

Okauchee Lake Management District

Spring 2022

Greetings from Okauchee Lake Management District Chairperson Carol Wilson



In the past year, many things changed. Luckily, Okauchee Lake was not one of them. Whether you enjoy boating, swimming or just watching the change of seasons, it never disappoints! The lake was the busiest it had ever been in 2020. For this reason, it's important to continue to be responsible, remember boating safety rules, clean/inspect your watercraft and trailer for aquatic invasives, and use the lake safely to have fun!

As you know, chemical treatment of the aquatic invasive species, Starry Stonewort, took place in 2020. The treatment sites will be closely monitored in 2022 to determine if the treatment was effective.

The OLMD Commissioners would like to thank Dennis Johnson for all his hard work and dedication in maintaining the weed control program for Okauchee Lake for the past 10+ years. His family moved off the lake and he retired from the board. The OLMD board then appointed John Foley to fill Dennis's position. Welcome John!

On behalf of the OLMD Board of Commissioners, thank you for your continued support as we look ahead to many more days at the lake!

Wishing you a safe & happy summer!

Carol Wilson

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Spraying Permit Information

The OLMD is in the process of obtaining a permit for the 2022 season from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to apply herbicides for the control of the aquatic plants in Okauchee Lake. A copy of this application is available for your review at www.olmd.org. Any questions you may have can be directed to Dee Schriver at 262-560-1487 or info@olmd.org. This Notice is required under Chapter NR 107 of the WI Administrative Code.



Goose Round-Up

This year the OLMD will again cooperate with the USDA Fish and Wildlife Service to round up non-migratory Canadian Geese on Okauchee Lake. 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 17, 2022.

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. Decisions on goose management will be made on an annual basis.

This permission form has no expiration date and remains in effect unless you request to be removed from the approved site list. Please contact the OLMD by calling its office at 262-966-0286 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: _____

Full Address: _____

Phone: _____

Signature (Mandatory): _____

Please return this form as soon as possible, no later than June 17.

Welcome Brady Mullikin, OLMD Lake Operations Supervisor!

Brady Mullikin has been working hard for the OLMD since the fall of 2018. This year marks his 2nd year officially running the Weed Harvesting Operations! Brady comes from a fleet and labor management background. "I've done every aspect of this operation from power washing and pitchforking, to hiring and structural fabrication. I plan on giving the residents of Okauchee Lake many years of service and consider this my home lake." Thank you, Brady, for taking time from your busy spring schedule to answer some questions about your new role!

What do you want lake residents to know about lake operations for 2022?

We are proud to announce that two of our oldest harvesters are being equipped with new Kubota Diesel engines. These modern engines should cut down on noise while improving reliability. Our outgoing Isuzu C240 engines were over 25 years old and far surpassed their expected lifespans. Additional major overhauls to the fleet were carried out in an effort to further increase reliability and longevity of the heavy equipment. Finally, our facility has been rejuvenated and revamped with an emphasis on efficiency and organization.

What do you wish residents knew about cutting and barging the lake?

The barge crews pick up M-F starting at 8 am! Harvesters will be cutting heavily M-Th. This summer we plan to harvest on Fridays with

special attention to the surface to reduce the amount of residual "floaters" that get caught in piers and docks. Weekends are precious on the water and the more we can collect with the machinery, the less time we all spend with rakes and pitchforks.

We expect to haul out around 300 dump truck loads to local farms this summer!

What advice would you like to give residents about weed harvesting or barging?

For Harvesting:

- The Harvesters have no immediate lateral control and cannot safely access every area one might want them to cut.
- Consider the website schedule as a guide, not the gospel. We will alter cutting plans "day of" if the wind plays a significant factor.
- Please give the harvesters a wide path to operate in while on the lake. They are essentially zero-turn machines and can pivot faster than one might expect.

For Barging:

- Piles placed at the ends of piers are preferred.
- Accessible shoreline piles are great too!

Your goal is our goal-to help make Okauchee Lake as clean and enjoyable as possible!



*Brady (above)
& most days on
the lake! (below)*



Updated 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 keeps employees safe

while transferring plant material to the barge. In the 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 that adequate space is required between piers, boat-lifts, etc. to safely maneuver the barge to the pick-up point (20 feet minimum). If, in the opinion of the Lake Operations Supervisor (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.

Plants will be picked up Monday through Friday (weather permitting). Please check the OLMD website home page (www.olmd.org) frequently to review the updated cutting schedule. OLMD strongly prefers plant piles directly on piers. In the event that a bin or receptacle is used, please drill drain holes in the bottom. Plants must be free of any trash, such as cans, tree limbs, leaves, etc., because the farmers who receive the plant material will not accept anything except plants. Thank you for your cooperation in meeting these requirements. If you have any questions, please call 262-966-0286.



Limitations On Boat Access

By Tom Godar



Did it seem like a lot of boats to you?

