



Shore Lines

spring 2017 newsletter

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - Bill Ardis

MLA is now in its 21st year. It was started in 1997 to lead the fight against a proposed large dredging project that threatened the quality of the lake. We won that battle, thanks to the generous support of many of you and the tireless work of our then President, Dick Morrow.

After that event, we remained in existence because we realized that no one else was monitoring the quality of the lake water or taking the initiative to identify and act on threats to the lake (Eurasian Milfoil, for instance).

Almost every inland lake in Michigan (of any magnitude) has a member-sponsored Lake Association. Some are more active than others, and some deal with issues that are unique to their body of water. A lot of the benefit gained from having an Association comes from the proactive support of its members. It's easy to become complacent about the lake if you observe no obvious problems. We are fortunate, however, to have a membership where many people are involved and connected.

On the subject of involvement, I have served as Vice President from the start in 1997 and for many years following, serving as President for the past few years. I have decided to step down and encourage some "fresh blood" to take over. Nominations and election of all officers and board members will take place at our Annual Membership Meeting on Saturday, July 15th, at the Lake Township Hall. Hope to see you there!

2017 MLA Board of Directors

President:

Bill Ardis

**Vice President,
Membership &
Editor:**

Mimi Zwolak

Secretary:

David P. Smith

Treasurer:

Jerry Grimwood

Directors:

Tom Borke

Gary Gremel

Richard Levandowski

Steve Wildes

Gerard Winkle

INVASIVE SPECIES

We have two Aquatic Invasive Species, (AIS), in Lake Missaukee, Eurasian Water-milfoil and Zebra Mussels. Boaters are encouraged to Clean, Drain, and Dry all equipment to reduce the spread of aquatic invasive species between water bodies.

<http://youtu.be/IWobcoWchsl> This short video shows how quick and simple this can be! The Michigan Clean Boats, Clean Waters program aims to educate boaters and anglers about the risks that invasive species pose to Michigan's lakes and rivers, and partner with boaters to reduce their spread. Learn more at <http://www.mymlsa.org/cbcw>.



STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!

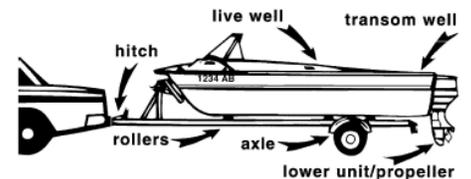
Prevent the transport of nuisance species.
Clean all recreational equipment.

www.ProtectYourWaters.net

CLEAN BOATS CLEAN WATERS

WATERCRAFT CHECK POINTS

Stop Aquatic Invasive Species From Spreading
Check Your Boat Each Time You Leave The Water!



- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Anchor | <input type="checkbox"/> Intake pipe | <input type="checkbox"/> Rollers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Axle | <input type="checkbox"/> Ladder | <input type="checkbox"/> Prop |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bait bucket | <input type="checkbox"/> Landing net | <input type="checkbox"/> Spare tire |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bunks | <input type="checkbox"/> License plate | <input type="checkbox"/> Tackle |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bow line | <input type="checkbox"/> Motor | <input type="checkbox"/> Tow rope |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fishing line | <input type="checkbox"/> Wheels | <input type="checkbox"/> Trailer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Floor | <input type="checkbox"/> Live well | <input type="checkbox"/> Transducer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hull | <input type="checkbox"/> Lights/wiring | <input type="checkbox"/> Transom well |

Clean It. Drain It. Dry It.

