

Letter from the President

Greetings to all!

We all made it through one of the most unique summers of all time, one that we will remember forever. Our social life was changed for most of us, and for some, it may have been nonexistent. But we altered our lives and schedules to meet the demands of COVID-19, and got it to work. Let's hope that next summer will be a different story.

All of us lakeshore owners have seen and experienced the effects of high water on Stone Lake. This was a summer with record high levels. Some owners experienced property damage, and most experienced deterioration of their shoreline. I heard from a number of you, voicing how you've been affected. We all share in your concern as we are in this together, with no easy solution. Many attempts were made to encourage slow-no wake boating and keeping boating distance from the shoreline. Most shore owners followed our protocol to lesson shoreline erosion. I think some of the offenders were nonresidents or renters. It's critical to get the word out to all on appropriate use of the lake.

As for high water levels, many other surrounding lakes are experiencing the same issues as we are on Stone Lake. I spoke to the DNR about our situation, and they shared similar experiences related to other lakes. One of those lakes is Perch Lake. They shared that there are many complications involved with attempts to lower lake levels. These are documented in an article published in the September 9th Sawyer County Record. Let's all hope that our lake level begins to drop in the coming year.

Enjoy your upcoming holidays!!

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
Location to be determined.
- **July 4, 11 AM**
Boat Parade
(Rain date July 5)
- **August 21, 10:00 AM**
Membership Meeting
Location to be determined.
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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SOSLA August 22, 2020 Meeting Minutes

President John Ryan called the meeting to order. Twenty-four members were present at the Stone Lake Lions Park. Members were introduced.

Treasurer Report given by Doug Baker. 2020 membership income is down by six members. It looks like the year will be pretty much a break even. Current AIS funds \$5,977.

Membership report: Dar Nielsen has been working with Bill Byrkit and is taking over the membership duties. He will work with Doug to make sure membership spreadsheet agrees with Doug's paid membership records. Voted and approved Dar Nielsen as a new board member.

AIS report: The new monitor has been working out very well and is well liked by volunteers. Reminder to volunteer at the landing for our grant match or contribute \$48 in place of time.

Purple loosestrife report: Steve Erickson has worked on the west side of the lake. The high water level has lessened the amount of loosestrife.

Newsletter: Susan Mattis Turnham would like to get out next newsletter right after Thanksgiving.

High water and lake etiquette discussion: Karen Young shared her concerns about the high water. We discussed the flyer addressing lake "rules". All members to receive the flyer, especially those that may rent their property.

4th of July parade: The new 11 AM time worked well. Thanks to judges and for acquiring prizes for winners of the different categories.

Approval of Minutes. Introduction of Kay, our Landing Monitor. Meeting adjourned

Voting for calendar photos. Picnic and golf scramble followed the meeting

Melissa Sunderland



Local Business Spotlight

Vintage Home is the brightly colored shop located in downtown Stone Lake on Highway 70 right between the Northwest Wisconsin Realty building and the Stone Lake Pub. The building has served many purposes over the years including the Post Office, pizza place, hair salon, computer store amongst other things. In the winter of 2008, the building was purchased by long time Stone Lake resident Karen Young. For a few years it was leased and operated as "Made In the Shade". In 2014 Karen opened the shop as Vintage Home.



Karen had been a secretary in the Hayward Middle School until she retired in 2015. Since retiring, Karen has spent the summers operating Vintage Home. The shop carries fun gifts and flea market inspired decor.

On a visit to Vintage Home you will experience warm memories and good feelings. Upon entering, you are likely to hear familiar tunes spinning on the turntable. While there you can enjoy just about any music genre you can think of.

Walk into Vintage Home and discover something from your past. If you like history, you'll find plenty of it in the shop. At Vintage Home you will see collectibles, furniture, unique lighting, antiques, homemade rugs, rustic and modern decor and MCM vintage pieces and clothing. We will bring you full circle with our new items.

Looking for the one item to complete your decorating project – check out Vintage Home. The shop is open from late May through Cranberry Fest. See you in the spring!

