



Lake Leelanau

L A K E A S S O C I A T I O N



Fall 2018

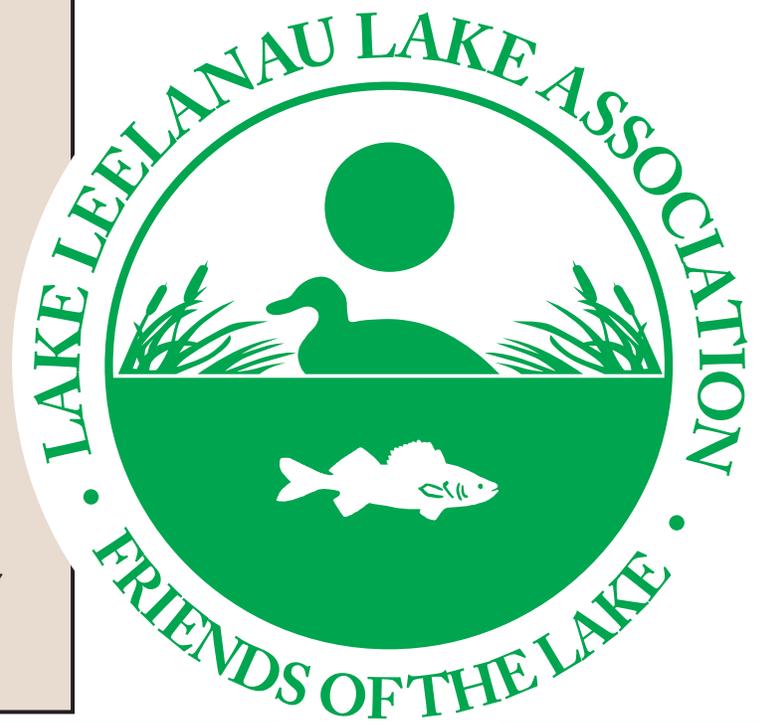
News & Views from the Watershed



*In the narrows, just north of the bridge
Photo Credit: Patrice Korson*

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President's Letter by Jeff Sanborn



Autumn has fallen with a bang and lower temperatures. The boats and docks are out or soon to be and Summer is a memory. It was a great Summer, high temps and little rain. But then it did rain - oh, yeah, lots of rain. Figure this - one inch of rain falling on just one acre of lake is over 27,000 gallons. Now, the watershed of our Lake Leelanau is over 89,000 acres... no wonder we had over an eight inch rise in the south lake. The water level held very high for several days. I sincerely hope no one lost too much waterfront property due to the high winds that followed.

The association held two very nice meetings this Summer and early Fall, the annual meeting for all members and the Legacy Event for those who have given more than a basic membership. The Legacy Event was held at the Lake Leelanau RV Resort. They have a fantastic venue lodge and they treat us extremely well. Wilson's, if you are reading this, thank you again.

We, as an organization, have been kind of cruising along on our past merits, which I have to admit, were great. But now is the time to extend ourselves and go forward - we need to expand and get more members, thus more volunteers, and thus more activities available to members. The revised handbook, which will be available this coming Spring/early Summer, will need to be personally handed out to your neighbors... we will need help with that. As the new president, I will be busy with other business so we will need a couple of Water Quality volunteers for testing all Summer long. We will need a couple volunteers for Exotic Aquatic Invasive Species testing this Summer (training is available at the Spring Michigan Lake and Streams conference held in April at Crystal Mountain). More info about volunteer opportunities can be found on page 7 of this publication.

We have a new position on the board, a Marketing and Fundraising Director, Steve Lindo. He is responsible for the signs and magnets you saw placed at various locations around the county. We are looking forward to much more from him. Thanks for volunteering, Steve!

We also have a new treasurer, Kathy Birney and a new (to us) Lake Biologist, Brian Price, both of whom you may know from the Leelanau Conservancy. We welcome both of them!

I want to thank Wayne Swallow for all the hard work he did in the past as our former biologist. Thank You.



