

Pentwater Lake Association Newsletter

February 2022

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President's Message: Patrick Hooyman

Safety on the Lake

Winter is really here, and I hope everyone is warm and looking forward to a safe 2022. As I sit in my warm house and admire the ice fisherman on the lake, I often think "I hope they stay safe out there".

We do not usually think of the Pentwater Lake Association (PLA) as a safety organization but that is one of our stated purposes in both our by-laws and articles of incorporation ("the furtherance of public health, safety and welfare"). To this end the PLA has programs to provide free life vests to the public and signage promoting safe boating practices at our boat ramps.

Usually when I think of the lake I think of its beauty and the fun we have on it and not of safety concerns, but every once in a while, I am reminded that the water can be an unforgiving environment. Some of the articles in this issue remind us about that.

The shoaling of the channel causes larger surf type waves at the channel entrance which can be very dangerous to boats and can damage some boats by bouncing them on the bottom as they enter the channel. I once had a 26-foot sailboat rotated 180 degrees while entering the channel and I've come to respect the power of the surf here. The threat of the channel shoaling over and what we all can do to address this is in an excellent article in this newsletter.

Recently I saw the value of monitoring the marine radio VHF Channel 16 while sailing and the danger of only depending on cell phones. An article in this newsletter describes the incident and I hope we all monitor channel 16 while boating – especially on the big lake. We may also need to explore creating a cell phone tree of volunteer boaters to help fill the gaps that occur when the coast guard is unavailable.

These are just a few of the things we can do to make 2022 a safer year. There are many others including being careful on the ice, taking boating safety classes, wearing lifejackets etc. This year let's make it a safe one on the water.



COMMITTEE REPORTS

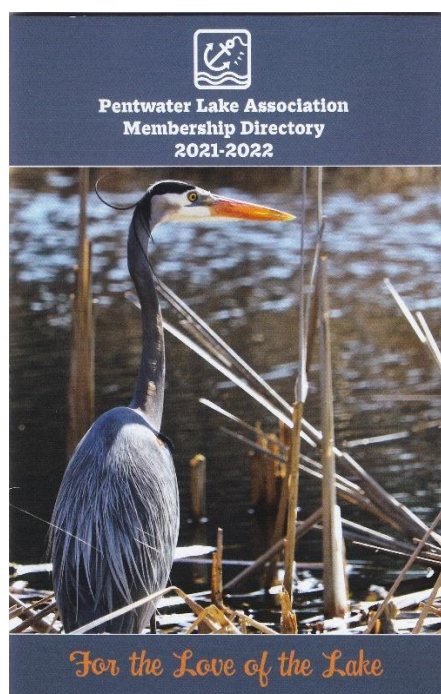
SOCIAL COMMITTEE by Lynne Cavazos

Join us for the two major social events, hosted by the Pentwater Lake Association (PLA), scheduled to take place in person this year. We will keep you updated on any changes if there are any COVID restrictions in place.

Please SAVE the dates:

- Annual PLA meeting and Social - Friday, 6/17/22 at Park Place in Pentwater.
- Strawberry Shortcake Social Fundraiser (Village Green - Pentwater Homecoming) - Thursday, 8/11/22

MEMBERSHIP by Rich Pugsley



Another winter has come and with it the new PLA Directory. The 2021/22 Directory was mailed out to all 231 of our members in January. **Welcome to the 18 new members in the directory.**

Thanks to Lynne Cavazos and Caroline Denlar for another great directory.

If you did not receive your directory, or you need to request a change to our records please contact me at richpugsley1@netscape.net

On another note, any memberships dues paid (normally in May/June) will now be applied to the 2022/2023 membership year.

Please mention us to your Pentwater friends and encourage them to join by going to the PLA website.

WATER QUALITY: Grant News Regarding Invasive Species

Emily Grasch, Executive Director of the Muskegon Conservation District, sent the following information to the PLA Board and asked that it be shared with the PLA membership. It has been shared on our Facebook page and is repeated below for our readers.

