



Letter from the President

Greetings to all,

As we wrap up the 2018 year on Stone Lake, there is plenty to be thankful for over the upcoming holidays. It seems that all things come around with time. I recall the years not too long ago that the talk every week was how much the lake continued to drop. When would it stop? We all hoped for more moisture. That has turned around full circle.

For the past few years, the lake level has continued to go up and up. Yes, it now has to be at near high levels in the 27 years that we've been on the lake. There are some things we can control, and some things we can't. My point here is, we do our part and nature will take care of things in due time. There are certain things we can positively effect, such as pulling purple loosestrife, keeping our lakeshore eco-friendly, and keeping AIS out of our lake. Without continuing to take these actions, we leave a lot of issues on the table for deterioration of our lake. Thus, we allow nature to take a negative course.

As many of you know, we are implementing a requirement for those putting boats in at the boat landing next spring. You will notice a Decontamination Station sign as you approach the boat landing. It will instruct you to use a provided sprayer with a bleach water mix on all boats. It will only take about 10 minutes. This will help us prevent the hated Zebra Mussel from effecting our beautiful lake. Please do your part in helping to carry out this ordinance, as well as setting a great example for all using the lake. Thanks to all for helping to do your part.

I wish you all a wonderful holiday.

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

- **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.

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What's New in Stone Lake

THE STONE LAKE MARKET

More new products have been added. Store Manager Joanne Nitz and Board Member Sharon Paine went to a couple of food shows and brought back some new products. The market now offers frozen soups and pies. A good assortment of both is on hand. Nuthouse Breads, a very popular bread made in Webster, Wisconsin, is new too. If there is something special you would like, check with us to see if it is available.

Improvements continue to be made to the store. We have been working with Focus on Energy to make our store lighting, cooler lighting, fan motors and other items more energy efficient. The rebates are very good and the electric bills reflect energy savings.

Also new is a small lunch available to the public on Mondays and Thursdays. These meals are offered on the days the senior lunches are not available in town.

We are on Facebook as: Stone Lake Market & Coop – like us! Call us at 715-865-6989 and email us at tlcoop08@yahoo.com.

Hope to see you at the store soon!

Betty Hanson

WETLAND PARK

The Wetland Park is continuing the war against the dreaded buckthorn. Carol McDonnell wrote a grant application and the park was awarded a grant for \$5,000 – provided the community raised \$10,000 in volunteer hours and donations. As of the end of October that goal was reached! This was aided by the purchase and planting of the trees this last spring, the help of the Stone Lake Fire Department in supervising the burn of the park, the committee serving at the Cranberry Fest Dinner, and of course many other contributions in labor and money.

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What's New in Stone Lake – continued

WETLAND PARK - CONTINUED

The before and after at the park is so amazing. You can now see through the trees to downtown, to the picnic tables and to the lake. Our park is now in maintenance mode. It will be sprayed and monitored in the coming years. Our committee has very dedicated members: Tom and Carol McDonnell, Bruce Gillette, Marlo Schield, Cathie Erickson, Chris and Michael Maestri, Allan Gundry, and Betty Hanson. Craig Baldrige has worked with Steve Lorenz (our forestry advisor on buckthorn) mapping out where to cut and where to spray. The two have done a great job.

Our park will also be included in a video. Katie Beilfuss, Outreach Program Director with the Wisconsin Wetlands Association, contacted Cathie Erickson and asked her if our board would be interested in taking part in a video they were filming of wetlands around the state. On Friday, July 27 several members provided a tour of the park and discussed the many things that were involved in saving Stone Lake's wetland. The finished video will show how community involvement can save wetlands in Wisconsin. The video will be shown at various places throughout the state.

Betty Hanson

Winter Social

Saturday, January 12 – 4 PM
Pine Brook Farms

Three menu choices – each will include a salad and choice of two sides.
Carpooling available – contact Kevin Kruger (kmk971@hotmail.com) for details.
Watch your email for future communications.

Purple Loosestrife

2018 with its high-water levels offered aid and comfort to our perennial enemy, purple loosestrife. New plants were found in areas not infested in recent years. I assume dormant plants thrived when covered with shallow warm water. As usual, the east half of Big Stone was free of loosestrife. The west half was problematic, especially on the former Ulrich property on the southwest shore where there is a large expanse of low shore lands. However other breeding grounds in the northwest corner were less populated, perhaps thanks to diligent eradication efforts in recent years. As always, I am highly appreciative of shore owners who pull their own plants despite the seductive beauty of their striking lavender plumes. Unchecked, this invasive species will crowd our shore lands with plants that grow to over six feet tall. Their only non-human enemy is a beetle that does not overwinter well here and was not available from DNR this year.



Steve Erickson

Aquatic Invasive Species

Since the SOSLA Board approved funding for the AIS sign many things have transpired. The sign was affixed to 4 by 4 posts and put in place by Bill Byrkit, John Ryan, David Turnham, Peter Engel and Kevin Krueger. If you have not seen it please go to the public access and check it out. It really looks quite professional! The ordinance will not be enforced until the fishing season opener 2019.



