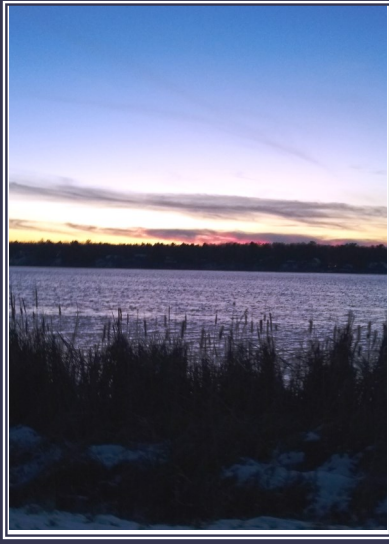


Pentwater Lake Association

~ January 2019 ~



President's Message

By Lynne Cavazos

In a recent article in the *Climate Hot Spots – Global Warming Effects Around the World*, the Union of Concerned Scientists indicate that "Climate change is already beginning to affect plants and animals that live in freshwater lakes and rivers, altering their habitat and bringing life-threatening stress and disease." The following is a summary of changes beginning to occur in freshwater lakes and rivers.

Displacement of cold-water species: As air temperatures rise, water temperatures do also, particularly in shallow stretches of rivers and surface waters of lakes. Streams and lakes may become unsuitable for cold-water fish but support species that thrive in warmer waters. Some warm-water species are already moving to waters at higher latitudes and altitudes.

Dead zones: In a warming climate, a warmer upper layer in deep lakes slows down air exchange - a process that normally adds oxygen to the water. This, in turn, often creates large "dead zones" - areas depleted of oxygen and unable to support life. Persistent dead zones can produce toxic algal blooms, foul-smelling water, and massive fish kills.

Effects on reproduction: Earlier snowmelt, rising amounts of precipitation that falls as rain rather than snow, and more severe and frequent flooding - all linked to global warming - may affect the reproduction of aquatic species. Some salmon populations have declined as more intense spring floods have washed away salmon eggs laid in streambeds.

Stress: When stream flow peaks earlier in the spring owing to warmer temperatures, low stream flow begins earlier in the summer and lasts longer in the fall. These changes stress aquatic plants and animals that have adapted to specific low-flow conditions. The survival rates of fish such as salmon and trout are known to diminish when water levels in rivers and streams are dangerously low.

Disease: The more intense precipitation that accompanies a warming world makes river flooding more likely. This flooding combined with sewer system overflows and other problems stemming from inadequate sanitation infrastructure can lead to disease outbreaks from water-borne bacteria.

The Pentwater Lake Association has an important role to play in monitoring the changes occurring in our lake and the adjoining wetlands and rivers. In addition to water testing in the spring and summer months, PLA also monitors the number and types of invasive plants and animals in Pentwater Lake and works with local and state organizations to address the kind of issues highlighted by the Union of Concerned Scientists.

As we begin the New Year of 2019, we all need to be mindful of the warning signs of climate change and work together to minimize the effects it has on our lakes and streams.



Inside this issue:

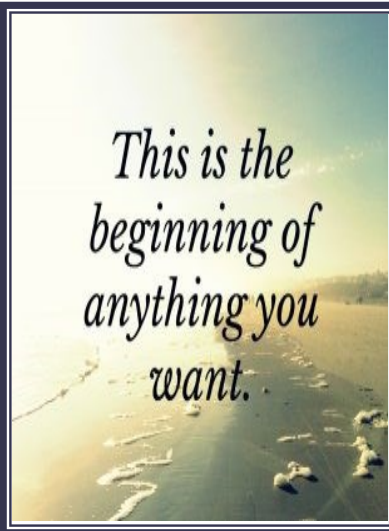
Water Quality Report 2

PSA Event Calendar 6

Member Application 9



*This is the
beginning of
anything you
want.*



PLA Social Committee Update:

SAVE the date for the Pentwater Lake Association Annual Meeting and Social Gathering. The event will be held at 6:00 PM on Friday June 21, 2019 at St. Vincent Church Hall and will include amazing and plentiful hors d'oeuvres and desserts prepared by Suzanne Hutchings. Our speaker, Scott Brown, retired Executive Director of the Michigan Lakes Stewardship Association, will share more about the new invasive algae - Starry Stonewort.

