



The Voice of Squash Lake

Volume 7, Issue 2

May, June, July, 2015

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:
jzappling@gmail.com

Squash Lake Members' Meeting Announcement

by Sarah Bennett

2015 Squash Lake Association Members Meeting

Date: **Saturday, June 27, 2015**

Time: **9 am to Noon**

Place: **Crescent Town Hall**

Pot luck brunch.

Bring a dish to pass and your own plate/utensils/beverage.

Coffee and bottled water provided.

Agenda:

2014 Meeting Minutes

Treasurers Report

2015/2016 Budget

Elections

Guest Speaker: Mike Preul, Fisheries Biologist, Sokoagon

Band of the Chippewa (aka Mole Lake)

Grant and Activities Updates

Silent Auction

* If you have something to donate to the silent auction, contact Karen Isebrands Brown at kisebrow@gmail.com.

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





President's Corner

By Dan Butkus

I talk a lot about change. And there are a lot of changes over the past year. We lost three board members mid-term since September of 2014. Their reasons for departing were personal and were unrelated to the lake association. All three regretted leaving, but they felt they were simply unable to devote the time, given other demands in their lives. I can certainly sympathize. Being a board member can very time consuming. Jim Brown, Nick Boismenu, and Steph Boismenu are no longer with the Board. I know all of us thank them for their hard work and devotion to maintaining the quality of our lake. However, we have found and appointed two replacements, and a third person has agreed to run in our elections this summer to fill the vacancies. Sarah Bennett assumed Nick's board seat last fall. Her grandparents had property on the lake and she spent many summers enjoying our waters while growing up. She and her husband recently purchased Carole Mustacci's place. Jeff Paddock joined our board to replace Jim Brown last fall as well. I don't think the Paddocks need an introduction. Their family has been on the lake for many decades. Finally, Kathy Tournour from the Appleton area has agreed to run to fill the seat vacated by Steph. She is an educator in the Fox River area.

Steph Boismenu's departure was very difficult. She was the point person on our AIS Control efforts. Steph was EWM Harvesting on our lake. She left very big shoes to fill. I'm proud to say that our board has pulled together to divide up this project and carry on. Tom Johansen will coordinate divers, Marj Mehring will head up Volunteer Milfoil Monitoring, and Craig Zarley will head up Rapid Response. Steph left behind a well thought-out and organized plan for EWM Control. Yet, don't be surprised if we run into a few hiccups here and there. It's a big project, with a lot of moving parts. We're still learning.

In the midst of these changes, we also accomplished a great deal. Besides reorganizing the EWM Control project, over the past couple years we started an annual golf outing to raise funds. We also have had customized Squash Lake glassware available. We applied for, and obtained the Healthy Lakes Initiative Grant. We modified our DNR grant for EWM Control to open up more funding and give us latitude on volunteer hours. Squash Lake has participated in the Town Lakes Committee in the Town of Crescent. This has enabled us to forge stronger relationships with sister associations in Crescent and influence town priorities. But the effect stretched beyond the town to include building relations with Hancock Lake, Lake Mildred, Lake George, Pelican Lake, and the Sokoagon Band of the Chippewa. Our lake association is a vocal supporter of the Heal Creek project, which looks like it will become a reality. I could go on. We have become known as a very active and involved lake association. We also have a reputation of getting things done. We should all be proud of that.

SLA Awarded DNR Healthy Lakes Grant

by Dan Butkus

The Squash Lake Association was awarded the Healthy Lakes Grant April 15, 2015. This two-year grant helps property owners with small to medium sized projects intended to help improve lake habitat and fisheries. We were one of thirteen (13) organizations in the state to apply, and only one of eleven (11) to be awarded this new grant. Squash Lake is the only lake in the North Central region of the state to be awarded this grant. Four "best practices" are funded with the grant: rock infiltration/water diversion, transitional zone native planting, rain garden, and "fish sticks". Projects needed to be "shovel-ready" in order to apply.

The SLA worked very closely with the DNR during the run-up to filing the application on February 1. As it turns out, our projects are one of the more varied, representing four of the 8 best practices covered by the grant. Most project applications involve only fish sticks. Since this is a new grant, and our projects are uniquely varied, the DNR is extremely interested in following our progress. Additionally, we have been invited to participate as a guest at the DNR webinar on Healthy Lakes on August 20, to talk about our experiences.

Two of the best practices have already been completed as of May 8 on our lake. The rock infiltration and transition zone native planting were installed on the Butkus property (this author) as part of a larger naturalization plan. The DNR covered portions of the overall project are distinctly separate, but adjacent to the rest of the naturalization work. Hanson's Garden Village was contracted to install the project. Lake residents and visitors are encouraged to view the project to get ideas for their own property, and to see how it develops as the plants mature. If you stop by, you are free to view the plantings from outside the pest control fencing. The plantings are fragile and an automatic watering system is in place. The fencing will remain for two years, allowing the plants to become established without being disturbed or uprooted by deer.



