

# ALA Newsletter - Spring 2022



## President's Letter

Greetings to all for the 2022 Spring and Summer season.

Spring is finally here, and it's time to celebrate the end of the cold dark days of winter, and the new beginnings Spring always offers, and also to say goodbye to all the stresses of 2020 and 2021. Instead of focusing on the past two years of dissent and uncertainty that has taken a toll on everyone, it's time to "Seize the Day".

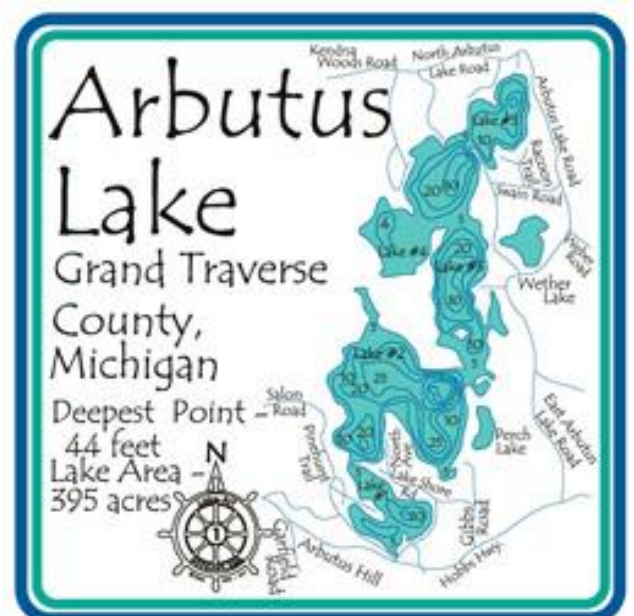
As the ancient Chinese philosopher, Lao Tzu said, "If you're depressed, you're living in the past. If you're anxious, you're living in the future. If you're at peace, you're living in the present".

And speaking of the present, Arbutus Lake has been given a wonderful present by Casey Cowell and 17 families from around the lake! We've been given a huge opportunity to protect the remaining undeveloped property on our west shoreline, so yes, let's "Seize the Day".

My hope for all our members is that we can find the peace we have always found when we look at the beautiful vistas Arbutus Lake provides us, and to remember we all share in the stewardship of the same back yard.

Here's to a safe and happy Summer for all.

Sue Foster  
President ALA





## TURTLE COVE NATURE PRESERVE (Proposed)

November, 2021

Love the land. Pass it on.



We have the opportunity to protect a gorgeous and ecologically significant bay and create a nature preserve on one of Grand Traverse County's most popular and beloved inland lakes.

The proposed Turtle Cove Nature Preserve along Arbutus Lake is one of the highest ranking parcels identified for protection in our priority land atlas. It encompasses the majority of a shallow-water bay, along with additional frontage on the main body of the lake totaling over .75 mile undeveloped shoreline. Collectively, the property has more than three quarters of a mile of undeveloped water frontage, making it critical for water quality on Arbutus Lake.

In addition to water quality benefits, this proposed preserve packs a major punch in terms of wildlife habitat. The shallow water of Turtle Cove provides habitat for scores of fish, reptiles, amphibians and invertebrate species. Along with emergent marsh and bog habitats, the property also contains mesic forest with areas of open field (dominated by bracken fern and little bluestem) and early-successional forest. There is also an active eagle's nest on the property.

While not small in its own right at roughly 120 acres, the property also benefits from being

contiguous to Pines Park (a natural area owned by East Bay Township) along with a tract of state land. Such connectivity is critical for wildlife movement throughout increasingly fragmented habitats. The property will also lend itself to a scenic and enjoyable trail system.

Undeveloped shorelines are becoming increasingly rare throughout GTRLC's service area, particularly near the region's population center. This protection effort presents a relatively rare chance to safeguard unspoiled habitat.

### Your gift will:

- Safeguard water quality on Arbutus Lake
- Protect highly diverse and extremely critical wildlife habitat
- Add to previously protected land and maintain migratory corridors
- Provide a new trail system for passive recreation

The total fundraising need for this project, which reflects a generous bargain sale by the landowner, is **\$2,473,007\***.

