

The Gravel Laker

Volume XVIII Number 2

www.gravellake.org

Winter, 2005

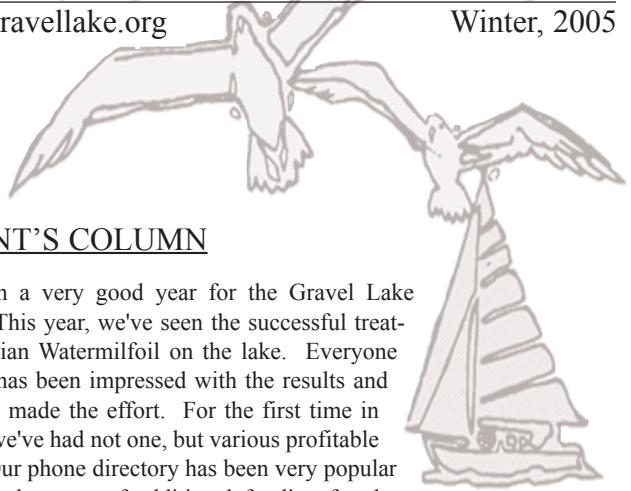
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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

2004 has been a very good year for the Gravel Lake Association. This year, we've seen the successful treatment of Eurasian Watermilfoil on the lake. Everyone I've talked to has been impressed with the results and was happy we made the effort. For the first time in several years we've had not one, but various profitable fundraisers. Our phone directory has been very popular and was a good source of additional funding for the association. Additionally, we plan to repeat the 50-50 raffles, car wash, and the well-attended Gravel Lake Social in 2005. Our 4th of July celebration enjoyed the return of the boat parade in addition to the continuation of the Kid's Games and Gravel Lake Fun Run. When I started on the board back in 2000, there were just a handful of us attempting to resuscitate the association and address the issues at hand. We can now boast a fully represented board of trustees, a fundraising committee, channel committee, and a newly formed sewer committee. Finally, our website, gravellake.org, has taken full form this year and is the single greatest source of the compliments I consistently receive from Gravel Lakers and others alike.



What's in-store for 2005? I hope much more of the same. We will continue to treat Eurasian Watermilfoil on an as-needed basis. Our current fundraising efforts were so successful this year that we aim to continue them, and hopefully expand upon them. The same 4th of July activities that were planned in 2004 will continue in 2005 and since the turnout was so great in 2004, we hope to include several more. If our DEQ permit is approved, the association will have the mouth of the channel dredged this spring. Our website will continue to improve and remain a resource to all Gravel Lakers. At the request of the membership, a sewer committee has been formed to investigate the possibility of sewers on Gravel Lake. Most importantly, we will continue to host two membership meetings per year to encourage your involvement in the association.

We are consistently trying to improve upon what has already been accomplished in an attempt to make the lake, and life at the lake, the best possible. For this we thank you, the members, for supporting the Gravel Lake Association in all of our efforts. I am pleased that we have seen an increase in membership this year, however, we are still nowhere near 100% involvement. Please tell your neighbors about the accomplishments of the Gravel Lake Association and encourage them to join!

Craig DeSimone, President, Gravel Lake Association.



What property projects require a permit?

Beach Maintenance: What You Can and Cannot Do

Like any homeowner, we all want to keep our property in good shape. We landscape, we cut the lawn and water the flowers- all of which is good and legal. When it comes to your beach, however, things become a little trickier. Some projects may require a permit and others may not. The following is a recap from the Department of Environmental Quality's Inland Lakes and Streams Program. This program oversees activities that have anything to do with altering the bed of an inland body of water. It outlines the guidelines regarding typical beach projects.

Shore Protection. Construction of any type of shore stabilization structure such as a sea wall, bulkhead, revetment, etc. at or below the ordinary high water mark of the lake or stream requires a permit. Also, the Department of Environmental Quality recommends using rock riprap for shore protection because rock provides a better habitat for aquatic life.

