



Portage, Base & Whitewood Owners Association

Serving the Lakes Community Since 1940

SPRING 2023 NEWSLETTER

A Message from your President

Mark Teicher

Your PBWOA has educational, useful, and fun activities coming up for members this year. Members can learn how to keep our waters, and us, safe: a Boaters' Safety Class, tour of shoreline gardens by pontoon, fighting invasive species, PBWOA.org website with pages and links to shoreline care and improvement, classes and courses, how to report suspicious plants and fish, algae facts, Chain of Lakes Improvement Project updates, PFAS products to watch out for, lake arial views, water quality history, boat census on the chain, birding and fishing info and other great stuff. Classes and courses are free - PBWOA will reimburse you for your registration fees. Come to the Annual Meeting, May 13th for relevant speakers and current info on the Chain. Come to the pizza party, August 11th for pizza - no speeches (or at least a lot shorter).

The PBWOA lost two valuable members who retired this year. Dave Moody and Jane Ollila have spent countless hours on the board and we want to deeply thank both of them. Dave agreed to remain as our technical advisor. For years he handled the membership, website and other duties. We thank him for his wisdom, vision, insight, questions and by pushing us to make the PBWOA better. Jane has been a sounding board, anchor, and principal vertebrae for the backbone of the Board. We appreciate her dedication as Secretary, Newsletter editor and keeping us on our toes while being a great Board Member, Secretary, and friend.

Save the Date:

BOATER'S SAFETY CLASS

Sat, May 6th
9AM - 4PM
Portage Yacht Club

MLSA CONFERENCE

May 5th & May 6th
Crystal Mountain Resort

ANNUAL MEETING

Sat, May 13th
9AM
Portage Yacht Club

PIZZA PARTY

Friday, August 11th
Portage Yacht Club
More information to follow

PBWOA Annual Meeting Agenda

Sat, May 13th
9AM
Portage Yacht Club

*8:30 Coffee, tea, donuts, bagels and cream cheese
9:00 Call to order, brief announcements and introduction of Board Members*

- 1. Washtenaw County representative for Huron River Chain of Lakes update and questions*
- 2. Washtenaw County Marine Patrol Deputy for update and questions*
- 3. Michigan Lake and Stream Conference Report*
- 4. Question/Answer time*
- 5. Business Portion:*

**Approval of Minutes of 2022 Annual Meeting*

**Treasurer's Report*

**Nominations for the Board and Election of Board*

**Presentation by President,*

Year in Review and Future

Board Elections

Board members are elected for two-year terms with half the Board being elected in each year. If you were a member in 2022 you should have received a ballot card with this mailing where you can vote for 2023-24 Board members. Board members who are up for election this year are indicated by asterisks in the list below. The ballot also contains spaces for write-in candidates. You can include the ballot in the pre-addressed envelope with your membership renewal. The deadline for voting is May 10, 2023.

CURRENT PBWOA BOARD

President: Mark Teicher*	248-420-9144
Vice-President: Jon Waitz	734-878-9312
Vice-President: Dave Wilutis*	517-349-5232
Treasurer: Lis Knibbe*	734-516-9230
Directors: Jim Jensen*	810-599-8125
Jan Arps-Prundeanu	734-834-4792
Mary Beth Timmerman	517-851-2100
Bob Nester	734-426-2545

The PBWOA is always looking for additions to the Board and we welcome your suggestions. If you have a recommendation or if you would like to serve on the Board yourself, please add the name to the bottom of the ballot card before you return it. Thanks for your help...

TIME TO RENEW YOUR PBWOA MEMBERSHIP!

We have enclosed a pre-addressed envelope in which you can return your membership sign-up card, \$50 check, and Board Voting card. Voting deadline is May 10th. You can also renew or join online, where you can pay your dues by credit card using the secure Pay Pal service.

<http://www.pbwoa.org/signup>

All memberships run from April 1 to March 31.



PBWOA

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**PO Box 955
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PBWOA MISSION STATEMENT:

The Portage, Base and Whitewood Owners Association Mission is to preserve, protect and enhance the health and safety of our Lakes and the surrounding Watershed for current and future generations.

Changing our Mindset

by Dave Wilutis

For those of us that are old enough to remember, we are proof that we can change our habits for good causes. A little reflection: I remember traveling by car with my parents back in the 60's and early 70's. As a young teenage passenger, my time was spent gazing out the car window at farms and other sites along the way, including the trash along the highway. That's right – trash! For those of you who followed us baby boomers, you might find this hard to believe. But back in those years it was not uncommon for people to just dispose of candy wrappers, fast food bags and more just by rolling down the window and tossing it out. Seeing trash along the highways was as common a sight as trees and utility poles. Eventually, through public awareness of how ugly the litter problem was, as well as laws to prohibit this practice, our roads, countryside and cities slowly returned to litter free zones.

