# The Gravel Laker

Volume XXVIII Number 2

gravellake.org

Fall, 2018



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## **President's Corner**



What a fantastic summer! If there's something I'm most pleased with, it's our volunteers. We had many great events this year: Spring Clean-Up, Landing Blitz, Fun Run, Paddle Boat Regatta, Boat Parade, Kids' Games, Poker Run, t-shirt sales, Market Day, membership meetings, and the annual picnic. Truly, we are lucky to have this variety of well-organized events. As always, I want to thank both our board and general members who donate their time to make these fun events happen. Moreover, I want to emphasize how important it is that we continue to get some new help each year so we don't burnout

the people who regularly volunteer their time. If you like what's going on, please consider volunteering; there are MANY ways to help!

Volunteers will help us with both current and future needs. That said, I'd like to spend some time considering the future. As you know, Missy and I spend a fair amount of time consuming information from the Michigan Lake Stewardship Associations (MLSA) both via meetings and electronically.

(Continued on page 2)

## **President's Corner (continued)**

Lately, we're hearing more and more about broad external threats to the quality of lakes. In general, the primary concern is water quality. Being specific, other lakes are grappling with how to minimize the impact of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS), the expansion of DNR-owned public access sites, and water runoff issues from adjacent activities (e.g. farming, industrial). AIS threats continue to multiply (e.g. Eurasian Watermilfoil, Starry Stonewort, Zebra & Quagga mussels, cabomba, phragmites, purple loosetrife, rusty crayfish, snakehead, etc.) and the most "efficient spreader" is a public access site. An excellent way to combat this threat is a boat wash station. Michigan has less than a dozen statewide with Southwest Michigan having two (Gull Lake, Crooked Lake - Delton). While Gull Lake is extremely well endowed, Crooked Lake is more similar to Gravel Lake in terms of number of homeowners and property values. I believe we should be pursuing a solution like this to check the free spread of AIS to Gravel Lake. Regarding DNR site expansion, numerous lakes, including some of our southwest Michigan neighbors have been battling the placement or expansion of public access sites. Understand that the DNR has separate funds for its operations (tight, under-funded) and its property acquisition (endowment with the purpose of increasing access to lakes). As a result, many lake associations have had to battle the placement of a new DNR site on their currently private lake or the expansion of existing sites to allow more parking and boaters. Gravel Lake has at least one or two properties adjacent to our public access that might make viable expansions of the site. Finally, other lake associations have had to invest considerable funds to rectify run-off issues from inlets and adjacent farming operations.

As I think about these potential threats, I'm concerned about how prepared we are (especially financially), to react to these situations. I believe we must be more future-minded about our association fundraising, budgeting, and spending priorities. How do you feel? What questions do you have? I'd like to hear from you via email (cucad4@hotmail.com), text, or via Facebook Messenger.

Gravel Lake is a part of my heart and soul. I want us to do the very best we can!

Craig

#### Public Access Cleanup!

Help us clean up the public access! Chances are good that you didn't make the mess at the access, but we'd all like to see our lake free of litter. We're organizing clean-up days that will be announced via the Gravel Lake Association Facebook group. Details on dates and what you need to bring will go out in posts from the Facebook group as well as the Google groups email.

## **Summer Activities Thanks**

This summer was jam-packed with fun activities! These activities and events take time and coordination to plan and pull off. Thank you to our caring and generous volunteers to make it all happen! In addition, thanks to all those who participated! We have the best lake community around!