Docks and Boat Lifts. Permanent docks or boat lifts which are left in the lake year around require a permit. Seasonal docks and lifts do not require a permit if they are for private use by the landowner, do not interfere with the use of the water by others, and do not interfere with water flow.

Beach Sanding. Placement of sand, pea stone, or some other type of filling below the water line requires a permit. A reasonable amount of sand may be place landward of the water line without a permit as long as the sand does not shift the location of the existing original high water mark or the shoreline contour. Also, the sand cannot be placed in the wetland. This would, ultimately, be contributing to the process of eutrophication.

Dredging. Any dredging below the water line of a lake or stream requires a permit. Excavation on the dry land within 500 feet of a lake or stream that does not extend below the water table does not require a permit from the DEQ. However, a soil erosion permit is required from the county for this activity. A permit is needed for any excavation where the purpose is ultimate connection with an existing lake or stream.

Especially in the past couple of summers, the lake has been low, thus, our beaches are much bigger. In order to maintain their beaches, many lakera use a roto-tiller. This machine grinds the sand and turns it over, uprooting plants. This is okay, as long as you are not adding any sand or dirt into the lake. Many people also use herbicides on their beaches to kill grass and weeds. While it is always preferred to not use any chemicals near the lake, using an herbicide is alright, as long as it is biodegradable and does not harm wildlife. Also, if you must use an herbicide, please avoid doing so before a rainfall, since more of it will end up in adjacent waters and be sure to only apply the herbicide on the affected areas.

ADVERTISE IN THE GRAVEL LAKER

Our newsletter goes out to all the residents of Gravel Lake. For rates and more information, email cucad4@hotmail.com

Downfalls of the septic system

WEIGHING IN ON WASTE: THE DOWNFALLS OF THE SEPTIC SYSTEM

In an attempt to fix a major problem before it begins, the GLA has been considering the implementation of a sewer system at Gravel Lake. Although the septic system has long been the means of waste disposal for the residents of the lake, there are many significant problems that could occur, and they could have a very damaging effect on the lake. In order to fully understand the growing need for a sewer system, consider the following information regarding the septic tank system of waste disposal.

First and foremost, we want to knick this before it has the chance to become a problem. We don't want to wait until our lake resembles a swamp to take action. Once we have problems with leaking septic systems, the lake is changed forever-- and it only takes one failing septic system to impact the lake in a big way.

Ideally, the purpose of a septic system is to effectively treat liquid wastes from your house and to prevent biological and nutrient contaminants from getting into your well or into nearby lakes and streams. However, even a perfectly functioning septic tank can cause major problems to surrounding life. This pollution can happen even though your system appears to be working well. Even if you maintain your septic tank and have it pumped regularly, there may be damage in other areas that you don't even know about. These are troubles that lie below the surface and are difficult to detect.

There are several reasons why a septic system might leak. These reasons include poor maintenance, overuse, putting objects down the drain/toilet that are not septic tank-friendly, and/or saturation of the absorption field. When this happens, the waste finds its way to the lake, and along with it comes the bacteria coliform. This bacteria causes many health problems to humans and animals. Such effects range from eye or ear infections to more extreme health issues such as hepatitis or dysentery.

Leaking septic tanks negatively impact the health of the lake as well. When waste material leaks into a lake, it brings with it certain minerals, specifically phosphorous and nitrogen. The problem with these minerals is that just a small amount of them causes excessive plant and algae growth, as these are the active ingredients in fertilizers. Leaking septic systems are the main contributor of these minerals to lakes, and as we know, excessive plant growth has a direct impact on life at the lake.

In chain-reaction form, the excessive vegetation then upsets the ecology of the lake. First, when organic matter decomposes, the bacteria extracts oxygen from the water, resulting in a lack of oxygen in the lake. This creates an uninhabitable environment for wildlife, as fish cannot survive without oxygen. Excessive plant growth affects the ability of many fish to grow, breathe and see. Thus, the increased algae and reduced oxygen levels destroy the lake's ability to support wildlife.

