



Greater Wall Lake Association

Spring 2023 Newsletter

FROM THE PRESIDENTS DESK

By Alan Freid, President

Happy Spring, I say that as, yet another snowstorm passes through our area. This has been one strange winter where we have had reports of record snowfall in Grand Rapids, yet our lake was clear of ice in mid- February and there was no real ice fishing season to speak of.

Fortunately, over the winter we did receive some good news. The initial Special Use Exception permit for the gravel pit at Wilkinson Lake was denied by our township's Planning Commission. This of course, resulted in a lawsuit against the township which is currently in litigation. Additionally, a second Special Use Exception permit for the same location and operation but by a different entity has been submitted and so for the most part the process begins again. As an association we have continued to participate in these matters by showing support for our friends and neighbors that comprise the Healthy Waters Alliance.

Recently we had the opportunity to meet with Representative Rachelle Smit and a representative from Senator Albert's office. Both seemed to be impressed with the information and concern expressed by the combined organizations and we hope that this will pay dividends as motions considered at state level to increase the power of mining companies and limit the control possible at the local level are debated.

On a much more positive note, the folks at Pierce Cedar Creek Institute have asked for an opportunity to present their findings from the initial year of their Water Quality Monitoring Program, which included our lake. This event will be held on May 25th at the institute and will also be available via the internet. If possible, please try and attend, as there will be lots of useful information about our lake and there is no cost for it. Please watch Facebook for additional information.

Along the same lines, prevention of the spread of invasive species, particularly weeds such as Milfoil and Cabomba remains a critical issue for us to be involved in. In this issue you will find information on how to help prevent the spread and this is particularly pertinent to anyone who transfers their boat from lake to lake as well as those who rent property to folks on this lake and allow their renters to bring their boats to our lake presumably after having been used elsewhere.

Finally, for all those who enjoy Wake Boarding or those concerned about shoreline erosion, there was a study released last fall which led to follow ups from our state's Department of Natural Resources that shed some additional light on best practices and the effects of Wake Boarding on inland lakes. A link to the study is provided later in this newsletter.

As always, have a great summer and see you on the lake.

GWLA Preservation Fund is just one of the ways you can help preserve our lake for future generations. All gifts to the GWLA Preservation Fund are tax deductible through the B.C.F. IRS 501 (c) (3) designation. 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

As a 501(C) (3), the GWLA can also receive tax deductible donations for lake preservation directly if you prefer.

A Note from the Treasurer

The reminders for the Greater Wall Lake Association dues have been sent and should be in your email. This year you can pay electronically if you wish. If you did not receive the reminder invoice by email, please check your spam folder. We are also offering a reduced rate of \$14.00 for the Riparian Magazine for any member that is interested. Also, membership must be current to be able to enjoy our Annual Meeting breakfast buffet.

Our email is: greaterwalllakeassoc@gmail.com if you have any questions.

We appreciate your continued support of the Greater Wall Lake Association.

GWLA Annual Meeting

This year the GWLA board of directors voted to have a Breakfast Buffet at the Moose Lodge. The date for this event is July 15. Buffet breakfast will be served from 8:30 to 9:30 am. The meeting will be from 9:30 to 11am. More information on the cost and registration will be provided by the first week of June to provide plenty of time to register. Please mark your calendar to join us.

GWLA Garage Sale

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

2023 Michigan Fishing Guide

Below is a link to the 2023 Fishing Guide from the DNR. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources is committed to the conservation, protection, management use and enjoyment of the state's natural and cultural resources for current and future generations. They have published a complete fisherman's guide to the current fishing regulations in Michigan as well as information about invasive Plants and Animals. If you are a fisherman, please take the time to download this fishing guide and familiarize yourself with the current regulations. Thank you for helping to preserve our beautiful Wall Lake.

<https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/things-to-do/fishing/>

GREATER WALL LAKE ASSOCIATION FACEBOOK PAGE

Recently there has been some confusions about which Facebook page to follow. The official Association Facebook page to watch is Greater Wall Lake Association. However, another Wall Lake Association Facebook Page has appeared. This page is for a Wall Lake in Northern Indiana. Interestingly, the shape of the lake is very similar. Make sure you are following the official page for all event updates and pictures.

