



The Voice of Squash Lake

Volume 9, Issue 1

Jan, Feb, Mar, 2017

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, boating safety, and the aesthetic values of Squash Lake, as a public recreational facility for today and for future generations.

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Send your comments & submissions to:
jzapping@gmail.com

ICE SAFETY

This has been an unusual winter and the ice has been unpredictable. There have been several vehicles that have gone through the ice locally. This is just a reminder to be cautious and safe on the ice.

Recommended Minimum Ice Thickness
(Rough Guidelines for New Clear Ice Only)

2" or less
STAY OFF!!



4 Inches
Ice Fishing

5 Inches
Snowmobile or ATV



8 - 12 Inches
Car or Small Pickup



12 - 15 Inches
Medium Truck





Department of Natural Resources



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





PRESIDENT 'S CORNER

Pins and Needles, and Hot Toddy's

by Dan Butkus

The off-season is a time when we think we can sit back and relax as association board members. I mean, really, what is there to do when the lake is frozen over? EWM sleeps under the ice.

Well, that's not completely true, so let's say it only stirs very, very, slowly in the cold and dark. Besides, there's nothing we can do about it right now unless we are ice divers. And we're not ice divers. Just the thought of that makes me want to crawl back in bed. Our grant reimbursement paperwork is done. True. But there are grant applications and budgets to prepare. We finished a successful fundraising campaign in 2016. Yes. But now is the time to plan out the coming year's needs. I suppose the off-season just really means that with all the cold and snow, we can sit down and do the paperwork and planning, while sipping hot tea, cocoa, or my favorite winter drink, a Hot Toddy, as the snow gently falls. We don't have many outdoor activities to distract us this time of year, so it is a good time to plan and tie up the paperwork.

But this winter is different than the previous ones. Something that even a Hot Toddy can't quite take the edge off. Too many uncertainties exist. We applied for two grants this year, dividing up the work we normally do under one grant for EWM harvesting. It's a "not putting all your eggs in one basket" tactic. Will we get one, both, or none of these grants? So now we wait for the grant awards to be announced.

Continued from column 1

The lake district question chugs along under the direction of Oneida County. It's out of our hands. The petitioners' work is done, but not the county's. So far, we made the numbers to qualify for consideration. But it has yet to go to the full County Board of Supervisors for a review. They will make a decision sometime this spring. It will determine what 2018 will bring. So now we wait for the county to schedule meetings and deliberate. Time marches on and we must begin thinking about our 2017/2018 budget. Do we have enough in reserves to handle EWM control through at least 2017 with or without grants? What do we tell our divers? We've done our best to plan contingencies. All we can do is wait while these plans unfold in their own time.

This year I have a longer list of dates than usual on my calendar. They mark when we can expect to hear news on pending items. All this work and effort comes down to sitting and waiting on pins and needles in the winter darkness, while others decide the fate of what we submitted to them. So this winter is different. There is an anxiousness that will not go away after my Hot Toddy.



Winter sunset on Squash Lake

By Debra Durchslag

Lake District Update

by Squash Lake Association

The Oneida County Land & Water Conservation Department (L&WCD) and the Land Information Office completed their review of the petitions submitted for the formation of the lake district. In addition, the L&WCD completed compiling the comments from the public hearing as well as the letters/emails submitted to the county as comments. On January 9th, the Conservation and UWEX Education Committee of Oneida County reviewed the results and issued their draft report. The committee found that all of the requirements under Wisconsin State Statute Chapter 33 have been met by the petitioners and by the county. The final report is expected to be approved and forwarded on to the full County Board of Supervisors later in February. The Board of Supervisors may take the issue up sometime in March. The results of the county's review were shared with the petitioners for comment. On behalf of the petitioners, co-lead petitioner Dan Butkus agreed with Oneida County's final count of 156 verified signatures out of 280 possible signatures. The 156 signatures represented 55.7% of those eligible to sign the petition, and exceeded the minimum number of signatures needed for it to move forward for discussion by the full County Board. During the January 9th meeting, Mr. Butkus stated publicly that since there is agreement, the petitioners do not challenge the results of the review. Further, he stated that he believed the county has met its obligations under Chapter 33, and that he supported the county review process completely.



Healthy Lakes Grant Thinking Spring?

by Grant Coordinator

The Squash Lake Association has a Healthy Lakes grant from the DNR to help lake front property owners install a variety of projects aimed at preserving lake health. We currently have openings for two projects left under our grant. This grant ends June 30, 2017, but may be extended up to six months if we have qualifying projects that are completed this year.

