

The Gravel Laker

Volume XXXI Number 2

gravellake.org

Fall, 2021

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President's Corner



Gravel Lake is changing. 2021 boasts the most new sea walls in one year (at least since state records have been readily available). While I'm very pleased to see several new natural shorelines being established, I am concerned about the shoreline reinforcement trend. Several years ago, we paid an independent consultant, Progressive AE (who serves as a lake management consultant for many other lakes in Michigan; they were our first choice among the three consultants we vetted), to conduct a study of our lake's bathymetry, water quality, aquatic plants, and fishery. Of all aspects studied, their strongest feedback was "The lack of native vegetation along the shoreline is a significant threat to Gravel Lake's water quality and habitat for fish and wildlife. Lakefront residents should consider preserving and restoring

natural shoreline where and when possible. In recent years, considerable research in the upper Midwest and around the country has shown the importance of natural shoreline for water quality and habitat protection."



If aesthetics are a priority over water quality, I'll go way out on a limb and suggest that a shoreline garden of wildflowers can be just as attractive as piled rocks, and can allow better access to the lake (because sea walls don't often have gaps). If erosion is a concern, we've proven that native plants can be effective on high wave/wind-action beaches (e.g. central Chamberlin Beach) and even allow one to gain shoreline. If one simply must have their rocks, could they add some plants to improve filtration, build habitat, and even strengthen the rocks?

Our community must decide what Gravel Lake will become. We talk about things like good water quality, exercising restraint when applying herbicides during fish spawning, and reducing our night lighting to see the stars at night. On the other hand, we are also armoring our shoreline. (I can't help but wonder if we are preparing for a waterborne invasion, or trying to replicate Maine's Atlantic coastline, perhaps?) Additionally, we're concerned with many species of animals: geese, swans, beavers, muskrats, snakes, and groundhogs to name a few. Finally, we're expanding our impervious surfaces and are desirous of plant-free swim areas. While certainly a balance is appropriate, the quiet actions and Facebook rhetoric suggest the scale is tipping toward thoughtless suburbanization on Gravel Lake.

(Continued on page 4)



For the first time in 20+ years, I'm questioning if my view of lake stewardship (i.e. that each of us has a duty to preserve and protect the water quality and ecosystem of Gravel Lake) is appropriate for a modernizing Gravel Lake. While I've considered myself somewhat balanced next to some other lake association presidents who avoid herbicide usage at great lengths, or have grave concerns about fish bed and shoreline damage due to boat wakes, or who would not stock non-native fish species, I am still perhaps out of sync with apparent trends and sentiments on Gravel Lake. (As an aside, if we want to go all in on suburbanization there are certainly ways Gravel Lake can incorporate, or something similar, and take control of roads, place abundant street lights, hire a constable to police golf carts, and maybe even create a bus service. If water quality suffers, we could simply stock all of the fish species we desire instead of adjusting our ways). Possibly, I'm misreading the situation. I'd love to know how you feel about it. I'm a keen consumer of feedback and I am certainly interested in points of view I may have missed in my various readings and networking with other lake stewards. Otherwise, we should be seeking the wisdom of these sea wall installers on lake management; they definitely seem to be selling their "view" quite well.

Craig DeSimone

GLA President





Check out the Fall issue of *The Michigan Riparian*. The feature article is on Gravel Lake! Thanks to Anna, Liz, and Jim McGreal for doing the write-up and shining a light on our little lake. They did a great job capturing our lake community and history, and the general essence of Gravel Lake. Enjoy!



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The bridge between Winkler Beach and Idle Ease was recently damaged in a storm when a tree fell on it. Thanks to the volunteers who banded together to perform basic repairs so that people can continue to walk around the lake. To ensure lasting safety, the bridge requires more extensive repairs by a professional iron worker as well as an inspection by a certified structural engineer. The Gravel Lake Association has approved funding to cover most of the repairs, but is also collecting donations to cover the remaining costs (including the inspection). Donations can be made on Venmo to @GLA2021. (It comes up as GL Apparel). You can also write a check, made payable to the Gravel Lake Association, and mail it to P.O. Box 531, Lawton, MI 49065. Please write "Bridge donation" in the memo so the money is put towards the bridge project. Thanks to those of you who have already donated.