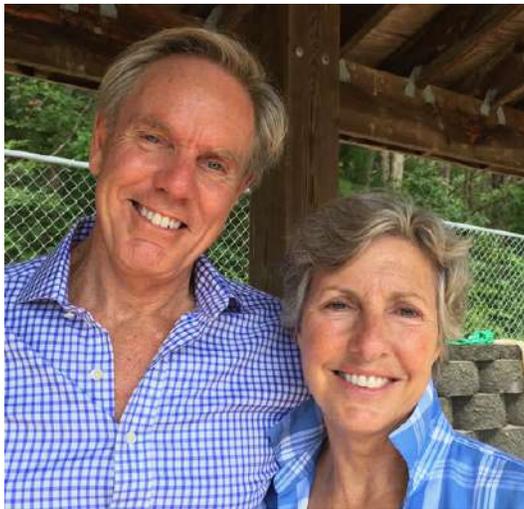
Introducing Tom Hiatt *LLA's New Vice President*

The board of LLLA welcomes Tom Hiatt as a director and new vice president of the Association.

Tom and his wife Nora have vacationed in Leland more than three decades, and purchased a home on north Lake Leelanau in 2012. Tom and Nora live in Indianapolis during the winter months and look forward to spending time in Leland with their extended family every summer.

Tom's work in the nonprofit field began with The Ford Foundation, which he joined following graduate school. In central Indiana, Tom played a leadership role in founding two local nonprofits: Friends of Holliday Park, a community organization which reversed the fortunes of a 100-acre park on Indianapolis' northside, and the Indianapolis branch of Grameen America, an organization which has provided more than \$25 million in micro-loans to women living at or below the poverty line in central Indiana since its inception in 2012.

Tom currently serves on the boards of Newfields and World Learning, Inc. and is the past board chair of both organizations. Prior to his retirement in 2017 Tom was a founding partner of Centerfield Capital, a private equity firm.



Tom & Nora Hiatt

Tom graduated magna cum laude from Wabash College. He also holds an MSc from the Sloan School of Management of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and an MA degree in philanthropic studies from Indiana University.

The LLLA is pleased to welcome Tom to our board.

Introducing Kathy Birney *LLA's New Treasurer*

The Lake Leelanau Lake Association would like you to help us welcome Kathy Birney to our team.

Kathy has been the Finance Director at the Leelanau Conservancy since 2017. Kathy is a CPA and has over 30 years' experience in the corporate world as a former finance director



Kathy Birney

and chief financial officer, as well as having been board treasurer of two nonprofit organizations in the Detroit area. She is a volunteer in the Leland School's International Baccalaure-

ate mentoring program.

Kathy has deep roots in the area. Her mother graduated from Leland High School, her grandparents owned the Harbor House in Leland in the 1940's, and her grandfather was postmaster in Leland in the 1950's and 60's. She has been coming to Leelanau County her whole life, (she learned to swim at Nedow's Bay) and has a number of family members in the area. She and her husband John, permanently relocated to Leland in spring of 2016.

Kathy and John enjoy hiking, boating, sailing, golfing, cycling, cross country skiing and snow shoeing. They have two sons who live in Chicago and New York City.

The LLLA is thrilled to welcome her to our board!

She can be reached by phone or email at 248-930-5231 / kabirney@gmail.com

Introducing Steve Lindo Marketing & Fundraising Director



Steve Lindo has been coming to Leelanau County for over 20 years.

During his career as a financial risk manager, he and his wife Marcie lived in a variety of cities and countries. They moved to Leland permanently five years ago. Steve currently works as an independent consultant and teaches a graduate course at Columbia University.

When he's not working, he likes to fish, play guitar and tennis. Steve and Marcie have two grown-up daughters and a delightful grandson.

Lake Leelanau Community Connection Initiative by Steve Lindo

Last year LLLA launched an initiative to reach out to residents and summer visitors by placing yard signs and colorful fridge magnets at various locations around the lake, during the months of July and August. It was a big success, with over 700 magnets taken home by Lake Leelanau lovers in 2017. The initiative continued this year, with over 600 magnets taken, from nine high-traffic locations.

A few of the responses we received this year...

- "Great lake!"
- "I love Lake Leelanau!"
- "Hello! I absolutely LOVE Lake Leelanau! I wish I could live there!"
- "The scenic masterpiece that is this lake warms the cheese holes in my heart."

