

The Gravel Laker

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gravellake.org

Spring/Summer, 2022



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President's Corner

The Gravel Lake Association agenda for 2022 is both extensive and diverse. If you've ever wondered what the GLA does, I'm hoping this review provides some context. Do you have a passion for any of these topics or feel something is missing? I encourage you to engage your trustee and provide some feedback.

Lake Stewardship:

- **Water quality**– We continue to participate in the Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program (CLMP) via the Michigan Lakes & Streams Association (MLSA) as well as additional water quality sampling through Professional Lake Management (PLM). We monitor things like water clarity and phosphorus (essentially, nutrients for plants) and aspire to collecting chlorophyll and oxygen.
- **Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) control**– We can now add mute swans to the list of AIS that we are actively monitoring and trying to control. (Already included on the AIS list are Eurasian watermilfoil and starry stonewort.)
- **Boat wash**– Given the importance of AIS control, we have an established committee researching our options for a boat wash at the public access to help reduce the spread of AIS.
- **Water quality consultant**– Algae concerns in the channel have spurred interest in pursuing a water quality consultant to advise us on lake management best practices for both the channel and main lake body.
- **Natural shoreline education**– We are creating further education that is GL-specific and provides options for a variety of scenarios around the lake. Regardless of your shoreline status, there's an option for you to help improve water quality.
- **Buoys and signage**– There's a lot of work involved in maintaining weed bed and channel buoys, but the effort is worthwhile to protect channel shoreline and weed bed habitat.
- **Public Access signage**– We've engaged the DNR on adding a welcome sign to the public access that will cover boater safety topics and more.
- **Fish stocking**– Given the popularity of this additional donation line item, we continue to stock wall-eye and yellow perch based on DNR requirements. We'd like to take you a step further and educate the lake community on some of the pros and cons considered within the decision-making process.



(Continued on page 4)

President's Corner (continued from previous page)

Organizational Effectiveness:

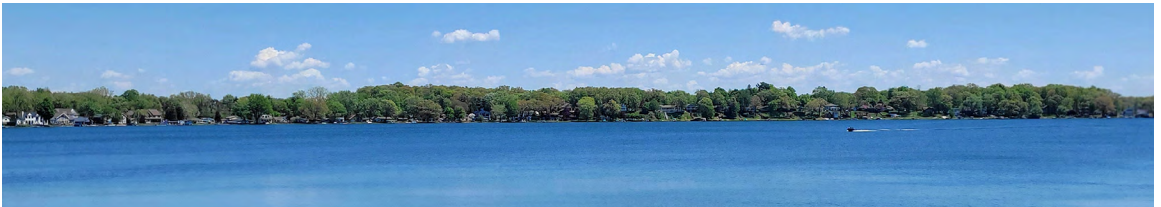
- **By-laws**– A committee will modernize our by-laws as well as incorporate some recent amendments (e.g. dues increase).
- **Trustee elections**– We will conduct the Chamberlin Beach trustee election at our June membership meeting. We're pleased that multiple candidates are interested!
- **GLA meeting capabilities: in-person + virtual**– Based on your feedback, we are researching ways to host in-person meetings with the option to join virtually as well. Sound, video, and WiFi quality will be considering factors.

Social & Community:

- **Welcome baskets**– We love welcoming new residents to GL, but we need your help! Let us know when a new neighbor moves in so we can get them a welcome basket.
- **Fundraising**– This tireless committee is always looking for fun, new GL paraphernalia. Sale dates and locations are listed on page 8.
- **Picnic**– It's back! Our June membership meeting will be followed by our annual picnic. Hope to see you there!
- **4th of July**– We're always looking for ways to improve while being mindful of safety and water quality. See the schedule on page 8 for this year's events.
- **Garage Sale & Market Day**– Our garage sale continues to be popular and this year we will reintroduce market day, where you can find handmade items of all shapes and sizes. For more information, see page 9.
- **Poker Run**– Our dock hosts and sponsors are critical to keep this popular event going. Please volunteer and we'll keep organizing. Note the change of date to Saturday, August 13th. See page 10 for more info.
- **Halloween**– It's too early for details, but this "best newcomer" event is shaping up to be as much fun, if not more, in 2022.
- **Shaw Road safety**– We're still after this despite the challenges. We are currently pursuing a traffic study and will invite a road engineering expert to give us additional advice.
- **Spillway bridge**– The spillway bridge has been replaced and it looks great. Thank you to those who have supported the project via donation of money and/or time. For more info, see page 6.

