

Welcome to our Newsletter

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Our Mission Statement: *To protect, preserve, and enhance the quality of Wall Lake and its watershed through the promotion of responsible and effective environmental and educational policies. We are dedicated to preserving Wall Lake as a pristine legacy for future generations.*

[GWLA Facebook](#) | greaterwalllakeassoc@gmail.com

WWW.MYWALLLAKE.COM

From the President's Desk

BY ALAN FREID, PRESIDENT

Thanks once again for your ongoing support for the Greater Wall Lake Association. I'm sure everyone is looking forward to another beautiful summer here on Wall Lake, and this year it follows a much more typical winter, and for the health of the lake, that's a good thing.

I want to draw attention to a couple of items in this newsletter. The lake lost a true friend last fall with the passing of Mike Hodge, and earlier in 2024, we lost Jim Wiswell. Both of these gentlemen loved the lake. They were committed to its future and demonstrated that by being great neighbors and by serving on the association's board of directors. We'll miss them. I think it's worth mentioning that the preservation fund received several donations in honor of these two friends, and it's a wonderful way to remember their lives and their love of our lake.

I'd also like to draw attention to the fact that our association website www.mywalllake.com has been updated with a very appealing new look and feel, and we're working hard on updating existing information and adding new items that we hope will be useful. This came about as the result of one of our residents, Ron L'Huillier, coming forward and volunteering to take on the project, and we think he's done a terrific job. If you see Ron, please thank him for the tremendous work, and if there are things you'd like to see on the website, let him or us know and we'll do our best to try to get it out there.

Many of you are also probably curious as to what became of the Fish Survey we were considering for this year. We came up short on our attempt to raise the necessary funds and several residents expressed concerns regarding the survey itself. Ultimately, however, it was the fish themselves that spoke to us metaphorically as the Walleye we've been planting over the past many years started showing up in numbers this winter. Several anglers have mentioned that this was probably the best ice fishing season in many years, and that is very encouraging.

That's it for now, hopefully the board will see you at the annual meeting this June. This year we hope to hold it earlier in the day and lakeside. Please look for more details around the end of this month. We'll send a notification out by email and post the details on the website as we finalize them.

Have a great summer, and the board looks forward to seeing you on the lake.

[DONATE TO THE GREATER WALL LAKE
ASSOCIATION PRESERVATION FUND](#)

Fish Stocking

As the weather warms up, so does the fishing. Even the ice fishing produced some nice catches this year!

We have tried to restock walleye every other year, and this is one of those years. Unfortunately, we are falling short on funding. We need around \$4,500 for a thousand walleye, but currently, we have less than half of that amount. Despite these challenges, the lake fishery appears to be very healthy. We will continue to monitor it and plan our next steps to ensure it remains so.

There will be a match on all donations earmarked for fish stocking until June 30th to raise the funds needed to still place the order for walleye yet this year. If you're interested in contributing to the restocking, please send a check made out to Greater Wall Lake Association with a note tagged "Fish Stocking" to the GWLA (PO Box 56, Delton MI 49046).

If you enjoy fishing in the lake or watching your family fish, please consider donating.

Thank you for your support!

Pierce Cedar Creek Institute's
Native Plant Sale
Saturday, May 31, 2025
9 am – Noon
In-Person Sale and Pre-Order Pick-up

Online Pre-Orders Accepted:
April 1–May 26
at CedarCreekInstitutePlants.com

NEW in 2025!
For lake residents only, 15% off your Native Shoreline Mix* with code LAKE25.

*Limit one discount per customer.



Ready to add native plants to your shoreline?
Try our Native Shoreline Mix.

Ideal for lakefronts, riparian areas, and wetlands, our Native Shoreline Mix is intended to be planted in close proximity to water to prevent shoreline erosion and promote habitat for aquatic organisms, waterfowl, and semi-aquatic mammals. The kit includes 20 individual plants that fill a 30-square-foot area.



Species are subject to availability but may include (pictured left to right) blue-flag iris, marsh rose mallow, great blue lobelia, swamp milkweed, and obedient plant as well as (not pictured) bottle gentian and lake sedge.

For more details and plant-specific questions contact Drew Vandegrift at dvandegrift@cedarcreekinstitute.org or call (269) 721-4198.

Pierce Cedar Creek Institute
for environmental education
701 W. Cloverdale Road | Hastings, MI 49058 | Phone (269) 721-4190 | CedarCreekInstitute.org

Why the Name, "Wall Lake"?

