

Pentwater Lake Association Newsletter

August 2022

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President's Message: George Richey

Thoughts for the Day (Of People & Plants)

First, I want to thank the PLA membership for approving the addition and/or renewal of 3 members to the PLA Board at our recent Annual Meeting. Rich Pugsley, our present Treasurer and Pentwater River Watershed leader will be serving his second 3 year term, Kelie Bond, a relatively new member to the Pentwater community, and myself, a 17 year resident of the community, will be serving new 3 year terms. I have been a member of the PLA for most of those 17 years and served in the past as Board Treasurer. I also want to thank Lynne Cavazos for rejoining the Board as a replacement for a Board member who recently resigned.

I am impressed with the breadth of knowledge and experience our Board members bring to the Association. Our other Board Officers include Tom Walter as Vice President and Beth Provencal as Secretary. The Board also includes Dr. Ross Feltes, Joan Menke-Schanzer, Dan Selahowski, and Mike Peters. The Board leans heavily on past Board members Joe Primozich, Pat Hooyman, Betty Pleva, and AnnaMae Bush to fill important positions. And as always, we are on the lookout for present and new members to assist us in the many aspects of the Association's activities.

In the realm of plants, I want to mention an area that is important to the health of the Lake. We have many ways to monitor and maintain the health of Pentwater Lake. As a Lake Association, we monitor the level of Total Phosphorous and Chlorophyll A in the lake and river system, we conduct training on how to clean boats and trailers to stop the spread of aquatic invasive species, and we work with the Pentwater Lake Improvement Board to control the spread of invasive plants. Those in our community who are riparian homeowners can also help by using native plants in their landscaping plans. Native plants require minimal care and are attractive to many birds, butterflies and pollinators. One of the first and best areas for applying native plants is along the shoreline. Native plants will filter out contaminants, such as lawn fertilizer and animal feces, before they reach the water's edge. A border of native grasses and wildflowers can enhance the beauty of the lake front and provide access to the land or water by frogs and turtles. We also know that our native trees can provide a root structure to help control erosion. On the next page are some resources that may be useful if you would like further information on ways to utilize native plants in your landscaping plans. And remember, give us a call (231-301-3668) if you would like further assistance.



Here are some resources with further information on ways to utilize native plants in your landscaping plans. The Michigan Natural Shoreline Partnership, their website is www.mishorelinepartnership.org, the Minnesota Restore Your Shore Program, their website is www.dnr.state.mn.us/rys, and the Wisconsin Healthy Lakes Program, and their website is www.Healthylakeswi.com.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

SOCIAL

Be Sure to Get Your Homecoming Strawberry Shortcake

WHEN: Thursday, August 11th, 6 PM - 8 PM (or when sold out)

WHERE: Village Green, Pentwater

The Annual Strawberry Shortcake Social is the major fund raiser for the Pentwater Lake Association. Come and enjoy this delicious treat beginning at 6 PM while the crowd gathers for the special concert of combined Scottville Clown Band and our own Pentwater Civic Band. Due to the increase cost of strawberries, biscuits and ice cream, the cost of the Shortcake Treat will be \$5.00 per Shortcake (biscuit, strawberries, ice cream and whipped cream). Water for \$1.00 is also available.

Thank you to the PLA Board and PLA members for your support of this fund-raising event.

A FIRST for the PLA

The PLA Board voted to participate in the Homecoming Parade this year in order to give more visibility to the PLA and the work we do to protect our lake. Watch for our float and our volunteer marchers. If you would like to help in some way, please contact Joan Menke-Schaenzer by email (joanms@me.com) or by phone (405-315-7462).

MEMBERSHIP

Thanks to the folks who have renewed their dues for 2022/2023. The membership now stands at 240 households (422 members), including 8 new memberships since May. This is a friendly reminder that payment is past due for the 49 members who have not renewed yet for this year. Don't miss getting listed in the next directory.

We appreciate our new members and want to list them so existing members can reach out and welcome them to the association. The following are new members since May 2022.

