

The Gravel Laker

Volume XXVIII Number 2

www.gravellake.org

Spring, 2016



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President's Corner

GL Neighbors,

I'm very pleased to see that spring has arrived in force with temperatures already in the 60s, 70s, and 80s! Hopefully, this is a sign of a hot summer at Gravel Lake!

We have another full calendar for 2016 so please take a look at the details on pages 2 and 3 and plan accordingly. We need help though. As I write this, we are in need of volunteers for our 4th of July Kids' Games, as well as a location for the post-Poker Run party. Details are on the GLA Facebook page. Look there for updates on events, too.

Finally, I'm excited to report that our water quality and fishery survey performed by Progressive AE is virtually complete. Results look very positive for Gravel Lake, but we do have some actions to consider around weed control, fish stocking, and shoreline habitat. The board is reviewing the results and you can expect a formal presentation from Progressive AE at our June membership meeting.

As always, please send your feedback and suggestions to me via email, Facebook, or by phone.

In the meantime, go jump in the lake! :)

Craig DeSimone
cucad4@hotmail.com

Gravel Lake Association 2016 Calendar

BOARD/MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS:

- **Saturday, June 11th at 10:30AM – Membership Meeting**
 - Location – Craig & Melissa DeSimone's yard on Chamberlin Beach (32313 Chamberlin Dr.)
 - Water Quality Survey Presentation with special guests from Progressive AE and Freshwater Physicians
 - Dues collection
 - 50-50 raffle
 - Buy Gravel Lake paraphernalia – shirts, coozies, towels, etc.
- **Saturday, July 23rd at 10AM—Board of Trustees meeting (Porter Township Hall)**
- **Saturday, August 20th 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 24th at 10AM—Board of Trustees meeting (Porter Township Hall)**
- **Saturday, October 15th at 10AM—Board of Trustees meeting (Porter Township Hall)**

FOURTH OF JULY ACTIVITIES: Saturday, 7/2 – Sunday, 7/3

The Fourth of July is right around the corner! We are still seeking volunteers for the Kids' Games. If you're interested, please contact Craig DeSimone ASAP! **Keep an eye on the Gravel Lake Association Facebook page for changes, info, or cancellations.**

- **Fun Run – Saturday, July 2nd 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 (TENTATIVE) – Saturday, July 2nd at 12PM – Willow Beach Resort**
 - Ages 1-12
 - Prizes for all participants
- **Paddle Boat Regatta – Saturday, July 2nd at 6PM**
 - Location - Channel
 - Register at 5:45PM at the Public Access
 - Race begins at the end (non-lake side) of the channel
 - All participants MUST have certified personal flotation devices
 - Divisions
 - 1-person kayak
 - 2-person kayak
 - Youth paddle boat (both racers under 12)
 - Adult paddle boat
 - Paddleboard

Gravel Lake Association 2016 Calendar (continued)

- **Boat Parade – Sunday, July 3rd at 9:30PM**

- Theme: Best Song Ever!
- Registration and judging from the dock of the Gordon home: 94353 Gebhard Dr. (From the lake, it's to the left of the forest between Gebhard and Huff's; look for a sign on the dock that weekend).
- Register at 9:00PM
- Parade begins at 9:30PM
- Prizes

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Keep an eye on the **Gravel Lake Association Facebook page** for changes, info, or cancellations.

- **Gravel Lake Picnic—Saturday, June 11th (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 4th.
- Hang out with old friends and meet some new ones!
- Paid 2015 or 2016 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"!

- ***NEW* Gravel Lake Classic Car Show—Saturday, August 6th**

- Show runs from 10:00AM-12:00PM, registration at 9:30AM
- Show philosophy: Drive it in, tow it in, push it in – just get it here! We want classic cars in any condition – project cars, too. Remember – no classic car is ever really finished. Everyone and every car is welcome!
- Idle Ease Drive A
- \$5 entry fee
- Participants may enter more than one car.
- Awards for various categories

- **3rd Annual Gravel Lake Poker Run– Saturday, August 6th (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 Suzanne Reed at redrazor25@yahoo.com if you are interested in hosting a dock or being a volunteer or sponsor.



