



FROM THE PRESIDENTS DESK

There is a rumor that spring is on its way to Wall Lake. Docks are being put in and neighborhoods are buzzing with activities. Once again we are able to get outside and work in our yards and flower beds. Sometimes we even see the sun!

Our GWLA Board and its Officers have been very busy over the winter months. We have many activities planned for 2019 and invite all our residents to join in the fun. We also continue to keep our mission forefront in our work. The GWLA protects, preserves, and enhances the quality of Wall Lake and its watershed through the promotion of responsible and effective environmental and educational policies. Our mission continues to be to preserve our unique resource as a pristine legacy for future generations. As you know, this takes money. Our dues of \$45 are not enough to cover costs associated with this work often times. Therefore in 2015 we established our tax-deductible GWLA Preservation Fund through the Barry County Foundation. Visit our web-site, www.mywalllake.com for more information.

We look forward to enjoying another wonderful summer on our beautiful Wall Lake!

Christy Tigchelaar, President

Greater Wall Lake Preservation Fund

Two main threats to Wall Lake exist that could change its ecological balance.

1. Damage to the wetlands that filter incoming acidic bog water.
2. Introduction of aquatic invasive species.

Addressing these threats takes money. By donating to the Greater Wall Lake Preservation Fund your tax deductible gifts are supporting our efforts to preserve our treasured Wall Lake and its wildlife for future generations.

To donate to the GWLA Preservation Fund at BCF, you may contact them at:

- **Telephone:** 269-945-0526
- **Website:** www.barrycf.org
- **Email:** info@barrycf.org

Mail Checks to:
Barry Community Foundation
GWLA Preservation Fund
231 South Broadway
Hastings, MI 49058

GWLA Annual Meeting

By Martha Edger

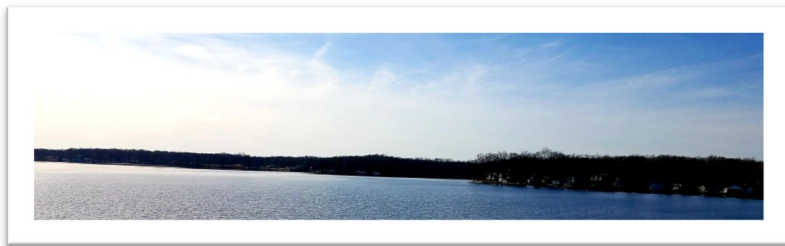
Please plan on attending the annual meeting which will be held this year on Saturday, June 22nd at the VFW Post 422 on Stony Point Road, Delton.

We will be starting at 5 p.m. with a Meet , Greet, and Happy Hour. There will be two cash bars and plenty of hors d'oeuvres available. Dinner will be served around 6 p.m. so bring your appetite as we will be having chicken, steak, various salads, soft beverages, and dessert.

Building a better Wall Lake community is our goal, so getting to know your neighbors is our focus. The Post has so kindly opened up its entire facility to us.

All of this is available for just \$12 per person. Reservations can be made by sending your check to the GWLA, P.O. Box 56, Delton, MI or you can stop in and see Christy at mid-Lakes, 121 E. Orchard, and make your reservations with her. If you haven't yet paid your \$45 dues, you can give that to Christy as well.

The Annual Meeting is open to all current members of the GWLA Association and we look forward to seeing you there.



GWLA NEWS

By Richard Fluke

GWLA RECEIVES IRS 501 (c) (3) TAX EXEMPTION AS A PUBLIC CHARITY.

With this determination, donors to GWLA can deduct contributions, bequests, devices, transfers and gifts. In addition to tax deductible contributions, it also provides improved administrative and reporting features for the association.

The IRS tax exemption does not replace the GWLA Preservation Fund at the Barry Community Foundation. As a general rule, contributions for current GWLA programs, such as fish stocking, should be made to the GWLA. Contributions for the Preservation of Wall Lake should be made to GWLA Preservation Fund at Barry Community Foundation.

If you have a question regarding a contribution please contact an officer of the GWLA Board of Directors.

Natural Shorelines Benefits

Shoreline design has a tremendous effect on water quality.

Types of shorelines include:

- Seawall (metal or concrete wall).
- Riprap (large stones).
- Natural shoreline (native vegetation).

