



THE BROWER *News*

Spring 2019 Water Quality Report

Professional Lake Management came out a couple of weeks ago to take our spring water samples. We have always had one of the cleanest lakes in Kent county and we expect to find the same again this year. We watch: oxygen levels (necessary for a healthy fish population), Nitrogen and phosphorus (from lawn fertilizers that promote undesirable weed growth-not so good), and Alkaline levels (for monitoring water hardness). We also keep an eye on the levels of dissolved salts since our lake is a watershed and collects runoff from the surrounding area. Excessive salt in a fresh water lake can be detrimental to its ecosystem. There are area lakes that have been affected by road salt getting into them. So far, our levels have remained low. In July we will also do a check for E-coli bacteria in 3 places. This is precautionary-ours is usually extremely low.

PLM was able to come out the 10th to do the spring weed survey. The weather this year hasn't been too cooperative as we've had a lot of windy and rainy days. I joined them again.

I spent some time beforehand checking out their boat and running through the precautionary measures they take to prevent transplanting invasive species into our lake. They do follow what they preach. They also informed me that there are new, strict regulations on what MUST be done when removing your boat from a water body so you don't transplant to another. We will get these published for all of us to review and remember.

The good news is that we found almost no milfoil. This is an invasive that can grow well during the winter and was starting to show up in patches a couple years ago. It appears for now we have it back in check after a couple summers of hitting it hard. Water clarity is also good. I made PLM mark GPS locations for the areas that were missed last August for eel grass so we should be better covered this year. Eel grass has the flowers that spiral once a year (August) to the surface. It is necessary for a healthy lake ecosystem (indigenous) so we can't eliminate it. We only can knock it down some so it can't become a nuisance to lake use. We also found some healthy pondweed and Chara, both good for our lake. There was no sign of the invasive Cabomba weed for which we treated late last year.

The not so good news: We found quite a bit of the invasive Starry Stonewort in the cove. We also found quite a bit of its seeds in the muck. These can stay viable for quite a few years. For that reason, we are going to do a treatment of this area to knock it down before it becomes a problem. The issue is that it is one of the invasive plants that chokes out the healthy plants we need like Chara. This is similar to how weeds can choke out our grass in our lawns when left unchecked. The Curlyleaf pondweed is still showing a presence and will also be treated for the same reasons at the same time.

That's it for now.

Have another great, fun, and happy summer on Big Brower Lake!

Frank Walejewski

Big Brower Township Lake Board

2019 Weed Treatment Schedule

Week of:	Type of Treatment:
5-6	Spring AVAS Survey
5-13	Weed & Algae Opt
6-10	Weed & Algae Opt
7-8	Weed & Algae, E.Coli Sampling
8-5	Weed & Algae Opt.
8-26	Fall AVAS, WQ
9/16	Weed Treatment

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 2019 season.



New Boating & Fishing Laws

Partial Article by Michigan DNR, posted March 18
Full article on the BBLIA website

It is that time again!

The BBLIA is counting on your dues for our spectacular fireworks, association maintenance and so much more. The annual dues are \$60.00 if paid by 7/31/19 and \$75.00 after that date.

To pay your dues online, please visit 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, Michael Wilson. Please make your check payable to Big Brower Lake Improvement Association (BBLIA).

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, etc. If you have paid your dues and are not receiving the emails, please send your email address to 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.

Thank you for being a member!

If your leisure-time plans include boating or fishing, recent changes in Michigan's Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act (NREPA) may affect you.

Beginning March 21, watercraft users in the state are required to take steps to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species.

What boaters need to know: Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers

For boaters, amendments to Sec. 41325 of NREPA (Act 451 of 1994), finalized near the close of the 2018 legislative session, affect both motorized and nonmotorized watercraft, trailers and other conveyances used to move watercraft.

In addition to the existing law requiring all aquatic plants be removed from boats and trailers before launching, the changes require the following, prior to transporting any watercraft over land:

- Removing all drain plugs from bilges, ballast tanks, and live wells.
- Draining all water from any live wells and bilges.
- Ensuring the watercraft, trailer, and any conveyance used to transport the watercraft or trailer are free of aquatic organisms, including plants.

This means after trailering boats, and before getting on the road, boaters must pull plugs, drain water and remove plants and debris from all watercraft, trailers and other conveyances. A short video from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality shows the steps boaters can take to comply with the new law.

**Violation of the law is a state civil infraction
and violators may be subject to fines up to \$100.**

Why it matters:

"Many invasive species move from one location to another with the help of human transportation," said Kevin Walters, an aquatic biologist with the DEQ. "Plants like Eurasian watermilfoil or starry stonewort can travel from lake to lake on boats and trailers. Just one plant fragment can start a new population."

Draining boats and cleaning trailers can limit the spread of zebra and quagga mussels, which are common in some inland lakes. A more recent invader, the tiny New Zealand mudsnail, can hitchhike from river to river when mud or debris is left on kayaks, canoes and gear.

