



**NEWSLETTER  
VOLUME 2, ISSUE 1  
JANUARY, 2018**

**WETLAND PARK COMMITTEE**

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

**HISTORY OF THE STONE LAKE COMMUNITY  
WETLAND PARK**

In October, 2003, a special Town of Stone Lake meeting was held to decide whether or not the town should purchase the land which is now the Stone Lake Community Wetland Park. The town decided that they should purchase the land because its six-acre sphagnum moss wetland is a filtering pond; critical to the continuing good health of the lake...Stone Lake.

In 2004, the Town of Stone Lake was awarded a State Lake Protection grant to purchase the land. Then in 2005, the Town of Stone Lake was awarded a Knowles-Nelson Stewardship grant to transform the property into a park. This left the balance of land cost at \$22,000 to purchase the land.

In the summer of 2006 volunteers built the 500-foot boardwalk crossing the wetland, laid out the Memory Walk with 1,235 Holland bricks, cleared the land for 1 ½ miles of walking trails, and completed the trail system. In the autumn of 2006 the gazebo overlooking Stone Lake was built with funds provided by Mike and Pat Kell, in memory of Mike's brother, John. Starting immediately thereafter and continuing on for several years, citizens of Stone Lake donated funds to purchase fifteen park benches, six picnic tables, many educational signs that line the trails, and directional signs for people hiking the trails. The handsome park sign was donated by the Melvin and Ben Coblentz families in 2006.

This issue will feature the history, structures, and many amenities of the wetland park.

In 2008, mini mall owner Steve Friendshuh donated two acres of land so the covered bridge and new public bathrooms could be built. The bathrooms were constructed with a grant from Louisiana Pacific. All of the continuing maintenance and upkeep on the Stone Lake Community Wetland Park is still taken care of by volunteers.



This covered bridge along Highway 70 crosses a rock-lined waterway which flows into the wetland park. The interior bridge walls serve as a kiosk and carry photos and articles setting forth the history of the park along with the names of hundreds of donors and volunteers who made the park possible.



The gazebo is situated at the northwest corner of the park and it has an outstanding view of the lake...Stone Lake. The wedding party in the following photo visited the gazebo to take photos on their wedding day.



The wetland park committee prepared a grant application and presented it to Louisiana Pacific Corporation in 2008. This grant provided the funds used to construct the handsome public restrooms pictured above.



Ashley Slayton and Sonny Allaback along with their wedding party visited the wetland park gazebo on their wedding day



The 500-foot boardwalk built over the six-acre wetland brings visitors close to nature and is often full of surprises. As an example, on a higher area in the center of the wetland dozens of pitcher plants are in full bloom mid-summer, just beyond the reach of human hands. Along the boardwalk one will see tamarack, black spruce, balsam fir, and white cedar along with a variety of wetland flowers, lily pads, cattails, as well as a great variety of native song birds.



The engraved bricks, pictured above, are just a few of the bricks in the Memory Walk. This brick path contains over 1,200 bricks which are purchased and engraved in honor of someone or something special in a donor's life. Purchase of these bricks helps pay the yearly operating expenses of the wetland park.

### TREE PLANTING EVENT IN EARLY MAY

The entire community is invited to participate in a tree planting event which will place a number of new trees in the park to replace the buckthorn which had choked out so many of the earlier trees and shrubs. The park needs the help of the community, young and old, to make this event a success. Watch for further details in the Stone Lake News!



Longtime volunteer, Dick Nutt, is giving the wetland park sign a face lift. It is much easier to read with its new yellow letters.



Volunteers, Tony Lyne and Tom McDonnell, are shown staining one of the 15 benches located along the trails. All of these benches have been donated in memory of or in honor of a special person in someone's life. The benches are strategically located throughout the wetland park.



Family reunions happen often in the wetland park. These folks were from Cumberland, Ashland, Shell Lake, and Spooner, Wisconsin and had gone online and chosen the Stone Lake Community Wetland Park as their 2017 reunion destination.



The wetland park's trail system is cared for by volunteers and is kept open year-round. Volunteer Adam Maestri is doing some fall raking on the north trail. People enjoy snowshoeing and cross-country skiing during the winter months.



Board member, Christine Maestri, and the Loewen family at a September Picnic in the Park event.



Volunteer Norb Gundry is on snowshoes, checking the park trails for fallen branches during the winter.

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               \$ 10.00/year

Mail to: Stone Lake Community Wetland Park  
N5779 Division Avenue  
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Donations to the Stone Lake Community Wetland Park are tax deductible.

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### BUCKTHORN PROJECT UPDATE

The wetland park is reaching maintenance mode! The large seed-producing buckthorn bushes and trees have been cut, and either stacked for burning or left to deteriorate. Next, the non-seed-producing bushes and trees will be methodically eradicated, either by cutting or spraying. We will need our Buckthorn specialist for another year, possibly two, but we are winning the battle! We want all members of Friends of the Park to know this – without your generous donations, we would have lost our beautiful community park to the ravages of buckthorn!

**NOTE:** “Friends of the Park” now has 192 members; very impressive for a small community. THANK YOU SO MUCH! We are hoping that this news will bring the wetland park many more new members!

A very special THANK YOU to the Cranberry Festival Committee for their generous yearly donation. It is very much appreciated.