

ALA Newsletter - Summer 2022



President's Letter

Welcome to Summer on The Lake!!

Your Association has been busy. We continue to participate with the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy, making progress on the preservation of the Turtle Cove shoreline, as well as other projects you will learn about in this ALA Newsletter.

As we move through the 4th of July and Cherry Festival I am reminded of the words of the late Erma Bombeck: "You have to love a nation that celebrates its Independence Day every 4th of July, not with a parade of guns, tanks and soldiers who file by the Whitehouse in a show of strength and muscle, but instead with family picnics where the kids throw Frisbees, the potato salad gets iffy, and the flies die from happiness". And if your picnic is on Arbutus Lake, you can add boat rides, beach bonfires with S'mores, tubing, kayaking, fishing and waving at your neighbors as your pontoon glides by.

May you all enjoy the 4th of July, the Cherry Festival, and the peace and relaxation this wonderful lake offers us all.

Happy Summer, everyone...
Sue Foster

Turtle Cove Preserve Update

Exciting news for our proposed Turtle Cove Preserve! We have now surpassed our halfway point! We so appreciate all of you who have given of your resources to help save this precious land and cove. You're not only doing yourself a favor by keeping this fragile bay in balance and thereby keeping the rest of Arbutus Lake in balance, but you are saving land, dark sky, and water for all to enjoy for generations to come. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts caretakers of Arbutus Lake.



If you have not yet taken the opportunity to donate, now is the time. Although we can make pledges and continue to give through 2023, we are approaching the time when the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy needs to exercise the option to purchase the land and continue to raise funds. Please show them the momentum is there to bring this preserve to fruition. If you have considered giving and/or pledging but have not done it yet please do it now!

Giving is easy!

1. If you would like to make a larger donation in 2022, over the course of 2022 and 2023, or just have questions on how to make a larger donation, you can reach out to Kate Pearson of the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy directly: kpearson@gtrlc.org or cell 231.409.1335. The GTRLC is a 501(c)3 so donations are tax deductible when you itemize.
2. Go on-line and donate! Ask your friends to go on-line and donate! Ask your family to go on-line and donate! <https://www.gtrlc.org/activeprojects/turtle-cove-nature-preserve/>, click the donate button and enter your amount. Every single dollar counts.



Here are some ideas from our neighbors you can use to help others give:

1. Ann on Lake 3: Ask your friends and family to donate to the Turtle Cove Preserve on your behalf in lieu of birthday/holiday gifts!
2. Jen on Lake 5: Ask your employer if they offer matching for donations! One of our lake members is in the process of setting this up through their company! We can have as many companies match donations as are willing!
3. Kathy on Lake 3: Create a post on your Facebook or other social media page and ask your friends and followers to donate and share the post! Here's an example of wording to make it easy: Please donate to the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy's Turtle Cove project! Your donation will protect these beautiful 120 acres that are on our Lake Arbutus. This is our

legacy to (list children, grandchildren). Come by for a boat ride anytime to see the eagles, turtles, and many species of fish who live here. This project means so much to so many! Please follow the link to donate and then share this post widely with your family and friends to help us reach our goal this summer! Add any of your many beautiful photos of Turtle Cove and the lake we love.

4. Jodi on Lake 5: Have a porch party! Invite friends for a coffee, a cocktail or a BBQ talk about the project and make a donation optional. Or just have them scan the QR code and donate as their ticket to enter lol.

Let's pull together this summer and give it our best to make the Turtle Cove Preserve happen! Remember: Short Time - Life Time.

Arbutus Lake Association Website is Here!

A big thank you to Nancy McCullick for putting together our new website. This has been in the works for a number of years and she stepped up and got it done for us and it is beautiful! Check it out Arbutuslakeassociation.org

Hike at the Proposed Turtle Cove Preserve



On June 15th a group of Board members and Arbutus Lake residents took a short hike around the proposed Turtle Cove Preserve. A naturalist was there to explain the makeup of the preserve and how the trails will be laid out. There will be more hikes at the proposed preserve on Turtle Cove if you missed this one. Next dates are: June 25 10-12, July 20 10-12, August 6 10-12, and August 9 10-12. The hikes start and end on Yellow Birch. You can find more information listed on the conservancy website calendar: <https://www.gtrlc.org/recreation-events/events/>

If you have any questions, you can reach Kate at kpearson@gtrlc.org (231) 409-1335.

