



# Greater Wall Lake Association

## Spring 2020 Newsletter

### FROM THE PRESIDENTS DESK

By Christy Tigchelaar, President

These last few months has been and continues to be very challenging for everyone. The nature of the corona-virus pandemic is unprecedented in our lifetimes. We are all learning to be patient, flexible and strong as we get through this. I am not sure about you, but for me COVID-19 has affected my family, our business, and everything else in my life in a multitude of ways. Having been on earth for seven plus decades, life has taught me to look for the silver lining...To look for opportunity in bad times...to consider in any situation what we have control over and what we do not. To reflect on lessons learned and to hold dear, friendships, that have lasted a life time. Thomas Fuller said, "If it were not for hopes, the heart would break".

Thank you's are extended to many of our local residents who are deemed essential workers and to our many residents who have helped those in need. Also thank you to our school and staff members as they have continued their work against all odds. We have been and continue to be fortunate that many of our local restaurants and organizations such as our VFW, our Moose Lodge, and our American Legion have been preparing delicious meals with curb side service along with a smile and a "thank you" available to all of us. Each has adopted the attitude of "take-a-licking-and-keep-on-ticking". That being said, I continue to appreciate the efforts of our GWLA board members who work tirelessly on our mission of protecting our lake and our community lake family. As you will learn by reading our latest newsletter, we are welcoming some new board members who have rolled up their sleeves and have jumped in, to continuing our mission.

With regard to all of the events that we had scheduled we will continue to monitor the environment and the recommendations from our Governor before moving forward. We are lucky to have available social media in order to keep us connected and informed. 2020 will be a great year as we continue to be kind and lead with empathy, make and grow new relationships, and continue to have a positive mindset as after all, we are in this together!

**GWLA Preservation Fund** is just one of the ways you can help preserve our lake for future generations.

All gifts to the GWLA Preservation Fund are tax deductible through the B.C.F. IRS 501 ( c ) ( 3 ) designation. To donate to the GWLA Preservation Fund at BCF, you may contact them at:

- Telephone: 269-945-0526
- Website: [www.barrycf.org](http://www.barrycf.org)
- Email: [info@barrycf.org](mailto:info@barrycf.org)

**Mail Checks to:**

Barry Community Foundation  
GWLA Preservation Fund  
231 South Broadway  
Hastings, MI 49058

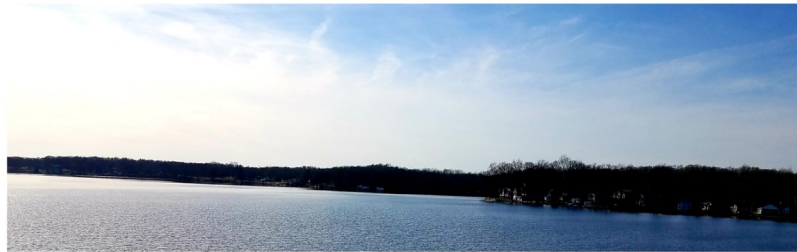
**As a 501( C ) ( 3 ), the GWLA can also receive tax deductible donations for lake preservation directly if you prefer.**

## GWLA Annual Meeting

By Martha Edger

The GWLA had been hard at work planning a Brunch on June 20 at Pierce Cedar Creek. We felt that having it earlier in the day would be more appealing to all.. Leaving the afternoon /evening to enjoying the lake. However, due to the Corona virus we feel that a social gathering of a hundred people or more would not be wise at this time.

The board has decided to cancel our June meeting and monitor as things develop to determine if we can reschedule. We will keep you all informed.



## GWLA Garage Sale

Unfortunately due to the Corona Virus the GWLA has elected to not sponsor the Garage Sale the first of June as we have done in previous years.

## GWLA Membership update

The reminders for the annual dues for the GWLA are sent to you via email each January. But, if you have not sent your 2020 dues of \$45.00 there is still time to send them to PO Box 56, Delton MI 49046.

Currently there are 127 paid members. Thank you for your continued support of your Greater Wall Lake Association. Please email the information to: [greaterwalllakeassoc@gmail.com](mailto:greaterwalllakeassoc@gmail.com)

We strive to protect Wall Lake for you and your families to enjoy.

