

Vol. 22, No. 1

# THE STONELAKER

Spring 2019

## Letter from the President

Greetings Shore Owners,

As I look back from last fall, the past 6 months seemed to have gone by quickly. For many, that is a good thing. Get the snow and cold over with. I think we are out of the woods on both, let's hope.

I believe last year we set an all-time record for SOSLA members. It was a delight to see this, as it is an indication that most of you have wanted to take an interest in what is going on in, on, and around the lake. We had 90 members last year. That's OUTSTANDING. Maybe we can top it again this year, so get those dues in. One of the reasons for the high membership, is that there are quite a few new shore owners on the lake. As new owners, you want to see what the lake and community is all about. I've had a chance to speak by phone to some, email with a few, and meet some of you personally. I look forward to meeting and getting to know all of you, and encourage the rest of the seasoned owners to reach out and make the "newbies" feel welcome. For you new owners, I invite you to become active in the SOSLA community, come to the picnic, participate in the boat parade, and join us at the SOSLA semi-annual meetings in June and August. It's a great way to meet new people and also get to know more about our precious gem, "Stone Lake".

As a part of our many efforts to keep our lake one of the cleanest and clearest lakes in the state, I'm sure you are aware of the spraying station set up at the boat landing. This is an effort to prevent any zebra mussels from invading our lake and severely damaging the quality of it. I recently sent out an email to all of you speaking to some of the changes and modifications to the process of cleaning boats, prior to them entering the lake. Our sole goal is to preserve our pristine lake for us and generations to come. We'd had a few bumps along the way, and I expect we may have a few more before the summer is over. We are all on a new learning curve, but we are all dedicated to getting it right and making it work for everyone. Putting your boat in may take a few minutes longer this year, but please exercise patience and be willing to work with us and the monitor. The best thing is it will keep our lake as wonderful as last year. If we are not willing to cooperate, then we may face a less desirable alternative. Certainly, none of us want that.

I look forward to sharing another phenomenal year with all of you!

*John Ryan* - President SOSLA  
(Shore Owners of Stone Lake Association)

## SOSLA Upcoming 2019 Meetings, Events, and Important Dates!

- **June 15, 10:00 AM**  
Membership  
Meeting at Stone  
Lake Town Hall.
- **July 4, 3 PM**  
Boat Parade  
(Rain date July 5)
- **August 17, 10:00AM**  
Membership  
Meeting at Stone  
Lake Town Hall.  
Annual Picnic and  
Golf Outing to  
follow.

## Stone Lake Events

- **2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of  
Month, 6:30-7:30  
PM**  
Stone Lake township  
meeting at Town  
Hall.
- **Monday & Thursday  
9:00 AM – 12 PM**  
Stone Lake  
Township office  
hours.

## SOSLA OFFICERS AND BOARD

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## What's New in Stone Lake

### REMODELING BUG BITES SEVERAL BUSINESSES

The Stone Wreath, Patko's Stone Lake Pub, Whistle Punk, Last Frontier and the Stone Lake Market are among several businesses that have been bitten by the remodeling bug. Check them all out and see what's new in town!



### WETLAND PARK

The Wisconsin Wetlands Association contacted the Board of the Wetland Park last year asking if we would like to participate in a series of videos they were filming. Cathie Erickson, Tom and Carol McDonnell and Betty Hanson joined their crew in July for the taping. Although they taped a lot, most of it ended up on the cutting room floor. The videos were released to the public May 1. If you would like to view the videos, they are available at <https://wisconsinwetlands.org/videos/>.

For 2019 several new bricks have been added to the Memory Walk. Tom McDonald has been grooming the trails and the park is ready for summer.



