



2023 Annual WLA Meeting

The annual Winans Lake Association meeting will be held on Thursday, May 25th, 6:30 at Lakelands Golf and Country Club.

Consistent with the bylaw changes that were approved by the membership last year, the WLA will conduct this year's annual elections electronically. This year the annual meeting notice will come as an email directing members to a website that will host the usual meeting materials (agenda, financial report, board candidate bios, etc.) and allow each membership to submit their vote electronically. Please submit your electronic vote before May 25th to ensure it is counted.

To ensure that all members have an opportunity to vote, **it is important for all members to make sure that their email and other contact info on file with LGCC is current.** Accordingly, please take the time now to check and update your email and other membership info by going to LGCCs website (<https://www.lakelandsgolf.com>), signing in to your account and then going to "My Profile" under "MY CLUB".

Those who don't have email/internet access or otherwise prefer not to vote electronically will have the option to vote with a paper ballot at the annual meeting on May 25th as usual.

The WLA board wants to send their thanks to Meagan, Joanne and Tim at LGCC for their support with electronic voting.

Winter/Spring Fish Kill Update

As was previously reported, there was an unusual amount of dead and dying fish with an apparent fungus that appeared around the lake near the end of March and early April.

While winter/spring fish kills are a fairly common and normal occurrence, the magnitude of this one was quite alarming. Accordingly, the situation was immediately reported to the DNR and our lake advisors/managers. Coincidentally, Dr. Jude was out taking water quality samples and oxygen and temperature measurements in early April, and he had a chance to observe the situation. All of those water samples and measurements appeared normal.

According to the experts the fungus appears to be saprolegnia, commonly known as water mold. This fungus typically sets in after some other condition has weakened the fish. Since this was a mild winter with very little ice/snow cover, this is not believed to be due oxygen deprivation as with most winter kills. Instead, it is believed that rapid



temperature or other environmental changes added to the usual stress of winter and spawning.

It was also subsequently discovered via social media that several other lakes in our area were experiencing similar fish kills, so it is somewhat comforting to know that this issue was not unique to Winans Lake this spring.

Here is the response from a DNR fish biologist regarding our report:

“Unfortunately, it has been a busy season for fish kills in your area and across southern lower Michigan. I believe the unusual swings in weather this spring have really hit some of our lakes hard, coming out of winter and then dealing with these unusual diurnal changes in water temperature. You are correct, saprolegnia often is often the secondary pathogen; however, sometimes it can be the primary. I still believe the primary driver are these unusual environmental conditions.”

Already the number of dead and dying fish seem to be decreasing and should continue to decrease as the season progresses. It is an unfortunate situation, but one that appears to be natural and totally out of anyone’s control. On a positive note, a recent visual and sonar survey showed that many apparently healthy were fish still left.

Important Notice: Access Site Audits and Clean-outs

Spring cleaning is about to occur at the various lake access sites. In order to make room for additional member boats and enforce compliance with the watercraft identification rule, the WLA is planning an audit and clean-out of the access sites around the lake. The goal is to remove abandoned, unused and unidentified watercraft to better organize the sites and maintain space for valid members. There will be a particular focus on the NE (Ferguson’s) access site, which is known to contain several abandoned/unused watercraft.

Any watercraft stored at an access site must display a WLA decal and assigned boat number on EACH side near the front. Watercraft that can be associated with a valid membership but are lacking the required identification stickers may have WLA decals and numbers added as required. ***Watercraft that cannot be associated with a valid membership may be removed and disposed of at the discretion of the WLA.***

Reminder: Boat Identification Rule

WLA rules require EVERY WATERCRAFT (boats, canoes, kayaks, etc.) to display a WLA decal and WLA assigned number on EACH SIDE near the front. WLA decals and the assigned boat number can be obtained from Greg Dygert. You can purchase numbers from any hardware store.



Beach Cleanup Day

Spring 2023 Beach Cleanup Saturday May 20th at 1pm–Volunteers Needed!

The spring beach cleanup is scheduled for Saturday, May 20th at 1pm. Volunteers are needed to help put in the dock and for various other chores to open the beach and get it ready for summer. Remember: Volunteer work helps to keep our dues down, so please donate some time if you can. Rain date is Sun May 21st.

First in the Lake 2023

Congratulations to Brenna and Michael Wheeler who were first in the lake on March 12th. (Thank goodness the "old ladies" didn't have to save the day!) They went in off of Scott and Sarah Johnson's who did not join them in the plunge. After quickly climbing the snowy stairs, they jumped into the Johnson's hot tub.





Springtime 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.



We had our Annual Easter egg hunt on Saturday, April 1st, at 10:00am at the red carriage house across from the Leabu's house on Winans Drive. Victor set up the survey tape streamers to create an entryway into the back of the lot where 200 eggs were hidden.

It was a rainy morning, with showers moving through on and off, but we decided to go ahead with the event. Folks that attended were dressed and ready for the rain. It was raining lightly while the children were gathering up their eggs, then we all moved into the carriage house for the rest of the time.

There were 13 children and 17 adults for a total of 30 people. We enjoyed the traditional Bunny Cake, fruit, hot chocolate, and coffee. Special thanks to Mary Evergreen for helping me with this.



The first Easter egg hunt took place in 1993 - 30 years ago. We had two young women there this year who were present at the first one: Colette Pelky Rondo, and Sarah Leabu.





Lake Life



The Pelky front porch is back in operation.



The swans are building their nest.



Spring View



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).

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.