



Potter Lake News

Spring/Summer 2024

A Word from the Chair

Welcome to the recreational season on Potter Lake! I am looking forward to my second fulltime summer at the lake. I am sure you are anticipating another great season as well. To kick this off, you will find information in this newsletter on:

- Latest PLPRD activities and opportunities
- Healthy lawn-maintenance
- Safe boating

Wisconsin weather these past few months has certainly been remarkable. The winter from December, 2023, through February, 2024, was the warmest on record since record-keeping began in 1895. This is not surprising to our ice-fishing and ice-skating aficionados. Additionally, Wisconsin had 21.6 fewer inches of snow than the average season. This lack of ice and snow cover allowed plants in the lake to continue growing. Lake and Pond Solutions LLC completed a survey of the weeds in our lake, and treated two areas of the lake in May. Our weed-harvesting crew has also been out cutting weeds since the beginning of May.

Spring has also brought us more rain than usual. As of mid-May, this has been the third-wettest spring on record, with over 12" of rain. Though this is a welcome relief from the drought conditions of the past few years, the lake levels rose to a level that necessitated instituting "Slow, No Wake" rules for a short time. We were able to lift the restriction and allow all recreational activity prior to Memorial Day. Hopefully lake levels will remain high enough to enjoy full use of the lake for months, but not rise so high that "Slow, No Wake" rules need to be put back into effect.

See you on the lake,
Cathy Schulz, PLPRD Chairperson
cathyschulzplprdchair@gmail.com

We would love your opinions! Please complete this brief survey by June 21, 2024.
[Potter Lake Survey 2024](#)

PLPRD Updates

You may have noticed that the logo of the PLPRD has subtly changed, losing the apostrophe. Your Walworth County Rep, MaryJo Jones, researched to determine official names and spellings of both the lake and the district. The lake is recorded by the DNR as Potter Lake. The Wisconsin Department of Revenue established name for the district is Potters Lake Protection and Rehabilitation, without an apostrophe. We will be transitioning all documents and communication from Potter's to Potters in the near future.



Since January, the PLPRD has met three times; the Audit Meeting on 1/20/2024, a Special Meeting of the Board Members on 4/22/2024, and the Spring Meeting on 5/11/2024. Please check the website at [PLPRD meeting minutes](#) for official minutes of those meetings. Here are some highlights:

- Dam construction – Partly due to the high lake levels, construction of the dam is now planned for after Labor Day. This will allow the crews to work efficiently. Once started, and the work should be completed in 1-2 weeks. Look for updates.
- Consider joining the PLPRD Board! The time commitment is modest, but the rewards are great. Currently, there is an opportunity to serve as the Town of East Troy Representative. This is an appointed position. Then, the term of the Secretary ends this year. This position is elected at the annual meeting. Please contact me or other board members for more information and a list of duties.
- We are also looking for interested people to serve on committees, including:
 - Policies and Procedures
 - Technology and Website
 - Welcome and Directory

Please contact me at cathyschulzplprdchair@gmail.com for more information or to volunteer!

PLPRD Commissioners

Elected Commissioners

Chairperson: Cathy Schulz
Secretary: Bob Rice
Treasurer: Bill Roeber

Appointed Commissioners:

Walworth County Representative:
MaryJo Jones
Town of East Troy Representative:
Elizabeth Sanders

See [Commissioners](#) page on the Potter Lake website for contact information.

Healthy Lawns on a Healthy Lake

It IS possible to have a nice lawn on a waterfront property, but it does require a little extra effort! Before treating your lawn, consider testing the soil to be sure you need to add fertilizer. If your soil is short on nutrients, you want to avoid anything containing phosphorous, as phosphorous contributes to the growth of excess plants and algae in the lake and decreases water clarity. Unless you have an exemption, by WI law, you cannot apply fertilizer to your lawn that contains phosphorous. Additionally, any chemicals applied to your lawn can end up in the lake and drinking water. Often, mosquito-control chemicals can be toxic to butterflies, bees, and other pollinators. To protect the water in the lake as well as pollinators and other wildlife, read the label section on any product, titled "Environmental Hazards", to determine if the product is toxic to these important insects or to fish or other wildlife. If you are using a lawn service, obtain a list of the chemicals being used and research their environmental impacts. Some contractors offer lake-friendly services. You may still want to double-check before having any product applied to your lawn.

For more information on caring for your lakefront property, click on this link: [Protecting Your Waterfront Investment](#). This is an excellent resource on caring for your property from the UW- Stevens Point Wisconsin Lakes Partnership program

Safe Boating



It is the time of year when many of us enjoy boating in Potter Lake. During the day, one can see fishing boats, kayaks or canoes, wave runners, pontoon boats and speed boats on the lake. It is important for everyone to be respectful of all who are enjoying the lake! Beyond that there are a number of rules that MUST be followed on Potter Lake. Regulations are posted at the DNR Boat Launch and a complete set of the rules can be found here: [Boating/Watersports Rules](#).

Some key rules to remember:

- Water sport activities include things like water skis, wakeboards, tubes, kneeboards, aquaplanes, etc. and are allowed on weekdays between 8:00am and sunset.
- On weekends and holidays, these activities are allowed between 10:00am to 7:00pm. Also, on weekends and holidays, boats must move in a counterclockwise direction.
- Boats and PWC need to operate more than 200 feet from shore and 100 feet from piers, rafts, anchored boats, and restricted areas.
- Approved personal floatation devices must be worn when engaging in water sport activities.

The Wisconsin DNR offers a number of boating safety course options, many of which are online. Consider enrolling yourself or a family member, [WI DNR Safety Education](#), to reduce the potential for injuries or conflicts and promote the safe and responsible use of the lake.

Information to have available includes the Non Emergency number for the Town of East Troy Police Department (262) 642-3700. For an Emergency, call 911.

Upcoming Events/Dates to Remember

Friday, July 5th, 7:00pm – Boat Parade

Jimmy Buffet theme; Meet at the Boat Launch at 6:45.

Friday, July 5th, Dusk - Lighting of the Lake

\$5.00 flares sold Sat. & Sun. from 12-4 at the boat launch from 6/22-7/5, or from Karen Winkleman on the corner of Cedar and Miramar

Saturday, Sept, 14th, 9:00am Budget & Annual Meetings