



Lake Leelanau

LAKE ASSOCIATION

Winter/Spring 2014
News & Views from the Watershed

Here Comes the Sun!



Photo by Cathy Fisher

President's Letter

What a winter! This has been a winter of "Wow". For those of you who stay in the North and enjoy all that winter has to offer this has been one of the most beautiful winters ever.

We have been ice skating, snow shoeing, and both downhill and cross country skiing. The snow mobile trails, both groomed and natural, have been smooth and beautiful. The snow-covered trees and lower vegetation have been absolutely breathtaking throughout the winter.

To come indoors and sit by the warm fireplace and read a good book with the wind howling around the corners of the house is a wonderful change from enjoying winter directly.

In the next few weeks the transition from winter to spring to summer will take place with its own beauty and wonder. The melting and movements of the lake ice are fascinating to watch. Each spring it takes a different path and schedule.

As we move to spring and summer your Lake Association restarts some on-going activities that were not possible during the winter months.

- Boater safety training and water quality monitoring will be initiated for the 2014 season.
- Tentative plans are being made to expand the water quality program with the help of a student intern from the Water Resource Institute.
- Identifying and eradicating invasive species will continue.

The Lake Association continues to search for the best formula for protection from swimmers itch. We will also continue our efforts to understand the life cycle of the parasites that cause swimmers itch to determine what can be done to reduce the number of parasites that exist in our shoreline waters. This issue is not unique to Lake Leelanau. It is a challenging issue that affects nearly all inland lakes near our latitude.

We are in the planning stage for our Legacy event that will be held next fall on September 6th. We have selected the Lake Leelanau R V Park on the west side of south lake for this event. The R V park has a beautiful lodge that will give us protection should the weather be an issue. Mary Taylor is coordinating this event and will communicate the details when they're available.

If you have questions, concerns, or comments about our Lake Association activities or issues affecting our lake or watershed, please feel free to communicate with any of the board members. We appreciate your communications and support of our lake association. We look forward to an enjoyable and safe spring and summer season.



Rick Thompson

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Image Contributors: Barbara Abbott, Rebecca Abbott, Cathy Fisher, Sherrie Hardie, Larry Hauser, Lake Leelanau Lake Association, Saving Birds Thru Habitat, Mary Taylor, Rick Thompson, Wikipedia Commons

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Mission Statement

To make this body of water, Lake Leelanau, a better place to live. To establish on-going programs to promote and protect the best interest and uses of riparian owners, boaters, fishers, bathers, and all other parties who have access to this body of water. In doing so, the Association will review and respond to all issues relating to the protection and preservation of the Lake Leelanau environment, the surrounding land and the water, including issues regarding safety, and recreational enjoyment of the lake. In addition the Association will address issues related to governmental regulation and taxation, and will review all property development proposals to determine what impact the projects could have on the riparian owners and users of Lake Leelanau.

Introducing Secretary Cindy Kacin

My name is Cindy Kacin and I'm pleased to be able to serve on the Lake Leelanau Lake Association Board as Secretary. My husband, Jim, and I have visited this area for all of our lives. We have lived here for the last ten years. Now that I am retired from a career in education, I am ready to give back to this lake and land. LLLA is a great organization and I'm excited to work with such a dedicated and great group of people.



Get on Board



Join us!

Sera Thompson, Rick Thompson, Colleen Moose, Wayne Swallow, Wayne Wunderlich, Hugh Farber, John Popa, Pete Taylor (shown L to R)

Help Wanted

email: leelanaukassn@aol.com | phone: 271-6091

Township Representative Suttons Bay: Township Representatives are the Association's eyes & ears, and sometimes voices, in the several townships in the Lake Leelanau watershed. It is important that riparian concerns be considered, and riparian interests be represented, in these townships' deliberations.

Water Safety Chair: The Water Safety Chair chairs the Water Safety Committee and oversees efforts to educate and inform Lake Association members and other riparians about safe boating, swimming, fishing, and other activities on the lake.



