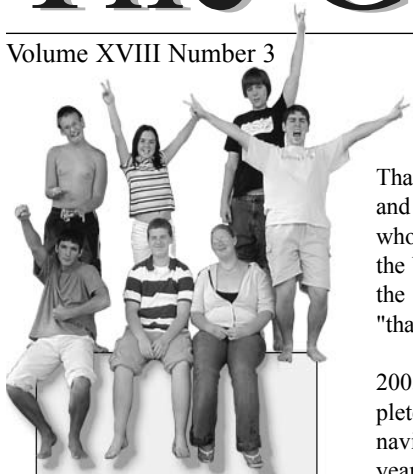


The Gravel Laker

Volume XVIII Number 3

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Summer, 2005



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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Thank you, thank you, thank you! Thank you to those of you who donated time and money to the channel mouth dredging project. Thank you to those of you who have volunteered to organize 4th of July events. Thank you to everyone on the board who selflessly sacrifices their time for the good of the association and the betterment of the lake. If you see one these people, please be sure to say "thanks." Much of their work goes unnoticed, but their contribution is huge.

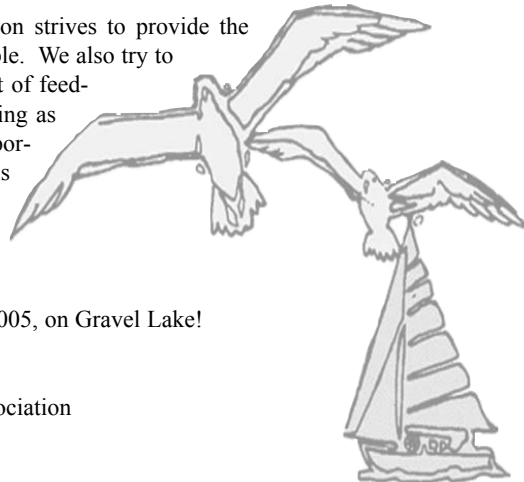
2005 will be a busy year for the Gravel Lake Association. Already we have completed the dredging of the mouth of the channel, which has greatly improved navigability. In the works is the most eventful 4th of July we've seen in many years. Also, the 2nd Annual Gravel Lake Social is planned for the week after the 4th of July. In terms of lake management, we are pursuing continued treatment of Eurasian Watermilfoil via petition with the Porter Township Board. The topic of sewers is still of interest, but we are moving slowly with this. If you would like to be a part of the sewer cause, please contact me directly and I'll let you know how you can help (contact information appears in this newsletter).

Although we are close to being "fully staffed," there are still opportunities to get involved. We are actively seeking an energetic person to serve as trustee on Sandy Beach. Currently we have two devoted trustees on Sandy Beach already, but this beach in particular is at least twice the size of any other beach on the lake. If you are interested, please contact me directly.

The Gravel Lake Association strives to provide the best care for the lake possible. We also try to make it fun! I receive a lot of feedback via email and in passing as well. Your feedback is important to the GLA, so if there is something you like, don't like, or would like to see, let us know!

Here's to a great summer, 2005, on Gravel Lake!

Craig DeSimone
President, Gravel Lake Association



Rules of the Water 101

Ready for some summer fun? Summer is here and the boat is calling, but before you hit the waves this summer, take some time to re-educate yourself on boating laws. I've dug through all of Michigan's marine laws, and pulled the ones that apply to inland lakes, such as ours. Be sure to read through this crash course to boating safety, to ensure you and your family and friends have a safe summer here at Gravel Lake!



Before You Head Out

- Before you hit the water, make sure that you have the Michigan Certificate of Number (aka the registration) onboard at all times, so that in the case that you are pulled over by an enforcement officer, they may inspect it.
- The new registration sticker must be applied to your boat. The registration number must be painted or applied as a decal to both sides of the bow, as high above the waterline as practical.

How To Equip Your Boat for Maximum Safety

- All vessels, including PWCs are required to have a Type B fire extinguisher onboard.
- A vessel's engine must have a factory-installed muffler or exhaust system for noise reduction or another effective muffling system.

When On the Water...

- Improper direction is defined as the failure to operate in a counter-clockwise direction.
- Riding on the bow is illegal if the vessel is not equipped with bow seating and the vessel is operating at greater than slow-no wake speed.
- Riding on the gunwales is not allowed.
- Operating a vessel while under the influence of alcohol or drugs is illegal.
- While underway, a person cannot sit, stand, or walk on any portion of a vessel not designed for that purpose.



Personal Flotation Devices

- You must have a personal flotation device (PFD) that is categorized as Type I, Type II, or Type III onboard for each person in the vessel. These PFDs must be in good and serviceable condition and must be readily accessible.
- Michigan law requires all children under six years of age to wear a Type I or Type II PFD when riding on the open deck of any vessel.
 - Any person riding on, or being towed behind a personal watercraft (PWC) must wear a PFD at all times.