Last year was perhaps the busiest year on Okauchee Lake ever! How were so many boats on the lake, you ask? Boats get on the lake two ways.

Docking on private piers and lifts.

Property owners can moor boats at their lifts and piers; however, there are limitations. According to the DNR website, *"The law states that for non-commercial properties or properties with less than three dwelling units, up to two boat slips are allowed for the first 50 feet of shoreline owned and one for each additional full 50 feet of shoreline owned."* There are exceptions for piers existing before April 17, 2012, which can keep existing boat slip usage.

A few commercial establishments have certain exceptions for commercial marinas. The number of boats that can be docked at those marinas are as follows: Golden Mast - 25 moorings; Hideaway - 12 moorings; Foolerys - 16 moorings; and The Waters on Okauchee Lake - 10 moorings. There are a couple of other exceptions, such as the deeded access marina in Stumpy Bay for Lakeview Acres.

Boat Launch Access

The second major way boats get on the lake is through the DNR launch site and the launch site at the Golden Mast. The DNR launch site is

carefully controlled so that once the parking lot is filled no other boats are allowed to launch, even those owned by riparian owners. There is also a conditional permit for The Golden Mast to launch boats throughout the season. Those are regulated to launch no more than 45 boats on a normal day, 60 boats three days per year and 75 boats one day per year. Our records indicate these special days are Memorial Day, the 4th of July, the Tie Up, and Labor Day. This makes Okauchee one of the most accessible lakes in all of Wisconsin, with the resultant high traffic.

We encourage all to use the lake responsibly and safely, which means not exceeding the number of boats allowed for launch or associated or private boat slips. If you believe that there has been a violation of these rules or the DNR law, contact the DNR directly and provide as much information as you can to help the DNR determine whether it will follow up on a complaint. You can call 800-TIP-WDNR, or email Kathleen.Kramasz at kathleen.kramasz@wis.gov. Of course, any additional information you can include, like the property address and photos of the pre-2012 use of the shoreline might be helpful if you choose to have the DNR investigate a possible violation.



Let's all use the lake in a safe, environmentally sensitive, and respectful way!

Okauchee Lake Independence Day Celebration Fireworks

Date: Sunday, July 3, 2022

Time: 9:30 p.m., approximately

Location: Inland Park—In Front Of
The Golden Mast
Restaurant On
Okauchee Lake

Our amazing fireworks display is funded by donations from residents and businesses. There are some very generous individuals and businesses that give, but it is all of us together that make this a great show! 100% of your donation goes directly to the fireworks.



Fireworks Fundraiser at OLYC:

Saturday, June 11th, Mike Miller will be the entertainment.

Please send DONATIONS to:

Okauchee Lake Fireworks Fund
P.O. Box 41
Okauchee, WI 53069

Facebook DONATIONS:



Okauchee Lake Fireworks
<https://www.facebook.com/Okauchee-Lake-Fireworks-103620484669323>

Muskrat Control Program Update From Arnold Groehler

The muskrat trapping for this spring started at the beginning of April and will continue into mid-May. The number of muskrats in the lake have continued to decline. There has been a lot



more beaver activity on the lake this spring. They are traveling up/down the Oconomowoc River. Previously they would just be passing through, but several have decided to take up residence, primarily along the eastern side of the lake. You will know if they are in the area because they will

start dropping trees and digging very large burrows.

To avoid shoreline damage from muskrats or beavers, contact Arnold Groehler (262-490-9363 or jmgroehler@aol.com) sooner rather than later if they are in your area.



Police Report



The following information was provided by the Town of Oconomowoc Police Department at the August 31, 2021 Annual Meeting.

Town Police typically patrol

Okauchee Lake on a part-time basis from the first weekend in May through Labor Day and beyond depending on the weather. Officer Williams reported the following:

Total patrol hours: 513 (as of Aug. 30, 2021)

Citations: 90

Warnings: 271

Boater Safety Class : 0 - due to COVID- 19

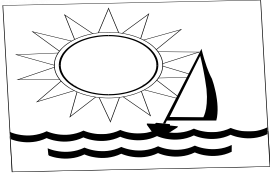
The DNR, Waukesha County Sheriff's Department, Town of Oconomowoc and the Town of Merton provided boat patrols for the 2021 Boat Tie-Up. 4 OWI related arrests were made at the 2021 Boat Tie-Up.

Please always use safe boating practices!





Okauchee Lake Management District



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

**IMPORTANT
INFORMATION
INSIDE!**

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 29, 2022 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 /Thomas.Godar@huschblackwell.com
Dee Schriver	Treasurer & Lake Operations	262-560-1487/dschriver@aol.com
John Foley	Lake Operations	262-269-6291/jjfoley4444@gmail.com
Bruce Mueller	Town Representative	414-704-5420/bruceTRC@wi.rr.com