

The Gravel Laker

Volume XIX Number 1

www.gravellake.org

Summer, 2007



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Summer 2007 - GLA and Community Events Calendar

June 6/23	10:00 AM	GLA Meeting @ Raab's Pole Barn
July 7/4	All day event	Fourth of July
July 7/7	10:00 AM	GL Fun Run
July 7/7	12:00 PM	Kids' Games
July 7/7	4:00 PM	Boat Parade
July 7/8	10:00 AM	Paddle Boat Regatta
Mid-July	TBD	Chris Essling Memorial Vball Tourney*
July 20-21	9AM - 5PM	Paw Paw Days (arts & crafts sales)
July 21	TBD	Gravel Lake Social*
July 21	9AM - 4PM	Paw Paw Annual Car & Truck Show
Mid-August	10:00 AM	GLA Meeting*
September 7-9	All day event	Paw Paw Wine Festival & Carnival
September 15	TBD	GLA Pub Crawl

NOTE: All times noted in Eastern Standard Time (EST).

Any announcements or schedule changes will be posted at Willow Beach Grocery.

* Watch for info at Willow Beach Grocery or from your beach representative.

President's Corner

I'm pleased to announce that our sewer project continues to move forward. As you'll read about in more detail, both Gravel Lake and Big Fish Lake have surpassed the necessary petition threshold to advance this project. Generally, any public works project like this tends to be a slow mover. However, we are fortunate for the aggressive efforts of Ray Reed, Gravel Lake Association Sewer Chair, and Alan Smaka, engineer with Wightman & Associates. These two individuals have really pushed our project along this winter and, as a result, the Porter Township Board is moving at a very deliberate pace. A big Thank You to Ray, Alan, and the Porter and Marcellus Township Boards! As always, if you have any questions, feel free to contact your beach rep or me and we will be happy to talk with you.

But don't think you're off the hook just yet-- we still need your support! Porter Township and Marcellus Township will be hosting public hearings to further confirm community support. If you want to protect our lake with sewers you need to attend these meetings and voice your support or write a letter/email to the same end. As soon as we know public hearing dates we will communicate this information widely. Look for info at Willow Beach Grocery.

In addition to the sewer project, there are a number of other things going on. More of the same great activities as well some new stuff. Our Fourth of July celebration will occur on the weekend of July 7th and will include a Fun Run, Kids Games, the boat parade, and the Paddle Boat Regatta. We will continue with our usual fundraising activities, but in addition, we will be adding some new Gravel Lake paraphernalia. Another new topic of discussion is fish stocking. Right now we are doing our homework and will determine what's best for our lake.

One thing that we really want to know, though, is how we are doing. What would you like to see? What comments / suggestions / complaints do you have? Let us know. Contact information is at the back of this issue.

Have a happy Fourth and a happy summer, everyone!

Craig DeSimone
President, Gravel Lake Association



Gravel Lake Sewer Committee Update

What has happened with regards to the sewer project over the past few months?

The sewer project continues to move forward.

The Porter Township and Marcellus Township layer received the petitions from Gravel Lake and Fish Lake and confirmed we have sufficient support to allow the townships to move forward with the sewer project.

In November of last year, there was a meeting to determine the preliminary special assessment district (SAD) for Gravel Lake. The participants in this meeting were the Porter Township Board, Porter Township lawyer, the engineer from Wightman and Associates, Craig DeSimone, and Ray Reed.

In April 2007, the Porter and Marcellus Township Boards met in a combined public meeting. Several bond council lawyers were interviewed and one was selected. The boards also passed resolutions to create a "sewer authority." The sewer authority will be responsible for managing the bond paperwork, finalizing the SAD, oversight of the completed project, and allocation of funds. The sewer authority is a cross-functional team with members from both the lake community and the township boards.

What's next?

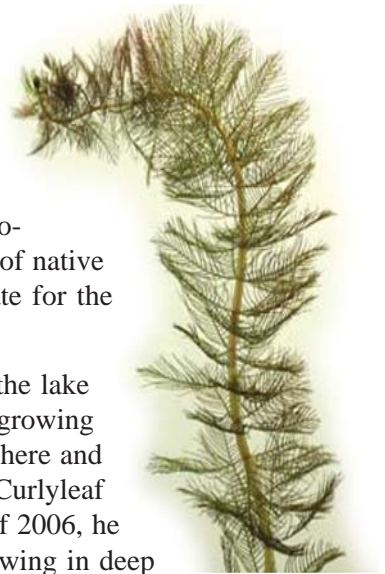
Below is a punch list of items that need to be completed before we can "flush" this project. I have not provided timelines because these would be arbitrary guesses. I can report that after we receive funding (Item #6) the project should be complete within 1 ½ to 2 years.