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Age Requirements

Those less than 12 years of age:

- May legally operate a boat powered by a motor of no more than six horsepower (hp) without restrictions.
- May legally operate a boat powered by a motor of six to 35 hp if they are directly supervised onboard by a person at least 16 years of age.
- May not operate a boat powered by a motor of more than 35 hp under any conditions.

Those 12-15 years of age:

- May legally operate a boat powered by a motor of no more than six hp without restrictions.
- May legally operate a boat powered by a motor of more than six hp only if they have obtained their boating safety certificate and they are directly supervised onboard by a person at least 16 years of age.

Those 16 years of age or older:

- May operate any boat on the waters of Michigan with the following restrictions:
- Persons born after the year 1978 shall not operate a watercraft unless they obtain a boating safety certificate.
- Persons born before the year 1978 may operate a watercraft without having obtained a boating safety certificate.
- The operators of the watercraft must carry their boating safety certificate and display it upon the demand of an officer.

No one who is less than 12 years of age may legally operate a PWC.

Those 12-14 years of age:

- Must be accompanied solely by a parent or legal guardian.
- Must have obtained his / her boating safety certificate.

Those 14 years of age or older:

- Must have obtained his / her boating safety certificate if born after the year 1978.
- Those born before the year 1978 may operate a PWC without restrictions.

Just for Personal Watercrafts

- Any person riding on, or being towed behind a personal watercraft (PWC) must wear a PFD at all times. Also, every operator and passenger should know how to swim.
- Children under seven years of age may not ride on or be towed behind a PWC unless they are with a parent / guardian, or a designee of the parent / guardian.
- The lanyard of a PWC's ignition safety switch must be attached to the person, clothing, or PFD of the operator.
- It is illegal to jump the wake of another vessel unnecessarily close to that vessel, weave your PWC through congested traffic, and swerve at the last possible moment to avoid collision. Also, it is illegal to harass wildlife or disturb aquatic vegetation with your PWC.
- Never exceed the weight limit on your PWC.



Towing Skiers / Tubers / etc.

- Every vessel towing someone must have a person, in addition to the vessel operator, observing the towed person at all times.
- Any person being towed must stay at least 100 feet away from any moored or anchored vessel, any dock or raft, and any marked swimming area or person in the water.
- It is illegal to tow a person behind your vessel between:
 - o One hour after sunset and one hour before sunrise (if towed by a boat).
 - o One hour before sunset and 8:00 AM (if towed by a PWC).

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Who Has the Right of Way?

- When operating a power-driven vessel, you must give way to any vessel restricted in its ability to maneuver, such as a vessel towing someone / something. Also, you must give way to a sail boat under sail.

Nighttime Boating

- When underway between sunset and sunrise, vessels must be equipped with and exhibit navigation lights.
- If vessel is less than 26 feet long, an all-round white light or both a masthead light and a stern light must be shown.

Hours of Operation

- It is illegal to operate a PWC between one hour before sunset and 8:00 AM.



The Loose Ends

- Don't forget to always allow plenty of room for stopping. Also, remember that no power means no steering control.
- Take extra care when fueling your PWC or other motorized vessel near the water. Oil and gasoline spills are very detrimental to the aquatic environment.

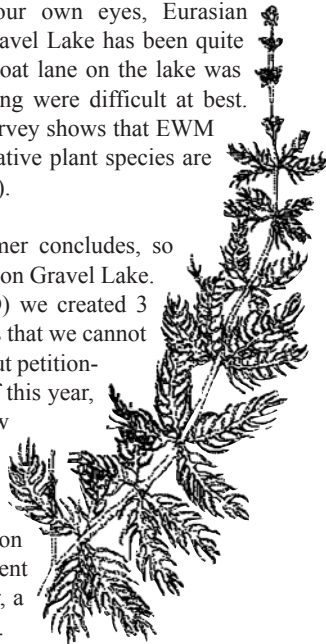
Sunset Times 2004 for Lawton, MI - (Eastern Daylight Time)

Date	Sunrise	Sunset
Saturday, June 5th, 2004	6:08 AM	9:16 PM
Saturday, June 12th, 2004	6:06 AM	9:20 PM
Saturday, June 19th, 2004	6:07 AM	9:23 PM
Saturday, June 26th, 2004	6:09 AM	9:24 PM
Saturday, July 3rd, 2004	6:12 AM	9:23 PM
Saturday, July 10th, 2004	6:17 AM	9:21 PM
Saturday, July 17th, 2004	6:22 AM	9:16 PM
Saturday, July 24th, 2004	6:29 AM	9:11 PM
Saturday, July 31st, 2004	6:35 AM	9:03 PM
Saturday, August 7th, 2004	6:43 AM	8:55 PM
Saturday, August 14th, 2004	6:50 AM	8:45 PM
Saturday, August 21st, 2004	6:57 AM	8:35 PM
Saturday, August 28th, 2004	7:05 AM	8:23 PM
Saturday, September 4th, 2004	7:12 AM	8:12 PM

