



THREE MILE LAKE NEWS

April 2010 - Volume 4, Number 1

P.O. Box 482, Paw Paw, MI 49079

www.threemilelakepawpaw.org

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2010 Meeting Schedule

Spring Board Meeting
2nd Sat. of May
May 8th
Joyce Beedie's home
10:00 a.m.

Spring Membership
Meeting
3rd Sat. of May
May 15th
Paw Paw Twp. Bldg.
114 N. Gremps
10:00 a.m.

Annual Membership
Meeting
Last Sat. of June

Fall Board Meeting
1st Sat. of August
August 7th

Fall Membership
Meeting
Sat. of Labor Day
Weekend
September 4th

*The board of
Directors have set this
meeting schedule for
the coming year, but it
is subject to change.
Any changes in dates
and times along with
meeting locations will
be announced at a later
date.*

This publication is being sent to all residents that have riparian rights or interests in Three Mile Lake and Little Three Mile Lake.

FEBRUARY 24, 2010, OUR ASSOCIATIONS 10TH ANNIVERSARY....

The Three Mile Lake Corporation became a nonprofit corporation by the volunteer efforts of Gail Wascher and her desire to see the residents united as a group to face challenges that were already plaguing other lakes and were destined to be issues on our lake. The original articles of incorporation state that the purpose of this organization was "to promote through joint and mutual action the property interests of those people owning lake frontage on Three Mile Lake or deed access rights thereto." Since that time, many residents have served on the board of directors. Past presidents have been Neil Boff, Gail Wascher, Charles Bear and currently Joyce Beedie. Other board positions have been filled by Rich Maxwell, Roy Miller, Jim Duffek, Millie Pawlowski, Ron Cicchini, Peg Warmack, Joe Silder, Keith Haring, Carol Stewart, Shary Belfy, Jim Chlada, Greg Wegeler, Joe Posada, Jack DeHaan, Sue Peterson, Dave Schmidt, and Roland Haring. There are many others who have served on committees or have given of their time and talents to help support the efforts of the association.

Many thanks to all of you, Joyce Beedie

MICHIGAN DNR AND MICHIGAN DEQ HAVE MERGED.... On January 17, 2010, in an effort to save money and streamline the duties of the DNR and DEQ, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment has been created by merging the two agencies. Their new website is www.michigan.gov/dnr.

VAN BUREN CONSERVATION DISTRICT.... The Van Buren Conservation District will be having their annual tree seedling and plant sale that encourages the planting of native plants in our area. Spring is here and what better thing to do in spring but get outside and plan your plantings. Check their calendar for Tree Seedling and Native Plant Sales as well as Native Plant Workshops.

There are also two books recently published that may be enjoyed; *Van Buren County Michigan 2008 Plat Book* and the *Inland Lake Aerial Photo Atlas*. Visit www.vanburencd.org for additional information about these books, events, and other workshops, or call the Conservation District at 269-657-4030. Their office is located at 1035 E. Michigan Ave., Paw Paw.

PLANS FOR OUR ANNUAL MEETING IN JUNE.... A place to hold our annual meeting in June is needed. It would also be great if we could have a picnic again this year. If you can offer a place for the event or be a part of the planning committee please contact a board member.

**2009 – 2010
Board of Directors**

Joyce Beedie
President
term expires 2011
269-657-4409

Ron Cicchini
Vice President
term expires 2010
269-657-5096

Jim Chlada
Treasurer
term expires 2011
708-610-2065

Millie Pawlowski
Secretary
term expires 2012
630-977-9796

Rich Maxwell
Director
term expires 2010
269-657-7343

Charlie Bear
Director
term expires 2012
269-657-7590

Joe Posada
Director
term expires 2011
269-655-5015

Dave Schmidt
Director
term expires 2010
269-655-0159

Roland Harring
Director
term expires 2012
269-657-3767

***The terms of three directors
are up for re-election this
year and your association
needs to fill these positions.***

***If you would like to be
nominated or know of
someone you would like to
nominate to the board
please contact a board
member. Elections are held
at the annual meeting in
June.***

DON'T TAKE YOUR SEPTIC SYSTEM FOR GRANTED....

Why should I maintain my septic system?

