

# Pentwater Lake Association Newsletter

## February 2024

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### President's Message: Patrick Hooyman

#### The founding purposes of our Association and their relevance today.

The bylaws of the Pentwater Lake Association (PLA) were written in 1995 and last amended in 1999. Whenever I review them, I am impressed at how well they are written and at the wisdom of the folks who started the PLA. We live in interesting times, and political conflict and mistrust can seem to be concerning issues for all of us.

I have been asked what role the PLA should play in times like these. Obviously, our main focus is the "Love of the Lake" and assuring its wellbeing for future generations. But when I review our founding bylaws, the stated purposes of our Association are much more than that.

In particular, they state that the Association will "operate in a manner designed to promote a community feeling among residents, the maintenance and improvements of the quality of the environment, the furtherance of public health safety and welfare of the residents, the cooperation of all citizens with governmental units affecting the area and the cooperation by those units among themselves." There is also a separate provision entitled "Avoidance of Political Activity" which clearly says stay out of politics and influencing legislation.

Your Pentwater Lake Association will strive to fulfill the vision on which it was founded. To do this, all of us must try in the coming year to make our actions promote cooperation rather than conflict and a community feeling rather than mistrust. This is a challenge that is easier said than done but one that we need to rise to for the good of us all.



## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### SOCIAL by Lynne Cavazos

Join us for two major social events in 2024, hosted by the Pentwater Lake Association (PLA). Both events will be “In-Person” events

#### **SAVE the Dates:**

- Annual PLA meeting and Social - Friday, 6/21/24 at Park Place in Pentwater.
- Strawberry Shortcake Social Fundraiser - Thursday, 8/8/24

The new PLA Membership Directory and 2023 Pentwater Events calendar will be mailed out late January/early February. If you do not receive yours by mid-February, contact Caroline Denlar (denlar@charter.net).

### MEMBERSHIP by Rich Pugsley

The Association ended the year with 211 paid household memberships. We would like to welcome 2 new members: John & Kathleen Gremer and Dan & Sandra Cornelisen.

The new PLA Directory will be out soon! Thanks to Caroline Denlar and Lynne Cavazos for their work putting this together.

Membership applications for 2024/2025 can be found on page 11 or can be downloaded from the PLA website.

<https://www.pentwaterlakeassociation.com/membership-application>

### WATERSHED by Rich Pugsley

The watershed household survey was sent out on November 14<sup>th</sup>. If you received a letter from GVSU, please pay attention to it. Your response to the survey will be very helpful for us. The results of the survey will be published in the May newsletter.

Our appreciation to Fly Fishers International, the Oceana County Community Foundation and private citizens who have contributed funds to cover the cost of the survey. Also our appreciation to all who completed the survey.

### SOCIAL MEDIA by Beth Provencal

Beth extends a reading invitation. Winter, while hibernating from the cold, is perfect time to stay warm and do some web surfing. She suggests, “Check out all the great information under the “Links of Interest” tab on our website: pentwaterlakeassociation.com. “



## The State of the Lake Report for 2023 by Joe Primozych

The seasonal changes on the lake can be noted as follows: As winter was slow in arriving, January started with open water for three weeks. Then the temperatures brought the ice that allowed 5-6 days of ice fishing before it broke up with the big lake storm action heaving and fracturing the ice cover to make it remain unstable for the next two months. Steelhead started to become more prevalent as spring river spawning became evident. Following fish started to show up in the warmer waters to spawn as well. They were the panfish, crappie, walleye, pike, and rock bass. Anglers were showing up first on the channel, then the bridge or marsh, and finally the docks as the waters warmed. A new look to the shoreline developed as filamentous algae became dominant on some shorelines and limited the starry stonewort as the summer progressed. The algae developed as a result of high water over the past three years flushing the marsh upriver and moving algae into the lake shoreline. Less rain and snow caused the lake level to drop 6 inches in the spring and again in the fall. Next year docks may have to be extended to have the same depth of water needed for boating.

With no big alewife run in the channel and lake this summer, there were fewer predators caught by youth in the summer fishing contest. The species included pike, walleye, sheepshead, and dogfish or bowfin. The best results in the two month summer tourney were a 32-inch pike and 3 master angler bowfin (dogfish) over 27 inches. The nicest catch of perch 9-12 inches was recorded this summer compared to the last 6 years. This was probably due to less ice fishing pressure this past winter due to the lack of good ice.

