

Shore to Shore News



Swartswood Lakes & Watershed Association, Inc., PO Box 44, Swartswood, NJ 07877

August 2013

President's Message

I am happy to report that the recent discovery of the European Water Chestnut resulted in a great turnout of concerned locals. From Randy organizing a last minute meeting, to all the volunteers who went out searching for the nasty weed over several days, I am impressed! We also had some folks who don't live near the lakes come out to help in the search on a rainy Saturday morning.

I hope we have a great turnout for the next general meeting on September 14th. Working together we can keep our lakes and watershed clean and beautiful. Keep up the great work!

Best regards,
Jim Stark

**FALL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2013
CAMP LOU HENRY HOOVER DINING ROOM
9 A.M. Trustee meeting
10 a.m. General membership meeting!**

It is vitally important that you plan to attend this meeting. You will receive the latest up-date on the water chestnut situation and other matters. There will also be an election of officers at this meeting.

Attendance was so poor at the spring meeting that we did not have a quorum to hold an official meeting. Therefore, no official business was transacted. It is imperative that this does not happen again. These are your lakes! Please plan to attend and participate to protect your interests.

Message from Technical Director

I suspect many of us expected that one day the water chestnut (WC) would be discovered in Swartswood Lake. The fact that it was discovered July 19, and we were able to mobilize and search both Big and Little Swartswood Lakes in less than three weeks, speaks volumes toward how important preserving the lakes and watershed is to our lake community.

The task could not have been pulled off in the short time frame between discovery and the WC dropping its seeds without good communication and team effort. The first pass search and removal by performed by Aquatic Analysts and Swartswood State Park. Next, we received assistance from Tim Clancy, Peter Rathjens and the Lake Hopatcong Water Scouts, which was invaluable as there is no better starting point than insight from those who have already gone through the learning curve and generously offer to share their expertise.

The search itself was conducted by Swartswood Lakes and Watershed Association, Swartswood Yacht Club, Paradise Fishing Club, Girl Scout Camp Lou Henry Hoover and others from the community who volunteered their time. Good coverage by the New Jersey Herald greatly assisted in getting the word out.

During the search more WC was found in the North Cove, and fortunately it was found early, before beds had developed. We have accomplished our primary goal of stopping WC beds develop in the lake. To be realistic and despite best efforts, it is likely some WC still remains. It is virtually impossible to find all WC in the American lotus beds, as the difficulty of the search is obvious by the attached photo.

Left uncontrolled water chestnut will destroy other plants, fish life, and recreation, deplete dissolved oxygen and increase lake water temperatures beneath the beds. The best defense is to remove WC early, otherwise the plant will become the beast seen in the below you tube videos:



Photo by Connor J. Drew/New Jersey Herald
Volunteer Joel Pinsker, left, leads Jerry Pipher, center, Lydia Bessler, back, and Dee Kelly, far right, in a search through the American lotus plants for the invasive water chestnut Saturday at Swartswood Lake in Stillwater.

[The European Water Chestnut](#)
[Wanted: Water Chestnut - Help Spot This Invasive Plant!](#)

During our September 14 SLWA public meeting there will be time dedicated to a WC debriefing session. We will need to do this again next year, and the more we can share the better. Fortunately, we will not then be under the same time pressure.

Everybody involved deserves more than a pat on the back for a job well done. We also were given a mission for using those canoes and kayaks

Randall K. Sprague
Technical Director
Swartswood Lakes and Watershed Association

Dear Neighbors:

It is always sad to see the summer season come to an end but the fall months can be the best time of the year for outdoor recreation. As always, everything but the swimming area will remain open at the park with no parking fee starting the day after Labor Day.

We are happy to report the completion of the 300-foot paver walkway across the entire length of the beach. It was all done in-house by our maintenance staff with special funding from Trenton for park improvements. It took two years to complete since we could only work on it with the help of additional summer staff while working around other routine maintenance and when the weather allowed. A professional contractor could not have done a better job. This is actually what we have been told by many of our regular patrons. Not only is it an aesthetic improvement but it also helps to keep the sand from encroaching onto the lawn area.

While it would be nice to just focus on the positive things that have occurred this summer, our new lake invader is on the forefront of all our minds in terms of lake management. Although it was just discovered this past summer, the amount of Water Chestnut found on July 19th indicates it has been around for at least a couple of years. However, we should not be discouraged. We were fortunate to find it early and now the key is to remain vigilant in keeping it from spreading. An incredible effort has already been made by volunteers and park staff. We were able to remove the plants that were found before the seeds were able to drop for next year's growth. In addition to closely monitoring and immediately removing the plant, the best thing we can do now is outreach and education to get the word out to other lake users. The meeting that took place at Camp Hoover in August was a great start but we need to reach out to the general public as well. We have posted the information in the park office and in all our bulletins boards around the park. The information will also be posted on our website. Let's get people to help spread the word not the plant.

As always, we will continue to work together in our common goal of protecting and maintaining our lakes because the most effective approach is teamwork.

Sincerely,

Blanca R. Chevrestt, Superintendent
Swartswood State Park

Dues Reminder

Have you paid your 2013 dues? If not, why not make out a check today? Just \$35 for family membership made out to SLWA. And remember, it is tax deductible.

Mail to:

SLWA, C/O Larry Condit
1 Windy Brow Manor
Newton, NJ 07860

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____

Enclosed: \$ _____

Additional Donation \$ _____

Paradise Fishing Club

Ed Szabo reports that fishing was slow during the dog days of summer. Some walleyes, a few trout and pickerel were caught. The club hopes to have a good ice fishing season in February.

Ed also hopes that the popularity of "Duck Dynasty" on TV will make goose hunting more politically acceptable this year.

**NOTICE
YOU ARE INVITED!**

**SLWA WILL HOLD A COVERED DISH PICNIC IMMEDIATELY
FOLLOWING THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
AT THE HOME OF THE SPRAGUES**

982 ROUTE 521

HOT DOGS AND HAMBURGERS WILL BE PROVIDED.

**BRING A SIDE DISH OR DESSERT AND
A BEVERAGE OF YOUR CHOICE.**

WE NEED TO KNOW HOW MANY WILL ATTEND.

PLEASE RSVP TO:

rks01@embarqmail.com

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

SWARTSWOOD LAKES & WATERSHED ASSOC. INC.

FALL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2013

CAMP LOU HENRY HOOVER DINING ROOM

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING 10 A.M.

TRUSTEE MEETING 9 A.M.

SEE NOTICE ABOUT PICNIC TO FOLLOW MEETING

**SLWA
P. O. Box 44
Swartswood, N. J. 07877**