### STONE LAKE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Did you know that Stone Lake has a Chamber of Commerce? Check out their website at:

<https://stonelakewi.com/>



They also have a Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/stonelakewi/>

*Betty Hanson*

## Stone Lake Boat Landing Decontamination Station

The installation of our decontamination station was a saga with lots of twists and turns but is now completely on track. The next time you visit the public landing please note that, thanks to the hard work of Mr. Bill (I'll get it done) Byrkit, the sign has been moved. Ron Melton brought over equipment and manpower to dig the post holes for free! Gary Erickson donated a 65-gallon tank for holding the water to fill our sprayers. The Fire Marshall agreed to fill our tank from a nearby fire hydrant. All was ready for the fishing opener and the introduction of the new decontamination procedures.



At 7:00 a.m. on May 4 a number of volunteers were at the public access anticipating many fishermen pursuing a limit of fish. David Turnham, Bill Byrkit, John Ryan, Gary Erickson and Kevin Krueger, in addition to our AIS monitor Wilbur Larsen, had a great morning of sharing stories but not seeing many boats. At the end of the day we had six boats that used the lake. All were very receptive to our efforts to keep our lake clean. All boats, trailers and engines were sprayed going in and coming out. The same procedures were repeated on Sunday.

It appears that many lake associations have or will be implementing decontamination stations so the procedures will become more common place.

It is great to have all the equipment in place but without volunteer help our efforts will not accomplish the goal of keeping our lake free of aquatic invasive species. If you have not signed up to volunteer at the public landing please do so. We all love the quality of our lake and hope to keep it that way.

*Kevin Kruger*



## Railroad Update

Everyone who has been at the lake since the last week of April may have observed (and heard) all of the activity in the rail yard. The Canadian National Railroad is replacing rail between Stone Lake and Superior and all workers on the south end of that stretch begin and end their day in Stone Lake. As many as 45 cars, pickups and work vans have been counted each day along Main Street (Division Street). The RR is not adding capacity to the line. Because of all the workers and equipment in the yard area, trains blow their horns for safety continually as they pass by the yard area in addition to the standard horn blowing for the crossing. The extra horn blowing is a temporary situation.

Any further discussions regarding the horn blowing at the pedestrian crossing must wait until a new Railroad Commissioner is appointed. No target date for that appointment has been made.

*Gary Erickson*

## We're Better Than Beetles

Due to budget cuts, the DNR will be unable to supply purple loosestrife-eating beetles this year. The SOSLA Board has discussed this issue, and we suggest shore owners take this problem into their own hands (literally). While we still hope all shore owners will police their own shorelines for purple loosestrife and pull any plants found, there are three hot spots that deserve extra attention: Little Stone Lake, the west and north shores of Big Stone Lake and the pond on the west side of Sloan Street. At the June meeting we will call for volunteers to form teams and plan-a-pull. August and September are the best months for finding the invaders in full flower, making them easier to identify. The high water means most plants will be growing in the water and will come up more easily, roots and all. Beetles only eat leaves.

## What Happens at Stone Lake Stays at Stone Lake

Stone Lake has no outlet. Whatever we put into Stone Lake stays there. This self-appointed shore monitor is annually distressed to find empty shampoo bottles and bars of soap on the shore. While these products may be biodegradable, there are still two problems: (1) very little degradation takes place from November through April and (2) biodegradation does not mean these products disappear. They just turn into other chemicals. Take a moment to read the ingredients on your shampoo bottle. Do you really want to swim in this stuff? Fish don't. The phosphate containing compounds encourage algae growth or, in plain English, green scum. Please remind your guests we can't flush Stone Lake.

*Steve Erickson*

## 4th of July Boat Parade

The Board has decided to change the judging this year to provide more opportunity for entries to be a winner. Instead of the usual 1st, 2nd, 3rd approach to awards we will be giving awards by category. The final categories will be announced at the June all-member meeting. Likely candidates may be 'most patriotic', 'most creative', 'most enthusiastic', and possibly a 'wild card' (to be determined by the judges). By the way, we are looking for a volunteer(s) for judging.

**IN CASE OF RAIN DELAY:** Last year was the first year in the history of the boat parade that we were faced with the need to make a decision to postpone the parade due to threatening thunderstorms. Admittedly, we were unprepared to communicate the decision and a couple of boats were decorated before the message was transmitted. A last minute tour of all docks to back up the e-mail that was sent unfortunately discovered two floats that were already decorated. This year and in the future we are asking all members to check their e-mail two (2) hours in advance of the parade start for any potential delay. We hope that two hours leaves enough time to do your 'on boat' preparations. We know some of you spend much more time behind the scenes.