Moving fish from one body of water to another can spread fish diseases, like heterosporis (a parasite of yellow perch) and viral hemorrhagic septicemia virus (VHSV), a serious disease that can affect many fish species. Fish diseases also can be spread to new locations when water carrying parasites or infection is transferred via bilges, live wells or ballast tanks.

What you should do: to comply with the law and prevent the introduction and spread of aquatic invasive species, boaters should:

- CLEAN boats, trailers and equipment.
- DRAIN live wells, bilges and all water – pull all drain plugs.
- DRY boats and equipment.
- DISPOSE of unwanted bait in the trash.

And remember when practicing catch-and-release fishing, return the fish to the water where it was caught. For more information on what anglers need to know, visit the BBLIA website.



Please Consider Contributing to the Big Brower Lake Fireworks Display

The cost continues to increase, which is the primary reason we recently raised our annual dues. This is our Association's largest expense. To continue with the high quality of the fireworks show, we will likely need to increase dues again, unless we are able to defray the cost with individual contributions. You may make your contribution online at the BBL website by selecting "Fireworks" under the MAKE A CONTRIBUTION section. You may also pay by check. Checks should be made payable to BBLIA. Any amount you can contribute to this is appreciated!

4th of July Parade Theme

Please let us know your ideas for a theme for our annual boat parade on the 4th of July. You can speak with any Board member or make your suggestion on the BBL website. We need suggestions by no later than June 3, 2019, so put your thinking caps on!

Need Firewood?

Because of the tree trimming and removal from Consumers, the association lot has a lot of wood left. The Brower Lake residents are welcome to any of the wood in the lot.



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.

2019 Spring & Summer Calendar of Events

JUNE 1

Lake Area Garage Sales

9am-5pm

Boater Safety Presentation

2-3pm - Association Lot

Please join us for an informative presentation and Q&A opportunity regarding current boater safety laws. Deputy Roberto Anaya of the Kent County Sheriff's Office will be giving an overview of boater safety guidelines and answering your questions.

This is not a boater safety class, but it will be an informal opportunity to become more informed, ask questions, and learn how to register for an upcoming certification class.

Spring Clean-up

8-noon

The Association Board (and any volunteers – all welcomed!) will be picking up any unwanted/bulky items from residents to take to the annual Courtland Township clean-up day. Please visit the Township website for a list of items that are accepted. Please let any Board member know if you have items that you would like taken. Also, we are looking for volunteers willing to help with the loading and unloading and also for truck/trailer owners willing to assist with this.

JULY 4

Fun Run & Fireworks

See summer newsletter for the event details.

Aug 20

BBLIA Annual Meeting

6:30pm - Association Lot

Please see the website for the up-to-date information on lake activities. If you are a member and want to receive the latest news and are not receiving emails from the association, please send your email to wendy@bigbrowerlake.com.

Lake Directory

Looking for an address for a Big Brower Lake resident? Please see the website, www.bigbrowerlake.com, for an updated Lake Directory. If you have any changes or are a new lake resident, please email wendy@bigbrowerlake.com to update your information.

Pontoon Trailer Rental

If you need to use the association's pontoon trailer, please schedule a time with Ingrid Jensen at 915-2273. 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.
Kevin Jacot	8450-8582 Brower Lake Dr.
Michael Wilson	8402-8436 Brower Lake Dr. 8315-8344 Je-Ne-Be Dr. 8446 & 8453 Brower Ave. .



Need an inexpensive idea for your guest?

Contact your board member to get yours today! They are only \$10.00 or 2 for \$15.00 and you will be helping out your association.



Newsletter address:

8493 Je Ne Be NE
Rockford, MI 49341

Website address:

www.bigbrowerlake.com

facebook.com/bigbrowerlake

BIG BROWER LAKE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Board of Directors Executive Committee

President:

Ingrid Jensen 915-2273 ijensen@clarkhill.com

Vice President:

Renee Lobert 446-1010 lobertrenee@gmail.com

Secretary

Jackie Dangl 299-1745 jcdangl@yahoo.com

Treasurer

Michael Wilson (248) 561-9933 michael@cardusinc.com
8570 Je-Ne-Be Drive, Rockford, MI 49341

Technical Officer

Wendy Mersman 940-4598 wendy@bigbrowerlake.com

Board Members

Shawn Marks 989-430-0715 shawnlobertmarks@gmail.com

Lorraine Nykun 884-5660 lorraine.nykun@gmail.com

Jeff Case 540-6855 jdcase23@gmail.com

Kevin Jacot (989) 737-1362 jacotk@progressiveae.com

Board Alternates

Steve Cilek 340-2479 scilek@chartermi.net

Volunteers

Neighborhood Watch

Wendy Mersman 940-4598

Township Lake Board

Ingrid Jensen 915-2273

Frank Walejewski 460-4225

Township Sewer Board

Bill Dykstra 874-1234

Water Quality Monitors

Ingrid Jensen 915-2273

Frank Walejewski 460-4225

Newsletter & Website

Wendy Mersman 940-4598