



55 Years of Lake & Stream Protection



Torch Lake and Clam Lake from the delta of Grass River

TLA Annual Summary - 2020



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Art Hoadley and Steve Hoadley on Clam Lake

Letter from the President

Thank you for helping us celebrate TLA's 55th year! We are encouraged to be joined by so many members who share a passion for protecting our lakes. It's a job that never ends and it's made possible due to your support and dedication to environmental preservation. From identifying and removing invasive species, to preventing excess nutrients from entering waterways and aquifers, to minimizing soil erosion and sediment build-up, to keeping an eye on recreational safety, TLA's board of directors with support from our members and volunteers are working hard to make sure future generations can enjoy what we are enjoying today in this special part of Northern Michigan.

In the past year, TLA partnered with other local organizations on multiple projects, focusing the unique strengths and capabilities of each organization on common goals. Your board of directors also spent time looking inward to build on past successes and develop new capabilities. On the last page of this publication, you will find our newly developed "identity map" which expands the organization's mission statement to communicate the performance, priorities, methods, and resources required to reach our goals.

Most of all we need your support and your volunteerism. There are so many ways to offer your time and talents, from a few hours a month during the summer collecting environmental samples to a two-year commitment to serve on the board as a zone director or officer. Together, we are making a difference and helping preserve our precious water resources.

-Fred Sittel

Photo Credits: P1, Art Hoadley; P2, Jessica Kubin. P4 from top: Dean Branson, (sign), Jeanie Williams, Jeanie Williams, Art Hoadley,



The TLA Board met online from March 2020-June 2021. Here is a mug shot from the last online meeting.

Board Members who served 2020-2021 We Thank You!

Officers:

President – Mike Bertram (to Dec 2020)
Interim President – Fred Sittel (since Jan 2021)
Vice President – Fred Sittel (to Dec 2020)
Interim VP – Rick Doornbos (since Jan 2021)
Treasurer – Ed Gourley
Secretary – Tina Norris Fields
Immediate Past President – Tina Norris Fields

Committee Chairs:

Water Quality – Vacant
Membership – Todd Collins
Education – Tina Norris Fields (current)
Water Safety – Art Hoadley
Lake Monitoring Program – Cheryl Lynn Fields

Executive Director:

Jeanie Williams

Administrative Assistant:

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Zone Directors:

Zone A: Clearwater Township

Cheryl Lynn Fields, Tina Norris Fields

Zone B: Milton Township:

Rick Doornbos, Greg Fredericksen

Zone C: Torch Lake Township

Mike Novak, Vacant

Zone D: Central Lake Township

Todd Collins, Steve Laurenz

Zone E: Forest Home Township

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Zone F: Helena Township

Richard Knopf, Vacant

Zone G: Custer Township

Mike Bertram, Vacant

Zone H: Kearney Township

Duane Drake, Ann McClelland

Directors at Large:

Dean Branson, Norton Bretz, Art Hoadley, Gary Knapp, Leslie Meyers, Becky Norris (2020)

Latest TLA Activities:

A review of 2020 and a preview of 2021

- Five outstanding students from area high schools filled our 2021 Summer Internship program. They are studying the feeding preferences of snails in Torch Lake. This program is now supported by the Gerrit Lee Wierda Memorial Internship fund.
- Be Wise Don't Fertilize signs were designed and distributed around Clam Lake and Lake Bellaire to encourage everyone to minimize nutrient additions to our waters.
- Eurasian Water Milfoil in Torch Lake and the Clam River was treated in 2020 – to knock it back and prevent its spread – in partnership with the Torch Lake Protection Alliance. In 2021 we are working together to create a long-term strategy to manage this invasive plant.
- Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council became the new home for our deep-water monitoring program. Their protocols are compatible with those we followed under the state program (CLMP) and our data will continue to be shared with the State. We are excited to be supported by a local organization.
- Grass River Natural Area has become and even more important partner in the last year. We participated in their Riparian Reception over the winter and continue to work with them on ways to better protect the Grass River.
- The settling rate for Phosphorus in Torch Lake was re-measured in 2020-2021; a report is expected fall 2021. This study will help us know if phosphorus input into Torch Lake is changing.
- Golden Brown Algae monitoring and research continues for the 10th year. We were able to machine more of our own custom designed well points, which are driven into the lake bottom to sample groundwater below the lake.
- We developed an organization identity map to summarize and stay true to our goals and priorities (see last page of this document).



TLA 2021 Interns

BE WISE



THREE LAKES
ASSOCIATION



DON'T FERTILIZE!



Eurasian Water Milfoil



GRNA Riparian Reception



Well points

Our members and donors make the work of TLA possible. Thank you for your commitment to water protection. *2021 members and donors*



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Three Lakes Association Identity Map

Mission *Why we exist*

Provide leadership to preserve, protect, and improve the environmental quality of the Elk River Chain of Lakes Watershed for all generations with emphasis on Lake Bellaire, Clam Lake, Torch Lake and their tributaries

Vision *What we hope to achieve*

A community that prioritizes the protection of lakes and streams

Framework

What we must do well to succeed

Clear organizational structure & decision-making processes

Regular and effective channels of communication to and from stakeholders

Effective membership recruitment & retention

Structured planning, project prioritization, & budget process

Board member recruitment, support & engagement

Volunteer recruitment, training, & engagement

In-house science capability: data collection & analysis

Continual evaluation & renewal of structure & work processes

Key Priorities

Our areas of focus

Respond
to members and water quality threats

Educate
everyone about water quality & stewardship

Monitor
water quality

Investigate
water quality threats

Restore
shoreslines & aquatic systems

Advocate
for water protection at the township level

Methods

How we work

Grassroots & Volunteer-based

Science-based & Data-driven

Committed to partnerships

Personal connections & Face-to-face

Accessible to all with everyday language

Strategic Goals

*The changes we seek
(short, medium, and long range)*

Projects & Programs

The specific activities we invest in

Resources

Funds, Materials, Volunteers, Partners

Goals & Objectives

What success looks like

Project plan

Activities and Timeline