

The Gravel Laker

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Spring, 2015



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President's Corner

Spring Again!

We have A LOT planned for 2015; please make sure you check out the calendar in this newsletter, on Facebook, and at gravellake.org.

The most important news is that we've signed a contract with Progressive AE of Grand Rapids and will begin water quality testing this year. Pam Tying and her team will be conducting water quality testing, aquatic vegetation surveys, lake bottom mapping, and a fishery study. We're very pleased to conduct this first-ever study of this magnitude for the benefit and careful stewardship of Gravel Lake. Most of the work will be conducted during a week in each the spring, summer, and fall, but please be on the lookout for boats at work and nets being used to catch smaller fish species. Fishermen: head to page 11 to find out how you can help us in our fishery study. As always, please direct any questions you have to me via the Gravel Lake Facebook page, email (cucad4@hotmail.com), or call me directly.

Craig

Calendar of Events Overview

Day(s)/Date(s)	Time	Event
Saturday, 5/23	10:00 AM	Board of Trustees meeting
Monday, 5/25		Memorial Day
Thursday, 6/4 (repeating)	7:30 PM	Beckwith Park Summer Concert Series, Dowagiac (Thursdays thru 8/20)
Saturday, 6/13	11:00 AM	Membership Meeting. Picnic follows.
Saturday, 6/13		Gravel Lake Picnic
Saturday, 6/27	10:00 AM-4:00 PM	Carnegie Garden Club Garden Walk and Craft Fair, Paw Paw
Saturday, 6/27	5:00 PM	Bigfoot Fourth of July Parade, Dowagiac
Friday, 7/3	6:00 PM	Paddle Boat Regatta, registration at 5:45
Saturday, 7/4		Fourth of July
Saturday, 7/4	9:00 AM	Fun Run @ Willow Beach Grocery
Saturday, 7/4	1:00 PM	Kids Games @ Willow Beach Grocery
Saturday, 7/4	9:30 PM	Boat Parade, Theme: Venetian Night, registration at 9:00
Sunday, 7/5 (repeating)	6:30 PM	Sunday Summer Concerts on the Lake, Paw Paw (Sundays thru August 30)
Thursday, 7/16-Sunday, 7/19		Summer in the City with Sidwalk Sales, Dowagiac, opens Thursday evening
Friday, 7/17-Sunday, 7/19		Paw Paw Days & Uncork the Arts, Paw Paw
Saturday, 7/18	8:00 AM	Sister Lakes Triathalon & Relay, Dowagiac
Saturday, 7/18	8:00 AM-4:00 PM	Classic Car Show, downtown Paw Paw
Saturday, 7/25	10:00 AM	Board of Trustees meeting
Saturday, 7/25	9:00 AM	Steve's Run, Dowagiac
Saturday, 7/25	TBD	Social (<i>tentative</i>)

Calendar of Events Overview (continued)

Day(s)/Date(s)	Time	Event
Sunday, 8/2-Saturday, 8/8	11:00 AM-11:00 PM	Cass County Fair, Cassopolis
Thursday, 8/6-Sunday, 8/9	TBD	Blueberry Festival, South Haven, MI
Saturday, 8/8	TBD	Gravel Lake 2nd Annual Poker Run
Saturday, 8/15	7:30 AM	Rod & Roll Classic Auto Show, Dowagiac
Saturday, 8/22	10:00 AM	Membership Meeting (Trustee elections)
Monday, 9/7		Labor Day (Summer is over. Drain the lake.)
Friday, 9/11-Sunday, 9/13		Paw Paw Wine Festival
Saturday, 9/19	10:00 AM	Board of Trustees meeting
Saturday, 10/17	10:00 AM	Board of Trustees meeting

For details of events in Paw Paw, please see pawpaw.net, then Community Events.

For details of events in Dowagiac, please see www.dowagiacchamber.com.



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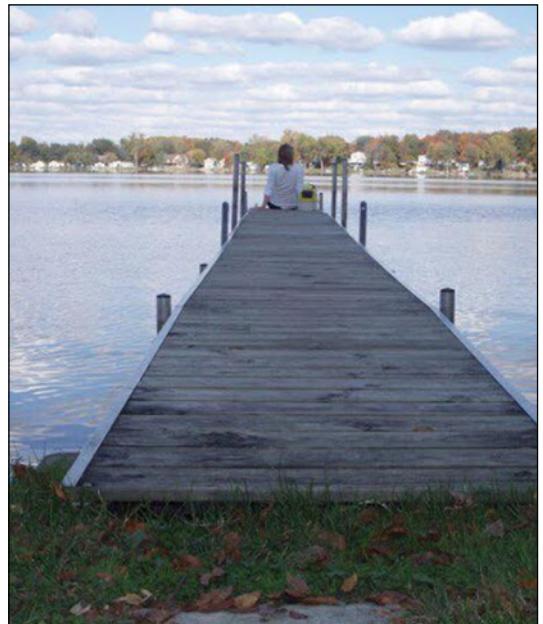
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Gravel Lake Association 2015 Calendar

BOARD/MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS:

