

The Voice of Squash Lake



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September, 2023

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 15, 2023



Our beautiful summer on

Squash Lake comes to a close.

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

Happy Fall! Hard to believe another summer is in the books. Summer at the lake is my favorite time of year and it's always sad to see it come to an end.

The Squash Lake Association had a busy summer and you'll find our activities highlighted in the newsletter. As summer turns to fall the SLA board begins to plan for the following year. This year we would like you to be part of our planning. We are looking for SLA members who are interested in becoming more active to join our committee meetings. Our committees focus on educational programming, social activities and improving the fisheries. If any of those topics are of interest to you, please reach out to me and I will share your contact with committee chairs. Committees meet a couple of times over the year via Zoom. We would love your input!

The SLA is also working on a History Project. We are in the early stages of gathering information regarding the history of Squash Lake and are interested in photos, newspaper articles and stories regarding Squash Lake. Information can be found on our website (<https://squash-lake.myshopify.com/>) under the History Project tab.

As always, please feel free to contact me with any concerns or suggestions.

Take care,

Kathy Tournour
920-912-3883

Water skiing doesn't destroy pristine lakes, but...

WAKESURFING? That's a whole new story!

The bow comes up and the stern goes down to increase the wake, so it's hard to see ahead.

3 to 4 foot high wakes are created so people can wakesurf, without a rope, like surfing in the ocean.

Algae blooms are fueled by nutrients freed from disturbed sediment. Some can kill fish and pets, and make people sick.

Fishermen have been knocked over, pontoons drenched, and small craft capsized by the massive wakes.

If fishermen, pleasure boaters, paddlers, and others can't enjoy our lakes, then tourism, property values and business income will plummet.

Loon nests are just inches above water in calm areas. Big wakes can destroy eggs.

As the wake enters shallow water, plants are damaged, sediment is churned, and fish eggs can be destroyed.

When the big wake crashes on shore it can cause erosion and damage docks and moored boats.

Ballast tanks don't drain completely and can bring invasives from other lakes.

Invasive plants spread easily in damaged areas.

Spiny waterfleas can upset the entire ecosystem, resulting in fewer game fish and murky water.

Little fish live among the plants. Fewer plants means fewer little fish for big game fish to eat.

Loons, otter and many fish can't see prey in murky water.

Sediment is stirred up and plants are damaged 20 feet deep by the powerful motor and deep downward angled propeller.

How do they make those huge wakes?

- Add ballast water, up to 5000 pounds (600 gallons)
- Operate at speeds that bring the bow up and stern down
- Use wake enhancing fins
- The wake is 6 to 12 times more powerful than ski boat wakes!

Is the boating industry's 200 feet from shore rule enough?

wake height 200' from surfboat's path

16'

5' = Height of wake 200' from wakesurf boat's path (per industry)
1' = Typical kayak freeboard
1' = Typical canoe freeboard
1' = Typical small fishing boat freeboard
1' = Height of waves, 25 mph wind, 30 minutes, 1 mile wide lake

For More Information See: LastWildernessAlliance.org
Report dangerous boating at DNR's anonymous 24/7 hotline: 1-800-TIP-WDN

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Wisconsin residents are asking for action on the problems caused by wake boats

Paul A. Smith, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

Public concerns about damage caused by wake boats in Wisconsin have resulted in requests by Natural Resources Board members for action, including new laws, to address the issues.

Wake boats are power craft with special ballast tanks designed to increase their displacement and create larger than normal waves for surfing or tubing. Several thousand pounds of lake water are commonly taken into the tanks to increase the wake. Use of the boats has increased markedly in recent years, according to Darren Kuhn, DNR boating law administrator. "(Wake boating) is definitely a hot topic and it is definitely a growing sport in popularity," Kuhn said at Wednesday's NRB meeting in Madison.

It's also drawing more scrutiny.