PAY YOUR DUES ONLINE AT...



2022 Calendar Of Events

Date	Event
Sunday, April 17	Easter
Saturday, April 23	Board of Trustees meeting
Saturday, May 7	MLSA Annual Conference
Saturday, May 14	Board of Trustees meeting
Monday, May 30	Memorial Day
Saturday, June 11	Membership Meeting & Picnic (TBD)
Sunday, June 19	Father's Day
Saturday, July 2	GL Fourth of July activities
Saturday, July 9	Garage Sale & Market Day
Saturday, July 23	Board of Trustees meeting
Saturday, August 6	Poker Run (TBD)
Saturday, August 20	Membership Meeting
Monday, Sept. 5	Labor Day
Saturday, Sept. 17	Board of Trustees meeting
Saturday, October 8	Board of Trustees meeting, GL Fall Festival
Monday, October 20	Indigenous Peoples Day, Columbus Day
Monday, October 31	Halloween



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2021 Events Recap

Things are slowly getting back to normal! We were able to bring back a few events that were cancelled last year.

The Fun Run

It seems that the overhauled Fun Run/Walk is here to stay! There was high participation again this year. Thank you to the Hershenroether family for planning the Fun Run. Also, thanks to all the volunteers who kept the participants safe, and helped make this event a success.

Paddle Boat Regatta

As always, the Paddle Boat Regatta was the picture of fun and chaos. Watching the racers and all of the challenges they face while navigating the channel is always entertaining. Thanks to Kerry Moore and Michael Micheli for putting on this great event.

Garage Sale & Market Day

Another successful Garage Sale & Market Day is in the books. Hopefully everyone found something new, and others were able to clear up some space in the house. Thanks to Linda Vitkauskas for planning the Garage Sale & Market Day. Also, thanks to Jim McGreal for creating the shopping map, and to Ken and Kristy Vitkauskas for their help with the event.

Poker Run

The Poker Run was cancelled last year due to Covid concerns, but it was back in full effect this year! The docks were amazing and very creative. Congrats to the Keene Family for winning the award for Best Dock. The other docks (all of which were fantastic!) were hosted by the Robison family, Cassie Beebe, Jackie Valasek, the Forcash family, the James family, and the DeSimone/Stade family. Special thanks to Linda and Ken Vitkauskas for hosting and organizing the ticket packet drop-off. Suzanne Reed coordinated and ordered the t-shirt, which was designed by Liz Zwartz. The day-of volunteers, who helped with the sales and kept everything running smoothly, were Brittany Pinkos, Sue Eberly, Maureen Maffaei, Bev Jacques, Laura Mencl, and Jen Micheli. Thank you to Darla Kelliher for organizing the raffle prizes, along with Denise Schroeder. Thanks to the Nedvar family and the Vitkauskas family for donating all the prizes this year. A heartfelt thank you to all who made this event a success. Finally, a special thanks to Alyssa and Janice Pinkos for planning and coordinating the Poker Run. The money raised goes to support projects for the lake.





Fall Festival

This was the second Fall Festival and it was nothing short of amazing. There were so many trick-or-treating stops. At the Rinaldi's pole barn there was something for everyone. There was a good variety of crafts for kids of all ages, snacks, and fall-themed activities. The hayride was a highlight as well! Additionally, the weather really cooperated, which is always nice. A big thanks to Phil and Mary Rinaldi for organizing the GL Fall Festival. Also, thanks to Therese Schuld, Jane Gordon, Anne Robison, Kathy Cunningham, Vicky and Paul Carlos, Jen Ferrucci, Cindy Monte, Julia Lockwood, Lauren Puttkammer, Tom Flavin, and Tom Swartz and ShangriLa Farms for the hayrides. We couldn't have done it without you!



Aquatic Invasive Species Control

Professional Lake Management (PLM) is the Gravel Lake Association's (GLA) contracted herbicide applicator. We have a Special Assessment District (SAD) administered by Porter Township that allows the GLA to pay for aquatic invasive species (AIS) control via PLM.

