

The Hi-Land Lake Chanticleer

The Official Newsletter of the Hi-Land Lake Property Owners' Association • Summer 2023

Hello from the HLPOA

We hope everyone is enjoying their summer on Hi-Land Lake!

This is the once-a-year newsletter from the Hi-Land Lake Property Owners' Association (HLPOA). It is meant to keep our hellion neighbors informed of meetings, events, projects and general information.

If you are new to the neighborhood, our HLPOA Board welcomes you to Hell!

The HLPOA holds monthly meetings on the first Monday of each month. Meetings are at 7 p.m. If there is a holiday conflict, meetings are held the following Monday. We meet via Zoom from November - April and in person, at the blue Association Building from May - October. We encourage all HLPOA members to attend, as we address issues, work toward solutions and make decisions about the future of our lake community. Notification of any date changes for meetings will be posted on our Facebook group page, *HiLand Lake (Hell, MI)*. We hope to see you soon!

This season we are sad to say goodbye to Charlie Gabbard, who is moving to Florida. He has served on the HLPOA Board for all of the 27 years he has lived on the lake. Charlie is a generous, trusted and great friend to so many of us. Charlie, you (and Krew) will be missed ♥

Little Island

The Little Island is owned by the 501(c)3 non-profit Hi-Land Lake Conservancy, which was established in 2020 for the purpose of holding the Island in a public trust, so we can all enjoy and preserve this little gem. We will keep it natural and open to all, forever.

We have met with the DNR and shoreline experts to address solutions for the erosion we are all witnessing. We are ready to begin installation of a safe and attractive stone and woody barrier that will protect the island without reducing access to the swim areas.

PLEASE JOIN US on Saturdays, Aug. 5 and 12, from 9 a.m. to noon at the Association Building. We will begin the process of moving materials to the Island and staging them for placement. This is a multi-season project that needs help from all able bodies!

Questions? Suggestions? Text or call Val Niemiec at 248-231-9401.

Upcoming HLPOA Event Dates

Pirate Regatta. Sat., July 29. Hosted by the Jahns. Meet at 3 p.m. by the Little Island. See our Facebook page, *HiLand Lake (Hell, MI)*, for more details.

Little Island Work Days. Aug. 5 & 12 from 9 a.m. - noon. See article on left.

Annual HLPOA Meeting. WORTH YOUR TIME on Sat., Aug. 19 at 10 a.m. at the Association Building. Bring a folding chair, if you have one. Coffee and donuts will be served. Meet the HLPOA candidates! Ballot is included in this newsletter.

Kids Fishing Derby. Sat., Aug. 19 after the Annual Meeting. Bring your own gear. Kids must be accompanied by an adult, and have access to a boat. Watch Facebook for details.

Labor Day Fireworks. Sun., Sept. 3. NO WAKE on the lake after 7 p.m. to allow for set up. Historically staged on the west side of the Big Island. Rain date is September 4.

Boat Launch Gate Code

The code changes at the Annual Meeting on 8/19. If you are an HLPOA member and need the code, reach out to one of the Board members. Please don't share the code with others, as it is for HLPOA members only. Remember to close the gate when you are done. There is no overnight parking at the launch.

Trash Talk

As we all know, living on dirt roads has its own set of challenges. One of the best ways to help take care of our roads is to reduce commercial truck traffic. We have made great strides in the last year by lowering the number of garbage companies that pick up trash in our neighborhood. This has gone a long way in reducing the wear and tear these heavy haulers cause to our roads.

If you've not already, we encourage you to try our community's favorite haulers, known for their pricing and service:

The Garbage Man at thegarbagemanllc.com or 810-225-3001. The Garbage Man now provides recycling containers for a reasonable fee.

Granger at grangerwasteservices.com or 517-372-2800.

Contact either company for more information. We appreciate you transitioning to one of these suppliers!

HLPOA Treasurer's Report

Account balances as of July 10, 2023

PNC Account Balance \$90,642.94

Balances on additional funds:

Fish \$11,292.75 collected, 2023 \$1278.00

Bldg \$3,772.25 collected, 2023 \$1268.00

Fireworks \$3584.31 collected, 2023 \$1679.00,
paid out \$3000

Advertising \$0.00

Fundraising \$0.00

2023 Dues billed \$51,425.00

2022 Dues balance \$55,342.13

2023 Total dues billed \$106,767.13

2023 Paid to date \$48,959.50

2023 Late fees added March 15 \$6406.59

2023 Write off \$453.19

2023 Total balance \$67,051.03

If you are having trouble paying your dues and would like to arrange a payment plan, contact Kathy Weaver at weaversinhell@charter.net.



