

THE WALL LAKE SIGNAL

A Publication of the Greater Wall Lake Association INC.

August 2013

Volume 2013-1, Issue 1

Special points of Interest:

- Know your GWLA Officers 2013-14
- Issues Affecting Wall Lake
- Living on Wall Lake
- There are Rules!

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Know your GWLA Officers

The GWLA Annual Meeting took place on June 29, 2013 at the Hope Township Hall. A slate of officers was presented to the Board and the results are in:

President: Alan Freid
Vice Pres: Susan Trudeau
Secretary: Mary Branch
Treasurer: Bob Cove

Board Members:
Bill Cook, Doug Drenth, Tim Harsevoort, Richard Fluke, Walter E. Reilly, and Bill Wiersma represent the North and West Side residents.

Andrew Bohr, Terry Deike, Jodie McManus, Rob Seiter, Jerry Sivak and Christy Tigchelaar represent the South/East residents.

See the **Contact Numbers** section for phone and email addresses for your Board members.

Living on Wall Lake

We love our lake and want to keep it clean and safe. But do you know how to identify invasive plants? Are you protecting the lake by maintaining a shoreline with natural plantings and a shallow slope up toward your yard? Do you provide a barrier between sod and the water that will help cleanse runoff? What percentage of your shoreline is "natural"?

All of these environmental issues will be addressed in future newsletters.

Issues affecting Wall Lake

Mute Swans and the DNR

Barry County has agreed to be involved in the control of the mute swan population being conducted by the State of Michigan DNR. These birds are considered an invasive species. Their breeding habits have been considered excessive which interrupts the proper ecological makeup of our lakes. Mute swans have orange bills with a black lump at the top. They do not make noise as the native Trumpeter swans do.

We seem to have only one or two pairs remaining on our lake at this time. However, the DNR has the authority to come on public and private property if there is evidence of a current or future danger to humans, wildlife and the environment. The DNR staff use a culling method of shooting the swans.

Our Township can opt out of the program if it chooses to do so. GWLA has created a poll to gather your opinions—should Hope Township opt out or be included in the DNR program?

Other local lake associations are doing similar polling.

The GWLA will soon send out a survey to all email recipients, or you can go to the GWLA website at <http://gwlaspace.ning.com/>. Then click on the "SWAN POLL" link.

The results will be shared with the Hope Township Board of Directors along with results from other local lake associations. Read the entire DNR Policy at

http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dnr/2012_Mute_Swan_Policy_378701_7.pdf



Mute swans on Wall Lake

There are Rules!

How to motor around the lake

Did you know that a boater was ticketed on a local lake for going around their lake in the wrong direction? Know your boating rules!! Always proceed in a counter clockwise direction.

Keep clear!

Do not swerve in and out of traffic on the lake in power boats or PWC. Powered boats must give right-of-way to canoes, sailboats not under motor power, kayaks, and rowboats. Maintain a "no wake speed" when operating within 100' of shoreline, docks, rafts, anchored boats and swimmers.

Be aware that the times for pulling skiers and tubers.

Only operate PWCs from 8 AM until Sunset. Other power boats can be used from 1 hour before sunrise to 1 hour after sunset.

It is unlawful to chase wildlife on the lake (remember that as the seagulls come in to rest for the evening as Fall approaches)

Learn your boating rules by contacting the Barry County Sheriff's Dept. to for licenses and to get handbooks on current laws.

Purple Loosestrife



This invasive plant is being seen on the south shore and also along the east shore near the dam. Pull these invasive plants if you are near them.



The Wall Lake dam, newly reconstructed in the Spring of 2013

Did you know that heavy Spring rains that raise lake levels higher into the wetlands allows fish such as walleye to spawn better?



View of the Wall Lake Drain

2013 July 4th Boat Parade



Thank you to all those who participated in the lively boat parade this year. Jim and Bernie Hagon lead the parade and Bill Wiersma acted as judge.

Winner of the Dominic Court Best Decorated Boat was the extended family of Sue Trudeau, wearing their matching Wall Lake July 4th 2013 t-shirts. Family members included Sue's daughter, Deb Lawson, her husband and children, who were entering the parade for the first time.



Fireworks on the Lake

We enjoyed another year of beautiful fireworks. However, because the holiday fell in the middle of the week, some residents are feeling that the noise late into the night for several days (or weeks) in a row is too upsetting for themselves and also for their pets.



Would you and your family be interested in pitching in for a commercial company to present a professional display? The board calculated that if everyone gave just \$30.00, our costs would be covered. The display would be shot from a barge on the lake. Contact your GWLA board representative with your feelings.

Join A Committee

Do you care about Wall Lake? Do you sometimes have frustrations that something is not the way you feel it should be? How about bringing those ideas and some passion to one of our GWLA committees? You do not have to attend board meetings. Just get together (in person or by phone or email) with others like you and work out something that will benefit all of us on the lake.