## Shorline and Dock Information

By Jeff Keller

### A Sample of State of Michigan Laws Governing Soil Erosion Permits, Dock Locations and other Permits for Riparian Owners

#### Erosion Permit: Within 500 feet of a Lake or Stream and/or <1 Acre of Disturbance

If your project is less than 1 acre of total earth disturbance, a Local Soil Erosion Permit may be required. Permit triggers may vary, but typically a permit is required for any project within 500 feet of a lake or stream regardless of size, or for any project OVER 1 acre in earth disturbance. Specific application and permit requirements can be found by contacting Barry County.

#### Seasonal Docks

With most inland lakes in Michigan, the bottomlands of a riparian property extend under the water to the center of the lake. Unfortunately, it is frequently difficult to determine the angle at which riparian boundary lines under the water (and along the bottomlands) radiate to the center of an inland lake. Those angles almost never match the angles of the side lot lines on dry land of the lot or parcel involved. This uncertainty in the law can lead to disputes regarding the boundaries of bottom lands. Nevertheless, if you are a riparian land owner, you must make sure that your dock, boat hoist and swim raft are all located on and over your own bottomlands. It can constitute a trespass for any of those items to encroach on your neighbor's lake bottomlands unless you have your neighbor's permission.

#### Permanent Docks

If, on the other hand, a riparian owner wants to have a permanently installed dock or erect a dock for commercial purposes, a [Part 301 permit](#) is required from the State of Michigan. All of the following requirements must be met to receive a permit

- Is a single dock for single-family residential, recreational use and is the only permanent dock on the property.
- Designed to allow the free flow of water and does not interfere with navigation or use of the lake by others.
- Dock is a single linear pier without roofs, sides, platforms, decks, or perpendicular extensions
- Dock is not located in wetland, and is located in the center of the property or at least 1.5 times the dock length from the property boundaries.
- Width is not greater than 4 feet.
- Length is similar to other structures in the immediate vicinity, or extends to navigable water depth, whichever is shorter.

## Boaters Safety Reminders

By Dan Erb

Life on the lake is so enjoyable. As we get ready to gear up for a summer of fun it's important to remember that safety for our families and our neighbors should always be on our minds. Sgt Steve Lehman has taken over the Marine division of the Barry County Sheriff's Department and sent us some information regarding safety and the laws that will apply to the enjoyment of our natural resource, Wall Lake.

One of the major concerns raised by several of our Association members is the dangerous and **illegal** activity of "wave jumping" by personal watercraft (PWC). This is where they jump the wake of a boat that may or may not be towing someone. For the safety of everyone on our lake it is essential that we educate ourselves and our children that may be operating watercraft, that we do so in a safe and legal manner.

All PWC must maintain a distance of 100' from any dock, boat, raft or swimming area while driving faster than "no wake" speed and they cannot cross within 150' behind another vessel other than a PWC.

Please, let's all work together for a safe and enjoyable summer!

**Below is a link to the complete handbook for all Michigan Boating Laws.**

**Please familiarize yourself with the Michigan laws to ensure a safe and fun summer**

<https://www.boat-ed.com/michigan/handbook/book.html>



## GWLA Membership Benefits

By Larissa Shaw

Hello and welcome to Wall Lake! We would love for you to become a part of the GWLA (Greater Wall Lake Association). There many benefits to becoming a member of the GWLA. We are driven to preserve the beauty and health of our beautiful Wall Lake. Just some of the things that your membership helps to accomplish include:

- Constant monitoring of water quality, invasive species and wildlife
- Weed control
- Fish stocking
- Education provided through newsletters, email, our website and Facebook
- Funding for recreation on our beautiful lake, ie. July 4 boat event, Kayak the Wall, Rock Buoys, Light the Wall Boat Parade and more
- Catastrophic Liability Coverage
- Networking with Environmental and Educational Organizations

Please join us in helping us to care for and maintain our beautiful home here on Wall Lake. We look forward to working with you!

The dues are only \$45.00 per year.  
Please send them to:

Greater Wall Lake Association  
PO Box 56  
Delton, MI 49046

## GWLA WEBSITE

The GWLA Website [www.mywalllake.com](http://www.mywalllake.com) is now mobile friendly. Please check it out! More updates to come.