HLPOA Building Report

We hope that by the time you read this, some of the work on the Association building will have been started and perhaps completed. As many of you are aware, the post-COVID days have been difficult to manage, when it comes to contractors and supplies. However, we have settled on contractors and prices for getting the roof refinished and the overhead door trimmed out. Servicing of the furnace is scheduled to be completed in July, with restoring of the interior walls, baseboards and ceiling to follow. You may recall, we had an interior mold issue that impacted the building.

There are various other projects that are planned for the building that will take place as funds are available. They include: Repair and painting of the exterior siding, replacing the two exit doors and hardware in the meeting room, and installing exit signs and security lights around the building. Lastly, determining if the septic field we have is still operational, so that we can look into a bathroom within the building versus having to depend on an outhouse, as we do now.

We are also discussing the idea of installing internet service at the building. We hope that this will improve the safety issue of the building being in a black hole with regards to communication and allow us the opportunity to have our Association meeting online in the future.

We are looking forward to seeing you at the Annual Meeting where we can discuss these issues further.

From the Road's Committee

Roads are always a primary topic at our HLPOA meetings. Ron Connelly is an experienced and diligent manager of the delicate balance among road conditions, weather conditions, repair costs and product availability. Part of the character and charm of our community is the pace of this rural lake life. Slow the heck down on our roads. It is imperative that you yield to road maintenance vehicles. You can see them, but they often can't see or hear you. Don't tailgate or try to whip around them. Wait until they acknowledge you and wave you forward. We have had several near misses that could have had catastrophic outcomes.

Each property owner is responsible for trees and brush at the edge of the road where it abuts your property. When you're doing seasonal cleanups, be sure to trim your roadside as well. If you need help with major trimming, contact Ron and he will do what he can, or refer you to a cost-effective local service.

Public Safety Update: The Hi-Land Lake district houses over 11% of Putnam Township's residents and properties. Our Fire Chief, Curt Ruf, continues to pay extra attention to our area, working with Ron Connelly to identify turnarounds that need widening, establishing staging areas for emergency equipment, and making sure branches are not impeding access for their big trucks and rescue vehicles. Although we live on private roads, the Township has recently allocated funds for installing dry hydrants in several locations around the lake, to pump water from the lake in the event that volume needed exceeds their tanker supply.

The Township is doubling down on insisting that residents keep roads and easements clear. If your vehicle blocks a road or designated emergency turnaround overnight, you must find a new parking solution before a violation ticket hits your window. If you are aware of a problem that could impede passage of a rescue vehicle, consider it your civic obligation to contact the Township so they can take action to keep our residents safe.

Weed Control

This summer marks the third year of the 5-year special assessment for weed control. The work is managed by the Hi-Land Lake Improvement Board (HLIB), established under Michigan statute for the exclusive purpose of controlling invasive aquatic weeds. The Board is comprised of five members: the Livingston County Drain Commissioner (Brian Jonckheere), our District 3 County Commissioner (Frank Sample), a member appointed by the HLPOA (TBD), and two members appointed by the Putnam Township Board (Supervisor Dennis Brennan and Clerk Valerie Niemiec). Unlike other area lake boards that are formed with members who have no affiliation with the lake, our Board has five highly engaged members, including three who live on the lake. We are working hard to implement cost-effective and lasting strategies that 1) reduce the amount of, and frequency of, chemical treatments, 2) maintain navigation channels and access to all docks, 3) foster fish habitats, 4) maximize swimming and recreational water use.

The HLIB uses Kieser & Associates, a professional lake management consultancy, to monitor our water quality and provide recommendations for eradication of invasive weeds while protecting indigenous weeds favored by fish. We are pleased with the results we are getting with AquaWeed, our chemical treatment provider. They are using different chemicals, with less frequency, to keep things in check until Savin Lake Services begins extensive mechanical harvesting. You'll see Savin on our lake in July each year, unless conditions warrant a different schedule. If you're not happy with weed management, let us know what we're missing. The HLIB is partnering with the HLPOA to coordinate treatment on Mickey Carl Lake. (cont'd. on page 4)

(cont'd. from page 3)

This year we are paying extra attention to Sunset Bay, which was somewhat neglected last summer, after a harvester hit a submerged stump that took it out of service for a full week. To help them feel confident about cutting there this year, a volunteer team came by kayak, canoe, and pontoon to conduct a careful search for obstructions that could damage equipment (and boat motors). Thanks to the team who pulled up scores of large submerged branches and loose stumps, and cut fallen limbs that extended too far offshore. Things we couldn't move were marked with PVC stakes so the drivers knew to go around them. Sunset Bay has a lot of decayed plant matter and dead algae (if it's floating it's dead; chemicals won't help). The Kieser consultants and Savin drivers gave us some new tips on how to keep the gunk off your shorelines. That info will be coming in a future document to affected residents (or call Val if you're ready to act now).

