

KLINGER LAKE ASSOCIATION

Summer, 2023 Newsletter

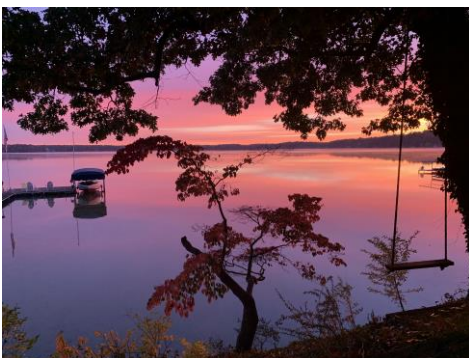
IMPORTANT DATES

KLA Annual Meeting 10am –
Saturday, June 17th KLCC

Annual Boat Parade – 1pm-
Monday, July 3rd – starts at
Klinger Lake Marina

Fireworks – Starting at dusk -
Monday, July 3rd (July 4th rain
date)

Boat Wash & AIS (Aquatic
Invasive Species) Blitz –
Sunday, July 9th – 10am to
2pm - DNR Public Launch



FROM THE PRESIDENT – MIKE NEEDHAM

I've been coming to Klinger Lake for about 30 years now, and in many ways that makes me a 'newbie'. Heidi and I have been here full time since 2012 and measured in 'lake years' that's not very long at all. Like many of you, I love hearing stories about the 'old days' of the area. That is why I think Dick Magee's Klinger Lake book (see page 3) has been so popular. But enough nostalgia.

As President of the KLA, I get to represent you at regional and statewide meetings of lake associations. Through groups like the Michigan Lakes and Streams Association, we learn about issues facing other lakes (such as invasive species infestations), discuss potential legislative initiatives and hear about ideas for making Klinger Lake even better.

One thing we changed this year was our aquatic invasive species (AIS/weed control) contractor. This wasn't in response to any issues: we just felt a 'fresh set of eyes' would be a good thing. Good stewardship of the lake environment is one of our top priorities. In most years, we treat far less than 1% of the surface area of the lake for invasives, and this allows us to maintain membership dues at much lower amount (\$50 in 2023) than most other lakes. And, unlike many lake associations, we are supported ENTIRELY by voluntary donations.

Last year, we announced our transition to 501(c)(3) status, which in addition to making all your donations tax deductible, made us eligible to apply for grant funds. This year, we applied for and received a small grant in support of 'Clean Boats, Clean Waters' programs. This is significant since we believe that some AIS issues are aggravated by the lack of compliance with 'Clean, Drain and Dry' laws. We have partnered with two county-wide groups to help us educate boaters on the importance of cleaning boats and trailers on the way in and on the way out of any lake.

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(Note: There are numerous 'links' in the electronic version of this newsletter that will only work if you read it online.)

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACTIVITY – KIRBY BAKER

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).



As announced at the April Township Board meeting, White Pigeon Township is working on a new master plan. In Michigan, townships are required to review their plan at least every five years. This document helps create a vision for the future of the township. Our leaders want input from all residents, including the Klinger Lake Association. Anyone interested in taking part in this important activity, please contact Mike Needham at communications@klingerlakeassociation.org

WATER TESTING / QUALITY – 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 MLSA. 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. If you’re interested in seeing all the data that has been collected about Klinger Lake over the past, visit [Lake Data](#) and complete the form for Klinger Lake.

KLINGER LAKE COUNTRY CLUB – MEGAN YODER

2023 is here and we have a wonderful season planned! Easter and Mother's Day kicked off our season, followed by our opening night on May 19th. Our calendar is filling up quickly with social events and private events this season, we are ready for a lot of fun to be had!

We had a Michigan teaser spring in mid-April and now we are hoping that weather returns for good in the next few weeks! As it warms up, we look forward to seeing all the golfers return, diners enjoying our porch and kids swimming in our pool! In 2023 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 needs of those wanting to be part of KLCC. Please visit our website at www.klingerlakecc.com if you are interested in more information or in joining KLCC this season.

One perk of being a member of KLCC is all our amazing social activities. A sampling: trivia, wine Wednesdays, tasting dinners, brunches, ladies shopping event, outdoor concert, Oktoberfest party, casino night, dinner entertainment, comedy night, dueling pianos, and much more. For our 69th Invitational we will host another casino night, which is always a hit amongst all that attend. 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 2023 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? It is one of the best places to appreciate the view and enjoy a good meal!

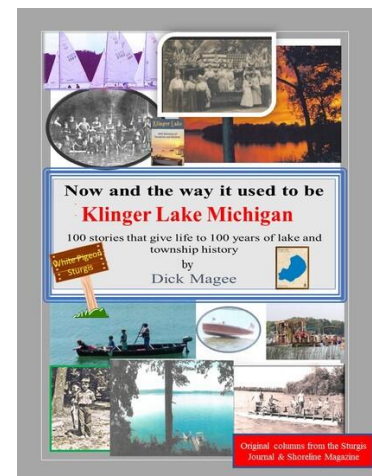
Lastly, please don't forget about KLCC when you are getting ready to host your next event. We have a beautiful facility and non-members can book events for a nominal fee. We hope that you will consider joining us for the 2023 season; we strive each year to improve the experience for all members at KLCC. If you are interested in finding out more about any of the above events, memberships, or to book an event please contact Megan at myoder.klcc@gmail.com.