PLM is permitted by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) each year for herbicide application. The annual permit dictates which herbicides, and amounts, can be applied. Each spring all Gravel Lake homeowners are mailed a proposed treatment schedule and a list of all permitted herbicides. Note that while PLM is permitted for a variety of herbicides (so they may have options for different treatment needs), only a few herbicides are commonly applied in Gravel Lake, including the channel. Non-native species are the primary focus of management and attempts are made to selectively control the target species. Native plant species are not addressed by the program.

Though PLM proposes a treatment schedule each year, weather conditions must permit treatment applications. Water temperature and wind conditions must be within a certain range to allow treatment. Days prior to proposed treatment dates, PLM contacts the GLA (usually on a Friday) to confirm treatment visits. After confirmation, the GLA posts on Facebook indicating likely treatments, locations, other assessments, and potential restrictions to irrigation and lake usage. After a visit, PLM provides an update to the GLA on what was applied and where.

PLM has most commonly applied either Renovate, Tribune, or Tribune/ProcellaCOR for Eurasian watermilfoil, Tribune for curly-leaf pondweed, and copper sulfate/chelated copper for starry stonewort and/or algae. Restrictions for these products include swimming, irrigation, and domestic uses. There are no restrictions for fishing or fish consumption. No product has more than a 24-hour swimming restriction. PLM will post signage on nearby shorelines (e.g. on trees) if treatment was close enough to shore to require lake usage restrictions. If signage is not present in your area, no restrictions apply. Algaecide applications do not require swimming restrictions. Spot treatments (i.e. area-specific) are not applied beyond ~10 feet of depth (i.e. not much beyond the boat lane). Thus, deeper water treatments would only occur during whole-lake treatments, which have historically occurred every 3-4 years. If you are very concerned about these consistently low-concentration applications, swim in the deeper water.

If I have questions or concerns about AIS, what should I do?

If relevant, take a sample and keep it in a water bottle or plastic bag (with water) and we'll collect it. Contact Craig DeSimone (cucad4@hotmail.com) or Ken Hochsprung (ken.hochsprung@outlook.com) via email. Copy your beach trustee on the email so they are aware as well.



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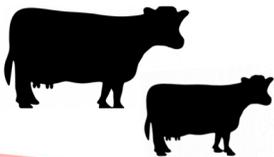


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Shoreline Stewardship

The following article is reprinted with permission from The Michigan Riparian magazine, from the Summer 2021 issue, authors John and Nancy Wilks. Copywritten by the Michigan Lakes and Streams Association, Inc.

We are interested in stewardship practices for shorelines to protect and preserve lakes and streams.



Our lake home, like most homes on our lake, had a lawn extending to the water's edge when we purchased the property. The desire for an unobstructed view of the water when our house was constructed likely resulted in removal of natural, native plants on the shore to achieve a beautiful, "suburban-like" lake yard. The problem with lawn grasses is shallow roots allowing fertilizers and chemicals to easily flow into the lake. The addition of nutrients to the lake produces increased blooms of algae and growth of aquatic plants. Over the years these practices resulted in oxygen depletion at the lower depths of our lake making it unsuitable for cold water-loving fish and encouraging the shift of the fishery to warm water species. Indeed, our lake once hosted a significant population of the desirable cisco, but ciscoes no longer exist in our lake due to the loss of an oxygen-rich cold water environment.

Native plants have deep roots that filter out nutrients flowing toward the lake or stream after rain events. We desired to offset the effects of a lakeshore lawn, and planted a 10-foot wide native plant zone on our lakefront in 2008. We enjoy the variety of native plants blooming and providing beauty on our lakeshore from spring to autumn. Geese do not enter our lake yard because they choose not to lose sight of the water. We observe geese grazing our neighbor's lawn, and then entering the lake to bypass our yard, only to reemerge on another neighbor's lawn to continue their feeding. We subsequently added extensive water gardens of native plants on each side of our lake yard; these plantings absorb the runoff from the roof of our home. And of course, we never apply fertilizer to the remaining areas of our lake lawn.

