

ILA Bulletin



INTERMEDIATE LAKE ASSOCIATION

ILA Coming Events in 2024

April 2024

ILA Members – Here is our event calendar for 2024:

25th Anniversary Celebration. Saturday, June 1st at 4pm at the Blue Pelican Restaurant in Central Lake. You don't want to miss this – it's hard to believe we'll be celebrating 25 years! A full dinner will be provided by your association (cash bar), plus a few door prizes and an informative talk about our lake's flora & fauna by a representative from the Grass River Natural Area will make this a great event. We will be sending out invites (with RSVP's requested) shortly after May 1st, so look for these to arrive. Note this is a member's only event. We want to have a good, accurate number for our meal planning and cost assumptions – so if you plan to come, please RSVP, and if your plans change, just let us know that as well. See you there!

Annual Picnic. Wednesday, July 10th at 4pm at the Thurston Park pavilion in Central Lake. Like our picnic last year, meat will be provided by the association and you will be asked to bring a salad, side dish or dessert to share. We had a great turnout for last year's picnic, so why not join us for this year's! Our guest speaker will be from the Antrim County Marine Patrol. Come in your boat, come in your car – either way meet us at the park!

Annual Meeting. Saturday, August 10th at 4pm. This is our regular business meeting as required by our By-laws. We will elect directors for our association and handle other business as may come up. We will update you on various activities the association is involved in (including Lake Level stuff) and answer questions you have for the Board. Following the business part of the meeting we will relax and socialize, with complimentary hors d'oeuvres provided. Location to be announced.

New Resource Guide Available for ILA Members

Several lake associations, including the ILA, and local environmental organizations identified a collective desire to create a resource guide that effectively provides water-related resources to waterfront property owners throughout the Elk River Chain of Lakes watershed. The intent of this resource guide is to increase awareness of issues and best practices related to protecting our lakes and rivers, as well as connecting waterfront property owners to the larger Elk River Chain of Lakes watershed.

To develop this resource guide, we engaged with waterfront property owners to learn about their experiences owning property along our rivers & lakes, if they knew about or were members of the lake association that encompasses their waterbody, and how they prefer to seek and receive information.

Using what we learned in those discussions, along with input from lake associations and local environmental organizations, we created this online resource guide that outlines topics relevant to waterfront property owners, provides resources with more in-depth information on each topic, and includes information on the entire Elk River Chain of Lakes watershed. We intend for this resource guide to be a dynamic resource, easily updated as new information and materials become available.

I'm thrilled to share that the resource guide for waterfront property owners in the Elk River Chain of Lakes watershed is now LIVE! You can access it at: <https://gtbay.org/waterfront-guide/>

We welcome your feedback and recommendations concerning this resource guide.

Dave Christian, President | Intermediate Lake Association

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Lake Level Update

This certainly was an unusual winter for Antrim County this year. Total snow fall was below the long term average for our region and much of the winter months experienced above average temperatures. As a result of the warmer weather, much of our lake did not even freeze over for the winter season and ice fishing was seriously curtailed.

That has also affected lake levels. In a typical winter/spring season, our lake level increases 6 to 24 inches above the summer court ordered level due to the spring snow melt and spring rainstorms. Remember that the winter lake level target is about 6 inches below the summer target. But the high lake levels in spring usually require us to pull the lake level down to the summer target during much of April and sometimes into May and June (the summer lake level target is 7.14 on the Central Lake gauge, which you can view via the ILA website, if interested).

However, that has not been the case this year. So far, we have experienced no high level event, since there was basically no spring snow melt. While we will undoubtedly experience some high lake level events if & when we receive a big rain storm so far that has not occurred. The lake level has remained below the summer target continuously since before December 1st last year, causing us to have to raise our lake level up to the summer target for the start of the summer season. So yes, as of now (April 24th, the lake level is low (i.e., below the summer target).

