

POA

Newsletter



TWENTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL EDITION

SPRING 2026

Hello Island, Lower Long & Forest Lake neighbors! If you were away welcome back, and welcome to Spring 2026! Summer 2026 promises to be a *Summer to Remember* with 250 Year Anniversary celebrations of our nation's independence along with parades, salutes and picnics all summer long. Let's not forget about fireworks that always accompany 4th of July celebrations in the USA! And for this 250th Anniversary Celebration, we have not one – but TWO – Fireworks Celebrations on (and over!) our lakes this year. The first will be over Island Lake and is slated for **Wednesday, July 1**. The second will take place over Forest Lake and is scheduled for **Sunday, September 6** which coincides with the 100th anniversary of the founding of Forest Lake Country Club.

Both shows are scheduled to begin at dusk (approx. 9:15 - 10 PM). All POA members are invited. Standard protocol applies; No additional or public boat access, if on the water, please observe safe and courteous boat operations, automobile parking in designated areas only, and attendance at your own risk. So, find a friend living on Island or Forest Lake, sit back and enjoy (what will be) some of the best fireworks shows on the water in southeast MI this summer!

On another note, residents interested in becoming involved in their lake-front neighborhood administration should consider joining our POA Board. Openings are currently available. Feel free to reach out to any current Board member for more information.

Be sure and read this year's newsletter and visit our website at ILFPOA.com for more information about lakeside living in SE Michigan including lakefront landscaping tips, invasive lake weed identification, and living with local native birds and animals. Be sure to check out our **Preferred Provider page** : **We get by with a little help from our friends** on page 18 for assistance in finding help with various home and other local needs. Finally, see our website at ILFPOA.com for additional information including complete water quality testing results from current and prior years.

And by all means, please try to attend our Annual POA Meeting on **Wednesday, June 24** at the Bloomfield Twp Administration Building at **7PM**. Hope to see you there!

Be sure to enjoy a safe, boating season on our lakes this summer!



Our Annual POA Meeting is:
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24th at 7 PM

at the Bloomfield Township
Administration Building

See you there!



Please keep this newsletter as a reference to use throughout the year. Comments or suggestions can be forwarded to Terry Counihan at (248) 884-4163 or terrycounihan@att.net

POA WEBSITE: Check out our POA website at: ILFPOA.com

The recent annual newsletters, water quality reports, Lake Committee reports and other periodic updates are available online for your convenience at ILFPOA.com

WHAT DOES YOUR POA DO?

Following is a *partial* list of what your POA does for you:

- Establishes goose control policies and practices. Arranges and pays for goose egg retrieval and goose round ups (when available).
- Advocates for residents at Bloomfield Twp. Zoning Board of Appeals as necessary.
- Maintains boat launch sites for each of our lakes and other common areas.
- Provides for commercial liability and D & O insurance for owned property, launch sites and for BOD directors and officers.
- Arranges and pays for circulation of *Oakland Lakefront* and *Michigan Riparian* magazines.
- Liaises with legislative and citizen groups including United Bloomfield Homeowners, Michigan Lakes Streams Association and MI Waterfront Alliance.
- Coordinates lake water quality testing, analysis and publication of results.
- Advocates on behalf of neighbors and our neighborhood regarding issues of local concern with Bloomfield Twp. Executive offices and Police Department, Bloomfield Hills School Board and state legislatures, etc.
- Publishes this annual newsletter and coordinates our annual meeting.
- Board Members Ned Greenberg, Mike Vlastic and Effie Steele also serve as Lake Board SAD reps for each of our lakes (see **LAKE IMPROVEMENT BOARDS** on page 4).

LAKE LAUNCH SITES

When launching or removing your boat on Island Lake, contact Ned Greenberg for outlot gate lock combination. For Lower Long Lake, contact Mike Vlastic. The Forest Lake boat launch is at Forest Lake Country Club. The key is held by the Club General Manager, Jackie Polly who can be contacted at 248-332-8300. If you have trouble reaching any of the above, call POA Board member Terry Counihan. Please be sure to close and re-lock the gate after using it. Also, please be reminded that launch sites are not marinas and must not be used for boat storage and/or trailer storage of any type. Any boats or other equipment left at any of our launch sites will be removed at the owner's expense.



For your information, the POA owns and maintains the Lower Long Lake launch site. The POA has an easement and a management contract to maintain the Island Lake launch site. Forest Lake Country Club (FLCC), which is a member of our POA, owns the Forest Lake launch site. Although the POA helps to maintain all three of these launch sites, it is important to treat all of these areas as if they were your own and to remember that as far as the Forest Lake site is concerned, we are able to use the launch site due to the good and beneficial nature of our neighbors. Please, do not do anything to jeopardize this!

