



Greater Wall Lake Association

Spring 2021 Newsletter

FROM THE PRESIDENTS DESK

By Christy Tigchelaar, President

Spring is certainly in the air and we have been enjoying some beautiful sunshine! Katie has been busy organizing her fishing equipment, Hunter and his crew has been busy with spring clean up and getting docks in. Bless Jane as she continues her endless and caring work of picking up debris that others carelessly toss. Luke's laughter can be heard around Beechwood Point as well as the neighborhood kids with their giggles, excitement, and smiling faces. Tim has been busy getting boats including our boat ready for the summer, and Scott, well he is BUSY with boat deliveries...We too are fortunate to be rejuvenated with the captivating and enchanting sounds of our wildlife that share this glorious place we call home...Welcome to lake living on our beautiful Wall Lake!

We will have some interesting and informative information within our newsletter again this issue. The Healthy Waters Alliance group has been extremely busy. We certainly owe them a debt of gratitude for their continued work, effort, time, and research, in fighting the battle to keep our lakes, wildlife, residents, and environment safe. You may have read in the Hastings Banner that we have been involved in standing with them at our Hope Township Hall....

We are also thrilled to be working once again with Sarah Nelson, Executive Director of the Barry Conservation District this time at the home of Randy & Madonna where their shoreline is being converted into a natural shoreline. Sarah will be sharing more information and pictures within our newsletter.

With gratitude, our partnership continues in the multi-year wetlands and watershed protection project with the Pierce Cedar Creek Institute. You can refer to our web-site, www.mywalllake.com and read our newsletter dated Spring, 2020, to learn more...

We were really excited to learn that our GWLA, Natural Shoreline Demonstration Project, was one of the featured articles in the latest, The Michigan Riparian, magazine.

Thanks also to Sue for including her report on our Blanding's Turtle. Our Blanding's Turtle may be what protects us from a gravel pit and mining operation near our Wall Lake.

Our planning continues with regard to our sponsored GWLA events however we are not certain about our annual meeting...We sure would love spending time together and being able to talk with everyone. Time will tell and in the mean time, Steve continues his work of posting on our web-site to keep everyone updated and informed..And we also enjoy Ryan's, Residents of Wall Lake facebook page sharing our lives with one another. Thanks also to those of you who have stopped in to share your thoughts, concerns, ideas, and dropping off your GWLA dues and additional money for our fish fund and poker run kayak event...Also thanks to those who have been sending money into our Preservation Fund.... Until we meet again!

When your world gets small, nature lets you live large!"

GWLA Annual Meeting

The GWLA annual meeting date is still under review as we move into the summer. We will keep you informed as we continue to monitor the Covid guidelines.

GWLA Garage Sale

This year the GWLA Garage Sale is on June 5th from 8:00 a.m. to 3 p.m. Remember "Your Junk is someone else's treasures".

A Note from the Treasurer

The reminders for the annual dues for the GWLA are sent to you via email each January. But, if you have not sent your 2021 dues of \$45.00 you can send them to PO Box 56, Delton MI 49046. If you did not receive the invoice by email please send us your current email and we can forward it to you.

Our email is: greaterwalllakeassoc@gmail.com

A big thank you to the 130 + members that have sent in your dues. We appreciate your continued support of your Greater Wall Lake Association.

GWLA FACEBOOK PAGE

Facebook has done some updates and unfortunately we are having problems posting and receiving messages from it. We have contacted support however, we have not yet gotten the page issues resolved. Please email us directly with your questions or concerns to:

