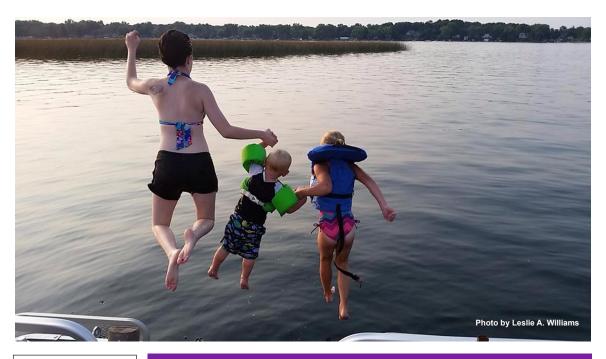
The Gravel Laker

Volume XXVI Number 2 www.gravellake.org Fall, 2014



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- Letter to the Editor
- Free Michigan Riparian!
- Woodchucks
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President's Corner

Gravel Lakers.

Another summer season has come and gone.

Fall is upon us, but I'd say we had a pretty good year! I received great feedback on our 2nd Annual picnic and 4th of July activities. The Venetian Night boat parade was a success so we'll consider it for next year (wink). We were also lucky to have an enthusiastic group of volunteers, led by Kevin and Tammi Lalone, organize our first annual Gravel Lake Poker Run. It was lots of fun and someone mentioned to me that "we beat Cedar Lake!" These are all things that make Gravel Lake VERY special. We're fortunate to have both the volunteers and participation that we get in both our social and environmental efforts.

Thanks to all of you who do what you do!

Craig

2014 Summer Activities

The Gravel Lake Association would like to thank the following volunteers and sponsors who helped make this year's events a huge sucess:

- Gravel Lake Picnic Jack Bognar, Tom Flavin, Greg & Jen Kitzmiller, Mark & Teec Fazzini, Keith Lalone, Joyce Beebe, Steve & Janice Pinkos, and all the volunteers
- Paddle Boat Regatta Kerry Moore, Mike Micheli, The Rock at Big Fish Lake
- Fun Run Emily Moore, May Moore, Tom, Darla, and Craig Kelliher, Chelsea Miller
- Kids Games Lauren Micheli and all the volunteers who helped run the games
- Boat Parade Laurie & Marie Mitchell, Julie & Candice Jacques, Apollo Marine
- Poker Run Kevin and Tami Lalone and the Keene's, as well as all those who hosted a pier: the Beebe's, Bridgham's, Jaque's, Zwartz's, Wojtanek's, DeSimone's, and Brucks
- Gravel Lake Social Melissa DeSimone, Greg & Jen Kitzmiller, Jack Bogner, Lauren & Betty Micheli, Arlene Rockwell, Dave Brown, Jen Thomas, Suzanne & Ray Reed, Steve Paramski, Jim McGreal, Val Tripp & Sarah Mencl of Industry Tanning Salon, Heidi Kussurelis of Nationwide Agency, Big T, Meyer Wood Products, Chris Oxley, Apollo Marine, The Rock at Big Fish Lake.











SOUTHSIDE OF GRAVEL LAKE

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Letter to the Editor

Dear fellow Gravel Lakers,

I am writing to inform you of a family in need of your help. My neighbors and friends of many years, Art and Fran Earl of Sandy Beach, need help for their grandson, Noah Earl. Noah is 18 years old and was doing all of the normal things teens do before he became ill. He has been diagnosed with PANDAS (Pediatric Autoimmune Neuropsychiatric Disease, Associated with Streptococcal infection). It has caused him to have seizures and it has affected his mental state. This is a very rare disease and it has no diagnostic code at this time. A diagnostic code enables doctors to bill insurance companies. No code equals no insurance at this time. His first treatment will cost \$10,000 cash up front. Following appointments will be \$500 each, in cash. I am asking on Art's behalf for prayers and donations for his grandson. Donations can be made out to: FBO Noah Earl, c/o Art and Fran Earl, 92573 Gravel Lake Drive Lawton, MI 49065. The Earl's phone number is 269-978-1995. Or you can donate online by going to www.gofundme.com. In the search field, enter "Noah Earl" and his donation site will come up.

