

PLATTE LAKE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION
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August 6, 2011
www.platte-lake.org

THE STATE OF THE LAKE

LAKE WATER CLARITY: Good. Relatively high secchi readings throughout the year as the surface water temperatures were cooler than last year. Water temperatures are now approaching last year's highs. See attached Secchi Depth Readings.

CONSENT JUDGEMENT IMPLEMENTATION: Good. A Consent Judgment Order was entered November 12, 2010 which mandated a re-start of the MDNR funded five year Lake and River Sampling Plan as a result of the 2009 violations and detailed the use of the \$118K in Penalty funds the violations generated. The document also increased the Implementation Coordinators oversight responsibilities and increased the MDNR's responsibilities in the local, State and Federal permit process for Platte River Watershed phosphorus discharges. An additional order was entered May 5, 2011 that related to the deposition of phosphorus removed from the hatchery.

As a result of the ongoing efforts by all parties, the hatchery discharge for the first six months of 2011 was approx. 16 lbs of phosphorus! This is a major reduction from the 175 lb P yearly limit and a far cry from the estimated 4321 lbs P in 1975! A major success story! On that the PLIA can be extremely proud of!

Be advised, this is GREAT NEWS, BUT.....all future phosphorus reductions to Platte Lake will have to come from sources other than the Fish Hatchery. It will have to come from the individual and collective things that people do to reduce their direct and indirect phosphorus discharge to the upstream watershed and Platte Lake.

FALL SALMON RUN: In Compliance. 12,683 adult coho were passed upstream from the lower weir. This was below the allowable 20,000. 179 Adult Chinook salmon were passed versus the 1000 allowed.

PLIA/MDNR PROJECTS TO REDUCE PHOSPHORUS LOADING AND IMPROVE THE LAKE, RIVER and HATCHERY MONITORING PROCESS: Dr. Canale will be discussing and answering any and all questions as to the reasons why we are doing these projects, the details and expected results.

1. October 2010 American Society of Civil Engineers peer review publication on the "Phosphorus budget and Remediation Plan for Big Platte Lake.
2. Bi-Weekly sampling of Platte Lake and the Tributaries.
3. Bi-Weekly meetings with the MDNR, PLIA and Dr. Canale.
4. Implementing a "Bio-Energetics Rearing Model" for the Hatchery.
5. Funding/Developing an EPA Approved Platte River Watershed Protection Plan.
6. Funding a University of Wisconsin Statistical Study on Platte Lake Data collection.
7. Funding a Platte Lake Calcite Precipitation Study to Quantify Chemical versus Biological Factors Involved in Lake Water Clarity Reduction.
8. Conducting a Septic System Phosphorus Reduction Experiment with the DNR Using the Hatchery's Septic System.
9. Working with the Benzie Leelanau Health Department on Potential Septic System Alternatives.
10. Encouraging lakeside management practices that will help reduce your phosphorus load to Platte Lake.

PLATTE LAKE FISH PLANTS: There have been no Platte Lake Fish Plants in 2010 or 2011. Attached is a table of Platte Lake fish Plantings from 1909 through 2010 for your information. Anecdotal information indicates Platte Lake fishing has been very good across all species with few exceptions.

PICNIC: We have had a lot of positive feedback on the July 10, 2011 picnic. We will discuss future picnics at the annual meeting.

WHAT CAN YOU DO FOR PLATTE LAKE? (Other than pay your dues) **We must remove another 600 to 800 lbs P from the watershed to meet the 8.0 ug/l phosphorus standard!** This will require everyone to look at what they are doing and start acting in the best interest of Platte Lake. We must begin to make behavioral decisions based on all the evidence and facts to date to reduce the phosphorus load to Platte Lake. The MDNRE at this moment in time is more than meeting its obligations. Our objective with the MDNRE is to keep them in compliance with the agreement. Our new main objective is to get everyone else around Platte Lake and in the upstream watershed to become knowledgeable and help us restore Platte Lake! We need people who want to make this their No. 1 priority. It is not something only a few can do; it requires the involvement of nearly everyone.

As reprinted from previous years, there are things all of you can do now:

1. Do not fertilize within 25 ft of the lake....it is the law.
2. Use only phosphorus free lawn fertilizer....it is the law.
3. When you mow the lawn, bag the clippings within 25 ft of the lake....it is the law.
4. Have your septic tank pumped every two or three years.
5. **If you have an erosion problem....FIX IT!** Maintain a green belt at the waters edge in an effort to help control erosion problems. When you harvest the green belt to remove phosphorus, deposit the material on a back lot, etc. so that the decayed vegetation cannot re-enter the lake. Also, ensure that you leave the root structure when cutting so you do not kill the plants.

Again, we all can do something to directly help restore and maintain Platte Lake.

Platte Lake appreciates your continued support!

Thank You,

Wilfred J. Swiecki
President, PLIA