



# WEST LAKE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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August, 2012

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## Presidents Message

Hello. I Hope everyone is having a great summer. It's already early August, and I hope everyone has had a chance to enjoy the lake this year. The weather certainly has cooperated for lake activities. Due to those high temperatures and dry weather, the lake is down quite a bit, and a lot of the pike have died. The warm water temperature has had a detrimental effect on the pike's optimal living environment. The board, along with Lakeshore Environmental, is discussing the matter with the DNR. We would like to get their opinion as the quality of the lake, including aquatic life, is a top priority for the board.

It seems as I boat around the lake the weeds are much better this year. Despite the warm temperatures the weeds are minimal. The board continues to work closely with Lakeshore Environmental on weed control and other matters that affect the lake. They assess the lake each year and provide treatment options based on the weeds involved and lake conditions. We are also working with them as we watch other lakes use laminar flow to reduce the amount of sediment (muck) in the bottom of their lakes.

Thanks to all who participated in and helped organize the boat parade this year. As usual, it

was a big hit. There were not only a lot of boats this year, but many creative ideas as well. Be sure to see all the interesting boats inside this newsletter. Please see the special thanks to all involved as well as the sponsors for the prizes.

We would like to keep all of you informed about the above issues as well as lake treatment dates, activities around the lake, and any other pertinent information. The best way to keep informed on these issues is by becoming a member of the West Lake Improvement Association and providing your e-mail address. Please feel free to use the application in the back of this newsletter. For current and future members, thank you for your support as the board continues to work toward a better lake for all of us and our families to enjoy. I hope all enjoy a fun and safe summer.

- Doug Brewer - WLIA President

### **WLIA Misson Statement:**

**A non-profit organization to preserve and protect the beauty of West Lake, through conservation and water quality control; and to protect land values of property owners**

## **Fish Kill**

Between July 4 and July 7, we had a catastrophic fish kill on West Lake, probably because of the very high temperatures. The temps were recorded, each day, over 100 degrees. Because our lake is very shallow, the water became very warm, top to bottom, affecting all fish, especially the pike. We have no deep holes for them to find shelter, so a lot of them died. One of our riparians counted upwards of a hundred dead pike on the shoreline. We are proposing a two year ban on pike fishing on West Lake. This would allow the regrowth of any existing pike in the lake and any new ones that might be hatched, or any that might be planted by the DNR in the future. Our consultant, Jennifer Jermalowicz-Jones, from Lakeshore Environmental, Inc., agrees with us, and also thinks that other large fish might benefit from such a ban.

- Ralph Colwell

*(NOTE: Here is the response from the DNR regarding the fish die off: Spoke with the DNR RE: the letter we sent about the pike. They don't feel we need to take any action. Pike die off alot in winter and summer. Twenty four inches is the legal limit so he feels even with some die off enough will make it to sustain the population. He doesn't ever recall having to institute a fishing ban anywhere in the state due to this issue. If the population doesn't seem up-to- par in a year or two (mainly by anglers not catching any...not by a survey....i asked) then they would look into it. Restock or get a netting survey by the DNR. They are a very resilient fish.)*

## **Thank You from The Sheriff**

Dear Sir,  
Thank you for your recent donation of \$250.00 to our Marine Division. We greatly appreciate your

financial support of our Marine Safety Program and look forward to continued patrols on West Lake.

Please do not hesitate to call if we can be of assistance.

Sincerely,  
Richard C. Fuller III  
Sheriff

## **Road End Legislation Becomes Law on March 21, 2012**

Governor Snyder signed Senate Bill #778 into law making illegal the mooring of boats overnight and the establishment of docks at road ends on all Michigan Lakes. A number of such 8 – 12' wide, lakefront, road end and access lots exist around West Lake and non-riparian neighbors are known to use those lots to access the lake (still apparently legal), leave watercraft and erect docks, much to the dismay of adjacent, riparian, property owners. The new law prohibits the storing of boats and establishment of piers and backs the law with punitive fines of up to \$500 for persons violating the act.

The bill adds Section 30111b to the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act 451 of 1994 and includes the following excerpted and partial language:

- A public road end shall not be used for...construction, installation, maintenance, or use of boat hoists or boat anchorage devices, mooring or docking of a vessel between 12 midnight and sunrise.
- A person who violates the act is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not more than \$500. Each 24-hour period in which a

violation exists constitutes a separate violation of this law.