We gratefully recognize the following local businesses for allowing us to display the magnets:

- Boathouse Vineyards
- The Bluebird Tavern
- Leland Township Library
- NJ's Grocery
- Trish's Dishes
- Whaleback Inn

**Thank
you!**

Lakeshore Development / The "Voice" of the Lake by Steve Lindo

If you're looking for information about construction projects along Lake Leelanau's shoreline, the Michigan DEQ website has a section called MiWaters that publishes information about all construction projects affecting Michigan water bodies, dunes and wetlands. To find Lake Leelanau watershed projects, go to <https://miwaters.deq.state.mi.us/nsite/> and type Lake Leelanau in the box on the left side of the page. Speaking as the "Voice" of Lake Leelanau in public discussions of township, county and state planning and development proposals that may affect the quality of the lake and its watershed is one of the ways that LLLA fulfills its mission to help maintain and improve the waters of Lake Leelanau for all to enjoy.



Fountain Point Regatta Slated for Oct. 27-28, 2018

If you live on Lake Leelanau, you have likely seen rowing teams gliding across the smooth waters. The weekend of October 27-28 is arguably the busiest one on Lake Leelanau when Fountain Point Resort hosts 2 days of rowing races.

On Sat. Oct. 27 the *Fountain Point Masters Classic* takes place, featuring adult teams. On Sun. Oct. 28 *The Leelanau Chase* brings in youth teams from schools and communities all over the midwest.

Watching these talented athletes is exciting! The races end in front of St. Mary School, so the best spectating can be found there, or at Fountain Point Resort directly. If you can, get out and show your support!

Lake Biologist Introduction & Report by Brian Price

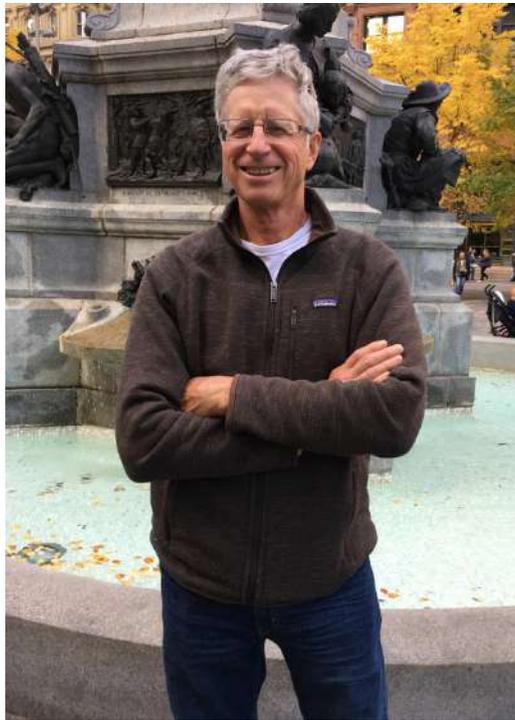
Many LLLA members know me through my 28 year association with the Leelanau Conservancy, but allow me to re-introduce myself, this time as a person with a long-time love of Lake Leelanau and a passion to understand and protect this priceless resource.

My introduction to Lake Leelanau came in 1967 when our family purchased a modest cottage on Billman's Beach on South Lake Leelanau. Our time in Leelanau had been limited to a week each year in a borrowed cottage, but with ownership came the chance to enjoy the lake every summer during my high school and college years. My brother and I worked summer jobs in the area, spending all of our remaining time fishing, water skiing, and generally discovering the lake and its surrounding environs.

The following decades have brought changes to the lake. Back in the sixties Lake Leelanau was a northern pike/smallmouth bass lake, with large undeveloped tracts of (mostly) wetland property and stretches of cottages lining the drier shores. Over the ensuing decades, some of the larger wetland tracts had been filled and developed, while others have been permanently protected. Fewer vacant lots among the various platted tracts along the shore mean that with many more families living in close proximity to the lake, each of us must be mindful of reducing our impact upon the shared resource.

In my work with the Conservancy we became a full partner with the Lake Association in projects that protected wetlands and tackled swimmer's itch. We

began water monitoring on Leelanau lakes and chronicling the impact of zebra mussels and other invasives. The Conservancy's efforts to protect water quality represented our priorities as an organization, but also my personal interests as someone who is fascinated with the workings of nature, and who has always had one foot on the land and one foot in the water.