greaterwalllakeassoc@gmail.com

UNSUNG HEROS OF WALL LAKE

A hero is selfless and a genuinely good person....and I thought a lot about this topic. I think it would be Jeff and Sally for pushing my buried car from the snow bank as Ray has done...Then, there are, Kurt, Katie, Hunter, Wyatt, and Trent for carrying in those 40lb bags of salt and filling my softener that I can no longer do...And then there is Katie replacing those burned out lights so I can again see in my home... There is Cathy, Katie, Traci, and Connie who bring over food to people in need...Melody, who helps her neighbor after a fall...and Lisa, who continues digging up and sharing ordinance information that we are looking into..Also there is Kurt and Katherine who host the weekly, come as you are, evening fire pit gathering as neighbors pull up a chair and catch up on each other's week...Then there is Jeff and Erica that take all of our event pictures at a moment's notice...There is Todd who catches, cleans, and drops off those delicious fried fish to enjoy eating..Oh and then there are Tim and his kids who put our signs and lake buoy's out.. Too there is Amy who writes articles for our newsletter...and Denise, who coordinates the monthly luncheon plans for The Ladies of the Lake group, then Sarah who gave our web-site its name and Jim who originally created our web-site. There is Alan who continues to monitor our lake quality and came out of retirement to once again serve on our board. Andy, who is our liaison with our Drain Commissioner and other agencies that we may be working with..Dan and Shelly for opening their home and their "shed" to us for meetings and for leading our "Light Up The Wall" parade as Santa and Mrs. Claus..There also is Steve who lead the way for our Dom Court, Fourth of July Boat Parade...Thanks to Ken who takes care of the Reynolds Road launch and keeps the lines of communication going with the residents in the plat...We enjoy the great band and dancing in the street that John and Renee host. Willie who donated one of his carvings that provided a \$1,000 donation to our preservation fund.. Katie and her faithful crew who work together to continue one man's dream of having our famous Kayak The Wall Poker Run..Sue one of the first if not the first of creating a Natural Shoreline...followed by Jeff and Sally and now Randy and Madonna..Now Randy is leading our Walleye fish planting event. Thanks too to Larissa and Gordon for entertaining us with their light show and drone videos. We appreciate Lee, President of the Beechwood Point Association and the Beechwood Point Board, established in 1906, for continuing the care and protection of the private Beechwood point. And then there is the GWLA Board of Directors, Martha, Melody, Olivier, Larissa, Tim, Dale, Andy, Jeff, Steve, Alan, and me, who continue to spend hours of their own time researching, serving on committees, attending meetings just like our past Board of Directors did since 1961. It takes all of us, our GWLA Board of Directors and our Lake Family, working together to continue the mission of the GWLA for us and for our future generations...Cheers to all of our unsung GWLA Heroes!

If you would like to nominate someone in your neighborhood, please send it to:
greaterwalllakeassoc@gmail.com

Submitted by Christy Tigchelaar

Boaters Safety Reminders

Life on the lake is so enjoyable. We welcome all our new families to our Wall Lake Community. 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 reminds us that in the State of Michigan, Boaters born after June 30, 1996 and most personal watercraft operators who operate a vessel in Michigan must have a boater education card (boating safety certificate). To learn more about how to obtain a permit, go to www.michigan.gov

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 boats/Jet skis(PWC) must maintain a distance of 100' from any dock, boat, raft or swimming area while driving faster than "no wake" speed. Be aware of the contour of the lake as you traverse around points as that distance from the docks must be maintained. It is also important to remember that boats and PWC cannot cross within 150' behind another vessel other than a PWC.

Remember the Boaters Safety requirements are design so all of us enjoy summer on our beautiful lake. Please, let's all become familiar with our the Michigan Boating Laws. Be safe everyone !

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>

GWLA Membership Benefits

By Larissa Shaw

Hello and welcome to Wall Lake! We would love for you to become a part of the GWLA (Greater Wall Lake Association). There many benefits to becoming a member of the GWLA. We are driven to preserve the beauty and health of our beautiful Wall Lake. Just some of the things that your membership helps to accomplish include:

- Constant monitoring of water quality, invasive species and wildlife
- Weed control
- Fish stocking
- Education provided through newsletters, email, our website and Facebook
- Funding for recreation on our beautiful lake, ie. July 4 boat event, Kayak the Wall, Rock Buoys, Light the Wall Boat Parade and more
- Networking with Environmental and Educational Organizations

Please join us in helping us to care for and maintain our beautiful home here on Wall Lake. We look forward to working with you!

The dues are only \$45.00 per year.
Please send them to:

Greater Wall Lake Association
PO Box 56
Delton, MI 49046

GWLA Sponsored Events 2021

GWLA Annual Garage Sale..... June 5

Annual Meeting.....To be determined

4th of July Boat Parade.... Sunday, July 4th

Kayak the Wall..... Saturday July 31th

Light Up the WallSaturday August 14



UPDATE WALL LAKE WATER QUALITY AND LAKE HEALTH

By Andy Tomaszewski

PLM Lake & Land Management Corp.

