



Lake Leelanau

LAKE ASSOCIATION

Autumn 2016
News & Views from the Watershed



President's Letter by Nick Fleezanis

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Coming soon



It was my pleasure to serve as vice-president alongside President George Prewitt. During those two years under George's leadership the Lake Association made important strides to improve the quality of our beloved lake. We began an initiative to control and improve the swimmer's itch problem through an agreement with SICON and fundraising for the program is ongoing.

Lake Leelanau was also a major participant in the formation of the Michigan Swimmer's Itch Partnership (MSIP), an organization composed of twenty-four lakes that have agreed to tackle the problem and seek out funding. The MSIP was instrumental in securing a quarter of a million dollar grant from the State of Michigan to aid in its efforts.

We purchased lake monitoring equipment to enable better and more accurate control of lake levels. We also improved the association's media presence by creating a Facebook page to go with our website, and upgraded our newsletter thanks to Mark Smith's efforts. The buoys that mark the Narrows, Carp River mouth and in the river by Stander Marine were upgraded, thanks to Bonnie Gotshall. The association also advocated for a community drain field to be installed for Sunset Shore Drive.

The Kids' Fishing Day was again an overwhelming success with well over five hundred children participating. We must thank all of the volunteers and organizations who made donations, and of course Pete Taylor, who made this event happen again. What do we have to look forward to in the coming two years? The second year of the swimmer's itch program with SICON will see the beginning of the control measures to reduce and control the problem. The trapping and relocation of Merganser Ducks and the locating and covering of their nests is the main thrust of this second year of a four-year process. More formal fundraising efforts to support swimmer's itch efforts will be headed by Steve Lindo.

The process has already begun to print a new version of the Land Owners Handbook, some 20 years after its first printing. Updates and new information will be essential for the riparians and users of the lake to be aware of and make strides to keep our lake pristine. The plan is to hand deliver each hand book to individual landowners and businesses in late Spring 2017.

Along with this all-volunteer board listed on the next page, I look forward to serving you. **Nick Fleezanis**



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Image Contributors: copyright Mark Smith

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.

Communications Report by Mark Smith



We do good work here, and my job is to make sure everybody hears about it.

Our digital presence continues to grow. Our website, LakeLeelanau.org, is a marvelous compendium of information, worthy of a visit any day, with frequently updated posts. Please visit our site and **sign up for our newsletter** so you will never miss a post. We also have a Facebook site, which mirrors and adds to our website, and is increasing in popularity daily. Please like us on Facebook! And please share our stories around. This is how we build our organization

Share your photos too

As you can see from this issue of our newsletter, we love photos of the lake: people having fun, wildlife, beauty, and of course sunsets .. plenty of sunsets! We would love to share your photos too! Send to mark@lakeleelanau.org Thanks!

Lake Leelanau Lake Association
Like us on Facebook – spread the word!



Membership Report by Barbara Kobberstad

Summer of 2016 has passed and, boy, was it a good one. I hope you enjoyed all your sun and water activities!



Our new membership envelope, with more space for writing, is providing me with more information that has been previously missing. Hurray! Note that **when you provide a summer address, let me know if it is a mailing address or just a physical address with no mail.** Better yet, give me both! I have been getting a lot of returns from the post office because members do not have a mail receptacle at their summer address.

Please remember that if you **provide your email address** when you send in your membership renewals we can keep you updated on important happenings. Better yet, **log onto our website at LakeLeelanau.org and subscribe.** You will then get updates in your email.

A big thank you to Jessie Ray and Carol Wetters who give me much needed help with membership duties. We are always looking for volunteers. We could especially use help with Swimmer's Itch, Kid's Fish Day and from anyone who would be interested in becoming a regional lake leader to help coordinate the distribution of handbooks (in the Spring).

Remember, a reminder will be mailed to you a couple of weeks prior to the expiration date of your specific membership. You may mail your membership in using the envelope provided or update your membership using PayPal.

In closing, let me urge you to ask your neighbors if they are members of the Lake Leelanau Lake Association. If not, encourage them to join. It would be great if everyone who lives on and enjoys Lake Leelanau became members of this organization, because our sole purpose is to preserve and protect our lake and its watershed!

A good day at the cabin begins with a sunrise and ends with a smile.

