



Church Pine, Round and Big Lake  
Protection & Rehabilitation District  
Lake Newsletter • May 2018

## LAKE CURRENTS



# Welcome to our Spring 2018 Newsletter

Given the positive feedback on last year's newsletter, we are again reaching out to the 252 homes in our Lake District with a newsletter to share issues impacting your lakes, property and recreational enjoyment. This newsletter, our new "state of the art" website [www.bigroundpine.com](http://www.bigroundpine.com) and your participation in our Annual Meeting 08/25/18 are designed to keep you informed.

Looking back on the past year, I am confident the newsletter articles will reinforce that your Lake District team continues to produce positive results in pursuit of our charter to "Protect and Rehabilitate" our lakes.

From a financial perspective, we have flat lined the level of District tax levies since 2013, and taxes remain unchanged for 2018. This is due to the Board's aggressive pursuit of DNR grants which bring your state tax dollars back to our local Lake District. For 2018, we have already been awarded a Clean Boats Clean Waters grant providing boat ramp inspectors, a Healthy Lakes grant providing individual property owners with shoreline restorations and an Internal Load Study grant for Big Lake. An additional grant application is pending for a multi-year curly leaf pondweed & AIS Control grant.

The Board continues to execute our DNR approved strategic Lake Management Plan and Aquatic Plant Management Plan. Both plans (and all official documents) are available on our website for you to review the long term objectives and policies governing your Board's actions.

Our challenges for 2018 include: The deteriorating state of the Big Lake and Church Pine boat ramps; Big Lake's listing as a federal EPA Impaired Water; funding for AIS treatments if we don't get a grant award; and above all ... constraints presented by the lack of volunteers. We need additional board members, project managers, committee chairs and members. If you see a topic of interest and you can get involved, please contact a Board Member.

Thanks to all of our dedicated volunteers!  
Gary Ovick, Board Chairman

## DON'T FORGET

Annual Meeting & Budget Approval  
August 25, 2018 • 9 am  
West Immanuel Lutheran Church

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[www.bigroundpine.com](http://www.bigroundpine.com)

# HEALTHY LAKES PROJECTS

Mike Reiter

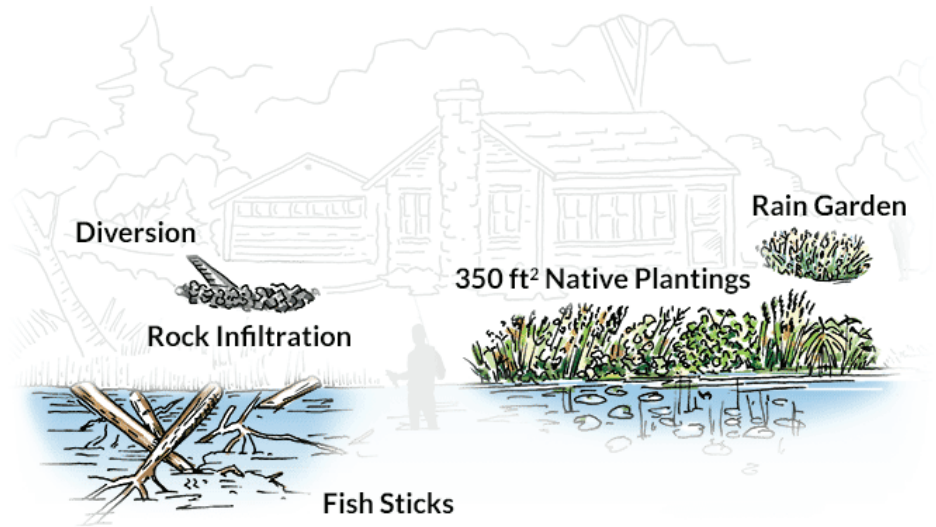
**PROGRAM GOAL:** To protect and improve the health of our lakes by increasing lakeshore property owner participation in habitat restoration and runoff and erosion control projects.