- **Saturday, June 13th at 11AM – Membership Meeting. Picnic follows.**
 - Location – Craig & Melissa DeSimone's yard on Chamberlin Beach (32313 Chamberlin Dr.)
 - Dues collection
 - 50-50 raffle
 - Buy Gravel Lake paraphernalia – shirts, coozies, towels, etc.
- Saturday, July 25th at 10AM—Board of Trustees meeting (Porter Township Hall)
- **Saturday, August 22nd at 10AM – Membership Meeting**
 - Location – Raab's pole barn on Gebhard Beach
 - Trustee elections
 - Dues collection
 - 50-50 raffle
 - Buy Gravel Lake paraphernalia
- Saturday, September 19th at 10AM—Board of Trustees meeting (Porter Township Hall)
- Saturday, October 17th at 10AM—Board of Trustees meeting (Porter Township Hall)

FOURTH OF JULY ACTIVITIES: Friday, 7/3 – Sunday, 7/5

- Paddle Boat Regatta – Friday, July 3rd at 6PM
 - Location - Channel
 - Register at 5:45 at the first bend in the channel
 - Race begins at the end of the channel
 - **All participants MUST have certified flotation devices**
 - Divisions
 - 1-person kayak
 - 2-person kayak
 - Youth paddle boat (both racers under 12)
 - Adult paddle boat—Fast boats (chain-driven)
 - Adult paddle boat—Traditional boats
 - Stand-up Paddleboard
- Fun Run – Saturday, July 4th at 9:00AM – Willow Beach Resort
 - Registration begins at 8:30AM
 - 2-mile race
 - FREE for all participants
 - All ages welcome
 - Prizes and refreshments
- Kids' Games – Saturday, July 4th at 1PM – Willow Beach Resort ****NEW TIME****
 - Ages 1-12
 - Prizes for all participants
- Boat Parade – Saturday, July 4th at 9:30PM
 - Theme: Venetian Night
 - **Register at 9:00pm and Judging on the dock of the Hipelius home (Streeter beach)**
 - **Parade begins at 9:30PM**
 - Prizes

Gravel Lake Association 2015 Calendar (continued)

OTHER ACTIVITIES

- Gravel Lake Picnic—Saturday, June 13th (rain or shine)
 - Immediately following the Membership Meeting (approx. 12-3PM)
 - RSVP the number of attendees who will be eating to fampinkos@aol.com by Saturday, June 6th.
 - Hang out with old friends and meet some new ones!
 - Paid 2014 or 2015 memberships will allow up to five (5) members of each household to eat for free.
 - Additional food tickets (along with non-member food tickets) can be purchased for \$1.00 by visiting the check-in table.
 - Tickets are for food only. Festivities are FREE!
 - Limited car and boat parking, so carpool and “boatpool”!
- Gravel Lake Social—Saturday, July 25th
 - DATE IS TENTATIVE
 - Keep an eye out for signs around the lake in mid-July
- 2nd Annual Gravel Lake Poker Run– Saturday, August 8th (rain or shine)
 - Time TBD
 - Needed: Volunteers to help with ticket sales, dock set-up, party set-up, t-shirt sales, and clean-up on Sunday.
 - Needed: 7 sponsors to donate \$200+. Sponsors will get a sign at a dock, as well as their logo on the back of the Poker Run t-shirt, in any Poker Run literature, and printed in the Gravel Laker newsletter. These funds will support activities at the docks.
 - Email Kevin LaLone at kevin.lalone@gmail.com if you are interested in hosting a dock or being a volunteer or sponsor.



DOCK & BOAT LIFT INSTALLATION & REMOVAL
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Come see these great homes at their Open Houses on Sunday May 24

32863 South Street
Gravel Lake



This beautiful pottery barn Gravel Lake deeded access. The home is in move in condition with newer flooring and updated baths.

Details:

2 bedrooms
2 bathrooms
1,488 sq. ft.
Bonus backyard
guest house
Storage shed

Offered at \$115,000
MLS: 15013579

93658 Streeter
Gravel Lake



Updated home on popular all sports Gravel Lake featuring 44 ft of water front with sandy beach and great swim area.

Details:

4 bedrooms
2 bathrooms
2,360 fin. sq. ft.
Open floor plan
Large deck with awning

Offered at \$369,900
MLS: 15015082

93335 Gravel Lake Dr
Gravel Lake



Gravel Lake Channel home with views of lake and 2nd property in from the lake. This lot offers 60 ft of channel front.

Details:

2 bedrooms
1 bathroom
1,200 sq. ft.
2 car garage
Utility mud room
Large front porch

Offered at \$115,000
MLS: 15015573

Lake Drive - Vacant Land
Gravel Lake



Great Walk- out site with 50 ft of sandy beach front on Gravel Lake! Lot is deep approx. 174ft deep, walk out home would be level with lake and no stairs to home or lake.

Details:

50 ft. water frontage
2 buildable lots
Hilltop view of Lake
1 car storage garage
All sports lake

Offered at \$186,000
MLS: 15001362



For more information:

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A Safe (and Ticket-Free) Summer!

