

The Gravel Laker

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Spring, 2018



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President's Corner



Welcome back!

As I write this, Missy, Norman, and I are recently returned from the Michigan Lake & Stream Associations annual conference in Thompsonville, Michigan. We spent two days attending seminars on lake stewardship topics like lake ecology, legal/governmental affairs, invasive species control, natural shorelines, and aquatic species identification. The MLSA (now known as the

Michigan Lake Stewardship Associations) provides us with valuable information via the Michigan Riparian, various conferences, and a network of other lake associations that are facing many of the same challenges we do.

(Continued on page 2)

President's Corner (continued from page 1)

While there are more than a few very advanced associations, I can say with confidence that we should be very proud of our accomplishments, various means of communication, and our especially tight-woven, active community!

What's in store for 2018? We will continue to pursue the possibility of a more pedestrian-friendly Shaw Road. We will invite Clean Boats Clean Waters back to the Public Access to remove aquatic invasive species (AIS) from watercraft and educate our guests at the same time. I remind you to keep us aware of AIS when you see them (e.g. Eurasian watermilfoil, phragmites, snakehead, etc.); the best thing to do is send pictures. With the Fourth of July on a Wednesday, we'll be celebrating the weekend before (6/30-7/1). As a result, our schedule is tight and we've done our best to manage the events. (See schedule on pages 3-4).

Finally, I'd like to introduce our new trustees: Jennifer Micheli (Sandy), Phil Rinaldi (Gebhard), and Kristy & Linda Vitkauskas (Streeter). We're very happy to have you!

Craig DeSimone
cucad4@hotmail.com



Gravel Lake Association 2018 Calendar

BOARD/MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS:

Saturday, June 16th at 10:30am – Membership Meeting

- 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 21st at 10am—Board of Trustees meeting (Porter Township Hall)

Saturday, August 18th at 10am – Membership Meeting

- Location – Rinaldi's garage on Gebhard Beach (94321 Gebhard Drive)
- Dues collection
- 50-50 raffle
- Buy Gravel Lake paraphernalia

Saturday, September 22nd at 10am—Board of Trustees meeting (Porter Township Hall)

Saturday, October 20th at 10am—Board of Trustees meeting (Porter Township Hall)

FOURTH OF JULY ACTIVITIES: Saturday, 6/30 – Sunday, 7/1

The Fourth of July is right around the corner! If you're interested in volunteering for an event, please contact Craig DeSimone. Keep an eye on the Gravel Lake Association Facebook page for changes, info, or cancellations.

Kids Games – Saturday, June 30th at 11am – Willow Beach Resort

- Ages 0-12
- Prizes for all participants

Paddle Boat Regatta – Saturday, June 30th at 6pm

- Location - Channel
- Register at 5:45PM at the first turn of the channel
- Race begins at the first turn 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 2018 Calendar (continued from page 3)

Fun Run – Sunday, July 1st at 9:00am – Willow Beach Resort

- Registration begins at 8:30am
- 2-mile race
- FREE for all participants
- All ages welcome
- Prizes and refreshments

Boat Parade – Sunday, July 1st at 2:00pm – Fazzini's dock

- Theme: Fourth of July!
- Registration and judging from the dock of the Fazzini home: 94295 Gebhard Dr. (From the lake, it's to the left of the forest between Gebhard and Huffs; look for a sign on the end of the dock that weekend).
- Register at 1:30pm
- Parade begins at 2:00pm
- Vote for the winner by texting the boat number to (708) 692-8999
- Prizes

OTHER ACTIVITIES

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

Gravel Lake Picnic—Saturday, June 16th (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 3rd.
- Hang out with old friends and meet some new ones!
- Paid 2016-2017 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"!

5th Annual Gravel Lake Poker Run– Saturday, August 4th (tentative, based on volunteers)

- 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 Craig DeSimone at cucad4@hotmail.com if you are interested in hosting a dock or being a volunteer or sponsor.



Reminder on Boater Safety

Michigan Boating Education Requirements:

- All operators born before July 1, 1996, may operate a vessel legally without any restrictions.
- All operators under the age of 12 years:
- May operate a vessel powered by a motor of more than 6 horsepower without any restrictions and...
- May operate a vessel powered by a motor of more than 6 horsepower, but less than 35 horsepower only if they have a valid boating safety certificate and are under the direct supervision of a person 16 years of age or older.
- All operators born on or before December 31, 1978 may operate a personal water craft legally without any restrictions.
- Anyone under the age of 14 years old may not legally operate a personal watercraft.