Please obtain a copy of the complete law from our Michigan District 61 representative Margaret O'Brien by calling 877-347-8061 or emailing her at [margaretobrien@house.mi.gov](mailto:margaretobrien@house.mi.gov)

The West Lake Improvement Association feels this law needs to be enforced by reporting violations. Presumably, the City of Portage Police Dept has the jurisdiction to enforce Michigan law. You may report such infractions to the police and/or one of the directors from the association who will be compiling a list of violations around the lake and working together to enforce the new law.

Your current Board of Directors of the West Lake Improvement Association are listed in this newsletter.

Feel free to contact any one of us.

### **Keep In-touch with our Email list**

We currently have email addresses for about 60% of the riparians around the lake. We hope that you feel that communications have been enhanced by having your name on that distribution list. If you have not been receiving emails from us, please email your address to [marshburn@charter.net](mailto:marshburn@charter.net) to be included. Being in-touch with neighbors makes for a safer lake environment.

### **July 4 West Lake Boat Parade**

We had a very fun and successful boat parade this year. Thank you to the 18 families who decorated and paraded your vessels around the lake. A lot of creativity was shown and the good times were evident from both the participants and spectators.

Thanks to Wendy & Mike Osgood for organizing the parade and hosting the judges at their home. The

judges were challenged by all the good entries but narrowed their selection to the following boats:

1. First Prize – “The Castle” by the O'Brien family
2. Second Prize – “Party Animals” by the VanDyke family
3. Third Prize – “George Washington Crossing the Delaware” by the Welser family
4. Fourth Prize – “Happy Birthday USA” by the Marshburn family

### **Prizes were donated by the following:**

**Boat City Marine**

**Daanes**

**Erbelli's Pizza**

**H & B Market**

**Nelson Hardware**

**The Edge**

Look for changes for the 2013 version that will make it an even more enjoyable event

**Please let these merchants know our appreciation by visiting their businesses.**

### **The Current Status of West Lake July, 2012**

On Monday, June 4, 2012, the aquatic herbicide application company, Aquatic Services, Inc. was on West Lake to conduct a treatment of exotic Eurasian Watermilfoil and nuisance native pondweed growth under the guidance and oversight of experts at Lakeshore Environmental, Inc.



The pondweed growth has been steadily increasing over the years since the milfoil problem had been controlled. This year, an area of approximately 70 acres had to be treated for areas of nuisance pondweeds and some milfoil (Figure 1). Contact herbicides such as diquat, endothall, and chelated copper were applied to West Lake with an airboat.

The zebra mussel population continues to increase in nearly every developed lake in the state and as a result, the water clarity is improving and allowing all aquatic vegetation to grow at greater depths in most lakes. Additionally, the warm spring and early ice-off has allowed the weeds to grow excessively this year.

Water quality continues to be fair to good with high dissolved oxygen readings, a robust fishery, neutral pH, and moderate nutrients levels. The high ratio of submersed aquatic vegetation to algae helps keep nuisance algal blooms in the lake down. A planktonic algal bloom has occurred recently due to the high water temperatures and moderate nutrient levels that encourage algae growth.

- Evaluated by the consultant for the WLIA, Lakeshore Environmental, Inc.

### **Review of Boating Laws**

It has been obvious to the casual observer and West Lake boater that we generally have very good operators of boats and personal water craft (PWC

or aka Wave Runners or Jet Skis). The Sheriff's Marine Division constantly praises our lake as one of the best (well-behaved) in the County. Thanks to all of us for a safe and incident free summer! One only has to watch the news to realize how tragic a fun event can turn.

There are, however, several laws that we see being ignored. Make yourself aware of the real language behind the following infractions so that you might avoid a ticket, or worse yet, an accident.

- Kids under 6 years of age must be wearing an approved, Type I life jacket when on a boat
- Boats are to travel in a counter-clockwise direction around the lake
- Within 100 feet of shore, a dock, a raft or a moored boat, you should be at no-wake speed. This includes exiting your own dock area.
- No one is allowed to ride on an open bow of the boat when it is underway
- When towing a skier or tube, there must be a "spotter" watching the person being towed. The driver of the vessel cannot be the spotter.
- You may not pull a skier or tube after an hour after sunset
- Children 12 years of age are limited to operating a boat with less than 6 HP
- You must be a minimum of 16 years of age to operate a boat of greater than 6 HP unless you have passed a DNR Boaters Safety Class
- You must be a minimum of 14 years old to operate a PWC. If you are 14-16 years old, you must have a Boaters Safety Certificate and be supervised by your parent.
- All boats with motors must be registered. Only rowboats less than 16' in length, canoes and kayaks are exempt.

