



# Portage, Base & Whitewood Owners Association

Serving the Lakes Community since 1940

## Fall 2016 Newsletter

### President's Column

There are many exciting things to talk about. First, membership. If you are a member, thank you. If not, please join. The membership of every riparian and lake front owner is very important. Particularly, it allows us greater impact with our elected officials and state agencies, such as DEQ and DNR. Second, the scientific study performed by Restorative Lake Sciences has been reviewed and utilized by our Counties (Livingston & Washtenaw) and our Townships (Hamburg, Dexter, Webster & Putnam). They have taken it very seriously and have moved forward toward a Chain of Lakes-Wide Special Assessment District to deal with our ever worsening aquatic weeds and other lake quality problems and concerns. They had their lake scientists perform additional Chain of Lakes mapping and assessed conditions this summer. They found that many invasives, such as Starry Stonewort, have worsened tremendously; they are identifying all parcels to be included in the District; they are calculating costs and will be scheduling public hearings. It is anticipated that weed treatment and other "boots on the ground" work will begin Spring 2017. (Thank you to all of the donors who have supported the weed study. We are still looking for more donations. If you would like to donate, when you send your donation, simply note to us that it is for the "weed study".) Third, the PBWOA has an outstanding website (PBWOA.org). It includes not only the ability to pay your dues and donations on line, but also current community news and event

updates (like the McGregor Road Bridge), the Weed Study Report and articles and information on Fishing, Boating, Water Quality, Area History, Birding, legal issues, state and federal grants and other items. Fourth, in conjunction with the Michigan Clean Water Corps (MiCorps) the PBWOA has and will continue to participate with its Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program (CLMP). Thank you to all of our volunteers. Many years of CLMP results are posted on PBWOA.org. Fifth, the PBWOA has continued our concern and interest in the "Sandbar Parties" and is in a continuing conversation with township supervisors and others about this contentious issue. Sixth, the PBWOA has continued to build its relationships with our local townships and counties, local marine law enforcement, DEQ, DNR, the Michigan Lake & Stream Associations, the Huron River Watershed Council and local conservation organizations. Seventh, we have had a great season of programming, by hosting our annual Boaters' Safety Class, Pizza Party, Annual Meeting with excellent speakers, as well as monthly board meetings.

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

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

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## What has people flocking to the River?

The Huron River hosts many types of birds, some exotic looking, some not. There are several families of Eagles! If you want to see the Eagles be advised that they seem to hide if the noise is too loud, so being quiet will serve you well.

One of the most elegant birds on the chain is the Great Egret. The egret is common in many North American wetlands. They look very similar to the Great Blue Heron, but are somewhat smaller. The similarities don't stop at their appearance. Egrets also hunt in similar fashion to Herons standing quietly or wading through the water to catch fish with their yellow bills. Some of the first conservation laws protecting birds were enacted to protect the Great Egret which was hunted almost to extinction for their plumage.

While it is exciting to see different birds living along the one can't help but wonder if their loss of natural habitat has created a need for them to find a new home.

In a most recent survey conducted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reports that Michigan has lost over 50% of its original wetlands. The percentage of Michigan coastal wetlands that have been lost is even greater, estimated at 70%. In total, over 5,600,000 acres of wetlands have been destroyed in Michigan according to *Living with Michigan's Wetlands; A Landowners Guide* by Author Wilfred Cwikiel. **The good news is that 75% of the remaining wetlands are privately held, including some owned by PBWOA members!**

**Editor's Note:** *This and several other articles in this newsletter were contributed by PBWOA member Betsy Sallade-Farina. We are grateful for her contributions and encourage contributions from other members.*

## Weeds and Algae What you can do for your lake

This year Portage Lake in particular, and other lakes to some extent, had a problem with algae growth that was worse than "old timers" ever remember seeing. PBWOA member Craig Kivi has provided video documentation of the problem on our website at <http://www.pbwoa.org/2016-algae-bloom/>.

The problem with weeds and algae did not develop overnight. Therefore clearing up the problem will take time and everyone's participation. There is scientific proof that runoff of nutrients from land to water is the biggest contributor to the problem. Weeds and algae need nutrients. Everyone's goal should be not to contribute nutrients to the water. You can do this by following these practices:

- **The best practice is not to fertilize at all.** If you fertilize your lawn you are contributing to the problem! If you absolutely must fertilize for some reason, do not do so any closer than 50 feet from the water's edge and DO NOT use products with phosphorus and use minimal nitrogen ratings.
- Use lake water for watering your lawns. There are many nutrients in the lake water from which your lawns would benefit. Let your lawns rather than lake weeds and algae benefit from those nutrients.
- Mow with a mulching mower and leave the clippings on the lawn. The clippings provide nutrients as they break down.
- Do not feed swans and geese. The waste from single swan contributes several pounds of nutrients per day to the lakes.
- Clean up after pets and waterfowl. Animal waste has many nutrients. Do not discard animal waste in the lake.
- Minimize runoff from your property by creating shoreline buffers.

### Fun Fact

Hummingbirds eat twice their weight in nectar every day. The sugary substance energizes them so they can go to work; finding and eating insects (just like those of us who fortify our coffee with sugar to begin our day!).

## Boating Safety Reminders

From the Washtenaw County Sheriff's Department

While enjoying the waterways, please keep safety in mind. This includes the use of a U.S. Coast Guard Approved Personal Floatation Device (PFD).