Even today when I think about our mindset toward litter back in those days, I would say "what were we thinking?" You might wonder, what this reflection on my past has to do with an article for our newsletter? The answer lies in the fact that we lake owners are repeating a senseless harm to our lakes, just as the generation before littered our countryside. For decades the general practice for lakefront properties was to have a green, weedless lawn similar to fairways at a plush golf course.

As a result of these past practices, our lakes now contain high concentrations of so many nutrients, that we are now experiencing excessive weed growth and algae blooms. To combat the growth of weeds and algae a Lake Management program was implemented to help restore our lakes back to a condition where we can all use it for recreation and return them back to a "natural balance" the way mother nature intended. The Lake Management program is attempting to fix a past problems caused by many factors, chief among them the high level of nutrients added to our watershed through past homeowner and farming activities of applying fertilizers to their lawns and crops. However, the Lake Management Program cannot solve the problem by itself.

All of us who have lake front property can help. Fertilizers are a significant contributor to this problem. These nutrients leech into our lakes and provide food for weeds to grow and algae to bloom. It has been noted, that some lake front owners want a pristine green lawn to the water's edge, EVEN if it means more chemicals need to be applied into the lakes to reduce the weed growth caused by the fertilizers they applied. For our lakes to survive, that mindset has to change.

So, the question is, what can we all do to be a part of the solution vs. part of the problem? It starts with our mindset. Until we change our view of needing to have fertilized green grass to the water's edge, the problem will not go away. Using lake water to irrigate your lawn and not apply fertilizer on lakeside property is a step on the path to fix the problem.

In 2022, the PBWOA had lake water tested for its nutrient make-up. Specifically, it tested for the same nutrients that make up a bag of fertilizer – nitrogen, potash and phosphorus. The test results indicated all three nutrients were found in our lake water. Thus, using lake water for irrigating your lawn benefits the lakes two ways: you are removing nutrients from the lakes, and you are not purchasing fertilizers to contribute additional nutrients to the lakes.

To treat nuisance weeds like dandelions and others, use a weed-Bgone type product in a pump sprayer and SPOT treat your affected areas. The use of weed and feed products add fertilizer nutrients which can leech into the lake which should not be used.

Planting a shoreline garden with native plants that have deep roots also helps to keep nutrients from leaching into the lake.

Just like changing the mindset of litterers a generation ago, by changing our mindset on how to care for our lawns in a lake friendly manner, our lakes will be healthy for generations to come.



Coming soon to your mailbox!
Issue #2 of Shoreline Living magazine complements of your PBWOA. Enjoy and share!



THINK SPRING

Time to think about planting flowers!
Looking for Native Plants like the photos above?
Mark your calendar!

Washtenaw County Conservation
District's 2023 Spring Native Plant Sale
Saturday, June 3rd from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Farm Council Grounds
5055 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd • Ann Arbor

For more information, check out the website:
<https://washtenawccd.org>



Portage Yacht Club

Located on South shore of Portage Lake
8930 Dexter-Pinckney Rd
734-426-4155 www.ms-pyc.com

Dining & Cocktails — Nightly Dinner & Drink Specials
Evening Dining Wednesday through Sunday; Breakfast Sunday
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WAKE BOATS

Greg Peter

The operation of wake boats in a manner that creates large waves and increases bottom scour is an emerging threat to natural resources in inland lakes. Wake boats can produce waves with 1.7-17 times the energy of other comparable-sized powerboats and their propellers generate enough turbulence to resuspend bottom sediments in water up to 33 feet deep.

The large waves generated by wake boats take between 225-950 feet to dissipate to heights and wave energies observed 100-200 feet away from similar boats operating at cruising speed. Further, the use of ballast tanks in wake boats results in a dramatic increase in risk for transporting mussels and other aquatic invasive species and pathogens among water bodies. The cumulative negative effects of wake boats on natural resources can lead to loss of habitat, resulting in the decline of aquatic ecosystems and angling opportunity.