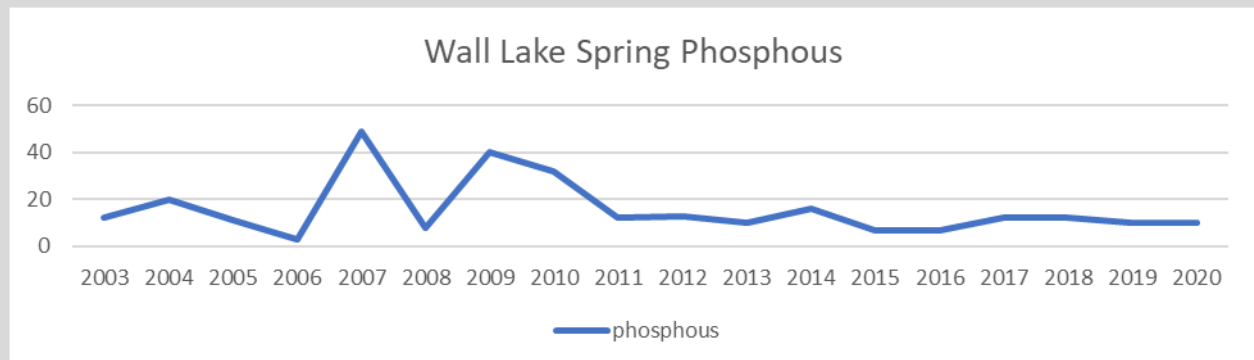
Water quality and lake health go hand in hand. In general, good water quality = good lake health. Some of the characteristics of a healthy lake would include: good water clarity, a diverse and fairly abundant native plant community, no or well controlled exotic plant species, a balanced fishery and algae growth that is not excessive. Some general characteristics of good water quality would include: good water clarity, low and stable phosphorus, low and stable nitrogen, and adequate dissolved oxygen in the upper strata of water. Water quality and lake health are interrelated into a complex web and a drastic change in one or multiple components can effect the others. Below are just a few examples:

Exotic Plants – Excessive, long term infestations of exotic species can impact native plant diversity, fisheries, dissolved oxygen and nutrients. Exotic plants out compete natives. When this happens, native plants become less abundant. Fisheries are impacted since instead of having a diversity of habitats (low growing, mid growing, and emergent/lily pads), you get a monoculture of one species. This can lead to an imbalance.... higher survivorship of panfish = more competition = stunted populations, poor habitat for predator fish = harder to feed = reduced size and abundance, greater day/night highs and lows with dissolved oxygen = stress to fish and potential for nutrient regeneration from sediments.

