



BLPOA SPRING NEWSLETTER 2021

BLPOA
PO BOX 2
CECIL, WI 54111

berrylakewi@gmail.com

<http://www.berrylakewi.com/>

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE by Jim DePrey

Hello all and welcome to another spring on Berry Lake! I'm not sure if it's just me, but it sure feels like the winters are getting longer and the summers shorter!

What a crazy year 2020 was. Glad to see that one in the rear-view mirror. Let's hope we are getting back to normal. Of course, I am not talking about Covid – I'm talking about the water level on the lake and the slow-no wake ordinance put in place to deal with it.

We have some news on that front to share. We have been working with the Town Board to change the ordinance to better balance the desires of the owners who want to use their watercraft, with those who want to protect their properties that were most impacted by the high water.

For background, as many of you know that there is a water level monitoring station in the lake and the data from that station is readily available through a link on our Association's web page. The current ordinance states, in effect, that when the water level exceeds 94.1 ft above sea level, as measured by that device, the slow-no wake rule is in effect. We have not seen the lake that low since 2018. By contrast, the water level at the crest, around June of 2019, was around 96.5. Note that these levels are in feet and decimals of feet. Currently, the water level is about 95.45. I should note that the current levels are pretty close to where they were when the lake crested last time, in the early 1980's.

What we have proposed to the Town Board, and they have unanimously agreed to, is to keep the ordinance in place but to change the stated level 95.75. This level is about 3 inches higher than the lake is now. Further, if the level reaches 95.75, it will have to stay there for 14 days before the no-wake provision would come into effect. Conversely, once in effect, it would stay there until the level recedes below 95.75 for at least 14 days. Mike and Jennifer McDermot have agreed to be the monitors of the data for this. These added provisions are intended to eliminate the effects of temporary changes due to rain, etc.

The ordinance is actually controlled by the DNR, a move that was made in order to aid in enforcement, so the change has to be submitted to them and approved. This has been submitted and we are confident that the change will be in place for Memorial Day weekend.

We would like to remind everyone that these changes reflect the belief by many that the water level, as it is right now, is at a safe level, but just barely. So caution should be used when operating with an excessive wake. We would strongly discourage the use of boats designed to produce a large wake on the lake. Or at a minimum, do not operate in a manner that would produce a larger wake. i.e. do not ballast the boat to increase the draft. Remember, in Wisconsin, you are liable for any damage caused by your wake.

So that I think covers the big topic for this spring. Kay has other updates in the rest of this newsletter. Hope to see you all at the annual meeting Memorial Day weekend! Lots of new people on the lake so if you have new neighbors please encourage them to attend as well! With that, let's get on with the summer! See you on the water!

NO WAKE ORDINANCE FYI

Jim covered all of the details regarding the Ordinance above, and it looks promising that we'll be back to normal by Memorial Day weekend. We must now wait for the WDNR to approve this ordinance change and then it goes back to the Town, and they told us that they would hold a special meeting to get this through. As soon as we know for sure, we'll notify all residents via email whether we can have a wake here this year (we were told this may take appx. 2 weeks).

And throughout the year, we'll continue to monitor lake levels and will notify all residents via email if any change needs to be made regarding the wake.

We're also asking all property owners to do their part to protect their shorelines...adding stone riprap walls to prevent erosion is a good solution, and many have already done this here. Most riprap projects here at Berry Lake should be exempt from permits...check this WDNR document to be sure that you meet the qualifications:

<https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/waterways/documents/permitExemptionChecklists/riprap.pdf>

Here's an example of before and after pictures (this work was done by Schneider Landscaping in Cecil):



TIME FOR ANNUAL DUES – PLEASE MAIL THEM IN TODAY!

Annual dues are still only \$25/year, and we'd appreciate it if you could forward them to the address above prior to the annual meeting over Memorial Day weekend, as it will save time that morning (and I know we'll all want to get out and enjoy the lake ASAP on that day)!

The majority of our association funds have gone to invasive species control the past several years, and we'll need to continue this effort from now on. Thanks in advance Berrylakers!



CLEAN BOATS/CLEAN WATERS EFFORT @ THE LAKE

Whether you pull weeds along your shorelines or help monitor incoming boaters at our landing, your time will count towards future funding/grants for aquatic invasive species control. The more time spent volunteering, the less money out of our pockets. Kay will tally up all volunteer hours at the end of each year, and they will offset any costs incurred with control measures.

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) are here to stay, and we will continue to manage them every year, in conjunction with the WDNR's recommendations. PLEASE VOLUNTEER a few hours this summer...here's what you need to do (more information is available on the Citizen Lake Monitoring Page of our website):

- **Boat Landing Volunteers:** All monitoring supplies and information including the watercraft inspection sheet (questions to ask boaters) are in the CBCW tub that you'll take with you. It's easy (!), you just fill in the blanks on the page provided. Notify Kay via email of your date/time preference, and the schedule will be posted on the Citizen Lake Monitoring Page of our website. Kay will also send out an email reminder prior to your shift.
- **Pull AIS on your own:** The WDNR now requires that volunteer hours be submitted individually for each person/family member that performs any AIS activity (like pulling weeds around your dock). These forms should be turned into the BLPOA at the end of summer so that they can be recorded, and so that we're credited for all volunteer hours. This form is also available on the Citizen Lake Monitoring Page of our website).