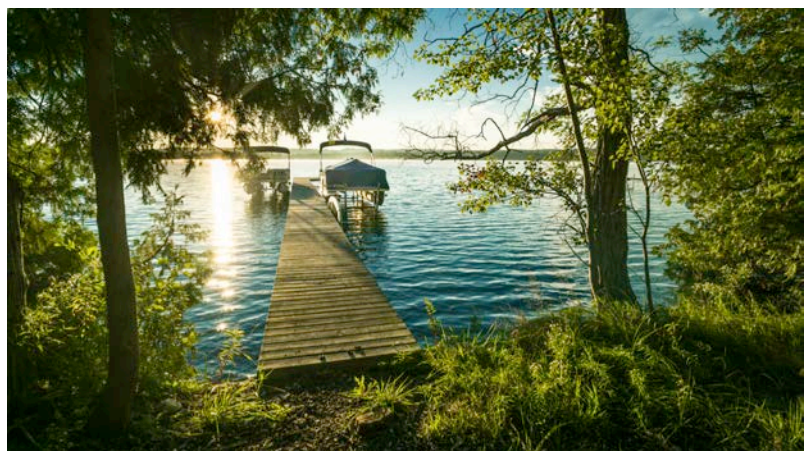
Meet Bonnie Gotshall Water Safety Chair

Our new Water Safety Chair is Bonnie Gotshall. Bonnie is a recently retired teacher of physical education and nutrition, having taught in the TCAPS system for 30 years, almost as long as the 33 years she has lived on Lake Leelanau. Part of Bonnie's job included coaching track and field. Nowadays Bonnie works part time at Aurora Cellars, and still teaches CPR and the PE-NUT program for TCAPS. PE-NUT is a nutrition and physical education program that uses a whole-school approach to motivate students, parents and educators to be physically active and eat healthier. But by far the biggest recent event in Bonnie's recent life has been the marriage of her son. We wish Bonnie well and thank her for stepping up to help our lake stay safe for all boaters



Meet Jeff Green Leland Township Rep

Jeff was born in Lakewood, Ohio, and grew up there, in suburban Detroit, and suburban Chicago. He attended the University of Illinois where he earned a B.S. and Ph.D. in Economics. Upon completion of his graduate work he married the beautiful Susan Dunn and joined the faculty at Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana (IU). Apart from time in Washington, D.C., on the senior staff of the Council of Economic Advisers and the Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania, Jeff spent his entire career as a faculty member and administrator in the College of Arts and Sciences and the Kelley School of Business at IU, retiring in 2004. Jeff and Susan bought their cottage on the North Lake Leelanau in 1987 and spent as much time as possible there until retiring. Since then they spend six months at the lake. As a member of the Lake Association Board, Jeff is primarily interested in issues of water quality.





www.mishorelandstewards.org

www.mishorelinepartnership.org

According to the National Lake Assessment the biggest threat to our nation's inland lakes is the loss of lakeshore habitat. Results show that 40% of Michigan's inland lakes were rated as poor with another 20% rated as fair for loss of habitat and physical lakeshore complexity. These results indicate that high impact development activities such as clearing native vegetation for expansive lawns and large buildings, removing aquatic plants and installation of shoreline structures, such as seawalls are having a negative impact on Michigan inland lakes.

The Michigan Natural Shoreline Partnership (MNSP) is changing this trend through promotion and implementation of lake-friendly landscaping and erosion control methods. The MNSP has developed a new educational tool called the **Michigan Shoreland Stewards Program**.

The **Michigan Shoreland Stewards Program** is a voluntary web-based survey designed to:

- Provide recognition for shoreland property owners for using best management practices to protect their lake.
- Encourage property owners to use natural shoreland landscaping techniques.
- Provide educational resources to help property owners in managing their property for a healthy lake.



Gold Level Certificate

How Does the Survey Work?

The survey asks questions related to management practices in each of the four sections of a shoreland property: upland, buffer, shoreline and lake. Responses to the questions are rated to determine the shoreland steward recognition level.

What's Your Level?

A gold, silver, bronze or starter level rating can be achieved. The survey program provides a certificate of recognition for the first three levels. Stewards then have the option to purchase a sign.