Item	Description	Completed
1	Educational campaign for Gravel Lake Community and Porter TWP board	Yes
2	Petition Drive Completed	Yes
3	Sewer Authority Created	Yes
4	Special Assessment Hearings	
5	Apply for USDA Funding	
6	Receive Project Funding*	
7	Final Design Completed and Project Plan Finalized	
8	Bid Projects	
9	Start Construction	

Ray Reed
GLA Sewer Chair

Weed Treatment Update

We continue to treat Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM) this year and our contract continues through 2009. Professional Lake Management has already been out to the lake this year and will return periodically throughout the summer. Don't forget, our weed treatment program is designed to control EWM. Our goal is NOT to rid the entire lake of all weeds. Native species are good for the lake and their comeback signifies the success of our program. Nonetheless, the association will continue to be watchful of native growth and determine whether additional controls are appropriate for the health of the lake.



Andy Tomaszewski, of Professional Lake Management, visited the lake at the end of May and observed that "there was not much milfoil growing in the main lake just yet. There were a few single milfoil plants here and there but nothing excessive. The channel had an abundance of Curlyleaf pondweed and was treated." He went on to say that in the fall of 2006, he did see an area of milfoil way out in the middle of the lake growing in deep water. However, he could not find it this spring. He said that if it does grow up Eurasian Milfoil to where it is visible, it will most likely have to be treated later in the season.

Gravel Lake received a treatment the first week of June. Andy recommends spot treating only areas of shoreline where milfoil is found. He said that the channel will be evaluated for algae.

Fourth of July Festivities 2007

Since the Fourth falls mid-week this year, we will officially celebrate this great holiday the weekend after; July 7th-8th. Please notice that this year's schedule is different from last year's schedule. Good luck to all participants! And to all observers, take pictures and send them to jim@jmcstudios.com so he can post them on the Gravel Lake website!



Fourth of July Festivities 2007 - Continued from previous page

Here is this year's Fourth of July Activity line-up:



Saturday, July 7th - 10:00 AM*

Gravel Lake Fun Run

We're hitting the ground running with this year's Independence Day celebrations. The Gravel Lake 2-Mile Fun Run will kick off the weekend's activities. So lace up those running shoes and head on down to Willow Beach Grocery by 10 AM. Look for early sign-up materials at Willow Beach Grocery.



Saturday, July 7th - 12:00 PM*

Kids' Games

Some new games, mixed in with favorites from last year, the Kids' Games are always a blast for not only the kids, but the adults as well! Children of all ages are welcome-- there's something for everyone!



Saturday, July 7th - 4:00 PM*

Boat Parade

It's a bird! It's a plane! It's Superman!on a pontoon boat?! This year's Boat Parade theme is Superheroes! Show the Lakers who your favorite Superhero is, whether it be Batman, Spidey, Captain America or Wonderwoman. The most SUPER boat wins a prize!



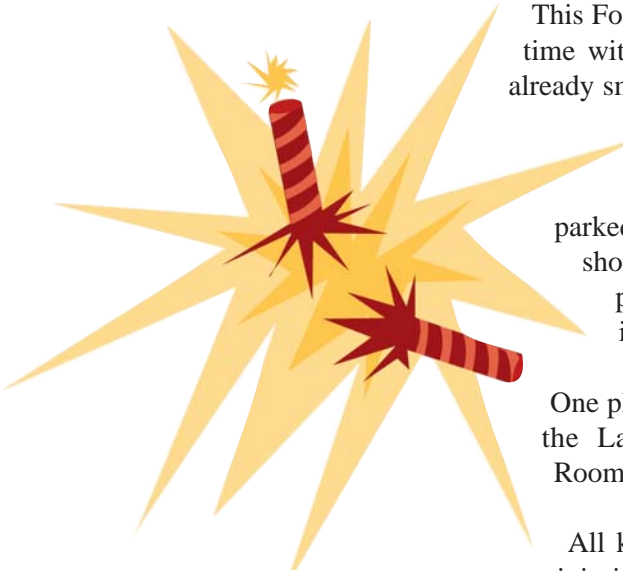
Sunday, July 8th - 10:00 AM*

Paddle Boat Regatta

This classic paddle boat race keeps growing every year. It's a competition mixed with chaos and fun. Everyone is welcome!

*All times are noted in Michigan time.

Fireworks Safety



This Fourth of July, I look forward to spending some time with my friends and family at the GL. I can already smell the burgers and hot dogs on the charcoal grill. The weather will be nice and hot, perfect for lounging around on the boat. Lakers' driveways will be packed with cars parked anywhere they can find a spot. From the shore I can already see gatherings and people playing bags on the front lawn and dogs chasing frisbees.

