

Summers are Better on the Lake!

Summertime has officially returned to Loon Lake and with the warmer weather and longer days, we are seeing more people out enjoying the water by boat, kayak, and along the shoreline – in fact, the July 4th holiday weekend was one of the busiest we've seen! To help ensure a safe experience for everyone, it's important that we all pay extra attention to those around us and follow Michigan's boater safety guidelines (see page 2 for more info).

In mid May, the Friends of Loon Lake Association held its annual meeting to share important updates and hear valuable feedback from residents. Attendance was strong and we discussed a variety of topics including weed control, Association finances, and election of board members.

Another area of considerable conversation during the meeting, and a focus of the Board over the past year, was the sale of the Hayloft party store and its potential impact on boaters' access on/off the lake. The sale was complete in early May, with the buyers taking ownership of the convenience store and boat launch along Jennings Road. Thankfully, they have expressed a strong interest in working with residents to ensure long-term access to Loon Lake. The store remains temporarily closed, but owners have shared that they plan to re-open soon with exciting improvements in the works. Details will be shared on the Association Facebook page as they become available.

Minutes from the annual meeting can be found under "News & Events" on the website at www.friendsofloonlake.com.

We hope you enjoy this newsletter and look forward to seeing you out on the water! If you have questions, comments, or ideas, we would love to hear from you. Check out our website, follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/loonlakelinden, or drop us a line at hello@friendsofloonlake.com.

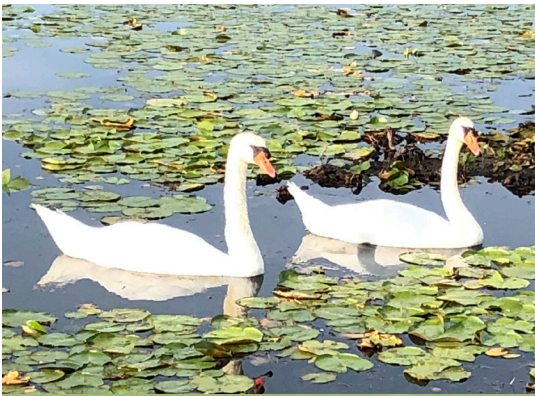
Sincerely,
Friends of Loon Lake Association Board



Fishing for Feedback

2022 LAKE ASSOCIATION SURVEY NOW UNDERWAY

The Board of Directors is seeking your input as we look to prioritize our focus areas and allocate limited resources to better serve the needs of the lake community. Your participation in a brief nine-question survey is very important and will help guide the organization now and into the future. Visit www.bit.ly/loonlake2022 to get started!



Board Members

OFFICERS

Brian Sanderson, *President*

Adam Haffajee, *Vice President*

Colleen Gemborys, *Treasurer*

Mike Graves, *Secretary*

AT-LARGE MEMBERS

Nathan Andres

Pat Hagedorn

James Jeffers

Rick Lutgens

Dave Weber, *Past President*

Volunteer Opportunities

The Friends of Loon Lake Association is looking for volunteers to help serve in a variety of ways, including weed control management, event planning, communications, and other special projects. Most positions require minimal time commitments and are a great way to get to know your neighbors and fellow Loon Lake residents. For more information, please email hello@friendsofloonlake.com.

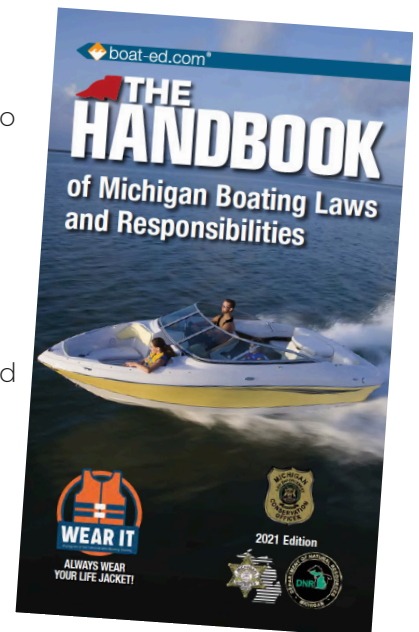
Stay Safe on the Water

BOATING SAFETY INFORMATION

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources promotes the safe use and enjoyment of all of Michigan waterways, including Loon Lake. The following is a summary of information found in the *Michigan Boating Laws and Responsibilities Handbook*.

The full guide can be accessed at www.friendsofloonlake.com/boatinghandbook.