Craig DeSimone

GLA President





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Bridge Update

As you may know, the bridge over the spillway was damaged in a storm last fall. The entire bridge was replaced to make sure it was safe. It got quite the upgrade! If you'd like to contribute to the bridge project, you can indicate that on your dues invoice, or on the membership form on page 23.

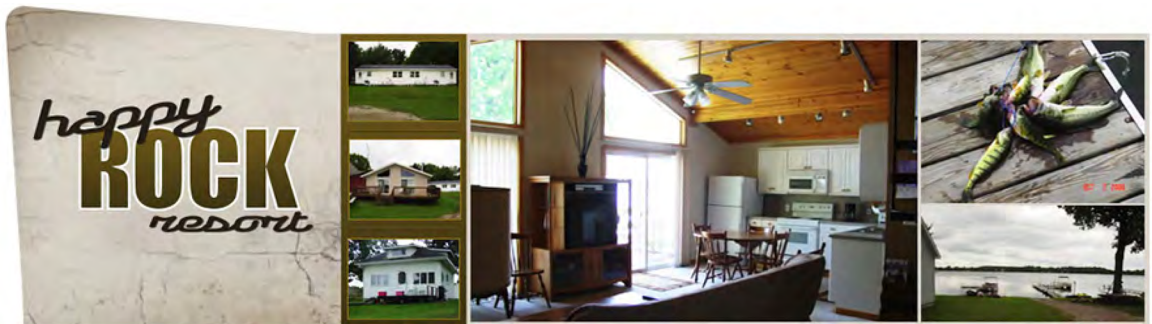
Many thanks to the Zwartz family of Idle Ease beach and the Patterson family of Winkler beach for the repaired bridge and beautiful landscaping.



Damaged spillway bridge, Fall 2021



New and improved spillway bridge, Spring 2022



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2022 Calendar Of Events

Date

Saturday, May 28
Monday, May 30
Saturday, June 11
Sunday, June 19
Saturday, July 2
Sunday, July 3
Saturday, July 9
Saturday, July 23
Saturday, August 13
Saturday, August 20
Saturday, Sept. 3
Monday, Sept. 5
Saturday, Sept. 17
Saturday, October 8
Monday, October 10
Monday, October 31

Event

Apparel Sale
Memorial Day
Membership Meeting & Picnic (TBD), Apparel Sale
Father's Day
Paddle Boat Regatta, Boat Parade
Fun Run, Apparel Sale
Garage Sale & Market Day, Apparel Sale
Board of Trustees meeting
Poker Run (tentatively scheduled), Apparel Sale
Membership Meeting
Apparel Sale
Labor Day
Board of Trustees meeting
Board of Trustees meeting, GL Fall Festival
Indigenous Peoples Day, Columbus Day
Halloween



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Gravel Lake Association 2022 Calendar

BOARD/MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

- **Saturday, June 11, 10am—Membership Meeting & Picnic**
 - Location: TBD (but likely at the DeSimone house on Chamberlin Beach)
- **Saturday, July 23, 10am—Board of Trustees Meeting**
 - Location: Porter Township Hall
- **Saturday, August 20, 10am—Membership Meeting**
 - Location: TBD (but likely at the Rinaldi's garage on Gebhard Beach)
- **Saturday, September 17, 10am—Board of Trustees Meeting**
 - Location: Porter Township Hall
- **Saturday, October 8, 10am—Board of Trustees Meeting**
 - Location: Porter Township Hall

FOURTH OF JULY ACTIVITIES

Paddle Boat Regatta—Saturday, July 2, 4pm

- Race begins at the first curve of the channel
- PFDs are required for all participants
- We are requesting that there are no water balloons this year, as our wildlife sadly mistake the rubber for a food source. We also request that extreme-force hoses are not used in any race that children are in. While this is a fun event, it should be fun for **everyone**, including the small children who would like to participate. We need to keep the little ones safe.