What Not To Send Down the Drain

Chances are that you have been living with the septic system for a while now, but just for a refresher, here is a list of items that should NOT find their way to your septic tank.

- Harsh cleaners- bleach, ammonia.
- Feminine hygiene products
- Paper towels
- Disposable diapers
- Dental floss
- Fat, grease, or oil
- Varnishes
- Cat litter
- Hair combs
- Cigarette butts
- Coffee grounds
- Gauze bandages
- Paint
- Paint thinner
- Pesticides
- Antibacterial soaps (use sparingly)

Downfalls of the septic system (Continued from page 3)

Financially speaking, a sewer system is much more cost effective in the long run than a septic system. Implementing a sewer system will have a price tag, but in the end it is well worth the money. Septic systems need to be pumped regularly in order to function properly. That money adds up and goes nowhere. Not to mention that the average life of a septic system is 15-20 years, assuming normal use and good maintenance. Replacing the tank is very costly. Not only that, but property values generally increase if the property has a sewer system.

More importantly, if the sewer system were to replace the septic system, you would no longer have to bear the worries that come with septic systems: leaks, fear of the tank backing up/filling up, having to keep track of when to have it pumped, having to constantly be aware not to send certain things down the drain, making sure that no vehicles are parked over the tank, making sure no other water is being discharged near the tank, hoping that a cement tank has not cracked or a steel tank has not rusted, making sure there are no trees near the tank, and having to monitor the amount of water that goes down the drain.

Right now, Gravel Lake has a clean bill of health. However, I cannot stress enough how important it is to stop a potential problem before it starts. Please help and be supportive in this endeavor.

***Sidenote:** Please note that the State of Michigan and the Federal Government have financial programs available for people who qualify under the income guidelines.*

GLA on the Web

If you haven't already, please be sure to visit our home on the web at www.gravellake.org. There you can view minutes from previous meetings, agendas for upcoming meetings, lake association news, the latest editions of our newsletter and surf various lake related links.

We are also looking for anyone who is interested in setting up a webcam. This would enable all of us to keep an eye on our lake during these long Winter months.

Additionally, we're seeking your Gravel Lake pictures and any classifieds you would like to post. Finally, we would like your feedback - let us know what you'd like to see. Please take a look; our site is really improving rapidly.

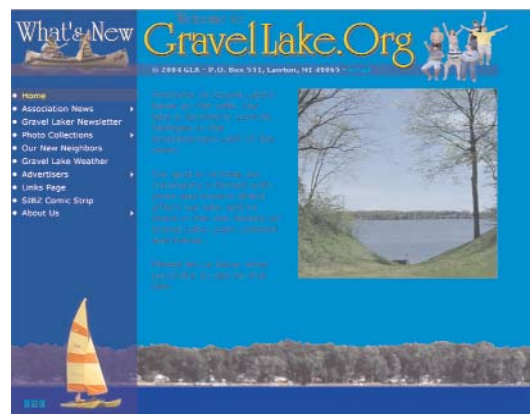
Thanks to Jim McGreal for his extensive efforts on the website! To post classifieds or pictures or provide website suggestions, contact Jim for details - jim@jmcstudios.com.

Do you have a question about sewers?

The Gravel Lake Association has recently formed a sewer committee. This committee is responsible for researching and recommending a plan for sewer construction around Gravel Lake. At this point, NO binding decisions have been made. Rather, we are in a research and education phase.

This committee has already outlined many questions that it would like to address. However, please help by submitting your own questions via email at cucad4@hotmail.com (please title your email "gravel lake sewer question") or by phone at (773) 750-5922.

The committee will make every effort to address as many questions and concerns as possible in the next newsletter or a separate flyer.



