



THE WALL LAKE SIGNAL

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Special points of Interest:

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Know your GWLA Officers

Thank you to Bob Cove for serving as Treasurer until October of 2013. His audits were always clean, so we are privileged to have had his services for the past several years.

Our new Treasurer is Board Member Jerry Sivak. Thank you to you, Jerry, for volunteering in this way.

President: Alan Freid
Vice Pres: Susan Trudeau
Secretary: Mary Branch
Treasurer: Jerry Sivak

Board Members:
Bill Cook, Bob Cove, Doug Drenth, Tim Harsevoort, Richard Fluke, Walter E. Reilly, and Bill Wiersma represent the North and West Side residents.

Andrew Bohr, Terry Deike, Jodie McManus, Rob Seiter and Christy Tigchelaar represent the South/East residents.

Living on Wall Lake

Winter brings a new life to Wall Lake. Many neighbors head to their town homes or to warmer climates. The lights around the lake are much fewer during the winter. And the wild life changes. Diving ducks and other birds migrate through, giving us just a short chance to watch their habits. Deer come closer, looking for that special vegetation.

Please be aware that those remaining at the lake should be vigilant of unusual activity, not only near your residence but also around adjacent properties. Contact our local law enforcement if you feel something looks amiss.

Issues Affecting Wall Lake

1) Mute Swan Update

Hope Township has decided to Opt Out of the suggested culling of Mute Swans in our area. They have informed Barry County that our Township will NOT be participating in the program.

2) Oil Well Update

The oil well installed on property adjacent to the lake on M43 has been "finished". West Bay Exploration Co had drilled the well vertically to 2000', perforated and then acidized it several times. Virtually no gas or oil was discovered. Now the company has the option of doing more seismic testing, and possibly drilling a horizontal leg. This would require obtaining an additional permit from the DEQ. However, the company may simply cap the well.

See more about the recent GWLA informal discussion with a DEQ representative below in this newsletter.

3) Lake Monitoring Program

Board member Jodie McManus has suggested that GWLA participate in the Cooperative Lakes Management Program. Lake residents and GWLA board members would all have a chance to learn how to monitor our lake using GPS locations and then supply data to a State of Michigan database. We will have board members trained by DEQ representatives during the Spring Lakes and Streams Conference. If any lake resident is eager to learn more about monitoring the health of our lake, please let one of the GWLA board members know. We will post more about this long ranged project as the training time nears.

There are Rules!

Did you see the article in the Hastings Banner about the truck that went through the ice on Podunk Lake last year? Well, don't be like that person! Here are the Safety Rules for being on the ice, as provided by the State of Michigan:

- 1) Avoid crossing frozen bodies of water in a single file
- 2) Never venture onto the ice alone or without telling your plans to a responsible adult
- 3) Any time you are on the ice and have not personally checked the ice thickness, consider yourself in harm's way. Check the ice thickness with an ice spud before venturing onto the ice.
- 4) Never Drive A Car on the Ice!
- 5) Avoid standing or walking in areas with a group of people.
- 6) Always wear a life jacket when on the frozen surface of a lake or river
- 7) Carry a pair of ice picks. These are designed for a self rescue and are two handles with a nail device on one end and attached to each other by a length of rope
- 8) Look for large cracks or depressions in the ice.
- 9) Learn and practice rescue techniques by using ropes, boat, ladders etc.
- 10) Ice does not form with uniform thickness. Underwater springs or currents can wear thin spots in any body of water.
- 11) Clear ice is strongest. Ice formed by melted or refrozen snow appears milky, is porous and very weak. Ice covered by snow should always be presumed unsafe.
- 12) Four inches of ice will generally hold an average sized person. Snowmobiles and ORVs need at least 8" of consistent ice.

Winter is a time for cross country skiing, ice fishing and making snow figures. The beauty can't be beat!



Thanks to Mary Branch for sharing this picture of her father, Burt Cor-Sette and friends, standing along the road on Beechwood Point by what is now Christy Tigchelaar's home.

