

Spring 2009
News & Views from the Watershed

Lake Association Declares War on Swimmers Itch

by Wayne Swallow (cont. on pg. 11)

Some long-time members of the Lake Leelanau Lake Association (LLLA) can recall the association had some success with swimmers itch control in the early 1990's. The program is being reprised in 2009 at the request of many. LLLA will be contracting to SwimmersItch



Control LLC (SICon) to trap and relocate common merganser broods from the lake. Achieving success will take several years, so members may not see immediate results in 2009. The program will also achieve more success with cooperation from all riparian land owners when SICon is working near their property.

As many may know, swimmers itch is caused by a parasitic flatworm that cycles between two different hosts. The primary avian host in Lake Leelanau is the common merganser. The eggs of the parasite are excreted with the merganser feces. The eggs hatch and the parasites infect snails. They then go through a transformation in the snail and emerge into the water to reinfect a merganser to complete the cycle. It is this point in the parasite's life cycle, where humans become infected. Respondents to our 2008 survey listed swimmers itch as a continuing problem. The results did not show a clear trend, but it is more pronounced on the north lake

Once the mergansers appear on the lakes with their broods, land owners are asked not to harass or try to scare them from their shorelines. The birds are quite intelligent, and any prior experience trying to escape from land owner scaring activity makes it more difficult for SICon to trap the birds. Trapping success can also be reduced by land owner shoreline activity when SICon's net is in place near their property. LLLA requests the cooperation of land owners if trapping is occurring near your property. The LLLA program coordinator will let land owners know if a net will be set near their shoreline. The list below describes what you might expect this spring and summer.

April - May

- LLLA will hire an individual to coordinate the program for the association (see job description and ad below for anyone interested).
- LLLA will also solicit volunteers to assist the coordinator, and establish a hotline for volunteers to report merganser sightings (see volunteer notice below).
- Land owners may see volunteers or the coordinator looking for mergansers near their property.

Late May - Late June/Early July

- SICon will be on the lake(s) to trap and remove the merganser broods.
- Trapping involves setting a net near the shoreline, and "herding" the brood into the net.
- The mergansers will avoid the net if there are activities on the shoreline where the net is placed.
- The Coordinator will contact the land-owner to alert them of the trapping activity, and request that they not go near the lake during the trapping process.
- The trapping process may take hours, so the land owners' patience is encouraged and appreciated. Once the net is removed normal activities can resume
- SICon will also be collecting snail samples during this period to establish a baseline for parasite infection rates.



Common Mergansers
(see pg. 12)

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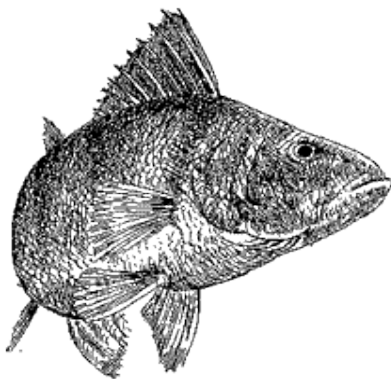
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www.lakeleelanau.org

President's Letter

We Want You!

John Fitzpatrick



Dear LLLA members,

To paraphrase a famous American uncle, WE WANT YOU! Wait...it's not a donation request. Your lake association needs VOLUNTEERS.

WHY? We have dedicated committee chairs who deal with all the key issues, but we don't have a list of volunteers to contact when we need a little help. We're not talking about major time commitments. You might be contacted a couple of times a year to see if you're available for a few hours...to take water samples, spot mergansers, stuff envelopes, count invasive species, distribute handbooks, attend a meeting, etc.

There's a postcard enclosed and it asks only two questions:

- Your email address(es) – so we can reach you quickly and cheaply when we need you. If you choose not to volunteer, and you are not already receiving our occasional emails, we would still like your email address. It can save us a lot of postage expense. You can be confident that any information you give us will only be used by the Lake Association.
- Your area(s) of volunteer interest. There are plenty of choices. Please pick at least one.

We look forward to hearing from you. Thanks for your support,

John Fitzpatrick
President, Lake Leelanau Lake Association

PS: Please read Wayne Swallow's swimmers itch article on page 1. This is our top priority in response to your frequent expressions of concern. We will follow a proven approach in use for several years at Glen Lake, but it's not cheap. The first year will be about \$25,000. Your extra generosity when you submit your dues will be very important to our success in dealing with this chronic problem.

PPS: OK, it is a donation request ... at least the PS of it. Be generous with your time or your money to help us KEEP THIS LAKE GREAT! Help us combat the itch. The picture on the cover speaks volumes: this could be *your* daughter or granddaughter. Nice shoes, though. If life gives you itch ... accessorize? Rather FIGHT BACK!

