

The Voice of Squash Lake



Volume 12, Issue 1

April, May, June 2020

Mission Statement

The Squash Lake Association's mission is to preserve and protect Squash Lake and its surrounding ecosystems, and also to enhance the water quality, the fishery, the wild natural habitats, of Squash Lake, as a public recreational facility for today and for future generations.

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The newsletter is published on the 1st of the month. Please submit your articles, pictures & submissions to:

Linda Tennessen
russ.linda.tennessen@gmail.com

**Next newsletter deadline is
August 23, 2020**



Welcome to Summer on Squash Lake

The Squash Lake Association proudly participates in the Wisconsin DNR and the UWEX Lakes, Clean Boats Clean Waters Program.



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Kathy Tournour

As I write this, I am entertained by a mother robin busy foraging for food for her nest full of babies. They certainly are hungry and she's working hard. It's a welcome reminder that even when our world is so unpredictable, mother nature is a constant. The past few months have been difficult to navigate, and my family life looks much different; I'm sure all of you have also experienced varying levels of difficulty and uncertainty as well. In spite of all of this, warm weather brings the excitement of summer on Squash Lake. Since we are not full-time residents of Squash Lake, we have been particularly mindful about following local and state guidelines to protect both ourselves and the Squash Lake community. I encourage all of you to stay safe and pay attention to guidelines as well. For more information on what steps you can take to keep yourself and our community safe, you can visit the Oneida County Health Department's website, <https://publichealth.co.oneida.wi.us/>

If you are looking for a safe way to get outside and interact with other community members this summer, you may be interested in attending our Stand-Up Paddleboard class. We will be hosting a free class taught by Nicolet College on Saturday, June 27 from 10 to 12. Students must bring their own paddle board, paddle, and PFD. The class will be limited to the first 10 to sign up. Contact Jackie at 715-966-1018 for more information or to register.

Our annual meeting will provide another way to safely interact with community members. Our annual meeting will take place virtually this year via Zoom; we believe this offers the best opportunity for members to safely participate and are hoping those of you who are not physically at the lake will be able to join us as well. The meeting will be held on Saturday, July 18 from 10:00am until noon. There will be several items of interest on the agenda, including approval of the 2021 budget and election of officers. Craig Zarley, a founding member of the SLA, has decided not to run for re-election at this time. Anyone who is interested in running for the SLA board should send an email to squashlk.board@gmail.com. Other items on the agenda will include Loon Bay Marsh preservation and boating/shore erosion concerns.

Lastly, because we are unable to gather in person at the annual meeting, we have decided to host a boat flotilla on Saturday, July 25. It will be a fun opportunity to enjoy the lake and wave to our fellow residents. Details will be forthcoming.

For more information about all of the events mentioned in this newsletter and more, please visit the Squash Lake Association website (squash-lake.myshopify.com). I look forward to connecting with you all this summer, whether virtually or from a safe distance in person.

Kathy Tournour

SLA President

ktournour@gmail.com

920-912-3883



If you have something to sell or give away, or are looking for something, this is the place to post it.

Just send an email with pictures to:

russ.linda.tennessee@gmail.com.

Squash Lake Association Membership Form

Thank you for your generous donation and support.
The Squash Lake Association is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

(Your donation is tax deductible)

Name(s): _____

Mailing Address: _____

Lake Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone# _____

We will email you a receipt.

I would like to help with (circle your choice): boat inspections, EWM monitoring, mailings, or ?

Instead, I would like to contribute towards hiring an inspector (\$12/hr. increments, please use "Landing Inspector" below)

\$ _____ Yearly Membership (limit 2 per property) \$25.00 Dues are for January 1– December 31

\$ _____ CBCW & Landing Inspector

\$ _____ Educational Programs

\$ _____ Other _____

\$ _____ **Total** (Check # _____)

Mail to: Marj Mehring, Squash Lake Association
Treasurer
PO Box 511
Rhineland, WI 54501

Slow/No Wake

As boating season resumes, the Squash Lake Association would like to remind property owners and visitors to the lake of the DNR regulations regarding slow/no wake. Additionally, the association suggests that boaters use caution in certain areas where slow/no wake boundaries of opposing shorelines create very narrow channels. A map is included with this article to help guide everyone, and ensure safe boating, as well as help preserve sensitive shorelines.