The grant covers installation of a rain garden (up to 350 sq ft), native shoreland planting (up to 350 sq ft), water runoff diversion, runoff infiltration, and fish sticks. The DNR will reimburse landowners up to \$1000 to install one of these best practices. The grant and reimbursement is administered through the Squash Lake Association. For full details of the projects, visit the WiDNR website: <http://dnr.wi.gov/news/input/documents/guidance/HealthyLakesGuidanceFinal.pdf>

If you have a small project you've been thinking about tackling this year while looking through the spring seed and plant catalogs, and it qualifies under the grant, some or all of the cost may be covered by the Healthy Lakes Initiative. To see if your project qualifies, contact the Squash Lake Association at squashlk.board@gmail.com, or PO Box 511, Rhineland, WI 54501.

FOND MEMORIES



Arrival and finishing inside SLA shed



Annual Meeting under the tent on Roger's beach

Evening sing along at Pat Dugan's peninsula



This is one sample of SLA happenings or share family lake events.

If you enjoy this type of entry in the newsletter and if you have pictures and or stories in your family that you would be willing to share. Please email them to me so that I can put them in the next newsletter.

Pictures should be in the jpg format.

Send to : jzapping@gmail.com

Third Annual Ice-Out Contest

The Squash Lake Association is proud to announce its third annual Ice-Out Contest. Guess when Big Loon will be swimming! Big Loon's clock will stop when the ice is thin enough for him to break through and swim. You could be the winner of this 50/50 contest!

One guess for \$3.00

Four guesses for \$10.00

Entry forms are currently available at the Town Pump and will be available at

Contest runs through midnight April 1st or ice out, which ever is first. Half of the proceeds will be used to combat Eurasian Water Milfoil in Squash Lake.

The entry forms will also be emailed with newsletter .



WHO REMEMBERS

RED LIGHT/GREEN LIGHT • SPUD •
MOTHER MAY I? • FREEZE TAG
GO FISH • OLD MAID • SPOONS • WAR
AGGRAVATION • OPERATION •
CANDY LAND
COLORFORMS • YO-YOS • SLINKIES •
SILLY PUTTY
VIEWMASTER • LIGHT BRIGHT •
SPIROGRAPH • ETCH-A-SKETCH
JUMPING ROPE • HOPSCOTCH

Well Sampling

The Squash Lake Association is teaming up with the University Wisconsin-Stevens Point (UWSP) to offer homeowners the opportunity to have their well tested at a discounted rate. Sampling would provide the homeowner valuable information about the condition of their well and the safety of their drinking water. Basic analysis would include bacteria, nitrate and water parameters like pH, chloride, hardness, etc. If the homeowner chooses, other compounds can be analyzed at an additional cost and include metals (lead, arsenic, manganese, etc.) and pesticides. If enough homeowners choose to participate, a representative from UWSP would be available to travel to Rhinelander to give an educational presentation on the results at no extra charge. Additional details will be presented at the 2017 Annual Meeting.



Happy
Valentine's
Day



DNR Grant Updates

by Grant Administrator

Clean Boats Clean Waters

The Squash Lake Association was awarded the non-competitive Clean Boats Clean Waters grant by the WI DNR for 2017. This grant covers our expenses related to our boat inspections at the Gudis Landing, and requires that we log 200 hours of volunteer boat inspection time at the landing, as well as 24 hours of training. In addition, the association received a \$3000 grant from the Sokaogon Chippewa Community to be used for CBCW activities. This is the second year in a row that the association has received support from the tribe.

EWM Harvesting Grants

On the advice of both the DNR and our consultants, Onterra, the association has split up the next Eurasian Water Milfoil Control grant between two different DNR grant applications. Because we have pushed EWM to a level below the threshold to qualify for a new single grant to cover all aspects of our EWM control, it highly unlikely that we would obtain a new 3-yr Existing Population Control grant in 2017. Therefore, this places a single grant application at risk of not being awarded. The exiting work was divided between an **Education, Prevention, and Planning** and an **Existing Population Control grant**. The first covers the survey and mapping work critical to our diver efforts. It provides an accurate map of EWM colonies and prioritizes locations for EWM removal. The second grant covers only the removal of EWM. By placing the work into two grants, it is more likely that at least some of the work will be covered by state funding.



Continued on pg 6

Grant Update continued from pg 5

Education, Prevention, and Planning grant

We are still awaiting the results of the Education, Prevention, and Planning grant for 2017 through June 2020. This grant application was submitted by the deadline of December 10, 2016, and awards were announced the February 7, 2017. The Existing Population Control grant application, covering Diver Assisted Suction Harvesting by Many Waters LLC and SCUBA harvesting by our own divers, was submitted by the deadline of February 1, 2017. While it is highly unlikely that association would be awarded this grant, the association must try nonetheless. The EPC grant awards will be announced after April 15, 2017. Should Squash Lake not receive a new Existing Population Control grant, the association will review its reserve funds available. Diver harvesting in 2017 may be scaled back, but it will continue through 2017 in the event an EPC grant is not awarded.



