

SWAN LAKE NEWS

Swan Lake Association c. Newsletter

June, 2022

Annual Meeting of Members of Swan Lake Association, Inc.

The Annual Meeting of the members of Swan Lake Association, Inc. will be held:

Wednesday, September 7, 2022 - 6:30 pm

Portage Public Library Bidwell Meeting Room

253 W. Edgewater St., Portage Wisconsin

For the following purposes:

1. To read and approve the minutes of the last Annual Meeting;
2. To present reports of officers and committees;
3. To elect two directors of the Board of Directors- one with affiliation to the South, one with affiliation to the North; The terms of Michelle Olson (S) and Dorothy Rebholz (N) are expiring.
4. To transact unfinished business and new business as may properly come before the meeting. A nominating chairperson has been named to search for and present names of persons interested in running for the two positions open in 2022 for the Board of Directors. Anyone interested in one of these three-year terms, please contact Kory McCarthy at 608-234-2957.

THOUGHTS FROM PRESIDENT VICKI VOGTS

Warm weather has finally arrived just in time for the first day of summer!!! Sure took its sweet time this spring but what a beautiful weekend we had to celebrate Father's Day. The one good thing about the cooler spring was the lengthy visit we had of white pelicans - they were so fun to watch fly and land on Swan Lake for over three weeks!

If you were out recently, you saw the damages that occurred during the recent storms with excess rain and high winds - downed branches and trees, tipped shore stations and high water. We were very close to a no wake order but, thanks to Jim Watson's efforts on the Fox River, the water level went down. Many shoreline owners took the decking out of their piers to avoid the sections from floating away. With that in mind, slow down - it will help keep our shoreline from eroding and causing damage to boats tied up to piers. Enjoy the scenery of Swan Lake - take it in!

With summer comes heavier boat traffic. Remember, it is suggested by the Swan Lake Association that boats and watercraft drive counter clockwise around the lake. Some boaters have been seen driving the other way (clockwise) by the Saddle Ridge Marina. This is especially dangerous because boaters from the marina are asked to leave the area driving counter clockwise. Be a good neighbor by being respectful to your fellow boaters so we can all enjoy the lake we all love!

Fourth of July will be here before you know it. Be sure to check out fireworks events around Swan Lake and Portage area - one event being near the Northshore Restaurant at dusk on Saturday, July 2. Have a safe and fun 4th of July holiday with friends and family!!!

NEWSLETTER - Regular Mail or Email

Are you interested in receiving your SLA Newsletter via Email? If so, indicate your preference when you pay your dues or give the info to Dorothy Rebholz via email: wdrebholz@gmail.com or phone: 608-742-4589.

WATSON WATCH

by Jim Watson, Swan Lake Association President

Many people were asking this spring, "Why is the lake so low." We just had one of the driest years in Wisconsin history with 2021 leaving us at a deficit of over 17 inches of precipitation. It was worse in some locations. The winter was cold and dry with only a few inches of snow all winter. That led to a lake with up to 18 inches of clear, smooth ice on it. That was much like we usually had a long time ago.

The early spring was still dry—I had to water the grass and garden every few days until the end of May. It was often cloudy and cool but there was only a drizzle at times.

Then we got a few showers to soak the surface followed by heavier rains June 5, 6, 7 and 8 with a total of 4 inches. The lake is not low now! By Sunday, June 12th, the runoff had the lake within $\frac{3}{4}$ inch of being under Slow-No-Wake. Then Pardeeville returned their dam gates to minimum. With very few weeds down the Fox River caused by cool weather slowing the growth, the water started dropping.

As soon as the water was deep enough to float the boat, our volunteers were running the boat down and up the Fox River daily to keep the weeds down. It has been hot and sunny so now the weeds will grow but we'll keep them knocked down.

Then on June 15th the big storm hit. It caused a lot of damage along the north shore. It flipped boats and hoists, tree limbs went through roofs, roofs were blown off and roads were blocked with a downed tree that also caused a power outage.. Also, 2 inches of rain fell so we watched to see if the rising lake met the Slow No Wake level. Hopefully the high water will not last long with the river clear of obstructions.

