

# THE LAKE GUARDIAN



FALL 2021



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE BURTON HISTORICAL COLLECTION, DETROIT PUBLIC LIBRARY

Pine Lake, 1922

## Historical Highlights: Horton Bay

*Kim Baker*

Horton Bay was warmer than usual for early September—highs reached the mid-80s under clear, sunny skies. Both Ernest Hemingway and Hadley Richardson, the bride-to-be, cooled off before their wedding, swimming with friends in different parts of the bay. The little white Methodist church, which is no longer standing, was decorated with local wildflowers and sprays of balsam.

Following the simple ceremony, the bridal party enjoyed a meal prepared at Jim and “Aunty Beth” Dilworth’s Pinehurst Inn and served next door at Shangri-la. The year was 1921.

Sixty-five years earlier, Samuel Horton had set sail from Toledo, Ohio, on his boat, “Rover.” He was accompanied by his wife, seven daughters, and two additional passengers. Their intended destination was

Grand Rapids, but as they traveled north on Lake Huron and rounded the northernmost tip of the Lower Peninsula, they encountered adverse winds and took refuge in Pine Lake (renamed Lake Charlevoix in 1926). Their journey ended at the bay that eventually received Horton’s name, where the settlers found an abandoned shack left from the waning days of an earlier Mormon settlement. It became their first home.

Horton Bay grew steadily in the years following the Civil War. There was great demand for pine and hardwood timbers as the Midwest became urbanized and in the wake of numerous fires in Chicago (1871) and other cities. The expansion of the railway system and the relative ease of homesteading made Northern Michigan a desirable destination.

It’s no surprise that Hadley and Ernest chose to marry in Horton Bay. Both wanted to avoid the pomp that would have surrounded a ceremony in their hometowns of St. Louis and Oak Park. And Horton Bay’s General Store, Pinehurst, and Red Fox Inn all played an influential role in Ernest’s early years, becoming the setting for several of his short stories.

Since the village was never large enough to support a local newspaper, early residents

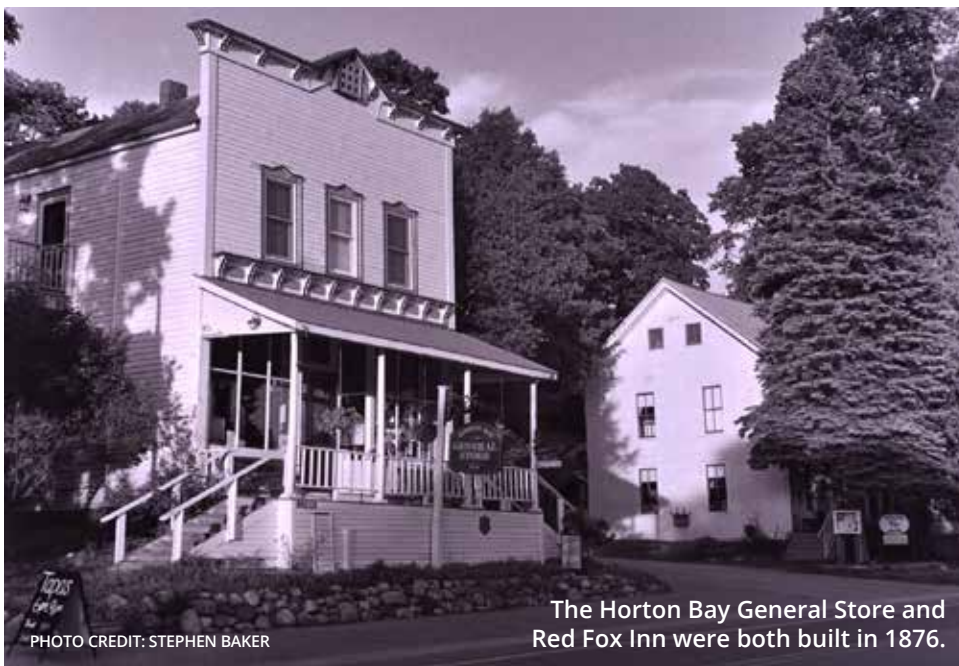


PHOTO CREDIT: STEPHEN BAKER

The Horton Bay General Store and Red Fox Inn were both built in 1876.

