

TLA  
ANNUAL  
SUMMARY  
2021

PROTECTING OUR LAKES  
SINCE 1966



**THREE LAKES**  
ASSOCIATION

*Lake Bellaire, Clam Lake and Torch Lake*

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Our valued membership



# **Greetings from the President**

Add a little bit of body text



The TLA Board met online through the winter to accommodate our board members who seek warmer climates and to stay safe from Covid. Here is a mug shot from our March 2022 meeting.

## Board Members Who Served 2021-2022 We Thank You!

### **Officers:**

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Education – Steve Laurenz  
Water Safety – Open  
Eurasian Water Milfoil – Rick Doornbos  
Lake Monitoring – Cheryl Lynn Fields  
Internship – Dean Branson

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#### **Zone H: Kearney Township**

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# Latest TLA Activities:

## *A review of 2021 and a preview of 2022*

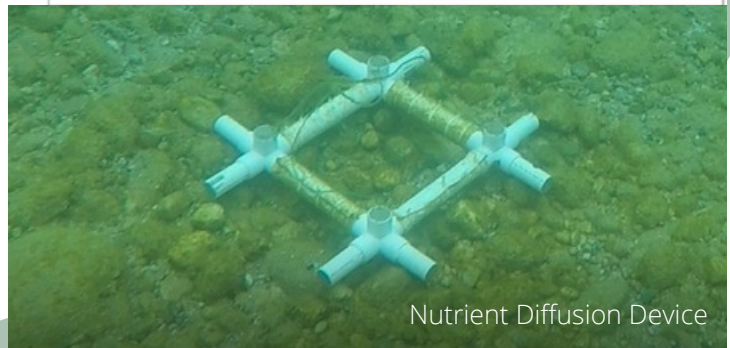
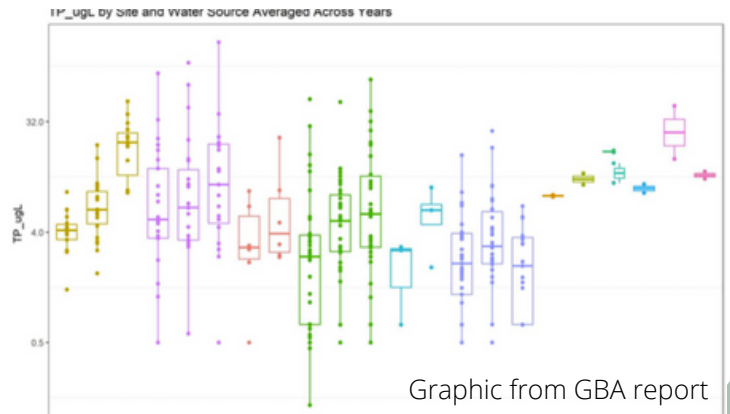
A major report on our seven years of work with Golden Brown Algae was released at the end of 2021. This report details the nutrient studies we have performed under the guidance of Dr. Jan Stevenson, algae researcher at Michigan State University. It also suggests future directions for study. Our newsletters in 2022 have been summarizing the results of this work in digestible yet detailed articles. Please check them out on our website: [3lakes.com](http://3lakes.com).

This summer our ongoing research with Golden Brown Benthic Algae will include experiments that test the response of benthic algae in different regimens of nutrient availability. We will also collect benthic algae from multiple lakes in the region to look for patterns in algal species distribution and nutrient composition across lakes.

Two years of strategic chemical treatment of Eurasian water milfoil in Torch Lake has been successful. Patches are smaller in all cases and in some cases gone altogether. With our partners at Torch Lake Protection Alliance we will continue to survey and manage this invasive species long-term.

Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) awarded a \$20,000 grant to the Grass River Natural Area and Three Lakes Association to develop a management plan for the Grass River. We are currently meeting with stakeholder groups to learn about how to best work toward long-term Grass River protection and restoration.

Professor Matt Ingle of the AuSable Institute, his students and student researchers conducted a zebra mussel survey on Torch Lake in summer 2022. Zebra mussel density is currently unknown, and could play an important role in nutrient distribution in the lake.



# Latest TLA Activities:

## *A review of 2021 and a preview of 2022*



2022 TLA Interns



Torch Lake Management Meeting



Dean Branson Appreciation Event

### Lake-Friendly Lawn Care Checklist:

- Leave a No-Mow zone between lawn and shore.
- Mow grass high—Leave it 3½ to 4".
- Leave grass clippings on the lawn.
- Water deeply once a week with lake water.

First Stewardship Postcard 2022

For our 2022 internship program, six stellar students from area high schools are collecting species that live at the bottom of Lake Bellaire and Torch Lake: mussels, insect larvae, snails, and other tiny invertebrates. They will make comparisons to a similar study done in 2007. Ongoing support comes from the Gerrit Lee Wiedra Memorial Fund.

Dozens of researchers, government agency representatives, environmental science students, and local volunteers met on June 10, 2022 to discuss the future of water quality monitoring and golden brown algae research on Torch Lake. The hope is that this meeting will lead to long-term partnerships and data collection, and a more thorough understanding of the causes and dynamics of bottom algae in our lakes.

We honored long-term board member and change-maker Dean Branson for his years of service and un-matched project work with a June gathering at the Grass River Natural Area.

A complete aquatic plant survey was conducted on Torch Lake in summer 2021. The Dole Family Foundation funded the majority of the work, which was performed by Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council. Torch Lake Protection Alliance partnered on the project. See our website for the full report: [3lakes.com](http://3lakes.com).

Linkages between Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council and TLA are strengthening, allowing us to take better advantage of their expertise, resources, and therefore deliver stronger programs and better lake protection.

For the second year we are joining Torch Conservation Center and Torch Lake Protection Alliance to deliver postcards to all Riparians that give tips on lifestyle choices that support good water quality.

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

2022 members and donors



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