For more information on the MSS program contact:

Eli Baker
AmeriCorps Member
Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council
eli@watershedcouncil.org

Julia Kirkwood
MNSP Chair
MDEQ-Water Resources Division
KIRKWOODJ@michigan.gov

www.mishorelandstewards.org

www.mishorelinepartnership.org

Water Quality Report by Hugh Farber

In general the quality of water in LL appears to remain excellent. There are a few localized concerns, e.g. algae, shoreline foam, and swimmer's itch, which will be covered by our biologist, Wayne Swallow. If you have water quality concerns based on observations, please let us know.



Brown algae blooms continue to be reported sporadically by members. The Three Lakes Ass'n (Torch Lake, etc) have spent much time and money trying to determine the cause of their large blooms and hopefully a way to reduce or eliminate this unsightly occurrence. So far, they report no way to tie the incidence to ground water (their speculation) and only know it seems dependent on phosphorous. The source of phosphorous could, like LL, be related to septic tank releases and/or lawn fertilization. Crawfish are said to eat the diatoms and where found in abundance, the bloom is reduced. The original reports can be found on the Three Lakes Association web site courtesy of that organization.

An algae of more concern on LL is the blue green algae which can contain microcystins (liver toxins). They are also related to the white foam that piles up on the shore with strong late summer/fall winds. Dogs can ingest this foam -- which should be avoided.

The other algae of concern is cladophora, a green filmy growth generally observed on hard objects on the bottom near shore. This is quite often related to septic tank releases and fertilization of lawns and in itself is an unpleasant material indicative of a potential problem

I continue to recommend members attend the Leelanau Clean water meetings or review the minutes on the Leelanau Clean Water website.

Lake Level Sensors by John Pops

The LLLA has worked closely with the County Government (via the Leland Dam Authority) to install three water level sensors. These sensors are similar to the ones used on Glen and Crystal Lakes. They will provide the dam operator with up-to-date water level readings (and also history) so that the dam can be controlled to maintain the court-ordered water level.



The sensors were ordered in August. They should be built and received by October. They include a remote readout phone connection, solar panel, and backup battery. Some of the posts, tubing, and hardware to support the sensors have been installed, but not fully completed. The sensors will be located near Birch Point on the south lake; in the narrows by M-204 bridge; and in the Leland River.

When everything is installed and operating, anyone should be able to go to a website and see where the water levels are at...and perhaps more information if things work out. Stay tuned!



"Here is a photo of one of your monitoring stations during testing. Shown is the fiberglass enclosure with gasketed door, electronics inside enclosure, solar panel with cable passed through compression fitting, grounding cable, sensor and its certificate of compliance. (For ease of testing, I draped the sensor cable over the lip of the enclosure rather than pass it through the compression fitting.)" Bo Garner, RemoteData Inc.



**Remember ..
time spent on the water
is not deducted from
one's lifespan.**

Shoreline Usage and Docks

by John Popa

The subject frequently comes up about the number of boats or watercraft on a particular piece of shoreline and/or the number of owners that share water frontage. The requirements vary among the townships and keep in mind that some parcels have been grandfathered in. Listed below are bits of information that may help.

- Townships included requirements in their ordinances because of health, safety and the protection of property values.
- The requirements originated because of lawsuits, and also because of recommendations from the statewide township association... around the 1970's and 80's.
- Lake associations worked with their townships to incorporate proper wording.
- The frequently used words were "key holing" and "shoreline usage."
- The basic premise is that only a certain number of families can share a piece of shoreline.
- The number of docks on a shoreline is restricted but may increase as the shoreline distance is increased.
- As mentioned, some properties were already jointly used and therefore are "grandfathered."
- Our lake association keeps tabs on the ordinances to help insure proper wording.
- Our lake association is not an enforcement agency.
- If someone has a concern, the local ordinance should be checked, and then contact the local zoning administrator and/or attend the planning commission.
- Most important is to follow through with the concern... rather than mentioning it and hoping something gets done by others.

We all value our precious waters and it is individuals that are key to the successful completion of our goals.



Water Quality Sampling on Lake Leelanau



Meet Jim Kacin

Fish Chair

Hi, my name is Jim Kacin. You may have seen me out fishing in the lake or at Kid's Fishing Day displaying critters such as snapping turtles, bull frogs, fish, and any creepy crawling thing you might find in a local swamp, stream or lake. I have been asked to chair the Fish Committee, following in Pete Taylor's footsteps, and I plan to continue his fine work. I have a degree in Freshwater Fishery Biology from MSU and have been involved in fish related ventures here in Leelanau County for quite some time. I love living here and consider it PARADISE! I will do all I can to sustain and improve the fishery in Lake Leelanau. Please, if you have any concerns, ideas, or questions, contact me at captainjimbigfish@gmail.com and I will be happy to assist you.



