

# Klinger Lake Association

A 501(c)(3) Charitable Organization

[www.klingerlakeassociation.org](http://www.klingerlakeassociation.org)

**Newsletter for Summer, 2022**

## Important Dates

### **KLA Annual Meeting**

**10am – Saturday, June 25**

**KLCC**

Annual Boat Parade – 1pm-Saturday, July 2nd – starts at Klinger Lake Marina

### **Boater Safety Class**

**WP Township Hall**

**Saturday June 18 9am-3pm**

**Register at**

<https://michigan.storefront.kalkomey.com/em/programs/9>

Fireworks – Starting at dusk Saturday, July 2<sup>nd</sup> (July 3<sup>rd</sup> rain date)

### **Boat Wash & AIS (Aquatic**

**Invasive Species) Blitz –**

**July 10 – DNR Public Launch**

## From the President



When I first volunteered with the KLA nine years ago, I was the board member assigned to water quality. (I still believe this is the most important thing the KLA does!) As part of my assignment, I attended the annual meeting of the Michigan Lakes and Streams Association, where Heidi and I learned how to test for water clarity and how to identify invasive species. Klinger Lake has relatively few areas of invasive vegetation, yet we are faced with escalating costs to control those 'weeds'. Historically, all the costs to treat invasives have been borne by lake residents. In the eyes of many residents, it is unfair for

Klinger homeowners to cover all the costs while many others share in the benefits of a healthy lake environment. Recognizing this, the Michigan DNR and EGLE established an annual grant program enabling lakes to access funds to defray a portion of invasive species treatment programs. Only 501(c)(3) organizations are eligible to apply. That is a primary reason why the KLA took action to change our structure into a charitable organization. We are now positioned to apply for state funds (there is no guarantee we'll be selected). There are other benefits to becoming a

charitable organization, including: all contributions to the KLA are fully tax deductible; we are now able to accept grants and bequests; we have access to resources of the Sturgis Area Community Foundation, including administrative assistance and grant writers; we can earn better returns on KLA funds.

On behalf of the entire Board of Directors of the KLA, **thank you** for your continued support of our lake association.

Mike Needham, KLA President

## Local Government Update

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To keep our members informed about local government activities, Kirby Baker (KLA Treasurer) has been attending meetings at White Pigeon Township for several years. You can follow proceedings by accessing minutes of public meetings at <https://whitepigeontwpmi.documents-on-demand.com/>

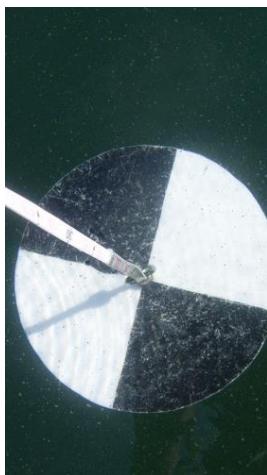
In addition to regular White Pigeon Township Board Meetings, Kirby regularly attends Planning Commission meetings. The Township Planning Commission deals with changes in zoning

regulations and ordinances, so this is where discussions about changes in items such as building setbacks, square footage requirements, etc start.

The Township Board discusses issues involving other aspects of Township government, such as local road projects (many of which are managed by the St Joseph County Road Commission) and public safety, which includes both Fire Protection and Ambulance services. (Note that basic police protection for our area is provided by the St Joseph County Sheriff).

Recently, all property owners received a letter regarding a change in how fire and ambulance services are to be funded in our area. The KLA board believes that having Fire Protection and Ambulance services is essential for our community.

Since this proposal is being worked on as this newsletter is being sent, the best way to get current information is to contact Don Gloy, White Pigeon Township Supervisor, at 269-483-7043.



*A Secchi disk is used weekly to measure clarity of the lake water*

## Water Quality

by Chris Bowers

Klinger Lake continues to enjoy clean, clear water as we go into the summer season. Each year we participate in the Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program through the MSLA. Between mid May and mid September we do several water tests that we submit to the program for analysis and

comparison to other participating lakes in the state. In the spring and fall we take a water sample to test for the Phosphorus levels. Each month during this period, we take a water sample to test for the Chlorophyll levels. Finally, each week, we check the water clarity by using a Secchi disk. Klinger is

rated as "Oligotrophic", which is generally a deep and clear lake with little aquatic or algae growth. Lakes like Klinger maintain sufficient dissolved oxygen in the cool, deep-bottom waters during late summer to support cold water fish. Our numbers in these three areas of analysis have remained consistent since 2015.