Current committees include:

- **Water Quality Committee:** Jim Hagon, Chairperson (jbhagon@gmail.com), Jerry Sivak, Andy Bohr, Jodie McManus, Rob Seiter, Mike Hoeksema and Larry Ulmer
- **Newsletter/Facebook Committee:** Sue Trudeau, Chairperson (strud30484@aol.com), Bill Wiersma, Christy Tigchelaar, and Walter Relly
- **Rock buoys:** Tim Harsevoort, Chairperson (sharse36@hotmail.com)

GWLA BOARD CONTACTS

If you have an issue that needs attention, please contact your GWLA Board representative. We can help when your boat has come loose from its mooring and disappeared, or if you see some unusual activity on the lake or a neighbor's property. When you can't figure out if the weeds growing along your shore are native or invasive, just ask us. We are always here to help!

Social Life

5th Annual North/South Wall Lake Golf Outing

Want to have some fun?

Lake residents are going to play a friendly match of golf, with the North/West shoreline residents competing against the South/East shore folks. Contact Bill Wiersma soon if you want to take part. The event takes place this month.



Wall Lake Yacht Club

Have you ever wanted to learn to sail? Maybe you already know how but aren't interested in racing.

Don't be afraid! We would love to have you involved by just getting your sailboat in the water!

There are many sailboats just sitting on shore every season with no one seeming to care enough to raise the sail and feel that great sensation of moving across the water with no noise other than the lapping of the waves under the hull. And it is cheap, too! No fuel needed.

Contact Cheryl Baker, Commodore, at cbaker@koms.msu.edu

Or Rick Wilcockson, Vice Commodore, at rickmarkw@mei.net

Call your GWLA representative and they can help you also.



Wall Lake Yacht Club Race

The GWLA was established in 1961 to foster a spirit of cooperation among lake residents, to encourage the preservation of the natural beauty of the lake, and to promote the safe and enjoyable use of our valuable, common resource.

Become a member for only \$25.00 per family.

Go to

<http://gwiaspace.ning.com/>

or call a Board member.

Can you help with a Wall Lake Residents' Directory?

The GWLA board felt that it was important to create a small booklet that contains contact information for each of our lake residents.

Many of you are not here in the winter, or use permanent addresses that are not local.

If we need to get in touch with you due to emergencies affected your property, a lake issue, or to let you know of

something coming up in which you may be interested, this directory would help your neighbors reach you.

The GWLA board members will be attempting to contact each Wall Lake resident in the future.

We will not be giving this information out to anyone other than lake residents. You may opt out if you choose, but we hope you understand the need

to communicate with you at times.

Thank you for your support with this project. You will find it useful in case of a lost kayak or if you just need to borrow a cup of sugar. We are a community.

Contact your GWLA Board representative if you want to help.

Wall Lake Weed Treatment Schedule

Remaining treatments for the 2013 season are as follows:

8/19/2013 Weed and algae

Water quality observation

9/9/2013 AVAS

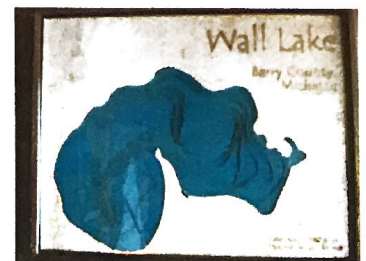
Aquatic Vegetation Assessment Survey

Our contractor is Professional Lake Management, Caledonia.

Be aware that some very aggressive invasive weeds have shown up in Pine and Crooked Lakes. And zebra mussels are now throughout the Thornapple River.

Be sure that you have a clean boat, motor, trailer and vehicle before entering Wall Lake. Small amounts of weeds can get stuck inside wheel wells, on

trailers or inside your motor. Clean thoroughly before and after launching. Try to avoid using your boats in other lakes if possible. Even kayaks and canoes can carry small amounts of weeds that could contaminate our lake. And make sure your transport service cleans up before touching our water also! **Protect your lake.**



Wall Lake was formed by glaciers and is fed by rain and snow melt.

**Greater Wall Lake
Association INC**

**PO Box 56
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A Message from the GWLA President

Greetings, neighbors, and welcome to the first issue of our updated newsletter. We hope you find the information interesting and helpful, and enjoy the new layout. Susan Trudeau has been the driving force behind this and I think it looks wonderful. Great job, Sue!

As many of you know, the County has agreed to be involved in the control of the mute swan population in our State but have given the Townships the opportunity to opt out of the program should they choose to do so. Hope Township has asked our area lake associations to poll their residents on this matter and then provide the results by September 6th. We will be sending out a survey to all the email addresses we have within the next couple of days, but if you do not receive an email with the survey, you can still complete it by visiting our GWLA website at <http://gwlaspace.ning.com/>. Then click on the "Swan Poll" link.

I urge everyone to be a part of this very important decision.

Thank you, and I wish you a very pleasant, safe and hopefully warmer rest of your summer.

Alan Freid