POA BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Name	Email address	Address	Ph (248)	Lake
Andria Bojrab	aboj5@comcast.net	1670 Kirkway	302-0522	I
Warren Brandes	Sweettooth1492@aol.com	1492 Long Lake	851-9195	I
Terry Counihan	terrycounihan@att.net	1361 Club Dr.	884-4163	F
Monte Falcoff	mfalcoff@HDP.com	3351 East Pointe Ln.	641-1237	L
Ned Greenberg	nedwgreenberg@gmail.com	1577 Island Lane	770-0021	I
Steven Grekin	sg222@aol.com	1350 Lochridge	333-2310	F
Ranier Jueckstock	hr_jueck@outlook.com	1515 Lochridge	808-3797	L
Pamela Miller	pamelamariemiller@yahoo.com	3792 W. Pemberton Rd.	977-6532	L
R. Bart Sangal	sangalrb@moneal.net	1370 Kirkway	539-0888	L
Effie Steele	eliatpool2@comcast.net	1387 Club Dr.	425-5252	F
Mike Somand	msomand@umich.edu	1560 Indianwood Ct.	313-515-4455	F
Satish Tummala	satish@motorwerksgoup.com	1555 Island Lane	761-0791	I
Mike Vlastic	Vlastic.mike@gmail.com	1211 Club Dr.	760-0174	L

DUES / FINANCES

As always, a financial report will be available at the **POA Annual Meeting at the Bloomfield Township Administration Building on Wednesday, June 24 at 7PM.** Based on a preliminary report, your POA Board has authorized maintaining dues of \$100.00 per riparian residence and \$25.00 for non-riparians and Special Riparians for 2026 **unchanged for twenty-eight (28) years!** An invoice and self-addressed, stamped envelope are enclosed for your convenience. **Annual POA dues are due and payable NOW upon receipt.** Be a good neighbor and mail your dues in promptly.

ROAD MAINTENANCE & REPAIR

Needless to say, winter always takes a toll on our roads. Please be patient, however, as repairs are in the works! As to *Who Fixes Which Roads:*

- (1) Major thoroughfares such as Square Lake Rd., Long Lake Rd., Franklin Rd. and Telegraph are the responsibility of the Oakland County Road Commission. Questions or concerns can be called in to Oakland County Customer Service at **(248) 858-4804.**
- (2) Bloomfield Twp. maintains most streets in our area; at least all of those streets identified with green signs and white lettering. For these, Bloomfield Township Public Works director, Cory Almas can be reached at **(248) 433-7700 ext. 2807.**
- (3) All other roads are considered private roads and are the responsibility of resident homeowners, and not Bloomfield Twp. or Oakland County.

As to road repaving, this is a complex issue. I suggest you contact Mr. Almas directly with your questions and concerns.



LAKE IMPROVEMENT BOARDS:

Each of our lakes has its own separate Lake Management Board (LMB) which oversees lake management practices including weed harvesting, chemical applications and water quality analysis. Each lake LMB has its own “special assessment district” (SAD) established by Bloomfield Twp. for purposes of assessing and collecting an assessment each summer for your pro rata share of the cost of that year’s lake management activities. Please be advised that **Your POA is separate and distinct from your Lake Management Board**. Each LMB meets as necessary but at least once every four years and each resident receives notice of these meetings. It is the responsibility of the LMB to decide what kind of weed control (i.e., harvesting and/or herbicides/algaecides) to use and how much. As a riparian, you can have a voice in this process by attending your lake’s LMB meeting or by contacting the members of your lake’s LMB (below).

The following are members of all the Lake Boards in Bloomfield Township:

Mike McCready, Bloomfield Township Supervisor (mmccready@bloomfieldtwp.org)

Martin Brook, Bloomfield Township Clerk (mbrook@bloomfieldtwp.org)

Taylor Warstler, Oakland County Drain Commission (warstlert@oakgov.com)

Angela Powell, Oakland County Commissioner (powellan@oakgov.com) for LL & FL

Marcia Gershenson, Oakland County Commissioner (gershensonm@oakgov.com) for IL

In addition, POA Board members of the respective LMBs are:

<u>Lake</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Phone (248)</u>
Island	Ned Greenberg	1577 Island Ln	770-0021
Lower Long	Mike Vlastic	1211 Club Dr.	760-0174
Forest	Effie Steele	1387 Club Dr.	425-5252

If you have a question or concern about weed harvesting (especially when harvesting is occurring), you should contact your local resident member above or the harvester indicated on the following page.

ENVIRONMENTAL HOTLINE

A 24-hour hotline is available to report unusual water and sewer related incidents.

Call **(248) 858-0931** if you witness:

- Leaky septic systems or other runoff from storage piles.
- Suspicious lake conditions or activities on or around our lakes.
- Dead or distressed fish or animals.
- Sedimentation.
- Unusual or suspicious discharge in a catch basin or waterway.
- Dumping of animal waste or other liquid or solid waste on or near our lakes.
- Unusual algae blooms.



Public Safety will direct the call to the appropriate agency. The Drain Commissioner’s Office will be notified if the situation will affect water resources. The Drain Office will ensure that these complaints are addressed. If you witness an environmental violation taking place, do not attempt to approach the offenders, call Oakland County Public Safety 24/7 at **(248) 858-0931**

WEED HARVESTING

There are many types of naturally occurring weeds in our lakes. However, left alone even naturally occurring weeds tend to take over shallow areas in lakes through a process known as eutrophication in which weeds grow in summer and then die in the fall with dead weeds accumulating as muck on the lake bottom which is a natural fertilizer perpetuating the cycle.

Good lake management practices include removing as much of this bio mass matter, and weed harvesting is a primary method of doing so. However, to maintain a healthy environment for fish and other aquatic life, which depend on aquatic weeds for nutrition and nesting, not every area of our lakes is harvested. Instead, we concentrate on shorelines and other shallow areas and leave ample areas un-harvested to help support healthy aquatic life.

Lake weeds will continue to grow as long as water temperature are in the mid 50's or higher and ambient sunlight is near twelve (12) hours per day; both of which typically occurs from mid-May through late September. Accordingly, it is still beneficial to harvest after the traditional boating season ends (i.e., Labor Day) since the objective of lake weed harvesting is to remove as much bio-mass as possible.