The Muskegon Conservation District has partnered with the Ottawa Conservation District and has been awarded funds from the Michigan Invasive Species Grant Program (MISGP). Funding will be used to treat phragmites for public and private landowners living on Pentwater Lake and Pentwater River. The Muskegon Conservation District is compiling a list of landowners for treatments for the 2022 field season. Those who are interested in having their properties treated please contact Chelsey Wabsis at chelsey.wabsis@macd.org, or call the Muskegon Conservation District office at (231) 828-5097 for more information.

NATURAL RESOURCES by Joe Primozich

The first fishers this season on the new ice were out on just a half inch of skim ice. The five were eager and ever searching for their first catch. You see, at the east end of the lake **five** bald eagles realized their opportunity to find a meal caught in skim ice. Two adults were showing three immature young of the year how to scavenge freshly frozen carrion at the ice edge. The show will be repeated throughout the winter so keep your eye on the open water edge. (Photo of young eagle with fish on ice)



Two Lake Water Testing Positions Open by Joe Primozich

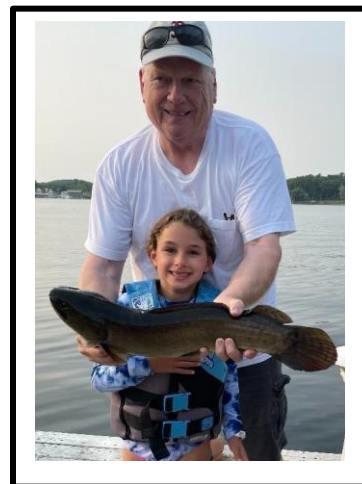
The PLA has two volunteer positions that need to be filled. The openings begin in April of 2023, but the training would start this summer. Here are the details.

The first position involves learning how to take samples 4X/year of Total Phosphorous and Chlorophyll A. The sampling is run by the state Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program. By registering with them, volunteers are trained at the annual Michigan Lakes and Streams Conference on May 6 and 7 at Crystal Mountain. The PLA pays for the training. Samples are scheduled for delivery to the Grand Rapids office twice a summer.

The second position is helping the three-person water sampling team to take samples 4x/year from six river and lake sites for the GVSU Annis Research Center in Muskegon. Training is done by PLA staff on our lake as we sample. Upon the completion of the sampling, the samples are directly delivered to Muskegon. If you are interested in this important work, please contact Joe Primozich, 231-742-6339.

David Rose Remembrance – Youth Fishing Tournament by Rich Pugsley

This fall we lost one of our PLA members, Dave Rose. Dave loved to fish and hunt and enjoyed fishing with his grandchildren and entering their catches in the PLA Youth Fishing Tournament. The excitement and fun the kids had catching the fish and seeing their pictures on the PLA website prompted Dave to make a special donation to support the fishing tournament. As an indication of the deep enjoyment Dave received, the family asked that a part of his memorial donations be made to the PLA Youth Fishing Tournament. It is their wish that members of the lake community, both young and old, continue to receive the enjoyment of watching our children and grandchildren feel the excitement of accomplishing something new and the confidence and memories that it engenders. (Photo of Dave and his granddaughter, courtesy of the family.)



The wish is being fulfilled. So far, we have received sufficient donations to fund the Youth Fishing Tournament for another ten years. We thank the family for thinking of the lake and the contributions from the family and their friends. If you have not looked at the fishing tournament pictures on the PLA website, it is a great way to warm your heart on a winter's day.

A “Good Samaritan” Rescue Story – by AnnaMae Bush

(Why should boaters monitor VHF 16?) It was a beautiful November day to head out to Lake Michigan. Patrick and Diana Hooyman and their daughters Amalia and Maggie decided to enjoy the day with an outing on their sailboat. On the way out the channel, they heard on VHF channel 16 a Coast Guard announcement that there was a boat in distress about three miles away. Since the Hooymans were the only other boaters visible on Lake Michigan, they went to see if they could help. Their family excursion concluded with towing in some duck hunters whose boat engine had malfunctioned. The Coast Guard had told the hunters that most rescue tow boats were already pulled out of the water for the season. The closest Coast Guard tow boat in the water was in Michigan City, five hours away. That would have been a long wait!