One place I do not intend on visiting this Fourth, is the Lakeview Community Hospital Emergency Room in Paw Paw.

All kidding aside, about 10,000 firework-related injuries occur in the US every year. The most common injuries are burns or lacerations to the hands, face, feet and eyes, according to Stewart Wang, M.D., Burn Director, University of Michigan Trauma Burn Center. On average, children under 15 account for almost half of all fireworks injuries.

Here are some fireworks safety tips that you should follow to ensure a safe and happy Fourth of July. Tips provided by Phantom Fireworks and the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.

- Do not allow young children to play with fireworks under any circumstances. Sparklers, considered by many as the ideal "safe" firework for the young, burn at more than 1,000°F and can easily ignite clothing. Always watch your children when they are playing with sparklers and light them one at a time at arm's length. Never give these to a child under 5 years old.
- Children of all ages should be supervised when fireworks are near. No horseplay or running near the fireworks area.
- Light fireworks outdoors in a clear area away from houses, dry leaves, grass, and flammable materials.
- Light them on a dry, level surface.
- Keep a bucket of water nearby for emergencies and for pouring on fireworks that don't go off.

Fireworks Safety - Continued from previous page



- Do not try to relight or handle malfunctioning fireworks. Douse them thoroughly with water and throw them away. NEVER try to reignite a firework that didn't go off the first time.
- Be sure other people are out of range before lighting fireworks.
- Never ignite fireworks in a container, especially a glass or metal container.
- Store fireworks in a dry, cool place. Check instructions for special storage directions.
- Always observe local laws.
- Never have any portion of your body directly over a firework while lighting.
- Always light fireworks with a punk or an extended butane lighting device. This will enable you to keep as far away from the firework as possible.
- Use a flashlight at night so the fuse can be easily seen. Never use a lantern or other flame producing device near fireworks for illumination.
- Light only one firework at a time.
- Do not drink alcoholic beverages before or during the time you are handling fireworks. Also, do not smoke near the fireworks area.
- Do not experiment with homemade fireworks.
- Keep the pets in the house. The noise and lights frighten many animals and some may try to attack observers or the firework itself.

It may seem like a lot of regulations, but while fireworks can be a very fun and festive tradition, the results can be devastating if used inappropriately.

Happy Fourth everyone!

Did You Know...

Independence Day commemorates the formal adoption of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. However, it was not declared a legal holiday until 1941. Here are a few other fun facts about the Fourth of July.



2.5 million

The estimated population living in the newly independent nation in July 1776.

302 million

The nation's population this July Fourth.

150 million

Number of hotdogs (all varieties) expected to be consumed by Americans on this Fourth of July.

More than 68 million

Number of Americans who said they have taken part in a barbecue during the previous year. It's probably safe to assume a lot of these instances took place on Independence Day.

\$201.9 million

The value of fireworks imported from China in 2005, representing the bulk of all imported US fireworks (\$211 million).

30

Number of places in the US with "liberty" in their name. The most populous one is Liberty, MO (pop. 28,852). Iowa, with four, has more of these places than in any other state: Libertyville, New Liberty, North Liberty, and West Liberty.

32

Number of places in the US with "eagle" in their name, such as Eagle Pass, TX (pop. 24,847) and Eagle County, CO (pop. 47,530).

11

Number of places in the US that have "independence" in their name, such as Independence, MO (pop. 111,023).

5

Number of places in the US that have that have "America" in their name, such as American Fork, UT (pop. 22,387).

1912

Year in which the new national flag with 48 stars was "formally and officially endowed."

1960

The 50-star American flag waves for the first time as Hawaii is given statehood.

- The stars on the original flag were in a circle so that no one colony would be viewed above another.
- Uncle Sam was first popularized during the War of 1812, when the term appeared on supply containers. But the US Congress didn't adopt him as a national symbol until 1961.
- The first two versions of the Liberty Bell were defective and had to be melted down and recast. The third version rang every Fourth of July from 1778 to 1835, when, according to tradition, it cracked as it was being tolled for the death of Chief Justice John Marshall.
- The iron framework of the Statue of Liberty was devised by French engineer Alexandre-Gustave Eiffel, who also built the Eiffel Tower in Paris.
- Father of the country and architect of independence, George Washington, held his first public office at the tender age of 17. He continued in public service until his death in 1799.

Q: Why do you see the firework explosion before hearing it?

A: Because sound travels at 742 miles per hour, but light travels at 670,616,625.6 miles per hour.

Q: Can you name the original 13 colonies?