Gravel Lake Picnic—Dave Brown and Ann LaForge

Public Access Landing Blitz—Melissa DeSimone, Jamie Paramski, Tricia Barker, and Danni Worvey

Fun Run—Eric Herchenroether and family

Kids Games—Carlie DeSimone

Boat Parade—Lauren and Gina Fazzini

Paddle Boat Regatta—Kerry Moore and Michael Micheli

Market Day-Maria Cangiano Lowe and Jen Micheli

Poker Run—Janice Pinkos, Suzanne Reed, and Tricia Barker

**Poker Run Sponsors**—This year's sponsors were amazing! Thanks to the following sponsors for their generous donations, without which the Poker Run could not have taken place:

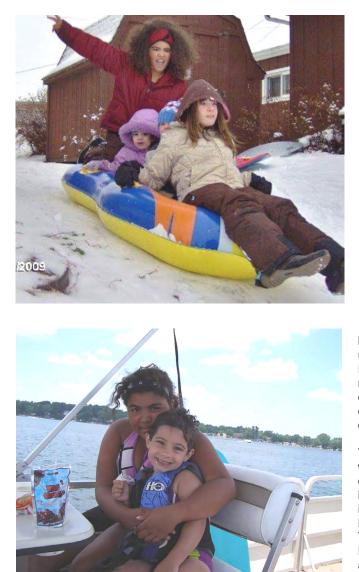
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- Action Watersports



Gravel Lake Association

-- P.O. Box 531, Lawton, MI 49065 --

## Meet a Gravel Laker



I'm feeling the pressure as I put pen to paper—er, hand to keyboard—as I write this article. Sheri Kurtyak has enough history and memories on this lake to fill the Gravel Laker. So I shall do my best to summarize this captivating story and bring to you a tale of a lifetime of love for Gravel Lake.

Neighbors to last article's spotlight guest, Nancy and Vince Dyrek, the Kurtyak home sits on Gebhard Beach. Sheri, her three granddaughters, and her dear friend Paul share this home year round and enjoy all the seasons on the lake, tending to their garden and growing their natural shoreline. But before the "big move" in 1997, Joliet, Illinois native Sheri worked in teaching and as a school librarian in Belvidere, Illinois for 22 years.

Getting to Gravel Lake may have been by chance when her parents and aunt and uncle (parents of bugler Greg Garrett) were looking for a lighthouse. After stumbling upon this lake, they decided to buy the "Ruff House" on July 19, 1948. "We spent summers here with the outhouse, pumped our own water, and used a wringer washer for diapers. Three families and lots of company on weekends," she explains.

This cottage on Winkler still stands, albeit with some upgrades. In 1958, they moved down the beach to what is now the Harbart's home "without the added floor," and sold that in 1966. In 1978, her sister Sue Smilie and Bill purchased what is now the Raab home. Then the day came in 1994, when Helen Pawn decided to sell her cottage next door, and Sheri's mom made the "big move". Having purchased a Provincetown brass bell

years before, Sheri now had a place to hang that bell. She is glad her mother got to enjoy her time here at Gravel Lake, although it was short. Sheri says that her mom "loved having everyone visit". 2007 brought her cousin and his wife Marianne back to Gravel Lake, and I am sure many of you have enjoyed his nightly performance of Taps.

## Meet a Gravel Laker (continued from page 4)

Among Sheri's favorite memories on Gravel Lake, she describes:

- Walking to 96th street daily to get the mai
- Penny candies and all-day suckers from Willow Beach Store
- 25 cent milkshakes and 5 cent pinballs at Streeter Beach Store

- Meeting the Cerneys when Jim was blown across the lake on a float in a storm while swimming across the lake

- Spending hours in my 5 1/2 hp boat with Greg and beating Jim Aducci in a race
- "Ditch 'em", a night version of hide-and-seek
- Making new friends when Alice Jennings rented her cottage and seeing her kids when they came for the weekend changeover
- Sledding down the hill and ramp with grandkids this winter and clearing the snow to play hockey

When asked what she loves about Gravel Lake, Sheri can be quoted as follows: "I love all the seasons here. There is something special about each day here, rain or wind, clouds or sun. The snow is magical and after a blizzard, when you are immobile a day or two. Even as a kid we didn't uncover the boat on weekends as there was lots of traffic going both ways. Now we anchor out in the pontoon and enjoy the waves. It is entertaining to watch beginning skiers and the more advanced barefooters. Weekdays are quiet and good fishing.

