



Letter from the President

Happy Spring Shore Owners!

As shore owners on Stone Lake for 30 years, my wife and I have witnessed significant change from one year to the next. It may be neighbors moving in or out, friends passing, water levels going up and down, hot or cool summers, high wind or calm, loons (and young ones), bears and otters coming and going, or invasive species threatening our lake and our attempts to halt them. Each year we witness change. This past year, I think we could agree, change has been greater than any other. COVID-19 and high waters hit us pretty hard. What a difference in our outlook from last year to now. Last year, we were concerned about even using our lake property, much less getting out to enjoy it with others. We were also dealing with unprecedented high water levels and wondered how long it would continue. I believe we have seen a few rays of sunshine as we go through another spring. COVID-19 appears to be trending on the decline as well as water levels. We can cautiously move forward. We'll keep our fingers crossed and continue to do our part.

We are a resilient group. What is critical is not so much the change itself, but how we respond to change. After enduring the major hurdles we all faced this past year, we can seize the opportunity to do our part together. Eliminating shoreline erosion, maintaining proper boat speed and shoreline distance, and keeping invasive species out of our lake will contribute to a better lake for all. I think plans for most of us this summer will be to maximize the opportunities we missed last year. One thing is for sure, change has given us an opportunity to truly appreciate and be thankful for some of the things we've all missed this past year. Family, friends, and the beauty of our lake surroundings will bring back more joy in our lives. I hope you can all enjoy the summer ahead. Please be safe and respectful of others, both on and off the lake.

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

SOSLA Upcoming 2021 Meetings, Events, and Important Dates!

- **June 12, 10:00 AM**
Membership Meeting
Lion's Park – bring a lawn chair.
- **July 4, 11 AM**
Boat Parade
(Rain date July 5)
- **August 21, 10:00 AM**
Membership Meeting
Lion's Park – bring a lawn chair.
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

stonelakeshoreowners@gmail.com
PO Box 102, Stone Lake, WI 54876

President: John Ryan

612-940-8623
Jrryan1127@aol.com

Vice President: Steve Erickson

507-259-3798
erickson.stephen@mayo.edu

Secretary: Melissa Sunderland

715-416-2399
mandrea75@yahoo.com

Treasurer: Doug Baker

608-220-6303
dougstonelake@gmail.com

Past President: Gary Erickson

715-865-4406
GaryJohnErickson@aol.com

Board of Directors

Don Bushek – AIS

763-213-7572
donbushek@yahoo.com

Gail Emerson

612-799-6439
gaile100@yahoo.com

Cathie Erickson

715-865-4406
CathieErickson@aol.com

Betty Hanson

715-865-2710
bahanson35@gmail.com

Kevin Krueger

952-210-6570
kmk971@hotmail.com

Dar Nielsen – Membership

(951) 206-2985
dar@thenielsenfamily.us

Susan Mattis Turnham – Newsletter

218-355-1368
smturnham@aol.com

**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 12, 2021 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.



Regular Dump Hours

Wednesday & Saturday Mornings:
9AM to 1PM
Accepted Plastic Recyclables:
#1, 2, 5



SOSLA Web Page

Did you know that you can look up key SOSLA information on the internet? We have a web page on <https://wclra.org/shoreowners-of-stone-lake-association/>, the Washburn County Lakes & Rivers Association website. You can use it to look up dates for upcoming SOSLA events, a list of our directors, and electronic versions of our newsletters.

To get to this information, you can go to wclra.org and click on the Member Organizations tab, or simply search for “shoreowners of stone lake”.



Local Business Spotlight

Last Frontier Stone Lake has become a “must stop” if you are anywhere near the area.

The Niccum family purchased the store in 2017. Since then, Cole and Sierra Niccum and their team have worked hard to maintain and build on the legacy that the previous owners started, almost 40 years ago. The roughly 8,000 square foot building has been completely renovated and updated.



When walking into Last Frontier, you're hit with a variety of items to look at and delicious smells ranging from hand poured cranberry candles, various soaps, or our specialty food jams, salsas, aiolis and other gourmet food products baking in the kitchen to sample and purchase. Stop and check out the widely known and huge selection of lake shirts, hoodies and apparel for the whole family.