Jim & Rebecca Bultman	Tim & Sharon O'Connor
Jeff Gwillim	Tom O'Mara
Stuart & Eleanor Hartger	Dave & Nancy Peterson
Gigi Mitchell	Dan & Jennifer Sheehan

WATER QUALITY

Pat Hooyman, new committee chair, reported PLA member Tim Cole is a newly trained and enthusiastic member of the water sampling team. Each water test requires a boat driver, two sample collectors, and a car driver to bring the samples to either Muskegon or Grand Rapids. Currently we are in need of several car drivers for testing scheduled on August 11, September 15 and September 20. If you are available and willing to participate this way in the work of the PLA, please contact Pat Hooyman by email (ahoymon1@gmail.com) or by phone (713-825-1785). We now have water sampling reports compiled dating back to 1974 thanks to Conley Bowling, a former Pentwater teacher who collected data with his chemistry students that many years ago.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Invasive plant management updates

- 1) Frogbit has been identified floating from the marsh into the lake. When you spot it on the lake, lift it and dry it out for removal. A 4 member EGLE team mapped and collected frogbit on June 30 in the marsh.
- 2) Starry Stonewort has been slow to grow until now in mid-July. A lake survey will be run on July 18th to plan for harvesting dates for starry stonewort removal from the lake before homecoming.
- 3) No chemical treatment was done in June up to the middle of July as aquatic growth is 3 weeks behind last year.

Progress in other PLA activities

- 1) Restoration of Big Sandy Bend Erosion project is in the study and gathering facts stage. Gathering data is under way on Turtle use of the area and explaining wood design for the toe of the rollaway is being figured.
- 2) The wooden bridge over the north branch below Erickson's Bridge on Hammett Road has been removed by the owner. This allows for canoes, kayaks and boats to freely pass.

Joe Primozych reports a black bear has been spotted on the south side of the lake and a cougar has been spotted on the north side of the lake.

Summary of the 26th Annual PLA Meeting

The *PLA 26th Annual Meeting and Social* was held Friday, June 17, at Park Place. There were 60 members in attendance who enjoyed boxed meals provided by the Antler Bar and boxed desserts provided by Green Isaac's prior to the business meeting and the guest speakers. President Pat Hooyman introduced current board members and past presidents in attendance. Minutes from the 2021 annual meeting were approved. Treasurer Rich Pugsley and committee chairs gave brief reports. Board members elected for 3-year terms beginning this month were Kelie Bond (new to the board), Rich Pugsley (2nd 3-year term), and George Richey (former board member returning to first term as president).

Betty Pleva introduced Brandon Macher, the Pentwater High School student who won the PLA speech contest. He gave an excellent illustrated presentation on *Invasive Species*. Following that, Hooyman introduced Jon Beard, Director at Public Sector Consultant and Manager of the Great Lakes Fishery Resources. Beard's presentation title was *Investing in Lake Michigan's Fishery Resources*. He provided a wealth of interesting information about the history, projects and

goals of the Great Lakes Fishery which was begun to restore and protect fish after the fish kills caused by the installation of the Ludington power plant. Beard answered many questions from the audience.

The meeting concluded with the door prize raffle. Caroline Denlar was thanked for her work on organizing the member packets for the meeting and procuring the door prizes. Beth Provencal, Janet Strahan and Lynne Cavazos were also thanked for serving on the event committee.



PLA Board: Front row L-R: Kelie Bond (new), Pat Hooyman (retiring president), Lynne Cavazos (completing Janet Strahan's term), Beth Provencal (secretary), Dr. Ross Feltes. Back row L-R: Rich Pugsley (treasurer), Tom Walter (vice-president), George Richey (president), Joan Menke-Schaenzer. Missing: Dan Selahowski

DNR News: Lake Michigan experiencing seasonal alewife die-off

Posted June 22, 2022

People walking alongside the channel and seeing multiple small white fish floating on the surface of the water were overheard to exclaim, "Look at all the minnows!" They would be wrong. Read the following article to learn what is happening.

Alewife, small prey fish that reach 2 to 9 inches in length, are experiencing a seasonal die-off in Lake Michigan, an event that frequently occurred 20 to 60 years ago but has been rare in recent times. Not native to the Great Lakes, alewife migrated from the Atlantic Ocean into the Great Lakes through the Welland Canal in the 1920s.

Alewife spend most of the year in deep, cold waters. In the spring and summer, they migrate to nearshore areas to spawn and search for food. Some alewife come out of winter in a weakened state and don't tolerate changing conditions such as large temperature swings. The combination of poor over-winter condition, temperature changes and spawning stress cause the die-off.

"The die-off is larger than normal this year and something we have not seen in years," said Jay Wesley, Lake Michigan basin coordinator for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. "We are seeing the die-off extend from Muskegon all the way up to Cross Village and out to the Beaver Island complex."



The DNR is fully aware of the situation and believes this is a natural event and not caused by pollution or disease. Both state and federal agencies annually collect alewife to evaluate their condition and abundance in Lake Michigan.

For more information on the die-offs (also known as fish kills) in Michigan, visit Michigan.gov/FishHealth. The public is welcome to report fish kills at Michigan.gov/EyesInTheField; such reports are valuable to the DNR's ability to manage the state's aquatic resources. If you suspect a fish kill is due to non-natural causes, call the nearest DNR office of Michigan's Pollution Emergency Alert System at 800-292-4706. If you have any questions, you can contact Jay Wesley, Lake Michigan Basin Coordinator, Fisheries Division, 616-490-5090.

