



Portage, Base & Whitewood Owners Association

Serving the Lakes Community since 1940

Spring 2018 Newsletter

Reserve the dates:

Saturday, April 28, 2018 for the Boating Safety class presented by the Washtenaw County Sheriff's Department. Registration is now open. (See page 3 for details).

Saturday, May 19, 2018 for the PBWOA Annual Meeting at Portage Yacht Club.

Friday, Aug 10, 2018 for the Annual PBWOA 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, for current members, a Board Voting card. Voting deadline is May 12.

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

All memberships run from April 1 to March 31.

President's Comments

In short, things are currently very positive with the PBWOA (as discussed in the next article in this newsletter). Thank you, appreciation and acknowledgement is appropriate for the contributions of our board members, emeritus board members and our science advisor. Thank you to everyone. Enjoy the newsletter.

PBWOA 2017 Accomplishments by Craig Kivi

No organization is more effective in improving and protecting the lakes and rivers connected to your waterfront property than a well-organized, educated and adequately funded Lake Association. Local governments, like your township certainly play a crucial part in your lake health, but often rely on research and proposed initiatives originated from your Lake Association prior to getting involved, as they have so many other things to do as well. Plus, there is no way they can decide what's important to us – for us. This is also true at the County and the State level, where resources are logically more limited and at the Federal level they are stretched even thinner. This is not to suggest these entities get little done, quite to the contrary, they are amazing people and have obviously accomplished countless successful projects to improve and protect our water resources. But they need your Lake Association to identify issues, get the ball rolling

and monitor progress based on your locally specific needs.

Your PBWOA is staffed by a caring, diverse, unselfish and leadership oriented group of volunteers who are in constant pursuit of research and education about your lakes, and work hard at deciding which initiatives are important to the improvement and protection of our lakes and rivers. This small group has accomplished much just in 2017 and here are a few of the PBWOA's major accomplishments:

- 1. Invasive Mute Swan Reduction Program:** resulting in fewer nutrients for aquatic vegetation and a return of native waterfowl such as the Trumpeter Swan, ducks, loons, etc., and less danger to humans.
- 2. Special Assessment District efforts** for the treatment of lake weeds and algae, which will help restore many of our imperiled lake recreational interests such as boating, swimming, fishing, wading and more.
- 3. Lake Water Testing:** in cooperation with Michigan Clean Water Corps, performing weekly testing and data reporting for constant awareness of lake health indicators.
- 4. Board of Directors education:** some members have taken the MSU Introduction to Lakes Course, one member is now a certified Michigan Lakes and Stream Associations Leader, one member has a silver Michigan Shoreline Steward Program award and members regularly attend the Michigan Lake and Stream Associations Conferences.

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5. Formed an Education Committee to educate the public on lake improvement and protection, invasive species, shoreline management, and many more important and prioritized initiatives.

6. Offered to reimburse tuition for any PBWOA member for successfully completing the MSU Online Introduction to Lakes Course. The PBWOA Board strongly endorses this class for waterfront owners.

7. Created a very simple graphic brochure using research from 11 different research organizations, on 5 best practices lakefront owners can personally do to improve and protect their lakes. This brochure will be mailed out to all lakefront owners on the Portage Chain and will be available at local businesses.

8. Began teaching Real Estate Professional seminars on the same 5 best practices so they can in turn provide materials and educate past, present, and new lakefront homeowners on how they personally can help improve and protect their new home, lake, their recreation and property values.

9. Created multiple articles on the Portage Chain of Lakes: now the featured water system for the Winter 2018 and Spring 2018 issues of the *Michigan Riparian Magazine*.

10. Created a new Facebook Page providing new information updates, notifications and the sharing of knowledge.

11. Initiated and organized a local Boaters Safety Class. (done every year)

12. Added a Science Advisor to the Board: liaison to State conservation authorities, DNR, MUCC, and other entities essential to the success of lake improvement and protection initiatives.

We wanted you to see how serious we are about improving and protecting your lake's health, what we've done last year and where your membership contribution goes. Expect more of the same for 2018 and we certainly could use your continued support and that of new members as well. Please mention this to non-member neighbors or lake users.

The PBWOA Board of Directors understands there are numerous threats to your lakes which have negatively impacted your ability to recreate on them, such as algae blooms, increase in weeds and others. These directly and significantly affect our ability to swim, fish, wade, kayak, and many other recreational ambitions, decreasing our enjoyment and perhaps, like has occurred in other States, our future property values as well. Let's face it - a house on the lake, taken off the lake, could be as much as 1/2 the value. The difference? The aesthetics and recreational

opportunities of being on the lake. Given this tremendous waterfront property value element, it only makes sense for each of us to be as assertive about protecting and maintaining our lakes as we would our own lakefront house, doesn't it?

Joining or renewing membership in the PBWOA is easy and an incredibly small investment compared to the value of your lake home and the future lake life enjoyment for you and your family. Simply go to the PBWOA.org website, membership, "join us today". Our monthly meeting schedule is posted there as well and the public is invited to any of them to see how this passionate and effective small group of volunteers is working very hard to protect YOUR waterfront interests.

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
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The PBWOA Email Distribution List

Throughout the year we distribute updated information to our members by way of email. If you use email, please provide your preferred email addresses on the enclosed membership card. We **do not** share your email address with any outside parties.

You can also 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 (and save PBWOA the cost of printing and postage) either mark the box on the membership renewal card or email PBWOA at mail@pbwoa.org.

	Portage Yacht Club Located on South shore of Portage Lake 8930 Dexter-Pinckney Rd 734-426-4155 www.ms-pyc.com
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	

PBWOA Website

The PBWOA website (<http://pbwoa.org>) is a source for all sorts of information of use to riparian property owners. We make every attempt to keep it up to the minute with relevant news and information.

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, 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.



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PBWOA Boating Safety Class

Saturday April 28, 2018—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 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.

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.

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 13 at 8 am at Portage Yacht Club. Please bring \$5.00 to cover the cost of the lunch served.



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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 2017, you should have received a card on which you can vote for 2018-2019 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 12, 2018.**

The PBWOA Board

President: Mark Teicher	248-420-9144
Vice President: Jon Waitz *	734-878-9312
Vice President: Dave Wilutis	517-349-5232
Secretary: Jane Ollila *	734-878-4876
Treasurer: Jay Hale	734-878-3535
Directors : Chris Brenner *	734-648-0329
Jim Jensen	810-599-8125
Jan Arps-Prundeanu *	734-426-5057
Dave Moody *	734-426-0668
Bob Nester *	734-426-2545
Craig Kivi	734-478-5730

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Washtenaw County Marine Patrol Activity Report— 2017

	Baseline	Little Portage	Portage
Number of Patrol Hours	69.5	11	582.75
Compliance Inspections	44	2	339
Boating Under the Influence Arrests	0	0	2
Violation Citations Issued	0	0	17
Violation Warnings Issued	12	0	95

A Marine Patrol deputy will be at our Annual Meeting to answer questions about their activities.