

# Pleasant Lake Property Owners Association

P.O. Box 447 Manchester, MI. 48158

**SERIOUS NEW THREAT TO PLEASANT LAKE**-MI Department of Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation Division has a strategic plan to provide public access on all MI lakes over 100 acres—using the Public Trust Doctrine – public’s right to use of public water. MI DNR Public Land Management Strategy--Measurable objectives for access to water •Provide public access on all lakes over 100 acres. (PRD Strategic Plan)

**DNR Response to questions from our State Senator Joe Hune’s office-** “Our office recently received a copy of a letter addressed to Senator Hune regarding boating access sites, specifically Pleasant Lake. Your constituent is correct, the DNR does identify a measurable objective of public access to lakes over 100 acres. This is consistent with the intent of the DNR and its Waterways Program which is to provide public recreational boating opportunities to lakes, especially to ones that currently do not have any. The development, maintenance, and operation of DNR boating facilities is financially supported typically through the Michigan State Waterways Fund, a restricted fund dedicated to boating facilities, such as harbors and boating access sites.

*From a historical perspective, the Waterways Program also reinforces the public trust doctrine, to provide access for the public to waters of the State. Providing a form of public boating access allows not only a direct recreational benefit, but offers the public greater opportunity to understanding and respecting lake ecosystems and boating safety. With that said however, the DNR is not aware of a DNR boating access site project in the works for Pleasant Lake in Freedom Township. This may be a county project. From the standpoint of aquatic invasive species (AIS), the DNR for years has posted signage at facilities instructing on the proper care of vessels and trailers, as well as posted language that by law requires users to inspect their boat and trailer for any presence of AIS. Additionally, the DNR has information posted online that reinforces proper care and further educates the public about aquatic invasive species.”*

.....so, the DNR’s strategic plan calls for the Waterways Commission and special trust funds to be used to buy land and install public boat access sites on MI inland lakes, for the public good, and they do not have to do anything to protect the water but post a sign telling boaters it is the law to inspect your boat before you move it to a new lake!

**SUGGESTED LAKE RESIDENT ACTIONS:** *Please tell our elected officials what you think about the possibility of the State putting a public boat launch site on Pleasant Lake!!! (recent resident letter enclosed)*

-**Senator Joe Hune**, R-22nd District, PO Box 30036, Lansing, MI 48909 (517) 373-2420, fax 517-373-2764, e [mail-senjhune@senate.michigan.gov](mailto:senjhune@senate.michigan.gov)-Sen Hune’s office said-**we are safe for now-what is the DNR plan for 2018????**

-**Representative Donna Lasinski**, D-52nd District, PO Box 30014, Lansing, MI 48909, (517)373-0828 phone, fax-517 373-5783, E mail-[donnalasinski@house.mi.gov](mailto:donnalasinski@house.mi.gov)

-Freedom Township-Thank them for passing a 2015 Resolution opposing a Public Boat site on Pleasant Lake!

<b>Dale Weidmayer, Supervisor</b>	<b>Valisa Bristle, Clerk</b>
10360 Pleasant Lake Road	8795 Pleasant Lake Rd.
Ann Arbor, MI 48103	Ann Arbor, MI 48103
(734) 429-7101	(734) 222-6399 - phone
(734) 429-7101 fax	(734) 222-6405 - fax
<a href="mailto:dsweidmayer@yahoo.com">dsweidmayer@yahoo.com</a>	<a href="mailto:vlbristle@yahoo.com">vlbristle@yahoo.com</a>

**Senator Joe Hune:**

**MDNR objectives-Stop the spread of aquatic invasive species, Add boat launches on lakes that don't have them. If that makes any sense to you, here's a multiple choice question. How do you reduce the spread of aquatic invasive species, or AIS? A. Increase public/boater awareness and education. B. Utilize preventive measures where exotics currently exist (boat wash stations, signage, etc.), C. Install public boat launches on lakes that don't have them. D. A and B. I don't have degree in aquatic biology, but I'm pretty sure the answer is not C!!! I'm just dumbfounded that the DNR/DEQ preaches "stop the spread of AIS" yet wants to install public boat launches on lakes—like our Pleasant Lake-- that don't have them. Call me crazy, but that's the way it looks to me.**