Michigan's current boating laws and regulations are intended to both promote public safety and prevent damage to aquatic resources but were created prior to the commercialization and popularization of wake boats in the early 2000s. As a result of the large waves and increased scour caused by these vessels, the existing 100-foot operating buffers around docks and shorelines on inland lakes are not sufficient to protect aquatic resources. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Fisheries Division recommends the following to minimize the effects of wake surfing and wake boarding on natural resources:

1. Boats operating in wake-surfing mode or wake-boarding mode, during which boat speed, wave shapers, and/or ballast are used to increase wave height, should operate at least 500 feet from docks or the shoreline, regardless of water depth.
2. Boats operating in wake-surfing or wake-boarding modes should operate in water at least 15 feet deep.
3. Ballast tanks should be completely drained prior to transporting the watercraft over land.
4. Regulatory authorities and the boating industry should implement an increased education and outreach campaign that targets wake boat operators to improve awareness and implementation of the best practices listed above.



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NATURAL LAKE HABITAT AND LAKEFRONT OWNERS

Craig Kivi, Natural Shorelines Forever

Prior to our development of lake shores, a natural lake had one or more large trees along the shoreline that actually fell into the lake about every 50 feet. Then, when we developed our shorelines, we removed them. All of them. They seemed unsightly to us, and at that time we just did not understand how important they were.

The trees that had fallen into the lake significantly contributed to the health of the lake in ways scientists are just beginning to communicate to the public. Among many others, those health benefits include shoreline erosion prevention from wave action, reproduction areas, cover and food web sources for almost every living creature and microorganism in, and touching the lake. Without a vibrant population of these creatures, our lakes can, and in some cases have, become very unhealthy.

Of late, there are innovative conservation projects restoring this "wood habitat" to our lakes. One of the largest in Michigan's history is on our own Portage Chain of Lakes. It's a 2,700' shoreline restoration project on the northeast shore of Portage Lake completed by Natural Shorelines Forever, a local conservation group and volunteers. Over 50,000 lbs. of stumps, trees and logs were installed on shore and in the water during the winter of 2022, and in less than a year the life along that shoreline drastically increased in mass and health, contributing to the health of Portage Lake itself.

But that's not the most exciting thing happening. On a smaller level, there are a few lakefront owners who have taken this as serious as it really is and have gotten the simple permits and integrated the restoration of wood habitat on their own shorelines with sometimes as little as 35' of frontage. They found a way. They took the time to think about all the recreational activities they do on their lakefront and figured out a way to include wood habitat right in with all the things they love to do on their lake. They wanted to wade in the water, get in and out of kayaks, dock their boats, take docks in and out, make sandcastles on the beach, etc., etc. We get it. Many of us have lived on lakes all our lives and have done and are still doing all these things. But we also want lake habitat and a healthy lake.

Should we go back to one tree fallen into the lake every 50 feet? Of course not. There is no need for extremism, and no one is promoting that. But we can do something beneficial and reasonable.

Our lake recreational activities and the restoration of healthy shorelines and lakes by the introduction of wood habitat are not in conflict. It does not need to be one or the other. No one must give anything up. In fact, those who have installed wood structure on their shorelines now see them as quite beautiful, with terrific surprises on many unanticipated levels.

Standing in front of one's lakefront window, on one's deck, dock, or even walking right up to the edge of these wood habitat areas, we see minnows, crayfish, small bluegills, perch, and large predator fish using their new hotel and restaurant where there was nothing before. Herons and Kingfishers feed. Ducks show up to eat. An Eastern Kingbird rests on a stickup, eating the aquatic insects when they hatch. Fish nest up against a submerged tree limb. And much, much more that cannot be written in this space.

While discussing an upcoming wood habitat project with a lakefront owner, I heard it best when this person said "I can't wait to show my grandkids all the lake life that shows up after this project is done." I agree, and not to mention they will be wading, swimming and boating on a healthier lake for their generation and those to come.



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THANKS!

I would like to thank all riparians on the chain and residents of Putnam, Hamburg, Dexter and Webster Townships for their support of the mute swan control program --renewed last year. It is showing success as witnessed by the frequent visits of trumpeter swans (as many as 30 recently on Big Portage Lake). Folks have also reported more waterfowl are raising young and even elusive loons are seen on occasion. Mute Swans are quite aggressive and other birds do not like their presence. They are also destructive to vegetative habitats producing a large amount of fecal material as a result. The health of our chain of lakes is improved immensely by the control of this invasive species.

For more information:
<https://www.michigan.gov/invasives/id-report/birds/mute-swan>

Yours in Conservation
Greg Peter
Scientific Advisor to PBWOA



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Lower Huron River Chain of Lakes 2022 Review

By Jan Arps-Prundeanu

The PBWOA Board (Dave Wilutis and Jan Arps-Prundeanu) was invited to attend the end of year review held 1/27/2023 with the Lake Improvement Project team: Lauren Koloski and Theo Eggermont of Washtenaw County Water Resources; Paul Hausler and Jared Laughlin of Progressive AE. The Annual Report prepared by Progressive AE can be found at this site: <https://www.washtenaw.org/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/1185>. It provides a vast amount of information, broken down by individual lakes and includes historical information and graphs.