The benefits of natural shorelines are many:

- Provides habitat for essential fish and wildlife species.
- Prevents erosion with deeply rooted plants.
- Discourages nuisance wildlife like geese.
- Improves esthetics with attractive plants.
- Prevents rainwater runoff from carrying fertilizer, leaves, and grass clippings into the lake and causing algae blooms.

More information is available at www.mywalllake.com/shorelines-and-water-quality

Michigan's New Boating and Fishing Regulations

Effective March 21, 2019

By Andy Bohr

Spring is approaching and the new season will bring new rules for those of us using the many streams, rivers and lakes in our great state. Previously, the laws required removing aquatic plants off their watercraft and trailers before they were placed in the water. The State of Michigan has recognized that more effort is needed to protect our waterways from non-native species and has issued new regulations to help defend these natural habitats. You may have received a flyer with your boat tag renewal or read about the changes elsewhere. Here is a brief summary.

It is the **LAW** that an individual **shall NOT**:

- Launch or transport watercraft or trailers *unless* they are free of all aquatic organisms, including plants
- Transport a watercraft without removing all drain plugs and draining all water from bilges, ballast tanks and live wells
- Release unused bait into the water

Violation of the law is a state civil infraction and violators may be subject to fines.

For those that fish our waters, this law regulates how and where anglers can catch or release fish. It also makes it illegal to dump baitfish, minnows, wigglers and crayfish in any Michigan water.

- A person should not release baitfish in any Michigan waters. A person who collects fish should not use them as bait or cut bait except in the inland stream, lake, or Great Lake where the fish was caught, or in a connecting waterway where the fish was caught.
- A person who catches fish other than baitfish must release them in the body of water where the fish was captured, or a connecting waterway.
- A person who is catching and releasing fish should release the fish back into the same water or in a connecting body of water the fish could have reached on its own.

Unused baitfish, whether it was collected or purchased, must be disposed of on land or in the garbage. Any baitfish collected by anglers may only be released in the waters where they were originally caught.

Anglers who violate the law are subject to civil fines.

For boaters involved in any water activities, before launching their boat or when leaving a waterway, they are **required** to do the following:

- Clean boats, trailers and equipment
- Inspect equipment such as dock lines, storage compartments, anchors, and motor intakes
- Dry boats and equipment

Wall Lake has been fortunate thus far that there has been very little introduction of non-native species (plants or other organisms) into our environment. Other lakes in our region are plagued with invasives that threaten the health and thereby the enjoyment and value of their lake properties.

Let's adopt these regulations now with the understanding that we need to protect the great natural resources we have here on Wall Lake and preserve them for future generations.

Come on Spring!

Boaters Safety Reminders

By Dan Erb

Life on the lake is so enjoyable. As we get ready to gear up for a summer of fun it's important to remember that safety for our families and our neighbors should always be on our minds. Sgt Steve Lehman has taken over the Marine division of the Barry County Sheriff's Department and sent us some information regarding safety and the laws that will apply to the enjoyment of our natural resource, Wall Lake.

One of the major concerns raised by several of our Association members is the dangerous and **illegal** activity of "wave jumping" by personal watercraft (PWC). This is where they jump the wake of a boat that may or may not be towing someone. For the safety of everyone on our lake it is essential that we educate ourselves and our children that may be operating watercraft, that we do so in a safe and legal manner.

All PWC must maintain a distance of 100' from any dock, boat, raft or swimming area while driving faster than "no wake" speed and they cannot cross within 150' behind another vessel other than a PWC.

Please, let's all work together for a safe and enjoyable summer!



Below is a link to the complete handbook for all Michigan Boating Laws.

Please familiarize yourself with the Michigan laws to ensure a safe and fun summer

<https://www.boat-ed.com/michigan/handbook/book.html>

Membership Update

This year residents received a Membership Dues invoice. We appreciate all of you that responded. If you have not received an invoice, the dues for this year are \$45.00 and can be paid by mailing your check to GWLA, PO Box 56, Delton, MI 49046.

Most of our communications will be by email only so please help us keep you updated on important information and activities by sending us your current email address. If you have not been receiving updates, did not receive your membership dues invoice, or know someone who hasn't, please provide us your current mailing address, lake address and current email.

Please email the information to:

greaterwalllakeassoc@gmail.com

Our first event of the season is our annual

Garage Sale
On Saturday June 8, 2019

With spring on the way, now is the time to clean the storage areas and prepare to share your "treasures" with your neighbors.