Membership Report:

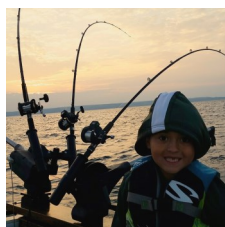
The 2018-19 Directory was mailed out in December. If you did not receive one, please email Lynne Cavazos at lcavazos5939@charter.net. For corrections or updates, email George Richey at georg421@charter.net.

Natural Resources Report:

By Joe Primozych

The resident eagles have built another nest after they lost their original nest in a terrible wind/rain storm in May. The nest is up river on the south branch about a mile from the forks. It's near last year's nest site. Hope it is built better and that the building inspector gave it the look over twice. With any luck the pair can raise a family again after taking a year off without a nest.

The lake perch run had a good start in November with several hundred Lake Michigan perch caught before the freeze up. Things have been on hold as the big lake perch have not moved north based on December 15th's Grand Haven report. On that Saturday the perch were located in 70 feet of water off Grand Haven. Catches were being taken in three hours with over 120 boats fishing the calm waters. Once the ports of Grand Haven and Muskegon start catching perch will be showing up soon in Pentwater. So be patient inside the channel, the perch will be showing up soon in Pentwater. So be patient, as like last year, the best winter perch fishing was in January.



Water Quality Report – Mike Peters

Mike Peters, Joe Primozych, Pat Hooyman and Rich Pugsley comprise the Water Quality Committee. The usual sampling and testing of eight parameters were performed for the months of June, July, August and September during 2018. Analytical results were received in the fall and reviewed by the Committee which found the data very consistent with several previous years' water quality data for Pentwater Lake. The Committee has also been making a serious effort to locate, assemble and review as much historical information as is available. Several sources have been found as far back as 1973! Quick reviews of several data sets and reports help confirm the fact that Pentwater Lake water quality has remained very consistent throughout the years (and probably for a long time prior to 1972). If anyone is having a problem sleeping at night we can make the reports available to you with guaranteed results! Suffice it to say the water quality of Pentwater Lake is very good and very stable. It may in the near future be affected in a negative way by the presence of a new invasive algae - the Starry Stonewort.

The Committee has determined that we really don't know very much about the Pentwater River Water shed. Why should we care? Well for one simple reason. The Rivers, streams and tributaries within the watershed ultimately drain into Pentwater Lake! Much information about the Pentwater River Water shed has been assembled and we will be sharing it with PLA members in future newsletter issues. As a way of demonstrating the importance of our interest in the watershed: Size of Pentwater Lake = 437 Acres; Size of Pentwater River Watershed = 108,800 Acres! Therefore, Pentwater Lake makes up just .04% of the area that drains into it!

PLA Website – George Richey

Our PLA Website has been updated to include the recent price increase of \$2 for the Riparian Magazine, from \$12 to \$14. The Riparian Magazine is published quarterly by the Michigan Lake Stewardship Association (formerly the Michigan Lakes and Streams Association) and is an excellent communications tool for everything about our inland lakes.

JANUARY 2019 - "OUT WITH THE OLD AND IN WITH THE NEW" Anna Mae Bush

Transition in the Township Supervisor Position:

Interviews with Chuck Smith and Dave Spitler



Although the title in no way refers to the age of Chuck Smith or Dave Spitler, I was very surprised when Chuck told me he turned 84 this year. I assured him he is a *young* 84. Chuck is retiring from his Township Supervisor position after completing 2 years of his current 4-year term.

He served 6 years on the zoning commission prior to his 14 years as Township Supervisor, dedicating 20 years of his "retirement" to work that benefitted the residents of our community. While an employee of GM for more than 35 years, Chuck and his wife had lived in Flint. But as a teenager

he had come to Pentwater and fallen in love with the village. His wife was born and raised in Ludington, so moving to this area when he retired from GM made a lot of sense. Contributing to the community came naturally, volunteering led to appointments, and appointments led to an elected position.

