

**REPORT FOR WISCONSIN DNR GRANT  
NUMBER CB/CW-8700-337**

Prepared for the Squash Lake Association

By

Bill Akan

October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020

# INTRODUCTION

Squash Lake is a 396-acre, clear-water Seepage Lake with a maximum depth of 74 feet, located in Oneida County approximately 5 miles west of the city of Rhinelander. Largemouth bass and walleyes are the dominant game fish in the lake with moderate numbers of smallmouth bass, northern pike, and pan fish. The lake's water clarity is very clear. There are approximately 186 property around the lake. Visitors have access to the lake from a public boat landing (Gudis Landing) and also two State owned islands.

In 2006 Eurasian water milfoil was discovered. Since then the Squash Lake Association has continually making efforts to remove EWM from the lake. It is also continuing efforts to monitor and protect the lake from further introduction of invasive species.

The Squash Lake Association received and sponsored a grant in 2020 (**CB/CW-8700-337**). Project activities included:

- Conduct watercraft inspections.
- Hire a CB/CW Coordinator.
- Hire paid watercraft inspectors.
- Continue to offer training of CB/CW volunteer inspectors.
- Entry of watercraft inspection data into SWIMS.
- Oversee AIS education (i.e. signage, information at landing, and contacting boaters at the landing).
- Develop a final report.

The following is a summary of the above activities:

## INSPECTION EFFORTS

Because of the covid-19 virus, CB/CW inspection efforts were temporarily put on hold by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Phase 1 Of the Badger Bounce Back Program allowed landings that had less than 10 watercraft entering or leaving at one time to start inspections on June 20<sup>th</sup> 2020 as long as they followed CDC and Wi DHS guidelines. The Squash Lake Association followed the protocol set by the CDC and Wi DHS. This protocol was social distancing, wearing of masks when necessary, and sanitization. The Association provided masks, gloves, hand sanitizers, and disinfectant spray, No inspectors tested positive for Corona virus-19 during the season.

Inspections were conducted from June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020 through September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020 on weekends and holidays (July 4<sup>th</sup>, and Labor Day September 7<sup>th</sup>). From 6 AM to 5 PM. Despite the late start, paid and volunteer inspectors, recorded 258.5 hours of inspections and more than 660 people were contacted.

## CB/CW COORDINATOR

Bill Akan received a stipend to serve as Clean Boats/Clean Waters Coordinator. His duties included:

- Hiring of paid trained inspectors and offering training for CB/CW volunteer inspectors.
- Enter watercraft inspection data in SWIMS.
- Oversee AIS education at the landing.
- Develop a final report.

## WATERCRAFT INSPECTORS

Two paid boat inspectors were hired to conduct inspections at Gudis Landing on Squash Lake. These inspectors worked from 6 AM to 5 PM on Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays (4<sup>th</sup> of July and Labor Day).

Because of Covid-19 restrictions, no group training of volunteers were made available this year. All volunteers had previously been trained. All inspectors were contacted and given instructions on the proper CDC and WI DHS protocol for inspections. In addition, instructions were posted at the boat landing shed. Inspectors were asked to maintain social distancing and if they thought it might be necessary to help with inspection efforts the SLA guidelines asked that they were to wear a mask and gloves.

## AIS EDUCATION

The DNR instructed all CB/CW volunteers to not hand out pamphlets, brochures, or any other material due to the risk of spreading COVID-19 through contact. Boaters were still provided Instructions and information while maintaining social distancing.

## INSPECTION EFFORTS

Following the guidelines of Phase1 of the Badger Bounce Back program CB/CW inspections were started on June 20<sup>th</sup> and continued through the Labor Day weekend (September 7<sup>th</sup>). Inspectors recorded over 259 hours of inspections and over 640 people were contacted (See Appendix A). These efforts were entered into the SWIMS data base. Again, thanks to the efforts of volunteer and paid inspectors, no new invasive species were found in Squash Lake.

