LONG LAKE NEWS

LLA & FLL
PO Box 9
Saxeville WI 54976
Spring 2017

President's Message Dave Schultz

As the temperatures slowly climb and spring approaches we are again experiencing increasing water levels. Our lake has gone up another 8" since most of us took our docks out last fall. This marks several years in a row that we have experienced substantial elevated water levels. Once again Long Lake is going through its cycle of varying water levels as we have seen so many times over the 60 years that our family has been on the lake. The USGS set the staff gage at the landing early in April so we are continuing to monitor lake levels again this year.

Over the past year, we have lost two long time lake residences, Sven Johnson and Cliff Schultz. Over three generations the Johnson family has been a part of Long Lake and Sven was one of our most devoted Stewards. Sven coined the phrase "long lake family", and he so graciously hosted the Long Lake Family Picnic for many years. I will miss his short "grounding" addresses at the annual meeting when he would remind us all of the importance of cherishing and preserving our Long Lake, as he put it, the jewel that it is.

I would like to thank Tom Catlin and all of the Clean Boats / Clean Waters volunteers in advance for the time they will donate again this year at the boat landing to keep our lake free from invasive species. I encourage everyone to assist if possible. I'm sure you will find the time spent rewarding and a great way to meet new people who enjoy our beautiful lake.

I also want to thank everyone who participated in the surveys, meeting attendance, and writing of the comprehensive lake plan. The committee completed the plan which was approved by the board in January and presented to Waushara County. The plan is currently in the final stages of review and approval by the DNR. Special thanks to Jim Schiek and Gary Wisbrocker for many hours spent. We think we have a very good plan and the plan will be a must for future grant applications that we may pursue especially if we find any invasive species that we need to deal with. We look forward to presenting the plan at our annual meeting in July.

Just a heads up, John VanAmerongen, Saxeville town chairman has asked to make a presentation at our annual meeting in regards to the current and future maintenance of the town roads. Please plan to attend.

You probably noticed the natural gas lines being installed around the lake. Although the gas service is not yet available to the entire lake, we encourage you to contact the Wautoma office of we energies if you would like to have natural gas service. The number is 715-459-2872. The more people that contact them the better chance we have to get service around the entire lake.

Thank you to everyone for making our lake a wonderful place for our families to enjoy.

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FISH Report Dave Schultz

This winter the fishing was pretty good over all. My spot checking revealed some good size northern being caught this winter. Pan-fish seemed to be either biting well or hard to find. Our population of good size bluegill has been reduced substantially due to heavy fishing and an abundance of predator fish such as northern, walleye, bass and of course musky. Unfortunately, it's going to be several years before the current population of smaller fish mature.

Because of this condition it was decided as part of our Long Lake Management Plan to pursue a reduce bag limit on panfish. This was presented at the annual Conservation Congress meeting held in Wautoma in April of this year. I have included the proposal in this newsletter. Based on discussions with the DNR fish biologists, this process may take two to three years to be approved. There have been numerous other lakes in the state that have had reduced bag limits on panfish established. Based on studies of these lakes the numbers and size of adult fish in these lakes increased and improved the fishing.

Last year the WRK fish club planted 120 lbs. of forage, 250 lbs. of 4-5" suckers. The DNR also planted 1271 large fingerling walleye. The average length was 7.9" and 6141 fingerling brown trout with an average length of 7.5". At our spring meeting with the WRK fish club and the DNR, approval was given to plant perch, crappie and forage this year. Availability and size to be determined.

This spring the lake level is up about 8" from last fall. Again this year we will be working with the U. S. Geological Survey and the Wisconsin Water Science Center to develop and monitor our lake levels as part of a long term scientific data base to try and determine the effects, if any, of deep wells in the central sands area on our lakes water levels. The water level gauge at the public landing was installed in April and we will be recording the water level weekly. Please be aware of it. Last year it was bumped a couple of times which affected the accuracy of the readings.

Habitat is one of the most important factors in sustaining our fish population especially for the spawning of our panfish like perch. Tree drops on the shore are great for this. You may notice a few new trees on the shores this year that have been places for the fish. Unfortunately, they are not always popular on a lake with as much developed shoreline as our lake is, yet they are a vital source for spawning and cover for many pan fish.

Tree drops are a great way to provide fish habitat. Several of the other lakes in our area have been doing tree drops with good success. The undeveloped properties on Long Lake would be a great place to drop trees in the water without efecting other recreational use of the lake. If you are interested the WRK fish club is glad to assist. You can contact me any time to coordinate with the DNR biologists and the club.

