

ILA Bulletin



INTERMEDIATE LAKE ASSOCIATION

ILA's 25th Anniversary!

June 2024

On Saturday, June 1st, almost 90 ILA members gathered at Blue Pelican in Central Lake to mark the 25th anniversary of the ILA. To mark this special occasion, dinner was provided by the ILA for everyone attending. As you might expect with the offer of a free dinner (!!), this was our best attended event ever! The dinner and hors d'oeuvres were wonderful and everyone had a great time mixing & talking with their fellow ILA members.

Our featured speaker for the evening was Sean Callahan, Conservation Director at the Grass River Natural Area, who gave a very interesting review of the flora & fauna of Intermediate Lake and surrounding area. 5 lucky individuals won books on the above topic.

A special note of thanks goes to Andy Hickman and Linda Bridenbaugh who planned & pulled off this event (great job, you two!!) and Janet Hickman, Jayne Yoder and Roseann Winkler for welcoming and checking people in as they arrived. Without these members hard work, this event would not have happened.

These events are a great way to meet many of your neighbors as well as your ILA Board members. Why not consider attending our next event on July 10th?

Here are some pictures from the event.



2024 Annual Business Meeting Notice

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. We will elect directors for our association, answer questions you may have for the Board and handle other business as may come up. ILA Members should plan to attend.

Dave Christian
President, Intermediate Lake Association

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ILA Coming Events in 2024

ILA Members – Here is our event calendar for 2024:

Annual Picnic/Pot-luck. 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. Official invitations have already been sent out to all members, please RSVP by July 2nd to email@intermediatelake.org with your name, number coming and what you are bringing. See you there!

Annual Meeting. Saturday, August 10th at 4pm at the Torch Lake Café in Eastport. 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.

Three Lakes Association Adult Education Event. One of our sister lake associations on our Chain of Lakes, Three Lakes Association (TLA) – covering Bellaire, Clam and Torch Lakes - is holding an educational event open to everyone. It will be held on July 9th from 4:30 to 7pm at the Summit Village Beach Club on Lake Bellaire. Topics covered include fish stocking in our lakes, Paddle Antrim, Grass River Natural Area, Bellaire Waste Water Treatment Plant update and an update from Leslie Meyers (Antrim County Drain Commissioner / Operator of Dams).

New Flood Maps are Coming to Antrim County

Leslie Meyers , Antrim County Drain Commissioner and Operator of Dams
May 7, 2024

In early 2021, FEMA announced that they would be updating their flood maps for the County. Prior to that time, flood maps were only available for the 4 Townships and 1 Village adjacent to Lake Michigan/Grand Traverse Bay. Last summer, the Townships were informed by FEMA that new draft maps had been created for the remainder of the County. Within the next few months, the final draft will be formally presented. This is the third project within the last 10 years for Antrim County.

Flooding is the most common natural disaster. The majority of homeowner's policies do not cover flood losses. FEMA has established the NFIP – National Flood Insurance Program to reduce the financial risk for homeowners and renters.

What happens next? Special flood areas have been identified for all townships and villages within Antrim County. After formal receipt of the draft maps this summer, municipalities will have 90 days to appeal the maps, should they feel the need to do so. Once formally adopted by FEMA in late 2024 or early 2025, each municipality will have one year in which to join the NFIP. What happens if they don't choose to join the NFIP? No NFIP policies will be available to its residents. There will be no federal mortgage or loan guarantees and most lenders will not offer loans in flood areas. Encourage your municipality to join the program. If your municipality joins, participation is **voluntary**; all property owners are eligible, even if they are not inside a flood hazard area if their community chooses to participate. You can look at the preliminary map with the following link:

<https://arcg.is/0jXK4y0>

Once opened, zoom in to find your property. Please note that the light blue line represents to 100 yr. (or 1%) flood limit and the green line denotes the 500 yr. (or 0.2%) flood limit.



An Update from the Antrim County Drain Commissioner—May 7, 2024

Lake Level issues continue to be at the forefront for the Elk River Chain of Lakes (ERCOL). The upper chain had minimal water level issues until after 2010. Soil erosion issues and property damage had become a regular occurrence. A lake level committee was started in the 2016, led by Intermediate Lake Association and included representation from several of the lake associations and the Drain Commissioner. Antrim County partnered with the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and provided the 25% match in the amount of \$75,000 to build the HEC-RAS and HEC-HMS models. As a refresher:

HEC: Hydrologic Engineering Center

HMS: Hydrologic Model System and

RAS: River Analysis System

HEC-HMS is a Hydrologic Model that transforms rainfall amounts into quantity of runoff while a HEC-RAS Hydraulic Model computes streamflow characteristics, such as depth, width and flow velocity. The model is now being used to study behavior patterns of the water flow and to predict lake water levels under different storm scenarios, including flood events. The model was shared with FEMA for assistance in producing new and updated flood maps for the County ([see Flood Plain Article](#)). Upon the model completion in 2022, there were still some unanswered questions specific to the Bellaire and Elk Rapids dams. How much rain could the dams handle without the potential overtopping? Antrim County, with financial assistance from several of the lake associations, hired Spicer Group to assist with the review. The report was released in the summer of 2023. We found that Elk Rapids hydro dam was still has 6" of freeboard (the additional amount of height above the 100-year flood level). The Bellaire dam will overflow if faced with a 100-year flood – also known as a 1% flood.

With this information, the Drain Commissioner applied for a \$500,000 grant through EGLE (Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy) to study and engineer a fix. On May 2, 2024 we received acknowledgement of the award! We will continue to look at alternatives for construction funding as well as begin preparations to study both the Elk Rapids Spillway and Ellsworth's Bridge Street culvert.

Improvements are expected to begin in the fall 2025/ spring of 2026. Additionally, wild weather patterns have brought large amounts of rainfall throughout the watershed over the past 12+ years. In 2021, over 7 inches of rain fell in the Clam Lake area which led to a washout of the Alden Highway, creating a traffic nightmare for over 2 months while the roadway was restored. Gauging the dams and attempting to maintain lake levels in the watershed is a tall order when it is unknown exactly how much water fell over the region. The County received a grant from the US Army Corps of Engineers to produce a hydrology model for the watershed. In order for us to use the model more effectively and preserve the recreational opportunities the watershed provides to our residents and guests, we are starting a Citizen Precipitation Project (CPP) funded in part by the People Fund from Great Lakes Energy.

The CPP would allow the Drain Commissioner's office to better understand the impacts of rainfall in each sub-watershed and make more informed decisions on water levels and watershed improvements. Citizens will use the National Weather Service's CoCoRaHS (Community Collaborative Rain, Hail & Snow Network) to collect the data. The funding is being used to assist with the provision of necessary equipment for 20 volunteers. Plus, several lake association members trained with our engineers on using the HEC-RAS/HMS model to better serve their members. If you have an interest in volunteering with rain gauges or on the lake level committee, please reach out at meyersl@antrimcountymi.gov. I look forward to updating you very soon on our next steps.

Leslie Meyers

Antrim County Drain Commissioner & Operator of Dams

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