

## Safety Project Report 2012

Wisconsin has passed a new boating safety law for 2012. Persons born after January 1, 1989 (and at least 16 years of age) may not operate a power boat (including PWC's) without a boating safety certificate. The only exception for those over sixteen & born after January 1, 1989 is to have a responsible adult (over 23 years of age) on board & supervising the operation of that power boat.

In order to accommodate the new law, Officer Blanton of the Sheriff's Patrol assigned to Whitewater Lake is planning to offer a Boating Safety Certification Class for Whitewater/Rice Lake residence and seasonal visitors. This is a classroom as well as a hands on class, and early June has been identified as a tentative date. The location of the class will be either the Whitewater Township Hall or the grammar school located on Kettle Marine Drive, on the southwest side of Whitewater Lake. The exact time and place will be posted on the Lake District Web Site and at the various JNT Marinas.

In order to take the course, you will have to contact the WI DNR @ 1-888-936-7463 to obtain a DNR Identification number or visit a DNR Service Center. You will need that number for admission to the course. There will be a \$10 charge for the course to defray the cost of course materials. As details become available, they will be published on the District Web Site or you may contact, Larry Brady @ [lnbrady67@yahoo.com](mailto:lnbrady67@yahoo.com) or by phone @ 847-975-6334 for further information. 🐟

## Water Quality Report

The water quality for Rice and Whitewater Lakes was similar to last year, but below average when compared to other lakes in southeast Wisconsin. We collect basic information throughout the summer to evaluate water quality conditions: water clarity, phosphorus, and chlorophyll. For the summer months, water clarity ranged from 2 feet to 4 feet (how far we can see a secchi disk below water surface). The average water clarity for southeast Wisconsin is 7.8 feet. Our total phosphorus average was 33 ug/l, which is also above the regional average and is at a level that can support noticeable algae blooms (a lower number would be better). A complete list of our observations can be found on DNR's website:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/lakes/CLMN/reportsanddata/>.

Together, these parameters indicate that we have eutrophic conditions (decreased clarity, more algal/plant growth, etc.).

The simplest action each one of us can practice to improve water quality includes the proper use of fertilizers at our home. This includes complying with the statewide ban on phosphorus in lawn fertilizers, using only the amount the lawn needs, and proper timing. More information can be found on UW-Extension website:

<http://clean-water.uwex.edu/pubs/#hy>.

Tom Ganfield, Water Quality Initiative 🐟



# Whitewater-Rice Lakes Management District

P.O. Box #301 • Whitewater, Wisconsin 53190

[www.whitewaterlake.org](http://www.whitewaterlake.org) • [www.gwlpoa.org](http://www.gwlpoa.org)



## Report From The Chairman

WOW... Another Spring-Summer boating season is upon us and I am sure most are looking forward to time spent on Whitewater and Rice Lakes as well as the beautiful Kettle Moraine area.

Last summer saw low rainfall numbers but we appeared to catch up some in the late summer and currently we have a full lake with water running over the spillway into Rice Lake. Because of the mild winter and lack of ice and snow cover we may have more weeds to deal with this summer but your board is prepared to do our best to hold them to a manageable level. PLEASE remember that fertilizing your lawn contributes to weed growth as some of the fertilizers gets caught up in the irrigation or rain runoff and puts these chemicals into the lake.

### Annual Meeting

Please mark your calendar - August 25, 2012 which is where you will hear from the board on the 2013 proposed budget as well as new board member election. ANYONE SEEKING A POSITION ON THE BOARD SHOULD NOTIFY US BY EMAIL 45 DAYS PRIOR TO THE MEETING; BIOGRAPHY INCLUDED PLEASE.

### Organizations

Valued components of our lakes family include;

- Minneiska Water Ski Team
- GWLPOA

Below you will brief comments by board commissioners on their area of responsibility as well as comments by the leaders of our various initiatives. During the fall your board added "WATER SAFETY" which is headed by Larry Brady who has been an active participant in our monthly meetings. Look for his suggestions, insight and updates on our WEBSITE.

Brian A Morris, Chairman 🐟

## Equipment Projects Report

In October, 2011 the Board agreed upon a contract with JNT's Marina of Whitewater, WI for the winterization and inside storage of our harvesting equipment. The equipment was placed into inside storage facilities owned by JNT's Marina, our operating contractor, in early November.

In December, 2011 the Board published an RFP (Request for Proposal) to refurbish the 10 foot Inland Weed Harvester which has been in service on Whitewater/Rice Lakes since 2001. The action to refurbish this piece of equipment was taken to comply with the timeline of the District's Long Range Equipment Service Plan. Inland Harvester of Burlington, WI was awarded the bid at the Board Meeting held on February 9, 2012. The 10 foot weed harvester is presently being refurbished at the Inland manufacturing facility and is expected to be delivered and ready to be put back into service in early May, 2012.