Upcoming Boater Safety courses:

Saturday, June 16, 2018
Sister Lakes Fire Station
92282 CR 690
Dowagiac, Michigan 49047
8:00am - 2:00pm

Saturday, June 23, 2018
Porter Township Hall
88040 M-40,
Lawton, Michigan 49065
8:00am - 2:00pm

On-line class - \$29.50
www.boat-ed.com/Michigan

Earth Day at Gravel Lake

Shoutout to Jen Micheli for organizing Gravel Lake Cleanup Day to celebrate Earth Day! On April 22nd Jen and a bunch of awesome volunteers walked the lake and picked up any trash they found. Thanks to Jen and all of the volunteers who came out to help clean up our lake.



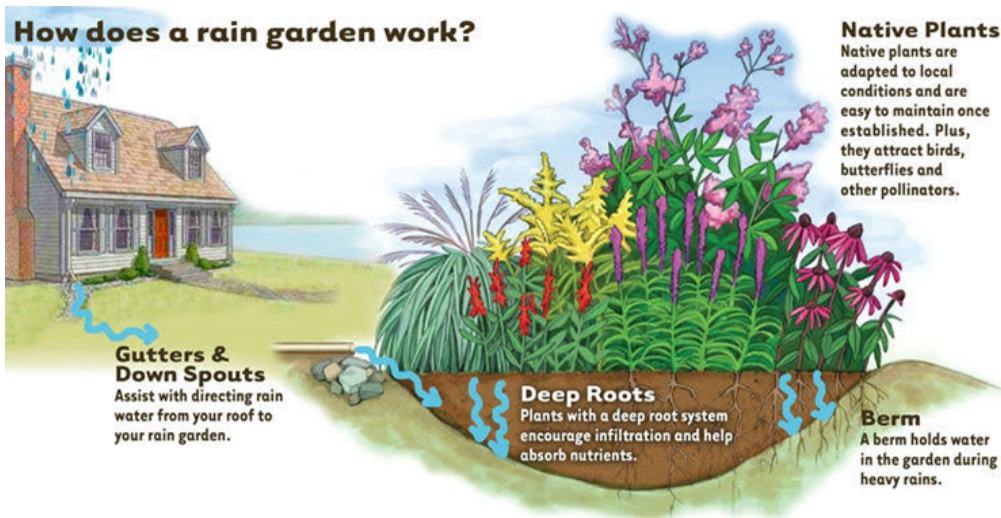
Rain Gardens



Does your landscaping need an update? Thinking about less turf grass and more gardens? Maybe you live on Chamberlin Beach and experience quite a bit of flooding. Rain gardens might be a useful addition to your property. The general purpose of a rain garden is to eliminate depressed, soggy, and flood-prone spots in your yard. Targeting areas that receive large amounts of runoff and replacing the turf with native plants and flowers helps the ground absorb the rain water as quickly as possible. Native plants have adapted over time to thrive on their own so they need little maintenance and they have very deep root structures that pull the rain water down into the ground very efficiently.

If you are interested in rain gardens for your landscaping there are many resources and even a class that can help you make decisions for your property that are practical as well as beautiful. A little bit of planning can make a big impact on your yard and the lake.

Melissa DeSimone
Contributing writer



Source: watershedcouncil.org

Get To Know A Gravel Laker

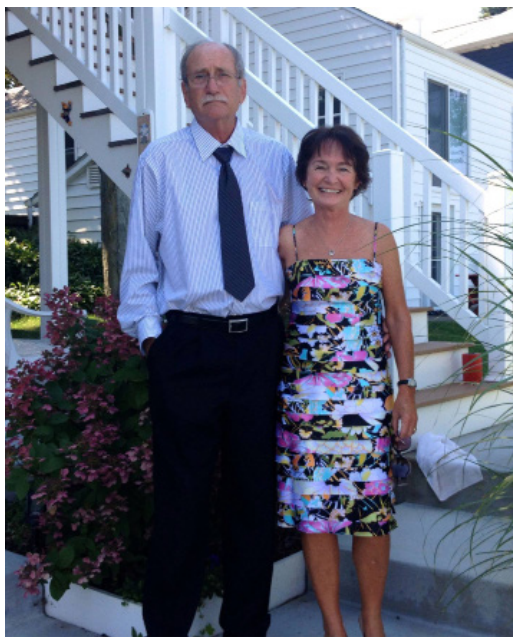
Get To Know...The Dyreks of Gebhard Beach!