The Future of Weed Treatment on Gravel Lake

As many of you can tell with your own eyes, Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM) treatment on Gravel Lake has been quite successful. Just two years ago, the boat lane on the lake was choked with weeds; boating and skiing were difficult at best. Now, our most recent aquatic plant survey shows that EWM has been nearly eradicated and that native plant species are starting to come back (which is good!).

Perish the thought, but as this summer concludes, so does our treatment program for EWM on Gravel Lake. The special assessment district (SAD) we created 3 years ago expires in 2005. This means that we cannot finance further weed treatments without petitioning the Porter Township Board. As of this year, the township's policy is not to renew any SAD without a petition. Regardless, the Gravel Lake Association Board of Trustees has been proactive in pursuing a new petition for the renewal of our EWM treatment SAD. Upon receipt of this newsletter, a new petition may already be available.



The Gravel Lake Association Board of Trustees voted last fall to pursue 4 more years of herbicide treatment with our current contractor, Professional Lake Management. The possibility of using weed-eating weevils was discussed. It was determined, however, based on the experience of other lakes, that the level of control achieved by the weevil method was not adequate because EWM was not eradicated by the weevils. Rather, the weevils seem to only control EWM by keeping it from growing higher than four feet below the water surface. Furthermore, weevils are planted using weevil-infested strands of EWM. The way these strands are planted would cause standing obstacles in the boat lane (where EWM grows best) and are targets for "harassment" by boaters. These two concerns regarding weevils led the board to once again pursue herbicide treatment.

The petition is planned to look and read very much like the last one. Owners will be assessed once per residence-lot combination, with residence defined as a separate building with complete and independent facilities for summer living. For example, an owner with one home on one lot would be assessed once.

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Weed Treatment FAQs

Got a question on the treatment of the weeds? We've got answers for you! If this doesn't answer your questions, then feel free to direct any other questions to cucad4@hotmail.com.

Summer 2005

Q: When will weed treatments occur in 2005?

A: Possible weed treatments will occur in the weeks of June 6th, July 11th, and August 1st.

Q: What will be treated?

A: Only spot treatments for Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM) will be performed on an as-needed basis. There will be no whole lake treatment.

Q: Will signs be posted prior to treatments?

A: Yes. Signs will be posted within the treatment area and 100 feet beyond only. The restrictions on the signs only apply to those that received a sign. Be aware that there is a 24 hour swimming ban immediately following a weed treatment. Make sure your renters are aware of this too.

Q: Will weed treatments occur in the channel?

A: Yes, spot treatments for EWM, curly leaf pondweed and algae treatments will occur in the channel on an as-needed basis just as they would on the lake. Additional weed treatments for non-invader species are not planned.

Q: How long does our Special Assessment District (SAD) last?

A: Our SAD ends this year and no further weed treatments will occur after this summer unless we choose to re-new our SAD via petition.

2006 and Beyond

Q: What happens after our SAD ends this year?

A: The Gravel Lake Association is pursuing the same petition process that we completed two years ago to establish a SAD to finance treatment of weeds in 2004 and 2005.

Q: How long would the new SAD last?

A: The association is pursuing a 4-year SAD that would last from 2006 - 2009.

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An owner with one home on one lot and a garage on another lot would be assessed once. An owner with just an empty lot would be assessed once. An owner with two (2) homes on two (2) separate lots would be assessed twice.

The geography of assessment would remain virtually the same. The total cost (across all 4 years) of weed treatment would range from approximately \$97,000 - \$149,000. This amounts to an approximate assessment of \$70 - \$107 per residence, per year. The assessment amount may be reduced if we do not spend all of the funds collected for the current SAD. (At press time, we are currently under budget). Owners will have the option to pay the entire 4 year assessment up front. The township is very likely to charge interest on owners who choose to pay assessments on a yearly basis. As before, greater than 50% of petitioned owners must sign the petition if the township is to consider renewing the SAD. Please note: the Porter Township Board makes the final decision on petition language and SAD creation. As a Gravel Lake community, we are merely requesting that they do so in the manner we suggest.

At press time, the new petition should be available for signature from your beach trustee or other designees. Although we plan on walking beaches in pursuit of signatures, you are strongly encouraged to be proactive about signing the petition. If you are in favor of keeping your lake free of EWM, help us by educating your neighbors and encouraging them to sign as well.

