

ILA Bulletin



INTERMEDIATE LAKE ASSOCIATION

New Year's Greetings from the ILA

January 2024

Happy New Year ILA members! I hope everyone had a pleasant holiday period and you were able to spend some time with family and friends and maybe even enjoying some vacation time somewhere nice! For those of you who were up here in Antrim County over the holidays, you know that it's been a different winter so far. Warmer than average temperatures so far and very little, if any, snow on the ground. Most of Intermediate Lake has yet to freeze over; the ski resorts are suffering and don't even think about snowmobiling, cross country skiing or snow shoeing yet. But with all of that, it's still great being up north in Michigan and maybe we'll get some snow and colder temperatures this week. I hope so!

As we did last January, we want to make sure we have your current contact information so we can keep you informed of all that's going on in the association. In 2023 we sent out 6 bulletins (the last one in October, 2023), plus other notices and announcements. Do you recall getting them? No? Please help us fix that! Remember that e-mail is the preferred means by which we communicate with our membership, so please ensure we have a current e-mail address (or addresses) for you. If you have any doubts, please send us an e-mail to the address below. We also communicate regularly through our Facebook site, for those of you active on Facebook (same info). However, if you want us to communicate with you only via the USPS, please let us know and make sure we have your current postal address.

For those of you receiving e-mail, it will help if you enter our organization in your e-mail address book as a Contact. Doing that will help our ILA e-mails land in your in-basket instead of in your spam and/or junk mail folders. Therefore, please add the Intermediate Lake Association (email@intermediatelake.org) to your address book.

Once again, Happy New Year!

Dave Christian
President

ILA Coming Events in 2024

ILA Members – It's not too early to start marking your calendars for these coming events of our association!

25th Anniversary Celebration. Saturday, June 1st at 4pm. You don't want to miss this – it's hard to believe we'll be celebrating 25 years! Food provided by your association, door prizes and a special guest speaker will make this a great event. Location and further details to come, but mark your calendars now for this special time as we mark 25 years for the ILA.

Annual Picnic. Wednesday, July 10th at 4pm. 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. Our guest speaker will be from the Antrim County Marine Patrol. Location to be announced.

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 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.

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ILA Membership Update

As of year-end 2023 we have 267 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!

Mandy Bush
Membership Chair

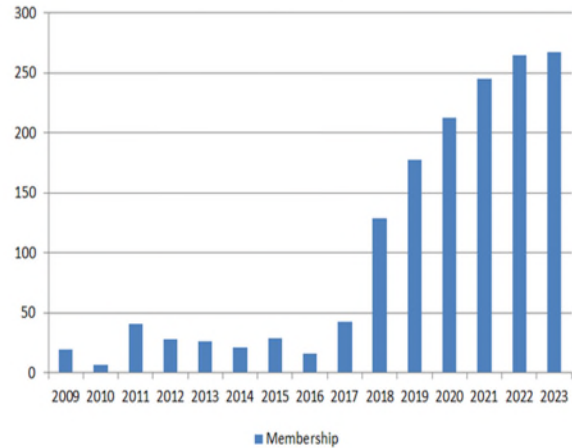
Lake Level Update

How to deal with changing weather patterns and excessive rain events continues to be the focus of the County Operator of Dams and Drain Commissioner, Leslie Meyers. The most recent meeting of the expanded Lake Level Committee was held on November 30, 2023 and focused on understanding various funding mechanisms that are available at the village, township, and county government levels for getting dam maintenance and improvement projects funded.

Separately, Meyers has been working with Shawn Middleton, from the Spicer Group, to prepare the “pre-approval” submission for an EGLE Dam Risk Reduction Grant. ILA, along with many of the other lake associations provided Leslie with a letter of support. In late December if we will learn if we qualified to submit a grant request.

Meyers has received grant funding to provide US Weather Service training for a group of volunteers to collect and report precipitation data that would be directly available through the weather service.

Intermediate Lake Association
Membership



Hickman’s, who had previously volunteered, will collect data for Intermediate Lake. Many of the other lakes in the chain already have volunteers.

Shawn Middleton, Spicer Group will work with a sub-group to provide training on how to use the existing hydraulic model.

The next Lake Level Subcommittee meeting will be held on January 11th at 1:00 PM by Zoom. Detailed information regarding the Hydrology study, Flood Plain Management Study and FEMA Flood Map are always available on the Antrim County website at: www.antrimcounty.org under Departments & Services: Dams.

Janet Hickman
ILA Lake Level Committee Co-Chair

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Water Quality Report for 2023 Intermediate Lake (IL)

Intermediate Lake Association (ILA) volunteers in conjunction with Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council (ToMWC) sampling protocols perform water quality sampling every year on our Lake. Current data goes back to 1995 and took place once again in the summer of 2023.

Last summer, data was collected following these protocols. Several data indicators were measured just like a checkup with your doctor. Water transparency or “clarity” was measured by lowering a black and white Secchi (pronounced Sech – E) disk into the water and recording the depth at which it is no longer visible by several “spotters”. In a few samples early this summer, we had 18 feet of clarity which is about four feet more than we’ve had in previous years. This followed some heavy rains and again the lake was not as “stirred up” yet by recreational use. This normalized as the summer continued as to be expected.

Dissolved oxygen (DO), is important so fish and other life can breathe in the water, is also measured at five foot increments all the way down to IL’s deepest point of about 80 feet. These data showed healthy levels up to 9.8 mg/L and a decline as the sampling was deeper but still above 2.0 mg/L even at 80 feet. This indicates those fish can be anywhere and provides a healthy environment with minimal pollution that can drop these levels.

Temperature measured at five-foot increments was also registered and once again showed significant thermoclines, or metalimnions, at multiple depths which indicate good thermal stratification (noticeable temperature drops in a short vertical range of water). These began at about 12 to 15 feet throughout the summer and were also apparent around 30 and 50 feet. Some fishermen use these to know where the fish like to park in their optimum temperature. You or your kids may have experienced this if you jump in off the boat and it gets cold fast.

Chlorophyll-a, a pigment found in all green plants and algae, was collected using a water sampler lowered to twice the depth of the Secchi reading. This water is then filtered, frozen and later analyzed to estimate the density of phytoplankton (an important food source for the lower food chain) in the water column. Phosphorous is sampled twice during the summer and is an indicator of how susceptible the lake is to algae blooms. Phosphorous and chlorophyll-a are still not in yet as analysis is done by a lab that performs most of this work for many northern Michigan lakes.

All other indicators continue to show continued great lake health and water quality. A quote from ToMWC: “DO levels look healthy, being above 5 mg/L until nearly the bottom. Based on Secchi disk alone, it looks like the lake would be classified between mesotrophic and oligotrophic for the 2023 summer”. This is right where we want our lake to be from an ability to safely swim, support a diverse group of fish and be nearly free of nuisance algae blooms.

This update has some opinion weaved in but IL, without question, continues to be vibrant and healthy. We could use some boats and some volunteers this upcoming summer for sampling as we’re making a change in 2024 with new sampling members. Please contact us via email or talk to one of the board members if you’re interested. Thank you for your interest and continued efforts in keeping our Intermediate Lake healthy.

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ILA is a 501c3 non-profit