

# The Gravel Laker

Volume XXIV Number 2

[www.gravellake.org](http://www.gravellake.org)

Fall, 2012



**Who is this 10 year old trumpeter?**

**See page 9**

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## President's Corner

Check out our article on seawalls. Please keep in mind that this is intended to influence your decision regarding a replacement or new seawall. We know many of you have existing seawalls and we're certainly not suggesting that you remove them! Rather, we want you to know that there are more natural alternatives to a traditional concrete seawall that are both attractive and more lake-friendly. Two very good examples can be seen at the homes of May & Richard Moore (Willow Beach) and Arlene & Jim Rockwell (Chamberlin Beach). Both homes feature stone riprap with natural vegetation - attractive, effective, and habitat-inducive. Do you want more information? Take a look at our previous Gravel Laker article on lakescaping (Summer 2011 issue), search "lakescaping" on the Internet, or contact me directly.

We want your feedback. Remember that our semi-annual membership meetings are your forum to speak your mind (respectfully) on lake-related issues. Not your style? How about sending us an email? Many of you do and you're encouraged to continue. Finally, don't forget about the seemingly forgotten Letter to the Editor. We will publish your respectfully submitted, lake-related comments and concerns in a future issue of the Gravel Laker.

Craig DeSimone  
GLA President

## Fourth of July 2012

As always, the Fourth of July events were a great time! Thank you to all participants! However, nothing would be possible without our volunteers. A special thanks goes out to:

Fun Run volunteers: Emily Moore, Tricia Barker, Mark Gordon, May Moore, and Barb Otolski.

Kids' Games volunteers: Tricia Barker, Perri Gordon, Lauren Fazzini, Gina Fazzini, Emily Moore, Danni Young, and Korie Ehemann. We'd also like to thank the Putter's Family Fun Center and Keith and Michelle Lalone for their help!

Paddle Boat Regatta volunteers: Mike Micheli, Kerry Moore, and Jamie Paramski.

Boat Parade volunteers: Carlie Stogis, Judy Semplinski, Laurie Mitchell, Carol Mitchell, Julie Jacques, and Bev Jacques. We'd also like to thank the generous sponsor of the Boat Parade, Apollo Marine.

Thanks again to all volunteers and congratulations to all of the winners!



## Gravel Lake Social - Silent Auction

The Gravel Lake Association would like to thank all of its generous Silent Auction donors:

Wakeside Marine - Mike Micheli  
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Rockstar Energy - Megan Specyal  
Joe Laski  
Chris Oxley  
Rebecca's Natural Nails - Rebecca Mills  
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The Gravel Lake Association would also like to thank the very accommodating staff and owners of the Drop Anchor Tavern.



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## 5 Reasons Not to Install a New Seawall

1. Storm water can run directly off your lawn and into the lake bringing harmful pollutants like fertilizers, pesticides, animal waste, and petroleum products with it. Storm water should be allowed to soak into the ground where it can be filtered before entering the lake.
2. Shorelines can no longer serve as critical habitat for wildlife. Natural shorelines provide habitat for 24 species of amphibians, 25 species of reptiles, 87 species of birds, and 19 species of mammals in Michigan. Seawalls remove this habitat and reduce the biodiversity of the lake.
3. Fish populations can be reduced. A lack of shoreline vegetation is the biggest problem facing our nation's lakes. Lakes with poor shoreline habitat are 3 times more likely to have diminished plankton populations that are a critical part of the food chain.
4. Seawalls increase wave action on the lake. If you enjoy skiing, wakeboarding, or even just floating on the lake you know that wave action can be a serious problem. Seawalls bounce waves back out to the lake that would otherwise dissipate on shore naturally.
5. Seawalls are not very attractive. Concrete structures on the lake are not as appealing as natural, green vegetation. Native flowering plants and ornamental grasses are a much more pleasant view and they still provide the erosion protection that you need for your shoreline.

You could have this instead...



## 5 Reasons Not to Install a New Seawall (continued)

Please give alternative shoreline protection a chance and try lakescaping! You will find that your erosion problems are solved, wave action will be reduced, and our wildlife neighbors will be grateful.