Remember when...
Thank you to
Doug and Dawn Drenth



Winterfest 1977
On the ice near the
shoreline off
Walldorf Road

Answers from the DEQ



The GWLA board met informally with Erik Kimber, a geologist with the DEQ. Members wanted to clarify the procedures and possible future of oil and gas activity in our community. Here are some of the highlights of the discussion:

There are currently 26 oil well sites in Barry County. Each site is visited a minimum of two times each year. The DEQ is responsible for monitoring the quality of the air, water, soil etc at well sites. Typical problems if they should occur would be a minor oil leak or drip of oil onto the ground. There have not been any in Barry County. If there should be a problem, the DEQ Code part of 201 Section 324.20112d provides guidelines which include public meetings, notices, publications and summary documents. If there is a major spill, the DEQ and/or the EPA oversee corrective action, just as they have on the Kalamazoo River.

The well on Bud Leonard's property is currently inactive and in a holding pattern while West Bay determines how to proceed. They may cap it, begin pumping whatever oil they have released, or place the well on hold for a year. They must tell the DEQ of their intentions within 90 days after "finishing" the well. That should occur around the New Year. If they decide to start pumping oil, they would install an electric pump that is quite quiet, and pump the oil into one or two holding tanks on site. Oil would be emptied into tanker trucks that would come once or twice a year to haul the oil away.

When asked if there were any other well sites so close to a lake, Mr. Kimber said that in Northern Lower Michigan, the oil company built a peninsula out into a lake and constructed the well site on it.

There is no fracking (hydraulic fracturing) going on in Hope Township. There is in Ionia and Antrim Counties. If the Leonard well were to be used for dumping of materials, the company would have to apply for a permit first. The DEQ website has information about permits, how to report problems and other resources.
http://www.michigan.gov/deq/0,1607,7-135-3311_4111_4231--,00.html

Join A Committee

Do you care about Wall Lake? Do you sometimes have frustrations that something is not the way you feel it should be? How about bringing those ideas and some passion to one of our GWLA committees? You do not have to attend board meetings. Just get together (in person or by phone or email) with others like you and work out something that will benefit all of us on the lake.

Current committees include:

- **Water Quality Committee:** Jim Hagon, Chairperson (jbhagon@gmail.com), Jerry Sivak, Andy Bohr, Jodie McManus, Rob Seiter, Mike Hoeksema and Larry Ulmer
- **Newsletter/Facebook Committee:** Sue Trudeau, Chairperson (strud30484@aol.com), Bill Wiersma, Christy Tigchelaar, and Walter Reilly
- **Rock buoys:** Tim Harsevoort, Chairperson (sharse36@hotmail.com)

GWLA BOARD CONTACTS

If you have an issue that needs attention, please contact your GWLA Board representative. We can help when your boat has come loose from its mooring and disappeared, or if you see some unusual activity on the lake or a neighbor's property. When you can't figure out if the weeds growing along your shore are native or invasive, just ask us. We are always here to help!

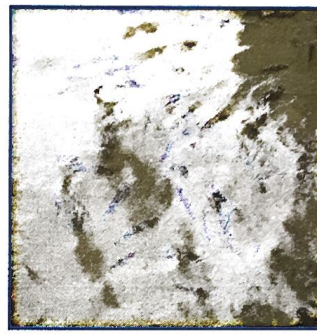
The Fishing Report

Board Member Terry Dieke has once again coordinated the addition of Walleye into the lake this fall. A total of 2,000 Walleye ranging from 6–8 inches were carefully placed in the water at the west ramp near Beechwood on October 25th. The fish were raised in Minnesota and their planting had to take place after our lake water had cooled enough to match that of their home waters in the north.

October 25th was a cold and rainy day—perfect for releasing the new Walleye into their new home. Laggis Fish Farm from Gobles, Michigan performed

the release into Wall Lake. They had planted Walleye in Gun Lake on the previous day. Laggis plants over 20,000 Walleye into lakes around SW Michigan each year.

This Muskegon strain of Walleye are greedy predators and will help control the population of small Sunfish. Walleye are both exciting to catch and great to eat! The new fish should be legal size to catch in two years.



Winterizing the cottage
Burt CorSette Sr,
Mary Branch's grandfather

The GWLA was established in 1961 to foster a spirit of cooperation among lake residents, to encourage the preservation of the natural beauty of the lake, and to promote the safe and enjoyable use of our valuable, common resource.