**Now I'm not one of those snobby "I got mine and you stay away" Riparians, really I'm not. I wish Everybody had the opportunity to boat and fish and swim and enjoy all the lakes. But the reality is, If we allow that to happen, eventually all the lakes will be contaminated instead of just most of them. That just doesn't make any sense to me. There are 1,300 lakes in Michigan with public boat launches that people can play on. Virtually all of them have AIS. And there are comparably few that have yet to be contaminated, the ones without a public boat launch. Why on earth would you want to infest them as well?**

**Remember now, I'm not an aquatic biologist, but please allow me to explain a little bit about zebra mussels. Zebra mussel larvae, which are called veligers, once hatched, are free swimming in the water column. They average 40,000/mussel and up to 1 million per spawning season. They are undetectable to the human eye (wouldn't matter anyway). Most fishing boats today have built in tanks that are used to house the fish that are caught (they don't use stringers anymore). These holding tanks are called live wells. They hold many gallons of water and have pumps that circulate water from the lake. Can you guess what else these tanks are holding? You got it....veligers!!**

**When (if) this fisherman uses a boat wash station, he washes the outside of the boat and trailer (great) but that's not where the invaders are hiding. They are in the live well with the fish. He's probably not going to remove the fish and drain the live well. Even if he did have the wherewithal to do so, they will still be in the live well pump, and in the bilge pump, the piping, etc. It is nearly impossible to remove all of the veligers. It's just not practical. So now this individual, unknowingly armed with a boat containing zebra mussel veligers, launches said boat at the brand new public boat launch at a lake that has no zebra mussels. And with one press of a button, the live well pump is energized, and the formerly pristine uncontaminated lake is forever changed. Kinda sad isn't it?**

**So you see, that is the problem I have with the DNR's boat wash station prevention strategy. Looks good on paper...doesn't work. How about we just don't install public boat launches on lakes unless they already have zebra mussels. I'm good with that. I'm going on a bit now (sorry) but this is important stuff. Weeds you can manage, don't want to, but you can. Zebra mussels are forever!**

**What is the preferred method of controlling the spread of any type of threat? Eradication!  
What if eradication is not an option? What is the next best plan? Containment!  
What is the most effective way of dispersing any type of threat? Provide a means! That is what a boat launch is. A means for dispersion. And disperse they will. How many lakes with public boat launches do not have zebra mussels? Ummm....I don't know of any around here. Up north maybe?**

**Now, to be fair, AIS can and do get spread through other means like birds and resident boaters who take their boats to and from infested waters. This is a little harder to quantify and hard to regulate, but I believe it is a fraction of the risk of a public boat launch. Are we probably going to get zebra mussels in all the lakes eventually anyway? Oh probably, but when? 10 years, 20, 30....your guess is as good as mine. I'm pretty sure none of us are getting out of here alive.....but why rush it!! OK, I've beat this enough. Hopefully you get my point. Will a make any difference? Probably not, but thanks for listening.**

**Sincerely, Frank Lobbestael, Pleasant Lake, Manchester Mi.**

**Pleasant Lake Improvement Project**-This project provides lake improvement to Pleasant Lake by controlling invasive and nuisance aquatic weeds. The weeds are controlled by the application of [special chemicals](#) to the lake annually, followed by additional spot applications as necessary. The current lake management project is for a five-year period (2014-2018). Special Assessments to cover the cost of this project is levied on the 2014-2018 winter tax bills of [properties located within the Special Assessment District](#). The treatment was applied on June 15, 2017 and feedback from lake residents was that the program this year was good. For more information on this program-look up Washtenaw County lake management-Pleasant Lake, on your computer.

---

**LAKE STATUS REPORT from-Dr. Doug Pullman-Aquest, Inc. (our lake assessment expert)**

*“Every year is different for most Michigan Lakes. Predicating lake conditions is usually no more precise than predicting Michigan weather. However, there are “trends” that emerge in lakes each year and 2017 is rivaled only by 2012 for difficult weed control, algae blooms, and unpredictable blooms and crashes of many different weed species. A mild winter and long cool spring created ecosystem conditions that can lead to a cascade of events that lead to algae blooms and the crash of the most opportunistic of weed species such as milfoil and starry stonewort.*