*The SOSLA Board of Directors*

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## 2020 Calendar



The requirements for submittal are old hat to most of you but we have several new members this year. Our goal continues to be broad representation of members. Remember to have variety in your submittals. Photos should be taken only in landscape format (horizontal) to fit the calendar format. Action photos are good, but we would like pictures with people to be as generic or non-identifiable as possible.

Remember to please download pictures taken with your phone to your computer and then transmit them by e-mail. Before transmittal, check their size to confirm a size of at least 500 KB. Photos sent directly from phones are often automatically downsized for transmittal and are not of sufficient quality to enlarge.

Submit your photos in digital format at any time but no later than 10 days before the August meeting. Your pictures do not have to be taken in the previous year. They should, however, have been taken within a mile of the lake. They may be sent by e-mail to [garyjohnerickson@aol.com](mailto:garyjohnerickson@aol.com) or you may deliver a disc or flash drive to W550 Walter Road. Please limit the submittal to six photos per household. If needed, we will look at past submittals as well. Pictures are voted on at the August meeting/picnic. The calendar committee uses the voting results as the primary selection tool, but final decisions are made on quality, variety and broad representation when possible. Thank you for your continued interest and great photos.

*The Calendar Committee*

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## January 2019 Winter Dinner

Our SOSLA Winter dinner was another opportunity for people to catch up on what our “summer” neighbors have been up to, to meet new neighbors, and in general have an evening of sharing fellowship.

Pine Brooks Farms did a great job on the food. We were able to have an area by ourselves which helped in visiting with people. The 32 people who were there appeared have a great time. We all left looking forward to seeing each other when most of us will be wearing shorts!

*Kevin Kruger*

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## Bill's Briefs

- Membership is currently at 69 paid with my usual goal of 100%. We had 87 shore owners pay last year. Total property owners are about 100. Please use the enclosed membership form to pay your dues. If you can't remember if you paid, me send a note. It's very easy for me to check.
- No fish planting this year but the DNR will be shocking for reproduction survival and planting survival. Fishermen can tell if the walleyes caught are natural or our plantings by the clippings of one or both of the pectoral fins. A natural will not be clipped. I should have results of this in the next newsletter.

*Bill Byrkit*



## Aquatic Invasive Species

Dear SOSLA Members:

We are pleased to report that with the support of the SOSLA Board of Directors, the Town of Stone Lake was successfully awarded Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources grant monies to educate landing users and prevent the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) at our boat landing. This means we will again be able to employ a paid AIS monitor at our main landing during the upcoming summer. We have hired 2018 monitor Wilbur Larsen as our 2019 landing monitor.

This year's paid landing monitoring began on fishing opener weekend May 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> and will then continue on Saturdays and Sundays Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day (Sept 2nd). Additionally, monitoring will be conducted on Monday, May 27th, Thursday July 4th and Monday September 2nd. In order to meet the 25% volunteer match that our grant requires we are requesting that each SOSLA member consider volunteering to work alongside the paid monitor for at least one four-hour shift either morning (9:00 am - 1:00pm) or afternoon (1:00pm-5:00pm) one day during the summer. Each hour of donated time worked by a SOSLA member (including family members) will count toward our grant match requirement. Roughly 90 volunteer match hours will be needed to reach our 25%. Many of our members have already been trained in what is required. But if you haven't been trained, we still encourage you to volunteer, you will always be paired with either the paid monitor or another volunteer who has been trained.

