

For more information on the District's operations, please visit our website at lakepewaukeesd.org

WE DON'T DO GARBAGE – With spring cleaning coming up the phone begins to ring at our office for information on garbage pickup. As reported in the past, we don't do garbage, but we know who does. The contractor for all three of our lake communities is Veolia Environmental Services. Their local phone is 262-367-6040.

LAKE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES – The District still has a few openings in our lake operations for temporary summer employment. These jobs are typically from mid May to the end of August. Applicants must be at least 18 years of age.

We also have a need for some permanent part-time seasonal employees for the lake operations. These jobs would typically run from early May until the end of October. The total number of days per week is flexible, but because of the nature of the job, we cannot offer partial days.

Since these jobs are considered part time there are no benefits.

For more information and job applications please call the office at (262) 691-4485

SUMP PUMP CONNECTIONS – Spring is here and it's time for us to investigate sump pump connections to assure there are no discharges to the sanitary sewer system. The District pays the City of Brookfield for the amount flow that is discharged from our system. If there are illegal sump pump connections we are cheating ourselves by paying for clear water flows to be treated at the Brookfield wastewater treatment plant. As our cost go up, the user fees go up, so if you know of a neighbor that is discharging their sump crock into the sanitary sewer, you are paying for it. Contact our office at (262)691-4485 and we will politely help them re-route their discharges correctly.

CHEMICAL USE ON PEWAUKEE LAKE- For the last few years there has been a push to use chemicals for the treatment of Eurasian watermilfoil in Pewaukee Lake. The District has been portrayed as trying to infringe on individuals rights to use chemicals in their pier areas. Apparently this is due to our request, along with other lake property owners, for a public informational hearing on the issue prior to treatment. The sole purpose of these meetings is to provide information about the use of chemicals prior to the permit being issued.

When the City of Pewaukee requested a permit to treat all their lakes shoreline areas the District did initiate legal action to prevent a treatment that would have violated our DNR approved lake management plan. After several hours of hearings the City withdrew their application and no further action was required by the District.

The District's position is that individuals need as much factual information as is available on the issue so that they can make an informed choice. Having heard many misstatements about the use of chemicals and the lake conditions in general we offer the following response to those *misstatements*:

There were no weeds before the milfoil showed up. The earliest references to weeds in the eastern basin is from newspaper articles in the 1880's that tell of the weed cutters being out cutting weeds for the ice industry and for the mail boat so that it could get around the lake. In the 1930's area residents organized to deal with heavy weed and algae growth.

Milfoil has only been in the lake for about ten years. Eurasian water milfoil was first identified in Pewaukee Lake in the 1970's but was more than likely here in the mid 60's but was misidentified.

The District has never used chemicals to combat weed growth. The District started chemical control of aquatic plants in 1945 using arsenic compounds. The District used 2-4D for the control of milfoil between 1962 and 1985.

The use of enough 2-4D could eliminate milfoil in the lake. Although lakes throughout the United States and Canada have tried numerous management strategies including whole lake chemical treatment, no lake has ever permanently eliminated milfoil.

During the use of chemicals there were no native plants in some areas of the lake. Native plants began to reappear in the late 1980's and were identified in all near shore areas by the mid 90's.

Conclusions: If we look at the facts from two studies over that time period it is evident that the lake has improved without the use of chemicals.

The Trophic State is a measurement of nutrient enrichment. In 1984 Pewaukee Lake was classified as very eutrophic or on the bottom of the scale for water quality. In 2003 Pewaukee was classified as a mesotrophic lake, a major improvement.

The Plant Diversity Index value has increased from 66.7 to 110.3, with the higher number indicating improvement.

The increase in diversity of the benthic, or bottom dwelling invertebrates, indicates an improved lake.

The fishery in Pewaukee in 2003 was considered outstanding, with 45 species in the lake including a State Threatened and a State Special Concern Species.

The discontinue of chemical treatment was for the following reasons:

- 2-4D is not 100% selective and may impact certain native plants.

- In our lake, the areas that were treated in the short term showed a reduction in milfoil, but in the long term milfoil became more dominant because of its invasive nature.
- Although the short term effects are relatively understood, the long term sub-lethal effects are not.
- There is no long-term liability coverage available for the use of aquatic herbicides. The District can only get coverage for negligence or accidental spill.

In 1990 a group of over 20 people from all areas of the lake formed the Citizen Advisory Committee to independently study the chemical issue. **They concluded that chemical treatment was not a good long term management tool for Pewaukee Lake.**

There is no other way to maintain your pier area. Alternatives to the use of chemicals for the pier areas are being practiced by literally hundreds of homeowners around the lake. Hand pulling, raking, or the use of a hand-held weed cutter for the removal of all types of plants is allowed within 30 feet of the homeowner's pier. Milfoil and other exotics may be removed beyond 30 feet. All plant material must be removed from the water (shore pick-up). The homeowner may give permission to someone else to do the removal. This does not require a permit unless you are removing wild rice. See DNR web site.

How can you get more personal service cutting weeds between the piers at your house? Call your lawn maintenance provider or Dave Sweeny from Aquatic Weed Removers LLC (262) 501-0533 for personal weed cutting service between your piers.

LAKE OPERATIONS - The district has been working hard all winter rebuilding shore barges, the transports and the harvesters in anticipation of a potential heavy weed year. A new track was also installed on the conveyor to minimize and eliminate potential breakdowns.

Discussions with the municipal staff surrounding the lake have been taking place for alternatives that help save time and fuel. Time is money and any way the district can team with others to help save time allows us to spend more time on the water removing invasive aquatic plants. An additional dump site has been submitted to the WDNR for approval to help speed up trucking time. The district is researching other operation sites to help improve efficiencies and travel times. WDNR approvals and City approvals for these operations and the accessibility details need to be negotiated, permitted and financed so time will tell if these potential plans can come to fruition.

Harvesting - Our number one priority is to cut 200 feet from the shoreline or any obstruction (piers) so people can get their boats out from their piers and boat lifts and get around the lake.

Our second priority is to cut lanes in the heavy matted areas so boats and skiers can get through those areas. A central lane will be cut from the village into the City limits on the small lake to allow boaters to move through these areas that can have a tendency to get heavy with weeds during certain years. Look

for these lanes to utilize to avoid creating more “floaters” with your props. The less floaters we have to clean up, the more time we have for cutting.

Shore clean up –

Shore clean up is one of our highest priorities and our biggest challenge. This is the actual picking up of the “floaters” created by all the boat props. It utilizes 3 people per machine and we typically have units out all week Monday through Friday.

Pile Pick up –

Pile pick-ups are on Mondays and Fridays. Stack the weeds on your shoreline and we will remove them (weather permitting). If weather conditions hold us off, we will be back to continue the route as soon as weather permits. Typically we send a transporter in each direction around the lake starting from our lake office. The goal is to get around the whole lake on that Monday and Friday. We appreciate all the people that help participate in the pile pick up program. You are the people making a difference for everyone. The more time we can save picking up “floaters” the more time we have to cut weeds with our harvesters. We understand that this is hard work, we are doing it all week, all summer. There are lots of summer students and neighbors that are willing to help and lawn services that may help you accomplish creating piles. The district is glad to remove them on Mondays and Fridays so help us help you and ultimately increase the removal rates on the lake.



Bridgman, Frederick Arthur [American, 1847-1928], *The Seaweed Gatherers*, 1912

If these people in the photo above can do it so can you. Team work is critical on big jobs, let's work together and make a difference.