

Crooked Lake Area Lakes Protection and Rehabilitation District Newsletter



May 2022 Crooked Lake Area Lakes Newsletter

2021 Aquatic Plant Study

The District commissioned a whole-lake point intercept surveys in 2011, 2016, and 2021. The survey allows the District to review their aquatic invasive species activities and monitor future control strategies. The survey calculates the Floristic Quality Index (FQI) for the area lakes which measures the diversity and frequencies of native and non-native aquatic plant species.

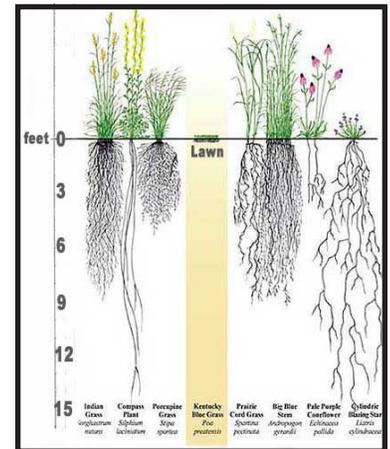
The 2021 survey revealed that Crooked Lake has what is considered to be a high species richness and Gilkey Lake and Bass Lake respectively have FQIs slightly above the state median. Also, additional takeaways from the survey include that the fern-leaf pondweed was the most prevalent species in Crooked Lake in 2011 and is now only 3% of the population in 2021. This positive outcome was well received for this plant species is known for its nuisance “matting”. Bass Lake also showed lower populations of this plant in 2021. Gilkey Lake experienced higher populations of white-stemmed pondweed and large-leafed pondweed over the ten-year period.

The results of the highly successful ProcellaCOR herbicide treatment applied in July 2020 showed the dense populations of Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM) were virtually eliminated by the application with little impact on native species. As a result, Onterra does not recommend applying herbicides in 2022.

The proposal for AIS monitoring in 2022 is as follow: Onterra expects that 2021 project administration and communication would cost \$225, the 2022 late-season EWM mapping survey would cost \$1,310, 2022 EWM email narrative report \$230, 2022 EWM monitoring annual report \$730, and 2022 travel costs \$190 for a total of \$2,685. This was approved by the Board at the May 7 meeting.

Buffer Strips Improve Water Quality

An easy and effective way to improve lake water quality is to consider having your shoreline act as a “buffer strip” to reduce erosion and filter harmful chemicals. A riparian buffer strip is a band of permanent vegetation along the shoreline which traps pollutants and provides habitat for a variety of plants and animals. Deep rooted native grasses, trees, and shrubs act as a barrier to keep pesticides, nitrogen, and phosphorus from the water. Increased levels of fertilizer runoff can lead to summer blooms of blue-green algae which often produce toxins that are linked to illness in humans and animals.



Blue-green algae is really not an algae at all, but a type of bacteria called cyanobacteria. Nutrient-rich water and ample sunlight can cause massive “blooms” which resemble pea soup. These toxic blooms often emit obnoxious odors as well. This bacteria can have a serious effect on fish populations and harm your pets as well.

Many lakefront properties have suburban landscapes, with manicured lawns adjacent to the shoreline. Planting a barrier of native, deep-rooted grass varieties is an attractive and low-maintenance way to improve your shoreline and help the environment as well. Native grass root systems are many times larger than Kentucky Bluegrass, ryegrass, and fescues. They need no supplemental watering and can make a stunning statement as well. Karl Foerster, Big Bluestem, Little Bluestem, and Indian Grass are just some of the na-

tive grasses available at many local nursery and garden centers. Sedges are also great for moist to wet environments.

Ideally, vegetation used for a buffer zone should be a mix of trees, shrubs, and native grasses suitable for the area's growing zone (4a–4b). This approach will reduce soil erosion, improve water clarity, reduce harmful pollutants, improve biodiversity, and allows for more time to fish versus mowing the lawn!

Brian Webb

Sources:

Wisconsin DNR

Minnesota DNR

USDA Forest Service

EMAIL ADDRESSES NEEDED

If you are receiving this newsletter by U.S. mail, you can save the Lakes District money and receive the newsletter by email or through the district website. With the cost of everything going up today, the Board would rather spend the monies on lake improvements.

All you have to do is send an email to crooklake@gmail.com to get on the email list. Thank you.

ZEBRA MUSSELS

Preliminary results of the zebra mussel (ZB) study showed that ZB were detected on three of the five submerged collection plates in 2021. The sample plates were located near the shoreline just west of the public beach and on the southern shoreline of the Crooked Lake peninsula. Evidence of ZB were also found on dock supports and pontoons hulls in that area. Final verification is forthcoming via the DNR forthcoming via the DNR. The Board is looking for five new locations for the plates to be placed this season. The collection plates will be distributed at the annual meeting.



Firewise USA

There are many ways you can help and become more involved in the Crooked Lake District Firewise USA site.

1. Return your 2022 Firewise USA timecard to Curt Hoffman (curthoffman07@gmail.com). This timecard assists the association in meeting the match requirement for the grants. If you complete any tasks to reduce your wildfire risk such as pruning up trees, etc. please complete the enclosed in-kind matching timesheet. If you do not want to fill out the timecard, just email Curt the number of hours you worked and what type of work you did. Each hour you document is worth \$28.54 in match to the lake district.

ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

May 28, 2022, 9 a.m.

Call to Order

Roll Call

Approve Agenda
Secretary's Report
Treasurer's Report

Committee Reports

Lake Management Plan
Educational Activity
Clean Boats, Clean Waters

Other Business

Firewise USA Presentation
Election of Commissioner(s)
Tax Assessment Vote

Adjournment

2. Join our work group! Attend meetings, assist with decision making for the Firewise USA site or assist with organizing projects. We need your help to make this site successful. **Your time investment (BIG OR SMALL) can make a difference.**
3. The Crooked Lake District is conducting a neighbor helping neighbor project and **your help is needed**. We are looking for volunteers to assist with this project. Volunteers can assist with raking leaves, removing or cleaning up brush, cutting trees, and many more tasks. Dates for this project will be determined with the people who volunteer.

SPORTSMAN'S CLUB NEWS

This winter 12 fish cribs were assembled on the ice. The DNR will be moving these cribs the second or third week of May.

July 2 is the Sportsman's Club annual picnic.

2022 BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

February 26

May 7

May 28 (Annual Meeting)

September 10

October 22

All meetings are held at the Wally Remic Community Center at 9:00 a.m. The meetings are always opened to the public. Mark your calendars.