

Volume 8, Issue 2

May, June, July, 2016

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

SLA ANNUAL MEETING
SATURDAY JULY 9, 2016
COME ONE, COME ALL!!!!!
TOTALLY NEW MEETING FORMAT

Place: Northwoods Golf Course Club House

Time: 5-6 pm social hour and complimentary hor devours.

6—6:45 pm Business Meeting to include, election of board members, the approval of last years meeting minutes and the budget for 2016/2017.

Come and enjoy an evening of getting to know your neighbors better and meeting new ones.

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





PRESIDENT 'S CORNER

Can We Talk? by Dan Butkus

Last quarter, I crowed about our successes. I always put a little levity in this piece every quarter if I can. But this time, I'd like you to pull up a chair, get a coffee, or a tea, and if it's past 5pm, maybe a beer or cocktail, and get comfortable. I'd like to have a serious talk with you.

By now, you've received a letter from our association asking, "Is it time we had a discussion on lake districts?" Before we start to have those conversations, and before any of us get upset, I think you need to know something. Each of us on the Board has wrestled with this question in our own heads. All of us had a discussions about it together in open meetings. Each of us on the Board has very different views and concerns. Some of us are in favor. Some of us are unsure. All of us have doubts. But all of us agree on some very fundamental things.

Even with our successes recently on fund raising, we have had good years and bad years meeting the funding needs for EWM Control. Not everything is covered by a grant. In the lean years, we've had to stop harvesting milfoil early. In good years, we try to save for a rainy day. Grants are more and more competitive each time we apply. In order to compete, associations "give up" more and more in the form of money. It used to be we only needed to meet volunteer hours. Now, we have to meet those hours and kick in money too. There are no guarantees we will get the next grant in 2017. What then?

Our members and non-members have been wonderfully supportive. You all deserve our deepest thanks. But the simple truths are: fund raising is highly variable year-to-year and not everyone donates, and not many donate regularly; EWM control is a long term program. So a long term, equitable, and stable source of funding may be needed now to maintain this program. Are we in trouble yet? No. But do we foresee the potential for problems in the near future? Yes.



Continued next column

Before we dig in our heels on either side of this issue, and before we get angry or upset with each other, I'd like to ask you a favor. Just hear us out over the next few months. As we explain to you the variability of fund raising, the projected costs to maintain control over EWM long term, and how a lake district might address this, keep an open mind. We want to be fair and objective. We need to give you the facts as we know them. We share your concerns. But I ask that you put aside any preconceived ideas, both for and against a district. Let's talk about this over a cup of coffee, a beer, or a cocktail, like neighbors do





Trillium Time

Photo by Karen Isebrands Brown

Recent Lake Happenings

We were saddened to receive the news that Jo Fabich passed away earlier this year. We offer heartfelt condolences to her family. She was a volunteer at the boat landing and she will be missed.



Origins of Our Island Names – Finding Saw Mill Bay and the Destruction of Woodboro Instead

by Dan Butkus

A couple years ago, the actual names of Squash Lake's slands were rediscovered. Instead of the Big and Little Islands as they are called now, their recorded names are Marshall and Scrub Oak Islands respectively. Somehow, the original names were lost or simply stopped being used. But where did these names come from? Some research turned up some interesting facts, but only a hint of the origins of the island names. We may have George E. Wood to thank for the original sland names...or not. The names fit the history, but there are no actual documents to prove he named the slands. Before 1890, the Town of Woodboro did not exist. But in 1890, George Wood purchased 7000 acres of land west of Rhinelander, and built a lumber mill along the tracks of the Soo Line Railroad overlooking the shores of Squash Lake. At that time, Oneida County created the Town of Woodboro out of a portion of the once larger Town of Pelican. Wood also created the village of Woodboro, naming both the town and vilage after himself. He built a large boarding house, a post office, a store, and 50 homes for his workers to live n. At its height, Woodboro was a village of between 100 and 150 people on the shores of Squash Lake. Both the mill and the town were destroyed in separate fires four years apart. The village never recovered. To this day, all that remains of the old saw mill is a submerged part of the timber sluice n the shallows of the bay and the occasional charred wood that washes up on shores around the lake. The logging business that once stood now lends the name, Saw Mill Bay, to that part of the ake. But for 14 years, that area was home to a bustling town and business. Did Mr. Wood name the islands, too? What was the link?

