



Huron River Chain Of Lakes Association

Serving the Lakes Community Since 1940

FALL 2025 NEWSLETTER

A Message from your President

Mark Teicher

Even though summer has officially ended, there is plenty you can do yet this Fall to help protect our waterways:

- Do not fertilize this Fall
- Install (or at least research) a rain garden
- Protect your shoreline and the lakes by planting native plants and a natural shoreline and border
- Get a rain barrel
- Pick up dog poop
- Use as little salt as necessary for walkways/driveways

We are grateful for your Membership and hope you will encourage others to join HRCOLA. Membership dollars help us do the following:

- Protect your property's value
- Keep our lakes and waterways clean
- Participate in the Wayne State University Micro Plastics Study
- Continue to offer Safe Boating Classes
- Keep consulting with our local elected state Senators and Representatives
- Allow the Spring Family Dinner at Zukey Lake Tavern
- Allow the continuation of decades of lake testing (CLMP)
- Keep our local township officials interested in what we want
- Allow us to continue to meet with the Washtenaw County Weed Control Project Manager every month
- Reimburse members who attend water and lakes classes
- Allow installation and maintenance of a rain garden at the Portage Lake Public Access
- Support the monthly board meetings
- Educate members about protecting their shorelines
- Send The Riparian Magazine to members
- Provide free pizza at the Annual Pizza Party

CHECK US OUT ONLINE!



Lake Level Lowering

Dave Wilutis

When we asked our Progressive Lake Management Services expert about their thoughts on an early drawdown, this is what they shared:

The mid-November drawdown is a good timeframe. Winter drawdowns can help with plant management through desiccation of exposed bottomlands. Drawing down the lakes too early could have negative consequences to the native plant population as well as fish and amphibians, especially wildlife groups that overwinter and rely on lake habitat into the fall. Later drawdowns can help control invasive species and reduce impacts to the native plant community as the invasives tend to hold on in cool/colder water, while the native population typically goes through their natural senescence at that time. You also do not want to drawdown too late into the winter as there is the risk for shoreline damage from ice. Depending on when the lake level is re-established, there could be impacts to spring fish spawning as well if drawn down too late.

Jared Laughlin

Environmental Scientist - weareprogressive.com

Office 616.361.2666

Cell 616.402.4533

NOTE - The current drawdown has not changed - it is expected to begin early November 2025

The PBWOA Board of Directors:

Mark Teicher, President	Portage Lake
Dave Wilutis, Vice President	Baseline Lake
Lis Knibbe, Treasurer	Portage Lake
Jan Arps-Prundeanu, Secretary	Baseline Lake
Bob Nester	Little Portage Lake
Bonnie Swanson	Tamarack Lake
Mary Beth Timmerman	Tamarack Lake
Alan Rygiel	Whitewood Lake
Jim Jensen	



HRCOLA

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

Follow us on Facebook

PO Box 955
Pinckney, MI 48169

Free Class – Introduction to Lakes

Mary Beth Timmerman

Have you taken advantage of this FREE opportunity? Any HRCOLA Member is invited to take the MSU Introduction to Lakes on-line class, pass the course, and be reimbursed for the cost. It's a 6 Week extravaganza that starts January 20, 2026. Take a look at canr.msu.edu/courses/introduction-to-lakes for more information and learn about how you can impact the quality of our lake system and improve your shoreline. The deadline to register is January 27, 2006 and the initial cost (which is reimbursed) is \$115.00

Native Plant of the Season – Joe Pye Weed

Mary Beth Timmerman

These tall, late-blooming native plants offer crucial pollen and nectar towards the end of the summer when many other flowers have stopped blooming.

Is Joe Pye Weed a good choice for my yard?

Yes, if...

- You want a towering late-season nectar source for pollinators.
- You have space for tall plants (4–6') at the back of a border.
- You like a plant that thrives with little maintenance once established.

Why Joe Pye Weed matters...

- Pollinator lifeline: Feeds bees, butterflies, and migrating Monarchs at a critical time.
- Host plant: Supports more than 35 butterfly and moth species.
- Low-maintenance: Thrives on rainfall once established.