Float Crew Volunteers Wanted

**Help keep the LLLA a-float,
in the parade, and on the
march**

Thanks to Colleen & Preston Moose and Gordon & Sharon Zimmer for putting together this great float for the 2013 Fourth of July Parade in Leland! And

thanks to Colleen and Preston for keeping the Lake Association a-float and in the parade for lo, these many years. The Mooses and Zimmers say, this was their last hurrah; so, we are looking to put together a new float crew for next year. If you are interested e-mail us at info@lakeleelanau.org.

Membership Report

Sera Thompson



I hate to admit it, but I am one of those full-year residents who escaped the unusually cold temperatures and headed south briefly in February. I was asked upon my return, “Don’t you wish you were back in Florida?” I smiled and said that no, I don’t. Yes, I will make another visit south, but my appreciation of the starkly beautiful landscape of winter in northern Michigan is one of the reasons I live here. Soon enough this will evolve into a melting mess that is not so beautiful, with its jagged and gray fading snowbanks, and brown slush. But, oh, I know what awaits us after that brief transition. We are rewarded with the slowly awakening spring and the golden season - summer.

We hope that, wherever you are and whatever season you are enjoying, you too have a special place in your heart for one of the great natural resources of northern Michigan: Lake Leelanau. Indeed, that is why so many savor their annual visits from near and far, in addition to those who choose to live here year round.

We continue to appreciate the notes and comments, the change of address notifications, and other correspondence you have included in your membership envelopes. If you are lucky enough to have a place on Lake Leelanau - for any amount of time - we encourage you to be a part of our membership, if you are not already. This special place needs the stewardship and loving care of all in her surrounding area to continue to be a healthy and safe environment. Again, we thank all who have initiated and renewed memberships.

In the next couple of months we will be sending out reminders to those whose membership might have slipped past their calendar, or might not have ever been members. If you have neighbors who are not currently members, you can help by reminding them of the importance of joining the community of members around the lake. Members can choose to be part of the Legacy Circle and receive an invitation to the Legacy Event held annually in September in a unique or historic locale. Those events have become reunions of seasoned and new friends in the colorful fall season that gives a breather and refresher after the busy summer.

In several months I will be relinquishing the role of membership chairperson to Barb Kobberstad. As you receive reminders from Barb or other volunteers to renew your membership or as you make the initial step as a member, please be sure to complete the upper flap of the membership envelope completely. This will help Barb in keeping records complete and accurate and will save her from having to complete the form. We have moved the checkbox to request a garden flag to the upper flap to make it easier to mark and to add to our records.

As always, if you have questions or comments, please do feel free to contact me via email or telephone. Sera Thompson: goodharbor@charter.net or 231.668.7984.

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 \$14.00. To subscribe, mail your contact information (mailing address & phone) along with a check for \$14 to The Riparian | 300 N. State St. Suite A | Stanton, MI 48888 Or complete & mail the downloadable form from their website: <http://www.mi-riparian.org/>.

Correspondence

Peter Wolcott:

The mystery painting (shown below) on your (fall 2013) newsletter was painted above The Springs on Lake Michigan, where the East Leland families picnicked in the summer. This is approximately where Schomberg Road ends at M-22 a few miles South of Leland. I have a painting similar to it in Australia. It is Good Harbor Bay.



Good Harbor Bay: Hugo VonHofsten

Old News

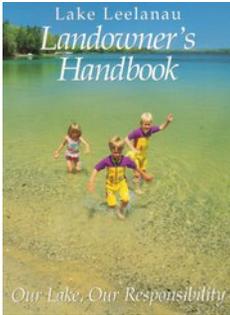
from the *Traverse City Record Eagle* feature “100 Years Ago” (1/19/2014)

SHERIFF WALTER GREILICK of Leelanau County is planning on setting up trap nets in Carp Lake to eliminate dogfish (shown below) and other undesirable denizens of that well known body of water. The catch will be hauled out and sorted. Desirables are pike, pickerel, carp, bass, etc. If the plan works well, the lake will soon be stocked with some of the best fish known in the area.



