



Portage, Base & Whitewood Owners Association

Serving the Lakes Community since 1940

Winter 2019 Newsletter

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Boater's Safety Class	April 6, 2019
Annual Member Meeting	May 11, 2019
Pizza Party	Early August

From the President

Mark Teicher

It has been a busy fall and winter for the Board. Monthly face to face meetings are the first Monday of every month at 7:00 pm at the Hamburg Senior Center. All members are welcome.

The Board is extremely concerned about the Chain of Lakes Improvement Program and the multiple problems and issues involved. We continue our efforts to improve communication and project outcomes with the Washtenaw County Department of Public Works.

PFAS contamination and the do not eat fish and other warnings have been a new major concern.

On the positive side, PBWOA continues to support the education of our members on lake issues, by reimbursing members who successfully complete the Introduction to Lakes on-line course offered through the MSU Extension Service and the MLSA. The course registration for this year is closed, but you can sign up to be notified when the next class will be offered at:

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/introductiontolakesonline>

We have continued our positive relationship with the Huron River Watershed Council, Michigan United Conservation Clubs and Michigan Lake Stewardship Association.

Our online presence continues to grow, with more and more information available. Our Facebook page notifying everyone on the chain of lakes about the "do not eat fish advisory" was one of the first notices to go out and received over 1,000 views. Our website has up to date links with news about upcoming programs and updates from Washtenaw County. Website and Facebook: PBWOA.org

Special thanks to all Board members and PBWOA volunteers.

PBWOA Boating Safety Class

Saturday, April 6 – 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Portage Yacht Club

This year we are offering our Boating Safety Class a little earlier in the season. This is your opportunity to become certified in the safe operation of a powerboat and other types of watercraft. Participants will learn about 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 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 to operate a PWC.

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. Other regulations may apply. It is your responsibility to understand and follow those regulations. As an added incentive many insurance companies offer reduced rates if you have a BSC.

**PLEASE REGISTER ASAP BY CALLING THE
PBWOA HOTLINE AT 734-474-3141**

We serve our members first before opening the class to the public. It's a great class, all done in one day with a lunch prepared by Portage Yacht Club. The \$5.00 fee covers only part of the costs.

Call the PBWOA Hotline 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 April 6th – 8:00 a.m. Please bring \$5.00 to cover the cost of the lunch served.

Protecting Your Lake

5 Best Lake Practices Explained

Craig Kivi

Article 1 – Dispose of car / house poisons properly

Of key importance to the PBWOA and every knowledgeable lake property owner is the health protection of the very lakes we live on. Protecting the health of our lakes allows us to continue to wade, swim, fish, boat, and enjoy other recreational activities, ensuring this enjoyment for children, grandchildren, and so on. In addition, when we protect our lake we protect our home values, as there is significant precedent of degradation of lake health reducing lake property values.

About a year ago, the PBWOA sent a brochure to all riparian owners showing the 5 best practices homeowners can do to take control of protecting their lake. These 5 practices were taken from correlating the top 5 best lakefront practices as discovered by 11 scientific organizations including MSU, Huron River Watershed Council, Michigan Lakes and Stream Association, Michigan DNR and DEQ.

As a review, those 5 best practices were:

1. Dispose of car/house poisons properly
2. Don't use fertilizers, pesticides, or herbicides
3. Pick up Pet Waste (which is fertilizer) immediately
4. Don't burn yard waste (which is fertilizer) or throw it in the lake
5. Create tall grass and flower strips as a natural filter and buffer zone to the lake

This article serves as another reminder of all these practices and will go into just a little more detail about the first of the 5, which is disposing of car / household poisons properly.

At the very basic understanding, it should be clear to all that anything spilled on a lakefront property will eventually end up in the lake. "Don't worry, the ground will just soak it up" is just not a true statement; neither is the idea of dumping poisons "far enough away" from the lake. Ground soils simply slow down the inevitable transportation of the poison or fertilizer until it absolutely reaches the lake.

