

Emailed June 17, 2011



## **Boating summit in Columbus a success**

More than 40 boaters, boat dealers, marina operators and yacht club members from across the state travelled to Columbus on May 11 to meet with legislators at the Boating Associations of Ohio Legislative Conference.

State Speaker of the House Bill Batchelder and Ohio Department of Natural Resources Director David Mustine highlighted a lineup of speakers that proceeded roundtable discussions.

State Rep. Bill Hayes was well-received for his discussion about House Bill 191, an issue he introduced in April that would prohibit the school year from starting before Labor Day and require it to end before Memorial Day.

“More and more schools have been opening up before Labor Day, which cuts into the boating season and takes away a number of recreational opportunities for families,” said BAO Executive Director Ken Alvey, who testified in support of the measure last week. “When you think about all the vacation and tourism dollars at stake, it really is a big deal.”

Presenters Dennis Murray, a state representative whose district includes all of the Lake Erie shoreline in Erie and Ottawa counties, Ohio Senator Bill Seitz of Cincinnati, Assistant ODNR Director Scott Zody and Steve Wermuth of the Ohio Department of Health rounded out the day with talks about everything from marina rules to the future of state government.

The group of attendees included members of LEMTA, the Central Ohio Marine Dealers Association, Southern Ohio Marine Trades Association, Greater Cleveland Boating Association, Associated Yacht Clubs, Inter-Lake Yachting Association and ODNR Division of Watercraft.

BAO was established in 1986 to unify Ohio’s recreational boating industry with individual boat owners in order to strengthen boater voices in Columbus.

Its affiliated groups represent more than 300 dealers, marina operators and other organizations on the Ohio River, Lake Erie and inland bodies of water.

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## **Golf outing/fishing tournament July 19**

Since 1998, the LEMTA Educational Foundation has awarded more than \$90,000 in scholarships to local students with ties to or looking to join the marine industry.

The annual Norm Schultz Open Golf Outing & Fishing Tournament is the main fundraiser for the foundation and all members are encouraged to participate, whether it be by playing golf, fishing for a team, providing a boat or sponsoring a hole on the course.

The 2011 event will be held July 19 at the Catawba Island Club.

Golf registration will start at 8:30 a.m. when the fishing boats leave the north marina and awards will be handed out during a luncheon that will start at 2:30 p.m.

A registration form is attached to this email.

For more information about participation, contact the LEMTA office.

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## **Algae cleanup threatens Waterways Safety Fund**

LEMTA President Ken Alvey traveled to Columbus this week to testify against a state Senate budget amendment that would divert \$7 million from the Waterways Safety Fund to clean up algae at Grand Lake St. Marys in western Ohio.

The amendment, which was added to House Bill 153 by Sen. Keith Faber, is likely to pass in spite of LEMTA's efforts.

Alvey argued that the Waterways Safety Fund -- which is set up as a user-pay, user-benefit

program sustained through boat registration and title fees, matching federal grants and the allocation of seven-eighths of 1 percent of the state excise tax on gasoline -- should be used for boating projects, not environmental restoration.

Grand Lake St. Marys covers approximately 13,000 acres of water and has been plagued by no-touching and no-swimming advisories due to toxic algae blooms in recent years.

“The algae problem is due mainly to farm runoff,” said Alvey. “The water degradation sins of upland users and abusers should not be paid for by the boaters of Ohio.”

Alvey told the finance committee the inappropriate use of funds would not make economic sense, as federal government matches could be dropped.

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources does not plan to fight the resolution.

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## **LEMTA members, staff help out at Boating & Fishing Fest**

Several boating organizations, state agencies and even the weather cooperated to ensure the 2011 North Coast Harbor Boating & Fishing Fest would be a success.

The event, held last weekend at Voinovich Park on the Cleveland lakefront, was produced in part by LEMTA staff and featured boat rides from members Ivancic Marine and Riverfront Yacht Sales & Services.

“It was a great weekend and we’re fortunate to have members who like to step up and help out in the community,” said LEMTA President Ken Alvey.

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*A child happily returns to the dock, while Greater Cleveland Boating Association members help unload a boat.*

The two LEMTA boats, along with the Cleavelander charter boat, schooner Journey and others from the E. 55th St. Marina took more than 1,100 people out for short cruises on the lake during the two day festival.

The charter boat Holiday accommodated an additional 600 children for hourly fishing trips.

Members of the Cleveland Dragon Boat Association brought one of their 20-person dragon boats for the public to paddle around the harbor and educational displays were set up on land.

There was no charge to attend; all setup costs were paid for through grants and donations from the ODNR Divisions of Watercraft and Wildlife, National Water Safety Congress, Greater Cleveland Safety Council and North Coast Black Bass Anglers Association and the event was entirely staffed by volunteers.

If you would like to participate next year, please get in touch with the LEMTA office.

## **Time to start thinking about fall boat shows**

The 32nd annual Michigan City In-Water Boat Show will open Aug. 25-28 on the Washington Park waterfront in Michigan City, Ind.

It will be the largest in-water show on Lake Michigan and will feature piers full of the newest

powerboats and sailboats, plus quality late-model pre-owned craft.

Capt'n Willie the Great Lakes Pirate will be on hand to entertain kids and all LaPorte County, Indiana residents will receive free admission on opening day.

After closing, the docks used at the event will be shipped to Cedar Point for the 39th annual North American In-Water Boat Show, which will be held Sept. 14-18.

The in-water LEMTA show is traditionally the largest on the Great Lakes.

Exhibitor pricing will remain locked (it has not been raised since 2007) and brochures will be mailed in the next few weeks.

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## **New reporting system unveiled by U.S. Customs**

U.S. Customs and Border Protection last month announced the availability of its Small Vessel Reporting System to the northern border, New England, Florida, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

The online reporting tool is a voluntary program that expedites the entry process for participating boaters coming back into the United States.

The system will be available nationwide in the coming months.

"The Small Vessel Reporting System allows international boaters to preregister with in order to obtain an expedited clearance upon arrival in the U.S.," Executive Director John Wagner said in a statement. "The makes the reporting process easier and faster."

Once enrolled, boat owners file a small vessel reporting float plan prior to their departure from the United States if the trip begins here or prior to their entry into this country if the trip begins elsewhere.

Upon arrival in the United States, boat masters can then call customs at the closest port of entry with the float plan identification number they received when the plan was filed, answer a few customs questions and receive clearance to enter the country.

For more information, visit the system's website at [cbp.gov/xp/cgov/travel/pleasure\\_boats](http://cbp.gov/xp/cgov/travel/pleasure_boats).

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## **Upcoming industry events and deadlines**

Norm Schultz Open Golf Outing & Fishing Tournament

July 19

Catawba Island Club in Port Clinton

[Michigan City In-Water Boat Show](#)

Aug. 25-28

Washington Park in Michigan City, Indiana

[North American In-Water Boat Show](#)

Sept. 14-18

Cedar Point in Sandusky

[Marine Dealer Conference & Expo](#)

Nov. 6-9

Orlando, Florida

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