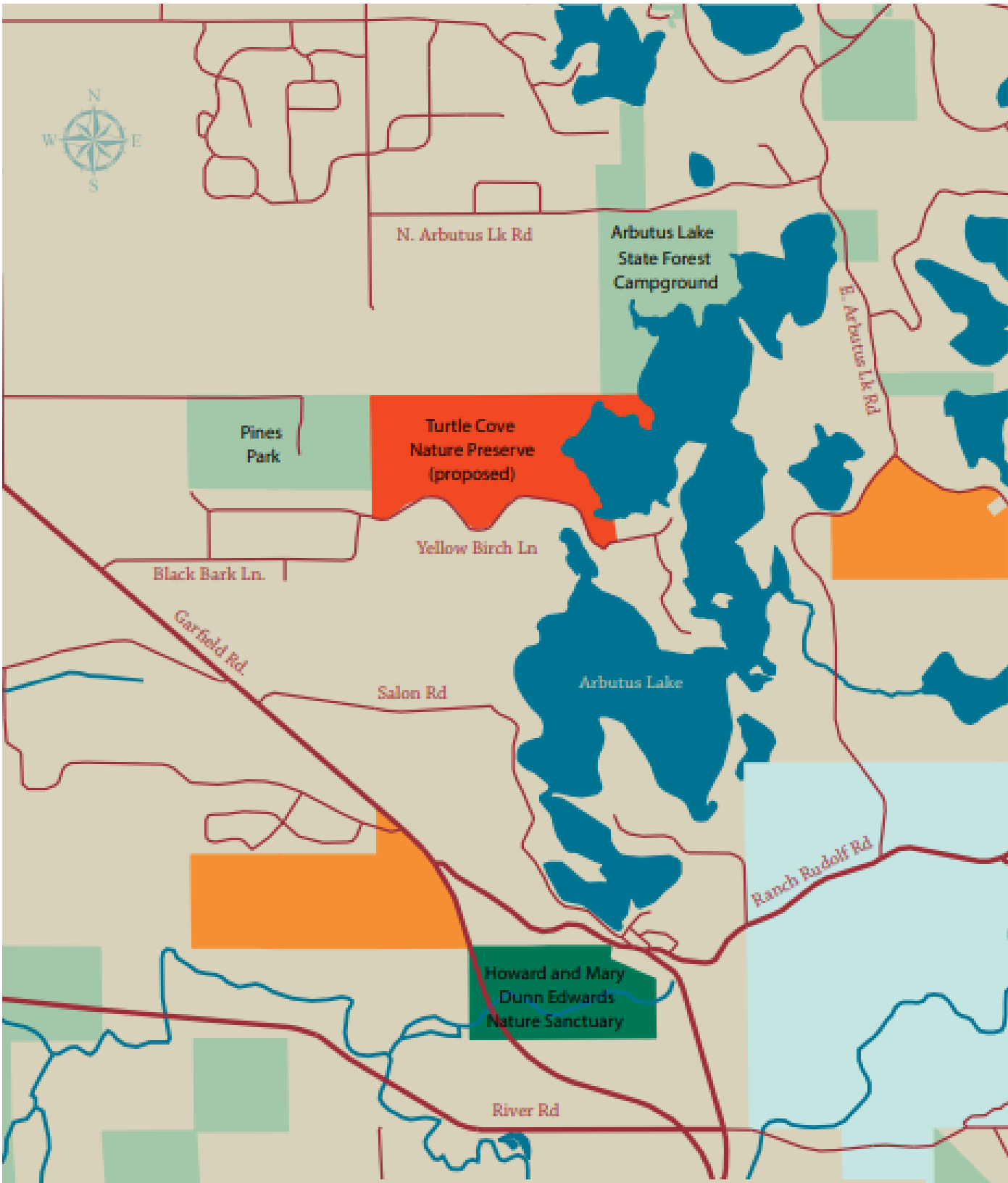


### SUPPORT THIS PROJECT

#### Contact:

Kate Pearson, Senior Charitable Giving Specialist  
p: 231.922.1244  
e: kpearson@gtrlc.org

