

SPOONER LAKE DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2024

Aquatic Plant Management:



A DNR Technician lifting a fyke net

2023 herbicide treatment of the *West and East Navigational Channels* was successful as was Curly-Leaf Pondweed (CLP) in Bed 7. Unfortunately, a late fall surge of filamentous Algae combined to produce a relatively short period of large floating clumps that created some navigational issues.

SLD will be treating the channels in early May 2024 with chemical herbicide designed to remove Duckweed, Hydrillas or Water Thyme, Coontail, and a variety of submerged weeds. CLP in Bed 7 will also be treated, but other sensitive plant

beds are not of sufficient size to allow for DNR permitting. Algae will be closely monitored but not treated this year as it is critical to the lake's ecosystem by helping the lake function properly and providing food sources for aquatic life.



Hydrillas



Curly Leaf Pondweed



Coontail



Duckweed

Spooner Lake Fishing Survey: Spooner Lake was surveyed in 2022 by DNR Fisheries Biologist Craig Roberts and his team to assess the status of the fishery. A preliminary report was posted last year to the SLD website, and the full report is now also available on the SLD website. [Home \(spoonerlakewi.com\)](http://Home.spoonerlakewi.com)

The report indexes the catch rates for northern pike, largemouth bass, and panfish species. It also assesses the general population characteristics, size structure, and growth of all species. Key data indicates a very healthy lake fishery noting that since 2008, northern pike catch rate has increased 5-fold and size structure has remained similar. Although bass catch rate has decreased over the same time period, bass size averages 14.9 inches with moderate density and excellent size structure. Panfish catch rate also decreased and size averaged 5.8", similar to 2008. Bluegills are overabundant and size structure has improved. Yellow perch are present at low density and black crappie averaged a good average size at 7.9'.

ANNUAL SPRING DISCUSSION MEETING

Saturday, May 25, 2024, at 9:00 am.
Spooner Agricultural Research Station,
W6646 Hwy 70, Spooner, WI.
POTENTIAL AGENDA ITEMS:

Wake Boats

Campground Litigation

Yellow River Protection Conservancy Phil Silva

Treasurer's Report

Navigation Channels and CLP 2024 Treatment Plan

The report also notes that drawdown/winter kills benefit northern pike and yellow perch, but potentially hurt largemouth bass, black crappie, and bluegill. This management tool is not recommended since it would likely further reduce bass density and potentially create an imbalanced fishery.

Campground Litigation Report

As you know, three and a half years ago developers announced plans for a 200 semi-permanent RV Park near the NE corner of Spooner Lake. The Lake District membership voted to oppose this project which likely has an inadequate wastewater system thereby threatening the Lake. As the statutory purpose of the Lake District is to protect the lake, the Lake District took appropriate action to challenge the Park's development.

After numerous meetings and hearings, the Circuit Court ruled that the Washburn County Board of Adjustment (BOA) had erred on May 20, 2022 when it approved the park permit (CUP). The Court remanded the matter back to the BOA which on April 5 once again approved the CUP.

The District Board is now considering its options which include once again asking the Court to void the CUP for several compelling reasons, including the inadequate wastewater treatment issue. The Board is also considering how to react to a recent inquiry from the developer as to whether the District would negotiate an end to this lengthy and expensive litigation. The litigation is financed by taxpayers and contributors. Stay tuned.

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Ed Fischer

Old Kollers Resort: According to Mary Schmitz Weimer, granddaughter of Anges (Sugar) and Sylvester (Sly), her grandfather Sly Koller and two hired hands built the resort in the late 1930s. They milled the lumber for the cabins and the family home from a small mill located nearby behind the family from the resort, they lived in the Ike Walton Lodge and at the same time ran the City Café. The original resort had 18 cottages, but one, the "Decatur", located behind the main lodge, burned down after being struck by lightning in the late fall.



Sly died suddenly from a heart attack while fishing on the lake in July 1944. Mary's parents, Dolores and Howard Schmitz, took over running the resort after Sylvester died and Agnes later remarried and moved to Chicago around 1952.

Dolores who died when Mary was little, and her husband Howard ran the resort until 1959 when she suffer a brain aneurysm and died suddenly. She was only 39. Sugar then returned to Spooner to run the resort with the help of her son-in-law Howard and granddaughter Mary. Mary was a certified lifeguard and did "minor

bartending” when she was only 15! When Mary was a high school junior, she and 2 other young ladies were Spooner Rodeo Princesses. (They were part of a mounted drill team at the Rodeo.) Leo and Kate Hendrick eventually bought the resort and operated it for several years until selling it off cabin by cabin to form the privately owned Spooner Lake Condo Association in 1987.

Stories about Al Capone are probably a Northwoods tall tale as Sugar never mentioned him and Mary has no memory of him ever staying at the resort or her grandparent’s home. He may have been in the area in the 1920s or 30s, but that was before the resort was built and before Capone was sentenced to federal prison in late 1931.

A Face book page, “Old Kollers Resort” www.facebook.com/KollarsResort contains numerous photos spanning many years and numerous comments from visitors.

Jennifer Lee Keen - whose parents, Roger & Sandy Lee, are long-time residents of the Spooner Lake Condo Association is currently working on a historical photo book of the resort. Her contact information is available at the above mentioned site, or you can contact her directly at keen.jennifer@gmail.com

The Yellow River Protection Conservancy (YRPC)

Recognizing the Yellow River’s potential as an ecologically resilient land and water corridor to help mitigate the effects of climate change, the Yellow River Protection Conservancy (YRPC) works to protect the Yellow River Watershed by preserving the flora, fauna, water quality and habitats through various projects. These include projects enhancing appreciation of the Yellow River’s history and people. Their land and water protection program offers recognition and grants to private landowners. Deed restrictions and conservation easements may qualify for a YRPC grant to defray land protection expenses.

Further, they have a program to: a) identify environmentally endangered or sensitive property, b) purchase the property when feasible, c) protect the property with a deed restriction or conservation easement, d) resell the property and then use the proceeds to buy another property. Phil Sylla is the President of the organization. He has developed an advisory board from diverse organizations to support and guide conservation projects.

Pat Inman

EMAIL ADDRESSES NEEDED: Email is the most effective and timely means for the SLD to notify lakeshore owners and others interested in Spooner Lake. 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

<p>Spooner Lake District Board of Commissioners</p> <p>Chair Logan Ludwig</p> <p>Treasurer Nancy Hanson</p> <p>Secretary Ed Fischer</p> <p>Commissioners Pat Inman & Joe Banick</p> <p>Spooner Lake District PO Box 73 Spooner, Wi 54801</p>
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