



Volume 20 - Edition 1  
Spring 2017

# THE BROWER News

## Springtime



on  
Big Brower Lake

### A Spring Water Quality Update:

The Big Brower township lake board met recently and invited Jason Brookstra of Professional Lake Management. Our lake is in good shape overall. Last year, we had a return of Cabomba which was treated right away and also treated the cove for Purple Loosestrife, another invasive species. Eurasian milfoil requires constant maintenance to keep it in check. Our phosphorous levels are slightly enriched along with nitrites. Dissolvable solids were moderate and did not increase, water remained clear, and E-coli tests showed it to be virtually non-existent. Oxygen at the deepest points dropped during the summer pushing normally deep water fish to more shallow water. We discussed it with Jason and will keep an eye on it in the future. If you're hungry for more details, a full report is posted on our website in the

member's area. If you would like to learn more about the plants mentioned here along with other Midwest aquatic plants, visit the water quality page for a reference chart.

We have a new drain commissioner (required) on the board, Ken Yonker, and also approved Jerry Peterson as our 5th so with Jerry, Ingrid, and myself, we continue to have 3 of the 5 members be lake residents. We pledge once again to continue to monitor our lake throughout the summer and keep it one of the best in the county.

Happy Summer!

Frank Walejewski



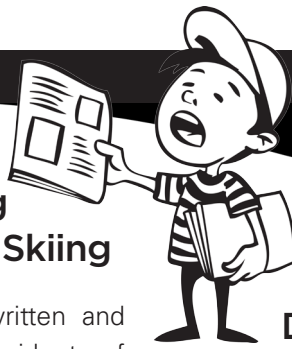
### 2017 Weed Treatment Schedule

Week of:	Type of Treatment:
5-8	Spring AVAS Survey
5-15	Weed & Algae Opt
6-12	Weed & Algae Opt, E.Coli
7-10	Weed & Algae Opt., Harvest
8-7	Weed & Algae Opt.
8-28	Fall AVAS, WQ

PLM treats each lake according to a schedule or season plan, established with the cooperation of your lake association, lake board or residents on the lake. The treatment schedule is approximate.

Please watch your shoreline for the posting of the 8.5x11 inch, yellow or green signs. The signs will indicate the date of the treatment, the products used, and any restrictions on the use of treated water for swimming, watering lawns.

DEQ permitting restrictions, national holidays, and/or weather conditions may influence the timing of treatments throughout the 2017 season.



### Report Of The BBLIA Regarding Early Morning And Direction Of Skiing

The BBLIA Board reviewed and discussed written and verbal comments from BBLIA members and residents of the Lake regarding (1) concerns that skiing prior to 8:00 am is disruptive to residents; and (2) concerns that skiing in a predominantly straight path across the longest portion of the lake is harmful to the shorelines of properties.

The Board acknowledges and agrees that BBLIA, as a volunteer, nonprofit corporation, has no legal authority to enforce any rules that we impose on ourselves as lake residents. Michigan laws have been enacted for boater safety concerning times of skiing, distance from docks, etc. and direction of skiing (counter-clockwise direction). These laws are included on the website under Lake Regulations.

Our request as a Board is that the "rules" of common courtesy prevail for our lake residents and that respect for our neighbors ultimately guides our behavior as to the times and manner of skiing. Although it might be difficult, we encourage discussion directly with those whose behavior is concerning to you, as this will be the most effective means of reaching common ground and maintaining open and collegial relationships. If common ground cannot be achieved, and any lake resident believes that Michigan laws are not being followed, recourse will reside with residents' own legal counsel and potentially law enforcement.

We, as residents, have a beautiful lake with a special community. Generations of families choose to visit and make the Lake their home. Our opinions and ideas may conflict, but it behooves us all to treat each other and communicate with respect, fairness and honesty so that our Lake traditions carry on.

### Dues Have Been Increased

Due to the increased costs of our awesome fireworks, maintenance costs of the association lot and pontoon trailers, and other services, the board has decided to increase the dues to \$60.00 to cover these costs. We are still way below other lake associations in the area and want to keep it that way but need the additional money to continue to be a service to our lake residents. Thank you for your understanding.

To pay your dues online, visit [bigbrowerlake.com](http://bigbrowerlake.com). The site uses Paypal which allows you to use many of the major credit cards for a secure online payment. We also have a contribution option so you may conveniently donate to any one of the projects that the BBLIA is working on or just select General and we will put your donation to good use. Thank you in advance for your donation!

You may still pay your dues with a check by using the enclosed envelope pre-addressed to the BBLIA Treasurer, Jeff Case. Please make your check payable to Big Brower Lake Improvement Association (BBLIA) in the amount of \$60.00.

