



The Voice of Squash Lake

Volume 9, Issue 2

Apr, May, June, 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

IT'S ANNUAL MEETING TIME AGAIN!

There is a lot of business to cover this year with the formation of the lake district and Dan stepping down as president.

The Meeting will be on Saturday, July 8, 2017 at: Mulligan's Restaurant at the Northwood's Golf Course.

Time: 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Social hour 4 p.m.—5 p.m.

Appetizers provided. Cash bar for drinks. Order from the menu for dinner at members expense. Meeting to start at 5pm. Special feature is DNR info presentation on AIS policy (either by pre-recorded webcast or in person by DNR Lakes and Rivers Section Chief Carroll Schaal. Mr. Schaal will confirm his availability later. If he can't make it in person, we'll replay the presentation he made to the DNR Board in early March.

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





PRESIDENT 'S CORNER

Change is in the Air

by Dan Butkus

As the saying goes, “The only thing constant in life is change.” I made a decision last fall that I would not seek the role of Association President this summer when my tenure ends, regardless of how the lake district issue turned out. My term as a Board Member is up as well, but I will be seeking re-election to the Board, but only as an at-large member, not an officer. I initially wanted to step down in 2015. We had a number of issues we were working through on the lake and our mother was suffering from the latter phases of Alzheimer's/dementia. It seemed too much. But after her passing, I had more time and we were in the middle of revamping our EWM Control Program so I remained. Again last year, I toyed with the idea, but we entered a time of funding crisis and the lake district issue. I'm a believer that you don't change horses in the middle of the stream. It's too disruptive. So I remained.

This summer, I will have held this office for five years, two years less than our previous President, Pat Dugan. It takes a lot of effort to lead a non-profit lake organization, and it can wear you out over time. When I first became President, many on other lake association boards said, “Well, you're President for life now. Hardly anyone leaves unless they die.” I am also a believer that change is a good thing. New leadership brings a breath of new ideas and renewed energy to organizations. So, I had resolved that I shouldn't overstay my usefulness. I would buck the notion of “President for Life”.

The lake has a lake district now. Things are going to change. Some believe this spells the end of our association. But in my tenure with the association, and working on the district issue, I found that many lakes have both a strong association and a strong district with defined roles and responsibilities. They are able to keep both working successfully as separate organizations, yet in concert with each other. It's my hope we can achieve a similar balance, and I will work toward that end. I am convinced both have a place. One does not have to preclude the other. I remain optimistic.

Continued from column 1

The only link between the district's formation and my stepping down is that I now feel we're at a point where we've seen most things through to their conclusion. A lull. I won't be leaving in the middle of the stream. And as things begin to change, and the association and district find their way to coexistence, it is probably a good time to breathe some new ideas and energy into the association with a new President. I can look back and say that this was one of the hardest jobs I ever had, but it gave me the most satisfaction. As a group, we achieved so many great things. I'm proud to have been a part of it. But it's someone else's turn to take the reins, and take the organization to new heights. The only thing in life that's constant is change.



We are looking for a new Editor for the Newsletter

After being editor of the SLA Newsletter for the last 9 years, I'm looking for someone to take over the newsletter. Both my husband and I have health issues and I am finding it more difficult get to the newsletter even though it only takes a maximum total of about 8 hours to put together each quarter.

This job doesn't require any special training or talent, only a wish to communicate with your lake neighbors. And if you have always had a hidden desire to write and publish something, now's your chance!

I will put the program on a CD and work with you to start. I use Microsoft Publisher .
Please contact Dan Butkus or me, Janet Appling, if you are interested.

Lake District Update Squash Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District Formed

by Dan Butkus

On March 21, 2017, with a vote of 17-0, the Oneida County Board of Supervisors approved County Resolution #29-2017, and formed the Squash Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District. The County Board found that the petitioners and the Oneida County Conservation and UWEX Education Committee met all the requirements under Wisconsin State Statute Chapter 33. There was no opposition voiced by either the Supervisors or general public in attendance. Tom Johansen and Dan Butkus spoke in favor of the district's formation during public comments prior to the vote.

At the county meeting, the Board also appointed Oneida County Supervisor Bob Mott as the county's representative on the district's board of commissioners, as well as Tom Johansen, Jerod Bennett, and Dan Butkus as interim owner/commissioners on the board. The Town of Crescent will appoint its representative to the board during its monthly meeting on April 18. The appointed owners to the board will serve until the annual Electors Meeting of owners later this summer. In the mean time, the commissioners will begin conducting regular business of the district.

Chapter 33 mandates that within 90 days of the creation of the district, the commissioners must hold an organizational meeting. The organizational meeting is to assign offices of President, Treasurer, and Secretary, as well as begin the process of filing the required forms with both the Federal and State governments. They will also begin the process of setting up future meeting dates, meeting agendas, preparing a proposed budget for the Electors review and approval, among other business. It is likely a regular quarterly meeting of the commissioners will take place before the Electors meeting to ensure everything is in place for the Electors meeting. By law, the Electors meeting of owners must take place before September 8. Meeting notices will be mailed to owners within the district well in advance of the meeting, in accordance with Chapter 33 and state Open Meeting regulations. It is at this meeting that Electors will decide a tiered tax schedule for on-lake and off-lake properties, approve activities of the district for 2018, approve a budget and tax rate for 2018, as well as other details for how the district is to operate. The Electors will also elect owner/commissioners to the board.