www.mymlsa.org/cbcw

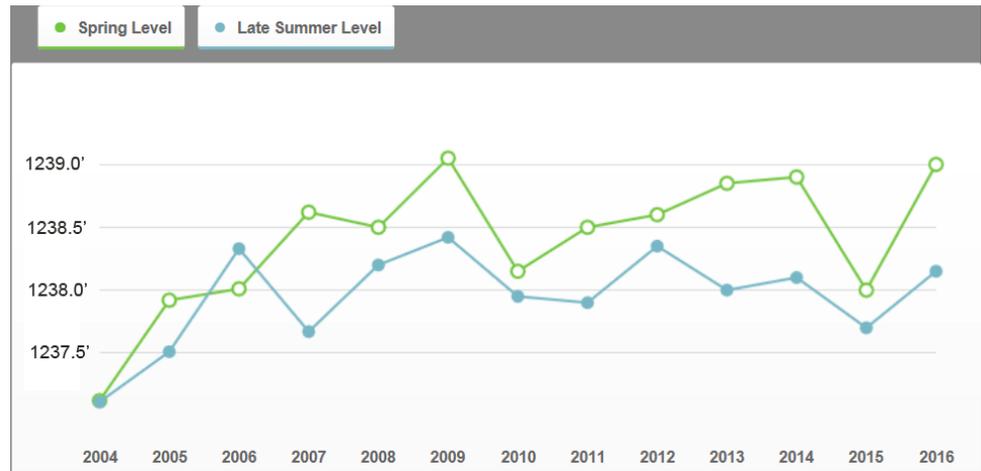
LAKE LEVEL

We have been fortunate over the past few years to have a relatively high water levels in Lake Missaukee. If you've been around the lake longer, however, you know that this has not always been the case and what an ugly mess low water can create.

You can find a lot more detail at http://lakemissaukee.org/lake_level.html, but the short story is that the Circuit Court agreed in the early 1970s to enforce a "normal lake level" of 1238' above sea level that had been set in 1942. As part of that decision, they also recognized the need to "store" a little extra water for the summer months and set a normal level of 1238.5' from February through May. The pier outlet on the east shore is a direct result of this court case.

Recognizing that we were potentially letting a lot of water out of the lake in the hottest months of the year, a group of property owners went back to court in 1989 and successfully got the 1238.5' level extended through June and July.

At the 2016 Annual Meeting, your board was directed in investigate what it would take to extend the 1238.5' level through August and September, again to avoid having to drain water at a time of high evaporation rates. Consideration was also to be given to the idea of just using 1238.5' as the "normal" for the whole year.



In speaking with a lake-specialist attorney who has assisted MLA in the past, the first step would be getting support from Missaukee County Road Commission (responsible for maintaining the lake level). We have gotten their informal support in the past but would need to get a formal statement. If the Road Commission supports filing the petition, the County Board would be approached next. In addition to the central role of the Road Commission, each instance of support will make getting the next approval easier. With Road Commission and County approvals, assumption is that each other governmental entity (townships, city, etc.) is likely to also provide their approval.

It seems the next step would be to seek the input and assistance from the newly formed Lake Enhancement Committee in Lake Township (See separate article about this committee). MLA could provide the information we have assembled and the committee could draft a proposal if it deemed this was advisable.

MLA ANNUAL MEETING 2016 HIGHLIGHTS by Dave Smith, MLA Secretary

Each year the general membership meeting of the Missaukee Lake Association is held on the third Saturday in July. It is held at 9 AM at the Lake Township Hall, and the 2017 meeting is expected to be held on the usual date, time and place. At the 2016 meeting, some minor changes to the constitution and bylaws were approved and two new directors were elected to the board; Tom Borke and Steve Wildes will be serving for their first time this year. Charter member and longtime president and recent treasurer of the association, Dick Morrow announced his retirement from the Board of Directors and was warmly thanked for his many years of devoted and tireless service to the association. (Please read Dick's Retirement Address below).

Laura Quist from the Missaukee Conservation District reported on their work to maintain water quality and environmental integrity. She said the district has a program to pay for soil testing so unnecessary fertilization of lawns near the water can be avoided.

Director Mimi Zwolak reported that Lake Township has created a new fund called the Lake Enhancement Fund. A committee is being formed with representatives from all three lakes in the Township, Missaukee, Crooked, and

Sapphire, to look at issues and concerns facing the lakes and ways to keep them safe and enjoyable. Directors Mimi and Jerry Grimwood have been involved and hope to be appointed to the committee. The Township has authorized the Enhancement Fund to reimburse our association for the cost of our Water Quality Testing, if we will share with them the results.

Many of us have noticed that though the DNR plants tens of thousands of Walleye nearly every year, few grown fish are caught. This has been attributed to predation on the fingerlings aggravated by a lack of good structure for them to hide in, especially when the weeds die back in the winter. Director Jerry Grimwood filled us in on his participation in an experimental program, paid for by Lake Township's Lake Enhancement Fund, to place artificial protective structures at strategic locations in the lake. Permission of riparian property owners is required for this, so those owning lakefront property may be asked.