KLINGER LAKE HISTORY – KATIE KITCHEN

We all love creating memories at the lake with friends and family. On our website we offer some items for purchase and some things just for FREE viewing. Just visit [History](#) and scroll down to see everything.

One of our recent offerings is a tremendous book by Dick Magee. We began selling it last year and have a few more copies for sale. This spiral bound book contains 338 pages and over 60 photographs. It makes a great addition to any Klinger Lake residence. You can link directly to the site to buy a copy here [Magee book](#)

Recently, the KLA received a copy of a special issue of the Sturgis Journal / Klinger Lake Edition from June of 1990. We've scanned all the pages and they're available FREE of charge to everyone. Simply scroll to the bottom of the page at this link: [History](#)



BEACH REPRESENTATIVES – DEBBIE DOE

Beach Representatives provide valuable services for the KLA. They distribute materials directly to residents (saving us all time and money!), they welcome new homeowners and assist in growing membership in the association. Debbie Doe serves as the coordinator for the beach representatives. A current list is available on our website at [Beach Reps](#) or in the Directory.

KLINGER LAKE ASSOCIATION BOARD AND OFFICERS

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.

2022-23 Officers:

Mike Needham, President

Mary Vogt, Vice-President

Kirby Baker, Treasurer

Barb Pancoast, Secretary

Board Members

Chris Bowers

Debbie Doe

John Dresser

Allison Kirsch

Katie Kitchen

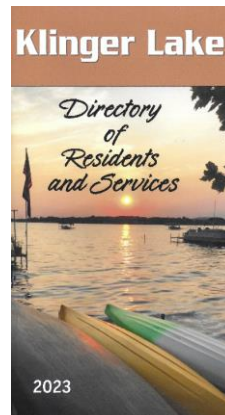
Rick Knoedler

Edgar Reihl

Andy Rieth

DIRECTORY OF RESIDENTS AND SERVICES

Each year, the KLA produces a Directory of Residents and Services. This guide is delivered to PAID KLA members in June. (Contact your Beach Representative if you don't get a copy.) Also, remember that advertising pays for the printing of the directory, so when you're looking for products or services for your lake property, PLEASE consider using a company you find in our Directory. And, let them know you found them in the KLA Directory!



REAL ESTATE REPORT – ALLISON KIRSCH

Spring has sprung in our beautiful Klinger Lake community. The kickoff to summer 2023 is just around the corner. Docks and boats have been going in and lake residents have begun to get an early start on lake activities. We welcome all new homeowners to Klinger Lake! We are so excited to have you be a part of our lake community.

As you cruise around the lake, you will probably notice plenty of new home construction that has continued to pop up. There are also several remodeling projects and additions that you'll see. The changes continue to add to the rich history of the lake.

Between May 1, 2022, through April 30, 2023, there were five homes listed for sale. Of those five, three have sold. There is currently one waterfront home sales pending and one home for sale. The list prices have ranged from \$592,000 to \$1,100,000. There have also been some private sales around the lake. The market continues to be very tight and competitive at Klinger Lake. The average days on market during this time period is 34 days. The days on market has increased from the prior year, which was less than 10 days. The average sale price per square foot was \$391. The homes sold for 97.43% of the list price during this time. The average price reduction was about -3.93% of the original list price.

Here's wishing you all a simply fabulous summer that is filled with making wonderful memories with family and friends.

SUMMER AT THE LAKE – A POEM BY MARY MAGEE

5 am Dawn

A cardinal whistles softly to his partner
A gray squirrel chitters gently from his tree
The sun breaks through a cloud with rosy fingers
Painting waves of golden filigree

2 pm Afternoon

A ski boat guns its mighty throaty motor
And challenges dominion of the lake
The skier pirouettes upon his slalom
Carving graceful patterns in the wake

7 am Morning

A bass boat trolls the shore with single purpose
A line is flung among the sheltered reeds
The hook is set – a little bluegill struggles
And darts to safety in the rushy weeds

10 pm Evening

A single star emerges in the heavens
A tiny wave laps gently on the sand
A cricket mutes his raucous stridulating
And twilight quiet flows across the land

