



Portage Base & Whitewood Owners Association

Newsletter February 1, 2014

Reserve the dates:

Saturday, May 10, 2014 for the Boating Safety class presented by the Washtenaw County Sheriff's Department (Registration opens April 1).

Saturday, May 17, 2014 for the PBWOA Annual Meeting at Portage Yacht Club.

Details of both events in our next newsletter.

President's Message

The Board has had a busy winter. Our township outreach has continued, starting with the November meeting at Dexter Township Hall with Supervisor Pat Kelly. We discussed matters of interest in the Township and interactions with PBWOA issues. Prior to the meeting we had discussions with Hamburg Township about a potential new ordinance regarding the Base Lake sandbar complaints about partying. The Hamburg Supervisor and a trustee were at our meeting for an excellent multi-Township discussion.

In December we met at the Webster Township Hall with Supervisor John Kingsley for a township update and a good discussion.

In January we met at the Zukey Lake Tavern. In order to better educate the Board, we received a presentation from two lake scientists from Restorative Lake Sciences, LLC, a lake management/science firm. We learned about and discussed weed control, invasive species, lake and river management and many other issues relating to our chain of lakes ecosystem. At meetings we have also discussed possible conservation/preservation areas, lake water testing, Dick Knight's survey of the number of boats on our waters (see Page 3), potential grants for lake and lakefront improvements, involvement with

Hamburg Township's proposed Accessory Building Ordinance, the Flook Dam and many other chain of lakes issues.

Our upcoming meetings are presently scheduled as follows: February we will be meeting at the Hamburg Township Hall with Supervisor Hohl and a presentation by Kieser & Associates for further education, thoughts and recommendations as to lake management/science/engineering issues. March will be at Klave's Marina. April will be at the Putnam Township offices with Supervisor Ron Rau. All PBWOA members are welcome. Please consult our website at PBWOA.org or contact any board member to confirm dates and times.

As with the seasons, the Board is changing. Thank you to retiring board member Brian Hopkins (and wife Janis) for many years of service. Brian's input and presence will be missed. Welcome to Dave Wilutis. Dave lives on Base Lake and owns a business that provides digital scanning and bindery services to newspaper publishers. Peg, his wife, is a pharmacist. They have two grown children and an grandchild.

Through Michigan Lake & Stream Associations we now have a lending library. Our books include:

- *Lakescaping for Wildlife and Water Quality*
- *Natural Shoreline Landscapes on Michigan's Inland Lakes*
- *A Citizens Guide for the Identification, Mapping & Management of the Common Rooted Aquatic Plants of Michigan Lakes*
- *Michigan Lake Associations - Nuts & Bolts* by Cliff Bloom
- *Buying & Selling Waterfront Property in Michigan* by Cliff Bloom.

I want to thank every member of the PBWOA Board: Tom Hiller, Jay Hale, Dave Moody, Bob Nester, Paul Tryon, Jane Olila, Jon Waitz and Mark Purol for volunteering their time, effort and thoughtfulness in helping us all analyze and discuss the issues that affect us.

Please never hesitate to contact me with your ideas, thoughts and concerns at (248) 420-9144 or MarkLTeicher@AOL.COM.

Portage Yacht Club
 Located on South shore of Portage Lake
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 Membership not required to dine*

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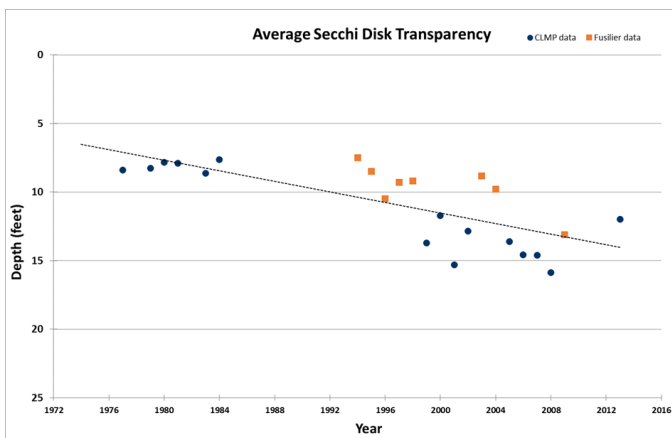
Full Menu Carryout
 Beer/Wine Carryout

