



Church Pine, Round and Big Lake  
Protection & Rehabilitation District  
Lake Newsletter • May 2017

## LAKE CURRENTS



# Welcome to our Spring 2017 Newsletter

Today we are reaching out to 100% of the 252 homes in the Lake District with our NEW newsletter. The newsletter will replace our traditional Spring Informational Meeting which was typically attended by less than 10% of the District's households. With the cost and effort of a newsletter about equal to the cost and effort of the meeting, the board has chosen to use a newsletter to improve communications on issues impacting our lakes, property, and recreational enjoyment. The triad of the newsletter, website, and annual meeting will be the key components of our communication strategy going forward.

During the past 8 years as a member of our board, I have had the privilege of observing many positive developments within our Lake District including: resident installed shoreline buffer zones; major reductions of invasive curly leaf pondweed and purple loosestrife; implementation of boat inspectors, camera inspection, and educational kiosks at our landings; refurbishment of our carp barrier dam; navigation improvement by channel dredging; and the development of strategic lake management plans to guide today's and future boards. Many projects were accomplished by aggressively pursuing DNR grants which in turn contributed to our stable tax levies.

On the other hand, we still have challenges as some of the articles in this newsletter highlight. It requires many volunteers to fulfill the charter of our Lake District to "Protect and Rehabilitate" our lakes. If you see a topic of interest, and you would like to get involved, please contact a board member.

Gary Ovick, Board Chairman

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## Thank You!

Ann Layton, Board Officer & Secretary, for also being Project Manager on this newsletter.

## Don't Forget

Annual Meeting & Budget Approval,  
August 26, 2017 • 9 am  
West Immanuel Lutheran Church

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



## What is that Green Stuff?

Over the last several summers, you have probably noticed the presence of a strange blue-green hue to the lakes. Last year it was particularly evident.

### What is this, what causes it, and what can we do about it?

We are seeing blue-green algae. It is one type of small, naturally occurring, microscopic organism found in lakes. Blue-green algae are a "cyanobacteria" that, with the right conditions, will "bloom" into an undesirable nuisance that can cause a variety of very serious problems. At various stages and concentrations it can form a green, blue, red, or brown wind-blown mat on the surface. A rotten odor results when

it dies off. Blue-green algae can affect water quality directly and also may produce toxins that pose serious health problems to humans, pets, and livestock.

The main cause of blue-green algae blooms is excess phosphorus in the water. Phosphorus can come from a variety of sources. Phosphorus can occur naturally in the lake from ground water, enter the lake as runoff, and be recirculated by processes that release phosphorus from the sediment. In our lake system, several may be playing a role in the timing, duration, and severity of these algae blooms.

We, as lake owners, have several options that can be implemented on our property to prevent runoff running directly into our lakes. Buffer strips along the lake's edge and construction of

diversions, rain-gardens, and infiltration systems that prevent runoff from our roads and roofs from entering the lake can go a long way in accomplishing this. Reducing motor boat water turbulence in shallow areas will help to prevent shoreline erosion and nutrient resuspension.

This problem has been built up over many years. Weather conditions, rainfall, and natural phenomena can produce the "perfect storm" that results in the extensive blooms we observed last year. Efforts are being implemented to identify and correct these sources of phosphorus to improve the water quality of our lakes. With your help we can accomplish our goals!

## FISH STOCKING CONTINUES



This fall Bob Meyer, the Fisheries Committee Chair, obtained the proper permits and ordered fish for stocking our lakes. 2,500 walleye at a cost of \$5,000 were released into the lake this fall. This is an ongoing program supported in part by the Big Lake Store through the proceeds of the ice fishing contest in February. The program must be working: ice fishermen have reported some very nice walleye caught this winter!

## Welcome from the Social Committee

Spring is right around the corner,  
and so is social season!

JUNE 17TH:  
DINNER AT WANDEROOS

Great food and great company! Add to the fun and bring your neighbors with you this year. Please check your mailbox for information on how to reserve your seats!

JULY 4TH:  
Boat parade at noon on Church Pine Lake. Contest and prizes for best boat decorations!

