



**NEWSLETTER
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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

Welcome to the Stone Lake Community Wetland Park's Fourth Newsletter!

As many of you know, the Park's membership organization was formed in October, 2015, when an educational workshop, hosted by the Washburn County Land and Water Conservation Department was held at the Wetland Park. There, Park volunteers and area landowners were taught how to prevent and control buckthorn, an invasive shrub that crowds out native species of woodland trees, shrubs, and flowers. It was at that time we more fully understood the difficulty of removing buckthorn and realized it was more labor intensive than a volunteer effort could handle. We were very fortunate to find a true buckthorn eradication expert, very experienced in every aspect of the problem, and our membership organization made it possible for us to hire him every fall for five years as we all worked together to eradicate buckthorn.

We are happy to report that our five-year struggle to eradicate buckthorn in the Wetland Park has finally taken us into "maintenance" mode. This means that the large buckthorn trees and shrubs are gone, and by providing foliar spraying of the small emerging plants each fall season we should be able to maintain a buckthorn free park. This spraying is done at ground level on specific plants which are easy to identify in late September and October as they stay green and glossy far into the

fall season when other ground cover has turned brown. The spraying is targeted to these specific buckthorn plants.

FOLIAR SPRAYING OF BUCKTHORN

The Wetland Park needs to hire someone to do foliar spraying of small, emerging buckthorn plants in September, 2021. This year, Craig Baldrige is doing this very important work but he has asked us to find someone who will be willing to take over in 2021 as he will not be available. Hopefully, someone reading this article will step up and call 715-865-5091 for further information.

RED COVERED BRIDGE

The covered bridge crosses a waterway and keeps people safe from highway traffic. What many folks don't know is that it also serves as an open-air museum. Its interior walls are covered with the complete history of the Stone Lake Community Wetland Park.



INSECT-EATING PITCHER PLANT

The insect-eating Pitcher Plant is a perennial carnivorous shrub. It survives by luring and trapping insects. The Northern Pitcher Plant thrives on sphagnum moss, and blooms from May through August. There are dozens of Pitcher Plants in our Wetland Park; all safely located far out in the center of the wetland.



BOARDWALK REPAIR

Gary Walter, Town of Stone Lake employee, and Tom McDonnell, longtime Park volunteer, worked together to raise the boardwalk this spring, as heavy snow melt and spring rains raised the water level in the Park's wetland. Three more volunteers that can always be counted on are Norb and Darlene Gundry and Tony Lyne. Could we interest you in becoming a Park volunteer?



MORE WETLAND PARK MAINTENANCE

Carol McDonnell repainted the fading Wetland Park sign near the south entrance while Tom McDonnell sanded and re-stained one of the fifteen benches found throughout the Park. There are no unpleasant jobs when working in the Park; all the jobs are worthwhile and rewarding and can be done at your own pace.



Yearly "sprucing up" is underway



BLUEBIRD HOUSES

Did you know that we have six bluebird houses along the north edge of the wetland? Tom McDonnell cleaned out the old nests in hopes that new birds (bluebirds?) will come and take occupancy. Do we have a birder out there who might like to make the return of bluebirds to the Wetland Park his or her project?



THE LITTLE FREE LIBRARY

There is a Little Free Library located in the upper picnic area. Books in it are related to birds, animals, and plants. It also has a guest comment book that has entries from several visitors to the Park. We are happy folks are enjoying their visits.



THANK YOU

A sincere **THANK YOU** to everyone reading this newsletter who has become a friend of the Park and financially supported this giant effort to eradicate buckthorn in the Stone Lake Community Wetland Park! We want you to know that we now have 203 members...77 individual or family memberships and 126 lifetime members! This is very impressive for a small community like ours. **THANK YOU SO MUCH!** Are there some friends of the Park out there who would be willing to serve on the Wetland Park Committee? While serving on the committee is an important role, it does not require a great deal of time.

WOMEN OF WOODS AND WATER

WoWW: Women of Woods and Water enjoyed snowshoeing the trails in the Wetland Park this past winter. They visited the picnic areas, discovered benches buried in the snow, and enjoyed the view of Stone Lake from the gazebo. We invite them to make the Park a yearly destination for their hiking group and hope that other groups will come too.



Stone Lake Community Wetland Park
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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

Please accept my donation to help with the Park maintenance. I understand that I will receive acknowledgement of this donation.

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

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

BRICK ORDER FORM

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):

MY 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: N5779 Division Avenue, Stone Lake, WI 54876