



THREE MILE LAKE news

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

www.3milelake.com

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2008 – 2009 Board of Directors

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term expires 2011
269-657-4409

Ron Cicchini
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term expires 2010
269-657-5096

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Treasurer
term expires 2011
708-610-2065

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term expires 2009
269-657-3312

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Director
term expires 2010

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Director
term expires 2009

Joe Posada
Director
term expires 2011

Marilyn S. Peterson
Director
term expires 2009

Dave Schmidt
Director
term expires 2010

Brent McNitt
Web Site
Administrator

Keeping an eye on the health of the lake...

Professional Lake Management spent several days on the lake this year taking water samples and evaluating lake vegetation. Curly Leaf Pondweed, an invasive species, had appeared at the south end of the lake and it was treated. Water samples were taken in April and September. These tests monitor dissolved oxygen, phosphorous, nitrates, pH and alkalinity. A Secchi disk reading is also taken to check for water clarity. In July an E. Coli test was completed.

Test conclusions –

- *Conditions for fish growth are FAIR.
- *Bottom water is deoxygenated, preventing fish from living in cooler water at the bottom of lake.
- *pH is within acceptable limits.
- *Sample is highly phosphorous enriched. Consider nutrient abatement measures.
- *Deep water sample indicates possible loading of nutrients.
- *E. Coli levels were safe for swimming.

Improving our roadway...

The county continues to make improvements to 41st Street and will complete the project before winter. The project has been extensive and many property owners have received individual improvements to their property so that the roadway can be installed properly, with an emphasis on road safety. Some of our residents have voiced concerns that a guard rail will not be installed over the highest and most dangerous spot on the road. John Frank, of the road commission, has asked that we wait for the completion of the project and then revisit the concern after we see what has been done to that area. He believes that the changes in the position and width of the road will alleviate a need for a guardrail. The board of directors will be keeping an eye on this through the fall and winter.

Keeping everyone updated on lake issues ...

At the August board of directors meeting the board voted to spend the money needed to mail lake newsletters and other lake related information to all the lot renters at the Three Mile Lake Trailer Park.

Promoting local businesses and craftsman...

Have you ever wondered who to call when the furnace won't light, the boat won't start or you need advice about a home repair? Maybe you have moved into a new home and did not know who provided services in your area. To help everyone, the people who need services and the people who provide them, our lake association newsletter will begin to include small advertisements. Any association member who would like to advertise their services may do so free of charge (non members will be charged \$20 per year for two advertisements). Advertising content and format will be monitored by the board of directors. Please contact Jill Harring at 657-3767 to

2009 Meeting Schedule

Spring board meeting held 1st Sat. of May

Spring membership meeting held 3rd Sat. of May

Annual membership meeting held last Sat. of June

Fall board meeting held 1st Sat. of Aug.

Fall membership meeting held Sat. of Labor Day Weekend

be included in the Spring 2009 newsletter.

Planning ahead for a safe and fun filled 2009 season...

Fishing and boating rules can change from year to year as they do from state to state. The rules are in place to set standards for boater safety and to protect the fish population. Annually reviewing these rules can be a great way to take off the winter chill and remember the warm days of summer. Plan for next summer by getting a copy of the current fishing and boating rules. These can be obtained from the MIDNR web site, the sheriff's department, or your favorite sporting goods store.

Keeping our neighborhood safe...

During a past meeting, we discussed starting a neighborhood watch program for the lake area. Although we haven't been able to get a police representative to a meeting yet, we thought it would be a good idea to pass along some tips that appeared in the Homelife section of the Kalamazoo Gazette this past summer to help keep the area and your family and property safe.

1. Install adequate exterior security lighting and consider motion sensor lights near vulnerable exterior doors or windows. (Your neighbors will have a better view of your house if something suspicious is happening.)
2. Make sure exterior doors are solid core and dead-bolted, using 3 inch screws for the strike plates and door jambs to prevent them from being kicked open.
3. Keep garage doors and garage side doors locked, even for short trips to the store. A burglar may park his car in your garage, lower the door, and quickly loot your house undetected.
4. All windows should have blinds or curtains and working locks. If using additional locks such as window stops, ensure adequate egress will be available in case of fire. Be aware that screens are easily cut through.
5. The key under the mat is an invitation to disaster. No matter where a hideout key is placed, you may be observed retrieving it. Consider leaving a "last resort key" with a neighbor or in a combination-key storage lockbox anchored firmly to a base or doorknob on your property.
6. The entrance to your house shouldn't be so secluded that it hides a burglar trying to gain entry. Thick landscaping or fences provide cover and extra time for a burglar to gain entry. The same goes for windows. In fact, consider placing thorny plants like cacti or rose bushes in front of susceptible windows.
7. Don't put your name on your mailbox, and don't say "I'm not home" on your answering machine. A potential burglar may look you up and call you to see if you are home.
8. Put your irreplaceable items in a safe deposit box or put in a fireproof safe bolted to the floor.
9. Consider investing in a home security system. The signs alone tend to deter burglars. Installation averages \$200-\$400, and the monthly fee is generally less than \$30.
10. If you arrive home and it appears someone has unlawfully entered, do not go in. Phone the police from a cell phone or a neighbor's house.