## SAVE THE DATES for 2020

*GWLA Annual Garage Sale..... CANCELLED*

*Annual Meeting.....POSTPONED*

*4th of July Boat Parade.... Saturday July 4th*

*Kayak the Wall..... Saturday July 25th*

*Light Up the Wall .....Saturday August 29*

# Michigan's Boating and Fishing Regulations

Effective March 21, 2019

By Andy Bohr

Our summer season is fast approaching and we want to remind everyone of Michigan's boating and Fishing regulations to stop the spread of invasive species. The laws are applicable for all boats, whether your own or rented that move from lake to lake or use the many streams, rivers and lakes in our great state. Previously, the laws required removing aquatic plants off their watercraft and trailers before they were placed in the water. The State of Michigan has recognized that more effort is needed to protect our waterways from non-native species and has issued new regulations to help defend these natural habitats. You may have received a flyer with your boat tag renewal or read about the changes elsewhere. Here is a brief summary.

It is the **LAW** that an individual shall **NOT**:

- ⇒ ***Launch or transport watercraft or trailers unless they are free of all aquatic organisms, including plants***
- ⇒ ***Transport a watercraft without removing all drain plugs and draining all water from bilges, ballast tanks and live wells***
- ⇒ ***Release unused bait into the water***

Violation of the law is a state civil infraction and violators may be subject to fines.

For those that fish our waters, this law regulates how and where anglers can catch or release fish. It also makes it illegal to dump baitfish, minnows, wigglers and crayfish in any Michigan water.

- ⇒ ***A person should not release baitfish in any Michigan waters. A person who collects fish should not use them as bait or cut bait except in the inland stream, lake, or Great Lake where the fish was caught, or in a connecting waterway where the fish was caught.***
- ⇒ ***A person who catches fish other than baitfish must release them in the body of water where the fish was captured, or a connecting waterway.***
- ⇒ ***A person who is catching and releasing fish should release the fish back into the same water or in a connecting body of water the fish could have reached on its own.***
- ⇒ ***Unused baitfish, whether it was collected or purchased, must be disposed of on land or in the garbage. Any baitfish collected by anglers may only be released in the waters where they were originally caught.***

Anglers who violate the law are subject to civil fines.

For boaters involved in any water activities, before launching their boat or when leaving a waterway, they are **required** to do the following:

- ⇒ ***Clean boats, trailers and equipment***
- ⇒ ***Inspect equipment such as dock lines, storage compartments, anchors, and motor intakes***
- ⇒ ***Dry boats and equipment prior to launching on another lake***

Wall Lake has been fortunate thus far that there has been very little introduction of non-native species (plants or other organisms) into our environment. Other lakes in our region are plagued with invasives that threaten the health and thereby the enjoyment and value of their lake properties. This makes it VERY important that we follow these guidelines for all boats being launched on Wall lake.

Let's adopt these regulations and let your friends and neighbors know that we need to protect the great natural resources we have here on Wall Lake and preserve them for future generations.

**Thank you for protecting Wall Lake!**



# UPDATE WALL LAKE MANAGEMENT PLAN

By Andy Tomaszewski  
PLM Lake & Land Management Corp.

## Wall Lake Management 2020

The 2020 season will mark 19 years since PLM Lake & Land Management has been working on Wall Lake! During that time, management has been extremely successful and Wall Lake has been one of our more successful projects in the state. Many of the long-time residents may remember that the program started in response to a very extensive problem with the exotic and invasive weed species Eurasian watermilfoil. Like most lake management programs, management has focused on addressing exotic plant species while promoting beneficial native vegetation. Through cycles of whole lake (Sonar treatments) followed by several years of spot treatments, we have been able to keep this species in check while maintaining a healthy native plant population. In some years, residents probably perceived the native plant community as “too healthy” in that they grew in abundance. Please keep in mind that native species may fluctuate in density year to year pending seasonal environmental conditions (severity of winter, amount of sunlight, early/late spring...). However, native plants do not pose a long-term risk to the health of the lake. Even if treatment was requested, EGLE does not allow treatment of native species in the areas we typically see them grow in abundance on Wall Lake.