Issues arise when the wake poses a danger to other boaters, habitat and wildlife, according to several state residents who have testified at board meetings over the last year.

The prop wash can also scour the lake bottom and damage aquatic vegetation. Further, the ballast tanks present serious risks for transfer of aquatic invasive species.

[The DNR has urged boaters](#) to be aware of the risks and problems caused by boat wakes and to take steps to reduce big wakes. A [July 2019 DNR press release](#) included the messages "Others are sharing the waters – keep wakes in check" and "Own Your Wake – for everyone's sake."

Wake boating has been a topic at several NRB meetings over the last 14 months, including in October 2021 when board member Bill Smith asked DNR staff about damage caused by the power boats and at least twice this year when state residents testified with their concerns.

"The problem is the wakes create a safety hazard to everyone else using the lake, damage the environment, destroy personal property and erode the shoreline," said Jeff Meessmann of Presque Isle at the September board meeting. Kuhn, the DNR's boating law administrator, gave the board a presentation on enforcement issues related to wake boats at Wednesday's meeting.

Several state statutes already apply to wake boats, Kuhn said. All boats are required to proceed at no wake speed when within 100 feet of any shoreline, dock or pier.

Second is a law regulating wake which states "no person shall operate a motorboat so as to approach or pass another boat in such a manner as to create a hazardous wake or wash."

Third are statutes pertaining to AIS, including one that requires anyone who removes a boat from any inland or outlying water to immediately drain all water, including from ballast tanks.

Violations of those statutes result in civil forfeitures, or citations, Kuhn said.

Wake boat operators also could be charged with a potential criminal violation called "negligent operation." It states no person may operate or use any boat in a careless, negligent or reckless manner so as to endanger that person's life or property or the life, property or person of another."

DNR wardens have direct authority to enforce all of those laws statewide, Kuhn said.

In addition municipalities may enact local boating ordinances in the interest of public health, safety or welfare, including the public's interest in preserving the state's natural resources.

Examples include areas of waters with reduced speed zones and limiting boating activities by time of day. A municipality could also enact an ordinance effectively banning wake boats.

However, DNR conservation wardens don't have authority to enforce such local rules, Kuhn said.

And a wake boat scouring the bottom of the lake with its prop wash isn't violating any existing state regulation or law, Kuhn said.

The patchwork of enforcement and concern over increased use of wake boats prompted board member Terry Hilgenberg to suggest new state laws to allow wardens to enforce local rules and to require manufacturers of wake boats to change the design of the ballast tanks to allow inspection.

"I'm not in a position to say we need new laws," Kuhn said. "But if a legislator chose to go that route I'd be more than willing to sit down with them to further our mission."

Smith said the DNR was called to take up the wake boating issues as part of its public trust responsibilities to protect the resources.

"This is an issue that is developing rapidly and it might be a lot more effective and efficient to address it on the front end instead of presented with problems down the line," Smith said.

Sarry Barry, DNR deputy secretary, said the agency would take the suggestions under advisement and has been supportive of conversations with legislators about moving forward with legislation.

SLA Board Members

Officers:

President: Kathy Tournour

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SLA BOARD MEETINGS & OTHER EVENTS

October 14, 2023	9:00 am	Crescent Town Hall
February 3, 2024	9:00 am	Zoom Meeting
April 6, 2024	9:00 am	Zoom Meeting
May 18, 2024	9:00 am	Crescent Town Hall
June 22, 2024	ANNUAL MEETING	TBD

**Everyone is welcome!
to attend!**

Fisheries Committee

By Dale Smith



The second annual Fishing Seminar was held on July 15th. Craig Zarley was again the presenter. About 15 people attended, including several children. Craig shared a lot of good information and provided many helpful tips. There were many questions which Craig answered, drawing from his own experiences fishing

locally and in Canada. Everyone seemed to have a good time and learned some things they can try next time they go fishing.