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4th of July 2004

Boat Parade Winners:

1st Place:	Kanwischer	Free night at Willow Beach Resort
2nd Place:	ESAS Hula Girls	\$50.00 from Gravel Lake Association
3rd Place:	Beebe/Haas	\$20.00 gift certificate from Peacock Ridge
4th Place:	Pinkos	\$20.00 gift certificate from Apollo Marine
5th Place:	Raab	\$20.00 gift certificate from Willow Beach Resort
6th Place:	???	\$15.00 gift certificate from Willow Beach Resort

Fun Run Winners:

Boys

8 & Under	1st - Jake Bearss
12 - 14	1st - Time Nelson 2nd - Josh Nelson
15 - 18	1st - Jeremy Davies (overall winner) 2nd - Ben Kerezman
19 - 29	1st - Aaron Tietz 2nd - Ryan Rearick 3rd - Matt Peterson
50 - 59	1st - Harry Laski 2nd - Mike Mascarello 3rd - Clark Ragatz



Girls

8 & Under	1st - Laren Carlos
9 - 11	1st - Anna McGreal
12 - 14	1st - Rachel Moreland 2nd - Lee Ann
15 - 18	1st - Leah Bearss (overall winner) 2nd - Mara Bearss 3rd - Stevie Schnaith
19 - 29	1st - Lindsey Czechwicz 2nd - Lauren Micheli 3rd - Amy Flavin
30 - 39	1st - Missy McGowen 2nd - Nicole Lutes 3rd - Rachelle McKenzie
40 - 49	1st - Patsy Popejoy 2nd - Sharon Sedgwick 3rd - Brenda LoCicero
50 - 59	1st - Carole DeSimone 2nd - Debbie Walsh 3rd - Betty Micheli
60+	1st - Pat Walter

Bacteria Sampling Report

In order to maintain the health of Gravel Lake, the GLA requested additional samples of the lake water be taken and then analyzed. Jaimee Bale, the Technical Services Manager for Professional Lake Management, reported that the Escherichia coli (E.coli) and other coliform levels in the lake were well below the "danger zone".

Coliform is a family of bacteria common in soils, plants and animals. The coliform family is made up of several groups, one of which is the fecal coliform group, which is found in the intestinal tracts of warm-blooded animals including humans. E. coli is a specific type of fecal coliform found in the GI tract. If overly abundant in water samples, it is an indication that fecal matter (from humans or warm-blooded mammals) is present in the lake.

Samples were taken from the lake on August 16, 2004 from various areas: Chamberlin Beach, the end of the channel, the mouth of the channel, at the spillway, by Willow Beach Grocery, and by the trailer park. Results are as follows:

Location	E.coli	Total coliforms	Interpretation
Chamberlin Beach	<1.0	55	Safe to swim
Channel- END	<1.0	1400	Safe to swim
Channel- MOUTH	4.0	310	Safe to swim
Spillway	<1.0	48	Safe to swim
Store	<1.0	44	Safe to swim
Trailer Park	<1.0	110	Safe to swim

Bacterial counts are expressed as the number of Colony Forming Units per 100 milliliters (CFU/100mL). For safe swimming standards, E.coli should not exceed 130 CFU/100mL.

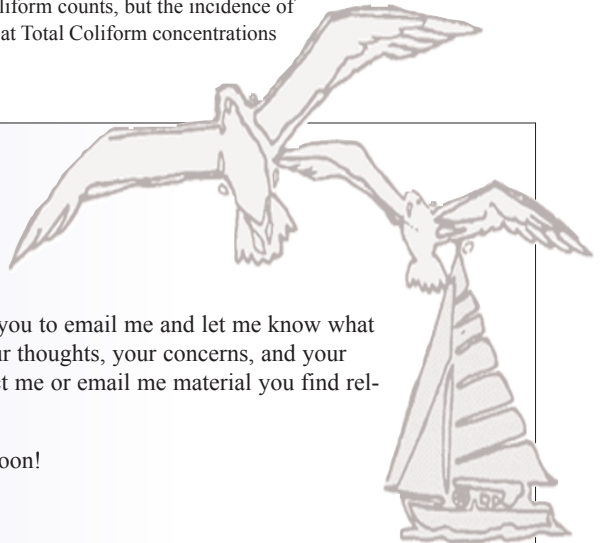
Current recreational water quality standards do now rely on Total Coliform counts, but the incidence of swimming-related gastrointestinal illness has been shown to increase at Total Coliform concentrations of 2,300 CFU/100mL and above.

