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## Election of ECLA Board Members

At the September Board Meeting the following officers were elected; Gary Rentrop, Cross Village Twp.-President, Lou Kasischke, Redmond Twp.-Vice President, Naomi Singer, Cross Village Twp.-Secretary and Bob Bokram,

Friendship Twp.-Treasurer. They will serve for one year. Contact information is included in this newsletter. Questions or concerns from members may be directed to board members or officers.

## Emmet County Lakeshore Association

### Board of Directors

**Bob Bokram, Treasurer** • John Carr • Rob Deane • Don Gschwind  
**Fred Hoffmann, Nominating Committee** • Lou Kasischke, Vice President  
Clas Nilstoft • Catherine Reindel • Gary Rentrop, President • Dick Selvala  
Dave Shear • Frances Shepard • Naomi Singer, Secretary • Sharon Spencer

Association Address: ECLA • PO Box 277 • Harbor Springs, MI 49740

*In unity, there is strength*

Emmet County Lakeshore Association  
Post Office Box 277  
Harbor Springs MI 49740



# Emmet County Lakeshore Association

## Fall 2009 Newsletter



These articles were provided by the following:

James Cliff, Michigan Environmental Council, 517-256-0553

Dr. Grenetta Thomassey, Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council, 231-347-1181

## State Wetlands Control Restored by Legislature.

**Lansing**— The legislature returned to Lansing to put the final touches on a bill that will keep Michigan's wetlands program running at the state level for an additional three years. The legislature approved a bill to keep Michigan's wetlands protection program under state control. This bill is designed to streamline the permitting process. The legislature got final approval Thursday, October 1st in both the Republican led Senate and the Democratic led House. The Governor is expected to sign it. Proposals had been made to send the program back to the federal government to operate on a limited basis. Environmental groups applaud the efforts of the legislature to protect these critical resources. Wetlands protect neighborhoods from flooding, cleanse water before it reaches lakes and streams, safeguard the purity of well water and provide vital habitat for fish and other water-dependent wildlife.

"Keeping the program in Michigan is certainly an environmental issue, but it is also a very pressing economic issue," said Grenetta Thomassey, policy director at Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council. "Sen. Patty Birkholz, Rep. Rebekah Warren, and Rep. Dan Scripps all understood that and worked tirelessly to help keep the needed perspective. Relinquishing the program would have meant unacceptable work-related delays as our state climbs out of the recession, in addition to increasing the likelihood of damaging environmental violations. Keeping the program here, and funded, increases our potential for being eligible for Great Lakes Restoration funding from the federal government, which will also create jobs as it restores wetlands and provides clean water infrastructure."

## Northern Michigan Tree Disease

Emmet County is blessed with beautiful native trees of great diversity. M-119 from Harbor Springs to Cross Village is an exceptional example with its Tunnel of Trees made up of Birch, Maple, Ash, Hemlock, Oak and other species. Over the years much effort has gone into protecting the Tunnel of Trees. It was comforting to know Michigan possessed significant tree species diversity. If a disease caused the loss of one species of tree, there were many other species to fill the void. Now, however, many different tree species are threatened with a variety of diseases, most caused from exotic insects and fungi introduced into this country from other parts of the world. The following is a short list of the fungi and insects that currently, or may soon, seriously threaten the survival of our northern Michigan trees, including the trees on our properties and along the Tunnel of Trees.

### Beech Bark Disease ("BBD"):

This disease attacks the American Beech. An invasive non-native scale insect bores small holes in the tree bark, feeding on the tree's sap, and then a native fungus begins to grow in the hole, eventually killing the tree. Early stages can be seen with small white cotton-like blotches on the bark. Frequently cankers form on the bark, described in appearance as two lips trying to heal. The entire core of the tree rots and often the tree snaps off in wind. You can stop anywhere along M-119 and see the signs of BBD. The disease first appeared in Ludington State Park and then the Tahquamenon Falls area. It is believed the insect scale traveled to Michigan on diseased firewood. Ludington State Park has experienced a 75% mortality of beech trees. The disease is also transported by birds from an infected tree to a healthy tree.

