



Portage, Base & Whitewood Owners Association

80 Years Serving the Lakes Community since 1940

Spring 2020 Newsletter

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Boater's Safety Class	April 25 th
Annual Member Meeting	May 9 th
Chain of Lakes Improvement Project Meeting at Hamburg Township Hall	May 12 th
Pizza Party	August 14 th

President's Note - Spring 2020

Mark Teicher

Strength in numbers. Part of PBWOA's strength is in its numbers - membership. The more members, the more the PBWOA can get done. The more members, the more people listen to the PBWOA. The more members, the more knowledge can be learned and passed on to help improve our waterways and waterfronts. Please renew your membership or join as a new member.

The PBWOA has a goal of educating all of us in improving understanding of what we can do to help our riparian environment - attend the Chain of Lakes Improvement Project Update and Education Meeting on May 12 at 7:00 pm at the Hamburg Township Hall, follow the PBWOA on Facebook, check out PBWOA.org (tons of great information) and attend our Annual Meeting on Saturday, May 9 at the Portage Yacht Club - there will be wonderful speakers! You can also contact any of your PBWOA Board Members (names and contact information included in this Newsletter) who have also been learning more and more about our water quality, invasive plants, fertilizers, PFAS and other important issues.

Thank you for your membership.

PBWOA Boating Safety Class

Saturday, April 25, 2020
8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Portage Yacht Club

This year we are again offering our Boating Safety Class. This is an 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.

Please register ASAP by calling the PBWOA Hot Line at 734-474-3141 or Chris Brenner at 734-945-3926

We serve our members before opening the class to the public. 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.

PBWOA would like to offer a huge THANK YOU to Tom Ehman and the Portage Yacht Club for their generosity in allowing us to use their facilities for our Annual Meeting and Pizza Party.

The PBWOA Board was asked to attend a meeting of Hamburg Township Board of Trustees where we were presented with the following proclamation read by Pat Hohl, Hamburg Township Supervisor. We are truly honored.

A Proclamation by Hamburg Township

This 18th day of February, 2020, the Hamburg Township Board of Trustees

PROCLAIMS

WHEREAS, this is the eightieth anniversary of the formation of the Portage, Base & Whitewood Owners Association; and

WHEREAS, the Hamburg Township Board of Trustees desires to recognize this eighty years of leadership provided to the residents of Hamburg Township by Portage Base & Whitewood Owners Association; and

WHEREAS, this leadership has been in all areas of riparian living and water quality including invasive species management, boating and boating safety, shoreline restoration, lakes history, recreation, wildlife enhancement and riparian education, and

WHEREAS, these activities have enhanced the quality of life not only for the riparian property owners of the Portage, Base & Whitewood Owners Association but the quality of life for all residents of Hamburg Township, and

WHEREAS, the Portage, Base & Whitewood Owners Association continues to be recognized as a preeminent riparian-based Homeowners Association of Michigan, and

WHEREAS, this leadership and commitment to our community by the Portage, Base & Whitewood Owners Association is exemplary and should be recognized.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Hamburg Township Board of Trustees hereby proclaims May 9, 2020 as Portage, Base & Whitewood Owners Association Recognition Day and encourages Hamburg Township Residents to recognize the positive impact the Portage, Base & Whitewood Owners Association has had on our community.

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 2019, you should have received a card on which you can vote for 2020-2021 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 2, 2020.**

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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Annual Meeting Agenda

May 09, 2020 at Portage Yacht Club

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

9:00: Call to Order,

1. Washtenaw County Sheriff Representative
2. Washtenaw County, Lauren Koloski – Chain of Lake Improvement Project
3. EGLE Expert on Invasive Plants
4. Question –Answer time
5. Business Portion

WHAT CAN WE ALL DO...

5 BEST PRACTICES

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

ARTICLE 5 – Create tall grass and flower strip as a natural filter and buffer zone to protect the lake by Craig Kivi

How can we protect the lake from harmful things that are already on or accidentally get put on our lakefront properties? Build a fence! Well not really, but we can certainly build a “vegetation fence” between our lawns and the lake. Stay with us here, I'll explain.

Let's face it, some not so good things have been put on your lawn in the past, and they don't get “soaked in” or “go away”. Plus, we're not perfect. All of us have missed some pet waste here and there, or have recently discontinued fertilizing (past nutrients can still get washed into the lake for a long time) or have had other accidental gasoline or oil spills, or other things that

have been spilled or dumped on your lot that you would agree should not go into the lake.

Most of our lakefront lawns are fine, weed less grass cut very short all the way up to a rigid seawall edge. It's just the way we like it to look and culturally what lakefront owners have evolved to and gotten used to. However, though we've become used to this look and prefer it, unfortunately this look is not in the best interest of our lake's health. The short, fine grass with its corresponding short fine roots does very little to stop nutrients and other wastes from being washed into the lake during every thunderstorm.

Let's go back to the “vegetation fence” and talk for a minute about types of vegetation. It is true that for every inch of vegetation height there's a corresponding larger root depth and root ball width. In a prior newsletter, we learned that with every deluge of rain from thunderstorms, the water flows across the ground, rinsing whatever you have on your thin, fine grass lakefront lawn and even minute parts of topsoil right into the lake. However, taller vegetation with deeper, thicker and wider roots will in fact slow down this water flow, allowing it to seep into the soil and the deeper, thicker roots will soak up these contaminants so they don't get washed into the lake.

Enter our #5 best practice, “Create a tall grass and flower strip as a natural filter and buffer zone to protect the lake.” As we can see, a strip of taller vegetation along the shoreline would work as a functional buffer, or “vegetation fence” near water's edge to slow down or stop contaminants from getting into the lake, wouldn't it? Yes, it can be that simple!

How would I do that? Where would I start? What would it cost? These are all good questions. For some, making the jump to creating a tall grass and flower strip along the whole front of their lawn is just too big a change, too fast. Start slow if you have to, just do a little here and there. It all helps! This writer simply handmade 4 stakes, stretched a scrap rope parallel



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

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*Social membership required for alcohol purchase



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On Portage Lake

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across his entire lakefront 3 feet back from shore, leaving an 8 foot gap in the middle of the lot at lake edge for the boat ramp and walking in and out of the lake - then just stopped mowing it and string trimming the roped off section. Wow. In just 3-4 weeks the 3 foot strip had grown into a wide, lush, deep rooted vegetation buffer zone "vegetation fence" with 9 different kinds of wildflowers protecting the lake from contaminants caused by runoff! It could not have been easier and it looks soothing and naturally beautiful.

From something as simple as that, others have gone further, expanding their waterfront natural settings by planting native shoreline plants and gardens, including even hiring certified natural shoreline landscaping specialists. I can even recommend a couple local experts if you wish. Not only are these natural waterfronts protectors and enhancers of lake health but they are some of the most beautiful lakefront properties on the entire Portage Chain of Lakes. Now that's a win – win!

For more information search the internet for **Huron River Watershed Council Waterfront Wisdom, Michigan Natural Shoreline Partnership.**

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
Seawalls New & Repair	Snow Plowing Salting
R.J. Knight - Base Lake 11971 Yankee Lane Pinckney, MI 48169	phone 734-426-5427 cell 734-646-5619



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

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Washtenaw County Marine Patrol Activity Report— 2019

	Baseline	Little Portage	Portage
Number of Patrol Hours	103.5	8	365
Compliance Inspections	32	0	318
Boating Under the Influence Arrests	0	0	1
Violation Citations Issued	2	0	4
Violation Warnings Issued	14	1	69

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