

# The Voice of Squash Lake



Volume 14, Issue 3

September, 2022

## 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.

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The newsletter is published in January, May and September. Please submit your articles, pictures & submissions to:

Linda Tennessen  
russ.linda.tennessen@gmail.com

The next newsletter deadline is:  
**December 12, 2022**



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*

Greetings Squash Lake Neighbors!

Where did summer 2022 go? It was a busy, fun-filled summer on Squash Lake for my family. The Squash Lake Association had a busy, fun-filled summer as well!

Our Annual Meeting was held on June 25 at Henkel's Town Pump was well attended. Pizza and a social hour was followed by a very productive meeting with great discussions. The SLA will use those discussions to help us focus on long-term projects in the future.

The Social Committee held several successful events this summer. Three Silent Sport Saturday gatherings held at the boat landing were well attended when the weather cooperated. Donuts, coffee and conversation were enjoyed by all who walked, paddled, or biked to the landing. Our third annual boat flotilla was great fun - so many awesome boats! We are already looking forward to the fourth annual flotilla!



The Fisheries Committee was also busy this summer. A well-attended fishing workshop in July along with continuing to work on improving the fisheries was the focus of the committee. They are researching the best strategies for building and placing fish cribs in the lake as they move forward.

Now that summer is moving into fall the SLA will be busy planning social events, educational programs, improvement to the fisheries and long range projects.

As always, if you have a question or concern please don't hesitate to reach out.

Kathy Tournour  
Squash Lake Association President  
[ktournour@gmail.com](mailto:ktournour@gmail.com)  
920-912-3883



## MOORING BUOYS

Mooring buoys within 150 feet of shore do not require a state permit if it doesn't affect public rights (fish and wildlife habitat, navigation, etc.) or other riparian owners.

## MARKING BUOYS

Sometimes you may want to place buoys for other reasons, such as to mark a swimming area or a waterski course.

Any placement of informational and regulatory buoys must be approved by the local DNR Conservation Warden and by the local unit of government. To apply for a permit to place a marker buoy, visit [Waterway Markers](#) for permit applications. To place a mooring buoy further than 150 feet from shore, you will need to apply for a permit. Visit [Waterway Markers](#) for permit applications. Please note that an [Individual Mooring Justification Worksheet \[PDF\]](#) must be completed and sent in with your permit application.

## SLA BOARD MEETINGS & OTHER EVENTS

**October 15, 2022**

**February 4, 2023**

**April 1, 2023**

**May 13, 2023**

**June 24, 2023 (annual meeting)**

*Unless otherwise noted, the meetings are held in the Crescent Town Hall.*

**Everyone is welcome!  
to attend!**

## ANNUAL MEETING AT THE PUMP

Henkel's Town Pump was the place for our annual meeting on June 25, 2022. We had a great turnout, the pizza was great, and every enjoyed the comradery. Jay Laetsch was voted on & added to the board and we had great discussions about future projects for the lake.



## SILENT SPORTS SATURDAYS

The second Silent Sport Saturday was a great success! We had over 20 members at the boat landing enjoying coffee & donuts. The weather was beautiful which helped our event be a great success.

Neighbors came by kayak, canoe, bike, car, they walked, and Kathy even swam over! The feedback we received was very positive. The first and last Silent Sport Saturdays had rain that affected the turnout but a few brave souls ventured to the boat landing and weathered the rain to meet up with the lake neighbors.



It's been a great year to enjoy the loons on Squash Lake. Our Loon Bay pair successfully raised their chick and it was always fun to watch for them on our tours of the lake. Since we watched our baby grow, I found the below chick development article an interesting read. In late August, Greg Nevinsky witnessed a rafting of loons by the big island. Hope you find the following information interesting. I know I did!

Squash Lake is also visited by the members of The Loon Center from Crosslake, MN during the summer. They banded the new chick in late July. I have shared some pictures of a couple of the team. If you would like to read more about their work, visit [www.nationallooncenter.org](http://www.nationallooncenter.org) and [www.loonproject.org](http://www.loonproject.org).



## LOON CHICK DEVELOPMENT

**1-2 Days** Newly hatched chicks are covered in dark downy feathers above with white bellies. Unlike adult loons, a young loon chick is able to walk upright on land. Although they can swim immediately after hatching, chicks spend a lot of time riding on their parents' backs during the first several days of their lives. This helps to regulate their body temperature and protects them from underwater predators. Chicks are entirely dependent on their parents for food, and one adult typically remains on the water's surface with the chicks while the other catches fish and feeds them.