Many of you have probably received the “Notice and Schedule” that we recently mailed out. Please keep in mind that the schedule is tentative based on weather and that it provides you with the “week of treatment. We will notify the GWLA the week prior with the actual day that we plan to arrive at the lake. The schedule also shows a list of products that MAY BE APPLIED to Wall Lake. Please keep in mind that this is a list of ALL products available for use in Michigan. In reality, we only need a few of these products to control the exotic species on Wall Lake and there are a number of them listed that have never been used. We include them as a precaution in the event that a new invasive species is found. As an example, we discovered a small amount of the exotic species Cabomba in the small channel near the outlet during the 2019 season. Because the product needed was listed on the table, we were able to get out and address it within a couple of days. If it were not on the table, we would have had to renotify by mail and wait 7 days before we were able to treat. This delay could have posed a serious problem by allowing the Cabomba to fragment and spread while we waited to treat. Instead we were able to act quickly.

One of the most common phone calls or emails we get are in regards to the yellow posting that some of you see in your frontage or in many cases don't see in your frontage. When we treat, we inspect the lake to identify areas of exotic plant growth and treat ONLY those areas. In many cases, it might just be a specific shoreline or an isolated area. We post these areas as well as a buffer on each side of the treatment area. The herbicide will not drift more than ~100 feet. Areas that are free of exotic species and do not require treatment typically do not get posted. There is no need to post unnecessary restrictions on the water and use of the lake if restrictions are not in place. If you see us drive by but do not see a posting, we are more than likely inspecting and not treating. If you are ever in doubt, please feel free to contact our office.

On a final note, please remain vigilant in protecting Wall Lake from new exotic species introductions. Currently Wall Lake has three of the four main exotic species (Eurasian watermilfoil, Curlyleaf pondweed, Cabomba). The only one not present is Starry stonewort but it does have a strong presence in the Delton/Cloverdale area. Keeping it out of Wall Lake is the best strategy at this time. In addition, Eurasian watermilfoil hybrids are a hot topic right now. It is being discovered that many lakes have different hybrid strains that are more resistant to herbicides and are harder to manage. From 19 years of experience, the milfoil on Wall Lake tends to respond very well to treatment and is likely not a resistant hybrid type. Please do not have the mindset that you already have milfoil “so it doesn't matter” if it is brought in. It does!! Be sure to inspect any boat that you have had on other lakes. This includes boat/PWC lifts and docks that may have come from other lakes.

I look forward to working on Wall Lake in 2020 and will do my best to keep exotic species in check. As in previous years, we will continue to monitor water quality and the overall plant community. If you ever have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at [andyt@plmcorp.net](mailto:andyt@plmcorp.net).

## SPECIAL FEATURE

### Greater Wall Lake Association (GWLA) and Pierce Cedar Creek Institute Partner to Monitor and Protect Wall Lake's Wetlands and Watershed

GWLA is delighted to announce a partnership in a multi-year wetlands and watershed protection project with the Pierce Cedar Creek Institute. On October 14, 2019, the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) announced that the Pierce Cedar Creek Institute as awarded watershed management planning grant funding.

The purpose of this project is to develop a watershed management plan that will ultimately benefit the lakes and streams in the Cedar Creek Watershed, including Wall Lake. The watershed management plan will help partner groups restore impaired waters, and protect high-quality waters.

Several partner groups are participating in this project, representing various lakes and organizations within the Cedar Creek watershed. The Cedar Creek Watershed is a subwatershed of the Thornapple River Watershed, which is part of the Grand River Watershed.

The Cedar Creek Watershed originates in the land surrounding Wall Lake's wetlands, and flows northeast, ending at the Thornapple River, which is suffering from excess E.coli and nutrients, erosion, and sedimentation.

Because the Cedar Creek Watershed originates in the land containing Wall Lake's wetland, this area is of particular importance to the viability of the watershed. GWLA Board members will be a part of this project and assist various aspects of this project. Olivier Martinon will be the GWLA representative and participate with the Steering and Educational/Information Committees, and provide Valuable input for Wall Lake. Jeff Keller will also be participating on various Sub Committees as well.