During his tenure, Chuck made a decision to double Supervisor hours in the office to make himself more accessible to residents. His favorite part of the job has been meeting residents and taxpayers. The most challenging aspect has been convincing individuals of the township's governing process and informing doubters as to the legal and nonlegal use of taxpayer dollars. What he will miss most is time with his office colleagues who he considers his extended family, along with the trustees and the people he appointed to various commissions and committees. What he **won't** miss is the complaints! What is he looking forward to? He says, "Maybe I will be able to get back to woodworking."

When I asked what he considered his most important contribution to the community during his tenure he replied, "Constructing the fishing deck on Longbridge. It provided accessibility and safety for adults and kids to fish from the bridge. And it's being used ALL the time." Was there anything he would have liked to accomplish that he hopes his successor can complete? Chuck listed three projects: "expansion of our transfer site, creation of athletic fields for our community recreation program, and resolution of our Republic Services Trash Pick-up problem."

What wisdom could he pass on to Dave Spitler? "My experience has been that this position is 75-80% P.R. Listen to the complainers, whether or not you agree with them. You have to let them vent before you can reason with them." Chuck has known Dave for several years through Dave's volunteer work on various Village and Township committees and commissions. "I feel very comfortable that Dave is very capable of handling anything that is thrown his way."

What a wonderful vote of confidence! It was also wonderful that Chuck and Dave were together when I interviewed them, enabling them to respond to me as well as to each other. As I listened to Dave's thoughtful answers, I sensed this would be a very smooth transition for him. He has served on the Village Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals as well as many years on the County Housing Commission. Of his more recent work on the Township Planning Commission and with the Township staff he says, "They are a very knowledgeable group with diverse backgrounds that do a great job...I am looking forward to a new learning experience...continuing to serve in a new role."

He sees the need to continue improving our infrastructure and protecting our wonderful natural resources for both the visitors that are drawn to our area and our residents. He hopes we can move forward with the rail trail and increase recreational opportunities for the seniors and younger families in our area. He sees challenges in making good choices regarding future use of our resources, encouraging growth that is steady and that preserves the character of the area, and maintaining the water quality of our lake against weeds, contaminants, and overuse.

Dave grew up in Hart and spent much of his time in Pentwater. His early adult years were in Grand Rapids, but he and his wife Kathryn bought their first home in Pentwater in 1988 ("the cat lady's house!"). They spent summers here until they moved permanently to Pentwater in 2000. He has lived in the Village and in the Township. I asked what he appreciates most about the community. He responded: "The people, both newcomers as well as longer-term residents...The diversity of experiences and backgrounds of the new people moving into the area is one of its strongest attributes and what I appreciate the most."

Does Dave have particular goals? Besides continuing what Chuck has started, Dave wants to encourage greater involvement of more people in decision making and planning for the future. That includes giving input at public meetings and volunteering for committees. "Greater input means better decisions are made." He also believes we need more collaboration with neighboring communities to improve the entire area. "The sum is greater than its parts!"

Collaborative Lake Effort Works With DEQ

By Joe Primozych

With the discovery of 28% of the Pentwater Lake shoreline showing signs of having the algae, starry stonewort, a decision was made to create a collaboration of partners willing to contribute information about managing the latest invasive dominating the lake shoreline bottom landscape. The group first met at Patterson Marine after the October 4, 2018 lake survey was completed. December 18, the 4th collaborative meeting was held with Dr. Roseman, Mike La Haye; Patterson Marine, Rich Pugsley; PLA, Joe Primozych; PLIB, to listen to a presentation from a Purdue Agriculture Engineer regarding algae control. He is a Michigan Legends and Leaders Award Recipient and outlined a proposal we could submit to the DEQ for review. Other partners that have responded during the first three meetings of October and November.

The DASH unit (diver assisted suction harvesting) that was used on September 15 has proposed going to a commercial grade of suction harvester to deal with the huge 6 foot thick mats of starry stonewort at the drop offs. Patterson Marine is looking into an Eco-Harvester out of Minnesota that is used to bring vegetation up for deposit on our DEQ approved field dump site. Josh Adams has been contacted to make a proposal to use his crane for lifting the heavy, thick mats. The September suction harvesting took 7 tons of starry stonewort out of the lake. In conference calls we contacted both Michigan Tech and Grand Valley State University at the Muskegon Annis Field Station. Both schools will help with the management plan. Michigan Tech's budget yet has to be approved with the Great Lakes Initiative coming up for a vote. Ted Cuchna still allows us to dump vegetation on his DEQ approved field for plowing under.

