



SPREAD EAGLE CHAIN O'LAKES ASSOCIATION, INC.

SPRING 2024

Greetings!

The SECOLA board has been busy behind the scenes this winter. Britt Reynolds (Water Safety) and Joe Buchanan (Legal) have been monitoring legislation in the State of Wisconsin and throughout the country regarding the effects of wake boats on inland lakes. Jay Weber (Invasive Species) is working with Florence County Land Conservation to get ready for Clean Boats/Clean Water and making sure we have staffing for the Decontamination Station. We have added a new member to the board, Steve Faust, to chair the Finance and Insurance Committee. Soon the buoys and hazard markers will be put in and we will be ready for summer fun!

Update from Florence Township:

- Tim Bomberg, Township Chair, provided an update on the status of the new fire station which will be located off Lake Ellwood Road. Mr. Bomberg stated that the area has been cleared for the station and site preparation will begin once weight restrictions are removed for the season. He noted that the township still needs state-approved plans. For fiscal year 2024, Florence township has approved \$115,000 for this project. Per Mr. Bomberg, "Much more is needed." The township is currently working on collecting building and operational costs. Their goal in this effort is to defray costs and avoid new taxes, while using local talent for volunteering time, talent and funding. Mr. Bomberg noted there will not be a fire hydrant at the station but the township would like to have a high capacity-well within the fire station. It would be used just for filling the trucks.
- The new garbage collection system is up and running. According to Mr. Bomberg, "We won't know the exact cost of the new system until late August or early fall when the impact of the snow birds' return and usage will be known." (2024 collection cost are covered by current taxes.)

If you have any questions about your garbage pick up please refer to:

<http://www.townofflorencewisconsin.com/>.

Deb Cini

Membership donations are crucial to the health of our lakes. Thank you to everyone who has paid your 2024 dues and contributed to the many funds that enhance the value of our lake community. If you have not paid your dues yet there is still time! We have included a 2024 membership form for your use, or you can use the QR code below. You can also pay by using a PayPal account - just go to the SECOLA website at www.spreadeaglechain.org. You do not need to have PayPal to use this account. If you would like more information about the association please reach out to any of our board members listed on page 3. We also have lake representatives on every lake to welcome new members. Please contact Barb Rook, Lake Rep Chair, at 717-404-3345. Barb will get you in contact with the representative for your lake.

% of Membership by Lake

	Spring 2024	Fall 2023	Fall 2022	Fall 2021
Bass Lake	57%	66%	74%	79%
East Lake	31%	100%	73%	67%
Lily Lake	0%	92%	16%	
Long Lake	44/5	92%	91%	68%
Middle Lake	49%	81%	86%	73%
North Lake	58%	72%	68%	73%
Railroad Lakes	31%	58%	77%	67%
South Lake	9%	50%	50%	50%
West Lake	52%	76%	70%	57%
Total:	49%	76%	67%	67%

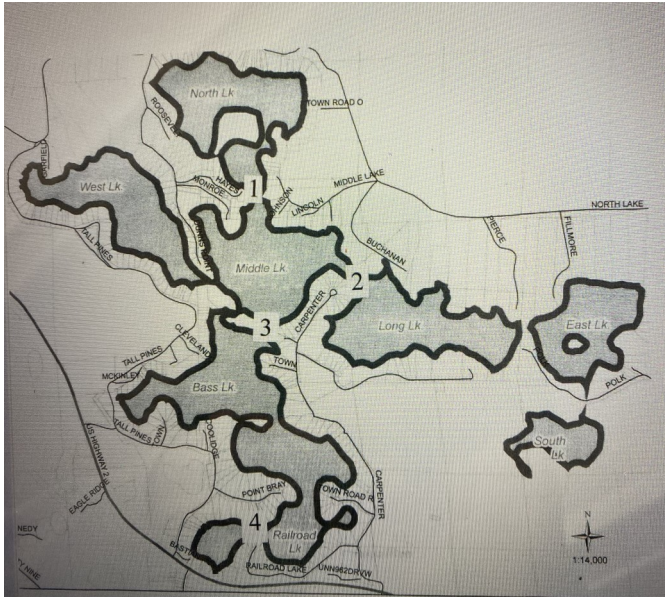


To use the QR code above:

Open the camera app on your phone so that the QR code appears in view.

