

Letter from the President

Greetings Shore Owners!

Thanksgiving will soon be upon us. As individuals and families, we have so much to be thankful for as we celebrate this special season. Many times I look at how thankful my family is to have made the best choice when looking for property. To our surprise, the seller actually took our property off the market two weeks before closing. We were absolutely devastated. With a lot of persistence we were able to finalize the sale a year later. The successful result of those persistent efforts has been well worth it.

I have said many times how wonderful our Stone Lake neighbors are. I have so enjoyed meeting all of you and making great friends. Naturally, the lake is the big common denominator that brings us all together. I am very thankful for that. A big thanks goes out to all of you who have contributed volunteer hours, ideas and finances in the effort keep invasive species out of Stone Lake.

I have also enjoyed the small town atmosphere of Stone Lake. Nothing beats sharing a beer, glass of wine, or a coffee with you at the local establishments. We are fortunate to have places in town to pick up needed items. We also have a scenic wetlands nature walk, museum, annual festival and much more to enhance our time in Stone Lake. I appreciate all of these opportunities afforded to us. Let's not take them for granted. I'm sure you could add to the list of all that you are thankful for in Stone Lake.

Wishing you and your family blessings and thanks for being part of the community we share.

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

SOSLA Upcoming 2025 Meetings, Events, and Important Dates!

- **May 17, 10:00 AM - noon**
Public Meeting regarding
Aquatic Plant Management
Location: Fire Hall
- **June 21, 10:00 AM**
Membership Meeting
Location: Lion's Park
- **July 4, 11:00 AM**
Boat Parade
(Rain date July 5)
- **August 16, 10:00 AM**
Membership Meeting
Location: Lion's Park
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.
715-865-6015

SOSLA OFFICERS AND BOARD

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**Aquatic Plant Management Plan
Public Meeting**

May 17, 10:00 AM – noon
Stone Lake Fire Hall
Sarah Hatleli, APHS

Sara Hatleli is a biologist with Aquatic Plant and Habitat Services (APHS) LLC. APHS is an environmental consulting business that specializes in lake surveys (aquatic plants, aquatic habitats, water quality, and invasive species), aquatic plant management plans, and grant writing. Having an Aquatic Plant Management Plan approved by the DNR is a requirement for getting an AIS Control Grant to help fund our EWM control in the future. A public meeting is required for the plan's approval. The public is encouraged to attend.

**Update from the SOSLA
AIS Fundraising Committee**

SOSLA has been able to aggressively attack Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) the past year because of the generosity of many SOSLA members and others. In all, \$57,095 has been pledged or given from 72 property owners (about 67% of us). In addition, we are grateful for the support from the Town of Stone Lake, Cranberry Festival, Advance Printing, Whistle Punk, Cut in Stone, CJ Landscaping and Rollingwood Nursery. Our experience with EWM the past year has led us to conclude that management of this Aquatic Invasive Species will require diligent monitoring, annual abatement actions, and ongoing expenses to keep Stone Lake a quality resource for all of us.

Thank you everyone who has contributed to this effort so far!

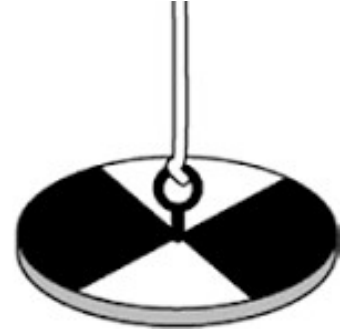
Rolf Thompson
Chair

SOSLA AIS Fundraising Committee

Secchi / Chemical Testing Summary -Fall 2024

High winds and considerable rainfall during the early half of the 2024 summer reduced the number of testing days we were able to complete. However when conditions improved, our water clarity readings continued to be excellent. Our maximum depth recorded was 28 feet compared to 27 feet in 2023.

This year we recorded a first with our test samples for phosphorus and chlorophyll. Our early September samples which were sent by priority mail to the state lab in Madison are still in transit as of October 21 according to the official US Postal Service website. Even if the package eventually finds its way to the lab (we suspect it actually was delivered to a dumpster somewhere) we are confident that the preservatives that we use each time we mail our findings will have expired.



Luckily we had two earlier test results this year and they showed very low levels of chlorophyll and phosphorus, consistent with past years.

Mary Grau and Allan Rosenwald



Craig Roberts, Fisheries Biologist for Washburn and Burnett Counties, Wisconsin DNR was a guest presenter at our August 17th SOSLA meeting. He provided details about the Stone Lake 2023 Creel Survey. This presentation is available online at: <https://wclra.org/shoreowners-of-stone-lake-association/> Scroll down to the SOSLA News and Documents section and select Stone Lake Comprehensive Fisheries Survey 2023 — Report by Craig Roberts WDNR.