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INTRODUCING THE GRAVEL LAKE

CAR SHOW

**AUGUST 6TH!
SAME DAY AS
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What: This is a classic car and truck show – the inaugural Gravel Lake show. Modern sports cars and exotics also welcome.

Eligibility: Open to all Gravel Lake residents and family members. There is no limit to the number of cars that a participant can enter.

Timing: 10:00am to noon, registration begins at 9:30am, voting ends at 11:45. Winners announced and trophies awarded at noon.

Fees & Prizes: \$5 entry fee; Trophies provided for category winners.

Categories & Voting: Details to be communicated through flyers, the GLA Facebook page, and the website.

Where: Idle Ease Drive A.

Parking For Visitors: Limited car and boat parking, so carpool and “boatpool”!

Registration: Each car entered will have a sheet filled out by the owner and placed on the car’s windshield. This sheet will identify the car make, model, and year, as well as the owner’s name, their address, their beach, how long they have owned the car, and any interesting facts about the car.

Show philosophy: Drive it in, tow it in, push it in – just get it here! We want classic cars in any condition – project cars, too. Remember – no classic car is ever really finished.

Questions or concerns: Mark Hunter - Idle Ease Drive A - Cell 269-598-4911 - jousterman9@hotmail.com

Calendar of Events

| Date(s) | Time | Event |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|---|
| Saturday, 6/25 | 10:00AM-4:00PM | Carnegie Garden Club Garden Walk and Craft Fair, Paw Paw |
| Saturday, 7/2 | 9:00 AM | Fun Run @ Willow Beach Grocery, registration at 8:30AM |
| Saturday, 7/2 | 12:00 PM | Kids' Games @ Willow Beach Resort (TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED pending volunteers) |
| Saturday, 7/2 | 6:00 PM | Paddle Boat Regatta, registration at 5:45 |
| Sunday, 7/3 | 9:30 PM | Boat Parade, Theme: Best Song Ever!, registration at 9:00PM |
| Sunday, 7/3 | 6:30PM | Sunday Summer Concerts on the Lake, Lakefront Ampitheater, Paw Paw (repeats thru August 28) |
| Monday, 7/4 | | Fourth of July |
| Thursday, 7/21-Sunday, 7/24 | | Summer in the City with Sidwalk Sales, Dowagiac, opens Thursday evening |
| Friday, 7/15-Sunday, 7/17 | | Uncork the Arts, Paw Paw |
| Friday, 7/22-Saturday, 7/23 | | Paw Paw Days Classic Car & Truck Show |
| Saturday, 7/23 | 10:00 AM | Board of Trustees meeting |
| Tuesday, 8/2-Monday, 8/8 | | Cass County Fair, Cassopolis |
| Thursday, 8/4-Thursday, 8/11 | | Blueberry Festival, South Haven, MI |
| Saturday, 8/6 | 10:00AM-12:00PM | Gravel Lake Classic Car Show, registration at 9:30AM |
| Saturday, 8/6 | TBD | Gravel Lake 3rd Annual Poker Run |
| Thursday, 8/11-Saturday, 8/13 | | Bluegill Frolic Festival, Marcellus |
| Saturday, 8/20 | 7:30 AM | Rod & Roll Classic Auto Show, Dowagiac |
| Saturday, 8/20 | 10:00 AM | Membership Meeting (Trustee elections) |
| Friday, 9/9-Sunday, 9/11 | | Paw Paw Wine Festival |
| Monday, 9/5 | | Labor Day (Summer is over. Drain the lake). |
| Saturday, 9/24 | 10:00 AM | Board of Trustees meeting |
| Saturday, 10/15 | 10:00 AM | Board of Trustees meeting |