The evil and resilient Starry Stonewort is predictably unpredictable, but we are making progress. If you would like to suggest areas of the

lake you want to make sure we don't miss for weed control, please contact us as soon as possible! You can use any descriptors, including your street address or just a vivid description of the problem, and we'll do our best to treat the area. We apologize for any inconvenience that the harvesters cause while they are working to make our lake more convenient to use.

The HLIB has a need-based meeting schedule, but all meeting notices, minutes, water quality studies, fish surveys and more are hosted at milivcounty.gov. Type *Hiland* in the search bar to access the cache of informative documents.

We truly appreciate your feedback and without it, can't improve our outcomes. If you have any questions about HLIB or the special assessment district, or would like to discuss our options and your ideas, do so by contacting Dennis Brennan or Valerie Niemiec at the Putnam Township offices at 734-878-3131. If evenings are better for you, call Val at 248-231-9401. Texts are always welcome, but if your message is long, send an email to Val and the HLIB at Clerk@putnamtwp.us.

Raise Your Hands #1 - Annual Meeting August 19 at 10:00 a.m.

Do you want to meet neighbors and play a part in making our lake community an even better place to live? We currently have three Board positions available. The Board meets one Monday per month to address community concerns and make important decisions for our lake community. There are other volunteer opportunities available too - from helping to plan association events to placing buoys on the lake. Let any current member of the Board know if you are interested - we'd love to have your help!

Raise Your Hands #2

Tubing, skiing and wakeboarding are fun Hi-Land Lake activities, but please remember this important safety action: When a rider falls in the water, they should immediately raise and wave their arms in the air. This tells your spotter that they are okay, and helps other boaters to see them. Fallen riders should turn to face oncoming traffic, continuing to wave arms until they are certain they are noticed. If you are in another boat, slow down and be aware of everyone who might be in the water. Give the towboat plenty of room to turn around and return to their passengers. Never tailgate a towboat!

As always, keep a close eye on children and pets. If someone gets tangled in weeds, they should call for help and use the side of a boat, a flotation device, or some other means to lift themselves out of the water without further kicking.

Ticks in Town

The infection we know today as Lyme disease (namesake Lyme Connecticut) has been around for at least a century. Both Washtenaw and Livingston Counties are included in red zones for areas with ticks carrying Lyme disease (*Borrelia burgdorferi*).

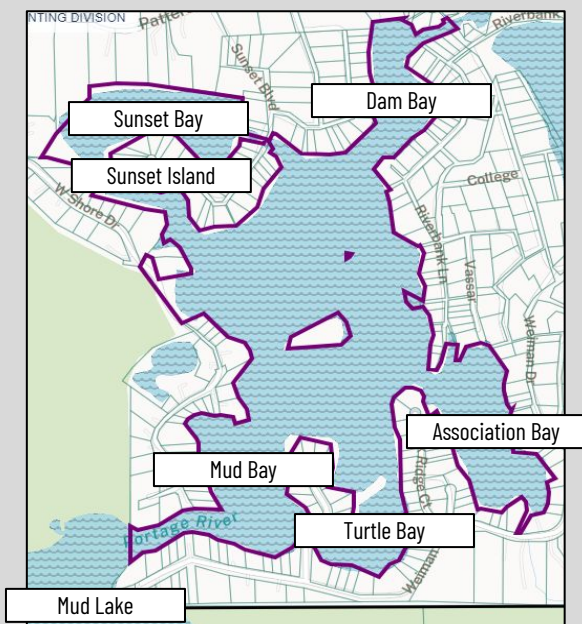
Ticks prefer wooded areas, tall grass, brush, edges where woods and trails meet, leaf and wood piles and stone and wood walls. Lake living in the woods affords the tick a perfect habitat and plenty of opportunity to attach to a host. While ticks are plentiful in our neighborhood, most tick bites are nothing more than annoying. However, we do know Lyme disease-carrying ticks are in our yards and on our trails.

Your canine friend spends a lot of their day in the same places that ticks prefer, but unlike humans, the *Borrelia burgdorferi* can reside in a dog's system without causing too much trouble, if any. 95% of dogs have only mild symptoms, or are asymptomatic altogether. Have your dog tested at its next vet visit. Presumably, you are frequenting the same places as your dog and it will provide a better understanding of your health risk, should your dog test positive.

Prevention: A tick needs 48 hours to infect its host.

- Know where to expect ticks and inspect exposed skin upon returning from those areas. Time is on your side, even if you find a *Borrelia burgdorferi*-infected tick on your person, remove it in a 48 hour window, and you will be annoyed, but not infected.
- Inspect your dog head to tail. An unattached tick can get inside your walls like the Trojan horse.
- On the trail, wear long sleeves and pants, also consider a hat. Treat clothing with products containing permethrin. Treated clothing can be purchased with permethrin in the fabric.
- Apply appropriate insect repellents on both pet and person.
- Spray your property with an EPA-registered insecticide that targets ticks.
- Discuss with your vet the best long-term tick prevention strategy for your furry friend.