According to legend, Wall Lake gets its name from the Potawatomi Indians who had built stone walls to aid in harvesting fish. It is claimed that the Indians would drive fish through narrow openings in the wall into shallow water, thus making catching the fish easier. Two walls existed. One wall was located on the northeast shore, and a second wall near the southeast shore on the peninsula. The wall located on the northeast shore was removed in 1963.

CONTRIBUTE TO THE FISH STOCKING!
Send a check made out to Greater Wall Lake Association
Note: Fish Stocking
Mail to GWLA, PO Box 56, Delton MI 49046

2025 Events - Save the Dates!

GWLA Annual Garage Sale

Saturday May 31, 2025

9am-3pm

Annual Meeting

Saturday June 21, 2025

10am

John & Julie Vandervoort's House
8871 S M43 Highway
Corner of Waldorf and M43



4th of July Boat Parade

Friday July 4, 2025

Kayak the Wall

Saturday July 26, 2025

9am-1pm



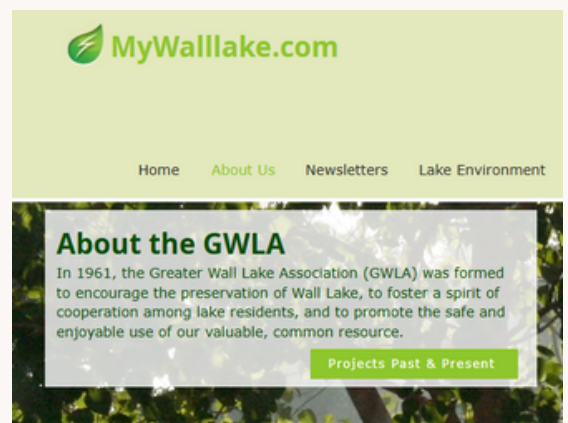
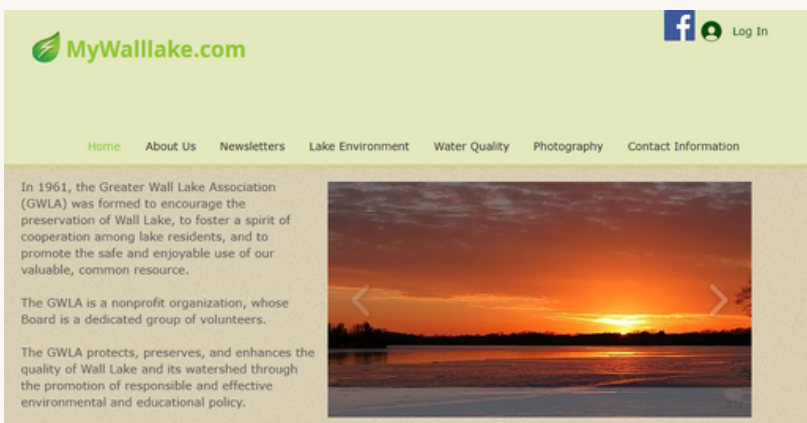
2nd Annual North vs South Golf Tournament

Saturday September 20, 2025, 12pm (weather permitting)

Mullenhurst Golf Course

Scramble format allows players of all levels to come out and have fun on the course with neighbors

Check out the refreshed website - www.mywalllake.com



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Remembering Mike Hodge

A PERSONAL TRIBUTE BY SUSAN BEUKEMA TRUDEAU

“He is such a great guy.”

Nancy Langham Hodge always referred to her husband with these words as she described perfectly the person we knew.

I grew up living next door to Nancy Langham and her family along the North shore of Wall Lake. We spent hours together each summer at our cottages. Over the years I experienced the changes in her family, and Mike Hodge was a big one. He would come out to join the family and enjoy the fishing. Eventually, he and Nancy were married and would bring their dog to the lake. Daughter Meghan was the next addition, and after they had their own lake residence built on Lakeview, the grandkids began learning about Wall Lake life.



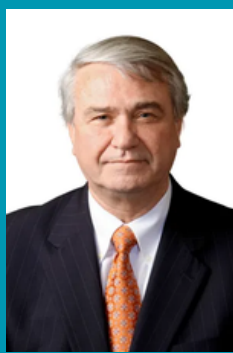
Mike and Nancy loved Wall Lake. They encouraged wildlife by adding an ecologically enhanced environment to their property. Ducks and birds nested and enjoyed the native flowers and nesting boxes. Feeders were placed so that bird watching could be a priority.