Thanking you in advance, Lynn Flavin

P.S. You know where to send the prayers!





GOOD FOOD



GOOD DRINK



GOOD TIME



KITCHEN HOURS

M 3:00-9:00 • T: CLOSED • W: 3:00-9:00 • T: 2:00-10:00 • F: 3:00-11:00 • S: 3:00-11:00 • S: 3:00-11:00

THE ROCK AT BIG FISH LAKE

14625 Loveridge Marcellus, MI 49067 269.646.7625

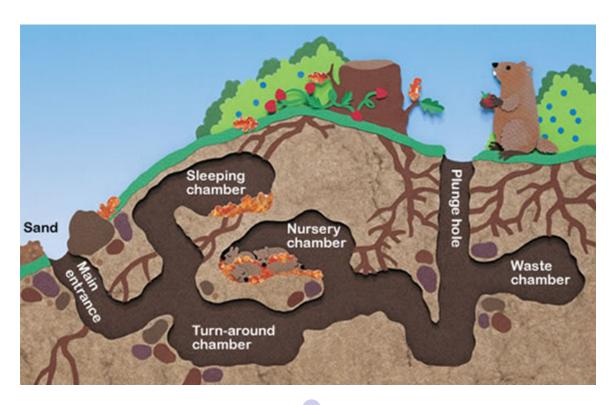
therockatbigfishlake.com

Puxatawny Phil: Woodchuck or Gopher?

How much wood could a woodchuck chuck, if a woodchuck could chuck wood? We've all heard this common children's rhyme. (Answer: None! Woodchucks don't chuck wood!) Read on to learn about this curious little creature.

Description and Habitat

Groundhog, woodchuck, and whistle-pig are three names for the same furry animals that can be seen running and burrowing about Gravel Lake. Maybe most accurately known as the groundhog, this small animal is a rodent that is part of the squirrel family. They can grow bigger than two feet long and up to nine pounds with a furry coat that has two dense layers. As the groundhog is quite resourceful, it uses its curved front feet to dig underground burrows in which to live. These burrows include different areas for different functions, such as a "bathroom" used only for defecation. They can excavate more than 700 pounds of dirt while digging out their homes, some of which can be as large as 22 yards long. These rodents are a bit like some of us Gravel Lakers, in that they usually have a summer home. They abandon their winter burrows after hibernation season for a new den in the summer. Though groundhogs usually prefer forest clearings and other spacious areas to make their burrows, many times we can find them seeking shelter under our decks and patios. After their burrows are abandoned either for a new burrow or due to the end of life (usually around 3-6 years), other critters, such as raccoons, may seek refuge in their empty underground dens.



Puxatawny Phil: Woodchuck or Gopher? (continued)

Life as a Groundhog

Though small, these little critters can be very protective over their home, especially in guarding their babies. The groundhog has large incisors and sharp front claws for defense. They sometimes make a high pitch whistling noise when threatened, earning them the nickname "whistle pigs". Groundhog babies usually stay with their mother until about six weeks of age when they are ready to fend for themselves. Other than defending their babies, groundhogs are mainly solitary animals, only seeking a partner during the mating season. The male groundhog is quite promiscuous, maintaining a "territory" during mating season claiming up to seven females!

While the groundhog itself is an herbivore, consuming mostly vegetation for nutrition, they are often the prey of animals higher up on the food chain. Predators of the groundhog may include wolves, foxes, hawks, bears, and snakes. People are predators of the woodchuck as well, as this critter may become somewhat of a nuisance, destroying crops or becoming aggressive in guarding their dens. To help control this problem, many take matters into their own hands. While the groundhog is open to hunting year round, you MUST have a valid small game license in the state of Michigan to kill these rodents legally. A better option might be trap and release, so as to not harm our furry little friends



This is Michigan's official groundhog "Woody".

Other Fun Facts

Did you know...

