

# Shore to Shore News



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

May 2014

## President's message

Hope you have survived one of New Jersey's worst winters and are looking forward to a much nicer summer season at Swartswood Lakes.

SLWA will hold its spring meeting on Saturday, June 7 at 10 a.m. in Townley Hall at Camp Hoover. We hope you will plan to attend this important meeting and bring a neighbor. A speaker from NJDEP will make a presentation regarding water quality and there will be an opportunity for you to ask questions. We will also be making plans for our annual inspection of the lake for the presence of water chestnut. As you should be aware, it is most important to keep this invasive out of the water to protect your property values.

This is the year residents will have the opportunity to have an herbicide applied to their respective waterfronts. As in the past, team leaders from your area will contact you with details. The new chemicals seem to be far more effective than those previously used. This important application, paired with lowering the lake on alternate years has produced a significant reduction in weed conditions. We hope you will see fit to participate in this program.

We will also be introducing an amendment to SLWA By-Laws. Any amendment requires a two-thirds affirmative vote from the paid membership. To achieve this we need almost 60 votes. Please plan to vote on this important issue either in person or by mail-in ballot.

Something to think about...at the fall meeting we elect new members to the Board of Trustees. Would you be interested in serving on the Board? If so, please let me know. We are always looking for new people with new ideas.

Hope to see you on June 7<sup>th</sup>.

Margaret Emmetts, President

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## Swartswood State Park

Dear Neighbors:

Most of us would probably agree that this was a long and cold winter. However, on the bright side, it offered some of the best conditions for winter activities we have seen in a long time. Since there was no shortage of snow and ice, visitors took advantage of the endless opportunities to go ice fishing snow shoeing, cross country skiing, tubing, sledding and everything else in between. Those are the kind of conditions we hope for when we lower the lake but the extreme low temps over an extended period and ample ice should still have an impact on weed growth.

Herbicide treatment for 2014 is underway for Eurasian water milfoil at the approved sites but our big concern this year is the water chestnut. We hope our immediate action to the discovery of the water chestnut last year helped to contain it to

those sites. Hand pulling is considered the most effective method of treatment so we will be out in July inspecting and pulling anything we find. We plan to coordinate our efforts with SLWA for the best coverage and results so please join us.

Back at the park, we are wrapping up renovations to our campground bathroom, building new lifeguard stands, cleaning up the grounds, opening buildings and addressing mechanical issues, just to mention a few things. It's always a busy but exciting time for us. We strive to improve our services to attract more visitors every year and enhance their experience. Our limited budget always makes it a challenge but having a dedicated and motivated staff makes it possible.

Enjoy the warm weather and we hope to see you at the next meeting.

Best regards,  
Blanca R. Chevrestt  
Superintendent

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Swartswood Yacht Club Inc.

Another sailing season begins at Swartswood Lake. Join us for a Sunday afternoon of racing and social activities from May to October. Make new friends on land and water. Visit Swartswood Sailing Club on Facebook and get membership information from Secretary Michele Aguila, [Michele.aguila@gmail.com](mailto:Michele.aguila@gmail.com).

Jim Bastinck

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Paradise Fishing Club

The Paradise Fishing Club celebrated a very successful ice fishing season with 5 Sunday Tournaments involving 261 competing fishermen, women and children. Kathy and Ken Snyder hosted those events at their Boathouse Restaurant. The food was great as was the fishing. We weighed brown trout up to 5.4 pounds, pickerel to 5.8 and crappies to 2.1. We provided "Performance Prizes" for total weight of fish caught by individuals. Morris Klima won with just under 12 pounds, Scott Cooper our Secretary/Treasurer over 11 pounds, Tucker Condit over 10 pounds, George Morville just under 9 pounds and Larry Condit just under 8 pounds, etc. Special prizes were provided by George Morville and Subaru of Newton. Kellen Bradley got the Grand Prize of a gas ice auger for a 5.8 pound large-mouth bass. Check [www.ParadiseFishingClub.com](http://www.ParadiseFishingClub.com) for all the details. We made enough money to spend \$5004.93 on 225 big trout which we stocked in the lake. Included were 100-14" to 15", 40-15" to 17", 40-17" to 19", 20-19" to 21", 15-21" to 23" and 10 whoppers 23" to 25"! Our next two events will be on May 18, "The Larry Strang Memorial Trout and Walleye Contest" 6:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. followed by "The Ron Castello Memorial Walleye Tournament" starting at 4 p.m. on Saturday, June 21 and ending at noon on Sunday, June 22. Both events will again be hosted by the Boathouse Restaurant. Come to the "weigh-ins" and see what fishing is all about! Need info? Call Scott Cooper 973-948-5390 or Ed Szabo at 973-383-9440.