So where do we go from here? As Wayne steps down, he has graciously been showing me the ropes. Much will be a continuation. We will review wetland permits, participate in Michigan's Cooperative Lake Monitoring Program (MiCorps), be fully engaged in combating swimmer's itch, and participate in a planned update of the Lake Leelanau Watershed Management Plan. I hope to handle these tasks with Wayne's help and the help of volunteers.

I also hope to be a hands-on lake biologist, spending more time on the water and expanding water quality research efforts to include surveys of aquatic plants, zooplankton, and bottom-dwelling organisms. The lake changes in response to a multitude of interacting forces: including but not limited to climate, inputs of nutrients and other chemicals, new organisms, and the shifting populations of native organisms. The Association exists to protect the lake, and the more we can learn about its functioning the more we can concentrate on those things that really preserve water quality. I'm just happy to have the opportunity to continue a lifelong interest in our lake.

I invite you to contact me at brprice11@gmail.com.



Final Wayne's World

by Wayne Swallow

Water Quality Consultant

I mentioned in the last newsletter that I would be stepping down as the watershed biologist to dedicate more time to commercialize the product I've developed as a swimmer's itch repellent. So, this is the last lengthy "Wayne's World" you will have to read.

My departure creates an opportunity for new skills and thinking. That, in fact, is what has happened. The Lake Leelanau Lake Association Board has hired Brian Price to replace me. Many know Brian. He is the retired Executive Director of the Leelanau Conservancy. Now he will be bringing his many skills, knowledge, and personal relationships with Lake Leelanau riparians to manage water quality and watershed issues for our Association. He will be an excellent replacement. We are currently in the process of bringing him up-to-speed on all the issues that are important to the Association. Look for Brian's biography in this newsletter on page 5.

Swimmer's Itch

We had a successful year in removing mergansers from North Lake Leelanau. The trapping crew from Glen Lake trapped and removed 42 mergansers from North Lake. A report was sent to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to fulfill a requirement of our permit. I received anecdotal information of merganser sighting's on the South Lake, but did not receive any confirmed reports.

Thanks to everyone who made swimmers itch reports to our website link! We received a total of 76 reports on our website this year, 58 from North Lake and 28 from South Lake. This compares to 85 reports from 2017 (73 from North Lake, and 12 from

South Lake). This is somewhat good news for North Lake, but disheartening news for South Lake. Remember we do not have any controls in place on South Lake, because we are still trying to determine what water fowl and snails are the main swimmers itch carriers. Preliminary evidence from 2017 indicates mallard and Canada Geese may be the main offenders. We hope to get more research information in November in an effort to formulate plans for 2019. Watch for more details later in the year on the LL Lake Association website.

Locations of the various swimmers itch reports can be found on our website at the following link. <http://lakeleelanau.org/swimmers-itch/>. Toggle down to the bottom of the page to see the maps of this year along with prior years.

We've made swimmers itch reporting as easy as possible. Reports can now be made from cell phones. We also provided maps of both lakes to identify the location you got swimmer's itch. While many reports were made, many people logged into the site and did not make a report. For example, we had 662 people access or "view" the report's home page through October 1st. Of that number, 99 started to answer the five questions, with 81 completing the survey. That translates to an 82% completion rate for those who started the report, great performance for any survey tool. However, comparing the 81 completion number to the 662 "views" of the home page, one only gets a 12% completion rate. We understand people might just want to familiarize themselves with the reporting process if they contract the itch. However, we would encourage everyone who succumbs to swimmer's itch to complete a report.

Thanks again to all who completed reports!

Water Quality Report by Hugh Farber



The overall quality of the waters in North and South Lake Leelanau appear to be holding up in spite of continuing population growth in the watershed and water front development. This good news is believed to be partially due to increased riparian owner's stewardship.

There are several "look out" issues, including wetland destruction from development efforts and nutrient increases... a continuing concern, with localized issues like increases in weed (including cladophora) and golden brown algae. These are thought related to nutrient increases from nature (geese, etc.), lawn fertilizer run off, ineffective septic systems, etc. Such

impacts can be reduced with the help of LL riparians.

Identification of specific sources of nutrient loading can be improved by "monitoring" by waterfront owners. The LLLA has also conducted a drone shoreline survey which should be helpful for locating hot spots of nutrient loading. Some of our efforts could benefit from more volunteers, especially but not only, year round folks.

