



# Portage, Base & Whitewood Owners Association

*Serving the Lakes Community Since 1940*

## SPRING 2024 NEWSLETTER

### A Message from your President

**Mark Teicher**

Many members of the Portage, Base & Whitewood Owners Association, our PBWOA, are not on Portage, Base and Whitewood Lakes. They are on Strawberry, Zukey, Tamarack, Gallagher and Little Portage. Some are on the Huron River and some are on creeks and streams.

Over many years the Board has had calls, emails and questions raised at annual meetings about changing the name to cover all members - some have expressed they felt excluded just based on the name. In reality, the PBWOA has sought to protect the issues and concerns of everyone, members who live on the Chain and the lakes ecosystem, which does not stop at man made lines on a map. To answer this call, the Board has discussed and mulled over, for a number of years, a name change and will recommend at the Annual Meeting the name: Huron River Chain of Lakes Association (HRCOLA) for a vote by our members. HRCOLA reflects the real life of the association. Being the "Chain of Lakes" brings our name equal to our geographic spread - for years we have emailed, talked with, met with, shared with and expressed the requests and needs of our members upon Dexter, Putnam, Webster and Hamburg Township elected officials and their bureaucracies, as well as Livingston and Washtenaw County governments. The name change to Huron River Chain of Lakes Association meets this challenge.

### 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 2023 you should have received a ballot card with this mailing where you can vote for 2024-2025 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 April 27, 2024.

#### CURRENT PBWOA BOARD

President: Mark Teicher	248-420-9144
Vice-President: Dave Wilutis	517-881-2440
Secretary: Jan Arps-Prundeanu*	734-834-4792
Treasurer: Lis Knibbe	734-516-9230
Directors: Jim Jensen	810-599-8125
Bob Nester*	734-426-2545
Mary Beth Timmerman*	517-851-2100
Bonnie Swanson*	734-878-9160

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...

### Save the Date:

**BOATER'S SAFETY CLASS**  
Sat, April 20th  
8AM - 3PM  
Portage Yacht Club

**ANNUAL MEETING**  
Sat, May 11th  
9AM - Noon  
Portage Yacht Club

**MLSA CONFERENCE**  
April 26th & 27th  
VanDyk Mortgage  
Convention Center  
Muskegon, MI

**PIZZA PARTY**  
August (date TBD)  
Portage Yacht Club  
*More information to follow*

### PBWOA Annual Meeting Agenda

**Sat, May 11th**  
**9AM - Noon**  
**Portage Yacht Club**

*Annual Meeting Minutes*  
*Election of Directors*  
*Treasurers Report*  
*Education Committee*  
*Membership*  
*Facebook*  
*CLMP Water Testing*  
*President's Annual Review & Wrap Up*  
*Pursuant To The Bylaws: We will have a vote on the PBWOA using the name "Huron River Chain Of Lakes Association" along with the following new logo:*



### 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 April 27th. 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

734-471-3141  
mail@PBWOA.org  
www.PBWOA.org

*Follow us on Facebook*

**PO Box 955**  
**Pinckney, MI 48169**

#### 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.

# A Step in the Right Direction: New Fertilizer Ordinance

by Dave Wilutis

In our Fall 2023 Newsletter the PBWOA addressed the adverse effect bad practice has on our Chain of Lakes. It was noted that:

“WE” are learning that with good practices, “WE” can change an unfavorable cycle into a system where we can coexist with our lakes AND have minimal negative impact on our watershed.

Our lakes are experiencing a buildup of nutrients, primarily from fertilizers applied too close to our shorelines. Rains, frozen turf, and improper spreading of fertilizer allow excessive nutrients direct access to our lakes and river in high concentration levels. Nutrients are the main food source for weed and algae growth and in recent years toxic algae blooms have appeared on Baseline and Portage.

