



## LAKE PEWAUKEE SANITARY DISTRICT

APRIL 2019

Visit us on the web at [www.lakepewaukee.org](http://www.lakepewaukee.org)

### NATIVE PLANT SALE

The 11th annual native plant sale, sponsored by the District and the Pewaukee River Partnership, will take place May 11th 2019. The deadline for the Pre-sale orders is April 20th - for your order contact Charlie Shong at (262)443-6737 or by email at [lcshong@milwpc.com](mailto:lcshong@milwpc.com). The plant sale will be on the East side of Salvo's Pizza, 220 Oakton Ave. Pewaukee, WI. This is across from the Pewaukee Village hall and Police station. These are the plants we want to see around the lake. They are deep rooted plants that help reduce pollutant and heavy metal loadings to the lake. They are nature's way of cleaning the water before it gets into the lake. They also remove nutrients which help minimize algae blooms and help minimize aquatic plant growth. They are ideal for the perennial garden, shoreline buffer or rain garden. Over 30 species are available. A complete plant list may be viewed on the District web site at [lakepewaukee.org](http://lakepewaukee.org). All plants will be \$2.50 each. However, if you purchase over 12 plants all the plants pricing drops to \$2.25 each. All proceeds will be used to promote education and restoration projects within the watershed.

### LAKE OPERATIONS

The ice may be on its way out at the time you receive this newsletter and some new lake equipment will be float tested as soon as we see the open water. We plan to have transports and shore units up and running by the 2<sup>nd</sup> week in April. At that time if the weather permits we will start our Monday and Friday pile pickup with two part time employees. This has become a very well used service with the number of residents stacking weeds increasing every year. We would like to thank all those that participate in making piles since this makes our regular shore cleanup more efficient.

We do not pick up sediment and broken down aquatic plants (if they fall through the pitch fork we can't pick it up) so lake residents need to do a little yard work to clean up any loose dirt and leaves along the lake shore. This material is excellent fertilizer and should be put in gardens. This same material should not be pushed back into the lake as it is nutrient rich material that will promote aquatic plant growth and algae blooms in your riparian zone. It is important for lake residents to understand that anything that runs or gets tossed into the lake actually affects the condition of the water in front of your lake home. If leaves, dog feces and soil are tossed in the lake you are creating your own problem and compounding the very things that most lake users complain about - too many aquatic plants and/or algae blooms.

We may start some early harvesting if weather permits, but full operations with both harvesting and regular shore cleanup will begin when our students arrive around the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3rd week in May.

For more information on the operation or tips on how to maintain your pier area, go to our web site [www.lakepewaukee.org](http://www.lakepewaukee.org) or e-mail us at [lpsd@wi.rr.com](mailto:lpsd@wi.rr.com).

### LAKE MANAGEMENT PLANNING

The District has been in contract with the Southeastern Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC) for the updating of the Lake Management Plan for the Protection of Pewaukee Lake and its Watershed. This planning has been in process for a few years now and although we have been pushing hard to get it completed there is an upside to the unwanted delay.

We are including an incredible amount of historic data in the plan, an up to date aquatic plant survey as well as getting very important information in the plan such as the operation of the Dam that controls the lake levels. With a new dam gate operating from the bottom of the lake vs the old dam gate opening from the top it changes a lot of issues that aren't being addressed. For instance the amount of sediment or sand that goes down stream is being increased by the suction at the bottom of the gate. Having the flow down at the bottom of the dam also allows the surface water to freeze during frigid winter weather, this can actually freeze the dam controls. Sounds like a problem if we would get heavy rains in winter at a time when the ice surface level is at a slow no wake level...but that couldn't happen right? Lack of controls during a period like that could cause problems and needs to be addressed. The new dam also allows more water to pass through the structure per the WDNR requirements for dam safety. That's great news but can the river and the downstream properties in the flood plain handle the flow? What's being done about flood proofing those structures in the Village? How far is the dam going to be opened if the lake is at the Slow No Wake Level already and threatening the sanitary sewer system and basement flooding to the residents on the lake? These questions and more are being discussed and recommendations are sought to protect the Lake, the watershed, the lake residents, the lake users and the District sewer users.

What about the adjustment of the daily flows - In recent years getting boats off lifts in late October was a problem as the lake was so low some people couldn't get their boats off the lift. We at the District have trouble getting our large aquatic harvesters out of the water.

The District has sent formal requests to review the dam order, the operation of the dam and is continuing to request meetings with the WDNR (and the Village, City and Town) to come to a resolution. Changing anything in the dam order requires approval of the WDNR (Wildlife, Fisheries, Water resource Specialists and Dam Engineer) and ultimately a public hearing, so keep your ears open if you have thoughts on this topic as it is in process.

### **SEWER PUMPS – they do not like cleaning rags!**

This time of year we can have sewer pump clogging issues typically due to cleaning up homes and throwing the supposedly “flushable” rags into the toilet. Don't assume that the cleaning wipes/rags (Clorox wipes) are toilet friendly. All rags and disposable towels seem to cause problems. None of them are pump friendly. Toilet paper is the only paper that is “toilet and pump” friendly. Help us keep the District fee down, tell your cleaners to dispose of the rags/wipes properly - **into a garbage can**. Help us avoid responding to emergency pump problems which requires staff to show up at 2 a.m. and then we have to pay overtime. This cost the District and the user's unnecessary expenses. Think about it, you pay to have a cleaning service come in to clean your home, if they throw their used rags down the toilet and they clog a pump. You are then paying the District staff overtime to clean the pump. In reality you are paying twice for the use of those rags. Pass the word tell them to take the cleaning rags with them or you'll find another service.

The other big item is illegal sump pump connections. This is the time of year when we will be looking for sump pump discharge to our sewer system in the middle of the night. If your pump is going into your sewer drain you will be getting a large fine. I'd rather see those funds go toward correcting the problem. If you feel like you may have a problem but don't understand it call the district for a free review of your plumbing. Help us help you keep the cost of our sewer services down. Remove illegal sump pump connections. Disconnect illegal roof drain connections. We will fix our leaks in the main lines and we together can reduce costs of wastewater treatment.

For more questions on sewer leaks and connections or lake crew job opportunities and operations contact the Lake Pewaukee sanitary District at 262-691-4485, email us at [LPSD@wi.rr.com](mailto:LPSD@wi.rr.com) or go to our website at [www.lakepewaukee.org](http://www.lakepewaukee.org)