Lawn grass fails to prevent shoreline erosion. Deep-rooted, native plants on the shore effectively dissipate the energy from water waves; this is easily demonstrated by comparing erosion at undeveloped, native plant zones on your lake to that at lakefront residences. High water levels in lakes and flooding events have prompted riparians to harden their shorelines with seawalls or riprap placement to prevent erosion from wind-driven waves, or the more robust waves generated by bladder boats. Waves rebounding from a hardened shore scour the bottom of the nearby littoral zone suspending nutrients to promote plant growth, and cover fish spawning areas. Hardened shorelines do not prevent nutrients from entering the lake or stream; native plants above the hardened structure will help protect your lake. We protected our shore from waves with coir logs placed in front of an old decaying submerged cement wall.

A recent practice of lakefront property owners is the creation of a sandy beach. Runoff from rain washes the sand into the lake covering fish spawning sites. Additionally, sandy beaches attract geese, resulting in the presence of *E. coli* and other bacteria in the beach sand.

A wealth of information for protecting your lake or stream through effective shoreline stewardship can be found through the links at mymlsa.org.

John and Nancy Wilks

John Wilks serves as Vice President of MLSA. He and his wife Nancy reside on Indian Lake in Vicksburg, MI.

Meet a Gravel Laker

Name: Bruce and Penny Melton

Where are you from and what do you do?

We currently live in Rolling Prairie, Indiana, which is about an hour and 15-minute drive to the lake. Penny and I grew up in South Bend and moved to La Porte for my many jobs at Whirlpool Corporation, where I retired 12 years ago.

Tell us about your family.

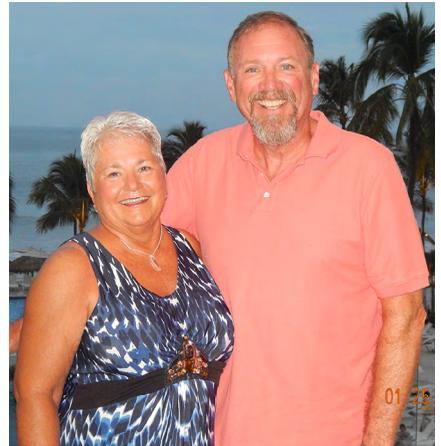
We raised four children: Jennifer, Christopher, Heather, and Ashley. And now we also have eight grandchildren. Our routine was, and continues to be, pack up on Friday night and head to the lake.

Describe your home and its location on the lake.

Our cottage is located on the north side of the lake on Chamberlin Beach.

Tell us the history of your home on Gravel Lake.

The cottage was built by my grandfather, Alvin Curtis. He always wanted a home built into a hill. Mary, my grandmother, and Curt (as he was called) built the cottage in stages. They purchased the



Meet a Gravel Laker



lot in 1943 for \$500, paying \$1.00 a week in payments. The block basement was completed first with a chemical toilet and a pitcher pump. A real bathroom was added upstairs in the late 1940s, and the second floor was added in 1952. My mother, Winifred, was in high school in the mid-forties and put in many hours on every phase of construction. She spoke many times about mixing concrete and working on the pecky cypress used on the vaulted ceiling. My father, Chet, got into the act when he started dating my mom in the late forties.

My grandparents and mother started coming to Gravel Lake in the late 1930s, renting a cabin on Willow Beach. Mom talked about rowing across the lake to work on the lot prior to building. Chamberlin Drive did not yet exist. To travel by car required a drive across a farmer's field. In the 1930s, renting a cabin for fishing, swimming, and relaxing was the thing to do. In the early 1960s an addition was built adding a half bath, utility room, and bedroom along with a second kitchen. The addition allowed my grandparents to rent out the lower floor from May through August. We had a steady stream of renters for one or two weeks at a time. This same practice was employed by our neighbors on both sides and down the beach. We always had a new bunch of kids to play and swim with every week.

Meet a Gravel Laker

What is your favorite memory at the lake?

After 70 years I have so many fond memories. Fishing and, of course, catching turtles in the channel are among my favorites. The neighbor kids and I spent countless hours in the channel chasing turtles.

What is your favorite lake activity?

