



SPOONER LAKE DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2023

Aquatic Plant Management: The DNR has issued a permit to the Spooner Lake District for herbicide treatment of the **West and East Navigational Channels**. (Cost = \$13,516). Treatment will occur sometime between April 15 & July 15, 2023. SLD will notify property owners of the exact treatment dates via email and/or posting a notice to the [Spooner Lake District](#) website.

Our **grant requests** for Watershed Management and AIS weed control were not approved. However, **Curley Leaf Pondweed (CLP)** remains a serious problem especially in Sensitive Area F where it expanded last season. Thus, SLD commissioners have approved expenditures of \$9,346 for treatment, \$2,847 for post survey analysis and are requesting a DNR herbicide treatment permit for Sensitive Area F on the Northeast side of the lake. Check the SLD website and email list for updates.



9 Sensitive Plant Areas

Zebra Mussels: Washburn County Land & Water Conservation Dept. conducted a Zebra mussel survey in the summer of 2022 and found no evidence of zebra mussels. As part of our **Clean Boats Clean Waters Program**, we encourage you to wash all watercraft with warm soapy water if possible; do not transport water from live wells and bait buckets from one water body to another. Commissioner Hanson has obtained a \$4,000 grant for this program and boat inspectors will again help perform boat & trailer checks, disseminate information, and educate boaters on how to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species.

Annual Membership Meeting will be held Saturday, May 27, 2023, at 9:00 am at the Washburn County Fairground Pavilion.

Campground Litigation:

Over 2 1/2 years ago North Camp Inc. proposed to build a 200-unit RV park near the NW corner of Spooner Lake. The district resolved to oppose the project because it poses a potential danger to the lake among other reasons. We have won some and lost some battles along the way. On March 28, the case was heard in Washburn County Circuit Court. Briefs have been filed and the Judge is now reviewing the considerable record. She will write a decision when she has completed reviewing the record.

Over the several years we have spent nearly \$100,000 on litigation-related expenses. We budgeted \$20,000 for this year. Somewhat more than half of the \$100k sum has been raised through fund drives. If the District wins the court decision, North Camp may appeal or in one scenario go back to the Zoning Committee. If we lose, we probably have a good basis for appeal. Although it could lose its CUP, North Camp is beginning to work on some sites.

Spooner Lake Boat Launch:

The Spooner Town Board has changed their ordinance to permit the Spooner Lake District to update the boat launch fee process. Subsequently, the SLD Board voted on 1/28/2023 to exempt Spooner Lake property owners from paying boat launch fees on Spooner Lake.

Spoooner Lake Fish Population Survey: Last spring 2022, Wisconsin DNR completed a full survey of all gamefish and panfish species present in Spooner Lake. Below is a table of the survey results: number = number of fish sampled, min = minimum size (inches), max = maximum size (inches), and average = average size (inches).

2022 Spooner Lake Survey Summary				
Fish Species	Number	Min	Max	Average
Largemouth Bass	166	8.5	18.5	14.9
Northern Pike	475	10.0	35.0	20.9
Bluegill	597	2.6	8.8	5.2
Black Crappie	64	5.0	12.9	7.9
Hybrid Pumpkinseed	12	3.1	8.9	6.1
Pumpkinseed	194	2.8	8.0	6.8
Rock Bass	6	6.0	7.7	6.8
Yellow Perch	4	7.2	8.2	7.5

Based on the professional opinion of this survey prepared by Craig M. Roberts, Fish Biologist - Washburn and Burnett County Bureau of Fisheries Management, both Largemouth Bass and Northern Pike are at healthy levels and have a good size structure. Bluegills are overabundant in Spooner Lake, though the size structure is better than the last survey in 2008. Reducing the bag limit would not benefit bluegill growth in the lake at this time. Black Crappie have a good size structure based on this survey. Yellow Perch are currently present at low densities. They are likely present at higher densities and have better average size following a partial winterkill. This has not happened since 2013-14 in Spooner Lake. Drawdowns that may induce winterkill are not recommended for fisheries as it may create a scenario where Spooner Lake has a more unbalanced fishery. This imbalance is difficult to correct once it occurs. More details will be provided in the 2022 Survey Report which is currently under revision and should be available soon for the public. [**SLD Chair note:** *Public report will be posted to SLD site when it becomes available.*]

EMAIL ADDRESSES NEEDED: eMail is the most effective and timely means for the SLD to notify property owners and the general public of Lake District happenings. The SLD email list is only used for Lake District communications and is not shared with others. Update your email address when it changes by notifying spoonerlakeweb@outlook.com



Boat Parade: You are invited to participate in or watch the Spooner Lake Annual Fourth of July Boat Parade starting at 1 p.m. from the County Highway H launch area. Also, please navigate safely and keep remnants of fireworks and balloons out of the lake.

As the temperature is getting warmer, think SPRING! Washburn County Land and Water Conservation Department has a **TREE, SHRUB and NATIVE WILDFLOWER** sale. They may be running out of some things, but check their website for an updated list at <https://www.co.washburn.wi.us/departments/land-water-conservation>

Spooner Lake District Board of Commissioners
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