Once you correctly scan the code a pop up banner will appear and you will see a yellow QR code icon appear at the bottom .

Tap the icon to open the link associated with the code.



Know the Rules!

On April 26, 2010 the Town of Florence approved Ordinance #4-26-10 to provide an exemption from the no-wake speeds, as defined in ss30.66(3)(ag)1, which states “no person may operate a motorboat within 100 feet of any dock, raft, pier or buoyed restricted area on any lake at a speed in excess of slow-no-wake.”

The exemption applies to the following Spread Eagle Chain of Lakes channels only.

1. North Lake/Middle Lake
2. Middle Lake/Long Lake
3. Middle Lake/Bass Lake
4. Railroad Lake

Please note: It is unsafe and illegal to have a wake in any of the other channels on the chain.

The Beauty of Loons!

As winter winds down, I begin thinking about our Spread Eagle loons. We have been so fortunate to have a pair of loons that have successfully raised chicks for a number of years. What a joy to watch the incredible job of parenting and teaching they do.

Someone asked me about the greatest dangers loons face. There are ice storms during migration that may cause them to fall from the sky to a place where they cannot take off. There are eagles, muskies, northern raccoons, mink, otters and snapping turtles that would love a tasty loon egg or baby loon. Then there are humans who may build on prime loon nesting areas, or carelessly run over loons with a boat or jet ski. Sometimes loons are hurt by people who, in their desire to see these magnificent water birds, approach too close.

I believe that the most dangerous time for our loons is during nesting. It takes thirty days from the time the first egg is laid until the egg hatches. During this time both male and female incubate the eggs. Because loons cannot walk on land, their nests are built right on the water's edge, two to eight inches above the surface of the water. Loons like their closest cousins, the penguins, place the eggs on their feet. They are not afraid the eggs will freeze. I think they don't want their feet to crack an egg. If a loon is startled off the nest the eggs may roll into the water.

The nest is usually very well hidden. A number of years ago I was on the water in my kayak when I heard the loons calling. An eagle had spotted the nesting loon, driven it off the nest, and was eating the eggs. It sounded like the loons were crying.

The other danger during the nesting time is human. Sometimes someone may stumble on a nest and startle the adult off. Sometimes waves from boats will swamp the nest. Wake boats are causing havoc to nesting loons. They produce a wave twice as high as a normal boat. In some areas they are devastating loon populations. Experts suggest that wake boats should stay at least 1000 feet from a shore where loons may be nesting.

Every year but one the loons have nested in East Lake. We put up signs warning that we have baby loons as soon as they are on the water. Perhaps we should put signs on the bridge as soon as ice out “*Caution Nesting Loons.*” That would remind us to keep our boats as far as we can from the island so we can enjoy another summer filled with the sights and sounds of these Great Northern Divers.

Article and photography submitted by Larry Warren, our local official Loon Watcher (East Lake).



2024 SECOLA SUMMER BOOK CLUB SCHEDULE

<u>Date</u>	<u>Book Title</u>	<u>Author</u>	<u>Leader</u>
June 12	<i>The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo</i>	Taylor Jenkins Reid	Dianna Brice
July 10	<i>Someone Else's Shoes</i>	Jojo Moyes	Dee Del Santo
July 24	<i>The Nine</i>	Gwen Strauss	Martha Nagel
August 7	<i>Scared Fearless: An Unlikely Agent in the US Secret Service</i>	Deborah Hickman Perry & Kathryn Clark Childer's	Mary Lynn Painton
August 21	<i>Tom Lake</i>	Ann Patchett	Holly Wissing
September 11	<i>Wish You Were Here</i>	Jodi Picoult	Roz Zacks

The Summer Book Club meets at the Florence County Library as scheduled at 10am. We welcome all SECOLA members. If you have any questions concerning our club please contact Jane Patrick (758) 478-1814.

2024 SECOLA GARDEN CLUB SCHEDULE

April 25	1pm	Stenciling Clay Flower Pots
May 16	8am	Road Trip to Hanson's Gardens in Rhinelander
June 6	1pm	Mosaic Garden Decorations
June 27	1pm	Luncheon at the Chippewa Club
July 25	9am	Tour of Berg's Gourmet Garlic Farm
August 8	1pm	Tour of Kay Smith's cottage gardens
August 22	5pm	Potluck for members and spouses with a presentation on "The Fungus Among Us"
September 5	1pm	Tour of Bass Island Wildflower Gardens

The SECOLA Gardeners Club is for gardener's of all kinds; beginners and master gardeners. If you are interested in becoming a member please contact Marla Peterson, Co-chair at: marlapeterson@comcast.net or (815)742-2425. Members will be sent a newsletter detailing this summer's events.