*Continued on page 7...*

FALL 2021  
Inside...

- 1 | Horton Bay History
- 2 | President’s Corner
- 3 | Poker Run & Membership

- 4 | Lake Users & Riparians
- 5 | Phragmites
- 6 | Septic Concerns

- 7 | Greenbelt Gardens
- 8 | Newsbites

ARTWORK CREDIT: LARISSA FLYNN

## President's Corner



**A**s we come up on the 2nd anniversary of the pandemic and all the changes it has brought to our lives, I am grateful to report that our Lake Charlevoix Association is alive

and well. In March of 2020, only days before the first Michigan "Stay at home" directive was issued, your board held a visioning session where we imagined restructuring our operations, not because of Covid, but because the systems were outdated, and our operational base of many years was no longer available.

In the past 18 months we have updated our software system to help us communicate with you, our "base", more effectively. Our finances are now handled by professionals. We have retained the services of Julie Stratton, our long-time administrator, and restructured her position to focus on our print and social media efforts. Having made excellent progress on achieving our 2020

goals, your board held another visioning session in October. You'll learn more about the results of that meeting in our spring newsletter.

While we were at work on our internal management needs, our lake was challenged by the historic highwater levels of 2020. The very meaning of "shoreline protection" has shifted. It once meant creating and maintaining a space at the water's edge to buffer the effects of our development and protect the other living things that enjoy our lake. In 2020 "shoreline protection" became creating lifeless stony structures that "protect" our landscaping while burying the living edge of the lake under tons of rock.

The first (2012) Lake Charlevoix Watershed Management Plan <https://www.watershedcouncil.org/lake-charlevoix-watershed-management-plan.html> identified "development" as the greatest single threat to the quality of our lake water. A massive effort resulted in shoreline protection ordinances being adopted all around the lake (<http://www.liaa.org>). Yet, in the 10 years since that plan was first adopted, development has continued, resulting in many more landscaped shorelines and claims to bottom

lands revealed as lake levels receded. During the rapid rise in lake levels from 2013 to 2020, property owners, landscape contractors and regulators scrambled to "protect" lake frontage from the rising lake. As anyone who spent time on Lake Charlevoix during the summer of 2021 couldn't help but notice, our shoreline is now armored against the natural processes that are essential if our lake is to remain a place for the wildlife.

We can't turn back the clock, but we can pay attention to how we move forward. I've seen eagles sitting in trees along the shore, backed up by 10,000 sq. ft homes where the owners left a shoreline protection zone intact. I've watched waterfowl sheltering their young in reed beds fronting cedar tangles in shorelines protected by conservation easements. We are still co-existing with and enjoying a natural lake. Our association is working to keep it that way. Please join in. To learn more visit us on Facebook or on our website at [www.lakecharlevoix.org](http://www.lakecharlevoix.org), or contact us via email at [info@lakecharlevoix.org](mailto:info@lakecharlevoix.org)

*Tom Darnton,  
LCA President*

### Mission:

*Protect the natural quality and beauty of Lake Charlevoix.  
Promote understanding and support for safe and shared lake use.  
Advocate sensible and sustainable practices for lake use and development.*

### LCA Board of Trustees

Tom Darnton | President  
Dan Mishler | 2nd Vice President  
John Hoffman | Treasurer  
Joel Van Roekel | Secretary

Kim Baker | Director  
Joe Kimmell | Director  
Peggy Smith | Director

[www.lakecharlevoix.org](http://www.lakecharlevoix.org)  
Like us on Facebook!

