



THREE MILE LAKE NEWS

October 2010 - Volume 4, Number 2

P.O. Box 482, Paw Paw, MI 49079
www.threemilelakepawpaw.org
email - threemilelakepawpaw@yahoo.com

2011 Meeting Schedule

Spring Board Meeting
1st Sat. of May
May 7th
Joyce Beedie's home
10:00 a.m.

Spring Membership
Meeting
3rd Sat. of May
May 21st
Paw Paw Twp. Bldg.
114 N. Gremps
10:00 a.m.

Annual Membership
Meeting
Last Sat. of June
June 25th

Fall Board Meeting
1st Sat. of August
August 6th

Fall Membership Meeting
Sat. of Labor Day
Weekend
Sept. 3rd

*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.*

MEMBERSHIP

Residents can't be forced to join a lake association, but there has never been a greater need for lake associations as there is today. The demographics, ecology and use of the lake, and its watershed, are changing and the coming years will see greater changes. Lake residents need to join together to discuss, learn and preserve this lake that we are so fortunate to enjoy.

Over the last 10 years, the members of the association have held board positions, served on committees and added their opinions and knowledge to deal with issues that have confronted the lake and its residents. The dues, of \$20, are the financial lifeblood of these efforts and without it there is no money for mailings, meetings, liability insurance and the website. The association is also the liaison between the township and Professional Lake Management, the company contracted to monitor the invasive weeds and water quality. Without funding the lake association cannot exist.

THANK YOU

to these member families for supporting the Three Mile Lake Corporation in 2010.

*Lynn Meyers
Georgia Battista
Sheri & Charlie Bear
Joyce & Mark Beedie
Shary & Ed Belfy
Mary & Neil Boff
Beth & Rick Brovold
Kathy & Jack Burbridge
Diane & Jim Chlada
Sue & Ron Cicchini
Renee & David Cotnoir
Cheryl & Jack DeHaan
Victoria & James DeYoung
Robert & Paula Fisher
Gerald & Gayanne Fitzgerald
Laurie & Theodore French
J. Craig Gies
Jill & Roland Haring
Patsy & Keith Haring
Betsy & Charles Hill
Bruce & Deborah Hill
Diane & Earl Hocking
Jeanette & Kevin Kenny
Margaret Kenny
Sue & Paul Kolenko
Marilyn & Barry Kuchenreuther
Mary Fran & John Kuenster
Emily & Charles Leuin*

*Carolyn & Gerald Linnert
Char & Tom Makowski
Dorothy & Jeffrey Martin
Nancy & Rich Maxwell
Patsy & Dr. Henry Meachum
Joan & Roy Miller
Gail & Ronald Olsen
Sharon & Jim Paluch
Millie & Tom Pawlowski
Denise Pluta
Kristian & Tara Popp
Carmon & Joe Posada
Catherine Preston
Kerry & Jeffrey Preston
Lori & Joe Priola
Judy & Dave Schmidt
Kay & Jerry Schultz
Gay & Joe Silder
Doris & Bill Stambaugh
Terri & Jim Stewart
Janice & Charles Studer
Ginger & Brent Tiffany
Beth Wade
Peggy & David Warmack
Barbara & Terry Wolownik
Maxine & Steve Ziemek
Theresa Zona*

This year the annual membership meeting/picnic was hosted by the *Haring families* and *Doris and Bill Stambaugh* hosted our September membership meeting.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH

**2010 – 2011
Board of Directors**

Joyce Beedie
President
term expires 2011
269-657-4409

Ron Cicchini
Vice President
term expires 2013
269-657-5096

Jim Chlada
Treasurer
term expires 2011
708-610-2065

Millie Pawlowski
Director
term expires 2012
630-977-9796

Rich Maxwell
Director
term expires 2013
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 2013
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.

MICHIGAN LAKES AND STREAMS FALL MEETING

Michigan Lakes and Streams Association Region 3 lake representatives met at the Webster Memorial Library in Decatur, MI on September 25th for a round table discussion about current issues of importance to southwest Michigan waterways. The meeting was moderated by Sue Vomish, President of the MLSA and Region 3 representative. There were 26 people in attendance, representing 18 lakes. These lakes were Indian, Big Fish, Finch, Birch, Three Mile, Magician, Gravel, Little Fish, Gourdneck, Bankson, Brownwood, Wahbememe, Little Paw Paw, Reynolds, Baldwin, Shavehead, Cable and Twin Lakes. Each representative spoke about their lake and shared their issues, successes and concerns so that everyone could learn and help each other.