Questions can be directed to your beach trustee or Craig DeSimone at (773) 750-5922 or cucad4@hotmail.com.



COTTAGE LAWCARE

**A Summer Service Only
(Memorial – Labor Day)**

269/506-4600

\$20 - \$25 (Average Yard)

Weed Treatment FAQs (cont)

Q: How much would assessments be under the new SAD?

A: Based on contract pricing, the association estimates assessments will range from \$70 to \$107 per year, per household. These figures may be reduced by unspent funds from the current SAD. (Please see adjacent article for more information on this topic.)

Q: Why do we need to renew the SAD? Why do we need to continue treating EWM?

A: EWM is an aggressive invader species that is very hard to fully eradicate. Although we've been successful in controlling EWM, it will continue to come back year after year if left untreated.

Q: Have other treatment options been explored?

A: Yes, the board has discussed the possibility of using EWM-eating weevils, but determined that the level of control and the planting requirements of weevils are not adequate for Gravel Lake.

Other Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM)?

A: EWM is a non-native weed species that has the ability to grow and expand aggressively through fragmentation. If left unmanaged, it can make a body of water impassable and can compromise necessary native aquatic plant and fish species.

Q: Where did EWM come from?

A: EWM almost undoubtedly has been brought to Gravel Lake via public access boat traffic. It was officially detected in the lake in 2000 and has likely been in the lake much longer.

Q: How do herbicides work on EWM?

A: The herbicides used by Professional Lake Management to treat EWM only affect EWM, curly leaf pondweed, and a minimal amount of native milfoil (<5%). These herbicides kill the plant while leaving native species unharmed.

Q: What effect do herbicides have on humans and fish?

A: The herbicides used to control EWM have no effects on fish or humans. Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, Michigan Department of Agriculture and the Federal Environmental Protection Agency have approved all herbicides used.

Fertilizer and Its Affect on the Lake

By Wallace E. Fusilier, Ph.D.

I often comment that a lake is nitrogen limited, or phosphorus limited, or both (at different times of the year). Here's what it means. I'll use a farmer as an example.

When a farmer has his fields tested, he wants to know what the nutrient in shortest supply is. The reason he wants to know this is so he can increase crop production by adding that nutrient to his fields. This nutrient in shortest supply is the "limiting nutrient". In other words, if he adds more of this nutrient, he'll get more hay, or corn, or grain, etc.

The same concept applies to lakes, except that you (usually) don't want more aquatic plants or algae in your lake. So the last thing you would want to do is add more of the nutrient which is in the shortest supply to your lake; the "limiting nutrient".

Early studies suggested that phosphorus was the limiting nutrient; hence the comment that phosphorus should not be added to a lake was commonplace. In fact, many lawn fertilizer companies offer what they call "lake-safe fertilizers" which they feel contain little or no phosphorus.

Several years ago when I was sampling Eagle Lake in Oakland County, I encountered a lawn fertilizer applicator. I asked him what the phosphorus concentration of the liquid fertilizer he was applying to a lakeside lawn was. He said he really didn't know. I asked him if he had any idea what it was. He said it was "low". I asked if he had any idea what "low" meant. He said he thought it was about one half of one percent.

One half of one percent is 5,000 parts per million, or 5 million parts per billion.

We consider the phosphorus concentration in good quality lakes to be 10 parts per billion or less, and in poor quality lakes to be in the neighborhood of 50 parts per billion. So you can see that although the fertilizer applicator thought he was applying a "low" concentration of phosphorus to lawns surrounding a lake, it was five hundred thousand times too high for what we would consider to be a good quality lake, and one hundred thousand times too high for what we would consider to be a poor quality lake.

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Other Frequently Asked Questions (cont)

Q: Why is Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM) a problem?

A: EWM spreads quickly through fragmentation and has the ability to overwhelm beneficial native plant species. EWM forms a canopy on the water's surface blocking out the sunlight to the native plant populations. It can also reduce oxygen levels for fish species, stunt pan fish populations and interfere with lake activities such as boating and swimming. Costs for control increase dramatically as EWM is left unchecked.

Q: What herbicides will be used to control EWM on Gravel Lake?

A: SONAR (fluridone) is a lake-wide herbicide that was used in 2004 and can only be used every 3 years on lakes that have a substantial amount of EWM. REWARD (diquat) is a contact herbicide that may be used for the control of EWM, curly leaf pondweed, and the other exotic species. RENOVATE (triclopyr) and NAVIGATE (2,4-D) are systemic herbicides that may also be used for EWM control. Each of these products may be used at one time or another on Gravel Lake. The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), for the use of EWM control, has approved all of the products.

Q: Are there fishing restrictions with the use of the herbicides listed above?