# LCA's 2021 Poker Run, the Best Ever

Dan Mishler

THE FIFTH ANNUAL LCA POKER RUN WAS HELD UNDER SUNNY SKIES AND LIGHT BREEZES. ONE HUNDRED FIFTEEN INTREPID SAILORS PLIED THE LAKE IN SEARCH OF THE WINNING POKER HAND ON AUGUST 20. AS IN YEAR'S PAST, BOATERS CHOSE FIVE OF THE EIGHT CARD DECK LOCATIONS WHERE THEY RECEIVED A RANDOMLY DRAWN CARD AT EACH STOP.



The Winning Hand PHOTO CREDIT: DAN MISHLER

When the 3:30 bell sounded to close the card pickup, everyone headed to the Boyne City Waterfront Pavilion for a reception, full meal, and to see who had the winning hand.

An ace-high flush took the “best hand” award while I took the prize for “worst hand.”

It takes a village to make these activities successful. Thanks to Susie L’Heureux, Ann Germond, Deborah Brown, and Laurie Siebert for organizing the reception.

## Our auction item donors and Gold Sponsors were:

Boyne Boat Yard, Bulmann Dock & Lift, Irish Boat Shop, Michigan Lake Products, Mobile Marine, Somerset Pointe, The Landing, Roberts EZ Dock, Kidd and Leavy, Next Level Sand Bags, West Marine, and Tommy’s Lake Charlevoix.

A huge thank you also goes to Dave Germond for taking the helm of the event and managing all of the materials, financials, and contacts that go with this event.

This is a wonderful event that is only made possible by the enthusiastic

participation and financial support of our members, sponsors, and volunteers. The funds from this event support a variety of important lake protection projects in keeping with our “Lake Charlevoix, Ours to Protect” mission.



MAP CREDIT: DAN MISHLER

# Our Numbers are Growing

Peggy Smith

The Lake Charlevoix Association has had a remarkable season of giving and we would like to thank you for your generous support. When you join the Lake Charlevoix Association or make a tax-deductible contribution to the LCA, you’re supporting more than a half-century of efforts to protect one of this country’s most beautiful lakes. No other nonprofit focuses solely on this lake and its watershed. When you join the LCA, you are investing in the health and beauty of our lake for generations to come. Your foundational help is sincerely appreciated, and we look to you for your continued engagement with the LCA.

We have new software for our online giving portal. When you choose that option

for your donation, it creates opportunities for your dollars to go even further toward our mission of protecting Lake Charlevoix. We do appreciate hearing from you and your notes of gratitude and encouragement are shared with the entire board. It is so gratifying to know you appreciate the work we are doing.

The membership committee is in the process of reviewing our donation categories. To date, we have decided to discontinue our Lifetime Membership category for future donors and will update you when the project is completed. We are always thankful to those who join LCA, support our projects and to those who send contributions for Memorials and Honor tributes.

PHOTO CREDIT: JULIE STRATTON



LCA 2021 Annual Meeting

## Join Us!

Please visit our website at <https://www.lakecharlevoix.org/support-us.html>

- Join or Renew
- Make an Honor or Memorial Gift
- Give a Sustaining Donation

# Lake Users and Riparian Rights

John Hoffman

If you've been out on the lake over the past few years, you probably noticed an increase in the number of boats out there on any given day. Those who pay attention to such things will have also noted an increase in larger boats on the lake as well. These two trends have apparently fostered an increase in boats that anchor or "raft" off some spots around the lake for the day or overnight. While the vast majority of these boaters are respectful of those on the nearby shore, problems do arise when some on these vessels choose to play or sunbathe on

private beaches or bring pets ashore to do their business. While common courtesy should be the norm, there is a body of law that covers these situations.

It might come as a surprise to some, but inland lake riparian landowners own the entire bottomlands contiguous to their lakefront property and extending to the center of the lake. For a perfectly circular lake, the associated bottomlands would be pie-shaped parcels. However, for non-circular lakes various calculations would be needed to determine shape and location of the bottomlands to avoid overlap with the bottomlands of adjacent riparian landowners.

So, what rights do inland lake riparian landowners have? For one, only riparian landowners may install a dock or swim raft on their bottomlands and no one may use the dock or raft except with the permission of the owner. Only the owner is permitted to permanently or temporarily moor a boat

on the associated bottomlands.