Camp Hayo-Went-Ha News



As many of you who are long term lake residents, the lack of Birch Bark trees is becoming more and more evident. We even call the lake that is on the back side of the camp Birch Pond. I am assuming that Birch trees were plentiful back in the day! Here at YMCA Camp Arbutus Hayo-Went-Ha we have been using fallen birch tree branches for over 70 years to hold our closing campfire candles. On the last day of each 4 week session campers and staff gather at our secret closing campfire ring hidden in the woods to say "see you later," not goodbye, with a candle ritual.

The maintenance staff I ask to cut 400 birch bark bases every year never quite understand the significance of the task but the campers and staff certainly do. After each camp session, we ask everyone to keep their candles safe and relight them on Christmas Eve to reflect on their camp experience and remember all the fun times and friends that they made. I always wonder on Christmas Eve how many Birch Bark candles have been lit across the state, across the country and even across the world.

This year camp made a purchase of 52 tiny birch bark trees, seedlings really. I carefully planted each and every one of them along the side of the A-field keeping an eye on them on a daily basis. I am hoping that most of them take to the ground and grow enough to eventually be available for birch bark candle bases in the future. I also think they will not be big enough for the task for at least 30 years but hopefully we will still be doing this wonderful camp tradition then too.

If you would like a camp history book, to read more about our camp history and traditions I am happy to share one with each and every one of our neighbors at no cost. Just stop by and ask for one next time you are driving by camp! Have a great summer and I look forward to seeing you all zip by us on the lake. Also, if you have any downed birch bark limbs at your property, please let me know as we would love to use them for future birch bark candles.

Amanda Macaluso
Camp Director, YMCA Camp Arbutus Hayo-Went-Ha
amacaluso@hayowentha.org

Arbutus Lake Level Report

The Arbutus Lake level is currently at 804.56 feet above sea level (ASL), which is a decrease of 5.52 inches since the first measurement of this year. This level is 1.2 inches higher than it was on this date last year. It is 7.92 inches lower than the highest level on record, 805.22' ASL, measured October 23, 2020. It is 31.56 inches higher than the lowest level on record, 801.93' ASL, measured September 18, 2011.



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

2022 Arbutus Lake Association Meetings Schedule:

July 16 (9:00 AM EST)

August 14 Breakfast Potluck (10:00 AM)

At Camp Arbutus Hayo-Went-Ha

September 17 (9:00 AM)

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

A Change in the ALA Annual Potluck

We are looking forward to seeing everyone on **Sunday, August 14, 2022, 10am** at the Girls camp for our Annual Potluck. We are changing it up to try to make it easier for members to attend the potluck so we are going to do it on a Sunday morning! The Association will provide Pancakes, French Toast and coffee, we are asking members to bring their own table service and a dish to share, anything you'd like, fruit, pie, cakes, juice, bacon, sausage etc... Please consider coming to the potluck and meeting your neighbors, it really is fun to get to know everyone and their history on the lake, or their history in the making.



We will have a very brief meeting while you eat instead of before we eat.

ALA Archives



The ALA is a registered non-profit organization, and as such we have an obligation to do certain things, like hold meetings, report and audit our finances, etc. To ensure we maintain our status we agreed to centralize and protect important documents. These include meeting minutes, financial statements and audits, membership details, permits for invasive species control and similar. All routine documents for the last 3 years are now digitally stored for protection and easy retrieval.

We are also interested in certain historic documents that individual members may have. Particularly those pertaining to things like past legal challenges or permitting issues, or similar things. An example is the legal effort to fight a 'key holing' application on Lake 1 back in the 1980's. The purpose of protecting these is to have them accessible to support any efforts in the event of a similar situation in the future.

If you have anything that may fit this description could you please let Keith Day know. We do not necessarily need the physical documents if you want to keep them, but would appreciate a scan or digital copy (which we can do and return the originals).

Keith can be contacted at keithday512@gmail.com

REMINDER!

Have you paid your dues?

Your Annual Dues of \$50 Are Due on August 31, 2022.