The lake vegetation harvest was done in the last week of July and the first few days of August. Only one 4-day harvest was done with the same amount of starry stonewort removed. This is the target species the permit allows to be harvested. Two harvesters were used to get the roughly 100 wet tons of vegetation out of the lake and then dumped on an upland field. Native vegetation has a hard time competing with starry stonewort and usually is eliminated where starry stonewort has gotten a foothold. Riparians can sign out two weed cutters and two weed rakes for personal use to manage their recreational waterfront this summer. This can be used on native vegetation as well as invasive. Remember to lift and dry the cut vegetation.

Monthly water testing on the lake showed no results to be alarmed about. Our E.coli bacteria testing on the village creek and the north and south branch of the Pentwater river still showed high counts that we hope to address with the help of GVSU Annis Research Center next month. This year the oxygen readings were brought back by Pat Hooyman who oversaw them. Late summer stratification of our lake showed up and is typical of Michigan drowned river mouth lakes. This should help us understand when lake turnover occurs on our lake and water mixing happens. Even though the water temperature of the lake approached 80, our cooler lake water seemed to hold back vegetation growth so no second harvest of starry stonewort was needed this summer.

The salmon runs were lighter, and the kings showed up in two different schools and moved upriver for spawning by October. The few coho that came in at the start of November were quick to spawn and formed the lightest run of the last 5 years. Steelhead fishing was improved trolling on the lake and better than the spring run. Two master angler steelhead were recorded along with a few browns. With rain in December the pike fishing picked up and limits were caught trolling.



Winter fish:

Left— Rainbow trout or Steelhead

Right—White Perch

## El Niño Comes to Pentwater by Tom Walter

A “Super El Niño” has arrived with weather warmer than normal. It’s January 8th and there is no snow and ice, that’s for sure. What is a person to do? Adapt I guess. It wasn’t long ago that we had to adapt to high water. Remember that whole flooded Longbridge Road fiasco, seawall extensions and the sump pumps? I was tired of adapting to that. I am glad that is over for now.

There are some “opportunities” presented by El Niño weather. You don’t have to run bubblers as long. Channel, pier and beach walking has been wonderful. You have to pay attention to the wind a little bit but it is still beautiful, dog friendly and not busy. The beach is large. Walking around the state park and over the dunes is something that can also be done. Walk some different beaches like Little Sable Point, Cedar Point or Summit Township. Do the “Beach Tour.”

The fishing has been good. It took a long time for the water to cool off but when it did, it didn’t transition to cold right away. That led to an extended period of good fishing. The perch and steelhead fishing has been better than it has been for a few years. Consider getting out there.

If you are a cross country skier or snowshoer I am sure you are restless. However, if you are willing to hike or mountain bike, the Pentwater Pathways are a great place to go. It is under-utilized and all the hunters are gone. There are lots of different places to access that will provide different lengths of trail. That is a nice place to take a walk. Walking is good for you. Enough said.

I am sure we’ll get some winter weather and then it will warm again. Right while I am writing this the cold is moving in. Then the forecast shows above normal temps the following week. Just adapt and get outside. It does the soul good. Soon it will be spring and we’ll have more adapting to do. Spring storms. Think of that. Then there are all those lake weeds. One summer the weeds are late getting started; the next they are early. This past fall when the weather was so warm we got an ugly bumper crop of algae.

Something to think about for the summer is the Lake Association has purchased some weed cutting and raking equipment to loan out to riparians. You may even be able to get some weed identification, guidance or help with cutting. More on this and some monthly scheduled “show me” tours around the lake on a pontoon boat for those who are interested.



## Hemlock Infestation Arrives in Pentwater by Joe Primozich

Warmer winters have allowed the insect Woolly Adelgid to survive/exist in west Michigan's lower Peninsula along the shoreline within 5 miles. So far it is showing up where milder weather conditions are along Lake Michigan shorelines and is impacting Eastern Hemlock trees, its host tree. It is not very cold tolerant and so in weather below zero for an extended period, it is less likely to survive. Where it can survive **it has a history of killing the host hemlock in 4 to 10 years.** The State of Michigan is trying to monitor and protect resistant stands of hemlock and has given up on eradicating it. Proactive cross bred species are being chosen for future planting in the shoreline areas affected. Last year the first spray control for Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA) in the state was done in Muskegon, Ottawa, and Mason counties. The Soil Conservation District is booked out through 2025 for treatment, but the first step needs to be taken and that is to get your infestation registered. The size of trees, number of trees, and condition are listed. This registration is free of charge and can be used by state or private applicators in moving ahead with their control work. It is a cost savings for the landowner.