A Fresh Look, A Continued Mission

Melissa DeSimone

Executive Director, Michigan Lakes and Streams Association (MLSA)

melissa.desimone@mymlsa.org | 989-831-5100

At the Michigan Lakes and Streams Association (MLSA), we remain wholeheartedly dedicated to caring for Michigan's inland lakes and streams—not just for today, but for the future. With over 60 years of experience, our

mission continues to focus on empowering riparian's, supporting healthy ecosystems, and bringing together those who care about our shared waters.

We're especially proud of our continued partnership with organizations like the Huron River Chain of Lakes Association (HRCOLA). Collaborations like these are at the heart of what we do. Your support makes it possible for us to share valuable educational opportunities, advocate for thoughtful water policy, and offer resources that help communities protect the places they love.

Highlights from 2025

This year brought meaningful progress and renewed momentum. Here are just a few highlights we're excited to share:

- **A Successful Annual Conference:** This spring, we welcomed riparians, scientists, educators, and policymakers from across the state. Our sessions helped turn scientific insights into practical tools—building knowledge, strengthening connections, and inspiring action.
- **MiCorps Contract Renewal:** In partnership with the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) and Michigan State University, the long-standing Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program was renewed for another five years. This renewal ensures that community-driven data collection and lake monitoring efforts will continue across the state.

Nurturing the Next Generation

Looking ahead means investing in the future. In 2025, we awarded three student research grants for projects focused on inland lake issues, and we were once again honored to welcome students from Grand Valley State University's Annis Water Resources Institute to present at our annual conference. These young leaders bring fresh ideas and energy to the field—and we're proud to help support their growth.

Mark Your Calendar for 2026

We're already preparing for our 65th Annual MLSA Conference, set for May 1–2, 2026 in Muskegon, MI. We're especially pleased to announce keynote speaker Richard Phillips, founder of The Last Wilderness Alliance, whose work in addressing the impacts of wake boats has sparked meaningful conversation and change across the region.

Flook Dam Update

Jan Arps-Prundeanu

When asked about the current state of the Flook Dam repairs, we received the following from Scott Miller:

Our contractor wanted to mobilize their equipment, and specifically wanted to get a crane onto the construction site, so we closed the kayak portage earlier in September so that there was less liability of having the public potentially traversing the area with construction equipment around. Kayaks cannot currently get downstream through the dam.

The current detour and signage direct the river traffic to exit at the boat launch around the corner and bypass the actual dam area. We probably won't see much real construction work happening this month, because, as the lead time to fabricate the new gates is a couple of months and the time to get the new motors/actuators to operate them is also a number of weeks out. It looks like there is a possibility to move the safety buoys into their correct place this month, so people may notice that if they are observant.

I have heard nothing official from EGLE about them mandating us to change the winter lowering date, so we are still planning at this point to do it around thanksgiving as we have done for a number of years now.

Thank you, Scott Miller, P.E.

Deputy Water Resources Commissioner

Washtenaw County Water Resources Commissioner's Office



Shorefront Garden Tour

Jan Arps-Prundeanu

The Webster Township shorefront gardens tour was held August 21st and 22nd with more than 45 persons attending. The five gardens had more than 36 Native plants, many in bloom. Members of the U of M Sailing Club, Dexter Garden Club, and riparians from Base Line, Portage Lake and other surrounding lakes attended as well as rain gardeners from as far away as Livonia.

Many thanks to the owners of the gardens: Jay and Allison Valerio, Octavian and Jan Arps-Prundeanu, Paul and Donna Hoff, Jack and Jill Arnold, Bill Brinkerhoff and Kathy Sample.

And a special thanks to Janee Kronk, Michigan Certified Natural Shoreline Professional, who assisted with the gardens and provided valuable information to tour attendees.



Maintaining your boat for winter storage

Dave Wilutis

When all the summer boating activities comes to an end, and with fall then winter around the corner, doing all the chores to button up your cottage or home for the winter season, can be a daunting task. One of the most important task though is the proper care and winterizing your boat motor as well as your boat.

Skipping proper steps could lead to a very unpleasant spring, when you start getting your boat ready for a new boating season. Derrick from Mutiny Marine Service focuses heavily on prevention to help avoid costly breakdowns in the future.

To begin, fill your fuel tank to $\frac{3}{4}$ full and add fuel treatment to the gas. This will help keep cylinders lubricated, fuel hoses conditioned, and the fuel systems clean. There are several brands available. Sta-Bil, Star-Tron and Sea Foam are all good products. Just follow the directions.