If you are unable to commit to work one four hour shift we ask that you consider contributing \$48.00 to SOSLA AIS fund. This is the DNR allowed amount for four hours of volunteer time and will be applied toward the required 25% match. If you chose to make a contribution use the address below:

SOSLA - for AIS  
P. O. Box 102  
Stone Lake, WI 54876

To those of you who volunteered your time or made a financial commitment to our AIS monitoring project in past years, thank you for your support. We hope we can count on your help again this year. For others, please consider volunteering this year. It is a unique and fun experience to connect to the lake and fellow shore owners. Our volunteer hours and financial contributions help us meet our grant obligations and ensure that we continue to maintain water quality in Stone Lake that we can all be proud of.

Please review the attached table of volunteer monitoring opportunities this summer. Please send me an email or phone call if you have chosen a date you would like to volunteer and I will update the calendar. My contact information is below. Don't hesitate to contact me with any other aquatic invasive species questions or comments year-round.

One big change this summer is the new decontamination station at the boat landing. This station will further our effectiveness at keeping our high-quality lake free of aquatic invaders. Kevin Kruger details the installation of the decontamination station in an article elsewhere in this newsletter. Our paid landing monitor will have knowledge of proper use of the station and will assist in its maintenance.

Thank you ahead of time for considering your part in protecting our lake from aquatic invaders.

*Jordon Donatell*



Stone Lake Landing Monitoring Volunteer Sign Up 2019							
Dates		AM (9am-1pm)	PM (1pm-5pm)	Dates		AM (9am-1pm)	PM (1pm-5pm)
Saturday	5/3/2019			Saturday	7/13/2019		
Sunday	5/4/2019			Sunday	7/14/2019		
Saturday	5/25/2019			Saturday	7/20/2019		
Sunday	5/26/2019			Sunday	7/21/2019		
Monday	5/27/2019			Saturday	7/27/2019		
Saturday	6/1/2019			Sunday	7/28/2019		
Sunday	6/2/2019			Saturday	8/3/2019		
Saturday	6/8/2019	Jordan Donatell		Sunday	8/4/2019		
Sunday	6/9/2019			Saturday	8/10/2019		
Saturday	6/15/2019			Sunday	8/11/2019		
Sunday	6/16/2019			Saturday	8/17/2019		
Saturday	6/22/2019			Sunday	8/18/2019		
Sunday	6/23/2019			Saturday	8/24/2019		
Saturday	6/29/2019			Sunday	8/25/2019		
Sunday	6/30/2019			Saturday	8/30/2019	Jordan Donatell	
Thursday	7/4/2019			Sunday	9/1/2019		
Saturday	7/6/2019			Monday	9/2/2019		
Sunday	7/7/2019						

SOSLA		
2018 FINANCIAL REPORT		
Through December 31, 2018		
01/01/2018 Checking account balance		2,016.80
01/01/2018 Savings account balance		<u>6,906.31</u>
01/01/2018 Cash Balance		8,923.11
<b>2018 INCOME</b>		
Membership dues	1,720.00	
Calendar contributions	1,218.20	
AIS contributions	992.00	
Donations	105.00	
Interest	<u>16.62</u>	
Total Income		4,051.82
<b>2018 EXPENDITURES</b>		
AIS Expenses	153.46	
Calendar printing/mailing	1,698.78	
Dues	307.50	
Meetings/picnic	119.28	
Newsletters publication/r	468.58	
Post office box	<u>54.00</u>	
Total Expenditures		<u>2,801.60</u>
2018 increase in cash		1,250.22
<b>12/31/2018 Cash Balance</b>		<b><u>10,173.33</u></b>
12/31/2018 Checking account balance		2,750.40
12/31/2018 Savings account balance		7,422.93
		<b><u>10,173.33</u></b>
Unspent AIS funds included in the above balance		5,618.67

Income for 2018 was \$773 higher than 2017. This increase was shared by membership dues, calendar contributions and AIS contributions. There were 14 more paid memberships in 2018 for a total of 86. Thanks to all 86 of you. Also, a big thanks to a few members who also made unrestricted donations to SOSLA. All of the income from our members is very much appreciated and needed to achieve our goals for a healthy lake.

Expenses for 2018 were also higher than 2017 by \$496. This was due to some AIS expenditures for a boat cleaning sign and equipment at the boat landing. Calendar printing and mailing costs were also more than last year. More members, more calendars.

