



Portage, Base & Whitewood Owners Association

Serving the Lakes Community since 1940

Spring 2016 Newsletter

Reserve the dates:

Thursday, April 21, 2016 7:00 PM for a public meeting to hear about the weed study and the next steps. Shalom Lutheran Church, 1740 E. M-36. (See page 2 for details).

Saturday, May 7, 2016 for the Boating Safety class presented by the Washtenaw County Sheriff's Department. Registration is now open. (See page 3 for details).

Saturday, May 14, 2016 for the PBWOA Annual Meeting at Portage Yacht Club.

Friday, August 12, 2016 for Annual Meet-and-Greet Pizza Party at Portage Yacht Club.

It's time to renew your PBWOA membership!!

We have enclosed a pre-addressed envelope in which you can return your membership sign-up card, \$50.00 check, and Board Voting card. Voting deadline is May 7.

You can also renew or join online by going to <http://www.pbwoa.org/signup-form/> where you can also pay your dues by credit card using the secure PayPal service.

All memberships run from April 1 to March 31.

Contributions toward the study, in any amount, continue to be gratefully accepted by mailing a check to: PBWOA, P.O. Box 563, Pinckney, MI 48169. All donors will be publicly acknowledged without amounts.

The PBWOA has a new website (PBWOA.org) to better inform and contact our members. Details can be found on Page 2 of this newsletter. Our aim is to make you a well informed lakefront property owner. You will be able to check on the status of the McGregor Road Bridge, which has closed until August 7 for total rebuilding. You can even submit your photos to add to our gallery.

In conjunction with Michigan Clean Water Corps Lake Monitoring Program the PBWOA will again this year perform various basic water quality studies. Thank you to all of our volunteers.

The Board has continued to build the PBWOA's relationship with our local townships and counties, along with the Michigan Lake & Stream Associations, Inc. (ML&SA) and the Huron River Watershed Council.

Thank you to our Board Members: Dave Moody, Tom Hiller, Jay Hale, Mark Purol, Jane Ollila, Paul Tryon, Bob Nester, Rob Esch, Jon Waitz and Dave Wilutis.

Every PBWOA member and prospective member is welcome to contact any Board member with comments and questions, or you can always reach me on my mobile phone at 248-420-9144 or at MarkLTeicher@aol.com.

President's Column

by Mark Teicher

The PBWOA Board has been working hard all winter with monthly meetings, committee meetings, emails and phone calls. The Board's first concern has been the quality of our lakes, streams and river. Weeds and water quality can impact our property values, recreational uses and health, which is why the Board contracted with lake scientists at Restorative Lake Sciences (RLS) for a scientific study. RLS performed its boots on the ground and boats in the water testing, observations and study last year. The final version of their report is on our website. The RLS scientists will be presenting their findings and results at a public meeting on April 21. We are looking forward to it. We want to thank the many donors who have supported our efforts in this study. The cost was \$10,000 and we have received approximately \$9,000 in donations from PBWOA individual and family members, local businesses, our four Townships (Hamburg, Dexter, Putnam and Webster) and from many non-members and property owner associations from up river and beyond the PBWOA, on Strawberry and Zukey Lakes. Support has also come from the Livingston Drain Commissioner and Washtenaw Water Resource Office. Thank you all!

New PBWOA Website

Last year, PBWOA contracted with a web developer to revamp our website at <http://www.pbwoa.org>. The site was developed in up-to-date web standards and is easily useable on phones and tablets.

Among the features on the site are a News & Events page, Membership information, past Newsletters, Fishing, Birding, and Boating pages, a link to our Area History website (also revised last year), a section on invasives, a section with local images provided by our members, and links to other resources. Our goal is to make the site a one-stop site for information of use to PBWOA members.

The site is updated frequently with current news and events. For example, we've recently tried to keep updated news on the McGregor Bridge project. It's worth checking frequently.

One new feature we hope will prove popular is the ability to sign up and pay for memberships. Payment is securely processed through PayPal and all major cards are accepted.

Weed Report—Full Text

We have posted the full text of the 2015 Weed Study Report on our website. The report is 111 pages long.

URL: <http://pbwoa.org/2015-Weed-Report/>

 ZUKEY LAKE Tavern	Sunday Breakfast Buffet (10 AM - 2 PM) Featuring: *Omelet Stations
(810) 231-1441 \$8.95 Kids 6 yrs.-11 yrs. \$4.95 Kids 5 yrs. & Under Free	*Fresh Fruit & Salad Bar Hash Browns, Bacon, Sausage, Ham, French Toast, Oatmeal, Cereals, Pastries, Breakfast Pizza, Biscuits & Gravy, & More

Want to save trees (and save expenses for PBWOA)?