Finally, supporting groups for the lake management are the Pentwater Lake Association, Pentwater Township, the Village of Pentwater, the Pentwater Sport Fishing Association, and the Pentwater Lake Improvement Board who oversees the aquatic invasive vegetation management with Progressive Engineering as their consultant. The next PLIB meeting is on January 28, 2019 at 4 PM at Village Hall.

Surprise – Invasive Plant Present on Our Lake Shoreline

By Joe Primozych

The lake surveys from August 27 to October 4 concluded that the invasive algae, starry stonewort, has expanded its growth to 28% of our lake shoreline. It takes over shoreline plants and eliminates the natives and covers the bottom to stop fish movement and spawning. It is an invasive where chemical treatment is not an option because it grows in thick mats. The treatment only gives it a haircut. It loves quiet water away from wind waves and current. As of 2012, it has been reported in 88% of lower Michigan inland lakes.

The October survey showed that the algae was located in three different density patterns in our lake. The worst was from the drop off where the mats are 6 to 7 feet thick. The second density is one to two feet thick areas. The third density just had a few scattered algae among the native plants and had not killed the native plants or eliminated the fish from spawning. The suction harvesting in September of starry stonewort removed 7 tons in four days of work. With this done, it is estimated that over 40 tons of the invasive algae was left in the lake as of the October 4th survey.

This puts starry stonewort as the biggest aquatic invasive plant problem in the lake by overtaking and surpassing hybrid milfoil.



Oceana Cross Country Ski Association Winter 2019 News and Events



By Ellen Lightle

Pentwater is more than just a summer resort. In the winter the Oceana Cross Country Ski Association offers a variety of activities and grooms two trail systems for public use, all for free.

The **Pentwater Pathways** is a system of trails, easy to difficult in length and terrain,

located in the state forest located off Railroad Avenue south of Long Bridge Road.

Crystal Valley, northeast of Pentwater in the Manistee National Forest, offers even more miles of varying duration and challenge. Trail maps for both locations can be found on the web at oceanaski.org.

Two events are planned for January and February. The **Crystal Valley Fun Fest** will be held on Saturday, **January 19**, 1:00 - 4:00 PM featuring "free" loan of adult and children's ski equipment on a first-come-first-served basis, as well as refreshments. Pentwater Pathways will be the site for **Winter Fest** activities on Saturday, **February 9**, 12:00 - 3:00 PM; OCCSA will have adult and children's ski equipment to loan for "free" on a first-come-first-served basis. A campfire and refreshments will also be available.

If no snow, the event will be postponed to February 16.th

continued



OCCSA continues to offer the popular **Kids' Ski** program to third and fourth graders in the Pentwater, Hart, Shelby, and Walkerville Schools. Each year over 300 children are introduced to the sport and are able to have a quality cross country ski experience for free.

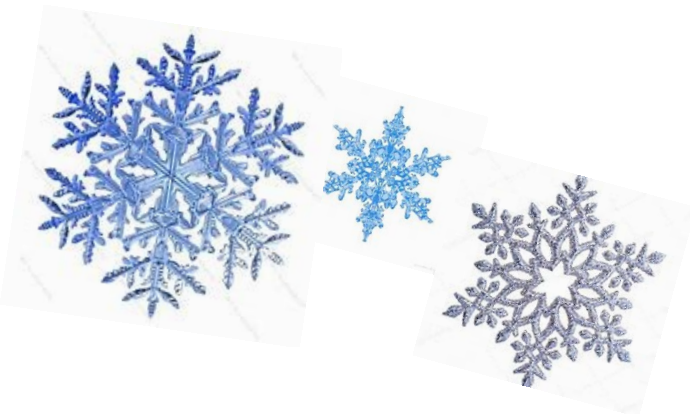
OCCSA is an all-volunteer organization with modest annual membership dues: individual -\$15; family-\$35; business-\$50. Funds are used to maintain and groom ski trails and to repair and replace ski and trail equipment. Those interested in joining and/or donating to the equipment fund can contact the organization through the website, or mail a check, made out to

OCCSA
P.O. Box 138,
Mears, MI 49436.

