



SWAN LAKE NEWS

Swan Lake Association, Inc. Newsletter

November, 2021

Annual Meeting of Members of Swan Lake Association, Inc.

The Annual Meeting of the Swan Lake Association, Inc. was held on September 8, 2021 in the Bidwell Room of the Portage Public Library.

President, Jim Watson, talked about the ongoing project of running up and down the Fox River with the mud motor to lay down the weeds that grow in the river. (This topic is covered in depth in Watson Watch.)

Blank Road Issue - Irma Brockley, who lives on Swan Lake with a driveway that is accessed by Blank Road near the end of the dead end road, spoke about problems. People with boats miss the sign directing them to the DNR boat landing and end up having a hard time turning around at the end of Blank Road. Also, on warm summer days people will access Swan Lake at the end of Blank Road by parking alongside the road and swimming/partying there. Driveways have been blocked by cars and garbage is often left in the area. (Contacting "authorities" to do something about these issues is complicated because Blank Rd. is the dividing line between two townships: Pacific and Wyocena.)

The "big waves" that impact the Saddle Ridge Marina and all lakefront properties were discussed. Mooring buoys can be placed 200 feet from the shore. Jim Watson said to talk to the people making big wakes/waves. Also, if they cause trouble, talk to authorities (DNR Warden). If they are ticketed, they will learn to be aware of big wake problems.

DNR Warden, Paul Nadolski, talked. He explained the *Slow No Wake procedure*. If there are violators that need to be reported to the DNR, the boat registration numbers are needed.

Stadium Lights on boats with people spearfishing at night who come right up to the shoreline annoy lake front property owners. Jim Watson has talked to people doing this telling them to use the many areas of Swan Lake that have no homes/cottages along the shoreline.

Oak Island at Saddle Ridge is in the process of "being developed." Paul Nadolski said if there are environmental issues that might be of concern, take pictures of things that might need addressing and contact the DNR.

Election of Directors - Jim Watson (N), Mike Meikle (S) and Kory McCarthy (S) were elected for 3-year terms.

FINANCIAL REPORT RECAP

Assets as of beginning of period \$25,422.25

Income Current year:

Dues, donations: \$2,702.00

Interest income: \$40.12

Total Income: \$2,742.12

Expense Recap:

Boat, Motor, Trailer & Registration: \$1,059.78

Donation: \$90.00

Postage (Newsletter): \$388.54

Printing (Newsletter): \$481.34

Rental (PO Box): \$92.00

Website: \$275.73

Total Expenses: (\$2,387.39)

Assets as of the end of period: \$25,776.98

SADDLE RIDGE GOLF CLUB and RENDEZVOUS AT SADDLE RIDGE

By Margie Druce

It's official, David and Margie Druce are retiring. We have SOLD the Saddle Ridge Golf Course and Rendezvous Restaurant. Rusty Grimm is the new owner and will continue all the fun we have. We hope you give him all the love and support you have given us. Use up your Saddle Ridge Bucks before the end of November as well as Rendezvous gift cards. Thank you!

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Vicki Vogts

The leaves are turning red, gold and yellow which signals the end to another season of boating, fishing and just enjoying Swan Lake. The start of the ice fishing season will be coming soon. Since it's the time of year that we think about what we're thankful for, I would like to thank those residents and people who maintain our beautiful lake.

First, I would like to thank Jim Watson, our outgoing president, for his knowledge and hard work both on the board and maintaining the outgoing water flowage. We were fortunate this summer to only have a "no wake" order for about 24 hours! Reason - Jim and his crew navigate the Fox River with a small boat to knock down the weeds to keep the water flowing especially after heavy rain. We all get to enjoy the benefits of that work.

We also were fortunate that the Wisconsin DNR temporarily fixed the concrete ramp at the south shore public boat landing--a permanent repair will happen late this fall or early next spring. This should eliminate vehicle tires driving off the side of the ramp while unloading and loading boats.

Speaking of the south shore landing, thank you to Jill Pogorelec for updating the Swan Lake Association

information sign at the landing. Some of the information posted concerns water safety, suggested direction of driving boats on the lake (counterclockwise), no wake notices, location of fish cribs, etc. Another information sign will be erected at the Saddle Ridge Marina in the near future. Jill's time on the board has come to an end so thanks for all you have done for us.

Another way to disburse information in an even more timely and efficient way is to have all SLA members email addresses. Mailing out notices, looking on our website, and posting signs doesn't always get the information out timely. When renewing your annual membership, please provide an email address that you use frequently so we can contact you. Another reason for providing your email address would be to send you the periodic newsletter to save resources, costs, and time of our newsletter committee. You could email the SLA with your email address right now at swanlakeassanportage@gmail.com. You can email me or any SLA board member at any time with questions, concerns or comments - we want to hear from you!!!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING NEWS

The SLA Board of Directors met on September 7, 2021 and discussed the following:

Insurance for the boat running down weeds in the Fox River: The boat is in Jim Watson's name and he has insurance. Sean Malone, insurance agent, said the people doing this should be covered by their own individual insurance policies.