I continue to encourage your review of "Leelanau Clean Water" efforts on the county website. www.leelanau.cc/lcw.asp

We now have Brian Price replacing our long time water biologist, Wayne Swallow, who is pursuing his swimmer's itch protectant. He will be missed, but with Brian's resume, we expect he will be a real asset to our organization, as well. Stay tuned!!

Water Quality Volunteer Opportunities

| | |
|---|---|
| Merganser Spotter | Positively identify mergansers. Training is available. Must be available in person, and spend a lot of time on the lake, from early May thru August. |
| Swimmers Itch Recording | Proficiency with Excel, Google Maps and Google Earth. Available in-person June thru Sept. Remainder of the year can be done electronically. |
| Water Sampling of Lake | Must have a boat and be able to sample once per week. Sampling takes approx. 1 hour. Training is provided. Must be available early May thru Sept in-person. |
| Water Sample Data Analysis | Proficiency with Excel, Google Maps and Google Earth. Available in-person May thru Sept. Remainder of the year can be done via email. Biology / water quality experience is helpful. |
| Currier of Frozen Water Samples | Coordinate with water sampling team to collect samples and transport them to Glen Lake, once in mid-June and once in mid-Sept. Must have use of a vehicle. |
| Water Sample Data Entry | Able to enter data from field sheets into online database. Must be proficient and accurate with entering data. Data Entry happens in Sept. and Oct. |
| Aquatic Plant Sample Collector | Must have a boat and be able to collect samples at boat launches. Training to identify aquatic plants is provided. Available in person during August. |
| Biological Sample Identification | Biology and taxonomy of algae, aquatic invertebrates and fish preferred, or willingness to be trained. Available May thru Sept. in-person. Remainder of the year can be electronically. |
| 2017 Drone Video Analysis | Proficiency with Google Maps and Google Earth. Biology / water quality experience helpful, or willingness to be trained. Available May thru Sept. for fieldwork. Rest of year electronically. |
| Wetlands Advocacy | Preparation / submittal of comments to MDEQ on wetlands permits. Possible appearance at public hearings on behalf of LLLA. Training on MDEQ process can be provided. Available year-round in person and/or via email. |

Membership Report by Barbara Kobberstad



A big THANK YOU to all association members!

Your contribution will be put to good use in support of our efforts to assure the quality of our lake and the surrounding area.

Membership Reminders:

- Membership reminders are mailed a month before your membership is set to expire.
- You may renew your membership online at LakeLeelanau.org using PayPal.
- Only include mailing address(es). If you wish to include a local physical address that does not receive mail, please note it.
- Give us your email address for the latest updates.
- Write clearly so I get your information recorded accurately.

Volunteers are being gathered for door to door distribution of our revised Handbook early next summer. We need volunteers from all areas of the lake. Contact:

Jeff Sanborn

JFSanborn80@gmail.com / 231-946-8680

Barb Kobberstad

bkobberstad@gmail.com / 231-218-1033

A big thank you to Page Sikes who has been the pen behind your thank you notes for the past year! My other volunteer, Martha Encherman, sends out the membership expiration notices. In addition to these tasks is my updating of the database with current contact information about our members. All in all, Membership is a big job and I am glad I have such amazing helpers!

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me, or any of the board members, via email or telephone.

bkobberstad@gmail.com or 231-256-8802.

Newsletter Report by Patrice Korson



Have you noticed that Leelanau County is popping with color!? I just love autumn in northern Michigan! With it comes the LLLA fall newsletter. I hope you enjoy keeping up on the latest Lake Leelanau news, as much as I enjoy putting this piece together.

Sadly we have not yet published the Riparian Handbook that we have been promising.

Due to some editorial issues, we have postponed the production, and subsequent distribution of the handbook until Spring 2019. Do not be discouraged. This book is definitely going to happen, as we all agree it is well overdue. You can expect to have your copy in your hands around Memorial Day of 2019.

Incidentally, we are still looking for people who might have the time and ability to help with the distribution of this handbook. Please let me know if that is something you could help with. You would simply be assigned an area that needs books, and you can distribute at your leisure. Plus, you might really like getting out and meeting some of your fellow Riparians!