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NEW



NEW



NEW

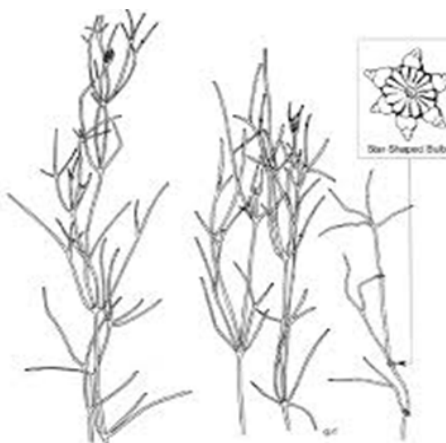
Starry Stonewort



A new invasive species of lake vegetation has been spotted at Gravel Lake. It is called starry stonewort and it poses a threat to the lake ecosystem. Although it looks like a rooted plant, it is technically an algae. As with other invasive species in the past, starry stonewort can quickly choke out native plants, creating a dense mat that does not leave room for much else. Unfortunately, this greatly affects the fish population as well, as it takes over their habitat.

It has spread across lakes in the Midwest states of Minnesota, Wisconsin, and northern Indiana. First discovered in Michigan in an inland lake in Flint in 2006, the invasive algae is spreading rapidly, according to Michigan Lakes and Streams Associations, Inc. It is most likely being spread via boats that drop in from infected lakes, much like other invasive species that have made a home for themselves at Gravel Lake (Eurasian water-milfoil and the zebra mussels, for example).

A single strand of starry stonewort looks rather innocuous. It has a long, thin stem that can reach up to six feet. It can appear rather spidery, with whorls of four to six long branchlets. However, it quickly overtakes a geographical area and as it mats, it can begin to appear similar to an “underwater golf course”. Native to Asia and Europe, starry stonewort can survive in depths up to 30 feet. It prefers slow-moving water. Its namesake characteristic is the tiny (3-5mm) star-shaped bulbils that appear by the dozen on the colorless anchors (or roots) of the plant. The bulbils are typically white in color, but they can be a variation of orange or brown as well.



Unfortunately, the two main eradication techniques have major drawbacks. Mechanical harvesting can actually spread the infestation, while a chemical approach can negatively affect other aquatic life.

Hopefully this species will not proliferate like the Eurasian watermilfoil did in 2003. Keep an eye out and report any “mats” of weeds to Craig DeSimone (cucad4@hotmail.com).

To help lessen the spread of this invasive species, you should always do the following before dropping your watercraft into a lake:

1. Clean aquatic plants and animals from watercraft.
2. Drain all water by removing drain plugs and keep drain plugs out while transporting watercraft.
3. Dispose of unwanted bait in the trash.

The Gravel Lake Association is working with Progressive AE and Professional Lake Management to determine a solution for this invader.

Wake Surfing



Huge wakes, surfboards, rope or no rope! Wake surfing is a sport many of us on Gravel Lake have come enjoy in recent years. It is one of the newest water sports around, gaining in popularity every year. If you have never heard of—or seen—wake surfing, I highly recommend giving it a try! With slow speeds between 7-10 mph, it is one of the most low-impact and low-injury water sports out there.

How do I wake surf?

Surfing involves a large wake, thus it is necessary that your boat has a full ballast of water bags to weigh the boat down, ensuring a wave large enough to surf on. You want to ballast your boat on the side you intend to surf. Some people prefer to have their toes towards the wave ("toe side") but some people may be more comfortable with heels towards the wake ("heel side"). It is good to practice both sides to help you become a more flexible, skilled surfer.

(Continued on next page)

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Wake Surfing (continued)

Generally speaking, wake surfers are a lot closer to the boat than other water sport participants. The rope is much shorter and the handle is smaller. When you start off in the water it is easiest to lie back in the water and rest your heels on the board while the driver takes the slack out of the rope. When you feel the pull of the boat you want to push down so your feet are flat against the board, and then slowly stand up. When you become more advanced you can start to "sink" the board, by submerging it under your feet prior when the boat starts to pull you forward.