Annual Association Business Meeting July 18th: 9am-11am in the Munnecke Room at the Leland Library

Election of officers & committee chairs. Discussion of the swimmers itch abatement program and other issues facing the lake, and regarding the direction of the organization. Meet the officers and Board Members. Guest speaker to be announced.

Governor Proposes MDEQ Cuts: Would Cede Wetlands Oversight to Feds



Michigan Governor Jennifer Granholm, in her State of the State Address on February 3rd, made many cost cutting proposals. Among them was “returning enforcement of wetlands protections to the federal government where more staff exists to effectively safeguard our natural resources.” Currently, only Michigan and New Jersey exercise wetlands oversight at the state level. If Michigan enacts Granholm's

proposal, property owners wanting to modify wetlands would seek permits from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, instead of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ).

Wetlands filter pollutants that would otherwise enter our lakes. They provide habitat and spawning grounds for fish and other wildlife, and help control flooding and erosion. Michigan now has only about half of the of the 11 million acres of wetlands it had before European settlers began to drain them for farming and other uses. According to MDEQ spokesperson Robert McCann, the department has been chronically underfunded and is “at the point where we couldn't absorb any more cutbacks” and still implement Michigan's regulations and policies “with effectiveness.”

Michigan's wetlands law is, in some ways, more restrictive than federal regulations and a bill to repeal Michigan's law already been introduced in the Michigan Senate.

Reactions to Granholm's proposal, from concerned individuals and groups, were reported by Associated Press Environmental Writer John Flesher in a front page *Traverse City Record Eagle* article (2/14). Jennifer McKay (Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council policy specialist) called it “very shortsighted” and a threat to “the ecological and economic future of Michigan” which “depends on maintaining wetlands.”

Lee Schwartz (Michigan Association of Home Builders executive vice president), while faulting the DEQ “on some individual decisions” thought “generally they do a very good job” and appreciated the ease of working with local regulators rather than far-off federal officials.

In a follow-up editorial, the *Record Eagle* opined that the Army Corps of Engineers was “simply not up to the task” and deemed the \$2 million a year savings “paltry compared

to the value of state wetlands.” The *Eagle* concluded, “This is bad policy and must be scrapped.”

According to a follow up story by Flesher (in the 2/14 *Eagle*), the governor's office expressed confidence that “federal agencies would adequately protect Michigan's wetlands.” However, Flesher points out, the failure of two recent U.S. Supreme Court rulings “to produce a majority opinion establishing which wetlands are under federal control” raises additional doubts on this score.

In a Water Quality Task Force Meeting on February 24th, John Fitzpatrick reports, “the consensus was that Granholm's proposal to offload wetlands oversight to federal agencies is unlikely” and, even if possible, “a long-term deal.” In short, no cause for immediate alarm.

101st District State Representative Dan Scripps, in a podcast on his website (<http://101.housedems.com/>), expressed reluctance to move forward on the Governor's proposal based on the many unanswered questions that remain: (1) about loss of wetlands protection for the 17% of Michigan wetlands not connected to navigable waterways (approximately a million acres): these are currently subject to state regulation but recent U.S. Supreme Court rulings seem to remove them from Federal protection; (2) about potential savings to the state turning out really to be quite negligible, all things considered; and (3) about time delays and cost increases to landowners that may be caused by ceding permitting powers and oversight to distant (and also understaffed) federal agencies.

In an subsequent email to constituents, Scripps even seems to voice outright opposition to the proposal. “I will not support any plan that puts our water at risk and puts the safety of Michigan wetlands in the hands of a bureaucracy a thousand miles away,” Scripps says. “The price of abandoning Michigan's wetland protection laws will be far greater than the cost to keep them.”

Former Michigan Governor William Milliken, has also come out against the proposal. In a mid-March statement, Milliken said, “Federal agencies simply do not have the authority nor the funding to administer adequately the protection of Michigan wetlands.” The existing Michigan law was enacted and signed into law during Milliken's administration. “Repeal of the law,” he adds, “would be a huge setback to this and future generations.”

Stem the Tide ... and Cheer and All

by John Fitzpatrick

Leelanau County has recently created a Water Quality Task Force, headed by former County Commissioner Bob Hawley, to examine a wide range of issues and make policy recommendations to the county commission. Several of your LLLA Board members are serving on these subcommittees:

• NUTRIENT LOADING

- Deals with nutrients entering the county's watershed from fertilizers, detergents, septic systems, etc. They can cause excessive weed and algae growth which damages habitat and inhibits swimming.
- Focus is on educating property owners about phosphorus-free products and where to buy them, establishment of native species greenbelts, and septic system maintenance.