IMAGE SOURCE: commons.wikipedia.org

EDITOR'S NOTE: My Mother-in-Law, Barbara Trueblood Abbott (photo, p. 7) used to claim that it was this purge of dogfish from the lake that brought on the swimmers itch. Go know.



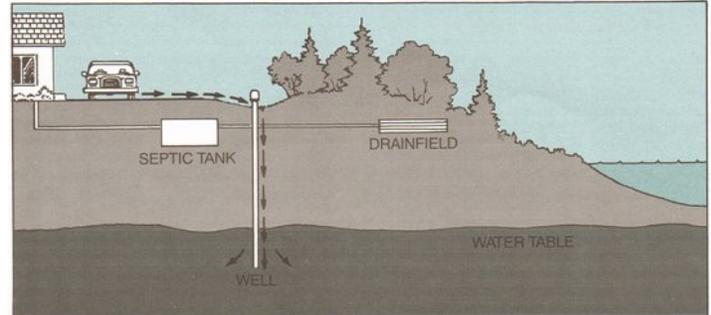
from **Chapter 2**
**Common Problems and
 Their Solutions**

to read more of this Handbook

visit our Website

www.lakeleelanau.org

under the Media tab select Handbook



Well Water Safety

If at any time your drinking water suddenly develops a strange color, smell or taste – stop drinking it immediately and get it tested! Your household water supply is nothing to fool around with—it’s your most serious and immediate vulnerability to water pollution. Virtually all residents in the Lake Leelanau watershed rely on wells that tap the groundwater to supply their homes, businesses and farms. Therefore, you act as your own water utility and bear the primary responsibility for protecting yourself and your family.

In general, the groundwater of the Lake Leelanau watershed is of exceptional quality. Layers of porous material, such as sand and gravel, lie beneath the surface of the land and hold large amounts of freshwater. These water-bearing formations act like giant sponges that hold the water in a subterranean reservoir. Like surface water, ground water flows, although at a much slower rate. The groundwater is recharged by rainfall and precipitation that soaks into the ground and slowly migrates into the groundwater reservoir. Often, the groundwater reemerges as springs that replenish creeks and lakes. On the other hand, groundwater can remain underground for hundreds of years.

The process of precipitation hitting the surface and migrating to the deep reservoirs acts like a filtration system and removes impurities. In an environment where natural systems like wetlands and forests are still intact, the vegetation removes most of the impurities from moisture in the first few feet of soil and subsoil. In an area of dense human development, the moisture that enters the groundwater often bypasses natural filtration systems. For instance, the effluent from a properly operating septic system is broken down by biological activity in your septic tank and field. Nevertheless, the biological activity produces nutrients that begin the downward migration into the groundwater supply without passing through a “green” living filter such as a wetland. If too many septic fields load the groundwater in a concentrated area, the result can be unhealthy levels of compounds such as nitrogen (see page 13 for health risks related to nitrogen).

Things to do:

- Arrange to have your well water tested periodically (your health department provides this service). It may have been decades since it was last tested—and don’t rely on the test results of a neighbor! Two water wells side by side could be tapping two different water-bearing formations, with two very different water quality results.

- Always work with reputable, licensed well drillers that secure the proper permits. Ask for references and check with the Health Department if you have any doubts

- Identify the location of your water well and septic field. The well shaft should be sealed around the perimeter to stop surface water from working its way down the side of the well shaft and directly into the groundwater (not just in dry conditions, but also during rainstorms). **THIS IS A COMMON WAY THAT WELLS BECOME TAINTED!** (See figure on page 16.) Make certain that the well is far enough away from the septic field that effluent from the septic system has no opportunity to work its way into the groundwater alongside the well shaft. In general, make certain that your septic field is in proper working order. See page 34 on Waste Water Management and page 32 on Stormwater Controls.

