



# Portage, Base & Whitewood Owners Association

*Serving the Lakes Community Since 1940*

## SPRING 2022 NEWSLETTER

### A Message from your President

**Mark Teicher**

Your PBWOA Board of Directors has been working through Winter and Covid - zooming in and zooming out. Every month we have a Board meeting, with emails, phone calls and sometimes envelope-stuffing meetings in-between. Our focus has been on how we can better the PBWOA for every member. What we need is input from you, from our members, friends and neighbors. Please call, email or stop by a board member's home to talk. All of our phone numbers are listed on the PBOWA.org website and included in this Newsletter, so you can also reach any of us. If you do not know a particular board member, you can always contact me at 248-420-9144 or MarkLTeicher@aol.com.

One thing the Board is very committed to is lake/water-related education for everyone and we encourage our membership to stay current and informed. If you take a lake/water-related education course, seminar, webinar or whatever - you can be reimbursed by PBWOA. Therefore, please consider attending the Michigan Lakes and Streams Association (MLSA) Annual Conference May 6th and 7th at Crystal Mountain Resort, about a half mile south of Traverse City. It is chock full of great lectures, programs and presentations. MLSA cut the registration fee in half this year to \$100 which includes meals. Register at myMLSA.org. PBWOA will reimburse you the \$100 registration fee, plus your hotel room. I will be attending. Hope to see you there!

### Board Elections

Board members are elected for two-year terms with half the Board being elected in each year. If you were a member in 2021 you should have received a ballot card with this mailing where you can vote for 2022-23 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 7, 2022.

#### CURRENT 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: Lis Knibbe	734-516-9230
Directors: Jim Jensen	810-599-8125
Jan Arps-Prundeanu*	734-426-5057
Dave Moody*	734-426-0668
Bob Nester*	734-426-2545

The PBWOA is always looking for additions to the Board and we welcome your suggestions. If you have a recommendation or if you would like to serve on the Board yourself, please add the name to the bottom of the ballot card before you return it. Thanks for your help...

### Save the Date:

**BOATER'S SAFETY CLASS**  
Sat, May 14th  
8AM - 4PM  
Portage Yacht Club

**ANNUAL MEETING**  
Sat, May 21st  
9AM  
Portage Yacht Club

**BOAT WASH**  
Public Boat Launch  
Check out our website or  
FB page as we get dates

**PIZZA PARTY**  
Friday Night in August  
More information  
to follow

### PBWOA Annual Meeting Agenda

**Sat, May 21st**  
**9AM**  
**Portage Yacht Club**

*8:30 Coffee, tea, donuts, bagels and cream cheese*  
*9:00 Call to order, brief announcements and*  
*introduction of Board Members*

- 1. Washtenaw County representative for Huron River Chain of Lakes update and questions*
- 2. Washtenaw County Marine Patrol Deputy for update and questions*
- 3. Michigan Lake and Stream Conference Report*
- 4. Question/Answer time*
- 5. Business Portion:*

*\*Approval of Minutes of 2021 Annual Meeting*

*\*Treasurer's Report*

*\*Nominations for the Board and Election of Board*

*\*Presentation by President, Year in Review and Future*

### TIME TO RENEW YOUR PBWOA MEMBERSHIP!

We have enclosed a pre-addressed envelope in which you can return your membership sign-up card, \$50 check, and if you were a 2021 member, the Board Voting card. Voting deadline is May 7th. You can also renew or join online, where you can pay your dues by credit card using the secure Pay Pal service.

<http://www.pbwoa.org/signup>

All memberships run from April 1 to March 31.



**PBWOA**

734-471-3141  
mail@PBWOA.org  
www.PBWOA.org

*Our Post Office Box  
number has changed to:*  
**PO Box 955**  
**Pinckney, MI 48169**

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# Shoreline Stewardship

## Don't Feed the Algae

*Lis Knibbe (with the help of MSU Extension Service)*

Spring is in the air. Our lakes are thawing. A crocus is bravely poking its head up in the garden. Birds are checking out a favored nesting spot. With spring come thoughts of lawns and gardens.

How we care for our lawns and gardens can have a significant impact on the quality of the water in our lakes. For example, a pound of phosphorus that leaches from our lawns into the lakes supports the growth of 500 pounds of algae. That's a lot of green gunk. With Best Management Practices (BMPs) we can have healthy lawns, beautiful gardens AND clean, healthy water.