Now some of my favorite lake activities include a cold beer or glass of wine, old friends and new, and watching the grandkids swim and tube. Owning a lake house is a lot of work but I wouldn't trade it for anything else.



Emily Garrett



Would you like to be featured?

Email Emily at eggarrtt87@yahoo.com to share your story!

Taps and Thank You Very Much



Most of us on Gravel Lake have enjoyed hearing Greg Garrett present taps at sunset. Some of you might have seen me on our pontoon boat standing at “parade rest” when Greg comes down onto his landing, then going to “attention” when Greg gets set to play. As the first note sounds, I render a military salute that is held until the final note is completed. Greg and I always salute each other as a sign of our mutual respect following taps. All U.S. Veterans are authorized to render military courtesies during the national anthem and taps, and are encouraged to do so. As you are likely aware, Greg Garrett is a retired U.S. Army Master Sergeant, who completed his distinguished career with the U.S. Army Band.

I am also retired from the military as a U.S. Navy Lieutenant Commander, and my family and I have been Gravel Lakers since 2005. My own military career started during the Vietnam War, when I served as a Navy Corpsman in med-evac units and hospitals caring for wounded Marine Corps and Naval personnel. Later, I received a commission as an Intelligence Officer and was recalled

to active duty twice for the Gulf War, where I served on a counterterrorism team. I retired in 1998 after a 20-year career.

Taps is very special to me, as it gives me a moment to think about my fellow service members who didn't make it home. Some of them were wounded Marines and naval personnel who were my patients when they passed on. It was my privilege to provide care and some comfort for them, and I will carry a piece of each of them in my heart for the rest of my life. When I hear Master Sergeant Garrett play taps, I feel that it is a tribute to their memory, and it means a great deal to me personally. I know Greg agrees, as he and I have discussed it several times.

It seems that nowadays for some people patriotism is considered “out of style” or sometimes even ridiculed. Every time I see boats parked near Greg's place to respectfully listen to taps, however, it convinces me that patriotism is alive and well in our little corner of the world here at Gravel Lake.

(Continued on page 17)

Taps and Thank You Very Much (continued from previous page)



It makes me feel such happiness to see it, whether it is a few boats or a large number, and as a retired military person, it is something that I sincerely appreciate. Greg is also very moved by it, and when I told him I was preparing this article for *The Gravel Laker*, he said to make sure and say, "God bless the Gravel Lakers and everyone who comes out to hear taps."

My family and I wanted do something special to show Greg how much his presenting taps means to us, so I had the metal sign in the photo made up for Greg to show our appreciation. I hope he enjoys it as much as we did coming up with the design and getting it for him.

Very well done, Master Sergeant Garrett, and thank you from a fellow Veteran.

Dan McDevitt



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Mute Swans on Gravel Lake

Mute Swans were first brought into Michigan in 1919 and are included on Michigan's Department of Natural Resources invasive species list. They can most easily be identified by their orange bill and S-curved neck. Mute swans have made a home at Gravel Lake for the past several years – with an average of 4-6 young per year.



As the most aggressive waterfowl species, mute swans are a threat to humans, wildlife, and the ecosystem. Mute swans are known to become extremely aggressive toward humans both on water and on land. They are capable of inflicting bruises, sprains, bone fractures, and even fatalities. In 2021, we have a report of a Gravel Lake resident being attacked at random by a mute swan. This attack resulted in a fractured cheek bone and nose, which required surgery. Mute swans chase native breeding birds from their nests and can disrupt the entire ecosystem. These birds are known to destroy ecosystems by eating 4-8 pounds of vegetation a day and uprooting another 4-8 pounds that they do not eat. Prior to mute swans making nests on Gravel Lake, we had a family of trumpeter swans for many years. Those trumpeter swans are now gone, and the mute swans have moved in.



Mute swans are invasive to the state of Michigan and therefore not protected by the DNR. In fact, as a result of the Migratory Bird Treaty Reform Act in 2004, mute swans are no longer federally protected due to their invasive status; however, hunting them is still illegal in Michigan. In 2012, The Michigan Department of Natural Resources – Wildlife Division published a long-term goal to “maintain a spring population of less than 2,000 mute swans throughout Michigan.” In 2010, there were 15,500 mute swans statewide and counting.

