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# Upper Turtle Lake District 2022 Spring Newsletter

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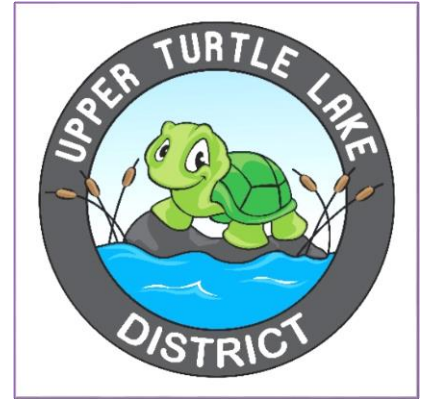
## Greetings UTLD Residents!

Spring 2022 is approaching. I hope this newsletter finds you and your family healthy and well. Everyone will soon be enjoying the lake.... here are a few lakeshore best practices to improve our lake clarity:

- Grass clippings and leaves create phosphorus, the nutrient that feeds algae, and turns lakes green. Please refrain from allowing these to enter the lake.
- Check your septic tanks to ensure proper operating condition.
- Rake your shoreline, and remove raked plants from the water.
- Buffer strips - grow native plants ( i.e black eyed Susans, big bluestem, and snowberry) along shoreline to prevent runoff.
- There is Grant money (to be applied for) that can cover expenses of rain gardens and buffer strips. More information can be found at Healthy Lakes and Rivers.
- UTLD will be once again asking for volunteers to work the boat landing inspecting boats. This helps mitigate additional invasive species coming to our lake. We have a paid worker that will cover 100 hours, and need 100 volunteer hours over the course of the summer.

Hope to see you May 7th at our Spring Thaw Happy Hour. Spare Time Bowling. Sherry Warrick, UTLD Chair

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## 2022 Events at a Glance:

**Spring Thaw Happy Hour and Tree Giveaway:** Saturday, May 7th, 11:00 a.m., Spare Time Bowl, Turtle Lake

**Poker Run:** Tentative date Saturday, July 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Independence Day Parade:** July 4<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 p.m. Meet near the island.

**Fifth Annual Lake District Annual Meeting:** Saturday, August 20<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 a.m., Ritsche Pavilion, Turtle Lake

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## Did you know?

*The Almena Township Landfill is a place that homeowners can dispose of lake weeds and other debris free of charge. The landfill is located on Hwy 63 north of Turtle Lake, and south of 16<sup>th</sup> Street. Contact Gary Krecker at (715) 296-1612 with questions or to arrange a drop-off time.*

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## 2022 Aquatic Plant Management Plan Activities

Most of us wait patiently through the cold winter months for the arrival of spring and lake activities. As Lake District Commissioners, we have heard quite a few questions on why the lake isn't being treated for the invasive species Curly Leaf Pondweed (CLP) this year. We wanted to take this time to explain and briefly revisit the overall plan.

With the alarming infestation of CLP in 2017, an Aquatic Plant Management (APM) Plan was developed to address the situation. This plan was a five-year plan that spelled out the mitigation activities through 2022, and the plan was approved by the Wisconsin DNR. Included in this plan was a three-year treatment cycle followed by an evaluation year to determine if the CLP and CLP Turion (seed) levels would return to a healthy acceptable level. Additionally, the APM Plan also included an objective to restore and maintain native aquatic plant species to healthy diverse levels.

The Lake District is now in the evaluation stage of the current plan. This year will be used to evaluate the success of activities relative to invasive CLP as well as progress on the return of important native species to the lake's ecosystem. In addition, this year's evaluation will also lay the groundwork for the next five-year APM Plan by providing a new baseline of Upper Turtle Lake's ecosystem. The Lake District Commissioners are working on the next phase of the APM plan, if you have any input, please contact any of the Commissioners.

## Clean Boats Clean Water Volunteers Needed

Another year, another plea for volunteers! **YOU** are needed to help reach the goal of 100 volunteer hours for the CBCW grant requirement!

