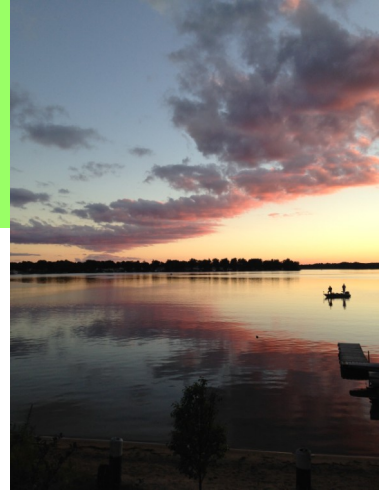




# WALL LAKE SIGNAL

August 2017

A publication of the  
Greater Wall Lake Association



## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

We are all very fortunate to live on beautiful Wall Lake. Established in 1961, the Greater Wall Lake Association Board is comprised of resident volunteers. We are dedicated to protecting, preserving, and enhancing the quality of Wall Lake

and its watershed. Our mission is to preserve Wall Lake as a pristine legacy for future generations. We enjoy promoting a friendly spirit among our members. This year's Family Kayak Event was a tremendous success, and we look forward to supporting similar activities.

As we turn the pages of our GWLA history, I am humbled when I think of the tireless energy of so many that have served on this board before me. I think of the families who, in 1889, traveled by way of the C.K. & S Railroad into Delton carrying their provisions in baskets, and walking to their cottages from the little train depot. It is said that the first annual picnic for Beechwood Point residents was held in 1926, and that after the tables were cleared, a program was rendered consisting of songs and sports which were enjoyed by all. An original song, "Beechwood Point, My Beechwood Point", was a pleasing part of the early culture at the lake.

Because of the ever-increasing threat from aquatic invasive species, **now more than ever we must be aware of our mission.** Currently we are fortunate to be only treating our lake for Eurasian Watermilfoil. We must stay vigilant, however, as there are numerous invasive species in many lakes surrounding Wall Lake. To that end, we are very grateful for your help! We need everyone working together in order to keep our lake safe. Thank you for attending our meetings, paying your annual dues, and supporting our Preservation Fund. Together we have been able to make a difference, and we will continue to do so.

At our recent annual GWLA dinner meeting, June 24, 2017, held at the Delton Moose Lodge, 133 people were in attendance. That may be a record! After enjoying a wonderful meal together, several presenters spoke on topics that are of great importance to all of us. Your attendance at this meeting meant a great deal to us. Thank you so much for your support and helping us protect our beautiful Wall Lake for generations to come!

Sincerely,

Christy Tigchelaar, President  
"Together we can!"



## Wall Lake Events

### ***Kayak the Wall***

*In 2016, Terry and Helen Deike took a normal pontoon boat ride around Wall Lake. That normal ride morphed into a very creative incubator for what ended up as a brand new family event for Wall Lake residents!*

*Terry and Helen had noticed the increase in kayaks along the shoreline. After having lived on the lake for 19 years, the population of canoes had changed to pontoon boats and now to kayaks. They decided to count how many they could see during that ride, and after reaching over 110, they lost track! So then they thought that it would be really fun to encourage families to get out onto the water in all of those kayaks at the same time, but not as a race or competition. It needed to be environmentally friendly. Maybe they should have folks stop at various spots around the lake for a visit. Also, maybe a snack would be good during that stop. And how about learning something new about the Wall Lake at the same time?*

*Terry brought his idea to a board meeting of the Greater Wall Lake Association, and the event was enthusiastically adopted as a possible annual family event, similar to the 4th of July Boat Parade. Thus, a simple boat ride around the lake one night developed into the first annual **Kayak the Wall!***

*On Saturday, August 5th, up to 77 kayakers and stand up paddlers traversed a calm lake between 10 AM and 4 PM. Participants stopped at four different locations along the shore to have snacks, register for prize drawings and to look at old Wall Lake photos and pick up information. Meeting unfamiliar neighbors was the best part, and the enthusiasm was at a high level all around the lake. Bright orange signs designated rest stops hosted by board members Terry Deike (Harrington), Mary Branch (Beechwood), Doug Drenth and Sarah Sandell (Cordes) and Jerry Sivak (Lakeview). And volunteers wore "Kayak the Wall" t-shirts provided by Katie & Christy's Mid-Lakes Screen Printing. Katie designed the signs also.*