Members of the public can boat, fish, swim and engage in similar uses on an inland lake having public access, and may also temporarily moor watercraft on the bottomlands, as an incident to navigation, recreation, or fishing. Members of the public may not anchor a boat overnight or even during the day while the owner of the boat is not present.

---

**RIPARIAN** - *property that touches or fronts on a body of water in Michigan*

---

**RIPARIAN LANDOWNER** - *the owner of property on a body of water in Michigan*

---

**BOTTOMLANDS** - *the land that is under a lake; this land can be permanently submerged or exposed from time to time depending on the lake level*

---



Native North American Phragmites is not considered invasive and is not a threat to our wetland ecosystems.

# The Continuing Battle Against INVASIVE NON-NATIVE EURASIAN PHRAGMITES

Joel Van Roekel

**WE ARE SEEING A RESURGENCE OF INVASIVE NON-NATIVE EURASIAN PHRAGMITES AROUND LAKE CHARLEVOIX. THE LAKE CHARLEVOIX ASSOCIATION HAS BEEN BATTLING THIS PROBLEMATIC GRASS FOR MORE THAN TEN YEARS. IT IS AN AGGRESSIVE, PERENNIAL, WETLAND GRASS THAT DISPLACES NATIVE PLANTS, ALTERS NEARBY ANIMAL HABITATS, AND CAN RUIN YOUR SHORELINE.**

Invasive non-native Eurasian Phragmites can look a lot like our harmless native North American Phragmites. If you find a stand of grass along your shoreline that looks like the photo at the top, it's likely our native North American Phragmites. The stand in the photo below has been identified as the invasive non-native Eurasian Phragmites and poses a threat to our wetlands.

Invasive non-native Eurasian Phragmites has several features that can help you distinguish it from our native North American Phragmites. *(See blue box on right)*

This year we are receiving assistance from Ed De Roshia and Katie Grey of CAKE/CISMA. The Charlevoix-Antrim-Kalkaska-Emmet Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area works to improve the diversity and quality of natural areas through education, public engagement, and by surveying, managing and monitoring invasive species. We are grateful for their expertise in helping us fight this persistent invasive species.

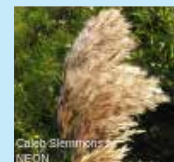
***If you see any stands of invasive non-native Eurasian Phragmites on your property, please contact Ed at CAKEisst@gmail.com.***



**Need Help Identifying Invasive Non-Native Eurasian Phragmites? Please look for the following identifiers.**



**LEAVES** - flat smooth leaf blades, 10-12" long, 0.5-1.5" wide, leaf sheaths stay attached even after the stem dies



**SEED** - abundant seeds develop in fluffy seedheads, seeds have white hairs below that are almost as long as the seed



**STEM** - upright, rigid and hollow, dull yellowish stem, covered by leaf sheaths



Invasive Non-Native Eurasian Phragmites grows in dense clusters up to 15 feet tall, damaging both the structure and function of wetlands.

Midwest Invasive Species Information Network Reporting App



# People Protect What *They Love*

Joel Van Roekel

## HOW IS THIS TITLE FROM JAQUES COUSTEAU RELEVANT TO AN ARTICLE ON SEPTIC SYSTEMS?

Because good septic systems protect the lake! At first blush, there is a disconnect between the “water” in a septic tank and the water in our lake. Gross and odorous versus clear and clean. The connection lies in the fact that approximately 80% of the sewage treatment systems around our lakeshore are septic tanks and fields. Some are up to date and effective, while others are aging and inadequate.

When a system fails, both your land and your lakefront are at risk. Effluent from your septic contains bacteria, viruses, parasites, and fungi which may harm you, your family, your guests, and your lake. To protect your loved ones and the lake you treasure, please consider the following simple measures.

