



Lee Lake News



This picture was taken in May of a property on Lakeside with many phragmites on the lake shore. The phragmites were sprayed by PLM in the fall of 2023 as part of the Lee Lake Association water quality plan. It appears the spraying was effective and now, what should the owner do with the dead weeds? Cut, pile and burn is one option. Another is to burn off the dead weeds in a controlled burn, recommended to do in December when wildlife habitants have moved on. For more information regarding phragmites see the following:

[Management | Great Lakes Phragmites Collaborative](#)

Road Rep Changes

Clark Road: *Janie Evans & Diane Inman*

I Drive S: *Kathy Kile*

Lakeside Drive: *Shelly Densmore*

Lauralee Lane: *Nora Vaughn*

A big thank you to Sussie Frey for serving as the I Drive S Rep and welcome to Kathy Kile as her replacement. Road Reps may be contacted to pay dues, order Lee Lake gear, event signage and welcoming new property owners. Say “hi” to your Road Reps. They do **many** deeds for our Lee Lake Association!

May 20th Association Meeting

Calhoun County Sheriff Steve Hinkley presented information on lake patrols to an audience of 31 attendees. Two manned sheriff boats periodically patrol our lake for compliance to MI boating laws. The most common infraction on Lee Lake is the failure to provide a personal flotation device (PFD) for each person on board. The Deputy has some leeway in determining if education is warranted versus a citation. There is a zero tolerance for reckless boat driving or driving under the influence which will result in a citation.



MI legislation was passed in May 2023 regarding off-road vehicles, (ORV), which includes golf carts, being allowed to travel on local roads. Exempt are “M”, “I” and “US” roads. Highlights of the legislation require the ORV to have seatbelts and not exceed 25 mph. If the ORV has a roof, a helmet is not required; without a roof, a helmet is required. For more information and a map of roads for ORVs to travel see [Calhoun County, MI \(calhouncountymi.gov\)](http://calhouncountymi.gov).



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Did You Know.....

In accordance with MI Boating Laws, there is to be no towing of skiers/tubes between one hour after sunset and one hour prior to sunrise. One competent person is to be designated as observer and is to be in a position to observe the progress of the person being towed. The tow boat must be equipped with a 170-degree wide-angle rear-view mirror affixed to permit the driver to observe the progress of the person being towed. Vessels and persons being towed shall remain 100 feet from the shoreline, any dock, raft, occupied swimming area or moored vessels except when the vessel is proceeding at a slow no wake speed or when skiers are being picked up or dropped off. A complete handbook of MI Boating Laws may be downloaded at <https://www.boat-ed.com/michigan/handbook>.



Lake Foam: A Naturally-Occurring Phenomenon

Complaints are often received by Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE) that “someone is discharging laundry detergent into the lake” or that there are “suds on the rivers and lakes.” This occurrence is most likely from a natural process of aquatic plants dying off. Foam commonly occurs in waters with high organic content. Oftentimes, streams that originate from woody areas will have a brown tint in the water and foam. Tannin is released from the decomposition of the wood and has a brownish color.

Recycling Fishing Line and Tackle

With the help of volunteers from *Michigan Cares for Tourism*, the DNR is working to place disposal tubes at every harbor, boating access site and fishing pier throughout the state's parks and recreation system. These tubes are utilized to recycle fishing line and tackle as a method to protect aquatic wildlife from eating or getting tangled in fishing line and tackle.

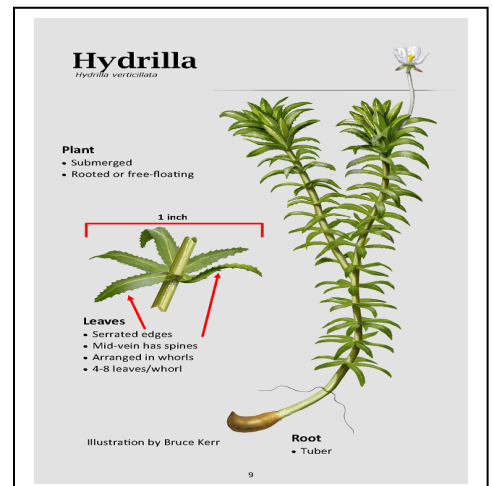
It also helps protect boat propellers. Find other new sustainable boating efforts and watch the video on why to recycle fishing line [here](#).



Boat and personal watercraft operators born after June 30, 1996 who operate a vessel in Michigan must have a boater safety certificate. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources now offers boater safety education as interactive online courses, giving students an enhanced

experience that exposes them to real-life scenarios. Register for a traditional classroom, interactive or online boater safety education course at:

[Boating safety certificate \(michigan.gov\)](https://www.michigan.gov/boating)



New invasive species in MI.
More in the next Newsletter.