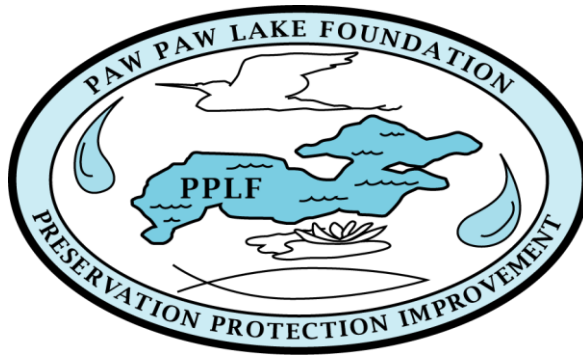




Dedicated to the Preservation, Protection and Improvement of Paw Paw Lake, its Ecosystem and Watershed

P.O. Box 341, Watervliet, Michigan 49098

Check out our web site / pawpawlakefoundation.org

Michael P. Bond
President

Laurie A. Hoadley
Secretary

Carl D. Spessard
Treasurer

Gerald A. Beeson
Director

Joanna B. Ford
Director

Louis S. Gibson
Director

James Hoadley
Director

Clint P. Jones
Director

Frank D. Jurenka
Director

Mark T. Malin
Director

Michael J. McLean
Director

James J. Pasko
Director

Charles L. Pater
Director

Mark A. Schmitt
Director

Jeffery M. Shupe
Director

Kenneth L. Teutsch
Director

Joseph A. Wasserman
Director

Paw Paw Lake Foundation - Biochar Initiative

PLEASE READ – IMPORTANT, TIME SENSITIVE AND RESPONSE REQUIRED

Dear Neighbors of Paw Paw Lake,

The Paw Paw Lake Foundation is committed to improving the water quality of Paw Paw Lake. Over the past two years, we have acted to stop the leading contributors of chemical pollution and farm runoff into the lake. Our next phase in this effort will be the **Biochar Initiative**, scheduled to launch next spring, where we will focus to begin removing these pollutants from the lake. This multi-year program is designed to improve water quality in all areas of Paw Paw Lake using an all natural **CHEMICAL FREE** carbon material. **Your participation is critical to the success of this effort – please read below to find out more about the program and how you can help.**

What is Biochar and what does it do?

Biochar is a charcoal-like product that is used in water treatment to filter pollutants. In the case of Paw Paw Lake, this product would be used to remove the phosphorus and nitrogen runoff, among other organic materials, that have accumulated over the years.

We have selected TimberChar – the only EPA-approved, organically certified biochar filtration system built specifically for this purpose. The product is supplied by Eden Lakes (www.edenlakes.co) and has been demonstrated to treat phosphorus and nitrogen runoff, reduce the frequency and severity of algae blooms and improve water clarity. This product has been selected due to its effectiveness in lakes similar to Paw Paw Lake in size and water quality.

How long will it take to see results?

Other lakes using TimberChar have begun to see results 6 to 12 months after deployment although most report results are most noticeable in the second year of the initiative. The benefits require that a portion of the bags are replaced each spring when bags are returned to the lake. The Foundation will advise if your bags require replacement and provide new bags for subsequent years. At the time of replacement, you can use the contents of the bag for gardening or similar uses as it will be an excellent soil enhancement or the Foundation will collect the bags from you when replacement bags are delivered.

What do I need to do to install and remove the bags?

The TimberChar product will come in porous bags, roughly the size of a small sandbag, which are secured to pier pilings with ropes to allow lake water to flow through the material over the course of the season. The bags would be installed as early as May and need to be removed by the end of October as required by our EGLE permit. When the bags are removed in the fall, they can be placed on shore for the winter and then reinstalled in the spring. No special storage is needed as the bags are immune to winter weather events.

We have provided pictures of the product and a video of how to attach and remove the product from your pier on the Paw Paw Lake Foundation website (www.pawpawlakefoundation.org).

The Paw Paw Lake Foundation is a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization dedicated to the improvement of Paw Paw Lake, Coloma Michigan. Donations to the Foundations are tax deductible under IRS 501 (c) (3) requirements.

How can I help?

As the TimberChar™ product must be deployed through the entire shoreline, it is imperative the entire lake community take part in making this initiative successful. To maximize this effort, the Foundation Biochar team needs assistance in the following areas:

- 1) **We need each riparian to indicate their willingness to participate in the program.** Please log onto the Foundation website, click the Biochar initiative tab and complete the authorization form no later than October 15, 2025. You can also indicate if you need assistance with installation and/or removal of the bags and a foundation volunteer will be in contact to provide the needed assistance.



- 2) **We need volunteer 'block captains' to be the point of contact for their portion of the lake** (i.e Bowes Landing, Pomona Point, Windermere Landing, Lake Point Condos etc.), to assist in the distribution and installation of the product. Please contact the Foundation via email at pplfbiochar@pplf.org if you are able to assist in your area. We cannot be successful without your help.
- 3) Please support this initiative by considering a donation to the Foundation so we can continue this work and other projects that are positively impacting the lake. This program, which will cost approximately \$170,000 for next year, would not be possible without generous donations from your neighbors on the lake. All donations are tax deductible.

Thank you in advance for your assistance and commitment to preserve Paw Paw Lake for generations to come.

The Paw Paw Lake Biochar Team