The incident was a catalyst for several questions about winter rescues on the big lake. I looked up the Coast Guard website for some information and called the Ludington station for additional information. My call was forwarded to Coast Guard Commanding Officer at Manistee, Jesse Bruce. Bruce is responsible for all enlisted Coast Guard staff in Ludington, Frankfort, and Manistee. Grand Haven is the next closest station with an officer. Bruce provided information worth sharing.

Boaters should always keep channel VHF 16 open on their boats to monitor messages. Bruce explained it is not a Coast Guard station, but it is a distress channel that functions for boaters like 911 does on land. The Coast Guard monitors all activity on channel VHF 16. Distress calls originating in West Michigan are picked up first by the Coast Guard station in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Staff there will forward distress calls to the local Coast Guard unit closest to the distressed vehicle but will also continue to broadcast the problem on channel VHF 16 for any boaters in the area who might respond. Rescues made by nearby boaters are called “Good Samaritan” rescues.

Winter rescues are challenging for several reasons. When ice begins to build inside the tow boats’ engine compartment and threatens to crack the engine block, the Coast Guard pulls the tow boats out of the water. The Manistee station was the final one on this side of Lake Michigan to pull their boats and did so last week (January 9-15). Fortunately, Bruce reported that distress calls requiring rescues are very infrequent in the winter. Most fishermen have moved to ice fishing on inland lakes and rivers, and the Coast Guard is not responsible for rescues on rivers. Regardless, what help is available to those limited number of distressed boaters after the rescue tow boats are out of the water?

Bruce said the Coast Guard can utilize ice skiffs, like banana boats, that are inflated to float in icy water and enable rescuers to walk on solid ice to reach distressed boaters. Minus that possibility, the Coast Guard has access to helicopters in Traverse City and Detroit. But the time required for assistance to reach those in trouble carries a high risk for hypothermia to set in. Bruce said no call for help would go unanswered, but response time could be lengthy. His advice for anyone going out on Lake Michigan in winter months would be: 1) to wear clothes that can ward off hypothermia, and 2) to wear a flotation device 100% of the time.

The website of the Ludington Coast Guard, in operation since 1879, states their primary coverage area extends from Big Sable Point to Stony Lake. This area includes 35 miles of coastland and over 1,000 square miles of water. Their mission objectives are Search and Rescue, Maritime law enforcement, Homeland Security, and Ice Rescue on Lake Michigan. We are fortunate that we are so close to the Ludington station. Their orange and black boats are frequently seen in our channel and on Pentwater Lake, and their orange helicopters are often seen overhead on search and rescue missions. We are grateful for their service.

**MONITOR AND
BROADCAST
DISTRESS CALLS
ON CHANNEL
VHF 16**



Getting tied up to the rescue boat on Lake Michigan.



Being towed down the Channel by the Hooymans.

(Photos courtesy of Amalia Fernand)

PENTWATER WATERSHED UPDATES by Rich Pugsley

In 1999 the South Branch of the Pentwater River Watershed Plan was completed with the help of the Oceana County Conservation District. Some of the participants of that plan, now retired, included Joe Primozich and Tom Walter. A copy of the document can be found on the PLA website on the Information > River Management Plan page.

A walk along the North Branch in September with Ted Ehrean, who owns land on the river, showed Joe Primozich, Tom Walter and me the importance of the North Branch to the quality of Pentwater Lake. We were able to observe king salmon spawning and brown trout feeding on the salmon eggs. Ted also indicated that large numbers of steelhead also spawn in the river. This contributes to the catches of steelhead enjoyed in Pentwater Lake in the fall, 95% of which are native fish.

We were also able to observe areas of riverbank erosion that are adding excess sand into the river and threatening to cover the few gravel areas used for spawning. A short video of the north branch was taken and can be found on the PLA website on the Information > River Management Plan page.

These observations and the fact that a Watershed Management Plan has never been done on the North Branch lead a group of 8 PLA members to meet and discuss what can/should be done. We agreed to spend 2022 gathering information. The group has now grown to 12 members and goes beyond PLA membership. The group felt it was important to have a watershed group related to, but separate from, the PLA. The future will be decided after more information is gathered.

