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LMYA's Tom Dogan files Lawsuit on Lake Pollution

Tom Dogan, Commodore of the LMYA, has just filed a major lawsuit on behalf of LMYA and other plaintiffs including Portage Port Authority, KLM Dunes, Portage Public Marina, Marquette Yacht Club, Marina Shores at Dunes Harbor, and several named individuals along the shores of the Indiana coastline of Lake Michigan. The suit concerns discharging of two toxic pollutants - cyanide and ammonia - into the Little Calumet River which empties through Burns Waterway directly into Lake Michigan. The company responsible, ArcelorMittal

USA, has been sold to Cleveland-Cliffs Inc. which will now be responsible to answer to the charges in the suit. These dangerous pollutants were spilled out of their steel mill during the steel production process due to negligence in maintaining their equipment. The spills were not reported to the state or local authorities until at least four days after they occurred. Once the spill was discovered, public beaches were closed for four days, Indiana Dunes National Park was likewise closed,

and boaters from yacht clubs and marinas in the area were restricted from their normal activities due to the polluted water conditions. In addition thousands of fish were killed which washed up on the area beaches and river banks. The pollutants also required closing of the drinking water intake for the town of Ogden Dunes which draws water from the lake. LMYA has been a lead sponsor of the suit to seek improvements in the plant equipment, make operating changes to reduce potential pollution, create better

controls of the chemicals that are being used so no future dangerous spills will occur, and monetary civil damages. We also want to assure that more effective and timely monitoring of any pollutants that could escape the plants are promptly reported to state officials so in the future, the public can be protected from this type of accidental exposure. In previous editions of the Spreader we ran pictures of hundreds of dead fish that were killed by the pollution released from the steel plant.

Special points of interest:

- Dogan Files Spill Lawsuit
- Lake Activity Emerges
- Indiana Boating is Booming
- Venetian Night in Hammond
- Wisconsin Region and MBC Champagne Party
- Taste of Three Rivers
- Robert Albert—Life Member

As the activities on the lake return to more normal patterns, we are finding that boaters are happy to be able to return to their boating ways, Slip holders are happy and there is a real sense of camaraderie and

friendship around the lakeshore. We are thankful to be here and are truly appreciative of the lake shore facilities that have survived the onslaughts of weather and the pandemic. We will miss those who were taken from us, but we

will come to treasure those who have come through the last year and a half with us. We look forward to making new friends in the coming months as we emerge from our homebound retreats and find life is once again going strong.

Indiana Boating is Booming

Barb Lusco from the Indiana Region reports that marinas and yacht clubs in Indiana are running at close to 100% capacity. Boats are being bought and sold at a record pace. Some boat owners have sold their boats without even putting them up for sale as they received offers that were so good they couldn't refuse them. Some buyers are be-

ing outbid by 2, 3, or 4 other potential buyers so the bidding is getting more complex. The marinas are finding that business is back to where it was before Covid came along. Masks, hand sanitizers, and shut downs are being replaced by full slips, cruises, and dock parties. When you plan to go to a new marina in Indiana, be sure to check

their hours, slip availability, and mask policies.

Water levels this year have also been cooperating by returning to more normal levels. Some of the beach front communities took severe hits from the storms during higher water levels such as Ogden Dunes and Beverly Shores. Large rocks

have been brought in to stabilize the shorelines. Portage lakefront lost most of its sandy beaches from the storms and winds, and the Army Corps has had to replace some of the sand. They also moved sand from the mouth of the Burns waterway where it had accumulated from the winds and storms.

Venetian Night Party at Hammond Yacht Club

In July there was a traditional Venetian Night party at the Hammond Marina sponsored by the Hammond Port Authority. In spite of the rain, this event drew a lot of competitive efforts from the various dock members, and many LMYA folk were involved. The winning dock was E dock and our own Christine Hunt was one of its members. Check out the picture to the right to see some of the decorations that went into lighting up the yachts at night.



Our Post Office Box:

LMYA Secretary

P.O. Box 631

Germantown,

WI, 53022

LMYA Officers for 2021

Commodore: Thomas Dogan

Vice Commodore: Matthew Dogan

Secretary: Jim Mergener

Treasurer: Sally Mergener

Judge Advocate: Thomas Dogan



Wisconsin Region Holds Champagne Party/Rendezvous with MBC

The Wisconsin Region of LMYA held a combined party with the Milwaukee Boat Club on June 13th to kick off the new boating season. Rather than holding a separate Wisconsin Rendezvous as we have held at Port Washington Yacht Club in previous years, we decided to combine forces with the Milwaukee Boat Club which had planned to hold a

Champagne social event the same weekend. The combined event was held at South Shore Yacht Club under their big tent. Champagne, beer, soda, and water were provided by the two clubs, and members brought their own appetizers, salads and desserts to share. There is a lot of overlap in the memberships of LMYA,

the Milwaukee Boat Club, and South Shore Yacht Club so it was a natural fit for all the members to gather and socialize with their boating friends from the greater Milwaukee area. The event was scaled down from prior years rendezvous type parties, but it was held in a safe manner and convenient location

with about 40 club members from both groups enjoying the afternoon and evening at the lakefront. It was a fun way to start off the boating season and see a lot of our boating friends in a perfect setting. We hope to have a full rendezvous again next year for our members.

Taste of Three Rivers Party and the Asian Carp Report

On the Illinois River, the Taste of Three Rivers party was held on July 31st. Illinois Rear Commodore Wade Schroeder reports that it was a blast. Featured at the party are a live band, DJ, Basket Auction, 50/50 raffle, and donations to the Harry V. memorial dock fund. Harry was the former marina owner at Dresden who recently died.

On the river, the DNR has been shocking the pool regularly for Asian Carp near the Dresden Island Dam. There is some grant money to build some type of a physical barrier at Brandon Road lock. What type of barrier will be installed has yet to be determined.

Champagne Party and Rendezvous



Robert Albert becomes newest Life Member of the LMYA

Robert Albert from Chicago, Illinois, has become the latest Life Member of the LMYA in July. Bob had been the 10th member to join LMYA

from the state of Illinois and this year he decided to become a life member to keep up his membership permanently.

He is a member of the Chicago Yacht Club and Diversey Yacht Club with his boat kept at Montrose Harbor. Bob's boat is a 44 foot Sea

Ray named Polar Bear. Please join us in congratulating Bob on being an LMYA Life Member.