

Vol. 23, No. 1

THE STONELAKER

Spring 2020

Letter from the President

Greetings Shore Owners

I've never looked forward to just getting outdoors so much as this year. Getting out for walks was a breath of fresh air after being cooped up inside these past months. This was a spring to remember, and dare say it will follow with a summer to remember. COVID-19 has affected us all in some way or another. Most importantly, I hope you are all safe and healthy.

As we venture into summer, the continually rising shoreline of Stone Lake seems almost trivial compared to the long haul of getting through the virus. Yes, the summer will be different for all of us. Fortunately, the lake and its serene beauty will stay a constant. Sunsets will be spectacular, eagles will soar in the sky, and the lake with its surroundings will always capture nature's panorama of color. What changes, will be the actions of the shore owners. Yes, we are still in a pandemic, one we've never been through before. We need to look out for our own health and the health of those around us. That means being focused and diligent with our 6-foot social distancing, keeping groups small, wearing masks when necessary, and taking any other necessary precautions. If anything, we need to error on the side of caution. Please follow any restrictions that may be implemented by state, county, or local governments.

Even though it will be an unusual summer to remember, it can be a summer to enjoy. Let's stay focused... let's be safe... let's be considerate... let's come out of this on the right side.

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

SOSLA Upcoming 2020 Meetings, Events, and Important Dates!

- **June 13, 10:00 AM**
Membership Meeting
at Stone Lake *Lion's Park*. Details on page 2.
- **July 4, 11 AM**
Boat Parade
(Rain date July 5)
- **August 22, 10:00 AM**
Membership Meeting
at Stone Lake Town Hall.
Annual Picnic & Golf
Outing to follow.

Stone Lake Events

- **2nd 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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218-355-1368

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Special Notice on June 13 Meeting

Due to the coronavirus, the SOSLA Board agreed to have our membership meeting at the Lion's Park. Please bring a lawn chair as we plan to sit socially distanced outside the shelter. In case of rain, we will socially distance under the shelter.

The SOSLA Board of Directors



Town of Stone Lake Annual Clean-Up Day

The annual clean-up day for residents of the Town of Stone Lake will be held on Saturday, June 13, 2020 from 8 AM to 2 PM at the Stone Lake garbage and recycle facility located at N5960 Walter Road. At this time the town will accept free of charge:

Appliance, TV's, electronics,
computer equipment, satellite receivers,
fluorescent light bulbs, vehicle batteries, and a
limit of 6 free car and truck tires.
(More tires may be brought in for a fee.)
(Furniture may be brought for a fee.)

Items not accepted:

Paint, paint cans, stain, stain cans,
flammable liquids, leaves and brush.

Regular garbage fees will apply on that day. If you have questions about what items are acceptable, please call Gary at 715-699-4702.



**Town of Stone Lake
PO Box 238
Stone Lake, WI 54876
(715) 865-6015
Toslwi2011@yahoo.com**

May 18, 2020

TO: Lake Road Property Owners
FROM: Stone Lake Board of Supervisors

RE: Traffic on Lake Road

The stretch of Lake Road between County Highway A and Highway 70 is pretty special. It was designated a “Wisconsin Rustic Road” years ago for its beautiful scenery and views of Stone Lake. This portion of road gets used not only by cars and trucks, but by ATVs, motorcycles, foot traffic, bicyclers, folks crossing to and from the lake, and children at play. To say that Lake Road is busy is an understatement, especially during the summer months.

The Town of Stone Lake recently held its Annual Meeting and it was brought up that traffic on Lake Road is becoming dangerous. Numerous homeowners have complained to the Town that vehicles are speeding up and down the road, despite the 25 mph speed limit. With so much activity, they worry that an accident is imminent.

For the safety of our community, the Town Board has decided to place some temporary speed bumps at strategic places along Lake Road. They will be placed for the summer months, and taken up in the fall. On top of the speeding issue, parking along the side of the road has also become a hazard. The road is not very wide, and passing a vehicle parked on the road can be hazardous. Please avoid parking on the road whenever possible. The Town Board has requested that when construction and delivery vehicles find it necessary to park along the side of the road, that orange traffic cones be placed at the front and the back of the vehicle. The road is not very wide and extra caution needs to be taken when going around these vehicles.

These extra safety measures may seem an inconvenience to you at first, but it is the Town’s hope that they will make Lake Road safer for all. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.



Shore Owners of Stone Lake Association Board Meetings

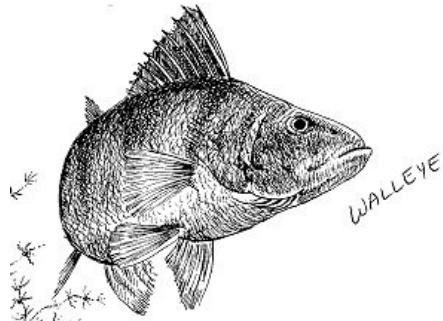
The board meetings have taken on a new format lately, Zoom! These Zoom meetings have been our means of communication this spring. We have discussed the many changes we are all seeing including the travel limits on some of our out-of-state shore owners. We have worked on getting an ad out for the monitor position that we hope to have filled and in action by June 1st. We discussed topics including the changes we may

see with the AIS monitoring and decontamination station and a new format for our general meeting which will be held at the Lion's park to allow us to gather, but still social distance. We have been monitoring the town meetings, the progress on the boat landing and the addition of speed bumps to Lake Road. Looking forward to seeing you all back in Stone Lake!