OCCSA is a 501 (c) 3 nonprofit organization.



To reach Pentwater Pathway take US31 to the Monroe Road Pentwater exit, turn west on Longbridge Road. Cross the bridge and turn left on Wayne Road. Watch for a marked turn onto a dirt road to the right in 1.5 miles. The parking area is a wide open space about 0.3 mile.





2019 Calendar of Events

Visit Pentwater during Winterfest 2019

Saturday, February 9th

February 9th: Snowman Scram 5K and 1 Mile Fun Run, Pentwater Pathways Open for X-Country Skiing, Barrel Racing on Ice, Sledding on the Village Green, Cork & Canvas Wine Tasting and Gallery Stroll Benefit for the Pentwater Arts Council.

February 16th: Pentwater Lake Perch Fishing Tournament, Free Fishing Weekend,



Freezin' for a Reason (Polar Dip),
LEGO Building Contest,
Sledding on the Green,
Fishing Tournament, &
Colleen Plummer Craft
Beer & Music Fest

2019 Snowman Scram 5K & 1 Mile Fun Run

The Snowman Scram Run/Walk and 1 mile fun run is a fun wintertime event designed as a fundraiser for the Pentwater Cross Country Team. The 1 Mile Fun Run starts at 12:00 Noon with the 5K run/walk to follow. The race starts and finishes in front of Pentwater Public Schools. The entry fee is \$15.00 for the 1 mile Fun Run and \$25.00 for the 5K run/walk.

Pentwater Pathways Open X-Country Skiing

12:00—3:00 PM FREE! Cross Country Skiing, hot chocolate, cookies and campfire at trailhead. Skis will be provided. Please, no snowshoes. If no snow, open on the 17th. New parking location. For ski and trail info call Gaye 231.873.5247 or www.oceanaski.org

Sponsored by Huntington Bank

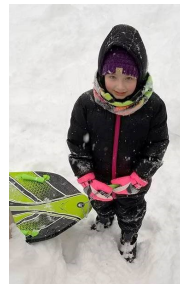
Barrel Racing on Ice. Come to the Lake Street Boat Launch on Pentwater Lake. Racing from 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM. Event is FREE! If NO ice, Come to the Village Green.



Barrel Racing on Ice 1-2 PM FREE
Lake Street Boat Launch on Pentwater Lake
(if no ice, go to the Village Green)

Sledding on the Village Green

Bring yourself,
family and friends
with a sled of
your choice.
All Day!



Annual Cork & Canvas

Winter Wine Tasting and Gallery Walk

***Additional New Location this year –
Wine Tasting in Hart and Pentwater!***

Tasting in Hart from 1 - 4 PM at Big Hart Brewery, Hansen's Foods, and Hart Pizza.

Tasting in Pentwater from 2 - 5 PM at Antler Bar, Fair Trade, Jilly's, Kook's Eye, Oldewick Post, Petri's on Hancock, The Glove, Toy Box, and Village Pub.

Each location will have domestic and imported fine wines to sample, appetizers, and feature art by our local artists.

Tickets are \$20 per person if purchased in advance or \$25 per person at the door.



NEWS BYTES FROM HERE & THERE... By AnnaMae Bush

Pentwater Police Department



On Wednesday, November 21, the Pentwater Police Department received two early morning calls from local residents about vandalism to their vehicles, and a third call from the Pentwater Schools that vandalism had also occurred on school property. In each case windows had been shattered by shots fired from a B-B gun. Since the incidents happened within hours of each other, police assumed the incidents were related.

Fortunately, the school incident occurred prior to students' arrival, and the school's security cameras captured photos of the suspect and his car. After the photos were released to the public, the police received several tips.

Cooperative investigation with the Oceana County Sheriff's Office led to an arrest later in the day of a 22-year old male resident of Pentwater Township. Gavin Krueger-Swanderski was arraigned and charged with one felony and two misdemeanors. Bail was set at \$25,000.