A: No. The herbicides listed above do not have any fishing restrictions and have no expected toxicity to fish. These herbicides do not build-up in the fat tissue of fish.

Q: Will our drinking water be safe?

A: Michigan DEQ requires concentration equal or less than 20 ppb (parts per billion) for SONAR for drinking water applications. These herbicides were applied to Gravel Lake at a concentration of only 6 ppb. The herbicides used on Gravel Lake will not seep into drinking water wells. The MDEQ and EPA rigorously evaluated all of these factors prior to granting approval for use.

Q: Are there any swimming restrictions?

A: Michigan DEQ requires a one-day swimming ban for all herbicide applications. However, most of the product labels do not require a swimming ban at all and over the past 26 years of business, Professional Lake Management has never had a case of someone being harmed from swimming in treated water.

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What we are finding is most lakes are phosphorus limited in spring and nitrogen limited in summer. This means no lawn fertilizers should be used in the lake watershed, because the extra phosphorus in spring will cause more plants and algae to grow, and the extra nitrogen in summer will cause more plants and algae to grow. This may explain why the water quality of many lakes continues to deteriorate, even when residents try to control the amount of phosphorus which enters the lake. They also need to control the amount of nitrogen which enters the lake.

If there was only one point I could get across to every person living on or near a lake, it would be: Do not put fertilizer on your lawn.

The amount of damage lawn fertilizers do to lakes in terms of increasing plant and algae growth continues to increase at a rapid rate. The fellow from Eagle Lake in Cass County who commented that: "No one in their right mind should fertilize a lake lot" was absolutely correct.

Farewell to a Gravel Lake Friend-
In Memory Of Sherlie Marski

Sherlie Marski, a 30 year Gravel Lake resident, passed away on April 1, 2005. She was survived by many friends and one family member, Judith Ann Dewes of Dyer, Indiana.

Sherlie celebrated her 80th Birthday at a party that was thrown in August by her friend and caretaker Irene Mencl. I can tell you that she had the time of her life and has talked about it ever since. In fact, I think it was the best party that I have been to. Special thanks to those who attended the party and made it a day that she would never forget.

Although Sherlie didn't get out of the house very often she did enjoy her last days by having lunch with Irene in town at the Drop Anchor Tavern. A few days before she passed, she spent the day with Gary Mencl who was like a son to her out on his farm with his family. She told me that she had the best time watching Gary play with his daughter Lydia and being outdoors on such a beautiful day. On Wednesday, a few of us went to her house to visit and LaShel Mencl, a long time friend, gave her a perm and a great hairdo, which was something that Sherlie was very fussy about, . . . looking good! We played some of her favorite music by Ann Murray. We sang and danced as we often did and had a really nice time. That was the last time I saw her and feel really good about the fact that she had a really good week before she died.

She will be remembered by all and we will miss her.

Judy Semplinski
Friend & Neighbor

Methamphetamine: A Growing Epidemic

By Lynn Flavin

Methamphetamine is an addictive stimulant that affects the brain in many ways. In the short term it causes mind and mood changes such as anxiety, euphoria, and depression. Long term, it causes chronic fatigue, paranoia and/or delusional thinking. All damage is permanent. You may hear different names for it such as speed, meth, crystal, crank, tweak, go-fast, ice, glass, uppers or black beauty. It can be addictive with just one use, and is the primary cause of emergency room treatment especially when used in combination with other drugs such as alcohol, heroin, or cocaine.

Lawton is leading in the number of reported meth cases over those in Decatur and PawPaw. A meth lab was even found right here on Gravel Lake. Beyond the destruction that this drug does to the human body, the by-products of a meth lab are ignitable, corrosive and toxic in nature. If you become aware of discarded 2 liter bottles that appear to have a substance in them, do not touch or move them. It is time for a 911 call. These can explode by just touching them.

Meth labs are often found in the vineyards and fields, and the "cooks" don't care about the environment. They will get rid of these by-products along side the roads or by pouring them in the ground causing contamination. During the winter people have been known to "cook" in huts on the lakes and then pour the toxins in the lakes.

Awareness is the only thing that will keep the drug houses off of Gravel Lake. Additional information will be presented at the annual meeting and online at www.vbmeth.org, or you can reach me at 269-624-4501. I co-chair the Lawton Anti-Meth Coalition and sit on the VanBuren County Meth Task Force.

Recent By-Law Changes

The Gravel Lake Association Board of Trustees has recently enacted the following by-law changes.