Here is what to look for in identifying HWA on your evergreen trees. 1). Eastern Hemlocks are up to 75 feet tall and egg-shaped trees with 3/4 "long papery cones. 2). Needles are flat individual needles growing from the sides of twigs. 3). Needles are dark green on top and have two parallel, white, stripes underneath. 4). From late fall to early spring on the underside of the needles *of infected trees* there will be white fuzzy ovisacs at the base of the needles. The cotton ball may appear alone or in clusters. The needles will turn yellow as the disease progresses. *See photos below for help in identifying infected trees.*

The present infestation locations in the village of Pentwater include the State Park north to the Mason County line and east through the village to Lites Cottages and out to Madison Ridge. The Pentwater Lake shoreline survey showed 60% of the shoreline infested, but with none at the east end of the lake. Special thanks to Ross Feltes and Joe Primozich for doing the village and lake surveys.

Efforts to save your hemlocks can be reviewed by calling the Oceana Soil Conservation District at 231-861-5600 or contacting the coordinator for HWA, Sky Harsch at [sky.harsch@macd.org](mailto:sky.harsch@macd.org).



Healthy hemlock branch is on the left with dark green top and whiter underside. Infected branch on right has tiny white sacs on the underside. The needles are starting to turn yellow on the branch ends.



Samples found on Chester Street by Joe Primozich

Photos by AnnaMae Bush

## Pentwater Lake Association to Offer Scholarships by AnnaMae Bush

Education is an important part of the Pentwater Lake Association's mission. It seeks to educate the community about matters related to the health of Pentwater Lake and the larger watershed of which it is a part. The PLA also partners with local schools to inspire the interest and the participation of students in the work of the PLA. Involving the next generation now is crucial to their future leadership in the preservation of a healthy lake environment.

For these reasons, the idea of offering a scholarship was suggested by a PLA Board member last year. The criteria for awarding the scholarship would be less about academic achievement than about a demonstrated concern for clean water resources and participation in environmental projects. A Scholarship Committee was appointed to formulate a proposal and a process for awarding the scholarship. Committee members were Joe Primozich (chair), AnnaMae Bush, Betty Pleva, Pat Hooyman, Joan Menke-Schaenzer and Rich Pugsley.

At the PLA Board meeting in November, the Scholarship Committee presented a proposal, and the Board approved the establishment of a PLA Water Resource Scholarship program. The purpose of this scholarship is to support post high school education (degree or certification program) that promotes clean water sources here and in the world. The initial scholarship will be the Mary Suzanne Richey Memorial Scholarship funded by Board Member George Richey. Regarding his late wife, George told the Board, "Suzanne was an ardent educator, leader and crafts person who believed that everyone benefits from learning new skills. This scholarship will be a great tribute to her belief in the value of lifelong learning." (see her photo below)

Initial funding will provide a \$500 scholarship for ten years. The PLA will encourage additional donations to expand the original funds. The goal is a self-sustaining endowment that will provide annual scholarships of \$1,000. The Board also hopes that this scholarship may be the catalyst for additional PLA scholarships to be offered.

Eligibility is extended to high school seniors of any high school in Oceana County and to high school seniors outside of the county whose parents or grandparents are current members of the PLA. Home school students are included. The application will require a list of the student's volunteer activities related to environmental and clean water concerns. The applicants will also be asked to write an essay explaining how our lakes, streams and other water sources are important to their future, identifying ways to improve lake health, and listing specific steps to develop cleaner water.

Applications for the 2024 scholarship will be accepted this spring. Betty Pleva will be the PLA scholarship committee contact for county high schools. Watch for applications to be available at the schools and on the PLA website, [www.pentwaterlakeassociation.com](http://www.pentwaterlakeassociation.com).



