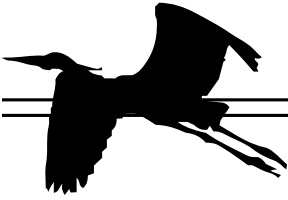


The Lower Herring Lake Association

Winter Newsletter December 2021



President's Letter

Welcome to your Fall (almost winter) Lower Herring Lake Association Newsletter. We are delighted to share the latest information with all our Members and Friends at Lower Herring Lake. In this issue you will find the latest update on the levels of both Lake Michigan and Lower Herring Lake. I believe we all like the news that the "Big Lake" is receding from her record high levels. As Todd notes this seems to be the trend going into this winter and spring 2022. Along this same line, check out the good news that the "Wake Restriction" has been removed! As a final note, your LHLA has successfully navigated BOTH the State and Federal Regulatory obstacle courses to renew and expand our Outlet Permits. The current combination of a significantly lower Lake Michigan level and a subsequent greater "head pressure" available to Lower Herring Lake has resulted in the outlet opening itself on many occasions.

Your LHLA Board continues to work closely with Professional Lake Management to mitigate Aquatic Invasives, for details see the comprehensive summary provided by PLM, complete with pictures! Your LHLA Board is working with the latest technologies to ensure the quality of Lower Herring Lake as witnessed by the summary of our efforts

with Zero Gravity drone survey. We will share this information as it develops.

Let's talk about fishing for a moment. As a reminder, any fisherman always thinks of his/hers best day of fishing when they are asked "how is the fishing"? Marilyn Raymond has enthusiastically agreed (my words, not hers) to tackle future fishing reports. Take a moment to ponder her questions and shoot us an answer at your convenience.

Your Board continues to update and modernize both our record keeping and membership communications. We are also responding to the changing times as we consider several options for our LHLA Annual Meeting. Check out these articles in this edition of your LHLA Fall Newsletter. Big thanks to both Mark Coleman and Sarah Delavan for their continuing work on these projects.

All of us on your LHLA Board appreciate the cooperation and support from all our Members and Friends. Thanks again for letting us represent you.

- Mark Smith



PHOTOGRAPH BY MARK SMITH



WHITNEY SMITH AND DAUGHTER PAIGE
ENJOYING LATE SUMMER SUNSET

www.LowerHerringLakeAssociation.org

Current Lake Michigan Water Levels and the Short Term Forecast

What a difference a year makes! For most of 2019, we experienced near record high water levels that resulted in the 2020 No Wake Ordinance. 2020 broke the Lake Michigan high water record and many of us suffered through flooded basements and crawl spaces, shoreline erosion and damage to trees and other landscaping from saturated soils. 2021 has been a breath of fresh air and dry ground!

As of the end of November, the Lake Michigan continued to drop as result of below average precipitation and higher than average evaporation. Lake Michigan levels are currently 17 inches below last year's levels and only 15 inches higher than the long term average. Additionally, the Corp of Engineers is predicting water levels to continue to drop in Lake Michigan over the next six months by an additional 3 to 6 inches.

What does this mean for Lower Herring Lake? As long as Lake Michigan water levels remain higher than the height of our dam (my layman's estimate is that Lake Michigan is about 15 inches higher than the dam right now), our lake levels will remain at the same level as Lake Michigan (provided the outlet is open). Taking into account the Corp's predictions, we can expect that to continue for at least the next year. Barring another Polar Vortex or heavy snow/rain events over the next 6 months, we should be looking at Summer of 2022 lake levels even lower than we enjoyed in 2021.

I don't know about you, but it was great being able to enjoy using our yard for activities other than as a swimming pool for ducks or as I called it "Middle Herring Lake"!

- Todd Frank

Lifting the No Wake Rule

While the NO WAKE RULE has been removed from the lake, the mostly respectful compliance with it while it was in effect did go a long way to mitigating shoreline problems during our extremely high water levels. Thank You to everyone that assisted during the emergency. Now for the bad news, while Lake Michigan has gone down a significant amount and is projected to remain there and hopefully continue to decline, our outlet still closes at various times due to wind and wave action on Lake Michigan which raises the level of Lower Herring which again causes

shoreline erosion problems until the outlet is again opened. When this happens, it would be helpful, and most appreciated, if essentially the No Wake Rules could voluntarily be put back into effect until we can get the outlet back open and the lake level back down. Thank you to all that help with these on-going efforts, I look forward to the day when there is again a foot of fall over the dam and we all have our beaches back.

