

# The Lower Herring Lake Association

Spring Newsletter May 2023



## President's Letter

Welcome to the Spring 23 Lower Herring Lake Association Newsletter. Typical of every winter on Lower Herring Lake, there is very little to report! Both your LHLA Bd and Lower Herring Lake both take some dormant time to slow down as the Winter settles over us. With Spring, we feel the warmth of the sun returning, our friends returning and our lake preparing for yet another summer season of creating special memories.

In this issue we will update you on the various administrative duties including our Treasurer Report and our PLM Lake Management program. Spoiler alert, the Treasury is in good shape and we are confident we have mitigated the Eurasian Water Milfoil once again! We are also delighted that the big Lake is much lower than previous summers and the DNR/EGLE has our lake scheduled for fish planting.

Our resident author Bill Mendenhall shares a couple of fun reads that really capture the magic of our Lower Herring Lake. We've also included a great article on the magic that is Camp Lookout, thanks Curtis! They say a picture is worth a

thousand words so we've included several to save us from trying to write that which is better seen.

We've included your Riparian Permission Slip, please take a moment to get this filled out if applicable, thanks.

Remember to Save the Date July 1, 2023 for our Annual Lower Herring Lake Association Meeting. We will duplicate the format we used last year. Coffee and donuts/cookies at 10:00 am at the White Owl. This will be an Executive Style meeting with a goal of one hour. We will be electing new LHLA Board Members to replace and refresh your Board.

In closing, it has been an honor to be your Servant Leader/President. I can never thank all of you enough, especially my great friends on the LHLA Board, for allowing me to serve you. I will be putting the gavel down and stepping away from the LHLA Board following the Annual Mtg.

*- Mark Smith, President  
Lower Herring Lake Association*



Ben Smith and Lila Walton, Paige Smith Celebrating Lower Herring Lake Sunset



*Paige Smith and Lila Walton Building Their own  
Lower Herring Lake Memories*

[www.LowerHerringLakeAssociation.org](http://www.LowerHerringLakeAssociation.org)

## PLM Treatment for Invasive Eurasian Water Milfoil

Background information discussed. Survives over winter, but exposed and flourishes when lake level down with extra sunlight. Mark S will ask for bid for removal for 2023. Discussed possibility of treating where Herring Creek enters Lower Herring Lake. Upper Herring Lake is shallower and has large problems with invasive milfoil. Some of our milfoil migrates from their lake. Mark is discussing possible treatment options with their Association leaders. One example is treating the

entry from Upper Herring Lake into Herring Creek and other UHL hot spots. Their Association has difficulty with fewer members and lesser budget. (Note: Ice fishermen on LHL gravitate to plants like Eurasian Milfoil for ideal catch spots. Their fishing shacks/huts may warm up the water which could promote milfoil.)

- Mark Smith, President

## DNR Fish Stocking

Lower Herring Lake is periodically stocked with Walleye and other fish species by the Platte River Hatchery. In June of 2022, 16,000 fingerling Walleye were planted in LHL. We are currently on a three year Walleye planting cycle and can expect

another batch to be released in 2025. An update will be provided at the annual meeting in July.

- Todd Frank



Enjoying the Black Ice on Lower Herring Lake



## Sacred Stones

The Lake Michigan Petoskey stones we pick up at the water's edge up north are the remains of fossilized coral left from a time when a warm sea covered the area. The six sided honeycomb pattern of the coral is visible on wet unpolished stones. When they are wet the patterns and colors come out and they invite us to pick them up and hold them. Then something curious happens . . . we become captured in their spell and feel compelled to collect more of them.

We look harder for them in the water along the beaches, we find them at the bottom of dune slides and by outlets flowing into the Big Lake, we find them in Spring after winter storms have turned the lake bottom over and pushed them up to the water's edge.

When we acquire a few special stones, we place the special ones on lamp tables, put them in bird baths, place them along window sills, carry them

in our pockets, put them in arrangements in front of photos of loved ones, and we place them on the burial spots of our beloved dogs.

They become sacred stones to us and seem to help us mark some of the significant events, in our lives. I have a handful I have found beginning fifty plus years ago. We have a large stone in the center of a bird bath that Jill found on the beach near our cottage. We have given stones to friends and they were surprised and amazed at their natural beauty. We have put stones in water vessels that held plants and flowers and they have caught the eye of visitors. I have placed stones marking the buried remains of our dogs, helping to keep them in our memories and hold them there.

The stones are part of our larger relationship with the land, beaches, water and sky of this area of our Michigan and become another link to the many things in our lives that we hold as special.

### Annual Lower Herring Lake Association Meeting

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**July 1, 2023**

For our Annual Lower Herring Lake  
Association Meeting.

We will duplicate the format  
we used last year.

Coffee and donuts/cookies at  
10:00 am at the White Owl.



*Sap Time on Lower Herring Lake*

## Kayaking with Alewives on Lake Michigan

Our family has been spending much of our free Summer time up North at our cottage, on a quiet Lake adjacent to Lake Michigan, for more than forty years.