### Life Jacket Rules – Life Jackets Float. You Don't! Wear It!

U.S. Coast Guard boating accident data indicates that 90 percent of the people who drown in a boating or water accident would be alive today if they had been wearing a life jacket at the time of the accident.

Who must wear a PFD (life jacket)?

- Children less than 6 years of age must wear a Type I or Type II PFD when riding in the open deck area of a boat.
- Each person operating, riding on or being towed behind a personal watercraft (Jet Ski) must wear a Type I, Type II or Type III PFD (that is not an inflatable device).
- Each person less than 12 years of age riding or being towed, behind a personal watercraft (Jet Ski) must wear a Type I or Type II PFD.

### What “type” of PFD do I need to carry on my boat in Michigan?

- Vessels less than 16 feet (including canoes and kayaks) must be equipped with one Type I, II, III or IV PFD for each person on board. The U.S. Coast Guard requires all vessels less than 16 feet, used on the Great Lakes or connecting waterways, to carry one approved Type I, II, or III device for each person on board.
- Vessels 16 feet and longer, in addition to the Type I, II, or III for each person on board must carry one type IV. (Canoes and kayaks over 16 feet are exempt from the Type IV requirement.)

**Note:** All PFD's must be ready at hand and not enclosed in plastic bags or other containers. The “Type” of a PFD is printed on the flotation device.

## What are the different “types” of PFD's?

- **TYPE I:** An off-Shore Life Jacket (22 lbs. Buoyancy), it is best suited for open, rough or remote water where rescue may be slow in coming. It will turn most unconscious wearers face-up in water; a little bulky. Two (2) sizes fit most children and adults.
- **TYPE II:** A near-Shore Buoyant Vest (15.5 lbs. Buoyancy), it is best suited for calm, inland water. It will turn some unconscious wearers face-up in water; less bulky than a Type I and less expensive. Sizes for infants, small and medium size children, and adults.
- **TYPE III:** A flotation aid (15.5 lbs. Buoyancy), it is best suited for calm, inland water. It is comfortable and allows for more freedom of movement. It is available in many styles and popular for water-skiing, small boat operation, sailing, fishing, etc. Not intended for rough, open water.
- **TYPE IV:** A throwable device, it is intended for calm, inland water where assistance is always nearby. It serves as a positive secondary option to wearable PFDs. They come as seat cushions, rings, and horseshoe buoys. Not intended for unconscious persons, non-swimmers, children, or rough, open water.



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## Sunday Breakfast Buffet

(10 AM - 2 PM)

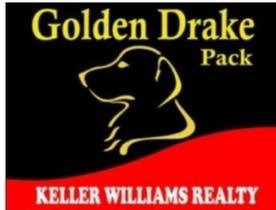
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## Dolly's Preserve



Long before Vegetated Armoring\* was considered a desirable vehicle to protect shore erosion, Dolly Medlar on Base Lake's south shore had her preserve. Her neighbors on either side have followed suit. If you are thinking of doing something to your shore, consider putting in natural vegetation.

\*Vegetated Armoring combines the structural integrity of technical shore protection with the positive biological aspects associated with biological shore protection. Vegetated armoring techniques integrate biological and technical methods. Providing woody cover and vegetation is key in preserving and/or establishing critical habitat for shoreline inhabitants regardless of the biotechnical shore protection technique.

### The PBWOA Board

President: Mark Teicher 248-420-9144  
Vice President: Tom Hiller 734-662-4386  
Vice President: Jon Waitz 734-878-9312  
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Dave Moody 734-426-0668  
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Mark Purol 734-428-7683  
Paul Tryon 734-878-3415  
Dave Wilutis 517-349-5232

Please visit the PBWOA website at <http://pbwoa.org>

## What's Our Legacy?

The State designated 27 miles of the Huron River and three of its tributaries as Michigan Department of Natural Resources Country Scenic River under the State's Natural Rivers Act (Act 231, PA 1970)

A Natural River designation restricts the proximity to the water of buildings, sets forth the type of building allowed and provides other criteria to preserve the land. In the same vein the State enacted a Wetlands protection legislation in 1979.

For property owners these designations may provide interesting opportunities, including tax deductions, the opportunity to gift the land, or keeping the land in the family for generations with the promise not to build. Several organizations are actively helping property owners and concerned riparians with land conservancy including:

**Legacy Land Conservancy** 734-302-5263  
[meghan@legacylandconservancy.org](mailto:meghan@legacylandconservancy.org)

**Huron River Watershed Council** 734-769-5123  
[lrubin@hrwc.org](mailto:lrubin@hrwc.org)

**Six Rivers Land Conservancy** 248-601-2816  
[mprindle@sixriversrlc.org](mailto:mprindle@sixriversrlc.org)

**Semi-Wild** 248-326-475  
[SEMIWILD@heartofthelakes.org](mailto:SEMIWILD@heartofthelakes.org)

Several neighborhoods along the chain have started their own land conservation efforts either through the purchase of land, or the donation of land including the Reichert preserve of 92 acres, several land conservancy efforts on Base Lake's south shore, and the Strawberry Point Nature Preserve.

What would it take to replace "I remember when this was all open land and there were birds and animals and it was so much fun to watch" with "I helped save this parcel of land for you to enjoy".



**CENTURY 21 LADY OF THE LAKES**

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