1. The fiscal year has been changed from July 1st - June 30th to match the calendar year in an effort to simplify bookkeeping. "The fiscal year of the corporation shall commence on January 1st and shall continue through December 31st of the same year." (Article VI, Section 2)
2. The expenditure limit which does not require board approval has been raised from \$100.00 to \$200.00 in order to expedite payment of lesser bills. "Expenditures in excess of two hundred dollars (\$200.00) must be voted on by the Board of Trustees." (Article VI, Section 5)
3. An owner may name a designee to hold the position of trustee on the Board of Trustees, but such designees shall not constitute more than 30% of the Board of Trustees. Designees would still require a vote of approval from the entire membership. The spirit of this amendment is to broaden the availability of willing trustee candidates. "An owner may name a designee to be nominated as a trustee on the Board of Trustees. Such designees shall not constitute more than 30% of the Board of Trustees." (Article V, Section 12)

The membership of the Gravel Lake Association passed a by-law change to increase membership dues in response to rising costs and increased activities of the association. This increase is effective December 31st, 2004. "Annual dues are \$35.00." (Article VI, Section 9). Please see "In regards to membership dues...." section for more information.

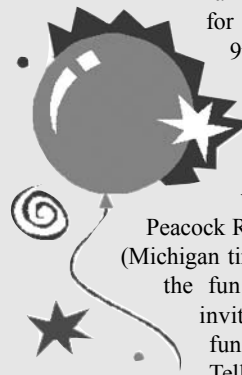


Advertise in The Gravel Laker!

Our newsletter goes out to all of the residents of Gravel Lake about three times a year. For rates and more information, email Jamie Paramski, editor of The Gravel Laker, at jamie_paramski@hotmail.com.

Gravel Lake Social

Hey everyone! (And we mean everyone!)



Mark your calendars for Saturday, July 9th!!! It is our 2nd annual Gravel Lake Social Dance! Once again it will be at Peacock Ridge at 8:00 PM (Michigan time). Come join the fun! Everyone is invited to attend a fun-filled evening!

Tell your family & friends! Start spreading the word! All ages are welcome. There will be appetizers, a cash bar, a DJ and lots of dancing! The cost is only \$10 per person presale tickets or \$15 per person at the door. Ask anyone that went last year and they'll tell you it was a BLAST! Tickets will be sold door to door via your beach trustee in June, as well as at the June 25th GLA membership meeting. Also, the GLA would like to extend a big Thank You! to the Peacock Ridge for donating their facility to us for this event.

SEE YOU THERE!

The Fourth of July Festivities

The Fourth of July is just around the corner! The Gravel Lake Association has lots of fun activities planned to help celebrate Independence Day. There is fun for people of all ages, from games and raffles to the Fun Run and boat parade. Take a look at the Fourth of July weekend activities. Everyone is invited! Bring your friends, family, neighbors, even Grandma and Grandpa! It is sure to be a great time!

Saturday, July 2nd

10:30 AM*

Gravel Lake Fun Run

Lace up your gym shoes! This race is good for walkers and runners alike. Pre-register if you would like a Fun Run t-shirt. Information can be found at the Willow Beach Resort. We will gather in front of the Willow Beach Resort shortly before 10:30 AM. If you have questions, please contact Emily Moore at elmo_moe_moore@hotmail.com or call her at (219) 393-0204.

Saturday, July 2nd

12:00 PM*

Kids' Games

Gather up the little ones and come on down to Willow Beach Resort to participate in the Kids' Games! There are games and goodies for kids of all ages. Don't forget the camera!

Thanks to Barbara Wagar Curley at Premier Properties SW for her generous donation to the 4th of July Kids' Games!

Sunday, July 3rd

10:00 AM*

Paddle Boat Regatta

This is the revival of the beloved Paddle Boat Race! All you need is a captain, a skipper, a PFD for each, and a \$1 entry fee to benefit the GLA. (And a paddle boat, of course!) The paddle boat race begins in front of Willow Beach Grocery. All ages welcome!

Sunday, July 3rd

2:00 PM*

Boat Parade

This year's theme is Mardi Gras! At 2:00PM, head on over to the Willow Beach Resort, where the parade officially begins, and join in on the parade around the lake. Boats will need to pre-register at Willow Beach Grocery on Friday (the 1st) or Saturday (the 2nd), where they will pick up a number to display on the side of the boat. This is how the boats will be identified from shore. Judges will be seated on the beach outside Willow Beach Grocery. The best decorations will win a prize!

*All times are noted in Michigan time.

Blast From the Past....



Do you have any pictures or stories from Gravel Lake's younger days? Send them our way! We would love to hear your stories of old, as well as see any pictures you may have stashed away from your parents /grandparents/older neighbors/etc. Gravel Lake has been home to generation after generation of families. Share your history with us! Please send info and pictures to jamie_paramski@hotmail.com.



Channel Dredging Update

Reported by Suzanne Reed

The mouth of the channel was dredged on May 8th. Greg Brucks ran the excavator, digging the silt from the channel and dumping it into a pile by the public access. John Jewell ran the front-end loader and hauled the dredged material to the back of his pole barn on Gravel Lake Dr. The task took about 16 hours to complete, including clean-up.