A "Hail Mary Pass" Succeeds: Funding Awarded for Diver Harvesting

by Grant Administrator

During the week of April 10, 2017, the Wisconsin DNR announced the recipients of this year's AIS Existing Population Control grants. In an unexpected turn of events, the Squash Lake Association received another 3-yr grant to cover the cost of diver harvesting on the lake.

Indications from the DNR and from our lake management consultant, Onterra LLC, in 2016 were that Squash Lake would not receive another grant. We had pushed EWM below the threshold to qualify for another multi-year control grant. Normally, Onterra writes these complicated grant applications for our lake. Onterra waives the grant writing fee for projects likely to receive funding since the application costs are incorporated in the overall project cost. Instead, the outlook was so bleak for Squash Lake that Onterra only agreed to write the grant application if the association paid \$1500 to cover the cost. The association chose to take on the task of writing the application themselves. If it were unlikely that a grant would be awarded, then it was wise to save the \$1500 grant writing fee and apply that money to the 2017 diving season. Yet, the association felt that it must apply, even though our chances of receiving the grant were almost non-existent. Over sixty (60) hours were invested by the Grant Administrator to write the grant application last December and January. This time included obtaining competitive costs for services proposed under the application.

DNR Lakes and Rivers Section Chief, Carroll Schaal, explained that there were unspent funding dollars from the Lake Planning grants awarded earlier in 2017. These monies were folded into the Lake Management grants. The Existing Population Control grant is one of the grants in the Lake Management Grant group. This allowed the DNR to award grants to some lakes that might not have qualified for funds otherwise, including Squash Lake. Another factor why Squash Lake may have received funds is because of our highly successful management of EWM. The DNR sees our program as one of the best in the state for control of EWM without the use of herbicides. Continued state funding would help ensure success in the future.

Cont. on pg 4

FOND MEMORIES



Pat Dugan at a sing-a-long several years ago on his 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

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 Rhineland to give an educational presentation on the results at no extra charge. Additional details will be presented at the 2017 Annual Meeting.

Grant Award continued from pg 3

The new grant has an impact on the new Squash Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District, but not its overall goal. The district was formed primarily to handle control of EWM with or without state funding. State funding will remain highly competitive and unreliable in the future. Having a district will ensure long term control of EWM. But for the short-term, the district will not have to shoulder the majority of costs as a result the state dollars made available. District fees may be substantially lower than originally expected. The new grant also means that the association and the district can better plan the transition of EWM control responsibilities from the association to the district.



THE THIRD ANNUAL SQUASH LAKE ICE OUT CONTEST WINNER



We have a winner for the Ice Out Contest! The Loon broke through the ice at 2:37 pm on April 6th. That's right it was swimming in a 20 foot pond surrounded by a ring of ice !

Sharon Sparling had the winning guess of 2:00 pm April 6th. Congrats Sharon! Approximately \$300 was raised during the contest. Sharon will win 1/2 of the pot and the other 1/2 will be used to combat Eurasian Water Milfoil in Squash Lake.

Thank you everyone for participating and helping to combat Eurasian Water Milfoil in Squash Lake.

Slow/No Wake and Diver Reminders

As boating season approaches, 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 closer than 100 ft from shore and Personal Watercraft (PWC) may not operate at wake speeds when closer than 200 ft from shore. 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 (100ft from flags).

Slow/No Wake Boundaries of Note:

Operating any watercraft at wake speeds in Finger Bay is prohibited by law.

Between Marshall Island (Big Island) and the western shore. The opposing shores at the north entrance of the channel are closer than 200 ft. Operating at wake speeds at the north entrance for both boats and PWC is prohibited by law. PWC may not operate at wake speeds in the entire channel. While the entire channel does not fall under this category for boats, the Squash Lake Association suggests that boaters observe slow/no wake speeds through the entire channel between the island and shore due to the number of people who swim near the island and use it for recreation.

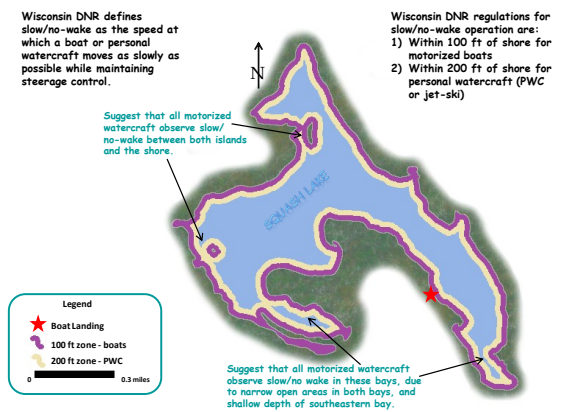
Between Scrub Oak Island (Little Island) and western shore. The opposing shores are closer than 400 ft. Operating a PWC at wake speeds through this channel is prohibited by law.