**\*Please Note:** This article is not intended to persuade you to remove your current seawall; its intent is to explain reasons homeowners might seek other options in the future.

**Resources:** The Michigan Riparian Vol.46 No.2 & 3, Spring & Summer 2011  
How does stormwater and its regulation affect lakes? Ric Lawson (Watershed Planner, Huron River Watershed Council)

The importance of natural shoreline Pam Tyning and Paul Hausler (Water Resources Group, Progressive AE)



The advertisement for Edens Express Messenger Services features a bright yellow background. At the top is a logo consisting of a stylized 'E' inside a circle. Below the logo, the company name 'EDENS EXPRESS' is written in large, bold, blue letters. Underneath that, 'MESSENGER SERVICES' is written in smaller, red, spaced-out letters. The phone number '773-235-5550' is prominently displayed in large, bold, yellow letters. At the bottom, there is a row of five small images: a map with a red pin, a person on a bicycle, a city skyline, a person holding a box, and a white delivery truck. To the right of these images is a laptop screen showing a person's face and the text 'Online Orders'. At the very bottom, the address '1422 W. Willow, Suite #102 - Chicago, IL 60642' and the website 'www.edensexpress.com' are listed in white text on a black background.

## Letters to the Editor

Living on a lake is really a privilege, and something about which most people just dream. We Gravel Lake residents are truly blessed with a beautiful lake and surroundings, wonderful neighbors, and many great memories for our families.

Two incidents that occurred this summer, one of which involved a close friend of mine, caused me to take another look at something to which we probably don't give too much thought- boating safety.

Earlier this summer, a Libertyville, IL, family who was vacationing near the "Chain of Lakes", northwest of Chicago, rented a pontoon boat for a day. They were pulling their 10 year old son on a tube. A speed boat was following directly behind the pontoon and when the young boy fell off the tube, the boat ran over the boy, killing him. The man charged with fatally running over the young boy on Petite Lake was under the influence of alcohol and cocaine, and was one of 71 people arrested for operating under the influence on the Chain of Lakes so far this year, according to the Lake County Sheriff's Office.

On Labor Day, a close friend of mine, a 47 year old father of two, was on his jet ski on Lake Como in Wisconsin, accompanied by his 9 year old daughter. A speed boat, apparently not seeing him, ran right into the jet ski, killing my friend and seriously injuring his daughter. The driver of the speed boat was not under the influence, and no charges were filed.

I've been riding motorcycles for almost 50 years, and found out early on that it is impossible to be "too careful" when riding. I try to take the same approach when operating a boat. I know that when I'm pulling a tube, especially with my grandchildren on it, I spend all of my time scanning in all directions. Quite frankly, when I'm operating a boat, particularly when pulling a tube or a skier, I probably get a little paranoid, as I'd never want to be responsible for injuring anyone. Most people who ski, wake board, or ride jet skis on our lake are responsible and try to be as safe as they can, but it never hurts to review some "safety tips":

- Never follow directly behind another boat, particularly one that is pulling a skier, wake boarder, or tube. Did you ever notice how motorcyclists on the highway travel "staggered" rather than right behind one another? "Off setting" or "staggering" your path slightly can help you to avoid a collision- it works for bikes and it helps with boats.

- We all know that the traffic pattern on Gravel Lake is counter-clockwise. If you rent your place out, or loan your boat or jet ski out, please make sure to let the renters or boaters know about our traffic pattern and direction of travel.

- We are all aware of the "no wake" zones in the channel and out by the weed bed, as well as near piers or swimming floats. Common courtesy also includes no wakes near fishermen or slow-moving watercraft such as canoes, kayaks, or paddle boats.

- The final caution regards drinking and boating. As you know, both the Michigan DNR and the Van Buren County Sheriff patrol our lake regularly. Part of the reason that they are out there on our lake is to try and prevent the kind of tragedy that happened to the 10 year old boy on Petite Lake- enough said on that topic.

Life on Gravel Lake is too good to risk letting a senseless tragedy ruin it.

