The Green Lake and Duck Lake Association

NEWSLETTER

Our Association representing Duck Lake, Green Lake and the Betsie River watershed since 1974.

Summer 2016 **www.tglbra.com** **Volume 56**

GLDLA Mission statement

"The objective of the Association shall be to monitor, help maintain and preserve the Green Lake, Duck Lake & Betsie River ecosystem; to educate the riparian and local community about relevant ecological, recreational and ethical issues; and to endeavor to make our waterfront community a better place to live."

The Green Lake & Duck Lake Board and Officers

President	Ed Dewey
Vice President	Dave Pennington
Secretary	Barb Bayer
Treasurer	Laurel Thompson

Board Members:

Marc Alderman Barb Bayer Oral Carper Mike Corning Ed Dewey Mike Emaus Roseanne Jamrok John Novak Dave Pennington Barb Sandys Claire Stephenson Dick Thompson Laurel Thompson

Emeritus status: Arch Carey Fippy Komrska

Newsletter editor- Dave Pennington (I take full credit for unsigned articles and all errors.)

Reminder: Our annual meeting is <u>Saturday August 20th</u> at the Library meeting hall. A social time begins at 9:30 with the meeting starting at 10:00. Our guest speakers will be Bre Grabill from PLM with an update on the Duck Lake EWM treatment, and Jo Latimore will speak on invasive species changes and treatment. We hope to see everyone there.

From The President

On my recent visit downstate to celebrate Nieces/Nephews graduations I overheard a conversation by some of my relatives professing the benefits of being able to walk to several art museums while living in high rise apartments downtown New York and Chicago. I couldn't help think to myself, in our beautiful part of the country we "live" in an art museum and nature is the artist. The Ducks and Loons are playing and fishing in front of my house, fish are jumping, bald eagles are flying overhead, sunsets, and moonrises are breathtaking, and I don't have to walk to a museum! These are just some of the things we enjoy without

leaving our homes, and with a short drive (or bicycle) you have Interlochen Arts Academy, sand dunes, great lakes, river floats – so enjoy we are "living" in an art museum.

The Lake Association has had a busy year this year having gotten both bad news and good news. The bad news was the discovery of Eurasian Water Milfoil in about 34 acres of Duck Lake (mostly in the South Cove). The good news is that the association immediately formed a sub-committee to address the problem, and were able, with the help of Green Lake Township, to identify a treatment vendor, obtain a permit from the DEQ and treat the effective areas this year. The first treatment was on June 16th with follow-up treatments in July and August. A new survey will be done in September to measure the effectiveness of the treatments. Unfortunately, as we have written in many newsletters, EWM is never totally eradicated but **can** be controlled. With this in mind, the GLDLA Board immediately formed a sub-committee to address the Duck Lake situation and has gained approval from Green Lake Township to establish a Special Assessment District (SAD) on Duck Lake to cover the cost of future treatments. We also gained approval from the DNR to place new Clean Boats Clean Water signs at all launch sites on both lakes to remind boaters to **Clean, Drain, and Dry** their boats and trailers prior to entry and exit of the lakes.

For more information, visit our Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/pages/Green-Duck-Lakes-Association/1642508239318965 or our web site.

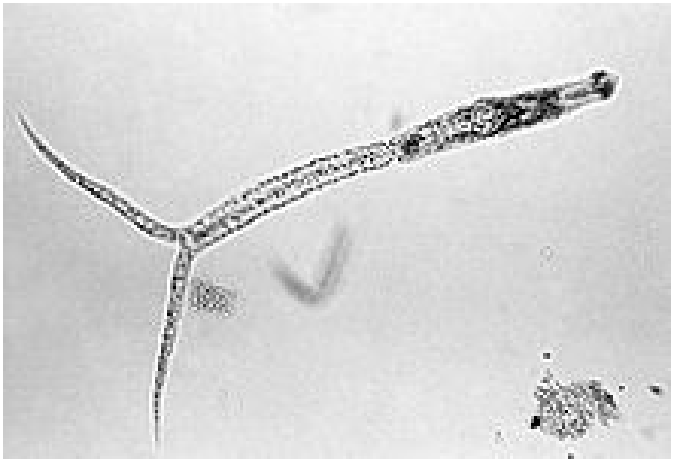
Ed Dewey, President

2016 Spring Water Testing

The Spring water sampling was done shortly after the lakes were ice free. This testing is for several indicators of a healthy lake i.e., Nitrate, Alkalinity, Conductivity, pH and Phosphorus. Secchi disc readings are also taken which indicate the clarity of the water. **Duck Lake** readings **were 20', 20' and 19'** at the three sites. **Green Lake** depths were **25', 21' 8" and 20' 2".** These are very good depths and show how clear our lakes are.

How to Avoid An Itch You Don't Want to Scratch

Swimmer's Itch isn't new and it certainly isn't any fun but many find a product carried by Thompson Pharmacy on Union Street in Traverse works at keeping the pesky critters from reaching you. The product is a cream called **"Swimmer's Itch Guard"**. It's safe for children and has been used by residents on both lakes who enthusiastically recommend it. The other options are 1. Don't go into the water or, 2. Go in the water and allow the creatures to bore into you and die thus causing the itch. (I don't care for either of those.) The itch causing critters are most active in warm, shallow water on windward shores but are present everywhere in the lake when it gets warm. Almost every lake in Michigan has them so we're not special. The itch guard is also carried at the Thompson Pharmacy in Oleson's Market on West Front Street..



Boater Safety…again and again.

