

Protecting & Rehabilitating for HEALTHIER LAKES

A PUBLICATION FROM AMERY LAKES
PROTECTION AND REHABILITATION DISTRICT

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If you have issues or concerns, please join us at one of our scheduled meetings.



POSSIBLE NEW BOAT LAUNCHING SITE FOR NORTH TWIN

By Jon Bergquist

The Lake District is currently working with the City of Amery to develop a new boat launching site on North Twin. The current facility offers no onsite parking. Once you launch your watercraft, you must pull back onto Keller Avenue (Highway 46) and park your vehicle and trailer on Wisconsin Avenue.

There are many steps that must be completed before a new boating landing on North Twin Lake is feasible. The City has taken the first step and has made an offer to purchase a parcel of land near the current boat launch site. The Lake District will assist with that purchase. The next step was for the City to

have a wetland determination/delineation completed on the site. The wetland delineation has been submitted to the appropriate governmental agencies for approval. Once approval is obtained, the City will need to apply for permits, prepare a development plan for the site, and seek a grant from the WDNR's Recreational Boating Facility program for development of the site. The Lake District is planning to partner with the City in the development of the site. Hopefully, a new launch site will be ready to go by the summer of 2017 (maybe sooner if all goes well).

A note FROM THE CHAIR

Steve Schieffer, Chairperson, Amery Lakes P&R District

Welcome...

Once again I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to our annual newsletter. There are a number of items contained in this newsletter that will likely be of interest to many. This past year was full of activity for our Amery Lakes Protection and Rehabilitation District. These endeavors are reviewed in some detail throughout this newsletter, and we encourage you to read about them.

Some may ask, why is the Amery Lakes P&R District sending out such fancy newsletters and why should anyone be interested? The answer is that our District has made a commitment to the protection and rehabilitation of our lakes because we understand the importance of these resources to people in our community, people who visit Amery, and the organisms that call the lakes their home. Amery proclaims to be the "City of Lakes", so this really indicates the importance of our lakes to our community. It is well known that tourism interest likely involves our numerous freshwater resources. People are more likely going to choose clean lakes versus green/turbid lakes for their

destinations. In a survey conducted reviewing 1000's of Minnesota Lakes, property values were higher on lakes with clearer water (when all other factors were similar). So, if you are a riparian owner or have property adjacent to a lake, this is likely of interest to you.

Our District feels that education/information is paramount for the protection of the lakes. This means we need to get your attention. It is our hope that by designing and creating a top-notch newsletter (all professionals involved in this publication are from Amery), it will increase the odds people will read through what is going on in and around our lakes. We realize this is no guarantee, but please appreciate our efforts to help our lakes remain healthy.

After reading this newsletter, please consider getting outside and spending time on North Twin, Pike, and South Twin Lakes. They are beautiful and there is no better way to gain appreciation for these resources than to experience them first hand. Have a great remainder of your summer season.



AMERY LAKES PROTECTION AND REHABILITATION DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS



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Kay Erickson,
City of Amery Representative
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Polk County Board Representative
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North Twin and Pike Lakes' Walleye Population Get a Boost

by Jon Bergquist



"...the current plan calls for stocking 3,000 walleyes in North Twin Lake and a similar number of walleye fingerlings in Pike Lake"

Late in September 2014, both North Twin and Pike Lake were again stocked with 3,000 walleye fingerlings from Gollon Bait and Fish Farm of Dodgeville, WI. The fingerlings averaged about 7 inches long. The Lake District has been stocking extended growth fingerlings since 2008. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) granted the necessary permits.

Although North Twin and Pike Lakes have good natural reproduction of northern pike and largemouth bass, natural reproduction of walleyes is limited. Stocking is necessary to maintain this extremely popular table fare game fish. The stocked, extended growth fingerlings should reach legal size in 4 to 5 years.

The Lake District is planning on seeking walleye stocking permits from the Department of Natural Resources again this fall for North Twin and Pike Lakes.

Starry Stonewort

(*Nitellopsis obtuse* L.O)

Starry stonewort is a prohibited, invasive species of macroalgae in the same family as chara (which is found extensively in Pike Lake). It has whorles of 4-6 branchlets, and is more robust than other members of this family, growing more than two meters tall and up to nine meters deep. Starry stonewort anchors itself in the sediment with colorless filaments that can contain several dozen 4-5 millimeter, star-shaped bulbils that give the algae its name.



Starry stonewort is currently found in Michigan, northern Indiana, and four Wisconsin lakes: Little Muskego Lake (Waukesha County), Big Muskego Lake (Waukesha County), Long Lake (Kee-Nong-Ga-Mong Lake, Racine County), and Silver Lake (Washington County). This species was likely spread between lakes by boats, trailers, and anchors holding sediments and was more than likely originally introduced to the North American Great Lakes via ballast water carried in trans-oceanic ships.

This species will form dense mats that can greatly reduce native aquatic vegetation, impede the movement of fish and other animals and decrease successful spawning activity, as well as making recreational activities difficult.

