



P.O. Box 93  
Star Prairie, WI 54026  
cedarlake-wi.org



Volume 3 • Second Edition

A NEWSLETTER FOR OUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS

July 2016

## ALUM UPDATE

### Alum Treatment Revised Approach and Revote

Lake District members will be voting again on the alum treatment at the 2016 annual meeting. Following board approval of the Cedar Lake Management Plan, Lake District members approved a resolution authorizing borrowing and a special assessment to pay for the alum treatment in August 2013. After the 2015 annual meeting, some Lake District members expressed reservations about the alum treatment in a petition requesting a special meeting for revote on the treatment. The revote will occur at the 2016 annual meeting.

The revote for the alum treatment was delayed because new information has come to light. UW Stout Lake Scientist, Bill James and WDNR Lake Coordinator, Buzz Sorge are helping to guide the treatment strategy. The original strategy included in the lake study and the lake management plan was to split the alum treatment into 2 doses made 2 years apart. Bill and Buzz informed the board that new information suggests that smaller doses spread out over several years and multiple applications will likely improve performance.

The new treatment strategy will be presented at the 2016 annual meeting prior to the revote. With the new strategy, the same amounts of alum will ultimately be applied in the same areas. However, the application will occur at 3 year intervals with monitoring in between applications. Smaller, more frequent applications will provide better binding of phosphorus to alum and can be targeted based on monitoring results. Another significant



*Alum is aimed at controlling phosphorus released from lake-bottom sediments. An alum treatment was selected for Cedar Lake because lake sediment release contributes over 85% of the summer phosphorus that leads to algae blooms in Cedar Lake.*

benefit is that the District can use a pay-as-we go approach similar to that used by other nearby successful programs rather than borrowing the money up front. This will avoid interest charges and allow full use of grant funds with the first application. The special assessment used to collect charges for the alum treatment can be allocated as recommended by the alum assessment ad hoc committee. This group recommended varying levels of assessment based on proximity and access to the lake and size of parcel.

Grant funding secured from the Wisconsin DNR including a \$200,000 grant from the Lake Protection Grant Program and a \$165,000 grant from the Targeted Runoff Management Grant Program will be used to offset the costs of the first treatment.

## ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE:

### Cedar Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District Annual Meeting Notice

9:00 a.m., August 6, 2016

Star Prairie Town Hall • 2118 Cook Drive • Somerset, WI

Agenda items will include the presentation of revised alum application strategy by Buzz Sorge of WDNR, Vote on enclosed Resolutions regarding proceeding with alum treatment and borrowing for the treatment and the resulting special assessment, Eurasian water milfoil and invasive species management, vote to abolish by-laws and operate under State Statute 33, Treasurer's report and presentation/approval of \$50,050 operational budget, \$450,000 alum treatment debt service/assessment budget and resulting special assessment (\$365,000 to be borrowed and reimbursed by WDNR grants and \$85,000 special assessment), commissioner election, public comments and input.

The detailed operational budget may be viewed at any of the following during regular business hours:

- Star Prairie Community Center at 207 Bridge Ave., Star Prairie, WI.
- Town of Star Prairie Town Hall at 2118 Cook Dr., Somerset, WI.
- Town of Alden Town Hall at 183 155th St. Star Prairie, WI.

Regular Board meetings are held at 5:30 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of the month at the Alden Town Hall, 183 155th Street, Star Prairie, WI.

#### District Voting Requirements WHO HAS A VOTE IN THE DISTRICT?

Because of the importance of the alum resolution votes, we will be checking voter eligibility and providing paper ballots for voting. You might want to come early to allow time for this process. Bring ID and proof of ownership or residency if your name does not appear on the tax bill. Eligible voters must be 18 years or older and meet at least one of the following criteria:

- A resident of the District (bring proof of address if not a property owner)
- An owner of property within the District:
  - Name appears on the tax roll
  - Owner of property, but name is not listed (i.e., a spouse) (proof of ownership may be needed)
  - An official representative of a trust, foundation, or corporation that owns property in the Lake District (only one vote per entity. A letter may be required to verify eligibility to vote). Each individual is entitled to cast only one vote, no matter how many parcels they own or above criteria are satisfied.
- Absentee ballots are not permitted.



JAPANESE AND GIANT KNOTWEED UPDATE

Invasive species is one of our top resource concerns for Cedar Lake. In 2012 a stand of Japanese knotweed was identified on 10th Avenue, near the bridge above Horse Creek. In 2013, 5 additional locations were documented around the lake. Since that time, both Giant and Japanese knotweed have spread dramatically especially along the north/south powerline on the west side of the lake from the Polk County line to the north.

There are also locations where it grows along the lakeshore. Planting or transplanting this state-prohibited species is illegal and should not be done! To avoid spread of this plant, it is also critical to not move soil from where the plant is or has been found. This plant is extremely difficult to control and spreads like wildfire!