*Each host drew 10 names from the list of registrants, and all 40 of those participants received "I Kayaked the Wall" t-shirts and other items.*

*Anonymously drawn winners are as follows:*

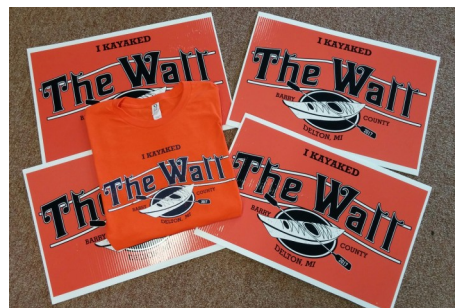
**Harrington Road winners:** Lisa/Kelsic Lamb, Mike McKinstly, Karen Marble, Nancy Schoessel, Dustin Podolsky, Charlotte Deike, Sofia Graham, Steve Smith, Holly McManus, & Julie Seiter.

**Beechwood Point winners:** Karen McKinstry, Paul Chadderdon, Holly McManus, Andy Bohr, Sarah Daschle, Jim Tew, Shannon Schippers, Annette Fried, Mary Delcotto & Alexia Allen.

**Cordes Road winners:** Brooke Harsevoort, Sofia Graham, Ann Swinehart, Mark Stamm, Susan Harsevoort, Megan Peurach, Erica Lutz, Jodie McManus, Shannon Schippers & Char Thomas.

**Lakeview Road winners:** Alex Bohr, Nancy Schoessel, Mark Stamm, Jodie McManus, Holly McManus, Alexia Allen, Kim Bebeeke, Tom Peurach, Sara Swinehart, & Teigan O'Donnell.

*Thanks again to all who volunteered, provided supplies and prizes, and especially to those who Kayaked the Wall! Find photos of the event on Facebook, and on our website at [mywalllake.com](http://mywalllake.com) See you next year.*



## **"Light Up the Wall"**

### Saturday evening, August 26th, at Dusk

Light up your boat and/or your dock for a final event before we all begin to put our water toys away for the winter. This event is a chance to join your neighbors on the water to show off your creativity and enjoy a night of color and light on Wall Lake. Remember to traverse the lake in a **counter clockwise direction**, please.

Use LED or solar lights to decorate. DO NOT use a generator on your boat or dock!!! Remember that electricity travels very quickly through water, so avoid anything that could transmit current into or near the lake!

Be creative. Some people are coordinating their light theme with special music. Go online to see what has been done by others. The GWLA will be taking pictures of your presentations so look for the final photos on our Facebook (Greater Wall Lake Association) or web site (mywalllake.com).

### **Light Up the Wall**

Saturday night, August 26 at Dusk (around 8:30 PM)



Join your neighbors for one last hoorah on Wall Lake. Decorate your boat (or dock) on the last Saturday before the Labor Day weekend. Head out into the lake with your lights shining and just enjoy a late summer night with friends. Decorate with battery powered LEDs, solar lights, or flashlight lanterns etc. Be innovative but don't worry about having to look professional. This is just for fun. Who can be most creative?

Here are a couple of websites about options for decorating a boat with lighting. Just remember to be safe!

<http://www.talkofthedock.com/gear-reviews/maintenance/378-boat-decoratingn-with-led-lights/>

<http://portisabelchamber.com/events/christmaslightedboatparade/boatdecoratingtips.aspx>

If you have questions, call Sue Trudeau at 269 623-8511. Leave a message, please. Let's give a final farewell to Summer before we begin hauling in the boats and docks for the winter. **Light Up the Wall!!**



## The Wall Lake Dam

Because of tremendous collaboration with Jim Dull, our new Barry County Drain Commissioner, the sides of the Wall Lake dam's spillway are now cut to the same height as the old dam.

Many of you know that the old dam, which was built in 1955, was replaced in 2012. It was discovered in 2013 that the concrete was poured one foot too high. As a corrective measure, the front of the spillway was cut down one foot to match that of the old dam.

The permit to revise the dam in 2012 did not allow for dimensional alterations to the new dam. Our new Drain Commissioner promptly responded to the GWLA's concern that the new dam's spillway sides were still not the same height as those of the old dam.