• INVASIVE SPECIES

- Addresses phragmites, zebra mussels, quagga mussels, and other species that can impact lake and stream ecosystems
- Focus is on preventive procedures like boat bottom washing at public accesses and education on identification and removal of undesirable species, some of whom may be human

• WETLANDS

- Intrusive development and watercraft usage that interferes with the protective filtration and wildlife habitat of wetlands
- Focus on establishing a definitive county wetlands inventory, encouragement of wetlands conservation easements, and education of developers, property owners, and watercraft users

SAVE THESE DATES

5th Annual Kids' Fishing Day
Sunday, June 28 2009: 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
at Veronica Valley County Park

Lake Leelanau Walkabout
Thursday, July 23 2009: 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
at Veronica Valley County Park

3rd Annual Legacy Celebration
Saturday, September 12 2009
at the Olson Cottage
formerly "Meeker Cottage" aka "Stonehedge"

This is an Invitation only event for Legacy Circle members. Beer, wine, and lite bites will be provided. Contact Larry Hauser at leelanaukassn@aol.com or at 271-6091 for more information, or if you wish to help.

Veronica Valley Now a County Park

by Pete Taylor



At a meeting held on February 24, 2008, the Leelanau County Parks and Recreation Commission acted to accepted an offer

from the Kid's Fishing Day committee to provide assistance in planning and facilitating recreational activities at the new Veronica Valley Park. The committee includes representatives from the Lake Leelanau Lake Association, the Leelanau Enterprise, the Cedar Rod and Gun Club, the Michigan DNR, the Grand Traverse Band, Camelot Construction, and the Sheriff's Youth League. Formed in 2005 they have worked to ensure that this wonderful site becomes a source of activities and projects that promote natural resources stewardship and education.

Capping three years of effort, this past fall, with the help of grant funding from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) and other sources. the county acquired the the Veronica Valley property for use as a "natural area" with facilities for "passive recreation" such as picnicking and hiking. The park is located on South Lake Leelanau Drive (641) about 6 miles south of Duck Lake Road (204).

The first activity, which has already been approved, will be the fifth annual Kid's Fishing Day on Sunday, June 28 2009, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. This event, features soft drinks, hot dogs, fishing, and other fun-filled activities for kids and the whole family. For more information, or if you want to help, contact Pete Taylor at imagearts1@aol.com. Or phone 218-8844.



Walkabout Event Planned

by Colleen Moose

A new event for your enjoyment: including a demonstration of water quality sampling and a chance walk the trails & check out the park. Other workshops and may include a presentation on phragmites and other invasive plants; the importance of the Lake Leelanau Watershed; current sewer and septic information; & the Lake Association's swimmers itch program. Activities for kids and refreshments will also be provided. For more information, or if you wish to help, contact Colleen Moose 256-7060 or cmoose1532@aol.com,

Near Tragedy on North Lake

On Thursday, October 30, Tim Cypher of Lake Leelanau was enticed by sunshine, unseasonable warmth, and 15-20 knot southwest winds to take his 18 foot Lockley sloop out for its last sail of the season on North Lake Leelanau. It almost became *his* last sail. Cypher had already sailed for two hours and was coming back into the Narrows from the North Lake when a gust of wind capsized his boat, turning her completely upside down. Then things went from bad to worse. When he attempted to use the swing keel for leverage, to right the boat, his hand became jammed up to the knuckles in the keel-well when the keel swung back in. As the boat's attempts at "self-righting" kept dunking him in the water, again and again, Cypher began shouting for help.

Suzanne Crompton heard Cypher's cries from her lakefront home and dialed 911. Wally Drabek and Jerry Behling, of Kingsley, had "heard the sail hit the water" while pulling out docks, and now heeded Cypher's cries. In a 12-foot flat-bottom jon boat provided by Roy Crompton – with canoe paddles in place of the boat's missing oars – Drabek and Behling went to the rescue. Though Cypher had finally managed to pull himself onto the overturned sloop's hull, he had been in the water for about 45 minutes by the time Drabek and Behling arrived to free his hand. By then "I was definitely going hypothermic," Cypher said.

Meanwhile, responding to Suzanne Compton's 911 call, Russ Korson and Gary Barker of Leland Fire and Rescue had gone to Stander Marine in Leland to get Andy Stander to launch a pontoon boat to go to the rescue. Stander piloted the pontoon boat out to meet the jon boat, where they took Cypher on board and ferried him back to an ambulance waiting at the end of Popp Road. There he was successfully treated and released. Subsequently, Leland fire chief Mike Fandel donned a cold-water immersion suit to right Cypher's Lockley, which was towed back to shore. Besides minor temporary injuries to his hand, and to his pride, Cypher emerged unscathed. The Lockley, however lost her rudder. If you find it, Tim is offering a reward for its return. "I'm just so grateful for all the people who helped me," he said. "I owe them my life."