Despite many reminders in our newsletters some captains are not heeding the. <u>Michigan law requiring boats remain 100 feet from all docks, rafts and swimmers!</u> "Slow, no wake" is the safe speed to navigate near a raft, lift or dock and avoid swimmers. One Green Lake captain was recently observed traveling between a raft and the shore which is <u>never</u> a wise path. The same boat was within 10 feet of several docks. Better safe than sorry is a good rule to follow on the water. Stay 100 feet away!

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Why Join the GLDLA? Good Question!

For over 40 years this association has been, and continues to be, the guardian of the lakes looking out for the interest of riparian owners and all those who use and enjoy the lakes.
What we do:

1. We monitor the health of the lakes with ongoing testing of the water for both chemical and biological changes.
2. We also sample the lake plants in a number of locations each year which is how the Duck Lake EWM was found.
3. We even sample the bottom soils every few years to check for changes that are indicators of the general health of the lakes.
4. All rivers and streams coming into the lakes are tested for contaminates and, if present, the source is found to keep the waters as pure as possible.
5. We advocate for the lakes with government officials when necessary. New larger signs at the access points on both lakes encourage washing both boats and trailers to avoid spreading invasive species to other waters.
6. We have been prudent in setting aside money to quickly address initial treatment of invasive species in each lake. The Duck Lake fund was completely used this year to treat the EWM in the lake..

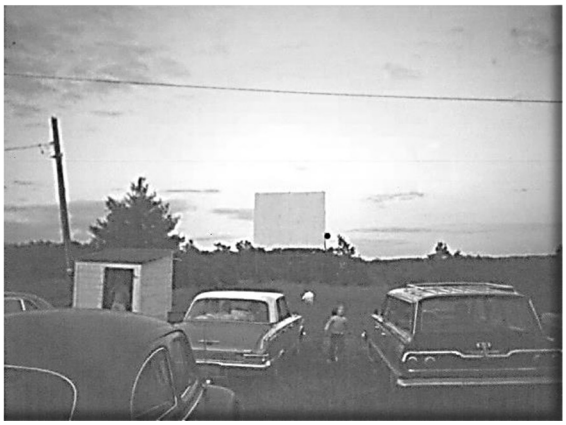
All this for **just $15 per year** which pays for the lab testing, newsletter printing and mailings. We have no paid employees, just volunteers, mostly Board members, that do the work. I doubt there is another lake association in the state with these services and a lower membership fee.

A Look Back When…

It's hard to believe that in the 1920-1940 years there were more sailboats, rowboats and canoes than power boats on the lakes. Sailboat races were a regular event and most outboard motors were on the transom of a heavy wooden fishing boat. No real water skiing until after WWII as only inboards had enough power to get a skier out of the water. Dr. Maddy and Mr. Moen had inboards but they were rare here. In the '40's we mastered the Aquaplane (a wide board towed by the boat with a rope we used to stand up with…eventually). Water skis came next as outboards reach 15-25

horsepower. The boats were steered by the handle on the motor and the driver sat at the back of the boat. Spotters (to tell the driver when the skier fell), life belts (referred to as body finders) and later life jackets along with front seat steering and more power would come along with faster boats and more frightened parents. By the 1950's kids could drive a boat well before they could drive a car so kids on the lake traveled by water, each contributing gas money for skiing to whomever had the best ski boat. No pontoon boats initially and this year they were 90% of the parade boats.

For entertainment, as there wasn't much TV ,just 2 channels plus an occasional third from Green Bay, Wisconsin **IF** the weather was clear,. once a week the "Free Show" arrived. In Interlochen, Karlin, Bendon, Gonder's Corners, Honor and any place with a store, a white painted 8' X 8' "screen" raised on two cedar poles provided a screen for a 16mm projector showing old movies sponsored by the local merchants. It had one speaker so you had to leave the car windows open and were at the mercy of the mosquitos. All the kids would pile into the car of the one that had a license. The man played ads when he changed the reels on the film. He moved from town to town showing the same movie all week. Next week it would be a new one and we'd go again. Fun.



If you missed the dues envelope in the winter newsletter you can use this form to join us.

GLDLA BOX # 23 INTERLOCHEN, MI 49643

Green Lake ☐ **Duck Lake** ☐

Membership Dues ($15 minimum annual dues)

☐ **$15** ☐ $20 ☐ $50 ☐ $75 ☐ $100 Other_____

Invasive Species fund (For initial treatment of any new invasive species) **Funds for each lake are kept separately**.

☐ $25 ☐ $50 ☐ $75 ☐ $100 ☐ $500 ☐ Other_____

☐ **Gift** ☐ Amount_____ **Total Enclosed $_____**

Please accept this gift ☐ In Memory of; ☐ In Honor of; ☐ On the Occasion of;

_____

If you wish an acknowledgment to be sent, please include recipients name and address.

Please make checks payable to: **"THE GREEN LAKE DUCK LAKE ASSOCIATION"**

(Please Print)

Member Name(s)_____

Permanent Mailing Address Summer Address

_____ _____

Street Address/PO. Box # *Street Address/PO. Box #*

_____ _____

City, State, Zip Code *City, State, Zip Code*

_____ (Our annual year is January through December.)

E-mail address

I am still trying to change the web site URL to reflect the association name change but haven't been successful yet. www.tglbra.com will work until the change is made. We will obtain www.gldla.com as soon as possible. Yahoo is the host and speaking to a human there is difficult if not impossible. If anyone knows a way to reach them for help, please let me know. *Editor*

2016 Parade pictures

All the pictures of the 4th of July boat parade on Green Lake are now on our web site: www.tglbra.com.

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If Duck Lake has or starts a parade please send pictures of the event and we will include them in the summer edition. About 50 decorated boats, “toons” and other floating objects joined the fun on Green Lake.

The Green Lake & Duck Lake Association
P.O. Box 23
Interlochen, MI 49643