Travel around the store and see some treasures of the past, old and new. There's a Kids Corner featuring a number of children's books written by local authors, including Jewels Niccum, who has published *The Moon and the Loons on the Bay*, which is the first in a series of four. The Rug Room surely has the perfect size and color rug or blanket you're looking for. Take your time when you're looking around the Cabin Room with all its home decor, table runners, placemats, fun napkins and beautiful hand

Painted furniture pieces placed throughout the building. There's so much to see in this store so look high and low!

Let's not forget to mention everyone's favorite treat, Ice Cream! We've also expanded our Wisconsin made, Cedar Crest ice cream menu. Along with 12 different flavors to choose from, you can now order shakes, malts, floats and also hot fudge sundaes. Yum!



This summer we have added to our team and customer service in hopes of extending our store hours for the convenience of our customers.

Adopt a Highway Opportunity



The SOSLA Board is considering adopting a portion of State Highway 70 from Sloan Street (the boat access road) westerly to .5 miles west of Strabel Road, a length of 1.4 miles. This is an opportunity to demonstrate that the Shore Owners are committed to the community and are willing to put the effort into making it a better place to live and enjoy. The Board would like to discuss

the idea with the membership at the June meeting. There would be no cost to SOSLA, but the dedication of time by a sufficient number of members will be essential before making a commitment to take on the responsibility.

The SOSLA Board

Spring at the Boat Launch

Welcome to spring on Stone Lake. Docks are going in. Pontoons are starting to cruise. And by the time you read this, the fishing opener will be history.

Along with all this activity comes a busy boat launch and the need to resume our efforts to keep aquatic invasive species (AIS) out of Stone Lake. As in past years, we will be operating our decontamination sprayer at the landing. Spraying boats and trailers going into and out of the lake is fast and easy, doesn't harm the boat, and is an effective way to eliminate invasive hitchhikers that would otherwise end up in the lake. So, I hope you will set a good example and do your part to keep Stone Lake clean by spraying down your boat, trailer, and livewell every time you use the ramp. And encourage others to do the same.

We've hired Andy Slesar as our weekend launch monitor for this season. Andy is a local guy and so some of you may already know him. Andy's salary will be paid from the Wisconsin Clean Boats Clean Waters grant that the Town of Stone Lake was awarded again this year. His main task will be to encourage and help boaters use the decontamination equipment that SOSLA has installed at the landing. He will be at the ramp

weekends and holidays at least through Labor Day.

As in past years, a requirement for the grant award is a minimum of 111 volunteer hours provided by SOSLA. So, I'd ask you to think about when you would be able to contribute some volunteer hours at the landing. One hour or 8, it all adds up. Or bring a friend and double the time credit. Call, text, or email me directly with questions or to sign up (contact info below.)

Why is all this important? Imagine what a lake-wide zebra mussel or milfoil infestation would do to your property values and how it would affect your activities in and on the lake. We all use the lake differently, but none of us would escape the impacts of an AIS infestation in Stone Lake. Heading off AIS at the boat landing is the best way for us as a group and individuals to keep AIS out of Stone Lake.

My best to all of you.

Don Bushek

763.213.7572 (text, voicemail)
donbushek@yahoo.com

Water Levels



Avery Pond Rock April 2021

In the summer of 2020, the water level of Stone Lake reached a high of 5.2 feet over the previous low water level experienced in the summers of 2012 and 2013. By year's end, the level had dropped by almost 9 inches. There was a slight rebound of approximately 2 inches over the winter due to snow melt. This year is the first year in the past 8 years that the spring water level was less than it was the previous spring (by 6 inches). Whether or not this is the beginning of a downward trend is yet to be determined. The previous high in 2002 took 10 years to drop to the low in 2012. That low held for one year and then began a steady rise to last year's high.

Water levels have been high enough to cause wake and wind driven wave damage to our shorelines for the past several years and that unfortunate situation will continue for the foreseeable future. Please consider this during your boating activities.

