



Lake Pewaukee Sanitary District News

July 2018

THE LAKE OPERATIONS

The lake crews are in full swing for the 2018 season and although the aquatic plants appeared to have a slow start, the theory that a cool Spring promotes milfoil growth may have come true in the middle of the eastern basin. By the time you read this newsletter we will have harvested 75 loads from a patch that really wanted to be laying on the surface today. We put a huge dent in it to avoid all the boats chopping up the plants and sending them to your shoreline.

We have the crews working in full force, however, we can't emphasize enough how much more efficient we can remove the aquatic plants if the lake property owners participate in the pile pick ups on Mondays and Fridays. The Lake Pewaukee Sanitary District started this process several years ago and to date, other Lake Districts have been following our lead. This process takes teamwork. You should know that this effort goes a lot farther than you may think. Aquatic plants you pile up help us remove even more Eurasian milfoil fragments from the lake which helps prohibit their re-establishment. If your plants are piled we can move around the lake quicker, pick up more plants faster and it allows us to clean more shoreline, which allows us to harvest more milfoil and other invasive species.

Lake Equipment reminder –

The Harvesters (Aquatic Plant cutters) are Yellow. They are cutting on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Typically “as a rule of thumb” the harvesters do not cut on Friday. This is so we do not create any floaters that we can’t pick up right away. The Shore barges will typically follow a cutter the next day to collect any residual aquatic plants that are floating. This helps assure the lake is ready for the recreational users over the weekend whether you are sailing, fishing, skiing or just on a scenic cruise.

The Shore barges (Aquatic plant pick-up – floaters, shorelines and piles) are Orange. They are out everyday, picking up floating weeds and weeds along the shoreline. Typically there is one driver and 2 people pitch forking aquatic plants on to the conveyors. They are slow moving as they are paddle driven and they are difficult to maneuver. Going in and out of all the docks and boat lifts is very tedious and time consuming, but necessary to gather the floating aquatic plants. If its Monday or Friday the orange barge will be doing pile pick up so if they drive by your shoreline that needs floaters cleaned up they will be back another day as they need to get around the lake to help the people that are helping themselves (making piles) first.

The Transporters are Blue. They are out everyday and they are used for unloading Harvesters and Shore barges to transport the weeds across the lake. They hook up to the conveyor back at the Lake Building and load the aquatic plants into the big red and big white dump trucks.

All equipment and the lake staff are scheduled daily based on plant status and wind directions. The schedules are always subject to weather conditions. Old Mother Nature can shut us down at any time. While we will work in rain and fairly windy conditions, we pull the crews off the lake when the winds get too strong and/or lightning is observed in the area.

Remember if you want your shoreline looking mint for the Holiday weekend (or any weekend), help us, help you, by stacking the weeds in piles for pile pick up. Pile Pick up is as usual on Fridays and Monday. This year Monday July 2nd is the last day before the July 4th Holiday weekend. Remember however it all depends on WEATHER CONDITIONS, if it is too windy and we cannot pick up the piles, they will come back around Tuesday July 3rd. Remember to stack the weeds where they are accessible for pick up with our large Shore barge or transporters.

A common misconception - Although there can be some floaters from harvesting, they are very minimal and they are cleaned up the next day. Most of the floating aquatic plants are created from water-skiers, wake boarders, larger fishing and recreational boats that dig down deep and chop aquatic plants. After the July 4th Holiday we see a huge increase in

floating plants that the crews will be working on, be patient it's a big lake, they will get around to clean the shorelines it just might take a week or two to get all the way around the lake.

Also remember if they just cleaned up your shoreline and the wind blows more floaters back in your area, we are not coming back the next day or even that same week. We have a big lake and everyone deserves a fair share of lake shore attention. Making piles yourself or hiring a student to help is your best shot at having a clean shoreline for the holidays, weekends or graduation partys. We don't make special trips for your party. Pile pick up is Mondays and Fridays. Visit our website for a detailed explanation of equipment and their uses and suppliers of hand held weed cutters at lakepewaukee.org

AQUATIC PLANT MANAGEMENT PLANNING

The completion of the 3rd iteration of the aquatic plant management plan with the Southeastern Regional Planning Commission is scheduled for December 31st, 2018. This is after 3 WDNR Grant extensions but we have also added a significant amount of detail including the maintaining proper lake levels, drawdowns to avoid ice heaving, the dam operations and the timing thereof. This plan will be titled "A Lake Management and Watershed Protection Plan for Pewaukee Lake". As many of you are aware the watershed is the entire surface area that drains into the lake.

The management plan will key in on this topic of "Watershed Protection". As the rain falls in the watershed, it carries nutrients, pollution and sediment downhill straight to the lake or it goes into the streams and eventually it reaches the lake. To try to manage the lake itself without considering everything that is flowing into the lake doesn't allow you to address the nutrients and pollution at the source of the problem. Phosphorus (and other nutrients) and heavy metals come from soil erosion and animal wastes. If we create stream buffers and filter the animals waste and minimize soil erosion issues, we minimize the nutrient loadings going into the lake.

Phosphorus and other nutrients promote aquatic plant growth and allow them to flourish. So if we can minimize the phosphorus levels coming into the lake, we can minimize the plant growth. If we limit the plant growth we limit the time cutting and picking up aquatic plants. The concept is very simple, the task is huge but people are learning and people are starting to care a lot more. People are starting to understand that it is all of ours to take care of. It is a "long term plan and solution" but it is one that will work and it is achievable. It is already in process, its already working and our lake is continuing to get better and better.

SANITARY SYSTEM

Don't flush it down the toilet unless it is toilet paper or something that you flushed through your own body! Flushing rags that may be labeled "flushable" have been causing problems with our pumps. Fortunately the new rules require manufacturers to pass 7 different tests that allow them to consider labeling something "flushable" but not everyone follows the rules. So consider the fact that if our pumps all clog up, the pipes fill, it has no other option then to come back up your toilet. Think about that concept before you flush any wipes (other than toilet paper) down the toilet. Remember too that when we are called in for emergencies, the district pays unnecessary overtime dollars for staff to respond to emergencies, these fees relate to our budget, the budget sets the user's fee and is why the user fees can go up. Help us save you money on these potentially "avoidable" emergencies. Ultimately the District has an outstanding record of protecting you against those back-ups through our emergency procedures but we also are successful by educating our users and creating an awareness of all potential circumstances.



You can find more info on our website - www.Lakepewaukee.org