Melissa Sunderland, Secretary



Stone Lake Fisheries Update From Craig Roberts, Wisconsin DNR



The DNR was not allowed to sample any lakes while the Safer-at-Home order was in place. The night activity this spring was tribal spearing. LCO has already filled their declaration for 37 walleye from Stone Lake this season. They should be done spearing.

Regarding stocking, Stone Lake is slated to receive its walleye this fall of 15 large fingerling walleye per acre. These fish will receive a fin clip so we can check on them in future surveys and differentiate from any natural reproduction. Last season we attempted to look at the success of the 2018 stocking. We only captured two one-year old walleye. This suggests a poor overall survival from the 2018 stocking and it is hard to conclude how the stocked fish did compared with natural fish with a low sample size. We plan to sample again this fall.

Bill Byrkit

Please use the enclosed membership application form to pay your 2020 SOSLA dues.

Please fill out the form and send to the address listed. If you have a new neighbor that has moved in, please give them a copy or let Mary and I know, and we will follow up.

Our objective is 100% membership of all shore owners. We were about 80% last year. We are currently behind that percentage for 2020.

Thanks so much for your response.

Bill & Mary Byrkit - Membership

January 2020 Winter Dinner

On January 11th, many of us were able to attend our post-holiday winter SOSLA dinner. This is the second year it was held at Pine Brook Farm restaurant. We gathered for drinks, engaging conversation, and dinner. After dinner, we went to the Ryan's for dessert to finish off a delightful evening. Thanks to Kevin Krueger for lining up all the contacts and details to make this once again a successful shore owner event.

John Ryan

Note from the editor: Thank you John and Rita for hosting us for desserts. Thank you, Kevin, for all your efforts on this fun event. I look forward to next year's winter dinner.

Local Business Spotlight

Greetings!

As many of you reading this probably already know, in December of 2008 we opened Stone Lake Bait and Tackle, on County Hwy BB, and with much support and loyalty operated a successful bait shop up to, and including, Labor Day of 2019.

Shortly after a brief transition period, the bait and tackle portion of the business was purchased by and moved to Stone Lake Paint and Hardware where it is currently being operated. Quite nicely in our opinion.



We have been offering rod and reel service and repair including reel line winding since originally opening in 2008. We continue to operate Stone Lake Rod and Reel at the same location on County Hwy BB providing these services. You can reach us at 715-865-2310, or find us in the shop Tuesday-Friday 9am to 4pm, Saturday 9-12 or by appointment. For more information on services and fees check out our website stonelakerodandreel.com.

In addition to the repair service, we also own and operate a small manufacturing business that goes by the name of Minoman Tackle LLC. It's a plastic fishing bait product called Billy Bob's Scented Baits. You can find a very good selection of them at the new bait and tackle location on Main Street. You can also see our products and find retail locations on our website minomantackle.com.

Thanks to all who have, and will, continue to support our local, small town, mom and pop business.

God Bless!

John and Jenal Carlton

Melissa Sunderland



2021 Calendar

The details for calendar picture submittals were included in the fall newsletter so please refer to them before submitting candidates for this year. If you did not receive the fall newsletter or no longer have the details, send a note to garyjohnrickeron@aol.com for a copy. The submittal deadline is August 12.

Typically, the submitted photos are voted on during the August general meeting. Due to the uncertainty of the status of the COVID-19 restrictions and transmission rates at the time of the meeting, we may have to think of an innovative alternative to select the winners. To be prepared, the Calendar Committee will look into voting electronically by way of posting the candidates on a photo sharing site.

Last year we sold all 42 of the extra copies made. This year we will be looking into alternatives to publishing and mailing as the US Postal service has advised us that the cost of mailing will be increased dramatically. We have been informed that the way our cost was determined in the past was incorrect.

The Calendar Committee

Northwest Wisconsin Lakes Conference

You won't want to miss the upcoming *2020 Northwest Wisconsin Lakes Conference*, which will be held online this year on Friday, June 19 from 9 am to 3:45 pm Central Standard Time. Be sure to mark your calendars and plan to attend this popular learning event! The all-day program will be a great opportunity for lake enthusiasts, local government officials and others interested in protecting our water resources to take in a number of informative and educational presentations.



Ian Karl, Experiential Program Coordinator at Northwest Passage, a residential mental health treatment center for youth in Webster, will be the conference's keynote speaker.