Boating Out of Season

Disproportionately many fatal boating accidents occur out of season, when the water is cold. Immersion in cold water robs the body of heat some 25 times faster than exposure to air of the same temperature. This can quickly numb the extremities to the point of uselessness and, at the same time, cloud rational thought. Thence exhaustion, loss of consciousness, and death by drowning or hypothermia, are apt to follow with breathtaking swiftness. Unfortunately, at these "out of season" times of year, when prompt rescue is most crucial, diminished activity on the lake makes prompt rescue all the more unlikely.

Immersion in cold water brings two life-threatening factors into play – cold shock and hypothermia. Cold shock from falling into icy water triggers an involuntary gasp reflex that can cause you to inhale water through your mouth. As a result, a person without a life vest can drown without ever coming back to the surface. This makes wearing a life vest even more crucial when boating in cold water.



gasp reflex

Hypothermia, or decreased body temperature, is more slow-acting, but equally deadly. How slow-acting depends on the how cold the water is, but by the time core body temperature reaches 93°F, physical ability and mental capacity become severely diminished. Unconsciousness ensues around 86°. Death follows when core body temperature falls to around 80° ... unless, of course, you have already drowned. An adult dressed in average clothing may remain conscious for up to an hour in water at 40°, but movement accelerates heat loss. The strongest swimmer can die before swimming 100 yards in 40° water.

Phragmites Australis – Beach-gobbling Bio-invader

by Kay Charter: Executive Director, Saving Birds Thru Habitat

<http://savingbirds.org/>

During a visit to New England a couple of years ago, a good friend treated me to a trip aboard RiverQuest, an excursion vessel owned and operated by the Connecticut River Museum. The day was brisk but sunny, and the river was beautiful. In spite of a significant human population across the region, much habitat remains along the shores of this historic river and up its rocky banks. Only one thing marred an otherwise perfect day for me. That was the presence of a habitat-devouring alien plant, *Phragmites australis*, which crowded out cattails and other native wetland vegetation as it surrounded tiny islands and spread along the river’s banks.

Phragmites australis, or common reed, is a European wetland plant species that was introduced to the New World late in the nineteenth century. It is now found in every state across the lower 48 and well up into Canada. It is the most aggressive alien wetland plant on our continent, overtaking not only native vegetation, but also crowding out other non-natives like reed canary grass and purple loosestrife. This plant also changes both the structure and the function of wetland ecosystems by altering nutrient cycles and hydrological processes. Dense stands of *Phragmites australis* result in decreased native biodiversity, including fish and wetland dependant reptiles, amphibians and migrating and nesting birds. It gobbles up beaches, rendering them useless for humans, and it robs waterfront owners of their views.



Phragmites stand on the west shore of the West Bay, in Leelanau County



A survey of Connecticut marshes revealed that wetland dependent rare and threatened bird species are excluded when *Phragmites* invades. Rails like soras, Virginia rails and federally listed yellow rails cannot use dense stands of this plant. Nesting common yellowthroats (pictured) disappear, along with marsh wrens. If they did build nests within a solid stand of *Phragmites*, where would they find the insects to feed their young? Like other non-native plants, this one does not support the insect biomass required by nesting birds for their young.

An April walk at sunrise around a large “Phrag” filled wetland in our own state the year before my New

England trip indicated the degree to which amphibian populations suffer. At a time of year when spring peepers are screaming their tiny heads off in search of mates, not a single frog of any kind called. It was eerily silent.

Now this awful vegetative menace has come to our special corner of the world. It has shown up along the big lakes, the bays and even in inland areas. I don’t know what conservationists plan to do, if anything, with the *Phragmites* along the Connecticut River. But here in the Grand Traverse area, the threat is not taken lightly. A broad coalition of governmental and nonprofit organizations is working on a plan of attack. Last fall, Michigan DNR hosted a planning session at the Civic Center. Participants included the US Fish and Wildlife Service, local conservancies and conservation districts, and Saving Birds Thru Habitat. The focus was to plan an event this summer to educate the public about this plant and the threat it brings to our native flora and fauna. That event will take place at Haggerty Center on Saturday, June 6. There will be a three-hour forum in the morning and another in the afternoon.

The good news is that wildlife populations – birds and butterflies, frogs, fishes and reptiles – recover after chemical control of *Phragmites*. This unwelcome bio-invader has just gained a foothold in our area, making this the ideal time for “Early-Detection-Rapid-Response.” If you live along any body of water, make it a point to join us in the battle to get rid of this unwelcome invader.