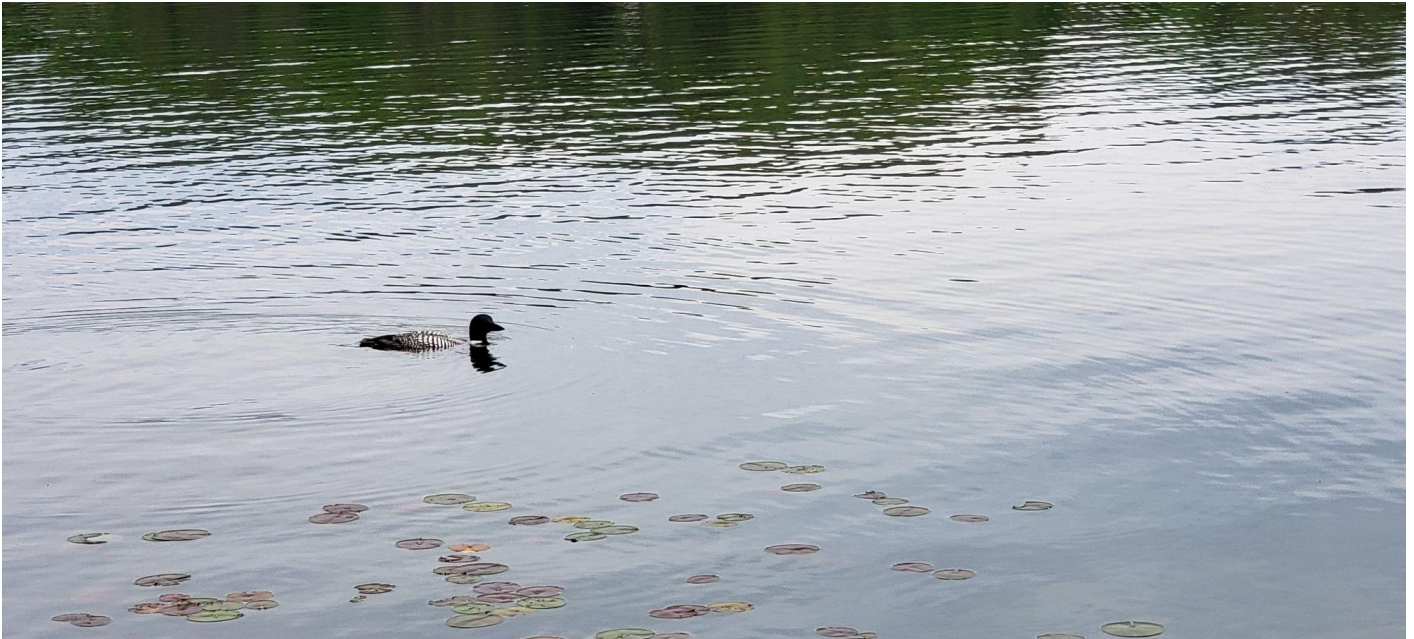
Dues are payable to:

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



Ballots/Email

This year we have decided to email you the Ballot directly instead of adding it into the Newsletter. We also will be sending out an email before all our meetings to remind you in case you are interested in coming to one. Watch your email for the Voting Ballot for the August 14th Meeting!



Weed Report Summer 2022

Milfoil - We treated the lake for Milfoil on June 7, 2022. It was a cold foggy morning when we started, but we were able to treat with relatively little issues. We would like to thank our wonderful volunteers who showed up that morning to brave the fog and cold. On the “Barge” treatment boat we had our captain Keith Day, Mike Bobrowski and Gary Plumb handling the spreaders. On the other boat we had captain Jodi Derylo at the helm, Edie Gibbs, Harry Knol, and David Endicott jumping on and off the boat to post signs. Without volunteers like these our lake would not be in the wonderful condition it is in. If you are interested in learning more or volunteering to help with the Milfoil please email or talk to one of our board members.



Phragmites - We will probably not treat Phragmites again this year unless we see a lot of growth this summer, or the treatment from last fall did not perform.

Invasive Species Prevention is Coming to Arbutus Lake:

Join the Aquatic Invasive Species Pathways Program and partners for a day of boat washing and education at Grand Traverse County's Arbutus Lake – August 20th

Northern Michigan is home to an incredible array of diverse waterways – from small creeks to our astounding freshwater Great Lake. Unfortunately, there are also many threats that have the potential to upset the balance necessary to ensure an ecosystem remains healthy. These threats include things like nutrient runoff from agriculture and urban areas, habitat destruction, and the introduction of invasive species.

The Aquatic Invasive Species Pathways Program (AISPP) targets the latter, working to prevent the movement of organisms that can negatively impact our special water.