The new sign in the center of the photo is in clear view when coming over the hill.

What remains to be accomplished by the time of the fishing opener? We need to move Gary Erickson's water storage container to the public access. Lake water cannot be used to fill the container. We have requested assistance from the Fire Department in keeping the 30-gallon tank full. If anyone can intercede with the Fire Department that would be great.

The AIS subcommittee is also looking for volunteers to mix the bleach solution used to clean boats and trailers. This needs to be done frequently to keep it effective. This is a crucially important job! We are also requesting volunteers to help show boaters how to apply the bleach mix on the fishing opener. This will be for both Saturday and Sunday. Please contact Kevin Krueger if you can help.

Thanks in advance for doing everything we can to keep our lake AIS free.



Kevin Krueger

A close up of the decontamination sign.

More AIS News

- Long Lake is now planning decontamination stations like ours for all four of their landings!
- At a statewide AIS conference I recently attended, a speaker from Vilas County talked about their decontamination efforts this summer using a hot water, high pressure decontamination unit to try to stop the spread of spiny water fleas. Vilas County is east of us, includes Eagle River & Land O' Lakes, and has even more lakes than we do. Their program was voluntary since they don't have an ordinance similar to ours.

Cathie Erickson

Stone Lake Water Levels

The most recent Stone Lake high water level occurred in 2002 when the level was within two inches of the top of the large rock at the Avery Pond bridge. The water level on November 1st of this year was still 17 inches below the high of 2002. Whether water levels continue to rise or not, they are already at a level that is causing damage to shore lines by wave action. Everyone is cautioned to consider the additional damage that can be caused by boat wakes from water skiing, tubing, jet skis and just fast cruising. The law stipulates that boats must stay 100 feet from docks and jet skis 200 feet away from docks.



During this period of high water, when traveling at speeds that create wakes, please consider staying at least

200 feet, and preferably much more, from docks and shore with all watercraft. Doing so will help reduce shore line erosion.

Gary Erickson

August 2018 Membership Meeting Highlights

Membership is strong for our association. As Bill Byrkit reported, at an all-time high of over 90 members. We approved two new members to the board – Kevin Krueger and Don Bushek. Work continues on the battle with AIS. The town approved our request to erect a decontamination sign and we hope to have the decontamination station up and running in 2019. After the meeting we enjoyed the membership picnic at the Lions Park with lots of good food and fellowship!

Melissa Sunderlund - Secretary

Fish Stocking

We just finished our final Wisconsin Walleye Initiative Stocking in late October. The DNR planted another 7,300 Extended Growth Walleyes which completes the third and final planting. A total of approximately 22,500 seven to nine-inch fish were put in our lake in 2014, 2016 and 2018. These fish can be identified by a clipped pectoral fin distinguishing them from natural reproduction fish. We have been very fortunate to receive these at no charge due to the positive involvement of our SOSLA membership and local community.



Thanks to all for their AIS involvement in keeping our fisheries and water clean and healthy.

Bill Byrkit

	SOSLA		
2018 FINANCIAL REPORT			
Through November 3, 2018			
01/01/2018 Checking account balance			2,016.80
01/01/2018 Savings account balance			6,906.31
01/01/2018 Cash Balance			<u>8,923.11</u>
2018 INCOME			
Membership dues	1,720.00		
Calendar contributions	834.20		
AIS contributions	944.00		
Donations	105.00		
Interest	11.95		
Total Income		3,615.15	
2018 EXPENDITURES			
AIS Expenses	153.46		
Calendar printing/mailing			
Dues	297.50		
Meetings/picnic	119.28		
Newsletters publication/mailing	278.82		
Post office box	54.00		
Total Expenditures		<u>903.06</u>	
2018 increase in cash			<u>2,712.09</u>
11/03/2018 Cash Balance			<u><u>11,635.20</u></u>
11/03/2018 Checking account balance			4,216.94
11/03/2018 Savings account balance			7,418.26
			<u><u>11,635.20</u></u>
Unspent AIS funds included in the above balance			5,570.67

Between now and the end of the year, SOSLA will incur expenses in excess of income in the approximate amount of \$1,500 resulting in an increase in cash for the full year in the approximate amount of \$1,200. The \$1,500 of expenses yet to be incurred is primarily for calendars and one more newsletter.

Doug Baker - Treasurer

SOSLA Calendar

The calendar committee would like to thank all members who submitted pictures for the 2019 calendar. It was a unique year with 12 of the 13 photos required for the months and cover coming from 12 different photographers. We are also very pleased with the response to our request to submit pictures in landscape format and to send as attachments to e-mails rather than directly from phones. The result was much higher quality photos.



A small change was made this year due to a member suggestion. The suggestion was to use the back cover for pictures that ranked high in the voting, but did not make the final cut. We decided to try that this year which resulted in a picture for every photographer who submitted photos. We look forward to receiving your submittals for next year.

The Calendar Committee

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



April 26, 2015
You could walk into Avery's Pond!

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

