



ALA Newsletter - Fall 2025

Photo by Judy Sunley

President's Message

Hello to All Arbutus Lake Association Members:

As we say Goodbye to Summer, here's hoping your time spent these past three months will inspire memories of beautiful sunrises and sunsets, fun fishing, motorboating, kayaking, swimming and paddleboarding, loon watching, and so on— even though this Summer season seemed to fly by.

Our Association is happy to announce two new Board Members elected as Directors on our Board. Please welcome Zach Gembis and Mike Reid who each ran for the first time to be elected to a three-year term seat in the August election. Many thanks to both these gentlemen for being willing to serve our association with their time, their talents and their ideas.

I am very grateful and lucky to serve with our hardworking board, striving to preserve the water quality, the fishery, the wildlife, the waterfowl, the trees and the native shoreline plants and the overall personality of this marvelous Arbutus Lake for all our children and grandchildren to enjoy in coming years.

As we move into Autumn and get ready for winter, my view out over our lake brings to mind an Anonymous Nature Quote I saw framed on someone's wall: "Every Sunset is Mother Nature's Silent Poetry, Written in Colors. And Autumn is a Second Spring Where Every Leaf Becomes a Flower."

May you all have a colorful Autumn, wonderful Holidays, and a safe and comfortable Winter so we can see each other on the Lake next Spring.

Sue Foster, President

YMCA Camp Arbutus Hayo-Went-Ha

By Amanda Macaluso

Shores & S'mores Update - YMCA Camp Arbutus Hayo-Went-Ha Update

This year, and in my new position, we have a goal to meet more of our neighbors and be more known in the community. With us finally getting back on track after the 2020 covid shutdown we have hired back Renee as our Food Service Director. She is working year round and helping us support the non summer programming.

The first local event is the 1st annual Thanksgiving Dinner to be held at the T. Grace Macdonald Lodge and is open to the community. As a first round of invitations we would like to invite all our neighbors on the lake.

If you are around on November 16th we would love for you to join us. The cost is \$35 and there will be a full Thanksgiving Dinner menu complete with apple and pecan pie. All proceeds will go to our campership program to offer even more campers the opportunity to explore, be challenged in the wilderness, make new friends and enjoy our beautiful lake. (*See flyer at the end of the Newsletter*)

We look forward to seeing you all soon.

Amanda Macaluso, Director of Alumni and Community Development.

2026 Arbutus Lake Association Meetings Schedule:

All meeting times are Eastern Standard Time (EST) and held at East Bay Township Hall, unless otherwise noted.

April 11 at 8:00 am

May 9 at 8:00 am

June 13 at 10:00 am (*General Membership Meeting*)

July 11 at 8:00 am

August 9 at 10:00 am at Camp Arbutus Hayo-Went-Ha
(*Breakfast Potluck*)

September 12 at 8:00 am



Photo By David Endicott

Loon Report

By Linda Grubaugh

Arbutus has been enjoying another great year, watching our 2 loonlets mature to fledgling age. September 17 and 18 marked their 13 -week birthdays, making them old enough to be independent and able to migrate. The last known sighting was on September 14th: one adult and 2 babies on Lake 5. They were observed for several hours being very active, preening, diving, fishing and generally cavorting before finally taking a nap.



The other adult has not been seen for a while, and it is believed that she (it's usually the female that goes first) has migrated already. The male will go next, with the babies following, probably 1-3 weeks later. Hopefully, the adult pair will return to the nest on Lake 5 early next spring to lay another couple of fertile eggs. The babies will not return to the north for about 6 years when they will be looking for mates. However, they will not likely return to Arbutus.

The nest will be relaunched as soon as ice-off in the spring, after which Arbutus will, hopefully, experience another fun year of loon watching!

Invasive Species Treatment

In early September, a team consisting of Mark and Jodi Derylo, along with Faye and Harry Knol, spent the day mapping the lake and shoreline for Phragmites and Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM). They identified 1.3 acres of current EWM, which is down comparatively to the over 4.53 acres recorded in the April 2020 mapping.



Then on Monday Sept. 8 the team (Jodi Derylo, David Endicott, and Harry Knol) treated shoreline areas that were invaded by Phragmites. In all there were about 1.3 acres of Phragmites identified by the team as “needing to be watched” in multiple areas. Treatment for Phragmites was finished on Tuesday, September 23rd. Special thanks to both Bob and Rachel Johnson for letting us borrow their pontoon to finish up treatment.