- Never dispose of toxic chemicals, such as gasoline, motor oil, antifreeze, solvents, etc., in your drain (and thereby into your septic system) or by spreading on the ground or driveway. These chemicals can migrate deep into the earth and a small amount can taint huge quantities of groundwater. See page 36 on Hazardous Material Disposal.

Septic System Maintenance

Virtually every home on Lake Leelanau uses some form of a septic system or holding tank to dispose of wastewater. The drain pipes of the household plumbing system lead to a large concrete tank buried near the house. Solids settle to the bottom of the tank. Greases and oils float to the surface. Anaerobic bacteria (bacteria that thrive without oxygen) in the tank decompose the wastes into by-products such as carbon dioxide, methane and water. If the system is a holding tank, the tank is regularly pumped out and the wastes are usually spread in agricultural fields.

Most septic systems use a drain field. The drain field is a grid of perforated drain pipes buried in gravel and is covered with several feet of soil. The septic tank is designed so that as wastes in the septic tank break down into liquids, the wastewater moves through an outflow pipe and flows into the drain field. There, the waste waters soak into the gravel and migrate into the soil. In the drain field, another form of bacteria (aerobic, or oxygen-using) continues to break down compounds in the wastewater.

Septic systems do an excellent job of eliminating dangerous organisms such as coliform bacteria. Although a properly operating septic system will not necessarily protect the watershed from phosphorus and nitrogen, it will do a lot better job than an out-dated or faulty system. Thus, the need to maintain the system properly—for your family's health and the lake's health.

Things to do: Read and carefully follow the Best Management Practices below.

from **Chapter 3**

Solutions and Stewardship

Waste Water and Healthy Septic Systems

Septic systems do an excellent job of destroying the bacteria of human waste that can harm you and your family. (See the illustration below). Unfortunately, even a properly designed and operating septic system will still allow waste water to carry nutrients into the lake. Nevertheless, you can minimize the nutrient release of your waste water system by following a few simple recommendations.

Work only with reputable and conscientious contractors.

Be wary of contractors who offer to save you money by cutting corners. A properly located and installed septic system provides a safe and effective method of wastewater treatment. An improperly installed septic system can spell disaster for the entire neighborhood, by polluting the surface and/or groundwater with nitrates, fecal bacteria and viruses. Properly operating septic systems require sludge removal every 3 to 5 years, when the sludge level exceeds 1/3 of the tank volume. Talk to your neighbors about coordinating maintenance and reduced cost through a group pumping program.

Make sure you know where your septic tank and drain field are located in the yard. That way you will be able to keep track of potential problems. See page 17 and the illustration above for a simple explanation of the operation of your septic system. (Some forms of clear waste water, such as the outflow of a sump pump or a foundation drain, do not need to drain into your septic system and can be routed elsewhere.)

Keep drainfields clear.

Drainfields are one of the few places you don't want to plant trees. Root systems will clog and interfere with the flow through the pipes. Keep cars and heavy equipment off the drainfield to protect it from compaction. Direct rainwater from gutters and run-off from paved areas away from the drainfield. Too much water on the drainfield will accelerate the leaching of nutrients. Never build or pave over a drainfield or septic tank.

Watch for signs of septic system damage or-failure.

Foul odors around the septic tank or drainfield, sewage odor in the basement, depressions in the surface of the ground in and around the drainfield, lush green grass over the drainfield, spongy or soggy lush green grass over the drainfield, spongy or soggy areas in the drainfield, cladophora growth near your shoreline, and a backed-up or sluggish toilet, are all indicators of possible problems in the septic systems. Immediately secure the help of a professional if you suspect any problems.

Be careful of what goes down the drain or toilet.