- · Woodchucks don't chuck wood at all.
- · Young woodchucks are born blind and hairless.
- Groundhogs are used in scientific research to study liver cancer. Groundhogs
 that are injected with Hepatitis B are 100% likely to develop liver cancer,
 making them an excellent candidate to study treatments for the disease.

Sources

www.highlightskids.com

http://www.aaanimalcontrol.com/professional-trapper/howtogetridofgroundhogs.htm

http://www.terrierman.com/lifehabitatgh.htm

http://eol.org/pages/327979/overview

www.howellnaturecenter.org

Join the GLA Facebook Group!

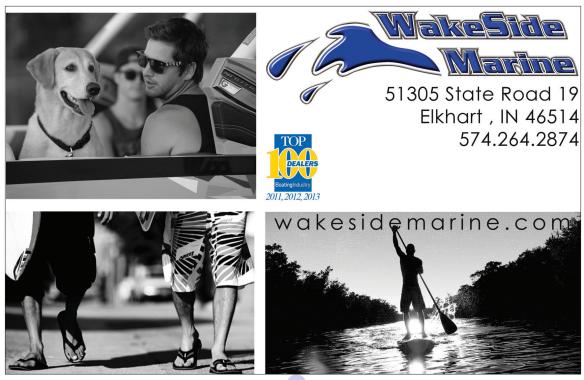
Join the Gravel Lake Association Facebook group! It is an excellent way for us to connect with our fellow lakers. Important lake-related information is posted there frequently, including weed treatment dates, when the newsletter is available, event info, lost-and-found info, announcements, recommendations, and surveys where you can voice your opinion. People also post pictures from around the lake, even in the winter! Our goal for the end of 2014 is 275 followers.

Water Quality Survey Update

By the time you receive this, the Board of Trustees will likely have chosen a contractor to conduct a comprehensive water quality survey on Gravel Lake. Our most recent Request for Proposal contains a water quality survey that includes the entire lake plus its immediate watershed, an aquatic plant survey, and a detailed fishery study. In short, the intent of this survey is to provide us with a lake management "report card" or a "how-are-we-doing?" I've received very positive feedback on all of our finalists from various area lake associations that I meet with twice annually via the Michigan Lakes and Streams Association. Once a vendor is chosen, work is scheduled to begin the spring of 2015.

Michigan Riparian Subscriptions - Now FREE for Dues-Paying Members!

Based on feedback at the last two membership meetings, the Board of Trustees has resolved to provide subscriptions to The Michigan Riparian to all dues-paying members upon request. Many of you already receive this important and informative publication. For those of you that don't, you're missing out on a well-written periodical that covers many lake-related issues including water quality, aquatic plant & animal information, geographical/historical information on various Michigan lakes, as well as legal information pertaining to riparian rights. To take advantage of this membership benefit, simply check the box on your next invoice (for 2015) and you'll begin receiving this highly pertinent magazine. For those who are currently subscribed, please understand that it may take a full subscription cycle to realize this free benefit.



Paid Members Listing

Chamberlin Beach

Jane & Mark * Bainbridge Beebe Patrick * Beebe Joyce Bounardi Fllen Carlos Paul & Vicki DeSimone Craiq & Missy Frank & Pamela Enright **Edward** Fallon Mike & Jen Garvey Jensen

Jeske Doris & David * Levan Victor & Pamela *

Shirley

Priscilla & Mark *

Larry & Connie

Mc Bride Jeffrev Melton Bruce & Penny Moorman Tom & RoseMary * Rockwell Jim & Arlene

Rogers Seehausen Dean Seput Christine VanBelleghem Flaine

Dugan's Landing

Kaana

Keene	Larry & Corrile
Lalone	Kevin & Tammy *
Laski	Harry & Vicki
Manning	Jan Lapine & Nancy
Oxley	Edward & Phyllis
Puttkammer	Thomas & Lauren *
Sanchez	Hugh & Pamela *
Spiller	John & Patricia