The meetings are starting with a zoom call with Mark Tenello, DNR Fisheries Biologist, on February 3rd and a meeting with Suzie Knoll, Oceana Conservation District planned for later in February. Other planned meetings include Ted Ehrean, river riparian owner, Jacob Lemon from Trout Unlimited who has been working on the White River, Michelle Martin, Oceana County Drain Commissioner, Mark Timmer, Oceana County Road Commission, and the Annis Water Research Institute in Muskegon. Anyone interested in attending these meetings should please reach out.

The West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission, WMSRDC, has informed us that a proposal has been submitted for a Great Lakes Coastal and Nearshore Habitat grant to fund the engineering and design work

on Sandy Bend. Sandy Bend is located between US 31 and Longbridge Road on the South Branch. It is a source of significant sand load into the river from an old log slide. The plan is to construct habitat along this section to stop the erosion. If this grant is approved a proposal will be submitted to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for the implementation work. Tom Walter is attending meetings that are being held to review the proposal.

Joe Primozich also learned this last week that the Oceana Parks and Recreation Commission plans to recommend the removal of the dam at the Crystal Valley County Park. The dam creates a small pond on Crystal Creek. The pond has filled in and the dam is starting to deteriorate. Crystal Creek flows into Cedar Creek which flows into the North Branch of the Pentwater River. The intent was discussed with Mark Tenello and others at the WMSRDC meeting this week.

The watershed group will continue to provide updates in future newsletters.

Photo of the North Branch of the Pentwater River.



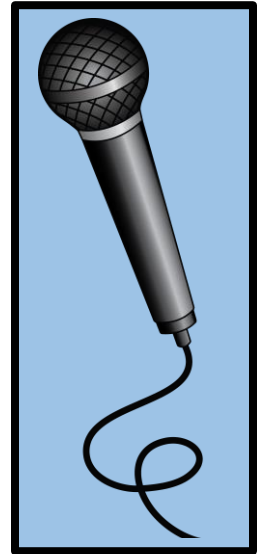
Announcing a PLA Sponsored High School Speech Contest – Keepers of Our Lakes

By Betty Pleva

Plans are progressing for the Oceana High School Speech Contest sponsored by the Pentwater Lake Association. The goal of the contest is to educate youth about the values and work necessary to keep our county lakes, rivers and water resources viable and healthy, and to encourage them to become good stewards of our local environment, ecosystems and waterways. It is open to all Oceana high school students, including those doing remote learning or who are home-schooled. Take note here how to participate.

The contest will be held March 23, 2022, 7:00pm at Park Place in Pentwater. The public is invited to attend. The title, Keepers of Our Lakes, can be divided in several subtopics that relate to the health of our water resources. Students can select from the following ideas or be creative in selecting another. The key is to address the health of our water resources and how to maintain healthy lakes, rivers and watersheds. Possible subtopics:

1. Clean your boat – clean, drain, and dry program.
2. Eco-friendly boating habits
3. Enemies of our lakes – aquatic invasive species
4. The journey of the foe: watershed run-offs from farms, fields, streams, rivers and lakes.
5. Warriors and their weapons: who are ambassadors for the health of the lakes, and what are the tools they use to help maintain and promote healthy lakes?
6. Score the shore – provide data and facts about water quality and invasive species.



Participants will be expected to present a speech that is five to ten minutes in length. Students may choose to use visual aids including posters, power point presentations or videos.

There will be three cash prizes awarded: First place is \$125.00; Second place is \$100.00; and Third place is \$75.00. All participants will receive a PLA tee shirt and a participation certificate. A panel of 4 or 5 judges will use a rubric format to objectively award points in specific areas of each speech. The contest provides an opportunity for students to build their portfolio and add to their senior resume.

The speech contest is being spearheaded by former Pentwater teacher and former PLA Board member Betty Pleva. Though no longer serving as a board member, she serves as a school liaison facilitating a relationship between the PLA and the schools. PLA board member Rich Pugsley is assisting Betty with the project, providing additional insights, ideas, and a wealth of on-line resources for the students to use. Working from the school are two Pentwater High School teachers. Rick Magrath is a seasoned English teacher who teaches speech class and has a working knowledge of the mechanisms of a speech contest. Kelly Sisung is the computer instructor for Pentwater School. She is assisting by helping students to create a short video to use as a promotional tool to invite high school students around the county to participate in the speech contest. The video is currently being produced and will be available to view by the third week in February. This presentation, dubbed “The Hook” is meant to encourage students and invite them to enter the contest.