Summer is coming and there couldn't be a better time to start thinking about boating safety and regulations for your watercraft and your family.

Boat Operation

Remember, not everyone can operate a boat or personal watercraft (PWC). These are the regulations for the age of operators:

Those less than 12 years of age:

- May operate a boat powered by a motor of no more than 6 horsepower (hp) legally without restrictions.
- May operate a boat powered by a motor of more than 6 hp but no more than 35 hp legally only if they:
 - Have been issued a boating safety certificate and have it on board the boat and...
 - Are directly supervised on board by a person at least 16 years of age.
- May not operate a boat powered by a motor of more than 35 hp legally under any conditions.

Those born on or after July 1, 1996, may operate a boat legally only if they have been issued a boating safety certificate and have it on board the boat.

Those born before July 1, 1996, may operate a boat legally without restrictions. Those less than 14 years of age may not legally operate a PWC.

Those 14 and 15 years of age may operate a PWC legally only if they have obtained a boating safety certificate and...

- He or she is accompanied on board by his or her parent or legal guardian or by a person at least 21 years of age who has been designated by the parent or legal guardian or...
- He or she is operating or riding the PWC at a distance of not more than 100 feet from his or her parent or legal guardian or from a person at least 21 years of age who has been designated by the parent or legal guardian.

Those at least 16 years of age and born after December 31, 1978, may operate a PWC legally only if they have obtained a boating safety certificate.

Those born on or before December 31, 1978, may operate a PWC legally without restrictions.



If you need a boating safety certificate, you can take an online boating safety class for Michigan at two state approved websites. Take the course and pay only when you pass: <https://www.boated.com/michigan/> Boat Ed cost is \$29.50. <http://www.boaterexam.com/usa/michigan/> Boater Exam cost is \$29.95.

A Safe (and Ticket-Free) Summer! (continued)

Boat Registration

All watercraft, unless exempt, must be registered with the Secretary of State and must display a registration decal. Once a registration number has been assigned, it cannot be transferred to another watercraft. For most watercraft, the registration fee is based on length. All registrations expire on March 31 in the third year of issuance.

Watercraft exempt from registration are:

- Those 16 feet or shorter, propelled by oars or paddles, and not used for rental or commercial purposes;
- Nonmotorized canoes and kayaks not used for rental or commercial purposes, rafts, surfboards, sailboards, and swim floats, regardless of length; and
- Watercraft registered in another state and used only temporarily in Michigan.

Boats are numbered according to state and federal regulations. These regulations help protect people from careless boat operators and improperly equipped boats. A certificate of number is issued to tell enforcement officers that a boat is properly registered. The numbers must be displayed properly on the boat.

The law requires:

1. The figures are to be read from left to right.
2. They must be displayed on the forward half of each side of the bow of the boat.
3. Numbers must be bold, block letters of good proportion.
4. Numbers must not be less than three inches high.
5. They must be of contrasting color to the boat hull or background.
6. They must be as high above the waterline as practical.
7. No number other than the number assigned can be displayed on the forward half of the vessel.
8. Letters must be separated from numbers by spaces or hyphens.
9. Validation decals must be three inches to the right of the last letter displayed.
10. Boat Certificate of Registration must be carried on the vessel when being operated.

Cost of registration depends on the length and type of vessel. Check with the Secretary of State in Michigan for more information on registering a vessel.

Personal Flotation Device (PFD) Requirements

Who must wear a PFD (life jacket)?

- Michigan law requires all children under 6 years of age to wear a USCG–approved Type I or II PFD when riding on the open deck of any vessel while underway.
- **Each person riding on a PWC or being towed behind a PWC or other vessel must wear a USCG–approved Type I, II, or III personal flotation device.** Inflatable PFDs are not allowed on PWCs or while being towed behind PWCs or other vessels.

A Safe (and Ticket-Free) Summer! (continued)

What type of PFD do I need to carry on my boat in Michigan?

- Vessels less than 16 feet (including canoes and kayaks) must be equipped with one Type I, II, III or IV PFD for each person on board.
- Vessels 16 feet and longer, in addition to the Type I, II, or III for each person on board must carry one type IV. (Canoes and kayaks over 16 feet are exempt from the Type IV requirement.)

What do all the PFD numbers mean?

1. TYPE I means these are offshore life jackets that have 22 lbs. of buoyancy. These are best for open, rough or remote water where rescue may be slow in coming. Advantages include turning most unconscious wearers faceup in water, they are a highly visible color, and they are the best at floating the person. A disadvantage is that the PFD is bulky. There are two sizes to fit most children and adults.
2. TYPE II means these are nearshore buoyant vests that have 15.5 lbs. of buoyancy. They are good for calm, inland water or where there is good chance of a quick rescue. Advantages include turning some unconscious wearers faceup in water, they are less bulky and more comfortable than the Type I PFD, and they are also inexpensive. Disadvantages include not being suitable for long hours in the water, and they will not turn all unconscious wearers faceup in water either. Sizes include infant, child small, child medium, and adult.
3. TYPE III means these are flotation aids that have 15.5 lbs. of buoyancy. They are good for calm, inland water or where there is a good chance of a quick rescue. They are generally the most comfortable type for continuous wear and they allow more freedom of movement for active water sports. They are available in many styles for waterskiing, small boat, sailing, fishing, etc. The wearer may have to tilt head back to avoid going facedown and in rough water, a wearer's face may often be covered by waves, so the Type III PFDs are not the best option for extended survival in rough water.
4. TYPE IV is a throwable device best for calm, inland water with heavy boat traffic, where help is always nearby. Advantages are that they can be thrown to someone, they are good backup wearable PFDs, and some can be used as a seat cushion. There are different kinds, including cushions, rings, and horse shoe buoys. They are not for unconscious persons, for non-swimmers or children, or for many hours in rough water.