The best prevention is for you and your dog to stay inside all summer. NAY! We know that won't happen, so know the threat is real, but that a little prevention negates nearly all the risk.



Where Am I?

We've made mentions of bays in our lake, using names that are part of our lake lore. If you launch a boat at the Association Building, you're in **Association Bay**. As you head into the main lake, veer to the right, because all traffic on all Michigan lakes moves counter-clockwise! The next bay you come to, is **Dam Bay**. Loop through there and continue around the shoreline to Sunset Island. Go under the bridge to **Sunset Bay**, and return to the main lake at the other end of the island. Head south around the lake and you're in the lobe called **Mud Bay**; go through the channel to **Mud Lake**. Enjoy a sunset there, surrounded by undeveloped DNR-owned land. At its furthest point, you can access the rest of our chain of lakes. Come back out of Mud Lake and Mud Bay, continuing to the right, of course. The next bay is **Turtle Bay**, and then you are back at the **Association Bay**. Don't forget to tip your tour guide!

MI Boating Laws and Responsibilities

With an influx of new boat owners, we have noticed a large increase in boat traffic, and some unsafe and illegal boating. **It is the boater's responsibility to know Michigan safe boating laws!** Please follow these laws and have a safe and fun summer!

Below are highlights of some of the safe boating laws as defined by the Michigan DNR. We recommend all boat owners review and follow boating laws for everyone's safety. For the complete information contained in the *Handbook of Michigan Boating Laws and Responsibilities* go to a MI Secretary of State office or visit this link: <https://assets.kalkomey.com/boater/pdfs/handbook/michigan-handbook-entire.pdf>.

Age and Operator Restrictions

Persons less than 12 years of age:

- May operate a boat powered by a motor of no more than 6 hp legally without restrictions.
- May operate a boat powered by a motor of more than 6 hp but no more than 35 hp legally only if they: Have been issued a boating safety certificate and have it on board the boat and are directly supervised on board by a person at least 16 years of age.
- May not operate a boat powered by a motor of more than 35 hp legally under any conditions.

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 (PWC or Jet Skies):

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 their parent or legal guardian or by 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.

Laws Specifically for PWC (Jet Skies)

Personal watercraft (PWC) operators must obey additional legal requirements that apply specifically to the operation of PWC on Michigan waters.

Requirements specific to PWC:

- Each person riding on or being towed behind a PWC must wear a U.S. Coast Guard (USCG)-approved wearable Type I, II, or III personal flotation device (PFD). Inflatable PFDs may not be used.
- You may not allow a child under seven years of age to ride on or be towed behind a PWC unless with a parent or guardian or a designee of the parent or guardian.
- The lanyard of a PWC's engine cut-off switch must be attached to the person, clothing, or PFD of the operator.
- It is illegal to operate a PWC during the period that begins at sunset and ends at 8:00 a.m. *Sunset* means that time determined by the National Weather Service.
- A PWC must be operated in a reasonable and prudent manner at all times. It is illegal to:
Jump the wake of another vessel unnecessarily close to the other vessel. Weave your PWC through congested traffic. Swerve at the last possible moment to avoid collision.
- A PWC must be operated at "slow, no wake speed" if crossing within 150 feet behind another vessel unless the other vessel is also a PWC.
- You may not operate a PWC in waters less than two feet deep unless you are operating at "slow, no wake speed" or are docking or launching your PWC.
- It is illegal to harass wildlife or disturb aquatic vegetation with your PWC.

Requirements for Towing Skiers

- Every person being towed behind a vessel on water skis, a surfboard, or similar device must wear a USCG– approved wearable PFD. Inflatable PFDs may not be used.
- Every vessel towing a person(s) on water skis, a surfboard, or a similar device must have a person on board, in addition to the vessel operator, observing the towed person(s) at all times.
- It is legal to tow persons on water skis, surfboards, or any device of this type only between:
 - One hour before sunrise and one hour after sunset if towed behind a boat
 - 8:00 a.m. and sunset if towed behind a PWC
- Persons being towed must stay at least 100 feet away from:
 - A shoreline (if operating in water less

than three feet deep)

- Any moored or anchored vessel
- A dock or raft
- Any marked swimming area or person(s) in the water

On the Water

- No high speed boating after dark.
- No high speed boating between the islands when swimmers are present.
- No high speed boating in bays.
- Boat traffic moves in a **counterclockwise (CCW)** direction around the lake and islands.
- No chasing, harassing, or disturbing wildlife with your vessel.
- No causing damage from the wake of your vessel.
- It is illegal to operate a vessel in excess of 55 mph or faster than is reasonable and prudent under the conditions (darkness, weather, vessel traffic, etc.)