Gebhard Beach

William & Mary * Cleary Dyrek Vince & Nancy * Eggers Herb & Lory **Enright** Frank & Gerry Fazzini Mark & Mary Fortney Mark & Geri Frick Ronald & Mari Gordon Mark & Perri Graham Tim & Nancy

Jennings Alice Sheri * Kurtyak

Logan Tom & Irene * Mencl Craig & LaShel * Mencl Gary & Laura

Murphy Doug, Dale, & Judy * Wayne & Linda * Murphy Raab Ron & Susan Schuld Therese & Dan * Stade Jon & Heather Stogis Carlie & John John & Debbie Svrlinga

Walter Pat

Huff's Landing

Bukacek

Rusthoven

Carollo Steve & Monica Deren Jean Bahnsen & John Waneta Dragicevich Gilhooly Frank & Kathy Howell Paul & Marv * Kanwischer Norman & Ardath Masterson Vince & Valerie McDevitt Dan & Marilvn * Roesch Lenore *

Robin & Tim

Richard & Paula *

Pay your dues with PayPal!

There are now two ways to pay your dues. You can fill out the form in the back of this newsletter and send a check, or you can do this online and pay safely with PayPal! Go to our website, www.gravellake.org, for details.

^{*} Contributed to fish stocking

Paid Members Listing (continued)

Idle Fase Beach

Biss Sherman & Billie * Boender John & Nancy * Boender Nancy Garrison Jeanette * Halev Bud

Mike & Marge * Heuring Hunter Mark & Susan Jim & Patti * Jabaay John & Joan * Jacques Beverly & Jim * Jacques Kapercev Victor & Darlene Kehlenbeck Mark & Jane Matevack Don & Audrey

Nedvar Jane

Ossowski Tiffany & Michael Pinkos Steve & Janice Prichard Jim & Shirley Samolczyk Jesse & Jeannette Ronald & Karen Wells Wojtanek Ken & Judy Zwartz Tom & Kathy *

Lewis Beach

Airgood Annette & Ralph Cechota Richard * Fernandez Tom & Karen * Fernandez William Goepfrich/Lord Josephine/Rose Greenwood Wayne & Marilyn Hochsprung Ken & Marysue * Jandacek Ed & Diane * O'Neill Stephen & Roberta

Van Schovck Chip Anderson Ed & Lois Anderson Harold & Karen Barber Ray & Diane * Bleeker/Hornblower Brian & Margot * Braglia James & Sharon * Terry & Judy Brocker Brown David & Mary * Clifford Mike & Joanne Custer Mark & MaryBeth Farl Art & Francis **Edwards** Charles & Sheila Fewell Chris & Amv * Flavin Tom & Lynn Herchenroether Eric & Rachael * Humble Warren & Nancy Jones Terry & Fran * Jurusik Mike & Tracv * Kellv Erwin & Betty Kitzmiller Greq & Jennifer Lalone Keith & Michelle

Laski Joe

Lawrence Paul & Cathy Leisten Gary & Vickie Lowe Dasher & Maria * Mark & Tina * Mahany McGreal Jim & Liz

Micheli Jennifer & Michael Mills Steven & Rebecca *

Moore Kerry

Moreland Larry & Rachel Nicola Rick & Monica * Orr John & Angelina Ossowski Tiffany & Michael Parisi John & Diane

^{*} Contributed to fish stocking



Sandy Beach

Paid Members Listing (continued)

Mark & Leslie *

Glenn & Judy

Sandy Beach (continued)

Pederson Randy & Debbie Bartock David & Susan * Phelan Rich & Jane * Bartock Peter & Lillian * Reed Ray & Suzanne Bogner Joanne Azar & Jack * Rhoades David & Melissa Bogner Rick * Miles & Jean Schlueter Bob & Linda * Cunat Skoropad George & Florence DeRosa Rick & Donna Smith Don & Jeanne Deborah / John Dorsev Smith Dan & Barbara Garrett Greg & Marianne Stewart Ron & June Huber Tom & Karen * Storm Robert & Jean Jilek James & Jill Swalec Amy & Jeff * Jones Corinne Szynal Rich & Ewa Kozlowski Bruno & Mary Ann Thomson Lisa & Thomas Mayer Mark & Elizabeth VanMeter Don & Fran Meskimen Bob & Nancy Frank and Becky Welcome Art & Mary Militello Wert Paulik Ron & Claudene * Mark & April White Neil & Marilyn Poyser Todd

