# Fall 2022



**River Watch Newsletter**



**YOUR BOARD**



Boy Scout River Clean up

The 58th Annual Boy Scout River Clean-up was held on the morning of Thursday, August 4 covering the main branch of the Pere Marquette River. Approximately 30 Boy Scouts from the West Michigan area took to the river (In boats provided by Baldwin Canoe Rental) to pick up trash. Jake Lubera of the USFS help ensure success by providing for the trash disposal and bags along with providing camp sites. LCRPOA has been coordinating this and providing a breakfast and hot dog lunch along with donations from Dunrovin and Houseman Foods.

Provider List

Have you ever wondered what service providers are in the area you can use or trust. Check out our web site [www.lcpoa.org](http://www.lcpoa.org) Password: lcrpoa2022. LCRPOA continues to collect information on service providers as a resource for its members. If you have used or know of a service provider in the area that you would recommend, please forward the name and contact information to us at [lcrpoa.org@gmail.com](mailto:lcrpoa.org@gmail.com)

Website

Visit our website for more information on some of the associations activity: [www.lcrpoa.org](http://www.lcrpoa.org) Password: lcpoa2022

Kim L Gary, President

Mike Mervenne, Vice President

Mike Oostmeyer, Treasurer

Nancy Ryan, Immediate Past President

Paul Bigford George Cannon III Marty Corson Dan Greene

Tom Johnson

Tim Henry

Bruce Young

Jeff Carter

Kim Gunneman, Recording Secretary

Dick Schwikert, Ex officio

Robert Fairman, Director Emeritus

Richard Young, Director Emeritus

**BOARD MEETINGS**

May 20, 2023

June 17, 2023

July 15, 2023, Annual Meeting

September 16, 2023

October 21, 2023

## Spotlight on new board members

**Bruce Young**

In the mid-seventies, Barb and Dick Young began a search in Lake County for a place on the river and found a spectacular site overlooking a hairpin curve on the Pere Marquette. A two-year project began to build a year-round family home. Bruce recalls many wonderful family gatherings once the home was finished in 1978 and of course his dad traveling north to attend over twenty years of LCRPOA Board of Director Meetings serving as President during that time as well. Bruce would often join his father for the meetings.

The family ownership has now been passed to Bruce and his brother Doug who have been working on updates and improvements, so the beautiful spot remains a wonderful place for their families to enjoy.

Bruce passed the forty-year milestone as a partner at Warner, Norcross and Judd this year. His corporate and transactional legal work has been focused on family-owned businesses and family offices. As he looks back, he remembers starting as the junior attorney collaborating with a senior attorney advising senior family members to now being the senior attorney advising third generation members of the same families. Long time relationships established and maintained are two great sources of satisfaction for him as he begins to wind down his career.

Bruce is pleased to now have the time to be a member of the LCRPOA. He believes the organization needs to continue a solid history of representing the interests of riverfront property owners and serving as a resource to them.

**Jeff Carter**

Jeff’s family purchased their place on the Pere Marquette in 1972. He has fond memories of spending time fishing with his dad Jack, a former President of the LCRPOA Board of Directors. His dad taught him how to row a boat in the river -a necessary skill when steelhead and salmon fishing!

Jeff spent forty years working for the railroad. His first job was in Ludington, so he lived at their place for a time commuting to work each day. His career moved him through several positions and while living in Algoma Township he decided to join the volunteer Fire Department and spent ten years as a firefighter. He says he has lived every young child’s dream -driving a big locomotive and a big red fire truck!

Jeff and his wife JoAnn split their time between Michigan and Florida; they have continued a Carter family tradition of hosting a large gathering for Thanksgiving at their cabin before closing it up for the winter.

Jeff feels the community involvement of the LCRPOA Association is strong. As we continue to distance ourselves from the pandemic shut down, he feels it is time for us to focus on “re-connecting” with newer property owners on the rivers in Lake County.

We are lucky to have both Jeff and Bruce as members on our board. Their ties to their places on the river and to this organization will only serve to make the Board of Directors better.