<i>A: Connecticut</i>	<i>New York</i>	<i>Delaware</i>	<i>New Hampshire</i>	<i>North Carolina</i>
<i>Georgia</i>	<i>Pennsylvania</i>	<i>Maryland</i>	<i>Rhode Island</i>	<i>Massachusetts</i>
<i>Virginia</i>	<i>New Jersey</i>		<i>South Carolina</i>	

Recipes

All-American Apple Pie

On an American holiday, a classic American dessert...

- 1/4 c packed light brown sugar
- 1/4 c granulated sugar
- 1 tb all-purpose flour
- 1 tsp lemon zest, grated
- 1/4 tsp ground cinnamon
- 1/4 tsp ground nutmeg
- 6 medium apples; peeled, cored, and sliced very thinly
- 1 c raisins
- 1 double pie crust (9 inch)
- 1 lg egg, beaten
- 1 tsp granulated sugar



1. Preheat oven to 425°F. Spray a 9-inch deep-dish pie plate with cooking spray.
2. In a large bowl, combine brown sugar, granulated sugar, flour, lemon zest, cinnamon, and nutmeg. Mix well. Add sliced apples to sugar mixture; stir until well coated. Stir in raisins. Spoon into prepared plate.
3. Place pie crust on top of filling. Trim edges, pressing against edge of pan. Using a sharp knife, cut steam vents in piecrust.
4. To glaze, lightly brush piecrust with beaten egg. Sprinkle with sugar.
5. Bake about 30 to 40 minutes or until piecrust is golden brown. Place on a wire rack and cool for 30 minutes.

Super Simple Oreo Pie

Got 5 minutes? That's all it takes for this one....

- 1 ¾ cups cold milk
- 2 pkg. Chocolate or Chocolate Fudge Instant Pudding (4-serving size each)
- 1 container (8 oz.) Cool Whip, thawed
- 1 prepared Oreo chocolate cookie crust, 9 inch

1. Pour cold milk into large mixing bowl. Add pudding mix. Beat with wire whisk until well mixed. (Mixture will be thick.) Gently fold in Cool Whip. Spoon into crust.
2. Refrigerate the pie for at least 4 hours or until set.
3. Optional: Garnish with additional whipped topping or crushed Oreo cookies.

Helpful Hints for Buying Your First Boat

Boating is exciting, fun, and overall, very enjoyable. Buying a boat, however, can be nerve-racking and overwhelming. Regardless of whether you buy a new or used boat, it is very important to consider a number of things before making the big purchase.

1. How will you use the boat? Will it be used primarily for fishing, water sports, cruising around, taking day trips or weeklong excursions?
2. When and how often will the boat be used? Do you boat seasonally or year round?
3. Are you going to buy a new or used boat?
4. Where will you operate the boat? In lakes, rivers, or on the ocean?
5. How much can you afford to spend? Don't forget that there are many additional fees after the initial purchase cost. Some additional fees include maintenance, insurance, registration fees, trailer fees, dock fees, taxes, fuel and oil, winter storage fees, and instruction and safety course fees.
6. Where will the boat be kept? On an anchor, at a marina, docked on a pier, or on a lift?

When looking for a boat, you will want to consider it in terms of safety, physical condition, options and accessories, looks, performance, and cost.

All of these things will help you in deciding what boat to buy.

continued on page 12



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Helpful Hints for Buying Your First Boat - Continued from previous page

As with used automobiles, when you are buying privately, you have less safeguards than when buying from a dealer. When purchasing a used boat, it is a very good idea to have it inspected by a qualified marine surveyor. Pretty much anyone can call themselves "qualified", but for a real qualified marine surveyor, you can contact the National Association of Marine Surveyors (NAMS) or the Society of Accredited Marine Surveyors (SAMS) and they can recommend a surveyor in your area.

Just as with automobiles, major damage can be hidden on a boat and the boat can be passed off as "brand new" or has "never been in a wreck" or "no major damage". Having a qualified marine surveyor take a look at the nuts and bolts of the watercraft will not only give you peace of mind, but could potentially save you hundreds- even thousands- of dollars on your new purchase.

Another thing that wouldn't hurt is to spend some time on the water with another boat owner, preferably more than one. This will help you experience how different boats perform with changing weather, in varying conditions, and with different loads. This will also help you define what activities you prefer, which will help determine what boat you should buy.

Buying a boat can be a scary thing. Hopefully these helpful hints will help you get started.



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Watersheds, Lawn Care & Water Quality

What is a watershed?

A watershed is the surrounding land area that drains into a lake, stream, or river. It includes natural and artificial drainage systems, such as ditches and storm sewers. Even if your home is not next to a lake, stream, or river, you still live in a watershed. Every water body has a watershed that surrounds it. Each of us lives in a watershed and shares its water quality.

How do watersheds affect water quality?