Following is this year's approximate weed harvesting schedule.
(Dates are tentative and subject to weather and other conditions)



Weeks of:	<u>Island Lake</u>	<u>Lower Long Lake</u>	<u>Forest Lake</u>
1st Harvest	JUNE 15	JUNE 10	MAY 18
2nd Harvest	JULY 20	JULY 27	JULY 13
3rd Harvest	AUG 24	AUG 15	AUG 19
Harvester	Ty at Oakland Harvesters	Ty at Oakland Harvesters	Mike Mogle
Contact phone #	(248) 886-4465 or (248) 767-7822	(248) 886-4465 or (248) 767-7822	(239) 272-8219

Prior to each harvest, please plainly mark at the deep water end all sprinkler intake pipes, hoses, filters or any other area that the harvester should avoid such as something manmade or floating in or on the water or on the lake floor. Please remove any tree limbs or other debris that may have fallen in the water from your property that may obstruct access to shallow water areas to be harvested.

The harvester is not obligated to harvest closer than five (5) feet from any raft, dock, boat, platform or other obstruction. Harvesting is not effective in less than 18"-24" of water typically found near shorelines.

If you believe that damage has been done to your property by the harvesting operation, please contact the appropriate harvester contact per the above. The contractor may not be responsible for damage or repairs not reported in a timely manner. Finally, please be advised that **launch sites are not available for resident's use during harvesting.**

Phragmites

This is an exceptionally invasive nuisance plant which has begun to invade some of the lakes in our area. This predator plant is known to choke out wide swaths of native aquatic plant life in SE Michigan and has been identified on all three (3) of our lakes. Phragmites grow very quickly up to a rate of nearly fifteen (15) feet per year! Like invasive purple loosestrife, the stalky, plumed top plant is quite attractive especially when it flows gracefully in a gentle breeze. But it spreads rapidly and is very difficult to control.



For more information of about phragmites, please refer to: www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov.

Michigan's Aquatic Invasive Plant Watch List

Aquatic invasive species on the watch list have been identified as being an immediate and significant threat to Michigan's natural resources. These species either have never been confirmed in the wild in Michigan or have a limited known distribution. Early detection and timely reporting are crucial for preventing establishment and limiting impacts. For more information on these plants, visit: www.misin.msu.edu

Be on the lookout for these invasive species!

<p>Yellow Floating Heart <i>Nymphoides peltata</i></p>	<p>Water-chestnut <i>Trapa natans</i></p>	<p>Parrot Feather Water-milfoil <i>Myriophyllum aquaticum</i></p>	<p>Water Soldier <i>Stratiotes aloides</i></p>	<p>Hydrilla <i>Hydrilla verticillata</i></p>
<p>Brazilian Water-weed <i>Egeria densa</i></p>	<p>European Frog-bit <i>Hydrocharis morsus-ranae</i></p>	<p>Water Lettuce <i>Pistia stratiotes</i></p>	<p>Water Hyacinth <i>Eichhornia crassipes</i></p>	<p>European Water-clover <i>Marsilea quadrifolia</i></p>

These species are currently allowable for sale and possession. Please contact the DNR if these plants are observed outside of cultivation.

If you have seen any of these aquatic invaders, note their location and contact:

Michigan DNR Wildlife Division
Phone: (517) 284-4731
www.mi.gov/invasivespecies



Questions about other aquatic invasive plants? Contact the DEQ Aquatic Nuisance Control Program at 517-284-5593, www.mi.gov/anc

Revised: April 2016

IDENTIFICATION OF INVASIVE WEED SPECIES:

In addition to phragmites our lakes are natural habitats for other invasive species as well. This will help you to identify and remediate or report to LakePro the most common of these.

For more information visit:

<https://www.michigan.gov/invasives/id-report/plants/aquatic>

Avoiding transferring invasives from boats, kayaks, and other water recreation devices!

<https://stopaquaticchitchhikers.org/>

NOCTURNAL BOATING

As we all know, noise is exaggerated by the surface of our lakes and even more so at night when there is much less other competing ambient noise going on. Please keep that in mind when navigating after dark. There are small children, elderly and infirm in our lakefront neighborhoods who may be sleeping. Please keep the noise to a minimum after nightfall



We envision a world where every heart experiences God's transforming love. - Kirk in the Hills Mission Statement. We are also a part of your community, and you are welcome to join us anytime!

We had another busy and exciting year! Rev. Dr. Edwin Estevez has done a fabulous job of settling into his role as Senior Pastor, and we recently have called two new Associate Pastors to fill the vacancies on the pastoral staff. Rev. Rami Almaqdasi will be installed on May 17, and Rev. Matthew Means will be starting in July. We are very excited to see what new ideas and energy Pastors Rami and Matthew bring to the Kirk!

Our very popular Garden Service takes place at 9AM from May 24 - Labor Day. The traditional Sanctuary service continues at 11AM on Sundays. A great way to meet people is to join us at coffee hour on our front patio from 9:45 – 11AM. We love guests and invite you to stop by any (or every!) Sunday.

We have the annual Bill Robinson Memorial Car Show on June 14 from 10AM – 2PM. The following week, the church will be bustling with children participating in Vacation Bible School, which is always a wonderful experience for the children, volunteers and staff.

Our much-anticipated Carillon Series will take place again this year. The concerts will take place on Saturday evenings at 7PM on July 11, 18, 25 and August 1. Everyone is welcome! These free concerts are always a community favorite, and you won't want to miss them. Feel free to bring a chair or blanket to sit on or enjoy the music while walking around the church's beautiful grounds. On July 1, we are doing a special patriotic themed music carillon concert in conjunction with the fireworks beginning at 7:30pm!