Because management of this species has proven difficult, the best option is prevention.





Clean Boats/ Clean Waters

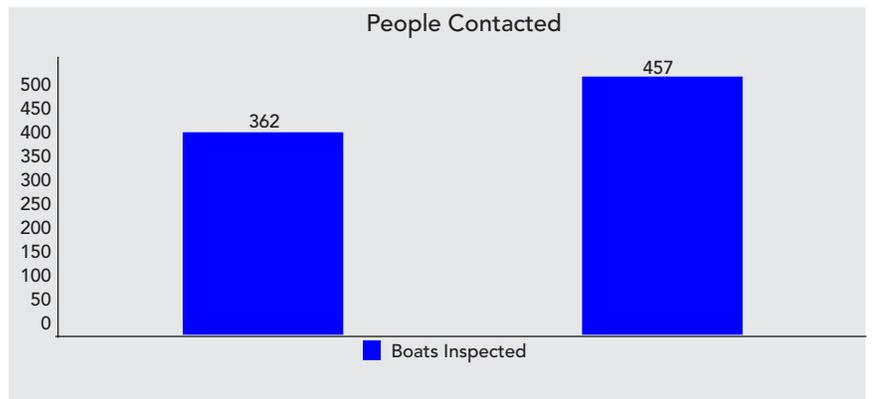
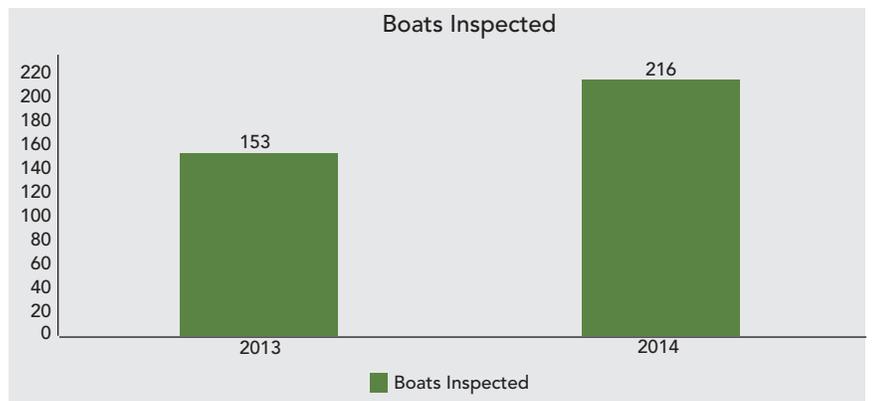


The Amery Lakes Protection and Rehabilitation District is participating in the Clean Boats/Clean Waters Program (CBCW) again this year. This program involves educating boaters about aquatic invasive species (AIS) and aids in the inspection of boats prior to launching and upon leaving the lake. The District has received a CBCW grant again for 2015 (also 2014 but not 2013) which requires a commitment of 200 hours at the landing.

The Pike Lake landing at Shoreview is the only landing that is monitored as it is busier than the North Twin Lake landing. Although data is not complete for 2015, the graphs below show the number of boats inspected and the number of people contacted in 2013 and 2014. This is the number of boats that we are assured did not bring in any AIS nor leave with any AIS and the number of people that have had a discussion about AIS. We appreciate the cooperation you give your monitors.