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Become a member for only \$25.00 per family.

Go to

<http://gwiaspace.ning.com/>

or call a Board member.

## Social Life on Wall Lake

It seems that several houses have been bought and sold throughout the 2013 year. We have lost old friends, but gained new neighbors.

Welcome to **Jim Tew** on Beechwood Point, and to **Neal and Kerry Glaeser** on Harrington.

Also, thank you to all those who have renewed their memberships or newly joined the GWLA. The Board invites you to participate in the **Wall Lake Garage Sale** scheduled for June 7th, 2014, and the **Annual GWLA Meeting** at Hope

Township Hall on June 21st at 9 AM.

Remember to gather ideas for the annual **4th of July Boat Parade** also. The much revered Dom Court Trophy for the best decorated boat is up for grabs.

Please view the GWLA website at [gwiaspace.ning.com](http://gwiaspace.ning.com) or go to

Facebook and type in Greater Wall Lake Association to keep up with what's happening on the Lake, and post your photos of your biggest

catch, beautiful sunsets and all those beneficial enjoyments relating to Wall Lake living.

If you are a sailor, or want to learn to sail, contact the **Wall Lake Yacht Club** Commodore Cheryl Baker at [cbaker@KCMS.MSU.EDU](mailto:cbaker@KCMS.MSU.EDU). We encourage entertainment on the water in the form of light competition or just a day to enjoy boating by wind power!

Enjoy the lake and our great neighbors.

## Wall Lake Weed Treatment Schedule

Our lake management contract continues with PLM. Ecologist Andy Tomlaszewski has submitted the final report for 2013 and suggestions for the 2014 season:

*"2013 was a very successful year in regards to exotic plant control on Wall Lake. We anticipated that spot treatments would be necessary to address milfoil re-growth following the whole lake Sonar A.S. application conducted in 2013. While milfoil was found during the season, it was at a very low abundance. Algae and Curlyleaf pondweed were also addressed early in the season but only required minimal treatment.*

*For 2014, we anticipate a similar management approach. The lake will be evaluated through the season and any exotic plant issues will be addressed as needed."*

PLM will do a survey of the lake in April/May and then send us the schedule of application dates for adding chemical treatments as determined in the Spring survey. We will post the schedule on the GWLA website and Facebook.



Water levels in Wall Lake on 11/03/2013 were 2 inches below the top of the weir at the dam.



## **Greater Wall Lake Association INC**

**PO Box 56  
Delton, MI 49046**



### **A Message from the GWLA Vice President**

During the Fall of 2013, we lake residents had occasion to view our lake a little more protectively than normal. Due to the installation of an oil well adjacent to Wall Lake along M43, the GWLA felt it important to notify lake residents of its construction and to offer a group water well testing program so that residents could have a baseline test of their private drinking water source. Kar Laboratories of Kalamazoo came out to make the test collections based on the DEQ Pre-Oil Well Recommendations. Fifty eight households from all around the lake participated in the testing program. Because there are oil leases signed on properties surrounding our lake, it was the right time to have these baseline water well tests done. We can not predict what will happen in the future with oil and gas development in our neighborhood but if there should be a future spill or contamination, our lake now has an excellent database of information that is sufficient to use as a legal resource. Thank you to all those homeowners who have now learned where their plumbing shutoff valves are, how to bypass their water softeners, and the location of their water pumps! It was certainly a learning experience for all of us for a good joint effort.

The Greater Wall Lake Association feels strongly about protecting this precious environment that we call home. Our new project, the **Cooperative Lakes Management Program** will offer all of us a method of learning more closely what our lake is actually made of, and how climate and our behavior on and around the water can affect it. This will be a wonderful activity for children and adults alike to participate in discovering the wonders of Wall Lake from a biological and ecological standpoint, and we will be adding information to the State of Michigan database also. We are fortunate to have Jodie McManus on our Board. She was involved with research last summer with staff from the Kellogg MSU Research Unit and will be spearheading our training and organizing our data gathering on the Lake.

**You are all welcome to take part in this program beginning the summer of 2014!**