# Internal Load Study of Big Lake – Summer of 2016

The Lake District completed an internal load study for Big Lake in the summer of 2016. The purpose of the study was to determine the amount of phosphorous coming from the sediment into the lake water. Phosphorous is the primary cause of the algae in Big Lake. In order to reduce the algae, we need to have a better understanding of its sources. We took temperature and dissolved oxygen readings and collected water samples which were tested for phosphorous, sulfate, and iron at two week intervals throughout the summer. The water of Big Lake remained stratified (water was cooler near the bottom) until September 28 when the lake turned over and water temperature was the same at all depths. Water clarity as measured by the Secchi disk remained pretty good throughout the summer. After September 28th significant algae blooms occurred.

Jeremy Williamson, a water quality expert with Polk County, analyzed the data and prepared a final report. His report noted that there appeared to be an event around July 4th that increased the amount of phosphorous in the water of Big Lake. His report concluded that the sediment of Big Lake is a significant source of the phosphorous in the water. The report estimates that as much as 46% of the phosphorous may come from the sediment. The release rate of phosphorous is doubled if the sediments are disturbed through activities such as power boating. Another primary conclusion of the report is that more study is needed, and 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 EPA's Impaired Waters Listing. Jeremy will give recommendations to the board as to what next steps should be considered.

**VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED FOR TESTING FOR THE INTERNAL LOAD STUDY, CALL KEL KOBERNICK AT 715-294-2045**

## Update: Aquatic Plant Management

This year marks the end our second successful grant application for the treatment of curly leaf pondweed. We have successfully decreased the extent of that infestation and at the end of this year's treatment we will develop, with expert advice, a future course of action. Depending on that decision, a third grant application may be submitted. 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.



Your help and continuing support will be needed to make sure our efforts are successful. Our plans are your plans and your input into this process is needed for success. Check out our website for more details.

### BOAT WAKES— RULES AND REASONS



No-wake areas are established in Wisconsin Boating Regulations to provide for safe boating and prevent shoreline erosion. Please be sure that your family and guests are aware of these rules. These rules can also protect lake water quality.

- It is illegal to operate a vessel at greater than slow, no wake speed within 100 feet of the shoreline, any dock, raft, pier, or restricted area on any lake.
- It is illegal to operate a personal watercraft (aka Jet Skis) at greater than slow, no wake speed within 200 feet of the shoreline or within 100 feet of any dock, raft, or pier.

For more information go to:  
[www.biggroundpine.com](http://www.biggroundpine.com)

### HELP WANTED

The Clean Boats, Clean Waters program is looking for a few good people - preferably at least age 17.

CBCW staff work from Memorial Day – September including weekends, with varying hours from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Pay is \$10/hour.

For more information contact:  
Annette Viebrock: 715-294-2895.

Clean Boats Clean Waters staff check boats for attached aquatic plants and encourage boaters to inspect, clean, and drain their boats and equipment. 75% of program costs are covered by a WI DNR grant to the Lake District.

In 2017:

- 532 boats were checked and 1039 people contacted on Big Lake
- 467 boats were checked and 982 people contacted on Church Pine



CPRB P&R District  
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Osceola, WI 54020

## Healthy Lakes Projects

The quality of our lakes is ultimately a reflection of how we take care of our land. On Big, Round, and Church Pine Lakes, several lakeshore owners have installed shoreline plantings containing a lush mixture of native grasses, flowers, shrubs, and trees that help to filter runoff and provide important habitat for animals in the water and on the land. The District and the DNR provided financial assistance for these projects, and the landowners were quite pleased with the results. Take a look around the lakes and notice those who have improved the health and beauty of their shoreline.



We have applied for another grant, this time to include rain gardens and diversions. Hopefully, we'll get the grant and you might see some interesting projects around the lakes in the next few years.

**Thanks** to those who are participating in practices that will not only improve water quality but make our shorelines healthy and beautiful. The butterflies and birds thank you too!

## Web and Social Media Presence Update

We are excited to announce that our Lake District has just launched its presence on social media!

Social media presents some new opportunities for communicating between the District, residents and visitors – we want to hear from you! Tweet at us, follow us, and like us on your favorite social media platform! Check us out at the links below. We have uploaded some great aerial footage of our lakes and our Independence Day parade from last year!

**Links to our accounts can be found on our website at: [www.bigroundpine.com](http://www.bigroundpine.com)**



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