The financial report showed that the association's financial condition is good, and with the Township reimbursing us for our water quality sampling expenses, the dues for the coming year were reduced by half to just \$25.

The next annual meeting will be held on Saturday, July 15, 2017, 9am at Lake Township Hall

DICK MORROW'S RETIREMENT ADDRESS July 16, 2016

I have elected to retire as a director and officer for MLA, and as such, I would like to recognize Bill Ardis, Dave Smith and Richard Levandowski for their 20 continuous years as officers of MLA; truly an outstanding commitment and effort.



In addition, I would like to thank MLA's past directors; Roger Moore, George Norberg, Jim Krone, Ron Calo, Tom Sowle, Al DeBoer, Dave Thompson, Marilyn Zondervan and Al Jensen; as well as these officers and our current directors, Mimi Zwolak, Gerard Winkle, Gary Gremel, Jerry Grimwood and Julie Lalik, whose leadership contributed to the continuous improvement MLA enjoys today. I would be remiss if I did not thank my beautiful wife, Margie for her support and advice over all these years. She remains my rock and my anchor!

Personally, thank you for 20 years of your support; 17 as your president and 3 as your treasurer. Words cannot adequately express my heartfelt appreciation to you, our membership, for your commitment to maintaining the environmental integrity of our beautiful lake. You have consistently risen to the task at hand, through your active participation and financial contributions that serve as a testimony to your resolve. MLA and Lake Missaukee have indeed benefited from your commitment. Your actions have ensured your children's and grandchildren's enjoyment of our lake for years to come. Our president, Bill Ardis has done an outstanding job in updating our website (under "History") to capture significant MLA accomplishments, since our inception that must be preserved to properly define our identity and serve as a beacon for current and future board members, as well as our membership. They will serve us well, as the foundation of our existence!

Finally, please consider devoting a little of your time to serve on our board of directors or assisting on one of our committees. MLA needs to continue to grow through your diverse and unique talents and ideas. It's time for you to share your "wealth" with the rest of us. Please give this your serious thought and make the commitment. MLA needs you.... now, and in the future! It's been an honor and privilege to serve you! THANK YOU!

Editor's note: No Dick, THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR YEARS OF SERVICE! The lake is a better place because of you!

LAKE ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE, LAKE TOWNSHIP - by John Beck, becklj@sbcglobal.net

Lake Township created a Lake Enhancement Committee last summer with an initial fund of \$50,000. This committee will work on enhancements for all three lakes in the township; Sapphire, Crooked, and Missaukee. There are 3 representatives for each lake sitting on the committee. John Beck, from Sapphire Lake is Chairman of the committee. Jerry Grimwood, Mimi Zwolak and Chad Moore with alternate Larry Collins are representing Lake Missaukee. Each lake has different areas of concern, but it helps all of us to work together. So far the committee has:

- Gotten approval to pay for water quality testing on all three lakes. MLA will maintain our oversight of this and submit our bills to the township for payment.
- Secured permits and placed eight fish hiding structures on all three lakes. (See article below).
- Helped Crooked Lake with financial aid for their excessive milfoil problem.
- \$5,000 was added to the Lake Improvement Board to help offset dollars lost from funding that once came from Missaukee County but was eliminated by budget cutting. This money may be used for costs related to permitting and treatments.
- Started looking into the problem of storm water drain off into Lake Missaukee.

This committee is going to be a tremendous asset to the health of our lake. While it will take some of the financial burden away from MLA, we will still need to be the stewards and watch dogs of our lake. If you have any suggestions for the committee, please let us know.

FISH HIDING STRUCTURES - by Natalie Davis

An odd thing appeared on Lake Missaukee this winter – tangled masses of tree trunks and limbs plunked on the ice as if they fell from the sky. What was this madness?

As it turns out, no madness at all. Pure method.