As we have done in the past couple years due to increased costs and postal issues, the spring issue is printed and posted near your mailbox. For paying association members, the subsequent issues will be emailed along with quick news updates and login info for the website to view the newsletters online. If you have paid your dues and are not receiving the emails, please send your email address to [wendy@bigbrowerlake.com](mailto:wendy@bigbrowerlake.com). If you do not have an email address, contact your board member (see listing on back for your board member) for a printed copy.

### Need Help With Hauling Spring Clean Up Items From Your Yard?

Members of your BBLIA are volunteering their time from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm on Saturday, May 20 to assist Big Brower Lake residents in hauling spring cleanup items to the Township. Only those items that are allowed by the Township during the Township's "Spring Clean Up" are allowed, and we ask that you visit the [Courtland Township](http://CourtlandTownship) website for this information. If in doubt, please call the Township directly. And the BBLIA volunteers also reserve the right to not take an item if they deem it unsafe. Items included as part of the cleanup are toys, sporting equipment and flower pots, old wood, broken or old equipment, grills, pvc piping, and the like. Items not allowed include yard waste, petroleum or gas products, paint, and batteries. Please keep in mind that this is not meant for residents to "clean out" basements kind of thing, but rather to be able to finally get rid of items in yards that trash service will not take without an extra fee. If you are interested in receiving assistance, please let Renee Lobert know by sending an email to her at [lobertrenee@gmail.com](mailto:lobertrenee@gmail.com). You must be present on site to show the volunteers what items to take.



## Lock It Up

An article by your BBL Neighborhood Watch (NW) that appeared in a previous issue of the BBL newsletter drove home the theft deterrent of locking all doors. That more than obvious advice was bolstered by the burglary blitz of vehicles & houses that had been plaguing the greater GR area, where entry had been gained through unlocked doors. These intrusions occurred during both broad daylight & at night, to include even when the residents were at home asleep.

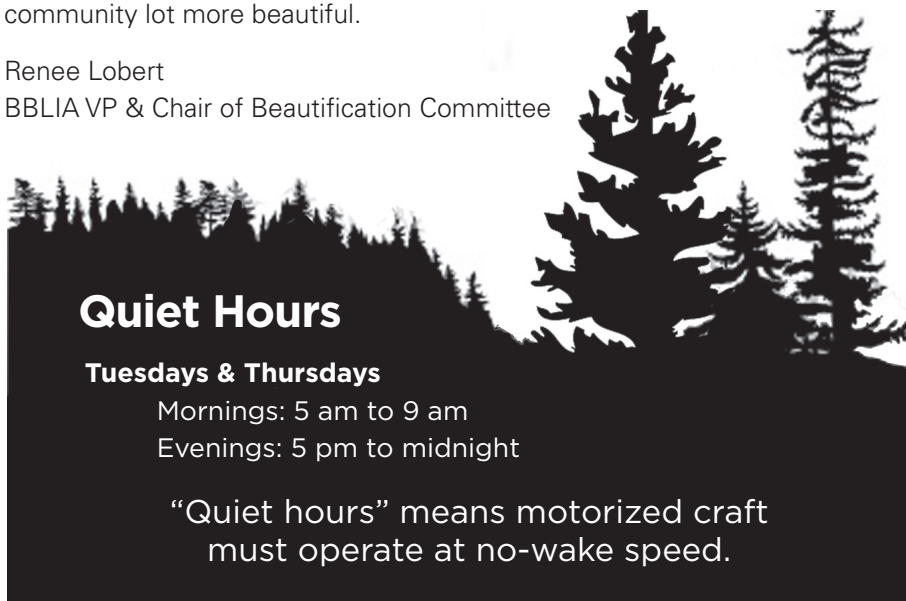
Now comes further support to heed this simple, but oftentimes neglected, preventive measure. An investigative reporter recently interviewed a convicted, professional burglar serving time in prison. Two of the revelations conveyed by this villain were: 1) "When I see a NW sign, I move on to the next community. It tells me that there are too many eyes looking-out for people like me; and 2) I don't carry – or use – any burglar tools. Why should I break-in when I can walk-in (through an unlocked door)? It's a lot quieter & a whole lot easier. And, it is surprising how many doors are left unlocked – it's like being extended an open invitation." So if the NW signs don't thwart 'em, locked doors are a good backup.

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### BBLIA Lot Beautification Committee Update

The community building at the Association Lot had a lot of attention last fall and the last coats of paint will be applied this Spring. We are investigating the cost of replacing the pavilion roof which is failing and hiring a company to help with the Spring Lot clean up. It is becoming more than what the few volunteers that help with this can handle. Unfortunately a lawn crew blew residents' leaves into the fence line of the Lot, making it a much bigger clean up this year. We welcome recommendations of reliable and reasonable contractors to help us in these endeavors. The playground equipment has been ordered and will be installed hopefully by Memorial Day thanks to the generous donations of Dustin Wood and Michele Richardson. We also welcome donations to defray costs of improvements, suggestions, and volunteers to continue to make our community lot more beautiful.

