

# LONG LAKE NEWS

A PUBLICATION OF THE LONG LAKE ASSOCIATION > SPRING EDITION



## President's Message – SPRING 2016

Never a dull moment on Long Lake. People often ask when the ice is off the lake and for the last twenty years, almost like clockwork, it has been mid-April. This year ice was gone mid-March and spring appeared out of nowhere. Three snow storms later spring visited us again. 70 degree days and boats on the lake mid-April. Unbelievable.

The loons are back, fish are jumping, and the sunsets are amazing. We are looking forward to sitting with friends and family around the bonfire. That's what up north is about.

We do have to watch out for a few things this year. Our muskrat population appears to be growing. At the end of last year they were getting into boats and eating electrical wires and hoses. In the manufacturing process vegetable oil is used as a lubricant. This scent stays on the wiring and the muskrats think it's a food source. Primarily this problem has been found to occur in the back end of pontoon boats. An ounce prevention will save your boat and lake time. Cover the back engine compartment with chicken wire to keep out the muskrats. Rewiring can be expensive. If you have questions about trapping and relocating please contact DNR for rules and regulations.

Beavers are still hard at work on Ruth Lake. The loose debris makes its way to the culverts and has the potential for restricting water flow out of Long, Ruth, and Mickey Lakes. Keeping the culverts clear with help regulate water flow. If you are inclined to help clean out the culverts occasionally please make sure you are not trespassing on anyone's private property.

On a personal note I would like to thank Jo Marie Marks and Gerry Chefalo for leading the Long Lake Association as past presidents. They have both been invaluable to me in transitioning to the role of president. Their wealth of knowledge and wisdom has been inspirational. We also have one of the most environmentally caring, disciplined, proactive, and fiscally responsible lake boards in Michigan. Their willingness to roll up their sleeves and go above and beyond the call of duty amazes me. I'm truly humbled and grateful to work with them.

Our Membership is important for growth. A large percentage of riparian members has allowed us to have more of a voice on important issues that impact our lakes and surrounding area. We have continued to monitor the quality of water through systematic testing. Through the years we have charted, recorded and treated invasive species on the Long, Mickey and Ruth Lakes so that we can say with confidence that our lakes are healthy.

As we move forward, please reach out to your neighbors and invite them to become active in our organization by becoming members and visiting our website at: [www.longlakeassociation.com](http://www.longlakeassociation.com). By doing so only great things to come in our future.

Rick Kiehle

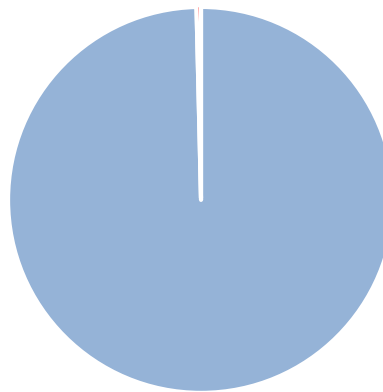
President – Long Lake Association



**Eurasian Water Milfoil** – Long Lake Township and the Long Lake Association and its Lake Management Committee (LMC) have had a long and successful history of working together to control Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) in Long and Mickey Lakes. Ruth Lake was added to our control program a few years ago.

The 2016 EWM program to treat 24 sites this June has been approved by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. The 24 EWM sites located in Long, Mickey, and Ruth Lakes total approximately 11.3 acres. To give readers an understanding of how small this 11.3 acres represent, our three lakes total more than 3,000 acres.

## Long, Mickey, and Ruth Lakes Combined



■ 3,000 Total Acres   ■ 11.3 Total Milfoil Acres

EWM grows best in water depths of six to 20 feet where sunlight helps weed growth. In many of the 24 sites, these milfoil sites prevent or severely hinder family recreational use of their shoreline. Residents adjacent to the 24 EWM sites will be again contacted to seek their approval for our professional chemical applicator to apply the chemicals to the identified treatment sites. Signs will also be posted at the sites too.

**Water Quality** – In 2014, Long Lake monitoring was performed by Great Lakes Environmental Center of Traverse City. This monitoring is undertaken every 3 to 6 years. The report concluded that these long-term water assessments, starting back in 1997, allows any important emerging trends in water quality to become evident, and provides the opportunity for appropriate action to be taken to address any concerns. Phosphorus concentrations are considered low and indicative of excellent water quality. Sampling data indicates that Long Lake would continue to be considered oligotrophic, high quality lake based on total phosphorus in the water. Oligotrophic is defined by Webster’s Dictionary as “having a deficiency of plant nutrients that is usually accompanied by an abundance of dissolved oxygen”. “Water quality conditions in Long Lake have potential to be vulnerable to deterioration. It is recommended that Long Lake continue to have a comprehensive outreach and education component regarding nutrient use near the lakeshore, as well as continuing efforts for surface water runoff control. These will all help limit the introduction of additional phosphorus (such as using fertilizer containing phosphorus on lakeside lawns) to the lake ecosystem and help preserve the oligotrophic status.”