If we pollute the watersheds surrounding a lake, stream, or river, we're directly affecting the water quality in that lake, stream, or river. Everything we do in a watershed, from caring for our lawns and gardens to picking up our leaves, affects the local water body. Caring for your watershed is caring for your local lake or stream.

Lawn Care

Phosphorus is one of the most troublesome pollutants in storm water runoff. Phosphorus comes from many sources, and it is the primary cause of water quality problems in our lakes and streams. Everything that is or was living contains phosphorus. It is in leaves. It is in lawn clippings. It is in animal wastes. And it is an ingredient in most lawn fertilizers. It is even attached to soil. When these items are picked up by storm water runoff, they are carried directly to our local lakes and streams, where they provide the lakes with excess phosphorus. This excess phosphorus causes increased algae growth. Algae are small green plants that live in lakes and streams. Increased algae growth is observed as green algae blooms or "scums" on lakes. Too much algae is harmful to a lake system. It blocks sunlight and prevents other plants from growing. When it dies and decays, it also takes much needed oxygen away from fish. Limiting phosphorus reduces algae blooms.

What can I do to help my watershed?

You can help your watershed by understanding that you are part of the solution to water quality problems. Your actions affect the water and environment around us. Keeping your lawn healthy is beneficial to water quality. Plant and maintain grass and natural vegetation to help water quality by soaking up rainfall, reducing runoff, and retaining sediment. Do not use fertilizers. Keep your leaves and lawn clippings out of the streets and gutters. Pick up your pet's wastes. It all adds up to better water quality. And that means water that is fun and safe to swim in, live by, and enjoy.

Marc Mascarello- Willow Beach

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Wildlife Segment: Everything Muskrats!



If you have spent a summer on the lake, it's pretty likely you've seen a little animal swimming in the water. He always seems to be rather busy and he's usually carrying something in his mouth. Is it a beaver? The answer is no, but it's very close to a beaver. It's actually a muskrat.

This mammal roams all of the US, except for the predominantly dry areas, taking up habitation in

swamps, costal and freshwater marshes, lakes, ponds, and slow-moving rivers. Most of the time, they feed on aquatic vegetation. Sometimes they'll also feed on crayfish, snails, mussels, frogs, insects, and slow-moving fish.

The muskrat has dense, brown fur that is overlaid with coarse guard hair, or little waterproof hairs that serve to protect the soft underhair from wear. The major distinguishing factor between a beaver and a muskrat is the tail. While a beaver's tail is flat like a pancake, the muskrat's tail has scales, is nearly hairless, and is somewhat flattened on the sides. With their webbed hind feet acting as paddles and their tail as a rudder, muskrats swim at a speed up to 3 miles per hour and can even swim backwards. The muskrat can give a warning slap with its tail, similar to the beaver, and remain submerged for as long as 15 minutes.

The adult muskrat weighs 2-4 pounds and is 18-25 inches in length, not including their tail, which can add an additional 8-11 inches. They have a high reproductive rate, typically producing up to four litters of six or seven young. After a gestation period of 28-30 days, the young are born blind, helpless, and almost naked. In two weeks, their eyes open and in about eight weeks, they are weaned from their mothers.

Muskrats live in or near water most of their lives. They make their homes in bank dens or lodges similar to those of the beaver but smaller in size. Muskrats excavate dens by burrowing into the banks of slow-moving streams with their sharp front claws. The dens are complete with dry chambers and underwater tunnels, and there are ventilation holes which are hidden at the surface by shrubs, branches, and thick vegetation. The lodges, constructed with aquatic plants, brush, and

Wildlife Segment: Everything Muskrats! - Continued from previous page

mud, are usually situated on a foundation of brush or a stump or are occasionally built up from the bottom of the wetland. Several small feeding huts that are similar to, but less complex than the lodges, may be constructed within the muskrat's territory. Here the animal will periodically feed while protected from predators and harsh weather.

Muskrats are active throughout the year and, although mainly nocturnal, are sometimes seen during the day. They are susceptible to cold and wind and spend more time in their dens during the winter. Although several may share a lodge during the winter, muskrats are highly territorial and aggressive toward each other. In fact, a female may kill newly-weaned young in an effort to drive them away before the arrival of a new litter. The muskrat's normal home range is usually within 200 yards of its den, although it may travel several miles over land in search of suitable habitat.

Historical Calendar

We are in the beginning stages of creating a historical Gravel Lake calendar as a fundraising campaign and we need your help! We are looking for old articles, photographs, postcards, and stories. Please send it to Gloria Caskey at the address below, or call or email her. All material will be returned unharmed. In addition, if you would be interested in participating in this project, please contact Gloria.

