

## Executive Director Highlights 2012-2013

- Leah Varga served as our College intern for 2012 and provided TLA with an evaluation process for monitoring the Fish Shelter Project..
- Antrim County Fair (3-day) Educational Booth. Over 2000 people attended. With your help, environmental education was shared with young and old. Governor Snyder stopped at the booth and discussed issues with the interns! One of the Fair coordinators told me that if there would have been a first place ribbon for best booth, we won hands down.
- The Dole Family Foundation provided a donation of \$750 toward the battle against Eurasian water Milfoil.. With the assistance of our interns, the majority of the lakes have been surveyed.
- TLA is displaying the TCE Plume Model at the County Building along with information materials.
- Grass River and Rapid River were assessed by MSU experts late September. Dean Branson graciously provided accommodations for the group, saving us hundreds of dollar. The results are being presented tonight..
- The Local Government Officials meeting to educate on water quality and watershed issues was held in January. The event will be held each January.. All presentations are available on our website..
- Gordy Shafer, of the Dockside has challenged us with a matching grant for funding of the SEOP. He has offered us \$3000 for three years if we can match the funds. His intent is to create a continuing funding stream for the program. To date, we have raised almost \$2500.
- Mark Stone, Drain Commissioner and Dam Keeper is leading the charge (along with our assistance) in armoring of stream banks with engineered woody debris of Grass River. The permit has been issued for Phase 1 and construction should begin in late September.
- I am very honored to have been selected to the Michigan Lakes and Streams Institute. The Institute provides an educational experience that improves understanding of local water resource management planning and program implementation. Each participant is required to do an applied project. I will be preparing a 8 month curriculum for each of our 4 school districts and will begin with the topic - "Macro invertebrates and Their Importance to Stream Health." One (1) kit will be prepared for each school district with age appropriate instructions and digital worksheets, a "collection" of actual macros for viewing and a "d" net for sampling. I would like to expand the program with another topic each quarter until 9 topics have been created. It is my hope that an expanded education committee could help complete the project. Should you wish more information about the program:  
[http://msue.anr.msu.edu/program/info/michigan\\_lake\\_and\\_stream\\_leaders\\_institute](http://msue.anr.msu.edu/program/info/michigan_lake_and_stream_leaders_institute)
- The Joint Education Program topics included "Eurasian Milfoil: What it means for boating, fishing and your wallet" on June 18 at Thurston Park in Central Lake and Chain-of-Lakes History Comes Alive—A Chat with Ed and Herb" on August 13 at the Alden Depot.
- KC Babb, as volunteered to serve as our Public Relations Chair. Please check out our new and improved website 3lakes.com and our Facebook page facebook.com/3lakes
- A Retreat was held April 13 by the Board of Directors.. Most found the program very informative, especially our newer members.. As can only be expected, there are still several unanswered questions and unaddressed topics. An organizational committee was formed to address our strengths, weaknesses and to help in directing TLA's future.
- TLA co-sponsored the Boater's Safety Class with Friends of Clam Lake at the Grass River Natural Area.
- The 2013 High School Interns are finalizing their report for the summer. Watch for it early this fall.
- For 2014, several state agencies will combine their efforts with the Michigan Lakes and Streams Association for a joint conference. Local lakes associations will be contributing to this effort. The event will take place May 1 -3, 2014 at Boyne Mountain. Please save the dates.

Leslie Meyers