

**NEWSLETTER
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NOVEMBER, 2016**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Cathie Erickson	Betty Hanson
Tom McDonnell	Carol McDonnell
Bruce Gillette	Jack Coddington
Marlo Schield	Christine Maestri
Michael Maestri	

MAILING ADDRESS: N5779 Division Avenue
Stone Lake, WI 54876

EMAIL ADDRESS: tncmcd@aol.com

WEBSITE:

www.stonelakecommunitywetlandpark.com



THE STONE LAKE COMMUNITY WETLAND PARK IS
LOCATED ON STATE HIGHWAY 70 IN THE VILLAGE
OF STONE LAKE, WISCONSIN

Welcome to the Stone Lake Community Wetland Park's first newsletter!

The first thing we must do is give a big THANK YOU to all of you who have become members of Friends of the Park! The Wetland Park's Board of Directors is very happy to report that as of mid-November, 2016, we now have 157 members; 91 of them lifetime members! This initial membership drive resulted in funds that will give us almost two years of professional help in eradicating buckthorn in our park, and should bring us to a point where volunteers will be able to maintain the park in a great new "life after buckthorn."

This first newsletter will give you a pictorial introduction to the Stone Lake Community Wetland Park. IT was felt that all of you know the park is there, but not everyone has walked its mile and a half of trails, or sat in the gazebo overlooking Stone Lake as a train roared by, or picnicked in one of the picnic areas, or reminisced about old friendships while reading inscriptions on the bricks in the Memory Walk.

You will find the Buckthorn Eradication Project mentioned several times, and you will see the project in various stages. We felt this was important since so many of you joined our membership organization to help us save the wetland park from this invader!

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If your current membership is expiring, a separate Membership Form will be included with this newsletter along with an envelope for mailing. We thank you in advance for your continued support.



The day the new Wetland Park sign went up was a big day for the community. Welders Dan Wood and Mark Rogers deserve our kudos. They did a great job!



This group of Wetland Park board members and Friends of the Park earned funds for the buckthorn project by serving the Cranberry Festival Dinner in early October.



We have been very lucky to find a buckthorn eradication expert who will come to your property and work on this prickly project all day long. Our membership drive has made it possible for us to hire Steve for 18 days of cutting and spraying buckthorn in 2016 and to hire him for another 18 days in 2017. We feel we may be able, in that length of time, to bring buckthorn under control and halt its spread!



This photo is an example of what the buckthorn looks like immediately after it has been cut. It creates a very prickly tangle for those who come to stack it, and some cannot be stacked and must be left to disintegrate in place.



The Memory Walk now has nearly 300 engraved bricks and provides an impressive entry to the Wetland Park's highland trail system.



In some areas where no burning can occur, piles of buckthorn will become habitat for small animals and birds as the piles disintegrate over time.



Norbert, Darlene, and Tom have just taken down the huge tree hanging over the picnic area.



Crandells, Grundrys, Dick Theis, and Tom McDonnell enjoying a beautiful day at the September Picnic in the Park.



Board member, Betty Hanson, her sister, Barb Coddington, Barb's daughters, Wanda and Judy, and Judy's husband, John Paine are enjoying themselves at the September Picnic in the Park.



A deep hole suddenly developed in the grassy path leading into the Wetland Park. Volunteers Norbert, Darlene, and Tom filled it with 30 buckets of stone and dirt and will monitor its condition in the future.

Clip & return

clip & return

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

I would like to become a member of the Stone Lake Community Wetland Park membership organization.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

- LIFETIME \$ 100.00
- FAMILY \$ 20.00/year
- INDIVIDUAL \$ 5.00/year

I would like to make a special donation to the Buckthorn Eradication Project and I understand that my gift will be acknowledged upon receipt.

Mail to: Stone Lake Community Wetland Park
N5779 Division Avenue
Stone Lake, WI 54876



Several of the small evergreens planted in the Wetland Park have had sudden spurts of growth now that the buckthorn shading has been removed.

BUCKTHORN ERADICATION PROJECT

For several years the Stone Lake Community Wetland Park has been waging a war against Buckthorn. Buckthorn is an invasive shrub that crowds out native species of woodland trees, shrubs, and flowers. Two species, common and glossy buckthorn, can grow up to 20 feet tall with several sprouting stems. The female plants of both species produce small black berries which are eaten by birds which leads to plant dispersal over the landscape. The Stone Lake Community Wetland Park has been working on controlling and eventually eradicating Buckthorn in the park. The most effective method has been cutting by hand then spraying the stumps and the leaves of smaller plants. This method is helping the park return to a stable native tree and shrub community. The process itself is labor intensive, as you might imagine. In October, 2015, an educational workshop, hosted by the Washburn County Land and Water Conservation Department, was held at the wetland park where park volunteers and landowners were taught how to prevent and control this invasive shrub.

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE WETLAND PARK

The six-acre sphagnum moss wetland in the center of the Wetland Park is the filtering pond for the beautiful lake, Stone Lake. For many years, even before the wetland park was created, this strategically located wetland caught all of the sediment that would have eventually found its way into the lake. Because of this great filtering pond, Stone Lake has taken its place in Wisconsin as one of the clearest bodies of water in the state. Creating the Stone Lake Community Wetland Park now assures that this natural filter will always remain in place, providing this very important service for the town of Stone Lake's namesake.

PARK – A WINTER WONDERLAND!

For those of you who live or visit the Stone Lake area in the wintertime, remember that the Wetland Park is open all year round. While not open to snowmobiles or all-terrain vehicles, it is open to cross country skiers, hikers, and those who love to snowshoe. One and a half miles of trail will give you a great variety of scenery; and a trip to the gazebo overlooking the lake will become a special memory. Please come and visit our wonderful park!

We wish to purchase a brick to be placed in Memory Walk at the Stone Lake Community Wetland Park. Wording on the brick should be as follows (up to three lines, 14 characters per line maximum):

MAY NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE, & ZIP: _____

PHONE (in case of questions): _____

My check for \$55 per brick is included, made out to Stone Lake Community Wetland Park.

Send to: Stone Lake Community Wetland Park, N5779 Division Avenue, Stone Lake, WI 54876

Email questions to: tncmcd@aol.com