Picture Lake Missaukee a millennia ago. No houses, trees line the shore, fish teem below the surface, and woody debris blankets the bottom. Fast forward to today. Cottages line the shore, beaches beautifully combed, the woody debris all but decayed and gone, leaving the fish with no place to hide.



Noting the change in Lake Missaukee's natural landscape, Lake Township's Lake Enhancement Committee masterminded this curious project – replace the woody debris in strategic locations. And replace it with what would have naturally fallen into the lake, white pine and oak.

Luckily for this team of cheeky do-gooders, Lake Missaukee is located in northern Michigan. For you snow birds, that means long, cold winters. And long, cold winters make for lake ice measuring in feet, not inches. And ice so thick you can drive on it makes for easy, well kind of easy, for placement of masses of tree trunks and limbs upon it.

Now, going back to method over madness, the positioning of these structures is purely scientific. Take an aerial view of the lake. Find the deepest holes. Use sophisticated GPS navigation. Situate a mass of wood on the ice, atop the hole, cable it together and weight it down. Then, voila! When spring finally does arrive and the ice melts, these structures of white pine and oak sink to the bottom of the lake to become fish habitat. This additional habitat will attract beneficial algae and other small creatures that will become a food source so smaller fish can grow into larger fish.

The beauty of the plan is two-fold. The structure provides a safe haven for fish and the structure is deep enough in the water to not interfere with on-the-lake activities.

So to all those who planned, approved, and carried out this project, the fishes thank you.

DEADLY OAK FIREWOOD by Larry Czelusta

Many residents of the Missaukee Lakes community have seen red oak trees in their yards and adjacent woodlots look healthy in the spring and then suddenly die in the summer months. The disease called Oak Wilt has been active in the Missaukee Lakes community for years and is continuing to spread. Beyond the loss of precious shade trees, controlling an oak wilt infection can be costly. Once a tree has died it must be removed before April 1 of the following spring. April 1 to July 15 is the period during which oak trees can become infected. **The wood, standing or cut up, will spread the infection to healthy oaks the year after the tree dies via a beetle that is drawn to the smell of the oak wilt fungus in the wood.** Oak is good firewood and nobody wants to waste it. To prevent your healthy oak trees from dying please follow a few rules.



Wilt pattern in oak

1. Do not prune oak trees from April 1 to July 15
2. Do not bring oak firewood to your property unless you know it came from live trees that were not infected with oak wilt.
3. Cut down any dead oak trees before April 1 of the year after it dies.
4. Do not store/stack oak wilt diseased firewood without covering and sealing it to the ground with a clear 4mil or thicker plastic before April 1 and until July 15 of the year after the tree dies.

If we follow these rules we can avoid helping it spread, and we can enjoy the shade that is so important to a lake cabin in the hot summer. For more information contact Conservation District Forester Larry Czelusta at 231-775-7681 ext.3 or larry.czelusta@macd.org

SWIMMER'S ITCH by Mimi Zwolak

In the last few years we have been getting more and more reports of Swimmer's Itch around Lake Missaukee. I found this web site to be most helpful in understanding this problem, what it is, and what can be done about it: <https://www.watershedcouncil.org/swimmers-itch.html>

What is it? - from Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council

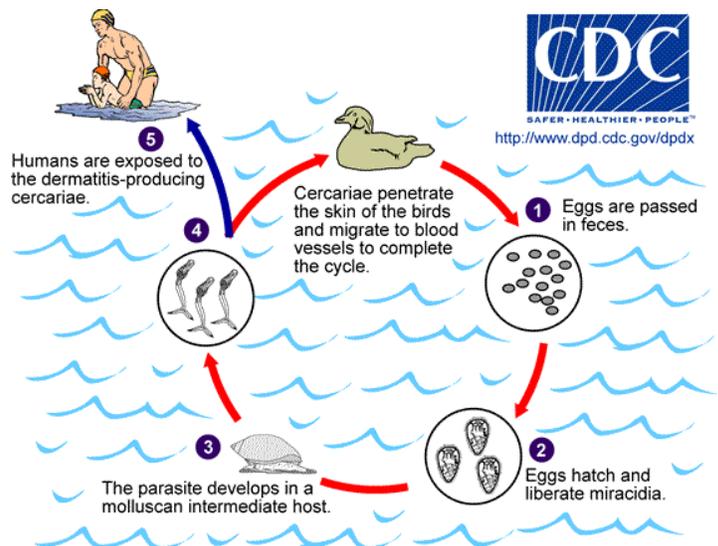


Swimmer's Itch is a skin irritation that is caused by a larval form of certain flatworms from the *Schistosomidae* family. It is a fairly common occurrence in many of the lakes in our area.

