

Lake Views

For Winans Lake Association Members – April 2017

WLA Annual Meeting

Mark your calendars for the Annual WLA Meeting on Thursday, May 25th at LGCC starting at 6:30PM.

WLA Board Meeting

The next WLA board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 20th at LGCC starting at 6:30PM.

New Lake Rule

➤ *WLA Board*

The WLA board unanimously approved the following new rule: “Any beach, shoreline, or lake-bottom modifications or other related activities that require state permitting shall also require WLA board approval.” Examples of such activities include beach and lake bottom sanding, shoreline improvements and chemical weed treatment.

The purpose of this rule is to ensure that the WLA has control over activities that may have a significant impact on our water quality, ecosystem and overall lake management objectives.

Goose Roundup and Nest Destruction

➤ *Greg Dygert*

As most are aware, the WLA has been participating in goose roundup/relocation programs under permit from the MDNR for the last few years. As a result of our continued participation in the roundup program, the WLA is now eligible to apply for a permit for goose nest egg destruction. Moreover, participation in the nest destruction program is required in order to qualify for future roundup programs. Nest destruction promises to be a more effective and lasting control option than roundup. Accordingly, the WLA board has unanimously approved the application for a permit for goose nest egg destruction this spring.

The nest destruction permit is free, but requires anyone involved with the actual nest destruction to attend training or be under the direct supervision of someone who has. The WLA is asking for a few volunteers to attend training and assist in nest destruction activities so that the entire lake can be covered. The training is on April 6 at 1pm and 6pm at the Novi Civic Center. Anyone interested in volunteering should contact Greg Dygert (stanleywings@yahoo.com). Residents are also asked to notify the board of the location of any nesting activity to aid in this effort.

As a reminder, geese are the #1 threat to our water quality, and have the potential to close our lake to swimming due to bacteria levels from their feces. All lakefront residents are aware of the mess they leave on the ground as well which, incidentally, is hazardous to children and pets. For these reasons, the WLA has been diligent in participating in roundup programs. Most lakefront residents have also been doing their part by harassing geese and chasing them off their lots.

Unfortunately, there are a few residents who have been undermining our collective efforts by feeding geese or otherwise allowing them to congregate or nest on their property. If you know of any residents who are not cooperating in this regard, please let them know that their actions are not appreciated by the large majority of residents who prefer clean water and lawns.

Lily Pad Management

➤ *Water Quality Committee*

Some residents use a rake, hoe, or pitchfork to control lily pads along their shore. Other residents cut off the pads periodically, which weaken the roots until they die off. Pads grow differently depending upon lake-bottom. They grow best in silt and muck and least in sand and gravel bottoms.

A few residents have asked about removal of lily pads using chemicals. Chemical treatment is a state-regulated activity that requires a DEQ permit and subsequent compliance reporting. WLA board approval is also now required for any activity that requires state permitting.

Since lily pads are a native species (unlike the Eurasian Milfoil we have been treating), the DEQ generally restricts chemical treatment to a 20ft-wide boat lane to reach open water per residential parcel. An initial survey indicates only 12 lots qualify based on this criterion. Areas such as those along Chilson Road do not qualify, as residential

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access is not affected. As the designated lake administrator and registered agent for LGCC lake treatment permits, the WLA board is currently considering whether it should offer chemical lily pad treatment to qualified members under our existing DEQ permit or to allow residents to pursue their own permits. Since the cost and compliance issues associated with chemical treatment are significant, the options must be carefully considered. Interested members should inquire with the WLA board.

Some residents value the lily pads and don't want control or clearance. Our lake advisors, Freshwater Physicians, advise against lily pad removal ecosystem and habitat reasons. They note that such removal opens the way to other invasive plants and native weed growth. Our lake treatment company, ATI, also notes that lily pad removal leads to the proliferation of other plant species such as watershield, a smaller floating leaf plant which we have here at Winans Lake and which does invade cleared shallow beach areas. Other submerged weeds can also invade. Periodic maintenance will likely be required to maintain a lane.

The WLA board believes there can be a reasonable balance between lake access and ecosystem considerations. After reviewing DEQ guidelines and the input from Freshwater Physicians and ATI, the WLA board agreed to look into other options in addition to chemical removal of lily pads. Information on available options will be presented at the WLA annual meeting in May.



Phragmites Australis Invasive Species

➤ *Water Quality Committee*

Perhaps you've read recent newspaper articles about this invasive species which is beginning to show up in our locale. WLA has treated several small occurrences near the lake.

“Invasive non-native *Phragmites australis* is a perennial wetland plant that has quickly spread through Michigan marshes and wetland areas, robbing the fish, plants and wildlife of nutrients and space; blocking access to the water for swimming, fishing and other recreation endeavors; spoiling shoreline views; and posing a fire hazard. It can grow to be over 15 feet tall and crowds out other plants, creating monotypic dense stands of these invasive plants (often with over 20 stalks per square foot). It can spread through windblown seeds, soil transfer, animals or extensive over/under ground stems and rhizomes that will often re-sprout when broken. It is able to adjust its growing based on environmental conditions and can even survive in stagnant, oxygen poor or salty conditions.