Gary Erickson

Stone Lake Ice Out March 2021

I was asked by the administrator of the Stone Lake Wisconsin Today Facebook Page to call ice out for Stone Lake. Here is a chronical of the information I gathered.

March 29th

Looking across Big Stone Lake from our home on Lake Road, I made a remark to my wife Robin. "The ice will be gone in less than 24 hours". That day our weather was very windy with 19 to 30 mph sustained winds that continued for the next few days.



At 12:10 pm looking out my office window there was an open area the size of an acre or so, and a slight crack heading towards the east shore.

As the wind started moving the ice it was apparent this was going to go fast. I watched as the broken crumbled ice piled up along the north shores as it went by our house like literally a river.

At 5:56 pm the south end of the lake was wide open.

March 30th

At 1:58 pm we put our dock in. There was still intact ice in the southeast bay along Hwy 70 as well as a pile of crumbled ice along the northeast area of the lake along the tracks.



Then I made a poor decision. We put in our jet skis on that windy and wavy day and took a closer look at the remaining ice. We were wet, cold and CRAZY. I felt a little dumb. My wife was right. It was a "poor decision".



March 31st

I took my last tour of the lake at 5:44 pm (in a car, not a jet ski.) I officially called ice out. Many folks mentioned this may be the earliest ice out in many years.

Kevin Tripp

Purple Loosestrife Update

Despite high water our best and ongoing efforts, I have no doubt that purple loosestrife will once again haunt our beaches and shore lines. The usual sites are along the west and north shores of Big Stone. Little Stone is more heavily infested. Hopefully some of the loosestrife eating beetles have successfully overwintered, but they will need our help. Please be on the lookout for shore or shallow water plants with bright purple flowers. If in water, the submerged part will have a whitish mucoid covering. Please pull it out by the roots if at all possible. I will make rounds in the fall to pull what is left.

Steve Erickson

Treasurer's Report

SOSLA			
FINANCIAL REPORT			
	2019	2020	
	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	
Beginning checking account balance	2,750.40	3,588.93	
Beginning savings account balance	7,422.93	7,441.51	
Beginning Cash Balance	10,173.33	11,030.44	
INCOME			
Membership dues	1,720.00	1,620.00	
Calendar contributions	1,011.41	1,347.00	
AIS contributions	982.00	1,075.00	
Donations	305.00	100.00	
Interest	18.58	11.60	
Total Income	4,036.99	4,153.60	
EXPENDITURES			
AIS Expenses	661.58	727.34	
Calendar printing/ mailing	1,614.34	1,868.67	
Dues	257.50	255.00	
Meetings/picnic	90.38	-	
Newsletters publication/ mailing	491.08	550.24	
Office supplies/postage	-	171.97	
Post office box	65.00	56.00	
Total Expenditures	3,179.88	3,629.22	
Increase in cash	857.11	524.38	
Cash Balance	11,030.44	11,554.82	
Ending checking account balance	3,588.93	4,101.71	
Ending savings account balance	7,441.51	7,453.11	
	11,030.44	11,554.82	
Unspent AIS funds included in the above balance	5,939.09	6,286.75	

2020 was similar to recent years. Compared to 2019: There were 5 fewer paid memberships in 2020 (81) than in 2019 (86). Calendar income (up 33%) and expenses (up 16%) were higher in 2020 due to more calendar donations/sales and higher printing and postage costs.

Doug Baker - Treasurer

2022 Calendar

A brief overview of photo submittal requirements:



- The submittal deadline is August 12 but you are encouraged to submit early. Photos do not have to be submitted all at once.
- Please take photos in a landscape format (horizontal) with the highest resolution possible.
- Pictures should be taken within a mile of the lake.
- If you choose to crop your photo, the cropped photo must be at least 500MB or larger. Please also send the original – too many cropped photos no longer have the clarity for enlargement.
- Pictures with people should be as generic, or non-identifiable, as possible.
- Submittals are limited to six photos per shore owner household.

Submit a variety and all seasons. If you submit multiple pictures of a common theme (e.g. multiple sunsets), you are only competing against yourself.