Boat Parade—Saturday, July 2, immediately after Taps (sunset)

- No theme this year. Given that it's at night, excessive lights are encouraged.
- Parade begins from the Taps location (on Streeter Beach).
- There will be no registering, judging, voting, or prizes. (This year it's just for fun; not a contest...aside from bragging rights, of course.)

Fun Run—Sunday, July 3, 9am

- The Fun Run will maintain the same format as the last two years. Both the starting line and the finish line are your own back (roadside) door.
- Any mode of transportation is welcome-walk, run, scooter, bike, etc.
- Feel free to participate as a spectator as well. Water stations and cheering are encouraged!

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Gravel Lake Garage Sale & Market Day—Saturday, July 9, 9am-3pm

Here is a chance to make some cash! Clear out your gently used belongings or put out your homemade Market Day crafts. New and used items, as well as craft items, will be available. Place items in your garage or yard roadside, and wait for the customers. Ads will be placed in all area event publications.

Participating locations will be listed on a Gravel Lake map and distributed to guests. Watch the GLA Facebook page to sign up in June, or message or email Linda Vitkauskas at vitkauskas3@comcast.net.

Gravel Lake Association 2022 Calendar (continued from previous page)

Poker Run—Saturday, August 13, 1-5pm

Did someone say POKER RUN?!

This year's poker run is **tentatively** scheduled for Saturday, August 13th from 1:00 to 5:00pm. The Poker Run is a fun Gravel Lake tradition that everyone has come to know and love. This event would be nothing without the help and support from all those willing to volunteer.

We are now looking for volunteers to host a dock! Simple enough - a dock host is responsible for passing out cards to all players when they pull up to your dock. **No docks means no Poker Run.** We need seven volunteers by June 25th or else we will unfortunately need to cancel this year's event. If you are interested in volunteering or have any questions, please feel free to reach out:

For dock volunteers:

Alyssa Pinkos

Email: alyssa.pinkos@gmail.com

Text: (708) 846-7355

For everything else:

Janice Pinkos

Email: fampinkos@aol.com

Text: (708) 567-9351

Gravel Lake Apparel Sales

- Saturday, May 28, 9-11am @ DeSimone house (Gebhard beach)
- Saturday, June 11, 9-11am @ GLA Membership Meeting & Picnic
- Sunday, July 3, 9-11am (during the Fun Run) @ Micheli house (channel)
- Saturday, July 9, 9-11am (during Garage Sales & Market Day) @ Micheli house (channel)
- Saturday, August 13 @ Pinkos house during Poker Run ticket sales
- Saturday, September 3, 9-11am (location TBD)





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Tara Motycka

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Does My Shoreline Project Require A Permit?

The answer to this question is most likely yes (with some projects requiring more than one permit). Most shoreline projects require a permit from the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy. The following are among the list of projects that require a permit:

- Removing existing land within 500 feet of a lake or stream
- Dredging
- Filling in bottomlands with sand or another material
- Installation of a structure (i.e., rip rap, a seawall, a breakwater)
- Shoreline bio-engineering projects



A permit is not required to add sand to the beach area, as long as the sand does not shift the location of the ordinary high-water mark or the shoreline contour. (However, it should be noted that both beach sanding and swim fills can have harmful effects on wildlife habitat and spawning areas, aquatic vegetation, and water quality, and thus is not recommended.)

Additionally, installing a small structure (such as a shed or boathouse, not exceeding 200 sq. ft.) does not require a permit, but it needs to be at least 25 feet from the shoreline.

If you have questions regarding your project and whether or not a permit is required, the landowner can request a pre-application meeting.

Sources:

<https://www.mishorelinepartnership.org/shoreline-permitting-information.html#:~:text=Does%20my%20shoreline%20project%20require,Inland%20Lakes%20and%20Streams%20Act>

https://www.michigan.gov/documents/deq/WRD_WLSU_Swim_Fills_Beach_Sanding_Handout_April_2018_FINAL_621107_7.pdf

Meet a Gravel Laker

Meet Marty and Kathy Heneghan

Where are you from and what do you do?

We are from Palos Park, IL, and we work for Hilton.

Tell us about your family.

We have one amazing daughter, Claire, who is 8 years old. We also have two dogs: Duke the Basset Hound (8 years old) and Roscoe the American Eskimo (15 years old).

Where is your house on Gravel Lake?