Meet Steve Lindo

Swimmer's Itch Fundraising Chair

Steve Lindo, a Leland resident and Lake Leelanau riparian, has agreed to chair the fundraising campaign, details of which will be announced shortly. When not raising funds for SI research and control, Steve is an independent consultant in the field of financial risk management and an adjunct professor at Columbia University. Some of you may have already seen him on the tennis courts at Hancock Park, playing guitar in Fishtown or driving his black VW convertible.



Fundraising Campaign for Swimmer's Itch Control

As many of you know, LLLA has joined with four other Michigan lake associations to sponsor scientific research into, and control of swimmer's itch (SI). The goal of these efforts is three-fold:

- 1) To more accurately identify and control the causes of SI
- 2) To reduce the incidence of SI to the lowest manageable level, thereby eliminating it as a nuisance for lake residents and visitors
- 3) To identify the members of these five lake associations as being in the forefront of scientific research to control this unique natural phenomenon

The cost of this scientific research and its associated SI control methods is quite significant. While to some extent it is being shared among the five lake associations, and has prospects of receiving financial aid from the State Government, your association board has deemed it prudent to embark on a campaign specifically to raise funds for LLLA's share of the costs, so as not to impair its ability to fund other, equally important association activities.

Wayne's World

From the desk of Water Quality Consultant, Wayne Swallow



SICON “Bridge Program”

As members may recall, Lake Leelanau Lake Association (LLLA) retained Swimmer’s Itch Control, LLC (SICON) in a program that was designed to “bridge” a year of baseline studies to a comprehensive, research, education and control program in 2017. SICON fulfilled all tasks outlined in its proposal.

1. A survey of North Lake Leelanau (NLL) and South Lake Leelanau (SLL) to determine the relative abundance and identification of snails and of the cercariae released from the snails through DNA analysis.
2. Complete two complete bird surveys of shorelines of both NLL and SLL. Fecal samples will be gathered from young birds to collect parasite eggs and miracidia (parasite larvae) which will be sent for DNA analysis for identification.
3. Education and Outreach
4. Determination of whole-lake snail parasite infection rate.
5. Research coordination
6. While not part of the proposal, SICON also provided Wayne Swallow infected snails for his on-going research to develop a topical lotion to prevent SI (SI).

You may access the full report at the following link: <http://lakeleelanau.org/swimmers-itch/>. Following are some highlights of the work SICON performed for each of the numbered tasks above.

