



WLA Board Meeting

The next WLA board meeting is scheduled for 03/11/2021 at 6:30 pm and will be held via Zoom.

The April WLA board meeting is scheduled for 4/8/2021 at 6:30; location TBD.

2020 Annual WLA Meeting

The 2021 Annual WLA Meeting will be held in late May pending developments on the COVID-19 front. As per usual, the elections committee is seeking four candidates to run for the Board of Governors. If you are interested in running, know somebody who would be a good candidate, or want more info, please contact Dan Luria (dluria@the-center.org) or any board member.

Attention Anglers: Pike Season Closes March 16th.



Anglers are reminded that Michigan's pike season is closed from March 16th until the last Saturday in April. During this time, it is unlawful to take or even attempt to take any northern pike. This closure helps pike to successfully complete their spawning process. Our lake advisor considers predator fish such as bass and pike to be essential in maintaining a healthy balance in our lake. Accordingly, the WLA continues to strongly recommend catch and release of all bass and pike at all times, especially larger fish. Please do your part to help ensure a healthy fishery in Winans Lake.

Water Quality Education and Involvement

(Greg Dygert)

Water quality is arguably the most important function of the WLA. It consumes almost half of our annual budget and impacts our health, safety, property values and overall quality of life here on Winans Lake.

Thanks in large part to the long-term efforts of our late water quality chairman, Frank Ferguson, Winans Lake has been fortunate to enjoy some of the best



water quality around. But now that Mr. Ferguson has passed, the rest of us have been left with the critical task of maintaining this legacy of high water quality.

Thus, it is crucial for everyone to recognize that water quality is not just a WLA board function: it is every member's responsibility! Every member, and especially lakefront members, have an impact on water quality in the way they manage their properties and activities. Accordingly, the task is simply too large and complex for any one person or committee to successfully manage without strong community cooperation.

It can be argued that the solution to any challenge starts with education. So, in an effort to promote awareness and involvement in water quality issues across the WLA, the board has adopted an initiative to educate themselves and the WLA as a whole in lake and water quality issues. Accordingly, I have been taking courses related to lake management and water quality through the MSU Extension and relaying this information to the WLA board via online meetings. The courses includes topics in lake ecology, watersheds, shorelines, laws, permitting, aquatic plants, fisheries and community involvement. An important aspect of this course is that it also provides us with links to experts, organizations and other important resources that we can leverage for assistance and, in some cases, funding.

Our goal is to eventually roll this information out to the WLA as a whole so that every member can be a better steward of the lake and collectively assist in maintaining the high water quality that we have come to expect. Look for a series of newsletter articles that will address water quality status, issues, rules and best practices. Also, please keep an eye on our website, winanslake.org, under the "Environment" tab for related info.

The WLA board is always looking for volunteers to help lead or assist us in our water quality efforts. Members that have any interest or expertise in this area and would like to help are encouraged to contact us.



Spring Time Activities

As we resume our spring yard and garden duties, we have an opportunity to benefit our water quality. The following advice is summarized from several articles by a county agricultural agent.

BURNING: Often it is more convenient to burn leaves than to remove or compost them. The resulting ashes contain highly concentrated nutrients that are absorbed by rainwater and drain or seep into the lake. This promotes dense aquatic weed growth and algae bloom at your beach. To improve water quality, ashes should be removed or composted as far as possible away from the shore. Same process for recreational fire pit ashes.

FERTILIZING: Heavy rains dissolve lawn fertilizer which then runs off into the lake to grow thicker weeds in your beach area. For this reason, it is recommended that the last 50 feet of lawn adjacent to a shoreline should not be fertilized. Avoid fertilizing at all, if possible; otherwise, use a zero phosphorous fertilizer (the middle number should be zero; for example: 30/0/10).

LAWN SERVICE: If you employ a lawn service, ask them for a “lake-friendly” treatment. They have special formulations designed for use near water that are zero phosphorous fertilizers. This is required by Hamburg Township ordinance and WLA best practices.

RAKING: The removal of weeds and leaves from the lake also reduces the nutrient load of the entire lake and makes our own beach areas more pleasant.



WATERING: Our lake water already carries a high nutrient load. A very positive thing that we can each do to improve our water quality is to filter some lake water through lawn watering. By spraying the lake water sparingly over our lawns, we allow the grass to absorb the nutrients and return cleaner water down to the water table which eventually re-enters the lake. Previous tests show that nutrients present in the lake water should supply ALL of our lawn fertilizer needs (which provides a savings in time and materials).

Each of us can only do a little damage to the lake or provide a little benefit; yet, taken altogether, our combined effort will be large. Winans Lake will become what we as a community make of it.

Easter Egg Hunt – Cancelled

Unfortunately, due to safety concerns, the WLA Easter Egg hunt will not be held this year.

We fully expect to see you in 2021!





Lake Life



Zolg family - Nate Natalie Zoda and Leo - enjoying the ice!

There has been a lot ice fishing this year.





New Neighbors

Mary Evergreen does a great job welcoming new neighbors but could use YOUR help. Please send her an email if you see movement on houses next/close to you. Her email is mlevergreen@charter.net.

Newsletter

Please send any articles or pictures you'd like included in the newsletter to Terre Voegeli (voegelit@gmail.com).

You are receiving the Winans Lake Association newsletter because you are a current Winans Lake Association member on the Lakelands country club membership list **OR** because you have asked to receive the newsletter in past years. You can email me directly (voegelit@gmail.com) to add additional household email addresses, change existing email addresses or be removed. You can also use the Mailchimp unsubscribe option below to change your email address or be removed from the mailing list.