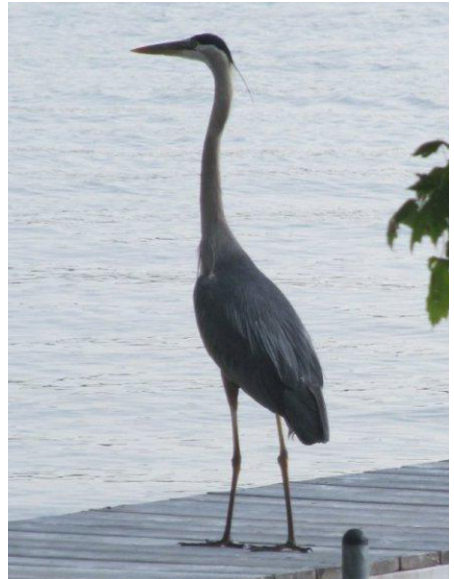
- Dan McDevitt, Huff's Landing

## Letters to the Editor - continued

On Saturday, September 15th, there was a wave runner accident on the lake involving two Notre Dame students. Both young men were thrown off the PWC. One of the young men was bleeding and unconscious. John and Debbie Svrlinga (Gebhard Beach) witnessed the accident from shore and quickly jumped in their pontoon boat and went out to help. 911 was called and a sheriff and ambulance came to the public access to give aid.

Good work, John & Deb.

- Paul Walter, Gebhard Beach



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## Attorney Ronald M. Redick

900 Monroe Avenue N.W.  
Grand Rapids, MI 49503  
Tel 616-632-8000  
Fax 616-632-8002  
rredick@mmbjlaw.com



## Treasurer's Report

**Beginning Balance as of 1/1/12      \$23,010.95**

## Deposits

2012 Membership Dues - 2	\$ 70.00
2012 Membership Dues - 13	\$ 614.00
2012 Membership Dues - 24	\$1,017.00
2012 Membership Dues - 17	\$1,003.00
2012 Membership Dues - 24	\$ 840.00
2012 Membership Dues - 24	\$ 840.00
2012 Membership Dues - 24	\$1,095.00
Apparel Sales	\$ 558.00
Split the Pot	\$ 123.00
2012 Membership Dues - 24	\$ 953.00
2012 Membership Dues - 13	\$ 501.00
2012 Membership Dues - 9	\$ 381.00
Petty Cash for Social	\$ 250.00
Social Ticket Sales	\$1,550.00
Social Auction	\$ 509.00
Social Raffle	\$ 202.00
Apparel Sales	\$ 166.00
Social Auction	\$ 75.00
Donation of Tee Shirt Sale-	
Accurate Apparel	\$ 150.00
Split the Pot	\$ 29.00
Apparel Sales	\$ 160.00
2012 Membership Dues -8	
- 1 for 2011	\$ 366.00
<b>Total Deposits</b>	<b>\$11,452.00</b>

## Expenses

The Michigan Riparian	\$ 320.00
Michigan Lakes and Stream	
Membership Dues	\$ 180.00
United States Postal Service -	
Stamps for Invoice mailing	\$ 135.00
Staples -	
Printing of invoices and envelopes	\$ 57.21
South Michigan Ins. Agency -	
Surety Bond Renewal	\$ 100.00
Craig DeSimone - Kinko's	\$ 60.00
Carlie Stogis- Boat Parade Flyers	\$ 13.65
Janice Pinkos - Meeting Pastries & Stamp	\$ 39.66
Lawton Post Office - PO Box Rental	\$ 28.00
Russ Mencl - Crown Trophy	\$ 146.28
Perri Gordon - Kids Games	\$ 107.23
Superior Imaging	\$ 446.08
Michigan Waterfront Alliance	\$ 100.00
Drop Anchor	\$1,031.00
Tricia Barker - 4th of July Kids Games	\$ 25.00
Petty Cash for Social	\$ 250.00
Carlie Stogis - Boat Parade	\$ 74.89

**Total Expenses** **\$ 3,114.00**

**Checkbook Balance as of 8/14/12** **\$31,348.95**

**Other Assets:**

Certificate of Deposit	
- Maturity Date 10/12/12	\$ 5,198.91
Certificate of Deposit	
- Maturity Date 10/12/12	\$ 5,198.91
Certificate of Deposit	
- Maturity Date 1/12/13	\$ 5,253.94

<b>Total Other Assets</b>	<b>\$15,651.76</b>
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<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>\$47,000.71</b>
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## Taps

You may have heard it...every evening at sunset, someone plays Taps. Many Gravel Lakers gather on their boats or listen from their decks as the tribute is flawlessly performed by Streeter Beach resident, Greg Garrett.

