

Shore to Shore News



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

SWLA web page <http://www.slwa.net>

January 2011

President's Message

Swartswood Lake is now lowered to the lowest level we have seen for many years. This is in part because of coordination between Swartswood State Park and SLWA to maximize the lake lowering. The lake lowering purpose this year is maintenance of the State Park beach and to maximizing the invasive weed control kill effort.

The State Park did have additional maintenance performed at the outfall stream between the Swartswood Lake and the Mill Pond and had to address some recurring beaver dams. In addition, Blanca assisted SLWA with an elevation survey of the earthen coffer dam, located just before the concrete dam. The survey confirmed that removal of the coffer dam would provide further lake lowering and some excavation was performed, but then the brunt of the winter weather arrived. More work on the coffer dam is needed, but that will be for a future year.

With the lake now lowered, the question was would the winter be cold enough to produce maximum freeze benefit? Much of the lake froze by mid-December and by late December much of it had 5 to 6 inches of solid ice. From December through January we experienced several single digit temperature nights and a few sub-zero nights. The early February forecast is for more single digit nights. We might be fortunate enough to have kill effect of invasive aquatic plants to depths five to six feet. The proof will be what we see this summer.

For the latest information concerning Swartswood State Park please see the information letter from Superintendent Blanca Chevestt. We all hope the beach cleanup effort was highly successful. Please also see deicer comments by Blanca Chevestt.

American Lotus: SLWA has sent a letter to NJDEP concerning the invasive growth of American Lotus on Swartswood Lake. The lotus has grown from a North Cove bed of about ½ acre size in the 1980's to the current 20 plus acres. See page 4 for photos comparing lotus in the North Cove 1968 to present. Further, the lotus has now migrated across the lake and is embedded in the immediate vicinity of the State Park beach swimming area. Although NJDEP considers the American Lotus threatened, this highly invasive plant needs to be controlled. SLWA hopes to meet with NJDEP during the winter months to develop a plan of action. The

plan will likely be sequential, meaning use of trial sample areas, to demonstrate desired results before full plan implementation.

Canada Geese: As is typical during the winter months many hundreds of geese congregate at Swartswood Lake, which was true through early January. The severe cold did finally force the geese elsewhere, which has not been true every winter.

Upcoming Winter Events: Despite the cold, weekend weather has been great for enjoying the lake. See attached information on the Paradise Fishing Club ice fishing tournament and Swartswood Yacht Club will be hosting a skating party February 20, 2011. Contact Lydia Gould-Bessler for more information. lydiaandjohn1@gmail.com

For now, enjoy the winter. The days are getting longer so spring is not that far away.

Best Regards,

Randy Sprague

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Dues reminder

Have you paid your 2011 dues ? If not, why not make out at 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 \$ _____

Message from Swartswood State Park
January 2011

Dear Neighbors:

Winter is here along with the cold -- or so we hope for the sake of the lake lowering. As much as I dislike the cold I find myself wishing for freezing temperatures just to get back at those pesky invasive weeds that torment us during the summer. Of course, getting the water level down is key to an effective kill. Heavy rains in November made that very difficult, especially for our swimming area clean-up project but we are back on track. Following Land Use Regulations, we spent a considerable amount of time and money removing debris, leaf litter and decayed plant material from the millpond channel and millpond. We hope all our efforts will allow us to achieve maximum lake lowering depth of about five feet.

I am sure many residents noticed the activity at the State Park beach. We were able to remove over a decade's worth of accumulated leaf litter and organic material from the swimming area as well. Our three dedicated maintenance employees worked tirelessly against the elements including snow, ice and rain but they got it done.

A successful lake lowering combined with the overall success of the 2010 herbicide treatment should give us favorable results for the 2011 season. Our goal is to pursue herbicide treatments every two years as agreed upon and approved by Assistant Commissioner Amy Cradic. We will be asking for updated maps for 2012 herbicide treatment to prepare our proposal for Trenton.