Writing this article has been such a great joy for me. I get to hear new stories from people I haven't met yet, recall ones from those who are near and dear to me, but this one is about learning more about friends I've known a long time. I often joke that I have known so many lakers for so long, but I couldn't tell you what their day job is. I suppose that's what happens when you make connections where you go to relax and escape work life.

For this issue I highlight Nancy and Vince Dyrek of Gebhard Beach. These long-time lakers bring their energy and enthusiasm to all things Gravel Lake. I threw a lot of questions at Nancy and just like her energetic self she responded swiftly and eloquently.

Both hailing from Chicago, Vince and Nancy met and fell in love in 1965. A short time later they married in 1967. They raised their two children, Mark and Kristin, in the south suburbs and worked in commercial construction for 16 years. The Dyreks now split their time between Siesta Key, Florida and their home on Gravel Lake.

(Continued on page 7)



Get To Know A Gravel Laker (continued from page 7)

The Dyreks first came to Gravel Lake as guests to Pat Malinauskas in 1981. They would visit with friends on holiday weekends until the opportunity to purchase their place from the family of Lorm Miles presented itself. Nancy explained, "I think the funniest thing is how we got our cottage on GL. Back in 1996, cottages were gobbled up before a sale sign even appeared. Upon returning from our vacation in Florida in 1996, Pat left a message on our answering machine that said, 'They are selling the house. You need to get here tomorrow.' And we did!" And it's been smooth boating ever since.

Inspired by Coastal Living, a remodel began in 2011 and finished in 2012. The old wood burning stove still remains in the home and Nancy loves her wall of photos with over thirty years of memories, including an aerial shot taken by my late grandfather Heinz Gutmann, from his birthday plane ride with Chris Oxley.

The Dyreks continue to enjoy the lake, even more so now that Nancy's sister Teec Fazzini and her husband Mark have become full-time residents just down the beach. You can find them cruising around the lake on their pontoon with friends, at camp fires with their seven grandchildren, and on the occasional walk around the lake. "We have had so many great memories, it's hard not to become verbose," Nancy adds.

Emily Garrett
Contributing writer

If you or someone you know would make a great nominee for *Get to Know A Gravel Laker*, please contact Emily Garrett at egggarrett87@yahoo.com or on Facebook.



Interview With A Loon

Tricia: Well hello there, Bob. Thanks for sitting down with me for this interview. We at Gravel Lake like to get to know our neighbors! I hear you are fairly new to the lake, so tell me a little bit about yourself!

Bob the Loon: Well let's see, my name is Bob, and I'm about 6 years old. I'm a loon which you might know as a water bird. I have black and white checkered feathers, a black head, and red eyes. And if I might say so myself, I have this beautiful white "necklace" around my neck which is quite striking next to my iridescent black head. We loons can grow up to 36 inches in length and weight up to 13lbs.

Tricia: I have to ask you right off the bat here about that beautiful song I heard you singing earlier.

Bob the Loon: Ah, yes. That was one of my four calls. I believe what you heard earlier was my wail call which we use when communicating with other loons or when I'm calling for my beautiful mate. I have three other calls as well. The yodel, which only we male loons deliver, is a longer song consisting of repetitious rising notes that I use to stand my ground when feeling threatened by another loon encroaching on my territory. The hoot is a short one-note call that my family uses to locate one another, so we know everyone is okay and accounted for. I've been told that the last call, the tremolo, sounds a bit like crazy laughter. I use this one at nighttime to defend my territory and ward off enemies or those pesky loons that encroach on my territory.

Tricia: Fascinating Bob, just fascinating. You mentioned your beautiful mate, tell me a little about your social life.

Bob the Loon: Well, we loons generally mate for life, but as you know life isn't always ideal so there are times when we might find another mate. My lady will lay 2 eggs in late spring in our nest which we always have close to the water, or sometimes even on top of a muskrat house or beaver den. After about a month of watching closely over our eggs, our little ones will hatch and get right to work being a loon. My partner and I will help our chicks get food such as small minnows, crayfish, or insects during the first few months of life. By the time they are about 3 months old they should be fully self-sufficient and able to fly. Flying for us loons is sometimes a little tricky, though!

Tricia: Oh? Why is that Bob?