We are, along with the DNR, proposing property owners to place brush bundles and old Christmas trees under docks for the fish. These are easily place under the docks and secured in place with rope at each end. Tom Catlin brought to my attention a great device that is an alternative to using brush. They are called Porcupine fish attractors. Check it out at www.porcupinefishattractor.comyou can also see video clips of several installations at www.prcupinefishattractors.com they can then be removed at the end of the year when you remove your dock.

These units are also an excellent tool to check our waters for zebra mussels as well. If you are interested in enhancing the lakes fish habitat on your shore you can check out the Wisconsin DNR web site. Or you can contact me or Scott Bunde at the Wautoma office. The DNR fish and shoreline people would be glad to come out and help.

Proposed Recommendation from LLA: Reduce the combined daily bag limit for panfish on Long Lake in Saxeville and Springwater townships to 10 of any one species or 25 total.

In recent years, the panfish population has been severely reduced due to fishing pressure and an increase in the number of predator game fish that feed on panfish.

The Long Lake Association and the Friends of Long Lake's mission for many years has been to provide a "Family Friendly Fishery" and therefore have funded the planting of fish in conjunction with the We Really Kare fish club and the Wisconsin DNR, species that strive for this goal. These have primarily been panfish, trout and forage fish. Unfortunately, this effort has not been able to keep up with the increased fishing pressure in recent years.

As part of the Recent 2016 Long Lake Management Plan created in conjunction with Waushara County, the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point and representatives from the DNR has adopted a "Guiding Vision for the Fish Community". Goal 1 is to improve fish habitat. Goal 1.2 is to optimize the fishery and the fishing experience of young people through the reduction of daily bag limits on panfish.

The future of continuing efforts towards fish conservation and habitat restoration lies with our young people having a quality fishing experience. It's not the number of fish they can keep, but the fact that they can catch fish. It's our duty to provide our next generations with the experience, not boredom from the inability to catch fish on lakes that need additional protection to maintain adequate population for a quality fishing experience.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting held in Waushara County on April 10th, 2017 recommends work with the Department of Natural Resources in adoption of a reduced daily bag limit for panfish on Long Lake Saxeville and Springwater townships, Waushara County to 10 of any species and a total of 25.

Saxeville-Springwater Volunteer Fire Department

This photo of the current Saxeville-Springwater Fire Deapartment is from 1970. Many volunteers have served our community, including Long Lake, over the years. The building has been upgraded several times, and now planning for expansion is underway.

Saxeville-Springwater Fire Department Chicken BBQ
Sunday July 9

Firefighters are doing a new setup for raffle tickets this year at their annual chicken BBQ. The new format will be 1,000 tickets sold for $10 each. Previous years they sold about 3500 tickets at $1 each. This year's raffle prizes will be as follow: 1st- $1500 2nd- $750 3rd- $400 4th- $200 5th- $200 6th- $100 7th-$100 8th-$100 9th- $50 10th- $50. There will also still be some donated prizes from various businesses. They will let everyone know when the tickets are available. **Members of the fire department look forward to seeing many Long lake friends at their annual Chicken BBQ!**

Lake Management Jim Schiek

I just want to provide an update as to the progress being made on the LL Lake Management Plan. I will begin with a bit of history. The first planning session was held on January 21 2016. It was very well attended with approximately 32 lake residences. The process for *Creating a Lake Management Plan* was presented by the UWSP representatives but the process was heavily scrutinized and questioned by numerous participants from Long Lake, including board members, and who expressed interest in "opting out" of the proposed planning process. Subsequent to the meeting I did solicit the opinion of others, lake groups, DNR, and the consulting firm we've worked with on previous plans/studies. As a result, we concluded that although we did not support the action being taken by the county and the UW-Ext., this was an opportunity for members to observe and participate in the process if they wanted to.

In other words, simply ignoring what the county was doing would not benefit the Association members or the residents of the lake. The only way to make sure that the process would not end up hurting all the work the Association and residents have done for so many years is to actively observe what they are doing and to make sure that only correct and accurate information was being used. We have to make sure that the end result does not hurt the lake.

Another concern that I had was that individuals who use the lake but do not live or own property on the lake often can have as much or more influence on lake regulations than owners. The Wisconsin Public Trust Doctrine states, "Wisconsin law recognizes that owners of lands bordering lakes and rivers - "riparian" owners - hold rights in the water next to their property. These riparian rights include the use of the shoreline, reasonable use of the water, and a right to access the water. However, the Wisconsin State Supreme Court has ruled that when conflicts occur between the rights of riparian owners and public rights, the public's rights are primary and the riparian owner's secondary". Therefore, I felt it was extremely important for us to maximize the participation of lake owners.