### Oak Wilt:

Oak Wilt is most prevalent in the south and middle of the state, but it is moving rapidly toward northern Michigan. The trimming of oaks or tree damage exposing green wood which is not properly sealed, allows a native beetle to enter the trees which transmits



spores into the tree. The disease from the spores can then be transferred from oak to oak via the root network. The oak tree will lose its leaves and die. Distance between oaks where the roots do not touch each other will prevent the disease from being transferred by the root system.

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## Northern Michigan Tree Disease continued...

### Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (“HWA”):

This is a cotton-like insect that feeds on tree sap, killing the needles, twigs and branches. The infested trees eventually die. In 2006, HWA was detected on hemlock landscape trees brought into Harbor Springs. When the HWA was discovered, the trees were quickly destroyed. However, in 2006 HWA was found on native trees. It appears, in addition to having been transported by nursery stock, that it can also be transported by birds.

### Emerald Ash Borer (“EAB”):

The EAB attacks true ash trees (not Mountain Ash). It is an invasive insect brought in on wood from China. It bores a hole in the bark of the tree and the tree dies. Efforts to quarantine the movement of firewood in southern Michigan has not prevented the spread of the EAB, and now all of southern Michigan is consider as one zone, which means wood can be transported throughout southern Michigan without restriction. The EAB is also found throughout the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. If you travel through the UP, you see purple box-like objects hanging from trees. These are EAB traps. Efforts, however, to control the EAB in the UP are also proving not successful.

### Sugar Maple and the Asian Long Horned Beetle:

This beetle and its impact of killing sugar maple trees, was known to exist on the east coast. However, the beetle recently showed up in the Chicago area. Again, this beetle entered the U.S. from China on wooden packing crates. It is believed the beetles in the Chicago area were destroyed. The beetle has not been found in northern Michigan.

## Great Lakes Shoreline Management

In June of 2003, the Michigan Legislature passed 2003 PA 14, which exempted mowing and other limited beach maintenance activities from wetland and Great Lakes bottomlands protection requirements through November 1, 2007. Recognizing that there are ecological concerns associated with alteration of coastal wetlands, and realizing that low water levels are not a permanent condition, the Legislature required the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to evaluate the impacts of vegetation removal and report back to the Governor and the Legislature. The results of this study can be found in the “ Report on the Impacts of Beach Maintenance and Removal of Vegetation under Act 14 of 2003.”

In preparation for the expiration of the beach maintenance exemptions, the DEQ formed the Shoreline Management Policy Workgroup, which consisted of representatives from a number of different state and federal resource agencies and citizen groups such as Save Our Shoreline and Michigan Environmental Council. This workgroup was charged with determining the best way to protect the ecological values of Great Lakes shorelands, while continuing to recognize landowner interests.

The efforts of the workgroup resulted in the creation of a new General Permit (GP) category, which allows property

### Sirex Wood Wasp

This wasp attacks pine trees, mostly red and scotch pine. It has been found in the thumb of Michigan, but not yet in Emmet County. Foresters are monitoring stressed pines north of Wycamp Lake for this wasp.

### Controlling the Diseases:

Efforts to control these insects and fungi killing our diverse species of trees include timbering the susceptible tree species ahead of the spread of the disease. Individual trees can be sprayed with insecticides and pesticides before the trees become seriously infected. Some effective pesticides are now made with safe natural ingredients. However, spraying is not a practical solution to save a large number of trees. Interestingly, the longer the insect or fungus is in an area, the more likely it will develop its own enemy. In the cases of the Forest Tent Caterpillar and the Gypsy Moth, each now has its own predator. The Forest Tent Caterpillar is now eaten by the fly maggot—our new best friend. These predators create life cycles with the Forest Tent Caterpillars, showing up every 10 to 15 years in large numbers. Work is being done to identify replacement trees which are not susceptible to the disease. In the case of the beech, nineteen families of resistant beech from the UP and nine from the northern Lower Peninsula have been confirmed as resistant. However, these trees account for approximately 1% of the beech tree population, and it will take years for planted resistant trees to grow to the majestic size of some of our northern Michigan beeches.