Recent Stone Lake activity as reported by Craig Roberts includes:
Electro fishing on September 9, 2024 checked for natural reproduction. Three young-of-year walleye and three one-year old walleye were captured. These fish should all be fish that were naturally produced in the lake. In mid-October 4,899 large fingerling walleye (10/acre) were stocked.

Bill Byrkit

Winter Dinner & Social



SOSLA will be holding its annual winter dinner
Saturday, January 11 at Round Man Brewing in Spooner
Happy hour is at 4:30 with dinner at 5:30
Menu choices and a formal invitation will be sent out later



Kevin Krueger

Stone Lake July 4 Boat Parade

Fun as always and all are welcome! Participating boats range from undecorated, to patriotic decor, to creative theme boats that always delight :)

This year's theme boats included Barbie, "Stone in love", construction zone, undersea/coral, "Sweets and Treats", and a boat parade first: a two-boat entry featuring Star Wars – both the Light Side and Dark Side.

Join us in thanking and patronizing the local businesses that supported our parade this year: Farm Boyz, Last Frontier, Whistle Punk and Dollar General.

Thanks go out to all participants: boat-decorators, boat-riders, shoreline parade-watchers, and local prize donors. Looking forward to seeing you all next year!



*Rita Ryan, Susan Boyce and Jan Jacobson
SOSLA Boat Parade Crew*

Loose Stories about Purple Loosestrife



Fortunately, disturbing rumors that Lake Avery was "loaded" with purple loosestrife this past spring proved unfounded. The well-meaning people who removed multiple bags of plants from Lake Avery pulled a look alike!

The plants they removed had flowers that were more pink than purple and stems that were round rather than square. I did a thorough inventory of Lake Avery, finding not a single purple loosestrife plant!

Elsewhere on the lakes, purple loosestrife in Big Stone was similar to last year in amount and locations, predominantly the northwest corner of the lake. I removed all of that. I did an inventory of

Loosestrife on Little Stone, finding a few plants on the west shore and a lot at the north end, similar to the distribution of Eurasian Milfoil. Now that I am retired, I will have more time to work on loosestrife eradication in Little Stone. I will stay below the high water mark, or in other words, on public property, even though the receding lake levels will make some this dry land. If I need to go above the high water mark, I will contact the property owners for their permission. As always, I would much rather have shore owners police their own property, but I realize not all of us have the time or physical ability to do so.

Stephen B. Erickson

Water Levels

The lake level continues to drop, consistent with past cycles. This year the drop was almost exactly one foot. Watch for a 20 year graph of water levels on the back of the 2025 calendar. If past history is repeated, you can try to visualize how much more the level may drop. For more recent owners, don't panic. The water level fluctuations are not unusual and lifelong residents have observed this cycle for their entire life.

Gary Erickson

Shore Owners of Stone Lake Association Meeting Minutes – August 17, 2024

President John Ryan called the meeting to order at the Lion's Park with 30 members present

- Introduction and welcome were made for first time attendees
- Update on EWM Cathie-Purchased more buoys and they have been placed. Matt Berg conducted Point Intercept Plant Survey. We had one day of DASH July 8th and four more days August 5-8th. Sarah Hatleli will be conducting a public meeting possibly this fall for our Aquatic Plant Management Plan.
- Guest Speaker Craig Roberts with WIDNR, fish biologist. Craig spoke on the 2023 Stone Lake Comprehensive Fisheries Survey. He explained sampling they did, stocking history of Stone Lake and its results. Also he compared the 2023 Creel Survey with 2010. Fishing pressure is low with walleye and small mouth bass being most pursued. Management recommendation were to continue stocking of walleye, consider protected slot for smallmouth bass, and promote fish habitat with things such as fish sticks.
- Treasurer's report was given. Current Cash 75,000 including CD. CD renewed, \$700 earned in interest to date on CD. AIS unspent \$60,000 Legal unspent \$4,800. Remaining expense for year to come Calendar and last newsletter.
- Membership report given by Dar. Current paid 83
- AIS/Boat Landing-Discussion of possible camera at landing helping enforce decontamination station
- Steve E spoke on Purple Loosestrife. Still here, new growth found in Avery Pond. Has seen some beetle activity.
- Hwy 70 clean up. Need to do fall clean up
- 4th of July boat parade went well good amount of participation. Jan Erickson, Rita Ryan and Susan Boyce organized event.
- Approval of previous minutes.
- Adjourned.
- Photos for Calendar were voted on, picnic and golf scramble followed

Melissa Sunderlund
SOSLA Secretary

Calendar



The calendar committee has been discussing ways to enhance the calendar. This past year we suggested that pictures could be taken at points farther from the lake itself, but still consistent with the lake and area experience. Such options could include pictures from area festivals and events such as the LCO Pow Wow, the Birkie, or Spooner Rodeo; nature photos from area hiking trails such as the Nordic Woods skiing/hiking trails; the northern lights or wildlife from any nearby viewing areas. We still want lake scenery or activity pictures exclusive to Stone Lake.