We are gearing up for the organ replacement and the Sanctuary "*Renew and Resound*" initiative which will begin right after Christmas 2027. We will be upgrading the lighting, AV system, electrical panels, and acoustics. We'll also have the stained-glass windows glazed in tandem with the building and installation of a beautiful new organ. The Sanctuary will be closed off and on (periodically) for two years so we would love for you to come over on a Sunday before then so you can see the 'before and after' transformation. While this work is going on, we will hold worship services in the Refectory and in the garden.

If you would like to check out our worship services from the comfort of your home, please check out our streaming options. On the homepage of our website (kirkinthehills.org) there is a *Worship from Home* button that directs you to the livestream, or you can watch from your Facebook page. Past messages are available as well.

We encourage you to check out our website at kirkinthehills.org for information on upcoming events. Keep in mind we are in the process of transitioning to a new website. If you encounter any issues with our website as a result, you're welcome to call the church at (248) 626-2515 with questions or if you want information on anything happening at the church.

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS

Representatives from the Bloomfield Township offices will attend our POA annual meeting to address issues of concern in our neighborhoods.

**Wednesday, June 24th at 7PM Bloomfield
Township Administration Building**



CONSTRUCTION & MAINTAINANCE HOURS OF OPERATION



Please be a good neighbor and restrict construction and lawn maintenance activities at your home to between the hours of **8am & 7pm** Monday-Saturday. If you experience a violation, please contact the vendor or homeowner for resolution.



CATCH & RELEASE

As you are probably aware, all three (3) of our lakes have an abundance of fish life, especially smaller species such as blue gills and crappies and not nearly enough larger fish including bass and pike. Be a good neighbor and abide by a catch-and-release policy as it relates to catching and releasing larger fish on our lakes. Be sure to advise your guests fishing on our lakes of our catch and release policy as well.



CLEAN LAKE WATER IMPERATIVES

To preserve and protect our lake waterways, please always remember that anything running off your property and into the storm sewers on the road in front of your house flows directly into the lake in your backyard. Never allow pet waste or household chemicals, cleaners, etc. into the storm drains.

Our Newest Nuisance: PFAS And Our Inland Lakes

(source: Michigan Waterfront Alliance Newsletter 2/16/26 edition)

With the beginning of the Industrial Revolution, pollution has become an ever-growing issue. Many synthetic chemicals that were created for the ease of business and industry have been discovered over the past fifty years to have negative impacts on the environment, wildlife, and human health. One current class of synthetic chemicals that has been found to cause irreparable damage are what are known as "forever chemicals" or PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances). PFAS refers to an organic chemical with a fluoride atom attached to a carbon atom chain and is one of the strongest bonds in organic chemistry. This leads to its popular use in industry for repelling water and oil, as well as resisting heat and chemical reactions. PFAS chemicals are resistant to any kind of degradation which allows these compounds to stay and build up in the environment indefinitely. With the inability to break down, this not only leads to environmental pollution and toxicity, but also impacts human health.



The most common exposure to PFAS is ingestion from food and drinking water. Produce, meat, eggs, and dairy can become contaminated by exposure near PFAS manufacturing sites and accumulation within crop soil for produce and feed, as well as water sources for livestock and fish. The United States has stopped producing PFAO and PFOS within the last two decades, but consumer products made with these forever chemicals are found through imported goods. PFAS manufacturing companies have switched to using other PFAS substitutes, but there hasn't been enough data collected to know the long-term risks.

If PFAS is detected in inland waters, the sources usually originate from industrial effluents or from chemicals that enter storm drains that empty into the water bodies. Additional sources may include usage of water repellent industrial or household chemicals that are dumped onto lawns or in drains or from some substances entering the lake from septic systems that leach through the drain fields. While PFAS may result in a whitish-colored foam, much of the time such foam is comprised of dissolved organic matter that is natural for inland lakes and not a pollutant.

Health issues from PFAS exposure can consist of pregnancy complications such as fertility issues, preeclampsia, and fetal and child development. PFAS has been classified as a carcinogen, and studies found that exposure can increase risks of testicular and kidney cancer, as well as other cancers. Other side effects from PFAS exposure are high cholesterol, liver damage, thyroid disease, and asthma. Studies have shown that most people have been exposed to low levels of PFAS due to the common use and accumulation around the world. However, these risks are associated with high concentration, duration, and frequency with exposure to PFAS and other forever chemicals.

The carbon chains in forever chemicals are so strong that current water treatment plants are unable to filter them out. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is experimenting with new ways to remove PFAS by using charcoal (granular activated carbon or GAC) absorption, ion exchange resins, and reverse osmosis through high-pressure membranes. These filters can be applied at water entry points for water treatment facilities, hospitals, individual buildings, and homes.

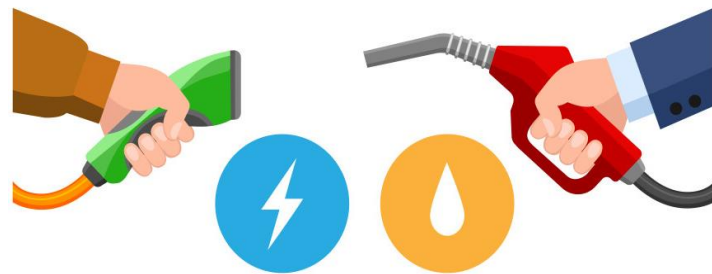
As for mitigating contaminated soil, switching to crops that take up less PFAS and adding protection between livestock and the soil are practices that are currently being studied to limit exposure in food.