Pentwater Lake Association (PLA) - Hosts a Landing Blitz for Clean Boats Clean Waters

The Aquatic Invasive Species Landing Blitz is a collaborative campaign with the state to raise awareness about preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species through recreational boating and related activities. This year's Landing Blitz was held on July 17, 2022, from 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM at the Village Launch on Lake St., the 90-degree Launch on Longbridge Rd., and the North Branch River Launch on Monroe Rd.

Members of the Pentwater Lake Association Board talked with 87 boaters in motorboats, kayaks, jet skis and inflatable boats about preventing the introduction and spread of aquatic invasive species from the movement of watercraft and equipment between bodies of water. (See bottom of page 8 for a boat diagram that illustrates boat inspection and cleaning tips.) *Landing Blitz article continues across the page, bottom of page 5.*

What a Difference a Year Makes by Tom Walter

Things change fast and it's no different when you live on the lake. Last year we got our first weed treatment on June 8th. This year we didn't even have any weeds on June 8th. I struggled to find enough weeds to display at the Annual Meeting. Shortly there after Progressive Lake Management did their pre-treatment weed survey and decided their wasn't enough to treat. Now the survey is planned for a second look on July 18th. I suspect we will find some areas that will benefit from treating.

It was 2 years ago, with near peak water levels that frog-bit was out of control in the marsh. Rafts of frog-bit and large clumps of cattails came floating out of the marsh looking for another place to live. We rallied and raked up a bunch and put a floating boom under the bridge to stop and collect frog-bit. The next year, last year, The Michigan Department of Environment Greatlakes and Energy wouldn't give us a permit to put up the boom we used the fall before. But then the Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area partner, from Ottawa County, sprayed herbicide in the marsh which knocked it back real hard. There is still some around but not a lot. You would worry about spray harming the fish but this spring's bluegill bite from Longbridge Road was lights out. They were eating bugs. Go figure. What a difference a year makes.

Last year and the year before the water level was at its peak. People were sump pumping and adding boards to their sea walls. Storms were wrecking the boards as fast as they went up. Flotsam was abundant on the small beach. Suddenly the water drops 18", the pumps could quit or slow down, and the beaches grew. Now the channel is full of sand and the beaches are large. Big time drifting sand blowing across the beaches is adding to the sand problem in the channel. What next? Things change fast.

Only a few years ago Eurasian milfoil was our problem non-native vegetation. Personally I think we over treated. The fish habitat took a hit and panfishing declined seriously so we backed off on the herbicide. The panfish are coming back but here comes Starry Stonewort. We are just learning about what to do with that. Then it's Frogbit. Now that seems headed the right direction. It appears the cool early summer has discriminated against Starry Stonewort and delayed any treatments. I think that all has favored our native aquatic vegetation. What can you do? Things change fast. Let's be happy. The channel is dredged. The sump pumps have stopped. The panfish are back. The native vegetation caught a break. Treatments have been delayed and Frog-bit is trending in a positive direction. What a difference a year makes. Even the stinky dead alewife are gone.

The following messages were shared with boaters at each of the launch sites by PLA members.



- "Clean, Drain, Dry" and "Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers!"
- Clean Boats & Clean Water Program Information.
- Boat washing & equipment decontamination procedures.
- Information & pictures of the invasive weeds in Pentwater Lake.

Remember: Clean, Drain, and Dry and Proper Bait Disposal is now the LAW!

Pictured left: Board members Kelie Bond, Beth Provencal and Lynne Cavazos staffing one of the blitz sites.

Score the Shore Update by Tom Walter

The Score the Shore effort has begun. There are 28 one-thousand-foot-sections to score after they have been delineated and GPS points collected. It starts slow, but when one gets the hang of it, it moves along a little faster. Remember this is a standardized set of survey information that will be combined with data from other lakes around the state. This gives the state a larger data base to show the condition of the shorelines of Michigan's lakes. It also shows what good shoreline stewardship elements are valued, thereby raising the score. While completing the survey, one becomes aware of our shortcomings. Ideas begin to kindle about how to make improvements to the shoreline and what other information members might be interested in.

The survey, like most others, stratifies data. That means ranges are established to facilitate observation and provide statistical simplicity. However, it is not very satisfying to learn that your 1000' section has between 25% & 75% vertical hardened shoreline. I think folks would like to know a more specific percentage. I think we will collect a little more data to give more specific answers, but that will take more time. We have been thinking about an annual boat count of



moored boats at a specified date every year. No good reason; just a point of interest. The survey counts docks on the shoreline but not the number of boats on the dock or in marinas. Some docks have 1 while others have several. It is a shoreline survey but other info comes begging. I also would like to know how much native shoreline we have - not a range like less than 10% or between 10% & 25%. I am thinking some specific numbers. And some pictures would enhance our knowledge of lake use.