SLA Buoys: There are 5 buoys left and would be available for anyone wanting to mark the distance from shore and/or piers that boaters should know.

Dusk to dawn lighting: Some residents prefer to see the "night sky." These lights become more intrusive as they reflect over the water and ice/snow.

Blank Rd. concerns: Signage is present directing boaters to the DNR Public Landing. The trash concern is complicated because Blank Rd. involves two townships: Pacific and Wycena.

Swan Lake Association Officers: Officers elected at this meeting and other board members are listed on the last page.

Jon boat and trailer: This came with the mud motor and will be sold.

PORTAGE COUNTRY CLUB

By Mark Braska, PGA Professional

The Portage Country Club experienced another very good year in 2021. The golf course was in excellent condition and the golfers appreciated that and responded by coming out in record numbers. A big thank you to Adam Dempsey and his crew.

We are continuing to improve hole #2 this year by adding 5 pine trees along the east side of the fairway. Also, on that hole we are currently putting in large brick steps for both of the teeing areas. We continued to add more maple trees between #12 and #13 as well as on the right side of the fairway on #15. An aspen tree was added on #4.

Our new membership program is continuing which allows discounted rates for 3 years to new members. If you would like more information on this or outings etc. please contact Mark Braska at 608-335-2142. The Northshore Restaurant is closed for the season and will open in the spring.

Hope everyone has an enjoyable and safe winter and we look forward to seeing you all in the spring!

NEW BOARD MEMBER - Kory McCarthy

My name is Kory McCarthy and we purchased a home on Swan Lake in the summer of 2020. My wife Lindsay (Amend) McCarthy, "Sconnie" the Vizsla and I currently reside in Madison, WI but we have been spending increasingly more time on the south shore of Swan Lake over the last year.

I am originally from Baraboo and Lindsay grew up on Swan Cove Lane just down the road from our current lakeside home. She speaks fondly of skiing on the lake, collecting bugs and playing in the fields with the neighbor kids back in the 80's and early 90's. When we married in 2009, we rented on Swan Lake off of Blank Road for two years. The only things we collected during those years were miscellaneous flip flops, sunglasses and can koozies. I'm certain our fellow lake dwellers can relate. After 10 years away, we realized the amazing opportunity we were

given to be on the lake as a young couple. We are excited to build on those memories now.

My other interests include cheering on the Badgers and Packers, cooking and entertaining, learning and leading at work. Since graduation from college, I've worked in corporate finance and Lindsay has worked in clinical research administration. We both recently completed Masters degrees through the University of Illinois Urbana - Champaign. Swan Lake holds a special place in my heart. I am motivated to continue the mission of the Swan Lake Association: to protect our water quality, our fishery, our shorelines and to promote fun and safe recreation on Swan. I look forward to seeing and meeting you on the lake!!

THIS N' THAT

By Dorothy Rebholz

Soon we'll be looking for ice to form on the lake--it was a good summer and now we wait for the winter activities. The first ice fishing shanty I usually see belongs to Jim Watson. He and all "his kids" really enjoy the lake all year long.

Bob Barth says it was mostly quiet on his east end of the lake this year. The marsh grasses are laying low this fall and duck hunting has been slow.

Thinking ahead to the holidays, keep in mind the light display in Chandler Park in Pardeeville which is beautiful and creative. I talked to Phil from the Village Administration for information. About 15 organizations and numerous people are involved with setting up the light displays. There will be illuminated nights from Thanksgiving through New Years. Santa will make a visit on weekends, Friday, Saturday and Sunday if COVID issues are resolved. You can get more information from their Facebook page found at: Chandler Park Holiday Lights. A ride through Chandler Park at night is a great way to celebrate the holidays!

DUES/MEMBERSHIP for SLA, INC.

Swan Lake Association, Inc. dues are \$10.00 for the fiscal year, July through June. The date on your mailing label indicates the year in which dues have last been paid. Checks payable to "Swan Lake Association, Inc." may be mailed to SLA, Inc., PO Box 182, Portage, WI 53901. This newsletter is periodically sent to property owners in the Swan Lake area and to people who rent boat slips at Saddle Ridge and the Portage Country Club who are currently non-members. There are two classes of membership: (1) Individual, consisting of either an individual or entity; and (2) Joint, consisting of a husband and wife, family, or joint owners of a single parcel of real estate. Each individual or joint membership shall have one vote. Members shall designate affiliation with either the north or south side of Swan Lake.

SWAN LAKE MEMBERS EMAIL ADDRESSES

The next time you pay your SLA dues, please include an email address. The Association would like to be able to send announcements about current lake issues in a timely manner. Also, please indicate if you would like to receive the Swan Lake News newsletter via email. You can also email that information to: swanlakeassanportage@gmail.com

WATSON WATCH

by Jim Watson, Swan Lake Association President

First of all, many thanks to the Saddle Ridge Marina for letting us tie our river boat at their dock. This allowed easy access for all the volunteers and a very short ride to the Fox River.

