

# The Voice of Squash Lake



Volume 13, Issue 2

May 2021

## 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.

## Inside This Edition

- Mission Statement—1
- President's Corner—2
- SLA Board Meetings—2
- Good Neighbor—2
- Squash Lake History —3
- Fisheries Committee—4
- Social Committee—5
- Our Two Turtles—5
- Membership Form—6
- Hear the Lively Songs —7
- SLA Board—7
- Amazon Smile— 8
- Squash Lake District —8
- Lake Assoc Info—9

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

Linda Tennesen  
russ.linda.tennesen@gmail.com

**Next newsletter deadline is:  
August 21, 2021**



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*

However long the day, the evening will come ~  
Irish proverb

As the world moves forward toward a "new normal" I am reminded how grateful I am for family and friends, healthcare workers, teachers and all who serve our community. I am hopeful we will remain on the downside of the Covid curve and summer 2021 will provide a chance to do some of the things we have had to put on hold for the past year.

Your Squash Lake Association board has been busy planning for the 2021 summer season. The fisheries, social and education committees are focusing their energies on providing members with various activities, and educational opportunities along with enhancing the fish population. You will find articles and information about their latest endeavors in the newsletter.

The SLA is working for you and all Squash Lake residents. An annual family SLA membership is \$25. These funds support the SLA's mission to preserve and protect Squash Lake. You can use the membership form found in this newsletter if you have not renewed your membership for 2021. If you are not a member of the SLA please consider joining - membership has its benefits.

Kathy Tournour  
SLA President  
[ktournour@gmail.com](mailto:ktournour@gmail.com)

## SLA BOARD MEETINGS & OTHER EVENTS

|                        |   |                |
|------------------------|---|----------------|
| <b>May 15, 2021</b>    |   | <b>9:00 AM</b> |
| <b>June 26, 2021</b>   | <b>ANNUAL MEMBER'S MEETING</b><br><i>(time and place to be determined, possibly ZOOM)</i>   |                |
| <b>July 7</b>          | <b>CLASS</b><br><b>"Pollinators &amp; Native Plants,"</b><br>class location TBD, (possibly ZOOM), and field trip to Hansen's Garden Village to view examples. | <b>6:30 PM</b> |
| <b>TBD</b>             | <b>SLA ANNUAL FLOTILLA</b><br>(date and time to be determined)  |                |
| <b>August 21, 2021</b> |   | <b>9:00 AM</b> |

*Unless otherwise noted, the meetings are held in the Crescent Town Hall. Because of COVID, meetings may be conducted remotely via ZOOM.*

**Everyone is welcome  
to attend!**



*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.tenessen@gmail.com](mailto:russ.linda.tenessen@gmail.com)



We live on the east side of Squash Lake. This blue plastic jug floated onto shore last October. We would be pleased to return it to its owners. Please post the attached pictures in the next newsletter to see if anyone will claim the jug. If someone does, they can contact us at [mshietz@newnorth.net](mailto:mshietz@newnorth.net).



## Squash Lake History Trivia – Did you know?

*by Dan Butkus*

It is known that the State of Wisconsin owns the islands on inland lakes in the state. Less known that in rare instances, the state used to bestow ownership of islands to certain individuals in recognition for service to the state or as a political favor. Hasbrook Lake near Lake Tomahawk has one such island. It is one of the few islands on Wisconsin's inland lakes that can be privately owned.

But did you know that the state used to lease islands? Recently, I discovered an old booklet published by State Conservation Commission of Wisconsin, the precursor to the Department of Natural Resources. Its title is, "State Islands for Lease in North Wisconsin Lakes (March 1920)". Over 600 islands were available for lease in Northern Wisconsin at the time. The booklet describes in general terms the steps necessary to secure a lease from the state, and the care a potential lessee should take in selecting an island. It also lists islands available and whether or not the island was already under contract. The 5 year lease was renewable. People could construct a campsite or even a cottage on the island they leased. However, they were prohibited from cutting any "green timber" to do so. The state mentions that insofar as was possible, the state forest rangers would protect campsites or cottages constructed on the islands.



Both Marshall Island and Scrub Oak Island on Squash Lake are listed in the booklet. So far, it is the earliest known record of the names of our islands. Marshall Island commanded a price of \$15 in 1920. Scrub Oak Island could be leased for \$10, being a smaller island. That would be \$198 and \$132 respectively today. The booklet also notes that Marshall Island was unavailable. It was already under contract when the information was published in 1920. Who leased Marshall Island during this period is a mystery.