Phragmites Workshop

A Public Education Workshop about this Invasive Plant

When: Saturday, June 6: Choose from two identical programs: 9 am – 12 pm *or* 2 pm – 5 pm

Where: The Hagerty Center, 715 East Front Street, Traverse City <http://www.nmc.edu/hagertycenter/>

An exhibit hall will offer booths, displays, and informational handouts. Booths will be staffed by local watershed organizations, licensed contractors, DEQ, Conservation Districts, and others interested in phragmites education and removal, including some of the co-sponsors listed below.

Who: The Watershed Center Grand Traverse Bay is hosting the event along with several co-sponsors listed below. Please RSVP Denise Baker at 935~1514 or dbaker@gtbay.org. On-site registration will also be available. Attendance is limited to 300 people per session.

How Much: This workshop is FREE and open to the public. The Watershed Center will accept donations, which will be used specifically for phragmites education and control in the Grand Traverse Bay watershed.

Why: Invasive plant species have been identified as one of the top threats to wildlife habitat in the state. Phragmites is one of the highest-threat invasive plant species in the state, and it is rapidly advancing in the Grand Traverse Bay watershed. Phragmites crowds out native vegetation, limits water access, damages property values, blocks viewsheds, and it is extremely expensive and difficult to control once it is established. Currently in southern Michigan, roadside ditches, lakeshores, exposed bottomlands, marshes, fens and swamps are infested with this plant with little hope for control due to a lack of rapid response to the problem. A recent MDNR aerial survey of the Grand Traverse Bay shoreline shows that phragmites is quickly establishing itself in the region.

Studies show that *detecting invasives early* and responding *quickly* to their spread provide the best opportunities for control. Landowners, agencies, and organizations around Grand Traverse Bay are already gathering information, working on surveys, and considering treatment proposals. We are hosting this workshop for landowners in the Grand Traverse Bay region because successful control efforts depend on partnering with shoreline landowners.

Exhibit Space: If your organization or business is interested in exhibiting at the workshop, please contact Denise Baker at 935~1514 or dbaker@gtbay.org.

Co-Sponsors: Antrim Conservation District~Charlevoix Conservation District~Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians Natural Resources Dept.~Grand Traverse Conservation District ~ Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy~Inland Seas Education Association ~ Leelanau Conservancy~Leelanau Conservation District~Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians Environmental Services Department~Michigan Department of Environmental Quality~Michigan Department of Natural Resources~Michigan Natural Features Inventory~National Parks Service Sleeping Bear Dunes~National Wildlife Federation~Saving Birds Thru Habitat~The Nature Conservancy~Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council Water Studies Institute



Morning Session

- 8:00 am Meeting registration
- 9:00 am Welcome, meeting details Andy Knott, The Watershed Center
- 9:10 am Phragmites overview Phyllis Higman, MNFI
- 9:50 am Phragmites and wildlife Kay Charter, Saving Birds Thru Habitat
- 10:05 am Regional phragmites update Brian Piccolo, Michigan DNR
- 10:20 am BREAK
- 10:35 am Phragmites control options Ernie Kafcas, Michigan DNR
- Saginaw Bay project
- 11:05 am Permitting procedures Robyn Schmidt and Matt Preisser, MDEQ
- 11:20 am Beaver Island project Pam Grassmick, Beaver Island Association
- 11:40 am How you can help Sue Tangora, Michigan DNR
- 12:00 pm Adjourn

Afternoon Session

- 1:00 pm Meeting registration
- 2:00 pm Welcome, meeting details Andy Knott, The Watershed Center
- 2:10 pm Phragmites overview Phyllis Higman, MNFI
- 2:50 pm Phragmites and wildlife Kay Charter, Saving Birds Thru Habitat
- 3:05 pm Regional phragmites update Brian Piccolo, Michigan DNR
- 3:20 pm BREAK
- 3:35 pm Phragmites control options Ernie Kafcas, Michigan DNR
- Saginaw Bay project
- 4:05 pm Permitting procedures Robyn Schmidt and Matt Preisser, MDEQ
- 4:20 pm Beaver Island project Pam Grassmick, Beaver Island Association
- 4:40 pm How you can help Sue Tangora, Michigan DNR
- 5:00 pm Adjourn

Phragmites Links

www.lakeleelanau.org/phrag.html

BUOY OH BUOY OH BUOY

by John Popa

A year or so ago, our newsletter had an article about the installation of buoys. The concern at that time was that there were many nuisance buoys that served no navigational purpose. Some were ordinary jugs that attempted to prevent boaters from using the surrounding waters, and many are hazardous to boating.

