



3634N Boxing Camp Trail
Stone Lake, WI 54876

Next LSSOA meeting: Saturday, May 28th, 9am at the Stone Lake Firehall, Stone Lake & September 3, 9am

BOAT PARADE AND PICNIC!

Join members LSSOA: Sunday, July 3rd

10:30 am Boat Parade - start in front of the Isle of Pines Boat House (going south through the narrows along Mallard Lane, continuing clockwise). All manner of patriotic decorations are encouraged.

12:30pm Picnic- Isle of Pines with the Schnack family hosts
Bring chairs, a main course and a side to share. A grill will be available. Water and dinnerware will be provided. Tune up your *Loon call* for the contest - the traveling trophy could be yours!

Address Correction Requested

LSSOA Newsletter
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Oak Wilt disease, what you should know!

Before Spring cleanup and removing low hanging branches on your oak trees, put down your pole pruner or saw and read this article first.

Oak Wilt is a disease that has slowly moved northward in WI and now affects the western townships of Sawyer County and most of Washburn County. It is a death sentence to trees in the "Red Oak" (red, pin and black oaks with pointed leaf margins and tips). Trees less susceptible are in the "White Oak" group (white, bur and swamp white oaks with rounded leaf margins and tips). Oak Wilt fungus is carried by sap feeding beetles from dead or diseased trees to healthy oaks that have been damaged by storms, pruning or mechanical damage/construction (this is what caused the infection in my own tree).

We cannot stop storm damage, but with diligence and knowledge, we can stop the pruning and mechanical damage. The most susceptible time period in Northern Wisconsin is April 15 – July 15. Once the outside air temperatures reach 50 degrees for at least a week, the beetles are likely present and pruning should cease. To be cautious, don't prune from the springtime temperature listed above till after the second hard frost (typically, in October).

Symptoms of oak wilt include "Flagging" or yellowing of leaves beginning at the tops of oak trees moving downward. The disease can move very quickly; within one month, a green full crown can turn yellow to dull brown and be devoid of leaves. That tree will die and by the next spring/fall, the bark will crack to exude the sweet smell that attracts the Nitidulidae beetles to start the process again. Once a tree has contracted oak wilt, it is very difficult to stop the spread as it can move through interconnected roots with other nearby trees. There are chemical and mechanical root graft disruption mechanisms, but they can be costly and disruptive to the landscape.

The best mechanism is to prevent oak wilt from ever occurring. Known locations on the lake already include the Houdin property (on the very northeast part of the lake) and the former Johnston property on the east-central shoreline and one affecting our property just to the north of that. This past year, both of the properties near the east-central shorelines worked with the Wisconsin DNR to girdle nearby oaks that would become infected and to chemically treat and later remove them. DNR Fisheries personnel rendered the logs and limbs to create fish cribs, - great habitat for fish- and curtailed any further potential to move the disease from that immediate area. To better understand all the nuances of oak wilt, I recommend going to the Wisconsin DNR website: www.bit.ly/WIOakWilt, If you have trees exhibiting the symptoms, contact WI-DNR Forest Health Specialist Paul Cigan out of the Hayward Service Center at: (715) 416-4920 to assist in verification and potential management.

Don Kissinger, retired WI-DNR Urban Forestry
Coordinator & current Little Sissabagama lakeshore owner

Wildlife Report

Catch and release fishing reminders

Please help preserve the health and beauty of fish species and lakes - on Little Sissabagama and beyond. Here are tips on how best to improve the fish's chance of survival after release - so that another angler might also enjoy the thrill of catching a quality Wisconsin fish. Make sure you have easy access to unhooking tools (eg: long-nose pliers, hook cutters, 9" hook-outs or similar tool, jaw spreaders). Play fish with medium pressure. Land the fish as quickly as possible. Keep the fish in the water as much as possible. Use wet hands or gloves. Handle the fish as little as possible. Enable fish to recover in water before letting it go. If the fish is deeply hooked, apply to your bag limit or cut the line and let the fish go.
<https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Fishing/outreach/ResponsibleRelease.html>

Bear safety

Black bear sightings increase in early summer during the breeding season and when young male bears are out searching for food on their own for the first time. Although black bears are cautious animals that tend to avoid contact with people, please remember a few important safety tips to avoid conflicts with bears. If a bear is near your home or cabin, the WI DNR offers these reminders: Wave your arms and make noise to scare it away. Back away slowly, allow a clear escape route for the bear, and seek a safe location to wait for the bear to leave. If you encounter a bear while in the woods, stay calm. Do not approach the bear. Never approach a sow with cubs. For your safety, do not attempt to break up a fight between your pet and a bear. Bears can associate humans with food sources and will likely return for more if they find food such as bird seed or garbage. To avoid attracting black bears and to promote the safety of all, please remember the following recommendations: Do not knowingly feed a bear. Consider completely removing bird feeders, even during daytime hours. Avoid leaving any garbage or other waste outside. Keep grills and picnic tables clean. More information about black bear behavior and avoiding unwanted encounters can be found in the DNR's "Living with Bears in Wisconsin" brochure.
<https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/newsroom/release/45266>

Questions or ideas for future newsletters?
Please contact:
Anne Skwira-Brown at skwirabrown@gmail.com.