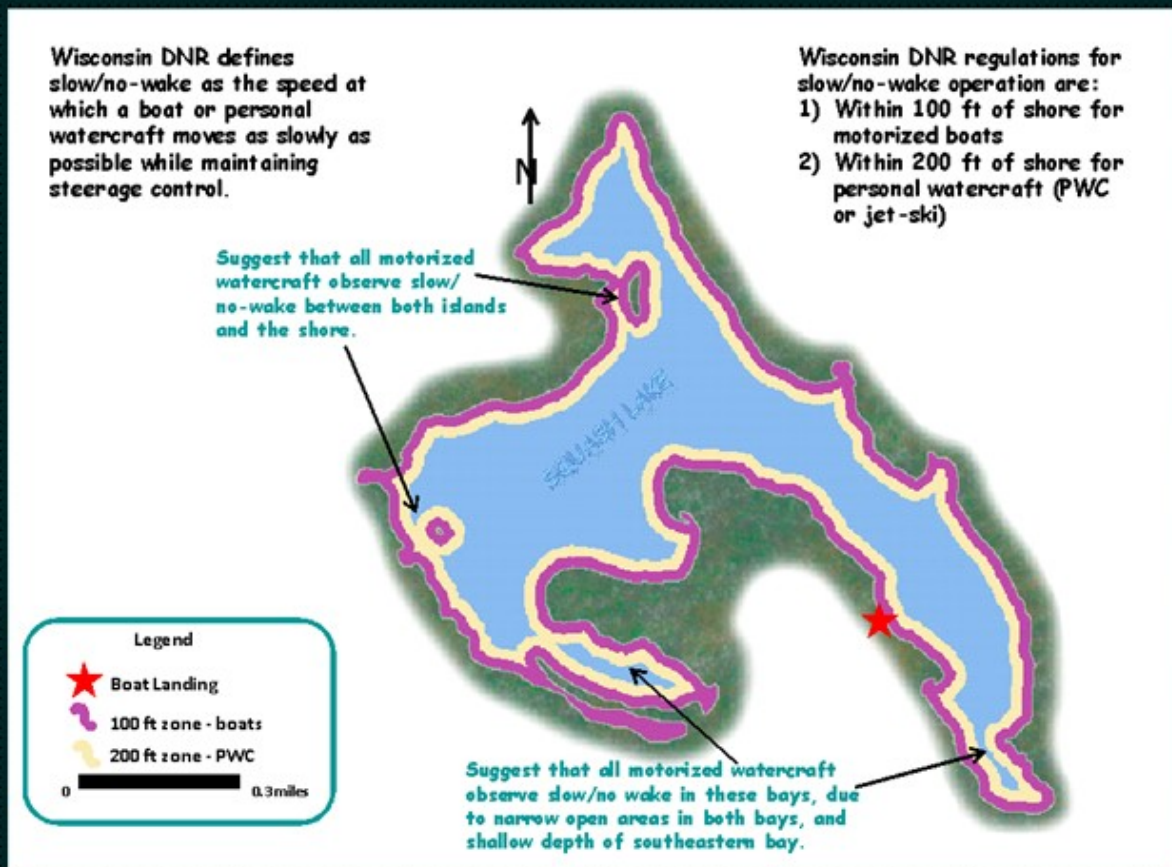
The regulations state that boats may not operate at wake speeds when within **100 feet of a raft, pier, buoyed restricted area, and the lake shore.**

Personal Watercraft (PWC) may not operate at wake speeds when closer than **200 ft from the lake shore.**

Divers Present

Also, we have divers on our waters harvesting Eurasian Water Milfoil. Typically they are out between 8am and 5pm Monday through Thursday. But we also have recreational divers as well. Please be mindful of dive flags and keep your distance from marked diving areas (**100 ft from flags**).