GWLA Membership Benefits

Hello and welcome to Wall Lake! We would love for you to become a part of the GWLA (Greater Wall Lake Association). There are many benefits to becoming a member of the GWLA. Where our focus is 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 2023

Save the dates

GWLA Annual Garage Sale.....Saturday, June 3

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

Annual Meeting.....Saturday, July 15

Kayak the Wall..... Saturday, July 29th

Light Up the WallSaturday, August 19

UPDATE WALL LAKE WATER QUALITY AND LAKE HEALTH

By Andy Tomaszewski

PLM Lake & Land Management Corp.

Wall Lake Update 2023:

Although it has been a fairly mild winter with very little ice cover, it is now transitioning into warmer weather very quickly. We will find out in the next couple of months how this will impact plant growth in 2023.

On Wall Lake specifically, it will be interesting how the winter and spring conditions will impact Eurasian watermilfoil. Historically, this exotic and invasive species has been the primary focus of management. Up to this point it has been very well controlled with only spot treatments being required for the past several years. Unlike the native, naturally occurring vegetation that dies back every fall, milfoil can actually over winter and can expand during mild winters. Fortunately, there was not much milfoil in the fall of 2022 and if it did expand, we would not expect it to be significant.

We would expect a treatment strategy similar to previous years. We will evaluate the lake in mid-May to determine any areas of milfoil growth and address those areas during the first treatment in late May. We will try to use systemic and selective products to address any growth we find. These products can selectively control milfoil and also have the ability to control the root system. For the remainder to the summer, we will evaluate and spot treat ~every 3-4 weeks as needed.

Water quality will also be sampled in 2023. Our spring sampling is already done but we will be sampling for E. coli mid-summer and will do a second round of sampling late summer. Reports will be issued in the fall once all the data is in.

As always, we keep an eye out for any new exotic species introductions during our visits. Early detection is critical. Wall Lake has been very fortunate in that regard given its close proximity to other lakes with species such as Cabomba, Starry Stonewort and Phragmites. We encourage lake residents to be very cautious when moving boats and trailers lake to lake and/or docks, lifts, etc. to make sure there are no plants attached. If residents of the lake happen to observe any problems on the lake, please give us a call and let us know.



Eurasian Watermilfoil covering a lake bottom. This invasive became so prevalent in Wall Lake that it was interfering with boat traversing the lake. We are fortunate that treatment has greatly reduced its growth.



Cabomba has been found in Wall Lake however, early detection by PLM seems to have controlled the spread. All of us working together to protect the lake can keep

Respectful Lake Living

How to get the most out of lake life

Today ensuring a natural lakes future takes dedication and commitment from everyone using it. Threats come in many forms from pollution to Invasives species, to dangerous activities and unintended circumstances.

In recent years, Wall Lake has faced many challenges to its delicate ecosystem along with the additional stress that comes as more residents have become full time members of the community and its use throughout the year expands. It is important that each of us, as residents, understands we have a part to play in keeping our shared resource clean and healthy as we enjoy all forms of water sports and to ensure a safe, clean environment for our aquatic plants and wildlife that are so important to the overall health of the lake.

The Greater Wall Lake Associations was formed for the primary purpose of helping to protect and preserve our lake. Additional roles of the Association include, education, community activities and advocacy for ordinances that protect our lake. Your membership dues/donations help us have the funds to meet these goals.

Ways You can Help

Protect the Environment

For maximum preservation and enjoyment of the lake:

- Do not put grass clippings or leaves into the lake.
- Do not use soaps or detergents in a manner that will allow them to enter the lake.
- Do not throw water balloons, hit golf balls or other similar item that litter the lake.
- Do not throw trash, bottles, cans etc or similar item in the lake.
- If you fertilize your lawn, please use environmentally friendly, (phosphorous-free) fertilizer.

Be Considerate of Your Neighbors

Noise

More and more people are choosing to live here year-round. Larger homes, closer neighbors, brings more noise. Please be respectful of your surroundings and remember, sounds are louder and travel farther when you live on a lake. Please be aware of the noise ordinance that Hope Township has established. <https://www.hopetwp.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Noise.pdf>

Dogs

Dogs and cats are great family pets but it is important that they don't run loose where they could harm wildlife or disturb neighbors. Please don't allow your dogs to become a nuisance and risk a visit from Animal Control. Allowing your dog to bark excessively can be very upsetting to your neighbors.

