The Gravel Laker

Volume XXXII Number 2

gravellake.or

Fall, 2022

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Cover Photo: Mary Rinaldi



President's Corner

2022 has been a great year for the Gravel Lake Association! I'm pleased with all that we accomplished this year:

- Both our picnic and membership meetings were in-person and well-attended. Based on your feedback, we've gone hybrid and added Zoom options to both meetings.
- We're back to a full calendar of events including our Garage Sale/Market Day, 4th of July activities, numerous apparel sales, the Poker Run, and GL Halloween.
- Our hardworking and very professional newsletter team continues to find ways to up the ante; we've moved to full color!
- Capturing our history on video from our venerable residents remains a priority and we continue to add more interviews to our website.
- A committee was created (not even my doing!) to educate homeowners on lake-friendly shoreline management regardless of their situation. Each of us has options.
- I've seen more and more efforts to naturalize shorelines;even a small portion helps. Outreach from homeowners on this topic keeps growing. Thank you!
- You all were very generous in helping to repair the spillway bridge. We raised over \$1,550 in donations and the GLA paid \$5,406 toward repairs.



- We hosted six apparel sales this year. That's more than the last couple of years and certainly more than the 3-4 sales we've hosted in the past. Given the number of sales, please mark the sale dates on your calendar. (Our hardworking committee created the sale dates throughout the season so you get the best selection and they can enjoy lake time, too).
- New resident welcome baskets continue to be a hit, and they have helped us acquire many new members!
- Water quality remains solid and given our lake's level of development and boat activity, we are fortunate for that. We'll continue to monitor, adjust, and educate.
- I'm most proud that volunteerism remains high. We hosted our first (in years) competitive trustee election (welcome Liz Zwartz!), added a new member to the newsletter team (Lois Gorbacz - Ad solicitation), and continue to receive volunteer interest in various areas.

It requires the combined effort of many to do all that the Gravel Lake Association does. We will look for more and better ways to drive and enable involvement. Thanks to all for your support!

Craig DeSimone

GLA President

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2023 Calendar Of Events

Date	Event
Sunday, April 9	Easter
Saturday, April 15	Board of Trustees meeting
Saturday, April 29	MLSA Region 3 @ Township Hall
Saturday, May 6	MLSA Conference
Sunday, May 14	Mother's Day
Saturday, May 20	Board of Trustees meeting
Monday, May 29	Memorial Day
Saturday, June 10	Membership meeting + Picnic
Sunday, June 18	Father's Day
Saturday, July 1	Fourth of July activities
Sunday, July 2	Fourth of July activities
Tuesday, July 4	Fourth of July
Saturday, July 8	Garage sale
Saturday, July 15	Board of Trustees meeting
Saturday, August 12	Poker Run
Saturday, August 19	Membership meeting @ Rinaldi's pole barn
Monday, September 4	Labor Day
Saturday, September 16	Board of Trustees meeting
Saturday, September 30	MLSA Region 3 @ Township Hall
Saturday, October 7	GLA Halloween Festival
	Board of Trustees meeting (9AM EST)
Monday, October 9	Indiginous Peoples Day, Columbus Day

Tuesday, October 31 Halloween



2022 Summer Events

The Gravel Lake Association would like to extend a huge thank you to all of the volunteers who organized this year's events. These are some of the people who make our community different than other lakes. If you see them, give them a high five! And if you want to be a part of this amazing team of people, reach out to cucad4@hotmail.com. Volunteers are always welcome.

Fun Run

The Herchenroether family

Paddle Boat Regatta Melissa DeSimone, Perri Gordon, and Jen Micheli

Garage Sale & Market Day Linda Vitkauskas

Poker Run Janice and Alyssa Pinkos

Fall Festival Phil and Mary Rinaldi

Apparel Sales

Jen Micheli, Suzanne Reed, Carlie DeSimone, Alyssa Pinkos, and Janice Pinkos



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Poker Run 2022



Another great Poker Run in the books! Unseasonably cold weather and rain didn't stop the fun. I want to send a huge shoutout to all of our dock hosts, dock sponsors, volunteers, and players who helped make this event the hit of the summer. We couldn't do it without you. As always, proceeds from the Poker Run go directly back into the health of our lake and to community events.

Congrats to the Bridgham, Paulik, and Richards families for winning first place in the dock contest. Their theme was Christmas on Gravel, and Santa even came from the North Pole to take pictures with the players.

The other dock stops were:

Superhero, hosted by the Oxley families Better Baker Island, hosted by Jered and Jaimie Baker Gravel Lake Bootcamp, hosted by Mike and Melissa McCallister Grease, hosted by the Kelliher, Schroeder, and DeSimone families Gamma Lamda Mu, hosted by Kerry Moore and the Stewart family and friends Austin Powers, hosted by the Eberly family

Our event relies on the support of our sponsors – please check out the following businesses and support them in return!