- 1 *Pump out your tank every 3-5 years.*
- 2 *Check for leaky fixtures and toilets.*

3 *Be sure rainwater is directed away from your drain field.*

4 *Do not drive, pave, or build over your septic system.*

Interviews with current and former Health Department officials have raised additional concerns. Septic systems are sized by the number of bedrooms in a dwelling, with two people allotted per bedroom. When cottages are expanded with additional bedrooms and bathrooms, the existing system may not be capable of handling the increased water usage. This can also happen when cottages become short-term rentals, where the sudden influx of people may exceed the occupancy for which the system was designed. Both of these situations place undue stress on the system and can accelerate failure.

Properly maintaining your septic system pays dividends for the landowner, their neighbors, and the lake. Please do your part in keeping Lake Charlevoix beautiful.

## A Surprising Septic Tank Problem

Joe Kimmel

### IS YOUR TANK CRUMBING FROM THE INSIDE?

Most lakefront owners with septic systems are familiar with the standard headaches they encounter when things go south. Floats go bad, screens get clogged, alarms don't sound, and drain fields simply grow old. Now, there is a growing problem with some concrete tanks that are ten or more years old, interior wall deterioration. In the past, poor quality concrete was thought to be the culprit. However, much of this spalling and crumbling has recently been attributed to a buildup of hydrogen sulfide gas. When this hydrogen sulfide gas

combines with moisture inside the tank, particularly above the water line, it creates sulfuric acid which attacks and softens the concrete walls. If the acid penetrates the concrete to the point where the reinforcing rods are exposed, the integrity of the upper wall and roof can be compromised.

This problem may be evident during a routine inspection of the tanks and will almost certainly be visible after a tank has been pumped. While there are coatings and liners advertised to protect these tanks, often the best, and most cost-effective approach is to replace the tank(s). We would encourage all septic owners to have their tanks pumped



PHOTO CREDIT: JOEL VAN ROEKEL

and inspected every three to five years depending on use. This will benefit the riparian owner as well as stopping leakage from affecting our shoreline, ground water, and water wells.



PHOTO CREDITS: JOEL VAN ROEKEL

# Historical Highlights: Horton Bay

*Continued from page 1*

learned what was going on by hitching up the buggy Saturday night and spending an hour or two huddled around the General Store's pot-bellied stove. The store was also the stopping point between Boyne City and Charlevoix, a five-to-six-hour journey by horseback.

At one time, Horton Bay boasted three popular restaurants, each competing among seasonal residents for the best fried chicken and tomato pudding. The first was Pinehurst, where Hemingway spent many a night sleeping in a bunk in a shed attached to the rear of the inn. The second was the Waffle Shop, operated by Kathryn Dilworth, Jim and Elizabeth's daughter-in-law. The shop was famously known for its hand-churned ice cream. The third was the Red Fox Inn.

The Red Fox Inn was originally a lodge for lumber mill workers. James Wixom Fox purchased it in 1910 as a residence for his family. Vollie Fox, one of his four children, and Wesley Dilworth were fishing buddies of Hemingway. In the mid-1900s, the Red Fox Inn's restaurant drew crowds of locals and vacationers for dining and live jazz. A special feature of the inn was the room for chauffeurs, who enjoyed their meals in a similar fashion as their employers sitting in the dining room.

Several historic buildings have survived the years, including Pinehurst, Shangri-la, the Township Hall, and the Wee House, which once served as the village icehouse. Today, the General Store welcomes guests for tapas and a relaxing evening on the patio during the summer months. The Red Fox Inn, owned and operated by direct descendants of the Fox family, is a bookstore and gift shop.

## Our Shoreline Demonstration Gardens, *a Four-Year Journey*

*Joel Van Roekel*



In 2020, months of record high water with strong winds pushed waves over the sea wall and through the garden plots. The surviving plants taught us what is needed to resist the energy of waves and wind.