New Gravel Laker Editor

Hello Gravel Lakers! My name is Jamie Paramski and I'm taking over the role of editor of The Gravel Laker. Here at the lake, my home is on Huff's Landing, which is a small stretch of beach near the public access. I'm very excited to take on the role of editor, and I encourage you to email me and let me know what you would like to see in the newsletter. I want to hear your thoughts, your concerns, and your comments on the issues at hand. Please feel free to contact me or email me material you find relevant. I can be reached at jamie_paramski@hotmail.com.

Have a great fall and winter and I hope to hear from you soon!

Jamie Paramski, Editor



Gravel Lake Association Members

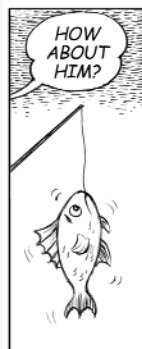
The following pages contain the Gravel Lake Association members as of last August, 2004. If you feel your name has been left off of this list in error, please contact Craig DeSimone.

Last Name	First Name	Beach	Last Name	First Name	Beach
Airgood	Annette & Ralph	Lewis	Dietl	Kathleen	Lewis
Anderson	Ed & Lois	Sandy	Domey	Robert & Jennie	Chamberlin
Anderson	Harold & Karen	Sandy	Donovan	James	Sandy
Balon	Sandra	Winkler	Dorsey	John & Rae	Streeter
Barber	Raymond & Diana	Sandy	Dragicevich	Waneta	Huff's Landing
Barry	Mary Ann	Sandy	Dyrek	Vincent & Nancy	Gebhard
Bartock	Peter & Lillian	Streeter	Earl	Art & Francis	Sandy
Beebe	Allen & Joyce	Chamberlin	Edwards	Sheila	Sandy
Betts	Matt & Kristi	Idle Ease	Eggers	Herb & Lory	Gebhard
Boender	John & Nancy	Idle Ease	Ehemann	George & Louise	Huff's Landing
Bogner	Rick	Streeter	Enright	Frank J	Gebhard
Bogner	Jack & Joanne	Streeter	Fallon	Edward	Chamberlin
Bounardj	J & Ellen	Chamberlin	Fallon	L.J. & Cathy	Streeter
Bradford	Kimberly	Willow	Fewell	Chris & Amy	Sandy
Brockner	Terry & Judy	Sandy	Fischer	Dorothy	Winkler
Brooks	Lamar & Kathy	Willow	Flavin	Tom & Lynn	Sandy
Brown	David & Mary	Sandy	Fortney	Mark & Geri	Gebhard
Bruks	Gregory	Sandy	Galassi	Paul & Judy	Winkler
Bukacek	Richard	Huff's Landing	Garrison	Jeanette	Idle Ease
Carlos	Paul & Vicki	Chamberlin	Gaugush	Ross & Francis	Chamberlin
Cechota	Richard	Lewis	Gear	Arthur	Winkler
Cleary	William & Mary	Gebhard	Gilhooly	Frank & Kathy	Huff's Landing
Cunat	Miles	Streeter	Guest	Stephen	Willow
Czajkowski	Brian & Patti	Streeter	Gustafson	Greg & Diane	Sandy
Davis	Kevin	Sandy	Guttman	Heinz & Hertha	Willow
Deren	John	Huff's Landing	Haas	Terrance & Jane	Chamberlin
Derosa	Frederick & Donna	Streeter	Hackney	Jeff & Deane	Winkler
DeSimone	Carol A	Gebhard	Hanley	Michael & Mary Jo	Huff's Landing
DeSimone	Carole	Willow	Harrell	T.J. & Pamilia	Huff's Landing