(Continued on page 19)

Mute Swans on Gravel Lake (continued from previous page)

According to the mute swan policy approved by the DNR in 2012, mute swans and their eggs can be removed from public or private property for endangering public health, safety, and welfare, and for harming endangered or native species. They can be removed by DNR personnel, local and state police agencies, or with permit by private citizens, or a contracted nuisance animal control firm. The DNR is actively working towards their goal of removing the population from Michigan and restoring our ecosystems with native species.

Alyssa Pinkos

Note: At the request of the GLA, several mute swans were removed in October. As discussed at the August membership meeting (and on the GLA Community FB group), the GLA pursued permission from Porter Township and a DNR permit was issued to allow for removal by the USDA.

Sources

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Fish or Extra Donation*

First Name	Last Name	First Name	Last Name
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Tim Deb Beebe /Jane Mark	Bainbridge	Carlie & Carol A	DeSimone*
Tim & Lynn	Barker	Herb & Lory	Eggers
Patrick	Beebe	Gerry	Enright
Ellen	Bounardj*	Jen & John	Ferrucci
Paul & Vicki	Carlos	Mark & Geri	Fortney
Jeanette Cox & Terri	Crowley	Roger & Jenni	Gillund*
Craig & Missy	DeSimone*	Mark & Perri	Gordon
Mike & Christine	DeVries	Alice	Jennings*
Frank & Pam	Enright	Sheri	Kurtyak
Diane & Ken	Fletcher/Patnode*	Mark & Brenda	Locicero
Mike & Jen	Garvey*	Tom & Irene	Logan*
Shirley	Jensen	Joseph & Stephanie	May
Doris & David	Jeske	Craig & LaShel	Mencl
Victor & Pam	Levan	Gary & Laura	Mencl*
Bruce & Penny	Melton	Doug Dale Denny& Judy	Murphy
Gena & Rick	Reeder	Kyle	Rau*
Grace & Justin	Reeder	Phil & Mary	Rinaldi*
Jim & Arlene	Rockwell*	Therese & Dan	Schuld
Patricia Covert, Priscilla & Mark	Rogers	Gretchen	Smith
Dean	Seehausen*	Jon & Heather	Stade*
Jim & Nancy	Vennergrund*	John & Debbie	Svrlinga*
Frank & Virginia	Wunderlich*	Alexis & Matt	Tokarsky
Tim & Elizabeth	Zwartz	Pat	Walter*
Dugan's Beach			
Larry & Connie	Keene	Trisha & Greg	Brucks
Kevin & Tammy	Lalone*	Sharon Rudnick & Martin	Bukacek*
Harry & Vicki	Laski	Steve & Monica	Carollo*
Chris & Stacey	Oxley	Jean Bahnsen & John	Deren
Ed & Phyllis	Oxley	Frank & Kathy	Gilhooly
Thomas & Lauren	Puttkammer*	James	Hermanson*
Sarah Murphy & Laura	Sylvester	Paul & Mary	Howell*
Doreen & James	Vogt	Dan & Marilyn	McDevitt*
Gebhard Beach			
Anna & Gilbert	Ayala	Jim, Liz, & Spencer	McGreal
Charlotte	Beck*	Lynn Gilliland & Dennis	Morkunas*
William & Mary	Cleary*	Fish or Extra Donation*	
Indy Monte & John	Couitcher*	Scott & Alisha	Neil*
		Family	Roesch*
		Robin & Tim	Rusthoven

Paid Members 2021

Idle Ease Beach

First Name

Matt & Kristi
 Sherman & Billie
 Nancy
 Rick
 Joe & Kathy
 MaryBeth Gaspar & Steve
 Sue & Ken
 Nick & Sara
 Rich & Derith
 Mike & Marge
 Mark & Susan
 Jim & Patti
 Beverly & Jim
 The Jacques Family
 Victor
 Mark & Jane
 Donald
 Family of Jane
 Steve & Janice
 Jim & Shirley
 Jeannette
 Ed & Tina
 Mike & Mark
 Jackie
 Tom & Kathy