Gloria Caskey

gjcaskey@msn.com

home phone: 574-277-5347

home address: 11922 Bergamot Dr.
Granger, IN 46530

lake phone: 269-423-7863

lake address:: 94481 Gebhard Dr.
Lawton, MI 49065



2007 YTD TRESURER'S REPORT

Beginning balance as of 1/1/07 **\$19,406.59**

Deposits

2006 Association Dues	\$210.00
07/08 Association Dues/Riparian Subs.	\$1,168.00
Resident Phone Directory Advertising	\$720.00
Resident Phone Directory Advertising	\$290.00
Resident Phone Directory Advertising	\$365.00
2007 Association Membership Dues	\$70.00
Resident Phone Directory Advertising	\$120.00
Resident Phone Directory Advertising	\$445.00
Resident Phone Directory Advertising	\$120.00
2007 Association Membership Dues	\$112.00

Total Deposits **\$3,620.00**

Expenses

Riparian /MLSA -36 Subsriptions	\$288.00
Michigan Waterfront Alliance Membership	\$50.00
Kathy Brooks - Postage reimbursement	\$9.42
So. MI Insurance Agency - Surety Bond Renewal	\$100.00

Total Expenses **\$447.42**

Checkbook Balance as of 5/15/07 **\$22,579.17**

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Membership Paid List - (6/1/07)

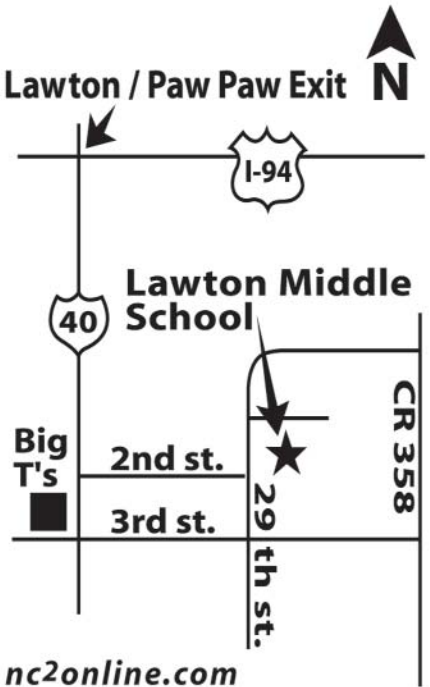
Last Name	First Name	Beach
Anderson	Ed & Lois	Sandy
Anderson	Harold & Karen	Sandy
Barber	Ray & Diane	Sandy
Barry	Mary Ann	Sandy
Beebe	Allen & Joyce	Chamberlin
Biss	Sherman & Billie	Idle Ease
Boender	John & Nancy	Idle Ease
Bogner	Rick Streeter	
Brockner	Terry & Judy	Sandy
Brown	David & Mary	Sandy
Caskey	John & Gloria	Gebhard
Cerney	James	Winkler
Cleary	William & Mary	Gebhard
DeRosa	Rick & Donna	Streeter
DeSimone	Carole	Willow
Dorsey	Deborah / John	Streeter
Dyrek	Vince & Nancy	Gebhard
Ehemann-		
Paramski	George & Louise	Huff's Landing
Enright	Frank J	Gebhard
Fernandez	Tom & Karen	Lewis
Fewell	Chris & Amy	Sandy
Fortney	Mark & Geri	Gebhard
Galassi	Paul & Judy	Winkler
Garrison	Jeanette	Idle Ease
Gaugush	Francis	Chamberlin
Gear	Arthur	Winkler
Haas	Jane	Chamberlin
Haley	Thomas	Idle Ease
Herchenroether	Eric & Rachel	Sandy
Heuring	Mike & Marge	Idle Ease
Howard	Marjorie	Chamberlin


Lawton



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Office 624-4080



Membership Paid List - (6/1/07)

Last Name	First Name	Beach
Huber	Tom & Karen	Streeter
Hunter	Mark	Idle Ease
Jabaay	Jim & Patti	Idle Ease
Jacques	John & Joan	Idle Ease
Jacques	Beverly & Jim	Idle Ease
Jennings	Richard & Alice	Gebhard
Jones	Corinne	Streeter
Jones	Terry & Fran	Sandy
Kanwischer	Norman & Ardath	Huff's Landing
Kapercev	Victor & Darlene	Idle Ease
Kent Family	Barb & Bob	Gebhard
Kitzmiller	Greg & Jennifer	Sandy
Kozlowski	Bruno & Mary Ann	Streeter
LaForge	Ed & Ann	Winkler
Leisten	Gary & Vickie	Sandy
Mc Bride	Jeffrey	Chamberlin
McDevitt	Dan & Marilyn	Huff's Landing
MencI	John & Irene	Gebhard
MencI	Gary & Laura	Gebhard
Meschke	Harry, Gary	Gebhard
Metz	William & Pat	Winkler
Morkunas	Dennis & Lynn	Sandy
Murphy	Wayne & Linda	Gebhard
Murray	Pat & Ann	Winkler
Nedvar	Jane	Idle Ease
O'Neill	Stephen & Roberta	Lewis
Ossowski	Tiffany & Michael	Sandy
Papineau	Dennis	Sandy
Parisi	John & Diane	Sandy
Pinkos	Steve & Janice	Idle Ease
Prichard	Jim & Shirley	Idle Ease
Puttkammer	Thomas & Lauren	Dugan's