*\*In the event that fundraising support for a project exceeds the original project fundraising goal, the Conservancy will allocate the overage to purposes that the Conservancy determines further its mission, such as organizational costs, to protect additional land, or to care for the long-term stewardship of protected land.*



**LEGEND**

- GTRLC Protected Land (Public)
  - GTRLC Protected Land (Private)
- Proposed Turtle Cove Nature Preserve
  - Brown Bridge Quiet Area
- Other Public Land

# Camp Hayo-Went-Ha News

By Amanda Macaluso

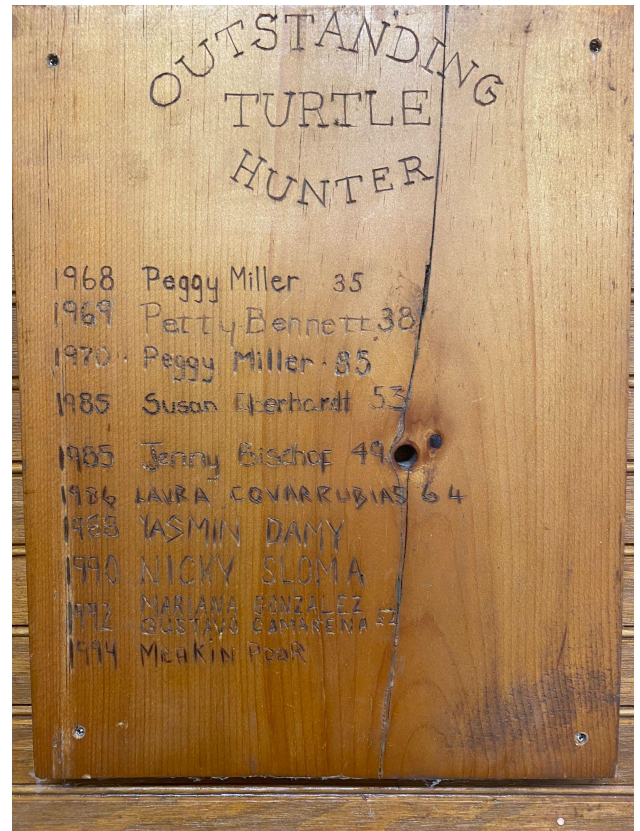
In the light of the excitement surrounding the awareness and preservation of the Turtle Cove conservation initiative I wanted to share the history YMCA Camp Arbutus Hayo-Went-Ha has with Turtle Cove.

It was Grace Macdonald who started the once favorite activity – turtle hunting. She was cruising Arbutus Lake on her pontoon one summer and noticed the great number of turtles in lake 4 that we now all know as Turtle Cove.

The campers used to grab row boats or canoes and some even were lucky enough to be assigned to Mac's pontoon boat to all head to Turtle Cove for the start of the activity. The idea was to catch as many turtles as possible from their boats but inevitably many ended up falling or diving into the water. "We broke all the rules," Mac said with a laugh. Campers would mark the turtle shells with nail polish to identify which ones had been caught before putting them back in the lake.

They even began naming the outstanding turtle hunter every year and that camper was honored and recognized by adding their name to a plaque that still hangs to this day in Trailside Lodge. As a staff member in 1996 I remember this tradition well but it was determined that it really was not the safest activity for our campers. It was also decided that the disturbance to the natural environment was too much and it was best to let the turtles live their lives without the torment of being captured and marked. This article has been adapted from the 100th history book. Please email me if you would like a history book as I am happy to give each of you one if you do not already have one.