In the meantime we are pretty sure folks aren't excited about changing from steel wall to rock, or just removing steel or rock. What could be considered is adding some shoreline, unmowed, natural vegetation. It wouldn't look bad in a strip along the edge of your wall. How about the idea of adding some wood structure like a fallen tree or some submerged logs? They could be placed according to the uses and availability of space. It doesn't necessarily have to be cut from your property or be paid for by you. Grants might be a possibility. We are just thinking at this point. Please think along with us. Somebody must be willing to improve the score of our shore *for the Love of the Lake*.

Beware – E15 to be sold during the summer months as a way to lower fuel prices.

Many boaters don't know that E15 gasoline (fuel blended with 15% ethanol) destroys engines in a wide range of commonly used consumer products, including boats, generators, and lawnmowers. It is against federal law to use E15 in these engines, but 85% of consumers are unaware that is illegal to do so and that it will void any engine warranties. In



fact, 3 in 5 consumers mistakenly assume that E15 is safe for all their products and say the current E15 warning labels are inadequate. The Michigan Boating Industry Association (MBIA) is supporting the **Consumer Protection and Fuel Transparency Act** as it moves through Congress. The Act would require better labeling and consumer education on the correct fuel choices. Until proper labeling is in place, please help educate those who purchase fuel in your household that Ethanol-free fuel, commonly called Rec Fuel, is the best choice for your boat.

A (Sometimes) Leaky Boat by AnnaMae Bush

Several years ago while taking my daily walk to the south pier lighthouse, I was startled to see a wooden boat in someone's front yard that was leaking water from multiple places. I thought to myself, "Who would ever dare to enter the water in a boat that leaked like a sieve?" It was still leaking the next day and I questioned the owner who stood nearby. He explained it was the only way to make the boat seaworthy. Each year before launching the boat, he had to fill it with water and let the water drip out. The lapstrake design of the boat consisted of overlapped boards held together with copper rivets which created countless openings for water to enter the boat. By filling the boat with water while it was drydocked, the boards would swell from the moisture and eliminate space for water to enter the boat once it was introduced to the lake.



Frode Maaseidvaag's 22' long wooden boat was built in Norway in 1964 and is typical of fishing boats still built there today. When Maaseidvaag purchased the boat in 1986, it was badly damaged. He and his son Lars spent five years completing a total rebuild and refinishing of the launch, finally able to use it in 1991. A Master Wooden Boat Builder came all the way to Michigan from Flekkefjord, Norway for two weeks to assist the Maaseidvaags with their restoration project. The boat's name is Nokken, which translates to "fresh water troll." I asked, "Oh, you mean those imaginary funny creatures that live under bridges?" With a sly smile Maaseidvaag replied, "What do mean 'imaginary'?"



Once filled with water in the spring, the Nokken can take a full week to drip dry. Additional annual maintenance includes sanding and repainting the bottom of the boat at the end of each boating season. Even with one's eyes closed it is possible to know when the Nokken is on the lake. It has a distinctive "putt-putt" noise that I find charming. The unusual sound is created by a Sabb one cylinder 10 hp diesel engine. Combined with a unique windshield and the display of both American and Norwegian flags, the Nokken is a memorable sight.

Boats like the Nokken are rare in North America. For some years they were built in Traverse City by Chip Stulen who had become fascinated with them when he was a foreign exchange student in Norway. He returned to Michigan and began constructing lapstrake launches like the Nokken as well as row boats and a sail boat. But he retired from it and now lives in Vermont. We are fortunate to have this rare vessel on Pentwater Lake! See it August 27 at the Wooden Boat Show & Parade, PYC, 10-4
Right — Frode Maaseidvaag and his boat.



The Lake Drummer by Joe Primozych

You may wonder, “What drummer? The Civic Band drummer?” And I would answer “No.” You may continue to ask questions like ...”Why is there drumming on the lake? How is lake drumming done? Can humans hear lake drumming? Why does lake drumming happen only in the summer? Does drumming occur in all Michigan lakes?” I would be happy to answer all these questions. It is a curious phenomenon. Just read on.