The boat driver's job is to keep a pace that allows for a nice curled wave that pushes the surfer along. Once you are standing up, you are wake surfing! This is where the fun begins. Put more weight on your front foot to go faster, or lean more on your rear foot to slow yourself down. The key to surfing is to find the "sweet spot" in the wake. This is the part of the wake that pushes you along and allows the rope to take up some slack. Once you are here, you have caught the wave. A surfer may not find the sweet spot on his or her first try, so don't get discouraged. Just enjoy the ride! When you are up and feeling comfortable and the wave is pushing you along with plenty of slack in the rope, you can toss the rope to your boat mates and freely ride the wake as it pushes you along in the water.

Like most water sports, you will get a great work out while surfing. Enjoy and be safe!

A few other important notes about wake surfing:

- Only surf behind an inboard boat, for safety reasons.
- Always wear a PFD while doing any activity behind a boat—it's the law!
- Be aware of your boat exhaust. There is the potential of carbon monoxide poisoning when being so close to the boat exhaust.
- And finally, be considerate of your fellow lakers. Surf boats should stick to the middle of the lake so as not to disrupt fishermen, or other watersport enthusiasts that usually travel through the outer boat lane. Also, the large wakes that the surf boats cast off can be damaging to the shoreline. If you stay in the middle, those waves have a better chance of being interfered with before the reach the shore.



Tricia Barker
Contributing writer



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

Farewell to Our Gravel Lake Friends



Frank J. Enright

Frank J. Enright has been on Gravel Lake since 1972. He raised four children on this lake and his passion for the preservation of the lake was unfounded. For over 22 years, he served as a member of the lake association and was instrumental in spearheading the sewer project. His gift to gab was appreciated by all who new him. He truly loved his second home on Gravel Lake. Now his grandchildren are enjoying the legacy he left. Soon enough, his grandson Brandon will introduce another Enright to the lake and Frank's great grandchild will also enjoy this place we call home.



Jean Cunat

Longtime resident and lover of Gravel Lake, Jean Cunat, passed away at her home on April 25th, 2016 at the age of 87. She had been coming to the lake for 80 years and it was the only place she wanted to be. When Jean was a little girl, there was no electricity at the lake. No boats with motors, either! There weren't many houses on the lake at that time, so she has literally seen the lake turn into what it is today. Although her permanent residence was Chicago Heights, IL until later in her life, her heart was always with Gravel Lake. She will be dearly missed.

Chicken and Summer Vegetable Tostadas

Ingredients

2 t canola oil
1 t ground cumin
¼ t kosher salt
¼ t black pepper
12 oz. chicken breast tenders
1 cup red onion, chopped
1 cup fresh corn kernels
1 cup chopped zucchini
½ cup salsa verde
3 T chopped fresh cilantro
4 (8-inch) flour tortillas
¾ cup Monterey Jack cheese, shredded

Directions

1. Preheat broiler.
2. Combine cumin, salt, and pepper. Heat oil in a large nonstick skillet over medium-high heat. Sprinkle the spice mixture evenly over the chicken. Add chicken to pan; sauté for 3 minutes. Add onion, corn, and zucchini to pan. Sauté for 2 minutes or until chicken is done. Stir in salsa and 2 T cilantro. Cook 2 minutes or until liquid almost evaporates, stirring frequently.
3. Arrange tortillas in a single layer on a baking sheet. Lightly coat tortillas with cooking spray. Broil 3 minutes or until lightly browned. Spoon about ¾ cup chicken mixture in the center of each tortilla. Sprinkle each serving with cheese and place under broiler 2 more minutes (or until cheese melts). Finally, sprinkle with remaining cilantro. Serve immediately.