“While it may appear that the plume-topped *Phragmites australis* is just another pretty face in Michigan's wetland landscape, this member of the grass family can be bad news for our local marshes. Early recognition is critical because the plant stores energy underground in its extensive network of rhizomes; the older it is, the harder it is to control. Recognizing the non-native form of *Phragmites* early in its invasion increases the opportunity for successful eradication. Once it has become established, removal by hand is nearly impossible.

“The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality recommends controlling the invasive *Phragmites* by using an integrated pest management approach which includes an initial herbicide treatment followed by mechanical removal (e.g., cutting, mowing) and annual maintenance. For large areas with dense stands of invasive *Phragmites*, prescribed burning used after herbicide treatment can provide additional control and ecological benefits over mechanical removal. “

This article was published by Michigan State University Extension. For more information, visit <http://www.msue.msu.edu>. To contact an expert in your area, visit <http://expert.msue.msu.edu>, or call 888-MSUE4MI (888-678-3464). A general overview is available at: http://msue.anr.msu.edu/news/invasive_phragmites_australis_what_is_it_and_why_is_it_a_problem

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Water Quality Concerns for Spring

➤ *Winans Lake Association*

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 can be absorbed by rainwater and drain 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, choose 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: Removing weeds and leaves from the lake reduces the nutrient load of the entire lake and makes our own beach areas more pleasant.

DISCOURAGE GEESE: Discourage geese from lounging on your lawn. Do not feed geese.



Beach Clean Up Day



➤ *Carrie Dygert*

Spring is here again! In anticipation of the warmer weather that is heading our way, let's join forces with friends and neighbors to give the beach facility and grounds a thorough Spring Cleaning.

On **Saturday, May 20th** from 12pm -3pm (**Rain Date: Sunday, May 21st**) we will be tending to the grounds (mulching flower beds, trimming trees, dividing flowers, raking sand, raking the lake, launching the raft, planting flowers, cleaning the facilities, setting out the furniture, etc) So bring your rakes, shovels, tractors, waders, and elbow grease to help remove lawn and lake debris and spider webs!

If you have enjoyed the many amenities that the beach has to offer from grilling, fun in the sand and water, all the way to the view from the east end of the lake at any time of the day, please join us!

Everyone is welcome!

Refreshments and camaraderie await you!

If there is a conflict in your schedule, but you would love to help in preparing this great landmark for the summer, call or email me. (734-604-5822; cdygert@hotmail.com) I will be more than willing to work out a day that is convenient for you to tackle one of the many small projects needed to be accomplished before the beginning of summer. If you have children that need to earn some community service time for their organization, this would be a great way to get in a few hours!

We have four avenues of communication at the moment: word of mouth, WLA newsletter, Face Book (<https://www.facebook.com/winanslake>) and Winan's Lake Blog (<http://www.winanslake.org>). Please check them out for any new information!

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Wish list for the beach:

1. 1 Flats of red begonias, 2 flats of red petunias, 1 flat of white petunias
2. Potting Soil
3. Pool noodles, 5 gallon buckets, basketball, volley ball, and volley ball net
4. A person with a chain saw to remove some overhanging branches
5. Fishing Nets for trying to capture that 5lb Bass that likes out dock
6. Solo cups, baking soda for the fridge and freezer, broom, and pooper scooper
7. 2 new folding chairs for life guards (red)
8. Garden edger for Spring clean up
9. Three 30' poles to replace turtle logs
10. two 36 – 42 inch bungee cords to hold garbage bags in cans
11. Need plywood and carpet replaced on raft
12. Medical cheat sheet for life guards regarding bee stings, leeches, swimmers itch, etc....
13. New Swim Rope

First In The Lake 2017

➤ *Martha Leabu*

This award goes to Anneka Hallstrom this year, who went in the lake on February 19th, which is a new record for the earliest date for this event. It was so warm that day, that she lingered on the shore, wrapped in her beach towel for several minutes. The previous early date was February 26, 1998 by Sarah Leabu. This contest is celebrating it's 28th year.

Welcome New Neighbors

➤ *Mary Evergreen*

Suzie Gunn and Brian Collins

5885 Winans Dr..

Son: Griffin

Suzie's email: bluegreen.dragonfly@gmail.com

Brian's email: collins.sniloc@gmail.com

Tim and Julie Hicks

5730 Cowell

1-810-355-1009

dog: Quincy

email: j-c-theroyalhicks@gmail.com

Sarah and Shane Thelan

5860 Winans Dr.

dog: Cooper

Shaun's email: slthelan45@me.com

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➤ *Melissa Benzie*

If you have any news or information to share with your neighbors please send to melrobhil@yahoo.com or call 231-1239