Guest Speaker at Upcoming Members' Meeting Announced

by Dan Butkus

The Squash Lake Association has invited Mike Preul to be guest speaker for our annual Members' Meeting on June 27. He is the Aquatic-Fisheries Biologist for the Sokaogon Chippewa (Mole Lake Band). The SLA has recently engaged in conversations with the Sokaogon Chippewa regarding joint projects we can perform on our lake. Mike would like to tailor his talk specific resident questions and concerns. If you have any questions or issues you'd like addressed on June 27, please forward them to Dan Butkus at _____, or send them by mail to the association's address, PO Box 511, Rhinelander, WI 54501. Your questions will remain anonymous if you indicate that in your message.

Michael Preul (Mike) is 44 years old. He was raised in Denison a rural farm community in southwestern Iowa, and grew up in the country with love for the outdoors and fishing. Mike married wife Heidi and moved to Fort Collins, CO to attend Colorado State University, starting his family while in college. He has a B.S. and M.S. in Fisheries Biology. His Masters graduate thesis topic was determining the impacts of copper exposure on early and adult life-stages of walleye with implications to walleye population management. Mike was a research associate in aquaculture, fish management, and aquatic toxicology. As an undergrad and graduate research assistant, he traveled to Crandon, WI and the Sokaogon Chippewa Community to assist with predicting impacts of a proposed copper mine on water and biota of local streams and lakes. The Sokaogon hired him immediately after his graduation and has worked his entire professional career with Sokaogon Chippewa Community (15 yrs) as Aquatic-Fisheries Biologist with expertise in fisheries and lake management, aquaculture, aquatic invasive species, and wild rice ecology.

Mike and his family have lived in Rhinelander for 15 years. Wife Heidi is an elementary school principal for Merrill, WI schools. Their three daughters are: Taylor, age 19, a Junior at Northern Michigan University; Kylie, age 17, 11th grader to be Rhinelander Schools; and Logan, age 10, 5th grader to be, Rhinelander Schools.

Mike still loves the outdoors and fishing. His family spends summers traveling, usually to western mountain states. Mike enjoys mountain biking and Nordic skiing, and is involved in developing ski opportunities for youth and the community. Smallmouth bass is his favorite species to fish for, primarily being a catch and release fishermen. While he prefers fishing for action species, he oddly does not like the taste of fish.

Don't miss the Squash Lake Association's second annual golf tournament !!!!!

SLA GOLF TOURNAMENT - SUNDAY, JUNE 28TH - NORTHWOOD GOLF COURSE

REGISTRATION AT 1:00PM - GOLF AT 2:00PM

COST IS \$50.00 PER PERSON, AND INCLUDES 9 HOLES OF GOLF, CART, RANGE BALLS, HOLE PRIZES (every hole), PLACE AWARDS, AND A CHICKEN DINNER (5:00PM).

Last year we raised over \$2000.00 dollars. All proceeds go to fight Eurasian Milfoil.

There are a number of ways you can support this project.

1. GET A TEAM AND GOLF - 4 PERSON SCRAMBLE - REGISTRATION ATTACHED
(you can also sign-up individually and we will find you a team)
2. SPONSOR A TEAM
3. SPONSOR A HOLE (\$100.00) - YOUR NAME OR BUSINESS WILL BE DISPLAYED ON THE HOLE, AND IN THE CLUBHOUSE.
4. DONATE A RAFFLE ITEM (CERTIFICATES OR NEW ITEMS)
5. SIGN-UP TO HELP - HELP IS NEEDED PRIOR TO THE TOURNAMENT AND ON THE DAY OF THE TOURNAMENT.
6. AND FINALE, HELP PROMOTE THIS EVENT BY TELLING YOUR FRIENDS - THIS TOURNAMENT IS OPEN TO EVERYONE.

For more information, call Dale Smith at [715-367-0088](tel:715-367-0088). For those non-golfers, you are welcome to attend the dinner at a cost of \$15.00. This is a great way to meet other people on the lake.



Squash Lake Association is now on Face Book. Search and Like us

SLA SILENT AUCTION FUNDRAISER JUNE 27TH

It is time to start looking for items to donate to the June 27th Annual SLA Silent Auction. We are looking for new (or like-new) items you can part with: impulse buys, unwanted gifts, white elephants, your art or crafts, etc. Dig down.

Last year we raised ~ \$900 at the silent auction. Because SLA is a 501c3, your donation is tax deductible. Donors will receive a receipt for the dollar amount of the items they donate.

Big ticket items for last year's silent auction were: wine & cheese baskets, video sets, and canvas wraps.

NO STUFF to donate.....BAKE A PIE OR BROWNIES, OR DONATE A SUNSET CRUISE ON YOUR POONTOON BOAT.