Mike was adamant that the lake be protected from damage such as mud bogging on the field adjacent to the lake which could cause acid water from the bog to contaminate our lake. Another personal concern was about having large fishing tournaments that caused multiple “foreign” boats to enter our waters when boat washing was not yet recognized as important as it is now. He felt that overfishing would change the population of our native fish and that would shift the excellent water quality and wildlife environment we maintained.

Soon after Mike and Nancy had their new house built on Lakeview and Mike retired from his career as principal, and later, counsel to the Lansing office of Miller Canfield, he joined the GWLA board. His focus was to learn more about the history of our lake board and its emphasis on protection of our lake environment for its residents. He brought his personal love for Wall Lake and a strong legal background, helping the Board with his thoughtful recommendations.

The thing those who met him will always remember is his smile and energetic laugh. He loved his wife, Nancy and reveled in taking a drive around the lake in their Mini Cooper convertible, stopping at friends to just say hello on a beautiful summer day. Wall Lake and its residents will always honor his caring.

Thank you, Mike. You will be remembered with appreciation and glee!



Miller Canfield posted this statement about Mike as an important part of their law firm:

“Michael J. Hodge was a legend in Lansing and at Miller Canfield. He was a trusted advisor to government and elected officials including Governor James Blanchard and former Attorney General Frank Kelley. Mike’s brilliance as a quick-witted orator and legal strategist in court were memorable and unmatched. But it was his shirt-off-his-back compassion for others, his commitment to mentoring younger attorneys, and his devotion to his wife and family that shined and permeated his professional and personal life.”

Scott Eldridge, Miller Canfield’s Lansing Resident Director

Remembering Jim Wiswell

TRIBUTE BY RICHARD FLUKE



Jim Wiswell loved Wall Lake. During his younger years (1940s & 1950s) he would spend time at the lake with friends who had parents with a cottage at "the Lake".

In the 1970's Jim and Jill purchased a cottage on Cordes Rd. It was a great enjoyment for Jim, Jill, their daughter, sons, and grandchildren.

Jim supported The Greater Wall Lake Association and its Mission by serving many years on the Board of Directors and supporting the Associations projects and activities.

Jim Wiswell was a true friend of Wall Lake and The Greater Wall Lake Association.

Jim lived his 87 years to the fullest, leaving a lasting impact on his family and the Barry County community. A dedicated and hardworking individual, he took great pride in his community, grateful for the opportunity to own and operate a small business while raising his family in such a wonderful place. His lifelong contributions reflect his unwavering commitment to both the people and the community he loved. Through volunteering and board memberships, Jim tirelessly sought ways to give back, ensuring his impact would be felt for generations to come. Jim's legacy of hard work and service lives on through his children and the many individuals he touched.



"Jim was such an amazing man. I worked with him for many years and was always impressed by the wonderful way he treated others. He was a good businessman but an even better human being and I am privileged to have known and worked with him over the years."

Patrick D Hanes, Friend & Coworker

"Jim was a class act and a class man. I had the privilege of working with Jim on the Insurance Board for many years and as a fellow member of MBLMA. He was a very special friend and Jim will be missed by all who knew and worked and loved him."

Kenneth J. Lehman, Friend & Coworker

Michigan Marine Law & Boater Safety

Operation of vessels

1. **Sailboats** have the right-of-way over motorboats when under sail.
2. **Motorboats** must yield to non-motorized vessels.
3. When two vessels approach head-on, each should pass on the **left** side.
4. When overtaking another vessel, pass on the **left** side if possible.
5. If two vessels approach at right angles, the vessel on the **right** must give way.