**1 Week** The legs, feet, and head, which are needed for swimming and food capture, begin to grow. Chicks are better able to regulate their own body temperatures and may spend more time in the water on their own, though back riding is still common. They are able to swim to the bottom of shallow areas, probe and search around objects, and chase fish.

**2 Weeks** Chicks molt into a second downy plumage that is a lighter brown color. They are able to swim underwater erratically for lengths up to 50 feet. Parents may begin leaving chicks alone on the water's surface while both dive for food to feed them.

**3 Weeks** Loon chick bodies begin to elongate. Their bills also begin to lengthen. Juvenile feathers begin to develop on white underparts. As their bodies grow and begin to take on the characteristic shape of loons, they lose the ability to walk upright on land.

**4 Weeks** Growth of juvenile primary feathers begins. At this age chicks have become too large to back ride, though they may still try.

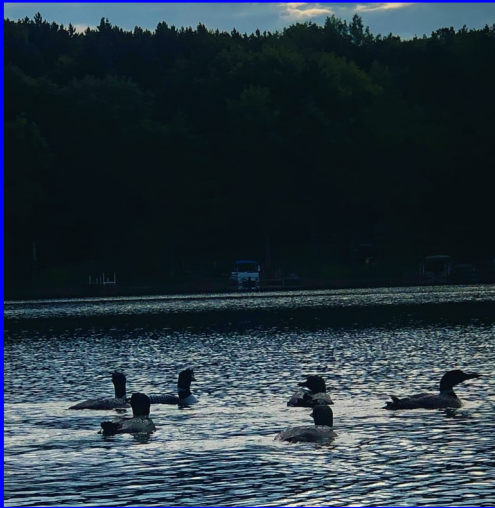
**5 Weeks** By 5 weeks of age, chicks look a little unkempt as their juvenile contour feathers begin to develop. They can capture small prey items for themselves but remain dependent on parents for food.

**6-7 Weeks** Juvenile plumage continues to develop. Adults begin leaving chicks alone for longer intervals of time, though at least one parent typically remains aware of the chicks' location and monitors for signs of danger.

**8-9 Weeks** Growth of legs, feet, and head begin to slow. Juvenile plumage has fully developed, enabling chicks to compress air out of feathers and dive efficiently. Chicks can forage independently and capture about 50% of their daily food. They begin exercising their wings to prepare for flight.

**10-11 Weeks** Chicks continue to practice flight. They can capture much (roughly 90-100%) of their own food, but will still beg for and accept food from parents. At this point in the season, one parent may leave for the ocean, but the other typically stays with the chicks until they reach fledging age.

**12 Weeks** By 12 weeks of age, loon chicks reach fledging age and become independent. They may take their first flight, and they eat fish of similar size to adults. At this stage, the second parent may migrate to the ocean, leaving chicks entirely alone on their natal lakes. Chicks typically leave their lakes 1-3 weeks after their parents, though some remain into the early winter.



## LOONS ON PARADE

On August 23 Gregory Nevinski witnessed seven loons on parade off the shore north of the big island towards Tom Johansen’s house. He shared his photos so that all of us could see this magnificent sight! I personally found this fascinating to see so many together because I always thought they pretty much stayed with their family unit. I researched this phenomenon and found the following article on [cottage-life.com](http://cottage-life.com).

### *Why are these loons gathering in groups?*

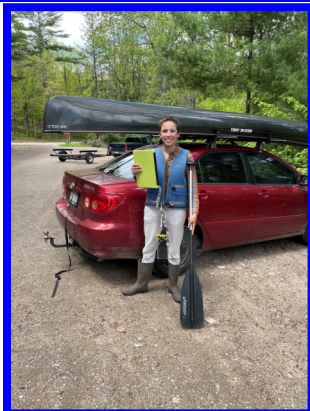
*It’s called rafting. At the end of August or early September, before they migrate, loons typically congregate in groups on large lakes. During the breeding season (April to June), loons are very territorial and “usually don’t tolerate each other,” explains Michel Gosselin, an expert at the [Canadian Museum of Nature](http://CanadianMuseumofNature) in Ottawa. Loons will violently defend their territories against other loons, sometimes fighting to the death. They also drive off other birds and marine mammals. As the summer comes to an end, however, this territo-*



*rial instinct wanes.*

*Biologists believe rafting helps the birds feed more efficiently—if they’re sharing the feeding ground, they aren’t wasting energy defending it from each other—and may help protect them from predators. Loons also raft in their wintering grounds, on the Pacific and Atlantic coasts and in the Gulf of Mexico.*

*Rafts can get huge, says Kathy Jones of Bird Studies Canada, who works on the Canadian Lakes Loon Survey. She recalls seeing a massive raft—hundreds and hundreds—on Eagle Lake, near Dryden, Ont. “It literally was loon upon loon. It was a wonderful thing to see.”*



## The Loon Project

The Loon Project is an ongoing scientific investigation of territoriality, reproduction, habitat selection, and population dynamics of common loons in the Upper Midwest region of the U.S.