Remember that all PFDs must be ready at hand and not enclosed in plastic bags or other containers.



Type I



Type II



Type III



Type IV



Type V

A Safe (and Ticket-Free) Summer! (continued)

Sherriff and DNR officers will check for registration and PFDs in addition to safe boating practices. A complete online handbook of Michigan boating laws can be found at <http://www.boat-ed.com/michigan/handbook/book.html>.

More information can be found at the DNR website: <http://www.michigan.gov/dnr> (Click on Camping & Recreation, and then "Boating").

Melissa DeSimone

Contributing writer



Gravel Lake Fish Survey

The Gravel Lake Association has asked us to conduct a fish survey on Gravel Lake this summer. We will be setting a couple of gill nets and trap nets to collect enough fishes for diet and age studies. Our nets are marked with flags on poles, and they are underwater so as to not be in the way of boaters. In addition, studies are done during the week to avoid weekend boat traffic. If you do happen to come across the nets, please try your best to avoid them.

We do not want to kill many large predators, as they are so important to maintaining the balance in the fish community. In addition, large individuals of some species are difficult to catch since they are so rare, thus we are requesting assistance from local fishers to provide us with information and samples of fishes that they might catch-and-release or catch-and-keep. We are asking interested individuals to provide three things if the spirit moves you.

First, I would like to have any comments regarding any problems you have noted with the fishery. Also, any information on the historical fish community would be appreciated. This could include information such as the following: rare species observed (e.g., Are there longnose gar or bowfin in the lake?), lack of Yellow Perch caught recently when historically they were large and common, etc. Also, how abundant are Northern Pike in the lake? Are there exotic species in the lake? What has been the history of stocking in the lake and was it perceived as successful? Are there streams that enter the lake and are there fish runs (Northern Pike or White Suckers) spawning in them? Is there bluegill stunting?

Second, we usually have difficulty catching big Largemouth Bass and some of the other species in a lake. Hence, if you are a catch-and-release person, I would ask that before you release any large fish, that you collect some scales from the shoulder area of the fish above the lateral line and put them in a coin envelope, regular envelope, folded index card, or plastic baggie along with the species, date of capture, and total length of the released fish. Use a pencil to record data as ink usually smears and is unreadable. I use a forceps to collect scales, but a knife can work just as well.

Third, if you keep large fish or cause damage to the fish from hooking one and have to keep it, I would request you: get a scale sample as above, put it with the stomach in a plastic bag, and provide species, total length, and date on a piece of paper or index card in with the scales and stomach. Thank you for your assistance.

David Jude
Freshwater Physicians
Email: djude@umich.edu





GOOD FOOD



GOOD DRINK



GOOD TIME



M 3:00-9:00 • T: CLOSED • W: 3:00-9:00 • T: 3:00-10:00 • F: 3:00-12:00 • S: 3:00-2:00 • S: 3:00-9:00

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Farewell to Gravel Lake Friends



Art Gear

Art Gear, age 79, of Lawton, MI, born August, 27, 1935 in Chicago, IL to the late Frank and Alice Gear, passed away Thursday, February 26, 2015. He is survived by former spouse, Juanita Seward; three children: Linda (Greg) Sanchez of Merrillville, IN, Karen (Randy) Kirleis of North Webster, IN and Frank (Kimberly) Gear of Schererville, IN; nine grandchildren: Jon, Christopher (Amanda), Veronica, Rebecca (Bobby), Jennifer (Dave), Robert (Shannon), Amanda (Joe), Thomas (Celena) and Megan; companion, Karen Thompson; 25 great grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews. Arthur was preceded in death by two sisters: Fran Huber and Mary Coto; two grandchildren: Nicole Sanchez and Randall Lee Kirleis. He enjoyed fishing and spending time at his cottage. Arthur loved his family and will be dearly missed.

Lynn Flavin

Gravel Lake has lost another friend, Lynn Flavin. She succumbed to COPD on March 22, 2015. Lynn came to live on Gravel Lake 20 years ago after living in the south Chicago suburbs. Her parents first owned the property at the mouth of the channel. When Tom, her husband, became locally employed he joined her at the lake. Here they raised their young children with all the fun lake activities, pontooning, tubing, bonfires, etc. Now the grandchildren are enjoying the same. Lynn was very helpful and smart and was always concerned about our lake. She served as secretary of the Gravel Lake Association for a number of years. She always helped with set-up, clean-up or the "split the pot" raffle at the meetings or socials. Lynn loved gambling and playing bingo and Rummy Cubes with her friend, Pat Walter. Lynn enjoyed dinners at DeCoy Duck, socializing at parties or just preparing her favorite lake dishes, Sloppy Joes and spaghetti. Thanks for the great memories, Lynn. You will be missed.