Lake residents are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the appearance of knotweed. If you identify this plant on your property, please contact one of the following:  
Don Demulling, CLP&RD Chairman  
(715) 338-4460  
Dan Early, Board Member and AIS Committee  
(763) 442-2666  
Doug Dickson, Cedar Lake AIS Volunteer  
(715) 410-5105



More information about this invasive plant is available in the Polk County LWRD project report, Giant and Japanese Knotweed Control in Polk and Burnett Counties found at <http://www.co.polk.wi.us/landwater/reports.asp>.



AVOIDING SWIMMER’S ITCH

Swimmer’s itch occurs in Wisconsin Lakes each year, including in Cedar Lake. Swimmer’s itch is caused by the larvae (immature stage) of certain flatworms that can be picked up while swimming. Technically known as *schistosoma dermatitis*, swimmer’s itch appears as red itching, bite-like welts within several hours of leaving the water. It is neither dangerous nor contagious, but is very uncomfortable.

If you decide to go in the water when and where swimmer’s itch larvae are present, stay clear of plants growing in the lake. Swimming rather than playing or wading in shallow water will reduce exposure. Swim offshore if possible. If swimmer’s itch is known to be present, avoid swimming when winds are likely to be carrying the organisms into the swimming area. Some people have noted that waterproof sunscreens and lotions reduce the infections. The most important thing to do to prevent the itch is to rub down very briskly right after leaving the water. This can crush the organisms before they can penetrate the skin. Showering shortly after leaving the water also should help.

After the swimmer’s itch organisms have penetrated the skin, there is little that can be done to treat it. You may get some relief by using soothing lotions such as calamine or lotions containing antihistamines and/or local anesthetics. In severe cases, see a physician.

For more information: <http://dnr.wi.gov/lakes/swimmersitch/>

WEB/EMAIL NOTICES

To receive this newsletter and other lake notices electronically, subscribe to our email list! Go to <http://cedarlake-wi.org> and join our list in the upper right corner of the home page.



EURASIAN WATER MILFOIL UPDATE

Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) management continues after its initial discovery in June 2015. A 3 acre area of dense EWM growth was sprayed in early July of 2015 and again in May of 2016. In 2015 a high percentage of EWM was killed with limited damage to native plants. The treatment was repeated in 2016 with less success: more EWM remained after the herbicide treatment.

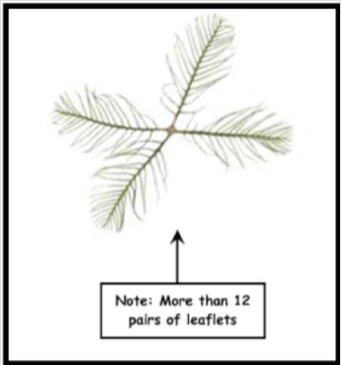
Our intent in 2015 was to follow-up by hand-pulling with divers in early August. Unfortunately, we were unable to complete this step because of poor water clarity last year. Water clarity wasn’t great in 2016 either, but divers pulled some scattered EWM by hand.

Careful monitoring is a critical component of the EWM control plan. We will continue to monitor EWM closely. Steve Schieffer, with Ecological Integrity Service, monitors treatment effectiveness, surveys the lake for EWM, and leads the dive crew. Although some monitoring is done by raking vegetation, visual monitoring is very challenging with poor water clarity resulting from algae growth.

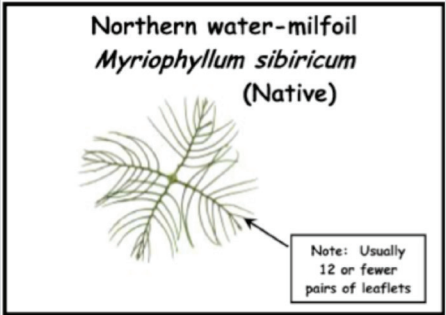
The Lake District secured a WDNR grant to pay 75% of the cost of EWM control. Another component of the grant project is to update the Cedar Lake Management Plan to cover aquatic plant management. During the planning process, we will review the current control strategy and consider additional alternatives. The plan update will occur this coming winter. Individuals interested in participating on a committee to update the plan should contact Cheryl Clemens with Harmony Environmental ([harmonyenv@amerytel.net](mailto:harmonyenv@amerytel.net) or 715-268-9992).

Please be on the look-out for Eurasian Water Milfoil as you boat around the lake. If you think you see this plant beyond the south end of the lake, please call Dan Early (763) 442-2666 or Doug Dickson (715) 410-5105. Eurasian water milfoil might be confused with a number of other submersed plants, including other water milfoils. Northern water milfoil (present in Cedar Lake) has fewer than 12 leaf segments on each side of the leaf axis, whereas Eurasian water-milfoil has 14 or more leaf segments on each side of the leaf axis. Northern water milfoil has somewhat stouter stems than Eurasian water-milfoil.

*A plan update to cover Eurasian Water Milfoil Management will occur this coming winter. Individuals interested in participating on a committee to update the plan should contact Cheryl Clemens with Harmony Environmental ([harmonyenv@amerytel.net](mailto:harmonyenv@amerytel.net) or 715-268-9992).*



Eurasian Water Milfoil



Northern Water Milfoil