

# ILA Bulletin



April 2023

## Loon Platoon Update

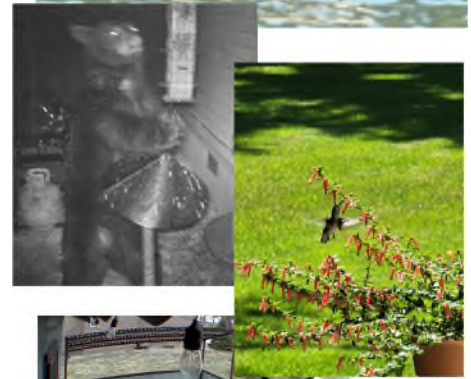
Spring approaches... In fact the calendar says it has been here a while. And that means the ice will soon be gone from Intermediate Lake.

With that in mind, the ILA Loon Platoon will be welcoming back our returning loons and launching the nesting platforms. The Loon Platoon is made up of enthusiastic volunteers ready to get that job done. The current members are listed on the ILA website. It only takes open water, decent weather, two or three able bodies and a boat (preferably one with no leaks; and a reliable engine would be a plus) ...and we could use a bale or two of straw for bedding material. We invite anyone willing and able to help with the platforms or equipment when the ice melts...usually mid-April or so...to contact me or any ILA board member.

The ILA is also interested in finding an additional spot or two to place nesting platforms, especially north of the big part of the lake. We had a platform at the natural area on the west side near the north end for several years without success, perhaps due to too much boat traffic. A quiet shore away from busy docks is what we are looking for. Hearing from any property owner with such a spot to consider would be appreciated.

The return of the loons is certainly a highlight of spring on and around our lake...along with hundreds of other animals and plants that "spring" into life this time of year. We encourage all of you to get out and see as many of these wonderful species you can. Perhaps these pictures from prior years will inspire you, and remind you that all wildlife needs their space, some more than others, so observe them with respect and consideration.

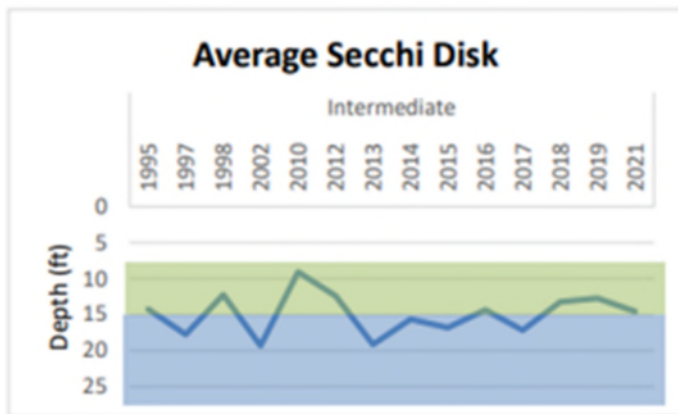
Dick West, Andy Hickman  
Co-Captains, ILA Loon Platoon  
dnswest@netzero.net



## Intermediate Lake Water Quality

Did you know that the Intermediate Lake Association participates in an ongoing program to measure our lake's water quality? ILA members volunteer to help make this program possible. If you are willing to help us out with this program in 2023, we can use you! Volunteer and help us out! We are always looking for more volunteers to help out with this important activity!

Volunteers collect data and water samples following procedures outlined in Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council's Volunteer Lake Monitoring Quality Assurance Project Plan. For example, water transparency is measured by lowering a black and white Secchi disk into the water and recording the depth at which it is no longer visible. Chlorophyll-a, a pigment found in all green plants and algae, is



collected using a water sampler lowered to twice the depth of the Secchi reading. The water sample is then filtered and later analyzed to estimate the density of phytoplankton in the water column. These two parameters together can tell us about a lake's productivity, or ability to support aquatic life. We also measure the temperature of the lake water at increasing depths, dissolved oxygen at different depths and the amount of phosphorus in the water.