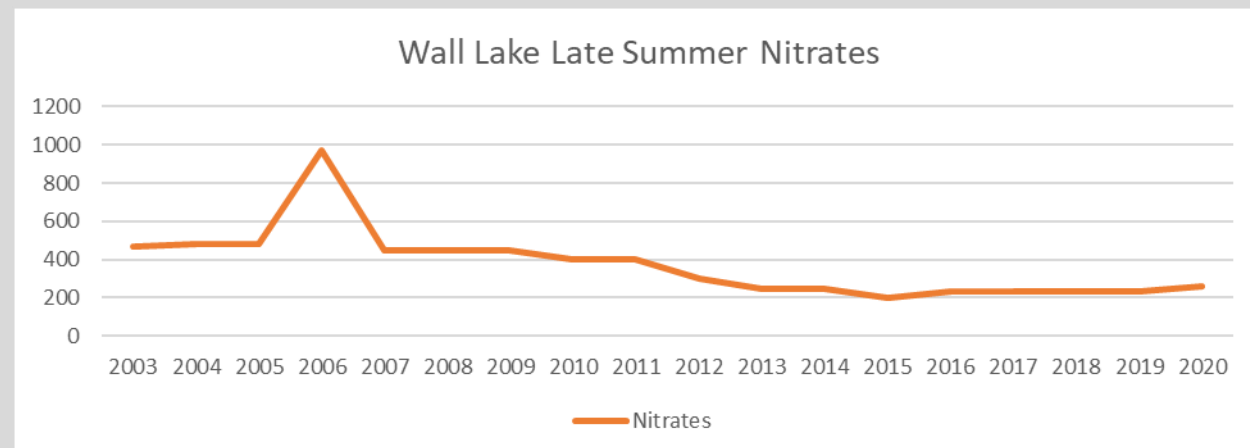
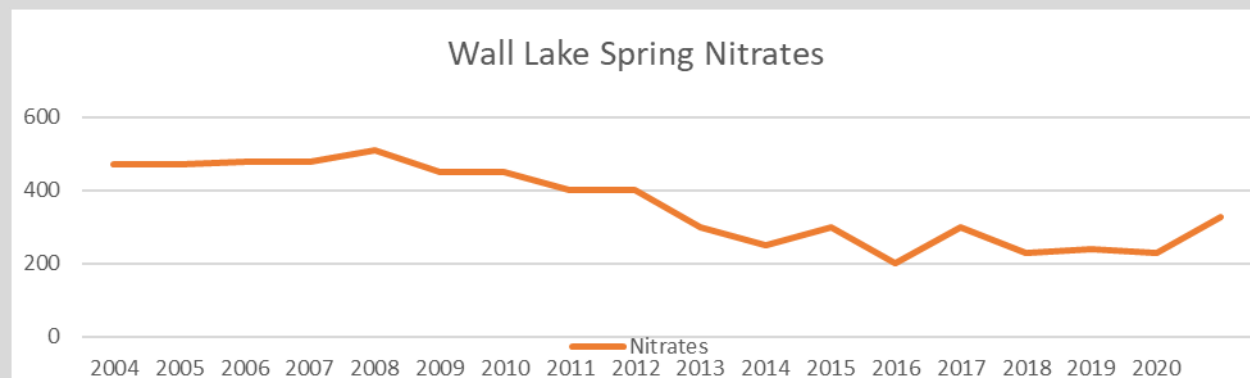
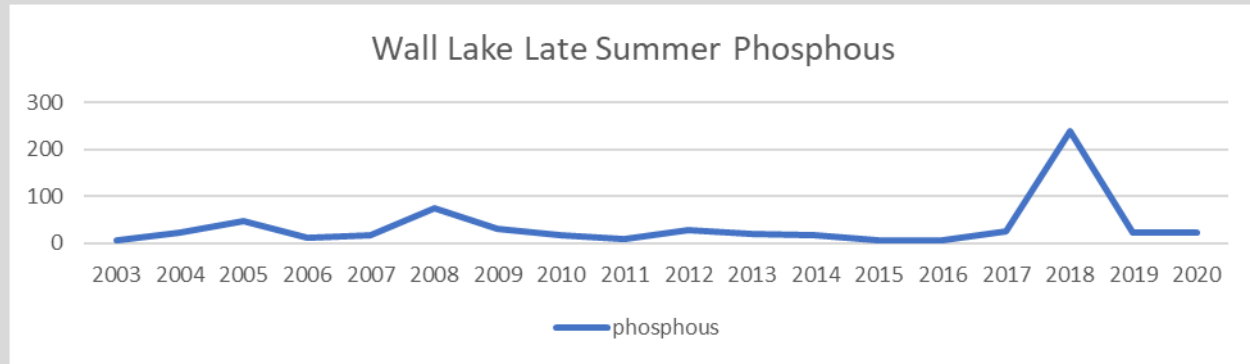
Excessive/High Phosphorus – High phosphorus tends to greatly increase growth in lakes. It is often assumed that more phosphorus = more plant growth. However, the opposite can happen in certain situations. Algae are the primary users of available phosphorus. When phosphorus causes planktonic (microscopic/single celled) algae, it can give the whole lake a green tinge. Lakes with a planktonic algae problem often have only a few feet of water clarity. Without light, plants struggle to grow and can be lost from the lake = negative impacts to fisheries and on and on....

Wall Lake fortunately is in fairly good shape in regards to water quality and lake health. While there were some fluctuations and high levels in phosphorus and nitrates in the early 2000's, they have since leveled out and or slowly decreased over time. For the last ten years they have been relatively low and stable. Note: the deep, late summer 2018 phosphorus reading was high but it is likely the result of a contaminated sample (disrupted bottom sediments). Graphs of these trends are given below. Native plants are extremely diverse, and abundant on Wall Lake which indicates a healthy system. They are probably healthier than people would like sometimes. Exotic species are present but at low levels. Management efforts have been going very well.

Wall Lake residents should continue to be good stewards of their lake. Be mindful of using fertilizers around the lake. Make sure that any incoming boats/trailers do not have plants on them and are clean. There are other exotics out there that have not found a home on Wall Lake



PLM UPDATE CON'T



Michigan Boating Law Reminders for all Watercraft

Our summer season is fast approaching and we want to remind everyone of Michigan's boating and Fishing regulations to stop the spread of invasive species. The laws are applicable for all boats, whether your own or rented that move from lake to lake or use the many streams, rivers and lakes in our great state.