Extra money was collected from lake and channel residents to rent a larger excavator. This allowed the channel to be dredged deeper and further. This will prevent the need for re-dredging for at least ten years. The channel entrance is now deeper and wider than it was before.

Many residents of the lake and channel came to watch and to comment on the progress throughout the day. Art and Fran Earl, of Sandy Beach, provided lunch for the operators, as well as for observers. Everyone who passed through the channel found it much easier to maneuver.

Contact us!

We want to hear from you! Please email your questions or ideas to Jamie Paramski at jamie_paramski@hotmail.com, or to Craig DeSimone at cucad4@hotmail.com. Also, stop by and take a look at our home on the web, at www.gravellake.org. There you will find pictures, past newsletters, minutes from recent Board of Trustee meetings, as well as the current weather at the lake.

The Fish of Gravel Lake

Ever wonder what exactly is swimming below the water's surface? Here is a quick list of our gilled-n-finned Gravel Lakers.

- Bowfin (aka "Dogfish")
- White Sucker
- Brown Bullhead (aka "Catfish")*
- Yellow Bullhead (aka "Catfish")*
- Largemouth Bass
- Northern Pike
- Yellow Perch
- Bluegill
- Pumpkinseed
- Green Sunfish
- Warmouth Bass
- Smallmouth Bass**
- Black Crappie**
- Walleye**
- Common Shiner (minnow)
- Bluntnose Minnow
- Golden Shiner (minnow)
- Fathead Minnow

*There does not exist any true species of Catfish in Gravel Lake.

**Existing population is very small.



Treasurer's Report

Beginning Balance as of 1/1/05		\$12,498.97
Deposits		
Channel Dredging Donations	\$1,345.00	
2005 Association Dues	\$107.00	
Total Deposits		1,452.00
Expenses		
Michigan Dept. of Commercial Services	20.00	
Michigan Lake & Stream Assoc. Dues	125.00	
Brucks Contruction - Channel Dredging	1,500.00	
South Michigan Insurance Agency - Surety Bond Renewal	100.00	
Michigan Waterfront Alliance - Membership Dues	25.00	
The Michigan Riparian - 44 Subscriptions	308.00	
Superior Imaging - Printing & Distribution of Newsletter	540.00	
Brucks Contruction - Channel Dredging	1,000.00	
Total Expenses		3,618.00
Checkbook Balance as of 5/26/05		\$10,332.97

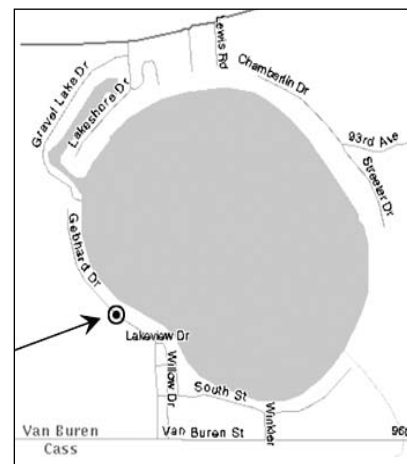
Gravel Lake Association Summer Meetings

When? Saturday, June 25th at 10 AM and Saturday, August 25th at 10 AM (both Michigan time)

Where? Ron & Sue Raab's pole barn on Gebhard Beach (see map)

- Win money!!! 50/50 Raffle! (\$100 maximum prize)
Come early to buy tickets!
- Gravel Lake Social tickets on sale
- Trustee Elections
- Details on 4th of July activities
 - Fun Run
 - Kids' Games
 - Boat Parade

From Van Buren St., follow Gebhard Dr. past the Willow Beach Resort. It's the first pole barn on the west side of Gebhard Dr. (next to a volleyball court). Please bring a lawn chair as only a limited amount of seating will be provided.



In regards to membership dues.....

The board voted and approved a fiscal year change in 2004 in an effort to simplify bookkeeping. Our fiscal year now begins on January 1st and ends on December 31st. This was made effective on December 31st, 2004. Dues are payable on January 1st, but will be accepted throughout the year.

Additionally, the GLA membership voted to increase our annual membership dues from \$25.00 to \$35.00. This is the first dues increase in more than a decade and it is in response to growing expenses from increased activities and lake management responsibilities. This increase was effective January 1st, 2005.

Where do my dues go?