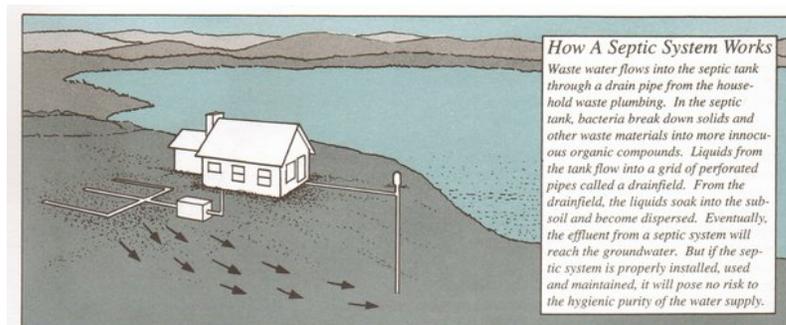
Anything disposed of in the drain or toilet ends up in the septic tank. Household chemicals and cleaners, like bleach or drain cleaner, should be avoided because they kill off the bacteria that break down the solid waste in the septic tank. Without the bacteria to break them down, solids will build up and can cause back-ups. Garbage disposals can overload the septic system and make frequent maintenance necessary. The following items should never be put down the drain as they will not break down in the system: grease, hair, cigarette butts, facial tissues, paper towels, feminine hygiene supplies, bandages, paint, solvents, motor oil, or any other household hazardous waste. Don't use toilets as trash cans!

Conserve water.

The more water that flows through the septic system, the faster and more intense will be the release of nutrients into the ground. As a rule, by conserving water you will reduce nitrogen releases. Water conservation will also cut electricity bills, since the water well uses AC power to pump the water into the household. Distribute laundry loads throughout the week to avoid overloading the system and always use detergents without, or very low in, phosphates.

Beware of the "quick fix."

Commercial chemical products that claim to clean septic tanks are no substitute for proper maintenance. These products convert the organic material in the septic tank into a liquid that will move quickly through the drainfield. Accelerating the normal decay process from solid waste to liquids will send much larger amounts of nutrients into the water systems and could contaminate nearby surface and groundwater.





Gwen Rich

excerpted from her obituary in the *Traverse City Record Eagle*
<http://www.record-eagle.com/obituaries/>

Gwendolyn "Gwen" Louise (Gregory) Rich, 75, of Suttons Bay, passed away Wednesday, Oct. 2, 2013, at Traverse Victorian Inn.

Gwen was born on March 26, 1938, in Detroit, the daughter of Fred Everett "Tyke" Gregory and Margaret Gordon (Paterson) Gregory. On July 2, 1977, she married the late James L. Rich in Bay City.

Gwen graduated from Mt. Whitney High School, Visalia, Calif., attended College of the Pacific in Stockton, Calif., and graduated from Katharine Gibbs Secretarial School in Montclair, N.J. Gwen worked for Ford Motor Co. and retired in 1994.

After retirement, she volunteered in many organizations in the area. Gwen was on the Board of Directors for the Art Center, Northwest Michigan Woodcarvers, ShareCare of Leelanau and the Lake Leelanau Lake Association.

You can read the complete Record Eagle Obituary online at our website: www.lakeleelanau.org. You can share memories of Gwen with her friends there as well.

Remembrances

Larry Hauser - Gwen was the Membership Chair of our Association for many years. Along with her husband Jim (shown right), she created the LLLA member database, which for many years Gwen maintained. For those many years she also oversaw the distribution of the newsletter and, with Jim's help, its assembly; no small tasks, take it from me. No-nonsense, down-to-earth, computer adept before her time; and giving. That's how I remember Gwen.



Bill LeGray - While I did not know Gwen at the Ford Motor Co, when I retired 7 years later from the same place, we worked closely together with regards to the Revenues side of the LLLA Treasurer function. I felt with Gwen our records were impeccable. At our first LLLA picnic behind St. Mary's, we won a lovely wood carving made by Jim. As a couple, they displayed a special togetherness and thoughtfulness. Both Gwen and Jim will be remembered for a long time and will be missed around our Lake Leelanau Community.