Editor's note: Karen Young is not only a local business owner, but also a Stone Lake shore owner and former SOSLA Board member.

2021 Calendar

This year's calendar will have a slightly different look. The US Post Office dramatically increased the cost of mailing our previous calendar with the spiral binding. The new calendar will have a stapled binding with a lighter weight paper. As a result, we gain an extra page (two surfaces) which will allow the printing of more information or more pictures. This year we will add eight pictures (4 per page) to include several that just missed the cut for the main calendar and include a greater representation of photographers.

You can again request extra calendars by emailing Betty Hanson at bahanson35@gmail.com. The cost for extra calendars will continue to be \$10.50 each, if picked up, and \$12.50 each if mailed. You can give the check to Betty, made out to SOSLA, or mailed to SOSLA, PO Box 102, Stone Lake, WI 54876. We will adjust costs for next year after we have experienced one year of printing and mailing costs under the new format.

The Calendar Committee

Please use the enclosed membership application form to pay your 2021 SOSLA dues.

Please fill out the enclosed form and send to the address listed. If you have a new neighbor that has moved in, please give them a copy. Our objective is 100% membership of all shore owners.

Dar Nielsen - Membership

Water Levels



This summer the water level of Stone Lake reached a high of two inches above the large rock at the Avery Pond bridge. Longtime residents of the area have different recollections of the previous high, but it appears to be a consensus that this is the highest it has been during our lifetimes. The good news is that it has been dropping since that high to the lowest it has been since April, 2019. It is now nine inches below the high of

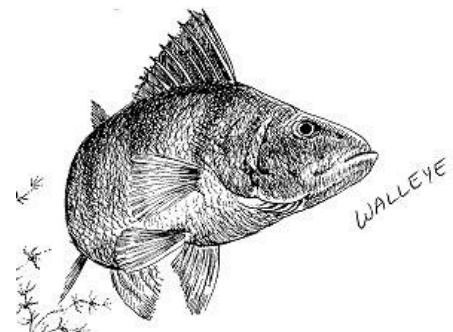
this past summer. Hopefully this is a trend that could bring us back to a more acceptable level, if not back to the lows of 2012-13. Be patient, that could take a while. The last high to low drop took 11 years.

Gary Erickson

Fall DNR Activity on Stone Lake, as reported by Craig Roberts, Fish Biologist for Washburn County

On September 15th, the DNR did their annual Electrofishing Survey. They reported to me that they only found one 9 inch walleye from natural reproduction. Yes, you are reading this correctly. When questioned by me if this is normal, he stated that it is not unusual for Stone as they only stock every other year and last year was a non-stock year. Stone Lake has very poor natural reproduction.

The DNR then stocked 6614 extended growth walleyes into Stone Lake which were about 7.5 inches long. This stocking, as in the past several stockings, were compliments of the State of Wisconsin.



Bill Byrkit

Zebra Mussel Update

Stone Lake is one of 30 Washburn County lakes monitored for the presence of zebra mussels this summer. On Aug. 4 Lisa Burns, Washburn County Land & Water Conservation Dept., performed “veliger tows” in several parts of Stone Lake. Veligers are the microscopic larval stage of zebra mussels. Specially-designed equipment is towed through the water to collect water samples in the parts that would be most likely to contain veligers. (Lisa was driven around Stone Lake by SOSLA volunteer Gary Erickson.) A preservative is added to the samples which are then sent to a lab for examination under a microscope. Stone Lake was one of the lucky ones that tested negative. No veligers were found in the samples from Stone Lake.



Lisa Burns lowers veliger sein into Stone Lake.



Lisa retrieves sein with sample captured in container at end.



Lisa adds preservative to sample for submittal to testing lab.

Cathie Erickson

Ok For Us, Not So For Others, as reported by Pat Shifferd (Twin Lakes), Washburn Co. Lakes & Rivers Assoc.