When septic systems are properly designed, constructed, and maintained, they effectively reduce or eliminate most human health or environmental threats posed by pollutants in household wastewater. However, they require regular maintenance or they can fail. Septic systems need to be monitored to ensure that they work properly throughout their service lives.

Saving Money

A key reason to maintain your septic system is to save money! Failing septic systems are expensive to repair or replace, and poor maintenance is often the culprit. Having your septic system inspected regularly and pumped as needed is a bargain when you consider the cost of replacing the entire system.

Protecting health and the environment

Other good reasons for safe treatment of sewage include preventing the spread of infection and disease and protecting water resources. Typical pollutants in household wastewater are nitrogen, phosphorus, and disease-causing bacteria and viruses. If a septic system is working properly, it will effectively remove most of these pollutants. Inadequately treated sewage from septic systems can be a cause of groundwater contamination. It poses a significant threat to drinking water and human health because it can contaminate drinking water wells and cause diseases and infections in people and animals. Improperly treated sewage that contaminates nearby surface waters also increases the chance of swimmers contracting a variety of infectious diseases. These range from eye and ear infections to acute gastrointestinal illness and diseases like hepatitis.

Failure symptoms

The most obvious septic system failures are easy to spot. Check for pooling water or muddy soil around your septic system or in your basement. Notice whether your toilet or sink backs up when you flush or do laundry. You might also notice strips of bright green grass over the drain field. Septic systems also fail when partially treated wastewater comes into contact with groundwater. This type of failure is not easy to detect, but it can result in the pollution of wells, nearby streams, or other bodies of water. Check with a septic system professional and the local health department if you suspect such a failure, and remember to have your septic system inspected by a professional.

Care of your drain field

Your drain field is an important part of your septic system. Here are a few things you should do to maintain it:

- Plant only grass over and near your septic system. Roots from nearby trees or shrubs might clog and damage the drain field.
- Don't drive or park vehicles on any part of your septic system. Doing so can compact the soil in your drain field or damage the pipes, tank, or other septic system components.
- Keep roof drains, basement sump pump drains, and other rainwater or surface water drainage systems away from the drain field. Flooding the drain field with excessive water slows down or stops treatment processes and can cause plumbing fixtures to back up.

This article was taken from www.michigan.gov; visit that site for additional information about Septic Systems.

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Jill Harring (269-657-3767) or
Joyce Beedie (269-657-4409)

SHORELINE MANAGEMENT... New advancements have been made to control lakeshore erosion. In the past, stabilizing shorelines was accomplished by using railroad ties, metal reinforcements or fieldstone. These materials may solve an erosion problem but they are expensive, unsightly to some people, provide no visual barrier and if rock is used it is difficult to walk on. Also none of these options provide a good wildlife habitat and lakes surrounded by seawalls tend to develop surface water problems such as poor lake and drinking water quality, area flooding and an increase in residential development. A new alternative to the old standards is the use of living materials (Bioengineering). Another alternative to erosion and standing water problems can be a properly installed rain garden; it not only helps with water drainage but creates an environmentally safe and attractive area for plants and wildlife. The University of Minnesota has done extensive research in watershed management and more information about this issue and other related topics can be found at www.dnr.state.mn.us/index.html. Michigan State Extension, Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment, Van Buren Conservation District and Michigan Lake and Stream Association are other great sources to use when searching for answers to problems that are unique to lake residents. Links to all the sites mentioned in this article can be found at our website www.threemilelakepawpaw.org.

Please remember to contact the lake association if you have a change of mailing address, phone number or email address. The board makes every effort to mail newsletters to all residents and contact them when important issues arise. Your contact information is also used as a part of our neighborhood watch program.

If you know of a new resident please contact Ron Cicchini, he will visit them and welcome them to the lake.

2010 MEMBERSHIP FORM

Member Name(s): _____

Three Mile Lake address: _____ Paw Paw, MI 49079

Lake Home Phone Number: _____

Home (Mailing) Address (if different): _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: (____) _____ Cell Phone (optional): (____) _____

Email Address (optional): _____

Membership dues are \$20 per family
Make check or money order payable to: Three Mile Lake Corporation
Mail check to: Three Mile Lake Corporation
PO Box 482
Paw Paw, MI 49079

Please use the back of this form for comments about issues you would like the association to address, and if you have decided not to join the association, please let us know why.