In other news – I would also like to thank again everyone who helped us last summer in the kitchen. It was an amazing help to our kitchen staff and also a fun way to get to know you all a little better. This year is looking like it will be a little easier to staff the kitchen with the addition of some international staff but we would certainly welcome volunteers if you are willing and able. We are also having our annual work weekend (May 13, 14th and 15th) and again we would welcome any neighborly assistance if you are in the area and want to spend a few hours at camp helping us tackle a few small maintenance projects, cleaning some buildings, doing a little landscaping and open up cabins in preparation for another summer. Unfortunately, we are once again suspending our Equestrian program as we continue to recover for the year, we had to close due to COVID. In light of this decision, we have some hay bales that we are happy to have available for free if anyone is needing land cover or erosion control. Just let me know when it suits you to stop by for a truckload or two. Our overall staffing situation is certainly much better than this time last year but we do still have a few positions still open. I am looking for a food service 2nd shift leader, Waterfront Director, Ropes Course Director and a general maintenance assistant. If you know anyone who may be interested, please send them my way. The Maintenance assistant could be just 20 hours a week too if there is someone who would just like to work a few days a week. Many of our programs have been filled already but we do still have a few camper openings in some programs, especially the 3rd , 4th , 5th and 6th grade age group in the first part of the summer. I am always happy to chat about camp to anyone who may be interested so if you know anyone who you think would like to be a camper this



summer, please send them my way for more information. Thank you all for being such great neighbors. I really appreciate your support and friendship and I look forward to giving you all a wave as you go by on the lake this summer.

Have a great summer!

Amanda Macaluso

Camp Director, YMCA Camp Arbutus Hayo-Went-Ha

## Arbutus Lake Level Report

The Arbutus Lake level has increased by 5.88 inches during the Winter season. The final reading of 2021 was taken on December 5th, a measurement of 804.55' above sea level (ASL). The first reading of 2022 was taken on April 22<sup>nd</sup>, a measurement of 805.02' ASL. The lake is 1.44 inches higher than it was on the same date last year. It remains 2.4 inches lower the highest level on record, 805.22' ASL, measured October 23, 2020. It is 37.08 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](mailto:bfalenski@yahoo.com)



## 3rd Annual Arbutus Lake Shoe

In early to mid February for the past 3 years, a group of friends and families gather on lake 3 to participate in the Arbutus Lake Shoe! They snowshoe from lake 3 up to lake 5 for a stop at Brandon and Caitlin Falenski's Cottage where they warm up with a bonfire, drinks & snacks and then head back out and snowshoe back to Lake 3. It's about 2 miles round trip. This was the 3rd year doing it and it has grown significantly! They would love to have more people participate this coming year. If you would like more information you can contact Caitlin Falenski [caitlinschultz@gmail.com](mailto:caitlinschultz@gmail.com)

## 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 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](mailto:keithday512@gmail.com).

## 2022 Arbutus Lake Association Meetings Schedule:

June 18 – General Membership Meeting (10:00 AM)  
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.

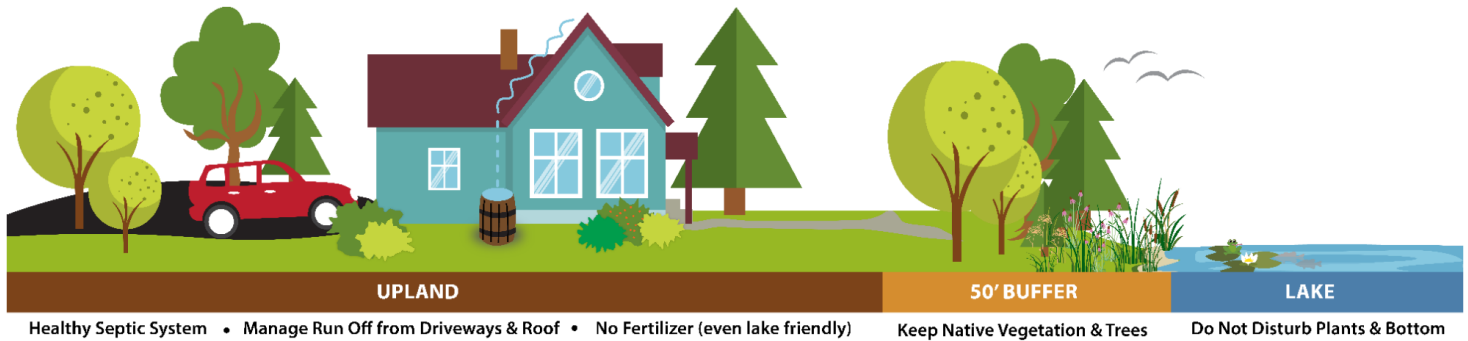
## REMINDER! Have you paid your dues?