With common consumer goods like microwave popcorn, nonstick cookware, cleaning products, take-out containers, and fast-food wrappers regularly being manufactured with PFAS, limiting use of these items and researching companies that provide PFAS-free options will help keep exposure at low levels. Using high efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filters and vacuuming regularly can help remove PFAS particles from the air and dust. When working with—or in close proximity to—PFAS chemicals it is important to wear PPE (personal protective equipment) to help minimize exposure. Blood tests can be taken to monitor PFAS levels in the body if health issues are suspected to be related to exposure.

Exposure to PFAS, and other forever chemicals seems to be inevitable as they are found almost everywhere due to the chemical's resilience, ability to travel, accumulation, and lack of degradation over time. However, the best way to limit exposure is to opt for products and practices that are PFAS-free, using PFAS water filters, researching local exposure in public and private waterways, and participating in and advocating for policies that regulate PFAS manufacturing and exposure. Continue to inform others and encourage more studies to be conducted on the long-term effects that PFAS and other forever chemicals have on the environment and public health.

Protocols standards and metrics are still being developed for testing for PFAS in waterways. Nevertheless, we are adding PFAS testing to our testing panel on our three (3) lakes this summer.

GAS *or* ELECTRIC?



Note: Special thanks to Satish Tummala, longtime Island Lake resident and POA Board Member, for contributing the following article:

For many, this decision isn't relevant as many of the lakes in Bloomfield Township are too small to support a vessel with any significant propulsion. But, for larger lakes like Island Lake, Lower Long Lake, and Forest Lake the choice is a bit more complicated. For many boaters on these lakes, particularly on Forest Lake and Lower Long Lake, the ability to take a capable watercraft to Upper Long Lake and enjoy watersports or high-speed boating was previously only possible with gasoline-powered boats and jet-skis. The recent ruling by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources allows gasoline-powered watercraft on lakes in Bloomfield Township, HOWEVER, there is a strict NO WAKE ordinance in place which effectively limits maximum boat speed to 5-10 mph on our lakes. Violators of the NO WAKE ordinance are subject to a misdemeanor citation with a required court appearance coupled with associated fines and costs which are likely to be imposed. Bloomfield Township is aware of this ordinance and have notified the POA that they will ticketing known violators of the NO WAKE ordinance.

However, the choice still remains. It may seem that a gasoline-powered pontoon or jet-ski might be the obvious choice for those wanting to experience water sports in Upper Long Lake. But newer, more ecologically-friendly and maintenance-free electric outboards and electric wave runners is making electric-powered vessels the clear long-term winner. Why? Let's consider the environment we're faced with to operate a gasoline watercraft:

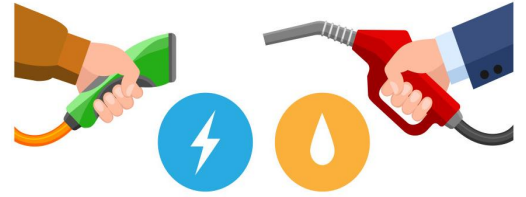
1. None of our lakes have a marina. Therefore, fueling gas boats requires hauling 6-7, 5-gallon gas cans to Long Lake and Telegraph, filling them one by one, bringing them home, carrying them down—one at a time—to the boat in the backyard and filling them up. What a lot of work! Even with services that come to the home and fill up a gas caddy, the rising cost of fuel and the fueling service makes this an eventual expensive proposition.
2. Winterization. Gasoline-powered watercraft require costly winterization and have a complex powertrain, water pumps, alternators, engine controllers, spark plugs, fuel injection, starters including oil changes, etc. Over the long term, the maintenance costs of a gas watercraft will far eclipse the electric one.

But aren't electric watercraft slow and impractical for watersport activity? Don't they require battery maintenance, and shore power to charge them? Aren't the batteries expensive?

Although, these factors were true in the past, new brushless high-powered electric outboard engines and electric jet-skis have made significant strides in the past 5 years, and the cost of these powerplants have fallen dramatically. More importantly, battery technology has vastly improved. Even those of us with regular lead-acid or AGM batteries in our electric pontoons now have much better and lighter lithium-ion batteries available to purchase with built-in cold temperature monitoring, bluetooth communication to monitor status, faster charging times, and lighter weight. For example, the cost of a 72V Lithium-Ion battery kit with charger, digital gauge set and wiring harness is within 10% of the cost of multiple 6-Volt lead acid or AGM marine batteries needed to power an electric pontoon. Moreover, a 50HP electric outboard engine has finally dropped under \$9,000 at many retailers, and prices are continuing to fall.

Continued on next page . . .

... Continued from page 10 *Gas or Electric?*



Consider these advantages for electric watercraft with lithium-ion batteries:

- 1) Virtually NO winterization. Just unplug and store.
- 2) Pollution-free. No messy gasoline spilling all over docks, car trunks, and in our lakes
- 3) Maintenance-free. There is zero cost of maintenance on an electric watercraft
- 4) Convenience. Plug it in. Charge it. Unplug it. Drive it.
- 5) MUCH longer lasting and simplistic architecture provides for a MUCH more reliable boat vs. a gas-powered one.