A complete book with a better explanation of these and other just as important laws is available by logging on to [www.boat-ed.com/mi/handbook](http://www.boat-ed.com/mi/handbook)

## **Reminder - Purple Loosestrife**



The plant can form dense, impenetrable stands that are unsuitable as cover, food or nesting sites for a wide range of native wetland animals, including ducks, geese, rails, bitterns, muskrats, frogs, toads and turtles. Many rare and

endangered wetland plants and animals also are at risk.

Purple loosestrife thrives on disturbed, moist soils, often invading after some type of construction activity. Eradicating an established stand is difficult because of an enormous number of seeds in the soil. One adult can disperse 2 million seeds annually. The plant is able to resprout from roots and broken stems that fall to the ground or into the water.



A major reason for purple loosestrife's expansion is a lack of effective predators in North America. Several European insects that only attack purple loosestrife are being tested as a possible long-term biological control in North America.

Likely means of spread: Seeds escape from gardens and nurseries into wetlands, lakes and rivers. Once in aquatic systems, seeds are easily spread by moving water and wetland animals.

Controlling the spread of purple loosestrife is crucial to protecting vital fish, wildlife and native plant habitat! Purple loosestrife can easily spread if improper control methods are used.

In areas too heavily infested to pull, cut or dig plants, these control techniques can still be used to control plants that may sprout as a result of seeds escaping the area. Watch drainage ditches or streams leading from heavily infested areas, as new purple loosestrife colonies are likely to become established there. Pulling, cutting, or digging plants in these more manageable infestations will limit the spread of purple loosestrife beyond the area of heavy infestation.

### **DIGGING & HAND PULLING**

Pulling purple loosestrife by hand is easiest when plants are young (up to two years) or when in sand. Older plants have larger roots that can be eased out with a garden fork. Remove as much of the root system as possible, because broken roots may sprout new plants.

### **CUTTING**

Removing flowering spikes will prevent this year's seeds from producing more plants in future years--remember each mature plant can produce over 2 million seeds per year. Also, remove last year's dry seed heads, as they may still contain seeds. Finally, cut the stems at the ground to inhibit growth.

## **A Sight For Sore Eyes**

Need I say more?! ☺



## **2012 Membership List – WLIA**

***Thanks to the following West Lake property owners for promptly paying their 2012 dues. It is never too late to join – just send \$25 to our treasurer, Mike Marshburn at 903 Lakeview Drive.***

Allen, Larry & Irma	Caporal, Marylouise	Gilbert, Paul & Chris
Austin, Robert & Jean	Clancy, Michael & Julie	Gleesing, Kevin & Marie
Barton, Mike & Adele	Clapp, Ray & Ellen	Granchi, Mike & Denise
Basch, Martin & Katherine	Colburn, John & Nancy	Green, Ava & Tim
Bates, Keith & Mandy	Colwell, Ralph & Pat	Green, Virginia
Bauer, David & Barbara Sneath	Cornell, Shelly & William	Grosser, Nellie
Behm, Harley & Mary Ellen	Croden, Peter	Haines, Brett & Amy
Bennett, Tim & Betsy	DeHaan, Jon & Christina	Hall, Andy & Evie
Bethell, Lance & Kristen	Doornbos, Ray & Virginia	Hanchar, Alex
Beuker, Steve & Pam	Dragoo, John & Lynn	Harris, Judith
Blostein, Paul	Duggan, Patrick & Kelly	Hartgerink, Jay & Ruth
Boden, Steven	Duncan, Bob	Heinrich, Gary & Patricia
Bogatschow, Helen	Ensfeld, Robert & Kay	Hobbs, George & Janeene
Bower, Todd & Mary	Erikson, Bob & Sandy	Imus, Neysa
Bowman, John & Renee	Flynn, Tom	Jager, Richard
Bray, James & Carrie	Ford, Todd	Jariwala, Sharad & Adelfa
Brewer, Doug & Aimee	Forrester, Alan	Jones, Gerald & Sharon
Brink, Ken & Jeanne	Foss, Enos & Teresa	Kaminski, Linda
Burke, Michael	Furgason, David	Kitchens, Ron & Lyn
Burress, Mary	Furgason, William & Ester	Klingeale, Jerry & Dorothy
Caffrey, Angela	Geiger, Evelyn	Knapp, Keir & Cynthia
Camp, William & Sandra		