Entrance to Serenity Bay (between Dugan's point and the former View Peninsula Resort). The entrance to this bay is less than 400 ft across. Operating a PWC at wake speeds into or out of this bay is prohibited by law. Further, the Squash Lake Association suggests that PWC not be operated at wake speeds at all in this bay.

While there is a small strip inside the bay which would allow operation at wake speeds, it isn't large enough to fully run a PWC at wake speed.

Loon Bay is open to running watercraft at full wake speeds but only down the center. However, the Squash Lake Association suggests that both boats and PWC respect the wildlife and native habitat by operating at slow speeds. The sandbars at the entrance of the bay, and the shallowness of the bay, along with the many logs and deadheads, make this area more dangerous when operating at wake speeds.

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



SLA suggests that all motorized watercraft observe slow/no-wake be observed between the shore and both islands.

SLA also suggests that all motorized watercraft observe slow/no-wake in Serenity Bay and Loon Bay due to the narrow opening of Serenity Bay and the small area that would allow a faster speed. In Loon Bay, it has a narrow opening and is very shallow.

Wisconsin DNR defines slow/no-wake as speeds at which a boat or personal watercraft moves as slowly as possible while maintaining steerage control.

Wisconsin DNR Regulations for slow/no-wake operations are:

- 1) Within 100 feet of shore for motorized boats.
- 2) Within 200 feet of shore for personal watercrafts (PWC or jet-ski)

EDITOR'S THOUGHTS

Spring brings new life, new thoughts and all kinds of change. As I look back over the last 12 years of the Squash Lake Association, we have experienced all of the above along with frustration, anger, failure, and loss of people. Our failures have been negligible, i.e. not being able to get enough volunteers for some projects. But our successes far outnumber any failures, i.e., Clean Boats/Clean Waters training, education classes for lake residents, parade floats, getting numerous grants over the years, getting a storage shed/education center at the boat landing, attacking and overcoming the EWS control problem in the lake. We now have evolved to a Lake District to take care of the Eurasian Water Milfoil problem and that is a brand new chapter in Squash Lake's Book. The SLA can now move forward in a new chapter also. The direction is up to all of you on the lake.

We have many people on the lake to thank for stepping forward and helping with the guardianship of our lake. The association started initially with 6 people stepping forward to organize and register us officially with the state. They were Pat Dugan, President, Craig Zarley, Vice-President, Jim Brown, Secretary, Janet Appling Treasurer, Karen Isebrands and Gary Cirilli as board members at large. I can't forget Virginia Amerena. She initiated getting us organized and did a lot of ground work before we became an organization. Since our inception we have lost a few key people. I stepped down as treasurer and Marj Mehring stepped in and has done a fantastic job. Pat Dugan left WI for CA and Dan Butkus stepped into the president slot. He has devoted the last 5 years to SLA, giving us new ideas and directions and has done an outstanding job. We have also lost Stephanie Boismenu. She was the AIS coordinator and when she stepped down, Tom Johansen took on her job with the divers and has done an outstanding job.

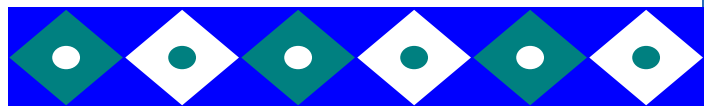
Over the years we have added and lost people. They are Greg Nevinski, Nick Boismenu, Dale Smith, Sarah Bennett, Kathy Tournour, Jeff Paddock and not an official member of the association, but a very, very, important part of it, is Bill Aken our CB/CW coordinator. That makes a total of 18 Lake People that have dedicated a part or all of the last 12 years to the preservation of the quality of Squash Lake and its ecosystem.

This brings me to a simple reminder. Although everyone on the board and all the volunteers work for the betterment of the lake and expect no thanks, a Thank You is always welcomed. It tells us that we are appreciated for our efforts.

The people that I haven't listed by name but have been **faithful volunteers at the boat landing are also owed a big Thank you for their time to help keep our lake clean.**

The lake association is starting a new chapter with a blank page. We need new ideas and directions to come from you the members.

What do you want from SLA?



NEW BEGINNINGS

How often we wish for another chance, To make a fresh beginning, A chance to blot out our mistakes and change failure into winning. And it does not take a new year, to make a brand new start. It only takes the deep desire to try with all our heart.....

Helen Steiner Rice

Possible Hiring of Boat Inspectors

by Grant Coordinator

The Squash Lake Association 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.

We have hired 2 people to partially man the boat landing.

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.

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

July 8, 2017 - Members Annual Meeting (details on Page 1)

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)

3) Paddle Boat \$50, Canoe 14ft \$50, and Green Treated Wood pier 4- 4x8ft sections with Tommy dock hardware and poles. Price is negotiable. Call Dave Cerny @ [414-881-6654](tel:414-881-6654)

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)
\$25.00 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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