Apollo Marine	Copper Ridge	Mencl Builders	Pro-Dock
The Rock	ShangriLa Farms	St. Julian Winery	Wakeside Marine

And finally, a special thank you to the following people for helping on the day of the Poker Run:

- The Faustinos for providing refreshments in line! (Hopefully this made the long line a little more bearable!)
- Linda and Ken Vitkauskas for hosting packet drop-off and organizing winning hands
- Suzanne Reed, Lauren Mencl, Lydia Mencl, and Annette Dorkin for t-shirt sales
- Brittany McGrath, Kevin & Katie Pinkos, Sue Eberly, and Maureen Maffei for ticket and raffle sales

Mark your calendars for next year's event – tentatively scheduled for August 12, 2023. If you're interested in hosting a dock, please contact Alyssa at (708) 846 7355.

Janice & Alyssa Pinkos

Poker Run Coordinators

Meet the Roman Family

Where are you from and what do you do?

We are from Homewood, Illinois and I am a realtor with @properties. My husband, David, is an electrician.

Tell us about your family.

My husband and I have three kids: Emilia (age 5), Sofia (age 4), and Nico (age 2). We also have two fur babies, Pessa and Enzo. Emilia is in first grade, and Sofia and Nico are in preschool. Dave and I both work weekends here and there but we hope to be at the lake as much as possible.

Describe your home and its location on the lake.

We just finished building a new home on the channel. It is the white and black house you can see straight ahead when you pull in the channel.

What is something unique or interesting about your lake house?

We had custom plans made for the house that included a few things that we knew we wanted after visiting other friends' homes on the lake, like a screened-in porch for

coffee in the morning and a dog wash in the mudroom. If you have a dog that swims in the lake, you know why we wanted that!

When was your house built? What is your favorite part?

We started building the house in 2021 and it was done in May 2022. My favorite part is the lakeside screened-in porch.

How did you happen upon Gravel Lake?

My aunt and uncle, Nancy and Vince Dyrek, had a home on Gebhard Beach for as long as I can remember, and we would visit them a few times each summer. In 2009, my parents also bought a home on Gebhard Beach that they owned until 2020.

What is your favorite memory at the lake?

There are too many! From 4th of July activities to Vodka Parties to the Poker Run, and now watching our three kids enjoy the lake as much as we do, I can't pick just one!

(Continued on Page 10)



Meet a Gravel Laker (continued)

What is your favorite lake activity?

A pontoon ride at sunset and listening to Taps.

Why is Gravel Lake special to you?

Gravel Lake is a special place because of the many friendships and memories we have made there throughout the years. Add to that the beautiful sunsets and sunrises, and the fun activities that the Gravel Lake Association creates for all the members. With our hectic work schedules and kids' schedules, Gravel Lake is a breath of fresh air to escape the everyday chaos and just kick back and relax.



Would you like to be featured? Email Emily at eggarrett87@yahoo.com to share your story!

Gravel Lake Association

The Monarch Butterfly



The monarch butterfly is one of Michigan's most recognized and beloved insects, characterized by its large, deep orange wings with black borders and white spots. Monarchs famously migrate up to 2,500 miles each year to pass the colder northern winter months in Mexico. There they settle in the Oyamel fir tree forests, nestling close together for warmth when the temperatures are cool.

Monarchs have four stages in their lifecycle – egg, larva (caterpillar), pupa (chrysalis), and butterfly. After mating, the female monarch lays small,

cream-colored eggs on the underside of milkweed leaves. She will lay hundreds of eggs over a two to five-week period. After about four days, the egg will hatch and a tiny caterpillar that feeds exclusively on milkweed, a native plant to Michigan, emerges. When the caterpillar is fully mature, it will find a suitable place to make a chrysalis where it will remain for the next 8 - 15 days as it transforms into a butterfly. Monarchs born late in the season will travel to Mexico when the temperatures begin to drop. This is the same generation that will begin making their way back north when temperatures warm in early spring to mate.



In July of 2022, the migratory monarch was added to the International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) list of endangered species. The monarch population has declined by an estimated 90%, largely due to habitat loss. These beautiful creatures are important to the ecosystem, playing an important role in the pollination of crops and flowering plant species. The best way to support monarch populations is by planting milkweed, a food source for a variety of pollinators.

Milkweed plants can be seen flourishing around areas of Gravel Lake and are well-suited for our local ecosystem, requiring little to no maintenance. Once planted, it won't take long for monarchs to find the milkweed plant, and they will begin laying eggs on its leaves throughout the summer months. If you want to take a more active role in helping monarch population numbers rise, you may consider purchasing a caterpillar habitat. By collecting caterpillars from milkweed plants and putting them in a protective environment, you can help to ensure they are safe from predators and can thrive into a healthy adult butterfly.