Hertha Gutmann asked me once if I ever got lonely here. The answer was never. I was at the lake when there was only one phone at the store. If power went out it could be out for days. Now we can communicate no matter what the weather. There're books to read, card games to play, and a cup of coffee or glass of wine to drink while you watch the lake. I never get tired of contemplating the water. The lake life brings us all back. The love of water gets in your being."

Sheri and her family sure get their use out of their days here. If you are wondering which home is theirs, she ays to look for the Cubs W flag flying high. She loves to see and feel the memories being passed down one generation after the next. Thank you Sheri, for sharing your story!

Emily Garrett Willow Beach



## Farewell to a Gravel Lake Friend

Gravel Lake lost one of its biggest fans on June 21st this year. John "Geno" Spiller first experienced Gravel Lake when his parents built their cottage on Dugan's Landing when he was just 8 years old. Our dad got to spend 60 years at Gravel Lake! Many memories, countless laughs and good times were experienced by John at Gravel Lake, or "Lake Relax" as our dad would fondly refer to GL. The last weekend our dad got to spend at Gravel Lake was for his 68th birthday weekend. To our dad, Gravel Lake was heaven on earth.

John spent his childhood summers at the lake, staying with his grandparents who spent their entire summer watching their grandchildren. His earliest memories of GL included working a paper route and spending time fishing, swimming and boating. For years he liked to share the story about how his Grandpa Adducci caught a large fish that put up an enormous fight. So much so, it dragged him through the weed bed, which is how we have the large channel running through the middle. "True story!" he'd say holding up his palm for effect. Our dad also liked to boast about the time he swam across the lake, just to prove that he could do it. And when our parents got married, a trip to Gravel Lake was in order; a honeymoon before the honeymoon.



## Farewell to a Gravel Lake Friend (continued from page 6)

John's love for Gravel Lake was contagious. Convincing his friends to help open and close for the season was never difficult. This rite of passage became a bi-annual event that many of his friends from high school and college still reminisce about and looked forward to getting the call for the invite! When asked what to pack, he'd always tell them, "You only need to bring a swimsuit and a clean pair of underwear!" Passing on his love of water sports, he proudly taught his three daughters and grandkids how to water ski, drive the boats, and catch fish.

In his final days, Gravel Lake was a favorite topic of our dad's, always getting excited to hear about our weekends this past spring. A final wish of his was for the family to plan time to be up there together and enjoy one another's company. "Keep Swimming" he would say. This summer we honored many of his wishes.

Gravel Lake was truly our dads' favorite place in the world. "The Cleanest Lake in America", he would proclaim to anyone who may not be aware of its beauty. After 60 summers at Gravel Lake, his spirit lives on there. We see him in every sunrise and feel his presence whenever his grandkids excitedly pull a fish from the water. The grandkids will reel in the fish and say, "This one's for you, Papa!"

Heather Stade (Daughter), Sarah Murphy (Daughter), Laura Sylvester (Daughter), & Pat Spiller (Wife) Gebhard Beach



## Treasurer's Report

Beginning Balance(1/1/18)	\$19,754.85
Deposits	
Membership Dues - 9	\$370.00
Membership Dues - Via Paypal 17 (2-2017)	\$810.49
Membership Dues - Via Paypal 13	\$578.65
Membership Dues - Via Paypal 4	\$159.00
Membership Dues -18	\$900.00
Membership Dues - 8	\$865.00
Membership Dues - 20	\$865.00
Membership Dues - 20	\$965.00
Membership Dues - 20	\$350.00
Membership Dues - 20	\$725.00
Certificate Of Deposits Matured	\$12,283.40
and moved into Checking	
Membership Dues - 9	\$390.00
Magnet Sales	\$65.00
Split the Pot from June Meeting	\$118.00
Membership Dues - 21	\$1,000.00
Apparel Sales -new stock	\$1,915.00
Apparel Sales - old stock	\$220.00
Picnic - Food & Extra Tickets	\$93.00
Apparel & Magnet Sales	\$800.00
Apparel & Magnet Sales	\$1,255.00
Membership Dues - 9	\$340.00
Membership Dues - Via Paypal 6	\$274.91
Membership Dues - Via Paypal 5	\$202.39
Apparel Sales	\$220.00
Membship Dues - 5	\$190.00
Poker Run Ticket Sales minus Prizes	\$4,000.00
Apparel Sales - 800/565	\$1,365.00
Poker Run Sponsors	\$1,100.00
Poker Run Raffle Ticket Sales	\$980.00
Membership Dues - 5	\$220.00
Membership Dues - 9	\$355.00
Apparel Sales	\$1,160.00
Advertising Gravel Laker Adds	\$90.00
Advertising Gravel Lake Directory	\$600.00
Annual Meeting - Split the Pot- Winner Donation	\$176.00