Our group of volunteer boat drivers, Fred Baewer of Saddle Ridge, Randy Rhode from the north shore, Bob Barth from the south shore, Jeff and Sawyer Marcouiller and Abe Palmbach from Skunk Island and myself took turns driving the old red boat with the long tail motor two miles down the Fox River and back. We did this nearly EVERY DAY during the aquatic plant growing season which, due to sunny, hot weather, lasted into mid September, a month longer than usual. Most days it was multiple trips or going back and forth over the thickerweed choked stretches. We have more volunteers who want to help. We need to get them to ride along a couple times to learn the route and avoid some obstacles.

In April the lake and river were very low as it is now in October. There were no plants growing in the river bed. As the water warmed in May with very hot and sunny days, the weeds were growing like crazy. Even after several weeks of zero rainfall the lake began rising an inch per day by June. By driving relatively slowly to create as big a wake as possible and going back and forth knocking over the weeds, after four days a path was open and water was again moving. The lake level was dropping an inch per day.

This process is much like driving an ATV across a field of tall grass mashing the grass to the ground. It will continue to grow and reach upwards toward the sun again. If you drive over the grass every day, you will maintain a clear pathway. If we stop running the river for even a day, the plants spring back up and continue to grow inches per day.

This was and continues to be a severe drought year in southern Wisconsin. Wouldn't you think our lake would be low the whole season? It takes very little rainfall to have a big effect on Swan Lake. I kept track of lake level daily and most every rainfall in my gauge as well as the National Weather Service radar estimate maps. Most rains were less than an inch. A few were an inch or two. They were no big deal concerning lake level.

However, a 3 inch rain caused a 9 inch rise in the lake. A 4 inch rain caused a 13 inch rise! Before the 4 inch rain and the 13 inch rise, the lake had been 12 inches below the Slow No Wake mark. It crept over by one inch. Pardeeville was already lowering their spill gates so we knew Swan

Lake would be going back down in two days. By the time Columbia County made the Slow No Wake order official and we got the signs put up, the order was lifted and signs were taken down the next day.

With a clear path the water can drain away fairly quickly so high water Slow No Wake events won't last weeks and weeks as in past years. Sometimes it was even multiple times per season resulting in half the summer passing under a Slow No Wake order. If we ever get back to our normal average annual rainfall amounts spread over the entire year avoiding these huge deluges, we should avoid some Slow No Wake orders or at least keep them short.

FISHING ANYONE???? I don't go much lately. I often hear those who do put in a lot of time and are mostly disappointed. The walleye bite is almost nonexistent. The largemouth bass are very plentiful so they are the best thing going in the game fish department. There will be a stray northern caught now and then. If you want a fight, the catfish are always willing. The kids and I had a lot of fun in early summer catching bluegills. In the clear water we could watch them in the shallows racing to our worm baited hooks.

The yellow bass (stripers) have been running a bit on the smaller side the last few years. There are just too many in the lake! But they sure put up a fight on an ultralight. Nearly every evening in July and half of August during the last hour of fading sunlight, they were in the shallows within range of the docks. At times 6 to 12 of them would be chasing and nipping our lures with every cast. Many evenings I sat with needle nosed pliers in hand to unhook them one after another. There would be 3 or 4 kids (some "kids" in their 20's, 30's 40's and 50's) swinging flopping fish at me one after another. With 3 fish flopping at my feet, I'd get one unhooked and before I would get the second unhooked, the first kid was swinging another one at me. That's the way I like to fish!!!!!!

With very few biting bugs most of the year, this has been the best, longest hot, sunny, summer ever! It started in April, September was just another month of August and the first two weeks of October have been like July. Now here it is October 18th--it was 36 degrees at sunrise and the furnace was running. Since we lost another valuable shade tree last year in August and with the low sun angle this time of year beaming into our big south facing windows, I'll likely have the air conditioner on before supper!

THANK YOU!!!!!!



Jill Pogorelec for maintaining the SLA Sign Board at the DNR Public Boat Landing on the south shore. Great Job!!!

WETLANDS IMPROVE WATER QUALITY

Info from Wisconsin Wetlands Association

Healthy wetlands slow down and filter runoff from storms and snowmelt, sediment, and other pollutants to settle out before reaching our lakes, river, streams and drinking water aquifers. Wetlands also have the ability to absorb and transform or metabolize nutrients and contaminants. Because water quality improves as wetland acreage increases in the watershed, and property values increase as water quality improves, preserving wetlands can help increase your community's tax base.

(Editor's note: Swan Lake is fortunate in many ways to be surrounded by healthy wetlands.)



Mark and Jane Showers for making and recently erecting two new signs with names of property owners on the north side of Swan Lake.