Once introduced, aquatic invasive species (AIS) readily outcompete native organisms. This occurs by simply growing bigger and faster than other plants and animals, through voraciously eating through a competitor's food supply, and/or impacting the availability of habitat for nesting and laying eggs. Many invasives in the Great Lakes are well known – things like zebra/quagga mussels, Eurasian watermilfoil, phragmites, and invasive carp. Others are lesser known. European frog-bit, didymo, and red swamp crayfish are a few examples. The goal of the AISPP is to prevent the spread of these species from place to place in an effort to conserve and improve upon the region's water quality. This prevention occurs by providing free boat washing (decontamination) at public launches throughout northwest Michigan. Through a positive educational interaction and a few minutes of boat-cleaning, high-priority invasive species can be stopped in their tracks.

Utilizing high-pressure, hot water mobile washers, most, if not all aquatic invaders that could be attempting to hitchhike to another location are removed from boats – motorized and non! On Saturday, August 20th, the AISPP is partnering with the Arbutus Lake Association to host a public boat washing event at the DNR #4 boat launch. Staff and volunteers will be on site from 9:30am-3:00pm providing washes and educating the public on the importance of preventing the movement of AIS. Everyone is encouraged to stop by – with or without a boat – education itself is a critically important step in conservation efforts. It truly "takes a village" to protect the natural resources in Michigan and beyond.

No registration is necessary; simply stop by! However, any questions can be directed to AIS Coordinator, Emily Cook: emily@benziecd.org or call (231)882-4391.



August 20 | 9:30am-3:00pm

Arbutus Lake #4 Launch - more info: emily@benziecd.org

Hosted by the Aquatic Invasive Species Pathways Program
with support from the Arbutus Lake Association



Arbutus Lake Association

P.O. box 404 Mayfield, MI

General Meeting Minutes

06-18-2022

Board Members: (President) Sue Foster, (Vice President) Keith Day, (Treasurer) Randy Bancino, Caitlin Falenski (Secretary), (Past-President) Mike Bobrowski, Jodi Derylo, Brandon Falenski, Edie Gibbs, Harry Knol, Nancy McCullick, Kathi Mudd, Cindy Swift, Allyson Tinker

- Meeting Called to order at 10:02 AM (East Bay Township Hall)
- Roll call of Board members and Member Introductions: (present) Sue Foster; Randy Bancino; Caitlin Falenski; Jodi Derylo; Brandon Falenski; Edie Gibbs; Harry Knol; Nancy McCullick; Kathi Mudd; Cindy Swift; (phone) Allyson Tinker; (excused) Mike Bobrowski & Keith Day.
- Approval of the Current Agenda: Jodi motioned; Edie second; all in favor.
- Review/approval of 5/21/22 meeting minutes: Nancy motioned; Jodi second; all in favor.
- Treasurer's report review & approval: possible increase in dues will be discussed at the August meeting. Jodi motioned to approve the Treasurer's Report; Edie second; all in favor.

Old Business

- **Guest Speaker Steve Largent – Aerial Shoreline Surveys:** drones are better than satellites to view aerial footage. Want to emphasize natural shoreline (“greenbelts”) as much as possible. Creates healthy habitat into the water. Studies can be done for lake associations to assess the health & quality of a lake. \$245/per mile for the drone survey; that's 2/3 of the cost. 1/3 is for the analysis. (~10 miles of Arbutus shoreline); should cost less than \$5000 for total analysis.
- **Newsletter (Jodi):** material due 6/25 for July newsletter (with ballot).
- **Website Introduction (Nancy):** arbutuslakeassociation.org launched & gorgeous!
- **Invasive species status (Jodi):** milfoil was treated on June 7; cold/foggy day. 21% increase in costs. Can always use more volunteers to put signs on the trees – PLEASE. By volunteers doing this for us every year, it saves \$10,000+/yr in costs. Thank you Jodi Derylo, Gary Plum, Keith Day, Mike Bobrowski, Harry Knol, David Endicott & Edie Gibbs for your time & energy this year! Bottom of lake needs to be 55-62 degrees so it cannot be done right at ice-off. The plant needs to be growing when treated.
- **Water quality and testing update (Edie Gibbs):** cooperative program through EGLE & the MSU Extension & Michigan Lakes & Streams Association. We've been doing this for 20-30 years so we have long-term data to analyze. No new news. Dick Mikula is helping us since his career was with the DNR & knows it very well.
- **Water level report (Brandon):** 804.62'; 1.25" higher than last year at this time. 7.2" lower than the high in October 2020. 32" higher than the low in September 2013.
- **Loon nesting status (Jodi):** located near Endicotts' shoreline.
- **Welcome Packets information (Kathi):** business as usual; contacting new neighbors as they come.
- **Archives (Keith):** gathering & digitizing old, important documents about the lake.
- **New Sign for Boat Launch:** QR code which will link to the website with a map of the lake, directional rules, shallow areas, etc. to inform boaters of the inland lake rules. Locations will be #5 park & public boat launch. “Slow” signs will also be added to private property at the entrance of Turtle Cove.