Renee Lobert  
BBLIA VP & Chair of Beautification Committee



### Quiet Hours

**Tuesdays & Thursdays**

Mornings: 5 am to 9 am

Evenings: 5 pm to midnight

"Quiet hours" means motorized craft must operate at no-wake speed.

## 2017 Spring & Summer Calendar of Events

- May 1 Lake Combination Change
- June 3 Lake Area Garage Sales  
9 - 3pm
- Aug 15 BBLIA Annual Meeting  
Association Lot - 7pm

Please see the website for any additional dates and changes.

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### Stolen

Beautiful planters were stolen off the front porch of the McCall's home a couple weeks ago. For a picture of the planters, please visit the Brower Lake Facebook page. If you see these planters, please contact the McCalls.

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### Thank you's!

Thank you Mike and Sean Riley for making Visiting Santa a special time for all the kids. A special thank you to Melanie Yff for the great goodie bags.

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### Classifieds

Wanted: water skis for beginners (shorter than regular?) and basic skis.  
Please call Linda at 874-8004.

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Contact Tim Durham if you have old water skis for a school class project at 616.260.8747.

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### Gate Combination

Since the gate combination is changing on the first of every month, it will no longer be included in the newsletter. Keep an eye out for the email updates for the new gate combination.

## New to the lake?

Please contact Barb Durham, our welcome hostess, at 616-322-1520 or babjarmstrong1@gmail.com

## Pontoon Trailer Rental

If you need to use the association's pontoon trailer, please schedule a time with Mike Riley at 874-7881. If Mike is not available, contact Jeff Case at 540-6855. The rates for the pontoon trailer rental are tiered. For those who rent the pontoon trailer to use around the lake, the rate is \$35.00. Any rental requiring travel to another area the rate will be \$50.00. Please have payment ready when you pick up the trailer for use.

The lake residents have been divided up into eight sections and a board member has been assigned to the following sections.

Jeff Case	8348-8481 Je-Ne-Be Dr.
Jackie Dangl	8585-8720 Brower Lake Dr.
Ingrid Jensen	8659-8851 Je-Ne-Be Dr. 8405-8470 Oakview 8601 Young Ave. 7510 & 7661 10 Mile Road
Renee Lobert	8843-8955 Je-Ne-Be Dr. 8820 Ne St.
Shawn Marks	8735-8888 Brower Lake Dr.
Lorraine Nykun	8493-8651 Je-Ne-Be Dr.
Matt Parrott	8450-8582 Brower Lake Dr.
Mike Riley	8402-8436 Brower Lake Dr. 8315-8344 Je-Ne-Be Dr. 8446 & 8453 Brower Ave.



### Newsletter address:

8493 Je Ne Be NE  
Rockford, MI 49341

### Website address:

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

## BIG BROWER LAKE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

### Volunteers

#### Neighborhood Watch

Dale Zimmerman 874-2548  
Wendy Mersman 940-4598

#### Township Lake Board

Ingrid Jensen 915-2273  
Frank Walejewski 460-4225

#### Township Sewer Board

Bill Dykstra 874-1234

#### Welcome Hostess

Barb Durham 322-1520

#### Water Quality Monitors

Ingrid Jensen 915-2273  
Frank Walejewski 460-4225

#### Newsletter & Website

Wendy Mersman 940-4598

### Board of Directors

#### Executive Committee

#### President:

Ingrid Jensen 915-2273 [ijensen@clarkhill.com](mailto:ijensen@clarkhill.com)

#### Vice President:

Renee Lobert 446-1010 [lobertrenee@gmail.com](mailto:lobertrenee@gmail.com)

#### Secretary

Jackie Dangl 299-1745 [jcdangl@yahoo.com](mailto:jcdangl@yahoo.com)

#### Treasurer

Jeff Case 540-6855 [jdcase23@gmail.com](mailto:jdcase23@gmail.com)  
-- 8555 Je-Ne-Be Drive, Rockford, MI 49341

#### Technical Officer

Wendy Mersman 940-4598 [wendy@bigbrowerlake.com](mailto:wendy@bigbrowerlake.com)

#### Board Members

Shawn Marks 989-430-0715 [shawnlobertmarks@gmail.com](mailto:shawnlobertmarks@gmail.com)  
Lorraine Nykun 884-5660 [lorraine.nykun@gmail.com](mailto:lorraine.nykun@gmail.com)  
Matt Parrott 890-0017 [sparrott@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sparrott@sbcglobal.net)  
Mike Riley 874-7881 [webong@charter.net](mailto:webong@charter.net)

#### Board Alternates

Peder Nelson 516-5550 [pnelson@fineeyecolor.com](mailto:pnelson@fineeyecolor.com)  
Mike Wilson (248) 561-9933 [michael@cardusinc.com](mailto:michael@cardusinc.com)