Squash Lake Slow/No-Wake Shoreline Zones - DNR Regulations



As you may know, the Squash Lake Association’s mission is: “to preserve and protect Squash Lake and its surrounding ecosystems, and also to enhance the water quality, the fishery, the wild natural habitats, boating safety, and the aesthetic values of Squash Lake, as a public recreational facility for today and for future generations.” The Squash Lake Association board members take our mission seriously and are continuously developing innovative strategies to protect and enhance the lake and surrounding ecosystems. As part of these efforts, the Squash Lake Association is particularly interested in preserving and protecting vulnerable and endangered species found in and around Squash Lake. As a result of the Point Intercept Survey conducted at the end of last summer, the board was very excited to learn that 2 plants categorized by the WI DNR as “special concern” (a category designated for certain vulnerable species before they become threatened or endangered) were discovered in the lake. Both Robins’ Spikerush Eleocharis robins) and Thread-like Naiad (Najas gracillima) were found in Loon Bay. Given the status of these special concern species, the Lake Association board has discussed the possibility of the Lake District promoting their conservation through preserving the habitat of Loon Bay and the surrounding bog area. In order to move forward with conservation efforts, any proposed habitat preservation initiatives must first be approved by voters at the annual meeting held in August. Thus, the Lake Association would like to request that the preservation of Loon Bay Marsh be added to the District’s annual agenda. If the item is on the agenda, voters will have the opportunity to discuss the advantages and disadvantages of preserving Loon Bay Marsh before casting their votes. In order to add an item to the Lake District annual meeting agenda in August 2020, at least 42 signatures from district voters are needed to petition the Lake District. If you are interested in getting the Loon Bay Marsh Preservation added to the annual meeting agenda, please sign and return the attached petition.

Signed petitions can be mailed to: Kathy Tournour 1059 Prairie Rd Plymouth, WI 53073

**PETITION TO THE COMMISSIONERS
SQUASH LAKE PROTECTION AND REHABILITATION DISTRICT
ITEMS PROPOSED FOR CONSIDERATION
AT THE 2020 ANNUAL MEETING**

We, the undersigned landowners and/or electors (the “Petitioners”) hereby petition the Board of Commissioners of the Squash Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District (the “District”) in accordance with Wisconsin §Chapter 33.30(2m)(c)1.thru 4.

The Petitioners request that the Commissioners place before the owners/electors a New Business agenda item for the 2020 Annual Meeting relating to the preservation of the Loon Bay Marsh. The items we wish to discuss and possibly act upon include:

Allow the District to discuss and seek preservation of the Loon Bay Marsh.

Establish a new District Program to protect and preserve Loon Bay Marsh, which may include land acquisition.

Authorize the Commissioners to execute a plan, which includes, but is not limited to, engaging with appropriate landowners, DNR grant application, funding, and tasks related to land acquisition.

SIGNATURE(S)

* _____
Owner Signature (Include: POA, Trustee, Manager, etc., if applicable) Please Print Full Legal Name

Date Parcel # or Address

* _____
Owner Signature (Include: POA, Trustee, Manager, etc., if applicable) Please Print Full Legal Name

INTRODUCTORY STANDUP PADDLE BOARD CLASS

Openings still available!

The Squash Lake Association is sponsoring an introductory Standup Paddle Board class on:

Saturday June 27th from 10 -12.

The instruction will be provided by Nicolet College and will take place on Squash Lake.



The class includes:

- 1) How to get on the paddleboard
- 2) Proper stance for optimum balance
- 3) Essential paddle strokes and turning techniques
- 4) How to get back on the board if you fall

Students **MUST** bring their own paddle board, paddle and PFD.

Class limited to the first 10 students to sign up.