SECOLA BOARD MEMMBER

President	Scott Reynolds	815-474-2636
Vice-President	Deb Cini	906-282-6762
Treasurer	Dana Colenso	715-696-6026
Secretary	Cindy Weber	630-337-5736

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Natural Resources	Carl Sundberg	715-696-3442
Bass Island	Chuck Hjerpe	972-951-5520
Publicity	Deb Cini	906-282-6762
Invasive Species	Jay Weber	414-791-2974
Water Safety	Britt Reynolds	815-735-5782
Finance & Insurance	Steve Faust	
Building & Zoning	Gary Weber	630-251-8424
Grants	Glen Johnson	312-218-2545
Membership	Katie Reynolds	608-239-1578
Legal	Joe Buchanan	305-720-646

SAILS AT HALF-MAST

BETTY BURGESS – MIDDLE LAKE

SCOTT CHANLYNN – LONG LAKE

JOHN CURRAN – LITTLE RAILROAD LAKE

YOU ARE MISSED!

SECOLA Board Meetings

Meetings will be held at the Chippewa Club (10am—12pm)
 Friday, May 24
 Friday, June 21
 Friday, July 12
 Friday, September 6
 Contact Scott Reynolds (815) 474-2636 if you plan to attend.



Nest of Eastern Kingbirds in a dead tree hanging over the water in North Lake Channel. Photography by Jim Zacks



Can you solve the mystery?

This picture was submitted by Mary Endleman (Bass Lake). Can anyone identify the boys in the pictures and the year? We have two lake residents who believe this was taken on Little Railroad Lake by the marina. So far the closest guess we have is the 1960's.

Jack Zacks (North Lake) noted that they use to have a slide there with wooden sleds on wheels. Does anyone remember the story behind the sleds and/or using them? If you have the answers please contact Deb Cini and we will publish them in the next issue of the newsletter.

Did you know?

The DNR installed the Bass Island floating dock in 2002. The Town of Florence purchased the eight-foot picnic table and the SECOLA Garden Club donated the benches.

Spread Eagle "Daytrips continued..."

We continue to explore the beautiful areas surrounding us in the Upper Peninsula and Northern Wisconsin, which are easily accessible from the Chain. Many thanks to our guide, Jim Zacks (North Lake), and his wonderful photography.

In this newsletter, Jim's focus is on the **Keweenaw Peninsula**. <https://www.keweenaw.info>

Michigan Technological University <https://www.mtu.edu>

Hancock

Quincy Mine <https://www.quincymine.com>

Located at the site of a former copper mine, it provides a glimpse into copper mining and its role in the economy and culture of the area. When the mine ceased production in 1945, the main shaft was over 9,200 feet.

Calumet

Calumet Theatre https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Calumet_Theatre
"downtown".

Copper Harbor area

Jacob's Falls <https://gowaterfalling.com/waterfalls/jacob.shtml>

Jacob's Falls is part of a string of falls, and is easily viewed from the roadside park at its base.

Estivant Pines Nature Sanctuary

<https://michigannature.iescentral.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=locationgallery&action=listing&listing=110>

A stand of virgin white pine has been preserved and can be seen from a pair of trails (2.5 miles in total) that wind through it. Some of the trees date 500 years and stand 125 feet tall.

Fort Wilkins Historic State Park

<https://www2.dnr.state.mi.us/parksandtrails/Details.aspx?id=419&type=SPRK>

This restored military outpost was built in 1844 and provides a glimpse into life at that time.

Brockaway Mountain Drive <https://www.michigan.org/property/brockaway-mountain-drive>

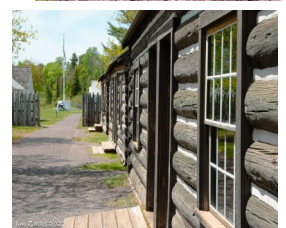
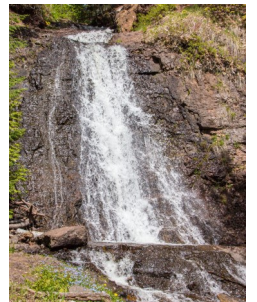
The 9.5 mile drive climbs to 720 feet above Lake Superior, providing spectacular views of the lake and the Keweenaw Peninsula.