Interested individuals seeking to enter the contest should contact Betty Pleva (bettypleva@hotmail.com), or their high school English teachers for an application. All county high school teachers were notified in November about the upcoming speech contest, and more specific application details will be sent in February with “The Hook” link. Watch the PLA Facebook page for a link to that video. **The deadline to apply is March 12, 2022.**

Mark your calendar for an educational experience on March 23, 7:00pm, at Park Place in Pentwater.

Calendar of Events:

Feb 12th & 19th - Pentwater Winterfest

Feb 19th & 20th - DNR Free Fishing Weekend

April 2nd - Township Transfer/Recycling Center Opens

(Thurs. & Sat - 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM)

April 16th - Easter on the Green - Noon

May 7th - Brews & Beats- Village Green 12PM - 5:00 PM



Winterfest in Pentwater - 2nd & 3rd Weekends of February

Get your “freeze on” in Pentwater this February. Many activities are scheduled on February 12th & 19th for you, your family, and friends. Get rid of your winter blues and come enjoy two weekends of Pentwater Winterfest designed to promote wintertime activities in the Pentwater area. This year Winterfest is sponsored by Prince & Monton, PLC.

February 1st - 19th - Pentwater Virtual Polar Dip

Participants can take the Virtual Dip anytime from February 1st - 19th. Creativity is the key - whether you run into Lake Michigan, dip into an ice-cold bath, or add a bucket of ice water to your favorite TikTok dance. Be sure to take a photo or video and share the Virtual Dip on social media (tag the Pentwater Chamber and #PolarDipPTW so the Chamber can find you).

The Virtual Polar Dip is taking place to help raise funds for organizations in Pentwater. Each participant that raises over \$50 will receive a Polar Dip shirt.

February 12th - 19th - Ice Skating Rink

Weather permitting come and enjoy ice skating at North End Park. Ice skates will be available to rent (during business hours) at the Pentwater Chamber of Commerce. With the help of the Pentwater Fire Department, an Ice Rink has been created for the public to enjoy. Grab your skates and go to the North End Park (basketball court on the north end of Wythe Street).

Saturday, February 12th

2022 Snowman Scram 5K and 1 Mile Fun Run

The 1-Mile Fun Run starts at 11:00am with the 5K Run/Walk to follow. The Start and Finish will be at the bus barn/track at the school. FEES: \$20.00 for 1 mile Fun Run and \$30.00 for 5K run/walk (virtual too) Register online at: <https://runsignup.com/Race/MI/Pentwater/SnowmanScram1MileFunRunand5KRace>

SLEDDING - Bring your family and friends to sled All Day on the Village Green.

Pentwater Pathways Open (*Weather dependent- Watch the weather to be sure there is snow.*)

Open from 12 Noon - 3PM. The public is invited to use OCCSA's adult and children's ski equipment on a FREE, FIRST COME - FIRST SERVED BASIS. For ski and trail information visit: www.opceanaski.org. REMINDER- Trailhead and Parking Area are located at Railroad Ave. and Jackson Rd, one mile from Long Bridge Rd.

Free Fishing Weekend February 19th & 20th

Saturday, February 19th

12th Annual Ryan Williams Perch Tournament

Tournament runs from 7am to 4pm. Event day registration is 7am to 10am at Pentwater Convenience Center or Port View on Hancock St. The fee is \$10 per adult or \$5 per kid (15 or younger). 100% Cash and Prize payout for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place prizes. The final weigh-in will be at Port View no later than 4pm. For more information, please contact Pentwater Convenience Center 231-869-4203 or Ryan Williams 616-617-7984.



NEW Event - Winter Farmers Market

Due to popular request, the Pentwater Chamber of Commerce is hosting a Winter Farmers Market from 10 AM - 1 PM at the Centenary United Methodist Church (82 S. Hancock St.)

Come and shop for items from your favorite Pentwater Farmers Market vendors. Enjoy local cheese, fish, soaps, baked goods, maple syrup and more!

New Event - Poker Run

From 12PM - 4PM, join Pentwater galleries and shops on a fun afternoon Poker Run. The best hand will win a basket from participating Merchants! Another great way to enjoy Pentwater's Winterfest.



