

Intermediate Lake Association



ILA Newsletter

Fall 2021

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Seasons Greetings to all our Intermediate Lake Association Members - Hoping you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving and that you and your families are well. It came to our attention that we have not issued a Fall ILA newsletter, so I thought I'd take the opportunity to send out a condensed edition prior to the New Year. Here goes:

MEMBER MEETINGS: Because Covid-19 continues to be a concern, we chose not to hold any in person member meetings in 2021.

1. We did have a couple of Association meetings via Zoom, but it's just not the same. We were able to hold our 2021 Annual Meeting on August 14th at the Thurston Park Pavilion and had a great turn-out. We counted almost 60 attendees and some really good information was shared.
2. A Member Social Event was held at the Blue Pelican on Saturday, September 25th, and as for past

similar activities, this was a real success. We had 50-55 members attend and your Directors are well aware that nothing draws a crowd like offering food and drink. After both of these activities, it was noted that some discussions got a bit long-winded and we will take steps to manage that better in the future.

MEMBERSHIP: We are delighted to report we have 243 memberships (mostly spouse pairs) in the ILA currently! As such, we believe it's reasonable to claim that ILA represents 500+ persons. As a measure, there are about 690 lakefront parcels (according to Antrim County Assessor's records) on Intermediate Lake, plus about 20 parcels on the river south of the lake (to Richardi Park), plus about another 20 parcels on the river north of the lake (to Hanley Lake). Therefore, ILA represents about 34%, 250 of 730, of the possible total lakefront properties.

(Continued on Page 2)



FINANCIAL: On December 13th, ILA had \$33,780.87 in the checking account. About \$6,500.00 of that total are "Swimmer's Itch - Special Project" funds.

SECRETARY:

1. A rewrite of the ILA [Website](#) is in process. We're hoping to make that tool more user friendly, while continuing to be more comprehensive in coverage and information available.
2. Melissa Zelenek continues to maintain and increase the use of and benefits of [Facebook](#).

LOONS:

1. We should all be proud that for another year, each of the three managed Loon nesting sites produced at least one new baby. However, we all need to watch for and report harassment of loons on the lake.
2. Jim Gilleylen and a committee of ILA members have created new Loon awareness signs that have been posted at Thurston Park boat launch, the new dock area at Thurston Park, and at the Gorham Beach lake access. An additional new Loon sign will replace an old model at the Openo Road MDNR launch on southeast side of the Lake.
3. The committee will be working over the Winter to create a Loon Awareness brochure to distribute to interested members, resort operators,

government offices and other related businesses.

4. [Click here](#) to see the logs of Loon Platoon Captain Dick West's observations of the last four years.

WATER SAFETY: DID YOU KNOW THAT IT IS A VIOLATION OF STATE LAW TO OPERATE ANY WATER-CRAFT AT GREATER THAN SLOW/NO WAKE SPEED WITHIN 100 FEET OF A SHORELINE, A DOCK OR RAFT, ANY MOORED OR ANCHORED BOAT, OR ANY MARKED SWIMMING AREA OR PERSON IN THE WATER? It is plain that many boaters on Intermediate Lake are not aware of the requirements and rules/regulation of operating a watercraft on waters of the State of Michigan (see "Michigan Marine Law and Boater Safety" at mymlsa.org). We're receiving notice of more and more no wake violation, reckless operation, excessive speed, wildlife harassment (jet ski), etc. Please do YOUR part and observe & adhere to boating laws, BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY, BE AWARE OF AND REPORT UNSAFE BOATING ACTIVITY to the Antrim County Sheriff Marine Patrol AND/OR MDNR's Report All Poaching hotline number, at 800-292-7800. Thanks.

LAKE MONITOR: For about 25 years (?), the Intermediate Lake Association has participated in the Annual Lake Monitor program managed by Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council. One day per week, every other week in June,

(Continued on Page 3)



July and August, ILA volunteers gather & analyze water samples and record results of water clarity, temperature, Dissolved Oxygen, and chlorophyll-a. Starting in 2021, samples were collected for phosphorus and nitrogen. Results are submitted to T.O.M., who compile the data and provide end of season water quality reports to participating lakes. The data indicates that Intermediate Lake is a typical northern Michigan OLIGOTROPHIC lake, low in nutrients with clear water and abundant oxygen at depths well down in the water column. GOOD NEWS. Our Conservation and Environment volunteers (Sue Thomas, Chairperson) use their water craft to travel to the designated 90 foot deep sample site about midway (up/down) the lake nearer the easterly shore about 200 yards out. When the weather's nice, there's no better way to spend time on the water.

LAKE LEVEL: Janet Hickman and Dave Christian continue working with Antrim County, other lake associations, and the Army Corps of Engineers in developing a hydrology model on the entire length of the Elk Rapids Chain of Lakes. The data collection period is over and the report writing is in progress and will be ready for distribution to study principals shortly after the first of the year, 2022.

SCUBA PROJECT: Six of our ten [fish shelters](#) have been surveyed and found to be in good shape by our father/son volunteer dive team, Chuck and Clark Miller. They have

told us that they'd like to finish the job in June, when the water will be at its maximum clarity for the season.

POSSIBLE PROJECTS FOR 2022:

1. Work with the Land Conservancy to define uses of two parcels on the lake and develop those uses.
2. Recruit volunteers for near-shore habitat improvement.
3. Determine how to repopulate frogs, toads, crayfish, and turtles.
4. Plan and conduct a member fishing contest for the MDNR Free-Fishing weekend (June 11-12) 2022.
5. Others??????

Are you interested in any of the existing or possible activities or do you have an activity to recommend? Send an email to Steve Young, steve.young@chartermi.net.

Have the Merriest of Christmases and Happiest of New Years.

**Steve Young, President
Intermediate Lake Association**