Greg (retired Army) and his wife, Marianne (retired teacher), are originally from Joliet, Illinois. Greg spent all his childhood summers on Winkler Beach where he first began playing Taps at sunset with his coronet at age 10.

With a background in music, both vocal and instrumental, Greg spent 31 years stationed at Fort Myer, Virginia and was a member of the U.S. Army Chorus. Upon retirement his fond memories brought him migrating back to Gravel Lake...a familiar story for many of us...and in 2007 he and his wife purchased a "fixer upper" on Streeter Beach that they have beautifully renovated. Greg and Marianne currently divide their time between Gravel Lake and Star, Idaho (a suburb of Boise).

Greg plays several other instruments but only recently began playing the trumpet. He says he was inspired to resume playing Taps at sunset every evening while practicing for the 100th Anniversary Concert of his Joliet high school. For that, we thank you Greg!

Note: Official sunset times can be found on [www.sunrisesunset.com](http://www.sunrisesunset.com).

- Donna DeRosa, Streeter Beach



## Paid Listing

### Chamberlin Beach

First Name	Last Name
Tim & Lynn	Barker
Joyce	Beebe
Paul & Vicki	Carlos
Craig	DeSimone
Edward	Fallon
Jeffrey	Gaugush/Flannagan
Marjorie	Howard
Shirley	Jensen
Doris	Jeske
Jeffrey	Mc Bride
Bruce & Penny	Melton
Tom & RoseMary	Moorman
Bev & Harley	Reeder
Jim & Arlene	Rockwell
Dean	Seehausen
Walter & Susan	Seput
Charles & Elaine	VanBelleghem

### Dugan's Landing

First Name	Last Name
Larry & Connie	Keene
Harry & Vicki	Laski
Kevin & Tammy	Lalone
Jan Lapine & Nancy	Manning
Chris & Stacey	Oxley
Thomas & Lauren	Puttkammer
Hugh & Pamela	Sanchez
John & Patricia	Spiller
George & Norma	Truhn

### Huff's Landing

First Name	Last Name
Richard & Paula	Bukacek
Jean Bahnsen & John	Deren
Waneta	Dragicevich
Frank & Kathy	Gilhooly
Vince & Valerie	Masterson
Dan & Marilyn	McDevitt
Lenore	Roesch
Robin & Tim	Rusthoven

### Gebhard Beach

First Name	Last Name
Laura & John	Boroughf
William & Mary	Cleary
Vince & Nancy	Dyrek
Herb & Lory	Eggers
Frank & Gerry	Enright
Mark & Mary	Fazzini
Mark & Geri	Fortney
Ronald & Mari	Frick
Mark & Perri	Gordon
Tim & Nancy	Graham
Sheri	Kurtyak
Gary & Laura	Mencl
Doug, Dale, & Judy	Murphy
Wayne & Linda	Murphy
Therese & Dan	Schuld
Judy	Semplinski
Jon & Heather	Stade
Carlie & John	Stogis
John & Debbie	Svrlinga
Larry & Debbie	Walsh
Paul & Patricia	Walter

### Lewis Beach

First Name	Last Name
Annette & Ralph	Airgood
Tom & Karen	Fernandez
William	Fernandez
Josephine/Rose	Goepfrich/Lord
Wayne & Marilyn	Greenwood
Kenneth & Marysue	Hochsprung
Ed & Diane	Jandacek
Stephen & Roberta	O'Neill
Crystal	Scott
Bill & Dorothy	Spier
Chip	Van Schoyck