We are located on Minnie Court, on Willow Beach. Our house is easily identifiable by the yellow boats, yellow boat canopies, and yellow accents throughout the house and property. Our house was built in 1996. We purchased the house in 2017 and have made quite a few updates since.

How did you find your way to Gravel Lake?

Our requirement in finding the perfect lake was its location. We searched for a lake that was close enough to be drivable, but also far enough away. We randomly found Gravel Lake by chance and have been in love with it ever since. We have been coming to the lake since 2010 when we purchased our first home on the Gravel Lake intercoastal waterway.

What is your favorite memory at the lake?

Finding out that when we first moved into our home in Palos Park, our neighbors and now good friends, the Murrys on Winkler Beach, had a home on Gravel Lake also. It was so random! From the lake we have found so many other crazy connections of people that know of or have been to Gravel Lake. Also, as bad as COVID was, the summer of 2020 was the best summer ever thanks to Gravel Lake!

What is your favorite lake activity?

Our daughter Claire is an incredible water sports enthusiast. Taking her wakeboarding, knee boarding, or surfing with her fellow "Gravel Wake Monsters" is always a blast.

- Emily Garrett



Would you like to be featured?

Email Emily at eggarrett87@yahoo.com to share your story!

Summertime Word Search

d g b g e b h f q e h h w c e g t q
 d j m c p c r m b u u o h q t e a u
 q h a a t i l k u f l a p w i b o g
 e s a e e l d i f l m j s f h h b n
 k s t n f g b s i b g n u o w a e i
 h m d r n n l w e l l n f u d r l d
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 Dugan's Landing
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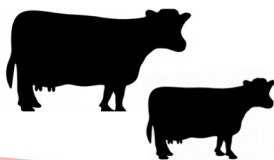


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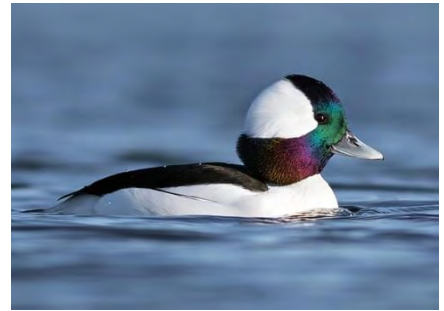
Tom Zwartz
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All About Buffleheads

Gravel Lake has a diverse and thriving ecosystem that is especially evident when we see new species visit our lake. Over the past few years, the lake has seen several new species of waterfowl. Most recently, the Bufflehead duck has come to visit. While new to Gravel Lake, the fossil record shows that these diminutive waterfowl have been around for more than 500,000 years.

You may have seen this small, white and black duck swimming in the shallower waters this spring as soon as the ice melted. Upon closer inspection, the black and white male is shown to have a purple-green, almost iridescent, band of color on his head, while the females are a combination of brown and white. Buffleheads are tied for the smallest ducks in North America (with the Green-winged Teal); adult Buffleheads grow to only 13 to 16 inches long.

Though we have a small flock of less than ten Buffleheads on the lake this year, this bunch are nonbreeding and likely only here on a stopover during their migration. Buffleheads only breed in boreal forests, which are defined as high latitude “snow forests”. Ideal breeding grounds are dense with poplar and aspen trees. The boreal forests of Canada are where roughly 80% of Buffleheads will go to breed.