The Monarch Butterfly

Soures

https://www.iucn.org/press-release/202207/migratory-monarch-butterfly-now-endangered-iucnred-list

https://www.worldwildlife.org/ stories/the-great-monarchmigration#:~:text=Flying%20up%20 to%202%2C500%20miles,known%20 species%20of%20their%20 kind.&text=But%20this%20grand%20migration%20is%20under%20threat.

https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/education/ michigan-species/insects/monarch

https://monarchjointventure.org/get-in-volved/create-habitat-for-monarchs





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Trustee Elections

All trustees are up for re-election in 2023. We plan to hold elections at our June Membership meeting & Picnic. Trustees serve three-year terms, are expected to regularly attend meetings (once per month Apr-Oct), be a member of at least one committee, collect dues, and distribute materials to residents of their beach (1-2 times per year). To be eligible, one must be a Gravel Lake homeowner (or their designee). While many current trustees will seek re-election, we expect to have one or two open positions in 2023. Anyone eligible may run for trustee. We will prepare for a run-off for positions with more than one candidate. Please indicate your interest in running by May 19, 2023.

If you are interested or have questions, please contact Craig DeSimone at cucad4@hotmail.com





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Cindy Monte & John	Couitcher	Gebhard	F
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Gerry	Enright	Gebhard	
Jen & John	Ferrucci	Gebhard	
Roger & Jenni	Gillund	Gebhard	
Mark & Perri	Gordon	Gebhard	
Sheri	Kurtyak	Gebhard	F
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Tom & Irene	Logan	Gebhard	F
Craig & LaShel	Mencl	Gebhard	•



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Phil & Mary	Rinaldi	Gebhard	FΙ
Therese & Dan	Schuld	Gebhard	
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Frank & Kathy	Gilhooly	Huff's Landing	
James	Hermanson	Huff's Landing	
Paul & Mary	Howell	Huff's Landing	FΙ
Dan & Marilyn	McDevitt	Huff's Landing	FI
Jim & Elizabeth & Spence		Huff's Landing	В
Lynn Gilliland & Dennis		Huff's Landing	-
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Robin & Tim	Rusthoven	Huff's Landing	В
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Tammy	Lagone	Idle Ease	
Lynn Solski/	Brosseau	Idle Ease	
Joe & Kathy	Cunningham	Idle Ease	
MaryBeth Gaspar & Steve		Idle Ease	F
Ken & Susan	Eberly	Idle Ease	•
Nick & Sara	Felus	Idle Ease	F
Rich & Derith	Garrison	Idle Ease	•
Pete & Sue	Haynie	Idle Ease	
Mike & Marge	Heuring	Idle Ease	Е
Mark & Susan	Hunter	Idle Ease	В
Jim & Patti	Jabaay	Idle Ease	F
Beverly & Jim	Jacques	Idle Ease	FI
The Jacques Family	Jacques	Idle Ease	F
Victor	Kapercev	Idle Ease	'
Mark & Jane	Kehlenbeck	Idle Ease	ΕI
Donald	Mateyack	Idle Ease	F
Jane	Nedvar	Idle Ease	1
Steve & Janice	Pinkos	Idle Ease	в
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Ralph/Cindy James & Nicola Sandy Vox & Rosie Tom & Karen Kendall & Richard Rose Lord & Josie	Airgood Bryne Cechota Fernandez Forward Goepfrich	Lewis Lewis Lewis Lewis Lewis Lewis	B E F
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Sue James & Sharon Terry & Judy	Bjork Braglia Brocker	Sandy Sandy Sandy	F
David & Mary Mike & Joanne Mark & MaryBeth	Brown Clifford Custer	Sandy Sandy Sandy	FE F
Kevin & Kris Kathy & Mark Sheila Chris & Amy Susan & Scott	Donegan Drew Edwards Fewell Forcash	Sandy Sandy Sandy Sandy Sandy	F
Larry & Terry Todd Chuck & Mary Eric & Rachael	Grembowicz Harrison Hart Herchenroether	Sandy Sandy Sandy	F FE FB
Margot Terry & Fran	Hornblower Jones	Sandy Sandy	F E F