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 prior to launching on another lake**

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. This makes it VERY important that we follow these guidelines for all boats being launched on Wall lake.

Plants for your shoreline, Conservation District project updates, and more!

By Sarah Nelson
Barry County Conservation District

Spring is in full swing, which means things at the Conservation District are really starting to ramp up.

We are looking forward to planning some outreach and presentations for anyone who is interested. To help us plan events that interest you and work for you all, please fill out this very short survey: <https://forms.gle/GEcNyDfW2tRvMmU96>. Thank-you in advance!

We are excited to say that we have the shoreline planting planned with the Froelichs for the end of May. It was fun getting together with Randy and Madonna to choose plants for the natural shoreline, so I thought I might take a moment to share a few of our chosen species with you.

Often times, the perception is that all native plants are weeds and weedy-looking. Of course, there are many tall and wild-looking native plants and they play their own important role. But if you are looking for something more suitable for your backyard, there are many native species that I think might surprise you with how beautiful they are and how well they can fit into your landscaping. Here are just some things we will be planting, which might also do well on your own shorelines if you are looking for ideas!



Wild nodding onion (*Allium cernuum*): *Nodding wild onion reminds me of a more delicate version of the non-native alliums often used in landscaping. This delightful pale pink flower stands at around 1'-2' and blooms in July to August. It can handle medium-dry to medium-wet soil, so basically anything not too extreme. It does well in either full sun or partial shade.*



Gray's sedge (*Carex grayi*): *Think native grasses are too tall and wild? Try sedges! There are so many Michigan-native sedges that can add that grass-like look to a backyard while being a little shorter and looking a little more manicured. One such sedge is gray's sedge. This beauty grows 1'-3' tall and has an attractive spiky seedhead. In fact, a lot of sedges have visually interesting seedheads! Gray's sedge can handle any light conditions and grows well in medium to wet soils.*



Blue flag iris (*Iris virginica*): *This beautiful iris can handle a lot of water, so it can go right up on the water's edge, as long as you don't have too much wave action. It likes full to partial sun and medium to wet soil. The blue flowers bloom from May to July. Please note that the yellow flag iris is not the same species. In fact, yellow flag iris is a harmful invasive species and should be reported if found.*



Marsh marigold (*Caltha palustris*): *Marsh marigold is perhaps my favorite Barry County wetland species. It blooms very early in the season, shortly after the skunk cabbage comes up. It can tolerate any sunlight conditions and likes wet soils. Do beware of imposters, as there are a few non-native and even invasive lookalikes to this species that are common in the area.*



Great blue lobelia (*Lobelia silphilitica*) and Cardinal flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*): *Both of these showy lobelias are great for wet areas and can even attract hummingbirds. They are similar in appearance and growth habits. Both grow 2'-3' with a stalk of small tube-shaped flowers. They can handle medium to wet sites, bloom from July to September, and full sun to partial shade. The blue lobelia is a delightful purplish-blue shade and the cardinal flower is a brilliant red. These plants do need to re-seed each year, which you can help by waiting until the seedheads are dried up and then just scattering them on the ground below the plants.*

Natural Shoreline's Con't



Swamp milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*): Milkweed has a great reputation for being good for monarch butterflies, but not the best reputation as being a garden-worthy plant. But most people think of common milkweed. Did you know there are several other native milkweeds in Michigan? One I highly recommend for shorelines is swamp milkweed. This 3' tall pinkish-purple beauty blooms from June to August. It prefers wet soils and full sun, but actually does quite well in drier gardens as well. The flowers of milkweed are so beautiful and complex up-close, so take a look next time you see one and appreciate the natural architecture!

It is important to note that often times nurseries and hardware stores will offer different cultivars of these plants. Those varieties, sometimes called "nativars" are not shown to offer the array of benefits that native species do. In my opinion, it's always most beneficial to stick to Michigan-native plants. But don't worry, they are easy to find too! Some of the great native nurseries nearby are Pierce Cedar Creek Institute (cedarcreekinstitute.org), Hidden Savana Nursery (<https://www.hiddensavanna.com/>) in Kalamazoo, and Wildtype Nursery (<https://www.wildtypeplants.com/>) in Mason. You can also get great plants from Cardno Nursery in Walkerton, Indiana, but that's a bit more of a drive! I have included the latin species name of each plant in italics to avoid confusion that is often caused by the common names. I find it is best to go with a local nursery specializing in native plants because they also have the knowledge and understanding to help you choose plants and learn how to care for them.