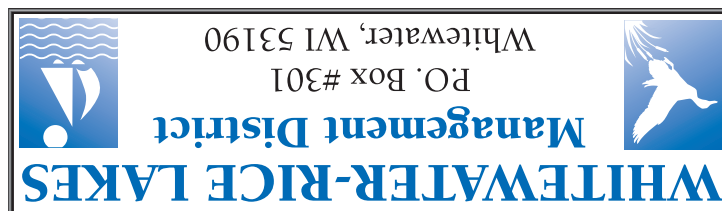
Chuck Chamberlain – Commissioner, Equipment 🐟

## Weed Harvesting

Winter is over, the sap is beginning to flow and our thoughts are turning to the upcoming boating season. We have been very fortunate the last few years to not be overwhelmed by weeds. However, the conditions that had left us weed less may be ending. A warm winter and little snow cover over the lake may have allowed weeds to survive under the ice. Secondly, as our chemical application fight against invasive has succeeded, it will provide an opportunity for domestic weeds to take hold. The DNR allows only mechanical weed harvesting against domestic weeds and spraying may be reduced in coming years. With that eventuality in mind, the harvester equipment refurbishments are occurring in anticipation of new battles. The Board is ever mindful of the nuisance weeds can be and is in continuous planning mode to be ahead of the conditions.

Happy boating out there. Be safe and courteous.

Rich Charts, Commissioner– Weed Harvesting  
224-656-4703 🐟



## Financials

In summary, 2011 finished the year at a surplus of \$27,150 with total income of \$165,014 and total expenses of \$137,863. This was approximately \$7,000 higher than the surplus projected at the August annual meeting of \$20,000 largely due to bog removal results and reductions in general & administrative detailed below. An analysis of each budget category provides an understanding of the key variations:

- Income as expected came in on target since most of our income is comprised of tax assessments.
- Weed Harvesting finished under budget by ~\$7,300 due to favorable lake conditions from winter and effective chemical applications.
- Chemical Treatment came in under budget by ~\$19,000 due to the historically smaller treatment acreage specified by our DNR approved survey, results of which were again from the slow winter weed growth.
- Bog Removal finished under budget by ~\$11,000 which in August was left at its full anticipated budget. Unfortunately, this was not because all of the bog had been removed but because the bog receded earlier than it historically does due to September's cooler water temperature. As there was no bog still above water at the point of the last two weeks of scheduled removal, it was subsequently canceled.
- Repairs & Maintenance finished over budget by ~\$16,000, even higher than anticipated in August by ~\$7,000. The trend of higher maintenance costs continues due to the aging of our equipment, a key factor in the decision to commit capital funds in 2012 for the refurbishment of the 10' harvester.
- General & Administrative came in under budget by ~\$7,000, better than anticipated in August by \$4,000 related to savings in legal fees and lower insurance rates.

In accordance with the motion approved at the August meeting, the operating surplus of \$27,150 will be transferred to the Capital Reserve Fund in 2012. The Capital Reserve Fund finished the year with a balance of \$60,319 to which the \$27,150 will be added. The approved \$22,000 budget for the 10' harvester refurbishment will be spent from capital funds in 2012.

Brad Corson – Commissioner, Financials

## Bog Report

In 2011 we continued our efforts to remove the floating bog as directed by the membership at the annual meeting and again were very successful. This was our fourth year using the current method and the contractor has the operation working quite well. There appears to have been a significant reduction and again in 2012 we will continue with this budget approved expense. You will note in the financial report above that we were not able to complete the budgeted days which include equipment malfunction, weather delays and the lowering of the water temperature causing the bog to recede for the winter. We will begin this around September 4.

Brian A Morris - Commissioner, Bog Removal

## Invasive Species Monitoring

One of the ways to keeping invasives such as milfoil weeds, zebra mussels and lake pennywort out of our lakes, is for volunteers to identify AIS, conduct water body surveillance monitoring for early detection and challenging launched boats that do not clean their ballasts and hulls. Additionally, community support can be shown through participating in training sessions conducted by Walworth County in conjunction with the DNR.

Audrey Greene, our County AIS coordinator is looking for people to participate in education and monitoring to stem the introduction of invasives in Whitewater and Rice lakes. If you wish to be a positive factor in this battle, contact Audrey and let her know of your interest. Audrey believes if we train the people who are often out on the lake, we might be able to catch anything new before it becomes established.