As the ice begins to form around our lakes, we want to remind residents that deicing systems are not approved by the NJ State Park Service at this time. Please remember that our public lakes are also popular in the winter for ice related recreational activities such as ice fishing and ice-skating.

We appreciate your cooperation and assistance in keeping our lakes clean, healthy and safe.

Sincerely,
Blanca R. Chevrestt
Superintendent
Swartswood State Park



Photo identified as Swartswood Lake 1968 on NJDEP photo web page¹. Photo appears to be from North Cove shoreline (general vicinity of Lotus Landing, aka The Boathouse) toward Swartswood State Park. Note absence of American Lotus.



Swartswood Lake from the North Cove (The Boathouse) looking toward Swartswood State Park 2009. Massive lotus bed where now exists where row boats were in 1968.

¹ <http://www.state.nj.us/state/darm/links/guides/senpa001-4.html#box18>

Stillwater Day 2010:

SLWA extends a thank you to the several SLWA members who helped staff the display on Stillwater Day. Stillwater Township has provided steadfast support for SLWA and it is vital to support Stillwater and educate old and young about SLWA efforts. Thank you to Milt Becker, Scott Cooper, Margaret Emmetts, Jim Stark and Ed Saal. Ed Szabo, as always, was wearing several hats for Stillwater Day and assisted SWLA, Paradise Fishing Club and the Stillwater Historical Society.

Ice-Eaters:

Life safety concerns related to deicers continue to be an item in the news locally and in the northern states. The current trend seems to be toward banning the devices and/or restricting their use. As discussed in prior newsletters, SLWA discourages their use. The recommendation of SLWA is to remove your dock at the end of the season. Other options are an electric winch to assist with dock removal of an all season dock, as in use at the car-top launch or as manufactured by EZdock.

Unfortunately, the vendor marketing materials tout use of the device to protect the ‘safety’ of the investment in your boat and dock, but marketing materials typically disregard life safety issues. Vendor O&M manuals, on the other hand, are more specific about life safety risks; although the cause, effect, why and how are not always explained. O&M manual excerpts for one vendor are below:

- Extreme caution should be used around open water, especially cold water, which poses a hazard in and of itself.
- Under No Circumstances should anyone enter the water while a de-icer is operating.
- De-icers set up small localized currents the longer they run.
- [vendor] highly recommends that all possible precaution be taken around open water de-icing areas to ensure the safety of the public, i.e., “Thin Ice” and/or “Open Water” signs, appropriate lighting, fencing or other safety measures required in your area.

Paradise Fishing Club:

My grandson, who just turned seven, wanted to go fishing. I will leave most of details out, but he had no idea how to ice fish. The first step in training him was auguring to make sure the ice in our immediate area was thick, which it was. I then instructed him on how to auger the ice, sound for lake depth, bait the hook and how to let the fish run. We had great day on the ice, landing five pickerel 18" to 24". The 24" pickerel was his. The fish were all released. As a reminder, Paradise Fishing Club ice fishing derby is every Sunday for the entire month of February. Details are attached, or see <http://paradisefishingclub.com> Pass the on to friends and neighbors. The lunkers are there and they can be landed by a seven year old. What fun!!!

SWLA Web page <http://www.slwa.net>





www.ParadiseFishingClub.com

ICE FISHING IN FEBRUARY TOURNAMENT

BIG & LITTLE SWARTSWOOD LAKES

SUNDAY 2/6, 2/13, 2/20, & 2/27, 2011 (ICE PERMITTING)