Farewell to Gravel Lake Friends (continued)

Hertha Johanna Gutmann

Hertha Johanna Gutmann, 83, passed away surrounded by loved ones on November 24, 2014. She was born April 5, 1931 in Hildesheim, Germany to Olaf and Hertha Olsson. On May 3, 1952 she married the love of her life Heinz Gutmann who preceded her in death on May 15, 2014. They had celebrated 62 years of marriage on May 3, 2014, having never spent an anniversary apart. She is survived by three daughters, May (Richard), Patsy, and Barb (Steve), six grandchildren (Kerry, Sarah, Emily [Thomas], Kylie [Ted], Anthony [Emily], and Eric) and one great grandchild (Olivia). Also several honorary family members; Carol, Andrea, and Betty to name just a few. Hertha and Heinz were long time Gravel Lakers, purchasing their lake home about 49 years ago. Hertha enjoyed fishing on her pier, dinner on her porch with family and neighbors, protecting wildlife, relaxing under the willow tree, attending Gravel Lake social events, and she loved all animals. She was affectionately known by many of her "lake children" as Oma. She will be remembered for her quick wit, strength of heart, love, and devotion to her husband and family, her amazing baking skills, compassionate soul, and extraordinary stories of her childhood in Germany. Heinz and Hertha will truly be missed. The Gutmann family would like to thank all those who loved and supported them through this difficult year.



Join the GLA Facebook Group!

Join the Gravel Lake Association Facebook group! It is an excellent way for us 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!

Request to Dog Owners

Dogs are awesome additions to a family, and I certainly couldn't imagine life without mine. In Michigan, they may run freely on their property, untethered. However, according to Michigan state law, once they leave their property (as most dogs would, especially if they see a person, another dog, or a critter such as a chipmunk) they need to be leashed. **Lawfulness aside, this is simply a request to be considerate to other people trying to enjoy Gravel Lake.** On a recent stroll around the lake, my dog was attacked by a large German Shepard that left its property, and it was incredibly traumatic for both my dog and for me. I plan on carrying mace with me now at all times. It would be a terrible situation if a dog or a child were attacked. I am sure that your dog may be a great, loving family pet, but when it sees a stranger or another dog, it may leave its property and attack, unprovoked. Also, some dogs aren't friendly towards other dogs, and while that dog may be tied up, your dog may approach to play and end up in a scuffle.

In addition, there is always the danger of cars or attacks from wild animals on dogs that are roaming the lake community freely. They also sometimes leave a mess in other peoples' yards, which isn't very responsible of the pet owner. Finally, some people are very much afraid of dogs—even small ones. **For all of these reasons, please be considerate and tether, fence, or leash your dog so that everyone can enjoy life at the lake.** Let's keep Gravel Lake a safe place for everyone!

Thank you for your consideration.

If you do see a dog (or another animal) running loose, feel free to contact Van Buren Animal Control 269-621-4624.

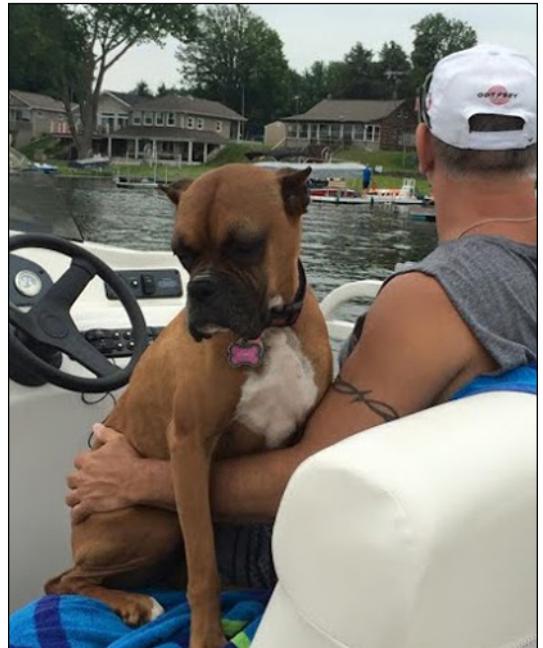
Escape by renting on Gravel Lake



4 Bedroom

Lake front house, Beach and dock

Visit www.sunnyoars.com for more info



All About Snails!



Let's get this out there right now: slugs are, in fact, snails without a shell. Alright, moving on...