Please consider lending a hand to help us continue obtaining this important information. Volunteer now by contacting Matt Gabris at the Intermediate Lake Association.

Matt Gabris  
Water Quality Chair

# ILA Bulletin

## Lake Level Studies Update

As announced in the December, 2022 ILA Bulletin, the 2023 work to continue development and use of the Hydrology Model of our Elk Rapids Chain of Lakes (ERCOL) is moving forward. This work is a cooperative effort with Antrim County and several ERCOL lake associations, including our association (recall the ILA is contributing \$1,000 towards the work).

Project work is being done by Spicer Group, a Michigan based engineering firm with expertise in dams and lake level control structures. They will be using the hydrology model of the Elk River Chain of Lakes developed for us by the United States Corps of Engineers (USACE) in 2020-2022. Spicer is expanding the model to include the Elk Rapids Dam, thus making the model cover the entire ERCOL watershed, and then using the model to study both the Bellaire Dam and the Elk Rapids Hydroelectric Dam (including the Elk Rapids overflow structure running through Kids Park). The model will be able to simulate lake levels during significant precipitation events (i.e., 100 year and 500 year flood events) to see if lake levels would rise and overtop the berms and dam structures at either Bellaire or Elk Rapids. Potential capacity improvements, if needed, will also be evaluated. This model is also the basis for updating 100 year flood plain limits throughout the ERCOL. This work is scheduled to be complete by the end of June, 2023.

We will keep you updated on this work.

Dave Christian, Janet Hickman  
Co-Chairs, ILA Lake Level Committee

## ILA Membership Update

We currently have over 260 memberships, our highest total ever (remember an ILA membership includes both members of the household, if applicable). While anyone anywhere can join the ILA, our core service area includes Intermediate and Hanley Lakes and the Intermediate River upstream of the Bellaire Dam. Our membership total represents over 40% of the lakefront owners on Intermediate Lake. While that is great, that also means there are many who have not joined us. If you ask your neighbors whether they belong and urge them to join if they say no, that will help us get even more people supporting the lake we all love.

Whether it is loon care, boat safety, better fishing, water quality, fighting invasive species, monitoring and controlling the lake level, or whatever is called to our attention, membership helps to improve our lives and the environment here on Intermediate Lake.

Thanks to all of you for your support!

Remember, dues are \$25 per membership for one year or \$100 for five years. A great deal!

Keith Shahan  
Membership Chair

Website: [intermediatelake.org/home.htm](http://intermediatelake.org/home.htm)  
Facebook: Intermediate Lake Association  
email@intermediatelake.org  
P.O. Box 795, Central Lake, MI 49622  
ILA is a 501c3 non-profit

## ILA Coming Events!

We have two events already on the summer calendar that we want you to be aware of and put on your calendar. Please consider attending.

First, on Saturday, August 5<sup>th</sup> from 4 to 6pm in the afternoon we will be having our Annual Meeting. In addition to handling business as required by our ILA By-laws, such as election of Directors to the ILA Board, we hope to have enough new information on the Lake Level project to present an update on that key, important work. Following the business part of the meeting we will relax and socialize, with hors d'oeuvres provided. Stay tuned for more information concerning this meeting, including its location. But mark your calendar now for this meeting: August 5<sup>th</sup> @ 4pm!

Second, on Saturday, August 19<sup>th</sup> at 10am in the morning at the Forest Home Township Hall we will have an informative presentation on our beloved Loons. Our featured speaker will be Damon McCormick of Common Coast Research & Conservation (Common Coast Research & Conservation is a non-profit organization dedicated to the study and protection of Great Lakes migratory birds, including Loons, and the lands and the waters upon which they depend). Following Damon's talk food and drink and a time to socialize will be provided. Note that August 19<sup>th</sup> is Rubber Ducky Day in Bellaire, so why not attend our presentation on Loons and then spend the remainder of the day in Bellaire for all the Rubber Ducky events! See you August 19<sup>th</sup> at 10am!

We are also working on an event for this June, so stay tuned for information on that as well!