Michigan State's "Go Green Tip Sheet" outlines easy steps to produce a healthy lawn, protect Michigan's valuable water resources, and be in compliance with the Michigan Fertilizer Law (Public Act 299 of 2010).

The "Go Green" tip sheet includes the following Best Management Practices designed to help protect water quality.

### LAWN FERTILIZATION

The first step in creating a healthy lawn is to soil test to determine what type of fertilizer, if any, is needed, and how much. Due to the Michigan Fertilizer Law, it is illegal to apply phosphorus-containing fertilizers to lawns unless a soil test indicates phosphorus is required, a new lawn is being established, an existing lawn is in need of repair, or if certain fertilizers are applied at a specific rate described in the Law. The Michigan State University (MSU) Extension Lawn and Garden Soil Test Mailer is available through <https://homesoiltest.msu.edu> for a mere \$25 (the test could easily save you more in the cost of unneeded fertilizer). The test contains everything needed to process a home soil sample from your lawn or garden.

#### Choose lawn-type fertilizers

In compliance with the Michigan Fertilizer law, choose fertilizer with no phosphorus (indicated by the middle number on the bag). Be sure you know the area of the lawn to be fertilized so you know how much fertilizer to purchase and follow the label directions carefully to ensure proper application. This is one case where more is definitely not better when less is enough.

#### Fertilize in fall for best results

Fertilization is most effective in the fall. If fertilizing in the spring, wait until turf begins to actively grow before fertilizing. The Michigan Fertilizer Law prohibits the application of fertilizer on frozen or saturated soil.

#### Avoid surface water

When applying the fertilizer Best Management Practices and Michigan Law require that:

- Fertilizer not be applied to frozen soil or soil saturated with water.
- Maintenance of a "no fertilizer application" zone near your shoreline.
- Maintaining at least a 15' application buffer from surface water (lake, river, stream).
- If a spreader guard, deflector shield, or drop spreader is used, then maintain at least a 3' buffer.
- If a continuous natural vegetative buffer separates the turf from the surface water, then maintain at least a 10' buffer from the water.

Any fertilizer released onto a hard surface, such as a sidewalk or driveway, must be cleaned up promptly so that it is not eventually carried to the lake by rain or wind.



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### LAWN CARE

#### Mow High and Recycle Clippings in the Lawn

Maintaining at least a three-inch height of cut helps to produce dense turf which can crowd out weed species, thus reducing the need for pesticides. Lawn clippings mulched into the turf provide a natural fertilizer helping promote a deeper root system, which helps the lawn survive droughts.

#### Water smart

Choose lighter, more frequent watering instead of soaking lawn. Water enough to promote deep roots for the sod, but not enough that the excess water leaches nutrients from the soil into the lake.

#### Pet Waste

Pick up and dispose of pet waste away from surface water.

### SHORELINE BUFFER

#### Naturalized Shoreline

Planting deep rooted plants in the area adjacent to the shoreline both filters runoff water before it enters the lakes and helps protect the shore from erosion. Use of native plants that are adapted to local soil and weather conditions is ideal, but use of any deep-rooted garden plants is better than turf grass for the lakes. A 15' buffer is recommended, but any buffer is better than none. This is a case of "don't let the perfect be the enemy of the good".

A good introduction to lake front buffer gardens is the Shoreline Living booklet produced by the Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership which we mailed to our members in early March. It is also available for free download at [midwestglaciallakes.org/resources/shorelineliving/](http://midwestglaciallakes.org/resources/shorelineliving/).

### OTHER POLLUTANTS

Clean up oil and gas spills so that they aren't washed into the lakes by the next rain. Avoid use of herbicides and pesticides where they could be washed into the lakes.

You can help keep our waters clean and healthy. Every little bit helps.