SAVE THE DATES for 2019

GWLA Annual Garage Sale.....Saturday June 8, 2019

Annual Meeting.....Saturday June 22, 2019

4th of July Boat Parade....Thursday July 4th 2019

Kayak the Wall.....Saturday July 27, 2019

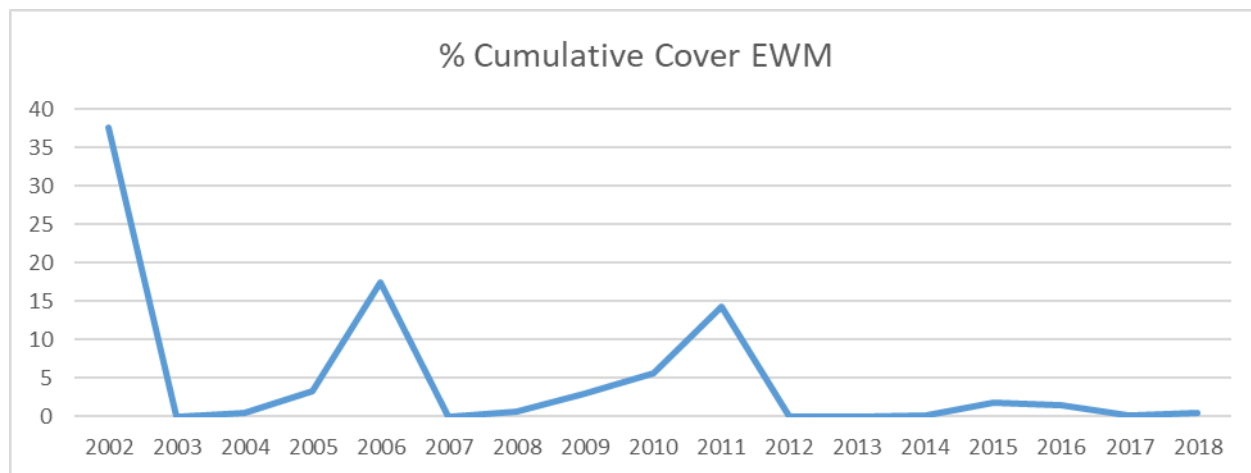
Light Up the WallSaturday August 17, 2019

AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES UPDATE

By Andy Tomaszewski
PLM Lake & Land Management Corp.

Wall Lake Management Update 2019.

The 2018 season was a very successful year in regards to exotic plant control. Although Eurasian watermilfoil was found, it remained at low levels. With most lake management programs, there are cycles consisting of whole lake Sonar applications followed by a few years of smaller scale maintenance treatments. This approach to management is typically the best way to keep Eurasian watermilfoil at the lowest level possible. For most lakes, we expect that Sonar may be needed every 3-5 years. On Wall Lake, we saw this early in the program but have seen much better than expected results over the past several years. The graph below shows the trends in milfoil since 2002. Based on the spikes in milfoil cumulative cover (2002, 2006, 2011), the decision was made to use Sonar. Since 2012, Wall Lake has seen nearly 7 years of good residual control. While we do see this from time to time, it is not extremely common. Wall Lake is doing well.



In regards to water quality, things look good. Over the last two years, things have remained relatively constant. Spring phosphorus and nitrates have not changed much and were on the lower end compared to other lakes for both years. The late summer nitrates were low and did not change from 2017 to 2018 but the phosphorus reading did go up substantially. We expect higher phosphorus reading late summer simply because we collect the sample down deep near the lake bottom. I suspect that we either got a super concentrated or contaminated (bottom material trapped in sampler) sample in 2018. If lake phosphorus levels were truly that high, you would see extreme algae problems. It would be very evident. Since we did not see these things, it leads us to believe that either this sample was contaminated or just a highly concentrated sample just off the lake bottom.

For 2019, we anticipate starting the season with minimal milfoil. We will evaluate the lake several times during the year and address any problems as needed. We will again sample water quality and monitor the overall plant community. It is recommended that lake residents do not bring their boats to other lakes in the area. Many lakes in the Delton area have exotic plants/algae that Wall Lake does not. These species are Cabomba and Starry stonewort. These species are expensive to treat and often require more aggressive treatments. At this point prevention is the best strategy.