This drumming is common to all freshwater lakes of Central and North America. The fish responsible for this drumming are the freshwater drum or sheepshead. The grunting or drumming noise is from the male who vibrates muscles against his swim bladder. It is assumed that he tries to attract females for spawning from May to August in the lakes. Spawning is done in open water with eggs laid freely which can float to the surface. Drum size averages 5-15 lbs. with the world record from Tennessee at 54 lbs. 6 oz. Drum are long-lived and can reach the age of 74. The average age is 6-13 years. In the Mississippi River they are commercially fished at the rate of 300,000 lbs. a year. The popularity has grown so much that during the last week of June a drum

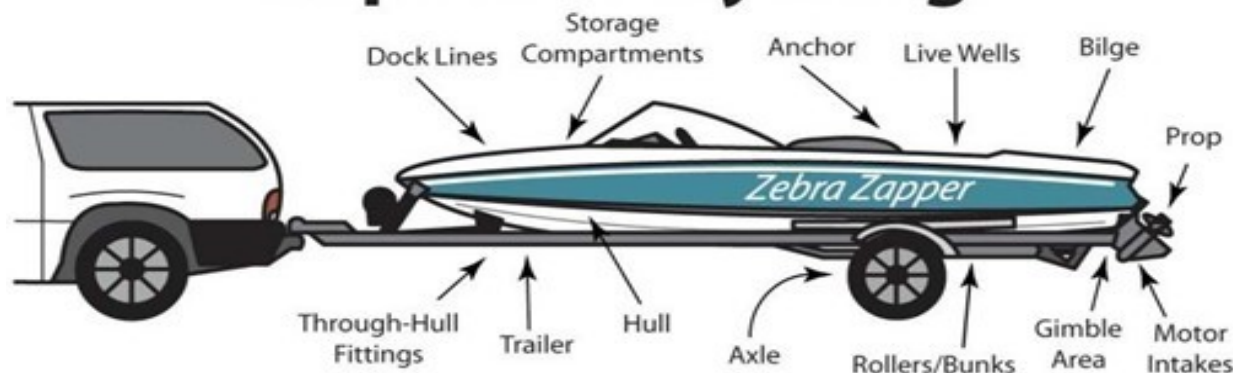


(sheepshead) annual tournament is held on the Pentwater pier. It is run by a local fishing enthusiast named Andy Krueger. The 19th annual tournament was a big success this year. Twenty-seven fish were netted and weighed. Four species caught; two were pike and two were large-mouth bass. Of the 9 drum caught, a 4.6lbs. fish won—caught by a first-time participant. The tournament starts on a Sunday night at 6pm and ends when everyone has rotated to all the stations. Donated business prizes are awarded, and all fish are released. So, Pentwater Lake is a drum (sheepshead) destination and that is why all the lake drumming is occurring this summer.

Boat inspection and cleaning tips

The diagram illustrates the important locations to check during an inspection for aquatic species.

Before leaving and before launching...
inspect everything!



Pentwater Sportfishing Association by Dean Jessup, PSA President

The 2022 Memorial Weekend Derby results are in, and the 35 boats entered enjoyed a great weekend of fishing, with the listed winners dividing up over \$6000 in awards value, along with consolation prizes for all others.

Grand Prize: 25.4 # King Salmon – ‘Afternoon Delite’– DeWayne Samuels, Ludington, MI



OTHER PLACE WINNERS

	<u>King Salmon</u>	<u>Lake Trout</u>	<u>Steelhead Trout</u>
1st	Bar J – 18.6# Cody Ascombe–Scottville, MI	Tuna Time – 15.35# Shawn Dickinson–Rothbury, MI	Highway Man – 10.7# Darryl Highway - Shelby, MI
2nd	Fish Eagle - 18.5#	Lake Effect – 14.65#	Gray Fin – 10.0#
3rd	Highway Man – 17.7# Darryl Highway – Shelby, MI	Fish Eagle – 8.45# Steve Sauser - Hart, MI	Lake Effect – 8.75# Steve Romsek – Coopersville, MI
4th	Suite 31 – 17.1# Dan Callahan – Richmond, MI	Bar J – 6.8# Cody Ascombe – Scottville, MI	Bar J – 8.5# Cody Ascombe - Scottville, MI
5th	Seeker – 16.65# Andy Lampela - Saginaw, MI	Dean’s Dream – 3.60# Dean Jessup – Pentwater	Breakaway– 7.9# David Vanderveen – Granger, IN
6th	Desperado – 16.3# Jeff King - Pentwater	Quicker – 3.55# Floyd Kersting – Muskegon, MI	Tuna Time – 6.75# Shawn Dickinson – Rothbury, MI