In the past, I have asked for you to share your photos of life on Lake Leelanau for me to use in future newsletters. I also want to point out that if you know of a story or subject that would be relevant to the other members of the association, please let me know. I am happy to review submissions and print them if I am able. If you simply have an idea of something we should address, let me know of that also and we can put someone on the task. And as always, if you have photos of life on the lake (in any season) please consider sending them to me. I will give you photo credit if I use them.

I can be reached by email or phone. KorsonCreative@gmail.com
231-994-2000.

Happy Leelanau Fall, everyone! It's a beauty!

The Latest on Lake Levels, Recordings & Dredging

by John J. Popa, PE



Hi everyone. The sensor level recorders are working well. We have three locations where the recordings take place and the data is automatically put onto graphs. Anyone can look at the graphs by going to the LLLA website (call me if you need any clarification). We also have a stake in the water at Suelzer Park that we check periodically.

We have about two good years of lake level recordings and graphs. It is pretty evident from the graphs that the surface of the entire 18-mile length of the lake remains within a few inches. It is also evident that during heavy rains, and also during highwater discharge over the dam, that the narrows does not restrict the flows.

The narrows (near the village of Lake Leelanau) was dredged around 1978. There was speculation by an engineering study that it would help with water flows. However, there was no data to back it up...it was just a recommendation. We now have data and it does not support the need to dredge the narrows. The total area of the gate on the dam, during water discharge, is very small compared to the areas under the bridge and surrounding narrows. Flow is not impeded at all in the narrows.

Water flow through the river is another matter. During increased discharge, there is a sizable current flow in the river and corresponding drop in levels (about one foot) as a result. When the dam was built, it was required to be designed for a maximum 200-year flood. It turns out that the river will pass this flow, but considerable sand/silt will be carried with the high water and current flow.

We have upgraded the internet at the dam. This

will permit technicians to access the computer controls that were generously installed by LLLA members Ric & Laura Howard and their technicians. The technicians can troubleshoot the computer and dam controls remotely, if necessary. The internet, and cameras, will also allow the dam operator to observe the 'dam happening's remotely...and save trips and time.

You are welcome to attend Dam Authority meetings. They are not held regularly. We are presently discussing/planning a required state inspection and also thinking about doing an underwater inspection. The roof of the control room may need some repairs also. We did examine the south concrete wall while the Falling Waters Lodge was undergoing some remodeling...the wall is fine. We are also reviewing concerns that Fish Town has during high flows and also ice damage during the winter.

If you have not heard, the M-204 Narrows bridge is supposed to be reconditioned in 2019. The top deck is going to be refurbished, including better walking lanes. Also the entire length of M-204 from Duck Lake corners to Suttons Bay is going to be resurfaced. That is all I know, as plans have not been finalized. It will all be a choke point for traffic flow during construction, but will be worth the hassle. Thank you.

John J. Popa PE / 231-384-5364



County Road 643 heading north out of Cedar
Photo Credit: Wayne Wunderlich



Kid's Fishing Day a Huge Success

Cloudy skies in the morning did not deter the hundreds of kids and their families who showed up for the Kid's Fishing Day on Sunday, June 24th. Things cleared up and the day proved to be perfect weather for fishing.

In preparation for the event, the Veronica Valley pond was stocked with more than 3,500 bluegills. The fish provided this year were a hybrid variety that is more likely to be able to survive Leelanau winter, which may mean even better fishing NEXT summer. But those in attendance THIS year did not have any problem catching fish. One local resident told us "We could barely drop a line in the water without getting an instant bite. It was great! What a wonderful activity this day is for our community. We're grateful."

In addition to great fishing, there were native critters to be viewed, thanks to a display provided by Jim Kacin and his Critter Crew of

Lake Leelanau. This exhibit is always hugely popular with the kids, who are able to handle some of the critters.

The free meal of hotdogs, chips & pop provided by the Lake Association made the day complete. If you missed it, we hope to see you in 2019 for our 15th annual event!



Kids Fishing Photos by Patrice Korson

THANK YOU *to these businesses. They support the lake through membership in the LLLA.*

Amber Sands Resort • Bluebird of Leland • Boathouse Vineyards
 DeWeese Hardware • Hansen Foods • Korson Creative
 LL Narrows Yacht Club • Lake Leelanau RV Park • Leelanau Conservancy
 Leelanau Enterprise • Riverside Inn • Stander Marine • Whaleback Inn

If you are a member of the LLLA and your business isn't listed here, please let us know so we can give you the recognition you deserve!

