

# ILA Bulletin



INTERMEDIATE LAKE ASSOCIATION

## 2023 Annual Business Meeting Notice

July 2023

On Saturday, August 5<sup>th</sup> from 4 to 6pm in the afternoon at the Torch Lake Café in Eastport we will be having our Annual Meeting. All ILA Members should plan to attend. Two items of business will be conducted:

Election of Directors. We currently have eight directors - Dave Christian, Jim Gilleylen, John Bridenbaugh, Stan Yoder, Matt Gabris, Andy Hickman, Aaron Phelps and Keith Shahan. Directors serve 2 year terms. Terms for Dave and Keith are up this year, terms for the other 6 directors are up in 2024. Long time Board member Keith Shahan will be retiring from the Board. Standing for election to the Board will be Mandy Bush. Dave will also be running for re-election to the Board.

Approval of Refreshed ILA By-Laws. The second item of business is submitting a refreshed set of association by-laws for approval by the membership. Our current by-laws state that they may be amended at the annual or a special membership meeting by two-thirds (2/3) of the members in good standing present and voting providing that a notice of the proposed amendments has been sent to the members at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting. We will be sending out the present and proposed by-laws in accordance with the above requirements to all members shortly.

So why are we doing this? Aaron Phelps, who is one of our eight ILA directors, is a practicing attorney and has provided us with legal advice for the last two years. The Board asked Aaron to review our current by-laws to see if there were any important problems or deficiencies in the by-laws and, if so, recommend appropriate changes.

While nothing major was found, Aaron did refresh the by-laws with several suggested changes – mostly to “clean them up.” The Board has reviewed and discussed these refreshed by-laws, agrees that they are an improvement over the current by-laws and submits them to the membership for your approval.

So what is changed in the new by-laws? Briefly:  
Minor changes to the basic structure  
Improved layout, less “wordy”, thus easier to read  
Improved use of legal terminology and wording as necessary  
ILA shall have a maximum of 9 directors (no limit specified previously)  
Improved clarity concerning Executive Committee organization & duties  
The Executive Committee has limited powers & authority (delegated from the full board)  
Improved clarity concerning Special Project funds

The Board will be submitting this refreshed set of by-laws to the membership for approval. Please read them over before you come to the Annual Meeting. We will, of course, take time to answer any questions you may have at the meeting.

Dave Christian  
President  
Intermediate Lake Association

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## ILA Coming Events

On Saturday, August 5<sup>th</sup> from 4 to 6pm in the afternoon at the Torch Lake Café in Eastport we will be having our Annual Meeting. We will meet in their private meeting room. 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 complimentary hors d'oeuvres provided. We have already sent out invitations to this event – please RSVP so we have an accurate count in planning. All ILA Members should plan to attend. Mark your calendar now for this meeting: August 5<sup>th</sup> @ 4pm!

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). Light refreshments will be available during the meeting and a time to socialize will be provided afterwards. 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!



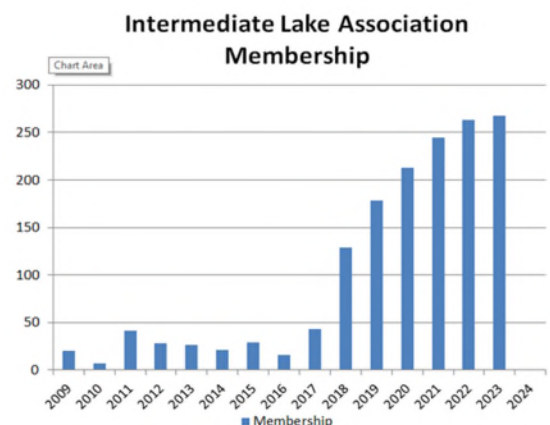
## ILA Annual Membership Drive

Each year starting in August we conduct a new member drive. We send information about our association as well as a membership application to all riparian owners on Intermediate Lake, Hanley Lake and the Intermediate River (north of the Bellaire Dam) who are not already members of the ILA. While anyone anywhere can join the ILA, this is our core service area. 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.

We currently have over 260 memberships, our highest total ever (remember an ILA membership includes both members of the household, if applicable). 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



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## Lake Level Studies Update

As previously announced, work is continuing on the expansion and use of the Hydrology Model of our Elk Rapids Chain of Lakes (ERCOL). This work is a cooperative effort with Antrim County and several ERCOL lake associations, including our association.

The work is being done by Spicer Group, a Michigan based engineering firm with expertise in dams and lake level control structures. 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 and Elk Rapids Dams. The model will be able to simulate lake levels during significant precipitation events to see if lake levels would rise and overtop the berms and dam structures at either Bellaire or Elk Rapids. This model will also be used to update flood plain elevations throughout the ERCOL.

This work is now entering its final phase by Spicer. Spicer has simulated various flows through the Bellaire Dam during 10-year, 100-year, and 500-year events. They have identified 2 possible improvements that could be made to the dam to increase its hydraulic capacity: first, a 120 foot overflow spillway with a bottom elevation of 607 feet; and second, a 120 foot overflow spillway with 6-10 foot wide gates spaced evenly throughout the spillway. These gates have a bottom elevation of 604 feet. However, remember all of this work is preliminary and subject to further review.

We will update you on this work at the August 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Business Meeting.

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

## Treasurer's Report

Overall, the financial position of the association continues to be quite strong. We had \$39,478.59 in the bank as of June 30, 2023, and \$39,113.61 at the start of 2023. In 2022 the association had income of \$9,045.00, the great majority of which was from ILA memberships. Total disbursements in 2022 were \$3,603.66, supporting the following association committees: Lake Level, Loon Platoon, Conservation & Environment (Water Quality), Water Safety and Membership. Your Board sets budgets before the start of each year when we develop estimates for income (money in) and proposed spending by our committees in support of our projects and initiatives (money out). The Board then approves all actual disbursements as they are incurred.

If you ever have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

John Bridenbaugh, ILA Treasurer  
John.bridenbaugh@gmail.com

## June ILA Potluck

On Saturday, June 24<sup>th</sup>, 58 or so ILA members gathered at Thurston Park in Central Lake for our first member meeting of 2023. Matt Gabris, an ILA Board Member was the featured speaker, talking about Intermediate Lake's water quality and our testing program for 2023. The potluck meal included plenty of bratwurst courtesy the ILA plus tons of great side dishes and desserts from those in attendance. These events are a great way to meet many of your neighbors as well as your ILA Board members who were in attendance. Why not consider attending our next event? See Page 3 for some pictures from the event.

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ILA is a 501c3 non-profit