If you have questions or concerns about Wall Lake you may contact the Greater Wall Lake Association by:

Mail: PO Box 56 Delton, MI 49046

Email: [greaterwalllakeassoc@gmail.com](mailto:greaterwalllakeassoc@gmail.com)

Website: [www.mywalllake.com](http://www.mywalllake.com)

Or follow the Greater Wall Lake Association Facebook page

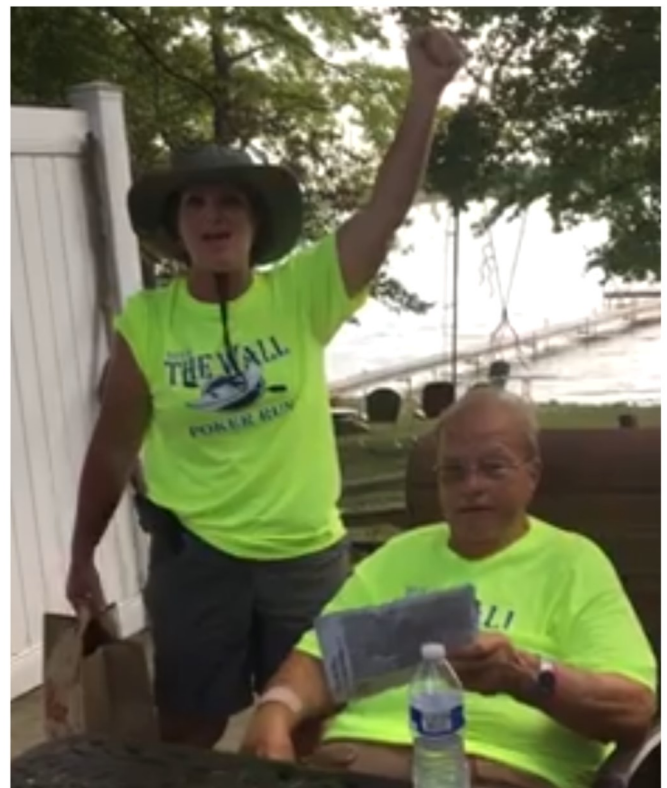


## UNSUNG HEROS OF WALL LAKE

Without hesitation, Katie Dolfman, has continued to carry on the legacy of Terry Deike's, "Kayak The Wall". She added his love for card playing within that theme by creating the "Kayak The Wall Poker Run". There is a lot of time involved in the planning of this event; however, she makes it look easy. She just goes about it in her usual fashion, one step at a time. Katie has never been one to take any credit for any of her volunteer projects...she just feels that volunteering should be part of life...she is always giving back. We are fortunate to have Katie as a member of our lake family community

If you would like to nominate someone in your neighborhood, please send it to:

[greaterwalllakeassoc@gmail.com](mailto:greaterwalllakeassoc@gmail.com)



# Wall Lake Nature

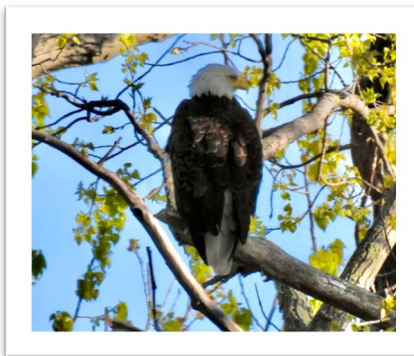
## Birding on Wall lake

By Olivier Martinon

Wall Lake is a refuge for many common and rare birds year-around. We can start our inventory by the most obvious ones by their size.

This spring, a dozen of Trumpeter Swans, probably linked to the population from Gull Lake Bird Sanctuary, are appreciating the grassy wild area of the lake. It will be great if they can settle if the first speed boats on the Wall Lake are not chasing them for fun!

The Bald Eagles are on the rise. An adult is often seen fishing and scavenging. He even killed a Great Black Backed Gull that was challenging his leadership. I found the head of the gull under his favorite tree. A 3-year juvenile, not exhibiting yet the perfect US national bird colors, is also around and going after squirrels to avoid starving to death this past winter.