If you received both paper copies and an emailed copy of this newsletter, you can elect to receive only the email copy (which is distributed with color and clickable links to websites). If you wish to receive the newsletter by email only either mark the box on the membership renewal card or email PBWOA at mail@pbwoa.org.

Public Meeting—Weed Study

Thursday, April 21—7:00 PM

Shalom Lutheran Church

1740 E M-36

PBWOA will hold a public meeting to present the findings of the scientific study of the invasive weed situation on the chain of lakes. Jennifer Jermalowicz-Jones, RLS owner and Water Resources Director, will be present to explain and interpret the results of the study and to answer your questions.

Weed Study Brief Summary

by Jennifer L. Jermalowicz-Jones

The PBWOA lakes are a unique set of interconnected inland lakes that share the Huron River and therefore lie within the Huron River watershed. The watershed of each lake differs in size and is responsible for the contributions of nutrients that support aquatic plant and algae growth. In terms of water quality, all of the PBWOA lakes are classified as eutrophic lakes which means that they contain elevated levels of nutrients, algae, and weed growth, but also possess good water clarity. Zukey Lake is the only exception with low nutrients, low weed growth, and good water clarity. The lakes represented in the PBWOA I range in size from 19-655 acres with Tamarack Lake being the smallest and Big Portage Lake the largest. Big Portage Lake also has the longest shoreline distance of 11.9 miles whereas Tamarack Lake has the shortest at 1.3 miles.

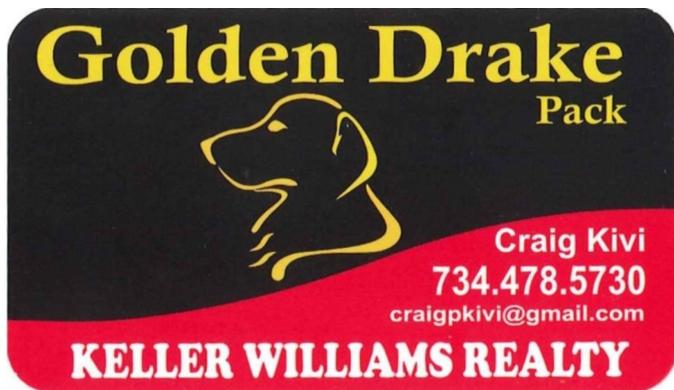
There are 5 invasive submersed and emergent aquatic plant species in and around the PBWOA lakes that are recommended for management with selective aquatic herbicides since they are an imminent threat to the PBWOA lakes ecosystems. There are approximately 66.1 combined acres of invasive watermilfoil and 92 combined acres of starry stonewort in the PBWOA lakes that threaten the 18-26 native aquatic plant species found in the system. If not addressed soon, these invasives will increase dramatically and reduce native biodiversity, ultimately threaten navigation and recreation, and, to some extent, decrease waterfront property values.

The urgent control of the submersed invasive Watermilfoil and Starry Stonewort and the

(Continued on page 3)

emergent Phragmites and Purple Loosestrife in and around the PBWOA lakes is essential for the long-term preservation of the favorable (non-nuisance) native aquatic plant communities in the lakes and for optimal recreation use of the lakes. The use of selective aquatic herbicides for species-specific control of these plants is preferred over other methods at this time for reasons described in the report. Mechanical harvesting could be used in future years once the milfoil is controlled and not a threat to fragmentation. Additional improvements would include the assurance that all areas with steep slopes around the lake are vegetated at all times so that runoff is reduced. If the water becomes turbid during a rain event, all efforts to determine the entry point of the turbidity should be executed to reduce sediment loading to the lakes.

PBWOA has had several conversations with local township and county stakeholders to address the growing concern over the documented loss of native aquatic plant species throughout the system. Although there are a variety of approaches to a management strategy, the vital first step has been taken by the PBWOA to accurately characterize the extent of the problem.



PBWOA Boating Safety Class

**Saturday May 7, 2016—8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Portage Yacht Club**

This year we are again offering our Boating Safety Class. This is your opportunity to become certified in the safe operation of a powerboat and other types of watercraft. Participants will learn about the specific laws and regulations that must be followed to legally operate watercraft in the State of Michigan, navigation rules, boat and personal watercraft operation and maintenance, what to do in case of boating emergencies, and much more. This course is as important for adults as it is for your youngster. Playing it safe around water is good training for everyone.

You will be issued your State of Michigan Boater’s Safety Certificate (BSC) provided that you pass the written test given that day by the Washtenaw County Sheriff’s Marine Safety Division. If you were born before December 31, 1978, then you are not required to have a Boating Safety Certificate. If you were born after that date you need a BSC. Yes, even if you are 37 years old. Why you say? Because most PWC accidents are caused by drivers between the age of 20 to 40 and most don’t have a BSC.