On July 26 the 4 fish cribs, which the Fisheries Committee built, were placed in the water by Pelican Piers. The cribs were taken to the lake from the building site by Leo Krombholtz and his massive forklift. A special thanks to Leo for donating his time and forklift for this task. The cribs were placed in 13-14 feet of water.

The GPS co-ordinates for the cribs are:

N 45 35.629 / W 089 33.304, N 45 35.623 / W 089 33.301

N 45 35.618 / W 089 33.301, N 45 35.614 / W 089 33.298



The first crib is located out from the Northwoods Trust sign. The other cribs are south of this, about 15 yards apart. Small red flags were placed on shore to help locate them.

They are located approximately 20+ yards from shore. Early results show some good smallmouth bass being taken from around the cribs.





Silent Sport Saturdays

This year we held three Silent Sport Saturdays at the boat launch.

Marge Mehring held Eurasian Milfoil classes before the get together.



Coffee, Donuts, and Camaraderie!



Town Board

Robb Jensen, Town Chairman

Kyla Waksmonski, Supervisor I

Michael Pazdernik, Supervisor II

Tracy Hartman, Clerk

Carla Fletcher, Treasurer

Keven Mahner, Fire Chief

Michael Schnautz, Assessor

Brad Gerdies, Road Crew



**SQUASH LAKE,
A PLACE TO COME
HOME TO**



*You can fill out and mail the form below to
Tom Eggert or
visit our website and pay by credit card or PayPal
\$25*

[Join the Squash Lake Association \(squash-lake.myshopify.com\)](http://squash-lake.myshopify.com)

Squash Lake Association Membership Form

Name(s): _____

Mailing Address: _____

Lake Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone# _____

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

\$ _____ Fisheries

\$ _____ Educational Programs

\$ _____ Other _____

\$ _____ **Total** (Check # _____)

Mail to: Tom Eggert, Squash Lake Association, or you can pay by credit card or pay pal @
Treasurer
PO Box 511 [Join the Squash Lake Association \(squash-lake.myshopify.com\)](http://squash-lake.myshopify.com)
Rhineland, WI 54501

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)

4th Annual Boat Flotilla



1st Place: Jay and Laryl Lasch



2nd Place: Geoffrey & Phonda Kefalinos

It was a beautiful day on the water ... Annette Scott was our judge this year and she had some very creative boats to choose from. The Lasch's "Gilligan's Island" took first place and the Kefalino's "Flintstones" took second place. It was lots of fun! — Join us next year for the Squash Lake Flotilla!





Squash Lake Protection & Rehabilitation District

www.Squashlakedistrict.com

Upcoming District Meetings

October 8, 2023 January 14, 2023 April 14, 2024 July 14, 2024

1:00 pm

Crescent Town Hall

**Squash Lake Protection and
Rehabilitation District Officers**

Tom Johansen, President

tomandmegjohansen@gmail.com

Jerod Bennet, Secretary

jerod@alterrahomes.com

Dan Butkus, Treasurer

dan.butkus@yahoo.com

Robb Jensen, County Rep

crescentchair@townofcrescent.com

Peggy Jensen

Peggy.jo.jensen@gmail.com

Eurasian Milfoil Data

2023 3327 lbs (*through 8/4: Divers 2921 lbs & Aquatic Plant Management 406 lbs*)

2022 2960 lbs

2021 1092 lbs

2020 342 lbs

2019 694 lbs

2018 745 lbs

2017 1585 lbs

2016 4265 lbs

2015 6013 lbs

2014 6773 lbs

2012 4673 lbs

2011 965 lbs

2010 808 lbs

2009 Eurasian Milfoil was first found in our lake



Squash Lake Association



**Open 7 days a week,
11 am to close**

Phone:

715-282-6067

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...Like it,

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

russ.linda.tennessen@gmail.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 they will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible purchases.

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

The Squash Lake Association is a Member of :

Wisconsin Lakes Association

Oneida County Lakes and Rivers Association

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the newsletter!

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