Pentwater Events Calendar- August through October

- Aug 6 COVE 5K/10K Beach Walk/Run - State Park –8:30am
- Aug. 6 Youth Trout & Salmon Fishing Tournament - PSA
- Aug 11- 14 Pentwater Homecoming Celebration
- Aug 11 Strawberry Shortcake Sale – Village Green – 6pm till GONE!
- Aug 11 Les Bailey Memorial Band Concert - Village Green - 7:30pm
- Aug 12 Sand Sculpture Contest – State Park 8am
- Aug 13 Homecoming Grand Parade – 4pm
- Aug 13 Big Ten Tailgate Party - Tent Behind Village Pub - Noon
- Aug.14 Homecoming Fireworks at Dusk – Mears State Park
- Aug 23-27 Oceana County Fair - Hart Fairgrounds
- Aug 27 Wooden Boat Show & Parade – PYC 10 am - 4 pm
- Aug 26-27 Annual Merchants' Pentwater Sidewalk Sale



Sept 16-17 **Glow in the Park Luminous Trail – Mears State Park at Dusk**

Experience a magical walk in the park 9-11pm each day.

Sept 22 Harvest Day – Pentwater Farmer's Market – VG 10-1pm

Sept 24-25 **30th Annual Fall Festival Arts & Crafts & Antique Fair on the Village Green**

Saturday 10-5, Sunday 10-3

Oct 1-2 Fall Volunteer Weekend – Mears State Park – 9am

Oct 8 **Oktoberfest: Games, Auction, Chili/Streusel Bake-off.** Pentwater's Annual Oktoberfest offers a variety of Activities for all ages and many interests. It is an event everyone looks forward to ...don't miss all the Festivities. Live music, seasonal beverages, yard games and food trucks. Village Café & Pub provide music and activities ALL DAY.

Oct 8 Classic Car and Hot Rod Show, Stout Stumble 5K Walk & Run

Oct 8 COVE Home Tour 10-4

Oct 29 **Halloween Spooktacular - Village Green and Merchant Trick-or-Treating 12-2 pm.** This event creates a fun, safe way for families to celebrate the holiday. Included are a costume party, treat bags, kid games, pumpkin painting, face painting, a Parade, and a spooky scavenger hunt—all on main street.

Oct 29 Recycling Center closes at Transfer Station.

Nov: Transfer Station open Saturdays 5, 12, 19 in November for Leaves and Brush only.

Pentwater Homecoming Schedule August 11-14th

Homecoming Sponsor – Shelby State Bank & Gale's Agency Grand Parade Sponsor – Cosmic Candy Company

THURSDAY, AUGUST 12

- 10AM – 1PM Pentwater Farmers Market Village Green
- 6PM PLA STRAWBERRY SHORTCAKE SOCIAL on Village Green
- 7:30PM LES BAILEY MEMORIAL CONCERT - Pentwater Civic Band & The Scottville Clown Band Concert on the Village Green

FRIDAY, AUGUST 12

- 8AM-12PM SAND SCULPTURE CONTEST - Charles Mears State Park.

Sponsor: Pentwater Service Club Theme: Pentwater: *Life is Better at the Lake*

- 1PM STORY TELLING AT STORYBOOK VILLAGE
- 1PM MASON/OCEANA COUNTY MSU ALUMNI GOLF OUTING - Lakeside Links Golf
- 8:30PM SUNSET GLOW YOGA - Charles Mears State Park, \$15 to participate



SATURDAY, AUGUST 13

- 12PM PYC ENSIGN RACE- Pentwater Yacht Club
- 12PM-8PM BIG TEN PRESEASON TAILGATE PARTY - Behind Village Café
- 1PM HORSESHOE TOURNAMENT- Audrey Horseshoe Pits
- 2PM REGISTRATION AND LINE UP FOR THE GRAND PARADE
- 4PM GRAND PARADE - Grand Marshal: Ron Beeber and Amy LaBarge
- DUSK FIREWORKS DISPLAY- Charles Mears State Park over Lake Michigan

SUNDAY, AUGUST 14

- 8AM-12PM VFW PANCAKE BREAKFAST- Pentwater VFW Hall
- Sunday WORSHIP SERVICES

9AM St. James Episcopal Church

9AM & 10:30AM First Baptist Church

9:30AM Centenary United Methodist on the Village Green

Saturday 4:00 PM and Sunday 10:30AM St. Vincent's Catholic Church

6PM – JAZZ AT GULL LANDING

PM MOVIES ON THE GREEN – MAMA MIA!

IT'S ALL ABOUT SAFETY.....

Blocked Passage - A Sailor's Nightmare

(as told by Tim Simon, County Marine Officer, to Joe Primozich)

Pentwater Harbor has been cursed with shallow water this year as Lake Michigan water levels began going down. It not only showed a seasonal drop this year but managed to have its lake level drop over 3 feet. For a channel that collects blowing sand 6 months of the year, the low water level startled people when it reached 5 feet deep.