## Treatment of Invasive Species

The KLA focuses our weed treatment program solely on 'invasives' (non-native plants) which, if unchecked, can spread quickly and limit the growth of beneficial, naturally occurring vegetation. For several years, we have used Aquatic Weed Control of Syracuse, Indiana as our supplier for treatment services.

Herbicide	Water Use Restrictions
Copper based algacide	No restrictions
Endothall	No restrictions
Triclopyr	120 day irrigation restriction
Diquat	3 days drinking, 1 day animal consumption, 5 days irrigation
Dibromide	
Fiumioxazin	3-5 days for turf/greenhouse irrigation
Glyphosate	No restrictions
Imazapyr	24 hour irrigation restriction within 500' of intake
The MDEQ institutes a 24-hour swimming restriction only in the treatment area.	
Vegetation treatment will occur during late May to June.	
	For more information, call: <b>574-533-2597</b>

## KLA and MLSA

MLSA is a non-profit, statewide organization dedicated to the preservation, protection and wise management of inland lakes and streams.

In addition to being a forum for waterfront property owners from around the state, MLSA sponsors numerous learning opportunities and provides

access to experts on topics such as ecologically responsible shoreline improvement and invasive species control.

MLSA is also the sponsoring organization for our long-standing water testing program.

Finally, they publish a quarterly magazine,

'Michigan Riparian', which you receive when you join MLSA yourself. It includes valuable articles on a variety of topics, including legal advice for lakefront property owners. More information, including how to join this wonderful organization is at <https://mymlsa.org/>

# Klinger Lake Country Club

A very important neighbor at the lake is KLCC. *The following article was submitted by Megan Yoder.*

After two crazy years it is finally starting to feel a little more normal at KLCC! We held our first event of the season, our Easter brunch, and it was a huge success. Our Mother's Day event was great too, and the golf season well underway. Lots of other previously postponed or canceled events will be back for 2022. We can't wait!

As the weather continues to warm up, we're seeing all the golfers return, diners enjoying our newly refreshed porch and kids swimming in our pool! In 2022 we continue to welcome many new members; it is truly wonderful to have so many new faces enjoying our Club!

Have you joined KLCC yet? We aim to offer various memberships to fit the need of those wanting to be part of KLCC. EVERY membership includes golf (Social memberships include limited golf privileges) and they start at under

\$600! Please visit our website at <http://www.klingerlakecc.com/> if you are interested in more information or in joining KLCC this season.

One perk of being a member at KLCC is all our amazing social activities. Some of these include: trivia, wine Wednesdays, tasting dinners, brunches, ladies shopping event, outdoor concert, Oktoberfest party, casino night, dinner entertainment, and much more. For our 68th Invitational we will not only host another casino night, but we will combine it with a western theme, complete with a mechanical bull! This was a HUGE hit a few years ago and we can't wait to see which members last eight seconds! Our social events are open to all membership levels. Please "like" and watch our social media on Facebook and Instagram for updates and more events for our 2022 season.

In our Clubhouse this year we will continue to change our menu frequently throughout the season, keeping things fresh and new. We

also offer our menus TO GO, which is another convenient option for members. With dining in the area being limited, our Clubhouse has been a great asset to the lake community and surrounding areas. Anyone who has eaten at the Club can tell you the view is one of a kind, who doesn't want to overlook the beauty of Klinger Lake or a sunset while enjoying a delicious meal? This year we freshened up our porch by installing new carpet, new pillows, and new doors. It is one of the best places to appreciate the view and enjoy a good meal!

Lastly, please don't forget about KLCC when you are getting ready to host your next event. We have a beautiful facility and non-members can book events for a nominal fee. We hope that you will consider joining us for the 2022 season; we strive each year to improve the experience for all members at KLCC. If you are interested in finding out more about any of the above events, memberships, or to book an event please contact Megan at <mailto:myoder.klcc@gmail.com>



*Klinger Lake Country Club*

# Klinger Lake Country Club History Book

As noted in a few places, Klinger Lake Country Club has been in operation for a little over 100 years!

Starting about 10 years ago, Don Fox (Klinger Lake resident) began to compile the history of the club in words and photographs. The result is a fabulous book which is a great addition to any Klinger Lake cottage.

The book begins with stories of how the club was formed and then introduces the reader to some of the changes that have taken

place through the years. For people who play KLCC today, it is fascinating to read about changes in the course layout.

In earlier years, rather than a power golf cart, golfers used caddies. Many former caddies contributed stories to the book.