As for Lake Level Committee news, we are still waiting to hear from the State of Michigan to see if we will receive the EGLE Dam Risk Reduction Grant for engineering for improvements at the Bellaire Dam.

We also encourage all members to attend the ILA Annual Meeting on August (see Coming Events), where we will present more information about lake levels, the Bellaire Dam improvements and possibly the new 100 year flood plain limits being proposed.

Dave Christian, ILA Lake Level Committee Co-Chair

Get Involved with the ILA!

I'd like you to consider getting involved with the Intermediate Lake Association. You will find involvement with the ILA rewarding as you help run the association and/or volunteer in our stewardship of the lake we all love. Year-round, seasonal and weekender members are all welcome to get involved. Men or women, young or old, yes! Volunteering will fit into your schedule and availability as well. Many of our needs can be done from your home or business (during break time, of course!) or later at night. We know you care about the lake, as you are already members of the ILA. So consider getting even more involved. If you do decide to get involved, send the ILA a note and we will discuss different options on how you could participate.

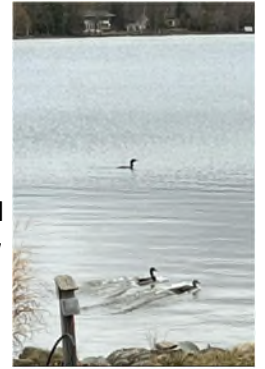
Dave Christian, President
Intermediate Lake Association

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Spring is Here & the Loon's Are Too!

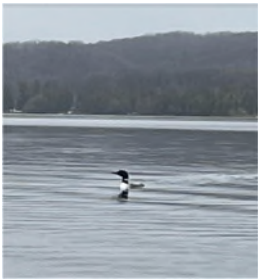
Greetings...and welcome to my first loon report for 2024. This is my first loon report but certainly not the first report of loons on Intermediate Lake.

The first reported sighting confirmed by a picture that I got was on April 4 from Roseann and Paul Winkler. They sent this picture along, which certainly made me jealous as well as excited to know our loon watching season has begun. That same loon then made its way across the lake to say hello to my fellow Loon Platoon member Andy Hickman. (I think it must have been one of the eagle tree pair cuz if it was one of the Gorham Beach pair I'm sure it would have stopped by to see me first!) That same day, Pat O'Connor spotted a loon by their place on Walleye Lane.



While I was at the lake at that time I had to wait until this trip up to make my first sighting. I got up here yesterday (April 17) and Andy and I took advantage of an unexpected break in the windy, rainy weather to launch the two platforms in the south end...and there it was! As we rowed the platform out to its spot at the weed bed near the eagle tree, a loon was watching us...my first loon of the year! In fact, there THEY were...a pair of loons!! It's always fun to see your first loon of the year and extra fun to have a pair escorting us as we put their nesting platform in position. This is my first loon. You can see how close they were while we rowed the platform out to their weed bed.

Again this year we want to give a loud thank you to Jeremiah at The Maples Resort for providing a row boat to get those two platforms in place. Andy took this picture of me yelling at him to quit taking pictures and get in the dang boat so we can get the job done and I can get my dinner!...or something like that...



Today (April 18) I hope to get the platform out at the Green's property near the 90 degree turn of North Intermediate Lake Drive. We are keeping our fingers crossed that the pair practicing on that one last year will return to it and get the job done properly.



The natural nesting site near Gorham Beach is high and dry at the moment. With the mild winter and early thaw the weeds in that spot are still present above water. That is not usually the case and should be an advantage for our pair that nest there. I just hope they don't nest in a spot that gets flooded if the water level comes up too high. Time will tell.

And of course, time will tell how many healthy chicks will be raised this summer...and if will we be privileged to have four loon families to watch.

Finally, I'd just like to remind everyone to keep your distance from and respect our wildlife. Never chase our aquatic wildlife, watch out for them as you are boating and please keep your pets away from them as well. Thanks!

Stay tuned...

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