Lake quality studies to obtain protected lake status

When the WI DNR designates lakes as “Outstanding” or “Exceptional” Resource Waters, additional protection from pollution is provided to meet federal Clean Water Act obligations. Little Sissabagama volunteers have provided annual water quality data, but according to Scott Van Egeren, WDNR biologist, the ORW designation requires two additional data sets for Little Sissabagama to be considered.

Several members of our Lake Association LSSOA, have been attempting for years to initiate high quality studies to protect lake quality, but for a number of reasons, including COVID, it has been delayed. I have received two proposals/contracts from professionals who are qualified and experienced to supply the data that would be accepted by the WI DNR.



One agenda item for the May 28th meeting will include clarification of these studies, protections and information they would provide.

The first study proposal is from Matthew Berg, research biologist of Endangered Resources Services, LLC. It includes an over 400 point survey of the entire surface of the lake, identifying individual aquatic plants, creating a database, and an herbarium. This study would help identify plants of high value, those sensitive to human interaction, and habitat for good quality fish spawning. He would also include a survey (pro bono) for invasive species early in the summer when they are easiest to see. Matt is quoting \$4100.

The second study proposal is from Cynthia Lane, Phd, of Ecological Strategies LLC. This study would include two parts: first, a GPS linked photographic capture of the entire shoreline; and second, an inventory (from the water, viewing 35 feet back from shoreline) of the general plants, shrubs, grasses, rocks, paths, docks, boats on shore, boathouses, etc. Dr Lane’s quote is \$3396.

Information from the studies would be submitted to the WI DNR. It would also be made available to the LSSOA and would provide a baseline for the state of the lake in 2022. Both contractors are holding a place for us in this summer’s very full schedule.

I look forward to discussing this at our upcoming meeting and hope to let the contractors know of our decision by June 1.

I will propose at the spring meeting that the LSSOA contribute and I am asking individuals to pledge funds toward the studies. LSSOA is a 501c3 and donations will be tax deductible.

Jean Accola

Questions or ideas for future newsletters? Please contact: Anne Skwira-Brown at skwirabrown@gmail.com.

Erickson Family History on Little Sissabagama

I recently had the privilege and pleasure of sitting down with Ruth and David Erickson at Lakeside Cabin on Boxing Camp Trail. They have a long-time connection to the Stone Lake area - Ruth was born on Big Siss and moved to Pierce Road on Whitefish Lake when she was just a few months old. There she grew up with seven siblings, then lived in Hayward from the age of 13 taking care of kids. She remembers her brothers hanging out in the basement bar of what is now Boulder Lodge. David grew up on the banks of the St. Louis River in Superior. The two of them met when they were students at Superior State (now UW- Superior). They spent several years in Wisconsin before moving to Terre Haute, Indiana where David had a long and successful career as an art professor at Indiana State. An added bonus to my visit with them was David showing me many images of his artwork - he is an amazing and accomplished printmaker!



Ruth and David and their two children began renting the original Lakeside Cabin from Alberta Dunlap back in the mid-seventies. They still keep in touch with Doug Dunlap. They also stayed at Hill Head (now Jean and Yata’s beautifully restored cabin) which was the first building on the peninsula, dat-

ing back to 1918. They have many fond memories, one being watching the loons right outside their bedroom window. The cabin was “primitive” compared to its successor, but it holds a very special place in their hearts. Their love for the lake and concern for its future is evident. They still treasure their green Sawyer canoe that they would haul on top of their car each year; it now resides in the boathouse for renters to enjoy. Ruth recalled the first time their now son-in-law, Scott, came to the lake when he was dating their daughter, Dea. He, too, fell in love with the lake. Fast forward to 2017 when Dea and Scott purchased Boulder Lodge, then Lakeside, from Steve Friendshuh. As most know, the property had fallen into disrepair and was already being gutted or, in Lakeside’s case, torn down. David gave me a tour of Boulder Lodge where much of the old character and charm remains. It was fun to imagine it in its heyday with its boxing ring in what is now the great room, the bar in the basement with its separate entrance, all of the built-ins, massive stone fireplace and all the attention to detail in the log construction. We speculated about the likely possibility of gangsters hiding out there. He showed me the old-time radio and 50’s era television behind one of the cabinet doors, compliments of Alberta’s husband, and showed me the area of the basement where Alberta had a tiny apartment while she rented out the upstairs. The pine wall in the old bar area is now constructed of stone and looks like it could have been there forever. Despite the many convenient and modern updates, it’s still easy to visualize the place in the old days. What a gem on this gorgeous lake! It is no wonder that Ruth and David love to come up here every chance they get!

-Pam Fioritto