## Idle Ease Beach

First Name	Last Name
Sherman & Billie	Biss
John & Nancy	Boender
Jeanette	Garrison
Audrey	Gaspar
Wilma	Habart
Thomas	Haley
Mike & Marge	Heuring
Jim & Patti	Jabaay
John & Joan	Jacques
Beverly & Jim	Jacques
Victor & Darlene	Kapercev
Mark & Jane	
(Miles Sullivan)	Kehlenbeck
Steve & Janice	Pinkos
Jim & Shirley	Prichard
Ron & Karen	Wells
Ken & Judy	Wojtanek
Tom & Kathy	Zwartz

## Sandy Beach

First Name	Last Name
Ed & Lois	Anderson
Harold & Karen	Anderson
Ray & Diane	Barber
James & Sharon	Braglia
Terry & Judy	Brockner
David & Mary	Brown
Shelly	Carpenter
Mike & Joanne	Clifford
Jeanne Warner & Mike	Clothier
Mark & MaryBeth	Custer
Art & Francis	Earl
Thomas & Kathy	Ebbitt
Chris & Amy	Fewell
Patricia	Fewell
Tom & Lynn	Flavin
The Mahaney &	Hart Families
Martin & Kathy	Heneghan
Eric & Rachael	Herchenroether

## Sandy Beach (continued)

First Name	Last Name
Warren & Nancy	Humble
Terry & Fran	Jones
Mike & Tracy	Jurusik
Erwin & Betty	Kelly
Greg & Jennifer	Kitzmiller
Keith & Michelle	Lalone
Paul & Cathy	Lawrence
Gary & Vickie	Leisten
Dasher & Maria	Lowe
Jim & Elizabeth	McGreal
Jennifer & Michael	Micheli
Lynn Gilliland & Dennis	Morkunas
John & Angelina	Orr
Tiffany & Michael	Ossowski
John & Diane	Parisi
Randy & Debbie	Pederson
Ray & Suzanne	Reed
David & Melissa	Rhoades
Don & Sharlene	Saigh
Patrica & Tom	Schroeder
George & Florence	Skoropad
Don & Jeanne	Smith
Ron & June	Stewart
Robert & Jean	Storm
Rich & Ewa	Szynal
Christopher & Linda	Toso
Don & Fran	VanMeter
Art & Mary	Welcome
Ron & Claudene	Wert
Mark & Leslie	Williams
Glenn & Judy	Williams

## Paid Listing

### Streeter Beach

First Name	Last Name
David & Susan	Bartock
Peter & Lillian	Bartock
Joanne Azar & Jack	Bogner
Richard & Debra	Bridgham
Miles & Jean	Cunat
Rick & Donna	DeRosa
Deborah / John	Dorsey
L.J. & Cathy	Fallon
Richard	Fox
Greg & Marianne	Garrett
Tom & Karen	Huber
Corinne	Jones
Bruno & Mary Ann	Kozlowski
Robert & Karen	Lochow
Mark & Elizabeth	Mayer
Bob & Nancy	Meskimen
Frank and Becky	Militello
Mark & April	Paulik
Todd	Poyser
June & Moon	Rimes
Peter & Beverly	Rucinski
John & Joann	Small
Carl & Wynne	Stemmler
Ken & Linda	Vitkauskas

### Willow Beach

First Name	Last Name
Lamar & Kathy	Brooks
Ray	Cox
Carole	DeSimone
Dale & MaryAnn	Engle
Heinz & Hertha	Gutmann
Tom	Kelliher
Stephen & Suzanne	Kopetski
Betty	Micheli
Richard & May Britt	Moore
Mark & Melanie	Osborn
Jim & Donna	Rau
Bruce & Shelly	Todd

### Winkler Beach

First Name	Last Name
Sandra	Balon
Dave	Brown
Jim & Jane	Cerney
John & Patti	Faustino
Paul & Judy	Galassi
The Families	Hackney
The Families	Johnson
Lori	Komorowski
Marion	Krzyszowski
Ed & Ann	LaForge
John & Mary Ann	LaMonte
Ed	Mattax
William & Pat	Metz
Pat & Ann	Murray
Raymond & Judy	Quick
Mike & Sue	Sadowski
Robert & Terry	Schnaith
George & Pam	Siemer
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Rod	Wilson
Ken & Susan	Wojtanek
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## Simple Scones

This is a basic recipe that you can alter to your tastes. The possibilities are endless! If you don't have a food processor, grating the butter can be a bit of a pain, but the scones that result are SO delicious and well worth the effort! They are moist and not too sweet.