* Contributed to fish stocking

Williams

Williams



Richards

Rucinski

Stemeir

Vitkauskas

Rimes

Small

Bart & Shelly

June & Moon *

John & Joann *

Carl & Wynne *

Ken & Linda *

Peter & Beverly *

Streeter Beach

Paid Members Listing (continued)

Willow Beach

Brooks Lamar & Kathy Chipps Ralph & Kelly

Cox Ray

DeSimone Allan Roeder & Carole

Kelliher Tom & Darla *

Kopetski Stephen & Suzanne *

Malinauskas Mary Mascarello Mike Micheli Betty

Moore Richard & May Britt
Osborn Mark & Melanie *
Rau Jim & Donna *
Schroeder Dean & Denis

Vankerk Grant

Walsh Elaine & Gerald

Winkler Beach

Brown Dave

Cerney Jim & Jane *
Faustino John & Patti
Jesswein Donald & Altha
Johnson Ken & Laurie

Komorowski Lori LaForge Ed & Ann

LaMonte John & Mary Ann

Mattax Ed *

Metz William & Pat Murray Pat & Ann * Ries Sherri & Dave Sadowski Mike & Sue * Robert & Terry Schnaith Siemer George & Pam Swindeman John & Maralyn Thomas Dave & Alyn

Wilson Rod

Wojtanek Ken & Susan *

Yager Martin

Zaucha Bruno & Karen *



^{*} Contributed to fish stocking

Call to Report Public Access Issues!

In an effort to keep our public access used for what it is supposed to be used for (launching boats), we encourage you to store this number for the DNR in your cell phone, and call when you see people camping out, having a bonfire, littering, or anything else that may harm our lake environment. Report these issues and the DNR can come out and ticket the offenders! The phone number is 1-800-292-7800.



GRAVEL LAKE MERCHANDISE

T-shirts, hats, and towels for sale.

T-shirts: \$15 (\$12 for kids)

Hats: \$10 Towels: \$25

Limited sizes and colors available.

Contact Suzanne Reed at 269-808-0327 or Carlie Stogis 630-461-6200 to purchase items



___ Gravel Lake

All Sports Gravel Lake

Build your dream lake home on Gravel Lake. Waterfront lot includes a 1 car garage perfect for storing toys. The back lot is buildable and comes with deeded lake access. Contact

Pam for more information on lots and financing.

- Proposed two story 40' wide x 70' long house (right)
- 2 buildable lots
- · Walk out waterfront site
- Bonus 50x100 backlot
- 50 ft. of sandy beach waterfront









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Public Access Clean-Up

On October 11, volunteers came to the Public Access to help clean it up. We may not have made the mess, but as part of our lake environment, it is important to take care of the public places. Thank you to all who volunteered and to Jen Kitzmiller for organizing the clean-up! If you missed the clean-up but wanted to participate, be sure to join the Gravel Lake Association group on Facebook. Helpful information such as this is posted there.







Newsletter Staff

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Spencer McGreal, Production/Graphics spencer@jmcstudios.com

Melissa Dunigan, Contributing writer Marc Mascarello, Contributing writer Tricia Barker, Contributing writer Chip vanSchoyck, Printer