April 16th - 2022 Easter on the Green

Celebrate Colleen Plummer's Easter on the Village Green.

Bring your children and family to the Village Green to meet the Easter Bunny and enjoy the egg hunt!

May 7th - 2022 Brews & Beats

Brews & Beats is a Craft Beer, Wine and Cider Festival that celebrates Michigan craft beverages and music. Guests will be able to enjoy beer, wine and cider tasting, and live music in a heated tent on the Village Green. Food trucks and yard games will also be part of the celebration. Get your tickets early - last year the event sold out before the day of the event. For more information visit: www.pentwater.org/brewsandbeats.



NOTE: Please continue to check www.pentwater.org/calendar/ or the Pentwater Chamber of Commerce social media channels

for event related updates. All event updates will be made on a month-to-month basis.

Shrinking Channel Depth Concern by Chris Conroy and David Bluhm

The Pentwater community is at risk of having very limited channel access to Lake Michigan next summer due to rapidly dropping water levels and continued sand shoaling. The US Army Corp of Engineers (USACE) has abandoned maintenance of recreational harbors and will not be dredging Pentwater Channel unless funding is appropriated. The Pentwater Village Council has been publicizing this unfolding situation and Dave Roseman has been taking channel readings which validate channel shoaling concerns. His reading in November was 6' in the two shallowest areas – the widened channel section with the wave attenuators and the sandbar west of the channel entrance, formed by onshore currents driven by strong north and northwest winds. The channel depth should be maintained to a 12' depth. The last time the channel was dredged was in 2019 using FY 2018 funds, and we could see depths of 4 – 6' this summer if water levels continue to drop. These shallow depths will seriously limit use of the port of Pentwater. Boaters will not be the only entity impacted because the traffic of sail and power boats, visiting and transient, are key contributors to the economic vitality of the Pentwater community. Our business owners depend on that traffic. (See USACE Pentwater Harbor 2021 Report p.12)

At the past three Village Council meetings and during the Village Council's workshop, the Council has addressed this topic to inform residents and boaters about the urgency of this matter. On January 12, Dave Bluhm also spoke to the Township Board to make them aware of the dire situation and to solicit their participation in a committee/taskforce. This group will consist of community stakeholders charged to address this issue and identify solutions that 1) can be implemented in the short term (2022), and 2) can help guide long-term solutions. Targeted key stakeholders include the Pentwater Village Council, the Pentwater Township Board, the Pentwater Lake Association, the Pentwater Lake Improvement Board, the Michigan DNR, the Pentwater Sportfishing Association, Patterson Marine, Snug Harbor Marina, Charlie's Marina, and the Pentwater Yacht Club. Feel free to contact the taskforce chair Dave Bluhm (Dbluhm61@gmail.com or 616-560-6373) for more details. This taskforce/committee is also working to set up a meeting with the USACE at the end of January or early February (Covid-permitting).

Immediate Things All of Us can Do to Address Current and Short-Term Needs

While it is important to **reach out** to our representatives as noted below, this alone will not address our problem in the short term. Concerned Pentwater residents need to **take further action** to keep our port open in 2022. The taskforce is actively looking at ways to fund dredging and channel maintenance, but the taskforce also needs all of us to **contribute financially** to this effort while they seek long-term sustainable solutions. The costs to dredge our channel can vary greatly but are significant. Our initial focus is dredging to keep our channel open in 2022. Cost for this could be as much as \$200-250k. A concerted effort to secure funding is needed.

You can donate through the Oceana County Community Foundation **Protect Pentwater Harbor Campaign Fund**
<https://oceanafoundation.org/give/give-now/?fundname=Protect%20Pentwater%20Harbor%20Campaign%20Services%20Fund>

Longer Term/ Ongoing Sustainability Efforts & How to Help: Write to our Federal representatives *asking for Infrastructure Bill funds to be appropriated to the USACE to address the documented Pentwater channel and structures maintenance needs.* To support this effort, the Village Administration has posted valuable information on the home page of the Village of Pentwater webpage – <https://pentwatervillage.org/> under the heading

Infrastructure Funding - Contact Your Local Representatives. It includes a link to the USACE site [Detroit District > Missions > Operations > Pentwater Harbor, MI \(army.mil\)](#) which contains 1) a Project Fact sheet detailing Project Requirements and the Consequences of Not Doing the Project, and 2) USACE Projected Budget requirements for Fiscal Years 2020, 2021 and 2022. The budgets illustrate that Pentwater channel depth is an abandoned concern and has been excluded from the last three budgets. In addition, a sample letter has been created and posted on the website with the names and contact information for our federal representatives.