They have two study populations: 1) 120 marked breeding pairs in Oneida, Lincoln, and Vilas counties of Wisconsin that have been under investigation since 1993 and 2) 120 loon pairs in and around Crosslake, Minnesota that we began to mark and study in 2021. They have now accumulated a large sample of longitudinal data that permits robust statistical analysis and provides a rare, life-history perspective on Upper Midwest loons. To date, they have followed the entire breeding lives of 65 individuals. They have also banded

357 loons as chicks that are later observed as adults nearby. This large sample of known-age individuals allows them to investigate the behavior of young birds especially how young birds learn about and settle on breeding territories.

**National Loon Center  
PO Box 642  
Crosslake, MN 56442**



## FISHERIES COMMITTEE



The fisheries committee has been gathering information on fish cribs. Some information on cribs was learned from a visit to Pelican Lake. Jeff Griffey, chairman of their fisheries committee, was very helpful and took time to explain their whole operation. Their present project includes 40 cribs. These 40 cribs are to be placed in 5 groups of 8. Each area has a name. The cribs are very large and weigh 2000 lbs. each. They are placed in the water by Pelican Piers. Sixteen cribs have been placed and 24 are built and ready to go. The two most important

things learned were that the cribs should have good vertical height and cribs should be placed in groups. From things learned, crib construction and placement is being re-evaluated. It will obviously be on a much smaller scale but may include some of their techniques. The 3 cribs placed so far in Squash have been difficult to locate but have seen some use.

The committee is also exploring options for re-constructing reefs and fish spawning areas in the lake. The fish committee will be meeting in September to make some decisions on more definite plans for the future.



We would also like to thank Andrew Lockman, our neighbor on Long Lake who donated cement blocks for use in building additional cribs.

In July, we hosted a fishing workshop and it was well attended. (pictures included)

## Town of Crescent

### **November 8—General Election**

Visit [myvote.wi.gov](http://myvote.wi.gov) for voter registration information *or*  
Contact Crescent Clerk Tracy Hartman @ 715-499-0500 *or*  
[crescentclerk@townofcrescent.com](mailto:crescentclerk@townofcrescent.com)

Joel Knutson, Chairman  
Kyla Waksmonski, Supervisor I  
Michael Pazdernik, Supervisor II

Tracy Hartman, Clerk  
Carla Fletcher, Treasurer

Visit [www.townofcrescent.com](http://www.townofcrescent.com) for town information and to sign up to receive emails.



SQUASH LAKE,  
A PLACE TO COME  
HOME TO

## Fish Cribs on Squash Lake

There are now 3 fish cribs on our lake and the Fisheries Committee will be installing more.



The coordinates of the cribs are:

- 1) Lat 45.591745 & Long -89.556265
- 2) Lat 45.592148 & Long -89.557030
- 3) Lat 45.598315 & Long -89.542118

## Boat Flotilla

The third annual Boat Flotilla was held on July 30th. A beautiful sunny day to cruise around in decked out boats. So much creativity this year! First place went to the Kafalino's who had a Jaws themed pontoon. They won the 2022 flag to display on their boat. Second place was the VW Bug, and third place was the Animal House Toga Party. Thanks to all who participated, watched the parade from shore, or had the difficult task of picking the winner.





Natural resources students spend a summer in holistic study

Memories of summers spent at camp last a lifetime. For students in the College of Natural Resources at University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, summer camp experiences make for a lifetime of impact on career opportunities and collaborations with other natural resource experts.

Students from the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point visited Squash Lake on June 2 and 3 in 2021 and June 1 and 2 in 2022 for the course WATR 380 – Field Experience in Aquatic Ecosystem.

In this course, students learn and gain hands-on skills in techniques to sample water quality, physical habitat, and aquatic organisms including fishes, invertebrates, and plants, along with identification, data analyses, and interpreting results to evaluate aquatic systems.

Results are summarized below for sampled fish using boat electrofishing and water quality using a Hydrolab or YSI sonde on Squash Lake.

*(Please keep in mind data were collected by students, not professionals.)*

Please reach out to Dr. Joshua Raabe ([jraabe@uwsp.edu](mailto:jraabe@uwsp.edu)) with any questions.