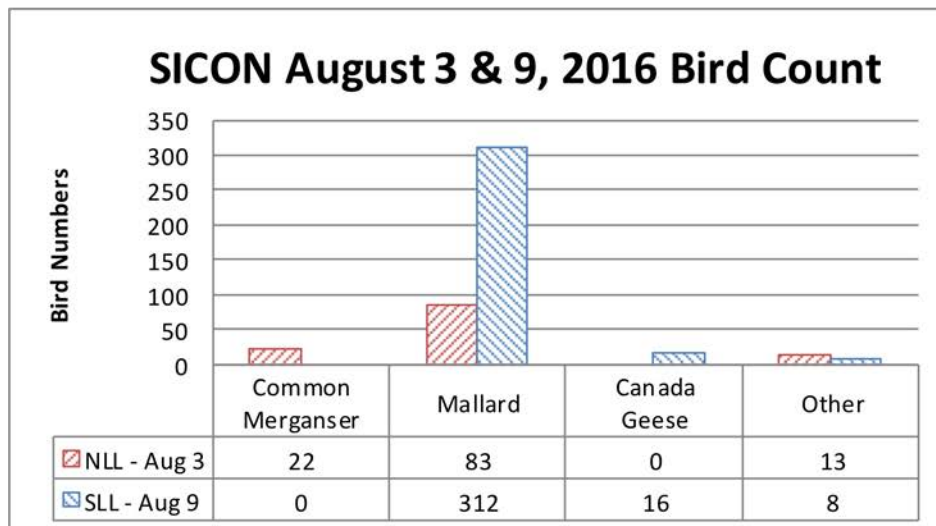
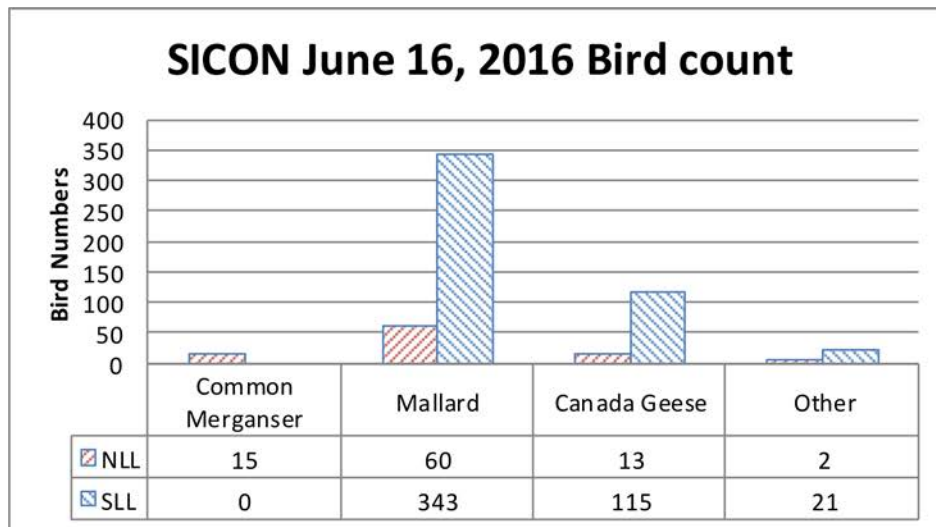
1 & 4) Snails Surveys and Snail Parasite Infection Rates: Eight locations were selected on NLL to sample snails, based on recommendations of LLLA’s watershed biologist. SICON collected a total of 8,058 *Stagnicola emarginata* (*Se*) snails from these locations on five separate dates in June, July and August. This snail is the one associated with SI, with the common mergansers as the primary carrier. The snails were analyzed for the presence of SI parasites (cercariae). Seven different cercariae types were found, including one SICON had not seen before. A subsample of the various cercariae were preserved in alcohol and sent to the University of Alberta (UA) for DNA analysis to determine the species of parasite. These results will be available in late October or November and will be discussed in LLLA’s next newsletter.

The table below shows SICON’s analysis of the SI causing cercariae from each location sampled. SICON has started measuring snail density along with infection rate. It believes multiplying these two figures together to form a “Severity Index” provides a more accurate assessment of SI severity. The locations can be viewed on a map by going to the “SWIMMER’S ITCH” link on our home page. The map also contains the table data in the following format: Infection rate%/Density=#/sq. meter/Severity=Infection Rate x Density. The red and yellow cells represent the worst and second worst severity index, respectively; and are colored similarly on the map.

<i>SI Severity Index of Stagnicola emarginata (% Infected x Density)</i>			
Site:	Infection Rate %	#(per sq. meter)	SI Severity Index
Log Cabin (H17)	0.08	20.2	1.66
West Bay (B15)	0.38	10.9	4.13
River Mouth (D11)	0.60	3.1	1.87
Yacht Club (F8)	4.18	0.8	3.35
North End (J0)	0.17	9.7	1.67
East Park Boat Launch (K3)	1.24	0.7	0.87
Wardens Point (H11)	0.16	60.7	9.60
U of M Boat Cover (J15)	0.74	34.1	25.30
SLL Bilman's Beach (G13)	N/A	0	N/A
SLL Bingham's Boat Launch (J14)	N/A	0	N/A

Note that snails were not collected on the two sites on SLL. Extensive sampling in 2010 and this year could not find enough *Se snails*. Therefore, water samples were collected from Billman’s Beach on the west side of SLL just north of the Leelanau Pines Campground and the Bingham Boat Launch on SLL’s east side. These two locations had SI reported in 2015. These samples were preserved in alcohol and sent to the University of Alberta to determine the presence and identification of cercariae.