The PBWOA partnered with Hamburg Township in a joint effort to remediate the problem and educate affected parties. Hamburg Township agreed that adverse effects from fertilizer in our lakes required action and after research and much debate passed Ordinance No. 104A in November 2023. In part it states: “Application of any fertilizers shall not be permitted prior to May 1 and after November 15 to limit adverse impacts to wetlands and watercourses due to nutrient loading and accelerated cultural eutrophication resulting from storm water discharge. No fertilizer application of any type is permitted within 50 feet of the high-water level of a body of water or a river.”

In conjunction with this newly enacted ordinance, the PBWOA will help notify and educate our riparian owners. We will begin contacting local lawn applicators and continue to reach out to the 2,400 waterfront owners on our Chain regarding the use of fertilizers. Over time, with the collective participation of waterfront owners, lawn service businesses, and surrounding townships we will see a reduction in the amount of nutrients entering our system; resulting in a decrease in weed growth as well as algae blooms. In achieving lower nutrient levels and reduction in weed and algae growth one beneficial outcome will be a lesser role for the Lake Improvement Project which will decrease the amount we pay for our special weed assessment.

Sometimes, education alone does not create the desired outcome. Education with action is surely a big step in the right direction.

Please feel free to add appropriate Spring photos to the newsletter as needed from our website:

<https://www.pbwoa.org/local-scenes/>

# Flood Dam Update

From Washtenaw County

The preliminary design of the dam gate replacement and the downstream sidewall stabilization is now complete, and final construction plans are being prepared.

We continue to anticipate that bidding and construction will occur during the summer of this year.

In the meantime, more robust oak lumber boards will replace the current pine ones used to isolate bay sections. These boards have been ordered and are currently being milled. They should be delivered and installed this spring and remain in place through the construction period.

As the mild winter continues, we are operating the lakes at the lower water elevation.

Water levels typically start rising the end of March and should reach Summer Levels by mid-April.

If you would like to receive email updates about the dam repairs directly from Washtenaw County, please sign up at: [www.washtenaw.org/list.aspx](http://www.washtenaw.org/list.aspx) and select Flood Dam updates.



Jon Waitz has volunteered countless hours to help our organization in any way he could over the years. He has now requested to no longer be a director on the PBWOA Board as he moves on to other interests. We are very thankful for his more than 20 years of steadfast service. His measured style and ability to clarify issues will certainly be missed by his friends on the Board. *All the best, Jon.*

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**[www.econoprintusa.com](http://www.econoprintusa.com)**

# Native Plant of the Season

By Jan Arps Prundeanu



This beauty is one of the first to bloom in late spring and works well at or below the water level on your shorefront. It contributes to shoreline protection by stabilizing the soil, preventing erosion and filtering pollutants to maintain healthy waters. The flowers are short-lived, but the stems are attractive throughout the summer. Blue Flag Iris is hardy and does not need winter protection, however, young plants can benefit from mulching for cold-weather protection.

It also works well in rain gardens and will likely be present in our planned demonstration rain garden at the Portage Boat Access Site late summer.

If you are interested in purchasing this plant, you may want to visit the 2024 Spring Native Plant Expo:

[www.washtenawcd.org/2024springnativeplantsale.html](http://www.washtenawcd.org/2024springnativeplantsale.html)

For more information: Washtenaw Conservation District - Tree & Shrub and Native Plant Sales - Washtenaw County Conservation District ([washtenawcd.org](http://washtenawcd.org))

Pre-orders are accepted now and many popular plants do sell out.



**JOIN US FOR BREAKFAST!**  
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**\$3 off specialty coffee drink**  
*1 coupon per person, per order, per visit. Joe Mobile orders excluded.*

**THINK SPRING**  
Time to think about planting flowers!  
Mark your calendar!

Washtenaw County Conservation District's 2024 Spring Native Plant Sale  
Saturday, June 1st 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://washtenawcd.org>