Following are highlights of the group meeting:

- Management of the invasive weeds was generally successful. The use of a new herbicide, ProcellaCOR was highly effective in 2022 for the treatment of Eurasian milfoil and there is now better "targeting" of the milfoil given more specific DNA testing availability. "Given the reduction in Eurasian milfoil on the chain and its replacement with heavier growth of native plants it may be beneficial to conduct two separate harvests in 2023."
- Starry stonewort continues to be problematic, especially on Tamarack Lake but was lower than 2021. Lauren Koloski has been following the efforts of Oakland County with the Diver Assisted Suction Harvesting with their Starry Stonewort on Highland Lake, but results were disappointing.
- Flowering rush levels remain fairly consistent over that past four years.
- Data collected from the sampling surveys (April and August) indicate Zukey, Gallagher, Long, Whitewood, Base Line and Portage Lakes are mesotrophic. Strawberry and Little Portage Lakes are meso-eutrophic (meaning they have characteristics of both mesotrophic and eutrophic lakes.) Tamarack Lake is eutrophic. (They are all the same as 2021.)
- The State of Michigan is now providing testing kits for Algal Blooms for the County. There was increased algae testing last year which was successful in making people more aware of the problems and potential for Harmful Algae Blooms.
- The HRCOL improvement project will be split into two separate projects starting in 2023. Washtenaw County will manage the "Lower Huron River Chain of Lakes Project while Hamburg Township will manage the lakes on the river from Zukey through Gallagher. Both projects will utilize the services of Progressive AE, which will assure coordination of treatment objectives.
- Applicator and harvesting contracts were not established at the time of the meeting, but have since been identified as Clarke – for applicator and Huron Lakes Weed Control for harvesting.
- The County reported a nearly \$155,000 overage from the previous contract (approximately 8%). They are allowed to continue to spend the overage on the project's original purpose. Washtenaw County intends to pro-rate the amount and share with Hamburg Township. It will provide a "cushion" for the next 5 years of treatments, as costs may go up. In addition, it is very inefficient to refund the dollars to the individual owners, given the change in ownership that has occurred over the past 6 years and the administrative costs incurred.
- Paul Hausler related that he will be participating in a Lake Awareness Day (May 18th in Lansing) where Information about the value of Michigan's lakes and concerns about funding for lake issues will be presented to a select group of Michigan legislators.

BOATER SAFETY CLASS

Saturday, May 6, 2023

9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Portage Yacht Club

8930 Dexter-Pinckney Road

Boater safety training is an investment in safer waters for all of us. The PBWOA is once again sponsoring the Boater Safety Class, offered by the Washtenaw County Sheriff Marine Division. Anyone born after 7-1-1996 MUST be certified to legally operate a boat on Michigan waters. This one-day course meets that requirement. There is no registration fee and lunch will be provided at PBWOA expense. You must register on line for this course at: <https://michigan.storefront.kalkomey.com/em/programs/9>. If you have issues with the site, please feel free to email Jan at janarps60@gmail.com.

It has been a quick 10 years and with mixed emotions I say goodbye to all of you as Secretary and Newsletter editor for the PBWOA. This Newsletter completes my tenure. Serving on the board has been a tremendous learning experience for me – so MANY things I didn't understand or appreciate about our lakes. The Board has evolved over these years and with every change comes fresh ideas and new areas to work on. The PBWOA needs you - to learn and understand and offer new areas to help improve. I promise you won't be sorry.
...Jane Ollila, Tamarack Lake

<p>Docks & Hoists Install in Early Spring: Mar / June Remove in Fall: Sept / Nov</p>	<p>Pontoon Trailering Anywhere – Anytime You Call – "We Haul" 35 Years Experience – Insured</p>
<p>Seawalls New & Repair</p>	<p>Snow Plowing Salting</p>
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Washtenaw County Marine Patrol Activity Report 2022

	Baseline Lake	Portage Lake
Number of Patrol Hours	56	293.5
Compliance Inspections/checks	40	355
Navigation Rules	6 Warnings	34 Warnings 2 Citations
Mandatory PFD Wear Warnings	6 Warnings	17 Warnings 2 Citations
Registration Violations	7 Warnings	33 Warnings 1 Citation