

Letter from the President

Greetings Shore Owners!

As I write this, a wonderful summer has passed. Hopefully, you had plenty of opportunities to enjoy it. The good part of what follows summer is fall. Our fall has been outstanding with wonderful color and for the most part great temps to enjoy being outdoors.

We've spoken often about the need to maintain and preserve our beautiful lake. That remains tops on our list. As shore owners, one of our obligations is to be good stewards, both individually and collectively as an association. We keep our focus on preventing invasive species from entering our lake, preventing erosion of our lakeshore, and undesirable plants from growing on our shores.

We have added one more item to the list. As SOSLA, we have taken on the responsibility of keeping a portion of highway 70, west of the railroad bridge, clean from debris. This summer a group of SOSLA volunteers did our first cleanup. We will have two to three opportunities per year to help with cleanup.

I encourage each of you to keep stewardship in all the capacities mentioned a high priority. Please support SOSLA in all of our activities to keep Stone Lake and its surroundings clean and pristine. Thanks to all of you that have participated in helping accomplish this. Enjoy the holidays ahead.

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

SOSLA Upcoming 2023 Meetings, Events, and Important Dates!

- **June 10, 10:00 AM**
Membership Meeting
Location: TBD
- **June 23**
Northern Wisconsin
Lakes Conference
- **July 3, 11:00 AM**
Boat Parade
(Rain date July 4)
- **August 19, 10:00 AM**
Membership Meeting
Location: TBD
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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Water Levels

The water level of Stone Lake continued its drop for the third year in a row. The drop is consistent with the cyclical pattern that has been observed for as long as observations have been made and noted in shore owners’ records over the past 50 years. If the pattern continues as expected, we are in for another five to seven years before the trend reverses. Fortunately for Stone Lake and its shore owners, the lake is deep and can withstand the change. Many of us look forward to some beach for better swimming and sunbathing conditions.

For Little Stone the drop is more problematic if dredging of the channel is required to keep the access open to the big lake. Only time will tell if it reaches that point. Another negative is when more shoreline is exposed there tends to be more opportunity for the invasive purple loosestrife to propagate. Everyone is encouraged to remove the plants or inform our AIS (Aquatic Invasive Species) volunteers to help remove it.

Gary Erickson



Winter Dinner

Save the date! The SOSLA winter dinner will be Saturday, January 14, 2023. Watch your email for venue and dinner details.

Kevin Krueger



Stone Lake Dump Hours

Winter: Saturday Mornings
9AM to 1PM
N5960 Walter Road
Accepted Plastic Recyclables:
#1, 2, 5



End-of-season at the Boat Landing

Let me begin this year's landing news wrap-up by thanking a few people: Gail Emerson for her vigilant intel, Andy for being a stellar monitor, Susan and David Turnham for their care and feeding of the sprayer, Michelle Drabek (Stone Lake's Town Secretary) for her patient help administering the DNR AIS grant, Allan Rosenwald and Mary Grau for their Secchi disk testing, and to the SOSLA members who volunteered their time in various ways to combat AIS at the landing and around the lake.

Stone Lake's application for the 2023 Clean Boats Clean Waters grant has been accepted by the Wisconsin DNR. The details and requirements are the same for 2023 as in past years: \$4,000 is available to us from the grant (which we use to pay our monitor) with \$1,333 and/or the equivalent in in-kind donations required from us.

Here's some sobering news: Eurasian milfoil has been found in Lake Sissabagama, and possibly in Grindstone and Whitefish. They're all pretty close to home! I'm not aware of any new zebra mussel infestations (beyond those known in the McKenzie Lakes chain). I don't think any of us want Stone Lake to be next in the headlines. If you're wondering what you can do to help keep the bad stuff out of Stone Lake, here's some suggestions.

Make donations earmarked to SOSLA's AIS fund. The funds from the grant are only enough to pay for a monitor for 16 hours each weekend from Memorial Day to Labor Day. SOSLA has a fund dedicated to AIS-related use, including payment for additional monitoring beyond what is paid for by the grant. Donations to this fund help extend paid monitoring into the fall when ramp use by lake-hopping fishermen increases.

Volunteer at the landing at times when there is no paid monitor. Weekend evenings, Fridays, and weekday evenings can all be busy times at the landing, and we know that decontamination compliance is much higher when a monitor is present.

Ensure service providers are committed to decontamination. Talk to your dock service provider, boat storage guy, and jet ski rental place about how important keeping AIS out of Stone Lake is to you, their customer. Get their assurance that they will decontaminate their equipment before entering the water. If necessary, remind them that decontamination is required by county ordinances in Washburn and Sawyer counties, and several surrounding counties.