That same Tuesday, Harry Knol attended a Waterside Chat on Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) held at the Almira Town Hall. The event was hosted by Eric Moore (Watersheds Coordinator) and other team

members of the Benzie Conservation District. There were 30 riparian representatives from many of the surrounding lakes in attendance. There, Harry learned that there are strains of EWM throughout Michigan that have hybridized and become resistant to treatment. Samples of EWM from Arbutus Lake have been sent to a lab for analysis via the kind folks from Benzie County. Those results should be back sometime in December. The team is eager to learn if some of the EWM in Arbutus Lake has become resistant to treatment and are ready to look into treatment recommendations/adaptations if they turn out to be so.

Overall, some ground control has been established on the EWM and Phragmites and the team remains dedicated to preserving the lake so it can be enjoyed for swimming and boating without weed mass interfering for years to come.

Barge Watch

This summer, some volunteers took the time to make structural improvements to the invasive species treatment barge. Brandon Falenski, Tim Mullin and Jodi Derylo spent a few days raising and centering the driver's seat so that the driver can now see over the hoppers and other volunteers on the front of the boat while treating the lake. If you see us out there next spring, the barge may look a little odd but these changes will make treating the invasive Eurasian Water Milfoil easier and safer for all of the volunteers. Sharon Mullins even lets us borrow her maiden figure head to make sure the boat looks even better on the lake!

Big thank you to Terri Scheidel for donating the metal, and Jim Harkes for making new brackets for the treatment hoppers. Next year, treating should be an easier and safer process.



Arbutus Lake Level Report - Fall 2025

By Brandon Falenski

On September 13, 2025, the Arbutus Lake Level measured 803.82 inches above sea level (ASL). This is 3.36 inches lower than the same date last year. This is also 16.8 inches lower than the recent record high (recorded 10/23/2020) and 22.68 inches higher than the recent record low (recorded 9/18/2011).

For additional information regarding the lake level, please feel free to contact Brandon Falenski by email at bfalenski@yahoo.com



Have you paid your dues?

To simplify the confusion on when dues are due the Board has proposed to change our fiscal year from September to September to be January to January instead. Voting to change the bi-laws pertaining to our fiscal year will happen at the general membership meeting (June 13th). Proposed changes of the bi-laws are available on our Website for you to look through.

Your Annual Dues of

- \$75 for Riparian Owners
- \$10 for Friends and Family of the Lake

Due August 31, 2026.

Dues are payable to:

Arbutus Lake Association, Inc.
PO Box 404
Mayfield, MI 49666

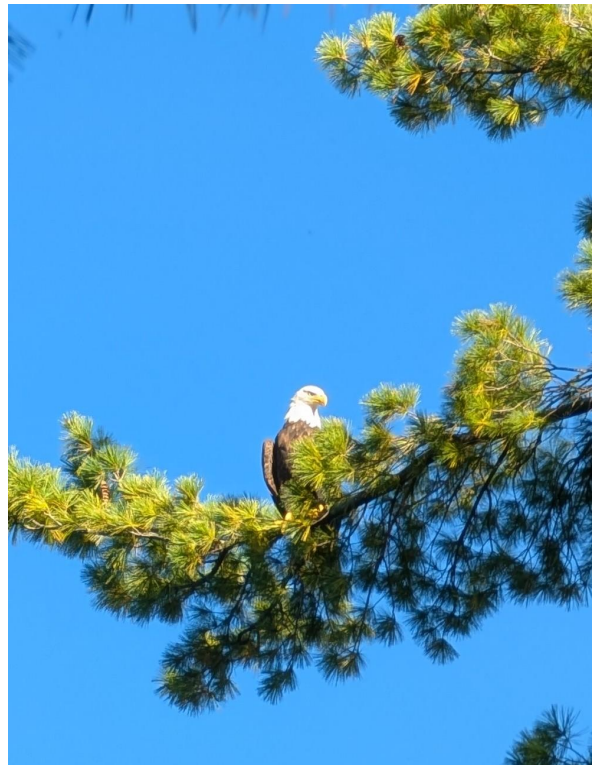
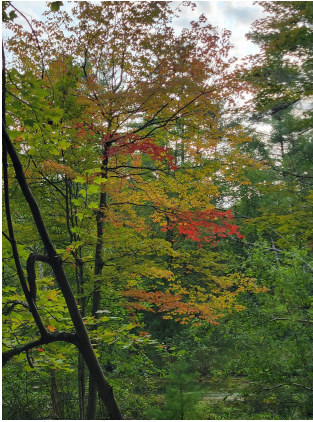


Photo By Tim Cook

Thank You for Your Photos!