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Tomatillo Salsa Verde

Ingredients

1 pound tomatillos, husked and rinsed
½ cup onion, finely chopped
1 t garlic, minced
juice of one lime
1 serrano chili pepper, minced and deseeded
2 T chopped cilantro
1 T chopped fresh oregano
½ t ground cumin
1 ½ t salt, or to taste
1 cup of water



Directions

1. Place tomatillos, onion, garlic, lime juice, and chili pepper into a saucepan. Season with cilantro, oregano, cumin, and salt. Pour in water. Bring to a boil over high heat, then reduce the heat to medium-low, and simmer until the tomatillos are soft, 10-15 minutes.
2. Let the mixture cool. Using a blender, carefully puree the mixture in batches until smooth.
3. Chill, then enjoy with your favorite tortilla chips!



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Account Executive

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therockatbigfishlake.com

Treasurer's Report

Beginning Balance as of 1/1/16 \$21,075.17

Deposits

| | |
|-------------------|-----------|
| January Interest | \$0.57 |
| Magnet Sales | \$15.00 |
| February Interest | \$0.35 |
| March Interest | \$0.14 |
| Advertising | \$125.00 |
| Membership Dues | \$1080.00 |
| Membership Dues | \$70.00 |

Total Deposits **\$1,291.06**

Expenses

| | |
|------------------------------|------------|
| The Michigan Riparian | \$2,292.00 |
| Progressive AE - Lake Survey | \$3,900.00 |
| Progressive AE - Lake Survey | \$1,950.00 |
| Greg Garrett - CLMP Testing | \$90.00 |
| Cripps Excavating | \$1,160.00 |
| PrintMill | \$589.14 |
| Michigan Waterfront Alliance | \$100.00 |
| Michigan Lake & Stream | \$200.00 |
| Progressive AE - Lake Survey | \$1,950.00 |

Total Expenses **\$12,231.14**

| | |
|---------------------------------|-------------|
| Checkbook Balance as of 4/05/16 | \$10,135.09 |
|---------------------------------|-------------|

Other Assets:

Certificate of Deposit - Maturity Date 10/10/17 \$6,000.00
Certificate of Deposit - Maturity Date 10/10/17 \$6,000.00

| | |
|---------------------------|--------------------|
| Total Other Assets | \$12,000.00 |
|---------------------------|--------------------|

| | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| Total Funds | \$22,135.09 |
|--------------------|--------------------|

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.





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.

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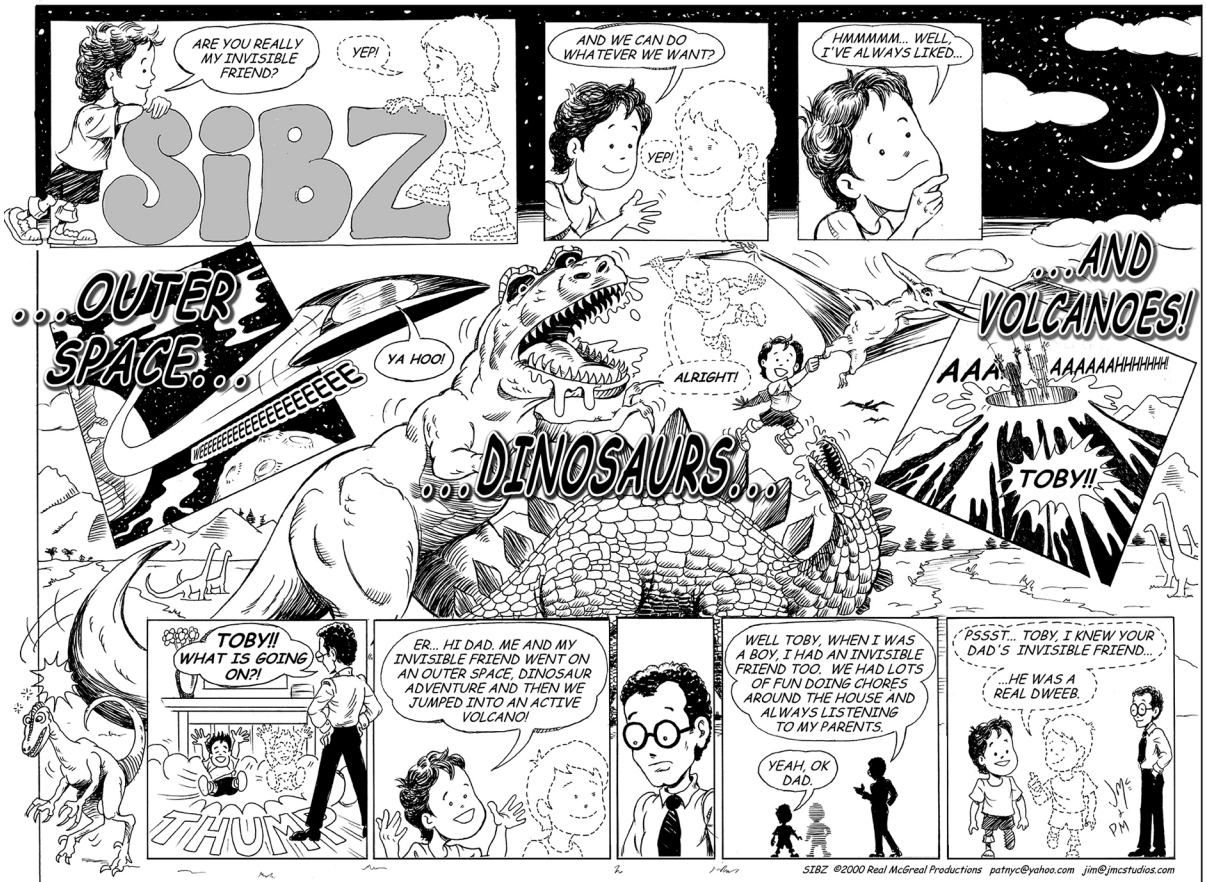
Marc Mascarello, Contributing writer