Knotts, Michelle & Mike Larson	Ohlmann, Dan & Christy	Thompson, Brad & Sue
Kraft, Jeff & Kim	Osborn, Kay & Jack	Todd, Linda & Don
Kropf, Rob & Jean	Osborne, Charles & Marjorie	Tulloch, Robin & Jon
Kuiper, Jane	Osgood, Mike & Wendy	Vanderbor, Todd & Anne
LaPorte, Judith	Pedraza, Gabriel & Priscilla	Vandermay, Bill
Lemmer, Paul & Elaine	Pelc, Diane & Ron	Vandermay, Brian & Tracy
Lincoln, Robert & Regina	Phillips, Thom & Lane	Vandermay, Jack
Linn, David & Kari	Pochyla, Inez	VanderVeen, Sara & Alex
Lutz, Larry & Patricia	Predum, BJ & Leah	VanderWoude, Steve & Margaret
Malz, Don & Diane	Siem, Ryan & Alison	VanWalbeck, Patti & Craig
Manning, Ryan & Brandy	Simonton, Julie	Vliek, Doug & Judy
Marshburn, Jan & Mike	Slager, Douglas & Deborah	Wahl, Bill & Elaine
Martin, Tom & Katee	Smith, Orville & Linda	Warner, Carol
McGavin, David & Janine	Sprague, Al & Shirley	Waterhouse, Helen
McGuire, Adam & Jessica Hawley	Stermer, Sandy	Watson, John
Miller, Phillip	Stickland, Tim	Watson, William & Cathy
Murray, Joseph	Stillman, Larry & Mary	Welser, Fred & Sandra
Neeb, Kim & Sheryl	Strazdas, Michael	Wheatley, Tom & Theresa
Nelson, Chuck & Jim Weessies	Stuuts, David & Maryette	Willard, Pauline & Louis
Nelson, Mark & Nell	Susan, Amy & Justin	Williamson, Arnett
Nelson, Norman & Carol	Sward, Nick	Woods, Thomas & Sharon Kay
Newland, Mark & Sally	Taylor, Beth & Daniel	Wylie, Jacqueline
Nuyen, Eric	Taylor, Kyle & Joy	Zull, John & Arlene
O'Brien, Nick & Margaret	Terburg, Joyce	

Please be sure to check out the latest updates at the  
 WLIA website!! Also send us your email address  
 for quick updates and future newsletter delivery!  
 Thanks! [www.westlakeassociation.com](http://www.westlakeassociation.com)

## 2012/2013 WLIA Board of Directors

President	Doug Brewer		
Vice-President	Ralph Colwell		
Secretary	Mike Granchi		
Treasurer	Mike Marshburn		
Directors	Patrick Duggan		
	Janeene Hobbs		
	Michael Osgood		
	Thom Phillips		
	Fred Welser		
	Larry Lutz		
	Brad Thompson		

### 2012 WLIA MEMBERSHIP FORM

I want to be a member of the West Lake Improvement Association for **2012** and support our organization for lake improvement. Enclosed is \$25 for membership dues. (\*If the \$25 Membership fee is a hardship, please call Doug at 271-3321. We still want you to join!)

We would like to hear your comments . (If you elect not to join WLIA, PLEASE let us know why. We cannot correct "issues" if we do not know what they are. Thank You!)

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**EMAIL ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail this membership form to:

Mike Marshburn,

OR: drop it off at any one of your West Lake Director's homes

**COMMENTS:**

# Photo Gallery

## July 4, 2012 Boat Parade Entries

(The editor apologizes for the blurriness of several of the pictures!)



The O'Brians  
First Place



The VanDykes  
Second Place



The Welsers  
Third Place



The Marshburns  
Fourth Place







Happy Summer/Fall  
from the  
West Lake

Improvement Association