Hugh Farber - Gwen was the membership chair during the time (and probably before and after) my stint as President of the LLLA. She was an awesome supporter of the LLLA and worked in an almost issue free membership chairmanship role due to her efforts. She was a real friend during this time frame - and remarkably responsive to the needs of the LLLA. I have nothing but good things in my memory of Gwen!!

The 2014 Leelanau BirdFest

May 28 thru
June 1



Check for updates and information or
sign up at
<http://mibirdfest.com/>

The website for the Fourth Annual Leelanau Peninsula BirdFest is up, and registration is open. There are a few changes, the most notable being that we will no longer meet at Fountain Point. Lake Leelanau is the home of the festival, and registration will take place all days at the Leelanau Peninsula Chamber of Commerce office. Evening activities will take place at the Saving Birds Thru Habitat building at 5020 N. Putnam Road.

Kay Charter
Executive Director
Saving Birds Thru Habitat
Omena MI, 49674-0288
231-271-3738
www.savingbirds.org

BirdFest Update

Kay Charter

This year, the Leelanau Peninsula Birding Festival adds a great new feature. Swarovski digiscoping expert Clay Taylor and Enerdyne owner and optics expert Dick Cookman will be at Saving Birds Thru Habitat on Saturday, May 31st. Taylor will demonstrate how to pair your cell phone or camera with a spotting scope to get close up shots of birds, dragonflies or other aspects of the natural world.

At 10:00AM and again at 2:00PM, Taylor will present workshops demonstrating the use of cameras or cell phones with various Swarovski spotting scopes. Charter Sanctuary will be open throughout the day, allowing participants to field test the widest selection of sporting optics available in Michigan. Clay and Cookman will be available from 9:00AM until 4:00PM to answer your optics questions.



Coming Events

10th Annual Kid's Fishing Day

Sunday, June 29
Veronica Valley County Park

2014 Annual Meeting

When: TBA
Where: TBA

7th Annual Legacy Circle Celebration

Saturday, September 6
Lake Leelanau RV Park Lodge



On the Water Front

Wayne Swallow

During 2014 the Lake Leelanau Lake Association (LLLA) will again be monitoring North and South Lake water quality through its involvement in the Cooperative Lake Monitoring Program. Eventually, we hope to summarize this information to track trends of both lakes in regard to the "health" of the lakes. Many thanks go to Wayne Wunderlich, Ray Malcoun, Jeff Sanborn and Kay Johnson who volunteer their time for the monitoring events! New to our program this year will be internships. LLLA has discussed an internship program with Northern Michigan College, and it appears there may be an opportunity that we could sponsor a couple student projects. Watch for more in our summer newsletter.



Barbara ("Bobbie") Abbott (nee Trueblood)
circa 1929

Here's Bobbie ... striking a pose reminiscent of the White Rock Girl, as daughter Abbie Panetierre (nee Abbott) notes; and evincing the pensive and wistful qualities which she always kept so well-concealed, all her children observe.

The photo looks to me to have been shot at the foot of what is now Horn Road, in East Leland. The view to the north looks like "Professors Bay," so called due to the number of academics who vacationed on its shores. It was probably taken around 1929, when Bobbie would have been fifteen. This photo was recently discovered by Bert Thomas, who shared it with Porter Abbott, and thence, the rest of the Abbott clan.

Spring Songs

go to our website to click and play

[Here comes the Sun](#) the Beatles

[Morning Has Broken](#) Cat Stevens

[The Rose](#) Bette Midler

[Turn Turn Turn](#) Pete Seeger

[Turn Turn Turn](#) the Byrds



www.lakeleelanau.org



Our Deck Lakeside
Photo by Sherrie Hardie



Almost up to the Lamps
Photo by Barbara Abbott