OTHER 'STUFF' THAT'S GOOD TO KNOW

- Most of you know that the Klinger Lake DNR Public Launch paving project has been delayed. We have been told by the DNR project manager that the project will start up again on May 30th, which will allow most of us to get our boats into the lake before the launch is temporarily closed. We'll post progress updates on our Facebook page
- As previously mentioned, the KLA received a grant from the Michigan Clean Boats, Clean Waters program. We will be seeking volunteers to help us on four dates: July 9th, July 11th, July 20th and August 17th. If you want to be part of keeping Klinger Lake clean, please email communications@klingerlakeassociation.org and we'll provide details.
- Even though portions of the lake have a Sturgis mailing address, **all** of the lake is within the boundaries of White Pigeon Township. Therefore, all township-based rules and regulations that apply to lake residents come from White Pigeon Township. (See 'Who Manages What?' later in this Newsletter and in the Directory for more information)
- Klinger Lake is very clean, due in no small part to having a sewer system. Built in 1978, the White Pigeon Sanitary System covers the entire lake as well as portions of the surrounding area. The infrastructure that supports the lake environment consist of 33 'grinder' stations and 8 'lift' stations. These sub-stations eventually feed the treatment facility on Fawn River Road just south of the Village of White Pigeon. Consistent maintenance and updating of the system provides a reliable infrastructure which helps us all enjoy crystal clear water.
- 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 water level in Klinger Lake is controlled by a dam located on Sherman Mill Creek (just north of the condominiums on Crooked Creek Road). The level of 806.52 feet above sea level from April 1 through December 1 is set by a court order (from approximately December 1 through March the level is at 805 feet). Day to day management of the dam is performed by a KLA volunteer under authority of the St Joseph County Drain Commissioner. The lake level varies slightly throughout the season based on weather conditions.
- To host a bass fishing tournament in Michigan, an organizer must register with the Michigan DNR. Anyone can see registered bass tournaments scheduled for Klinger Lake by visiting [Klinger Bass Tournaments](#)
- On the subject of fishing, do you know you can view information on fish stocking at Klinger Lake? The data is available online at [Fish Stocking](#) (To save you the time of looking, at publication, the last activity at Klinger Lake was the release of 16,195 walleye fingerlings in May of 2021.)
- The Michigan Lakes and Streams Association (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. By joining the MLSA, you'll receive 'Michigan Riparian' Magazine, a helpful guide to lake living which is published quarterly. Learn more and consider becoming a member of MLSA at mymlsa.org

We've Lost A Summer Treat

By

Dick Magee

Just off the Dulles Expressway in wealthy McLean County, Virginia is a set of new age, high-tech office buildings. Two soaring glass towers connect to sweeping multi-story wings. All glisten like crystal. An enhanced landscape of flowers, terraces, fountains, and trails add a softness to the glitter of the campus. The project won the prestigious American Institute of Architects Award for Excellence in Design in 2005. It's the home of the USA TODAY newspaper - and the headquarters of the Gannett Company – the owner of the Sturgis Journal and its Shoreline Magazine affiliate.

Last fall, in a grand corner office of the complex, an executive made a decision that exploded like a bomb in a much smaller Journal office in Sturgis. Journal editors and reporters suddenly lost their jobs. The finances of Gannett demanded drastic and immediate cost reduction. The Journal's management and editorial duties were assigned to the staff of the Holland, Michigan Sentinel newspaper. This, however, did not include Shoreline. It closed immediately.

Shoreline has a wonderful history. It started in the early 1990s as a Journal newspaper insert. Published during the summer months. it focused on our local lakes. It ran in that form for about four years.



Candice Phelps, the most recent Journal and Shoreline editor, brought the present-day glossy version of Shoreline back in 2008. She reports that the magazine was very popular with both readers and advertisers.

It was a successful, profitable enterprise!

The magazine went to print six times a year during most of its history. Ten thousand copies streamed off the presses for each issue. Over the years it has won award after award from the Michigan Press Association. Candice notes that for an editorial staff the size of the Journal's, producing a sixty – to ninety - page magazine multiple times a year was a huge undertaking – but one in which

each member of the team took pride. In the fifteen years as a colorful glossy, the magazine published over a thousand stories!

That's the good part. The bad part is that it's gone. We've lost a summer treat.

The story of the final issue could be the best story of all. When the Journal office closed, there was still the November/December magazine that both subscribers and advertisers were counting on. Somehow an "out of business" magazine had to find a way to meet its commitments. It needed a hero to make things right.

And it found one - Lisa Vickers. Lisa, responsible for advertising in Gannett papers in southwest Michigan, took over. On short notice she asked four ex-writers for help – Laura Kurella, Rosalie Currier, David Farr, and me. We wrote thirteen articles in record time. In turn, Lisa saw to the layout of the magazine, its printing, and its distribution. Shoreline delivered as promised. A few ex-employees saved the day. They stayed loyal to the mission, honor and promise of their Shoreline alma mater.

I'll miss Shoreline. It was a history book, a reference guide – and a darn good read.

Highlighted Boating Safety Regulations and Suggestions

(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 and/or a low-cost solar powered light mounted on the raft

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

The distance recommendation for ‘wake boats’ is 200 feet or more

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					(Note that links on this page do not work!)
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)
michigan.gov/egle	michigan.gov/dnr	stjosephcountymi.org	stjosephcountymi.org	whitepigeontwp.com	klingerlakeassociation.org
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 and 'road ends'	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, Goose nest destruction permits	(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; animal control		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 16Apr23					