After the article, many owners removed the buoys, and we are thankful for that. However, many remain. This is a reminder not to install non-conforming buoys.

Per Act 451 PA1994 section 324.80159, a permit is required to install a buoy. The permit is free and may be obtained by calling DEQ Karen Wingate, 231-775-9727 ext. 6903. She will send you a free application. The application will be reviewed, possibly investigated on site, and processed according to regulations.

Buoys have requirements for location, need, hazard, proper marking, etc. We are again asking that all unnecessary buoys be removed, or obtain a permit for proper compliance. If you know of an improper buoy, please discuss this concern with the owner, and remind the owner of proper placement and permit requirements.

This is for safety and continued enjoyment of our wonderful lake. Your cooperation is appreciated.

Natural Resources & Environmental Protection Act 451 of 1994: Sec. 80159.

Buoys or beacons; permit for placement; application; revocation; removal.

A person shall not place a beacon or buoy, other than a mooring buoy, in the waters of this state except as authorized by a permit issued by the department pursuant to part 13. The department may issue a permit for the placing of buoys or beacons in the waters of this state to mark obstruction to navigation, to designate bathing areas, to designate vessel anchorages, or for any other purpose if it will promote safety or navigation. An application for a permit shall contain information required by the department. If buoys or beacons are placed in the waters of this state without a permit having been issued, the department may order their removal. If, in the judgment of the department, buoys or beacons authorized by the department are found to be improperly placed, the reason for their placement no longer exists, or the buoys or beacons do not conform to the uniform system of marking established by state regulation, the department may revoke the permit authorizing their placement and may order their removal. Revocation of permits and orders of removal shall be by written notice to the person placing the buoys or beacons or to the person to whom the permit was issued at his or her last known address, directing the removal within a specified time. The person to whom the notice is directed shall remove the buoys or beacons in accordance with the instructions. If the person fails to remove the buoys or beacons within the specified time, the department may cause their removal, and the cost and expense of the removal shall be charged against the person authorized to place the buoys or beacons or, where authorization has not been granted, the person placing such buoys or beacons and shall be recoverable through any court of competent jurisdiction.

Watershed Management Plan

by Wayne Swallow



Watershed management plans are developed to improve water quality of a watershed. This is done through the three main parts of the plan:

1. identify uses of a water body;
2. identify potential threats to these uses;
3. establish goals to reduce the threats or impairments.

The watershed management plan process aims to help local jurisdictions obtain grant funds to meet their goals, through the Clean Water Act and the Clean Michigan Initiative.

The Leelanau Conservancy (LC) and the Lake Leelanau Lake Association (LLA) developed Lake Leelanau's current Watershed Management Plan (plan) in 2002. It was approved by the EPA in 2003, and subsequently allowed the LC to receive over \$1.1 million to help protect wetlands and the water quality in the Lake Leelanau watershed. However, the plan no longer meets EPA requirements because of its age.

The LC, in partnership with the LLLA formed a steering committee (SC) to update the 2002 plan this year. As a member of the LLLA you have an opportunity to participate in this effort, and contribute to improving your lake's water quality. We call upon all members to voice their concerns and opinions by mail, email, on our blogs, or at the annual meeting. The SC will need help to update portions of the current plan's background information. The information may include: changes in shoreline conditions, water quality sampling, agricultural practices, invasive species, boating, wetlands, fishing/fishery, erosion, and aquatic plant changes. If these areas interest you, and you have time to volunteer periodically over this spring and summer, please let us know. Send an email to wayneswallow@att.net, and provide your phone number and list any areas that may interest you. The SC will provide any training that might be needed for the volunteers. We look forward to hearing from you!

Winter Wondershed

(cont. on pg. 12)



February Sunrise (photo credit Barbara Abbott)



Snow on the North Lake (photo credit Mary Taylor)



Ice Shantytown (photo credit Kathy Turner)

Lake Gets Fire & Rescue boat!

by Jim Kacin



A 19' Boston Whaler powered by a Mercury 225 hp engine has been added to the Leelanau Township Fire and Rescue Department. In the past, a boat had to be borrowed. The boat has an onboard water pump for fires and a side access door to facilitate rescues. The boat will be trailered during its first year of operation while other options are being studied.

Fire Chief Mike Fandel stated that a lot of training is planned for the crew members. Training will include swift water rescue, basic water rescue, ice water rescue, with joint Coast Guard training. A minimum crew of 3 technicians will man the craft: one fire fighter, one EMS technician and one operator. All will have minimum life guard training as well.

Equipment on board will include wet suits, snorkels, fins, tow ropes, a back board, and an AED defibrillator, with a full complement of EMS equipment. Containment buoys and floats to contain spills of gas, oil, or other hazardous liquids are also on board.