LIFE'S TRAGEDY IS
WE GET OLD TOO
SOON AND
WISE TOO LATE.
Benjamin Franklin

**Wanted: Old Photos and Articles
Featuring Squash Lake Landmarks**

In an attempt to create a short history of Squash Lake landmarks that preceded 1960, we are requesting that those who have knowledge and/or photographs of Squash Lake landmarks submit them to kisebrow@gmail.com by July 1, 2016.

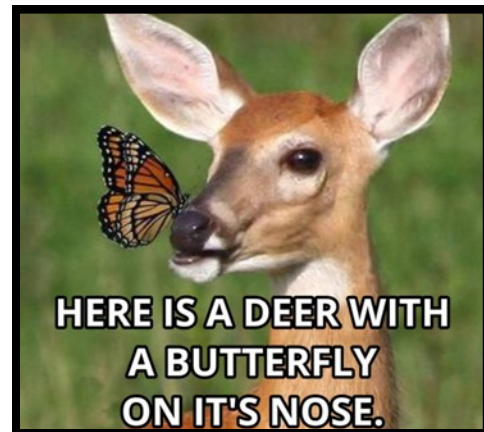
Landmarks that come to mind are: Hahn's Resort, Paddock's Resort, Peninsula View Resort, Woodboro Bay Resort, Sawmill Cove, Blind man Herman's Cove, Old Man Montag's Farm, Harkin's Horse Farm, and Gudis Landing. If in doubt, ask Karen. kisebrow@gmail.com

Submit in Times New Roman 12pt.



**"SQUASH LAKE,
A PLACE TO COME HOME TO"**

This is the new theme for our lake and the association.



Spring is coming

Possible Hiring of Boat Inspectors

by Grant Coordinator

The Squash Lake Association is considering adopting two practices used by many other lakes in the area: 1) hiring part-time boat inspectors; 2) offering people the option to donate directly toward hiring boat inspectors in lieu of volunteering to inspect boats. The source of funding would mostly come from the DNR Clean Boats Clean Waters grant and the \$3000 grant award from the Sokaogon Chippewa Community in January 2017. The SCC award stipulates that the monies must be used for Clean Boats Clean Waters activities. The CBCW grant is a necessary part of the EWM harvest grants. It also helps prevent EWM from leaving our lake, and keeping other invasive species out of our lake.

In 2016, the association fell short on both the hours entered into the Surface Water Integrated Monitoring System (aka SWIMS), as well as the hours needed to receive a grant reimbursement for expenses. The CBCW grant requires that at least 200 hours of boat inspection time, either paid or volunteer, be entered into SWIMS as a condition of the grant. CBCW Coordinator, Bill Akan, investigated how other lakes overcame the problems of making the hours requirements. A majority of lakes use grant money to pay part-time help to handle boat inspections for a core amount of hours. Some lakes, like Crescent Lake, also offer lake owners the option of "buying time". With nearly 50% of our owners being non-residents, it is often difficult for them to find the time to volunteer. It was pointed out that, "the heart may be willing, but time is not". Offering people the opportunity to donate toward paying someone to inspect boats in their stead is popular on many lakes.



During the January 28th Board meeting, the association Board believed this approach may have merit. In addition, if the association were to implement this, we would first offer our own owners the opportunity to earn some extra cash over the summer as part-time paid inspectors before hiring someone from the outside. The pay rate allowed by the DNR is \$12/hr.

We are looking for feedback on this idea, as well as people who might be interested in being paid boat inspectors. Please send your comments or interest in being a paid inspector to the association at :

squashlk.board@gmail.com, or

PO Box 511, Rhinelander, WI 54501.

Look for more details regarding this possible change in boat inspections in our Spring 2017 Newsletter.

New Forms

by Grant Coordinator

New forms for tracking volunteer hours will be rolled out this spring. The changes to the forms are for volunteer hours spent on Volunteer Milfoil Monitoring. The DNR forms used at the Gudis Landing for boat inspections are not affected.

The purpose of form revisions is to simplify them. Only information that is needed to support the EWM Control grant efforts will be collected. We will be asking volunteers to round their time to the nearest half hour. A grid map of the lake will be on the reverse side of the form to help volunteers identify the locations they searched. There will be fewer questions that need to be answered. Casual observation of other invasive species while monitoring EWM will be reduced to a "circle all that apply" option. Finally, the association will make a distinction between volunteer monitoring/locating and volunteer removal/disposal. This is for DNR grant purposes.

