



Portage, Base & Whitewood Owners Association

Serving the Lakes Community since 1940

Winter 2020 Newsletter

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Seminar – 2020 Vision	March 28
Boater's Safety Class	April 25
Annual Member Meeting	May 9
Pizza Party	August 14

A SHORT NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Mark Teicher

Happy Birthday to the PBWOA! 80 years old and doesn't look a day over 65. Ha! 80 years and going strong. The PBWOA celebrates its 80th birthday this year. Or should it be her birthday, or his birthday? How do you celebrate when he, she or it turns 80? We will be celebrating and we invite all our members to invite their neighbors to come celebrate with us - by joining, by participating, by attending the annual meeting and pizza party, by reading and enjoying the PBWOA website, by following on Facebook, by educating yourself about our lakes issues and by being a responsible riparian and lakes area homeowner. If you are able to celebrate, we look to doing it with you! And by the way - no need to bring birthday gifts to this celebration.

AN UPDATE FROM WASHTENAW COUNTY

by Jan Arps-Prundeanu

Your PBWOA was invited to attend the HRCOL (Huron River Chain of Lakes) meeting held November 22, 2019. The focus of the meeting was to review the 2019 treatment season and identify goals for 2020. Lauren Koloski, Theo Eggermont and Evan Pratt represented Washtenaw County Water Resources, Paul Hausler represented Progressive AE and Jeff Knox represented Aquatic Services. Dave Wilutis and Jan Arps-Prundeanu represented the PBWOA Board.

In general, feedback received from our members concerned the slow start to the treatments in 2019 and

a perceived lack of aggressiveness in treating weeds. Both Paul Hausler and Jeff Knox indicated that the longer you wait at the beginning of the season the more effective the treatments are. The waiting at the beginning of the season should reduce the need for "spot" treatments. There were some challenges at the beginning of the treatment season last spring, as the new Lake Scientist, (Progressive AE) was hired in April and was new to the Huron River Chain of Lakes. The extremely rainy spring and cooler temperatures also impacted the scheduling of herbicide treatments.

We also learned that herbicide treatment effectiveness is reduced because the flow of the river system decreases what is called "residence" time. Because Strawberry, Whitewood, Base Line and Gallagher lakes have "lower residence time" due to the flow of the river system, treatment effectiveness can be reduced. It is anticipated that more harvesting of nuisance plants may be done in 2020, especially in areas where permit restrictions are present and native plants have reached nuisance levels. It was agreed that the canals would be treated pre-emptively and early in order to reduce excessive growth in those areas.

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It was emphasized that the goal of the treatments is to "manage" the aquatic invasive species, rather than eradicate all aquatic invasive species. The goal of a healthy, diverse ecosystem while maintaining the recreational benefits of the HRCOL is challenging and ongoing, but remains the focus.

Treatment for algae is very time sensitive as it moves quickly in the complex lake system. At the meeting, it was agreed that more spot treatments may be used in these situations - but they cautioned that it is the dying algae that smells. There are many different types of algae and the "harmful algae blooms" (also referred to as "HAB's") may be toxic. More information about the algae reporting will be provided by the County in their Spring mailing.

They also stressed that both the lake scientist and applicator welcome feedback from residents regarding identifying problem areas and treatment effectiveness. Lauren will continue to forward photos and comments to both Paul and Jeff.

Progressive AE intends to do four full surveys this year (June, July, August and September) and has hired an additional staff person for the HRCOL project. Lauren will continue to notify us as soon as she knows those dates. Lauren is hopeful that more people will sign up for her email contact list, so that information can be communicated more directly. For a very informative report from Progressive AE on the 2019 season, which includes specific information about each lake, please check out this site: <https://washtenaw.org/3023/Chain-of-Lakes-Annual-Reports>

As your lake association Board, we were pleased to be included in the meeting and felt that our input was well-received and many issues were resolved. We will continue to coordinate our education efforts with the County and focus on preventative actions that we can all take to help make our waters healthy and user-friendly. **(Please see the Five Best Practices on page #3).**

<p>Docks & Hoists <i>Install in Early Spring: Mar / June</i> <i>Remove in Fall: Sept / Nov</i></p>	<p>Pontoon Trailing <i>Anywhere – Anytime You Call – “We Haul”</i> 35 Years Experience – Insured</p>
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Seminar

2020 Vision: Your Lake Health and You

#1 Threat to Inland Lakes

March 28 9:00 a.m. Portage Yacht Club

Keynote speaker: ERICK ELGIN, Scientist, MSU

Join Craig Kivi for an important and timely SEMINAR to help provide answers to important questions regarding **your lake health**

- Why should I care about lake health?
- How does lake health affect swimming, boating, fishing?
- How can I personally improve lake health?
- How can I personally maintain my property value?
- How do seawalls affect lake health?
- How do natural shorelines make lakes healthy?

...and much more! Call 734-478-5730 or email craig@goldendrake.com for more information



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
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WHAT CAN WE ALL DO...

5 BEST PRACTICES

1. Dispose of car/house poisons properly
2. Don't use fertilizers or herbicides
3. Pick up pet waste (fertilizer) immediately
4. Don't burn yard waste (fertilizer) or throw in lake
5. Create tall grass and flower strips as natural buffer zone

ARTICLE 3 – Pick up pet waste (which is fertilizer) immediately *By Craig Kivi*

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 and grandchildren. When we also protect our lake, we protect our home value, as there is significant precedent of lake health degradation reducing lake property values.

