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What is a TEAM CAPTAIN?

With 69 miles of shoreline and 1100 acres of water, the entirety of Secord Lake will need a coordinated effort with property owners and volunteers. **This will take a volunteer effort led by TEAM CAPTAINS to RETAKE OUR LAKE.**

What we are undertaking has never been done before. There is no play book or operating policy manual. It's up to us to figure this out as we go along. It will be fun to figure this out and even more fun in the years ahead to talk about our success as a lake community.

A TEAM CAPTAIN volunteers to lead and coordinate the effort to address an area of the Lake. It may be a neighborhood, subdivision, a cut, or a public gathering place like a Sandbar. Think of it like the neighborhood teams that emerged to support the Chili Cook Off fundraiser. Five TEAM CAPTAINS have already stepped forward. One for each of the 3 public sandbars and 2 for neighborhoods. However, additional CAPTAINS are needed.

A TEAM CAPTAIN recruits their neighbors, family, and friends to address areas in their area. In most cases a CAPTAIN will create a smaller core team to help identify, develop, and execute a plan. It's been our experience people seek direction and leadership from people they know and trust. The TEAM CAPTAIN is that neighborhood resource.

CAPTAINS will coordinate with the SLA Team. Coaching will be provided to CAPTAINS. If you are interested in volunteering as a CAPTAIN, or interested in volunteering in your area, please contact us and a member of the team will call you. SecordLakeAssociation@gmail.com

NOTE: You do not need to be a member of the SLA to volunteer as a Captain or to help with RETAKE OUR LAKE.

Here are some questions CAPTAINS may have:

Q) Does the CAPTAIN identify "possible" areas that require attention? What are some areas they may address?

A) Following the guidelines of the 4-Page SLA Retake Our Lake Plan, a CAPTAIN will determine what needs to be addressed in their area. This could include explaining to property owner neighbors what they can do to address the area in front of their cabin; coordinate volunteer efforts to address nuisance trees in large areas of cuts; assisting elderly friends and neighbors with clean up and conducting shoreline pick up of debris that will float when the water returns. A member of the SLA Nuisance Tree Committee is available to help the CAPTAIN with the assessment and to develop a plan.

Q) Once our TEAM identifies what needs to be done; how do I coordinate a work group?

A) Depending on the situation, it may be as simple as letting the neighborhood know a work session will take place a certain day, time, and location. If it's a bigger project, where more volunteers may be needed, coordination with the SLA Nuisance Tree Team to solicit volunteers is available.

Please let the SLA know when you plan a work event. We will help as needed and would like to have leaders stop by to lend a hand and say thank you to your team.



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Q) How do I approach people to help?

A) Here is the good news, as we look around the lake, at the 69 miles of shoreline, it is amazing how much work has been done by many property owners. Once we shared ideas this past summer about “what can be done” - - people took it upon themselves to make it happen.

We believe the same will be true here. People may not have access to Facebook or Email; hence they are not aware of what they can do. You can be that local neighborhood ambassador to explain what can be done. Based on our experience, we believe most people are interested and excited to prepare for water in 2024.

As a CAPTAIN, it’s not your role to dictate to people what they must do - - rather explain what they can do and why. As we look around the lake, as neighbors helped each other the clean-up simply took place.

Q) What if we have a neighbor that “can’t” do the work? What if someone doesn’t want to do the work?

A) The beauty of the neighborhood CAPTAIN is you know your neighbors. For those that are not able to clean up their lakefront, they have the option of hiring the work out. A list of vendors is available.

In many cases, for those that cannot do the work, neighbors will help neighbors. We see that all over the lake today. A small group of volunteers can easily clean up the lake front area for an elderly neighbor.

For those that simply do not want to participate after hearing how the overall lake is working together to prepare for water . . . we do not have an answer for this now. We have not experienced this yet and will work through the issues as they come up. Please coordinate with the SLA Nuisance Tree Committee to discuss these instances.

Q) OK, we have a plan and want to conduct a work event. What things should we be thinking about?

A) Here is a laundry list of things to consider:

LOGISTICS – What day, time (start / finish) and location will the work event take place? What work do you need to have done? How many people are estimated to be needed? Where do they park if coming to help? How will people access the work site on the lakebed? Do you have permission from property owners to access the lakebed across their property? What do you need them to bring? Will lunch be served, or will water be available? Is there a restroom available? If in winter, will there be a warming station (garage or pole barn with heater)?

Please let the SLA know when you plan a work event. We will help as needed and would like to have leaders stop by to lend a hand and say thank you to your team.

Remember - - if you have more volunteers or need extra work assignments, simply walking up the shoreline lakebed to pick up litter, cans, bottles, and anything that will float will be a benefit. Having trash bags for volunteers will be useful.

RELEASE FORMS – To protect everyone involved, there is a standard release form you will want volunteers to sign. Have copies of the form and pens available for people before they start the work.

SAFETY – This is paramount. There may be power tools involved. The SLA is adamant NO ALCOHOL be consumed during work events. People using power tools need to be properly trained and keep a safe distance from others. As a CAPTAIN, please use common sense to ensure safety. Watch volunteers to make sure they are working safely. Watch the pace of



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work --- people moving too fast are more prone to mistakes. Think of this as a marathon, rather than a sprint to complete the work. If all the work is not accomplished during the work session, another can be scheduled.

DEBRIS REMOVAL – People have asked how to dispose of the nuisance trees and debris that is removed. They can be burned in your campfire; or bundled up with twine for removal as yard waste by the trash collector when that service is offered. Should appropriate property be available, with the owner's permission, they can be piled to create habitat for small animals as they decay. It is best not to leave the trees on the lakebed as the wood will float to the surface when the water returns. If it is not permanently attached to the lakebed it may be at risk of floating and should be removed if possible. **NOTE:** Fires on the lakebed are not approved or allowed.

FELLOWSHIP AFTERWARD – There is nothing better than a cold one to celebrate a good day's work. Do you have a place, a garage or pole barn, where people can hang out afterward to celebrate the work completed that day?

SHARE LEARNING – Our vision is there will be dozens of CAPTAINS across the lake. We can learn from each other. Some things will work better than others. If you run into a challenge, chances are someone else will (or has) as well. We will set up something to allow CAPTAINS to share your successes, ideas, learning and brainstorm issues.

COSTS – The SLA has some funds available via various fundraising activities that could be used to help offset costs. Things like trash bags, twine, rental of equipment if needed, gas for machines, water / snacks for volunteers come to mind.

On the next page we provide a simple checklist or note page you can use as you access your area and develop your plan. This is a place to start, and you will have your own ideas to share as well.

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