There were 3 subsequent planning sessions; #2 on Feb 24th "Water Quality", #3 on Mar 16th "The lake is a reflection of it's watershed", and #4 on Apr 20th, "Fish community, healthy shorelines, and aquatic plants".

After the planning sessions were completed we formed a smaller committee comprised of individuals whom had participated in all or most of the planning sessions. They were also members of either Friends of LL or LLA. Together and only after a significant amount of effort the committee created goals and objectives intended to protect the quality of Long Lake as well as the best interest of our lake family. After numerous iterations the committee unanimously approved the plan.

We then passed the plan on to the Long Lake Association board of directors and after several more changes and an 8 to1 vote it was passed on Jan 12 2017. The plan was accepted by the county Feb 2 2017. We are now waiting for approval from the DNR. LLA Board representatives will then take it to the Saxeville and Springwater Town Boards for inclusion into their respective township plans.

To view the information from the State of the Waushara County Lakes Lake Data Summary 2010-2012 Study go to:

http://www.co.waushara.wi.us/docview.aspx?docid=25773

Long Lake Annual Meeting
Saturday, July 1st
8:30 a.m.
Saxeville Town Hall

Decked Out Boat Parade
Saturday, July 1st
7:30 p.m.
Cervinka Cottage Start

2017 Annual Long lake Picnic
Dedicated in Memory of Sven Johnson
Saturday, July 15
4:00 p.m. — bring dish to share
Johnson's Beach

LLA Board of Director Candidates for 2017

The LLA Board of Directors consists of 9 positions. Each new board member is elected to a 3 year term. A board member can run for 2 consecutive terms before being required to take a mandatory one year break. The board member running for re-election to a second consecutive 3 year term is Lindy Rucks.

The two board members who have completed two consecutive three year terms and in accordance with our bylaws must leave the board are Dave Schultz – President and chairperson for the Fish Enhancement Committee, and Tom Catlin – Clean Boats Clean Water chairperson and Saxeville liaison.

The following three candidates are running for the three open seats. If anyone else is interested please feel free to contact any board member or myself to be placed on the ballot.

Gary Wisbrocker:

“Hello, my name is Gary Wisbrocker and I am interested in running for a position on the Long Lake Association board of directors. My history on Long Lake expands my whole life. My grandparents built their cottage on Wilson Road in the 50’s and my wife LeAnn and I now own it. I am a past board of director and president of the LLA and after taking the mandatory one year break I wish to get back on the board. Having recently retired, I will have even more time to dedicate to the Association and its many activities.”

Dennis Reimer:

"My name is Dennis Reimer and I am interested in running for the Long Lake Association board of directors. I have been coming to the lake since 1974 and my wife (Jeanie) and I eventually assumed ownership of the lake property from her family. Three years ago, we completely remodeled the existing home and now live year round on Long Lake. As you can probably gather, I have a long term interest in making sure the lake maintains its high quality level that past board members have worked so diligently to achieve. The timing is also right for me to dedicate time to the association as I am beginning to semi-retire from the paper converting business that I own in Winneconne."

Lindy Rucks:

“My name is Lindy Rucks and I am the current Treasurer for the Long Lake Association. I am interested in running for a second 3 year term and continuing my role accounting for our membership funds. I consider the strong Lake Association we have as a unique asset to Long Lake in protecting our interests as home owners in lake recreation and water quality. I appreciate the opportunity I have been given to be present and involved as a board member.

My husband, Bruce, and I bought our lake home on the north shore in 2012 becoming the 4th generation of the Rucks family to do so. We have 3 daughters that love water sports and winter fun on the lake, and expect the tradition to continue. We now live in San Diego, California, but reside at the lake summers and visit frequently throughout the year.”

Ice Out — Before and After

The first photo shows how innocent the ice looks as it starts to break up. The second photo shows some of the unwelcome results. There has been some significant ice shove damage to some lake property. Photo shown is from the North side of Long Lake.

CBCW-2017 Tom Catlin

Wow- another great summer season is approaching fast (although at this moment with temp at 38 degrees, a strong NE wind, and a heavy mist it might be a stretch). I am looking forward to working with the true stewards of Long Lake - our Merry Band of Volunteers.

As for last year's winners of Long Lake apparel (Phil Holly, Dave Schultz, Wally Petersen, and this writer) as soon as Cherrtie Catlin and Polly Holly get ready to order this year's Long Lake apparel, I will contact each of you so that you can select your preference. The awards will be presented at the LLA annual meeting in July.