The absence of any other records or connections suggests that the names were assigned during the short time that the lumber mill existed. Mr. Wood's second wife's maiden name was Marshall. Mrs. Wood's father-in-law was a noted judge, Seth Marshall, in Painsville, OH. Known to be a private person and one who was a devoted to his family and a home life over that of a social life, George Wood may have named Marshall Island in honor of his wife' family. The saw mill would have had a direct view of the sland, and the island was a prominent feature. As for Scrub Oak sland, the Northern Pin Oak, commonly referred to as "scrub timber" or "scrub oak" by lumbermen, favors poor sandy soil in a sunny location. Ideal growing conditions exist on the small island for a stand of Northern Pin Oak. It's possible that the island was overlooked for timber harvesting because all that grew there were the worthless scrub oak..."don't bother cutting timber on that scrub oak island". Who knows for sure? But these are the most likely sources of their true names.

Slow/No Wake 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.

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.

DON'T FORGET TO COME!!





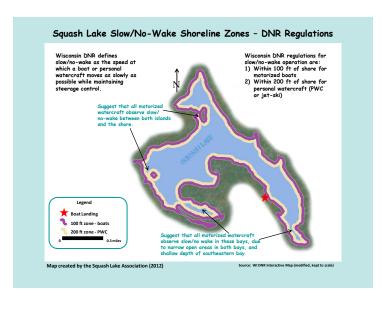


Sandhill cranes by Stephanie Boismenue



SLOW/NO WAKE continued from pg 3

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.



CLEAN BOATS/CLEAN WATER

SCHEDULING AND TRAINING:

There is an interactive sign up schedule on the website. Please check your calendars for when you can volunteer and then sign up.

All previously trained volunteers need to be retrained on new invasives. Both the DNR and Bill Akan are conducting classes. Bill will also update you on an individual basis if you prefer. Please consider doing this as we need training hours for our CB/CW Grant.

We need a lot more coverage at the boat landing. We are urging all resident lake users to volunteer at least 2 hours at the landing. It is not hard to do. You will be educating the lake users on how to preventatively protect this body of water that we all love.. If you feel that you can't squeeze the time to volunteer into your schedule, would you consider sponsoring an individual in your place @ \$12.00 per hour?

If you would consider sponsoring a person @ \$12/hour, please contact Bill Akan



News flash!!!!

We now have a Face Book page.

Please go to it and like it. Also have your friends like it so they can keep up with your activities on Squash Lake.

So Many Deadheads

by Dan Butkus

As any property owner on Squash Lake knows, the lake has many deadheads scattered around the entire lake. A deadhead is a log that is mostly submerged, with one end buried deep in the mud or sand, and the other end poking its head above the surface. Deadheads are not that unusual in lakes that had a saw mill on their shores at one time. They appear close to the site of the old mills. Squash Lake had the George E. Wood Lumber Company on its shores at the turn of the 20th century located by CTH N and US 8. But the clear waters of Squash Lake reveal that there are fully cut logs of old growth timber resting on the lakebed throughout the lake as well. Why are deadheads and sunken logs located throughout the lake? Why so many everywhere?

When George E. Wood purchased the lands north of, and surrounding, Squash Lake in 1890, he immediately set his crews to cutting timber. While his mill was being built, the crews continued logging. They needed a place to store the logs that would be out of the way and would not become a fire hazard. The trimmed logs were tossed into Squash Lake. Even during the winter, logs were dragged onto the ice by horse teams. Finally the lumber mill was completed in 1891 and ready to begin milling logs into lumber, shingles, and lath. By the time the mill became operational, it was reported that Squash Lake was nearly completely filled from shore to shore and bay to bay with logs waiting to be milled and planed. That had to have been a sight to see. The entire surface of Squash Lake, almost 400 acres worth, covered in floating logs. A skilled lumberjack would have been able to walk from one shore to the next on logs without getting wet. With so many logs in the waters of Squash Lake for so long, some sank. As logs got pushed around and moved to the sluice from all parts of the lake, a few water soaked logs were pushed under water. One end may have jammed into the mud and sand below. The force of the logs moving on the surface buried the ends of the deadheads deeply, making it difficult and time consuming to remove. The logs were left there. After all, there was plenty of easy timber yet to cut all around the lake. (Adapted from "How Woodboro Got It's Name"

and the personal recollection of Solon D. Sutliff, employee of George E. Wood Lumber Company)

Fisheries Surveys and the Treaties by Dan Butkus

The Squash Lake Association expected the joint fisheries survey work with the Sokaogon to be somewhat controversial. While our work this spring received many positive and supportive comments, there is an underlying suspicion with some about partnering with the Sokaogon. It's understandable and can't be helped. The events of the 1980's, when the Chippewa exerted their rights under the Treaties of 1837 and 1842, were ugly, on both sides of the issue. There is no other word for it. I was there. I remember. So why partner now?