Update on PBWOA Water Testing

This past summer, residents from Portage, Baseline, Whitewood, and Tamarack measured water quality in their lakes through the State of Michigan's Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program. The threat of increasing phosphorus and algae blooms is an all too real threat for Michigan's lakes, and tracking these parameters can help lakes associations make wise management decisions.

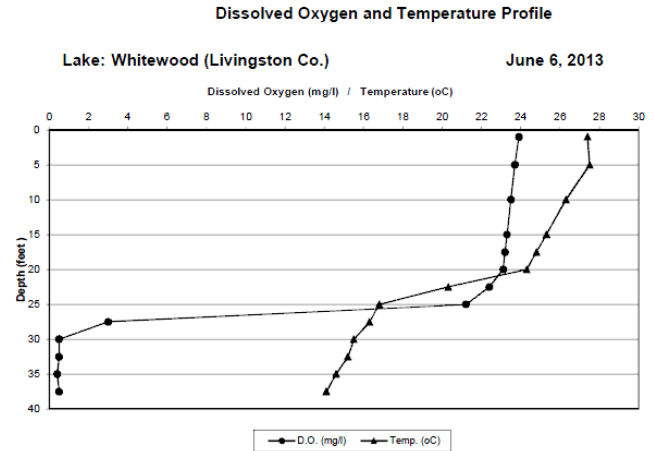
The monitoring has shown that Portage, Baseline, Whitewood, and Tamarack are mesotrophic lakes. This means that there is a moderate amount of nutrients on the water; enough to allow for plentiful fish production, but not enough to cause dangerous algae blooms. Still, on lakes surrounded by houses, there is plenty of opportunity for phosphorus to enter the lakes and create localized problems, and it is very important to keep an eye on those levels.

A full report will be available by the end of January and will be given to the PBWOA board. Until then, below are two examples of the types of measurements made.



Caption: Measuring the depth of light penetration is done with a Secchi disk. While this is an inexpensive and easy way to understand the productivity of a lake,

it is not a fool proof check of the amount of algae production in a lake. For example, the increase in water clarity in Baseline Lake over time is probably due to zebra mussels just as much as the installation of a sewer system.



Caption: Volunteers used a meter to measure the water temperature and amount of dissolved oxygen throughout the water column. In Whitewood Lake (shown above), as well as Baseline and Tamarack, which were also measured, dissolved oxygen is absent from a depth of 25-30 feet in the late summer. Fisherman take note!

--Paul Steen
 Huron River Watershed Council

Last Minute Update...

We have just received the complete, 24-page report from HRWC and it contains some good news. It recommends testing Portage, Base and Tamarack water quality only once every 3 years because those lakes have shown steady improvement. However, the report suggests increased efforts at monitoring and reporting invasive species. We'll provide more information on the report at a future date.

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Update on the Laughing Duck



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The Board of Directors for the Laughing Duck Nature Center spent most of 2013 on organizational projects. They are still waiting for the final approval of 501c3 status which should be forthcoming in the next few weeks. The Board is finalizing a mission statement and working with Dexter High School graphics arts students to develop a logo. Summer plans include a couple of family fishing tournaments with Craig Kivi who recently joined our Board. A photography class with Victor Banta has also been suggested. Victor is another new Board member, who has recently retired to pursue photography full time. These programs will be the first fundraising activities aside from the sale of The Laughing Duck books which are still available at Klave's Marina and Ed Bock's Feed and Stuff. The Board is always looking for input and suggestions to move the nature center program forward. To make donations to the Laughing Duck, or for further information, contact Charlotte Schiller at Klave's Marina, 732-436-4532, or Mark Teicher.