Nancy is designing & Jodi will get them made.

- **Governmental Relations Committee (Brandon):** ZBA & PC did not have anything related to Arbutus Lake. Parks Commission discussed the status of lake #5 park construction updates. Seawall will be updated; fishing pier will be moved to the south; and install more sand. Construction was supposed to start early Spring '22; they are at least 6 months behind. The Board of Trustees approved at least a 6 month moratorium on the Short Term Rental License process while they work to rewrite the ordinance. The draft of the Master Plan was also approved by the Board. Now it is open to the public for comment & then review by the Planning Commission.
- **Conservation Committee Update (Nancy):**
 - **Turtle Cove Project:** \$1.4mil of \$2.4mil raised.
 - **Next Steps:** Continue raising funds; GTRLC Board decides on September 1st if the full project is a go. Funds can be pledged & donated through 2023.

New Business

- **Elections and Nominations to the Board:** Allyson Tinker, Cindy Swift & Nancy McCullick's terms are all up for re-election since they were completing other members' terms. They all want to run again. If anyone else is interested, please let Sue Foster know to be added to the ballot.
- **Native Plant Sale (Allyson):** Landscape wholesaler (Birdsfoot) has agreed to work with us & offer flats of native species for this Fall. Two flats – dry shore & wet shore. Planting should be done after Labor Day. Might be able to turn it into a fundraiser for Turtle Cove. Edie & Kathi joining Allyson's sub-committee. Jodi motioned to pursue the fall plant sale & support Turtle Cove (for this year's charity), Kathi second, all in favor. \$45-\$60/flat.
- **Boat Wash:** Emily at POLS (Protect our Lakes) reached out to Allyson Tinker to put in a mobile boat wash at public launch for one day on Arbutus. It is an invasive species educational format. Need to set a date & Emily provides all of the volunteers to inform, educate & help. Zero cost. Allyson will coordinate with Emily re: available dates once the board approves. Allyson motioned to approve the boat wash day; Kathi second; all in favor.
- **Questions or Concerns from the Membership:** Cecelia offered up an "Arbutus Lake Garage Sale" to extend awareness & raise money for Turtle Cove. Ann Schaub asked about an Arbutus Facebook page to try & inform & pass on our Association information & details. It has been discussed in the past but negative comments would want to be avoided. Could be a closed Facebook group but managing & monitoring could be a challenge.

2022 Meetings Calendar:

- July 16th, 9:00 AM, EBT Hall
- August 14th, 10:00 AM Breakfast, Camp Hayo Went Ha Lodge
- September 17th, 9:00 AM, EBT Hall

The meeting adjourned at 12:29PM.

Arbutus Lake Association
TREASURER'S REPORT
May 31, 2022

Balance September 1, 2021			\$ 10,144.29
Income			
	Dues/Contributions Current Year	\$ 6,240.00	
	Interest	<u>-</u>	\$ 6,240.00
Expenses			
	Milfoil Treatment	3,269.00	
	Mailing Ballots	-	
	Newsletter Production/Mailing	172.02	
	Office Supplies	-	
	Web Hosting	-	
	Water Quality Testing	497.00	
	Admin - PO Box	62.00	
	Misc.	102.38	
	Meeting Expenses	-	
	Insurance	-	
	Signage	103.33	
	Bank Charge	-	
	Refunds	-	
	Michigan Annual Report Filing	-	<u>\$ 4,205.73</u>
Balance May 31, 2022			<u>\$ 12,178.56</u>
General Bank Account 5/31/22			\$ 15,794.56
Check's not yet cleared (#1494, #1495)			<u>\$ (3,616.00)</u>
TOTAL AVAILABLE CASH			<u>\$ 12,178.56</u>

Notes:

The fiscal year is September 1st through August 31st.
Dues are \$50 for members and \$10 for friends.

Memberships Statistics

Members Paid For Fiscal 2022	94
Members Paid For Fiscal 2021	15
Friends Paid For Fiscal 2022	4

Arbutus Lake Association is a non-profit 501(c)3 corporation.
Dues and donations are tax deductible.
ALA's fiscal year runs from September 1st through August 31st.

Submitted by: Randy Bancino