A storm was building on June 25 with waves reaching 4 feet. A passing 40' sailboat turned its bow toward Pentwater to gain safe harbor. As it approached the north pier and its 6-foot sand bar, the sailboat's 7-foot keel slammed aground and the boat heeled over. The worst scenario faced the skipper as he radioed for help.

The Pentwater Lake Marine Officer was notified along with the Coast Guard as the officer was in the Muskegon area. The skipper struggled with the boat as it was pounded by the wave action on the third sand bar. The Ludington Coast Guard said that the matter was not one for which they would come down, but they would monitor it. The decision on what to do was left up to local resources. The Pentwater Lake Marine Officer, Tim Simon, arrived from Muskegon, readied his boat, and started out into the channel.

The lake was unrelenting, and he could see the crew on deck were taking a beating. The waves left the sailboat rocking dangerously and Officer Simon knew his boat could not safely get a line out to them to pull the sailboat off the sand bar. The troughs between the waves left only three feet of water on the shoal or sand bar. The next plan was to talk the skipper and crew into helping themselves. Simon instructed them to throw the anchor out with the wind and pull the bow around so it would tip the sailboat to lift its keel off the sand bar. The crew tossed the anchor with the wind and the work started. The task was repeated again and again until on the seventeenth pull the keel popped loose and the boat headed off the sand bar and turned north to Ludington, a safe harbor.

In the concluding conversation the skipper said he saw on June 15 that the channel was dredged. No, that memo really read that the money for the channel dredging was approved. The dredging is actually scheduled to be finished in mid- July. So, the skipper learned a tough lesson. Special thanks to officer Simon for looking out for the safety of others. Also, thanks to Dave Bluhm and the dredging committee for all their work to make our port a safe harbor by getting the channel dredged. Pentwater is a safer place for all their efforts. If you see these people, let them know you appreciate their efforts.

Channel Dredging Update

When asked for an update on this summer's channel dredging, village manager Chris Brown replied, "Dredge progress is going great. Yes we are in good shape, the low spots have all been completed, they are working on the widening the flare at the mouth (out in the lake) and touching up a few spots in the channel. They need the water calm to work, so when the wind blows up, they have to pull off. All in all, we are hoping they are wrapped up by the end of the week (July 16)."

Funding for next year has been committed and the channel dredging committee is working to find source options to provide funds for sustaining annual maintenance.

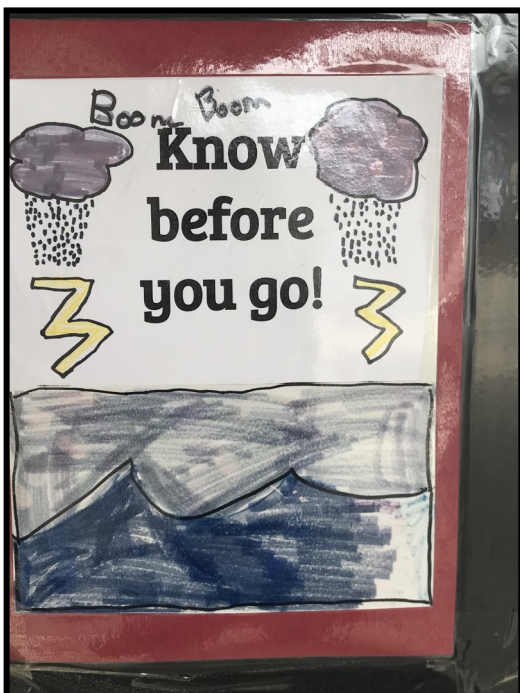


New Life Rings

It's hard to miss seeing the four bright red-orange objects that have been installed on both sides of the channel. Curious about them, I opened one to check it out. New life rings! What's the story behind them?

It all started last fall when the Oceana County Community Foundation published its wish list from area charities and organizations. One item listed for the Village of Pentwater was new life rings. Some civic minded residents decided to fulfill that wish and donated the

funds requested. Why these particular rings? Chris Brown states, "These rings have weather proof enclosures; the old rings would set out in the weather and needed to be replaced more often. These are much more visible and stand out better should the need arise. They also are less susceptible to tampering. There are now 4 placed along the channel, two on each side. We are grateful for the donations made for the purchase of these." Originally the request was made for two rings, one for each side of the channel. But when both were mistakenly installed on one side, the donors generously paid for two more. Regarding their gift they said, "They are quite visible and we feel especially good about this contribution as it increases safety on both the north and south piers. And it sort of makes a statement to the community and visitors that 'The Village of Pentwater cares about your safety.'"