Another area of concern Derrick says, "The lower unit gear lube should be checked and or changed if the lube is dirty. If the lube is milky, there is water in the lube and may need to be resealed." Water In your gear lube could freeze and expand in your gear casing, which could cause bigger problems.

"Inboard and I/O engines hold water in the engine and manifold that must be drained. If you are not familiar with this process, you should have a professional take care of it to avoid freeze damage."

If you winter your boat outside, having it shrink wrapped is a good way to keep your boat dry. NOTE: HRCOLA has established a recycling service to recycle your shrink wrap, so it does not go to the landfill. Contact Dave Wilutis at 517-881-2440 for more information. Derrick goes on, "If you tarp your boat, be sure to leave some venting to allow air flow. This will help to avoid mildew. Your local boat store will have products available to absorb moisture and prevent mold and mildew."

Finally, if your boat is stored outside, the drive unit should be down to avoid water collection and freeze damage.

Microplastics and Wayne State University

Alan Rygiel

HRCOLA jointly with Wayne State University performed Microplastics Testing on the Chain of Lakes! On July 29, 2025, I took three Wayne State University PHD students and a professor by boat along the Huron River Chain to collect multiple water samples. We started in the Huron River near Strawberry Lake, went downstream along the River to Gallagher Lake, followed the River to Whitewood Lake, continuing through the River into Baseline Lake, and eventually ended up in front of the Flook Dam.

Collections of samples were taken along the way by a special 300-micron net with a collection device at the end of the net. During collections we monitored the water temperature, depth, speed of the boat, time of day and the GPS location of all the samples. We will be taking additional samples in the coming months to further evaluate other locations on our chain. Follow up testing at all the locations will be performed at each GPS location to detect any seasonal changes during the year.

All samples will be taken to the lab for further data analysis and a full report will be published. HRCOLA will publish this report on the website when complete and discuss the results with members during our upcoming meetings.



THANKS TO OUR HURON CHAIN OF LAKES WATER TESTING VOLUNTEERS

Bonnie Swanson

Our many thanks to all the volunteers in 2025 for testing for water clarity every other week starting in May and continuing through the end of September. Our volunteers also test for Phosphorus at the end of September. The lakes tested this year were Little Portage, Portage, Baseline, Tamarack, Whitewood, Zukey, and Strawberry. Our volunteers this year were:

Jim Meyer – Baseline & Tamarack
Jim Collins – Portage
Nancy Cox – Whitewood
Douglas Speller – Little Portage
Angela Winnett – Zukey & Strawberry

Lakes are tested for water clarity to monitor water quality and the overall health of the ecosystem because clarity indicates light penetration, which is essential for the growth of aquatic plants that provide food and oxygen for wildlife. Poor clarity, often caused by suspended sediment or algae blooms, signals potential problems like excessive nutrients or erosion, impacting habitats and recreational uses. Regular clarity testing provides a baseline to track changes over time and evaluate the effectiveness of management practices.

Note: We are looking for a volunteer to test Gallagher Lake beginning in 2026. If interested Contact mail@hrcola.org or Bonnie Swanson at 734-878-9160.



Washtenaw County
Water Resources Commissioner's Office
705 N. Zeeb Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48103

**Interested in planting a natural shoreline?
We can help and consultations are FREE!**

Shoreline Assistance Visit

FREE consultations with a shoreline expert - right in your yard!

Even if you have a seawall, we can give advice on how to build a beautiful natural shoreline to improve wildlife habitat, boost water quality, and help stop shoreline erosion. To schedule your visit, call us, email us, or schedule online!

bit.ly/VisitMyShoreline
Susan Bryan
bryans@washtenaw.org
734-222-3814



\$10 FIRST MONTH
NEW MEMBERS ONLY
LIMITED TIME ONLY

TOUCHLESS CAR WASH
AND
SELF SERVICE

7552 E M 36 HAMBURG TOWNSHIP, MI 48139



JOIN US FOR BREAKFAST!
Coffee, Espresso, Lattes,
Frappes, Chai, Matcha,
Smoothies, Donuts, Pastries,
Breakfast Sandwiches,
Breakfast Burritos & more!

9260 McGregor Rd • Pinckney
nautimiontheriver.com

\$3 off specialty coffee drink
1 coupon per person, per order, per visit. Joe Mobile orders excluded.