Ice fishing last winter was not very productive again. We caught only a few panfish here and there. Some catfish caught at night are fun. We seldom have had much luck on gamefish with tip-ups in recent years.

The ice was great for travel and ice skating. An unexpected violent "snow squall" with over 50 mile per hour winds sent our 6 x 12 foot ice shanty

careening down the lake for $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile. It stopped instantly when it hit a frozen snowdrift near shore and exploded! My granddaughter helped build it with pink window trim. She says she'll help rebuild it but wants to paint the whole thing pink!!!

Other than a quick flash of July heat in May the cool, cloudy weather just wouldn't let up. That set back the fish spawning activity and made it tough to catch much except the yellow bass (stripers). They are everywhere and are very aggressive. They are also experts at stealing your worms, minnows and leeches before other fish get a chance to bite.

It finally warmed up the second week in June and the water turned green and cloudy. The bluegills should be on spawning beds but you can't see them. The water temperature is in the upper 70's so carp and black buffalo fish are roiling along flooded marsh grass and down the river.

We were entertained for many weeks this spring after the ice went out. Hundreds of huge white pelicans arrived and covered Park Lake and Spring Lake in Pardeeville along with Lake Mason. Puckaway and Swan Lake. There were as many as 120 on Swan Lake at a time along with many loons, cormorants and diving fish ducks. Because the lakes to the north were still covered with ice, the migrations stalled here where the fishing was good for them. Each loon and other diving birds were escorted by pelicans who can't dive deep to catch fish. So the pelicans followed close behind the divers, looking around until the diver came up with a fish. Then the big white pelican pounced hoping to steal a meal!

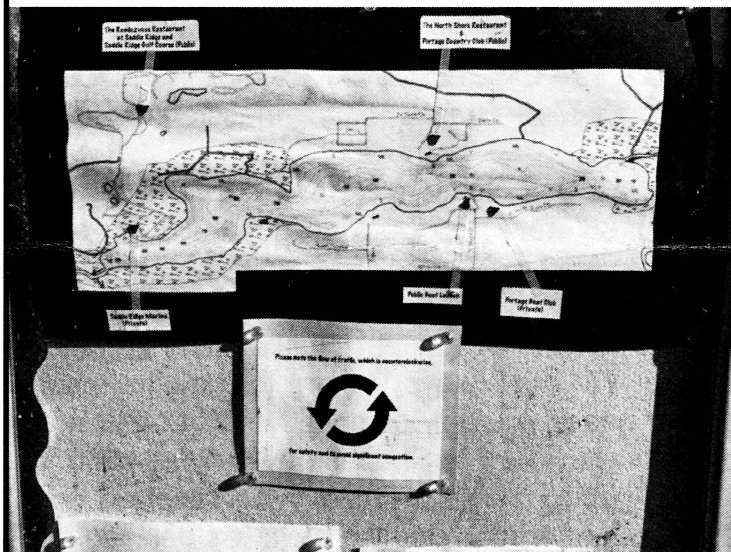
The eagle nest at the east end of Swan Lake has been in use since late February. The nest down the Fox River across from the Clemmon's cabin had a pair still sitting and guarding the nest the last week of May. A pair of ospreys kept harassing them by diving at them and pestering them. Usually it is eagles pestering osprey nests or stealing the osprey's fish. It seems the eagles were driven off this nest and they abandoned it. Now the osprey pair is perched in that nest tree or the one next to it every day.

JUNE 15TH STORM

By Dorothy Rebholz

The area along the north shore of Swan Lake was especially affected by the vicious storm that occurred on June 15th. A tree on the Garvin property fell and left a transformer dangling over 1st St. by Freye's. Needless to say the power went out to all of Lakeside Park east of No. Shore Dr. and also on the lakefront all the way to the end of Skunk Island. It was out from 6 pm Wednesday to 2 pm on Thursday. Numerous trees went down or were damaged enough they had to be taken down. The Portage Country Club had quite a few trees impacted also. The new house owned by Darin and Crystal Gardner on the former PCC Hole #3 had a portion of their roof blown off with shingles ending up on the PCC fairways. It's a week later and the chain saws are still buzzing on the northshore!