The Church Pine, Round and Big Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District participates in the Wisconsin DNR Healthy Lakes Program to reach the above goal. Eligible projects include:

**Shoreline Restoration:** The practice of restoring the healthy transition between land and water by installing buffer zones of native plants to filter runoff and hold the soil in place.

**Rain Gardens:** A landscaped shallow depression with loose soil and native plants designed to collect roof, path and driveway runoff while also creating wildlife habitat and natural beauty.

**Diversion:** To redirect runoff that would otherwise move downhill into the lake into a dispersion area where it can soak into the ground.



**Fish Sticks:** An in-lake practice of large woody habitat structures that utilizes whole trees grouped together creating habitat for fish and wildlife and preventing bank erosion.

Several property owners received funding for shoreline plantings and more have signed up for additional practices

such as rain gardens, diversions and fish sticks. Grant money is available for additional projects this spring. All projects must be completed by December 2018. If you would like more information, please contact Beth Hartman ([bhartmanstcroix@yahoo.com](mailto:bhartmanstcroix@yahoo.com)) or Mike Reiter ([mikereiter@centurylink.net](mailto:mikereiter@centurylink.net)).

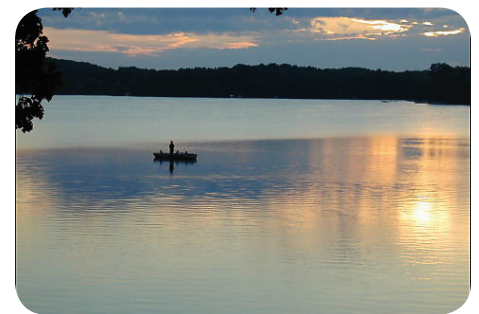
# CLEAN BOATS CLEAN WATERS

Jerry Tack

Your Lake District is once again set to continue with the Clean Boats Clean Waters initiative for 2018. This upcoming boating season will mark the 5th consecutive year for this very popular program. The goal of the Clean Boats Clean Waters program is to reduce the likelihood of invasive species of aquatic plants and animals from becoming established in our lakes. We contract with individuals and provide the necessary training so they may serve as boat ramp inspectors. The inspectors are generally looking for weeds or mussels on the boats and trailers, and for water in the bilge or live wells of the boats, either entering or leaving the lakes. This program has been widely utilized throughout Wisconsin and other states as

a means to reduce the risk of infestation. Of course, we cannot monitor the boat ramps every hour of every day, but concentrate on weekends, holidays, and some days during the week. The inspections typically start the weekend before Memorial Day and continue through Labor Day weekend.

Funding for this program is provided by a grant from the DNR which reimburses us for 75% of the program. A typical year results in expenses of about \$7,000 of which the DNR would reimburse the Lake District \$5,250. This is a great value for our three lakes, considering the consequences of a Eurasian milfoil or zebra mussel infestation.



If you encounter a ramp inspector, please thank them for the terrific service they provide.

We are always in need of ramp inspectors to fill all the hours necessary for an effective program. If you know of someone who is dependable and works well with people, it is a great summer job. For more information, please call Annette Viebrock at 715-294-2895.