2) **Bird Surveys:** The entire shoreline of NLL and SLL was surveyed for birds on three separate dates, with data displayed in the two graphs. Mallards were the most common birds on both lakes, but with SLL having significantly higher numbers. The two most common species for NLL was Mallard and common merganser. The two most common species for SLL was the Mallard and Canada goose. It is noteworthy that no common mergansers were observed during the SICON surveys on SLL. That does not mean this species did not inhabit SLL, only that it was not observed. These numbers, coupled with the lack of the snail, *Se snails* may indicate that the SI parasite life cycle and snail-bird species is different in SLL than in NLL.



Fecal samples were collected from young of the year birds during the bird surveys. Thirty-nine (39) mallards were collected on SLL. Two of the 39 contained parasite eggs and larvae. Two common mergansers were captured on NLL and both contained parasite eggs and larvae. The samples were preserved in alcohol, and sent to UA for DNA analysis. Results will be available in the next newsletter.

3, 5 & 6) **Education/Outreach and Research Coordination:** SICON attended several LLLA board meetings and gave an informative presentation at LLLA's annual meeting. In addition to the presentation, SICON had displays set up showing meeting attendees aspects of the SI parasite life cycle and a microscope to show the parasite itself. Members of the public were also able to report SI cases through LLLA's "SWIMMER'S ITCH" website link. This link to SICON directed folks to where they could make SI reports, read information on SI, as well as make a donation to LLLA's SI control efforts.

SICON hosted a one day conference at Higgins Lake, which brought together SI researchers from Oakland University, UA, the University of New Mexico, University of Wisconsin, and Research Triangle Institute. This conference updated attendees on projects that SICON was conducting on Higgins Lake, Crystal Lake, and Lime Lake in addition to NLL and SLL. The company shared

(continued) ...information obtained from these field studies with all lakes involved as well as other Michigan Swimmers Itch Partnership (MSIP) members. Noteworthy in these findings is that SI is being reduced (as measured by parasite infection rate) on Higgins Lake through SICON's research, education and control program. This was the second year of the program on Higgins Lake. The company also determined that harassment ("booming" or pyrotechnic use) of the common mergansers in the spring did not reduce the presence of mergansers on the lake.

SICON maintained frequent contact with LLLA's watershed biologist to coordinate on-going field tasks. In addition to the educational and research coordination, SICON provided Wayne Swallow infected snails to perform research on a SI repellent.

In summary, SICON's 2016 work was a success in preparing LLLA for continuing onto a full comprehensive research, education and control, program to begin in 2017. The work established a "pre-control" baseline of snail parasite load. The field work, along with the University of Alberta's DNA analytical work, should more precisely tell us the parasite(s) that are contributing to SI problems. LLLA and SICON both believe that the parasite cycle is different between NLL and SLL. It is hoped that the DNA analysis of cercariae will help us identify the parasite and the bird specie that create SI problems for SLL. Note that if you have not contributed funds for the SI project, please consider doing so by going to LakeLeelanau.org.

Thank You!

The Cooperative Lake Monitoring Program (CLMP) volunteers completed another year of water quality sampling on North Lake and South Lake. Many thanks go to these volunteers who sample the lakes: Ray Malcoun, Wayne Wunderlich, Jeff Green on North Lake and Jeff Sanborn and Kay Johnson on the South Lake. Thanks also to John Lutchko for coordinating the program.

Swimmer's Itch (SI) Repellent Development by Wayne Swallow

Last year's field testing of SI Lotion (a swimmer's itch repellent lotion) was not as successful as hoped. Research was conducted over the winter to learn if there may be other ingredients that, if added to the base formula, would improve repellent performance. A 2013 Brazilian research study found that the essential oil extract from *Tanacetum vulgare* was lethal to adult worms of the tropical parasite (*Schistosoma mansoni*). This parasite causes schistosomiasis, aka "snail fever". *Tanacetum vulgare* is a plant belonging to the aster family. It was decided to test this ingredient as an additive to the base formula as a goal for 2016.

A huge positive step for repellent development occurred this year when Wayne Swallow learned that SICON could provide SI "infected snails" for his tests. This step eliminated the need to visit a lake to wade or swim to achieve "exposure" to SI cercariae. However, acquiring SI infected snails brought another challenge to the project. Maintaining a laboratory culture of a small snail population was not as easy as it might seem. A method was finally developed to maintain "healthy" snails after much reading, trial and error, and many dead snails.