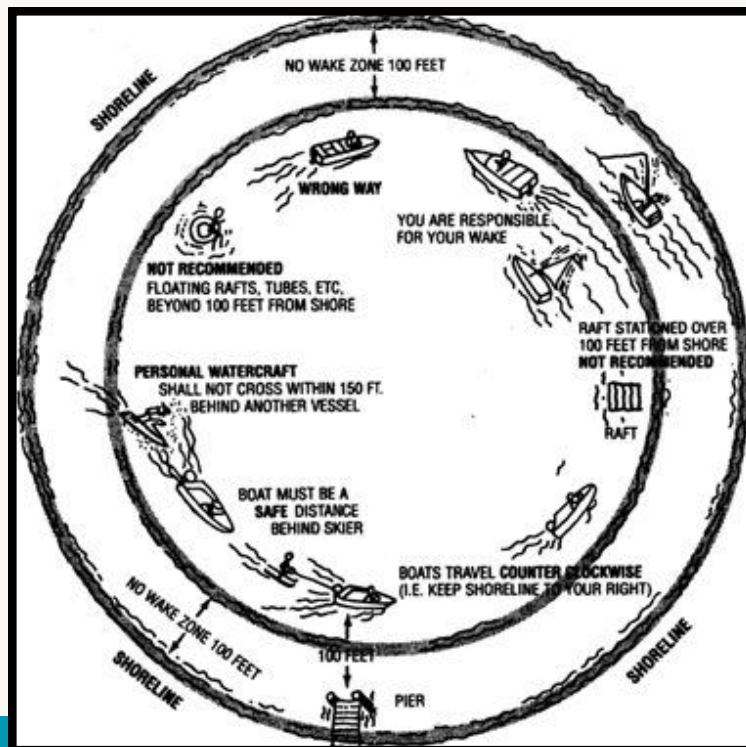
Safety Requirements

- **Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs):** Each passenger must have a US Coast Guard-approved PFD. Children under 6 must wear a Type I or II PFD at all times on open decks.

Personal Watercraft (PWC) Regulations:

1. Maintain **100 ft.** distance from docks, boats, and swimming areas at speeds above no-wake.
2. Do not cross within **150 ft.** behind another vessel moving above no-wake speed.
3. PWCs cannot operate from sunset to **8:00 AM**.
4. Reckless maneuvers, such as weaving through traffic or jumping wakes, are prohibited.
5. Do not exceed the vessel's passenger capacity.
6. Lanyards must be attached to the operator if the vessel is equipped with them.
7. Operators must be **14 years or older**.
8. Operators born after **Dec 31, 1978** need a boating safety certificate.
9. Maximum speed is **55 mph**, unless otherwise posted.
10. PWCs must travel at no-wake speed in waters less than **2 feet** deep.

You can take an online boating safety course for certification by visiting:
www.boat-ed.com



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DUCK HOUSES

The five duck houses on the west side of the lake, which were installed by Delton Kellogg High School students, were fully occupied this spring with multiple species. Due to territorial behavior of our 'feathered residents', it is the board's opinion and recommendation not to add any more houses in this area. We will continue to monitor, clean, and add new nesting material next winter.



The GWLA has two new board members! Amy Seymour and Tony Ratti

How long have you lived on Wall Lake?

Amy: 9 years

Tony: 4 years

What is one of your favorite things about lake life?

Amy: Enjoying the water, the wildlife, and building memories with our family

Tony: Enjoying the lake with my wife, Elizabeth and 2 kids

What is something you're looking forward to this season?

Amy: Stocking our freezer with fresh fish.

Tony: The greatest event on Wall Lake - Kayak the Wall!

What is a fun fact about you?

Amy: I have a dedicated space where I grow a "cutting flower garden" each year. I offer a fresh and vibrant supply of blooms for floral arrangements and I like to share.

Tony: I once sang the national anthem at a Minnesota Twins baseball game



Welcome Amy and Tony!

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Modified from
michigan-lakehomes.com

1. Inspection and Maintenance:

- Check for winter damage: roof, windows, doors, decks, and docks.
- Address issues early to prevent bigger problems.

2. Deep Clean Inside and Out:

- Air out rooms, wash windows, dust surfaces, and clean floors and upholstery.
- Scrub outdoor areas: deck, patio furniture, and grill.

3. Landscaping and Gardening:

- Trim bushes and trees, rake leaves, and refresh flower beds.
- Plant native flowers or vegetables to attract wildlife.

4. Check Water Systems:

- Inspect plumbing, irrigation, and septic tanks.
- Check for leaks, clean gutters, and inspect boat docks.

5. Pest Control:

- Seal cracks and openings to prevent pests.
- Consider professional pest control services.

6. Outdoor Entertainment:

- Clean and arrange outdoor furniture, set up a fire pit, and stock grilling essentials.
- Add amenities like hammocks, swings, or outdoor games.

7. Safety First:

- Check smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors, and fire extinguishers.
- Inspect boats and watercraft, ensuring safety equipment is up to date.

8. Embrace Spring Decor:

- Swap winter decor for lighter, brighter accents.
- Incorporate floral arrangements, botanical prints, and nautical touches.

9. Plan for Outdoor Activities:

- Prepare for fishing, kayaking, hiking, and lounging by the lake.
- Stock up on sunscreen, bug spray, and outdoor gear.

10. Relax and Enjoy:

- Take time to relax and enjoy your rejuvenated lake retreat.
- Cherish moments with family and friends.

With these tips in mind, you can ensure that your lake house is primed and ready to embrace the joys of spring. By investing a little time and effort into preparing your property, you'll create a welcoming oasis where memories are made and cherished for years to come.

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