SIGNS



A big thank you to Jill Pogorelec for maintaining the SLA sign board at the DNR Public Boat Landing. A sign is also planned for the Saddle Ridge Marina that will include Marina information as well as information from the Swan Lake Association.

SADDLE RIDGE GOLF CLUB

By Rusty Grimm

Summer is here and golf is in full swing at Saddle Ridge! We are open for golf, lunch and dinner 7 days a week. To book tee times call the Clubhouse at 608-742-2181. Visit our website: www.saddleridgegolfcourse.com for current events. Our clubhouse is available for private parties, reunions and other special events. We look forward to seeing you soon!

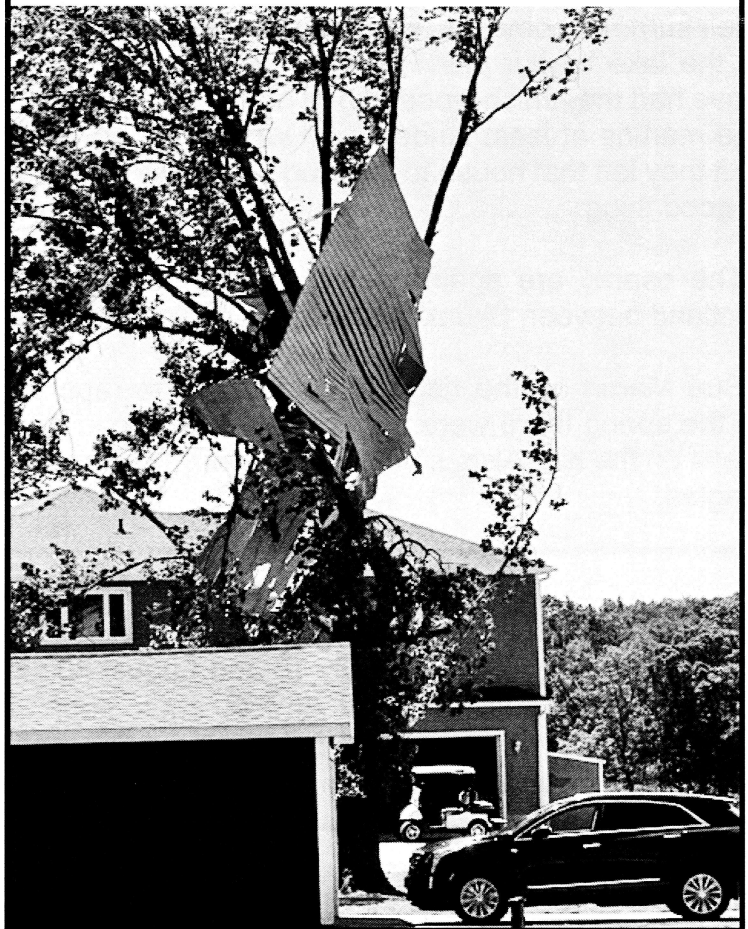
TREE HOUSE

By Don Sabey

After the storm passed on the evening of June 15th, I was looking over my yard for storm damage. To my surprise I noticed my neighbor's metal shed sitting about 35-40 feet up in a tree which was located a little ways outside of my back door. This shed previously sat on the ground being held in place with iron rods which went 2 feet into the ground. Somehow the strong winds which came across Swan Lake lifted the shed and placed it in the tree which was the only object in its pathway. It was quite a decoration and neighborhood attraction!

Just as strange as the shed was placed up in the tree by Mother Nature, she also gently brought the shed back down to ground level where, with the work of many neighbors, the shed was dismantled and placed in a neat pile of rubble. Two days later a metal collector with a long trailer hauled it away.

The tree currently looks a little strange with limbs at the bottom and top of the tree leaving the middle of the tree mostly barren. It just shows the power of Mother Nature! (Editor's note: Don lives in the house at the point of Skunk Island. You can see the tree in his backyard from the lake.)