Schistosome flatworms (shown on right) are parasites with a complex life cycle (usually involving certain species of snails and waterfowl). Even though the Schistosome species found in Northern Michigan are not parasites of humans, their larvae do burrow into human skin seeking to complete their life cycle. The larvae are only 1/32 of an inch long and generally invisible to the naked eye. Since humans are not the proper host, the larvae soon die. The itching sensation is caused by an allergic reaction many people develop to the dead larvae under the skin.

I did some research last summer and found a product called **Swimmer's Itch Guard** which several members tried and had great success.

For information on ordering visit: <http://www.swimmersitchguard.com/>



COMMISSION ON AGING - by Natalie Davis, Director

For nearly 20 years, the Missaukee County Commission on Aging has served the seniors of this county with in-home services and support programs. Through the years, those services and programs have grown and changed to meet the needs of our seniors. Our mission – to keep the seniors of Missaukee safe and independent in their homes through education, services, and advocacy – is what drives us.



Missaukee County

Commission on Aging

Our services include in-home care, transportation, snow removal assistance, Medicare and Medicaid counseling, and companionship through the Senior Sidekick program. With the support of the community, through the passing of our millage, we are able to offer all of our programs at no- or low-cost. These are available to all residents, 60 and better, regardless of income.

We also partner with other agencies, such as Area Agency on Aging, Northern Healthcare Management, and the Department of Health and Human Services, to extend our reach. And, a grant from the Michigan Department of Transportation funds the transportation program.

Today, we are pleased to report the Commission on Aging serves residents from every township and city in Missaukee County. We have 16 full- and part-time care providers in the homes of nearly 250 seniors. Our team of dedicated volunteers transports clients for non-emergency medical appointments, covering almost 40,000 miles annually.

We welcome your input and questions. Feel free to stop by our nearly-new office at 1980 S. Morey Road (the old 5/3 Bank) in Lake City. And keep an eye for new programs offered throughout the summer. You can find out more about our programs or how to volunteer by visiting our website, MissaukeeCOA.org, or give us a call at 839-7839.

FROM THE LAKE CITY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE WEBSITE:

The 2017 Greatest Fourth In The North Celebration begins Friday, June 30 and ends on Tuesday, July 4th. The theme this year theme is Christmas in July.



Community Yard Sale scheduled for Saturday May 20. If you are planning on having a sale, this is the time you want to do it because we will help you advertise it! We will produce a flyer with the addresses listed on it of all the sales and it will be posted on the main page of our web site. All we need to know is your name and address and you are set to go. So just give us a call. 231-839-4969

MICHIGAN LAKE AND STREAM ASSOCIATIONS

Missaukee Lake Association is a member of ML&SA. There is a wealth of information on their website for lake front property owners and anyone “Dedicated to the Preservation and Protection of Michigan’s Inland Lakes and Streams”. Check it out: www.mymlsa.org



MICHIGAN LAKE AND STREAM ASSOCIATIONS, INC.

MISSAUKEE LAKE IMPROVEMENT BOARD (MLIB)

Our association is sometimes confused with the Missaukee Lake Improvement Board (MLIB). The MLIB was formed at the end of 2004 in order to assess lake users to treat the Eurasian Milfoil that had taken hold in the lake. The treatment is helping to keep the milfoil in check. Most inland lakes have had to deal with this problem. The Lake Improvement Board will meet in late August, at the Lake Township Hall. Look for the date in the Missaukee Sentinel. You are encouraged to attend.

LOCAL WEB SITES

Missaukee Lake Association – missaukeelake.org
 Lake City Chamber of Commerce – www.lakecitymich.com
 Lake Township – www.laketownshipmissaukee.com
 Missaukee Sentinel – www.missaukeesentinel.com
 Missaukee County - <http://www.missaukee.org>