If you have a beautiful Photo of the lake or nature that you would like to share in the Newsletter please email them to: jodiderylo.ala@gmail.com



Photos By Jodi Derylo

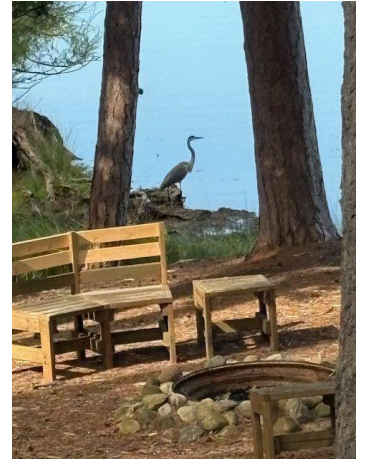
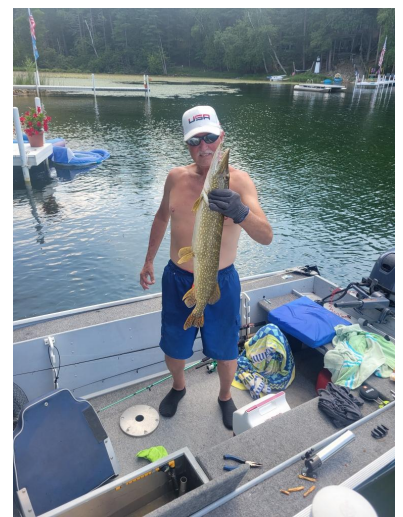


Photo by Caitlin Falenski

Photos by David Endicott



Photos by Mark Derylo

ALA Annual August Potluck!

This year's Potluck Breakfast was a delicious hit! Thank you to everyone that came out for making it an even more wonderful morning on our beautiful Lake. A total of 49 people attended the breakfast this year. This is a smaller group than the previous 2 years had garnered, but it was still a nice get together where memories and stories of the lake were shared and cherished.

Big thanks to the people who played a large part in making this happen: Harry Knol for helping with set-up and making sure everything was ready when everyone came through the doors, Georgine Grapes for (once again) graciously providing all the juices and drinks for the morning, and the ALA board members who helped with arranging the speaker, planning and eventual cleanup of this event.

A special thank you goes out to Amanda Macaluso, Mackenzie "MackMo" Morison and the YMCA Camp for once again letting us use their facility and being so accommodating in letting us be there the day after camp gets out!

Next year's Breakfast Potluck already has a date on the Calendar. It will be on **August 9, 2026**. Please mark your calendars! If you have kids, family or company, bring them along! There is always plenty of food and it makes meeting your neighbors on the lake even more special.

Still Looking For Volunteers!

You know the old adage "More hands make light work." The Board Members work hard throughout the year to help maintain a happy healthy lake. Several opportunities for members and their families to volunteer arise throughout the spring, summer and fall. *Any* and *all* help is welcomed.

Here are the different committees that the Board oversees:

- Newsletter (Jodi Derylo)
- Website (Mike Reid)
- Governmental Relations (Brandon Falenski)
- Invasive Species (Harry Knol)
- Water Level (Brandon Falenski)
- Loon Nesting (David Endicott)
- Water Quality and Testing (Edie Gibbs)
- Welcome Packets (Mike Reid)



If any of these peak your interest and you would like to help us out, please come to a meeting and talk to the Board member that is heading that Committee.