THIS N' THAT

By Dorothy Rebholz

Just a reminder to all people driving golf carts on roads, especially in the golf course area to be careful and maintain a "slow-to-slow" speed. Also concerning are young kids without adults driving golf carts especially when they are going down 1st Street the wrong way.

Also a reminder to all who have boats that create the huge waves that roll from one shore to another, if an accident is caused by your huge wave, you can be held liable. Also, the waves cause severe erosion to the shoreline.

There haven't been as many boats with the "stadium" lights looking for fish in the shallow water near shore and piers lately. That's a good thing for those of us annoyed by those bright lights shining in our windows!

Also, remember dusk to dawn lights take away from the night sky that many people who live on a lake desire. Fortunately, I haven't seen any more in my area.

Our purple martins are back and many are calling their summer home the two metal houses on the pole in the lake by our pier. For the first time since we have had the Amish wooden bird house on the shore the martins at least landed on it when they arrived. But they left that house to the starlings which may be a good thing.

The osprey are again nesting on the pole in the wetland between Skunk Island and Saddle Ridge.

Sue Martin on the ridge at Saddle Ridge reports in the spring there were a lot of eagles sitting in the trees on the hill. Also, so many of them were female eagles.

NORTHSHORE RESTAURANT

By Chad Kruswickic

Summer is finally here! After a pretty dreary spring it's nice to see people out and about. We would just like to thank everyone for supporting the restaurant and country club. For the most part things seem to have gotten back to something resembling normal although staffing and supply chain issues still seem to be present. We are very fortunate to have a wonderful staff and hopefully everyone that has come out the last couple of months has enjoyed themselves. Although the food or drinks might take a little longer than before, just be patient and enjoy the company you are with. Thanks and see you soon. Phone 608-742-3553.

PORTAGE COUNTRY CLUB

By Mark Braska PGA Professional

The 2022 golf season is off and running with currently 38 new members. With the cold rainy weather in April we were off to a slow start, however, as the weather changed and our strong membership numbers came in we are looking at another profitable season. We are always looking for new members and our prices are very competitive with other area golf courses. The Pro Shop is now fully stocked for all your golfing needs. Recently we received over 100 pieces of Adidas clothing as it was delayed due to Covid. As we approach mid season, July 15th we will be offering specials on memberships. Contact Mark Braska at 608-742-5121 for more information. Hope to see you soon at the Portage Country Club!

PORTAGE BOAT CLUB EVENTS 2022

The Steak Fry dates are July 16 and August 20. Steaks - \$25.00, grilled chicken breasts - \$15.00. The Pancake Breakfast is August 7th 7:00 am to noon. Price is \$6.00.

A project this year was to remove the outdoor shelter by the lake and replace it with a nice gazebo.

PARDEEVILLE JULY 3rd and 4th CELEBRATION

SUNDAY, JULY 3RD

- 1:00 - Boat Parade
- 4:30 - Water Ski Show
- 9:30 - Fireworks

MONDAY, JULY 4TH

- 11:00 - PARADE

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

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 your membership expires. 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.

SLA WEBSITE

Check out the SLA website: <https://swanlakeassnportage.com>

Our website has information on:

*Home Page:

- Informational Blog
- Lost & Found
- Calendar of Events
- Wisconsin Boat Handbook
- Columbia County Water Safety Ordinances
- Contact Us Information

*About SLA:

- Bylaws
- Past Newsletters
- Membership Info
- History of Swan Lake and Photos
- Board of Directors Contact Info

*Lake Management:

- Swan Lake Maps
- Clean Boat, Clean Waters
- Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources website

*Lake Recreation:

- Boating
- Fishing
- Water Sports

*Resources - Local Links:

- Portage Golf Club
- The North Shore Restaurant
- Saddle Ridge Golf Course
- Saddle Ridge Golf Course Restaurant

- Portage Boat Club
- Portage Chamber of Commerce
- Pardeeville Area Business Association

If you have information that you feel should be on our website, please contact us. This is YOUR website so let us know how we can help you!

EMAIL: swanlakeassnportage!@gmail.com