There are thousands of snail/slug species, with most being land-dwellers. You've probably noticed snails sliming around in your garden or lawn. As the majority of snail species are herbivores, they feed on a variety of items in their habitat, including plants, vegetables, fruits, and algae. That said, they

can be a nuisance to garden enthusiasts. If snails have become a problem in your yard or garden, there is an easy, humane fix. Place a lid from a jar in your garden and put beer in it. They will be drawn to the beer, you can trap them, and release them elsewhere. (Try to go a little farther than your neighbor's yard). One thing they steer clear of: salt. Water is essential to snails' existence and survival. Consuming salt pulls water out of the snail (via osmosis) and they die a torturous death by dehydration. So...no salt for snails.

The anatomy of a snail is incredibly unique. The shell of a snail can take various shapes; they can be more cone-shaped, or a little flatter. All shells have a spiral-look to them, though. This shell is their first line of defense against predators, as well as against a dry, hot climate. Without moisture, the snail will dry out. Snails are born with their shells, but they are very weak. The part of the shell the snail was born with will end up in the middle as the snail grows older and the shell grows.

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All About Snails! (continued)

Snails move on a “foot” that expands and contracts to move the snail. You may have noticed that as snails move, they leave behind a trail of goo. In more scientific terms, it is in actuality a trail of mucus. The mucus reduces friction as the snail moves along a surface. Without the mucus, the surface would damage their soft little bodies.

Snails have two sets of retractable tentacles (or what we non-sciency people would call “antennae”). Most species have four tentacles; the eyes are perched on two and the sense of smell is located on the other two. Snails cannot hear, and they cannot see very well at all, but they make up for it with an incredible sense of smell.

Snails live out their 5-7 years in all types of habitats: desert, mountains, ditches, marshy areas, warmer climates, and cooler climates. Snails are nocturnal, so they look for food during the nighttime and the early morning hours. They can go into a survival hibernation if the climate is too hot or too dry. Snails come in a variety of colors and sizes, though in Michigan, we normally see the small ones that blend in with natural earth hues, such as various shades of brown.

Predators to the snail include other, bigger snails, leeches, beetles, caterpillars, mice, frogs, toads, snakes, ducks, geese, and other birds.

The vast majority of snails are hermaphrodites. After mating, both adult snails will conceive 100-400 eggs. Baby snails develop inside the adult snail for a period of time, and then they are delivered. Upon delivery, the adult buries the eggs in cool soil. When they hatch 2-4 weeks later, the baby snails are instantly on the lookout for calcium. Calcium is vital for all snails, as they need it to build and strengthen their shell. Sometimes the babies will consume their own egg, as it is rich in calcium. It takes about three months for the baby snail to completely transform into something that resembles the adult snail.



Recipes

Need some ideas for what to do with those delicious U-Pick Michigan blueberries? I've rounded up some excellent recipes. Give them a shot and let me know what you think!

Blueberry Sauce

This can be spread on pancakes, waffles, French toast, crepes, cheesecake, or ice cream! Fresh or frozen blueberries work well.

Ingredients:

2 cups fresh or frozen blueberries
¼ cup water
1 cup orange juice
¾ cup white sugar
¼ cup cold water
3 Tbsp cornstarch
1/8 tsp cinnamon
½ tsp almond extract
1/8 tsp ground cinnamon



Directions:

1. In a saucepan over medium heat, combine the blueberries, ¼ cup water, orange juice, and sugar. Stir gently and bring to a boil.
2. In a cup or small bowl, mix together the cornstarch and ¼ cup cold water. Gently stir the cornstarch mixture into the blueberries so as not to mash the berries. Simmer gently until thick enough to coat the back of a metal spoon, 3-4 minutes. Remove from heat and stir in the almond extract and cinnamon. Thin sauce with water if it is too thick for your liking. Let sit for a few hours (or until the next day if possible). This will bring out the blueberry flavor.



Recipes (continued)

Blueberry Banana Bread

Ingredients:

- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 tsp baking soda
- ½ tsp salt
- ½ cup unsalted butter, softened
- 1 cup white sugar
- 2 eggs
- 2 tsp vanilla extract
- 2 ripe bananas, mashed
- 1 cup fresh blueberries

Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 350°F. Grease 3 small loaf pans.
2. Mix flour, baking soda, and salt together in a bowl.
3. Beat butter and sugar with an electric mixer in a large bowl until light and fluffy. The mixture should be noticeably lighter in color. Add 1 egg and allow to blend into the butter mixture before adding the second egg along with vanilla extract. Beat mashed bananas thoroughly into the mixture. Add flour mixture in small increments while beating until just combined into a thick batter. Fold blueberries into the batter and pour into prepared loaf pans.
4. Bake in the preheated oven until a toothpick inserted into the center comes out clean, 30-35 minutes. Cool in the pans for 10 minutes before removing to cool completely on a wire rack.

Optional:

I added a topping mixture of 1/4 cup brown sugar and 1 tsp of cinnamon. Or, you can add 1 tsp lemon zest.