Tricia Barker, Contributing writer



Join the GLA Facebook Group!

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



Sources

Starry Stonewort

<http://www.csmonitor.com/Environment/2015/0831/Starry-stonewort-and-other-aliens-invading-US-lakes>
<http://www.jsonline.com/news/invasive-algae-found-for-the-first-time-in-a-wisconsin-lake-b99397718z1-283977751.html>
http://www.potterslake.org/StarryStonewort_michigan.pdf
<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/invasives/fact/starrystonewort.html>
http://infocwd.org/index.asp?SEC=C39CBC78-448C-488B-A67E-7FB8E383FFD8&DE=F99C1F24-AC80-40C2-B5F9-8E31D4F12D08&Type=B_PR

Wake surfing

slayshtank.com
 howtowakesurf.com
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Recipes:

Allrecipes.com
 Cookinglight.com

Gravel Lake Association

Membership Form: January 2016 - December 2016

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 2016 \$35.00

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Yes No (circle one)

Address where your Riparian should be sent.

Home Lake (circle one)

Fish Stocking Donation \$10.00 \$15.00 \$25.00 or Other _____

Total Enclosed _____

Board of Trustees Contact List

OFFICERS

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| President | Craig DeSimone - cucad4@hotmail.com |
| Vice President | Suzanne Reed |
| Secretary | Melissa DeSimone |
| Treasurer | Janice Pinkos - fampinkos@aol.com |

OTHER CONTRIBUTORS

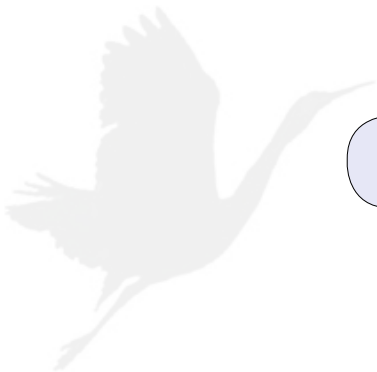
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| Newsletter Advertising / Printing | Chip vanSchoyck |
| Fundraising Committee | Carlie Stogis- (chair) |
| Internet Operations | Jim McGreal - jim@jmcstudios.com |
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| Idle Ease Beach | Janice Pinkos Tom Zwartz |
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Gravel Lake Association

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