Fishing Close to Shore and Around Docks

While fishing near docks can often be productive, lures getting snagged on boat covers, seats or lift awnings can cause rips and tears. Lures that become snagged on docks or are broken off near or underneath them are a hazard for swimmers and pets. When fishing near docks please be considerate of your neighbors trying to enjoy their lake front in peace and make every effort to avoid breaking off lures or snagging them on the shoreline equipment of others.

Invited Guest Boats

It's always nice to have guests share our homes on the lake. Inviting guests boats to the lake, however, always increases the risk of invasive species being introduced into our waters. If you allow guests to launch boats on our lake, please make sure that all Michigan Boating laws and Michigan's Clean Water Act guidelines are known and followed by them. Listed below are some important aspects of the Clean Water Act you can do as a host.

Be sure that boats entering Wall Lake have been cleaned as follows:

- Inspect and remove any visible mud, plants, fish or animals before transporting your recreational equipment.
- Drain water from equipment (boat, motor, trailer, live wells) before transporting it.
- Dry equipment for at least 5 days. Some invasive species can survive for many days in a dry environment.
- Dispose of unwanted live bait in the trash.

Courtesy

Michigan Boating laws were established to help maintain the safety of all who enjoy the water. Powerboats and Personal Watercraft (jet skis) should take care that they do not interfere with swimmers, sailboats, fishing boats, paddle boards, kayaks, canoes or any other boat that is towing skiers, surfers, tubers etc. Please always travel in a counterclockwise direction around the lake to avoid potential accidents. With all the blind corners on the lake, it is important to follow Michigan Laws to avoid accidents. Please familiarize yourself and your guest with the Boating laws handbook.

The handbook can be downloaded at <https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/things-to-do/boating/rules-and-regs>.

Working together we can ensure our beautiful lake continues to be a resource to be enjoyed for many generations.

Greater Wall Lake Association Property Update

By John Weslowski

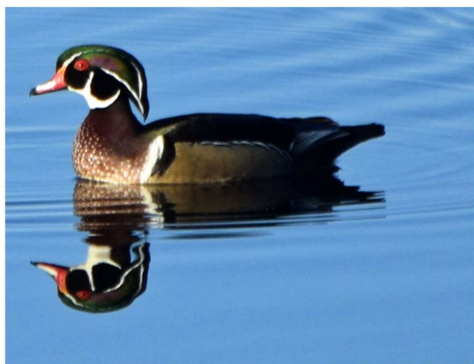
In honor of Earth Month the GWLA is celebrating the volunteers who helped us build and install 5 new wood duck houses on the newly-acquired lot on M-43.

First, a bit of history: At the end of the 19th century wood ducks were an abundant bird species in North America. By the end of the 20th century, they were nearing extinction in the United States due to a combination of factors- including hunting, land development/deforestation and logging.

Two important things that have helped turn this situation around and re-establish a healthy wood duck population in the US are: The Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918, and the creation of wood duck boxes. Wood ducks typically nest in abandoned woodpecker holes in trees, near water and a food source. In 1937, responding to the decline in natural habitat, the US Biological Survey successfully tested slab-wood bird houses. Fortunately, wood duck populations have benefitted and grown since the discovery of man-made duck condos in that first field test.

The GWLA lot on M-43 is an ideal location to boost up our local population of wood ducks, and the GWLA board approved a project to build and install wood duck boxes last fall. After that approval, local craftsmen Ralph Krueger and Randy Froelich volunteered their time to create the boxes and DKHS students volunteered to help install them- which was completed on March 12.

Many thanks to all the volunteers! We are excited to see the future wood duck population grow on our beautiful Wall Lake as a result of the efforts of these conservation-minded volunteers.



Wood Duck



Ralph Krueger, Randy Froelich



Gage Vincent, Brooke Harsevoort, Claire Wesolowski, Brett Harsevoort, Kylie Main, Emma Jeanette and Michael Jeanette with assistance from DKHS teacher Dale Grimes.

Boaters Safety -Most Common Boatings Law Violations

By Andy Bohr

GWLA members & neighbors:

Spring is here and that brings another boating season to Wall Lake.