Recipes (continued)

Fresh Fruit and Yogurt Ice Pops

Ingredients:

2 cups fresh blueberries, raspberries, strawberries, and sliced bananas, mixed
2 cups plain or vanilla yogurt
¼ cup white sugar (this may vary depending on the sweetness of the fruit and your personal taste)
8 small paper cups
8 popsicle sticks

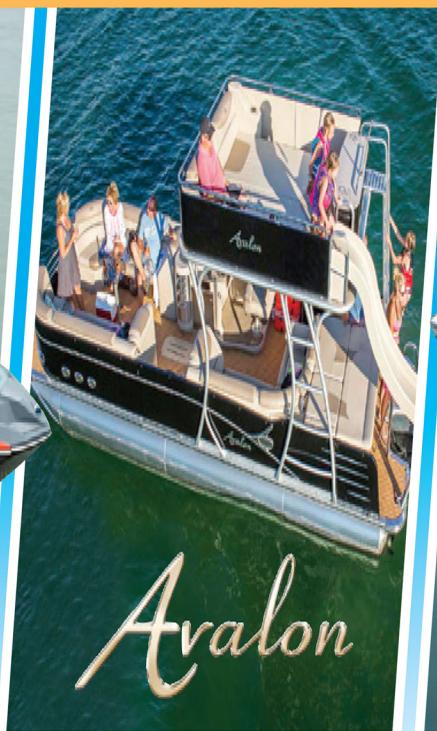
Directions:

1. Place the mixed berries and bananas, yogurt, and sugar into a blender. Cover and blend until fruit is chunky or smooth, as desired.
2. Fill paper cups ¾ full with fruit mixture. Cover the top of each cup with a strip of aluminum foil. Poke a popsicle stick through the center of the foil on each cup.
3. Place the cups in the freezer for at least 5 hours. To serve, remove foil and peel off the paper cup.





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Treasurer's Report

Beginning Balance as of 1/1/15 \$26,462.95

Deposits

January Interest	\$0.70
2015 Membership Dues - 18	\$785.00
2015 Membership Dues - 6	\$295.00
2014 Membership - Paypal 1	\$33.68
February Interest	\$0.68
2015 Membership Dues - 5	\$220.00
March Interes:	\$0.58

Total Deposits \$1,335.64

Expenses

The Michigan Riparian	\$2,484.00
The Cannopeum - Deposit for Picnic rentals	\$100.00
Michigan Lakes and Stream Membership Dues	\$200.00
Michigan Waterfront Alliance	\$100.00

Total Expenses \$2,884.00

Checkbook Balance as of 4/15/15 \$24,914.59

Other Assets:

Certificate of Deposit - Maturity Date 2/12/15	\$5,205.86
Certificate of Deposit - Maturity Date 2/12/15	\$5,205.86
Certificate of Deposit - Maturity Date 10/12/15	\$5,260.08
Total Other Assets	\$15,671.80

Total Funds \$40,586.39





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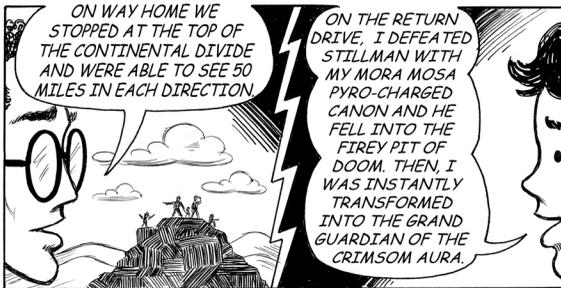
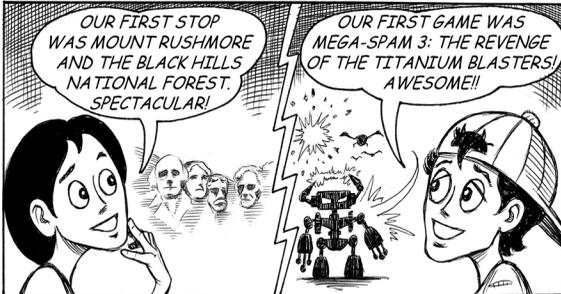
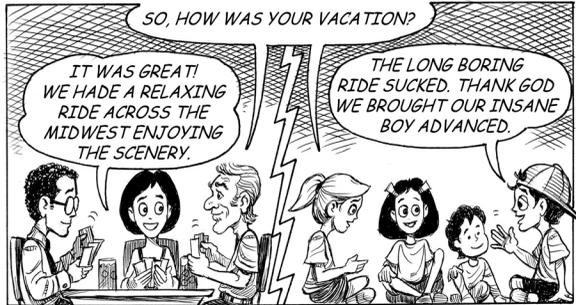