So, the next time you're considering a gas-powered pontoon or jet-ski, think long and hard about the long-term ownership hassle and headache of owning such an item when the advent of clean, powerful, quiet, and reliable electric outboards and jet-skis are now available. Also, note that while gasoline boats are currently allowed on our lakes, the ruling is subject to change and there is an effort by Bloomfield Township to pursue a complete ban on internal combustion engines on lakes in the Township; therefore, an electric outboard may make more sense for peace-of-mind!

Goose Control

As in prior years your POA-BOD has hired an outside firm, **Goose-Busters** to conduct Michigan DEQ approved **goose egg retrieval** in late April. This year, Goose-Busters removed (via **retrieval**) 305 goose eggs! Unfortunately, **Goose round-up** is no longer an option statewide due to yet another unilateral decision by the MI-DNR.

Between the two goose control practices, we average just about 205 geese taken annually with a high of 418 in 2021 and a low of 112 in 2005.



ZEBRA MUSSELS



In the late fall of 2011, Zebra Mussels were identified in Lower Long Lake for the first time along the south, east and northeast shorelines.

Zebra Mussels are an invasive species that have now spread throughout the Great Lakes and many inland lakes in Michigan and elsewhere. Zebra Mussels are voracious *filter feeders* and their presence creates two main concerns: First, they will effectively filter so much microscopic food out of a lake that it can change a lake's ecosystem as a whole. Second, they will attach themselves and clog your irrigation inlet pipe as they need hard surfaces to cling to.

Unfortunately, there are no practical ways to prevent or control the spread of Zebra Mussels. They seem to be here to stay. If you encounter Zebra Mussels, handle with care as their shells can be sharp. After removal from your dock posts, boat bottom or other hard surface, be sure to dispose of Zebra Mussels as you would any other yard waste (i.e., leaves, grass clippings, etc.). For more information see http://fl.biology.usgs.gov/Zebra_musselFAQszebra_mussel_faqs.html

OUTSIDE NOCTURNAL LIGHTING & ALGAE

(from: **MLSWA Newsletter**, March 2008) Recent studies show that light pollution around lakes (i.e., night illumination on lake surfaces) inhibits zooplankton (small water borne invertebrates that ordinarily rise to feed at night) from eating surface algae, causing algae blooms that kill off aquatic life and lower water quality. So, do your part for the environment and your lake by using lights that never shine or reflect across a lake surface. Make sure your outdoor lights are only on when needed. Finally, reduce the wattage of exterior bulbs near the lake front.

LAKE RIGHTS

Our lakes are our private property and are intended to be for the enjoyment of resident riparians' and their families and guests. There is no public access on any of our lakes. Nevertheless, it has happened in the past that unauthorized individuals have gained access to our lakes. If you see someone you don't recognize using our lakes, or if you see anyone abusing the lakes in any way, be sure to write down the license number or boat registration number and then contact Bloomfield Twp. Police at 248-433-7755. Our complaints will be investigated, but it is up to us to assist the police in the process of identifying the perpetrators. Also, after using your lake's launch site to launch or retrieve your boat, be sure to close and lock the gate back up as you leave.

LAKE WATER QUALITY TESTING

Since 2002, we have hired an independent laboratory to conduct qualified professional testing of each of our lake's water. Our lake's water is tested multiple times each summer season for pH, electrical conductivity, dissolved oxygen, dissolved solids, fluoride, chloride, nitrates, nitrites, phosphates, sulfates, e-coli and chlorophyll-A. For a complete view of 2019-2023 test results, see our website at **ILFPOA.org**. A summary of Lake Pro's report for each of our lakes is included elsewhere in the newsletter. For 2026, Tigris / LakePro Inc has again this year been hired to evaluate our lake(s) water quality. You can see the entire Tigris / LakePro Annual Report on lake water quality of our lakes on our website at **ILFPOA.com**.

BOAT STORAGE

Bloomfield Twp. Ordinance 265/394 prohibits the winter storage of boats outside on residential property. Please be advised that this ordinance will be enforced and that violators will be subject to a \$50.00 fine levied by the Bloomfield Twp. Police Department.



FERTILIZER USE & LAKEFRONT LANDSCAPING

FERTILIZER USE: State law restricts the use of phosphorus-based fertilizers to new lawns and golf courses only. In addition, Bloomfield Twp Ordinance 621 monitors commercial fertilizer applicators in compliance with the new state law. For more information including a listing of lake-safe fertilizer applicators and retail outlets, visit the Bloomfield Twp. website at www.bloomfieldtwp.org and follow the FLOW or FERTILIZER links. Or contact the Bloomfield Twp. Water & Sewer Dept. at (248) 433-7700.



Please be aware that as riparians, the absolute best eco-friendly answer to the question of lawn fertilizer use is **NOT TO USE ANY LAWN FERTILIZER AT ALL** as its inevitable run-off into our lakes undoubtedly contributes to weed growth, lesser water quality and algae blooms. Using lake water to irrigate your lawns and gardens assures a natural nutrient rich fertilization every time you water and it's very cost effective! However, if you must use fertilizer, choose a no phosphorus/slow nitrogen release formula.

One way to avoid irrigation and rain water runoff into our lakes is to have a natural barrier or "greenbelt" along the water front at least to ten (10) to fifteen (15) feet wide instead of grass. Greenbelt alternatives include: natural grasses (which should not be mowed), wildflowers, plant groundcovers, ferns, perennials and shrubs. For more information, visit: www.mlswa.org.