Please take a few minutes to refresh yourself, family and guests on most common boating law violations regarding the operation of any type of watercraft on the lake. Some of these may sound over the top but the laws exist for your safety and those you encounter on the water. Enjoy your time on the lake!

1. All watercraft shall be equipped with a Coast Guard approved PERSONAL FLOTATION DEVICE (PFD) of appropriate size for each passenger. This includes non-motorized boats, kayaks and paddleboards. Boats over 16 feet are required to have a Coast Guard approved wearable PFD for each person and one additional type IV throwable device. All PWC(Jet Ski) occupants are required to wear PFDs. Children under the age of 6 must wear a type I or II PFD while riding on an open deck of a vessel. Check the printed Coast Guard information on each jacket.
2. Vessels are required to operate at a slow, no wake speed within **100 feet** from **any** raft, dock, occupied swim area, anchored or moored vessels, or persons in the water. This does not mean you are prohibited from operating in these areas. It means operating at a speed slow enough to not produce any wake behind the boat. Speed should also be reduced where there is reduced visibility or congested areas.
3. Watercraft shall travel in a **counter clockwise** direction on the lake when traveling the shoreline.
4. An operator of a vessel or skier / tuber shall not be under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
5. Occupants of a vessel shall not sit or stand in an area not built to be stood or sat upon while the boat is under way, i.e. seatbacks, decks, bow and gunwales.
6. Watercraft must have proper lighting from sunset to sunrise and during periods of restricted visibility.
7. A Personal Watercraft (PWC) may be operated during the hours between 8:00 AM until sunset.
8. Persons born after December 31, 1978 must have a Boaters Safety Certificate when operating a PWC. The minimum age for operating a PWC is 14 with a parent or 16 without a parent. Those born after July 1, 1996 must have a Boater's Safety Certificate to operate any motorized vessel over 6 HP on Michigan waterways.
9. A PWC may not jump the wake of another non PWC watercraft within 150 feet of the boat's stern unless at a slow, no wake, speed.
10. Water skiing is legal 1 hour before sunrise until 1 hour after sunset with a boat. An observer other than the operator of the vessel is required. **"It takes 3 to ski"**.
11. Unpowered vessels (sailboats, kayaks, etc) have the right of way when traveling and powered vessels must allow safe distance between vessels and be prepared to give right of the way.
12. When two powered vessels approach one another, both should keep left. When passing a slower power boat, you should make it a practice pass on the left when possible.
13. Please be aware of vessels pulling a skier(s) or tuber(s) traveling in your vicinity - a skier / tuber may unexpectedly fall. Allow space for this possibility. Don't cut off their travel path / towing wake.

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>

Wall Lake Nature

Aquatic Plant Classifications-- Native, Nuisance and Invasive Plants

By Amy Seymour

Aquatic plants serve important functions in lakes; they produce oxygen, reduce wave action, provide habitat for fish and other wildlife, are a major food source for lake organisms, help stabilize bottom sediments, and help prevent shoreline erosion.

Native and Beneficial Plants

Native and beneficial plants are usually low growing and rarely cover large area. These plants should be encouraged and only removed when necessary. If they are removed, they're sometimes replaced by nuisance or invasive plants. Chara, some Pondweeds and Wild Celery for example provide good habitat especially for young fish.



Chara



Pondweed



Wild Celery

Native (sometimes nuisances) Plants

Native plants that can sometimes be nuisances usually grow from a moderate height to near the water surface or grow in dense amounts near the bottom waters. Like the beneficial plants they should be controlled only when necessary. Some examples of these plants include Coontail, Sago Pondweed, Waterweed and Wild Celery. Notice that Wild Celery is listed in this category and the native and beneficial. That's because it can start growing in more dense stands and interfere with recreational activities. Nuisance plants may cause lake wide problems and may need to be moderated and controlled as necessary. They should not be removed from areas when they are not a problem as along undeveloped shorelines and in wetlands.