*Pleasant Lake was like other lakes where winter conditions resulted in unexpected consequences. A very mild winter allowed a very large amount of milfoil biomass to accumulate throughout the lake. This biomass collapsed sometime in the late winter and resulted in conditions that produce algae blooms and turbid water. Many of the other MI lakes I worked in in 2017 have experienced similar challenges.*

*Our team --which includes Washtenaw County, Aquest, Aquatic services and residents formulated management objectives in the spring that considered all of these conditions. The treatment objectives and plan were intended to suppress invasive species. These efforts were successfully, but the water clarity has not yet returned to pre-winter levels. A second LakeScan™ survey will be conducted in late August and will focus on, among other things, conditions that could result in a repeat of the issues that developed last winter. Resident reaction to the aggressive treatment in 2017 has been positive, Recall what our overall objectives are ensure safety first, work to support biodiversity and ecosystem stability, and thereby enhance water sports and fishing”.*

---

**We experienced two Algae blooms on the south side of Pleasant Lake in May-June 2017 --**

-Concerned lake residents saw strange blue-green growth off the shore on the west end of the lake (Elmdale Rd) and brought a water sample to the MI DEQ for testing in late May. Additional tests confirmed elevated concentrations of the algal toxin microcystic. The Washtenaw County Health Department contacted Freedom Township, PLPOA and posted a public health advisory online on June 9, 2017. Copies of the notice were delivered to lake residents in the impacted areas to alert people and pets to stay out of the water until the blue-green algae dissolved. In early June, a second blue-green algae spot was identified in the lake near the end of Hieber Road. For lake treatment and blue-green algae questions call Jeff Krcmarik-at 734 222-6865.

- **Monica Day, MSU Extension Water Resources Educator, 1715 Lansing Ave, Jackson, MI-commented:** To prevent additional blue-green algae growth, it is critical to limit phosphorus from entering the lake. Therefore, lake landowners should refrain from mowing the shoreline, use phosphorus free fertilizer if they fertilize, and not put grass clippings into the lake. If there are septic systems, they could be a source of phosphorus pollution. Finally, if there are streams, drainage ditches or other overland flow coming from the watershed it could be carrying phosphorus into the lake. Community efforts to limit all sources of phosphorus from entering the lake is essential to ensure the lake health.

---

**PLPOA Board President Beth Heuser Report: In 2017 we had 66 PLPOA members. Our attorney has suggested we update our PLPOA By Laws to be more up to date and reduce association liability. The new wording is enclosed at the end of this newsletter for members to review and vote on at the September 11, 2017 meeting.**

**-PLPOA Treasurer Helen Parker reported: “Due to a successful yard sale and careful management, our treasury includes about \$7000 to support our ongoing operations and a reserve-THANK YOU for your support!!”.**

---

### **Activities and Accomplishments in 2016/17**

-January 9, 2016-Freedom Township Board, Planning Commission and PLPOA members attended a Green Infrastructure Training Session held at the Freedom Township Hall.

-December 15, 2016-PLPOA Cohosted the Protecting Water Quality Conference at Freedom Town Hall. More than 70 people attended this event which included educational briefings and discussions about ways to protect lakes and waterways.

-April 9, 2017-Lisa Brush, Executive Director, Stewardship Network was the guest speaker at the PLPOA Annual meeting.

-May 4-5-6 2017-PLPOA Yard Sale-Thanks to many volunteers and customers we were able to add \$1200 to the treasury!

-Spring/Summer 2016 and 2017-Catherine Roberts & Lon Nordeen (the PLPOA lake management team) performed weekly Secchi Disk readings of water clarity, plus Chlorophyll and Oxygen testing; results are reported to the MI DEQ/DNR to support the state data base for inland lake monitoring. We also secured overhead imagery of the lake this year to track weed status.

-July/August 2017-One of our 2017 objectives was to better understand runoff water coming into the lake and its impact. PLPOA documented the many drains and streams coming into the lake and collected water at 2 sites for analysis by Washtenaw County water lab. Results were within safe limits for E coli and phosphorus.