New law prohibits water access from a state-managed beach when risks are present. New Law Applies to Both State Managed Great Lakes and Inland Lake Beaches.

In an ongoing effort to create more protections for visitors on state-managed lands, **Land Use Order 5.1.6** now prohibits people from accessing the water from a state-managed beach when risks to human health and safety are present. This includes situations like active rescue/recovery efforts, severe weather events identified by the National Weather Service, waves more than 8 feet high, water contamination and unsafe debris washing ashore. Such closures will be publicized via on-site signage and/or communication by a DNR employee, such as an announcement over a loudspeaker.

News Bytes by AnnaMae Bush

Tacos for Trails

Wonderful weather greeted the bicyclists, runners and walkers who participated in the Tacos & Trek for the Pentwater-Hart Trail on June 25. Volunteers served over 200 tacos to the participants and the residents who purchased them in support of the trail project. Senator Jon Bumstead stopped by to underscore the economic importance of the Pentwater-Hart Trail for our larger community. Including the support of event sponsors, and with some funds still coming in, Dr. Claudia Ressel-Hodan estimates a sum of \$6,000 was earned for the Trail.



Wireworks Building

The lease held by Wireworks on the large green commercial building downtown expired. They have moved out and the rumors have been flying about what will happen with the property. Chris Brown reported, "There has been no change of ownership record within our village office. As soon as we get official word, we would make a statement." *Stay tuned.....*

Pentwater Sculpture Walk

Thanks to the collaborative efforts of the Pentwater Arts Council and the Downtown Development Authority, we have a new attraction for residents and visitors. Five colorful sculptures have been installed in the Village for visual enjoyment and educational value. A booklet with information about each piece and questions & activities for children and parents is available at several merchants' stores. A cash prize will be awarded to the sculptor whose work garners the most votes. You can vote with your phone by clicking on the QR code at any installation. A list of the 5 sculptures will appear and you choose whichever piece you like best.

Pentwater Artisan Center Celebrates 20th Anniversary

Visitors and any residents who have not taken time to tour the Artisan Center on Park Street would be awestruck to see the scope of the offerings at the facility. Tools, materials, and expertise are available to members who want to work in the wood and metal shop, jewelry making, painting, pottery, weaving, basket making, stained glass, glass fusing and slumping. Approximately 250 members pay \$150/yr for membership and the privilege of unlimited use of the facility and the opportunity to learn any skill of their choice. The vision of one person, Gene Davidson, twenty years ago has now become a beloved treasure for the entire Village and beyond. Rarely empty, the facility normally buzzes with noise of the woodshop equipment and the conversations of the artists at work. Members band together for joint projects, such as furnishings for the new Yacht Club building. Stop in some time for inspiration. Thank Gene for his incredible gift to us.

Park Place Community Center in State-wide Competition

Pentwater's beautiful renovated community center, Park Place, is competing for a Community Excellence Award. This annual coveted distinction is the most prestigious Michigan Municipal League community honor. Already accepted as one of 14 entries from across the state, it now faces a small voting board selection of the four finalists. The final four projects will be presented at the CEA Convention in Muskegon, October 19-21. The winner takes home a trophy and "bragging rights." Thanks go to Dr. Claudia Ressel-Hodan for submitting the application and bringing heightened visibility to our community.

PENTWATER LAKE ASSOCIATION

"For the Love of the Lake"

P.O. Box 825, Pentwater, MI 49449



Membership Application Date _____ New _____ Renewal _____

Member Applicant Name _____ Spouse _____

Local Address: Street _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Mailing Address: Street _____

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

Email Address: _____

How to send your newsletter: Email _____ Hard Copy via USPS _____

Dues: Yearly Family Membership (one vote), from July 1st through June 30th \$ 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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PENTWATER GREEN SCHOOL CLUB

By Erika Fatura, Green Club Advisor



Students from Mason and Oceana counties participated in an Agriscience Everywhere camp this week. It was a fantastic opportunity sponsored by the West Shore ESD. We were able to use the West Michigan Research Station as our classroom, which is an amazing facility! Students learned about Agriscience careers, extracted DNA from strawberries, talked to a large animal vet, made beeswax lip balm, constructed an origami flower, dissected a chicken egg and planted seeds in a “farming in a glove” activity. On the last day, we traveled to West Shore Community College where the agriscience instructor from CTE (Career and Technical Education), Mark Willis, took us through many activities. The students played with baby chickens, toured the campus, studied pond ecology and harvested carrots, cucumbers, kale, lettuce and potted tomato plants. It was a fantastic opportunity for the students to learn about agriscience in a hands-on way.



Above: Students using nets to take samples of the pond to look for tadpoles, frogs, fish and macro-invertebrates.