We have seen changes in the fish populations, the water tables, the expansion and shrinking of the nearby villages, and the use and types of watercraft. And yet some things still stay pretty much the same.

Families come to the lake for shared time and growing up. They bring their dogs who bring joy, giving their love and companionship, as they follow their shorter life cycles. Adults and children swim, boat, fish, go to the outlet across the lake and spend time by the connecting stream fishing, swimming and enjoying the extended sand beaches of Lake Michigan. They swim in the waves, run and hike the waterline, dig in the sand, eat lunches, and again marvel at the wonderful views of the "big water," tall tree covered sand dunes, and sunsets.

We have found that if we slow things down we can see more of what is going on around us and better experience the natural gifts at the lake. In recent years we have moved away from using our water ski boat and are using a comfortable pontoon boat with an emission friendly, smaller outboard. And we are using two twelve foot kayaks for paddling and exploring our lake, other nearby lakes, rivers, National Park ponds and lakes, and, carefully, Lake Michigan.

One Summer afternoon, early in the first decade of the new century our daughter Heather and I took two kayaks across our lake, paddled through the stream connecting our lake and the "big lake," pushed over the dam, and went out and into Lake Michigan. The water was mirror calm. We smiled and knew this would be special.

We turned South and paddled toward the Watervale Beach area, about a half mile ahead of us. We moved quietly across the clear water,

about three hundred feet out, looking at the sand bars and blue green color beneath our boats.

We soon approached the more than century old White Oak pilings that formed the foundation of the lumber dock that reached out into Lake Michigan from the Watervale beach in the 1880's. Watervale then was a lumber village deeply involved in harvesting the massive White Pines in the area. The logs were pushed out on small rail cars, across the dock, to waiting wind powered lumber schooners, for transport to saw mills in Manistee or further South in Muskegon. The sawn boards helped American westward expansion and the rebuilding of Chicago after the great fire.

Because of the sunny day and calm, clear water, we decided to push on toward the great dunes further South. We paddled for a while and I began to notice the water darken ahead with schools of fish coming in from deeper waters of the "big lake." Soon there were two large dark masses ahead of us. I pointed them out to Heather. We paddled on and watched them approach our boats then move under us.

They were Alewives, in the tens of thousands. They swam close to the surface and bumped against our kayaks making a thumping sound. Heather excitedly asked if they were going to swamp our boats. I answered no, and told her to relax and enjoy this special moment when the natural world presents itself in a spectacular way.

We sat and watched the fish move and felt them bump our boats for what seemed to be a long time. Then the two schools moved away and were gone.

We talked and marveled at the size of the two schools and the special experience we just had . . . seeing this phenomenon on the water on a clear day from our small boats.

Then, smiling, we turned North paddling back to tell our family our story.



## An Update from Camp Lookout

Happy Spring! This is an exciting time at Camp Lookout. We're starting to wipe the cobwebs away, put the boats and docks in the water, and getting camp looking festive! This will be an exciting summer as our sessions are nearly full with excited first-time campers and many seasoned returners.

We know folks on the lake wonder what we do at camp so we thought it would be nice to share a bit about our philosophy and some of the going-ons. Since the mid 90s our model has been evolving to be unique among the camping world. We strive to provide an experience that allows campers and staff to connect with each other in a meaningful way. We do this through five intentional pillars of our philosophy: collaboration, non-competitiveness, being unplugged, providing a lot of unstructured but supervised free time, and encouraging playful and creative experiences.

If you've been on the lake and heard the roar of a dinosaur, the cackle of a suspicious forest creature or witnessed a shallow water "old timey" baseball game, most likely these are the result of campers coming together to create a new activity.

As with many of you, our beautiful lake plays a big role in our summers and camp wouldn't be the same without it. This summer we're excited to have hired a new sailing instructor from Costa Rica and we hope to have campers experience the joys of sailing on the lake. If you see us out sailing, canoeing or voyaging please give us a wave and know we appreciate the support from all of you, our lake neighbors, in helping keep our campers and staff safe, healthy and happy.

Peace, Love, Camp!

- *Curtis McFall*



*Campers Enjoying the Lake*



## Treasurer's Report

As of May 1, 2023, the LHLA balance at State Savings Bank is \$20,223.58. Thanks to benign lake levels we have not had to expend any funds for mechanical digging of the outlet in over 2 years. As reported earlier, however, the lower lake levels led to increased costs for invasive species

remediation during the second half of 2022. As a result, LHLA's balance is approximately \$9,000 below LHLA's balance from this time last year.