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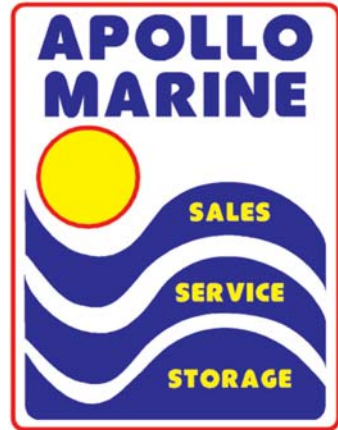
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Membership Paid List - (6/1/07)

Last Name	First Name	Beach
Quick	Raymond & Judy	Winkler
Rau	Jim & Donna	Willow
Reeder	Bev & Harley	Chamberlin
Rockwell	Jim & Arlene	Chamberlin
Rogers	Priscilla & Mark	Chamberlin
Rogers	Edward & Elna	Winkler
Roesch	Lenore	Huff's Landing
Rucinski	Peter & Beverly	Streeter
Samolczyk	Jesse & Jeannette	Idle Ease
Schroeder	Jim & Pat	Sandy
Seput	Walter & Susan	Chamberlin
Siemer	George & Pam	Winkler
Smith	Don & Jeanne	Sandy
Specyal	Adeline	Chamberlin
Spiller	John & Patricia	Dugan's
Stewart	Ron & June	Sandy
Storm	Robert & Jean	Sandy
Swindeman	John & Maralyn	Winkler
Truhn	George & Norma	Dugan's
Vitkauskas	Ken & Linda	Streeter
Walter	Paul & Pat	Gebhard
Vaickus	Ken	Idle Ease
Wilson	Rod	Winkler
Wojtanek	Ken & Judy	Idle Ease
Wray	Charles & Lorna	Sandy



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Gravel Lake Association Membership Meetings

When? Saturday, June 23rd; the second meeting is TBD
What time? 10 AM (EST)
Where? Ron & Sue Raab's pole barn on Gebhard Beach
(see map)

- Please bring a chair
- Win cash at the 50/50 Raffle! Come early to buy tickets!
- Update on the sewer project and weed treatments
- Fish stocking
- Dues paying members will receive their lake phone directories
- Details on 4th of July activities
- Weed updates
- Other lake issues



Directions: 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.

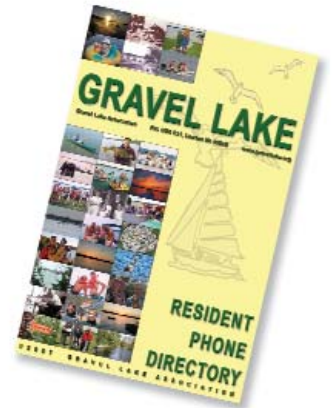
Dues Invoice

Hopefully, all of you received an invoice for your dues (and paid them). This was an effort to improve membership and make it easier for you to maintain your membership status. Please let us know what you think.

Phonebook

All paid 2007 members will receive an updated phone book as a benefit of their membership. You can pick up your books at the June 23rd membership meeting. Additional books can be purchased for \$5.00.

Not a member and want a book?
Please pay your dues and join the association!
Membership form on page 26.



Gravel Lake Fish Kill

Many of you have noticed and reported excessive numbers of dead fish washing up predominantly on the north side of the lake. The vast majority of dead fish are adult bluegills typically exceeding six inches in length. Based on the research we've done with Michigan DNR, DEQ and Professional Lake Management (PLM), our weed treatment contractor, we report the following information. Over 40 other lakes in the area have reported similar fish kills. Herbicides used for weed treatment on Gravel Lake are a very unlikely cause. Michigan DEQ does not permit for concentrations at anywhere near the level of toxicity for fish. Furthermore, such a fish kill has not been noticed previously despite treating the lake for several years. A toxin would not be so specific to a particular species of a particular size. Both the DNR and DEQ discounted the possibility of herbicide related toxicity for the aforementioned reasons as well as the number of various lakes reporting similar issues.