As the saying goes, time heals all wounds. Your association agrees that the state of our walleye fisheries on the lake has steadily declined over the past decades to the point of disaster. In contrast, Crescent Lake and Pelican Lake are enjoying a record walleye population in 2016. What's been done up to now to help our walleye on Squash Lake in the last few decades has not worked, yet some of the other lakes are doing just fine. Why? Maybe it's time to look past the old conflicts. Maybe we should work with a group that has as much to lose or gain as our property owners and visitors. Maybe we can do more jointly than independently. Let's face it. If we keep doing what been done already, we aren't going to get anywhere.

We can argue about whether the treaties are the source of our ills. But if we look beyond our shores, we can see that this does not hold true elsewhere. The simple fact is that walleye habitat changes on Squash Lake over the past 50 or 60 years created a perfect storm. The introduction of rusty crayfish depleted the aquatic plant cover for bass. Walleye took the bass' place and flourished. There was a successful effort to remove the crayfish, and aquatic plants returned. Bass rebounded. At the same time shore land development and fluctuating water levels threatened walleye spawning beds. Walleye began to decline. The habitat pendulum swung wildly back and forth. The result is that our lake is out of balance, badly.

In the past 15 years, the Sokaogon have not spearfished on Squash Lake more times than they have. They are concerned about the state of our fisheries



Continued next column

We are concerned about the state of our fisheries. Both sides have their skeptics about a joint project. Depending solely on the DNR to stock fish is simply a patch that isn't working. More is needed. No matter how you might feel about the treaty and spearing, all we ask is that you give this joint project a chance. We have a common problem that isn't getting better. What have we to lose by setting aside the past and joining forces? In my view, we have nothing to lose and everything to gain.



ATTENTION ALL LAKEFRONT OWNERS

The association is asking for your help. Please be observant of your lake frontage for new growth of Eurasian Water Milfoil. If you see what you suspect might be EWM, <u>Mark the spot for the divers. Do not pull it out, but call one of the following people:</u>

Craig Zarley 715-282-6554 or cell 715-7741-0286

Marj Mehring715-362-6118 or cell 715-

PLEASE BE AWARE OF OUR DIVERS ON THE LAKE.

They use the red and white diving flags attached to small floats in the area that they are diving in.. They will start diving for EWM in June as soon as school closes.



RESULTS OF THE SAKAOGON FISH SURVEY

BY Craig Zarley

The Squash Lake Association and a fisheries crew from the Sokaogon Chippewa Community conducted a walleye survey of Squash Lake in late April to determine the health of the lake's walleye population.

The survey consisted of setting fyke nets to capture and mark spawning walleyes followed by subsequent nights of electro shocking. SLA volunteers assisted the Sokaogon in setting and retrieving fyke nets. To determine the overall walleye population on Squash Lake, Sokaogon biologists compared the number of marked fish captured in electro shocking to the numbers marked during fyke netting. While the surveying went well, the walleye numbers were disappointing.

According to preliminary data, walleye density was .08 walleyes per acre, translating into a total lake population of approximately 320 walleyes. Those numbers are significantly down from a similar 2009 Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources survey, which found approximately 2 walleyes per acre or a total lake population of about 800 walleyes.

During the survey, tribal biologists noted that many of the females held their eggs too long waiting for males to be present on spawning beds. This indicated that there were not enough mature males available for spawning. Additionally, few perch, a primary walleye food, were captured in the fyke nets.

The walleye stocking efforts of two years ago also apparently did little to increase walleye numbers.

Several factors appear to contribute to declining walleye numbers, with lack of walleye spawning habitat being the most likely culprit. The only significant walleye spawning areas on the lake are adjacent to undeveloped shoreline. The large peninsula on the southwest end of the lake that was placed in conservation trust by Roger Degris is the most the lake's most productive walleye spawning ground.

Rising largemouth populations throughout northern Wisconsin are also suspected of contributing to declining walleye populations. Biologists throughout the region have noted that rising largemouth populations often correspond to declining walleye populations.





