



LONG LAKE ASSOCIATION, INC.
 PO BOX 257
 Interlochen, MI 49643

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**Time-Sensitive Material Enclosed:
 Membership Dues Statement**

Welcome Back to Paradise Social Event

Canceled due to COVID-19

Annual Board Meeting Virtual
See Website for Details www.longlakeassociation.com
Saturday August 15, 2020

Board of Directors 2020-2021

President	Ron Lemcool	231.947.6915
Vice President / Wildlife	Terry Motley	734.748.5707
Past President / Communications	Rick Kiehle	231.392.9656
Secretary	Gail Dallolmo	231.946.1655
Treasurer	Janice Moy	231.421.3894
Island Maintenance	Adam Adamczak	231.944.4661
Community Affairs	Pete Zimhelt	231.590.1800
Lake Management	Brent Schnell	630.750.5474
Lake Intern Program	Barry Lishawa	231.943.9290
Lake Intern Program	Len Klein	231.941.7196
Membership	Mark Eckhoff	231.633.0045
Swimmers Itch	Rick Dalstrom	248.568.4263
Water Safety & Road Cleanup	Mark Cerny	815.508.0052
Membership	Becki Watson	231.943.1063

Contact Us

Give us a call for more information about our committees or volunteer opportunities.

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Visit us on the web at
longlakeassociation.com



Spring 2020 Newsletter

May 2020

President's Message

I bet when you cheered in 2020 on January 1st, I am sure that you weren't thinking it would be like this in March. And now we have a slow spring, which I am sure it just seems that way due to having more time on our hands to reconnect with our immediate family members. We have also been experiencing higher water levels, I know on the west side our beaches are a little smaller. But what can we say other than we live in one of the most beautiful areas in the world and are truly blessed, even with all the things going on in our country.

The board has voted to cancel the Welcome Back to Paradise Party at Boone's Long Lake Inn. Please take time to read through this newsletter to get updates from the Committee Chairs. I also encourage you to visit our website to get more complete updates

For those that are current members I want to thank you for your continued membership and support for the Long Lake Association. I would like to encourage those that are not members to join for \$35.00 to help protect our lake.

For our NMC intern program I would like to say thank you for the support from our partners Oleson Foundation, Long Lake Township, Long Lake Foundation and NMC. To make sure that we are on track to protect our lake, please take some time to review our website for updates from them.

Looking forward to seeing you on the lake throughout the summer.

Sincerely,

Ron Lemcool

Long Lake Association Needs YOU!

Your Long Lake Association membership is needed to provide stewardship for the islands; place, remove and repair the six (6) loon nest platforms; monitor water quality for clarity and invasive species; protect fish habitat; identify areas of possible pollutants (failing septic systems?); and monitor non-native water plants that would take over sections of the lake if left unchecked. And there is more that the LLA volunteers do so your Long Lake experience continues to be enjoyable, but they can't do it without your membership in the LLA. Your \$35 membership, now payable online, makes a difference and is a bargain compared to other lake associations. Your friends and neighbors volunteer their time and effort to work on LLA Board and committees accomplishing these things and more. If you feel the passion for our lake that these people do, please let us know that you want to serve on the Long Lake Association Board of Directors. There are Board seats available and there is always room for those that want to volunteer.

2020 Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are open to the membership for public comment at the beginning of the meeting. Please contact a board member if you wish to be put on the agenda. Board meetings begin at 5:30 pm.

- MAY 20 | Zoom Online**
- JUN | Welcome Back to Paradise | CANCELED**
- JUN 17 | Zoom Online**
- JUL 08 | Zoom Online**
- AUG 15 | Annual Meeting | TBD**
- SEP 09 | New Board & Budget Meeting | Zoom Online**
- OCT 14 | Budget Approval | Zoom Online**
- NOV 11 | Zoom Online (If Needed)**

ADOPT a ROAD

- MAY 23 | 9:00AM | Gilbert Parking Lot**
- JUL TBD | Gilbert Parking Lot**
- SEP TBD | Gilbert Parking Lot**

LLA Committee News

LAKE MANAGEMENT

The Lake Management Committee, along with many Board of Director members, met in late December. The purpose of the meeting was to analyze the drone mapping pictures from the 2019 applications, evaluate the success of the two treatments and plan for the 2020 season. Zero Gravity (the drone company) presented us with some very useful data to help plan for 2020. Clear Water Lake Management (our herbicide applicator) was also at the meeting to help us interpret the information and do future planning. In 2019, approximately 12 acres were treated. This represents only 0.4% of the total area of Long, Ruth and Mickey lakes combined.



The 2020 plan is to treat approximately the same total area as in 2019 (e.g. 12 acres) and a total of 23 sites. There are some areas that were treated in 2019 that will not require treatment this year. Many of the areas that contained Milfoil are growing native plants now that the Milfoil is gone. There are some areas that were treated successfully in past years, but now the Milfoil has returned, they will require treatment in 2020. **These are among the areas that will be treated on Monday June 22, and Monday July 20, 2020. The rain date will be the next day, if necessary. Please note these dates may change based on the latest terms of Governor Whitmer's "Stay Home, Stay Safe" order.**

The activities of the Lake Management Committee on all three lakes is totally funded by your Long Lake Association. Your membership dues are an important part of our funding.