Direct all emergency calls to 911 as all area departments have a teamwork mutual agreement for all rescues. Please note that this is not a towing or gas service. Boaters are encouraged to carry cell phones while on the water and tell someone on shore of their destination/direction and their expected time on the water. BoatU.S. Towing offers member services for towing; information can be found online at <http://www.boatus.com>.

Township Committee News

by John Popa

The Lake Association Township Committee attempts to become involved and pro-active with issues that pertain to our Lake such as key-holing, shoreline usage, lighting, road-ends, docks, etc. Most of the townships' ordinances address these issues, but some townships remain deficient. Also, these subjects periodically arise at the township level for one reason or another.

It is important that the Lake Association remain active with townships, so as to maintain consistency and provide input. We try to have at least one representative from each of the townships that border our lake. It is the duty of representatives to stay tuned to local government activities.

The more eyes and ears the better. If you want to become involved, please indicate your wish on the enclosed mailer. Or, you may call me directly if you have any township issue or topic of interest: John Popa: 947-1088.

Communication Committee News

by Larry Hauser

LLLA Lake Association Handbook has been revised and digitized and is accessible online. You will find it linked from our website: www.lakeleelanau.org. We encourage you to visit our website and contribute to our blogs.

Subscribe to Michigan Riparian Magazine

Michigan Riparian is a quarterly magazine published in February, May, August, & November and devoted to the management and wise use of Michigan's lakes and streams. The cost of an individual subscription is \$10.00. To subscribe, mail your contact information (mailing address & phone) along with a check for \$10 to **The Michigan Riparian | P.O. Box 122 | Long Lake, Michigan 48743**. Or complete & mail the downloadable form from their website: <http://www.mi-riparian.org/>.

Note: savings to members being slight (\$2 yr.), takers being few, and the troubles many, the Lake Association will no longer offer group-rate subscriptions to the *Riparian*. If you are currently subscribed through the Association, just renew yourself at the individual subscription rate (as described above) when your current subscription expires to continue receiving this fine publication.

LEELANAU CONSERVANCY EVENT

Wednesday, April 22nd 11:45 am

Workbee: Earth Day Tree Planting at Narrows Natural Area

Bring a shovel and help us lead groups of school kids as they plant trees along the shoreline of the Narrows. We will meet at the Eyaawing Cultural Center at 11:45 in Peshawbestown and at the Narrows Natural Area at 12:30 to 2pm. Call for details of where to meet and what to bring: 231-256-9665 or email jrowe@theconservancy.com

TC Hosts Freshwater Summit



LLLA President John Fitzpatrick

On October 30, 2008, Bob Miller, Larry Hauser, and John Fitzpatrick represented the LLLA at the inaugural Freshwater Summit sponsored by Watershed Center Grand Traverse Bay, Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council, and the Water Studies Institute of Northwestern Michigan College. The one day event attracted hundreds of lake association representatives, academics, conservationists, and others to the Hagerty Center at NMC's Great Lakes Campus, where it was held.

LLLA President John Fitzpatrick was one of two featured speakers at the breakout session on Legal and Land Use Issues: his presentation concerned the legal controversy and final resolution of the Narrows development controversy. Many in attendance expressed their dismay at the Circuit Court's rejection of the Lake Association's challenge to the Narrows Land Development Company's MDEQ brokered marina proposal (as detailed in the Fall 2008 Newsletter). While several in attendance expressed disappointment at the Association's decision to pursue no further legal appeals, it was disappointment laced with understanding of, and sympathy for the financial and other costs the long-running case had placed on the Association.

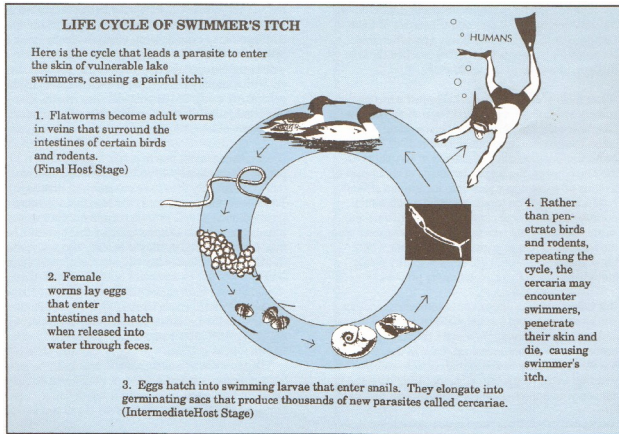
Themes of other breakout sessions included Development/Septic Issues, where the Long Lake Township Ordinance was among the topics discussed; Inland Lakes Strategic Planning; and Science & Invasives.