# Fisheries Committee

*Dale Smith (Chairman), Russ Tennessen, Jeff Paddock, & Greg Nevinski*

The Fisheries Committee met on Saturday, April 24<sup>th</sup> for their first in-person meeting since the pandemic began. The main focus of the Fisheries Committee is to improve fish habitat and therefore improve the fishing on the lake. The discussion centered around three areas – fishsticks, fish cribs, and re-construction of spawning reefs. Below is a synopsis of what was discussed.

## Fishsticks

Fishsticks are live trees dropped into the lake and secured to shore with a cable.

These tree drops provide natural habitat for fish and wildlife.

Tree drops may be done in any season.

Funding through grants may be available.

Fishstick projects may need a permit.

Tree drops may not take place during spawning season (April 1 – June 1)

Interested property owners are encouraged to check out the information and regulations online at: *Wisconsin DNR – Guide to Fishsticks.*

## Fish Cribs

Fish cribs are structures made out of mostly natural materials.

Fish cribs are not to be placed in less than 10 feet of water and should be placed on a weedless, hard bottom site.

Cribs are not to be placed less than 100 feet apart, or near beaches or swimming rafts.

Fish crib projects may need a permit.

The Wisconsin DNR provides a detailed plan for making fish cribs. Checkout the online information and regulations.

The committee will be researching specific spots to place cribs. Tools used in this research will include diver information, available maps, depth finders, etc.

The committee is also looking at potential costs – binding materials and transportation of the cribs to their final location.

The SLA Fisheries Committee is planning to build a prototype fish crib in the near future. Once this is completed and successfully placed in the lake, a number of others may be constructed. People that may wish to help with the building of these fish cribs in the future, can e-mail, text, or call Dale Smith @ 715-367-0088.

## Spawning Reefs

This area will require much additional research. Consultation with area experts will be needed to determine viability and possible locations for the reefs.

Spawning reefs are constructed of clean, uncrushed gravel and rock from 2” to 8” in diameter.

Spawning reefs are placed in shallow areas up to 5 feet in depth.

The Wisconsin DNR has instructions and regulations for placing reefs.

Spawning reef material is placed on the ice in winter.

It is anticipated that the cost for spawning reef projects will be significantly higher than the other named projects.





## SOCIAL COMMITTEE

*Russ Tennesen (Chairman), Dale Smith, Jackie Whitney, & Karen Isebrands Brown*

Planning of the annual members meeting is under-way. We will decide around the middle of May if it will be an in person meeting or a virtual meeting.

The SLA is also planning a second annual Squash Lake Boat Flotilla. Last year it took place the first weekend after the 4th of July. Jim Brown will again lead the flotilla. A date is yet to be determined.

Our social committee will act as liaison between the association and community. We look forward to welcoming new residents to our lake. Jackie will serve as our Welcome Ambassador, providing a small welcome gift. If you know of a new neighbor, Please give one of the Social Committee members a call.

## Our Two Turtles

*By Karen Isebrands Brown*

Squash Lake has two resident turtles.

The cute colorful one is the **PAINTED TURTLE**, (4-9"). Frequently, they can be seen basking on a log in the sun.



Our other turtle is the **SNAPPING TURTLE**, 10-19" long. They can weigh up to 50 lbs. See photo. It has a large head, thick neck, and powerful jaws. Their lifespan can be up to 30 years. It's long neck allows it to reach a distance  $\frac{1}{2}$  the length of it's upper shell. More than once I have seen them traveling across lawns and roads to deposit their eggs in the sand. There is an old saying...."If a snapping turtle grabs you, he won't let go until the sun sets." Steer clear, my friend.



**Membership renewal for 2021 is now due, please send to the address noted below!**

**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):**

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**Mailing Address:**

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**Lake Address:**

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**Email:**

---

**Phone#**

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**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:** Tom Eggert, Squash Lake Association  
Treasurer  
PO Box 511  
Rhineland, WI 54501

# “Hear the Lively Songs of the Frogs in Yonder Pond.”

By Karen Isebrands Brown

“Frogs are the canaries in the coal mine.” Their presence indicates the health of the lake’s ecosystem. They are an indicator species. Over the years there has been a change in the frog population in Squash Lake.

You are more likely to hear a frog, than see it. Use the tips below to identify the “frogs in yonder pond.” It is the water temperature that triggers each frog species to start their mating call.