## **Total Deposits**

\$36,000.84

## Treasurer's Report (continued)

### <u>Expenses</u>

Print Mill \$833.74 The Cannopeum - Deposit for Picnic JMC Studios, Inc Website Hosting JMC Studios - SSL (2 Years) Greg Garrett - CLMP Testing The Michigan Riparian Michigan Lakes & Streams Membership Michigan Waterfront Alliance Craig DeSimone - Reimbursement for Survey Monkey	\$100.00 \$60.00 \$150.00 \$90.00 \$1,644.00 \$250.00 \$100.00 \$174.00
Janice Pinkos -Reimbursement for Invoice Printing & Stamps Print Mill - Spring Gravel Lakers Crown Trophy - 4th of July Races Flory - Picnic US Postal Service - PO Box Rental Janice Pinkos -Reimbursement for Party City	\$244.70 \$424.46 \$209.56 \$105.00 \$52.00
<ul> <li>Picnic Supplies</li> <li>Suzanne Reed - Reimbursement for Apparel</li> <li>Suzanne Reed</li> <li>Reimbursement for Welcome Baskets &amp; Archieve</li> <li>Missy DeSimone</li> </ul>	
- Reimbursement for MLS Meeting & Printing Suzanne Reed - Reimbursement for Apparel Cannopeum - Balance for Picnic T-Shirt Printing Plus - Apparel Sarah Murphy - Poker Run After Party Expenses South Michigan Insurance - Surety Bond	\$274.27 \$246.19 \$664.97 \$800.30 \$775.00 \$100.00
7 Checks \$100 Each for Poker Run Dock Hosts Dave Brown - Reimbursement for Picnic Supplies Jana Wolfe - Reimbursement for 4th of July Kids Games Poker Run - Winner Janice Pinkos	\$700.00 \$676.54 \$160.00 \$150.00
- Reimbursement for Ice at Annual Picnic Janice Pinkos -Reimbursement for Poker Run-Cards, Printing, Tickets Gift Card Mary Rinaldi - Reimbursement for Annual Meeting Snacks	\$41.20 \$295.08 \$19.98
Auto Owners Insurance	\$304.00



## Treasurer's Report (continued)

Eric Hercenroether	
- Reimbursement for Fun Run Expenses for 2017 & 201	8 TBA
Print Mill - Gravel Lake Directories	TBA
Print Mill - Grave Lakers Fall Edition	TBA
Laggis Fish Farm - Fish Stocking	TBA
Total Expenses	\$12,093.77
	¢ 40,004,00
Checkbook Balance as of 9/12/17	\$43,661.92
Other Assets:	
Total Funds	\$43,661.92





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## Poker Run 2018

Thank you to our 8 gracious dock hosts for making our 5th annual Poker Run such a success! They all did such a wonderful job decorating and entertaining over 400 participants. We appreciate all their hard work and dedication as this event would not be possible without them.

- Eberly Family on Idle Ease 21st Amendment
- Cresswell Family on Sandy Beach Shiver Me Timbers
- Custer Family on Intercoastal Waterway Channel Rats
- Stefo Family on Intercoastal Waterway Whatsamatta U
- Brucks/Swalec Families on Huff's Landing BS Saloon
- Eggers/Paramski Families on Gebhard Mount Olympus
- Schroeder/Kelliher/Felus/Moore/Roeder Families on Willow Beach Caddyshack
- Moore/Stewart in the Middle- Lakewatch

Congrats to the Caddyshack dock for winning 1st Place.