There is training available! You can simply attend an online event offered by Polk County. The first training will be held Wednesday, April 27<sup>th</sup> from 10 AM – 12 PM, the second training will be held Wednesday, May 4<sup>th</sup> from 5 – 7 PM. Please email Katelin Anderson if you wish to attend. ([katelin.anderson@polkcountywi.gov](mailto:katelin.anderson@polkcountywi.gov)). These trainings are for new volunteers or a refresher for those who have gone through a training in the past. If you attend a training, please e-mail Kim Swenson ([kim.swenson2015@gmail.com](mailto:kim.swenson2015@gmail.com)) so credit is received for your time through the grant.

If you have any questions about the Clean Boats Clean Water grant or wish to sign up for volunteer hours this summer contact Kim Swenson at the email address above. Your commitment to the health of Upper Turtle Lake is appreciated!

## **Spring Thaw Social and Tree Giveaway**

Let's gather and say "Hello"! Please join your Lake neighbors on Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. for a Social Hour at the Spare Time Bowl in Turtle Lake. This is a social event, and a chance to say hello to your lake neighbors, enjoy some appetizers, and pick up a tree or two to plant in your yard. The Lake District will be giving away the following four year old bare root tree types: Red Maple, White Pine, Norway Spruce, and Black Cherry. The trees are expected to go quickly, once they are gone they are gone!

## **Independence Day Boat Parade**

Get ready for the wildly popular 4<sup>th</sup> of July Boat Parade! Parade participants should meet near the island on July 4<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 p.m., and follow the Lake District lead boat around the lake. The lead boat will have the Lake District Banner prominently displayed. Trophies for "Most Original" and "Most Patriotic" watercraft will be awarded. Please be mindful of boats that don't want to be bombarded with water balloons! Be careful, have fun, and good luck! Inclement weather date will be July 5<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 p.m. If the parade has to be rescheduled, notification will be posted on the Lake District's Facebook page by 12:00 P.M. on July 4<sup>th</sup>.

## **Poker Run – Music on the Water**

The Poker Run has been a huge success, and let's keep it going! If anyone would like to take the lead, or help with the event, please contact Lisa Nelson. New ideas and energy would be great. The tentative date is Saturday, July 2<sup>nd</sup>. We are also looking for any music groups that could perform while boats hang out in the water. Contact Lisa Nelson if you know of some musical talent! More information will follow. Thanks so much! Lisa Nelson [Lisa.a.nelson@comcast.net](mailto:Lisa.a.nelson@comcast.net), (651) 245-5607.

## **Barron County Groundwater Study**

As you may have heard, Barron County is working with the Groundwater Center of UW Stevens Point on a study of groundwater in the county. Letters were be sent to prospective well owners across the county. The list was derived using a database of wells constructed after 1990 as they have information on the depth, casing and geologic formation of the well. The goal is to test 400 wells this year.

It is the coverage of the county that will allow us to determine overall safety of well water quality and provides a baseline for future tracking of changes in groundwater quality over time. If you get one of these letters, you are encouraged to participate in this project.

After this year's round of testing, we will be looking at the data, and using it to guide the selection of another 400 wells in 2023. If you aren't selected this year, you may be in 2023.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Tyler Gruetzmacher, Barron County Conservationist at 715-418-0264 or 715-537-6246.

## **Remember when?**

A question about the origin of the Upper Turtle Lake boat parade was put out, and here's a response that was received from Peg Wohlers: "My dad (Chuck Nelsen) and neighbor (Curt Kalmes) were always up to something, and wanted to put on a bicentennial show for the lake. 1976 was the first "Big Pull". It took half the day just to get set up and gather 10 pairs of skis and all the ropes and life jackets. It was quite a production! We set up in Kruger's yard, and once all 10 were in place we would slowly walk into the water and put on our skis. Dad's boat had a 70 HP Evinrude, but he would tie the neighbor's boat (60 HP) to his boat to get us all up and out of the water. Once all 10 of us were up, they untied the 2<sup>nd</sup> boat. We'd go around the lake waving and laughing. This tradition went on for easily 4-5 years and then turned into the annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade. There was a potluck picnic hosted by my parents in our yard."

Thanks Peg for a great story! Does anyone else have a story to share?

## **Upper Turtle Lake District Board**

Board Chair: Sherry Warrick (651) 261-0205

Treasurer: John Vono (651) 472-3560

Secretary: Carol Timmerman (507) 398-9995

Barron County Board Rep: Jim Gores (715) 357-3720

Almena Township Rep: Ken Scheps (715) 296-5723