The two counties of Washburn and Burnett have just finished a fourth year of a rapid response project to monitor and contain the highly invasive zebra mussel. A variety of techniques have and are being used, including plate sampling, veliger tows, early detection surveys, and environmental DNA.

Decontamination stations have been installed at 12 Washburn County and 17 Burnett County lakes. Finally, a hot water presser washer was purchased, and is being used primarily at Big McKenzie Lake. Both counties passed ordinances requiring boaters to use decontamination stations when these are present. Print materials and news releases provided information for boaters, lake owners, and the general public about the threat these mussels pose to health, safety and property values.

The bad news is that zebra mussels are now considered endemic in Big and Middle McKenzie Lakes. A recent update from Washburn County officials concludes “2020 has shown an increase in Big McKenzie. Landowners continue to report finding thousands of them covered on boats, motors, docks and along the shoreline. They cut feet, clog and overheat boat motors, eat microscopic organisms needed for fish and other species, and suffocate native clams, mussels and aquatic insects. Depending on conditions, they may survive out of water from several days to several weeks.”

The good news is that no new lakes have been found to be infected.

Treasurer's Report

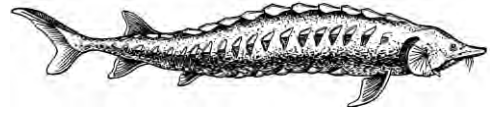
	SOSLA		
FINANCIAL REPORT			
		2019	2020
		ACTUAL	YTD
Beginning checking account balance		2,750.40	3,588.93
Beginning savings account balance		7,422.93	7,441.51
Beginning Cash Balance		10,173.33	11,030.44
INCOME			
Membership dues		1,720.00	1,600.00
Calendar contributions		1,011.41	913.00
AIS contributions		982.00	1,075.00
Donations		305.00	100.00
Interest		18.58	9.72
Total Income		4,036.99	3,697.72
EXPENDITURES			
AIS Expenses		661.58	727.34
Calendar printing/ mailing		1,614.34	21.50
Dues		257.50	245.00
Meetings/picnic		90.38	-
Newsletters publication/ mailing		491.08	249.38
Office supplies/postage		-	171.97
Post office box		65.00	56.00
Total Expenditures		3,179.88	1,471.19
Increase in cash		857.11	2,226.53
Cash Balance		<u>11,030.44</u>	<u>13,256.97</u>
Ending checking account balance		3,588.93	5,805.74
Ending savings account balance		7,441.51	7,451.23
		<u>11,030.44</u>	<u>13,256.97</u>
Unspent AIS funds included in the above balance		5,939.09	6,286.75

Prior to year-end there will be some additional income for calendar sales. There will also be expenditures for the calendars and the fall newsletter. I am expecting a small increase in cash for the entire year.

Doug Baker - Treasurer

Sturgeon in Stone Lake?

Several years ago, there was a rumor that the next world record muskie could be caught in Stone Lake. That seemed a bit preposterous since no one ever recalled a muskie even being caught on Stone Lake. The rumor started with a fisherman



who measured a fish on his fish finder that he claimed was almost six feet long (the Cal Johnson world record caught on Lac Court Oreilles in 1949 was 60 ¼ inches). The mystery was solved the following spring. The DNR, netting carp to milk their spawn for feeding walleye fingerlings at the fish hatchery, also caught (and released) two sturgeon over five feet long. Since then, several shore owners have seen the huge fish pass under their docks. They seem to prefer the shallow waters along the shore for foraging.

Midwest sturgeon are called lake sturgeon but require clear streams or rivers for spawning, so Stone Lake's sturgeon were introduced. How and when the sturgeon were introduced into Stone Lake may never be known. Males generally live from 65 to 90 years and females can live over 150 years. They can grow to 100 inches in length and 200 pounds in Lake Superior, although inland lake sturgeon generally grow up to 75 inches and 100 pounds.