ISLAND MAINTENANCE

Islands! They are ready, are you? Whether you are heading out to socialize with friends and family, or in search of a quiet place to spend some time in nature, take your pick. Dock is in and outhouses are cleaned and stocked up for the start of the season. Trails are ready to be explored. Keep in mind while hiking the islands there may be the occasional tree blocking trails and poison ivy, if you stray off the trail. If you chose to not walk on trails, please avoid walking up and down the steep shoreline banks to help prevent erosion. While picnicking on the islands is encouraged, remember no fires. Take all trash with you when you leave, maybe even pick some up even if it's not yours. Let's keep the islands beautiful and natural for everyone to enjoy!

WATER QUALITY 2019-2020

In 2019 mentors Len Klein, Phyllis Laine, Barry Lishawa, and Dick Roper worked with interns Abbey Hull and Michelle Preston in performing water quality sampling and analysis of Long Mickey and Ruth Lakes. Kathryn DePauw helped the interns organize the data and produce a report. The results of the study can be viewed on the Long Lake Association webpage. Also on the website is the Shoreline Steward's Rate Your Shoreline link. We encourage everyone to participate in the survey.

The study recommends continuing a comprehensive outreach with an educational component regarding nutrient use near the lakeshore. Everyone should be encouraged to limit or eliminate chemical fertilizer applications and ensure that septic systems are functioning properly. Efforts should be continued to control surface water runoff and to minimize erosion by creating a natural vegetation buffer or "green belt" along the shoreline. These approaches will help limit the introduction of additional phosphorus and nitrates into the lake's ecosystem to preserve oligotrophic status of Mickey and Long Lakes. Ruth Lake is a eutrophic lake that is remaining relatively stable except for increasing phosphorus levels.

While the intern interviewing and selection process was carried out by Len, the 2020 study is currently on hold. We do hope to be able to perform some testing later this year.



WATER SAFETY

It was a busy year on the lake for the Grand Traverse Sherriff's Marine Patrol. There was a total of 236 hours of patrol in 2019, the most of any area lakes. Some other interesting stats are: The patrol had 820 contacts with boaters on the lake issuing 109 warnings and issued just 15 citations. There were only 2 reported boating accidents.

To answer some member's questions about watercraft registration, you must have Michigan boat registration numbers displayed on your watercraft except the following watercraft: Privately owned rowboats 16' or less in length, privately owned non-motorized canoes, kayaks or paddleboards. All watercraft with a motor must be registered including electric and inflatable vessels.

With higher than normal lake levels shoreline damage that has been occurring. If you have a wake boat that leaves a larger than normal wake, we are asking that you stay toward the middle of the lake, this way it will minimize the waves that are hitting our beaches.

SWIMMERS ITCH UPDATE

Last summer, 2019, LLA contracted with Freshwater Solutions to conduct a follow up assessment to the initial assessment we did in 2018. The final report for the 2019 assessment is posted on the LLA website under the Environmental tab. In summary, the report gave us insight into several important areas.

First, Long Lake has relatively few areas of highly concentrated cercariae, the parasites that cause SI. Of the 20 sites that were sampled, FWS only found one site where the number was above 100 cercariae/25 liter sample. They found three such sites in 2018. Research suggests that the lower the concentration of cercariae, the severity of swimmers itch is lessened.

Second, we continue to have a high percentage of mallards as the potential bird host, but Long Lake also has a population of Canada Geese and two broods of Common Mergansers this past summer that are acting as host carriers of the parasites. Common Mergansers can be very active hosts of a parasite causing SI and some lake associations have been paying contractors to relocate them off of their respective lakes. Research is showing that this practice is not as effective as was once believed and we should be cautious of believing that removing Common Mergansers will eliminate SI from our lake.

Lastly, through their research, Freshwater Solutions has been able to publish recommendations on how to best prevent SI. This recently released document is titled "Preventing Swimmer's Itch With 2020 Vision". This document is also hosted on the LLA website under the Environmental section and is a must read for anyone looking for guidance as to how to best prevent getting SI.

For this summer, 2020, our plan is to monitor the level of SI being experienced in Long Lake. No active research is being planned. Please read the 2020 Vision document as described earlier and report any cases of SI to the LLA Board, specifically to Rick Dahlstrom, email dahlstromrick5@gmail.com. We had very few cases reported last summer and let's take every precaution to have a repeat of that this year. Here's to a safe and itch free summer for 2020!

FISHING

Long Lake continues to boast some of the best walleye fishing in northern Michigan with many limit catches reported in the spring and summer. Anglers also do very well fishing for bass, pike and bluegill on the lake. The daily perch limit was reduced from 50 to 25 fish per day in 2019. This change will help improve the perch population and fishing in the future.

The results of the DNR fish survey that was done in 2017 are expected to be completed and posted on the DNR website later this year. When available, it will be added to the LLA website.

OUR LOONS

2019 was another great year for the loon population on Long Lake. It was not uncommon to see large groups of 10+ loons on the lake during the summer. Long Lake continues to host the largest nesting population of loons in the Lower Peninsula. Last summer all 6 nesting sites were active, resulting in 7 chicks that hatched and left the lake in the fall. We are looking forward to an early start to the nesting season and another great year for the loon population in 2020. Please remember to stay outside of the buoy markers or at least 200ft from the nesting sites.

