



3634N Boxing Camp Trail  
Stone Lake, WI 54876

Address Correction Requested

LSSOA Newsletter  
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**Next LSSOA meetings: Sunday, May 28th, 9am & September 2, 9am** at the Stone Lake Firehall,

## BOAT PARADE AND PICNIC!

Join members LSSOA

Tune up your *Loon call* for the contest - the traveling trophy could be yours!

Our gracious hosts of last summer, Tom and Jeanne Schnack are not able to host the parade and picnic this year, so our plans are currently up in the air! Stay tuned to the Little Sissabagama Lovers Facebook page for details.

## Dad's Fishing Rules

by Peter Skwira

My dad passed away in November 2022. As some may know, he was a staunch fisherman. He learned from his uncle using cane poles, scaling sunfish with forks, and giving the remains to the chickens on the farm. He taught us how to fish. On my last trip to Little Siss there was 18" of skating rink quality ice, and fisherman from the point. Dad loved the afternoon bite as the sun went down. He had his methods. Couple this with receiving my annual Bass Pro Shops fishing catalog full of future possibility, and I had to share my thoughts of fishing with the association.

Dad took us out for the past 40 years, either on the boat or on the ice, and we would chat as we pursued our targets. Dad had rules and they would come up with each fish we caught. Here are some that I hope you find helpful:

Dad's rule #1 - have a keeper size zone. He kept a keeper ruler in the boat! Ours is 8 - 10 inch crappies. Leave the big ones in for two reasons:

- 1) they are fun to catch - give someone else a chance, and
- 2) and even more importantly, let them breed.

These fish reproduce and have genes that support large fish. I have noticed the past two years the number of large crappies has declined. We typically catch three- maybe four - 15" plus crappies per year. I have not seen one since this one caught by Carmen in January of 2021. One of the largest I have seen. I believe some folks were on the ice to witness it. We put it back to reproduce.

Rule #2 - know how many fish it takes for a meal - and limit to that number. Nothing beats a fresh fish meal. We have one over the open campfire behind our place on some weekends. It takes fifteen 10" crappies to feed our five family members. The rest go back in the lake to support the population. Rule #3 - enjoy the catch. Fish when the fish are biting. Sometimes we get skunked. My dad said, "Wind from the West, fish bite best. Wind from the East, fish bite least. Wind from the South, bait in the mouth." This never did hold true, but there were days when you couldn't keep them off the hook, and other days you could not get them on! Just know, when they are hot, enjoy the catch and release.



Have a great fishing season, and remember, when others ask where you caught them, you'll never be wrong by saying, "right in the mouth!"

Carmen Skwira with her catch! Note the size relative to the size of her hand!

Please see for an example article: <https://fishcare.co.nz/5-principles/killing-large-old-fish-and-the-genetic-implication-for-our-fishery/>

**Questions or ideas for future newsletters?  
Please contact:  
Anne Skwira-Brown at [skwirabrown@gmail.com](mailto:skwirabrown@gmail.com).**

## Aquatic Plant Study Summary

Matthew Berg, Endangered Resources Services, LLC

**51 plant** species, including visuals, at the 949 rake boat samples, were found. Several of these species were uncommon to rare in Wisconsin, highly localized along undeveloped shorelines, and known to be sensitive to habitat modification making them potentially vulnerable to future shoreline development.

The 41 native index species found in the rake during the point-intercept survey produced a mean Coefficient of Conservatism of 7.4 and a Floristic Quality Index of 47.5. **When compared to other lakes in the Northern Lakes and Forest Ecoregion, both of these values were much higher than the average mean C of 6.7 and the median FQI of 24.3.**

Filamentous algae were present at nine points and most of these points were concentrated in the northeast bays where there were obvious sediment inflows from roadside culverts and steep hillsides. We found no evidence of any exotic plant species in or adjacent to the lake.

The FQI was also nearly double the region's median FQI of 24.3 (Nichols 1999). Fifteen highly sensitive index plants of note included Wild calla (C = 9), Spiny hornwort (C = 10), Three-way sedge (C = 9), Waterwort (C = 9), Pipewort (C = 9), Water lobelia (C = 10), Dwarf-water milfoil (C = 10), \*\*\*Oakes' pondweed (C = 10), Creeping spearwort (C = 9), Grass-leaved arrowhead (C = 9), Water bulrush (C = 9), Narrow-leaved bur-reed (C = 9), Creeping bladderwort (C = 9), Flat-leaf bladderwort (C = 9), and Large purple bladderwort (C = 9). Two other high-value species found - Narrow-leaved woolly sedge (C = 9) and \*\*\*Torrey's three-square bulrush (C = 9) - are not included in the index.

Note: Also found, Water-thread pondweed (Potamogeton diversifolius) (the only record of this state species of special concern ever documented in Sawyer County)



Three Way Sedge



Large Purple Bladderwort



Wild Calla Lily

## Management Considerations Summary:

- Preserve the many high-value and sensitive native plants on Little Sissabagama Lake and the critical habitat they provide for the whole lake ecosystem.
- Work to maintain water clarity and suppress algal growth by limiting nutrient inputs.
- Specifically, avoid mowing down to the lakeshore and reduce or, if possible, eliminate grass clipping runoff, fertilizer applications, and other sources of nutrients like pet waste and fire pit ashes near the lakeshore.
- Maintain septic systems and avoid motor startups in shallow water.
- Encourage shoreline restoration and the establishment of native vegetation buffer strips along the lakeshore to further prevent runoff and erosion.
- Identify and work to mitigate external nutrient sources; especially in the northeast bays where obvious erosion is occurring.
- Consider adding a second small bright sign at the water line to remind people to clean their boats prior to launching at the semi-private landing.
- Consider carrying out monthly landing inspections and/or at least one annual meandering shoreline survey of the lake's entire visible littoral zone to look for new AIS.
- Complete an Aquatic Plant Management Plan that clarifies a potential response to a new AIS, such as Eurasian water-milfoil, if one becomes established in the lake.

## Reflections

*“Do not be hardened by the pain and cruelty of this world. Be strong enough to be gentle, to be soft and supple like running waters, gracefully bending around sudden turns, lithely waving in strong winds, freely flowing over sharp rocks, all the while quietly sculpting this hard world into ever deeper beauty, gently eroding ridgid rock into silken sand, tenderly transforming human cruelty into human kindness. Remember, true strength is not found in the stone, but in the water that shapes the stone.”*

*-L.R. Knost*

Please note: If you are considering putting your property up for sale, please consider contacting your neighbors and/or the lake association. We also recommend contacting the Lankmark Conservancy.



A Great Resource for Shoreline Maintenance and Restotion Plants:  
[https://www.wpr.org/sites/default/files/native\\_plant\\_guide\\_2.0.pdf](https://www.wpr.org/sites/default/files/native_plant_guide_2.0.pdf)