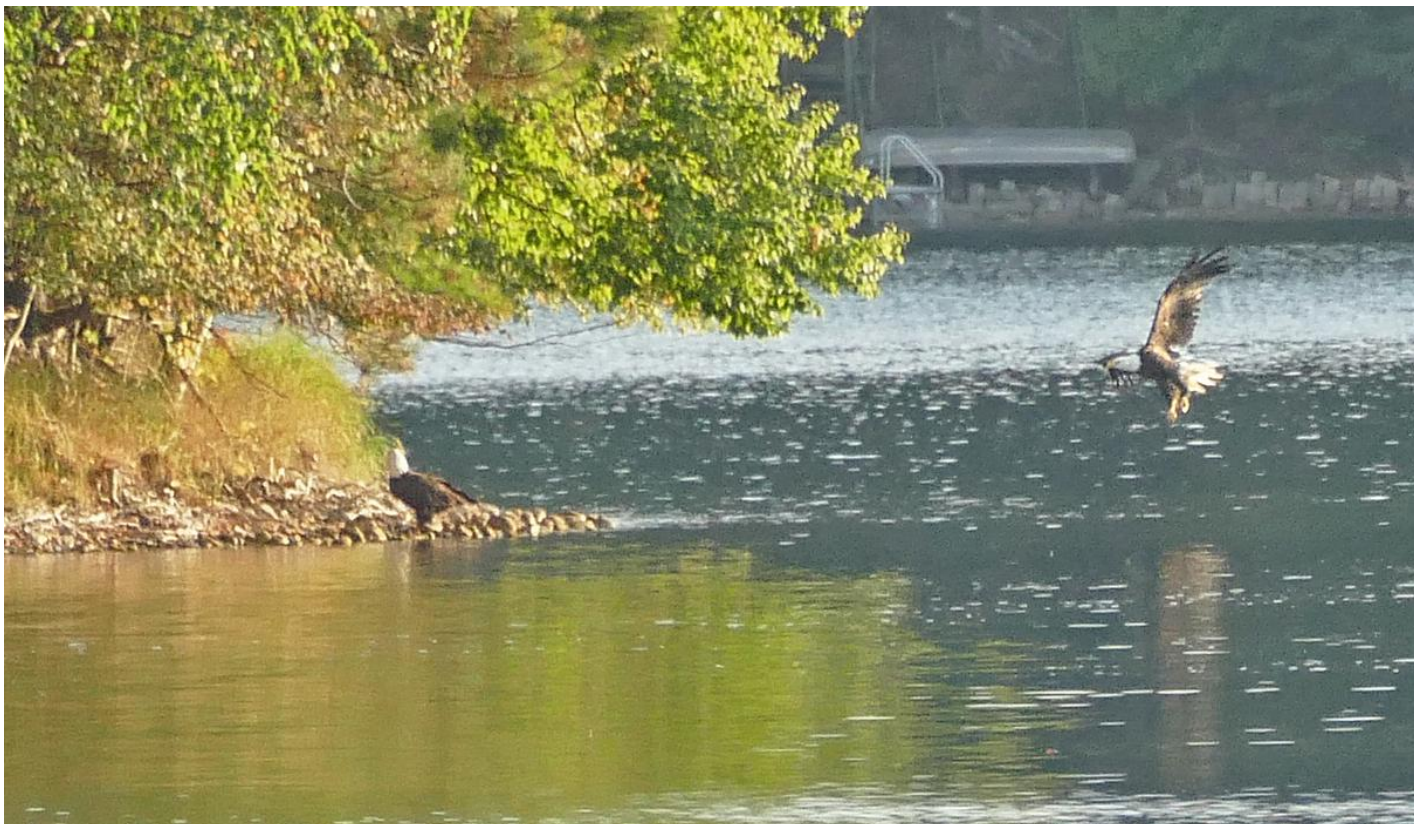


Photo by Tim Cook

General Membership Meeting Minutes and Financial Reports are now available on our Website

Arbutuslakeassociation.org

JOIN US FOR THE 1ST ANNUAL COMMUNITY

THANKSGIVING DINNER

AT YMCA CAMP ARBUTUS HAYO-WENT-HA



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16 • 1:00 PM

YMCA Camp Arbutus Hayo-Went-Ha

1380 East Arbutus Lake Road, Traverse City, MI 49696

Join us for our first annual Thanksgiving event in the T. Grace Macdonald Lodge. Enjoy a traditional turkey dinner with dressing and all the trimmings. Tickets are \$35 per person and all proceeds support YMCA youth programs.

DOORS OPEN AT 12:15 PM

- ▶ Seating is limited and advance reservations are required.
- ▶ Prepaid tickets will be available for pickup at check in.

RESERVE YOUR SEATS TODAY

Reserve your seats by calling the Camp Office at **231.544.5915**. We accept check, Visa, MasterCard, and Discover.

THE MORE THE MERRIER

Bring friends and family. If you have a group, you can reserve a table. We look forward to celebrating together.



HAYO-WENT-HA CAMPS

Two Camps. One Purpose.