The first frogs to call start when the water is **50 degrees**. **SPRING PEEPER**, (¾-1½”) call is a sharp, piercing, bird-like peep that is repeated once per second or faster. At a distance it sounds like the tinkling of sleigh bells.

**CHORUS FROG**, (1 1/2”), call is a rapid series of creaking clicks that rise in pitch, like the sound made by rubbing a thumb across a fine-toothed comb, wrank, wrank.

**WOOD FROG**, (1-3”), migrates to vernal ponds to breed and lay eggs. The call sounds like a duck quacking.

At a water temperature of **60 degrees**, the following five start to call. Our only toad is the **AMERICAN TOAD**, (3-4”) It travels in short hops. This toad breeds in the water, but lives on land. It’s call is a high pitched musical trill lasting 30 seconds with considerable variation in tone. On a phenological note, I find that it sings when “The oak leaves are the size of squirrels’ ears.... (some say, and I agree,) these are the finest days of the year,.....mid May. Trillium will be blooming then.

**LEOPARD FROG**, (3”), call is a deep, rattling, guttural snore, interspersed with chuckling croaks like the sound of a thumb rubbing against a balloon.

**PICKERAL FROG**, (2-3”) has a soft, low pitched snore-like croak.

**GREY TREE FROG**, (1-2”), call is a slower, loud trill.

**COPEES GRAY TREE FROG**, (1-2”), call is a loud chorus of a fast metallic trill lasting 1-3 seconds.

When the water temperature rises to **70 degrees**, the following three frogs begin to call. **MINK FROG**, (2-3”), call sounds like horses’ hooves trotting over a cobblestone street.



**GREEN FROG**, (2-4”) sounds like the twang of a loose banjo string.....”plunk.”

The star of our “yonder pond” is the **Bull Frog**, (4-8”). It’s call is in deep bass notes similar to a fog horn, “jug-o-rum, jug-o-rum” or like drawing a bow across a bass fiddle. Their call can be heard for a quarter of a mile.

## Hear the Lively Songs (continued)

When in the bay in the evening and you hear the “jug-o-rum” call, look toward the call and watch for a bright yellow color at the water line. It is easy to mistake for a yellow lily. Fix your eye on the yellow. It is the large yellow throat of the bull frog. Soon it will “jug-o-rum” for you. What a thrill. It is worth waiting for.

Bull Frogs are “of special concern” for endangerment.

Over the past 50+ years that I have lived on Squash Lake, I’d say the volume of recent years’ frog calls “in yonder pond” is down. In the past the cacophony of the amphibian orchestra could be deafening.....it took my breath away. Here’s to the return of the Squash Lake Symphony.

## SLA Board Members Officers:

**President: Kathy Tournour**  
ktournour@gmail.com

**Vice President: Russ Tennesen**  
russ.tennesen@gmail.com

**Secretary: Dale Smith**  
dws2621@gmail.com

**Treasurer: Tom Eggert**  
tleggert@wisc.edu

## At-Large Members:

**Karen Isebrands Brown**  
kisebrow@gmail.com

**Ann Kipper**  
annkipper11@gmail.com

**Marj Mehring**  
dm.mehring@gmail.com

**Greg Nevinski**  
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Jacqlyn302@gmail.com





[Squash Lake Protection &  
Rehabilitation District](http://www.Squashlakedistrict.com)  
[www.Squashlakedistrict.com](http://www.Squashlakedistrict.com)

## District Meeting Notice

**Date: July 11, 2021**

**Meeting Format: Zoom**

**Time: 1:00 PM**

## Squash Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District Officers

**Tom Johansen, President**

[tomandmegjohansen@gmail.com](mailto:tomandmegjohansen@gmail.com)

**Dan Butkus, Treasurer**

[dan.butkus@yahoo.com](mailto:dan.butkus@yahoo.com)

**Jerod Bennet, Secretary**

[jerod@alterrahomes.com](mailto:jerod@alterrahomes.com)

**Bob Mott**

[bobmott329@msn.com](mailto:bobmott329@msn.com)



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**Remember, if you want Amazon to donate to Squash Lake Association, you need to start each shopping session at the URL <http://smile.amazon.com>, and we will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible purchases.**





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*Wisconsin Lakes Association  
Oneida County Lakes and Rivers Association*

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**For more information, contact Linda**

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and info.  
If you think something should be listed on our web-  
site,  
contact Kathy Tournour at:

*[ktournour@gmail.com](mailto:ktournour@gmail.com)*