Contact: Tracy Collin  
Agency: Environmental Quality

owners to request authorization to conduct certain shoreline management activities through a simplified permit process for a reduced application fee. The public notice period for review of this GP category ran from February 6, 2007 to May 6, 2007. Shoreline property owners may begin applying for authorization under the GP as of August 1, 2007.

Small scale shoreline management activities done by hand or with hand tools (e.g. raking, shoveling) do not require a permit. Mechanized activities and larger scale shoreline management activities require a permit.

The activities outlined below may be authorized under the Shoreline Management GP category:

- Leveling and grooming of sand in areas free of vegetation.
- Construction and maintenance of a temporary access walkway in areas free of vegetation using on-site materials.
- Limited mowing of vegetation for a pathway, certain recreation areas, and in previously mowed areas of Saginaw Bay and Grand Traverse Bay.
- Limited mowing for control of invasive or non-native species (such as Phragmites australis) with an invasive species control plan in accordance with recommendations provided by DEQ.

## Great Lakes Shoreline Management continued....

This table will assist members in determining Shoreline Management Permit regulations regarding their individual property.

Activity	Definition	Limitations	DEQ Permitting Requirements Beginning Nov. 1, 2007	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Requirements
<b>Leveling of Sand</b>	Relocation of sand to other sand areas, including redistribution, grading, and spreading sand deposited on upland riparian property.	No alteration of natural lake contours, excavation of basins, leveling of sand in non-sand (i.e. organic or cobble areas, relocation of natural shoreline or formation of new upland areas. Leveling is only authorized in areas naturally free of vegetation, or where vegetation has been removed in accordance with the NREPA.(2)	Requires authorization under the General Permit	Requires Regional Permit
<b>Grooming of Sand</b>	Use of equipment in the top four inches of sand to remove debris (includes muck/algae removal above the water’s edge).	Grooming is only authorized in areas naturally free of vegetation or where vegetation has been removed in accordance with the NREPA.(2) No destruction or disturbance of plants or plant roots.	Requires authorization under the General Permit	Requires Regional Permit
<b>Path Construction</b>	Construction of a temporary pathway from upland directly to the water’s edge.	For commercial or public access properties: Limited to one pathway, maximum 10 feet bottom width for every 200 feet of riparian property (greater than 400 feet=1 path, greater than 600 feet=2 paths etc.) Only on-site sand and gravel may be used, no alteration of natural shoreline contours.  For individual private properties: Limit one pathway per property, maximum 6 feet wide. Only on-site sand and gravel may be used, no alteration of natural shoreline contours.	Requires authorization under the General Permit	Requires Regional Permit
<b>Mowing vegetation to a height of not less than four inches</b>	Creation of a pathway to the water’s edge. Creation of an individual recreation area. Mowing in previously mowed areas on properties in Saginaw Bay and Grand Traverse Bay.	Limited to 10 feet in width. Area not to exceed 400 square feet. Previous mowing must have been conducted in accordance with NREPA.(2) Limited to width of riparian property or 100 feet, whichever is less.		
<b>Mowing vegetation as part of an invasive species control plan</b>	Mowing of areas predominantly vegetated by invasive or non-native species.	Must be part of a DEQ approved invasive species control plan.	Requires authorization under the General Permit	No Permit required
<b>Removal of Vegetation</b>	Manual or mechanized removal of vegetation other than de minimus hand removal.	Limitations will be specified by the DEQ during permit application review period.	Requires individual permit with a public notice.(5)	Requires individual permit with a public notice.(5)

1. Activities described in this document take place above the water’s edge and below the ordinary high water mark. These activities not authorized in areas regulated by Part 353, Sand Dunes Protection and Management; and Part 365, Endangered Species Protection. These activities are not authorized in areas regulated under Part 323, Shoreland Protection Act (Environmental Areas), except for invasive species control plans and mowing pathways.
2. Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994, PA 451, as amended
3. Visit <http://www.lre.usace.army.mil/who/regulatory> office /for information on USACE requirements
4. De minimus hand removal means insignificant or minute removal that is done without mechanized equipment. Group efforts to clear an area or hiring of workers to clear an area by hand is not considered de minimus.
5. Individual permit applications require additional fees and will receive a more detailed review by the DEQ, including a public notice period and a possible public hearing.

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