



# Round Lake Management District

## Spring 2024 Newsletter

The Round Lake Management District would like to thank the Round Trade Lake Improvement Association (RTLIA) for a 50-year collaborative relationship. With the establishment of the Round Lake Management District, Big Trade and Little Trade Lakes will assume complete control of the RTLIA and will allocate all future RTLIA lake management efforts to support **Big and Little Trade Lakes**. Round Lake management efforts will be supported by the Round Lake Management District.

### Chair's Corner:

Greetings from the Round Lake Management District. This is the first edition of our annual newsletter, a communication that is required by Wisconsin law. This is our official means of communication with district members. Our Facebook page is unofficial, but we do encourage you to join the group and read it often, and please use it to communicate with us and each other regarding lake issues, or just to swap fish stories.

This newsletter will serve as your notification of our upcoming quarterly district commissioners meeting taking place on 4/20/2024 at 10:00 am, at the Trade Lake Town Hall. Notice of this meeting will also be posted at the Town Hall, The Trade Lake Store, and Bass Lake Lumber one week before the meeting. The agenda and notice will be posted on the Trade Lake website.

If you have topics you'd like to see addressed at the meeting – which you are encouraged to attend – please send those to me at least 10 days ahead of the meeting so I can include them in the agenda. That agenda will include a public comment item as well as an opportunity for open discussion.

New changes in Wisconsin law does allow for electronic notification of meetings for districts. The catch is, members need to “opt-in” to email notification. We'd very much like to send your notices electronically – so please opt-in by sending me your email address. This action directly saves you money. If everyone opted in to electronic notification, it would save several hundred dollars per year of your district money! That money will be much better spent in direct care of the lake, on the projects you will approve at the annual meeting this fall.

We would like to plan a Spring meeting/gathering to discuss any and all issues or concerns you may have. That will allow us to put together plans for the Fall annual meeting where you can vote on District initiatives. We do need members to volunteer to work on these tasks and proposals – whether it's about stocking the lake, investing in equipment, water quality testing, raising beetles, or anything else that makes sense for the District to do.

Thanks for your involvement! Contact us at any time with your ideas. You'll find our contact info elsewhere in this newsletter.

-Terry

### Spring Planning Meeting

A Spring planning meeting has been scheduled for Saturday June 8, 2024 and will be held at the Stillson Road boat launch. This meeting is for you, the readers this newsletter. The goal is to allow property owners to voice concerns and drive efforts to improve the quality of the lake and the lake community. These discussions help us, those active in lake conservation efforts, to determine priorities for future projects. Over the summer months, active district members will use the information collected at the meeting to plan future projects and content in these newsletters. We will present these project proposals, along with a budget for next year at the annual meeting in the Fall.

## Spring Planning Meeting – Continued (Page 2)

Currently active district members have a common vision but also have individual interests and priorities:

- **Weed control, both invasive and nuisance (Terry Schwartz - [tschw10117@aol.com](mailto:tschw10117@aol.com))**  
Weeds on Round Lake have become more than a nuisance for some owners. One of the District's main objectives - the reason it was formed - is to continually strategize and implement methods for weed control in the face of changing regulations and conditions, and to keep our lake navigable and enjoyable for boaters, sportsmen, and families.
- **Fish Stocking and Harvesting Restrictions on Round Lake (Jim Dooher - [Jimdooher.hubbell@gmail.com](mailto:Jimdooher.hubbell@gmail.com))**  
The last time the Wisconsin DNR stocked Round Lake was 2011. We are exploring options to resume stocking efforts of some form. We hope to have a proposal put together for our fall meeting. If anyone has ideas, or concerns, please reach out to Jim Dooher to discuss.
- **Water Clarity, Invasive Plant Monitor and Shoreline Protection (Greg Younker – [gyounger@msn.com](mailto:gyounger@msn.com))**  
At the Spring Meeting, a “status of the Round Lake waterbody” report will be presented based on Wisconsin DNR assessments of the current overall quality of the Round Lake waterbody, shoreline and Trade River watershed. This report will serve as a “baseline” for future reports.

## 2024-2025 Round Lake Surface Water Quality Planning and Education Project

The Round Lake Management District has been awarded a Surface Water Planning Grant by the Wisconsin DNR to support conservation efforts in 2024 and 2025. This grant is an \$11,000 project intended to support activities that have been historically supported by the Lake Association. Included in this grant are funds to replace decaying signage at the Stillson Road boat landing and purchase equipment to support water quality monitoring and invasive weed control efforts on Round Lake. For more information, please attend the June 8<sup>th</sup> Spring Planning Meeting.