Note: Due to seasonal considerations we went a bit out of sequence and discussed Best Practice #4 in our Fall Newsletter. We now return to #3, **Pick up Pet Waste** (which is fertilizer) immediately.

Many on the chain of lakes have dogs. They're great! However, along with our lakefront pets comes the responsibility for owners to pick up waste as soon as possible. Why is this so important? The answers will surprise you.

Remember, everything we put on our lakefront lawns ends up in the lake through repeated rains and migration through the soil. Pet waste, AKA fertilizer, which is basically nutrients (food) for vegetation, help create the terrible algae blooms we've seen, as well as increase weed growth.

Pet waste contains the same nutrients as fertilizers - phosphorus and nitrogen, both of which contribute to excessive algae growth and weed problems. If we conservatively assume each dog can produce ½ pound of waste per day, that's about 180 pounds per year per dog. If you multiply that by another conservative assumption that there are 200 lakefront dogs on the chain, that's a staggering 18 tons of pet waste potentially leaching into the chain of lakes each year! I'm sure many had not considered the problem could be so large.

Besides everything else there is to do in a day, how do we keep up with picking up our pet's waste too? One suggestion could be to keep a small plastic lined waste can with lid and shovel near where your pet normally "goes" and then periodically dispose of it in your main trash bin. This is a great alternative to individual use plastic waste bags.

If you realize that pet waste is fertilizing the lake and that's not enough to convince you to pick it up, there are other health threats as well. As it decays, it uses up oxygen and can release ammonia. As this leaches into the lake and combines with warm water temperatures it can kill fish and other lake life.

Diseases can be transferred from pet waste as well. These are the last things we want on our barefoot lawns, or in the lakes we swim in. Campylobacteriosis (bacterial infection), Salmonellosis (bacterial infection), Toxocariasis (roundworm infection), Toxoplasmosis (protozoan parasite infection), Giardiasis (protozoan parasite infection) can all be present in pet wastes. We don't know exactly what all these are, but it doesn't take much to realize we don't want to come in contact with them either. "Remember: Rain washes everything into the lake."



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EDITORS NOTE: The “Education Committee” in keeping with our commitment to offer educational opportunities for all PBWOA members supports funding for the betterment of our lake community. The following summary is from a special recipient of funding for our lake improvement educational efforts.

Michigan Lake and Stream Leaders Institute

By **Janee Kronk**

Greetings! My name is Janee Kronk and I am a recent graduate of the Michigan Lake and Stream Leaders Institute (MLSLI). A colossal THANK YOU to the PBWOA for sponsoring my lake education this past year. It started with “Introduction to Lakes”, a six-week online course through MSU encompassing lake ecology, watersheds, shorelines, Michigan water law, aquatic plant management, and community involvement in lake stewardship.

In May 2019 I travelled to the Kettunen Center (Cadillac, MI) for the first weekend MLSLI session. I’ve discovered that possessing a natural science background and certain technical skills are not enough when it comes to inspiring riparian neighbors to adopt ecosystem-friendly Best Management Practices. I was not disappointed in the knowledge I acquired and will certainly utilize it as time goes on while pondering how our own Huron River Chain of Lakes fits into the many areas discussed.

One of my favorite educational moments occurred during a group exercise. Prior to the first session we were required to read ecologist Garrett Hardin’s “Tragedy of the Commons”. Instead of discussing the concept in a roundtable fashion we were each given an identity/lakefront property and acted out our roles using miniature figurines (i.e. trees, fish, wildlife, seawalls, marinas, etc.). We started with a natural lake untouched by humans and navigated through approximately 5 decades of various developments. The end result represented many of the problems lake ecosystems are facing now (e.g. shoreline erosion,

sediment and nutrient pollution, habitat loss, invasive species, water quality, etc.). The time-lapse nature of the hands-on exercise brought clarity and compassion to my understanding of the threats facing our beloved lakes.

The second weekend session was at MSU’s Kellogg Biological Station near Kalamazoo. Not only were we able to refresh our knowledge of ecology in the classroom but were also able to test our understanding in the field as well. The weekend was chock-full of kinesthetic learning.

Graduation depended on completing and presenting an independent applied project, based on our areas of interest. I was able to connect with Varsity Day Camp, a local summer camp located on Cordley Lake, and help them enhance their shoreline area with a wide array of Michigan native plants (further details can be found at www.cordleylake.org). Truly my heart lies with natural shoreline landscaping.

In reflecting back on the whole experience, I am incredibly grateful for the knowledge gained and the relationships formed. Everyone I connected with is dealing with problems similar to ours and it is through programs like Michigan Lake & Stream Leaders Institute that bonds are forged and ideas are shared. We all have a common goal in mind and that is protecting our most valuable resource, our beloved freshwater ecosystems.

We’re Back Home!



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Let us know what you would like to see in your newsletter. We want to include information pertinent to you! Email us at mail@PBWOA.org, contact one of the Board Members, or call the PBWOA phone at 734-474-3141.