The GWLA Board of Directors recently mailed Commissioner Dull a thank you letter, which stated the following:

"The Greater Wall Lake Association, representing over 300 households on Wall Lake, Barry County, thanks you for your prompt attention and action on the issue concerning the Wall Lake dam. Your willingness to meet in your office for two hours, to visit the dam site, inspect the drain system, inspect the shoreline erosion, canoe the drain canal, and attend and speak at our annual meeting, is commendable."

"The prompt contact with the project engineer and the concrete company, and the resulting adjustment to the Wall Lake dam, corrected a long term issue."

"Best wishes to you and your Drain Commission staff for continued quality service to the citizens of Barry County."

At our Annual Meeting, Commissioner Dull noted that Wall Lake's relatively high water the past few years was largely due to heavy precipitation and a drainage problem at Shallow Lake. The swamp that Wall Lake drains into flows into Shallow Lake. If Shallow Lake is not draining properly, the water in Wall Lake has no place to go. The drainage problem at Shallow Lake is being corrected.



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## Remember When...

In 1965, the water level was so low that Bill Cook, current board member and long termed Wall Lake resident, remembers needing 10 sections of dock on the north shoreline before even reaching the water. This photos shows the Beukema family dock, with the Cook dock to the left, reaching over a very long beach! We are thankful to have had several seasons recently with enough water for those in the coves to be able to navigate their boats to their properties.



## Weed Control Report for Wall Lake

The Greater Wall Lake Association (GWLA) has contracted with Professional Lake Management (PLM) for weed control since 2003. This has been a very successful relationship, and PLM considers Wall Lake one of their **"top five success stories."**

Following is a synopsis of a letter we received this year from Andy Tomaszewski, Southern Lakes Manager, PLM.

"PLM has been working on Wall Lake for the past fifteen years managing exotic species. Management efforts have been very effective in controlling species such as Eurasian Watermilfoil and Curlyleaf Pondweed."

"Although Wall Lake's existing exotic plant species are being controlled, the lake is still under threat from other invasive species in the nearby area. This area of Barry County is unique in terms of the variety and diversity of exotic plant species. Lakes such as Cloverdale, Wilkinson, Upper Crooked, Mud, Long and Lake 21 have the exotic species Cabomba. This species is not widespread around the state and seems to be concentrated in the Hastings/Delton area. Once introduced to a lake, it can aggressively colonize and grow to nuisance levels."

"In addition to Cabomba, there are also a few lakes in the area that have the exotic macro algae Starry stonewort. Currently, Upper Crooked and Pine Lakes have this species but it has been spreading quickly across the State in the last several years. This species is as aggressive as Eurasian Watermilfoil. In some cases, even more so. Treatment options for this species are limited."

"Given the proximity of these other exotic species, it is crucial that boats, watercraft and trailers entering Wall Lake be free of plant fragments. At present, prevention and education is the best strategy. It is less likely that Wall Lake residents would remove their boats and bring them to an infected lake. It is more likely that non lake residents going from lake to lake would be the main source of contamination. An introduction of either of these species would almost certainly cause deterioration of lake health, as well as loss of property value and higher annual management cost to residents. I encourage the Greater Wall Lake Association to look into any and all options that will prevent new exotic species introductions."

Since 2003 we have collectively spent, through our Special Assessment Weed Tax District, \$386,000 with PLM controlling just one main weed – Eurasian Watermilfoil. Imagine the cost if we had other aquatic invasive plants to manage. Imagine the loss if we were to acquire an aquatic invasive plant that has no treatment options.

This is one of many reasons why the GWLA is so protective of Wall Lake and the interests of Wall Lake residents. We are the ones doing the heavy lifting and paying the price to keep our lake as clean and healthy as possible. With your help and support we are able to do a good job of this.

**Thank you**

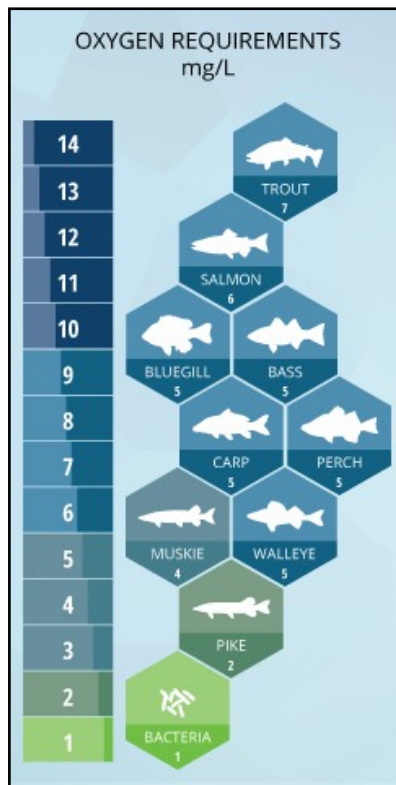


## Water Quality Report – Dissolved Oxygen

The Greater Wall Lake Association recently began participating in water quality testing through the Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program of the Michigan Clean Water Corps. This testing data assists water resource management and protection programs with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality.