Your Annual Dues of \$50 Were Due August 31, 2021.  
If you have forgotten to pay them there is still time!

Dues are payable to:

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





## Weed Report Spring 2022

**Milfoil** - We are planning on treating the Lake once the water temperatures reach at least 60 - 65 degrees F at 10 feet of depth. Currently, the weather has been cold and the water temperature is having a hard time increasing, so doubt that we will be treating before the first week in June. The treatment is weather dependent and we like to accomplish it in the middle of the week so we do not interfere with the weekend recreation.



If you are interested in helping with the Milfoil process, please contact me and I will put you to work where needed.

**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.

If you have any questions or comments please feel free to contact me.

Mike Bobrowski  
995-9887  
[airenergy@charter.net](mailto:airenergy@charter.net)





Arbutus Lake Association  
P.O. box 404 Mayfield, MI  
Meeting Agenda  
04-23-2022

- **Meeting Called to Order:** by President Sue Foster at 9:00 AM (East Bay Township Hall)
- **Roll Call:** (Present) Sue Foster, Keith Day, Caitlin Falenski, Jodi Derylo, Brandon Falenski, Harry Knol, Nancy McCullick, Cindy Swift, Mike Bobrowski, Edie Gibbs, Allyson Tinker (phone); (absent) Randy Bancino & Kathi Mudd,
- **Approval of the Current Agenda:** moved by Nancy McCullick; second by Jodi Derylo; all in favor.
- **Guest Speakers:** Kate Pearson, Senior Charitable Giving Specialist & Steve Lagerquist, Senior Stewardship for the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy. GTRLC is thrilled for the potential of preserving Turtle Cove. In December 2021, GTRLC entered into an agreement with Casey & Dana Cowell to work towards protecting this property (120 acres). Total purchase price: \$2.473million. Currently raised \$1.1million. On September 1, 2022 a report will be assessed by the Board of GTRLC to determine if they will option all or only a portion of the proposed land. A trail system will be created in a sustainable way by the Conservancy; will allow access without hurting the natural environment. They do not plan on having water access on the property. A bench will be at water's edge but no dock system. There will not be access to this property from the state campground. Jodi proposed including a "no swimming" sign by the lake because of the muck & safety issues. Parking (gravel) lot would consist of 5-8 spaces off of Yellow Birch (final location not determined yet). No restrooms. No motorized vehicles; purely pedestrians (hikers & snowshoeing). No hunting other than a reserve exception by GTRLC for potential, controlled bow hunting, if necessary. Protecting the natural shoreline is a paramount focus for GTRLC. May 14<sup>th</sup> is the first GTRLC hike on the property. GTRLC's goal is to have a public hike once a week to show the property & learn more about the process – possibly in July 2022.
- **Review and approval of September 25, 2021 meeting minutes:** Jodi motioned; Keith second; all in favor.
- **Treasurer's report review and approval (including year-end report):** Jodi motioned; Nancy second; all in favor.

Old Business:

- **Newsletter (Jodi):** Turtle Cove GTRLC project will be included. April 30<sup>th</sup> is deadline for submission of topics. Camp spring cleanup – May 13, 14 & 15.
- **Website Development (Nancy):** draft completed; BEAUTIFUL. URL still needs to be secured.
- **Invasive species status. (Mike):** water temp needs to be 60 degrees; only 42 degrees right now. Thinking end of May, into June. Specific date TBD. Chemical needs to be ordered by Mike.
- **Water quality and testing report (Edie Gibbs or Sue Foster):** Phosphorous test is done within 2 weeks of ice out (will be done today). Dissolved oxygen meter can be rented through MiCorps; needs to be done every 3 years.
- **Water level report (Brandon):** 805.02'; 2.4" lower than high from October 23, 2020. Up 5.64" from last reading in December 2021. Minimum level was September 2011 & we are 37" above that. Mike recommends looking at the flow of water at the channel in lake #1; it is flowing but concerned the construction disrupted the outflow. Spider Lake does not have an official measurement tool, but it seems up. Edie will call Drain Commissioner re: a flow meter.
- **Loon nesting status (Jodi):** will be going out this week at the old location on lake #5.