Sturgeon are rare, even where they can reproduce, so please do not try to catch, or otherwise harm, the sturgeon in Stone Lake if you see one. Only two have ever been seen together. There may be more but the two may be all we have. A picture of one of our sturgeon was captured by Doug Baker this past summer. The picture is included on one of the back pages of the 2021 Stone Lake calendar.

Gary Erickson

Stone Lake Water Clarity Report – 2020

Calm and sunny weather enabled us to complete lake monitoring on eight different days this year. This was the 33rd year data on water clarity, temperature, and phosphorus and chlorophyll levels has been collected on Stone Lake as part of the Citizens Lake Monitoring Program under the direction of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Our 2020 readings confirm that Stone Lake continues to be one of the cleanest and clearest lakes in the State of Wisconsin.

Water clarity is measured by the use of a Secchi * disk – a black and white disc lowered into the water until it is no longer visible. Our highest reading was in early June when we could see down to 30 feet. Our lowest reading of 17 feet was recorded on July 20, just a few days after severe storms passed through the area. Our average summer reading (includes only the months of July and August) was 21 feet – a foot less than the average reading of 22 feet for those months in 2019.



Temperature at the lake surface ranged from a high of 81.3 degrees on July 7 to a low of 64 degrees on September 22. The lowest reading at the lake bottom – 45 feet below the surface – was 47.6 degrees on June 9. The highest was 50.5 degrees on June 26.

Once again, this year, low chlorophyll and phosphorus readings confirmed the clarity of our lake with regard to plant life and the absence of algae blooms. Detailed data for our lake and all lakes in Wisconsin can be found on the DNR website.

* Did you know that the Secchi disk is named after an Italian priest? Father Angelo Secchi invented the measuring device in 1865. He had been ordered by the Papal Navy to take water quality readings in the Mediterranean.

Mary Grau and Allan Rosenwald

A Local Treasure – Our Stone Lake Wetland Park

The six-acre sphagnum moss wetland in the center of the Wetland Park is the filtering pond for our beautiful lake, Stone Lake. For decades, this wetland has caught all of the sediment that would eventually have found its way into the lake. Because of this filtering pond, our lake has taken its place in Wisconsin as one of the clearest bodies of water in the state. The Town of Stone Lake, in creating the Stone Lake Community Wetland Park with the assistance of a State Lake Protection grant, a Knowles-Nelson Stewardship grant and a huge volunteer effort, can now be certain that no development will ever occur on this land which could result in the loss of this important wetland.



Shortly after the purchase, it became evident that buckthorn, an invasive shrub that crowds out native species of woodland trees, shrubs and flowers, had invaded the Wetland Park. For five years, a serious and expensive battle to eradicate buckthorn has been going on. This year, in October of 2020, we can finally report that the park is now in "maintenance mode". This means that all of the large buckthorn trees and shrubs are gone, and by providing foliar spraying of the small emerging plants each fall season, we will be able to maintain a buckthorn free park.

Here is where we need YOU! For approximately one month each fall, from mid-September to mid-October, the Park needs to hire someone to do foliar spraying of small, emerging buckthorn plants. Craig Baldrige has been doing this for many years, and now needs to train someone to take over. The park has all of the necessary equipment, the pay is very good and you can select your own hours or days to work as long as it is during that one-month time period. (This is when the small buckthorn plants are a bright, glossy green and are easily identified, as everything else is turning brown and dying.)



Can any Stone Lake property owner reading this plea give the Park four to five hours on three or four days during that time period next fall to help our beautiful Park stay healthy? If you would like to know more about this project, please call 715-558-4911 or email tncmcd@aol.com and we will give you all details and then contact you again as the time period approaches next fall.

Don't forget the Wetland Park this winter. We are a destination now for snowshoeing groups and a beautiful place to exercise. The park is now getting a lot of traffic during the winter, so Coddington Lane is plowed all winter for easier access. Drop by and see if you can find

the brand-new trail... it is now finished and ready for you to explore.

Carol McDonnell

Purple Loosestrife, 2020

Loosestrife on Stone Lake has been suffering from its own pandemic of many years' duration: shore owners determined to rid our lake of this aquatic invasive species that, left alone, will clog shallow waters with plants that look lovely in bloom, but make swimming and boating difficult.