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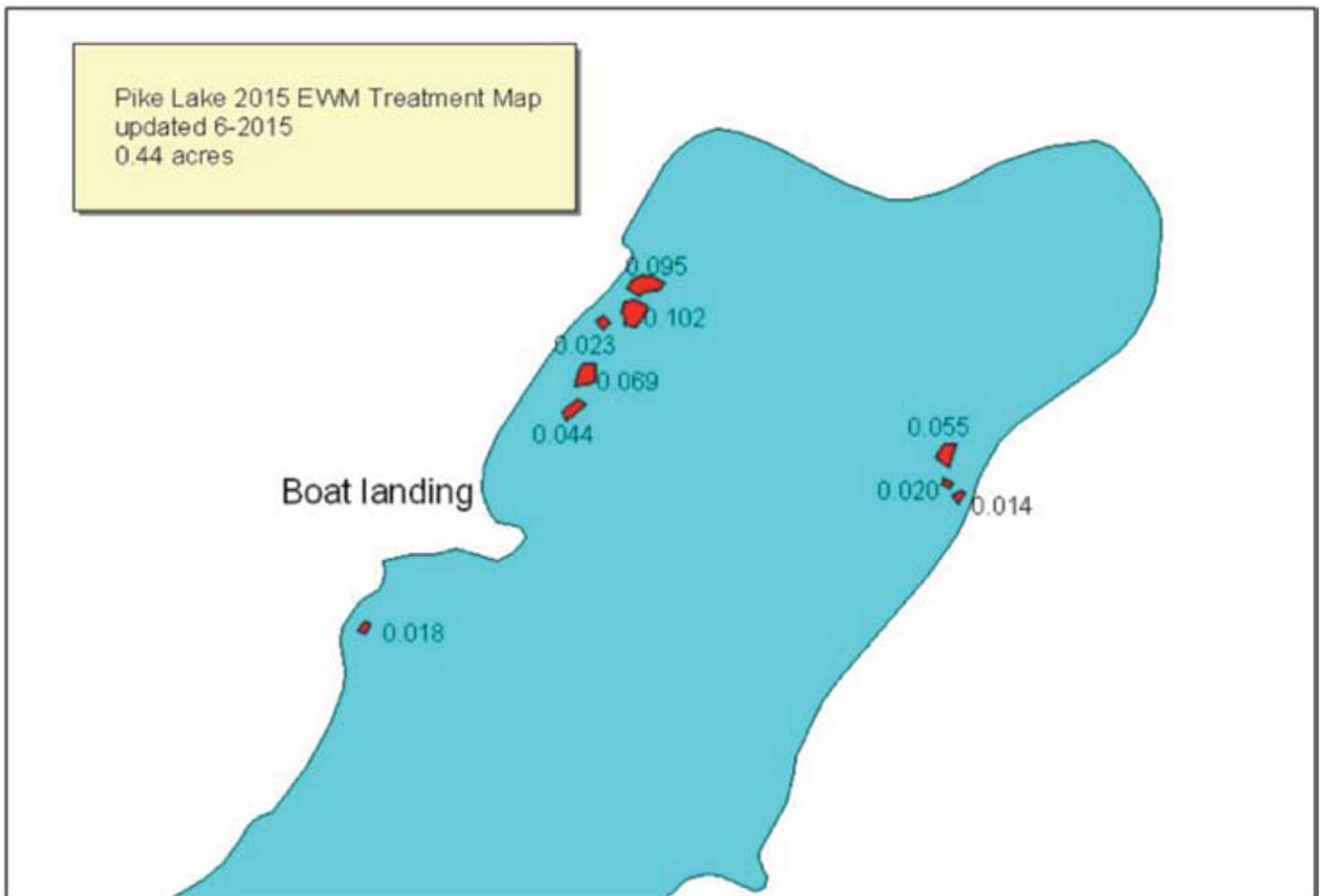


EWM Update

by Steve Schieffer

The aquatic invasive species Eurasian water milfoil continues to grow in Pike Lake. It has spread a very limited amount, and we feel we have it contained about as well as possible. The plant has not been detected in North Twin Lake at this time, which is great news. Eurasian water milfoil (EWM) spreads very easily through fragmentation. Only a small amount of plant material dispersed to a new location can create a new stand of EWM. For this reason, please remove vegetation from your anchor prior to moving to a new location in the lake. Also, if you are in Pike Lake and have plants on your motor, please remove them prior to moving to North Twin Lake (or any lake).

Over the years, we have controlled EWM mostly with hand pulling and a few herbicide applications. This year we felt the EWM had moved to some new locations, and so we applied herbicide in June. Eradication of EWM is not really possible, but we have successfully controlled it thus far. The map shows where EWM was located and herbicide was applied. The numbers are the acres of each bed where application occurred. The herbicide 2,4-D is applied in very low doses to avoid harm to lake organisms and other plants. Long term effects of 2,4-D in lakes is not really known, so we try to be conservative in its use.



What's happening on YOUR lake?

PRSRT
Standard Mail
POSTAGE PAID
Amery, WI
Permit # 131

Protecting & Rehabilitating for

HEALTHIER LAKES

AMERY LAKES PROTECTION
AND REHABILITATION DISTRICT

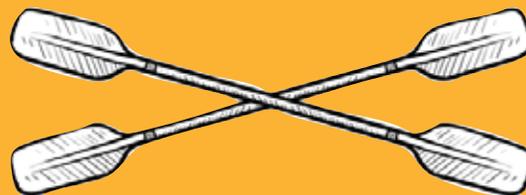
754 107th Street
Amery, WI 54001

Amery Lakes Protection and Rehabilitation District

ANNUAL MEETING

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2015
7:00 PM AMERY HIGH SCHOOL
MEDIA CENTER (LIBRARY)

Lake district residents are invited to attend the Amery Lakes Protection and Rehabilitation District's annual meeting and regular meetings. The annual meeting will be held September 8, 2015 beginning at 7:00 pm in the Amery High School Media Center (Library). Quarterly meetings are held at 6:30 p.m. on the 2nd Tuesday of February, April, June, and August in the Amery High School Media Center.



Although the agenda for the Annual Meeting has not been finalized, old business normally includes a summary of the District's past year's activities/accomplishments and the election of at least one Board member. New business will include planned activities and a budget for the coming year. The budget normally contains funds for general operations of the District such as boat launch and dock maintenance, funding for portable toilets at the landings, lake water quality analysis, plant management, insurance, compensation, fisheries management (primarily walleye stocking in North Twin Lake and Pike Lake), association dues, and grant match funds as needed. The District has taxing authority for properties within the Lake District boundary. The District will determine at this meeting if it will have to levy a tax on District residents to fund District activities for the coming year. The public is encouraged to attend the annual meeting.