Sakaogon Community biologists and SLA members netted and marked spawning walleyes in late April in order to determine the Squash Lake walleye population.

The upshot is that walleyes are at risk in Squash Lake. While there is no quick fix to the problem, there are several immediate steps lake residents can take until a longer term solution is found. Recognizing the problem, the Sokaogon Community did not spear walleyes on the lake this year. Lake residents can follow suit by voluntarily practicing catch and release for walleyes and catch and keep for largemouth bass. The largemouth bag limit is five fish with on minimum length.

DNR walleye bag regulations for Squash have changed for 2016 with a three fish limit and an 18-inch minimum length for all harvested walleyes. This will help smaller walleyes in the lake reach maturity. But a voluntary catch and release for walleyes may help accelerate population recovery.

The Sokaogon Community is also exploring the possibility of restoring walleye spawning habitat by reconstructing gravel reefs where walleyes have traditionally spawned.

Until a solution is found, the SLA board hopes lake residents will do their part in maintaining walleye numbers on Squash Lake.

- --Walleye population is .08 fish per acre, down from 2 per acre in 2009
- --<u>SLA Board suggests voluntary catch</u> and release of walleyes on 2016
- --SLA Board encourages catch and keep for largemouth bass

Wanted: Old Photos and Articles Featuring Squash Lake Landmarks

In an attempt to create a short history of Squash Lake landmarks that preceded 1960, we are requesting that those who have knowledge and/or photographs of Squash Lake landmarks submit them to kise-brow@gmail.com by July 1, 2016.

Landmarks that come to mind are:

Hahn's Resort, Paddock's Resort, Peninsula View Resort, Woodboro Bay Resort, Sawmill Cove, Blind man Herman's Cove, Old Man Montag's Farm, Harkin's Horse Farm, and Gudis Landing. If in doubt, ask Karen.

Submit in Times New Roman 12pt.



FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING

Please bring photos of your family in various forms of lake activities that you enjoy. They can be current or older ones from when your children and grandchildren were growing up.

We would like to mount a display of pictures of the kind of fun that your family likes "TO COME HOME TO" on Squash Lake.

We have come up with a theme for our lake and our association. It is "SQUASH LAKE A PLACE TO COME HOME TO"



Pitchure plant on Squash Lake by Stephanie Boismenue

Oak Wilt and Emerald Ash Borer in the Northwoods

By Ben Williams – Steigerwaldt Land Services, Inc.

If you own property with trees in northern Wisconsin, you may have an interest in the spread of oak wilt and the emerald ash borer throughout the state. Although these two pests are not common in northern Wisconsin yet, they are creeping their way up, and their numbers are growing. So what are these tree pests, how are they spreading, how can they be prevented, and what can be done if they are found on or near your property?

Oak Wilt

What is it? — Oak wilt is a fungal disease that is specific to oak and is very problematic primarily for red oak species. Once an oak tree is infected, it will most likely die within one year, or as quickly as two months. Signs that a tree is infected with oak wilt include leaf discoloration, leaves dropping, and black fungal mats protruding through cracks in the bark.

How is it spreading? – The disease can be spread by the fungal spores being introduced to a fresh wound on the tree or through root grafting (underground connections between neighboring trees). Root grafting can obviously only occur between trees in close proximity, but the fungal spores can be introduced to trees several miles away. This is commonly done by small picnic beetles that feed on tree sap. Fungal mats that form on infected trees produce an odor that attracts the beetles. When the beetles land on the mat, the fungal spores stick to them. These beetles then fly to a nearby tree to feed on sap produced from a fresh wound and leave the spores behind, infecting the new tree. Fungal spores can also be moved many miles on firewood cut from an infected tree.

How can it be prevented? – There are two primary methods to help keep the trees on your property healthy and oak wilt free. First, do not transport firewood that may have come from an area infected with oak wilt. Second, do not prune or wound trees between the months of April and August when the disease is most commonly spread. To be extra cautious, do not prune trees between mid-March and October. If you must prune a tree, or a tree is unintentionally wounded, you should use a tree wound paint (usually found at your local hardware or landscaping store) to cover the wound.