**-September 11, 2017, 7-9pm- guest speaker at the PLPOA Fall meeting will be State Representative Donna Lasinski, D-52 who will discuss water and land conservation and a view from Lansing-please attend!!!!**

### **PLPOA Looks Forward**

-PLPOA wants and needs your involvement and ideas to maintain lake health and quality and property value of homes around Pleasant Lake. This includes the possible threat of a public boat launch, lakeside development, new housing, expanded farming runoff or industrial operations and pipeline accidents. There is also the threat of new invasive species, including zebra mussels, starry stonewort brought in by unclean boats and birds, and blue-green algae.

- In 2017 the ET Rover Pipeline was installed and CMS Freedom Gas Pumping Station upgrade continued. The CMS team has cooperated with local government and residents to reduce the impact of these updates. For more information on the pipelines, CMS upgrades and other local issues—please attend a Freedom Township Planning Commission Meeting (held each month on the first Tuesday, 730PM at the Freedom Town Hall). Residents are also encouraged to attend the Freedom Township Board meeting and talk with your elected leaders. (These meeting are held the second Tuesday of every month at the Freedom Town Hall, 8PM) Information about plans and meeting agendas can be found at: [www.twp-freedom.org](http://www.twp-freedom.org)

**PLPOA Goals: 1. Continue efforts to protect Pleasant Lake-this includes the threat of invasive weeds, other natural and man-made dangers, including the possibility of a State/County boat launch, sewage and rain runoff, pipelines, dangerous development, and other challenges. 2. Continue the Pleasant Lake Special Assessment District and Cooperative Lake Monitoring Program to accurately determine the condition of Pleasant Lake, treat invasive species, measure results, and prepare to react to other dangers to the lake. 3. Support cooperative resident, organization, government education, outreach; encourage updates to the Freedom Township Master Plan and Zoning Ordinances to help protect Pleasant Lake, its residents, the watershed, and R-3 lake district from planning and future development threats. Be aware and prepared for any other challenges which could negatively impact Pleasant Lake and the local environment.**

## REMINDERS FOR LAKE RESIDENTS

-It is against the law to harass birds and wildlife on the lake!!!!

-You need a DEQ permit to put sand in the lake

---

-BOATING ISSUES ON PLEASANT LAKE!!!-Please remind your family and guests to follow MI Boating Laws when operating boats, jet skis/personal water craft (PWC) and other craft on Pleasant Lake!!! We have had accidents and many close calls in 2017 on the lake! There also seems to be an increase of larger boats with more powerful motors on the lake which have created issues with waves which have been damaging docks and pounding the shoreline! Please review boating rules and regulations and follow them!!! <http://www.michigan.gov/dnr>. Copies of the MI Boating laws will be available at the annual meeting.

The following can be found in: The Handbook of Michigan Boating Laws and Responsibilities along with other info.

-It is unlawful to operate a boat when under the influence of alcohol or drugs. You can be charged with an offense and fined if arrested by a DNR officer.

-It is unlawful to dump trash into the lake

-Life jackets are required by all Personal watercraft drivers and those riding behind them. All person in a boat and being towed by a boat must have a life jacket or flotation device.

-High speed boat pulling skiers, tubes etc., PWC and pontoon boats are required to travel in a counter clockwise direction around the perimeter of the lake if possible.

-Boats pulling skiers or tubes are required to have a spotter in the boat facing backwards and watching the skier or tubers for safety. The driver of the boat or PWC is required to keep his eyes forward to navigate and steer clear of swimmers and other craft and natural obstacles. You must stay 100 feet from docks, rafts and other non-powered boats.

-Power boats must give way to sail boats, kayaks, paddle boat etc.