# What does "No Wake" Mean?

Mary Beth Timmerman

A "No Wake Zone" is a designated area on the waterway where boaters must adhere to a strict speed limit. No Wake Zones are often found where a channel or traffic pattern brings boats closer to the shoreline or where a boat making a larger wake might damage other boats and personal watercraft. Sometimes entire lakes, such as Tamarack, are No Wake and because of wild life and erosion, the entire river is No Wake. When navigating through a No Wake Zone, here is what you need to know:

- 1. Definition:** No Wake means having the throttle in gear only, not any faster. This is the minimum speed required to operate the vessel and maintain forward motion and steerage. In other words, you should move at a speed no greater than necessary to keep the boat under control, and no greater than 5 MPH.
- 2. Purpose:** No wake zones serve various purposes:
  - o Environmental Protection: To minimize the impact of large wakes near shorelines, preventing disturbance to wildlife habitats or unnecessary erosion.
  - o Safety: To protect swimming beaches, marinas, and congested waterways.
  - o Navigation: In narrow or limited-sight areas, slowing down ensures safer navigation.
- 3. Speed Limit:** The speed limit in a no wake zone is no greater than 5 miles per hour (MPH).
- 4. Markers:** The beginning and end of a No Wake Zone is usually indicated by white and orange floating markers or large signs on shore. As soon as your boat passes the marker you must be off plane and at no wake speed. Simply chopping the throttle when you reach the marker is not compliant.

Remember, in a **No Wake Zone**, it's all about minimizing your boat's wake to ensure safety, protect the environment and maintain a peaceful waterway experience. This means having the throttle in gear only, not any faster. Your participation in protecting our **No Wake Zones**, our shorelines, and our safety is greatly appreciated.

Scan the QR code for a quick video demonstration:





**Portage Yacht Club**  
Located on South shore of Portage Lake  
8930 Dexter-Pinckney Rd  
734-426-4155 [www.ms-pyc.com](http://www.ms-pyc.com)

**Dining & Cocktails — Nightly Dinner & Drink Specials**  
**Evening Dining Wednesday through Sunday, Breakfast Sunday**  
**Public Welcome — Membership not required to dine\***  
**Seasonal Live Entertainment — Indoor/Outdoor Seating**

**Social memberships available — No monthly minimum**  
**\*Social membership required for alcohol purchase**



## BOATER SAFETY CLASS

Saturday, April 20th

8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Portage Yacht Club

8930 Dexter-Pinckney Road

Registration for this class is now open at:

<https://michigan.storefront.kalkomey.com/em/events/6220>

If you have challenges with the registration process, please email: [janarps60@gmail.com](mailto:janarps60@gmail.com)

Boater safety is an investment in safer waters for all of us. PBWOA is sponsoring this 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.

## Association Name Change

### Notice to Members

Pursuant To The Bylaws: At the Annual Meeting we will have a vote on the PBWOA using the name "Huron River Chain Of Lakes Association" along with the following new logo:



## Shrink Wrap Recycling

From Jan Arps-Prundeanu

The PBWOA will be offering Boat Shrink-Wrap Recycling Bags (for a small fee) at the Annual Meeting on May 11th, 9am at the Portage Yacht Club. This is an opportunity to take your boat shrink wrap plastic, put it in one of these bags, and have it recycled. One boat's plastic wrap will fit in one bag.

The bag can then be dropped off to Jan Arps-Prundeanu at 7778 Base Lake Drive between May 26th - 29th.

## New Association Website

We are launching a new association website shortly after the Annual Meeting. We are hoping to demonstrate the new website during the Annual Meeting on May 11th at 9am at the Portage Yacht Club. Among other features you will notice:

- A Calendar of Events to keep you up to date
- Access to Website information will be straightforward
- Many active buttons to easily maneuver around the site

### Washtenaw County Marine Patrol Activity Report 2023

	Baseline	Portage	Little Portage
Number of Patrol Hours	45	277	5.5
Compliance Checks	26	247	3
Careless Boater Warnings		7	
Navigation Citations		1	
Navigation Warnings	2	14	
PFD Warnings		7	
Registration Citations		2	1
Registration Warnings	3	29	

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