Treasurer's Report

Deposits

January Interest

Beginning Balance as of 1/1/14

\$26,825.92

\$1.19

\$1.220.00

February Interest	\$1.16
March Interest	\$1.08
2014 Membership Dues - 8	\$616.00
2014 Membership Dues - 24	\$1,058.00
2014 Membership Dues - 2	\$92.00
Membership Dues - 1	\$35.00
2014 Gravel Lake Advertising	\$25.00
2014 Membership Dues - via Paypal	\$34.35
April Interest	\$1.14
May Interest	\$1.24
2014 Membership Dues - 24	\$840.00
2014 Membership Dues - 24	\$933.00
2014 Membership Dues - 24	\$1,160.00
2014 Membership Dues - 17	\$1,090.00
Gravel Lake Advertising	\$50.00
June Interest	\$1.18
Apparel	\$628.00
Advertising - Gravel Laker	\$225.00
Whistles & Extra Tickets Sold at the Picnic	\$21.00
Split the Pot - June Meeting	\$95.00
2014 Membership Dues - 16	\$713.00

Membership Dues - via Paypal \$89.84 Interest - Jully \$1.22 \$219.00 Apparel Advertising - Gravel Laker \$100.00 2014 Membership Dues - 20 \$806.00 Interest - Aug \$1.49 2014 Membership Dues -2 \$82.00 Advertising - Gravel Laker \$50.00 Membership Dues - 7 \$355.00 Apparel \$54.00 Split the Pot - August Meeting \$59.00 Gravel Lake Social - Ticket Sales \$1.095.00 Gravel Lake Social - Silent Auction \$378.00 Gravel Lake Social - Raffle \$146.00 Petty Cash from Social \$200.00 Interest - Sept \$1.31

Total Deposits \$12,480.20

2014 Membership Dues -

Treasurer's Report (continued)

The Michigan Riparian S540.00	Expenses:		
Michigan Lakes and Stream Membership Dues \$180.00 Michigan Waterfront Alliance \$100.00 Sheri Kurtyak - Water Quality Testing Reimbursement \$93.00 Staples - Office Supplies, Copies of Picnic Info & Invoices \$177.39 Post Office - Stamps for Invoice Mailing \$196.00 US Postal Services - P.O. Box rental \$30.00 South Michigan Insurance Agency - Surety Bond \$100.00 Superior Imaging \$427.47 The Canopeum Inc - Gravel Lake Picnic \$886.16 Janice Pinkos - Gravel Lake Picnic Reimbursement \$418.66 Greco & Sons - Gravel Lake Picnic Reimbursement \$176.55 Flory Septic - Gravel Lake Picnic \$190.00 Lauren Micheli - 2014 Kid's Games \$73.63 Lauren Micheli - 2014 Kid's Games \$178.00 Jennifer Kitzmiller - Boater Safety Cards \$114.59 Crown Trophy - 4th of July \$146.28 The Canopeum Inc 2014 Kid's Games \$31.80 Laggis Fish Farm - Fish Stocking Deposit \$900.00 JMC Studios, Inc Website Hosting \$60.00 Petty Cash for Social \$50.00 Sheri Kurtyak - reimbursement for Social <td>·</td> <td>\$540.00</td> <td></td>	·	\$540.00	
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Gravel Lake Association				
Membership Form: January 2015 - December 2015				
Fill out and mail to: Gravel Lake Association, P.O. Box 531, Lawton, MI 49065				
You can download this form or pay online with PayPal on our website @ www.gravellake.org.				
Please print clearly.				
Member name(s):				
Beach: Lake Phone:				
Gravel Lake Address: Lawto	on, MI 49065			
Home Address:				
City:				
Home Phone:				
E-mail address:				
Please print clearly. Mail check or money order payable to Gravel Lake Association.				
Membership dues for 2015	\$35.00			
(Riparian magazine subscription included)				
Additional donation				
Fish Stocking Donation \$10.00 \$15.00 \$25.00 or Other \$ Total Enclosed				
Please indicate where your Riparian should be sent (circle one): home	lake			





"I'll continue at nightfall When all beings will sing The praises and power of The Halloween King."

















Classified ads — Free for paid members!

A reminder to all dues-paying members that classified ads on the website are a free benefit of your membership. This includes advertising your personal business. Links to websites or color advertising can be discussed as well, but may entail a fee. Questions and ads can be emailed to Jim McGreal at jim@jmcstudios.com.

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