- Todd Frank

## Lake Level Report

Per the Army Corp of Engineers, as of April 29, 2023, Lake Michigan lake level was reported to be 579 feet. This is a one inch drop from January and is only 5 inches above the long term average lake level and 33 inches below the record highs of 2020. Lack of ice cover and average precipitation over the 2022/23 winter months resulted in typical lowering of lake levels over the last couple of months. Lake levels historically rise from March to August then start to drop again in the fall/winter, with this summer's forecast to be 2-6 inches below last summer's lake levels. If Lake Michigan's levels

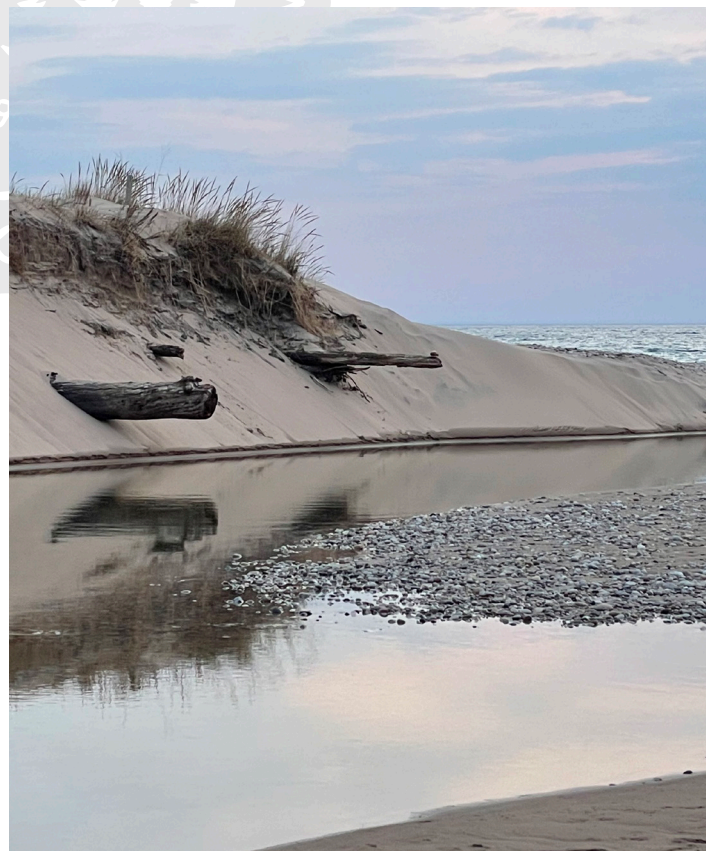
fall within that forecast, we will enjoy a summer where the level of Lower Herring Lake will be controlled by the dam and will only vary if the outlet is plugged for an extended period.

For more detailed information, check out the following link: [https://lre-wm.usace.army.mil/ForecastData/BulletinGraphics/MBOGLWL-combined\\_bulletin\\_and\\_backpage.pdf](https://lre-wm.usace.army.mil/ForecastData/BulletinGraphics/MBOGLWL-combined_bulletin_and_backpage.pdf)

- Todd Frank



*Check out the drop over the Dam*



*Beams Exposed at the Outlet*

**LOWER HERRING LAKE ASSOCIATION**  
**Membership Registration Form - 2022-2023**  
**& Lake Treatment Permission Slip**

⇒ First / Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

⇒ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Send my Newsletter and other correspondence by email only:  Yes

⇒ Lake Address: \_\_\_\_\_

⇒ Permanent Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

⇒ Lake/Local Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ ⇒ Phone # (Other): \_\_\_\_\_

**⇒ Membership Category and Annual Dues**

- RIPARIAN (\$150)       ASSOCIATE-NON VOTING (\$50)       ASSOCIATE-VOTING (\$150)\*

\*Eligibility determined annually and on first come-first serve basis by June 15 of each membership year. If Member doesn't qualify the LHLA will refund the difference in cost between the voting and non-voting membership.

⇒ I am sending my annual dues by:     Check by mail       Online PayPal/Credit Card

Please complete, print and mail Registration Form/Lake Treatment Permission Slip and Check to LHLA, PO Box 11, Frankfort, MI 49635.

⇒ RIPARIANS: Please complete this below and return with your membership. Registration Form/Lake Treatment Permission Slip

I understand that I give approval by completing this Lake Treatment Permission Slip

I hereby give permission to PLM Lake & Land Management Corp to treat my lake/river frontage to control aquatic plants and/or algae. I hereby give permission for PLM Lake & Land Management Corp to access my property and treat for emergent vegetation including Phragmites, Purple Loosestrife, etc. In addition, I will remove any restriction sign at the conclusion of the longest stated time. I may relinquish this approval in writing sixty (60) days before treatment of my property and understand that I am giving permission indefinitely or until relinquished. Signing this form does not obligate me to pay for services unless a contractual agreement has been signed.

⇒ PROPERTY ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

⇒ LOCATION ON LAKE \_\_\_\_\_

⇒ (PRINT NAME) \_\_\_\_\_

⇒ (SIGNATURE)(DATE) \_\_\_\_\_

\*(At time of treatment a dated sign will be posted advising you to stay out of the water for 24 hours.)



# Lower Herring Lake



Association

P.O. Box 11  
Frankfort, MI 49635

## Board of Directors & Terms

### 2020 - 2023

Mark Smith	715-218-8211
Marilyn Raymond	248-763-5343
Mike Pringle	231-590-7969

### 2021-2024

Allison Berry	530-902-7294
Todd Frank	847-722-8253
Vernon Noble	231-352-7035

### 2022 - 2025

Bill Mendenhall	616-450-4252
Curtis McFall	734-476-5118
Mark Coleman	616-856-0341