Boat Survey—2013

With partial support from PBWOA, one of our long-time members, Dick Knight, regularly conducts a count of the number of boats on our chain of lakes. Dick was especially thorough in 2013 and included all of the lakes from Little Portage through Zukey. He counted not just boats on lifts or moored. Launch sites and marinas are also included as are boats on trailers and behind garages. The survey separated boats by type. This brief summary does not do justice to the amount of work that went into the survey. The counts for Base and Portage Lakes include boats on canals, lagoons and outlots. The grand total count was **5217** boats.

| | Pontoon | Power | Jet Ski | Fishing | Sail | Paddle | Canoe | Kayak |
|-----------------------|-------------|-------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Base | 156 | 97 | 60 | 43 | 46 | 33 | 46 | 101 |
| Portage | 951 | 580 | 270 | 114 | 146 | 182 | 90 | 260 |
| Little Portage | 64 | 49 | 16 | 7 | 2 | 14 | 4 | 8 |
| Access Sites | 1 | 56 | 12 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 6 |
| Tamarack | 42 | 62 | 27 | 20 | 1 | 29 | 11 | 56 |
| Whitewood | 83 | 47 | 30 | 14 | 1 | 22 | 11 | 26 |
| Gallagher | 153 | 49 | 24 | 25 | 0 | 43 | 16 | 44 |
| Strawberry | 209 | 90 | 88 | 28 | 8 | 37 | 30 | 64 |
| Zukey | 186 | 60 | 52 | 22 | 3 | 31 | 14 | 35 |
| Totals | 1845 | 1090 | 579 | 279 | 207 | 391 | 226 | 600 |

Local History Project

The long-dormant project to compile the history of our area is making excellent progress. The final form of the project will be a web site containing a wide variety of information on our local area. Both natural history and local history will be included. Although not quite ready for public release, the site already consists of almost 200 web pages, including over 200 images of vintage postcards going back to the early 1900's. We'll be announcing the website URL in the near future.

We are still looking for information on the Gallagher and Whitewood Lakes areas. If anyone has photos or documents from those areas, please email Dave Moody (davem@umich.edu).

Update on the McGregor Road Bridge

We have learned that the Michigan Department of Transportation has scheduled funding for the replacement of the bridge on McGregor Road near the public launch site for 2016. Although no plans are firm at this time, it is expected that McGregor will be closed to traffic at the bridge, much as was done with the bridge on Dexter-Pinckney Road.

ZUKEY LAKE

Tavern

Sunday Breakfast Buffet
 (10 AM - 2 PM)

Featuring: *Omelet Stations

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Hash Browns, Bacon, Sausage, Ham,
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\$7.95
 Kids 6yrs.-11 yrs. \$3.95
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The PBWOA Board

| | |
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| Treasurer: Jay Hale | 734-878-3535 |
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| | Paul Tryon 734-878-3415 |
| | Jon Waitz 734-878-9312 |
| | Dave Wilutis 517-349-5232 |

Michigan Natural Features Inventory and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Seeks Your Help In Identifying and Reporting Aquatic Invasive Plants

Michigan Natural Features Inventory and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources are



collaborating on the development of a statewide Aquatic Invasive Species "Early Detection Rapid Response" program and are seeking your assistance in helping to identify aquatic invasive species infestations in their early (and much easier

to manage) stages.

Please view and or download the "Michigan's Most Wanted Aquatic Invasive Plants" poster by [clicking here](#).

Should you observe any of these aquatic invasive plants, immediately contact Michigan Department of Natural Resources Early Detection Rapid Response Program Coordinator Matt Ankney at 517.641.4903 or via e-mail: ankneym2@michigan.gov

This article first appeared in the *Michigan Lakes & Streams Newsletter*, December, 2013 and is reprinted here by permission. (Copyright 2103 by Michigan Lakes and Streams Foundation)

We also recommend the article "The Starry stonewort Invasion" that appeared on Pg17 of the *Winter Michigan Riparian*.

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