

The Reporter

EDITOR'S NOTES

The snows have melted, spring is here, and another beautiful Snipe Lake summer is on the way! The Snipe Lake Association is having its first meeting on Memorial Day weekend and all of you, not just Board members, are invited.

**Snipe Lake Association Board Meeting
Cloverland Town Hall, 5860 Perch Lake Rd.
Saturday, May 23, 2015 at 9 a.m.**

Coffee will be available, along with homemade coffee cake and cookies. Come and meet or re-connect with your neighbors! Join in learning about the lake and how to keep it the unique and lovely place it is. Some important changes need to be discussed and your involvement is welcomed.

Marty Ketterer, SLA's long-serving president, has moved back to the Milwaukee area. A big thank you to Marty and his wife Gaye for their excellent service to Snipe Lake and SLA and the Town of Cloverland! We wish them well in their new home. A new president needs to be elected, and other officers as well. Also, upcoming meetings and events need to be confirmed. Dates for these at present are as follows:

**Saturday, July 4, Boat Parade on Snipe Lake
Saturday, July 18, Picnic/Annual Meeting at Boat Landing
(if inclement weather, in Town Hall)
Saturday, September 5, Board Meeting, Cloverland Town Hall**

Some notes by our previous president explaining the history and purpose of SLA were included in the September 2013 newsletter and still basically hold true today. They are worth repeating here.

WHY IS THERE A SNIPE LAKE ASSOCIATION AND WHAT IS IT ABOUT?

In 1998 the Snipe Lake Association was formed partly in response to an increased threat of Eurasian Water Milfoil, an aquatic invasive species (AIS) that was spreading prolifically in some Vilas County lakes. The by-laws read, "The purpose of the Association is to preserve and protect Snipe Lake and its surroundings, and to enhance water quality, fishery, boating safety and aesthetic values of Snipe Lake, as a public recreational facility for today and for future generations."

So what exactly has the Association done and what does it continue to do? Early on it built and placed approximately 30 fish cribs. An association member recently scuba dove some of the crib areas to check

on their condition. Dangerous and sensitive areas are marked with rock warnings and no-wake buoys. A few members have volunteered at the boat landing, to be sure bad weeds and other AIS that can affect a fishery don't enter our lake. One member (Noel Junkunc) periodically records secchi disc readings and does chemical sampling of lake water, which is reported to the Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources for analysis. In 2009, the association partnered with 20 other Cloverland lakes in providing a Snipe Lake management plan. The cost of Snipe's survey was in excess of \$7000 but was paid for by a 75/25 WDNR grant with our 25% cost share covered by hundreds of volunteer hours by some of our lake owners. We are members of the Vilas County Lakes and Rivers Association and The Wisconsin Lakes Association. These organizations provide us information that helps us keep up-to-date with lake related issues.

(Editor's Note) SLA also gave donations for the two conservation easements, or land donations, on Snipe Lake. These are privately owned parcels with easements held by the Northwoods Land Trust based in Eagle River, ensuring that they will not be subdivided into smaller lots. Property taxes are paid by the landowners, who may bequeath or sell them, with subsequent owners obligated to abide by terms of the easement. These help to enhance the lake's quality by conserving longer stretches of natural shoreline.

What does all this mean for us? It means that your association is protecting our substantial investment in lake front property. Snipe has a good fishery, clean water and no invasive species. Your association continues its efforts in keeping it that way. The membership fee of \$15 is truly a tiny amount compared to property taxes, plus its helping to protect our property values. Please join or renew your membership with the membership form on the following page!

OTHER MEETINGS AND EVENTS OF INTEREST TO NORTHWOODS LANDOWNERS

Vilas County Celebrate the Lakes Day, to be held at
The Conserve School near Land O'Lakes.
Friday, June 12, 2015
(details at website www.vclra.us)

Northwoods Land Trust Annual Meeting, at
their new building in downtown Eagle River,
519 E. Wall St. (former Christmas House)
Friday, June 26, 2015, noon

July 4th Holiday Parade, Eagle River
Northwoods Land Trust Display at
the 519 E. Wall St. address

We look forward to seeing you at the meeting and around the lake!

Willa Schmidt, SLA Newsletter Editor

Snipe Lake Association Membership Form

Name(s) _____

Your mailing address _____
 (Preferred for Assoc.
 Mailings) City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Your "other" address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone numbers Lake _____ Other _____

Email address _____

July 2015 to June 2016 _____ Individual Membership \$10.00 _____ Family Membership \$15.00
Please pay dues by August 15th.

My donation to the Snipe Lake Association Development/Habitat fund: \$ _____

Clip and return to: Dan Curtin, N2972 Manorwood LN, Hortonville, WI 54944

If you are renewing your membership, just fill in your name and dollar amounts. Include any change of address or phone number.