In the future, we would also like to consider a calendar not directly related to the seasons. We may want to try a theme, such as birds, flowers, animals, a combination of them under 'Wildlife', or simply a collage of several topics. If you have an opinion, we would appreciate your thoughts by passing them on to a committee member. Contact information for the members on the calendar committee will be listed on the back page of the calendar. In the meantime, take a good variety of pictures.

Continued on next page...

Calendar - continued

Speaking of the back page, some members have commented that they did not know there was information on the back page of the calendar. It can be easily missed if you never look there. We use it to inform the members on issues such as comparisons to other lakes in the area, lake level fluctuations over time, water quality data, contact information, and so on. If you haven't looked at it before, check back issues if you have saved any and remember to look this year. If you have suggestions on what to include on the back page we would appreciate those thoughts also. Submit suggestions to the Calendar Committee members: Jan Jacobson Erickson (ericksonsjms@aol.com), Mary Grau (marygrau49@gmail.com), Betty Hanson (bahanson35@gmail.com), and Gary Erickson (garyjohnerickson@aol.com).

The Calendar Committee

Regulation of Enhanced Wakes

There has been considerable activity across Wisconsin this summer with the goal of getting appropriate regulation to reduce environmental and safety impacts of enhanced wakes. Meanwhile wake boats are becoming more powerful and more common.

A new, rapidly growing coalition focused on protecting Wisconsin's lakes was announced in August by five statewide organizations. The founding members of the coalition are the Wisconsin Lakes Association, Wisconsin Wildlife Federation, Lakes At Stake Wisconsin, Last Wilderness Alliance, and Wisconsin's Green Fire. They have since been joined by additional water-protection organizations including the Washburn County Lakes & Rivers Association (WCLRA), anglers, advocates for local control, lake property landowners, sailors, and people concerned with spreading invasive species in ballast water.

The coalition's principles include:

- **700 ft. from shore** - Wake-enhanced boating activities should occur at least 700' from any shoreline.
- **30-ft. depth** – Wake-enhanced boating activities should occur in water depths of no less than 30'.
- **Prevent the transfer of invasive species in ballast tanks** - Boats moving from lake to lake must have proof of decontaminated ballast tanks before entering lakes.
- **Local control** – Local municipalities' existing right to enact and maintain local ordinances that are more restrictive than these state minimums shall be preserved.



One coalition member, the Last Wilderness Alliance (LWA), is assisting Wisconsin towns and their lake organizations with the process of developing local ordinances to regulate enhanced wakes. LWA has developed a standard template that local governments can use to reduce the work involved. Having uniform ordinances around the state avoids the confusion that could be caused by implementation of ordinances with vastly different language. Several towns and lake organizations in Washburn Co. have received assistance from LWA volunteers.

State legislators are also discussing the impacts of enhanced wakes and considering what type of regulations would be most appropriate and effective. It would not be surprising to see new legislation proposed in 2025. But at this time nobody knows what will be proposed or the likelihood of passage.

Cathie Erickson

Treasurer's Report

SOSLA FINANCIAL REPORT			
	2023	10/31/24	
	ACTUAL	YTD	
Beginning checking account balance	11,501.47	9,210.83	
Beginning savings/CD balance	7,470.85	47,493.36	
Beginning Cash Balance	18,972.32	56,704.19	
INCOME			
Membership dues	2,710.00	1,120.00	
Calendar contributions	1,660.00	612.00	
AIS contributions	2,257.00	345.00	
AIS Management Fund donations	37,200.00	18,570.00	
Donations	373.69		
Legal fund (rezoning issue)	(1,415.70)		
Interest	22.51	2,118.55	
Total Income	42,807.50	22,765.55	
EXPENDITURES			
AIS Expenses	1,831.93	244.08	
Calendar printing/mailing	1,912.03		
Dues/fees	365.00	252.50	
Meetings/picnic	151.06	-	
Newsletters publication/mailing	696.96	369.10	
Office supplies/postage	36.65		
Post office box	82.00	84.00	
Total Expenditures	5,075.63	949.68	
Increase in cash	37,731.87	21,815.87	
Cash Balance	56,704.19	78,520.06	
Ending checking account balance	9,210.83	11,405.52	
Ending savings/CD balance	47,493.36	67,114.54	
Ending Cash Balance	56,704.19	78,520.06	
Unspent AIS funds included in the above balance	44,223.78	62,549.70	
Unspent legal funds included in the above balance	4,839.30	4,839.30	

Doug Baker - Treasurer

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

SHOREOWNERS OF STONE LAKE ASSOCIATION (SOSLA)