- Skip Noble



DARREL SWAIN AND BILL GATES (NOT THAT BILL GATES) ENJOYING A DAY FISHING



PLM TREATING AQUATIC INVASIVES

Lower Herring Lake Outlet Permit(s) Update

It gives us great pleasure to inform our Lake Neighbors that the LHLA has secured the necessary Michigan EGLE and USACE Permits to open the Outlet. The EGLE Permit will expire 1/22/24 while the USACE Permit expires 10/18/26. The current combination of a significantly lower Lake Michigan level and the subsequent greater "head pressure" available to Lower Herring Lake has resulted in the outlet

naturally opening. We realize with the winter weather upon us, it may become necessary to assist our lake in getting the outlet open. We once again have the permission of the necessary regulatory State and Federal Agencies to employ mechanical means.

- Mark Smith

Shoreline Survey Update

As a follow-up to the drone survey of Lower Herring Lake shoreline that Dennis Wiand did for us in 2019, the Board will be talking with Dennis and his team about putting together a summary of the information

that can be useful to the Association. We will report on this again in Spring.

- Alison Berry

LHLA and Member Communication



A WINDY DAY IN FRANKFORT

The LHLA communicates with its members primarily through email. This is an efficient way to share relevant information either with members directly, or to the greater community that supports activities relating to the Lower Herring Lake watershed. In addition there are some updates made to the LHLA website and the LHLA newsletter contains information on relevant topics. The LHLA Board meets most months of the year to keep up with timely and pertinent issues.

The other, and most direct and most important, is at the annual LHLA Members meeting. Expect information about the date and format of the 2022 Annual Meeting via email as well as a postcard mailed out to all members. Saturday, July 2, 2022 is set for the next annual meeting.

Please update any information online regarding your phone number, mailing address or email address if they have changed. You can also check your information at:

LHLA Membership and Giving: <https://www.lowerherringlakeassociation.org/giving>. Choose new or renew your membership to update or check on your member information.

If you prefer to mail, or send an email, with any changes please send them to:

Address: PO Box 11, Frankfort, MI 49635

Email: LowerHerringLA@gmail.com

- Mark Coleman

GO FISH!

Lower Herring Lake traditionally has been known as a local fishing lake. In LHLA Board discussions, we discussed the importance of supporting and monitoring fishing as your advocates. I am now the official board representative to tackle this issue. I need your help with areas of focus.

Some potential areas of interest follow:

- Shall we cast a wide net, hook in on specific issues, or a combination of both?
- Do you want summaries of DNR reports including the upcoming walleye stocking?
- What makes our lake a healthy fishing lake and conversely what places our lake in danger? What can we do to keep our lake clean?
- Would you like to read about personal fish tales from our members?

- How about a heads up on the annual boat washing at the Elberta Resort Road boat launch?
- Could reports about how good or bad fishing in this coming year or in the recent years be something you would read?
- What is going on with ice fishing?
- Who do you notify if you think poaching is happening?
- Can we find experienced fishermen and women to share tips?

Please send your ideas to me at marraymond@aol.com. These will be presented and reviewed at our next board meeting to determine next steps. Thank you!

- Marilyn Raymond



A BIG CATCH



LYDIA(6) AND BROOKS(5) NOONAH SLAUGHTERED THE PERCH THIS SUMMER
OFF GREAT GRANDMOTHER ANN DEVRIES NORTH SHORE DOCK

Lower Herring Lake EWM Management Program Update

In 2017, PLM Lake and Land Management Corp. was contracted to survey Lower Herring Lake. This survey included collecting bathymetry data to update the lake depth contours as well as performing a vegetation survey to identify both native and nonnative plants within the waterbody. This survey found that Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM) was well established within the lake and widely distributed throughout much of the lake. It was recommended to treat the larger, most dense areas and in the fall of 2017, 7 acres of EWM were targeted for control using systemic herbicides.

Systemic herbicides attack the root system of the plant, which can provide longer term control. It is important when managing milfoil to rotate the active ingredients used to avoid the plants forming resistances to treatments. In 2018, Lower Herring Lake was surveyed again and the treatment from 2017 was very effective, which allowed management focus to switch to other areas of infestation. In 2018, 8.5 acres of EWM were targeted for control. The lake was surveyed again in 2019 and a new invasive species was found, Starry stonewort (SSW). This was found close to an access site and is an extremely aggressively growing macroalgae that grows as a mat along the bottom of the lake. Because the association had a permit and permissions for treatment in place, action was taken quickly to avoid this species from spreading. Early detection and rapid response is key to exotic, invasive plant control. Not only does it help protect the environment and native plant populations, but will save money and decrease management efforts long term. Since the initial treatment of SSW in 2019, no SSW was been found since. In addition to the SSW treatment in 2019, 7.6 acres of EWM were targeted for control.