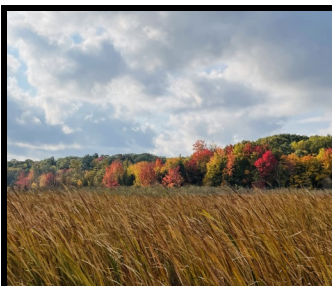
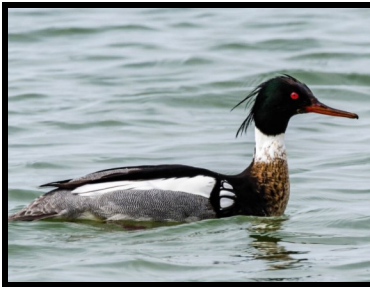
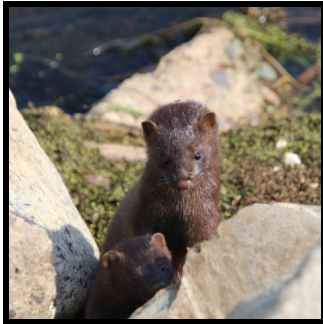
Right - M. Suzanne Richey

*The Board is grateful to George Richey for his thoughtful and generous gift in his wife's memory. The PLA will encourage additional donations to expand the original funds. The Board also hopes that this scholarship may be the catalyst for additional PLA scholarships to be offered.*

# PENTWATER LAKE ASSOCIATION

*"Keepers of the lake" in all seasons*

Greetings from our animal neighbors and All Best Wishes for 2024 from your PLA Board



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS and HIGHLIGHTS by Lynne Cavazos

**Winterfest in Pentwater – 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Weekends of February** *Winterfest Sponsor: Prince & Monton, PLC*

It is time to come and enjoy Pentwater's Annual Winterfest. Local shops and restaurants will be open for you to enjoy! Visit [www.pentwater.org](http://www.pentwater.org) (231-869-4150) for a complete and up-to-date list of activities.

### Saturday - February 10<sup>th</sup>

All Day: Bonfire and Sledding at the Village Green; Ice skating at North End Park (weather permitting)

7am – 4pm Ryan Williams Perch Fishing Tournament\*

9am – YOGA & Live Music at EnerG Fitness

10am – 1pm Winterfest Market at Centenary United Methodist Church (82 S Hancock)

11am Snowman Scram 5K 7 1 Mile Fun Run (Pentwater Public Schools) \*

12pm – 3pm Open Ski at Crystal Valley Ski Trail\*

### Sunday – February 11<sup>th</sup>

10:30am Vinyasa Yoga – all levels flow yoga class at EnerG Fitness

### Saturday – February 17<sup>th</sup>

All Day: Bonfire and sledding at the Village Green and ice skating at North End Park (weather permitting)

All day: FREE Fishing weekend

11:30 am Kids Yoga (Ages 5-10) Winter themed – 45-minute session at EnerG Fitness

11:30 am - 12am Mardi Gras at Antler Bar\*

12pm – 4pm Poker run with the downtown Village Merchants\*

1pm – 2:30 pm Downtown Scavenger Hunt\*

### Sunday – February 18<sup>th</sup>

All day FREE fishing weekend

10:30 am Vinyasa Yoga – all levels flow yoga class at EnerG Fitness

### Saturday, March 30 - Easter on the Green, 12:00noon

Bring your children and family to the Village Green, 231 S. Hancock Street, to meet the Easter Bunny and enjoy an Easter Egg Hunt.



### April 27 and 28, Volunteer Public Event at Charles Mears State Park, 9:00am – 3:30pm

Volunteers who meet at Charles Mears State Park headquarters at 9am each day qualify for free camping that night.

\* See next page for details on these events



**\*Event Details**

**February 10 - 2024 Snowman Scram 5K and 1 Mile Fun Run**

The Snowman Scram Run/Walk is a fundraiser for Pentwater Cross Country and Track Teams.

TIME: 1 Mile Fun Run starts at 11:00am with the 5K run/walk to follow.

LOCATION: Start and finish by the bus barn/track at the school

ENTRY FEES: \$20.00 for 1 mile Fun Run or \$30.00 for 5K run/walk (virtual too).

Register & Questions? Please contact Erika Fatura at [efatura@pentwater.k12.mi.us](mailto:efatura@pentwater.k12.mi.us)

Or (231) 869-4100, Ext. 243

**February 10, Winterfest Cross Country Ski Event**

- In conjunction with Pentwater’s Winter Fest activities, the Oceana Cross Country Ski Association (OCCSA) will offer a free ski event at the Crystal Valley Ski Trail on Saturday, February 10, 2024, from 12:00 to 3:00 p.m. The public is invited to use OCCSA’s adult and children’s equipment for FREE on a FIRST-COME-FIRST-SERVED basis. All children must be accompanied by an adult who will assist them in putting on equipment and skiing with them.
- The Crystal Valley Ski Trail in the Manistee National Forest in Oceana County is located just east of Pentwater. Crystal Valley offers skiers almost ten miles of varying trail lengths appropriate for all skill levels: beginners, intermediate, and advanced. OCCSA volunteers will be on hand during the Winter Fest event to outfit people with ski boots, skis, and poles. A warming bonfire will be manned on site. For location of the Crystal Valley Ski Trail, as well as a trail map and membership information, check the website at [www.oceanaski.org](http://www.oceanaski.org).
- The event is contingent on weather and appropriate ski conditions. If there is not enough snow on February 10, the event will be postponed to February 17.