### Electrofishing: species catch and catch per unit effort (useful for comparisons).

#### 2021

Crew	Effort (min)	Largemouth Bass	Smallmouth Bass	Walleye	Northern Pike	Bluegill	Black Crappie	Yellow Perch	Pumpkinseed	Rock Bass
A	52	22	9	1	1	25	17	6	8	8
B	44	18	0	1	3	5	2	2	5	2
C	45	21	6	1	4	13	7	4	8	9
D	47	21	6	0	6	15	9	0	3	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Relative abundance as catch/hour of electrofishing</b>										
A	52	25.4	10.4	1.2	1.2	28.8	19.6	6.9	9.2	9.2
B	44	24.5	0.0	1.4	4.1	6.8	2.7	2.7	6.8	2.7
C	45	28.0	8.0	1.3	5.3	17.3	9.3	5.3	10.7	12.0
D	47	26.8	7.7	0.0	7.7	19.1	11.5	0.0	3.8	7.7
<b>Average</b>		<b>26.2</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>18.0</b>	<b>10.8</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>7.6</b>	<b>7.9</b>

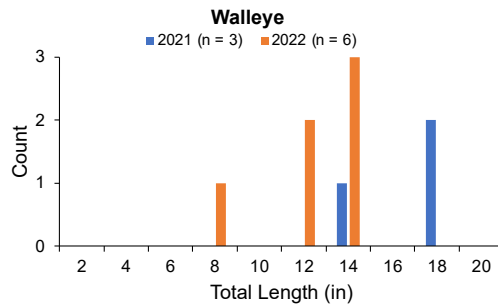
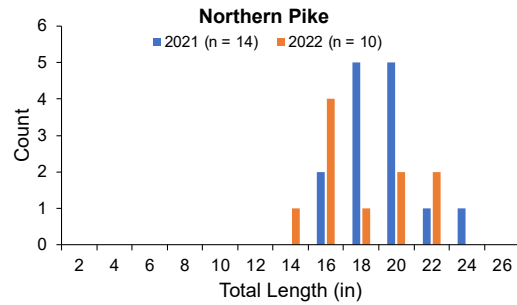
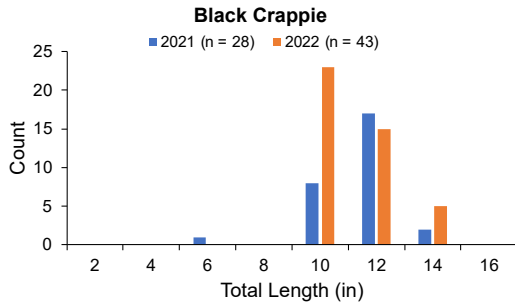
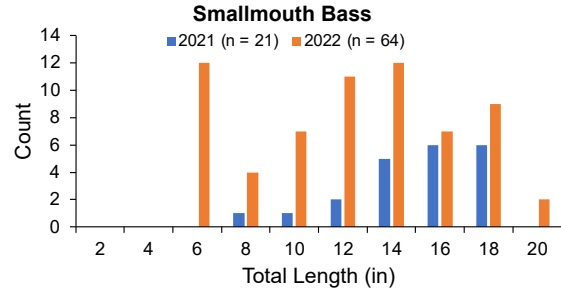
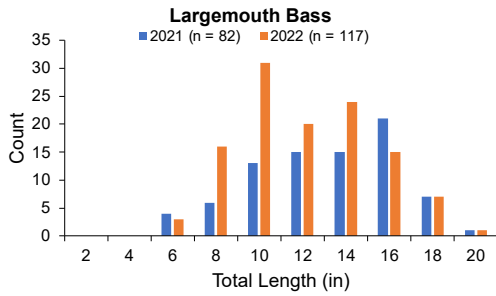
#### 2022

Crew	Effort (min)	Largemouth Bass	Smallmouth Bass	Walleye	Northern Pike	Bluegill	Black Crappie	Yellow Perch	Pumpkinseed	Rock Bass
A	64	25	30	1	1	20	10	0	0	8
B	65	34	21	2	4	32	20	1	10	22
C	57	20	2	0	2	28	8	0	17	0
D	52	30	11	3	3	40	7	0	5	26
<b>Total</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>56</b>
<b>Relative abundance as catch/hour of electrofishing</b>										
A	64	23.4	28.1	0.9	0.9	18.8	9.4	0.0	0.0	7.5
B	65	31.4	19.4	1.8	3.7	29.5	18.5	0.9	9.2	20.3
C	57	21.1	2.1	0.0	2.1	29.5	8.4	0.0	17.9	0.0
D	52	34.6	12.7	3.5	3.5	46.2	8.1	0.0	5.8	30.0
<b>Average</b>		<b>27.6</b>	<b>15.6</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>31.0</b>	<b>11.1</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>8.2</b>	<b>14.5</b>

