



WLA Board Meeting

The next WLA Board meeting will be September 9th 6:30 at the beach. The August board meeting was cancelled.

Winans Lake Drainage District

A public meeting to discuss the possible establishment of a Winans Lake Drainage District will be on September 1 from 7:00 to 9:00 PM. Location for the meeting is the Hamburg Township Hall.

Bigfoot Bob at the Beach August 27th!

Did you mark your calendars for the last social event of the summer? This is your final reminder that Bigfoot Bob will be at the beach **THIS FRIDAY, August 27th**, for another evening of toe-tapping music. Music starts at 6 pm or there about.

Bring your own food and beverage and join your neighbors for a very special evening.

A tip jar will be available and contributions are welcome and appreciated.





Ladies Evening Kayak Ride

The ladies evening kayak ride is now starting at 7:00 pm every Wednesday evening, weather permitting. The ride still starts at Martha LeaBu's raft and proceeds counter clockwise around the lake.

Friend or Foe: Purple Loosestrife and Hemp Dogbane

David Larwa

In my younger days one of my favorite books was titled Stalking the Wild Asparagus by Euell Gibbons. Even today when I walk around the lake, and I spy this plant gone to seed it brings a smile to my face. That well-worn copy was always in my pack.



Today, as I walked around the lake, I thought of another line I like to quote, "A weed is a plant whose virtues are yet to be discovered." While that might be true, we do have several invasive plants that occupy the shoreline and wetlands around Winans Lake. The Michigan Department of Resources (DNR) identifies an invasive species is one that is not native and whose introduction causes harm, or is likely to cause harm to Michigan's economy, environment, or human health.

One of these invasive plants, **purple loosestrife**, is in bloom right now.

You cannot miss this plant with its spike of red flowers. A perennial plant found rooted in the wet soil habitat of our lake. The Michigan DNR states "Given the right conditions, purple loosestrife can rapidly establish itself and replace native vegetation. This can lead to a reduction in plant diversity, which reduces the habitat value to wildlife." The plant can replace other common plants (milk weed, cat tails) that are good for the Winans Lake ecosystem.

Pretty to look at but, invasive none the less. And difficult to eradicate.

Purple loosestrife is difficult to control. There are three methods described by the Michigan DNR that do not require a permit.



1. Carefully removing flower stalks before they go to seed.
2. Digging, hand-pulling and cutting young plants
3. Biological control using Leaf-eating beetles

[Read more about these methods on the DNR website.](#)

Hemp Dogbane (Indian hemp) is another invasive plant coming into bloom.

This is a poisonous herb that should not be confused with the common milkweed. At one time, it was used as a source of fiber by Indians. However today it has quite a different reputation and is something of a scourge in certain regions of the country. The plant is poisonous to animals with a toxic sap and has roots that can burrow 6 feet (2 m.) into the earth. It will crowd out other plants and establish itself as a creeping perennial that is difficult to mechanically remove. It has been spotted along the Chilson lake edge, at the beach and elsewhere along Pleasant Lake Drive.

Hemp Dogbane is extremely difficult to dig up due to its deep roots. While chemical control is the most effective, aggressive and repetitive cutting down to the ground can help limit its impact.



Welcome to the Neighborhood

Martha and Marc Wohlfeil have moved into 5852 Cowell with their daughter Lydia, son Cody, cat Casbar and dog Benny.



Lake Life





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 at charter dot net.

Newsletter

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

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