# LAKE MONITORING

Mike Reiter

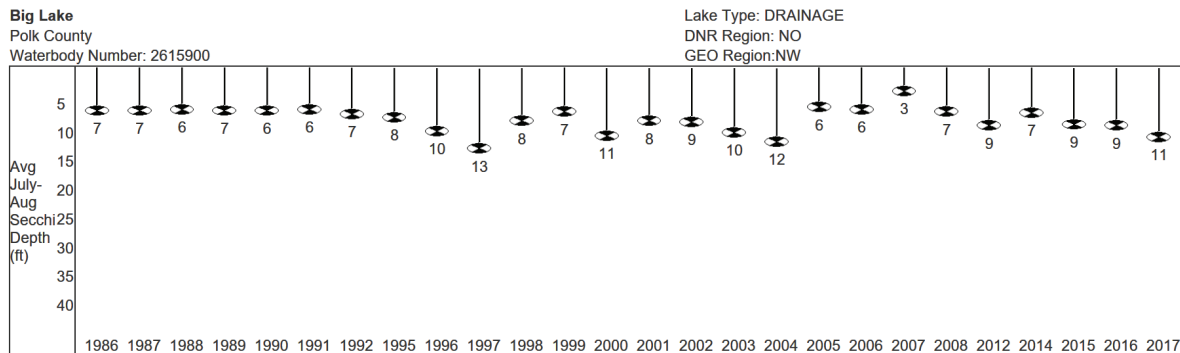
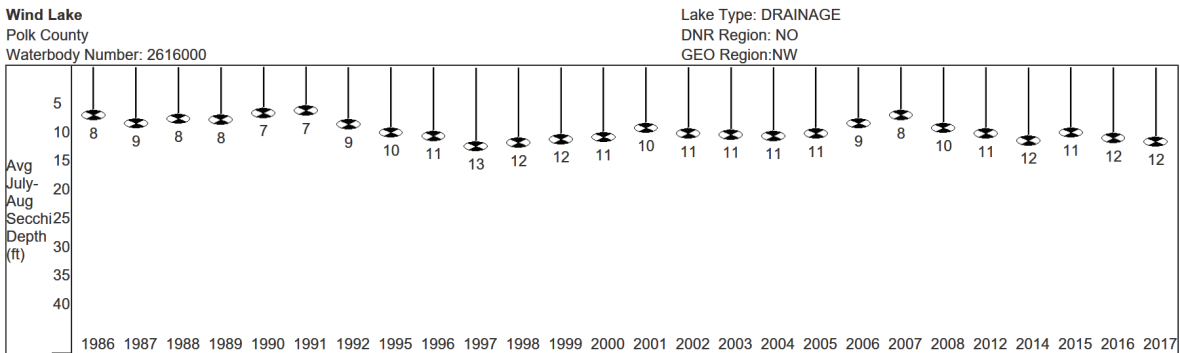
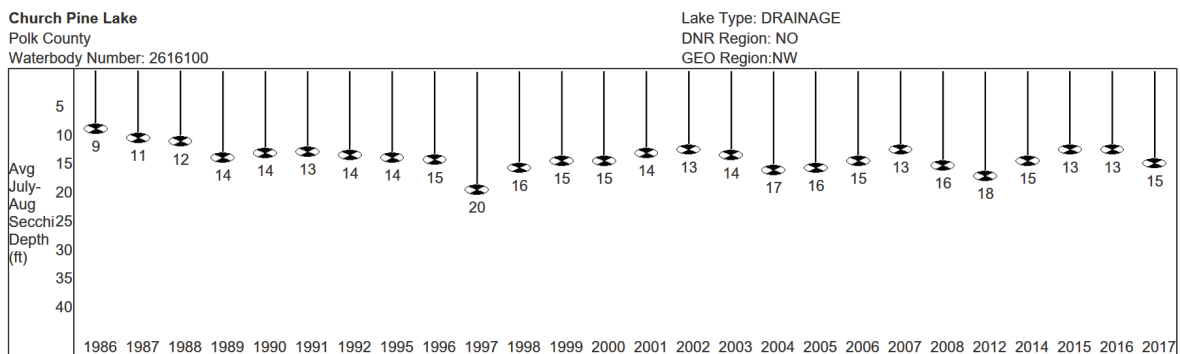
For more than 30 years, Church Pine, Round and Big Lakes have been monitored for water quality parameters, plant diversity and other physical attributes forming the basis for gauging the health of our lakes. The types of aquatic vegetation present in our lakes are great indicators of how well the lakes are doing. Secchi disk readings are taken several times each spring, summer and fall to determine any changes that can be observed in water clarity. And, water samples are taken to determine the nutrients present that could have detrimental impacts to our lake systems including as part of a Big Lake Internal

Load Study. It is important to collect data over a period of several years. Every year provides different sets of data, and only after pooling the data and looking at the trends, can sound science based decisions be made.