Male Bufflehead



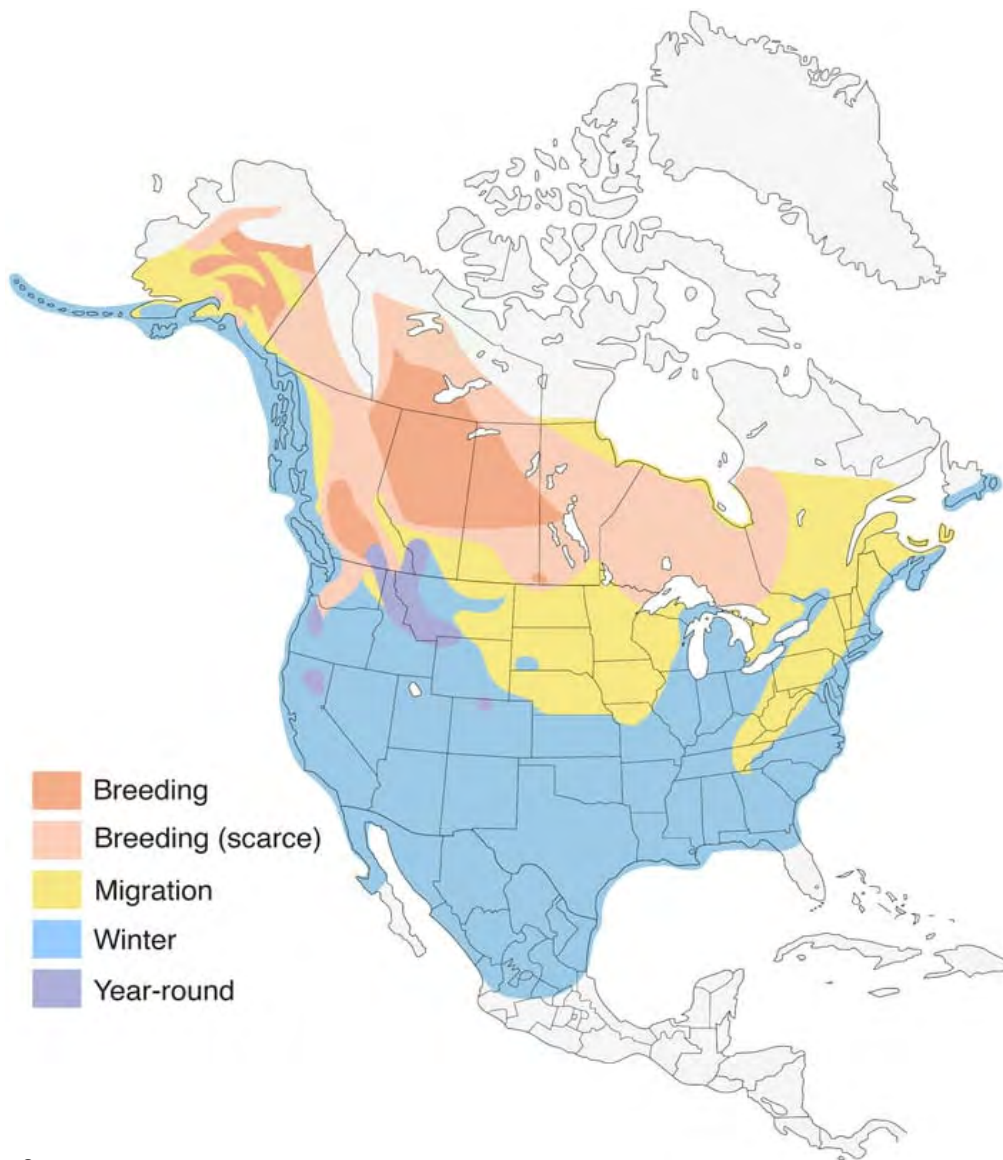
Female Bufflehead

These little ducks are quite resourceful. They reuse holes that have been hollowed in trees, primarily made and used before by a small woodpecker called the Northern Flicker. These cavities are just the right size for the Buffleheads, and may be as high up as 50 feet in a tree. The monogamous pair of Bufflehead parents may come back to this same nesting spot year after year to lay their eggs. After about 30 days of incubation, 5-10 eggs will hatch under the watchful eye of the mother duck. Just one day after hatching, the hardy baby Buffleheads will jump out of their nest to the forest floor. Five to six weeks later, after being trained and cared for by the mother duck in nearby lakes and ponds, the little ones will be independent, and the mother will depart so they can fend for themselves.

Buffleheads are such good divers and swimmers that they actually spend a good portion of their time on the water diving under the surface in search of aquatic invertebrates. They also eat the larvae of insects and sometimes crustaceans. This diet can lead to a long and happy life. By tagging methods, it has been established that the oldest known Bufflehead was almost 19 years old.

- Tricia Brucks

All About Buffleheads



Sources:

<https://www.audubon.org/field-guide/bird/bufflehead>

<http://www.pbwoa.org/bufflehead/>

<https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Bufflehead/overview>



Check out our recent
interviews with Gravel
Lake residents, Alice
Rau-Jennings, and the
DeSimone family.