Township Offices



When Dollar General was granted access to their store through use of the road to the Pentwater Township Transfer Station, the company donated 11.23 acres behind their store to the Pentwater Township. There are restrictions on how the land may be used, and currently discussions are being held to determine the best use of the property. One idea that has significant support is multi-functional facilities to serve the Pentwater Community Rec Program.

A lack of practice fields has limited the recreational program for years. Soccer fields and softball diamonds would support the recreational program for youth and provide space for adult sports. Residents are encouraged to watch the website for scheduled meetings and discussions, and attend in order to provide their input. Go to pentwatervillage.org, or <https://tshq.bluesombrero.com/pentwaterrecreation>





Pentwater Green Schools Club



On Tuesday, November 13th, Pentwater Schools was able to have all of our students K-12 attend separate assemblies with Jim McGrath from Nature Discovery. Jim brought in many snakes, turtles and frogs to share with the kids and provided education about their habitats and importance of protecting these animals.



This assembly was made possible because of funding provided by the Pentwater PTCO and will count towards one of our twenty points needed to earn "Evergreen" status through the Michigan Green Schools program.



PLA Officers:

President: Lynne Cavazos
 Vice-President: Joe Primozich
 Secretary: AnnaMae Bush
 Treasurer: George Richey

PLA Board of Directors:

Betty Pleva
 Patrick Hooyman
 Mac McCaleb
 Mike Peters
 Rich Pugsley

PLA Committees:

Membership: Mac McCaleb
 Newsletter Editor: Barb Siok
 Natural Resources: Joe Primozich
 Publicity: Pat Hooyman
 Social: Lynne Cavazos
 Water Quality: Mike Peters
 Website: George Richey

Pentwater Village (231-869-8301)

Village Council President: Jeff Hodges
 Trustees: Michelle Angell-Powell, Don Palmer,
 Claudia Ressel-Hodan, Jared Griffis, Dan Nugent,
 and Pam Burdick.
 Village Manager: Chris Brown
 Clerk/Treasurer: Rande Listerman
 Deputy Clerk/Treasurer: Barb Siok
 Deputy Clerk/Treasurer: Kate Anderson

Pentwater Township (231-869-6231)

Township Supervisor: Dave Spitler
 Clerk: Sue Ann Johnson
 Treasurer: Jan Siska
 Trustees: Mike Flynn and Pat Ruggles

Pentwater Police (231-869-4630)

Chief: Laude Hartrum

Pentwater Fire (231-869-5987)

Chief: Paul Smith

Oceana County Marine Deputy: Tim Simon

PENTWATER LAKE ASSOCIATION

"For the love of the Lake"

P.O. Box 825

Pentwater, Michigan 49449

Membership Application

Date _____

Membership Application

_____ Renewal

_____ New Member

Applicant Name: _____ Spouse: _____

Local Address: Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Mailing Address Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone # (s): Local or Home _____ Cell: _____

Email Address: _____

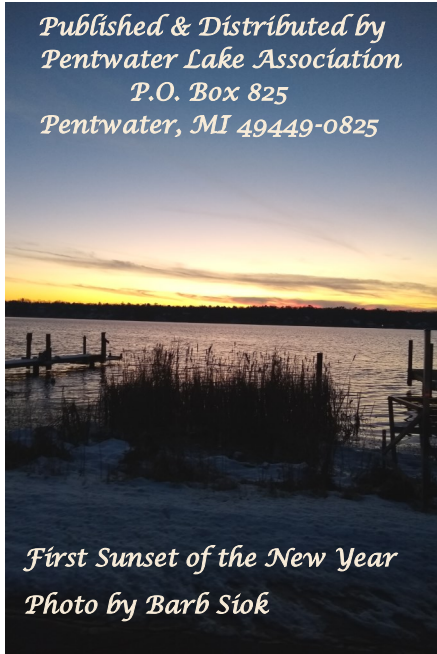
Email Newsletter (In Color) _____ or Mail Hard Copy Newsletter via P.O. (Black & White) _____

Dues: Yearly Family Membership (one vote), from July 1 through June 30 \$ **30.00**

Subscription to *Michigan Riparian Magazine*, published quarterly (optional) \$14.00. \$ _____

Total (Make check payable to: *Pentwater Lake Association, Inc.*). \$ _____

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*First Sunset of the New Year
Photo by Barb Siok*

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