Annual Meeting

The annual meeting date has been set for Monday, August 30, 2010 at 7 p.m. The location of the meeting will be determined at a later time. Mark your calendars for this important date!



## Okauchee Lake 2010 Rules & Reminders

Each year, as the boating season brings us opportunities for fun, sporting challenges, and relaxation, it is helpful to remember a few of the rules and regulations of Okauchee Lake.

- Okauchee Lake has a maximum speed of 40 mph from 8 a.m. until sunset.
- From sunset until 8 a.m., the maximum speed on the lake is 10 mph.
- The speed of motorboats within 100 feet of a pier, raft, dock, or buoyed restricted area is "slow-no-wake". Jet skis, and other PWC, are restricted to "slow-no-wake" within 200 feet distance from the shoreline and 100 feet from other boats and PWC.
- The channel between the Lake Drive bridge and the main body of Okauchee Lake is always "slow-no-wake".

For more information on boating laws and safety courses, visit the DNR website at [www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/es/enforcement](http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/es/enforcement).

In order for everyone to enjoy a safe boating season, please report any unsafe boating practices to the Town of Oconomowoc police at 920-474-4812. To report a violation, please provide the boat registration number, a description of the boat, and the circumstances of the event.

### Weed Cutting & Safety

Help keep our employees and equipment safe.

Please keep your boat/wave runners at least 100-150 feet away from the equipment at all times. Our equipment is much harder to steer and change directions than your boats are. If passing by our equipment, please do so with no wake. Waves can cause our equipment operators to lose control of the equipment.

Please do not swim near or around our equipment. If you are swimming in between piers or docks, we cannot cut weeds in your area until swimmers are out of the water.

Please mark any underwater obstacles such as boat tracks, ramps, raft chains, etc. Markings should be made with a clearly visible buoy. These obstacles are unsafe for our employees and equipment. Unmarked obstacles will prevent us from cutting in or around your area.

Following these simple rules will ensure safety of you, your property, our employees, and our equipment.

### Goose Round-up

This will be the fourth year the District will cooperate with the USDA Fish and Wildlife Service to round up the non-migratory Canadian Geese on Okauchee Lake. The goose roundup will take place in mid-June when the birds are without their flight feathers.

The goal is to bring the numbers of geese in line with what the lake can support. The numbers of geese have reached a level that raises concerns across the country. There are so many non-migratory birds that they are now at an increased risk of illness and disease. The geese contribute to water quality problems, including E-coli bacteria and increased phosphorus loadings.

Previously we asked permission to enter your yard. However, this year, if you live on the lakeshore, and DO NOT want the geese to be gathered on your property, please complete the Goose Round-up Opt Out Form below and return it to OLMD at PO Box 526, Okauchee, Wisconsin 53066 as soon as possible. Thanks for your help.

We also need to know where the geese hang out. If you frequently have problems with geese on your property, please let us know by calling Carol Wilson at 262-367-7363.

### GOOSE ROUND-UP OPT OUT FORM - 2010

The Okauchee Lake Management District ***does not*** have my permission to enter onto my property to catch geese.

Name (PRINT) \_\_\_\_\_

Lake Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Signature (Mandatory) \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return form as soon as possible, no later than June 1, 2010!**

Send to: Okauchee Lake Management District, PO Box 526, Okauchee, WI 53069.

## Safety Boating Reminders

As the summer boating season nears, it is a good time for some safe boating reminders and law updates.

The most recent law passed regarding boating is a Mandatory Boating Education Bill. Effective 2006, who is between the age of 12 and 16 years of age will be required to have a boating safety education certificate to operate a motorboat. For information on how to take the course visit [www.dnr.state.wi.us](http://www.dnr.state.wi.us) or call the Town of Oconomowoc Police Department at 920-474-4812.

While enjoying the summer on the lakes, it's a good idea to keep in mind some basic safety reminders. There must be a PFD (life jacket) available for everyone onboard. The PFD must be in good condition and the proper size for the occupants onboard. We recommend that children wear their PFD's whenever on a boat. Personal Watercrafts (jet skis) are a lot of fun if used safely. Remember, you must travel at slow-no-wake speeds whenever the PWC is within 100 feet of any other boat or PWC and within 200 feet from shore.

Another important reminder... be sure to tell your guests the rules and regulations when they use your watercrafts.

Okauchee Lake has several posted ordinances regarding boating that all residents should be familiar with when using the lake. The speed limit on Okauchee Lake is 40 mph between 8 a.m. and sunset. After sunset, the speed limit is 10 mph. Also, the entire channel is slow-no-wake. This means operating the boat at the slowest possible speed while still maintaining steerage. And finally, a PWC or boat may not operate repeatedly in circles with a diameter less than 200 feet at speeds greater than slow-no-wake.

These are just some quick reminders to help keep the boating season safe. If you have any questions, contact the Wisconsin DNR or the Town of Oconomowoc Police Department.

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## Police Report

The following information was provided by the Town of Oconomowoc Police Department at the 2009 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 meeting and reported the following as of August 25, 2009:

- Boating accidents: 1
- Total patrol hours: 737
- OWI's: 6 of the Citations were for OWI
- Citations: 129 (1 citation for every 5.7 hours on the lake)
- Warnings: 405
- Boater Safety Class : 1

- Tie up: The DNR provided five patrol boats; the Town of Oconomowoc Police Department provided two patrol boats; the Town of Merton provided two boats; and the Waukesha Sheriff's Department provided one patrol boat. Between the four agencies, nine intoxicated boaters were arrested on the lake and approximately 25 citations were issued by the DNR and the Town of Oconomowoc Police Department. This is down from last year's 65 citations and 18 OWI's. However, this year there were less boaters (approximately one-third of the number of boats from 2008, or approximately 100-150 boats) out on the lake during the tie-up. The weather played a big factor in the turn-out.
- In 2009 they patrolled 716.5 hours and issued 199 citations (1 citation for every 6 hours on the lake).