AIS COMMITTEE message from our new Chair Jennifer McDermot...

A little bit about me...my family has been on Berry Lake for over 50 years. Recently, my husband and I moved to the lake, full-time. Last summer I was asked to become the next Chairperson for the AIS (Aquatic Invasive Species) sub-committee. Carol Asslemeier was the previous Chairperson. We THANK her for all she did for the BLPOA and are thrilled she will remain on the subcommittee. I will do my best to keep the positive and effective progress going strong.

In May 2020, an application of ProcellaCOR was used (in the east basin) to control milfoil and has shown promising results. Please read the 2020 HWM Monitoring and Control Strategy Assessment Report on the BLPOA website for up to date and complete HWM (Hybrid Water Milfoil) information. We will use this summer season to let the lake rest and monitor the lake with a focus on the west basin. The BLPOA intends to continue our partnership with lake management consultant, Onterra. They will monitor HWM with a late summer survey. If needed, Onterra is onboard to conduct additional surveys and support our efforts.

What can you do to help? Volunteer led HWM harvesting is important. Hand harvesting of HWM (Hybrid Water Milfoil) on your shoreline or removing floating fragments from the water, so they can't re-root, can make localized impacts. No permits are required (and remember to keep track of your time spent on the volunteer forms found on our website). Changing water levels may show areas where HWM has taken hold and may come back this year. You can refer to the hand pulling brochure found on the BLPOA website.

The WDNR grant process has been completely overhauled. Budget money has been slashed and moved to different focuses, such as shoreline restoration. AIS management is now focused on nuisance conditions and AIS impeding on recreational use of the lake. As of right now, Berry Lake would probably not qualify, especially since our worst area (west end of west basin) doesn't even have shoreline owners being affected. Plants will establish where they can grow.

Taking a year off is a longer vision. Being commensurate = risk taken for future gains in reduction, HWM will come back since it will always be in the lake but it is better for the lake to take a year off as a longer vision to let the lake "breathe." We do not want to create herbicide resistant plants.

AIS Subcommittee's Next Steps:

1. Observe and monitor 2021 season
2. Review new grant process
3. Keep talking with Onterra and get other bids to be prepared
4. Research updating of management plan
5. Do EWM mapping survey in 2021
6. If EWM is bad, complete additional surveys
7. Work on 2021 funding sources...
 - a. Write for a possible grant due Sept 2, 2021
 - b. Investigate additional funding from Underhill or a lake tax assessment
8. Collect Volunteer hours
 - a. Monitor the boat landing
 - b. Hand harvest HWM

If you have questions, comments or concerns, please attend our BLPOA annual meeting over Memorial Day weekend.

LEGEND LAKE COMPOST SITE

Berrylakers can use the Legend Lake Compost Site for a fee of \$50/year. It's a great way to dispose of your leaves. They will also chip brush up to 4" in diameter. Composted material (topsoil, mulch, etc.) is available to all who pay the annual fee. The form can be downloaded from the homepage of our website, and then mailed to their property owners association along with your check.

ICE ON – December 23, 2020/ICE OFF – March 24, 2021 This was the second earliest "Ice Off" date that we've ever recorded (2016 was ice-free on March 22). And December 23rd is the latest Ice-On date recorded. So **our lake was covered with ice for less time this past winter than ever before** (since we've been recording that data). We'll have to see what that means for EWM growth this year.

COURTESY RULES

Please be courteous to all of your Berry Lake neighbors and follow the rules that we've set forth. You can download this informational flyer from the homepage of our website. Remember that there is always a NO-WAKE between 8PM and 10 AM.

OTHER NEWS

We have a lot of new residents here, please contact us for any information about Berry Lake, and WELCOME!

- Please contact Kay if you are new to the lake and have not yet provided your contact information. It's the only way we can get in touch with you in case of an emergency. We never share your information. Those of us who live here year round do our best to keep an eye on things and will report anything out of the ordinary to you and/or the authorities.
- We have over 120 receiving our emails, and it's the main way that we stay in contact with residents throughout the year. All lake news is transmitted this way. If you're not getting our news, please email us @ berrylakewi@gmail.com to get on the e-list.
- If you have any items to sell or are looking for something to buy, email us your information and we'll post it to our website's Marketplace Page and/or to our Facebook page.

2021 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<p>ANNUAL MEETING to be held outdoors @ the Northern Grace Youth Camp on the lakeside (in case of rain, we'll meet in the Chapel)</p>	May 29 th at 9:00 AM	Annual meeting over Memorial Day weekend...the one chance that all Berrylakers have an opportunity to get together to discuss lake issues.
<p>2021 ANNUAL 4TH OF JULY COMPETITION "OUTERSPACE"</p> 	Saturday, July 3 at 2:00	All boats are to meet @ the Point at 2:00 PM and travel counterclockwise around the lake so all can see! Prizes for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place.
<p>ANNUAL CORN BOIL/WEINIE ROAST? BERRY LAKE SOCIAL to follow</p> 	Still pending	We're hoping to have this get-together, with a Berry Lake Social to follow.