Finally, if you have any ideas or suggestions for improving our AIS activities on the lake, let me or another Board member know.

Don Bushek



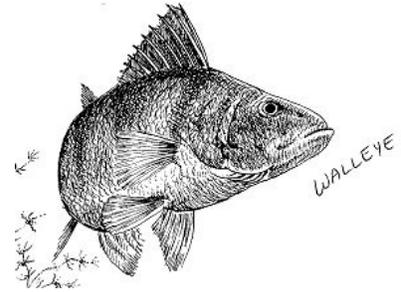
Stone Lake Fisheries Activity

Here is an update on DNR activity from Craig M. Roberts, Fisheries Biologist – Washburn and Burnett Co./Bureau of Fisheries Management, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources:

We are still planning to stock Stone Lake this fall 2022 with 15 large fingerlings/acre or approximately 7,845 walleyes.

Here are the **draft** results of our 2022 fall survey. We got seven young-of-year natural walleye (6.0 – 7.2 inches) for a catch rate of 1.8 fish/mile and one natural one year old walleye at 11.7 inches.

Right now, we are planning to do a gamefish assessment for Stone Lake next spring in 2023. This will cover walleye, smallmouth bass, largemouth bass, and northern pike. We will also look at panfish in the lake. There is a creel survey planned for 2023 as well. This survey will be similar the one that took place in 2010.



Bill Byrkit

Local Broadband Accessibility



Do you have trouble connecting to the internet from your lake home? If you are able to connect, is the connection speed slow

and unreliable? Help may be on the way! Legislation passed by Congress and signed by President Biden includes billions of dollars to improve broadband connectivity in the United States-especially in rural areas like ours. We anticipate that some of these funds will become available for Stone Lake. We are working with the Town of Stone Lake Board to gather information and provide whatever assistance we can in order to help the Township as the application process is finalized.

If you are interested in improving your local broadband accessibility, please consider completing a survey that the Wisconsin Public Service Commission is conducting to assess internet functionality across the state. Data collected through this survey will help determine what locations receive funding for broadband improvement. The survey site location is:

<https://maps.psc.wi.gov/apps/WISER/index.html>

If individuals don't have access to the internet, they can call 608-267-3595 and take the survey over the telephone.

Gary Erickson & Allan Rosenwald

Lake Monitoring Report 2022

In spite of a summer with more frequent windy days than in past years, we were able to conduct monitoring on seven different days in 2022. Optimal weather to test for water clarity is bright sun, calm winds and low boat traffic.

Our findings for water clarity using a Secchi disc demonstrate that our lake continues to be one of the clearest lakes in the northwestern portion of Wisconsin. See the information below that compares our average summer (July-August) Secchi readings this year to 2022 Secchi readings of surrounding lakes near us.

Lake	Secchi Depth
Court Oreilles	13 feet
Long Lake*	6.5 feet -10.25 feet
Sand Lake	13.5 feet
Sissabagama	6.5 feet
Spooner Lake	11.0 feet
Whitefish	17.5 feet
Stone Lake	23 feet
<u>Northwest DNR Lake Region</u>	<u>8.9 feet</u>

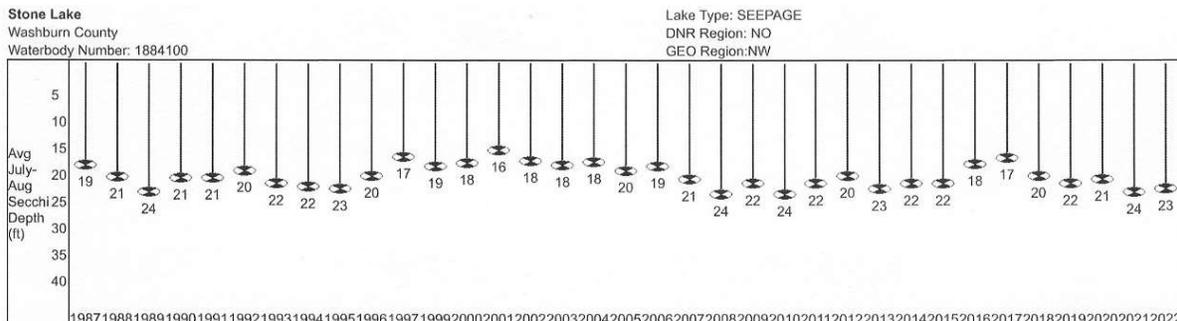
*reflects data from 5 sites on Long Lake

In the graph below you can see the average summer readings for Stone Lake water clarity from 1987 through 2022. The readings continue to be excellent with only minimal changes over a period of 35 years. Interestingly, we believe that there are very few other lakes that have maintained consistent lake monitoring for this many years.