A great local example of beautiful and functional shoreline from neighbor Jim Parker of Gilbert Lake can be found at: https://youtube.com/MxFhBY7P_qc or an abbreviated version at <https://youtube.com/shorts/ogaNg17KKx4?feature=share> *Enjoy!*



UNPAID DUES

Pursuant to a vote of the POA Board and the POA general membership in 2002, the POA may file a lien for unpaid dues on residences for which annual dues are unpaid for at least three years through 2022. In addition, the POA Board and general membership have agreed to publish the names and addresses of chronic non-payers. There are currently 11 open liens valued at \$17,000. Over \$16,000 has been collected on liens since 2002. If you are interested in knowing which of your neighbors has not consistently paid dues over the last few years and/or for whom a lien has been filed at the Oakland County Clerk's office, please contact Terry Counihan.

SLOW - NO WAKE BOAT SPEED

on our lakes

In 2023, the MI-DNR issued its decision from the public hearings in November 2023. In short, they threw out Bloomfield Township's over 50-year ordinance regarding the prohibition of gas engines (NO ICE- NO Internal Combustion Engines) on all lakes in Bloomfield Township and have replaced it with a SLOW-NO WAKE ordinance. Bloomfield Township Board of Trustees accepted the MI-DNR proposal and then immediately appealed to the MI-DNR Director to add a NO ICE component to that ordinance. MI-DNR denied that appeal late last year.

While the MI-DNR ordinance effectively limits speeds on our lakes to 5-10 MPH maximum, it does NOT preclude gas engines on our lakes. **This is NOT ACCEPTABLE!** We do NOT want gas engines on our lakes. Period.

At this time, your POA is following the lead of Bloomfield Township (BT) in seeking a state legislative solution to this issue. Accordingly, your assistance may be requested at a future date, and we sincerely hope you will help if called upon to do so. In the meantime, be sure to report violations you may observe to the Bloomfield Township Ordinance Enforcement at **(248) 433-7700**.



TREES-DESIRABLE OR NUISANCE?

Dead, Damaged or Diseased?

Bloomfield Township has a 14 page tree preservation ordinance that can be found on the Township's website along with FAQ's. - <https://bloomfieldtp.org/pbo/planning-zoning/tree-preservation/>

Dead, diseased or damaged trees can always be trimmed or removed.

Of particular interest to riparians, the ordinance lists **invasive or nuisance tree species** with guidance about removal near wetlands or natural features (a lake or canal); -leave the roots, don't disturb the bank. Nuisance trees include Cottonwood (a poplar), Silver Maple and Willows (except horticultural willow). These grow in wet areas and are weak trees. Buckthorn is very invasive growing easily from seed, such that it appears to be groundcover in the first year but grows to be a scrubby 10-15 ft. tree. The Nature Center has held volunteer sessions to remove Buckthorn from its property.

The ordinance includes a list of desirable trees, which of a certain size are protected. This is a good list to use when planting new trees. Desirable trees are Birch, Hickory, Chestnut, Maples (other than the Silver Maple), Oaks, Spruce, Pines, Fir, Dogwood, Redbud, Ginkgo and others.



Wildlife in Our Area

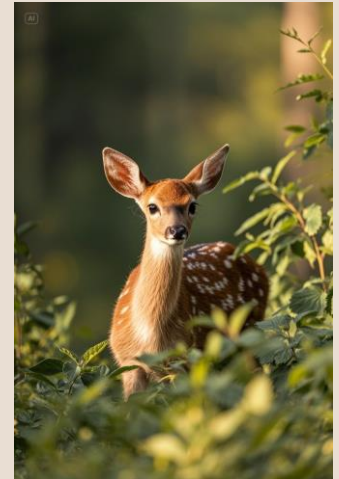
Recently, I've learned of several neighbors' encounters with local wildlife. Following are some thoughts from 45 years of lakefront living in Bloomfield . . .

There's virtually nothing to like about **geese** – they are noisy, not easily deterred, they make a mess on lawns and they can be aggressive if with their goslings. Best to just avoid. Dogs are a deterrent, as are motion detector activated sprinklers, noise, or motion-like inflatable balloons. Geese are federally protected, so they should not be killed or harmed in any way.

Deer, in many residents' minds, are our biggest—if not most—voluminous neighborhood nuisance capable destroying trees, fruit & vegetable gardens, plants, and shrubs overnight. Largely active at night, like geese, they're easily scared off by you and your dog if either of you are insomniacs! Otherwise, good luck as the concept of "deer proof" is (in my honest opinion) grossly exaggerated. Visit www.deersolutions.com for more ideas about deer control.

Swans on the other hand are both beautiful and beneficial since they don't like geese and chase them away—especially if the swans have cygnets. But BEWARE! –a swan with cygnets can be dangerous and deadly! I've seen an adult swan beat a goose to death with its wings. Also, there are multiple reports of swans killing humans in the same manner. Best to totally avoid swan cygnets and their parents completely!

There is no shortage of local wildlife—snapping turtles and coyotes also come to mind! Send me your stories, and I'll work them in to subsequent newsletters!



A bell weather expression for our time, with amazing applicability to our lakes and neighborhoods in this time of awareness and vigilance.

Did you know? - It was a neighborhood "busybody" who tipped off authorities resulting in a bust of the largest retail theft and fencing rings several years ago.

An early morning jogger noticed freshly turned earth in a park leading to the discovery of human grave sites. Drug houses and other places of "ill repute" are often "outed" by noise, traffic, trash and commotion reported by annoyed neighbors.