To register or if you have questions, please contact Jackie @ 715-966-1018.



This winter an ice fisherman had trouble navigating the hill in his truck and took out our boat landing sign. He just drove away, leaving the Association with the task of repairing.



While the Association board members were planning and budgeting to get this fixed, the sign was “magically” repaired.

A little detective work revealed that the Town of Crescent took care of it for us. So just want to give a big thank you to Ted and Ryan for repairing our sign.



SLA Board Members

Officers:

President: Kathy Tournour
ktournour@gmail.com

Vice President: Craig Zarley
Craig.zarley@gmail.com

Secretary: Dale Smith
dws2621@gmail.com

Treasurer: Marj Mehring
dm.mehring@gmail.com

At-Large Members:

Karen Isebrands Brown
kisebrow@gmail.com

Tom Eggert
tleggert@wisc.edu

Jeff Paddock
paddockais@yahoo.com

Greg Nevinski
squash53129@yahoo.com

Russ Tennesen
russ.tennesen@gmail.com

Jacquelyn Whitney
Jacqlyn302@gmail.com



Squash Lake Protection & Rehabilitation District
www.Squashlakedistrict.com

District Meeting Notice

Date: July 14, 2020

Meeting Structure: Virtual through Zoom

Time: 1:00 p.m.

District community members interested in attending should email a request to

squashlakedistrict@gmail.com

An access code will be emailed to community members who make this request

Squash Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District Officers

Tom Johansen, President

tomandmegjohansen@gmail.com

Dan Butkus, Treasurer

dan.butkus@yahoo.com

Jerod Bennet, Secretary

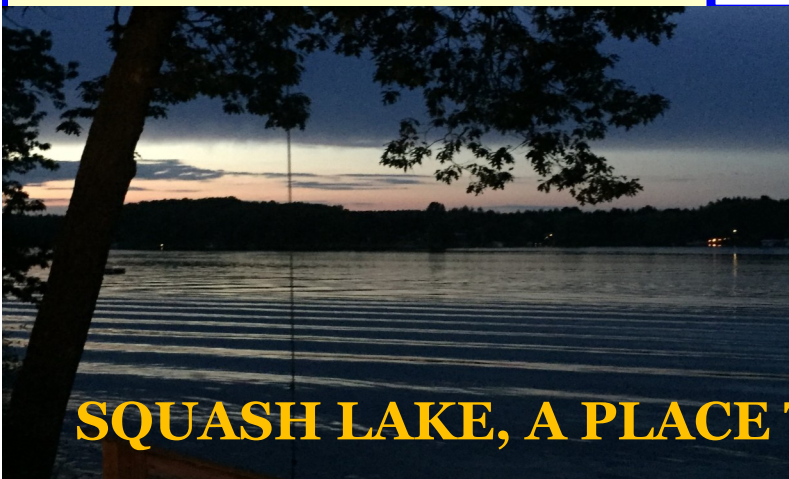
jerod@alterrahomes.com

Bob Mott

bobmott329@msn.com

Steve Richardson

steve@shakyacres.com



SQUASH LAKE, A PLACE TO COME HOME TO

Trivia – Squash Lake’s Aquatic Plants by Dan Butkus-District Treasurer

Over the last 11 years, Onterra LLC has conducted four (4) Point Intercept surveys of aquatic plants for our EWM Control Program. The data yields some interesting trivia about our lake’s aquatic plant habitat. So here are some facts gleaned from those surveys.

Each Point Intercept survey samples 1076 locations on the lake. Each sample point is evenly spaced 33 meters apart. The entire lakebed is sampled in the same spot every time using GPS. The survey is done in the late summer.

Our aquatic plant life is so diverse, that if you were to take two random samples of plants from different parts of the lake, there’s a 90% chance that the two plants are different species. This is called the Simpson’s Diversity Index, and we are in the 75th percentile for our eco-region and across the state.