If you are trained to remove EWM in less than 4 ft of water, or are removing EWM from your dock, lift, or shoreline, we will be asking for an approximate weight of EWM removed. The weight does not need to be accurate. A best guess will be fine.

The new forms will be available later in the spring. The Spring Newsletter will have details where you can obtain the new forms.

Schedule of Events

SLA Board Meeting s

The meetings are held in the Crescent Town Hall at 8:30 A.M. Everyone is welcome to attend. They are open meetings.

March 11, 2017 at 10:30 am Crescent Town Hall (Board Mtg)

May 20, 2017 at 8:30am Tournour home (Board Mtg)

July 8, 2017 - Members Annual Meeting (details to be announced)

August 5, 2017 at 8:30 am Crescent Town Hall (Board Mtg and Officer selections)



Help Your Neighbor

1) Looking for a handy individual with experience to rewire the lighting on a pontoon boat. The boat would be available from late April to mid June. Will pay for materials and your time. Call Dan Butkus @ [608-628-5151](tel:608-628-5151).

2) Selling a full length hall mirror, approximately 6ft tall by 30 inches wide, with hardware. Excellent condition. Make an offer. Can pick up after mid April. Call Dan Butkus @ [608-628-5151](tel:608-628-5151)



Wish List for The Terminator Crew

Pontoon boat, motor 35hp or larger, gas cans, gas gift cards

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.

We will email you a receipt

Date: _____ Name(s) _____

Mailing Address: _____

Lake Address: _____ E

-mail Address: _____

Phone # _____

NEW for 2017

I would like to help with boat inspections. (Circle: YES or NO)

If YES, I would like to volunteer for _____ shifts. (number of 2-hr shifts at the landing), OR.....

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

\$ _____ Yearly Membership (limit 2 per property)
Dues are for July 1 - June 30

\$ _____ Removal of Eurasian Water Milfoil: Scuba Diver Hand Harvesting Fund

\$ _____ Boat, Repair & Maintenance, Etc.

\$ _____ Landing Inspector (please use \$12/hr increments)

\$ _____ Other _____

\$ _____ Total (Check # _____)

Marj Mehring, Squash Lake Association Treasurer
PO Box 511, Rhinelander, WI 54501



Face Book Page

Name Change

Squash Lake Association News & Events

To differentiate between an idle unused account, the Squash Lake Association has changed its Face Book page name. Please LIKE us and visit often .

If you haven't checked it out yet, you are missing some beautiful pictures posted by residents. Thank you to all of you that have referred this page to friends and relatives. It is a good place to keep on top of what is happening on the lake or brag about the fish that you catch.



SLA WEBSITE

<http://www.squashlakeassociation.com>

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

The Squash Lake Association is a Member of the Following:

Wisconsin Lakes Association
Oneida County Lakes and Rivers Association



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Craig Zarley craig.zarley@gmail.com

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The Squash Lake Association thanks the following corporate sponsors for their support.

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715-369-3443, toll free 1-888-844-3443

Contest Entry Form		Please Print All Information					This is Your Copy					
		Month	Day	Hour	Minute	circle	Month	Day	Hour	Minute	circle	
Squash Lake Ice-Off contest	one Guess \$3.00	1)										
		2)										
	Four Guesses \$10.	3)										
		4)										
						Total Enclosed \$	 Squash Lake Ice-Off Contest 2017.....					
Name												
Phone	Email											
						By entering this contest you agree to the contest rules						

The Squash Lake Ice Off contest

guess the day & time SLA Big Loon will start swimming

Big Loon is waiting off shore. A clock is set to stop when Big Loon brakes through the ice. When will that be?

Will you be the lucky person to Win ?

When the Big Loon starts swimming, the official clock will stop, marking the day & time of Ice Off.

Each guess costs only \$3.00 or 4 guesses for \$10.00.

Win 50% of the earnings goes to the winner. 50% goes to SLA Eurasian Water Milfoil control effort.

To Enter: Mail your name phone number, and guesses on the above form to SLA, P.O. Box 511, Rhinelander, WI 54501

Or: on Squashlakeassociation.com press the PayPal donate button to pay with your credit card. Write your guesses in the memo section.

Or: Place completed form & donation in the Ice Off Jug at The Town Pump

Entries & payments will be accepted **Feb. through midnight April 1, 2017 or ice off**, whichever comes first!

Rules: If two or more people guess the same winning time the 50% of the pot winnings will be split between them.

In a tie, the person who guessed closest to actual time but not later wins. (for example: Allie guessed noon, Bert guessed 2:00pm & Abby guessed 3:00pm. The Big Loon clock time is 2:30pm therefore Bert is the winner.)

In the event that any unforeseen occurrence makes it impossible to determine the exact time of ice off, the winner will be determined by drawing, lottery fashion from the guesses within the day of ice off.