The book also features 'Drone's Eye View' photographs of the course.

**Now available for just for just \$45 at the KLCC Pro Shop, and at Lowry's Books in Sturgis and Three Rivers.**

Availability is limited.

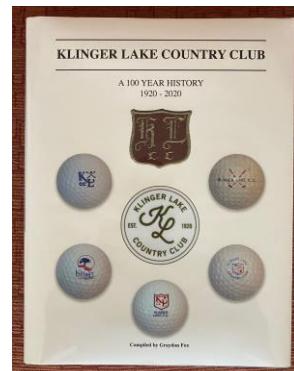




Photo by Nina Wolfe

## Klinger Lake Association, Inc.

The Klinger Lake Association is managed by a volunteer Board of Directors consisting of 12 members of the association. Board members are elected for overlapping 3 year terms. Officers are selected by the board.

### 2021-22 Officers:

Mike Needham, President

Julie Stutesman, Vice-President

Kirby Baker, Treasurer

Barb Pancoast, Secretary

### Board members:

Chris Bowers

Debbie Doe

Allison Kirsch

Katie Kitchen

Edgar Reihl

Andy Rieth

Sharon Snyder

## Beach Representatives

Beach Representatives provide a number of valuable services for the KLA. They distribute materials directly to residents, they welcome new homeowners and assist in growing membership in the

KLA. Board member Sharon Snyder coordinates the activities of the Beach Reps.

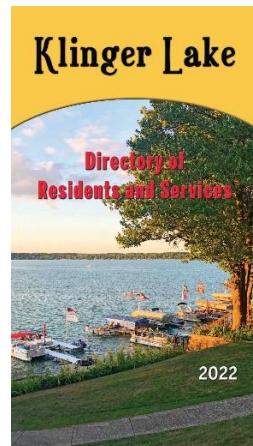
A listing of Beach Representatives can be found in the directory



Photo by Elizabeth Gibbons

## Directory of Residents and Services

One of the most valuable things the KLA does each year is produce a Directory of Residents and Services. The costs associated with printing the directory are covered by our advertisers. So, when you are looking for a place to eat, a store to buy something for your lake house, or someone to do work for you, **PLEASE** start by checking the list of advertisers. And, let them know you saw their ad in the Klinger Lake Directory!



## Klinger Lake Yacht Club

The Klinger Lake Yacht Club is gearing up for another fun and exciting season. All levels and all classes are welcome to participate in the races. The race schedule along with additional information such as how to buy gear or receive instruction are available online at [klyc.org](http://klyc.org)

These are the folks that fill the lake on weekends with colorful sails and great competition.

Follow us on Instagram at **official\_KLYC** and 'like' us on Facebook.

Instagram [hyperlink](#)

Submitted by Ted Combs



*Photo by Peggy Cox*

## Klinger Lake Real Estate

by Allison Kirsch

Happy Spring to our wonderful Klinger Lake community! It has been quite a wet spring with great fluctuation in temperatures in addition to a mixture of rain and snow. Docks have begun to be put in and there have been some boats out enjoying the lake life.

As you make your first Klinger tour this season, you'll see how the waterfront continues to evolve with gorgeous new homes being built around the lake. With these homes being built the legacy of family and memories will continue for many, many more generations.

Regarding existing homes and sales, there have not been any new waterfront listings since the first of the year. That's not saying there aren't private sales

happening around the lake via word of mouth or folks just letting friends know they may be thinking of selling their home.

Per the MLS (multiple listing service) there were 12 waterfront homes sold last year. The average selling price was \$320 per square foot, with a low of \$188 and a high of \$623.

Two homes in Oakwood Park sold with an average price of \$429 per square foot.

Two condominiums sold at an average of \$176 per square foot.

Three homes located off-lake sold last year that would be considered part of the Klinger Lake community.

*(Keep in mind the price per square foot is based on the living space square footage above grade. For some of the homes this number is a bit skewed due to the home not having a second floor above grade and the additional living space being located on the lower-level walkout.)*

Housing prices for waterfront homes in the 49099 ZIP code were up 17.2% over 2020. This is a big year over year increase as demand remained high. At less than 10 days, the average days on market continues to remain low.

I wish everyone a wonderful and safe summer!