Representative Bill Huizenga
2232 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
Website: <http://www.huizenga.house.gov>
Phone: 202-225-4401
Fax: 202-226-0779

Senator Debbie Stabenow
731 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Website: <http://www.stabenow.senate.gov>
Phone: 202-224-4822

Senator Gary Peters
724 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Website: <http://www.peters.senate.gov>
Phone: 202-224-6221



Current Infrastructure Funding is being made available to municipalities across the state and a grant from these funds could be used to mitigate factors that impact our channel. Watch for future information.

The time to act is now. For the sake of our entire community, please get involved.

Dave Bluhm
Taskforce Chair (Name of taskforce TBD)
Dbluhm61@gmail.com
616-560-6373

Chris Conroy
Concerned Citizen
Chconroy57@gmail.com
630-606-8301

If we dredge
it, they will
come.



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**



Pentwater Harbor, MI

Harbor Features

- Located on the east shore of Lake Michigan, 146 miles northeast of Chicago, IL and 14 miles south of Ludington, MI
- Authorization: Rivers & Harbors Acts of 2 Mar 1867, 3 Mar 1873, 5 Jul 1884, 13 Jul 1982, 2 Mar 1907
- Primary use is recreational
- Project depth is 16 feet
- Approximately 2,500 feet of maintained federal channel, between Lake Michigan and Pentwater Lake
- More than 4,000 feet of maintained piers and revetments
- The north and south harbor piers and revetments were reconstructed in 1999 and 1996, respectively. Wave attenuators were also added during reconstruction.
- Dredged material is placed along the beach as beach nourishment.
- Major stakeholders: U.S. Coast Guard, Snug Harbor Marina, Charlie's Marina, the village of Pentwater, Michigan DNR, Pentwater Yacht Club as well as other local businesses and charter boats

Project Requirements

- Historically, has required maintenance dredging of approximately 12,500 cubic yards on a near annual basis
- Maintenance dredging was completed in 2019 using FY18 funds. Approximately 20,000 cubic yards of material were removed.
- Maintenance dredging is currently required.
- Design and construction for necessary repairs of the North Revetment is currently required.
- Navigation structure maintenance is currently required.



Consequences of Not Maintaining the Project

- Loss of jobs locally
- Loss of recreational and charter fishing in the area
- Decline of recreational boating
- Significant loss of seasonal retail, marina, and village revenues as well as jobs
- Decline in local real estate values from reduced boating access

Transportation Importance

- This project serves as an important harbor of refuge and supports Lake Michigan recreational boating interests. Revenues from these activities flow into the local community, retailers, and to the marine industry.
- The local community has established a significant infrastructure around the harbor facilities that generates income from harbor users and visitors to the area.

News Bytes by AnnaMae Bush

Behind the Scenes

What a delightful view it is when one travels on Hancock Street from late November through December. The lights and other holiday decorations really dress up our streetlights, the multiple gazebos, the marina facilities, the Village entrances, and the Village Green. All that holiday décor does not show up and then disappear without a great amount of work. Who does it? I guess you could say it all started with Jack Witt who has been decorating his own Snug Harbor facilities for more than 20 years.



He slowly started adding lights and garland elsewhere: the municipal marina gazebo, the fish-cleaning station, the gazebos at the north and south entrances to the Village, the trees at the top of the Village Green, and then the large gazebo on the Village Green. When he couldn't do it by himself, he paid his employees to do it and in 2020 it required 60 person-hours to complete. Witt continued to purchase all the fresh-cut trees and other décor and the Village reimbursed him. The DDA took care of



decorating the streetlight poles. Witt estimates it takes 5 trees, 400' of garland, 125 strings of white lights, 40 red accent bulbs and 4 spotlights to decorate the Village without the light pole décor. In 2019 the DDA began paying a company to provide, install and remove all the light pole decorations. In 2021 Mary Schumaker and 3 additional women volunteers from the DDA took over the work Witt and his staff had carried out for so many years. Hearty thanks to Jack Witt for his vision and implementing it for the benefit of all of us. And thanks to those who carry it forward.

