



LAKE WAPOGASSET/BEAR TRAP IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION, INC.  
CLEAN BOATS CLEAN WATERS

## WAKE AWARENESS AND RESPONSIBILITY

Our Lake Association is promoting “Wake Awareness and Responsibility” on our lakes. Both of our lakes are fairly shallow, 25 feet or less. There are no specific WI DNR regulations for Wake Boats, Large Pontoons with 200 HP plus, and some big Bass Boats. All produce large wakes that potentially can damage shorelines, docks, other boats and personnel. Studies have been done and are being conducted on large and deep wakes. The initial results have produced some guidelines to help mitigate the hazards and damage from large wakes.

- #1) Stay in the middle of the lake at least 300 feet from docks, boats or people.
- #2) Do not make repetitive passes over the same spot.
- #3) Operate in water with a depth greater than 16 to 20 feet.
- #4) Play your music at a level that does not disturb others from enjoying the lake.

The large pontoons and wake boats produce significantly larger wakes that require great distance to dissipate. The wake boats operate in the 10-11 mph cruise speed to produce the excellent waves to surf or wakeboard on. The downward movement of the wake in less than 15 feet churns up the lake bottom, returning the nutrients back into the water that the lake bottom has captured. This will increase the algae blooms as well as decrease water clarity and water quality of our lakes.

Our Lake Association wants everyone to enjoy and utilize the lakes responsibly. The Water Sports Industry Association has developed a “Wake Responsibly” program with an excellent website to learn more. There are links to a video, an exam, a pledge and lots more information. Check it out and be Aware and Responsible.

<https://www.wakeresponsibly.com>

Thanks,

Marty Noonan

Wapogasset/Bear Trap Lake Improvement Assoc., Inc.

President