This might take just a few weeks, or could take until your grandchildren own the property.

Let's use car wash detergent for example. Once rinsed off your car it runs off the driveway into the grass and into the soil. The very next rain will wash the detergent along toward the lake, and with every subsequent rain the detergent moves closer and closer to the lake until it finally reaches - and degrades the lake health.

Repeated car washes continue to add to this, and multiplied by the thousands of car washes on the entire chain of lakes each year and well, you get the idea. Over the years, this could be tons of detergent deposited into our chain of lakes where it will hurt aquatic wildlife such as fish, turtles, insects, native vegetation, etc. Expecting this to have no effect on the lake defies logic. You don't have to be a radical environmentalist for all of this to just plain make common sense.

So, knowing rain washes everything into the lake, let's look at the other household poisons which can harm the lake. Oil based driveway sealers, household cleaners such as bleach, ammonia, and others, gasoline spills from filling up lawn mowers, string trimmers, etc., oils, antifreezes from poorly maintained cars or poor car fluid filling practices, paints, varnishes and associated solvents are some examples. You can certainly come up with more.

Would you dump any of these directly into the lake? Of course not – and now, hopefully it's clear that dumping any of these on your lakefront property is just the same as dumping them directly into the lake, it just takes a longer for them to get there.

Remember: Rain washes everything into the lake.



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Lake Water Quality Testing Thank You

Jon Waitz

Our Portage, Base, Whitewood Owner's Association has been involved with lake water quality testing for many years and has collected data going back as far as 1975. The board of directors funds the cost for testing on Little Portage, Portage, Baseline, Tamarack and Whitewood lakes from dues collected from membership. The actual water sampling is being done by PBWOA volunteers on the various lakes. We have a team of 8 volunteers doing testing, some with over 10 years of service to the lake community.

The testing that has been done includes:

Secchi Disk - a test to determine the lakes clarity by measuring depth of light penetration

Spring and Summer total phosphorus

Algae Chlorophyll

Dissolved Oxygen & Temperature

The data collected by our volunteers is used to help determine changes to our chain of lakes over a broad period of time. Lakes being monitored have been classified as "mesotrophic", which means that there are a moderate amount of nutrients in the water, enough to allow for plentiful fish production, but not enough to cause dangerous algae blooms.

<p>Docks & Hoists Install in Early Spring: Mar / June Remove in Fall: Sept / Nov</p> <p>Seawalls New & Repair</p> <p>R.J. Knight - Base Lake 11971 Yankee Lane Pinckney, MI 48169</p>	<p>Pontoon Trailering Anywhere - Anytime You Call - "We Haul" 35 Years Experience - Insured</p> <p>Snow Plowing Salting</p> <p>phone 734-426-5427 cell 734-646-5619</p>
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All data collected by our team of volunteers is uploaded into The Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program (CLMP). This is a significant partnership effort between the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), the Michigan Lake Stewardship Associations, Inc. (MLSA), the Great Lakes Commission, Michigan State University, the Huron River Watershed Council and our PBWOA. The CLMP is a key program in the Michigan Clean Water Corps, a statewide volunteer water quality monitoring network. We are collectively able to gather, analyze and record important data on Michigan lakes with the CLMP partnership, that otherwise would not be available.

The data collected by our volunteers will be used to help determine changes to our chain of lakes over a period. Current volunteers and their years of volunteering are: Judy Porman, 21 years, Jim Collins, 16 years, Jim Meyer, 11 years, Jon Waitz, 5 years, Diane Tryon, 4 years, Craig Kivi, 3 years. Other volunteers who have participated in water testing are Mary Lou Mohn and Margie Shelton. Thank you tester volunteers for all your time and effort!!