**February 10, 14th Annual Ryan Williams Perch Tournament: 7:00 am – 4:00 pm**

Event Day registration from 7am to 10am at Pentwater Convenience Center or Port View. The fee is \$10 per adult or \$5 per kid (15 or younger). Cash(\$100) and Prize payout for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place prizes. The final weigh-in will be in the parking lot behind Port View at 4pm. Hot dogs, chips, bottled water and door prizes are provided to registrants at the weigh-in. The tournament is subject to weather and may be canceled if ice conditions are deemed unsafe. For more information, please contact Pentwater Convenience Center 231-869-4203 or Ryan Williams 616-617-7984.

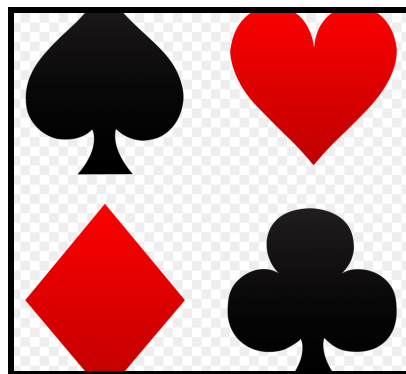
**February 17, Mardi Gras at the Antler Bar: All Day**

Visit the Antler Bar to join in the celebration of Mardi Gras. Chilly Scavenger Hunt: 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Pick up and drop off the list of clues at the Pentwater Village Green Gazebo. Participants will try to decipher the clues that lead to different businesses in Pentwater and unscramble the letters located on the windows. The FIRST correct list of clues that is turned in WINS!

**February 17, Poker Run: 12pm-4pm**

Join Pentwater Galleries and shops on a fun afternoon Poker Run. The best hand wins a basket from participating Merchants! Another great way to enjoy Pentwater’s Winterfest.



## News Bytes by AnnaMae Bush

Park Place: No need to sit home alone or bored. Mark your calendars for these fun social events!

- February 8 Music Night – “Reflections on a Winter Night”, Rick Magrath on guitar. Doors open at 6. Music 6:30-7:45pm. BYOB and snacks to pass. Entry fee \$10 for non-Pentwater residents.
- Games Nights, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday nights, beginning JANUARY 10. Play Mexican Train Dominoes, Pinochle, or other games of your choice. Doors open 6:30pm. BYOB and snacks to share.



### Pentwater Village Zoning Administrator and Recreation Director

Regarding zoning, Katie Anderson reports, “I enjoy the new position, there is still more to learn and I look forward to gaining the experience.” Regarding strategic planning for the recreation program she shares, “We have a meeting on January 29<sup>th</sup> at Park Place at 4pm. That meeting is to generate a timeline for community workshops and public hearings. We will be hosting multiple events for the community to participate in and will also be conducting surveys to garner information.”



### Village Manager

Chris Brown invites us to welcome the new office team member, John Bartlett. Bartlett has accepted the position formerly held by Barb Siok and will begin later in January. He is a native of Mason County and has lived in Pentwater for the past ten years. (northerly boundary line). He comes to us from West Shore Bank. Brown shares, “John and his wife have two adult sons. Classic cars and musical instruments are his hobbies.”

### New Year’s Eve

New Years Eve was a blast – two blasts as a matter of fact. The first was a midnight blast on the recently restored Village whistle which has continued to daily notify residents



when 12:00pm arrives. Thanks for this renewed tradition is owed to Harry Brodbeck and several members of the local Artisan Center who worked hard to repair the whistle. A detailed story of the process was reported in the local news media and can be accessed on the Village website, [www.pentwatervillage.org](http://www.pentwatervillage.org). The second blast was a great fireworks display provided by the DDA. A good crowd joined in the revelry at the Village Marina, and many more watched from their homes on the lake. Thanks to those responsible for this entertaining introduction to 2024!