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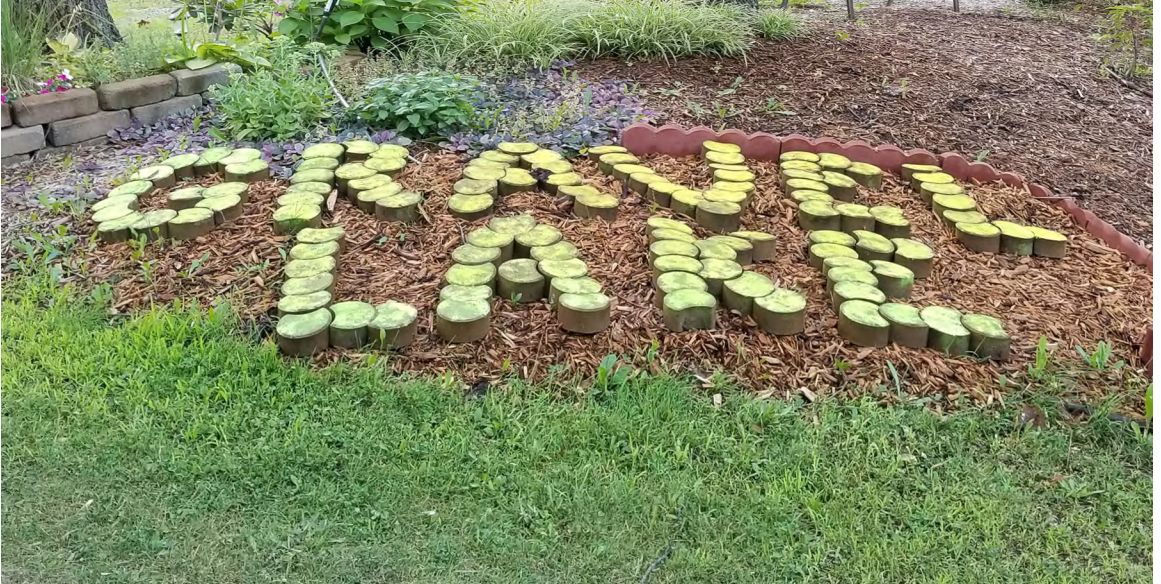
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January 2022 – December 2022

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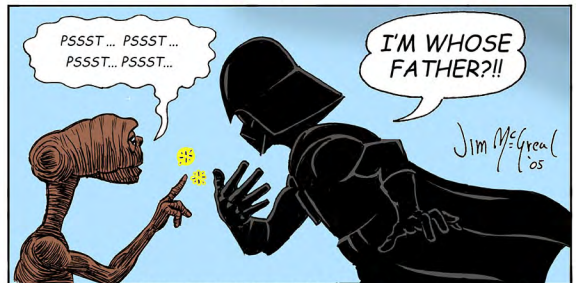
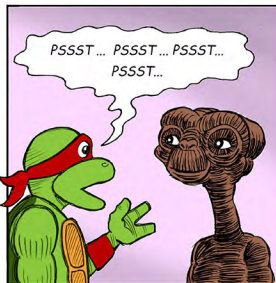
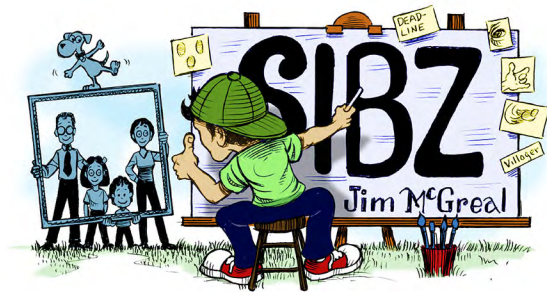
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- Water quality testing & research
- Liability insurance
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- *The Gravel Laker* and other printed information
- Meeting advertisements in the Courier-Leader
- Membership dues for Michigan Lakes & Streams Association

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- Support the aforementioned activities/services
- Voice your opinion
- Strengthen our community
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Special Thanks to Yoda, Mr. Incredible, Harry Potter, Shrek, Spider-Man, Pikachu, The Black Power Ranger, Michelangelo, E.T. and Darth Vader



Join the Gravel Lake Association Community Facebook group!

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

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| Internet Operations | Jim McGreal - jim@jmcstudios.com |
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