- **Welcome Packets information (Kathi):** Kathi has a stack of them & she is welcoming new neighbors as they become official.
- **Archives (Keith):** all current items (minutes, newsletters, financials, etc.) are uploaded to google docs at the time they are released. Need to determine what historical docs have legal weighting & what to upload.
- **New Signs for Turtle Cove, Boat Launch & South Lake 2 (Jodi):** working on verbiage & location – still TBD. Consolidated the boat launch sign with this bullet point also.
- **Governmental Relations Committee (Brandon or Nancy):** Parks Commission: planned redevelopment of Lake #5 Park. Received EGLE permit beginning of March. Most likely behind schedule for a Spring 2022 start. ZBA: boating decision at Lakemore Resort. ZBA upheld the existing decision (630sqft of total watercraft). Planning Commission: GOREC PUD recommended for approval to the Board (May 9 public hearing). Nancy had a conversation with Preston Taylor, Zoning Administrator at the Township: new builds are provided with a copy of the Forest Lakes Overlay to ensure the checklist is reviewed & complied with during the build process.
- **Proposed Amendment to Forest Lakes Overlay Update:** see above re: Preston Taylor's new process of new builds & Forest Lakes checklist. **Consolidate with Governmental Relations bullet point.**
- **GT County Soil Erosion:** Faith Sousa with the County does not have to enforce the Forest Lakes Overlay but is cognizant of the rules & flags the applications appropriately. **Consolidate with Governmental Relations bullet point.**
- **Communications with Non-ALA members:** need to cross reference mailing list vs emailing list & see who is missing. Nancy & Edie will work together on this.
- **Educational Presentation to MLS w/Spider & Rennie Lakes:** Sue proposed idea to pre-educate buyers in the Forest Lakes Area. Nancy is in support. More to come on this.
- **Conservation Committee Update (Nancy):** see above re: Kate's presentation with GTRLC.

#### New Business:

- **ALA fundraising for Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy:** Nancy suggested a fundraising event at her home and/or tent on Turtle Cove – happy hour with opportunity to make donations + pontoon rides.
- **Other New Business Topics:** seedling purchase in the future – does ALA want to get involved with a bulk purchase & offer them to members? Try to organize for 2023 sale.

#### 2022 Meetings Calendar:

- April 23rd, 9:00 AM, EBT Hall
- May 21st, 9:00 AM, EBT Hall
- June 18th, 10:00 AM, EBT Hall
- July 16th, 9:00 AM, EBT Hall
- August 14<sup>th</sup>, 10:00AM, YMCA Girls Camp
- September 17th, 9:00 AM, EBT Hall

Allyson motioned to try the breakfast general meeting on August 14, 10AM; Jodi second; all in favor.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:31AM.

Minutes submitted by Caitlin Falenski (secretary).

Arbutus Lake Association  
TREASURER'S REPORT  
February 28, 2022

Balance September 1, 2021		\$ 10,144.29
Income		
Dues/Contributions Current Year	\$ 5,970.00	
Interest	-	\$ 5,970.00
Expenses		
Milfoil Treatment	-	
Mailing Ballots	-	
Newsletter Production/Mailing	-	
Office Supplies	-	
Web Hosting	-	
Water Quality Testing	-	
Admin - PO Box	62.00	
Misc.	79.18	
Meeting Expenses	-	
Insurance	-	
Signage	103.33	
Bank Charge	-	
Refunds	-	
Michigan Annual Report Filing	-	\$ 244.51
Balance February 28, 2022		\$ 15,869.78
General Bank Account 2/28/22		\$ 15,869.78
Check's not yet cleared (N/A)		\$ -
TOTAL AVAILABLE CASH		\$ 15,869.78

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	89
Members Paid For Fiscal 2021	19
Friends Paid For Fiscal 2022	2

***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