**PENTWATER LAKE ASSOCIATION – “For the Love of the Lake” PO BOX 825, Pentwater MI 49449**

Membership Application Date \_\_\_\_\_ New \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_

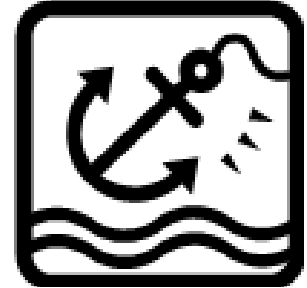
Member Applicant Name \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse \_\_\_\_\_

Local Address: Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_



Phone #(s): Local or Home \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

How to send your newsletter: Email \_\_\_\_\_ Hard Copy via USPS \_\_\_\_\_

**Dues:** Yearly Family Membership (one vote), from July 1st through June 30th . . . . . \$ 30.00

Subscription to Michigan Riparian Magazine, published quarterly (optional) \$14.00 \$ \_\_\_\_.

TOTAL (Make check payable to: Pentwater Lake Association, Inc.) . . . . . \$ \_\_\_\_.

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**Pentwater Lake Association Board**

- Pat Hooyman—President
- Tom Walter—Vice President
- Beth Provencal—Secretary
- Rich Pugsley—Treasurer
- Joe Primozich            George Ritchey
- Lynne Cavazos         Dr. Ross Feltes
- Joan Menke-Schaenzer

**Pentwater Village (869-8301)**

- President—Jeff Hodges
- Manager—Chris Brown
- Zoning Administrator – Kate Anderson
- Clerk/Treasurer—Rande Listerman
- Deputy Clerk/Treasurer—
- Trustees—David Bluhm, Jared Griffis,
- Dan Nugent, Don Palmer, Kathy O’Connor

**PLA Newsletter—published 4X/year**

- Editor—AnnaMae Bush
- Writers—Board members, guest contributors
- Photographers—Writers, D. Baker, D. Selahowski
- Mailing—Caroline Denlar

**Pentwater Township (869-6231)**

- Supervisor—Lynne Cavazos
- Treasurer—Heather Douglas
- Clerk—Maureen Murphy
- Deputy Clerk—Glenn Beavis
- Zoning Administrator – Keith Edwards
- Deputy Treasurer—Deborah Flood
- Trustees—Mike Flynn, Dean Holub

**PLA Committees and Chairs**

- Membership (Pugsley), Natural Resources - (Primozich), Publicity (Hooyman), Social (Cavazos)
- Social Media (Provencal), Water Quality (Hooyman), Education (Pleva), Newsletter (Bush)

**O.C. Marine Deputy—**

- Fire Chief**—Jonathan Hughart (869-5858)
- Police Chief**—Laude Hartrum (869-5987)

## Pentwater Lake Association

PO Box 825

Pentwater MI 49449

[www.pentwaterlakeassociation.com](http://www.pentwaterlakeassociation.com)

Facebook: Pentwater Lake Association



Photo courtesy of Stan Rokita

## MI House of Representatives Bills 5732 and 5733 Seek to Establish a Statewide "On-Site Wastewater Treatment System" (aka septic tank) Code

Recognizing that approximately 10% of Michigan's on-site septic tank and drain field- based wastewater management systems are in varying degrees of disrepair and malfunction and are known to be polluting freshwater ecosystems throughout the "Great Lakes state", MI House of Representatives Bills [5732](#) and [5733](#) have been introduced in order to remove Michigan from a "very short list" of states that have not yet established a statewide septic tank code.

According to the [Michigan Environmental Council](#), Michigan is the only state within the United States of America that does not currently have a statewide septic code. If passed into law, **House Bills [5732](#) and [5733](#)** would require Michigan's eight three (83) county governments to fund, develop, implement, and administer a program within their jurisdictions designed to help ensure that "on-site wastewater treatment systems" are properly located, built, tested, and inspected on a regular basis. The county-based program would be funded and implemented to ensure that on-site septic systems are not contributing to an already significant waste-water disposal issue. Hundreds of thousands of failing septic systems distributed across the state, many located with a short distance of vulnerable freshwater ecosystems, are known to be contaminating inland lakes, rivers, streams, wetlands, and groundwater aquifers.

The Michigan Waterfront Alliance strongly supports a unified Michigan Septic Policy.

(Reprinted with permission from the Michigan Waterfront Alliance January News Bulletin.)