Coontail



Sago Pondweed



Waterweed

Invasive Plants

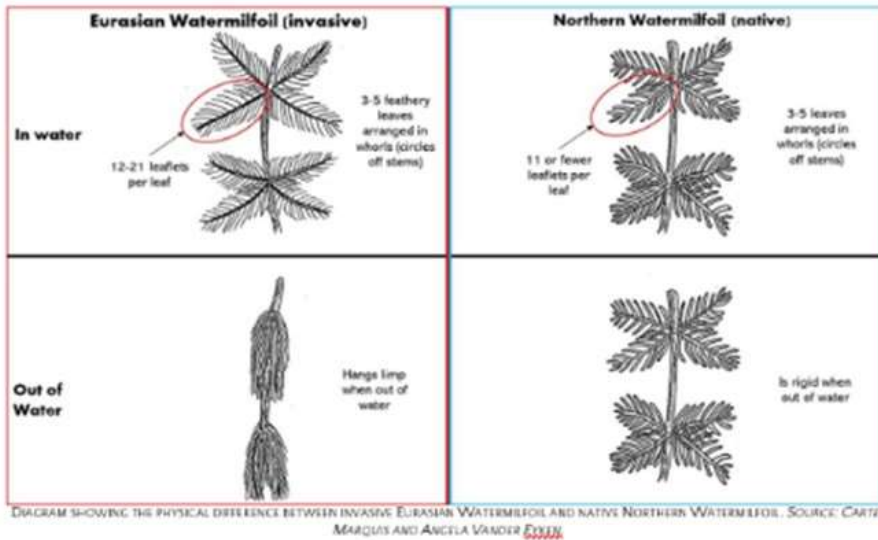
Finally, there are the invasive species. These species are from outside their geographic range and thus not native to the habitat in which they now reside. They can quickly grow and take over an entire lake and cause or likely to cause harm to the environment, human health, or the economy. Monitoring for the invasive plants is very important and treatment and removal should occur quickly after detection. Common invasives include, Eurasian Watermilfoil, Hydrilla and Curly Leaf Pondweed. Two guides for identifying aquatic invasive plants are available for download through the web.

[https://www.canr.msu.edu/uploads/resources/pdfs/a_michigan_boaters_guide_to_selected_invasive_aquatic_plants_\(e3189\).pdf](https://www.canr.msu.edu/uploads/resources/pdfs/a_michigan_boaters_guide_to_selected_invasive_aquatic_plants_(e3189).pdf)

https://www.michigan.gov/invasives/-/media/Project/Websites/invasives/Documents/Outreach/Guide_WatchList_AquaticPlant.pdf

Aquatic Invasives Con't

Common Invasives and their Native Look a Likes



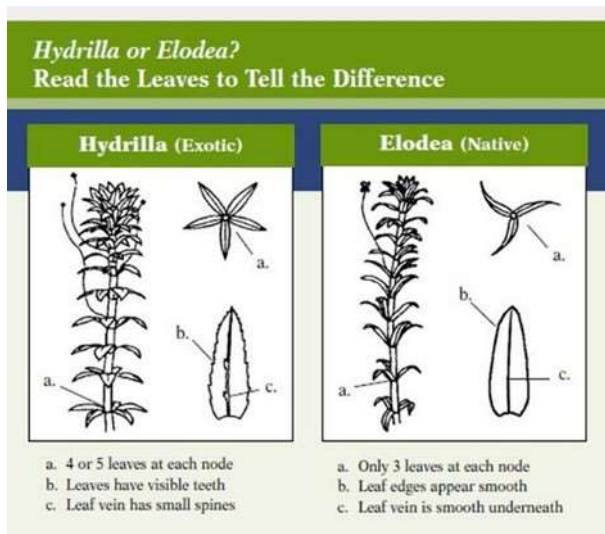
Eurasian Watermilfoil

Northern Watermilfoil



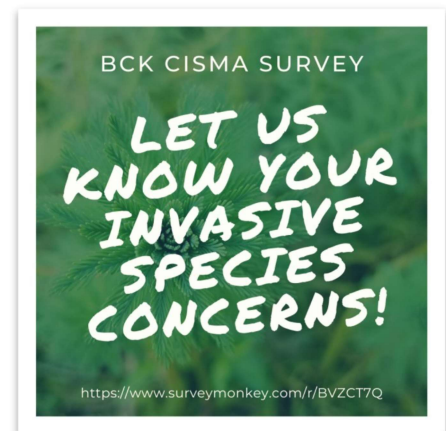
Curly-leaf

Pondweed



Hydrilla

Waterweed



Short-Term Home Rental

Growth in the short-term rental market has caused concern for many riparians in the state of Michigan. The growth of short-term renters in our community, increases the threat to the health of our lake, and can be disruptive to other residents of the lake.

