



**NEWSLETTER
VOLUME 3, ISSUE 1
FEBRUARY, 2019**

WETLAND PARK COMMITTEE

Cathie Erickson
Tom McDonnell
Bruce Gillette
Marlo Schield
Betty Hanson
Carol McDonnell
Allan Gundry
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

**\$5,000 GRANT AWARDED STONE LAKE
COMMUNITY WETLAND PARK**

In September, 2017, park representatives applied for a WDNR Urban Forestry Grant to help fund our Buckthorn Eradication Project and reforestation of the park. Two months later we were awarded a grant of up to \$5,000 for 2018. State funds would have to be matched with an equal amount of cash or in-kind from local sources.

All expenditures of state money and the match had to be directly related to buckthorn eradication or reforestation. We used the state money to purchase non-invasive species to take buckthorn's place, and to pay a specialist for cutting and spraying the buckthorn. Volunteer time and cash donations counted as our match but had to be carefully tracked and reported. Volunteer time was credited at the rate of \$15/hour toward the grant match.

**TREE/SHRUB PLANTING EVENTS
ARE HELD ON MAY 5 & MAY 12, 2018**

The big event that brought us the eventual \$5,000 Urban Forestry Grant award began with the planting event the first week of May, 2018. The trees and shrubs that were planted were: Northern Bayberry, Winterberry, Highland Cranberry, Red Splendor, Flowering Crabapple, Juneberry, Balsam Pine, White Oak, White Pine, and Red (Norway) Pine. The fact that many of these are colorful, flowering, and produce fruits and seeds should bring more birds and small animals into the park.



Tom McDonnell digs up a Balsam Pine along Highway B to be replanted in the wetland park by one of the children who attend the tree-planting event. Washburn County gave us permission to remove and replant the small trees.

The Stone Lake Community Wetland Park extends a big **THANK YOU** to the Towns of Stone Lake, Sand Lake, and the Cranberry Festival, for their yearly donations to help pay the park's operating expenses.

**SOME FINAL STATISTICS ON AN
OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY
EFFORT!**

Just before the first planting event in May 2018, 15 firemen came to the park and held a controlled burn of more than a dozen piles of buckthorn stacked throughout the park and the ground surrounding

them. These firemen gave us a total of 75 hours toward the Urban Forestry Grant.



Volunteer firemen are receiving their assignments before heading to the wetland park for their long-planned controlled buckthorn burn.



Everything south of the Memory Walk has been successfully burned off, including over a dozen huge piles of cut buckthorn.

During the two plantings, 36 parents and 114 children gave us 305 hours of volunteer time planting the trees and shrubs. Plus, twenty-three generous families donated \$2,325 to be credited toward the project; and our own buckthorn eradication expert, who has worked with us for five years, spent ten days of his time cutting buckthorn and spraying emerging buckthorn plants.



These are some of the volunteers who checked the children in, handed out trees, and took the children and their parents to the tree-planting sites.



TOP TWO: Stella is planting her Balsam (**left**) while twin sister, Norah, gets ready to plant her Balsam too (**right**).

BOTTOM: Stella and Norah's brother, Jonah, select a White Pine to plant...hopefully, this will be a long-remembered day for all three of them.

Saturday, July 13, 2019, Red Schoolhouse Wines will serve a dinner of grilled pork shanks, potato salad, and baked beans for \$12.95. This "Swine, Wine, Whiskey, and Wetlands" event will benefit the Stone Lake Community Wetland Park. Mark your calendar and tell your friends. Come enjoy live music and a great meal! Mark your calendar!



Watering 100 new trees and shrubs in a 17-acre park is a bigger job than one might think.



LEFT: Norbert and Tom are working to keep the boardwalk level and in good condition.



RIGHT: The creek's rock-lined border, near the bridge, gets a face-lift every year so the water can run unobstructed under the bridge and into the wetland.

We want to use this newsletter as a way of thanking everyone who made the Urban Forestry Grant Award possible. We couldn't have done it without each of you. It is our belief that as a result of the grant we can keep the park in "maintenance mode", which means that we will only need to watch for small emerging plants, pull them as we see them, and continue with annual foliar sprayings until buckthorn is totally eradicated. If we stay vigilant, we will never see buckthorn "trees" in the Stone Lake Community Wetland Park again! THANK YOU!



LEFT: Jeff Dejewski, Mike Rossio, and Tom McDonnell scrape the covered bridge before it gets its new coat of paint, a deep red color.



RIGHT: The beautiful freshly painted bridge.

STONE LAKE COMMUNITY WETLAND PARK MEMBERSHIP

VOLUNTEERS AT WORK

Volunteers are often busy at the wetland park to keep it looking beautiful. Anyone interested in volunteer opportunities are encouraged to help!



The sale of engraved bricks for our Memory Walk helps finance the normal monthly expenses of the wetland park. We are nearing 300 engraved bricks now in the path. Cost of each engraved brick is only \$55.

We are happy to report that we now have 199 members; 117 of them lifetime members and 82 who renew yearly.

We have included a Membership Coupon (below) so that we can save the cost of a special yearly renewal mailing. If you are already a lifetime member you will not need this coupon. Members who wish to renew their membership, please mail the completed coupon to the address shown. (If you do not know if you are a lifetime member, please email tncmcd@aol.com and we will check the records and let you know.) **WE THANK ALL OF YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!**

Stone Lake Community Wetland Park
N5779 Division Avenue
Stone Lake, WI 54876

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
Stone Lake, WI 54876

VIDEO COMING THIS SPRING!

The Stone Lake Community Wetland Park will soon be seen around the state as an outstanding example of a community effort to protect state waters. Tracy Hames, Executive Director of the Wisconsin Wetlands Association (WWA), has long been a fan of our park and the community that created it. In July, 2018, the WWA staff and a videographer came to our wetland park and a few other wetlands around the state to film a series of videos about why and how people in Wisconsin care for wetlands. The video will be released this spring as part of a campaign to inspire others to protect their wetlands.

Donations to the Stone Lake Community Wetland Park may be tax deductible.