Currently, if you are 16 years old you can operate a Personal Watercraft if you have your BSC. If you get stopped without your BSC, you could be issued a ticket. Persons less than 14 **may not** legally operate a PWC. Persons 14 or 15 may operate a PWC if they have obtained a BSC and if they meet other conditions that will be discussed in the class. If you were born after July 1, 1996 you must have a BSC with you when operating **any** motorized boat.

Personal Watercraft accidents account for over 70% of all boating accidents! As a parent, you should make sure that your child not only has been properly educated as to the safe operations of a PWC and other watercraft but also has been made aware of how to be safe in and around the water. Additionally, most insurance companies offer reduced rates if you have a BSC.

Watercraft Owner Responsibility: The law presumes that the personal watercraft is being operated with the knowledge and consent of the owner. If a member of the owner’s immediate family such as your son, daughter, spouse, father, mother, brother, or sister drives it or when your kids bring over a friend to go jet skiing, you should make sure they know the unique properties of the watercraft and have a BSC on them. It is your responsibility with any operation of a watercraft by a minor that the **owner** of the vehicle has the proper training. You can be held liable for all damages.

**Please register ASAP by calling the
PBWOA Hot Line at 734-474-3141**

We serve our members first before opening the class to the public. We generally have around 50 attendees. It’s a great class, all done in one day and you get a lunch prepared by the Portage Yacht Club. The \$5.00 fee covers only part of the costs.

Call the PBWOA Hot Line at 734-474-3141. Give the voicemail system **your name, phone number and the number of people that plan to attend;** then mark your calendar for Saturday May 7 at 8 am at Portage Yacht Club. Please bring \$5.00 to cover the cost of the lunch served.



CENTURY 21 LADY OF THE LAKES

P: 734-426-6060
F: 734-426-0298

A: 8660 Dexter Pinckney Rd | Pinckney, MI 48169
Please contact us for a free list of HUD homes.
We provide free market analysis.

E: tim@ladyofthelakes.com
W: www.ladyofthelakes.com



Board Elections

Board members are elected for two year terms, with half of the Board being elected in each year. If you were a member in 2015, you should have received a card on which you can vote for 2016-2017 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 7, 2016.**

The PBWOA Board

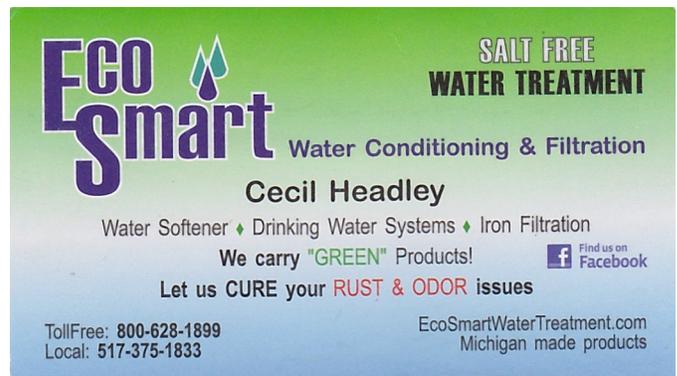
President: Mark Teicher	248-420-9144
Secretary: Jane Ollila *	734-878-4876
Treasurer: Jay Hale	734-878-3535
Directors : Ron Esch	734-648-0329
Tom Hiller *	734-662-4386
Dave Moody *	734-426-0668
Bob Nester *	734-426-2545
Mark Puroil	734-428-7683
Paul Tryon *	734-878-3415
Jon Waitz *	734-878-9312
Dave Wilutis	517-349-5232

Annual Meeting Agenda May 14, 2016 at Portage Yacht Club

8:30: coffee, tea, donuts, bagels and cream cheese

9:00: Call To Order, Brief Announcements & Introduction of Board Members

1. Corporal Tom Mercure, Marine Division Supervisor, Underwater Search & Recovery Team, Washtenaw County Sheriff Dept.
2. Special invited speakers.
3. Michigan Lake and Stream Associations Conference Report
4. Dana Dever, Attorney
5. Question –Answer time
6. Business Portion:
 - Approval of Minutes of Previous Annual Meeting
 - Presentation by President of Year in Review and the Future
 - Treasurer's Report
 - Nominations For the Board and Election of Board



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Washtenaw County Marine Patrol Activity Report— 2015

	Baseline	Little Portage	Portage	Huron River*
Number of Patrol Hours	134	7.5	332.8	247.41
Compliance Inspections	74	2	287	28
Boating Under the Influence Arrests	3	0	2	1
Violation Citations Issued	3	0	5	0
Violation Warnings Issued	13	0	44	4

* Includes activity on the River throughout Washtenaw County.

Corporal Mercure will be at our Annual Meeting and can answer questions about the Marine Patrol activities.