None of these admittedly apply to our neighborhoods, but they could! Each of us have witnessed speeding boats on our lakes, inappropriate use of launch sites, repeated reckless driving on our streets and on our lakes, underage drinking, and plenty of other suspicious activities. Remember, we have a terrific Police Department!

Let's have Chief Jim Gallagher, the Bloomfield Township Police Department, and local officers and patrolmen do the heavy lifting while we are their eyes and ears.

Again, **See Something, Say Something!**

Lower Long Lake : 2025 Water Quality Summary

- Water quality rated outstanding with all parameters within target ranges.
- Excellent water clarity (-18.9 ft), among best observed.
- Nutrient levels (phosphorus, nitrate) remained low and stable.
- Dissolved oxygen levels were strong throughout the season.
- No signs of pollution; safe for recreation.
- Slight decreased in TDS and conductivity suggest improved conditions.

Key takeaways:

- Overall lake health status: very healthy
- Main concerns (if any); Eurasian Water MilFoil spread

2025 Services Completed

Three (3) Aquatic Vegetation Assessment Surveys
Four (4) E.coli Samples
Water Quality Testing
Three (3) Post-harvesting Inspections
Two (2) Phragmite Applications

Planned Services for 2026

Three (3) Aquatic Vegetation Assessment Surveys
Four (4) E.coli Samples
Water Quality Testing
Three (3) Post-harvesting inspections
Two (2) Phragmite Applications
One (1) Heavy metal test

Island Lake: 2025 Water Quality Summary

- Water quality is generally healthy, but elevated phosphorus levels are noted. Historically trends have remained the same.
- Transparency slightly below target early in season -6.2 ft yearly average. Mid-May / June clarity was restored.
- Dissolved oxygen and temperature remained within healthy ranges.
- Biological measures like pH, alkalinity, TDS and Conductivity all remained within range.
- 2024 water clarity is still under investigation.

Key takeways:

Overall lake health status: After spring bloom, healthy
Main concerns (if any) Spring, lake turnover cyano-bloom

2025 Service Completed

Weir Re-Stablization
Four (4) E.coli sample
Water Quality Testing
Three (3) Post Harvesting Inspections
Three (3) Surface Algae Treatment

Continued next page . . .

. . . continued from previous page 16

Planned Services for 2026 (Island Lake)

Four (4) E.coli Samples

Water Quality Testing

As needed Herbicide / Algaecide Treatments as prescribed via Progressive AE

Forest Lake: 2025 Water Quality Summary

- Overall water quality was very good with most parameters within target ranges
- Chloride levels remained above target, though slightly improved.
- Nutrient levels (phosphorus, nitrate) stayed with acceptable ranges
- Water clarity was excellent (-13.4 ft) indicating low algal impact.

Key takeaways:

Overall lake health status: healthy

Main concerns (if any): Eurasian Water Milfoil, Phragmites (Bird Island)

2025 Service Completed

Four (4) E.coli sample

Three (3) Aquatic Vegetation Assessment Surveys

Water Quality Testing

Three (3) Post Harvesting Inspections

Planned Services for 2026

Four (4) E.coli samples

Three (3) Aquatic Vegetation Assessment Surveys

Assist in Planning Aqua-Weed's Canal Treatments

Water Quality Testing

Two (2) PFAS Testing

Phragmite Treatments on/around Bird Island

Three (3) Post-harvesting Inspections



WE GET BY WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM OUR FRIENDS!

I often receive questions from neighbors about boat and dock services, landscaping, snow removal etc. so I created this section to advertise local professionals we've worked with and highly endorse! As a neighbor/POA resident, feel free to recommend yourselves. As an example, my dentist and dermatologist are both POA member/neighbors and I highly recommend them, but they don't need me to do that—they can do it themselves! Feel free to recommend your gardener, hairdresser or even your babysitter here:

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FOREST LAKE COUNTRY CLUB



Celebrating 100 years! FLCC is a long-standing member of our community and a member in good standing of our POA paying dues and helping to maintain the Forest Lake boat launch site. A fair number of POA residents are already members. A variety of memberships are available at FLCC, and the clubhouse has been completely refurbished. To take advantage of FLCC's outstanding dining and recreational facilities (e.g., golf, tennis, swimming, exercise equipment, Jr. programs, etc.) please contact Jackie Polly, FLCC General Manager at (248) 332-8300.

LAKE SAFETY



Remember! It is always recommended to not be alone on any lake (swimming, canoeing, boating, etc.) without a life jacket. Always inform friends and family when you plan on being on the lake.



MICHIGAN LAKES AND STREAMS ASSOCIATION (MLSA)

For over 70 years, MLSA has promoted the interests of riparians in Michigan. From conservation to riparian rights to watershed management to educational outreach to legislative initiatives, MLSA has been a strong advocate for the rights of lake-front residents and their POA's.

For example, MLSA successfully blocked public access initiatives in the Michigan legislature and many other issues of importance to riparians. The *Michigan Riparian* magazine is a publication of the MLSA and MLSA is a regular contributor to the *Oakland Lakefront* magazine. While your POA is a member of MLSA, individual memberships are also available with significant benefits not otherwise available to organizations. For more information about MLSA, check out their website at www.mlswa.org

Thank you

... to our long-standing editor, Candace Trombetta, and publisher, Lou Ann Counihan.
We wouldn't have this newsletter without the assistance of these two!



Our Annual POA Meeting is:
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24th at 7 PM

at the Bloomfield Township Administration Building
Main floor Auditorium

Hope to see you there!

ISLAND, LOWER LONG LAKE & FOREST LAKE (POA)
1361 Club Drive
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