These are just a few plants that are good for shorelines- there are so many more! If you are interested in learning more about choosing native plants on your own, we made a video that shows you how to use all sorts of great resources for just that. You can find the video at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v0DTSEuE_fY&t=8s

If you have any questions or would like more information, you can always contact me at the Barry Conservation District at sarah.nelson@macd.org or 269.908.4135.

Michigan State Law Reminders for Boaters and Fisherman

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**

For those that fish our waters, Here is a reminder that Michigan 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.**

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

Let's adopt these regulations and let your friends and neighbors know that we need to protect the great natural resources we have here on Wall Lake and preserve them for future generations.

Wall Lake Nature

Our Wall Lake Residents

By Sue Trudeau

Wall Lake has very good water quality which provides a wonderful environment and food source for a vast mix of wildlife. Obvious clues are the frequent sightings of pairs of loons, since these waterbirds avoid polluted bodies of water.

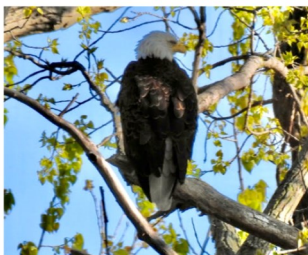
However, we are also fortunate to be home base for the Blanding's Turtle. This easily recognized turtle features a very bold yellow color under its head and neck. The fact that the Blanding's turtle inhabits our waters is relatively rare in Michigan since this breed is now on the Michigan Department of Natural Resources list as a species of Special Concern. If populations of this turtle continue to decline, the State of Michigan will move it onto the Threatened or Endangered status list.

We as Wall Lake residents must be aware of the wildlife on and around our lake, and continue to protect their habitat by providing natural shorelines, avoiding wildlife while boating, and being aware of nesting areas.

The Blanding's turtle will come ashore to lay eggs in the early Summer months. This one was spotted along a house on the North Shore of Wall Lake in June. Turtles are very often seen walking through properties and across roadways around the Lake, so take care to allow them to find their way back and forth during their nesting period on land.



Other Wall Lake Residents



UPDATES ON HOPE TOWNSHIP GRAVEL PIT PROPSALS

By the Healthy Alliance



The Healthy Waters Alliance is a nonprofit organization which represents property owners on a 280 acre chain of lakes consisting of Cloverdale, Wilkinson, Jones, and Mudd Lakes in Hope Township. This is an up and coming lake community which is a hidden gem in the area. Our lake community is a place of retreat and enjoyment of the area for its scenic beauty, serenity, and lake life activities.

We were formed in 2017 by a group of concerned property owners, to build up our lake community and bring control to an invasive aquatic weed problem which had taken hold in our lakes. After a long and arduous petition process, in 2020, we successfully completed a process with Hope Township to establish a special assessment district in order to fund our lake weed management program. This program begins this summer. We are proud of our lake community for their rallying together to care for the long-term health of our lakes.

However, this victory was short lived, as we became aware that a gravel mining company, R. Smith and Son's out of Allegan, Michigan had purchased a 153-acre lakefront parcel on our lake chain. This parcel has over 800 feet of lake frontage directly on Wilkinson Lake, the largest lake in our lake chain.

In July 2020, they petitioned Hope Township to allow them to put a gravel pit on this parcel. Since then, we have been engaged in an all-out battle to have the township deny this request. Nowhere in the state of Michigan has there been a gravel mine permitted on a recreational lake. If approved, this decision could be precedent setting for our state.

Very serious consequences will result to our lake community and the surrounding area should this request be approved. Just a few of these very serious consequences include:

