

# SPoonER LAKE DISTRICT FALL NEWSLETTER

## AUGUST 2024

### Aquatic Plant Management:

Successful herbicide treatment of the *West and East Navigational Channels* was completed in time for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend for everyone to enjoy some great swimming, water sports, and fishing activities. A portion of the West channel did not warrant treatment this season.

### Curley Leaf Pondweed Treatment:

As the map shows, Sensitive Plant Area Bed 7 (top polygon) after treatment in June 2024 has little CLP present in Bed 7 (white = no CLP, green = a density of 1, and tan = viewed only), indicating the treatment successfully reduced CLP.



Filamentous Algae near Spooner Lake Condo Association on Spooner Lake

### Filamentous Algae

We are aware, however of areas where Filamentous Algae is present in significant quantity. This type of algae tends to proliferate during hot temperatures and dissipate under windy conditions. This algae produces floating mats that normally begin to appear in July and may cover much of the lake by late summer. Most forms of filamentous algae prefer stagnant, nutrient-rich, warm water conditions found in many of Spooner Lake's bays.

Although this algae is important to the Lake's ecology because it serves as food sources for protozoans, insects, and fish, it can rapidly reach nuisance levels. Its abundant growth can result in a number of management concerns, including aesthetics, swimming nuisance, and interference with fishing. It can also cause fish kills in late summer and fall as the dying algae consume oxygen from the lake water.

Any overabundant plant growth is a symptom of excessive nutrients (phosphorus and nitrogen) in the lake water. These nutrients may come from runoff from barnyards, crop fields, septic systems, lawns, and golf courses. Long-term control of overabundant aquatic plants is best accomplished by reducing or redirecting nutrient sources from the lake. This can be done by reducing fertilizer applications near the lake, maintaining septic systems properly, redirecting nutrient-rich runoff away from the lake, and maintaining vegetative buffer strips around the lake. If Lake District property owners and the SLD fail to recognize and address the underlying nutrient causes of aquatic plant and algae growth, we will probably encounter an annual need to control overabundant plant growth. The **Healthy Lakes and Rivers Grant Program** described below as well as chemical treatments are examples of effective ways to effectively control overabundant plant growth in Spooner Lake.

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**Annual Fall Membership Meeting & Budget Hearing will be held Saturday, August 31, 2024, at 9:00 am at the Spooner Agricultural Research Station,**

**W6646 Hwy 70, Spooner, WI.**

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## HEALTHY LAKES & RIVERS GRANT: REQUEST FOR PARTICIPATION

Two years ago, the Spooner Lake District proposed applying for a grant on behalf of Spooner Lake property owners who wish to improve habitat and water quality with simple and inexpensive projects for their shoreland property (see [Healthy Lakes Program of WI. Let's Make Healthy Lakes Together! \(healthy-lakes-wi.com\)](http://healthy-lakes-wi.com)). Unfortunately, an insufficient number of lakeshore property owners expressed interest in the grant program. Since then, a few more lakeshore property owners have expressed interest in this grant possibility, but 3-4 more lakeshore property owners are needed to make it feasible for underwriting by the Spooner Lake District.

If you are interested, please respond to this newsletter announcement or to [spoonerlakeweb@outlook.com](mailto:spoonerlakeweb@outlook.com). Under this grant;

- 75% of the cost of each of the 5 best practices described at [Healthy Lakes Program of WI. Let's Make Healthy Lakes Together! \(healthy-lakes-wi.com\)](http://healthy-lakes-wi.com) will be covered by the grant.
- Each best practice is capped at \$1,000.
- The 25% match from a participating property owner can be in the form of volunteer labor, equipment, and cash.
- Property owners agree to maintain and leave practices in place for 10 years.
- Native plantings must remain in place according to local shoreland zoning ordinances.
- Grantees are allowed the standard two year grant timeline to complete a project.

### Campground Litigation:

The end might be in sight! Our recent trip to court on July 8 resulted in some clarification and direction. Our constitutional due process claim against the Zoning Committee (for "asking" people not to talk at a public hearing and allowing our lawyer only 3 minutes when North Camp got over an hour) will be scheduled for hearing after Sept. 8 before Judge Anderson.

Our case against the Washburn County Board of Adjustment alleging they erred in deciding our claims of inadequate wastewater treatment capacity and wrong definition of campground/RV park will be heard if we are not successful with our due process complaint. The purpose of this seemingly unending litigation is to protect the lake from ground water and runoff pollution.

**EMAIL ADDRESSES NEEDED:** Email is the most effective and timely means for the SLD to notify property owners and the general public of Lake District happenings. The SLD email list is only used for Lake District communications and is not shared with others. Update your email address when it changes by notifying [spoonerlakeweb@outlook.com](mailto:spoonerlakeweb@outlook.com)

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**LAKE COMMISSIONER ELECTIONS:** Several Spooner Lake Board of Commissioners positions will need to be filled at the Annual Membership Meeting. Per SLD Bylaws Article II, Section 3, "electors must be present at the time of the meeting; no proxy or absentee balloting is permitted. SLD Commissioners are elected for a 3-year term." Interested SLD members should contact Nancy Hansen [spoonerlakeweb@outlook.com](mailto:spoonerlakeweb@outlook.com) by August 23, 2024.

**Spooner Lake District  
Board of  
Commissioners**

**Chair**

Logan Ludwig

**Treasurer**

Nancy Hanson

**Secretary**

Ed Fischer

**Commissioners**

Pat Inman & Joe

Banick

**Spooner Lake District**

**PO Box 73**

**Spooner, WI 54801**