## Other 'stuff' that's good to know

- In 2018, the KLA helped many residents check the quality of your well water. While nothing has changed in the area, a check-up every 3 to 4 years is recommended. You can do the test yourself with the help of the St Joseph County Health Department. Call 269-273-5885 for details. It costs \$20 cash or check. As an alternative, Garrett Labs (<http://garrettlabs.com/>) will perform the test for you for a slightly higher fee.
- The MLSA was among the sponsors of a peer-reviewed study of the impact of wake boats performed by scientists from the University of Minnesota. The report, which is available online at [this link](#) attempts to provide data rather than making a case for or against the use of such boats. A recommendation to limit the impact of waves created by wake boats is to: 1) operate the boats at approximately 400 feet from shorelines/other boats and 2) in deeper water. The same group of researchers plan to study the impact of prop wash on lake bottom structures and vegetation in the fall of 2022.
- We're not in the business of selling insurance (some of our directory advertisers are!) but lakefront property owners are encouraged to have so-called 'umbrella' policies to help protect their assets. It never hurts to review your coverage (one tip includes making sure your coverage applies to legal fees: you could win a lawsuit and yet still owe for legal fees!)
- We're not in the legal profession (again, some of our directory advertisers are!) but a periodic review of the ownership structure and how your property will be handled in the future is a good idea. A few hours spent now can save a lot of issues (and perhaps money) in the future.
- The MLSA can be a great source for information about making improvements in your shoreline that are good for you as well as for the health of our lake. Little things like using lake water for irrigation, limiting the use of fertilizers near the shoreline, leaving even a small border of taller plants rather than having manicured grass all the way to the water can all make a big difference to our lake habitat. And, while we know it's not always possible, the fish and turtles will THANK YOU if you leave a fallen tree in the water, particularly near the shore. The MLSA offers a 'Shoreline Stewards' program to encourage positive changes.

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## **Keeping Up with Evolution**

By  
Dick Magee

My first visit to the lake was in 1928! A photo confirms this historic happening. It's a shot of my grandfather holding me up in front of his Lemon Street cottage. Only six months old, I'm near smothered in a swath of white linen with only my Charlie Brown-like head sticking out. Granddad was decked out in a very smart short sleeve shirt, checkered knickers, white stockings and polished brown and white shoes - very spiffy. The ensemble could have been called "Klinger Lake chic." People dressed for success back then, even in a patch of woods by the lake.

I've never missed a summer since then.

So, I've been a witness to evolution. I've seen us morph from plain to fancy – from hard scrabble to high tech – from vacant shorelines to crowded condominiums – from cottages to mansions – from quiet waters to armadas churning the waters on a Sunday. We've moved from the simple to the complex. The differences between city and lake living are less pronounced than they used to be, and I'm not sure if that's good or bad. I sometimes yearn for the past, while complaining about a disruption to the present. It's easy to fall prey to the fallacy of thinking the old days were better when they really weren't.

No matter old or new, the lake is like a giant magnet drawing people to its shores. As a kid I can remember broad shorelines that were empty, just waiting for a city "pioneer" to put down stakes, float a boat, become a high-tax non-resident property owner. Bless them. Settlers came from everywhere with people from Sturgis leading the way. Their cottages stood in the woods and along the shore. When the power company ran a line to the lake cottages were modernized and became more like their more sophisticated city or town peers. When the lights turned on, things changed. It's hard to find a cottage – a small simple house – today.

Then came Ike's expressways that brought the peace of the countryside but an hour or two's drive from the noise and clutter of the city. People from afar – city folks - fell prey to the charms of "our" lake - and they migrated our way. That was a worry for some of us; outlanders were just over the horizon. But it worked out just fine. When I thumb through our Directory, I see that we've come from across the country. We're a united states within the United States. I estimate that as many as seventy percent of our people have come from other states, and from Michigan counties beyond St. Joe County. Over a hundred come from Illinois with Chicago leading the pack. Sixty Hoosiers have crossed the line. And even eight or nine have snuck in from Ohio. We've forgiven the Buckeyes for the Great Toledo War, but do fuss about them when they out slug the Wolverines in football.

Flags flying at the end of docks representing home states of current property owners include Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Ohio, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and Wisconsin. Whew.

We're a democracy, with a sense of purpose stated in our Mission Statement. We have a Board of Directors, and volunteer Beach Representatives, who do the work of keeping the lake like we like it to be. A double blessing for them. We owe them a lot.

At our annual "Town Meeting" we tend to cheer and fuss about the same things we did the year before. But we are of common cause and meetings end in harmony. We're a brotherhood of a thousand or more people pledged to help one another and to safeguard our very special lake community. It's been that way since my grandfather hoisted me up so I could see the lake waiting for me just down at the end of the lane.