PLM, the DNR and DEQ all cited spawning stress as a possibility for the fish kill. Male bluegills (and other species) go through significant stress during spawning due to creation and protection of beds. As a result, they are more susceptible to environmental changes. For example, dramatic temperature changes during spawning could cause deoxygenation* in the lake which could be the tipping point for spawning-stressed bluegills. Despite un-seasonally warm weather this year, the DNR biologist does not believe that weather conditions witnessed so far could have completely caused such a fish kill. The DNR is testing water and fish from a subset of reporting lakes and believes that a pathogen may be at play. They expect to post results to their website in next six weeks.

The Gravel Lake Association will report news on this topic as soon as it becomes available. If you have factual information on this topic, please send it to us. Thank you to those of you who quickly (and blamelessly) made us aware of the issue. Many thanks to those of you who have been diligently cleaning up the mess!

Further questions on this topic can be sent to cucad4@hotmail.com or directed to 773-750-5922.

*Deoxygenation occurs naturally, most frequently in the winter and the hottest summer months, in lakes as temperatures change and can cause fish kills.

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.

Gravel Lake Association

Membership Form: January 2007 - December 2007

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

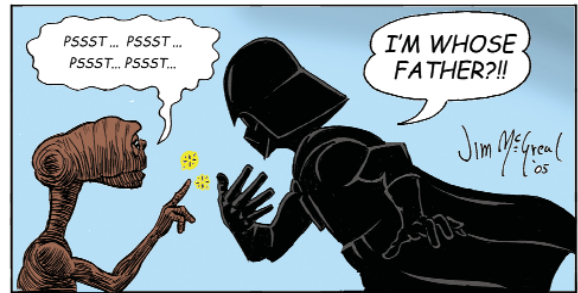
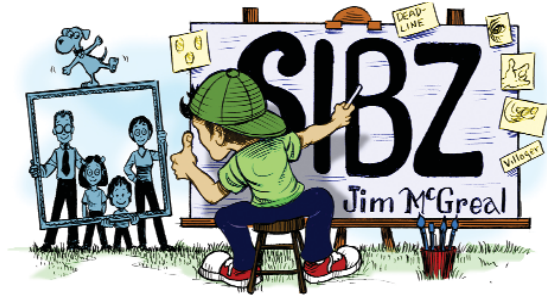
Membership dues for 2007 \$35.00

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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Special thanks to Yoda, Mr. Incredible, Harry Potter, Shrek, Spider-Man, Pikachu, The Black Power Ranger, Michelangelo, E.T. and Darth Vader



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.

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<http://www.hww.ca/hww2.asp?id=96>
<http://www.holoweb.com/cannon/muskrat.htm>

Fireworks Safety

<http://www.newswise.com/articles/view/520901/>

"Fireworks Facts." Fact Monster.

© 2000-2007 Pearson Education, publishing as Fact Monster.
09 May. 2007 <<http://www.factmonster.com/spot/fireworks1.html>>.

Watersheds, Lawn Care & Water Quality

Information provided by Minnesota Department of Agriculture Website
<http://www.mda.state.mn.us/appd/ace/lawnsheds.htm>

Did You Know... (Fourth of July facts)

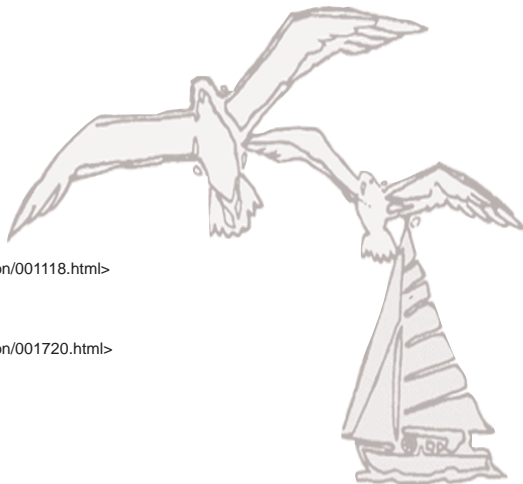
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<<http://www.census.gov/foreign-trade/www/>>
<<http://www.census.gov/prod/www/statistical-abstract-03.html>>
<<http://www.usda.gov/nass/>>.
<<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/population/001720.html>>

"Fireworks Facts." Fact Monster.

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09 May. 2007 <<http://www.factmonster.com/spot/fireworks1.html>>.
<<http://www.zambellifireworks.com/facts.html>>
<<http://familyfourth.org/fireworks.html>>

Helpful Hints for Buying Your First Boat

<http://www.boatsafe.com/nauticalknowhow/buying.htm>
<http://www.boatsafe.com/nauticalknowhow/buying.htm>
"Buying Your Own 'Hole in the Water'". Paul Cris. <http://ezinearticles.com/?What-You-Need-To-Look-For-When-Buying-A-Boat>



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