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jim@jmcstudios.com

by Jim McGreel

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Last Name	First Name	Beach
Hart	Marg & Chuck	Sandy
Herchenroether	Eric & Rachel	Sandy
Hearing	Mike & Marge	Idle Ease
Humble	Warren & Nancy	Sandy
Jabaay	Jim & Patti	Idle Ease
Jacques	John & Joan	Idle Ease
Jennings	Richard & Alice	Gebhard
Jensen	John & Shirley	Chamberlin
Jilek	James & Jill	Streeter
Johnson	William & Marian	Streeter
Jones	Corinne	Streeter
Kanwischer	Norman & Ardath	Huff's Landing
Kapercev	Victor & Darlene	Idle Ease
Karl	George & Mildred	Sandy
Keene	Larry & Connie	Dugan's
Kelly	Mike & Maddie	Idle Ease
Kelly	Erwin & Betty	Sandy
Kent	Eugene & Violet	Gebhard
Kitzmiller	Gregory & Jennifer	Sandy
Kopetski	Stephen & Suzanne	Willow
Kotal	Loretta	Winkler
Kubik	Gerald & Mary	Chamberlin
LaForge	Ed & Ann	Winkler
Lalone	Keith	Sandy
Laski	Harold & Vicki	Dugan's
Last Name	First Name	Beach
Leisten	Gary & Vickie	Sandy
Lewis	Vivian	Lewis
Lochow	Robert & Karen	Streeter
LoCicero	Mark & Brenda	Gebhard
Lueneburg	Gary & Sheryl	Idle Ease
Malinauskas	Pat	Willow
Marski	Irvin & Sherlie	Gebhard
Mascarello	Mike	Willow
Matlock	Howard & JoAnne	Sandy
Mattax	Edsal & Marilyn	Winkler
Mattox	Tom & Virginia	Streeter
Mc Bride	Barbara	Chamberlin
McCarthy	Michael & Carol	Streeter
McGreal	Lillian	Sandy
Melton	Winifred	Chamberlin
Mencl	Gary & Laura	Winkler
Meschke	Harry & Irene	Gebhard
Meskimen	Bob & Nancy	Streeter

Contacts List

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President - Craig DeSimone
cucad4@hotmail.com - (708) 754-4157

Vice President - Harry Laski

Secretary - Kathy Brooks

Treasurer - Janice Pinkos

TRUSTEES:

Chamberlin Beach - Bruce Melton

Dugan's Landing - Vicki Laski

Gebhard Beach - Doug Murphy

Huff's Landing - John Deren

Idle Ease Beach - Karen Vaickus

Lewis Beach - Chip Van Schoyck

Sandy Beach - Tom Flavin, Suzanne Reed

Streeter Beach - Debbie Dorsey, Donna DeRosa

Willow Beach - Gloria Caskey

Winkler Beach - Judy Weis

Trustee-at-large - Kim Bradford

Editor, Gravel Laker - Jamie Paramski

Fundraising - Lauren Micheli

Channel Committee - Art Earl (chair)

Sewer Committee - Miles Cunat (chair)