Lower Herring Lake was again surveyed in 2020. Throughout the summer, numerous surveys found no SSW and very little EWM. This was an excellent sign of the program's success. It is important to note that eradication of EWM is not likely, but maintaining low infestation levels is. It is not uncommon to see seasonal fluctuation and as EWM has a seed bank that can lay dormant, regrowth can occur quickly.



Further, as EWM spreads by fragmentation and as the lake has numerous access sites for new introductions, the battle against nonnative or exotic, invasive species isn't going anywhere, but can be reduced through proper management techniques. In 2020, 1.7 acres of EWM were targeted for control.

In 2021, a few areas of EWM that were previously treated in 2017 and 2018 had more growth than what was found the last few years. The management program has been focusing on larger, more dense beds and the surveys this past summer found ideal growing conditions for EWM and a small resurgence of EWM. In September 2021, 8.25 acres of EWM were targeted for control. As it is important to rotate active ingredients, ProcellaCOR was used to evaluate its success on Lower Herring Lake in addition to the Renovate OTF and Sculpin G that has been used the last few years. So far, the treatment is showing great effectiveness and will be evaluated again in the spring of 2022.

Lower Herring Lake EWM Management Program Update - *Continued*

It is highly recommended to monitor the lake annually, with numerous surveys, a year end AVAS survey to document all plants and ensure that all permissions are collected and funding is available to target any nonnative plants requiring management. Routine surveys have allowed the detection of SSW and its eradication as well as keeping the EWM infestation decreased, allowing the native plants to grow without negative competition from exotic plants. Lake management should encompass both short and long term goals to ensure all elements of the lake are properly managed. The attached map shows the areas in green that were targeted for EWM control in 2021.

We can all work together to protect Lower Herring Lake. Please report aquatic plants of concern to

the association as the more eyes we have watching the lake, the better the chances of finding new introductions before they spread lake wide. Please follow healthy lakefront living practices to decrease nutrient loading going into the lake. For helpful information on the benefits of a natural shoreline <https://www.mishorelinepartnership.org/>. Please ensure that you and your guests wash boats and all equipment before using them on the lake https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/its_time_to_clean_drain_dry_and_dispose. If you have questions on your program, or want more information on how to help, please contact your association or Lake Manager, Bre Grabill at breg@plmcorp.net or 800-382-4434 ext. 2200.

- Bre Grabill

Coming Soon: Annual Meeting Reorganization

The Lower Herring Lake Association is considering a refresh on our Annual Meeting format. At the past meeting Dick and Melanie Taylor suggested that the Annual Meeting be held earlier in the day and be accompanied with a coffee and donut style refreshments. Many of our Lake Neighbors, just like you, saw this as a welcome change-up. Thanks Melanie and Dick! Therefore, we are considering shifting from our historical practice of a noontime picnic followed by meeting business, to a coffee and donut style meeting earlier in the day. Several morning gathering times have been suggested such as 9 am or 10 am. This would allow for all of us to

fit into the White Owl hall comfortably, without the long tables. Plus, it will reduce the duration of the gathering to roughly an hour or so. For those that enjoy the picnic lunch portion of the past meetings, it is suggested that we gather at the Blaine Township picnic, which is usually held in August. The suggested shift will allow for all of us to spend more time with our families and friends during the Independence Holiday week! Please stay tuned for more information and future details.

- Sarah Delavan

LHLA records are entering the 21'st Century

Do you ever wonder what decisions were made in past years Lake Association meetings? Do you ever want to teach younger generations about the history of our beautiful lake? Soon, you will have the records of the Lower Herring Lake Association at your fingertips! The LHLA has been around for a long time, which means: several boxes of documents. The LHLA board

has begun the process of creating digital copies of all of these records, organizing them, and making them available to all members. The goal is to have an easily accessible place for everyone to review our records to foster an understanding of our history.

- Sarah Delavan

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

2018 - 2021

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

2019 - 2022

Bill Mendenhall	616-450-4252
Sarah Delavan	716-262-5488
Mark Coleman	616-856-0341

2020 - 2023

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