**Lake Water Levels** – Our three lakes are experiencing higher water levels in recent years. There is an outlet (locally referred to as Sucker Creek) at the South end of Long Lake which flows to Lake Dubonnet and then Westerly to Lake Michigan. In the fall of 2015 and the spring of 2016, LLA volunteers helped to remove several beaver dams, weed growth, and debris found in culverts running under West Long Lake Road and Fisher Road. These efforts will go a long way to keeping our lake levels from going even higher. Evaporation rates are a significant factor in effecting our lake levels too. The Lake Management Committee will remain alert to this problem.

## Water Safety Reminders

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There is a new law in effect. The legal limit for boating while intoxicated has been reduced from .10 to .08 rendering it the same as drunk driving in a motor vehicle. However, it is still legal to have an open container of alcohol while boating as long as you're not over the legal limit while operating.

Officers now need probable cause stop a boater and question them. In the past, officers did not need a reason to approach a boat and question the operator. In speaking with the sheriff, probable cause could be any technical or equipment violation, speeding or reckless operation. The most common violation that could lead to a stop by marine patrol is having an expired registration or improperly placed MC numbers.

The law states that anyone can operate a boat with an engine of no more than 6 horsepower. However, a person under age 12 may operate a boat with a person onboard at least 16 years of age if the engine does not exceed 35 horsepower. From ages 12 to 15, a person can exceed the lower speed limit with a boating safety certificate on board or a person 16 or older. At 16, a person can operate a boat of any legal speed without supervision.

On any busy lake, it is a good idea to maintain a safe boating speed given the conditions. On Long Lake you can never exceed 55 mph and must not operate within 100' of shore, a moored or anchored vessel, a dock, raft or any marked swimming area when traveling greater than "slow or no wake speed".

**If you see a PWC or boat being operated in a way that causes you concern or you think is violating the law, document the MC number, nature of the incident, description of the driver and contact Central Dispatch at 231.922.4550. You can also leave a voice message with Marine Patrol at 231.995.5006. Please do not call 911 unless there is an emergency.**

## Annual Discussion Meeting and Welcome Back to Paradise

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Learn more about our lakes and the activities of the Long Lake Association at our Annual Discussion Meeting on June 6th. Board members will provide updates and be available for questions. Following the meeting, please join us for our popular *Welcome Back to Paradise* social event. Enjoy appetizers and a cold beverage while reconnecting with friends. We look forward to seeing you and kicking off another great season!

RSVP to Jo Marie Marks by June 1st  
 kjomm@charter.net  
 231-943-3918

**June 6<sup>th</sup> at Boone's Long Lake Inn – 7208 Secor Rd**

**Discussion Meeting: 5:30 – 6:30 PM**

**Welcome Back to Paradise: 6:30 – 8:30 PM**

Thank you for your support in helping to protect and preserve Long, Mickey, and Ruth Lakes!



Long Lake Association, Inc.  
P.O. Box 257  
Interlochen, MI 49643

**Time-Sensitive Material Enclosed:**

- **Membership Dues Statement**

**Monday June 6<sup>th</sup>:**

- **2016 Annual Discussion Meeting**  
**Welcome Back to Paradise Social Event**
  - Boone's Long Lake Inn
  - Starts at 5:00 PM
  - **RSVP by June 1st**

**Board of Directors (2016-2017)**

<b>President:</b>	Rick Kiehle	231-392-9656
<b>Vice President:</b>	Ron Lemcool	231-947-6915
<b>Past President:</b>	Gerald Chefalo	231-929-7744 or 231-499-8522
<b>Past President:</b>	Jo Marie Marks	231-943-3918
<b>Treasurer/Secretary:</b>	Makayla Vitous	231-943-9261

Sean Brunetti	231-709-7443	Dan Marks	231-275-3678
John Cartwright	231-947-6229	Jim Wheaton	231-313-5351
Walter Kraimer	231-946-7293	Pete Zirnhelt	231-590-1800
Terry Motley	734-748-5707	Stephanie Dow	231-633-0294
		Barry Lishawa	231-943-9290

**Lake Safety Contacts:**

Marine Patrol: 231-995-5006 (Not available 24/7)  
Central Dispatch: 231-922-4550

For more information, please visit:

[www.longlakeassociation.com](http://www.longlakeassociation.com)