Last Name

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 Biss*
 Boender*
 Brosseau*
 Cunningham*
 Dmitrovich*
 Eberly
 Felus*
 Garrison*
 Heuring *
 Hunter
 Jabaay*
 Jacques*
 Kapercev
 Kehlenbeck*
 Mateyack*
 Nedvar
 Pinkos*
 Prichard
 Samolczyk
 Smith*
 Spohn
 Valasek
 Zwartz

Lewis Beach

Annette & Ralph
 James & Nicola
 Sandy Vox & Rosie
 Tom & Karen
 William
 Kendall & Richard
 Rose Lord & Joesphine
 Wayne & Marilyn
 Ken & Marysue
 Ed & Diane
 Stephen
 Wayne & Chris
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Timothy & Leslie
 Bob & Jennifer

Sandy Beach

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 Harold & Karen
 Jered & Jaime
 Ray & Diane
 Brian
 Susan & Julie
 Sue
 James & Sharon
 Terry & Judy
 David & Mary
 Mike & Joanne
 Mark & MaryBeth
 Kevin & Kris
 Kathy & Mark
 Sheila
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 Todd
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 Margot
 Warren & Nancy
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 Mike & Tracy
 Erwin & Betty
 Pat & Lauren
 Keith & Michelle
 Paul & Cathy
 Gary & Vickie
 Dasher & Maria
 Mark & Tina
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 Michael & Melissa
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Last Name

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Paid Members 2021

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Paul & Ann	Motter*	Steve & Elena	Kozlowski
Rick & Monica	Nicola	Tom & Virginia	Mattox*
John & Sue	Orr*	Mark & Elizabeth	Mayer
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Winkler Beach

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Gravel Lake Association

Membership Form: January 2022 - December 2022

Fill out and mail to:

Gravel Lake Association, P.O. Box 531, Lawton, MI 49065

You can also pay dues online at gravellake.org.

Please print clearly.

Member name(s): _____

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Please print clearly. Mail Check or Money Order payable to Gravel Lake Association

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I would like to receive 4 free issues of *The Michigan Riparian* magazine for 2023.

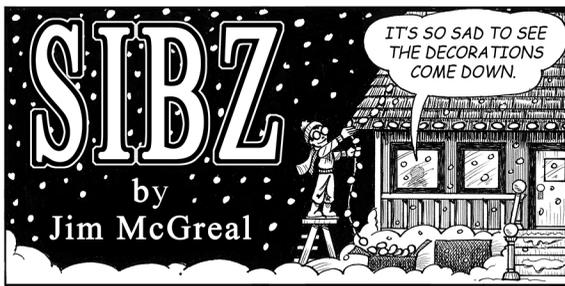
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IT'S SO SAD TO SEE THE DECORATIONS COME DOWN.



SANTA, I WISH IT COULD BE CHRISTMAS EVERY DAY.



POOF

HUH?... WHO ARE YOU?



WE ARE THE...

ELVES IN BLACK!

WE'RE SENT TO INVESTIGATE ALL REQUESTS TO THE BIG GUY.



NOW, LET'S SEE... YOU'RE TOBY... RIGHT?

UH HUH.



IT SAYS HERE, YOU WANT IT TO BE CHRISTMAS EVERY DAY?

THAT'S RIGHT.



OK, BEFORE WE CAN PROCESS THIS, YOU'LL HAVE TO FILL OUT A FEW FORMS.

OK, SURE.



AND THEN, WE'LL HAVE TO GET YOUR PARENTS 2ND AND 3RD JOBS TO PAY FOR ALL THE EXTRA GIFTS.

UM... WELL?



AND SINCE THERE WILL BE NO MORE SCHOOL, WE WILL ARRANGE FOR YOUR TEACHERS TO COME AND LIVE WITH YOU.

AAAAHHHH!!!!



AND SO...

DAD, LET ME HELP YOU. THE SOONER WE PUT THIS STUFF AWAY, THE BETTER!

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Join the Gravel Lake Association Community Facebook group!

The Gravel Lake Association Community Facebook page is an excellent way to connect with our fellow lakere. 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!



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