Bob the Loon: Well, we loons have heavier bones than most flight birds. That's why I look a little funny walking on land and tend to spend most of my time in the water. Flying is doable, but first I have to run on the surface of the water, in the same direction as the wind to get lift off. On a calm day I may be running a few hundred meters before I get lift off!

(Continued on page 10)



Interview With A Loon (Continued from page 9)

Tricia: Well that's good exercise for you Bob, a real calorie burner!

Bob the Loon: Hey now, my mom always told me I'm not fat, I'm just big boned!

Tricia: Nothing wrong with that Bob. Can you describe to me a typical day in your life?

Bob the Loon: Oh sure, though it's not very exciting. I tend to spend some time preening or cleaning myself. Sometimes I swim with my head down to check out the meal options down below. When I see something really good I dive down deep for it. To do this I release air from between my feathers to allow me to go deeper with more ease. I like small fish like perch or blue gill but occasionally I'll snack on some greens as well. I gotta tell ya, I do a lot of resting which is fine by me! I really enjoy just floating on the surface of the water and enjoying the beautiful view at Gravel Lake!

Tricia: Well Bob, your day sounds pretty darn good to me. I'd say you're winning at this game of life!

Bob the Loon: I'll tell you who the real winner is, it's Gravel Lake! Keeps me coming back, you guys must put something in the water!

Tricia Barker
Contributing writer

Kerry Moore
Creative Writing Contributor



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Summer at Gravel Lake Word Search

h z l e b p m b f h h g t u b i n g g b
 r s u e i a l z a h n o g n a m p y n o
 d l i c w u s m p i d a p y l l i l i a
 b v n f e i b s d k r o w e r i f u d t
 y i c g n u s r m i c h i g a n i j n p
 c l i h r u a m e m o r i a l d a y a a
 i l u g a o s h i n h o t d o g s e l r
 l d e j b n n a g n i h s i f l a g s a
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 l r q p r w n l k e i y l i m a f c u e
 a f s t d d e v m e z f k k w h i t e r
 w g a p y r y a s u r f i n g n i i k s

America
 flag
 Fourth of July
 hamburgers
 hotdogs
 Boat Parade
 Kids Games
 fireworks
 Picnic
 sparklers

June
 July
 August

 red
 white
 blue

 bass
 walleye
 bluegill
 sunfish

beach
 cottage
 family
 fishing
 friends
 lillypad
 turtle
 Mango
 Memorial Day
 Michigan

Gravel Lake
 Chamberlin
 Channel
 Dugans
 Landing
 Huffs Landing
 Idle Ease
 Gebhard
 Lewis
 Sandy
 Streeter
 Willow
 Winkler

skiing
 surfing
 tubing
 wakeboarding

Treasurer's Report

Beginning Balance(1/1/18)	\$19,754.85	Craig DeSimone - Reimbursement for Survey Monkey	TBD
<u>Deposits</u>		Total Expenses	\$3,227.74
Membership Dues - 9	\$370.00	Checkbook Balance(4/12/17)	\$17,267.11
Total Deposits	\$370.00	<u>Other Assets</u>	
<u>Expenses</u>		Certificate of Deposit	\$6,000.00
Print Mill	\$833.74	- Maturity Date 10/10/17	
The Cannopeum - Deposit for Picnic	\$100.00	Certificate of Deposit	\$6,000.00
JMC Studios - Website Hosting	\$60.00	- Maturity Date 10/10/17	
JMC Studios - SSL(3 years)	\$150.00	<u>Total Other Assets</u>	\$12,000.00
Greg Garrett - CLMP Testing	\$90.00	Total Funds	\$29,267.11
The Michigan Riparian	\$1,644.00		
Michigan Lakes & Streams Membership	\$250.00		
Michigan Waterfront Alliance	\$100.00		

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-Mike Micheli
Gravel Lake Resident



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Gravel Lake Association

Membership Form: January 2018 - December 2018

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 2018 \$35.00

I would like to receive 4 free issues of the Riparian magazine for 2019.

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 _____

Newsletter Staff

Jamie Paramski, Editor
jparamski@gmail.com

Jim McGreal, Design
jim@jmcstudios.com

Spencer McGreal, Production/Graphics
spencer@jmcstudios.com

Chip Van Schoyck, Ads and Printer

Melissa DeSimone, Contributing writer

Tricia Barker, Contributing writer

Emily Garrett, Contributing writer

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Gravel Lake Association

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