Some other recommendations from a lake owner's neighborhood watch program in Illinois are:

* Don't be afraid to call 911 if you see a strange activity happening in the neighborhood.

*Lock your car doors when your car is in the driveway. Most car break-ins occur when a thief tries to open an unlocked car and they can obtain your garage door opener to get in later. Don't keep a GPS or door opener in visible sight when your car is out.

*Get to know your neighbors and their cars and habits so if you see something out of the ordinary you know to report it to the police.

When on vacation or away for an extended time, let a neighbor know so they can watch your home, pick up mail, newspapers, phonebooks, etc. Put your lights on timers and it's a good idea to disconnect your garage door opener.

*Many cell phones now have cameras in them. If you see a suspicious car or person, take a picture and if it turns out to be involved in an unlawful activity it can

help the police catch the person responsible.

In addition to helping prevent unlawful activities, a neighborhood watch program is a good way to just "look out for each other". If a neighbor is sick or elderly we can check on them occasionally to see if they need help with anything. If something is happening to their property (storm damage, problems with their boats, etc.) or something looks out of place when they are away, we can let them know. If you contact one of the Lake Association officers, we have phone numbers for most of the lake owners and can get a message to them. If there is something that all owners should know about we can send an email to those we have email addresses for. To get on our email list send an email to jimchlada@comcast.net. Thank you to Jim Chlada for his research and for preparing this submission.

Fish testing results...

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources conducted a fish survey on our lake from April 15 thru April 17, 2007. As part of their study the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality did lake water quality tests (August 15, 2006) to provide statistics and parameters to aid in the fish study. It was concluded that the "water quality standards are indicative of a mesotrophic system".

"As observed during past surveys, bluegill was the most abundant species in the catch. Stunting of bluegills was a major problem in this lake during the 1960s and 1970s. During the last fisheries survey (conducted in 1979), only 6% of captured bluegills were of harvestable size. In 2005, 72% of the bluegills collected were of harvestable size." Catch results are "indicating that growth is about average for a Michigan bluegill population".

"Pumpkin seeds and black crappies also are common in Three Mile Lake. The average size for pumpkin seeds increased from 4.0 inches in 1979 to 6.3 inches in 2007. Abundance of black crappies apparently has increased during the last 30 years, as few crappies were collected during previous surveys. Relative abundance of yellow perch in this lake fluctuates, and it appears that perch were near the low end of the cycle in 2007."

"Largemouth bass were the most abundant predators in the catch. As observed during previous surveys, only a small percentage of the bass were of legal size. With average growth, largemouth bass reach 14 inches during their sixth summer of life (age 5). Fish in this age group composed 21% of the largemouth bass catch during the 2007 survey, indicating that annual survival of largemouth bass is within the typical range for Michigan populations."

"Northern pike were collected for the first time during the 2007 survey. Because the lake is not connected to any other water body, these fish must have been introduced by anglers. Northern pike spawn in areas of flooded vegetation, so the large marsh along the western shore of Three Mile Lake is potential pike spawning habitat."

"The fish community in Three Mile Lake appears to be well-balanced. Panfish (bluegill, pumpkinseed, black crappie, yellow perch, and hybrid sunfish) comprise 49% of the biomass in the catch, whereas piscivores (largemouth bass, northern pike, and bowfin) made up 35% of the biomass."

"Four different turtle species were collected during this survey: musk, snapping, painted, and spiny softshell. The marsh along the western shoreline of Three Mile Lake provides habitat for turtles and other reptile and amphibian species."

"Management Recommendations: No Changes in management are recommended at this time. The fish community is well-balanced, and the lake appears to be providing good fishing opportunities for bluegill, pumpkinseeds, and black crappies. The extensive marsh along the western shoreline provides valuable habitat for fish (especially juveniles), amphibians, and reptiles. This marsh should be protected from future development."

Thank you to Ron Cicchini for monitoring this survey and for collecting the data from the DNR. Joyce Beedie has the full report and a copy is available upon request.