Loosestrife has suffered from the dual attack of beetles that eat only those plants, most evident on Little Stone, and pulling of the plants on both lakes. Despite not receiving reinforcements from the DNR in recent years, the beetles have been able to over winter and re-emerge each spring for the last few years.

On Big Stone, various residents along the north shore pulled their own plants, while I plucked isolated plants around the lake, especially along the southwest shore.

The last major bastion of purple loosestrife is in the northwest corner of Big Stone. I want to give a special shout out to shore owner Tammy Lindenberg, who helped me dispose of a large number of plants in that area.

No doubt we will see new plants next year, but persistence will eventually pay off.

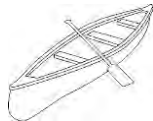
Stephen B. Erickson

2020 (completely unofficial) Stone Lake Boat Census

- Covers Big and Little Stone
- Performed in July during the week, not on the weekend
- Most likely an undercount – I only included boats I could see with the naked eye from our pontoon boat as it made its way around the lake. I didn't use binoculars (thought that might be kind of creepy), didn't get too close to shore (high water) and didn't include boats that I know exist but aren't in the water this year (our sailboat, for example)
- Also did not include paddle boats or paddle boards



Pontoon boats	67
Other motorboats	42
Kayaks	32
Jet skis	22
Canoes	16
Rowboats	10
Sailboats	4



Mary Grau

Summer 2020 at the Boat Landing

A lot happened this year at the Stone Lake boat launch. Read on for all the details.

Decontamination station

The boat decontamination equipment received a major upgrade this year. The wimpy garden sprayer was replaced by a robust battery-powered agricultural sprayer that was easier to use and applied more bleach more quickly. Jim Young deserves a big thank you for donating his time and materials to build the box that houses the new sprayer and keeps it out of the elements. And thank you to David and Susan Turnham for keeping the battery charged and the tanks full all summer.



Washburn County ordinance and state laws require that all persons using the boat launch decontaminate their vessels with the provided equipment, empty their livewells on shore, and not transfer bait between lakes. Our launch monitor reported that most launch users cheerfully complied, but there were also a few boaters who refused.

Clean Boats Clean Waters Grant and launch monitoring

The Town of Stone Lake, in partnership with SOSLA, was the recipient of a grant in 2020 through the Wisconsin Clean Boat Clean Waters program. The grant provided \$4000 for launch monitoring, education, and data collection related to preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS). In return for the grant award, the Town (and SOSLA) was required to provide at least 111 hours of volunteer time or its equivalent in cash.

The grant funds were used to hire Kay Curtin to act as monitor at the launch. Kay was stationed at the launch on weekends all summer, and was responsible for collecting launch usage data, raising awareness of AIS spread, and encouraging the use of the decontamination equipment. In my opinion, Kay was the perfect person for the job, and I'd give her an A+ for her performance. I know that many of you had the pleasure of meeting her at the launch and the summer member meeting.



As I stated earlier, the grant award required 111 volunteer hours. The final tally of hours was 68 administrative hours and 57 hours spent at the launch assisting Kay, for a total of 125 volunteer hours, so we got in under the wire. I expect significantly less administrative time will be spent next year, so volunteer hours at the launch will need to increase to cover the difference. Thank you to Sue, Connie, Dallas, John, David, Susan, Rolf, Stephen, Jan, and Olivia for volunteering at the boat launch. Thank you also to those who contributed funds earmarked for the grant requirement.

The application for a 2021 Clean Boats Clean Waters grant has been submitted to the state by the town board. Assuming it is granted, it will enable us to continue “ramping up” our efforts to keep nasty stuff out of Stone Lake.

Don Bushek

Parting Shots



Social distancing at the June 13, 2020 SOSLA meeting at the Lion's Park. Photo by Rolf Thompson.



July 4 Boat Parade



July 24 New Boat Ramp



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