Our lake’s water clarity allows enough sunlight to penetrate the water so some aquatic plant species can be found as deep as 30 feet below the surface.

The deepest growing plants in Squash Lake are the native plants Fern-Leaf Pondweed (a vascular plant) and Slender Stonewort (a complex branched macroalgae) growing to depths exceeding 24 feet.

The deepest that EWM has been found by our divers and our consultants is in 18-20 feet of water.

Squash Lake is home to 3 plants listed on the National Heritage Inventory of aquatic plants. This list identifies plants that are classified as Endangered, Threatened, or of Special Concern. All three are of Special Concern: Vasey’s Pondweed, Robbin’s Spikerush, and Northern (Thread-like) Naiad.

One plant found in Squash Lake is exceedingly rare in Wisconsin waters, but is not listed as Endangered, Threatened, or of Special Concern: Alpine Pondweed.

So far, the total number of different species of plants found in the lake is 69. (68 native and 1 invasive). This is a very high number.

21 of these 69 plants in Squash Lake, or almost 1/3rd of the plants known to exist in the lake, have a high conservatism value. They rank either a 9 or a 10 on a 10-point scale. Conservatism values are based on the plant’s rarity,

(Continued) – Squash Lake’s Aquatic Plants

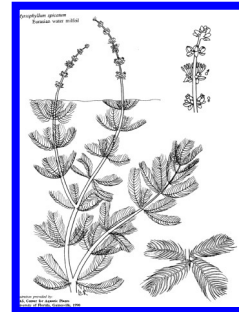
growing requirements, sensitivity to changes in the water quality, sensitivity to physical disturbance of their habitat, and/or other characteristics.

Not every plant that exists in the lake is found during every Point Intercept survey. Some plants are distributed so sparsely in the lake that they escape being detected regularly.

Typically, only about 44 of the 69 known species of aquatic plants in the lake are found during any one Point Intercept survey. So on average, 25 species escape detection during a survey.

The average number of plant species found in other lakes in our eco-region during a Point Intercept survey is only 21.

Last but not and again in EWM was collected during the Point Intercept survey. While EWM is not eradicated, our harvesting driven EWM program has levels below statistical detection so that it is not a nuisance to recreation, and so that it does not impact the exceptionally high native plant diversity.



least, in 2016 and 2019, no plants were collected during the Point Intercept survey. While EWM is not eradicated, our harvesting driven EWM program has levels below



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It's Grant Season for the District

by Dan Butkus-District Treasurer

Here are a few highlights of things to come in 2020.

The District's Aquatic Plant Management (APM) Grant application was accepted by the DNR. In February, the District awarded the full amount requested. The APM is being conducted to update the Lake Management Plan so we may continue to qualify for EWM Control grants in the future.

The APM grant contains a new scientific analysis not done before. A "paleo core" of lake bed sediment will be taken and analyzed to determine the lake's water quality prior to European settlement (before the mid 19th century). This will be used to determine the changes to the lake's water quality over the last 150+ years.

Part of the APM grant requires a written survey be completed by owners. This is similar to the survey our owners filled out during the original development of the Lake Management Plan. Look for details later this year from the District.

The EWM Monitoring and EWM Control grants both end on June 30, 2020. There are significant unspent grant dollars in these grants, enough to cover EWM Control & Monitoring through 2020. At the District's request, the DNR extended both grants through Dec 31, 2020. If these grants were not extended, the unspent grant dollars would go into the state's general fund, not back to the DNR.

A cooperative program with the Squash Lake Association is planned. The project will be to conduct a survey of plants in the wetlands at the end of Loon Bay. At nearly 16 acres, this is the largest wetlands on Squash Lake. Similar to a Point Intercept survey on a lake, a Wetlands Timed Meander is being considered to catalog the native plants and wetland types in this area. This survey is pending the permission from the landowners to perform the survey of the wetlands located on their private properties. Wetlands are not considered part of the navigable waters of the lake, and therefore are not covered under Wisconsin's Public Trust Doctrine. Wetlands are private property. The survey costs would be covered by the Association. The Association then would be reimbursed by the DNR through the District, via one of the District's open grants. The DNR has approved the expansion of the grant to include the Timed Meander costs. This cooperative program does not affect the District's approved budget for 2020, nor funding of EWM Control.