In preparation for next year's Poker Run, we need your help in securing the most integral part, the docks! We are in need of 7 docks to host our 2019 Poker Run. We are requiring that all docks are locked in by May 31st at the latest, so that we can begin the planning process.

If you have any questions, are interested in hosting a dock, or would like to help in another capacity, please contact Janice Pinkos at fampinkos@gmail.com



## 2018 Paid Membership

#### Last name

Bainbridge Barker T Beebe Bounardi Carlos Crowlev DeSimone Enright Fletcher/ Patnode Garvey Jensen Jeske l evan Melton Reeder Rockwell Rogers

Seehausen

Vennergrund

Martin Cottage

Puttkammer

Wunderlich

Jim

Frank & Virginia

Tim & Elizabeth

Larry & Connie

Kevin & Tammy

Harry & Vicki

Jan & Nancy

Ed & Phyllis

Chris & Stacev

Thomas & Lauren

Doreen & James

Anna & Gilbert

William & Marv

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First name(s) Jane & Mark im & Lynn Patrick Ellen Paul & Vicki Jeanette Cox & Terri Craig & Missy Frank & Pam

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\* Extra donation or fish stocking

-- P.O. Box 531,

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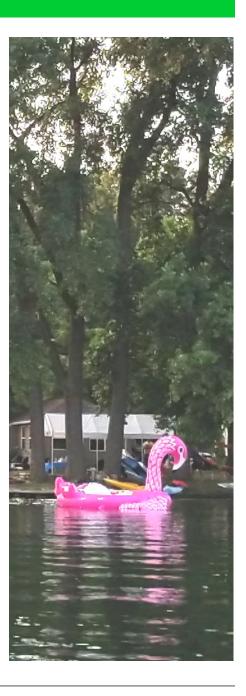
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Nick & Sara

Judy Weis & John

Dale & MaryAnn

Mark & Elizabeth

Karen Triplett & Ann

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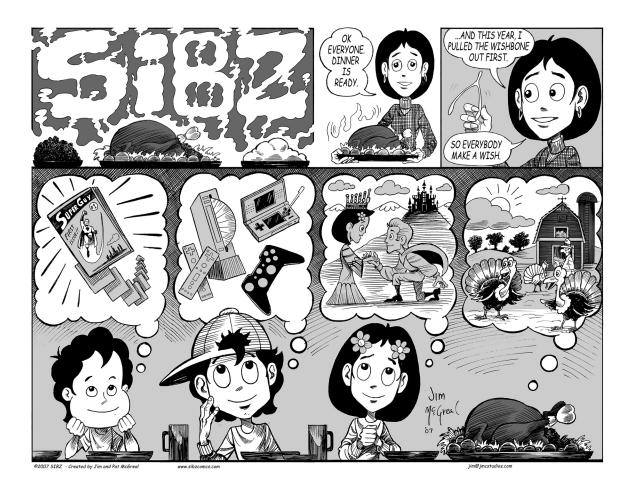
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Beach:Lake Phone:					
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City: State:	Zip:				
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Please print clearly. Mail Check or Money Order payable to Gravel Lake Association					
Membership dues for 2017	\$35.00				
I would like to receive 4 free issues of the Riparian magazine for 2017.					
Yes No (circle one)					
Address where your Riparian should be sent.					
Home Lake (circle one)					
Fish Stocking Donation\$10.00\$15.00\$25.00orOther					
Total Enclosed					



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Jamie Paramski, Editor jparamski@gmail.com

Jim McGreal, Design jim@jmcstudios.com

Spencer McGreal, Production/Graphics spencer@jmcstudios.com

Bob Vick - Ads

Chip vanSchoyck, Printer

Melissa DeSimone, Newsletter staff

Tricia Barker, Contributing writer

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Gravel Lake Association

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