Recycling Christmas Trees

Ever wonder how to recycle or reuse your Christmas tree when it starts to drop needles and you want to remove it from your house? Here is an idea to file for **next season**: Lewis Farms at the New Era exit on 31 accepts the used trees and serves the branches to their goats as a culinary treat.

Village News

At the January Village Council meeting Chris Brown recommended the purchase of a leaf removal/compactor vehicle that has never been used and is available due to an order cancellation. Its cost can be decreased by the sale of our current equipment and possibly by sharing the new vehicle with other municipalities. Brown reported the most complaints from residents are related to leaf removal and acquiring this vehicle would solve most of the complaints. No shipment cost is involved.



Top photo courtesy Jack Witt, bottom two courtesy Mary Schumaker, DDA



Pentwater Green Schools Club

By: Anna VanDuinen

Green Schools member



Pentwater schools has been a part of the Michigan Green Schools program for many years now. Our club is always thinking of ways to reduce our footprints, and give back to our environment, as it is the only environment we get. One thing my school has done to try and reduce our footprint is installing a refillable water station to promote less plastic water bottle use. Along with this, two years ago I was a big part of a fundraiser to raise money for the Australian wildfires. For this fundraiser we collected lots of eco-friendly items and made a raffle basket that we slowly started promoting at basketball games until we raised a good share of money to be donated. In the end, it felt really good to give back to the environment, because even small contributions help it so much. We even started to collect pop cans to be recycled. This was an easy fix and also helps earn money for the Green Schools Club.

As the world heats up, and I get older, I realize more and more just how important all the little things are. We need to focus on reducing and reusing especially, because ultimately those are the two biggest issues we have right now in our country and even around the world. It's as simple as if you want to buy a new shirt, maybe consider looking in a thrift store first.



Juniors Grace and Alex recycling
pop cans!

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 _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

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.) \$____.

Pentwater Lake Association Board

Patrick Hooyman – President

Tom Walter – Vice-President

Beth Provencal– Secretary

Rich Pugsley – Treasurer

Dr. Ross Feltes Joan Menke-Schaenzer

Mike Peters Dan Selahowski

Joe Primozich Janet Strahan

PLA Newsletter – published 4X/year

Editor – AnnaMae Bush

Staff Writers – A. Bush, J. Primozich,

T. Walter, R. Pugsley, L. Cavazos,

Mailing – Caroline Denlar

PLA Committees and Chairs

Membership (Pugsley), Natural Resources –
(Primozich), Publicity (Hooyman), Social (Cavazos)

Website (Strahan), Water Quality (Peters)

Education (Pleva), Newsletter (Bush)

Pentwater Village (869-8301)

President – Jeff Hodges

Manager – Chris Brown

Zoning Administrator – Keith Edwards

Clerk/Treasurer – Rande Listerman

Deputy Clerk/Treasurer – Barb Siok

Deputy Clerk/Treasurer – Kate Anderson

Trustees – Michelle Angell-Powell, David Bluhm

Jared Griffis, Dan Nugent, Don Palmer,

Dr. Claudia Ressel-Hodan

Pentwater Township (869-6231)

Supervisor – Lynne Cavazos

Clerk – Maureen Murphy

Treasurer – Heather Douglas

Deputy Clerk – Glenn Beavis

Deputy Treasurer – Lisa McKinney

Trustees – Mike Flynn, Dean Holub

Police Chief – Laude Hartrum (869-5987)

Fire Chief – Jonathan Hughart (869-5858)

OC Marine Deputy – Tim Simon (231-873-2121)

Pentwater Lake Association

PO Box 825

Pentwater MI 49449

www.pentwaterlakeassociation.com



Will we see large sailboats and cabin cruisers in Pentwater this summer? A lot depends on what happens with our channel. See related information on pp 10-12.