In addition to testing for water clarity, we also collect samples of lake water which are analyzed by the State of Wisconsin Laboratory for phosphorus and chlorophyll content. High levels of both are typically indicators of lakes with significant plant life and lakes that experience algae blooms over the summer months. Not surprising, results of these tests are very low which is consistent with how clear our lake is throughout the summer.

Allan Rosenwald & Mary Grau

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
2019	21.94	20	23.75	4
2020	21.1	17	29	5
2021	23.67	20	26	3
2022	23	20	25	3



Purple Loosestrife Update

It was a big year for purple loosestrife on Big Stone this year. Conversely, Little Stone appeared to have fewer plants than usual! I was delighted to find a few plants on Big Stone with partially eaten leaves and some small beetles on them. Hopefully they are the progeny of loosestrife beetles we got from the DNR years ago that Michael Norris raised in his basement! They were not predicted to be able to survive Stone Lake winters; maybe there is something good to be said for global warming after all!



As usual, the purple loosestrife was concentrated along the north shore of Big Stone, especially in

the northwest corner. I also removed sporadic plants from the southwest corner of the lake. There are loosestrife heroes who need to be honored this year. Doug Baker not only removed a lot from his own property, but also from his neighbor's! When Allan Rosenwald could not pull a large plant from his shoreline, he dug it out with a shovel! The Lindenberg's riprap project completely eradicated a major loosestrife bunker! I am sure there are other heroes I am unaware of.

If the water level continues to recede in Stone Lake next year, as historically expected, there will be more growing opportunities for loosestrife. SOSLA is indebted to its all of its members who have literally taken a solution to loosestrife infestation into their own hands.

Steve Erickson

Please use the enclosed membership application form to pay your 2023 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

2022 (completely unofficial) Stone Lake Boat Census

- Covers Big and Little Stone
- Includes only boats that could be seen from the water
- Performed in July during the week, not on the weekend
- Doesn't include paddle boats or paddle boards



Pontoons	74	(67 in 2020)
Kayaks	52	(32 in 2020)
Motorboats	41	(42 in 2020)
Jet Skis	23	(22 in 2020)
Canoes	15	(16 in 2020)
Rowboats	12	(10 in 2020)
Sailboats	7	(4 in 2020)



Mary Graw

Healthy Lakes & Rivers Shoreland Evaluation Tool

This summer I participated in a Healthy Lakes & Rivers Shoreland Evaluation Tool Webinar. The



Shoreland tool was inspired by Michigan Shoreland Stewards project that sought to educate shore owners about best practices on maintaining healthy

shorelines. I wanted to increase my knowledge about what I do on the land that can have an effect on the water. The survey tool allows property owners to answer questions about the physical nature of their property, from identifying wildlife habitat, to runoff and erosion concerns. The questions are then tabulated into a "scorecard." The resulting score can aid property owners in deciding on projects to promote healthy lake shore.

Anyone belonging to Washburn County Lakes & Rivers Association (WCLRA) may have received emails about Shoreline Restoration Grant opportunities. Using the "Score your Shore" tool is a great way to identify qualifying projects. There is more information about these types of grants on the website, listed below.

The shoreline evaluation is found at <https://healthylakeswi.com> under the Score My Shore tab. Each shore owner can create their own account or choose to answer questions without registering personal information. Surveys from registered accounts are available for view by the website's sponsors and partnership organizations. The website is sponsored in partnership between Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, the Extension Lakes program at UW Stevens Point, and the Wisconsin Lakes nonprofit association. The website states the information is not used for regulatory purposes. The benefit of making an account is that surveys can be repeated to show progression as shore owners complete projects or take steps to maintain healthy shoreland.

SOSLA is one of the partnership organizations listed. When creating an account identify SOSLA as the partnership organization. This allows for the surveys to be grouped under our shore owner association. This is helpful in identifying common concerns and solutions that our neighbors may have undertaken or are working on.