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First Name	Last Name	Beach
Mike & Tracy	Jurusik	Sandy F B
Betty	Kelly	Sandy F
Keith & Michelle	Lalone	Sandy
Paul & Cathy	Lawrence	Sandy F
Gary & Vickie	Leisten	Sandy F
Dasher & Maria	Lowe	Sandy F
JoAnne	Matlock	Sandy
Michael & Melissa	McCallister	Sandy FE
Jen & Michael	Micheli	Sandy
Steven & Rebecca	Mills	Sandy
Hunter/Jen Freeman	Motter	Sandy F
Paul & Ann		
Rick & Monica	Nicola	Sandy
Rich & Jane	Phelan	Sandy F
Ray & Suzanne	Reed	Sandy B
Bob & Linda	Schlueter	Sandy
Dan & Carol	Schroeder	Sandy F
Ken & Marilyn	Schroeder	Sandy F
Andrew & Kathryn	Stefo	Sandy
Ryan & Kyleigh	Stewart	Sandy
Robert & Jean	Storm	Sandy F
Lezley & Joe	Sugden	Sandy
Amy & Jeff	Swalec	Sandy F B
Joshua & Jennifer	Urban	Sandy
Fran	VanMeter	Sandy
Sherri & Bob	Vick	Sandy F
Tim & Diane	Washburn	Sandy F
Art & Mary	Welcome	Sandy F
Mark & Leslie	Williams	Sandy F
Julie Braun,	Baker	Streeter
Marge Harvey, Gail	D ()	
Dave & Sue	Bartock	Streeter F B
Jack	Bogner	Streeter
Richard & Debra	Bridgham	Streeter F
Julia, Bill & Donna	Dahlman	Streeter
Rick & Donna	DeRosa	Streeter
Deborah	Dorsey	Streeter
Trish & Tim	Fallon	Streeter
Erik & Moira	Frost	Streeter
Greg & Marianne	Garrett	Streeter E



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,	J (
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Tom & Karen	Huber	Streeter	F
Paula Gregorica/ James	sJilek	Streeter	
Steve & Elena	Kozlowski	Streeter	
Paul & Patty	Lochow	Streeter	
Tom & Virginia	Mattox	Streeter	F
Mark & Elizabeth	Mayer	Streeter	
Karen Triplett & Ann	Mc Bride	Streeter	
Bob & Nancy	Meskimen	Streeter	
Lonnie & Sheila	Nelson	Streeter	F
Mark & April	Paulik	Streeter	F
Bart & Shelley	Richards	Streeter	Е
Moon	Rimes	Streeter	F
John & Joann	Small	Streeter	F
Wynne	Stemler	Streeter	
Ken & Linda	Vitkauskas	Streeter	F
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Judy Weis & John	Caskey	Willow	FΒ
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Ray	Cox	Willow	F
Kim & Jeff	Cross	Willow	
Greg & Donna	Graham	Willow	
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Mary	Malinauskas	Willow	F
Diane Williams/	Mandujano	Willow	
Martin & Kata			_
Mike	Mascarello	Willow	F
Richard & May Britt	Moore	Willow	
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Jim & Donna	Rau	Willow	FΒ
Kyle	Rau	Willow	F
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Jill, Stephen & Jim	Bergenham	Winkler	
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Katie, Dennis & Lois	Gorbacz	Winkler	Е
Joe	Hartmann	Winkler	F
Randy & Sherri	Hess	Winkler	FΕ
Ken & Laurie	Johnson	Winkler	
Lori	Komorowski	Winkler	
Bernie Krueger & Marion	Krzyszkowski	Winkler	FΒ
Ann	LaForge	Winkler	F
Michael & Mary	Murray	Winkler	F
Pat & Ann	Murray	Winkler	FΒ
Eric & Michelle	Nitz	Winkler	FΒ
Mitch & Kelly	Patterson	Winkler	
Sherri & Dave	Ries	Winkler	В
Dan & Anne	Robison	Winkler	
Mike & Sue	Sadowski	Winkler	В
George & Pam	Siemer	Winkler	
Monte & Sue	Swindeman	Winkler	В
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Mute Swans

We are very aware of the mute swans on the lake and we're monitoring them. Fortunately, we've had no incidents. Please continue to give them a wide berth.





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Newsletter Staff

Jamie Paramski, Editor jparamski@gmail.com

Jim McGreal, Design jim@jmcstudios.com

Spencer McGreal, Production/Graphics spencer@jmcstudios.com

Lois Gorbacz, Ads gorbfam996@gmail.com

Contributors: Tricia Brucks, Emily Garrett

Cover Photo: Mary Rinaldi

Interior Photos: Maria Lowe, Mary Rinaldi, Dan Robison, Heather L. Fitzgerald-Stade, Suzanne Reed, Nancie Corum Oxley, Victoria Moreland, Jana Welsh, and Frank Gordon

Printing by Joe, Newsletter Printing printingbyjoe@sbcglobal.net

The John Deren Interview



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January 2023 – December 2023			
Fill out and mail to: Gravel Lake Ass	ociation, P.O. Box 531, Lawton, MI 49065		
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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 lakers. Important lakerelated 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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Gravel Lake Association P.O. Box 531 Lawton, MI 49065 www.gravellake.org

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