SPECIAL FEATURE

Honoring Terry Deike

It was with great sadness that we paid our last respects to a long time board member Terry Deike who passed away April 6, 2019. Terry served on the Greater Wall Lake Association Board for ten years. He was instrumental in planting Walleye in Wall Lake and starting the annual family event, "I Kayaked the Wall."

Katie Dolfman, co-chairman of the Kayak event stated "I had the ultimate pleasure of working with Terry on the family event "I Kayaked the Wall". Terry's vision of creating this event for the residents of Wall Lake was forward thinking and precise in detail of how he and Helen wanted the families and neighbors of Wall Lake to spend time together and get to know each other. In 2018 we themed the Kayak event a "Poker Run" which was right up Terry's ally because of his love for cards. The event has grown each year and will continue to be well attended because of the preparation that Terry has laid out. Please join the fun and attend the "Poker Run" this year on July 27 2019".

Memorial Contributions to the Delton Moose Lodge or the Greater Wall Lake Preservation Fund, 231 Broadway, Hastings, MI 49058, will be appreciated.



Terry and Helen Deike



Terry Deike and
Katie Dolfman

If you have questions or concerns you may contact the Greater Wall Lake Association by:

Mail: PO Box 56 Delton, MI 49046

Email: greaterwalllakeassoc@gmail.com

Website: www.mywalllake.com

Or follow the Greater Wall Lake Association



UNSUNG HEROS OF WALL LAKE

We nominate our neighbor, Ray Smith. It doesn't matter if your car quit and you are stranded along the side of the road....or if you are stuck in a snow bank burning up your tires but going nowhere. We call Ray. He just says, "be right there". Betty Graham, you have raised a great son and we thank you! Here's to you, Ray Smith! We appreciate your acts of kindness and good deeds!

If you would like to nominate someone in your neighborhood, please send it to:

greaterwalllakeassoc@gmail.com



Beechwood Point Reminder

The sandbar at Beechwood point has increasingly become a destination for many Wall Lake Residents, especially on weekends. Pontoon boats, power boats, and personal watercraft have occupied the area at one time. Some residents make an afternoon of it, bringing coolers, kids and dogs. Some play radios loud enough to be heard by Point residents while others use the point as an outdoor restroom.

Beechwood Point as a Plat, owns the roads, alleyways, parks and woodlands to the waters' edge. This means that the residents of Beechwood Plat jointly own the woods and land on the point, as well as the Beechwood Point boat launch. This is private property.

Beechwood Point residents appeal to all Lake residents to respect Beechwood Point property owners rights and extend the courtesy of NOT trespassing on the point.

WE THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR COOPERATION.

Lee Larson, President

The Beechwood Point Association of Wall Lake, Inc.

Wall Lake Wetlands

As you may have observed there are changes to our South Shore Wetlands that occurred early this spring. Unfortunately, significant work affecting 3 acres of our highly sensitive wetlands was done to our south shore wetlands. GWLA has been working hard to fulfill its missions to protect these sensitive wetland areas. DEQ has been made aware of this destructions and we are hopeful they will fulfill their mission of protecting the wetlands surrounding Wall Lake.



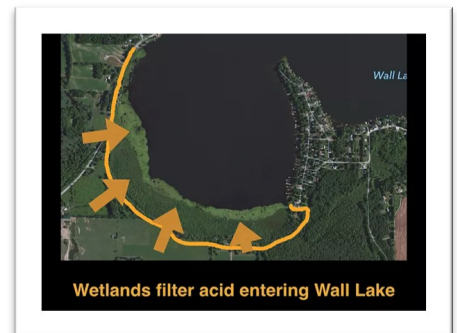
The following information is excerpts from our website www.mywalllake.com and explains the importance of our wetlands and how they protect Wall Lake and its wildlife.

Where are the wetlands on Wall Lake?

The largest area of wetlands are on the south side of Wall Lake. These wetlands are fragile and can be easily harmed to the severe detriment of Wall Lake. The hashed areas below identify wetlands around Wall Lake.

What do these wetlands do for Wall Lake?

Hydrology maps show the importance of the cleansing mechanism of these wetlands given that water flows downhill into Wall Lake from the higher ground to the south. Wall Lake gets its water from these wetlands, and these wetlands filter the water entering Wall Lake.



These wetlands regulate nutrients flowing into Wall Lake.