**ZUKEY LAKE
TAVERN**

Sunday Breakfast Buffet
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

- * Omelet Station
- * Fresh Fruit & Salad Bar
- * Scrambled Eggs
- * Bacon, Ham, Sausage
- * French Toast
- * Breakfast Pizza
- * Pastries
- * Cereal & Oatmeal
- * Hash Brown Potatoes
- * Sausage Gravy & Biscuits

Ph: (810) 231-1441

Adults: \$10.95 | Kids 6-11 yrs: \$5.95 | Under 6 yrs: Eat Free

MSU Introduction to Lakes Online Course

January 22 – March 15

The PBWOA is hoping many of you have signed up to take this worthwhile course through Michigan State University. Remember to send us proof of your completion of this course and proof of payment so we can reimburse any of our members.



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Working Together for Healthy Lakes

Jan Arps-Prundeanu

The PBWOA sponsored my attendance at the Michigan Inland Lakes Partnership and MiCorps conference “Working Together for Healthy Lakes,” held October 4-5, 2018 in Grand Rapids. What one quickly learns at this type of event is just how many different organizations and programs there are focused on Michigan’s Inland Lakes. The partnership receives funding from Michigan State University Extension and includes both state and private organizations.

Attendees at the conference included: Michigan DEQ; Michigan DNR, Michigan Lake Stewardship Association (formerly Michigan Lakes and Streams) Michigan Natural Shoreline Partnership, Institute of Water Research (MSU) Michigan Aquatic Managers Association, Michigan Waterfront Alliance, Michigan Wetlands Association, MiCorps, Midwest Aquatic Plant Management Society, Grand Valley State University, Annis Water Resources Institute; Great Lakes Water Studies Institute, Northwestern Michigan College., Huron River Watershed Council and probably more. Private vendors also were in attendance, promoting their role in making our lakes healthy.

Of special interest on a local level, our Michigan DNR now funds what are called CISMA’s - **Cooperative Invasive Species Management Areas**. Part of our chain is in the Jackson, Lenawee Washtenaw CISMA. Livingston County is currently in the Saginaw Bay CISMA, but there are plans to create a smaller area that would include Livingston County. These organizations are tasked with addressing both terrestrial and aquatic invasive species in their areas and have access to grants through the Michigan Invasive Species Grant program. The PBWOA looks forward to working with the CISMA’s as they coordinate efforts to address our aquatic invasive species. Given the number of different organizations and departments involved in addressing the health of our waters, coordination is necessary for any successful effort.

Another highlight of the conference: I met Mike Gallagher – the new president of the Michigan Lake Stewardship Association. His family had a cottage on Base Line Lake several years ago – he sends his best to all of us on the Chain of Lakes.

**Make your heart like a lake, with calm, still surface,
and great depths of kindness.**

Lao Tzu

Your PBWOA Board

Jane Ollila

Over the last few years your PBWOA Board of Directors has changed and is hopefully more engaged in what you – our members – want for the health and well being of our lakes. If there is something we’re missing we would sure like to hear from you. We also need your help in various ways as we take on larger projects – maybe serving on the Education Committee, helping with layout or distribution of our Newsletter and mailings, helping with the water testing or being our ‘eyes’ for potential problems or issues on the lakes. Please call one of the board members or send us an email to indicate if you’re available for an hour a week or an hour a month. Thanks!

As a special note – I would like to personally thank Dave Moody for all that he’s done over the years. As new tasks arose he stepped in with knowledge and tenacity to make a difference and over those same years his “jobs” increased dramatically. Finally this year he’s encouraging others to step in so Craig Kivi and I are attempting the “Newsletter” duties. Jim Jensen has offered to learn some of the tasks with the Website and hopefully we can help alleviate some stress in other ways. Our goal is to keep Dave around for a long time with his awesome knowledge and computer skills.



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Portage Yacht Club

Located on South shore of Portage Lake
8930 Dexter-Pinckney Rd

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

Social memberships \$50 — No monthly minimum
*Social membership required for alcohol purchase