Unfortunately, many of the short-term renters' do not know Michigan's Boating laws, Michigan's Clean Water Act, local township ordinances, and general nature of living on a lake, like the way sound carries over the water. Accidents, medical incidents, and environmental harm from the transmission of invasive species represent the greatest risks to rental owners and the local community.

Please make sure that your renters are aware of proper lake etiquette by providing education on these key aspects of enjoying the lake safely. The association can provide copies of the "Handbook of Michigan Boating Laws and Responsibilities" which can be left in rental properties.

Power Boats, Waves, and Water Sports

Did you know that water sports actually began their popularity back in the late 1890's? The majority of those sports were using non-motorized boats such as canoes. But with the manufacturability of cars increasing, the boating industry also began to grow.

Always searching for new ways to play with power boats, water skiing was born in the 1920's but during WW 1 and WW2 the recreational boating industry was put on hold. It wasn't until the 1960's that recreational boating boomed. Boats were initially designed for small waves to allow for a better ride for the driver and the skier. As skiing evolved to wake boarding in the 1990's, the boating industry needed to make some design changes. Bigger waves were needed for jumping and so hull styles changed and added weight was required. As V-hulled boats became popular, boat wakes grew larger.

Recent Developments

In recent years the combination of high water levels, increased boat traffic and boats capable of more powerful waves have led to many lake side residents being concerned about both safety while on the water and the effects of these factors on overall lake health. Many states have enacted laws directed especially at boat wakes while others have taken the approach of studying the problems attempting to come up with recommendations to protect the lake environment while still allowing for the use and enjoyment of lake resources by the water sports community.

In Michigan, the Department of Natural Resources produced a report last fall titled "Wake boats: concerns and recommendations related to natural resource management in Michigan waters". This report covers effects on the environment caused by powerful boat wakes as well as current boating laws and potential solutions. The full report can be accessed here: <https://mymlsa.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/DNR-Wake-Boat-Report.pdf>

Concerns Raised

One primary concern raised is that of Shoreline Erosion. This can be compounded further by shoreline armoring such as seawalls and riprap that are installed to protect against shoreline erosion. Unfortunately however, seawalls actually increase the wave energy that is reflected back into the lake as well as laterally toward neighboring shorelines.

Other concerns include; sediment resuspension that occurs when the lake bottom is scoured by the powerful thrust of watercraft propulsion (boats as well as jet skis), the disturbance and destruction of native aquatic plants and the spread of aquatic invasive species which can be moved and distributed throughout an ecosystem by waves.

How can you help?

Current Michigan law requires that **all** boaters creating wakes must remain a minimum of 100 feet from docks, that means if any boat is creating a wake, it should maintain a distance of at least 200 feet from the shoreline to ensure the proper distance from the docks no matter the contour of the lake shore.

Additionally, the DNR's report recommends:

1. Boats operating in wake-surfing mode or wake-boarding mode, during which boat speed, wave shapers, and/or ballast are set to maximize wave height, should operate at least 500 feet from docks or the shoreline, regardless of water depth.
2. Boats operating in wake-surfing or wake-boarding modes should operate in water at least 15 feet deep.
3. Ballast tanks should always be drained prior to transporting the watercraft over land.
4. Regulatory authorities and the boating industry should implement an education and outreach campaign that targets wake boat operators to improve awareness and implementation of the best practices listed above.

If you own a wake boat and enjoy riding the waves or flying over them, you know that the deeper the water, the better the wave. This is why many of the wake boats on Wall Lake follow a straight line down the center of the lake while in surf mode. By traversing the deeper parts of our lake, we are working together to help protect our lake bottom and our shorelines. ([Average Depth Map of Wall Lake on the last page](#))

Invasive Species Reminder

It is also important to remember, Michigan law requires any boat that has a reservoir of water than is filled while visiting a lake must be thoroughly drained and cleaned, prior launching in other lakes to avoid transmission of invasive species. It is important to note that Zebra mussels veliger's (larva) have been found to remain alive for 48 hours even if these tanks are drained but not dried completely. This would include "live well" in a fishing boat or "ballast tanks" in a wake boat. This is especially important if boats are short term visitors to Wall Lake or regularly visit other lakes.