Send your pictures by e-mail to garyjohnerickson@aol.com or you may deliver a disc or flash drive to Gary at W550 Walter Road. The calendar committee uses the voting results as the primary selection tool, but final decisions are made on ability to enlarge (quality), variety, and a broad representation of members. Thanks for your continued interest and great photos.

The Calendar Committee

Fourth of July Boat Parade

After a very atypical year, it's time for something completely normal and very enjoyable: the annual SOSLA July 4 Boat Parade!

This year the parade is just for fun. The people formerly known as judges will have little surprise gifts for kids small and large but no prizes. It's summer and we're all back out on the lake. Let's celebrate!

So dress up your watercraft of choice – or don't bother – and come on out Sunday, July 4, at 11 am. The rain date is Monday, July 5, at 11 am. If the weather on Sunday looks uncertain, we'll let you know by 8:30 am if the parade is on or will be postponed. Please stay tuned to your email; that's how we'll notify you.

As usual, we'll convene near the boat launch. There's no need to check in with us, but we'll be cruising around during the parade to deliver those little surprises.

See you on the 4th!

The People Formerly Known As Judges



**Washburn County Lakes and Rivers Association
Funds for Shoreline Restoration Plantings
And Other Runoff Projects**

Greetings Washburn County Lakes and Rivers Association (WCLRA) members and friends. I'm writing to let you know about an opportunity for funding assistance to establish a native shoreline restoration and/or reduce erosion using "*Healthy Lakes*" practices. The Washburn County Land and Water Conservation Department has received a WI DNR Surface Water Grant to help interested landowners install these practices.

Funding can cover 75% of costs per practice and is capped at \$1000. Landowners would need to contribute a 25% match. If you and your family and friends do some of the prepping, digging and planting, volunteer hours can count toward the landowner's portion of the project cost. Shoreline restoration projects generally cost around \$1000 to \$1300. The practice must remain in place for 10 years.

The County department is looking for up to 10 interested lake or riverfront owners who would be ready to implement a practice this year. A one-time grant amendment can occur to add landowners and once approved by WI DNR, landowners can start their project. In order to get the process moving, county staff members are asking for a June 7th deadline to reply with interest. However, site visits are encouraged now to see if a practice is applicable.

If you are interested, please contact Lisa Burns at lburns@co.washburn.wi.us or 715-468-4654. I'm writing on her behalf as WCLRA doesn't share our mailing list, and our organization is looking forward to helping with this project.

*Kathy Bartilson
for the WCLRA Board of Directors*



2021 Northwest Wisconsin Lakes Conference
Friday, June 19, 9:00 to 3:30
On Zoom

The Northwest Wisconsin Lakes Conference, one of the state's premier lake conferences, includes a full day of presentations that will appeal to Wisconsin lake lovers, students, property owners, and government officials.



Register today to enjoy this live, interactive conference from the comfort of your home or cabin. Ask questions and get answers in real time while interacting with your peers through Zoom's Q & A and Chat features.

The conference will kick off with a keynote presentation from Cathy Techtmann *Climate Change: Game Changer or Change the Game?* This presentation will build awareness of how climate change is affecting species and habitats in our lakes, using evidence we can observe with science. She will also discuss how climate change will impact what we value about our lakes and how we can take action to build resiliency

Breakout sessions will follow, including:

- Geological History of Northern WI Lakes
- Aquatic Invasive Species
- Climate Change Adaptation for Fisheries
- Legislative Updates
- Shoreline Erosion
- And more!

Cost: \$10 registration fee to cover registration and hosting expenses. High school and college students can register free of charge.

*A downloadable brochure and link to the registration site are at
nwwislakesconference.org*

ABOUT THE KEYNOTE PRESENTER: Cathy is a Professor of Community Resource Development and an Environmental Outreach State Specialist for the University of Wisconsin-Extension. She is the President of the Friends of the Gile Flowage in Iron County and a former County Extension Agent. Cathy designs educational initiatives that make environment issues “come alive” to encourage action.

Cathie Erickson

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