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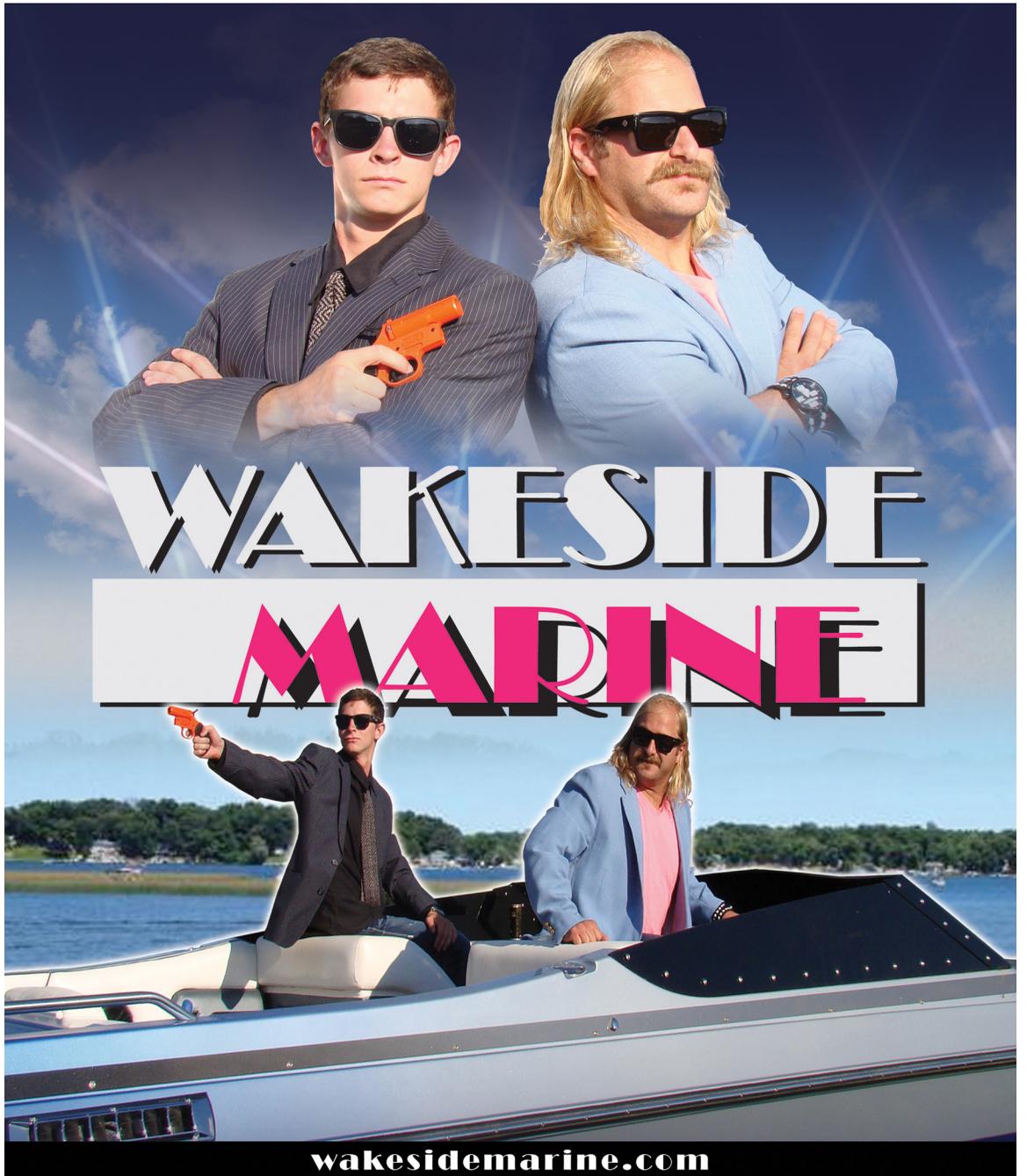
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A reminder to all dues-paying members that classified ads on the website are a free benefit of your membership. This includes advertising your personal business. Links to websites or color advertising can be discussed as well, but may entail a fee.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



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June
 July
 August
 Kids Games
 Picnic
 Gravel Lake
 Boat Parade

beach
 cottage
 family
 friends
 Michigan
 Memorial Day

America
 Fourth of July
 red
 white
 blue
 hamburgers
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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.



Sources

All About Snails

<http://www.snail-world.com/snail-information/>

<http://wonderopolis.org/wonder/how-are-slugs-and-snails-different/>

<http://www.slugoff.co.uk/slug-facts/salt>

http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dnr/snails_326060_7.pdf

A Safe (and Ticket-Free) Summer!

<http://www.boat-ed.com/michigan/handbook/book.html>

<http://www.michigan.gov/dnr>

<http://www.boat-ed.com>.

Recipes

www.allrecipes.com



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.

Gravel Lake Association

Membership Form: January 2015 - December 2015

Fill out and mail to:

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

This document is also available on the website @ www.gravellake.org.

Please print clearly.

Member name(s): _____

Beach: _____ Lake Phone: _____

Gravel Lake Address: _____ Lawton, MI 49065

Home Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____

E-mail address: _____

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

Membership dues for 2015 \$35.00

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Address where your Riparian should be sent.

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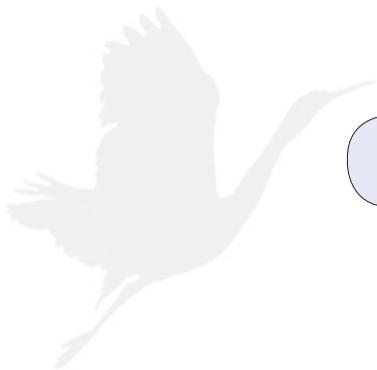
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