Year in and year out associations tackle the issue of membership, and every year presents the challenge of how to keep old members and entice new ones. There are a few lakes that have a high percentage of paid members, but there are many that struggle. All lake residents are the recipients of the work done by board members and committee volunteers and unfortunately too few are willing to pay the small annual dues to support these efforts. Apathy seems to be a contributing factor as well as a misunderstanding of the importance of an organized, informed and active lake association. Often it is the same people year after year who attend meetings, pay dues and volunteer to help. Without these people many lake associations would fold from lack of interest. One area lake association did so this past year.

Managing invasive plants and monitoring lake water quality continues to be a main topic of discussion. Some lakes have been treating invasive plants for many years and others are still in the process of researching treatment alternatives and contracting professional lake management companies. There are a few lakes that monitor water quality and treat invasive plants in-house, but most lakes have resorted to hiring outside firms and to set up a Special Assessment District through their township(s). A new invasive plant that has been seen in area waters is Starry Stonewort. This plant seems to prefer a silt lake bottom and calm water, often the environment found in lake channels, and it is spread by waterfowl.

There are lakes that are seeing an increase in algae blooms, both toxic and non-toxic varieties. Increases in algae are caused by higher nutrient levels in the water. Nutrient levels increase with changes in the watershed. Lakes are being overdeveloped and this alters shorelines and wetlands that have always been the natural cleanser of the water. Lawn fertilizers and ash seeping into the lake are also contributing factors to nutrient increases. Nature also plays its part, warmer water is the perfect environment for algae growth as well as the cycle of plant life as it dies each year and falls to the lake bottom and decays.

Many associations have realized the importance of understanding their township zoning ordinances and attending township board meetings. Knowing your township officials and having a working relationship with them is a must for all associations. Lakes have seen many changes over the years but these current economic times may see associations dealing with new issues. Increases in vacant homes, rental properties, abandoned animals, septic tank neglect, improper waste/garbage disposal and theft are some of the areas where problems may arise and an association may need the help of the township to resolve these issues.

The use of lake bubblers for keeping the water open around piers in the winter months is seeing an increase. This practice is great for the resident that does not wish to remove a pier but it creates dangers for ice fisherman and snowmobilers, and causes the surrounding ice to remain thin and dangerous. Thin ice also allows sunlight to reach the lake bottom and encourages weed growth. Also open water keeps waterfowl in the area and they contribute their waste to the lake water year round. It is very important for the lake to freeze over every winter.

The meeting was three hours of interesting conversation and great ideas to better our lake associations. Sue Vomish closed the meeting reminding everyone that lake associations have a responsibility to educate residents about lake preservation and sound environmental practices, and to remember that we are privileged to live on these lakes and we owe something back to them.

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or on our website email or
contact -
Jill Harring (657-3767) or
Joyce Beedie (657-4409)

MAPLE LAKE

The residents of Maple Lake, along with the village of Paw Paw, have struggled for many years on the best west way to deal with weed invasion in the lake. For information about their progress visit: www.tworiverscoalition.org/newsreleases.asp

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE WOODMAN MARSH

The marsh along the western shore of our lake, owned by *Mr. and Mrs. William Woodman*, has a HUGE impact on our water quality. The marsh is nature's natural filter. It cleanses the water and provides excellent habitat for wildlife. It also gives us a wonderful view from our properties and attracts migrating birds. **THANK YOU** to the Woodman family for preserving this area and sharing it with us.

WWW.PAWPAWTOWNSHIP.ORG

If you have questions about township rules and regulations this website may help to provide the answer. The site maintains information about current zoning ordinances, building permits, land use, property tax, maps, meetings, millage rates, elections, fees, etc.

WEBSITE

Joyce Beedie continues to maintain the association website and updates it as needed. The site includes current information about meetings and directors, maps, current topics of interest, photos, lake management, minutes of past membership meetings, association bylaws and boating rules. Archived issues of the THREE MILE LAKE NEWS have also been made available and there are pages for advertising and links to other useful websites. Also archived on the site are all water quality tests that are currently available and the 2007 fish study. Check it out at 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.

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR 2010?

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