6:30 AM UNTIL 4:00 PM

SPONSORED BY: THE BOAT HOUSE RESTAURANT

1040 County Road 521 Newton, NJ 07860 (on Swartswood Lake)

INFORMATION, RULES AND REGULATIONS

- Tournament Headquarters and weigh in site: THE BOAT HOUSE RESTAURANT
- Entry Fee: \$20.00 for P.F.C. members and \$25.00 for non-members for each Sunday's entry.
- Registration: Will be held on site at THE BOAT HOUSE RESTAURANT prior to contest day or from 5:30 AM – 8:00 AM each Sunday or received by mail. Contestant must be registered and entry fee paid by 8:00 AM on each Sunday in February 2011.
- There is no age restriction. Minors must have signature of parent or guardian.
- CASH PRIZES to be awarded for the top 3 Winners of any of these Species (Trout, Walleye, Small & Large Mouth Bass & Pickerel) by weight. In case of a tie, the length, then the girth and then the weigh in time will determine the winners. One prize per person per Sunday, except for Grand Prize! Total Payout will be split 50/50: **50%** between the top 3 Winners (1st Place 50%, 2nd Place 30%, 3rd Place 20%) and **50%** to P.F.C. (going to the Club for future stockings) for a 100% of each Sunday's total entry fee money received.
- **GRAND PRIZE (\$450 Strike King Ice Auger)**: OVERALL LARGEST FISH FOR ALL SUNDAY'S COMBINED. **You do not need to be present on the final day to win!!!!!!**
- **SPECIAL PRIZE (\$50.00)** for the largest Pan Fish (Crappie, Perch or Sunfish) caught **each Sunday**.
- All prizes will be awarded at THE BOAT HOUSE RESTAURANT at 4:30 PM, each Sunday.
- All fish must be fair-hooked thru the ICE at either Big or Little Swartswood Lake on each Sunday during tournament hours, and must be weighed in at THE BOAT HOUSE at 4:00 PM.
- No prizes will be awarded for fish brought in after 4:00 PM or frozen.
- Tournament will be held rain, sleet, snow or shine. There will be no refunds unless an individual Tournament is cancelled!
- NJ Fishing Laws and NJ State Park Rules apply and winners are responsible for all taxes.
- Free Parking: Swartswood State Park, Hendershots Point, West Shore Rd, Car Top launch, North Shore House and THE BOAT HOUSE RESTAURANT.
- **Entry fee includes: Beverage, Chili & Hotdog complements of THE BOAT HOUSE**
- BYOB-Bring Your Own Bait! Or buy Shiners & Fat Heads at THE BOAT HOUSE.

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: Scott Cooper-Sec./Treas.

Phone: 973-948-5309, email: Scott@ParadiseFishingClub.com

Ice Fishing in February Registration Form

PLEASE PRINT:

NAME _____ PAID MEMBER __Y__N

STREET _____

TOWN _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE (____) _____ E-Mail _____

Check dates of Participation: _____ 2/7, _____ 2/14 _____ 2/21, _____ 2/28/10

I have received, read and understand the Rules and Regulations, and I assume all risks of injury inherent in this Tournament. I agree to indemnify, protect and hold harmless the Paradise Fishing Club, the State of New Jersey, the County of Sussex, the Township of Stillwater, its agents, servants, employees and relatives for any personal injury, loss or damages of any nature suffered by me as a result of this Tournament. I agree to abide by all Rules and Regulations as part of this Agreement, the same as if it were printed above my signature.

SIGNATURE _____ Date: _____

If a Minor: Signature of Parent/Guardian _____ Date: _____

Method of Payment: Cash _____ Check # _____ Amount _____

Payment Received by _____

How did you hear about the tournament? _____

Registration can be dropped at in person at The Boat House prior to contest date or by mail

Mail entry to: Paradise Fishing Club
C/O Scott Cooper-Sec./Treas.
219 Fairview Ave
Newton, N.J. 07860

(Please note, entries received by mail will be confirmed upon receipt)

Ice Fishing in February Registration Receipt

NAME _____

DATE _____

Method of Payment: Cash _____ Check # _____ Amount _____

Payment Received by _____

Shore to Shore News

Meeting dates and other information will be posted on the SLWA web page

SWLA web page <http://www.slwa.net>

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