Wood Removal in Michigan’s Natural Rivers

Trees are a natural part of the Michigan river landscape. On small and medium-sized rivers, navigating around trees in the river is an expected part of the paddling experience. The watercraft should match the conditions of the river, rather than modifying the river to accommodate a certain type of watercraft. Portaging around obstructions may be necessary. Portaging is a legal right on navigable streams, as the right to go around an obstruction or hazard in the river on private property is protected under the Recreational Trespass Law. A boater can portage around the obstruction or hazard even if exiting on private land is required; however, if an individual exits onto private land, that individual cannot linger while out of the river, but must immediately reenter the river after walking around the obstacle. If an individual is not comfortable with portaging around downed trees that block passage while boating, a wider river less likely to be obstructed is recommended.

Woody material in the river is highly desirable from an aquatic health and fisheries management position. Benefits include cover, resting areas and spawning areas for fish, wood provides habitat for insect production (fish and bird food) and for many amphibious species. The goal should be to only cut or remove what is necessary for passage, resulting in a balance between watercraft passage and maintenance of woody material in the stream.

If following the below guidelines, you do not need a Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Natural Rivers permit. Please note that the requirements put forth by Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) may be different. You are advised to contact EGLE before initiating any work.

• Obtain landowner permission- If a tree has fallen into the river but is still connected to the shoreline by its roots or trunk, it is still considered the property of the private landowner where the tree is rooted. Only the landowner, or an individual with the landowner’s permission, can legally remove the whole tree. If the river in question is considered navigable, it is generally held and practiced in Michigan that an individual can remove a portion of a fallen tree that is completely blocking navigation downstream with landowner agreement.

• Remove only minimum amount necessary- In general, the portion cleared should not exceed 8 feet in width. In some cases, this number will be higher for areas with fast water or tight curves, but more commonly it can be reduced due to slow water conditions. On slow moving streams that only see canoes and kayaks, the cleared width should be limited to 6 feet or less.

• Do not remove embedded material- Any section of a tree that is embedded in the stream bank or bottom, even if partially buried, should not be disturbed. Removal of embedded woody material is regulated on all Michigan streams by EGLE and, if occurring on a designated Natural River, by the DNR.

• Only remove wood for watercraft navigation- This guidance applies to watercraft passage and not to the establishment of casting lanes for fishing or other purposes not related to navigation. Unless it is impeding navigation of watercraft that are common and reasonable for that stream, wood in rivers should be left alone.

• Use only hand tools- Any wood removal should be conducted using hand-held tools such as hand saws and chain saws. • Do not use heavy equipment- Any use of heavy equipment in the steam is regulated activity and requires a permit from EGLE and, if occurring on a designated Natural River, from the DNR.

• Obtain necessary permits from EGLE and DNR- Removal of large logjams and beaver dams are more complex projects that may require permits from both EGLE and DNR. Please contact both agencies before initiating these projects.

Legislative updates

House Bill 4722 concerning the regulations of **Short-Term Rentals** has passed the State House and is currently in the Senate Regulatory committee.

**CONTENT**

* The bill would amend Article II (Zoning Authorization and Initiation) of the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act to do the following: --
* Specify that, for the purposes of zoning, the rental of a dwelling, including a short-term rental, would be a residential use permitted in all residential zones and would not be subject to a special use or conditional use permit or procedure. –
* Prohibit a local unit of government from adopting or enforcing zoning ordinance that had the effect of prohibiting short-term rentals. -- Specify that the bill would not prohibit a zoning ordinance provision applied on a consistent basis to a rental and owner-occupied residence and that regulated noise, advertising, traffic, or another condition that could create a nuisance. –
* Allow a local unit of government to inspect a residence for compliance with, or enforcement of, an ordinance if the ordinance met certain requirements or to collect taxes otherwise authorized by law. –
* Allow a local unit of government to limit the number of units under common ownership that could be used for short-term rental and the total number of units used for short-term rentals in a local unit under certain conditions. –
* Allow a local unit of government that had zoning ordinance provisions regulating the rental of dwellings by overlay districts without distinction between short-term and long-term rentals before July 11, 2019, to continue to enforce the existing ordinance. The bill would take effect 90 days after its enactment.

**Family Membership**

$35.00 Yearly Dues\*

**Club Membership**

$50.00 Yearly Dues\*

\*Add $15 for MLSA Membership and Riparian Magazine

**Lifetime Membership**

$500.00 (includes MLSA membership and Magazine)

**Thank you for your support!**

***If you are interested in becoming a member, renewing your membership or have any questions please contact Kim Gunneman at:*** [***lcrpoa.org@gmail.com***](mailto:lcrpoa.org@gmail.com)