

ILA Bulletin



INTERMEDIATE LAKE ASSOCIATION

ILA Annual Membership Drive

July 2024

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!

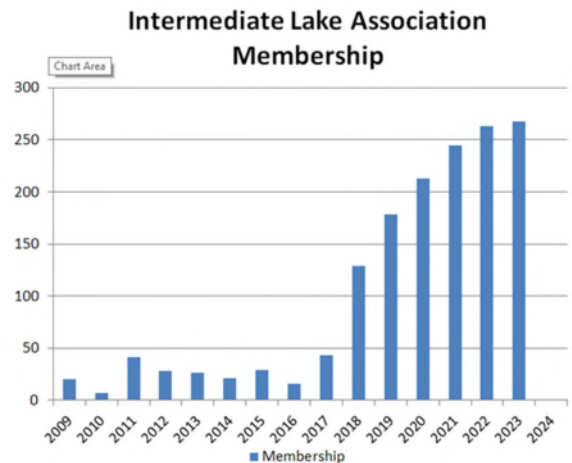
Mandy Bush, Membership Chair

July ILA Potluck

On Wednesday, July 10th, another good crowd of ILA members gathered at Thurston Park in Central Lake for our second member meeting of 2024. Our featured was Randy Weiss of the Antrim County Marine Patrol. Randy joined us for an engaging discussion concerning water safety, laws and regulations and a few really good stories concerning incidents and events.

The potluck meal included plenty of bratwurst and hotdogs 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?

Here are a couple pictures from the event.



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2024 Algae Outbreak

On Tuesday, July 9th an algae outbreak was investigated on Intermediate Lake. The pictures shown are of the outbreak. We reported the outbreak to the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE) and Teresa Salveta from EGLE was able to come out and obtain samples of the algae for analysis (that's Teresa in the pictures).

Testing confirmed this algal bloom was POSITIVE for microcystins, which is Cyanobacteria, a toxin sometimes produced by blue-green algae. This is what's formally known as a Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB). The ILA is certainly not the Health Department, so you should refer to the links below for specific information, but here are some basics to get you started:

See A Bloom – Give It Room!



1. Do not let pets swim in the lake anywhere near an algae accumulation. If your pet has been in the water where algae was present, hose them off thoroughly with fresh water (they can ingest the algae when grooming after exposure), and watch them closely for signs of G.I. issues such as vomiting and diarrhea, or neurological issues, such as walking funny or acting differently. We also are not veterinarians, so we recommend calling your vet or local animal hospital for more info. Call them immediately if your pet is ill. Early treatment is crucial.

2. You can still swim in the lake but should do so out in waters where algae are not present. Exposure can cause skin irritation; ingestion can be harmful. Again, refer to the links provided for further info.

3. The algal bloom has to resolve on its own; there is nothing that can be done to treat it or make it go away. Shifting winds, changing temperatures, a storm, etc., can affect it and help the issue.

4. There are several things we can do to discourage algae growth. They include not letting fertilizers and nutrient-rich compounds run into lakes, not using soaps and shampoos near the lake (and especially not in it!) as they encourage growth, and not tossing pet waste anywhere near the lake for disposal.

Here are some links to information on HAB's:

EGLE Picture Guide: https://www.michigan.gov/documents/egle/egle-wrd-swas-habs-picguide_694983_7.pdf

EGLE HABs website: [Harmful Algal Blooms \(michigan.gov\)](https://www.michigan.gov/harmful-algal-blooms)

EGLE Frequently Asked Questions: [Harmful Algal Blooms \(HAB\) \(michigan.gov\)](https://www.michigan.gov/harmful-algal-blooms)

EGLE classroom video on HABs ID: [EGLE Classroom - Identifying Harmful Algal Blooms \(Cyanobacteria\) - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)

HABs mapper: [Michigan Harmful Algal Bloom Reports \(arcgis.com\)](https://arcgis.com)

Elizabeth Phelps, Intermediate Lake Association

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2024 Annual Business is August 10th!!!

Do you have hemlock trees on your property? If so, you need to be aware of an invasive aphid-like insect that can kill your trees in four to ten years by extracting sap and weakening needles, stems, and branches. It's the hemlock woolly adelgid (ah-DEL-jid). The HWA has already been found in at least eight Michigan counties, including Antrim County near Torch Lake. If you are concerned, here are the steps to follow:



1. First confirm that your trees are hemlocks. Hemlocks come in several varieties, all susceptible to HWA, but eastern hemlocks are predominant in Michigan. Eastern hemlocks have a conical shape, needles that are about 1/2 inch long with two parallel white lines on their undersides, and small papery cones about 3/4 inch long that hang downward from branches. For details, Google "Eastern Hemlock Identification."
2. Look for evidence of HWA infestation: The HWA deposits ovisacs on the undersides of eastern hemlock twigs. These are small, round, white, cottony masses, 1/16" to 1/4." See the attached photo.
3. If your hemlock tree appears to be infested, report it! Contact our local agency, the Charlevoix, Antrim, Kalkaska, Emmet / Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (CAKE CISMA) at cakecisma@macd.org or 231-533-8363 ext 5. Don't clip infested branch samples and transport them or mail them to another location for identification. You could accidentally spread HWA to areas that are not yet infested.
4. Treat the infestation yourself or ask for assistance. Spring is a good time to treat. A simple treatment method for homeowners is to apply a systemic insecticide to the soil around the tree trunk base. For treatment details including which insecticides target HWA, Google "MSU Bulletin E3349." However, if your hemlock trees are within 75 feet of a body of water or in areas with a high water table, or if flowering plants or shrubs are growing around the hemlocks you wish to protect, a trunk injection or bark treatment may be necessary to avoid affecting the environment, groundwater or other insects. Professional applicators can provide these types of treatments.

2024 Annual Business is August 10th!!!

On Saturday, August 10th from 4 to 6pm in the afternoon at the Torch Lake Café in Eastport we will be having our Annual Business Meeting. All ILA members should plan to attend. This is our regular 'business meeting as required by our By-laws. We will elect directors for our association, answer 'questions you have for the Board and handle other business as may come up. After the official 'business of the Annual Meeting, we will hear an update from the Lake Level Committee. Following the business part of the meeting we will relax and socialize, with complimentary hors d'oeuvres provided.

RSVP required on or before Friday, August 2nd. Please let us know you are coming!

Dave Christian, President
Intermediate Lake Association

Website: intermediatelake.org
Facebook: Intermediate Lake Association
email@intermediatelake.org
P.O. Box 795, Central Lake, MI 49622
ILA is a 501c3 non-profit