# APPENDIX A

| DATE    | INSPECTOR      | ENTERING | LEAVING | COMMENTS  | CONTACTS | HOURS |
|---------|----------------|----------|---------|---|----------|-------|
| 6/20/20 | Tom Fuss       | 0        | 0       | Rain all day                                    | 0        | 3     |
| 6/21/20 | Jerry Ruppel   | 11       | 6       | Hancock Lake, Flannery Lake, Pine Lake          | 45       | 8     |
| 6/21/20 | Tom Fuss       | 4        | 0       | Little Trout Lake, Mansen Lake                  | 8        | 3     |
| 6/26/20 | Russ Tennessen | 1        | 0       |   | 2        | 2.5   |
| 6/26/20 | Russ Tennessen | 0        | 0       |   | 0        | 2     |
| 6/27/20 | Tom Fuss       | 1        | 0       | Boom lake                                       | 2        | 3     |
| 6/27/20 | Jerry Ruppel   | 11       | 0       | Crescent lake                                   | 31       | 8     |
| 6/28/20 | Tom Fuss       | 6        | 0       | Emma lake, Long lake, Pine lake                 | 12       | 3     |
| 6/28/20 | Jerry Ruppel   | 10       | 1       | Wisconsin river, white sand lake, Crescent lake | 31       | 8     |
| 7/3/20  | Russ Tennessen | 0        | 0       |   | 0        | 2     |
| 7/4/20  | Tom Fuss       | 2        | 1       |   | 7        | 3     |
| 7/4/20  | Jerry Ruppel   | 2        | 2       |   | 12       | 8     |
| 7/4/20  | Jerry Ruppel   | 13       | 0       | Clear lake Pelican lake, Wasburn lake           | 34       | 0     |
| 7/5/20  | Tom Fuss       | 0        | 1       |   | 2        | 3     |
| 7/5/20  | Jerry Ruppel   | 4        | 6       | Lake Wausau, Lake Michigan                      | 21       | 8     |
| 7/5/20  | Russ Tennessen | 2        | 1       |   | 8        | 1     |
| 7/11/20 | Tom Fuss       | 2        | 2       |   | 10       | 3     |
| 7/11/20 | Jerry Ruppel   | 6        | 6       |   | 30       | 8     |
| 7/12/20 | Tom Fuss       | 2        | 1       | Gun Lock lake                                   | 12       | 3     |
| 7/12/20 | Jerry Ruppel   | 6        | 4       | Crescent lake, West horsehead lake              | 21       | 8     |
| 7/18/01 | Tom Fuss       | 1        | 0       | Old Plank flowage                               | 2        | 4.5   |
| 7/18/20 | Bill Akan      | 4        | 1       | jet ski rental don't know                       | 10       | 4     |
| 7/19/20 | Tom Fuss       | 0        | 1       |   | 2        | 3     |
| 7/19/20 | Jerry Ruppel   | 8        | 2       | Boom lake                                       | 19       | 8     |
| 7/25/20 | Tom Fuss       | 2        | 0       |   | 6        | 3     |
| 7/25/20 | Jerry Ruppel   | 10       | 4       | Lake Julia                                      | 32       | 8     |
| 7/26/20 | Tom Fuss       | 0        | 2       |   | 5        | 3     |

|         |               |     |     |  |     |       |
|---------|---------------|-----|-----|--|-----|-------|
| 7/26/20 | Jerry Ruppel  | 2   | 5   | Boom lake                                | 10  | 8     |
| 7/27/20 | Bill Akan     | 1   | 1   |  | 4   | 0.5   |
| 8/1/20  | Tom Fuss      | 1   | 1   |  | 5   | 3     |
| 8/1/20  | Jerry Ruppel  | 4   | 2   |  | 12  | 8     |
| 8/2/20  | Tom Fuss      | 0   | 1   |  | 8   | 3     |
| 8/2/20  | Jerry Ruppel  | 2   | 3   | Emma lake                                | 15  | 8     |
| 8/8/20  | Tom Fuss      | 0   | 1   |  | 2   | 2.5   |
| 8/8/20  | Jerry Ruppel  | 6   | 1   |  | 17  | 8     |
| 8/9/20  | Tom Fuss      | 1   | 2   |  | 4   | 3     |
| 8/9/20  | Jerry Ruppel  | 7   | 2   | Washburn lake, Lake George               | 23  | 8     |
| 8/15/20 | Tom Fuss      | 2   | 1   |  | 5   | 3     |
| 8/15/20 | Jerry Ruppel  | 7   | 2   |  | 19  | 8     |
| 8/16/20 | Tom Fuss      | 0   | 1   |  | 2   | 3     |
| 8/16/20 | Jerry Ruppel  | 3   | 5   |  | 20  | 8     |
| 8/22/20 | Tom Fuss      | 0   | 0   |  | 0   | 3     |
| 8/22/20 | Jerry Ruppel  | 5   | 1   | Lake George                              | 11  | 8     |
| 8/22/20 | Russ Tennesen | 0   | 3   |  | 5   | 1     |
| 8/23/20 | Tom Fuss      | 2   | 1   | Disabled SUV left at landing, called AAA | 7   | 3     |
| 8/23/20 | Jerry Ruppel  | 2   | 0   | Lake Nokomis                             | 5   | 4.5   |
| 8/29/20 | Tom Fuss      | 1   | 1   |  | 2   | 3     |
| 8/29/20 | Jerry Ruppel  | 3   | 3   | Lake Nokomis                             | 11  | 8     |
| 8/30/20 | Tom Fuss      | 1   | 1   | Spirit Flowage                           | 4   | 3     |
| 8/30/20 | Jerry Ruppel  | 4   | 4   |  | 23  | 8     |
| 9/5/20  | Tom Fuss      | 0   | 1   |  | 2   | 3     |
| 9/5/20  | Jerry Ruppel  | 6   | 10  |  | 39  | 8     |
| 9/6/20  | Tom Fuss      | 0   | 0   |  | 0   | 3     |
| 9/6/20  | Jerry Ruppel  | 4   | 6   | Crescent Lake Manson Lake                | 48  | 8     |
|         |               | 172 | 100 |  | 667 | 258.5 |