PAID POSITION

Lake Leelanau Swimmers Itch Control Coordinator

This program will have to be repeated every year over the next four to five years to achieve maximum effect. However, persistence pays off. SICon's work on Glen Lake shows it can successfully reduce swimmers itch.

The Coordinator position is a part-time seasonal job working for the Lake Leelanau Lake Association (LLLA). He/she will work in conjunction with our contractor Swimmers' Itch Control, LLC (SICon). There are no employee benefits with the position, but gas and miscellaneous expenses will be reimbursed. If you are a Leelanau county life science teacher, like getting outdoors, or working with wildlife, this job should interest you.



Source: *Lake Leelanau Landowner's Handbook*

SICon's program is in transition. The owners are trying to sell the business. Because of this LLLA will be looking for individual(s) and/or a company to buy SICon's equipment to continue the program. If you or someone you know might be interested in this business opportunity, please contact Wayne Swallow at wayneswallow@att.net.

Lake Leelanau Lake Association Swimmers Itch Control Program – Call for Volunteers

The success of our swimmers itch control program will depend upon having a sufficient number of volunteers to work with the program coordinator. We will need about five to eight individuals on both the north and south lakes, and hopefully distributed on the east and west sides. The LLLA Swimmers' Itch Program Coordinator will train the volunteers on the identification of the common mergansers, after he/she is hired.

The volunteer's duties will be to report the siting of and location of mergansers on the hotline. Looking for mergansers can be accomplished during volunteers' normal daily activities, as the volunteers drive around the lake or are boating. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please send an email to: wayneswallow@att.net. Include your name, telephone number, address, email, and whether you're located on the north or south lake, and east or west side.

Total time of commitment is expected to be about 100 - 150 hours for the year. Ideally, the coordinator will live on or near Lake Leelanau, because of the need to frequently check on merganser brood location. Time commitment is sporadic April into June, and more intensive in June/early July. The June/early July trapping period requires the most time commitment, as the coordinator will be working with SICon to trap an estimated 8 – 12 broods of mergansers from north and south Lake Leelanau.

Job Duties

Coordinate activities during early spring (mid-April – mid May) to identify, count and locate merganser broods on North and South Lake Leelanau.

- Train volunteers on identification of common merganser
- Maintain "hot-line" for telephone reports of mergansers
- Coordinate monitoring and capture of merganser broods on North and South Lake Leelanau during nesting season (late-May – June/early July)
- Receive reports from volunteer spotters about merganser broods, and visually confirm identification, brood number(s) and their location on lake
- Coordinate with Glen Lake biologist to schedule SICon for trapping on north and south Lake Leelanau
- Work with SICon to trap and relocate merganser broods
- Contact and advise riparian land owners about merganser trapping to assure shore activity does not impede trapping
- Maintain count of number of merganser broods captured and relocated
- Work with SICon to collect snails to determine cercariae prevalence
- Summarize and report results of merganser trapping counts to Lake Leelanau Lake Association Water Quality Supervisor

Qualifications

- Desire to work outdoors
- Ability to work long work days during merganser brood collection (Late May – Late June/early July)
- A bachelors degree (biology) or Associates degree with field experience desirable or Prior experience as a fisheries/wildlife field technician or outdoor/wildlife experience
- Familiarity with bird identification
- Familiarity with bird collecting techniques – desirable
- Familiarity with small motor boat handling techniques
- Must have own vehicle

Apply Online by May 1
<http://www.lakeleelanau.org>

NAME _____

Spouse's Name _____

WINTER MAILING ADDRESS

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

SUMMER MAILING ADDRESS

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Comments:

Mail to LLLA, PO Box 123, Leland, MI 49654

Home Page www.lakeleelanau.org **Blog** www.lllabb.org

BASIC MEMBERSHIP

\$45

LEGACY MEMBERSHIPS: Basic included. Watch for special events in 2009 for Legacy Members

\$500 Cruisers

\$250 Runabouts

\$100 Kayakers

DONATIONS _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED _____

Will you donate your time?

Yes!! I'm here year 'round

Yes!! I'm here summer only

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Fish Committee

Township Representative

Legacy Events

Communications Committee

Walkabout Event

Membership Committee

Water Quality Committee

Safety/Boating Committee

Swimmers Itch

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Common Mergansers: Male (above) and Female

If you see Common Mergansers on Lake Leelanau please report your sighting to the Lake Association by email (wayneswallow@att.net) or phone (649-2087). Please include your name, phone, township, and the approximate location of the sighting.

Winter Wondershed

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Pileated Woodpecker (photo credit: Larry Hauser)