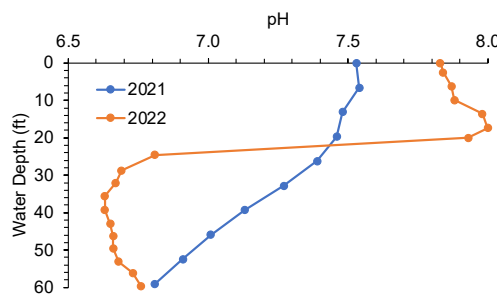
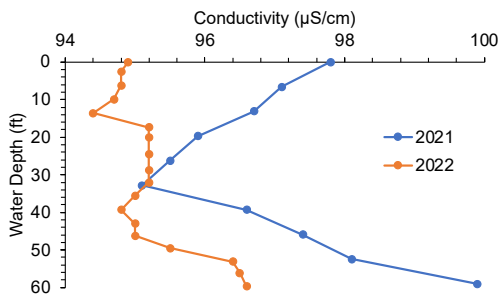
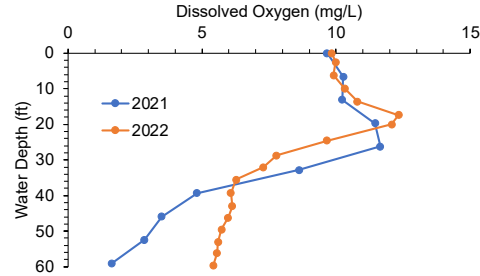
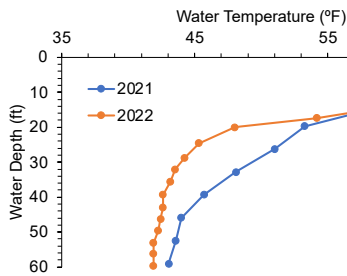




**Electrofishing: length-frequency histograms** (number of fish sampled in different length intervals; e.g., one largemouth bass captured between 18.1 and 20 inches in both years).



**Water Quality Profiles**





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

**District Meeting Notice**

Oct 9, 2022

1:00 PM

Crescent Town Hall

**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)

**Peggy Jensen**

[Peggy.jo.jensen@gmail.com](mailto:Peggy.jo.jensen@gmail.com)

**SLA Board Members Officers:**

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[ktournour@gmail.com](mailto:ktournour@gmail.com)  
**Vice President: Jim McAllister**  
[Jimmymac7459@gmail.com](mailto:Jimmymac7459@gmail.com)  
**Secretary: Dale Smith**  
[dws2621@gmail.com](mailto:dws2621@gmail.com)  
**Treasurer: Tom Eggert**  
[tleggert@wisc.edu](mailto:tleggert@wisc.edu)

**At-Large Members:**

**Marj Mehring**  
[dm.mehring@gmail.com](mailto:dm.mehring@gmail.com)  
**Greg Nevinski**  
[squash53129@yahoo.com](mailto:squash53129@yahoo.com)  
**Jeff Paddock**  
[paddockais@yahoo.com](mailto:paddockais@yahoo.com)  
**Jacquelyn Whitney**  
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**Jay Laetsch**  
[jlaetsch55@gmail.com](mailto:jlaetsch55@gmail.com)

**4th of July on Squash Lake**

*The firework displays by neighbors on the lake was nothing short of SPECTACULAR!  
 Thanks to all who made the night unforgettable!*



**AmazonSmile – You shop. Amazon gives.**

To shop at AmazonSmile simply go to [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) from the web browser on your computer or mobile device. You may also want to add a bookmark to [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) to make it even easier to return and start your shopping at AmazonSmile.

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 they will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible purchases.

**Squash Lake Association**  
**News & Events**



**Facebook & Instagram**

*...Follow it,  
...Like it,  
...Share your photos*

*If anyone has any other stories or interesting facts/articles to share, please send to me by email.*

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

**[www.squash-lake.myshopify.com](http://www.squash-lake.myshopify.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](mailto:ktournour@gmail.com)*



Monday	Closed
Tuesday	Closed
Wednesday	4:00-2:00 am
Thursday	4:00-12:00 am
Friday	4:00-12:00 am
Saturday	11:00-2:00 pm
Sunday	12:00-7:00 pm

(Kitchen closes 1 hour before bar closing)

**Advertise your business in  
the newsletter!**

**\$100 per year—3 issues per year**

**For more information, contact Linda**

**The Squash Lake Association is a  
Member of :**

*Wisconsin Lakes Association  
Oneida County Lakes and Rivers Association*