Jampot (Home of Poorrock Abbey). <https://poorrockabbey.com>

The Holy Protection Monastery sells wild berry preserves, made from fruit picked near the shop, as well as a selection of baked goods.

Fitzgerald's <https://www.fitzgeralds-mi.com>

This restaurant, on the shore of Lake Superior with a balcony overlooking the water, is noted for its smokehouse barbecue.



Iron Mountain takes the World Stage! 2024 FIS Continental Cup Annual Ski Jumping Tournament at Pine Mountain

Every year the Kiwanis Ski Club hosts a ski jumping tournament, usually involving competitive jumping on two or three days, with a day of warm-ups preceding. The jumping hill was remodeled in 2022 to bring it up to current standards for international competition.

Two jumpers traveled 456 feet through the air to set a new hill record this year. Watching the jumpers in flight is awe-inspiring as they glide stretched forward over their long skis to attain as aerodynamic a posture as possible. Jumpers are judged on a combination of the distance through the air that they travel and their form along the way. Starting near the top of the steel scaffold that towers 176 feet above the top of the natural hill, the jumpers glide down a refrigerated track to reach a speed of about 55 miles/hour at the point that the scaffold ends and they become airborne. They soar through the air and land on a steep section of the landing area, trying to maintain a “telemark” posture as they touch the ground with one ski in front of the other.

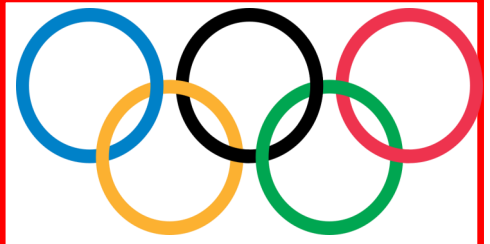
The distance from the take-off point to the landing is now measured using cameras. Snow-making equipment to cover the landing and a refrigeration system for the track in the scaffold mean that even warmer temperatures do not necessarily require cancellation of the event. The big weather factor is wind, especially cross winds that might blow the jumpers off of the main landing area.



The ambience of a ski meet at Pine Mountain is most like football tailgating except that it is usually cold. This year was a major exception, with warm temperatures and no snow on the parking lot. People typically use fire barrels to keep warm, and grills to prepare food, but due to this year’s extreme dry weather and the potential for grass fires the organizers, issued fire warnings. There are reserved parking spots for elaborate tailgates and, because it is usually cold, people often build temporary shelters. For a fee you can even arrange to have a private porta-potty (see photo below). You can also enjoy the event in the comfort of your car. A local radio station usually broadcasts the event as it happens.



Article and Photography by Jim Zacks



2024 Boat Parade

Theme:

Honoring the Olympics

Once again the Melin family has volunteered to host an ice cream social and lawn party before SECOLA’s boat parade.

What a great opportunity to meet your fellow lake residents. We invite all members to join in the fun!

It can be as easy as grabbing a flag and joining in the parade!

Spread Eagle Chain of Lakes Directory

The first Spread Eagle Chain of Lakes was produced by Nori Neff and sent out the spring of 2005. At that time Nori wrote “The spirit of the directory is to help create stronger bonds in our neighborhood” and she did just that! So many of us have come to rely directory our directory. Thank you, Nori, for your great idea and then keeping it alive all these years.

This year SECOLA is taking over the task with Nori’s permission. The board would like to thank Scott Howard and Katie Reynolds for taking the lead on this project.

The information in the book is for the use of Spread Eagle Chain of Lakes homeowners and will not be distributed or used for purposes of solicitation. All lake residents are invited to submit their information to be entered into the directory. We will have more information on cost in the coming months.

For your convenience we have included a directory form for you to complete and mail back.

The goal is to have this ready for print by May 15, 2024.