### **Highlighted Boating Safety Regulations**

*(More information is in the back of the Directory. Details are available online at michigan.gov/dnr or by contacting the St Joseph County Sheriff at 269-467-9045)*

#### **Information and recommendations on ‘swim rafts’ (These also apply to ‘water trampolines’ and other similar floating items):**

- Swim rafts must be anchored on the bottomlands of the property owner and should not be placed in a way to impede navigability
- Swim raft owners are liable for damages for any collisions involving their raft, if found to be negligent in the placement or maintenance of their raft

Because of potential liability issues, swim raft owners are encouraged to notify their insurance agent about their use of a swim raft. In addition, the KLA highly recommends:

- The **labeling of rafts with the owner’s name and lake address** – this is particularly important should the raft slip its moorings
- The addition of reflectors to improve nighttime visibility

#### **A few words regarding safe boating distances:**

Except when operating at ‘no wake speed’ a boater (or a person being towed/skiing) must remain at least 100 feet from:

- The shoreline
- Any moored or anchored vessel
- A sailboat
- A dock or raft
- A swimmer in the water
- Additionally, a PWC operator must remain at least 150 feet behind any vessel other than another PWC

#### **Most frequently observed violations on Klinger Lake:**

- Boats being operated in excess of ‘no wake speed’ with passengers riding on the gunwale or swim platform, or in the case of pontoon boats, being operated with passengers outside the rails, particularly on the front of the boat
- Not maintaining sufficient distance when operating a vessel above ‘no wake speed’
- Passengers under the age of 6 years not wearing a Type I or Type II PFD while underway
- Failure to observe the ‘counter clockwise’ traffic rules
- The chasing, harassment, or disturbing of wildlife with a vessel
- Power loading/unloading trailer at the boat ramp
- Not observing “No Parking” beyond designated parking spots at boat ramp
- Failure to “Drain, Clean and Dry” prior to trailering watercraft, per the 2020 state law

Listing of 'Who Manages What?' - Prepared by the Klinger Lake Association					<a href="https://www.klingerlakeassociation.org/">https://www.klingerlakeassociation.org/</a>
Michigan EGLE (Environment, Great Lakes & Energy) - formerly DEQ	Michigan DNR (Department of Natural Resources)	St Joseph County Government	St Joseph County Sheriff's Marine Patrol	White Pigeon Township	Klinger Lake Association (Volunteer Organization)
<a href="https://www.michigan.gov/egle">https://www.michigan.gov/egle</a>	<a href="http://michigan.gov/dnr">michigan.gov/dnr</a>	<a href="https://www.stjosephcountymi.org/index.php">https://www.stjosephcountymi.org/index.php</a>	<a href="https://www.stjosephcountymi.org/sheriff/units_marinepatrol.php">https://www.stjosephcountymi.org/sheriff/units_marinepatrol.php</a>	<a href="https://whitepigontwp.com/">https://whitepigontwp.com/</a>	<a href="https://www.klingerlakeassociation.org/">https://www.klingerlakeassociation.org/</a>
Weed control permits	Operation of public launch sites	County Drain Commissioner responsible for dam	Enforcement of boating safety laws	Building permits Burn permits	Manages contract for invasive weed controls
Seawall regulations and permits	Issues Recreation Passports	Maintains tax maps / plat books web site	Watercraft inspections	Ambulance services	Manages annual fireworks display
Wetlands regulations	Fishing licenses / law enforcement	Road Commission permits docks on county roads	Boating Safety Classes & Certificates	Dump passes	Day-to-day operation of lake level control dam
Agriculture Operations Monitoring (i.e. CAFOs)	Fishing tournaments, fish stocking	(with Branch & Hillsdale Counties) Community Health/ Environmental Health - well water testing	On-lake patrols on regular and scheduled basis	Zoning regulations Waterfront ordinances Anti-funneling rules	Monitors lake water quality
MiWaters web site for tracking permits	Expertise on fish and water-based vegetation	Sheriff's Office: property crimes, traffic laws		Fire Department	Directory of residents
Contacts: Environmental Quality Specialist; Permits Section Manager	Contacts: Conservation Officer; Fisheries Biologist	Contacts: Drain Commissioner; County Clerk; Sheriff	Contacts: Sheriff's Deputy	Contacts: Township Supervisor; Deputy Supervisor	Contacts: Beach Representatives; KLA Board & Officers
Last revised 16May22					