**Joseph Pacut**  
Agency Owner  
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## PBWOA GRANT APPLICATION

The PBWOA, led by efforts from Jan Arps-Prundeanu has submitted an application to the state of Michigan for a grant of \$1,700 to promote the Clean Boats, Clean Waters message during two scheduled Boater Safety Classes. (See the Boater Safety Class information on page 4). The goal of the program is to educate young boaters about reasons for the necessity that boats are cleaned, drained, dried and bait disposed of to prevent the introduction of Aquatic Invasive species. We propose reviewing the current invasive weeds in our Huron River Chain of Lakes: (Eurasian Water Milfoil, Starry Stonewort, Curly Leaf Pondweed and Flowering Rush as well as known invasive species found at neighboring lakes (European Frog Bit), Aquatic invasive zebra mussels, quagga mussels will also be presented. Participants will receive Michigan Clean Boats, Clean Waters written materials, and the opportunity to learn from PBWOA volunteers who have completed the one-hour training module. We hope to offer the class participants a tote bag with the Handbook of Michigan Boating Laws, cleaning supplies (towels, sponges,) license holders and water bottles with the Clean Boats Clean Waters logo. We are also proposing the purchase of a "Decontamination Station" to be installed by the DNR at the Portage Boat Access Site. The 48"X48" sign was designed for boat launch sites that cannot accommodate an electric, high-pressure water boat wash. The site will provide tools, such as brushes, drain plug wrench, plant grabber, boot brush and bait disposal. Again, the goal is to encourage boaters of all types (including kayaks and canoes) to assure that they are not carrying any invasive species with them to our lake or others. We propose hosting an event at the Portage public launch site to introduce the new station later in the summer. Stay tuned via our website and Facebook page for the status of our grant application!

## SAD Review and Update

Jan Arps-Prundeanu

Your PBWOA was invited to attend the 11/19/2021 Recap Meeting with the Huron River Chain Of Lakes (HRCOL) project staff including Washtenaw County Project Managers, Lake Scientist (Progressive AE) and applicator (Clarke Aquatic Services). Generally, it was seen to be a good year – as communication between all parties improved, treatments started earlier and the use of a new treatment (Procella-COR/diquat mix) for our invasive Eurasian Water Milfoil and Curly Leaf pondweed proved to be very effective. Management of Starry Stonewort was initially effective, until it rebounded late in the year. Research completed in Wisconsin and Minnesota reflected a similar pattern of the Starry Stonewort lasting and increasing well into the end of summer. Treatment restrictions from the State continue to present issues for the control of Starry Stonewort.

Mechanical harvesting was more successful in 2021 due to new equipment and faster response times. Lauren's complaint tracking system was integrated with the acquired CIS parcel mapping and appeared to improve response time and accuracy. Harmful Algae blooms were quickly identified thru initial testing by Lauren. Warmer weather and nutrients contributed to the increase in algae blooms throughout Michigan.

Looking ahead to 2022, the plans are to initiate surveys earlier and hopefully begin treatments right after Memorial Day for Eurasian Water milfoil and curly leaf pondweeds. The first harvest is anticipated to be in mid to late June. This would allow for a second harvest in mid-August when plants are peaking and would target wild celery, starry stonewort and late pondweeds.

In a review of the water testing completed by Progressive AE, it was noted that Chloride levels were very high on the lakes with inflow from the Huron River and those with more intensive surrounding land development – primarily Strawberry, Gallagher, Whitewood and Baseline. Springtime chloride concentrations were above 100 ppm. Portage and Little Portage lakes were 38 and 34 respectively. Tamarack and Zukey Lakes had intermediate concentrations of 90. All of our lakes had concentrations well above normal background levels, indicating they are impacted by chloride in runoff. (For a more comprehensive review of all of the information regarding lake testing and treatments, please refer to the Progressive AE 2021 report – found on our PBWOA website in the HRCOL/annual reports section.)

As reported by Theo Eggermont of Washtenaw County Water Resources Division at the Educational meeting held on Sept. 23, 2021, this is actually year 6 of the 5-year SAD. However, funds are sufficient for the project thru the end of 2022 (based on a slow start of the project). Renewal efforts are underway. Because Washtenaw County has taken on additional SADs in the county, they are reducing the scope of the HRCOL SAD to include Portage, Little Portage, Baseline, Whitewood and Tamarack only. Hamburg Township supervisor, Pat Hohl is initiating efforts for project coordination of the lakes upstream: Gallagher, Strawberry and Zukey. Township supervisors will be contacted for resolutions for renewal of the SADs with anticipated public hearings to be scheduled in June or early July. August is the deadline for the Board of Public Works to do their assessment work. PBWOA will be invited to review contracts and assist in renewal efforts.



### Portage Yacht Club

Located on South shore of Portage Lake  
8930 Dexter-Pinckney Rd  
734-426-4155 [www.ms-pyc.com](http://www.ms-pyc.com)

**Dining & Cocktails — Nightly Dinner & Drink Specials**  
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**Social memberships available — No monthly minimum**  
**\*Social membership required for alcohol purchase**

## Call for Volunteers

If you have time or skills that you would like to put to work to benefit our lakes, please let us know. The Board is seeking help with the Newsletter and someone to serve as Board Secretary. The Education Committee is active and welcomes new members. Our Website (PBWOA.org) stays current and informative with the regular attention of volunteers that would also welcome your help. We have also begun to collect oral histories from older lake front residents.