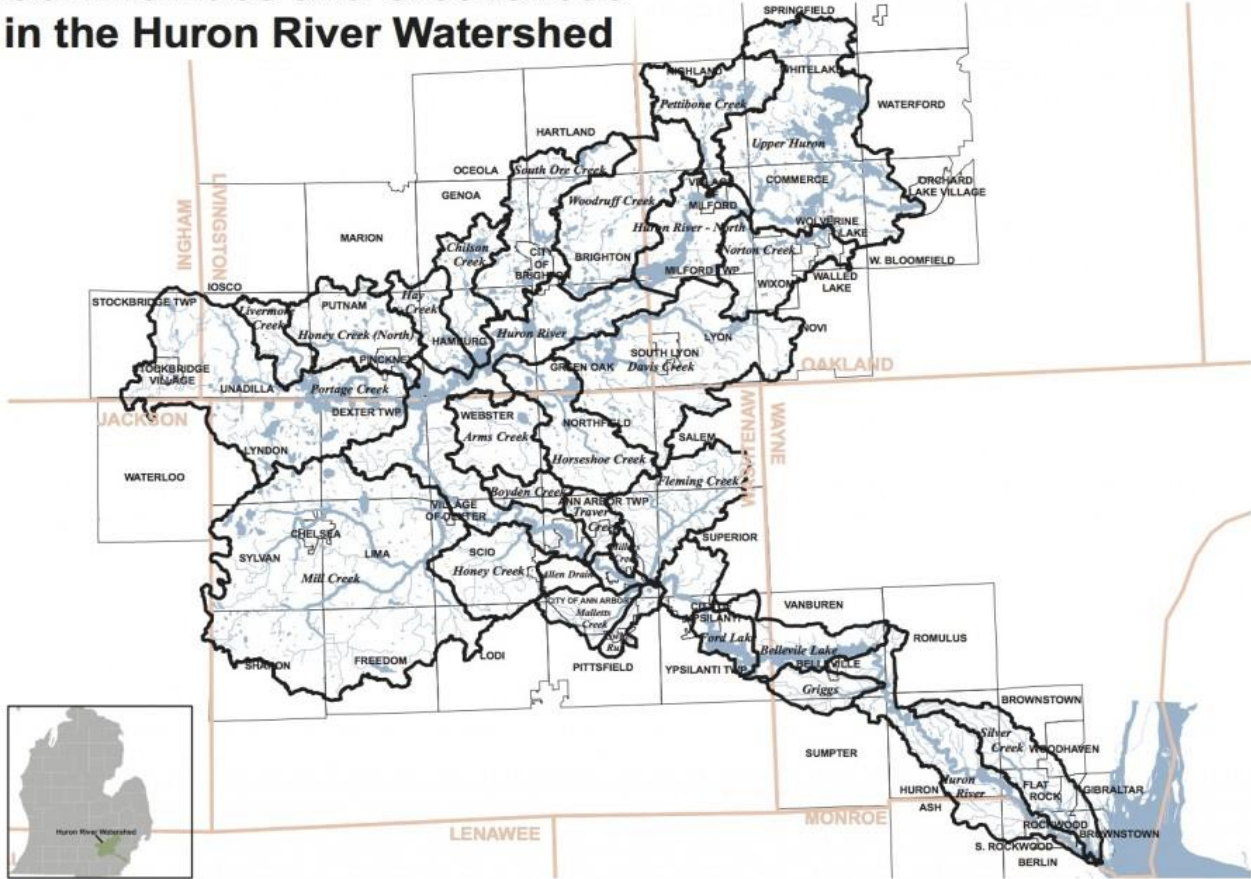
-Skiers must be off the lake one hour after sundown and before sunrise

-PWC must be off the lake between sunset and 8AM

-If a homeowner or boat owner allows someone to use their boat or PWC who is unqualified to do so or under the influence of alcohol or drugs, that home or boat owner are liable for damages incurred by their guest

-----Water running out of Pleasant Lake reaches Lake Erie!!!-----

# Communities and Creeksheds in the Huron River Watershed



-The PLPOA needs your support and involvement to ensure success. Only dues paying members of the PLPOA can vote on initiatives, elect officers and you receive a quarterly The Riparian magazine. Please join the PLPOA in 2018!

**PLPOA Board-Beth Heuser-President-734 428-8040, Lon Nordeen, VP 734-428-0530, Stan and Helen Parker, 734-428-0208, Jan Davis, 734-428-3823, Catherine Roberts 734-205-7333, Kevin Walker, 734-323-6418**

**(PLPOA) Membership/Dues Form-(which includes The Riparian Magazine!) \$40 Checks payable to: PLPOA for a 1-year membership (Jan 1 to Dec 31-2018) Complete this form and mail it with a check to: PLPOA, P.O. Box 447, Manchester, MI 48158** Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Lake address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Other- \_\_\_\_\_

MailingAddress \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mailaddress \_\_\_\_\_

**Additional contributions to support PLPOA lake monitoring, education, outreach and lake management are always appreciated! Annual fee\$40 \_\_\_\_\_+Contribution \_\_\_\_\_ total enclosed \_\_\_\_\_**