One of the water quality tests we perform is Dissolved Oxygen monitoring. Dissolved Oxygen is a very important parameter of water quality, second only to having water itself, because lake organisms need oxygen to live.

The following graphic shows how much Dissolved Oxygen different species of fish need to live.



Dissolved Oxygen is measured every two weeks using a meter supplied by the DEQ throughout the summer from mid-May until mid-September. The graphic below shows Wall Lake's Dissolved Oxygen in mid-July 2016. Wall Lake has minimal Dissolved Oxygen below 20 feet in the spring, and close to zero dissolved Oxygen below 20 feet during the hottest months. This is reason for concern. Life cannot be sustained without oxygen. Oxygen enters a lake from above the water through the atmosphere, or from below the water by plants and sunshine through photosynthesis. There are four reasons for low Dissolved Oxygen in Wall Lake.

The first is excess algae growth due to phosphorous. Even though Wall Lake has phosphorous levels lower than the threshold normally needed to produce noticeable algae blooms, it still has enough phosphorous to produce excess algae. The algae die and decompose and this consumes oxygen.

The second is that we have a layer of "muck" on the bottom of parts of Wall Lake. This muck is organic material (primarily decomposed plants) that needs to be decomposed by bacteria and fungi. The bacteria and fungi use oxygen when decomposing the muck. When the deep water lacks oxygen, the muck can't be dissolved.

The third is lack of native plant life in Wall Lake. While we do need to eliminate aquatic invasive plant species, we also need to preserve and add native plant species in Wall Lake. This is why wise shoreline management is so important. Every time native plants are removed from a shoreline to make a beach or seawall, this reduces oxygen-producing plant life.

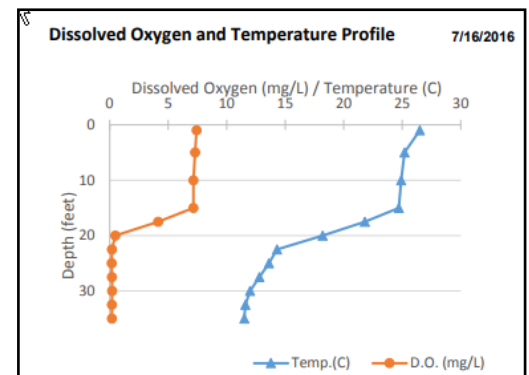
The fourth is stagnation. Deep water in lakes receives little aeration.

What can we do? Preserve, or add native plant life to shorelines. Use environmentally friendly (phosphorous-free) fertilizers.

Clear water isn't necessarily PURE water, or life sustaining water.

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Many thanks to **Alan Freid**, our former lake association president, for performing water quality testing in Wall Lake and contributing much of the information in this article.





## Wall Lake Fish Report

The Greater Wall Lake Association (GWLA) will stock walleye this year. We stock walleye every other year. This has been very successful. We receive many reports of nice walleye being caught, and we know of no adverse effects to the lake because of this. In fact, adding walleye to Wall Lake theoretically increases biodiversity, and this ought to help Wall Lake remain a viable ecosystem. Also, we have anecdotal observations that the bluegill population is improving, perhaps because of better predation of overly abundant smaller fish.

A big thanks to all who target their GWLA donations to fish stocking. You are making a big difference in the quality of Wall Lake.