As you can see, we are an active group. We welcome your participation. If you are interested, please call 734- 474-3141, email [mail@pbwoa.org](mailto:mail@pbwoa.org), or check the box on this year's membership form. If you indicated that you are interested on last year's membership form, we will be reaching out to you.



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## BOATER'S SAFETY CLASS

Saturday, May 14, 2022

8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Portage Yacht Club

8930 Dexter-Pinckney Road

\$5 registration fee

*includes lunch prepared by Portage Yacht Club*

After a 2-year Covid hiatus, the PBWOA, in conjunction with the Washtenaw County Sheriff Marine Division, is again offering our Boating Safety Class. Anyone born on or after 7-1-96 MUST BE CERTIFIED to legally operate a boat on Michigan waters. This course meets that requirement and can be achieved in 1 day. The Boater's Safety Certificate will also be issued that day upon successful completion of the course.

The program covers all aspects of boating including: seamanship, navigation, boat handling, kayaking and water safety and is as important for adults as it is for our youth. Our members and families are served first before opening the class to the public.

To register call the PBWOA Hot Line at 734-474-3141

When you call, give the answering machine your name, phone number and the number of people that plan to attend. Then mark your calendar for May 14th and bring your \$5 fee in cash to the class.

<p><b>Docks &amp; Hoists</b> Install in Early Spring: Mar / June Remove in Fall: Sept / Nov</p>	<p><b>Pontoon Trailing</b> Anywhere - Anytime You Call - "We Haul" 35 Years Experience - Insured</p>
<p><b>Seawalls</b> New &amp; Repair</p>	<p><b>Snow Plowing</b> Salting</p>
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## New Rules for Seawall Permits Shoreline Best Management Practices

EGLE representative Eric Calabro, presented the reasons for changes in permits for new or replacement seawalls. The webinar was entitled "Advancing Inland Lake Stewardship through Shoreline Best Management Practices". Summary of the changes follows:

Effective August 2021, permit applications for new or replacement seawalls shall require the following:

For inland lakes, the applicant must include one of the following best management practice measures to mitigate for the loss of habitat and to provide a use for fish and other aquatic life:

- a. Reduce the length of the seawall by 25% and use either riprap following MP Riprap Shoreline Protection or bioengineering following in MP Bioengineering Practices for Stabilization of Inland Lake Shorelines
- b. Incorporate Coarse Woody Structure as approved by EGLE
- c. Maintain a minimum of a 6-foot-wide no-mow zone or native planted buffer strip above the wall extending the entire length of the proposed seawall. Minimal breaks in the buffer strip are acceptable for exercising riparian rights. For example, acceptable breaks in the buffer would include having a break around a dock or a small access point for a swimming area
- d. Other measures approved by EGLE staff

**WHY:** The EPA has identified the NUMBER ONE threat to the overall health of Michigan inland lakes as the nearshore habitat loss, caused by hardening shorelines. Michigan has many more lakes rated as "most disturbed for shallow water riparian habitat" than our neighboring states like Wisconsin and Minnesota. More than 20% of new and replacement seawall permit applications in Michigan (from 2016-2020) were from Oakland, (15%) Livingston (new: 3.45% and replacement (6%) and Jackson (2.5%). On a positive note, Oakland County had more than 12% of the states permit applications for bioengineering shoreland projects. (It should also be noted that Oakland County has the largest number of inland lakes in the state of Michigan!)

If you are considering replacing your existing seawall, (and please know that you can improve your shallow water riparian habitat even if you have a seawall), the best place to start may be with contacting your local permit staff:

Livingston County:  
Jeff Pierce; 517-416-4297

Washtenaw County:  
Kate Kirkpatrick: KirkpatrickK3@Michigan.gov  
Erin Smyth: SmythE1@michigan.gov

### Washtenaw County Marine Patrol Activity Report 2021

	Base Lake	Portage Lake
Number of Patrol Hours	50	197
Compliance Inspections	24	244
Navigation Rules	2 warnings	9 warnings
Mandatory PDF Compliance	1 citation	
	3 warnings	19 warnings
Registration Violations	7 warnings	18 warnings
		6 citations