Leaf discoloration due to oak wilt

Emerald Ash Borer



Fungal Spore Mat – oak wilt Photos by: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Bugwood.org

What can be done if I find oak wilt? – First you will want to have a professional forester or tree care specialist confirm that you have oak wilt, as there are other tree problems that sometimes cause similar symptoms. If it is confirmed, fast action should be taken. The infected tree(s) should be taken down, and the wood should be utilized quickly. The wood can be kept for firewood, but it will need to be debarked, or it will need to be kept under a tarp for two years. You will then need to create a barrier around the tree(s) to prevent the disease from spreading underground through the roots. A professional forester can tell you where to put in the barrier based on tree size and landscape conditions. The barrier can be made mechanically or chemically. The mechanical method is the most successful, but the chemical method is less intrusive and often more cost effective. Trees of special meaning can also be given a tree injection with a fungicide to prevent them from getting oak wilt. This can only be done to a tree that may be infected, but is not yet showing symptoms. Once the tree's leaves have changed color and started to drop, the infection has spread too far, and the injection will not be effective.

What is it? – The emerald ash borer (EAB) is an invasive beetle that originates in Asia, but was introduced to the United States in the early 2000s. Since EAB was introduced, it has killed millions of ash trees across parts of the United States and Canada. The larvae of the beetle live under the bark of trees and feed on tree tissues. This disrupts the flow of water and nutrients through the tree and slowly kills the tree. Signs that an ash tree may have an EAB infestation include dieback in the canopy, bark splitting, significant woodpecker damage, and the presence of D-shaped exit holes in the bark.

How is it spreading? – EAB spreads short distances (a few miles) every year by the adult beetle flying to new trees and laying their eggs. EAB is spread further distances by people moving infected wood from one area to another.

How can it be prevented? – The easiest way to slow the spread of EAB is to keep your firewood local or purchase it from certified firewood dealers. Quarantine areas have been set up across Wisconsin based on the counties in which EAB has been positively identified. Firewood is not allowed to be moved outside these quarantine counties. The counties in northern Wisconsin that are currently under quarantine for EAB are Oneida and Douglas. Nearly all counties in the southern portion of the state are already under quarantine.

What can I do if EAB is nearby? – For homeowners who have found EAB on their property or suspect it might be near, there are two management options to consider. The first option is to reduce the number of ash trees on the property and replace them with other tree species. The second method is to inject individual ash trees with a chemical insecticide. The insecticide kills any insect larvae that might be in the tree, and also helps prevent any new infestations. In order to decide which method to choose, homeowners will have to decide how much they value their ash tree(s) and how much money they want to spend. Removing trees may be the best option for less desirable trees, but the cost of removal can be either relatively low or quite high depending on the tree's size and location. Tree injection can effectively protect a tree for up to two years, and is often used for trees that have higher value to the homeowner. However, trees showing advanced symptoms of an EAB infestation may not be good candidates for injection. Tree injections are best used early on, or prior to, an infestation. A professional forester or tree care specialist can help you choose the right treatment options for your property.





D shaped exit hole made by EAB in bark of ash tree EAB infested tree with woodpecker damage Photos by: Kenneth R. Law, USDA APHIS PPQ, Bugwood.org

Ben Williams is a forester with Steigerwaldt Land Services, Inc. in Tomahawk, WI. He may be reached at (715) 453-3274 or at ben.williams@steigerwaldt.com



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.

Mar. 5, 2016 10:30 am

May 7, 2016 8:30 am

June 18, 2016 8:30 am

July 9, 2016 Annual Meeting <u>please plan to attend</u>. Important information to be covered that concerns everyone on the lake.

Aug 6, 2016

8:30 am



Help Your Neighbor ANTI-ITCH SPRAY

The mixture is:

1/4 cup Aloe Vera gel, 1/4 cup witch hazel, 10-15 drops tea tree oil, 10—15 drops lavender or chamomile oil.

FOR SALE

2 kayaks

One Pelican and the other is Otter. Each is only couple of years old, not used much.

\$100 each or best offer.

Craig or Marty Olafsson 715 212 7125 or 7145 212-9981

2903 Crestwood Drive.

Wish List for The Terminator Crew

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



May 2016

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

June 2016

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

July 2016

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

Annual Dues July 2016 thru June 2017

	ort your Squash Lake Association:
27.12.5	
EMAIL	
PHONE	
\$	Annual Dues \$25
\$ milfoil	Donation to control Eurasian Water-
\$	Donation to General Fund
\$	TOTAL

Please send your contribution to:

Squash lake Association PO Box 511 Rhinelander, 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 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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The Squash Lake Association thanks the following corporate sponsors for their support.

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