- Water quality testing & research
- Membership dues for Michigan Lakes & Streams Association
- 4th of July activities
- The Gravel Laker and other printed information
- www.gravellake.org
- Meeting advertisements in the Courier-Leader
- Treasurer's bonding
- Liability insurance

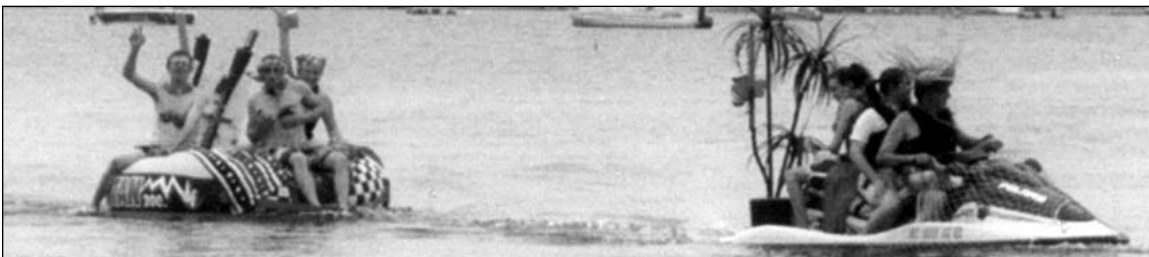
Why should I become a member?

- Support the aforementioned activities/services
- Voice your opinion
- Strengthen our community
- Make a difference
- Meet your neighbors
- Protect your significant real estate investment

It's Tee Time!

Are you a golfer? Come join your fellow Gravel Lakers in the First Annual GLA Golf Scramble! The event takes place at 8:00 AM on August 6th at the Peacock Ridge Golf Course on M-40. \$55 per person covers 18 holes, a cart, and lunch.

There will be prizes! If you are interested in this event, please make reservations with Suzanne Reed no later than July 17th. Contact Suzanne at 269-808-0327 or via email at redrazor25@yahoo.com.



Gravel Lake Association

Membership Form: January 2005 - December 2005

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 2005	\$35.00
Optional Riparian magazine	\$ 7.00

Additional Donation _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

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

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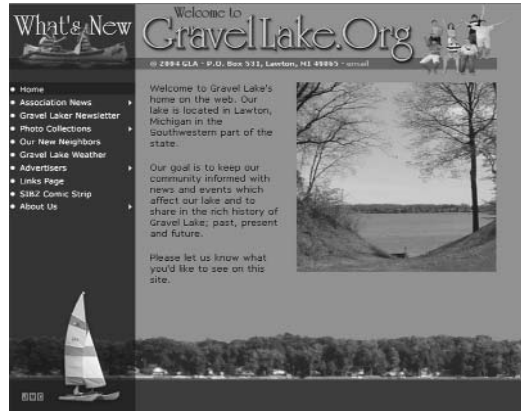
GLA on the Web

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 those 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 web-site suggestions, contact Jim for details - jim@jmcstudios.com.



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Extra Donations for Channel Dredging Project

Thanks to the following people for their extra help in funding the channel dredging project. Your contributions are appreciated!

Lynn Gilliland & Dennis Morkunas
Sheila & Steve Poyser
Harley & Bev Reeder
Kevin Davis
Eric & Rachael Herchenroether
Glenn & Judith Williams
Richard & Tama Milanese
Lory & Herbert Eggers
Edsal Mattax
Gregory & Jennifer Kitzmiller
David & Mary Brown
Terry & Judy Broucker
Art & Frances Earl
Mark & Leslie Williams
Paul & Mary Winn
Don & Frances Van Meter
Joanne & Howard Matlock
George & Mildred Karl
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Mike & Joanne Clifford
Patrick & Ann Murray
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Ron & Claudine Wert
Alyn & David Thomas
Warren & Nancy Humble
John & Angelina Orr
Gerald & Mary Kubik
Kathy & Lamarr Brooks
Ray & Suzanne Reed

Contacts List

GLA OFFICERS:

President - Craig DeSimone cucad4@hotmail.com - is (773) 750-5922

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 - Judy Weis

Winkler Beach - Pat Murray and Paul Galassi

Editor, Gravel Laker - Jamie Paramski


Fundraising Committee - Lauren Micheli (chair)

Channel Committee - Art Earl (chair)

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



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Citations

Boating 101. Information was drawn from:

The Handbook of Michigan Boating Laws and Responsibilities. Michigan Department of Natural Resources.
Website: <http://www.boat-ed.com/mi/handbook/>.

Fertilizer and Its Affect on the Lake. Wallace E. Fusilier, Ph.D., Consulting Limnologist, World Headquarters:
9200 Dexter Chelsea Road, Dexter, Michigan 48130. April 1995.

Sunset Times 2004

Old Farmer's Almanac @ www.almanac.com.

The Fish of Gravel Lake information was drawn from:

Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/1,1607,7-153-10371_14793-30538--,00.html.

Gravel Lake Association

P.O. Box 531

Lawton, MI 49065

www.gravellake.org

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