The net result was a \$1,250 increase to cash for 2018, \$277 higher than 2017. Let's see if we can do even better this year!

*Doug Baker - Treasurer*

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## Local Business Spotlight

*Editor's Note: We'll try to feature a local business in each newsletter. For this issue Don Bushek and his daughter Jennifer sat with the owners of Whistle Punk and learned a bit more about their business.*



Whistle Punk first opened its doors on Stone Lake's main drag in February 2017 when local sisters Linsey Carey and Ashley Beatty, along with their husbands Matt Carey and Ian Finch, decided to leverage their talents and open a different type of business. Ian's experience in the beer industry and training as a certified cicerone, Linsey's experience in the coffee industry, and the team's collective entrepreneurial spirit has led to a space unique in the area. Whistle Punk is part coffee shop, part craft beer pub, part bakery. It's a nice hang out spot, welcoming to all, and embracing of all that is Stone Lake. Cabin-goers, locals and people traveling through Stone Lake all find an equally welcoming space at Whistle Punk.

Customers often start their day with fresh coffee and espresso drinks, made with beans from Duluth Coffee. The beer is from a rotating selection of taps which are hand-picked by Ian, who relies on his industry knowledge to bring unique beer to the area. The pastry selection is always changing as well, made from scratch daily.

Whistle Punk's success has led to its current endeavor of doubling its footprint and expanding into the space next door, with the grand re-opening on Memorial Day weekend. This new, larger space will offer even more of what customers have already grown to love. The beer lines will be doubled, and the beverage menu will be expanded to include kombucha, soda and ciders. Sweet-tooths will be tempted by a selection of old-fashioned candies. The biggest addition is the new commercial kitchen, which will be run by Laura Gregory, a local professional baker. The expanded menu will feature pastries, bread, wraps, and a selection of meat and cheese trays. Customers can even bring their dog along and treat them to gourmet dog treats and dog "beer."

Whistle Punk's owners are passionate about their connection to the local community. Their expansion will provide an expanded space to gather, and local organizations will continue to be showcased through fundraisers and events. Recent fundraisers have benefitted the Sawyer County Humane Society, the Stone Lake Fire Department, and Embrace, an area women's shelter and sexual abuse prevention resource. Throughout the summer Whistle Punk will host weekly trivia nights, bike rides, beer tastings, and expanded music bookings.

Summer hours are Thursday-Saturday 8am-7pm and Sunday 8am-2pm. Stop by to try their Logger Coffee and Dog Beer, and check them out on Facebook or [thewhistlepunk.com](http://thewhistlepunk.com)

Jennifer and Don Bushek

*Editor's note: I suspect it took Don and his daughter Jennifer many visits to Whistle Punk to research this article – we appreciate your "sacrifice" ☺*

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Please use the enclosed membership application form  
to pay your 2019 SOSLA dues.

Our 2018 SOSLA membership ended up at 91 members which is over 80% of all shore owners on Stone Lake.

*Mary & Bill Byrkit* - Membership

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## Stone Lake Water Quality

2018 was the 31st consecutive year that secchi (water clarity), chemical and temperature recordings were conducted on Stone Lake. The secchi test measures water clarity by determining how far down you can see a disk as it is lowered into the water). As you can see from the graph, our secchi readings have fluctuated minimally over a long period of time and continue to rank among the best of nearby lakes in our region. Our average reading in 2018 was 20.5 feet. The average of other lakes in our region was 8.6 feet.

Despite significant rainfall last summer and frequent windy conditions for a good part of the summer our secchi recordings ranged from a minimum of 19 feet to a maximum of 22 feet.

In addition to water clarity, we also test for chlorophyll and phosphorus and the samples are analyzed by the state labs in Madison. High levels of each are typically found in lakes with significant algae bloom and less desirable

overall water quality. The lab analysis of each has again found very low levels of both chlorophyll and phosphorus in Stone Lake- consistent with the chemical results over the past years.