The data that has been collected by our dedicated volunteers is excellent data! Trends on all three of our lakes are uniform and make perfect sense when viewed over the long term. Looking back over the Secchi disk reading and comparing the first half of the collected observations (1986-2000) to the second half (2001-2017) we have actually

increased water clarity in Church Pine Lake (mean depth 14.0' to 14.9') 6%, Round Lake (mean depth 9.6' to 10.7') 11% and Big lake (mean depth 7.9' to 8.2') 4%.

Monitoring our lakes and charting our progress helps to keep us on the right course in maintaining and improving water quality and recreational opportunities. We are certainly headed in the right direction with our lake protection plans and will continue to do so to make our lakes all they can be for all lake users!



## INTERNAL LOAD STUDY OF BIG LAKE

Kelvin Kobernick

The 3-year Big Lake Internal Load study, which assesses the amount of phosphorus coming from lake sediments, will continue through the summer of 2018. Phosphorous is the primary cause of algae growth in Big Lake. Temperature and dissolved oxygen readings, as well as water samples analyzed for phosphorus, sulfate and iron, were taken on a weekly basis throughout this past summer. In the summer of 2017 the water of Big Lake remained stratified (water was cooler near the bottom), and water clarity as measured by the Secchi disk was good with 7-10 feet of clarity. Weather seems to be a key factor for Big Lake water quality. The summer of 2017 had normal rainfall and temperatures, and there were no significant algae blooms.

Jeremy Williamson, a water quality specialist with Polk County Land and Water Resources, is analyzing the data and will prepare a final report for 2017.



Results showed increases in phosphorus after July 4th in 2016 and 2017. His report for 2016 concluded that the sediment of Big Lake is a significant source of the phosphorous in the water with as much as 46% of the phosphorous coming from the sediment. The release rate of phosphorous is doubled if the sediments are disturbed through activities such as power boating. The board is looking into what further studies are appropriate at this time. The overall goal is to improve the water quality of our lakes and to have Big Lake removed from the impaired waters listing. Once the 2018 data has been collected, Jeremy will prepare a final report covering and summarizing all three years. This final report will give us the best information and recommendations to be used in going forward to decide what can be done to improve the water quality of Big Lake. A DNR grant of \$3,000 was approved for the 2018 study.

## NAVIGATION COMMITTEE COMMENTS

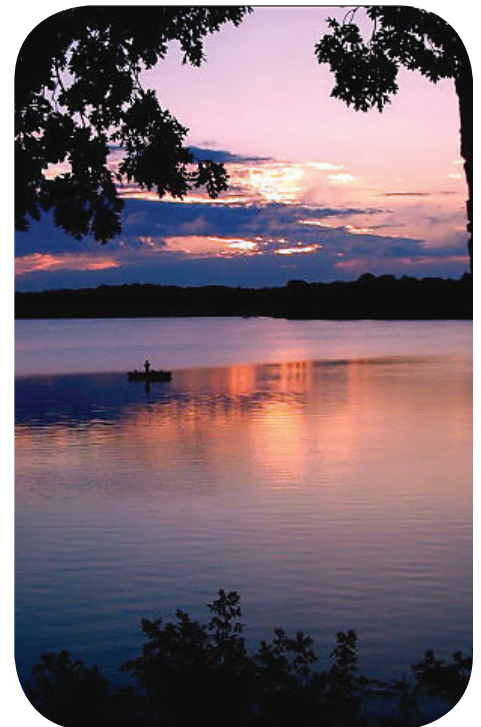
Jerry Tack

It's not too early to be thinking about spring, open water and another season of boating. The numerous boat shows also serve to help us get excited for open water fun. Safe boating practices, including the placement of the "slow... no wake" buoys are the focus of the Lake District's navigation committee. The buoys are placed in high traffic, congested areas and areas susceptible to shoreline erosion from wakes. Please reduce your speed gradually when approaching the buoys. A full throttle approach with rapid deceleration creates a large wake that carries well into the no wake zone.