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## Mandatory Boater Education Requirement\*

Boater education certification is required by law for anyone between the ages of 12 and 16 before they may operate a motorboat including the operation of a personal watercraft on Wisconsin's waterways. Even if you're not required to have a safety certification card, earning one can save you money on boat insurance and make you a safer boater. All Wisconsin DNR-approved boating safety education courses listed below are NASBLA approved and recognized in all states and Canada.

Requirement: Before taking a certification course, you must be assigned a Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources customer identification number. Call 1-888-936-7463 between 7 a.m. and 10 p.m. daily.

After You Have Your Identification Number, There Are Several Ways To Take A Boater Safety Education Course.

### Internet:

Get certified from the convenience of home with [www.BoaterExam.com](http://www.BoaterExam.com) or [www.Boat-Ed.com](http://www.Boat-Ed.com)

### Classroom

Share the learning experience with other interested students and a qualified instructor. Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources can help you find a classroom course in your area. Call 1-888-936-7463 for information or visit [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov) and search for "Boating Safety."

\*Excerpts of this article are from the 2010 Wisconsin Boating Regulations and Handbook and reprinted with permission from [www.boaterexam.com](http://www.boaterexam.com)

## Town Enacts Light Nuisance Ordinance

At its March meeting, the Town of Oconomowoc, with jurisdiction over much of Okauchee Lake (except that along the eastern shore which is in the Town of Merton), enacted an ordinance which limits the use of outdoor lighting which might create a nuisance for neighbors. Over the years, many riparian owners have come to the Okauchee Lake Management District with questions and concerns about lighting used by others which they felt provided unnecessary illumination. For those Town of Oconomowoc residents, this ordinance is at least one step in working with neighbors to limit the impact of so-called light pollution. More specifically, the ordinance provides:

“All shoreline lighting shall be fully shielded, full cut-off low or high pressure sodium or equivalent lighting and shall illuminate the dock/pier or berthing structure only and shall not spill onto the water and/or surrounding property. Low wattage solar orange or amber lights are acceptable.”

Ordinance No. 2010-3 § 10.12(6)

There are also general obligations to shield light fixtures, place outdoor lights so as not to cause light

trespass or glare beyond the property boundary and the requirement that the light should be extinguished when not needed, or no later than 11:00 p.m. For those residents who seek the security

of an illuminated property, the ordinance allows timers or motion detectors, but prohibits dusk to dawn lighting “especially on shorelines, driveways, houses, or other residential areas.” There is a two-year time period for bringing non-confirming lighting into compliance with this section.

The OLMD has no jurisdiction over this ordinance, and questions should be directed to the Town of Oconomowoc for Town of Oconomowoc residents.



## No More Phosphorus in Lawn Fertilizer



At the urging of citizens, conservation groups, natural resource professionals, elected officials and businesses, Governor Doyle signed the “Clean Lakes” bill (2009 Wisconsin Act 9) into law on April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2009. Wisconsin now has a statewide law which prohibits the display, sale, and use of lawn

fertilizer containing phosphorus, with certain exceptions. In order to give retailers time to order phosphorus-free lawn fertilizer, the new law was delayed to take effect in 2010.

Just remember “Zero in the Middle” if you are looking to purchase or use a fertilizer on your lawn. Fertilizer bags display three numbers. These numbers represent the

percentage (by weight) of the three major plant nutrients and always in the same order: nitrogen-phosphorus-potassium (N-P-K). Since most soils in Wisconsin have plenty of phosphorus to support healthy turf growth, buying and using phosphorus-free fertilizer makes sense for our lawn, our lakes and...It’s the law!

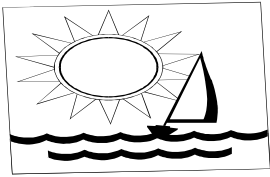
This article was modified from Lake Tides newsletter (University of Wisconsin Extension at Stevens Point: Lake Tides - Text Only (Vol.34 No.2) - Spring 2009 by Jeff Bode, Wisconsin DNR. For additional information Charlene Khazae at [Chalene.Khazae@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Chalene.Khazae@wisconsin.gov) or the UW-Extension Learning Store at <http://learningstore.uwex.edu>. To read the statute, go to <http://nxt.legis.state.wi.us> and click the “2009-10 Session Related” folder, then open “2009 Wisconsin Acts”.

## Newsletters

Need an extra copy of this newsletter? We have arranged to have a limited supply available at the Town of Oconomowoc Town Hall located at the junction of Brown Street & CTY K. It is also available on our website at [www.olmd.org](http://www.olmd.org).



Okauchee Lake Management District



Okauchee Lake Management District  
PO Box 526  
Okauchee, WI 53069



## Commissioners

Carol Wilson	Chairperson/County Rep	262-367-7363
Tom Godar	Secretary	262-966-0054
Dee Schriver	Treasurer	262-560-1487
Dennis Johnson	Lake Operations	262-966-0653

## 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.