



The Voice of Squash Lake

Volume 7, Issue 3

July, Aug, Sept, 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:
jzapping@gmail.com

HAPPY 10th ANNIVERSARY

SQUASH LAKE ASSOCIATION

SLA was established in the fall of 2005 by our lake residents that were concerned about maintaining the pristine quality of our lake for future generations. We have had a lot of growing pains and challenges, but have managed to meet them all

Besides the challenges we have had even more successes. We had applied for and received 2 Clean Boats/Clean Water educational grants which enabled us to create a boat monitoring and education system at the boat landing, put a storage and educational shed up, put up informational signs, provide our volunteers with CB/CW shirts, caps and aprons and training. We have also received a Lake Management Grant and a Healthy Lakes Grant from the DNR. Our biggest challenge, so far, is that of Eurasian Water Milfoil. We have met it head on with the help of DNR AIS Emergency Grants and generous donations from you. Unfortunately this challenge is an ongoing one that I'm confident we can handle with your continued help. SLA has a lot to be proud of in the past 10 years. We have been a good example for other lake associations in the area with AIS control.

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





PRESIDENT ' S CORNER

An Open Letter To Eurasian Water Milfoil

by Dan Butkus

Dear E. W. Milfoil,
You think you're winning. You know we're exhausted battling your advances in Squash Lake. You see our volunteer hours dwindling as people lose interest, or they feel the hopelessness against your relentless spread. I'm sure you find it amusing that our inability to meet our volunteer hours has cost the association \$3,500 since April 2014. And to add insult to injury, we hear that you've potentially invaded a neighboring lake this year. You even know that the use of chemicals to control you will not be any more successful than hand harvesting. It would only kill off native plants, giving you more open real estate to invade. We tug at your roots with our divers. We comb our shores and shallows for your presence. We inspect boats at our landing. We remove you when we spot you. We have meeting after meeting discussing ways to combat you. We educate our property owners. We call for volunteers and money. We have even tried vacuuming you from the lakebed in certain areas. Still, you creep into areas and infest them like a virus. It's become a game of "Whack-a-Mole" to you, hasn't it?

Yes, you exhaust us. The alternative is to let you run rampant, choking out vital areas of the lake and ruining our enjoyment of the water. But I know something you don't. We have more potential volunteers than the ones you see on the lake now. The worse you become, the more they will volunteer. We can even reclaim that \$3,500 if we only try. As we keep you in check on our lake, new ways may yet be developed to exterminate you.

So, go ahead and laugh at us. You may be winning this battle, but the war is far from over. Your stealth may be your strength, but our resourcefulness is ours. See you on the battlefield. I'll be the one snorkeling, wading, and paddling around. If I see you off my shoreline, you're dead. Consider yourself warned. Have a nice day (while it lasts)!

Dan Butkus



Meet Our Newest Board Member



Kathy Tournour is a former elementary teacher living in Plymouth, WI. She recently left the Cedar Grove-Belgium School District where she was a teacher for 28 years. She and her husband,

Bob, have 3 children; Mitch (20), Sadie (18), and Libby (14). Her free time is spent working in her garden, reading and attending her children's sporting events. She also enjoys traveling with her family and looks forward to visiting new places. Kathy and her family spend as many weekends as possible at their cabin on Squash Lake. She loves spending her summers boating and hanging out around the lake and, as an avid cross country skier, she enjoys the local ski trails in the winter. She has joined the Squash Lake Association in the hopes that she can plan an active role in maintaining and protecting the community which she loves so much.



Annual Meeting Report

Membership turnout was disappointingly poor. Of approximately 150 land owners only about 15 were represented. The election of the SLA Board left us with only 2 changes. Kathy Tournour replaced Stephanie Boismenu. Steph no longer lives on the lake. The Golf Outing was a success and the Silent Auction would have been better with a larger turnout.

Walleye Stocked in Squash Lake

By Craig Zarley

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.



Eurasian Water Milfoil Found on Crescent Lake

By Greg Nevinski

Around mid-July a group of UW Stevens Point students noted Eurasian Water Milfoil near the Public Landing on Crescent Lake. A Crescent Lake Association member passed these findings to the Emergency Response Committee of the association. Upon preliminary investigation several clumps of Northern milfoil and one clump of EWM were verified. The Emergency Response team is exploring its' options to contain this invasive species. To date they are considering divers to remove the plants and a mat covering over the area to smother any plants not removed and to prevent future growth in this location.

They have met with the DNR to activate an Emergency Response Grant for further investigation and remedial action.

It is hopeful that this is a very early detection and the proposed action will eliminate the EWM from the reported area. Further investigation of the lake basin for other findings will occur as part of the grant.

Hopefully this may save them from the actions undertaken on Squash Lake since discovery in 2009. EWM removal on Squash Lake has been stopped for 2015 due to a lack of funds.



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.

Sept 19, 2015

Nov. 14, 2015

Mar. 19, 2016

May 7, 2016



Help Your Neighbor

The ultimate stain remover that actually works on a seriously set in stain!

The mixture is:

1 tsp. Dawn dishwashing detergent...
3-4 tablespoons of hydrogen peroxide
couple tablespoons of baking soda.
Scrub on with a scrubbing brush.



Wish List for The Terminator Crew

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



July 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

August 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

September 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19Bd meeting
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

Annual Dues July 2013 thru June 2014

Please support your Squash Lake Association:
NAME _____

EMAIL _____

PHONE _____

\$ _____ 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 Carole Mustacci or Kathy Tournour at: scanassi@newnorth.net or 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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