- Children ages 12-15 may operate motorboats if they are accompanied by at least one person 16 years or older, or the child has a boating safety certificate. Those under age 14 may not legally operate a personal watercraft (PWC). Those ages 14 or 15 may operate a PWC only if they have obtained a boating safety certificate AND their parent or legal guardian is on board or within 100 feet.
- Personal flotation devices for each individual on board is required by law. All passengers under age 6 must wear a life jacket, as well as anyone who is tubing, skiing or riding/operating a personal watercraft.
- All vessels must have approved navigation lights if operating between sunset and sunrise.
- Towing a skier, wake boarder or tuber behind any watercraft requires an observer in addition to the driver.
- Michigan law prohibits operating a watercraft with a blood alcohol content level over .08%.
- As a courtesy, all boaters should navigate counterclockwise around the lake.
- Motorboats should give way to non-motorized vessels.
- Any vessel traveling at greater than “no wake” speed must not be within 100 feet of a shoreline, anchored vessel, dock or person(s) in the water.
- Do not disturb, chase or harass wildlife.





Live Lake Friendly

SMALL CHANGES CAN MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE

As riparians of Loon Lake, it is our responsibility to preserve the natural beauty and wildlife that make this such a wonderful place to live and play all year long. Below are a few quick tips to help ensure a healthy and balanced lake ecosystem and abundant recreational opportunities for generations to come:

FERTILIZING FAUX PAS: Having a lush green lawn looks fantastic but applying fertilizer within 50 feet of the shoreline can negatively impact the health of the lake and violates a Fenton Township ordinance. Phosphorus in fertilizers stimulate growth in lawns but has the same effect in encouraging unwanted algae and weed growth in the water.

WANING WATER LEVELS: With the lack of rain, the lake water level is lower than normal and has caused the culvert between Loon and Squaw lakes to run nearly dry. This isn't uncommon; however, prolonged dry conditions can become problematic. If you irrigate your lawn using lake water, please consider watering less often to prevent even lower lake levels.

BE FISH FRIENDLY: Loon Lake offers excellent fishing opportunities with bluegill, bass, perch and northern pike all swimming below the surface. Help protect our fishery by practicing sound catch and release tactics unless you intend to consume your catch.

Show Your Loon Lake Pride

MERCHANDISE STILL AVAILABLE

Collapsible can koozies are in stock and available for purchase online at www.friendsofloonlake.com/shop. There are also a VERY limited number of t-shirts and stainless steel tumblers for sale, while supplies last. Proceeds support the ongoing work of the Association.



Why All the Weeds?

A SEEMINGLY ENDLESS BATTLE

One of the most frequently asked questions the Board receives is, “What is being done to treat these pesky weeds?” The fact is, our lake is home to a variety of aquatic plants – some good and others not so good.

Native plants such as cattails, water lillies, and pondweed are good for the overall ecosystem of the lake and provide habitat for fish populations. Invasive species like Eurasian milfoil, Phragmites, and starry stonewort are brought into the lake on the hulls of boats and boat trailers, or by the wind or birds, and tend to spread rapidly and wreak havoc.

The primary focus of the weed control program is to keep the main parts of the lake, especially the boating circuit around the lake, clear enough for enjoyable recreation. Weeds that grow within about 50-75 feet of the shoreline are mostly protected, although treating boat lanes from docks to the

open part of the lake and spot treatments of invasive species may be done by a weed control company. A permit is required for all work done. Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy restrictions and budget constraints put limits on the extent of weed elimination. It is also important to not overtreating the vegetation, as doing so can lead to negative long-term implications including increased weed growth.

The Association works with a weed control company to map out a plan for treatment each season. Timing for these applications is heavily influenced by several factors including water temperature, weather conditions, lake water levels, and more. So far this year, we have completed two treatments with one more planned for late summer or early fall.

Updates on our weed control efforts are posted to Facebook at www.facebook.com/loonlakelinden.



Membership Matters

IT'S NOT TOO LATE FOR 2022!

Have you sent in your 2022 membership dues? If not, please complete the enclosed form and mail it, along with your check, to: **Friends of Loon Lake Association, PO Box 632, Linden, MI 48451**. Suggested dues are \$25 per year; however, we encourage you to give more if you can.

Funds raised will be used to test and monitor water quality, keep property owners informed of issues and opportunities that affect lake life, conduct activities to ensure aesthetic beauty and environmental integrity of the lake, and create a sense of community through family friendly events.