Our strongest raptor population is definitively the Turkey Vultures. They came back a month ago to their predilection place, above the Waldorff chalet on north shore. Up to 60 members are coming back to sleep most of the evenings so they should be considered members of our community. They are like human "snowbirds" aiming South for winter.

Herring Gulls are also invading the lake some days, with a dense concentration sleeping in the middle of the Lake.

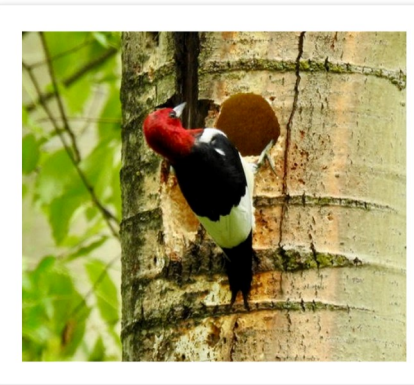
An old Great Blue Heron has his habits on the north shore and once, a Great (White) Egret visited us a couple of times, its population is rising in Great Lakes area.

Cooper Hawks are quite common with juveniles looking at bird feeders with some culinary interest and they should not be mistaken with the small and high-speed Sharp Shinned Hawk. This winter, a juvenile Goshawk may have showed up but I cannot confirm the identification.

An Eastern Screech Owl was unfortunately hit by a truck on M43 last year.

The Canadian Goose is probably the more recognized inhabitant of the lake. This winter, the rare Cackling Goose sometimes hid amongst them (same color, smaller size and beak).

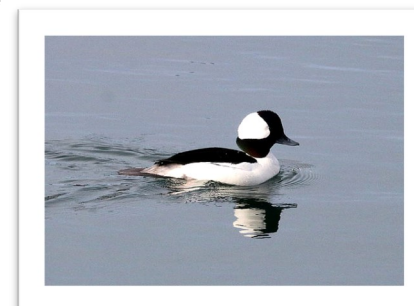
A Double-Crested Cormorant came a few times to dry his wings near the intersection of Waldorf and M43.



Two species of Mergansers visited us when the water thawed (Common and Red Breasted). Common Loons with their red eyes are also early spring visitors. Unfortunately, they will not settle as they need some peaceful time for nidification. Horned grebes are common Fall and spring visitors with their gold touch on the head.

Buffleheads, Ring Necked Ducks, Lesser Scaups , Wood ducks are common but you can see Common Goldeneyes. This year, for the first time, the rare Barrow Goldeneye (crescent shape and not round mark on the head) visited Wall Lake.

American Crows, Blue Jays and woodpeckers are common all year long. If you are looking for the latter, it is possible to see up to 7 different species around the lake. The Huge and Dark Pileated Woodpeckers have regular nidification on our lakeshore, as do Northern Flickers, Red Bellies, Hairies or the little Downies. You have to be more perseverant to observe Red Headed and the Yellow Belly Sapsuckers.

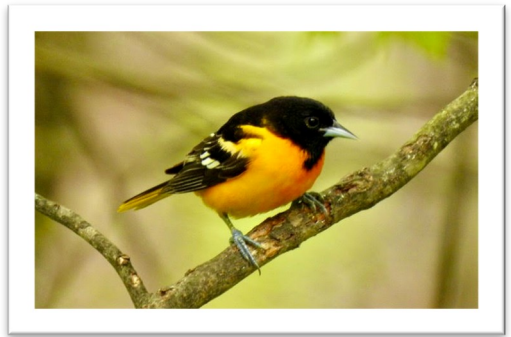




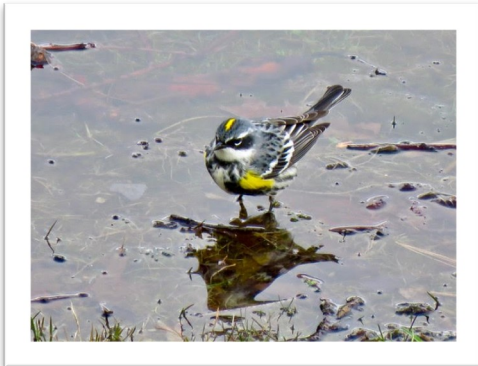
## Birding Con't

During the winter, you may have seen regularly a Black Capped Chickadee, a White Breasted Nuthatch, a Titmouse, a flock of Goldfinches, Cardinals and the invasive European Sparrows and starlings. Black-Eye Juncos, Purple Finches, White Headed or Throated Sparrows can show up in case of severe winter... and this winter 6 Cedar Waxwings and the elusive Carolina Wren managed to stay around the entire winter.