- ◆ Noise: Noise from gravel mining equipment and gravel crushing equipment travels exponentially over lakes.
- ◆ Possible damage to the natural aquifer and affects on local drinking water wells: They have stated their intent to put a 12-inch diameter well on this property. Wells of this size use up to 1380/ gallons per minute or 993,600 gallons in a 12-hour day.
- ◆ Silica Dust: It is well documented that very serious health hazards are associated with airborne silica dust which emanate from gravel mines. A few facts are:
 - Silica dust produced by gravel mining operations and the most dangerous smaller dust particles c travel for miles.
 - Silica dust has been called "the next asbestos", and workplace regulations have only recently been enacted to protect workers.
 - There are currently no regulations in place to protect the neighboring public from airborne silica from gravel mines, so it is up to the Township to protect us from this long-term threat to our health.
 - The smallest, unseen particles are the most dangerous because they get imbedded deep in the lung tissue. Larger, visible particles are mostly filtered out by the body before they reach the lungs.
- ◆ Property Value loss: We presented a study to Hope Township showing that conservatively our community will experience an immediate \$6.8 million property value loss if this pit is approved. This was based on the finding of a neutral study by the W.E. Upjohn Institute.
- ◆ Traffic and Safety: They have stated their plan is to run **250 gravel trains per day in and out** of this gravel pit. That means 500 gravel trains per day traveling through Delton and the surrounding area.

Recently, we learned that three other large parcels in the Delton area have been purchased by gravel companies. We are concerned that our area has become a target of this industry.

GRAVEL PIT UPDATE CON'T

We implore the entire community to help us in our fight against this gravel pit. It not only effects our lake community but the entire community and surrounding lakes.

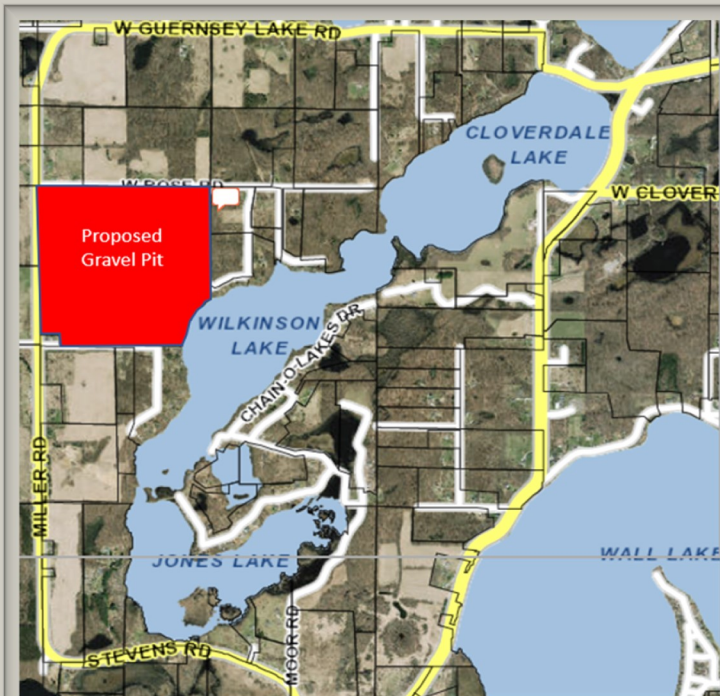
What can you do? Please support us on our resistance, plan to attend the next Hope Township planning commission meeting on Thursday May, 20th at 6:30 pm (the location is still to be announced). The Hope township planning commission is currently deliberating this application. Let your voice and concern be known during the public comment period at the beginning of this meeting. Let's not let this industry destroy our lakes and change Delton from being the "Land amid the Lakes" to the "Land amid the Pits."

Please follow Healthy Waters Alliance:

PO BOX 243, Delton, MI 49046

Email: Healthywatersalliance.hope@gmail.com

Find Us on Facebook: The Healthy Waters Alliance
us on Facebook and ask to be included in our email updates.



GWLA 2021 Board

Christy Tigchelaar President

Jeff Keller, Vice President

Martha Edger, Treasurer

Melody Lutz, Secretary

Andy Bohr

Alan Freid

Dale Grimes

Tim Harsevoort

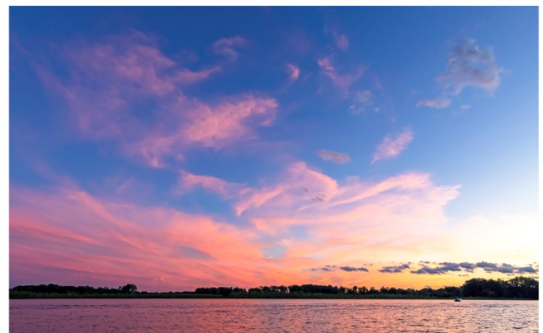
Steve Larson

Olivier Martinon

Larissa Shaw

GWLA WEBSITE

The GWLA Website www.mywalllake.com is now mobile friendly. Please check it out! More updates to come.



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 greaterwalllakeassoc@gmail.com.