If you're NOT a member but would like to be, visit lakeleelanau.org or contact Barb at bkobberstad@gmail.com

Water Safety Report / Kayaking by Bonnie Gotshall

As I look out my window out onto the lake this fall I see beautiful sights: Colorful trees, gorgeous sunsets, billowy clouds, boats coming off the lake for the winter, and rowers and kayakers. We went from high 70's to low 40's in just a day. Burr!!!! That brings to mind all the kayakers and boaters still on the lake. Beautiful fall days bring out many people still trying to enjoy the lake waters. I don't blame them for wanting to get out and enjoy this gorgeous time of the year. But it's important to understand that when things do go wrong the fact that you are on the water means that situations can become very serious, very fast. I strongly suggest that one should assume a conservative and safety-conscious attitude when making decisions on the water. I have a few



reminders to keep everyone Water Safe.

1. Don't drink alcohol and paddle. The two just don't mix.

2. Don't go alone. Go in groups and make sure you tell someone when and where you will be going.

3. Always wear a life jacket on the water. I know by experience that the biggest reason people take the life jacket off is because they find it uncomfortable to kayak with it on or they get too hot with it on. It is worth investing in a kayaking-specific life jacket because they are designed to be as comfortable and unrestricting as possible when you are sitting in a kayak or paddling.

4. Always dress for the conditions. Cold water represents the biggest hazard because immersion in cold water can quickly lead to hypothermia. If you are going to paddle in cold or cooler water, you need to be more conservative with all your decisions, and

you need to paddle in calm conditions, close to the shoreline.

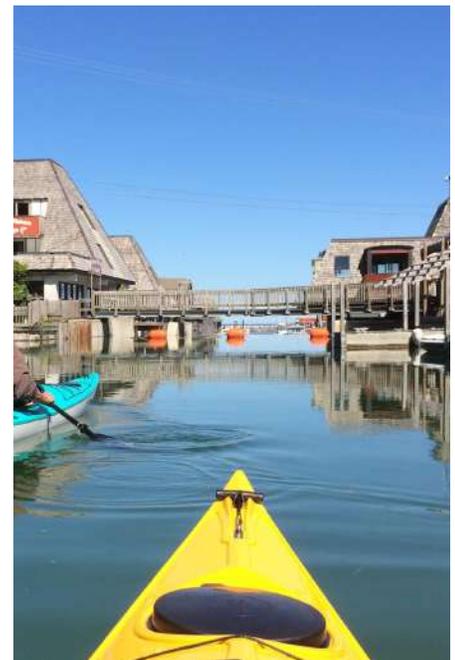
5. Choose an appropriate paddling location for your skill level. Ideally you want to kayak in an area protected from wind and waves, a good access point for



launching and landing, and minimal boat traffic. As a general rule of thumb, if you venture into water that is not protected from wind and waves, like Lake Michigan, you really need to take a sea kayaking course which teaches you invaluable exposed water rescue skills.

6. Practice re-entering your kayak from the water before you ever need to do it for real. It is way easier to enter a sit-on-top kayak than re-entering a sit-inside kayak because it won't swamp. In fact, just emptying your sit-inside kayak is a major ordeal on the water, especially if you don't have a bulkhead in your kayak. If you can't comfortably re-enter your kayak, stay close to shore so that you can swim or walk your kayak into shore.

So, I hope these tips dramatically improve your safety on the water. I will leave you with some beautiful pictures sent to me by my friend Jon Constant who is an avid kayaker around Leelanau County. Have fun and stay safe!





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



Follow us on Facebook!

Near the top of North Lake Leelanau looking southwest



Photo Credit: Patrice Korson



Our Mission Statement

As a volunteer organization, our efforts are directed towards maintaining and improving the waters of Lake Leelanau and its watershed for all to enjoy. We do this by educating our members and the public at large through a variety of activities. We also participate in township, county and state planning and development proposals that may affect the quality of the lake and its watershed. We are here to serve the Lake Leelanau riparian owners, businesses, anglers and users and we welcome the involvement of interested people or groups.