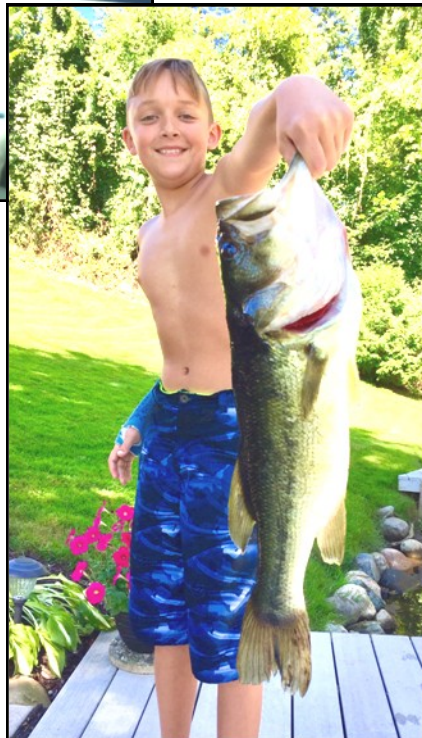


The bass fishing remains a stable source of pleasure for many. We encourage catch and release fishing for the large bass. Wall Lake needs an abundant population of large predatory fish to reduce the population of small bluegills. In the summer, a largemouth bass will eat its own weight in bluegills in month.



Generations of kids are learning to fish.

Thank you for providing a wonderful chance for all!



## A Challenge to Wall Lake Residents

Willy McDonald is a resident of our lake. He is also a nationally known carving educator and waterfowl expert. Dedicated to preserving and perpetuating the traditional art form of carving the "True Hunting Decoy", he has been featured in issues of *Wildlife Carving Magazine*, participated in Michigan State University Museum's **Traditional Arts Apprenticeship Program** as a master carver, honored with the prestigious **Michigan Heritage Award** for his work to preserve and perpetuate the traditions of hunting decoys and for his excellence in waterfowl carving and painting. He was selected in 2011 & 2013 to participate in the "Carving Out Future Decoy Carvers Project" sponsored by the Ward Museum of Wildfowl Art and the National Endowment for the Arts. Willy and his wife Diane operate "The Duck Blind", a Dot Com business called **The Duck Blind** that sells carving and art supplies. You can find examples of his work and read published articles authored by Willy at [www.TheDuckBlind.com](http://www.TheDuckBlind.com).

Why do you need to know all of this? Because Mr. McDonald has challenged us to help him preserve Wall Lake and its ecology and wildlife for generations to come. And he is requesting your input.

Willy wants you to vote for a waterfowl carving for him to create. He will then auction this off to the public and all proceeds would go to the Wall Lake Preservation Fund through the Barry Community Foundation. But we need to determine what to carve! The choices reflect breeds that inhabit Wall Lake natively or as part of the migration flyway. Look over the list of options, and then call Willy at **800-852-7352** or **email to [duckblind@mei.net](mailto:duckblind@mei.net)**.

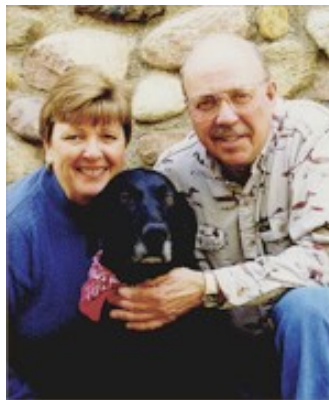
### **Vote for one of the following breeds:**

- 1) Mallard
- 2) Wood Duck
- 3) Green-Winged Teal
- 4) Blue-Winged Teal
- 5) Bluebill Duck
- 6) Ring-Necked Duck
- 7) Bufflehead Duck
- 8) Common Goldeneye

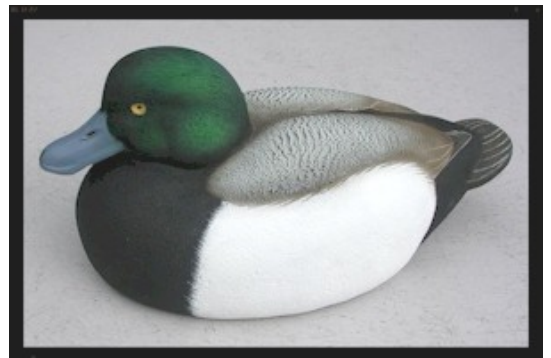
Once a consensus has been received, Willy will begin carving a duck decoy to commemorate Wall Lake. This is an amazing offer made by Mr. McDonald, and his passion for Wall Lake matches his desire to continue the fine art and craftsmanship of traditional Waterfowl Carving. Please help by voting for your choice of duck breed, contact Willy, and then watch to see the end result in our future. Thank you for your input, and especially, to the McDonalds, our Wall Lake neighbors!



Woodduck Drake



The McDonald Family



Bluebill Drake