Beth White

Calendar

Two reminders that need to be repeated for picture submittals: please take pictures in landscape format (horizontal rather than vertical) and DO NOT crop your own pictures. Every year photos are unable to be enlarged with adequate quality due to those two issues. Another repeated request is the need for more winter photos. We realize not everyone makes it up during the winter, but for those who do, let's try to double or triple the number of submittals of the past several years. You can also look back at previous years and see what you have in your archives. The calendar committee will do the same.



The calendar committee would also like your thoughts on possibly doing calendars independent of seasons, such as all flowers, all birds or animals, etc. You can submit your ideas to the SOSLA email address stonelakeshoreowners@gmail.com

You can again request extra calendars by emailing Betty Hanson at bahanson35@gmail.com. Since we do not have the cost for extra calendars determined yet, an insert will be included in the mailing or an email to all members will be sent with the details.

The Calendar Committee

SOSLA Highway Cleanup



Six intrepid Stonelakers walked from Sloan to Strabel Road (a little over a mile) on Highway 70 this summer, cleaning up litter as they walked. They were Dallas and Sue Hildebrandt, Susan and David Turnham, Mary Grau and Allan Rosenwald. Bill Byrkit provided and drove a pickup truck. Gail Emerson handed out trash bags and collected them as they were filled. We found the usual paper and cigarette butts and also what looked like the inside of a refrigerator door, a truck tailgate, some chunks of metal and wood. In total, it was enough to fill the back of Bill Byrkit's pickup.

Three workers walked facing traffic and three with traffic. In addition to serving as a place to collect the garbage, Bill driving slowly behind the workers walking with traffic with his hazard lights flashing, served as a welcome safety measure. In total, the cleanup took about an hour and a half. It would go faster if there were enough volunteers to have a crew working from Strabel Road back toward the bridge. Considering there has never been a cleanup on this stretch of road, there was not really much garbage.

SOSLA has applied to be part of the Adopt a Highway program, but as yet we have not been acknowledged with a sign with our name on it. Signs are the State's responsibility. The county administers the program and provide bags for the garbage, caution signs, cones and trash pickup at the end of the cleanup day.



Gail Emerson

Key SOSLA Information on the Web

If you're wondering about the date of the next SOSLA meeting or want to check an article from the newsletter but can't find your paper copy, remember that we have this information available on the web.

SOSLA has a page on the Washburn County Lakes & Rivers Association's (WCLRA's) website at wclra.org. Go to that website and then go to the Member Associations page. Clicking on **Shoreowners of Stone Lake Association** in the list of members will take you to our page. You can also find it by searching for "shoreowners of stone lake wi".



Another reason you might want to check out wclra.org, is to learn more about lakes and lake protection in Washburn County. You'll find WCLRA's most recent newsletter on the Newsletter page of that website.

Cathie Erickson

SOSLA			
FINANCIAL REPORT			
	2021	10/29/22	
	ACTUAL	YTD	
Beginning checking account balance	4,101.71	11,099.54	
Beginning savings account balance	7,453.11	7,460.57	
Beginning Cash Balance	11,554.82	18,560.11	
INCOME			
Membership dues	1,800.00	1,600.00	
Calendar contributions	1,159.88	996.34	
AIS contributions	840.00	1,267.88	
Donations	15.00	120.00	
Legal fund (rezoning issue)	7,315.00	(1,060.00)	
Interest	7.46	6.52	
Total Income	11,137.34	2,930.74	
EXPENDITURES			
AIS Expenses	1,501.04	297.63	
Calendar printing/mailing	1,410.67		
Dues	352.50	262.50	
Meetings/picnic	228.69	100.00	
Newsletters publication/mailing	575.15	226.09	
Office supplies/postage	-	98.00	
Post office box	64.00	70.00	
Total Expenditures	4,132.05	1,054.22	
Increase in cash	7,005.29	1,876.52	
Cash Balance	18,560.11	20,436.63	
Ending checking account balance	11,099.54	12,969.54	
Ending savings account balance	7,460.57	7,467.09	
	18,560.11	20,436.63	
Unspent AIS funds included in the above balance	5,577.71	6,547.96	
Unspent legal funds included in the above balance	7,315.00	6,255.00	

To date we have ten less paid memberships than last year. That amounts to \$200. Calendar contributions will be similar to last after receiving income for the sale of extra copies. AIS contributions income is higher and AIS expenses are lower than last year resulting in \$1,600 more cash flow than last year. Before year-end there will be additional expenses for this newsletter and for calendar printing and mailing. The expected increase in cash from operations should be about \$1,000 for the year.

Doug Baker – Treasurer

SHOREOWNERS OF STONE LAKE ASSOCIATION (SOSLA)