We will be holding a CBCW refresher training session on May 20th at 9:30 am at the public landing. The session will be conducted by members of Golden Sands Resource Conservation and Development Council. Duration will be 1 hour or less depending on questions following the training.

Repeating the message that I advance with each LLA News Letter, our program is open to all folks regardless of age and address who wish to be a part of a program whose goal is to prevent the spread of invasive species in Wisconsin lakes and streams and more specifically Long Lake. Our program is NOT limited to Long Lake residents and in fact we do have volunteers that are not residents of Long Lake. For our program to survive from year to year it is critical that we not only retain our existing Merry Band of Volunteers, but also attract new volunteers. To be a member of this very special group is both a rewarding and enjoyable experience as you not only work with a great bunch of lake stewards preventing the spread of invasive species, but you get to meet a lot of nice people and families who come to Long Lake (many on a regular basis) to boat, swim, and fish. The best recruiters for our program are our current volunteers and this news letter. Please take the time to speak to your friends, neighbors, relatives, and especially your kids (and grand kids) as they are the future stewards of Long Lake.

Friends of Long Lake Joan Laabs

The 2017 Spring Board of Directors Meeting of the Friends of Long Lake will be held on May 27 at 10:00 a.m. at my home. The meeting is open to the public. We will be considering donations from FLL to the Saxeville-Springwater Fire Department and any written request for funds from community organizations. We will also be discussing funding for the Long Lake Association Fish Stocking Program.

Again this year, Cherrie Catlin and Polly Holly will be coordinating our Long lake apparel sales. Their volunteer time is great appreciated. They will have numerous clothing and home items for sale at the Long Lake Annual Meeting and the Long Lake Picnic.

Some of our Friends members have reported seeing 3 black bear cubs and their mother as well as a male black bear. All of the sightings, by several individuals, have been on the Southeast side of Long lake near the Bigler property. Bears are famous for trying to raid bird feeders and bending them into new and foreign shapes! This winter we also had wolf sightings and wolf prints in the area of Deer Path Lane on the Northeast side of the lake. Who says we do not "live on the wild side" here at Long Lake?

This spring we lost a long-time lake resident. Sven Johnson first came to Long Lake at age six and enjoyed our beautiful lake for 75 years. Sven will be greatly missed, especially hosting the Lake Picnic and "toting a camera" for picnic photographs. We greatly appreciate the family choosing Memorial donations to the Friends of Long Lake. Please see separate notice on LLA Annual Meeting and 2017 Long Lake Annual Picnic at the Johnson property.

Our water levels at Long Lake are high — so also are the hopes for a safe and happy summer of 2017.

Spring Road Cleanup

On Saturday May 6th nine members of the Long Lake Association and the Friends of Long Lake gathered for our semi-annual road cleanup on the roads around Long Lake. The weather was sunny but crisp. The amount of garbage and trash picked up by the group is less than in the past years. Our local walkers around the lake are doing a great job of picking up trash and garbage on their own. A big **THANK YOU** to all who participate in keeping the area around our lake clean!

Dues and Membership

Long Lake Association Annual Dues $ 20 per family. Membership is open to any individual who for at least one month each year owns real estate or resides on or within one mile of Long Lake.

Friends of Long Lake Membership Donation : $10 or greater contribution (FLL is a 501C3 Corp with tax decuctiblity).

Membership open to LLA members and general public.

Please make a separate check for Friends of Long Lake

Long Lake Association Membership-Dues

PO Box 9

Saxeville WI 54976

Name of Property Owners _____

Home Address_____

_____

Phone: H_____ L_____

Lake Address_____

_____

E-Mail _____

Friends of Long Lake Membership-Contribution

PO Box 9

Saxeville WI 54976

Enclosed is a check in the amount of $_____

If desired, please mark as follows:

$_____Fire Protection

$_____Fish Enhancement

$_____Land Acquisition

$_____Legal Expenses

$_____Lake Studies

$_____Clean Boats/Clean Waters

Name_____

E-Mail _____

Home Address _____-

_____

LLA & FLL
PO Box 9
Saxeville WI 54976

LONG LAKE APPAREL

If you would like to place an order or review our current apparel inventory, please contact:

Polly Holly 715-258-7406

Cherri Catlin 715-258-5841

Clothing will be available to buy and order at both the LLA Annual Membership Meeting and the LLA Family Picnic.

Visit lake web site at:

www.llasaxeville.org

LONG LAKE