Audrey Greene, Lake Specialists Coordinator  
Walworth County Land and Use Resource Management

## Fish Stocking Report

Three major activities occurred in 2011:

1. Carp netting experiment in Chapel Drive pond - conducted by the Lake Management District ( LMD ), the WI DNR, and UW Whitewater. The objective was to measure changes brought about in one of the Whitewater Lake feeder ponds through the removal of carp. Two fyke nets were used through the help of the DNR. We learned carp are smart and wouldn't go into the fyke nets. We also learned the pond was full of spring crappies and small bluegills. Also it was the springtime home to numerous old (30-50yrs) snapping turtles. A few game fish were caught and released as well.
2. Fish Stocking: The WI DNR stocked WWL with 22,400 small fingerling walleye. 342 Northern Pike were scheduled for Rice but were canceled due to a lack of fish.  
The LMD stocked WWL with 1,263 5-9" walleyes from Keystone Hatchery. The purpose was improving our pan fish population by adding another predator to remove over abundant small pan fish. 91 northern pike (10-16") were stocked in Rice Lake to make up for the DNR shortfall and to improve the overall fish population.
3. Carp removal through Netting - An experimental commercial, rough fish netting permit was made available for both lakes and was utilized by John Heller, an experienced commercial fisherman. During the month of Nov., in mostly unsuitable weather, Mr. Heller netted 10,600 lbs (approx. 2650 4lb fish) in 3 days from WWL. He estimated good conditions would have yielded 40,000 lbs of 3-4 lb carp, and that it would be a profitable catch for commercial fishermen... The fish he did catch were sold and shipped to NYC.

Preliminary Plans for 2012:

1. WI DNR fish stocking: Whitewater = 6,400 northern pike fingerlings Rice= 0
2. LMD fish stocking - to be determined with help of DNR
3. Commercial carp netting: Continue fall netting program. Appears the DNR will put WW / Rice out for bidding by commercial netters...i.e. they will pay the State to net in our lakes.

Tom Potrykus , Fish Initiative

## 2012 Canadian Goose Report

With the warm winter and lack of snow and ice on our lakes, we have attracted a huge abundance of new Canadian Geese to our lakes. I hope that they all leave and go back to wherever they came from, but I expect many hundreds more will likely stay with us permanently.

Whitewater-Rice Lakes Management Board has again passed a motion to control the Canadian Geese population on our lakes in 2012 utilizing our Canadian Goose Nest and Egg Depredation Program and our Round-Up Program. We will never come close to eliminating all the Canadian Geese on our lakes but our goal is to reduce them to a manageable level.

Canadian Geese have a life expectancy of about 20 years. After last year's efforts we had left about 150 Resident Canadian Geese on our lakes. We were slowly making progress however we have had a big setback this winter with the increase in numbers. Each Mature Canadian Goose deposits about 2 ½ pounds of feces each day in our lakes and on our shorelines bringing E-coli bacteria and increased phosphorus loading in our waters. Any reduction in our goose population will improve the quality of our lake waters and shorelines.

Many of the nests are hidden especially well under a deck or in a hidden area. Please notify me in early to late April with location of any nests that you see in your area of the lake 608-883-2483 or [dfcleven@earthlink.net](mailto:dfcleven@earthlink.net). If you do not want the geese to be gathered on your property, please contact us and we will respect your wishes.

We all look forward to another fun year on Whitewater/Rice Lakes.

Dave Cleven, Canadian Goose Initiative

P.S. \*\*\*\*\* Below is a Permission Form for you to sign and mail in that allows us and the United States Dept of Agriculture – Wildlife Services to enter your property for Goose Management. Please sign this form and mail it back to: Whitewater/Rice Lakes Management District, P.O. Box 301, Whitewater, WI., 53190. \*\*\*\*\* *Thank You!*



### Permission for Entry to Property for Goose Management

I authorize representatives from United States Department of Agriculture – Wildlife Services and Whitewater/Rice Lakes Management District to access the property listed below for the purposes of goose management (egg oiling and/or round-up). This permission form has no expiration date and remains in effect unless you request to be removed from the approved site list. You will have an annual opportunity via newsletter or direct mailing to remove your property from the approved site list. Thank you for your assistance.

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature (Mandatory): \_\_\_\_\_

Please Mail to: Whitewater/Rice Lakes Management District, P.O. Box 301, Whitewater, WI. 53190

## Archives

The Lake District has started capturing and recording business digitally. Minutes, finances, reports and other key records are being digitized and saved for posterity as well as easy access by future Boards and volunteers. If you have significant documents, reports, older financials, minutes, newsletters and/or historic information that you can lend us to digitize, we would be most appreciative. Contact [rich@whitewaterlake.org](mailto:rich@whitewaterlake.org) or (224) 656-4702 if you have documents that can help.

Rich Charts– Board Secretary