Our overall statistics reflect the continuing efforts of our shore owners and those that use our lake in the ongoing effort to ensure that our lake continues to be one of the cleanest in the region.

We would be remiss in not mentioning that our dear friend and fellow monitor-Paul Callahan- passed away in December. Paul was instrumental in monitoring our lake for many years and his enthusiasm and willingness to assist made the task even more enjoyable. Ranking just behind family and friends, Stone Lake was important to Paul and a big part of his life. He will be remembered by many of us for the time and effort he devoted to helping make Stone Lake a lake we can all be proud of.

*Mary Grau, Allan Rosenwald*

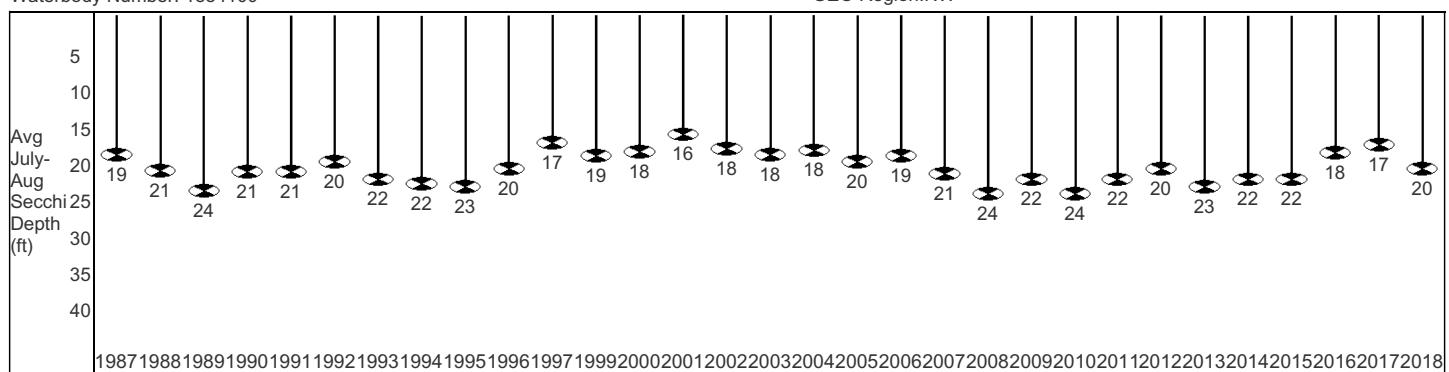
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Secchi data and graph are on the following page.

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Stone Lake  
Washburn County  
Waterbody Number: 1884100

Lake Type: SEEPAGE  
DNR Region: NO  
GEO Region:NW



Past secchi averages in feet (July and August only).

Year	Secchi Mean	Secchi Min	Secchi Max	Secchi Count
1987	18.69	16	21.75	8
1988	20.7	16.5	28	5
1989	23.69	20.75	28	4
1990	21	21	21	1
1991	21	19	23	2
1992	19.5	17	22	2
1993	22	21	23	2
1994	22.5	22	23	2
1995	23	22	24	2
1996	20.5	20	21	2
1997	17	17	17	1
1999	18.75	17	20.5	2
2000	18.17	17	20	3
2001	15.75	15	17	4
2002	17.8	15	19	5
2003	18.5	18	19	2
2004	18	18	18	3
2005	19.67	18	22	3
2006	18.88	18	20	4
2007	21.25	19	24.5	4
2008	24	21	26	3
2009	22	20.5	23.5	2
2010	24	24	24	1
2011	22	19	25	2
2012	20.58	18.5	22.25	3
2013	23	20	26	2
2014	22	20	24	2
2015	22	22	22	1
2016	18.33	16.5	19.5	3
2017	17.17	15	19.5	3
2018	20.5	19	22	2

Report Generated: 05/14/2019

**Shore Owners of Stone Lake Association**  
P.O. Box 102, Stone Lake, WI 54876

**SHOREOWNERS OF STONE LAKE ASSOCIATION (SOSLA)**