A couple of Belted Kingfishers, arrived last month, are apparently considering making a nest around our lake.



Last week was the time of arrival of our more colorful visitors. Orange and black Baltimore Orioles can be attracted to feeders with oranges or jam. The more discreet Scarlet Tanager (intense red with black wings) is hiding at the limit of the forest, as well as, several types of thrushes. An Indigo Bunting showed his flying blue colors and he is in competition with the Purple Martins that are now gliding at the surface of the Lake. Rose Breasted Grosbeaks and Red Winged Black Birds are here too.



Browned Headed Cow Birds are looking for a chance to lay their eggs in somebody's else nest, as they must when they were following Buffalo herds migration in the Great West. They became Cuckoo like parasites because they did not have time to stop in one place for nidification.

And I should not forget the Robins that are the true owners of our yards.

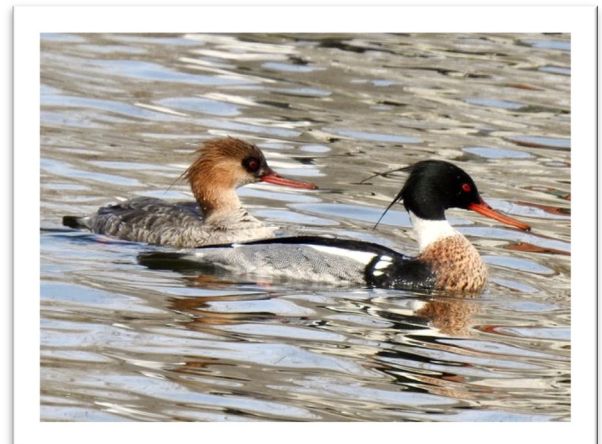
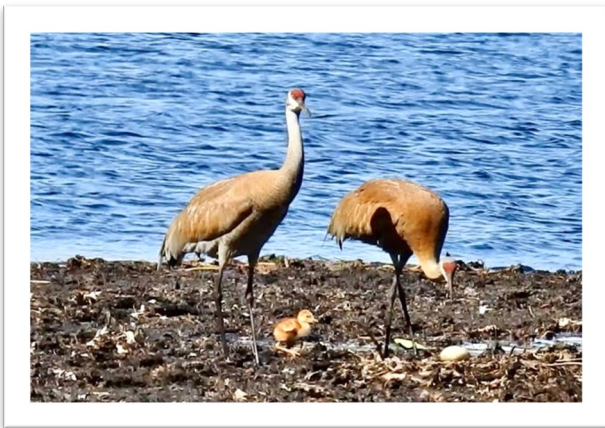
Multiple warblers' species can be seen but require some experience in the identification. Some species are regular visitors (Yellow Trumped being common) with a peak in May and October during their migrations for the rarest species.

Now we hope for the return of the Ruby Throated Hummingbirds any day now.

If you have any interest in birding and to complete our inventory of the birds of Wall Lake, please do not hesitate to contact me and we can probably create a share file in Wall Lake website.

Special Thanks the Photographer **Jan Ricco** for allowing us to use her photographs. :.....

Please do not copy pictures as they were given only to Greater Wall Lake Association newsletter by authors.



## GWLA 2020 Board

*Christy Tigchelaar* President

*Connie Vaughn*

*Larissa Shaw*

*Jeff Keller*, Vice President

*Dan Erb*

*Tim Harsevoort*

*Melody Lutz*, Secretary

*Steve Larson*

*Olivier Martinon*

*Martha Edger*, Treasurer

*Andy Bohr*

*Dale Grimes*

If you wish to contact the GWLA Board please go to the website [www.mywalllake.com](http://www.mywalllake.com) and use the Contact button

or send an email to [greaterwalllakeassoc@gmail.com](mailto:greaterwalllakeassoc@gmail.com)

Or send an email through our Facebook page.