**BACK IN 2017 TWO LCA BOARD MEMBERS SAW THE EMAIL ANNOUNCING THE MICHIGAN LAKE AND STREAM LEADERS SUMMER INSTITUTE. FIVE DAYS OF STUDY AND HOURS OF DISCUSSION RESULTED IN THE LCA/BOYNE CITY SHORELINE DEMONSTRATION GARDEN PROJECT.**

Boyne City welcomed the idea. So did five area landscape firms with a passion for planting native species and creating healthy shorelines. After a year of planning and planting, the gardens were dedicated in June 2019.

With thoughtful plant selection and a careful evaluation of the shoreline dynamics, the gardens are thriving again this summer.





# Tributes

PHOTO CREDIT: LIZ WEBER

eight



Join now!

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Petoskey, MI  
Permit No. 110

## Lake Charlevoix Association

P.O. Box 294  
Charlevoix, MI 49720  
info@lakecharlevoix.org  
www.lakecharlevoix.org

**In Memory of Alvin Amschler**  
*Tom & Kathy Snow*

**In Memory of Steve Conway**  
*Bill Lorne & Karen Nigg*

**In Memory of Carol Armstrong**  
*Heidi Wenner & Family*

**In Memory of Rollin & Mary Dart**  
*Melanie Dart & David Howland*

**In Memory of Carol Armstrong**  
*Donald Homan & Bonnie Miller*

**In Memory of Gil Jenkins**  
*Mary Lou Jenkins*

**In Memory of John and Evelyn Auffant**  
*John & Diane Coolman*

**In Memory of Ann O'Malley**  
*Craig, Julie & Tony Foust*

**In Memory of Dr. F.J. and Mrs. Margaret Chapin**  
*Mary Gergel*

**In Memory of David G. Smith**  
*Judy Smith*

**In Memory of Martha Trantow**  
*Peter Trantow*

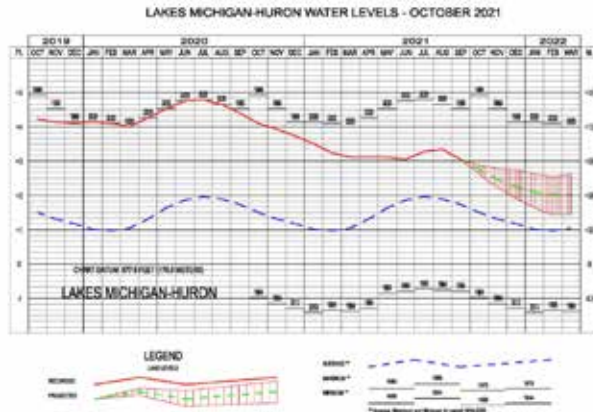
**In Honor of Joel Van Roekel**  
*John and Diane Coolman*

**In Honor of Joe Kimmell**  
*J. Thad & Rachelle Naquin*

## WATER LEVEL FORECAST

Mike Dow

Lower water levels were enjoyed by many this past summer when compared to 2020. Almost 18" less water according to the US Army Corp of Engineers. And their predictions for 2022 are that water levels will continue to go down, as much as another 12". Stand by for lower water levels!



**SCAN HERE TO VIEW DETAILED GRAPH.**

<https://www.lre.usace.army.mil/Missions/Great-Lakes-Information/Great-Lakes-Water-Levels/Water-Level-Forecast/Monthly-Bulletin-of-Great-Lakes-Water-Levels/>



## News Bites

Students Experience Lake Charlevoix

PHOTO CREDIT: JULIE STRATTON

**SELG:** Would you like to volunteer aboard the Beaver Island Ferry next spring for the 'Students Experience Lake Charlevoix' learning program? If interested, please contact us at info@lakecharlevoix.org

**Thank You:** Protecting our beautiful Lake Charlevoix would not be possible without the support of our members and volunteers. Thank you!

**Year-End Donations:** The LCA is a 501c3 and always appreciates being included in your year-end giving. Your tax-deductible donation funds lake protection for Lake Charlevoix.

**License Plates:** If you would like an LCA license plate for the front of your vehicle, please contact us at info@lakecharlevoix.org. \$10 for local pick up or \$15 to ship.