## Wake Boats (Thoughts from an Anonymous Contributor)

When I look out on the lake on a busy weekend, I see a lot of amusing activity. Young kids screaming and laughing in delight while being pulled at “amusement park” speed on flotation devices of all sorts behind sleek and fast motorized watercraft. These kids are having fun and that’s what brings them to Grandpa’s cabin. I too enjoy watersports and one day hope to provide the same experience to my grandkids. But I can’t help but wonder what will happen when those young kids reach their early teen years and outgrow the tube... Grandpa’s gonna have to “take it up a notch” to meet the thrill level of the modern teenager and that modern thrill level looks to be the Wake Boat.

Wake Boats defy all boating logic. Watercrafts have historically been designed to ride on surface water for speed and efficiency. Wake Boats are designed “dig deep” and create a massive wake behind the boat. The boat hull is equipped with a huge internal water tank that is filled with thousands of pounds of lake water and a collection of mechanical hydrofoils that pull the stern of the boat deep into the water.



## Wake Boats (anonymous contributor) – Continued (Page 3)

Combine all this with a huge motor, comparable to those used in modern Corvettes, and you have a boat that is designed to produce waves that have historically been available only to surfers on the Hawaiian and California coasts.

It's just a matter of time until this scenario plays out on our lake. Wake Boats have been spotted on Round Lake for several years, I counted 3 last year and all three were associated with rental properties. So, before you consider adding a Wake Boat to your collection of power sports, please consider the effects this new and not yet regulated water sport has on a small and shallow lake like ours. These boats force water at high velocity toward the bottom of the lake and stir up decades old sediments that have accumulated in the deeper, oxygen depleted areas of the lake. These sediments are rich in nutrients and when they mix with the oxygen rich water in the shallow areas of the lake, they contribute to reduced water clarity and algae blooms. The huge waves that these boats create also contribute to shoreline erosion. And one more thing... Notice in the picture, there is no rope... That's part of the allure of this boat, **surfing** a wave without a rope.

## The Future of Herbicides as a Method of Weed Control

In early February, Big and Little Trade Lakes were notified by the Wisconsin DNR that their proposed weed management project failed to meet the requirement threshold established for invasive species control and would not receive DNR funding. When Round Lake requested approval of our Aquatic Plant Management Plan in 2023, the Wisconsin DNR added criteria that would limit the use of herbicide in the future and advised stricter future permitting requirements. It is becoming apparent that Wisconsin DNR feels that when it comes to herbicide treatments, the **“solution is worse than the problem”**. In a proactive move, active members of the Lake District are currently considering mechanical weed harvesting as an option for controlling the growth of invasive species in the future. Ten years ago, harvesting was not recommended on our lake, at that time the weeds had limited distribution. Since then, invasive weeds have spread and can be identified just about everywhere they can grow. Current recommendations for Round Lake include mechanical harvesting as a preferred method of population control.

Mechanical weed harvesters cut the weeds below the surface and use a conveyor to load the weeds into a collection bin which can then be offloaded on the shore. One major advantage of mechanical harvesting is nuisance native plants, like Water Lilies that impede navigation, can also be removed. The Wisconsin DNR allows a 30-foot navigation channel from any lakeshore property to open water (Wisc NR 109.06). A second



advantage is that plants are removed from the lake and composted on land which would reduce the nutrient levels in the lake. A financial analysis to assess the expense to purchase a weed harvester will be presented at the Spring Planning Meeting.



**Round Lake: Facebook Page:**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1026352371871721>

**Scan This to get to the Facebook Page:**



**Round Lake Management District Communication Archive:**

<https://tradelakewi.com/round-lake-management-district/>

## **Q2 District Meeting**

Saturday April 20 2024, 10:00 AM

Trade Lake Town Hall, 11811 Town Hall Rd, Frederic, WI 54837

## **Spring Planning Meeting**

Saturday June 8 2024, 10:00 AM

Stillson Road Boat Launch (Rain or Shine)

## **2024 Annual Round Lake Management District Meeting**

Currently Scheduled for Saturday August 17, 2024

More Details to Follow

Round Lake Management District

PO Box 712

Frederic WI, 54837



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