Indoor & Outdoor Seating • Dining & Cocktails • Nightly Dinner Specials • Event Spaces
ms-pyc.com • 734-426-4155

PORTAGE YACHT CLUB



Lakeside Dining
Wednesday - Friday: 5:00pm - 8:00pm
Saturday & Sunday: 12:00pm - 4:00pm & 5:00pm - 8:00pm
Lunch Service: May 1st thru September 15th
Social memberships available • No monthly minimum
Public Welcome! • Membership required for alcohol purchase

Beth A Pacut
Agency Principal



Pacut Family Insurance Agency
5590 E-M36, Pinckney, Michigan 48169

810-214-0327 office
810-355-1134 fax
bapacut@acg.aaa.com



Lady of the Lakes
real estate

OFFICE 734-426-6060
www.ladyofthelakes.com

Timothy & Renée Przysiecki
OWNERS/BROKER

LIST  SELL  REPEAT

VORTEX
PET WASH



SAY GOODBYE TO THE MESS AND
HASSLE OF BATH TIME AT HOME!
SELF-SERVE PET WASH
HEATED & AIR CONDITIONED
6 SOAP OPTIONS AVAILABLE
EQUIPPED WITH
BLOW DRYER & VACUUM

OPEN 24/7
ACCEPTS: ALL
MAJOR CREDIT
CARDS & BILLS

7552 M-36 HAMBURG TWP, MI 48139
LOCATED BEHIND VORTEX CAR WASH

Docks & Hoists
Install in Early Spring:
Mar / June
Remove in Fall: Sept / Nov

Pontoon Trailering
Anywhere - Anytime
You Call - "We Haul"
35 Years Experience - Insured

Seawalls
New & Repair

Snow Plowing
Salting

R.J. Knight - Base Lake
(734) 646-5619
11971 Yankee Lane • Pinckney, MI 48169

ROBERTSON MORRISON INC.
HEATING & COOLING

Heating | Cooling | Sheet Metal | Controls

www.rob-mor.com

(734) 662-3141

4721 Runway Blvd
Ann Arbor, MI 48108





JASON'S SERVICES
DOCK & HOIST LLC
517-404-4168

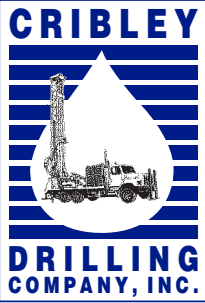
Servicing the greater
Livingston County Area

Installs - Removals
Sales - Services
Barge Services



Pinckney Barbershop
839 E Main St Pinckney MI
734-878-3925

Walk-ins Only: Tuesday 8:30-Noon,
Thursday 8:30-Noon, Friday 8:30-Noon,
Saturday 7-Noon

CRIBLEY
DRILLING
COMPANY, INC.

Quality / Affordable Well Systems

LARRY CLARK
Owner
Project Supervisor

(734) 426-4400
1-(800)-628-WELL
Cell (734) 216-0450
Fax (734) 426-4414
www.cribbley.com

8300 Dexter-Chelsea Road • Dexter, MI 48130-9786



Mutiny Marine

546 McMunn St.
South Lyon, MI 48178
248-486-8300

Derrick Watkins
Captain

MutinyMarineInc@gmail.com
www.MutinyMarine.com

- Mercury Marine Dealer
- Suzuki Marine Dealer
- Minn-Kota Authorized Repair
- Marine Repair & Maintenance
- Marine Parts & Service
- Winterize & Shrink Wrap
- Delivery & Seasonal Storage



Mutiny Marine
Join The Mutiny!
www.MutinyMarine.com

Accessible by land and water.

We carry beer, wine, liquor, lotto,
groceries, ice, firewood, propane,
kid's toys, and more...



Come on in
for a
picture with
Yukon




PORTAGE LAKE
TRADING POST

9270 McGregor Road
Pinckney, MI 48169
734-426-4114

ECONO PRINT



YARD SIGNS
BANNERS

SAME DAY
COLOR COPIES

10312 Dexter Pinckney Road • Pinckney, MI 48169
p: 734.878.5806 f: 734.878.0299
www.econoprintusa.com

DELIVERY
OR PICKUP

Pizza • Subs • Salads
Styx • Wings

Riverside Pizza
734-426-0800

9310 McGregor Rd. • Pinckney, MI
www.riversidepizzapinckney.com