### Ingredients:

2 cups all-purpose flour  
1/3 cup plus 1 t sugar  
1 t baking powder  
¼ t baking soda  
8 Tbsp salted butter, frozen  
½ cup dried cranberries  
1 t orange zest  
1 t orange extract  
½ cup sour cream  
1 large egg



### Directions:

1. Adjust the oven rack to lower-middle position and preheat oven to 400°F.
2. In a medium bowl, mix flour, 1/3 cup sugar, baking powder, baking soda, and salt. Grate butter into flour mixture on the large holes of a box grater or use a food processor. Use your fingers to work in butter (mixture should resemble coarse meal), then stir in dried cranberries orange extract, and orange zest.
3. In a small bowl, whisk sour cream and egg until smooth.
4. Using a fork, stir sour cream mixture into flour mixture until large dough clumps form. Use your hands to press the dough against the bowl into a ball. (The dough will be sticky in places, and there may not seem to be enough liquid at first, but as you press, the dough will come together.)
5. Place on a lightly floured surface and pat into a 7- to 8-inch circle about ¾ inch thick. Sprinkle with remaining 1 t of sugar (optional). Use a sharp knife to cut into 8 triangles. Place on a cookie sheet (preferably lined with parchment paper) about 1 inch apart. Bake until golden, about 15-17 minutes. Cool for 5 minutes and serve at room temperature.

### Glaze:

In a small bowl, mix together milk, confectioner's sugar, and orange extract to taste. Drizzle over scones. Top with orange zest.

Other combinations to experiment with: cherry/almond, blueberry/lemon, chocolate chip, cranberry/white chocolate, blueberry/walnut, toffee/hazelnut, walnuts/dried apricots, candied ginger/cinnamon, pecans/caramel, cinnamon/raisin, cheddar, ham/cheese/green onion.

## Eagle Sighting



In late June, 2012 an eagle was spotted on Gravel Lake. It could be seen soaring across the lake and diving for fish. . Mary Hart of Sandy Beach took these photos of the eagle resting in a cottonwood tree near her home..



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## NEWSLETTER STAFF

Jamie Paramski, Editor  
jparamski@gmail.com

John Boroughf, Newsletter advertising  
jlboroughf@juno.com

Jim McGreal, Design  
jim@jmcstudios.com

Spencer McGreal, Production/Graphics  
spencer@jmcstudios.com

Melissa Dunigan, Contributing writer  
Marc Mascarello, Contributing writer  
Tricia Barker, Contributing writer  
Chip vanSchoyck, Printer

**Chip's Ad**



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## Gravel Lake Association

### Membership Form: January 2012 - December 2012

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](http://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 2009 \$35.00

Optional Riparian magazine \$ 8.00

Additional donation \_\_\_\_\_

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

Total Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate where your Riparian should be sent (circle one): home lake



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<b>Vice President</b>	Suzanne Reed
<b>Secretary</b>	Kathy Brooks
<b>Treasurer</b>	Janice Pinkos - fampinkos@aol.com

### OTHER CONTRIBUTORS

<b>Editor, Gravel Laker</b>	Jamie Paramski - jparamski@gmail.com
<b>Newsletter advertising</b>	John Boroughf - jlboroughf@juno.com
<b>Fundraising Committee</b>	Carlie Stogis- (chair)
<b>Internet Operations</b>	Jim McGreal - jim@jmcstudios.com
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<b>Willow Beach</b>	Carole DeSimone
<b>Winkler Beach</b>	Paul Galassi Pat Murray
<b>Trustee-at-Large</b>	Dave Brown

## Gravel Lake Association

P.O. Box 531  
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