**Ladies of the Lakes
A Christmas to Celebrate!**

Thanks to hostess, Robin Larsson (left), we celebrated December's LOL in style! Not to be out done, the **Gentlemen of the Lakes** had their own celebration! (Pictured bottom right: Pete Merckx, Tom Wender, Scott Reynolds, Jay Brown, Jay Weber, Carl Larsson, Steve Pontbrian, Steve Faust, Gary Weber & Joe Buchanan)



On February 2nd, thirty four brave souls weathered the not so cold winter night to attend the 2nd Annual Candlemas. The winter skies provided all the light needed on this Night of Lights. There was no light pollution (as there are very few lake residents in February living on the lakes) so we were able to see Orion's Belt, the Big Dipper and much, much more! (Pictured below: Deb Cini, Pete Kupczak, Marsha Hodges, Pete & Shelby Merckx, Maureen Kupczak)



**“We’re having a Heat Wave,
a Tropical Heat Wave!”**



The ice is barely hanging in there!

ANY GUESSES FOR ICE OUT????

**We need an “official” ice out person on the Chain
Any volunteers?**



**MARCH 3, 2024
Middle Lake
Temp 47 F**

DATE	EVENT	CONTACT/RSVP
Wednesday, May 15	Ladies of the Lakes (5:30 –7:30) 4756 Town Rd W (Bass Lake) BYOB & Appetizer to Share	Dana Colenso (906) 250-2800 danacolenso@gmail.com
Wednesday, June 12	Ladies of the Lakes (5:30-7:30) 1483 North Lake Road (North Lake) BYOB & Appetizer to Share	Leslie Buchanan (305) 772-6467
Tuesday, June 18	SECOLA Dinner “Summer Olympics in Paris” The Chippewa Club 5:30 Cocktails 6:30 Dinner	Deb Reynolds (815)258-7664
Wednesday, July 3	Fireworks at Dusk	Scott Reynolds (815) 474-2636
Thursday, July 4	SECOLA Ice Cream Social & Boat Parade The Ice Cream Social will start at 11:30 Parade at 12 pm lead by the wooden boats. All other boats will depart from North Lake channel at 12:30 Theme: Honoring the Olympics	Dick & Joyce Melin (715) 629-9300 Jennifer McGregor, wooden boats (312) 310-1744
Monday, July 15	Bass Island Party (5:30-7:30) BYOB & appetizer to share Boat Captains will pick you up & bring you home.	Janie Santini (906) 282-0446
Saturday, July 20	Annual Meeting (10am) Svecia Club	Scott Reynolds (815) 474-2636
Monday, August 12	SECOLA Dinner “Country Hoe Down” Cocktails 5:30 Dinner 6:30 followed by dancing! Location: TBA	Jeanine LaVaille (906) 282-0562
Wednesday, August 21	Ladies of the Lakes (5:30-7:30) 1330 Long Lake Road (Long Lake) BYOB & Appetizer to Share	Sue Wilson susanwilsonmd@gmail.com
Thursday, September 12	Spread Eagle Open Golf Tournament Shotgun start beginning at 12pm	Mary Ann Flaminio (715) 696-6499
Wednesday, September 18	Ladies of the Lakes (5:30-7:30) 4958 Dunns Point Rd BYOB & Appetizer to Share	Charmaine Reynolds (262) 370-5328
Wednesday, December 11	Ladies of the Lakes (5:30-7:30) 1563 Hayes Lane (North Lake Channel) BYOB & Appetite to Share	Joyce Melin (713) 629-9300 (906) 221-6765
WEEKLY		
Tuesdays	Bridge - Party and Duplicate (1pm)	Diane Lucas (dvlucas@charter.net)
Tuesdays	Men’s Breakfast (9am)	Ed Patrick (785-224-1078)
Wednesdays	Women’s Breakfast - Barb’s Café (9 am)	Jane Patrick (785-478-1814)

Please contact Robin Larsson at (847) 274-6143 if you would like to host a Ladies of the Lakes gathering. If you would like to submit an article or pictures that would be of interest to our lake community, please submit your ideas to Deb Cini (906) 282-6762 or debcini7@gmail.com

Spread Eagle Chain O'Lakes Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 413
Florence, Wisconsin 54121

Forwarding Services Requested

In an effort to keep our membership records accurate, we are asking you to convey any changes in property ownership information to the Board.

**Check out our SECOLA website for news events
and updates to the Calendar:
www.spreadeaglechain.org**

**2024 Boat Parade Theme:
*Honoring the Olympics***