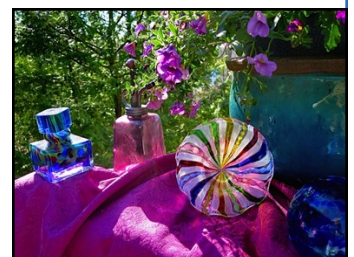
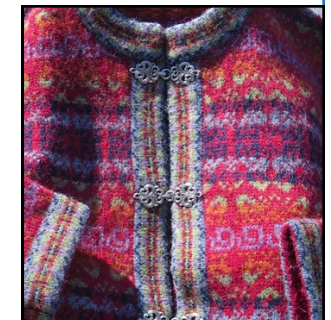
The 2014 silent auction earnings paid for 40 hours of scuba diving for the removal of Eurasian Milfoil from Squash Lake. This year's goal is to raise \$1,000.

Email kise-brow@gmail.com with a list of your items to be donated. Hold your items until the 6/26.

EXTRA.....NEW THIS YEAR.....Offer to do a **CLEAN SWEEP** of your house and garage to pinpoint the toxins that are hiding under your sinks and in your garage. Isn't it "priceless" to know what products in your home are harmful to your health?



Some of the auction items already donated



SQUASH LAKE OPEN

**-SPONSORED BY THE SQUASH LAKE ASSOCIATION
AND THE CLEAN BOATS/CLEAN WATERS PROGRAM-
(Funds to be used in the fight against Eurasian Milfoil)**

SUNDAY, JUNE 28

2:00 PM – SHOTGUN START



**4 PERSON SCRAMBLE
(HANDICAPPED)**

(Cost of \$50.00 per person includes 9 holes of golf, cart, range balls, hole prizes (every hole), placing awards, chicken dinner)

Team Name (optional) _____

_____ 2. _____

_____ 4. _____

If you do not have a foursome, sign-up, and we will match you with others to form a team. Entries can be dropped off at Northwood Golf Course or mailed to Dale Smith at 2621 Oak Lane Drive, Rhineland, WI 54501 . Entry fees should accompany entry forms. Make checks to: Squash Lake Association. For more information call Dale at 715-367-0088 or e-mail Dale at dws2621@gmail.com.



Schedule of Events

SLA Board Meeting

Town Hall, 10:00 a.m. –12:00 p.m. These are open meetings. Anyone interested in the association's plans or business is invited to come. You need not be a member to attend.

**June 27, 2015 ANNUAL MEETING 9-12
Town Hall Mark your calendars**

Aug ? 2015 **Social at Roger Degris' Beach**
(We need a few people with ideas for possible themes and or activities for this social. We are open to day, evening or nite , hours. Put on your thinking caps and contact:

Tom Johansen
tjohansen@dce.k12.wi.us

Help Your Neighbor

Terminator Wish List

- **Gas gift cards**
- **Extra gas tanks**
- **A 30hp outboard motor or larger**

*****Milfoil Monitor Volunteers***
Desperately Needed**

The Wisconsin DNR stocked Squash Lake with 3976 large walleye fingerlings last September. The large fingerlings are part of the state's walleye initiative to restore walleye populations in northern Wisconsin. The DNR has determined that larger walleyes have a better survival rate than smaller fingerlings, and the move could be a significant first step in restoring walleye populations on Squash Lake.

Squash Lake was not originally on the list of lakes to receive the first batch of large fingerlings because the current walleye population of approximately two walleyes per acre did not fall below what the DNR deemed a critically depleted population. But the Mole Lake Band of Lake Superior Chippewa intervened on our behalf and helped move Squash Lake up on the list of those lakes to be stocked.

The long-term effect of the stocking program won't be known for several years, but higher lake levels this spring helped expand the walleye spawning areas on the lake, which should also aid in recovery.

Squash Lake anglers can contribute to a healthier lake fishing environment by keeping and eating more largemouth bass. The minimum length on largemouths remains 14 inches, but the season has been expanded so that anglers can keep largemouth beginning the first Saturday in May. Smallmouth bass remain catch and release from the first Saturday in May until June 20.

Studies throughout the upper Midwest and Canada show a correlation between rising largemouth bass populations and declining walleye numbers. The exact correlation remains a mystery, but largemouth bass are now the dominant fish species in Squash Lake. They are easily caught and good to eat. A better balance of largemouths to walleyes may help contribute to better walleye numbers.

Annual Dues July 2013 thru June 2014

Please support your Squash Lake Association:
Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

\$ _____ Annual Dues \$25

\$ _____ Donation to control Eurasian Water
Milfoil

\$ _____ Donation to General Fund

\$ _____ **TOTAL**

Please send your contribution to:

Squash Lake Association
PO Box 511
Rhineland, WI 54501



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



The Squash Lake Association is a Member of the Following:

Wisconsin Lakes Association
Oneida County Lakes and Rivers Association



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