A northern Wisconsin native, he comes from a background of wilderness expeditions, environmental and outdoor education, and adventure guiding. His presentation titled, "Under the Surface: Hope and Healing in Wisconsin's Lakes," will describe a therapeutic underwater photography program that combines science and art education with exploration and personal discovery.

Twelve different conference breakout sessions will be featured covering a wide variety of lake-related topics and issues, including: farmer-led watershed councils, circumnavigating Lake Superior in a kayak, Wisconsin turtles, Deer Lake management story, legislative updates, citizen-based monitoring, effects of pesticides on pollinators, dragonflies, water quality and aquatic species, Wisconsin public trust doctrine, drone use to identify invasive Japanese knotweed, new research to control zebra mussels, climate change impacts to Wisconsin lakes, and Covid-19 impacts on lake organizations.

The registration fee is \$10 to attend the conference.

Register online at stcroixriverassociation.org/events. For more information on registering for the conference, contact Monica Zachay at (715) 483-3300 or monicaz@scramail.com.

Cathie Erickson



The old bridge and rock outside of Avery's Pond, May 2015.

Lake Water Levels

The water level of Stone Lake has been at a critical level for the past few years and has surpassed its previous high recorded in 2002. Ice and wave action from wind have caused significant damage to shorelines and water has begun to impact some homes.

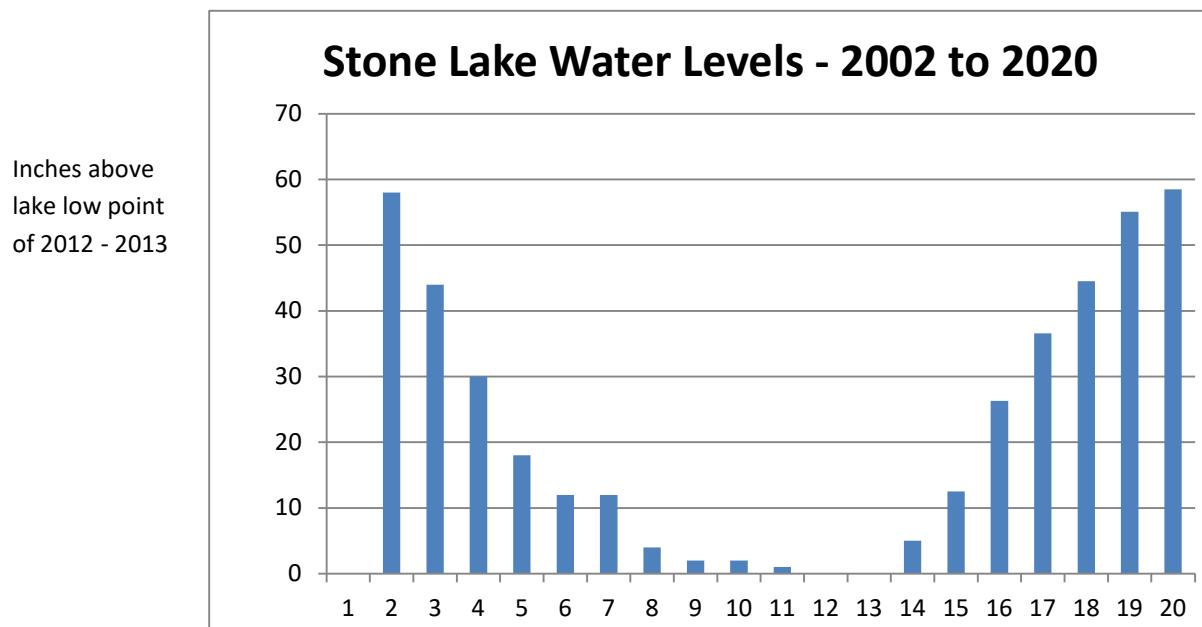
High water levels are a problem throughout the northwestern counties of Wisconsin and especially problematic on seepage lakes such as ours.



Compounding the problem of ice and wind erosion is irresponsible boating and personal watercraft use. Many of us enjoy the thrill of water skiing and tubing. Some enjoy the freedom of flying around the lake on a jet ski. However, we all have to consider the impact of our activities on others and the shorelines during this high-water period. All high-speed water activities should be limited to the center of the lake.

Although no-wake restrictions are limited by law to 100 feet from docks for boats and 200 feet for personal watercraft, the board strongly encourages all users to substantially increase their distance from shore for all higher speed activities and minimize speed whenever possible.

The graph below demonstrates the change in water levels over the past 10 years. Although current rainfall and lake levels seems to be more significant than previously, the data appears to fit the historical pattern of approximately 12-year cycles. The only long-term study of lake levels in our area has been of Lake Superior which has fluctuated on a 12-year cycle (6 up and 6 down) over the past 70 years of record keeping. Hopefully, we are at the peak of the current high and about to enter the downslope.



This chart shows the year to year relationship in inches from the previous high in 2002 to the current high on May 12, 2020 relative to the low point in 2012-13.

Gary Erickson

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

SHOREOWNERS OF STONE LAKE ASSOCIATION (SOSLA)

