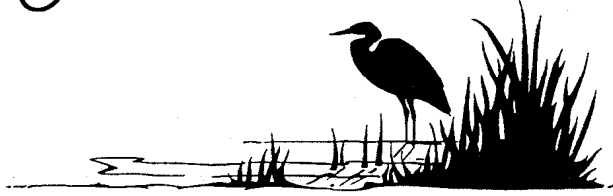


Shore to Shore News



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

September 2008

President' Message:

Overall, the summer of 2008 has been great. Lake water clarity has been good, and the weather cooperated by providing many great weekdays and weekends. As fall approaches, we are enjoying the start of the change of the seasons. But we are also beginning to plan for next year.

During the summer, SLWA approached NJDEP with a suggested plan of action for resumption of the Swartswood Lake Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) water quality program. NJDEP has responded very favorably by informing us NJDEP wishes to use Swartswood Lakes as a lake management model. Much of the reason for selecting Swartswood is the twenty-year cooperative effort history of working to improve Swartswood Lakes. Many studies have already been performed to form the foundation for future work. A meeting with NJDEP to kick-off this effort is scheduled for Monday, October 20, in Trenton.

For the SLWA October 18 fall membership meeting we will be discussing the TMDL strategy and seeking public input regarding any and all relevant issues. SLWA has stressed the point that we consider lake water quality to be the first and foremost issue. Without water quality all other issues are compromised. Other issues SLWA has identified include:

weed harvesting, private use of chemicals for milfoil control, lake sediments, solar bees, deepwater draw-off, alewife study, goose control, American lotus, weevil evaluation and weed control matting.

We view it as a given that significant progress cannot be made on all issues simultaneously and that some issues will need further evaluation. For example, we do not know why the weevils had no apparent impact on the milfoil during the summer of 2007. With regard to weevils, we likely will need a study to determine if the weevil population has been sustained since being introduced some years ago.

Similarly, we do not want to put a large effort into the concept of lake deep-water removal until we can obtain feedback on how well those systems have worked elsewhere. We must also be satisfied the system can be installed and controlled without negatively impacting receiving waters.

You will notice the fall membership meeting is Saturday, October 18 at Camp Hoover. We chose that date hoping to accommodate sailors and other SLWA members. Hope to see you all there.

Best regards,
Randy Sprague



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

JON S. CORZINE
Governor

LISA P. JACKSON
Commissioner

State Park Service
Swartswood State Park
PO Box 123
Swartswood, New Jersey 07877
Tel: (973) 383-5230
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Dear SLWA Members:

As you may know by now, we are lowering the lake this year as we try to do every three years. The lowering will begin October 1, 2008 and end March 1, 2009. The purpose of the lowering is to allow for control of invasive aquatic vegetation and lake front improvements.

Swartswood Lake is a State-owned lake and the State Park Service is tasked with the responsibility of providing resource protection and outdoor recreation while ensuring public safety. Installation of any structure on or into the lake requires review and approval from the State Park Service. This includes all swim floats, trampolines, slides and other structures located in Swartswood Lake that are not anchored to the shore. Devices used to keep ice from forming around docks in the winter must also be reviewed and approved. As a reminder, requests to install or replace docks on both Little Swartswood and Big Swartswood Lake is required prior to the start of any project. Other shoreline projects such as retaining walls, bulkheads or sediment removal may require a permit from DEP Land Use Management. Land Use Management can be reached at 908.879.3769. Fill material of any kind, including sand, is not permitted in either lake. Please call the park office before starting any shoreline project to find out what is required. We would be happy to help in any way we can to ensure the success of your project.

As always, we appreciate your cooperation and assistance in helping us with the stewardship of the state's natural, cultural, historic and recreational resources. Your support over the years, especially this past year, has been tremendous. Your participation is important to us. I hope to see you at the next meeting.

**Sincerely,
Blanca R. Chevrestt
Superintendent**

SLWA dues reminder!

SLWA's fiscal year begins September 1st. This means that 2009 dues are now payable. We would appreciate your mailing your check for \$35.00 to:

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

Please do this while it is fresh in your mind. Make sure to include your name and current address with your check. If you have changed your e-mail address, please include this information also, so that we may up-date our mailing list.

Thank you. Your Membership Committee

Lake lowering

As Blanca Chevrestt stated in her letter, Swartswood Lake will be lowered this year. The dam will be opened on October 1st and closed again on March 1, 2009. How rapidly the water level lowers is dependent on a number of factors, including the amount of rainfall we receive. It is anticipated that water level will drop a maximum of four to five feet.

If you own lakefront property, this is an excellent time to do routine maintenance. The exposed lake bottom offers a good opportunity to remove any exposed weeds. It is especially beneficial if the roots can also be removed. Hopefully we will have a "hard freeze" over the winter so there will be a maximum impact to the Eurasian Milfoil, which has invaded our lake.

Paradise Fishing Club

The Fishing Club is pleased to report that they stocked 110, fourteen to fifteen inch brown trout in the lake this spring. They also assisted the State in stocking 2860 brown and rainbow trout. Fish and Wildlife has suggested that the best interests of the fish would be served if channels could be cut in areas of dense milfoil. This allows the fish easier access to food, as well as better escape paths from predators. Anything lake residents could do to facilitate this would be appreciated.

The Club held its walleye and trout contest on May 17th. Winners were:

First place	Carl Little	4.54 pound walleye	\$125. prize
Second place	Greg White	4.26 pound walleye	\$75. prize
Third place	Ed Szabo	4.14 pound walleye	\$50. prize
First place	Joe Wunder	1.54 pound trout	\$125. prize
Second place	Drake Schuyler	1.22 pound trout	\$75. prize
Third place	Vincent Cignaella	.5 pound trout	\$50. prize

During the course of the contest, the club conducted a creel survey. Excluding the winners, 32 fish were caught, representing 11 different species.

A reliable source reports that a gent in his early 90's recently hooked a 5.5 pound, untagged brown trout. A fish this size would indicate that the trout in Swartswood are successfully wintering over. The club has also collected 4 tag returns this year.

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

SWARTSWOOD LAKES & WATERSHED ASSOCIATION INC.

FALL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2008

CAMP LOU HENRY HOOVER

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING 10:00 A.M.

TRUSTEE MEETING 9:00 A.M.

DUES NOTICE: Dues for the 2008-2009 year are due September 2008.

Dues for individuals are \$35.00.

Checks may be made payable to:

Swartswood Lakes and Watershed Association Inc.

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

LAKE LOWERING OCTOBER 1, 2008 TO MARCH 1, 2009