Ed Szabo

**Proposed By-Laws amendment**

Our current By-Laws from 1996 states: **"Officers of this Association shall serve for a term of two years or until his or her successor has been elected. No officer shall serve in the same position for more than two consecutive terms."**

Larry Condit has done an outstanding job serving as Treasurer and maintaining our membership records. He has graciously agreed to continue in that position if we are able to make the necessary change to our By-Laws. We would, therefore, like to add the following language to the above sentence in bold print:

**With the exception of the Treasurer, whose term will have no limit, providing there are annual audits completed.**

Enactment of this change will enable Larry to continue as Treasurer. Amendment of the By-Laws requires prior notification of the membership (which is given in this newsletter) and an affirmative vote by two-thirds of the paid membership or about 60 persons. If you are unable to attend the spring meeting to vote in person, we would appreciate your completing the Absentee Ballot and returning it to us as soon as possible.

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**Absentee Ballot**

I \_\_\_\_\_ a currently paid member of SLWA cast the following ballot to amend the By-Laws of SLWA to insert the following language:

**No officer shall serve in the same position for more than two consecutive terms with the exception of the Treasurer, whose term will have no limit, providing there are annual audits completed.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

**Please return this ballot to: SLWA, PO Box 44, Swartswood, N. J. 07877**

**Dues Reminder**

**Have you paid your 2014 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 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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## Lake Management Issues

After a long cold winter, spring is finally making its appearance. For those of us who enjoy the cold weather sports, this was a great winter. I had doubts the ice would be off the lake before the start of trout season, as the ice stayed into the month of April, but did disappear about two days before the season began.

From the lake management standpoint there are several ongoing items of interest. The first issue is herbicide treatment of the lakes. Blanca informs SLWA that we did get approval for pre-emergent herbicide treatment, although we did not receive formal written notification until May 9. This has presented a problem to Larry Kovar as he cannot price the treatment until he formally knows which areas of the lake might be excluded. I spoke with Larry on May 9, before the formal notification was in hand.

Larry Kovar expects that herbicide application will not take place for about two weeks after formal notification, as he must obtain a permit based upon the notification and he must advertise the herbicide treatment in the paper for one week beforehand. This brings into question how effective treatment might be, as the treatment is to be applied pre-emergent. Larry will check for milfoil growth before application, and if growth has started cancel the application to affected areas. All of this means lake residents must act quickly to support the herbicide treatment.

Water Chestnut remains an open issue. The State Park, SLWA, lake residents and friends of the lakes performed an excellent team effort last year to search for Water Chestnut after it was discovered. We will need to search again this year to keep ahead of this threat to the lakes. Although we caught it early, water chestnut was found sporadically within the North Cove, i.e. from North Shore House to beyond the lakefront white house located south of the Boathouse.

Unfortunately this entire area is where the American Lotus is thickest and may very well conceal more water chestnut. To be prudent we want to search both Big and Little Swartswood Lakes during July of this year. The issue of American Lotus control continues to be an open item. We have no assurance at this time that the state will fund lotus control for this year, but funding may be available next fiscal year which begins July 1.

Lotus control is important for safety, lake management, fisheries and now for control of the water chestnut. But for the year 2013 American Lotus control, the water chestnut would not have been discovered.

All of the above will be part of the SLWA June 7 meeting discussions. Please be there to help us maintain the water quality and benefits of Swartswood Lakes.

Randy Sprague, Technical Director SWLA



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.

Photo from New Jersey Herald August, 2013

Some lake protection and safety reminders:

- ✓ Use only non-phosphorous fertilizers
- ✓ Pump your septic tank regularly, every three years is recommended
- ✓ If you cut lake weeds in your area remove the clippings from the lake
- ✓ Do not rake leaves and debris into the lake
- ✓ Have the appropriately sized a USCG approved flotation device on board your water craft
- ✓ For powered boats remember to use cruising lights at night

**Enjoy and Protect Our Precious Resources!**

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

**SLWA Spring Membership Meeting  
Saturday, June 7, 2014  
Townley Hall, Camp Hoover  
General Membership 10 a.m.  
Trustee Meeting 9 a.m.**