To review boating regulations, please go to the website [www.dnr.wi.gov/boating\\_law.html](http://www.dnr.wi.gov/boating_law.html). You can click on the stop sign icon for a complete list of Wisconsin boating and personal watercraft (PWC) regulations. One

regulation that is especially important to our lakes is the "no wake" requirement within 100 feet of the shoreline for boats and 200 feet for PWC. The intent of this regulation is to provide a safety margin for boats entering or exiting the main body of the lake and to prevent unnecessary shoreline erosion. Again, please approach the 100 foot or 200 foot shoreline no wake zone with a gradual reduction in speed to reduce the carry over wake from your boat.

The Polk County Sheriff's office provides water patrol coverage. To help maintain a safe boating environment, we encourage all to be aware of boaters who continue to operate their boat or PWC in an unsafe manner. The Sheriff's office (715) 485-8300 welcomes calls to report unsafe boaters. A description of the boat and registration number, if possible, would be of great help.





# BIG LAKE BOAT RAMP

Greg Frost

Residents and guests to the lakes brought the need for repair of the Big Lake landing to the attention of the board. This concern is recognized, being evaluated, and will be addressed. Due to the proximity of the existing landing and Big Lake to the county highway and town road, the solution is more complex than simply replacing the landing in its existing location. An engineering firm has been contracted to assist with the evaluation of the project and potential grant funding. We will share information as additional details of the scope, timing, and funding of this effort emerge.

## SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Andrea Anderson



### LAKE SOCIAL DINNER

Saturday, June 16

at Wanderoos

Social hour 6-7 • Dinner 7-9

We welcome any and all volunteers to set up and check in people. I'm also looking for donations of raffle prizes!



### FOURTH OF JULY BOAT PARADE

July 4 • Noon on Big Lake

Assemble at the south end by the landing. Prizes for most decorated and creative designs!

## KEEP LITTER, TRASH, AND LEAVES OUT OF LAKES

Mike Reiter

During spring and fall cleanup, please refrain from raking leaves and grass clippings into the lake as they increase phosphorous and therefore algae. (Note: Polk County has free composting of grass, leaves and brush located north of Hwy 8 between Restore and Marketplace) Thanks much for your efforts in keeping our lakes clean and pristine!



## AQUATIC PLANT MANAGEMENT UPDATE

Mike Reiter

The Aquatic Plant Management Plan guides numerous efforts, projects and activities to make the lakes all they can be for all user groups. These include periodic inventories of the plants and animals that call our lakes home along with a proactive attempt to prevent the introduction of unwanted invasive species into our lakes. When invasives have been detected, there has been a rapid response to them, and treatment methods have been successfully implemented to combat those unwanted intruders.

We have decreased the extent of curly leaf pondweed (CLP) with control efforts supported by DNR grants. We have also effectively treated purple loosestrife on a few scattered locations around our lakes, and will consider future eradication of that pesky plant if needed.



CPRB P&R District  
PO Box 494  
Osceola, WI 54020



If you see a topic of interest, and you would like to get involved, please contact a board member.

## Web and Social Media Presence Update

Timothy Rudolph

The Lake District proudly launched a re-designed website last June! The new design enables greater functionality, more features, and responsiveness to ensure compatibility with many types of devices such as tablets and mobile devices! In conjunction with the new website, the Lake District also launched the ability to share news and events via our online newsletter, complementing our traditional printed newsletter. Combined with our growing social media presence, these tools enable us to reach as many residents and visitors as possible!

To see pictures of last year's events and sign up for our digital newsletter, visit our website:

[www.bigroundpine.com](http://www.bigroundpine.com)

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