Schedule of Events

June 27, 2020

10-12 AM SUP class

July 18, 2020

10 AM Annual Member Meeting Via ZOOM

Join Zoom Meeting by computer
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86802584482>
 or Dial In: 312 626 6799
 Meeting ID: 868 0258 4482

July 25, 2020

Boat Flotilla (details forthcoming)

August 15, 2020

9:00 AM Squash Lake Board Meeting

*Unless otherwise noted, the meetings are held in the Crescent Town Hall
 Everyone is welcome to attend.*

If Squash Lake were Stretched to form a Perfect Circle Lake

Based on Comparable Shoreline Miles...Dan Butkus



Squash Lake		Mythical Circle Lake 1
7.1 mi	Miles of shoreline	7.1 mi
397 acres (15.4% of the circular lake)	Acres of Surface Water	2567 acres
53:1	Ratio of Acres of Water to Miles Shore	362:1
311 acres 86 acre loss in usable area 21.7% loss in usable area 44:1 ratio acres:mi	Acres of Surface Water for Boating (Less 100ft slow/no-wake)	2481 acres 86 acre loss in usable area 3.5% loss in usable area 349:1 ratio acres:mi
225 acres 172 acres loss in usable area 43.4% loss in usable area 32:1 ratio acres:mi	Acres of Surface Water for Personal Water Craft (Less 200 ft slow/no-wake)	2305 acres 172 acres loss in usable area 7.0% loss in usable area 325:1 ration acres:mi
7300 ft (approx) or 1.38 mi NW end (apartments) to SE end (East of Loon Bay sandbar)	Longest Line of Sight Over Open Water	11,950 ft (approx) or 2.26 mi Diameter
1000 ft (approx) or 0.19 mi Location East of Deep Hole	Furthest Point from a Shore A Boat Can Be at Any Time	5970 ft (approx) or 1.13 mi Location at Center of Circle

If Squash Lake were Stretched to form a Perfect Circle Lake

Based on Comparable Acres of Water...Dan Butkus



Squash Lake		Mythical Circle Lake 2
7.1 mi	Miles of shoreline	2.8 mi
397 acres	Acres of Surface Water	397 acres
53:1	Ratio of Acres of Water to Miles Shore	142:1
311 acres 86 acre loss in usable area 21.7% loss in usable area 44:1 ratio acres:mi	Acres of Surface Water for Boating (Less 100ft slow/no-wake)	363 acres 34 acre loss in usable area 8.6 % loss in usable area 130:1 ratio acres:mi
225 acres 172 acres loss in usable area 43.4% loss in usable area 32:1 ratio acres:mi	Acres of Surface Water for Personal Water Craft (Less 200 ft slow/no-wake)	329 acres 68 acres loss in usable area 16.2% loss in usable area 117:1 ration acres:mi
7300 ft (approx.) or 1.38 mi NW end (apartments) to SE end (East of Loon Bay sandbar)	Longest Line of Sight Over Open Water	4692 ft (approx.) or 0.89 mi Diameter
1000 ft (approx.) or 0.19 mi Location East of Deep Hole	Furthest Point from a Shore A Boat Can Be at Any Time	2346 ft (approx.) or 0.44 mi Location at Center of Circle

Squash Lake Association News & Events



Visit our Facebook page,

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**The Squash Lake Association is
a Member of :**

*Wisconsin Lakes Association
Oneida County Lakes and Rivers Association*



www.squash-lake.myshopify.com

*This is a new website so please
update your records!*

Please visit our website for more up-to-date news and info.

If you think something should be listed on our website,

contact Kathy Tournour at:
ktournour@gmail.com



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