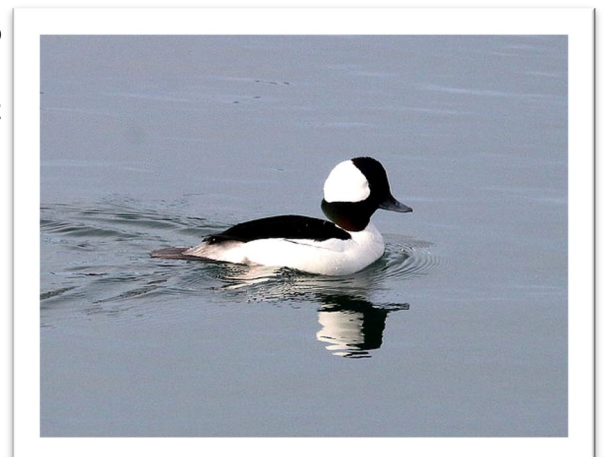
These wetlands remove pollutants from the water flowing into Wall Lake.

Wall Lake is relatively shallow and its water renews slowly - every three years (lake retention time). Thus, the oxygenation and health of Wall Lake are directly related to the water coming through the wetlands at the southern end of the lake.



These wetlands remove acid from Wall Lake. The water that flows into Wall Lake comes from a 1,000 acre up-land bog. This type of bog is known as an “acid bog”. Damage to these wetlands would allow this acidic water to flow freely into Wall Lake and cause, in the words of a Michigan State University scientist, an “environmental disaster”, forever changing the plant and animal life in Wall Lake.

Wall Lake serves as a migration staging area for waterfowl. The wetlands provide diverse and abundant aquatic plant beds that diving ducks eat. Plant loss will occur if the acidity of the water entering Wall Lake increases, and animal habitat will be lost.



Wetlands con't

Wall Lake serves as an excellent habitat for fish. The wetlands filter the highly acidic water from flowing into Wall Lake. If this acidic water enters Wall Lake unfiltered, the acidity of the lake will rise and fish will lose their habitat. Also, the loss of the wetlands will decrease subsurface insect populations, a major food source for many fish.

What can happen if the Wall Lake's wetlands are damaged?

This could have a permanent effect on Wall Lake by killing its plant and animal life. These wetlands are particularly fragile and at high risk for damage from human activity. If the wetlands are harmed and acidic bog water flows freely into Wall Lake, it is possible that all plant and animal life in the lake will die.

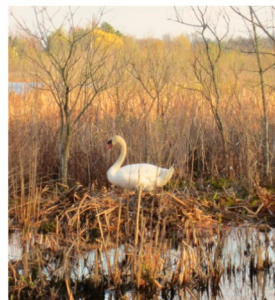
Our wetlands is home to many plants and wildlife that have now been disturbed. Normally found in Blackmans Swamp are Tamaraks, Maples, Ladies Slippers, swamp Orchids, Jack in the Pulpit, Ferns, Swamp Iris and wild cranberries. It is also a home of many pairs of Pileated Woodpeckers, Wood Ducks, Mallards, and there may be a Loon family nesting there this year.



In 1982, the late Joe Johnson, MSU Kellogg Bird Sanctuary Chief Wildlife Biologist, studied Wall Lake's wetlands and testified in court that if a canal for a dock were dug through the wetlands it would cause an environmental disaster in Wall Lake

Wilbur C. "Joe" Johnson (1985-2007)

Initially a wildlife biologist for the Sanctuary, Joe Johnson was appointed to both chief wildlife biologist and manager of the Sanctuary in 1985. Active in the community and professional organizations, Johnson furthered the relationship between the general public and the Sanctuary. He lectured to numerous children, students, educators and members of the community on wildlife, habitat preservation, and species restoration. Johnson involved the Sanctuary with the Michigan Trumpeter Swan restoration project, which brought a nearly extinct waterfowl population back to one of its native habitats. Even in retirement "Joe" Johnson was a strong presence at the Sanctuary and in the community educating on the Sanctuary's history and biology. He continued to be an active member of the Trumpeter Swan Society and the Mississippi Flyway Council until his passing in 2012. To honor Joe's retirement and years of wildlife conservation a scholarship fund was created in his name to help fund Sanctuary student interns.



GWLA 2018-2019 Board

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If you wish to contact the GWLA Board please go to the website www.mywalllake.com and use the Contact button

or send an email to greaterwalllake-assoc@gmail.com

Or send an email through our Facebook page.