Maintaining a SI infected snail population allows testing to be conducted in a meeting room. A procedure was developed that allowed a standardized method to expose a measured area of skin, with a measured amount of repellent, and a measured amount of cercariae laden water. Various concentrations of tansy essential oil were tested with this procedure. Four preliminary tests were effective with no evidence of SI on the tested skin areas. Unfortunately, only four snails remain after the "learning" to maintain snails. These snails are not generating enough cercariae to perform valid tests, so further testing will have to wait until 2017.



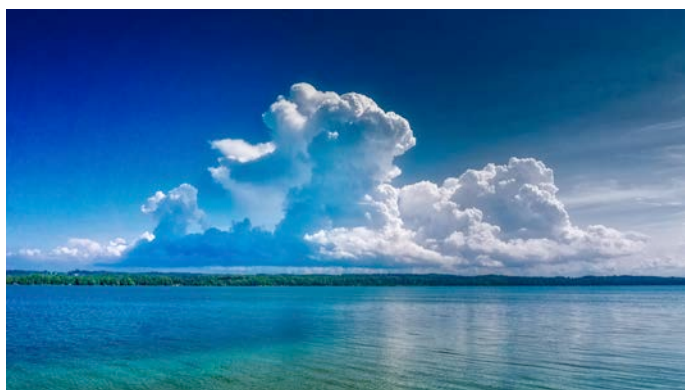
Water Quality Sampling on Lake Leelanau

Meet Jeff Sanborn Vice President

We are pleased to bring Jeff Sanborn on board as our new vice president.



“I am a retired science teacher, retrained as a pharmacy technician, retired from that, and now work part-time at Enerdyne in Suttons Bay. I was a month old when I was first introduced to Lake Leelanau in front of my maternal grandmother's cottage in 1945. My paternal relatives have been in the area since 1883 - a barn my step-great grandfather built is still standing on Birch Point Road. My father was a naval captain, WWII vet, we came to Lake Leelanau every summer when I was growing up until I came to TC to go to NMC (when there were only 4 buildings - I think) in 1963. I joined the USMC in 1966, was an aviation electronics tech, went to Nam all of 1969, and have had many different jobs since that time. I really liked being a science teacher. I now am a water quality sampler for the lower lake and soon to be an invasive plant species sampler/tester. More to come later but being the Lake Leelanau Lake Association Vice President is an honor and privilege. I come to this position after many good people, and can only hope to do as well as they - working with the best team is indeed good fortune. I look forward to helping out the best I can in the coming years.”



**Perhaps the truth depends on a walk
around the lake.
Wallace Stevens**

Annual Meeting a Huge Success by Mark Smith



Huge! Yuge! And fun, and informative .. those are a few of the words to describe our Annual Meeting held at the Leland Lodge on July 20th. It's always great to meet and greet our membership and to get to know more of our fellow riparians. This year's attendance was nearly 100 people who came together to listen, learn, and share their views. The meeting included a presentation by SiCon (Swimmer's Itch Control), outlining the findings of their work so far. (The PowerPoint presentation will be uploaded to this site in the near future). I learned, for example, that you don't need to worry about drying off with a towel to prevent swimmer's itch - but you can if you want to (it just doesn't help). More importantly, we were shown the results of SiCon's studies so far, which were most impressive. As we know, this is a long term commitment, and we hope everyone is on board.

Also on tap was a presentation by Paul Peschel and Charlie Belanger, who talked about water safety. (Paul had the best joke of the night when he explained that between him and Charlie they have 45 years experience, 42 of them belonging to Charlie.) Various committee members gave their reports, and Nick Fleezanis was elected to be our new president. Much thanks to outgoing president, George Prewitt, and incoming vice president, Jeff Sanborn. We addressed many questions and concerns from the audience and enjoyed the good food provided by the Leland Lodge. But, most importantly, we got to see each other and talk about this lake we love so much.



Photo Gallery



Lake Leelanau Lake Association
P.O. Box 123
Leland, MI 49654-0123

Parting Shot



Photo by Kathy Fisher

Coming Events

13th Annual Kid's Fishing Day
Sunday, June 25th, 2017, 11:00- 3:00
Veronica Valley County Park

2017 Annual Meeting
When TBA .. early August
6:30-8:00, Leland Lodge

**12th Annual Legacy Circle
Celebration**
When and Where TBA