Internet Operations - Jim McGreal-
jim@jmcstudios.com - (773) 881-1160

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Last Name	First Name	Beach	Last Name	First Name	Beach
Metz	William & Pat	Winkler	Schlueter	Bob & Linda	Sandy
Micheli	Ron & Betty	Willow	Schnaith	Robert & Terry	Winkler
Milanese	Rick & Tama	Winkler	Schroeder	Dean & Denise	Willow
Moll	Marilyn	Sandy	Schuld	Therese	Gebhard
Molnar	Alfreda	Gebhard	Schultz	Larry & Lory	Sandy
Moore	Richard & May	Willow	Semplinski	Judy	Gebhard
Moorman	Thomas & Rosemary	Chamberlin	Seput	Walter & Susan	Chamberlin
Morkunas	Dennis	Sandy	Siemer	George & Pam	Winkler
Murphy	Wayne & Linda	Gebhard	Smith	Don & Jeanne	Sandy
Murphy	Dale, Wayne, & Judy	Willow	Spiller	Evelyn & Geno	Dugan's
Murray	Pat & Ann	Winkler	Stade/Fitzgerald	Jon & Heather	Gebhard
Nedvar	Jane	Idle Ease	Stewart	Ron & June	Sandy
Nicholson	Gary	Streeter	Storm	Robert & Jean	Sandy
Nilsen	Russ & Mary	Streeter	Sullivan	Miles & Evelyn	Idle Ease
O'Neill	Stephen & Roberta	Lewis	Sutherland	Beth & Dick	Winkler
Orr	John & Angelina	Sandy	Swiadek	Robert & Patricia	Sandy
Osborn	Mark & Melanie	Willow	Swindeman	John & Maralyn	Winkler
Parisi	John & Diane	Sandy	Szynal	Rich & Eva	Sandy
Paulik	Mark & April	Streeter	Thornton	Charles & Marian	Huff's Landing
Petrosius	Mike & Darla	Sandy	Truhn	George & Pam	Dugan's
Pinkos	Steve & Janice	Idle Ease	Van Schoyck	Chip & Cindy	Lewis
Poggione	Joseph	Streeter	VanBelleghem	Charles & Elaine	Chamberlin
Poyser	Todd	Streeter	VanMeter	Don & Fran	Sandy
Prichard	Jim & Shirley	Idle Ease	Viackus	Tony & Karen	Idle Ease
Puttkammer	Thomas & Lauren	Dugan's	Vitkauskas	Kenneth & Linda	Streeter
Quick	Raymond & Judy	Winkler	Wallenberg	Matthew & Tamra	Gebhard
Raab	Ron & Susan	Gebhard	Walsh	Larry & Debbie	Gebhard
Rau	Jim & Donna	Willow	Walsh	Gerald & Elaine	Willow
Reed	Ray & Suzanne	Sandy	Walter	Paul & Pat	Gebhard
Reeder	Harley	Chamberlin	Weis	Bob & Judy	Willow
Ridenour	Carl & Sandy	Sandy	Wells	Ronald & Karen	Idle Ease
Rimes	June & Moon	Streeter	Wert	Ron & Claudene	Sandy
Rockwell	Jim & Arlene	Chamberlin	White	Neil & Marilyn	Sandy
Roesch	Larry & Lenore	Huff's Landing	Williams	Glen & Judy	Sandy
Rogers	Edward & Elna	Winkler	Wilson	Rod	Winkler
Rucinski	Peter & Beverly	Streeter	Winn	Paul & Mary	Sandy
Rzeczanski	Leo	Sandy	Wojtanek	Ken & Judy	Idle Ease
Sattazahn/Rodgers	Priscilla & Mark	Chamberlin	Zaucha	Bruno & Karen	Winkler

Special thanks to these members for their extra donations

T.J. & Pamilia	Harrell	Huff's Landing	Barbara	Mc Bride	Chamberlin
Vincent & Nancy	Dyrek	Gebhard	Jim & Arlene	Rockwell	Chamberlin
Dennis	Morkunas	Sandy	George & Mildred	Karl	Sandy
Ron & Claudene	Wert	Sandy	Chris & Amy	Fewell	Sandy
Larry & Lenore	Roesch	Huff's Landing	John & Nancy	Boender	Idle Ease
			Paul & Judy	Galassi	Winkler



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Gravel Lake Association

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