By working together, we can all protect our valuable resource and its environment for years to come while enjoying all

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.

You may also contact GWLA through the Greater Wall Lake Association Facebook page.

Did you know Michigan Boating Law Handbook requires a Boaters Safety Certificate to operate motorize boats greater than 6 hp and Personal Water Craft(PWC)?

Boater Safety Courses

Those born on or after July 1, 1996, may operate a boat legally **only** if they have been issued a boating safety certificate **and have it on board the boat.**

Those born before July 1, 1996, may operate a boat legally without restrictions.

Personal Watercraft

Those less than 14 years of age may not legally operate a PWC.

Those **14 and 15 years of age** may operate a PWC legally only if they have obtained a boating safety certificate **and...**

- He or she is accompanied on board by his or her parent or legal guardian or by a person at least 21 years of age who has been designated by the parent or legal guardian **or...**
- He or she is operating or riding the PWC at a distance of not more than 100 feet from his or her parent or legal guardian or from a person at least 21 years of age who has been designated by the parent or legal guardian.

Those **at least 16 years of age** and born after December 31,1978, may operate a PWC legally **only** if they have obtained a boating safety certificate.

Those **born on or before December 31, 1978**, may operate a PWC legally without restrictions.

Barry County Sheriff Marine Division is offering a free Course on Saturday June 24 at Shady Shores Association, 2965 Patterson Rd, Wayland MI 49348. Registration through the DNR website or [www.barrycounty.org/Sheriff s/marine division.ph](http://www.barrycounty.org/Sheriff_s/marine_division.ph)

This information is taken as excerpts of the Michigan Boating handbook. For more information and a complete list of the Do's and Don'ts for safe boating, please download the boaters safety manual at:

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

GWLA 2023 Board

Alan Freid, President

Andy Bohr, Vice President

Melody Lutz, Treasurer

Mark Perkins, Secretary

Mark Hancock

Steve Larson

John Wesolowski

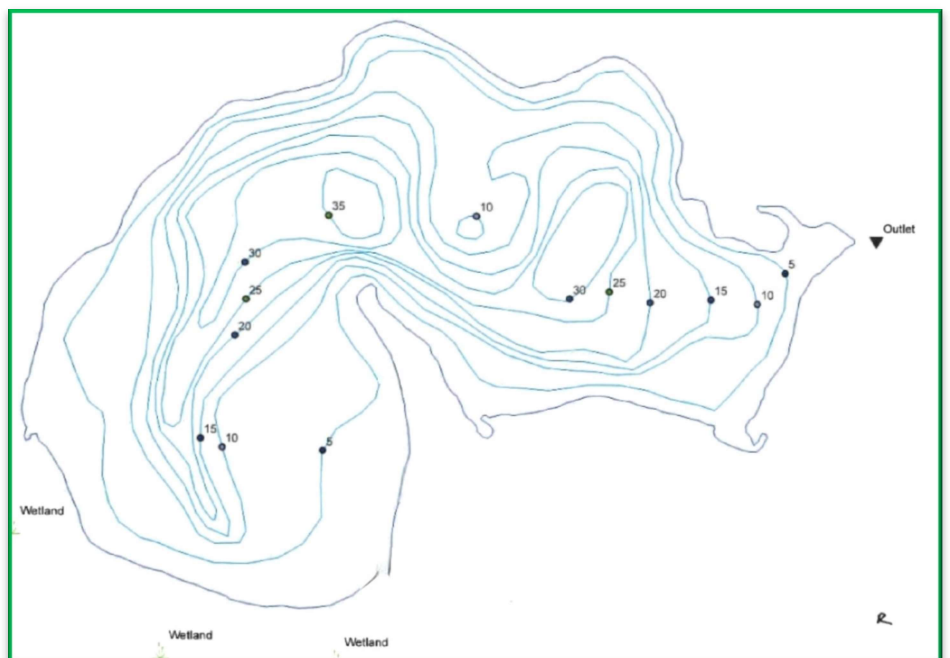
Dale Grimes

Tim Harsevoort

Olivier Martinon

Jennifer Pickens

Kevin Boucher



Average depths of Wall Lake