

The Gravel Laker

Volume XXIII Number 2

www.gravellake.org

Summer, 2011



Photo by Gina Picariello

In This Issue

- President's Corner
- **NEW - 2011 Calendar**
- Lakescaping:
Keeping a Balance between
Nature and Function
- Weed Treatment Update
- Limnology I:
The Annual Thermal Cycle
- Treasurers Report
- Everything Perch!
- Cherry Cobbler
- Paid Membership
- SIBZ



President's Corner

Time to get your dock in the water, and your boat out of storage! Dust off those skis and wakeboards! Bring out the bathing suits and flip flops! Summer is almost here!

The completion of our sewer system and a fair amount of recent gentrification can only enhance our community. Virtually all Gravel Lakers are hooked-up into the system and the majority of feedback I've received is positive. Arguably, this project is the single best thing we could've done for the health of our lake. Thanks to all of the vigorous supporters of this project! Your verbal support, written support, and volunteerism made a difference in making this effort a success.

For 2011, the Gravel Lake Association is trying to be a bit more organized. Look for a detailed calendar of 2011 events inside this issue. Our intent is to give you more advance notice of what's going on around the lake this year and, hopefully, bolster attendance at our various events.

Also, let me take this opportunity to remind you about volunteerism and feedback. Both of these are vital to the association. We certainly rely on the hours dedicated by MANY of you in various roles. Trustees, officers, event organizers are all to thank for the many projects and social events that the Gravel Lake Association provides. If you're interested in getting involved in ANY way, please contact us! Whether it's something existing or something new, we can use your help. Finally, we welcome your feedback on all topics. Please let us know what you think - what you like, what you'd like to see improved. We'll do our best to see it through, but don't be surprised if we ask you to get involved too. If you would like to get involved or have feedback, please contact your beach trustee or Craig DeSimone at cucad4@hotmail.com.

Craig DeSimone
President - Gravel Lake Association

Gravel Lake Association - 2011 Calendar

Board/Membership Meetings

- **Saturday, June 11th at 10am** – Membership Meeting**
 - Location – Raab's pole barn on Gebhard Beach
 - Trustee elections
 - Dues collection
 - 50-50 raffle
 - Buy Gravel Lake paraphernalia – shirts, coozies, towels, etc.
- Saturday, July 16th at 10am (Porter Township Hall)
- **Saturday, August 6th at 10am – Membership Meeting**
 - Location – Raab's pole barn on Gebhard Beach
 - Officer elections
 - 50-50 raffle
 - Buy Gravel Lake paraphernalia
- Saturday, September 10th at 10am (Porter Township Hall)
- Saturday, October 8th at 10am (Porter Township Hall)

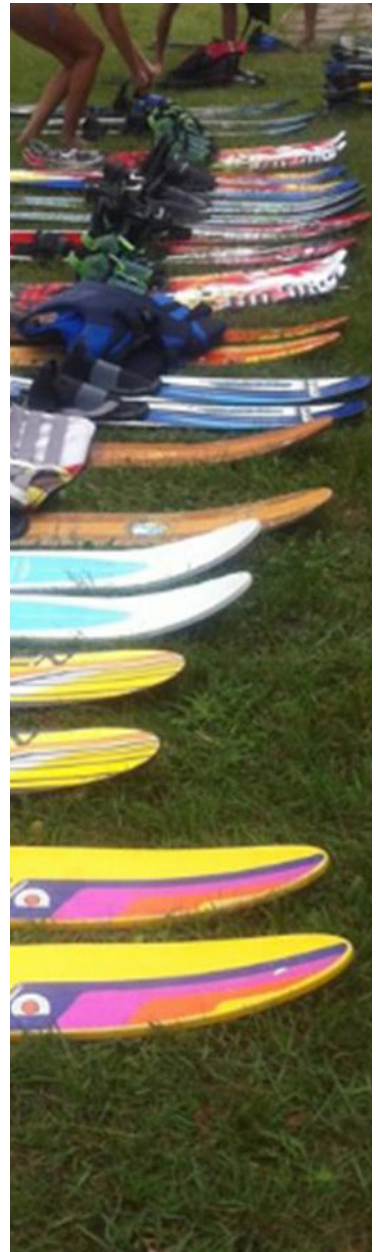
Fourth of July Activities: Saturday, July 2nd – Monday, July 4th

- Fun Run – Saturday, July 2nd at 10AM – Willow Beach Resort
 - \$4 per person
 - All ages
 - Prizes and refreshments
- Kids Games – Saturday, July 2nd at 1PM – Willow Beach Resort
 - Ages 1-12
 - Prizes for all participants
- Paddle Boat Regatta – Saturday, July 2nd at 6PM
 - Location - Channel
 - Register at 5:45PM at the Public Access
 - **All participants MUST have certified flotation devices**
 - Divisions
 - 1-person kayak
 - 2-person kayak
 - Youth paddle boat (both racers under 12)
 - Adult paddle boat
- Boat Parade – Sunday, July 3rd at 2PM
 - Theme: Christmas in July
 - Register via email with Judy Semplinski by Friday, July 1st
semplinski@comcast.net
 - Include FAMILY NAME, THEME (description of boat), BEACH
 - Prizes!

Fundraisers:

- Gravel Lake Bowling Outing – Saturday, July 9th (Tentative date)
- Gravel Lake Social – Saturday, August 6th (Tentative date)

**All times are indicated in Eastern Standard Time.



Lakescaping: Keeping a Balance between Nature and Function

Gravel Lake is a fun and relaxing place to be in the summer time, and there are plenty of opportunities for water sports, fishing, and pontooning. While we're having fun and working in our lawns we need to stop and think about what makes this such a desirable place to be... it is a natural lake! A lake is an ecosystem that we share with many different plant and animal species. If we want a healthy lake that is as beautiful as it is enjoyable we need to take good care of our lake property and particularly the shoreline. The shoreline is our entryway into the lake but it is also where fish go to spawn and frogs lay their eggs. Keeping a balance between a functional shoreline and a healthy, natural one might seem difficult but there are a few things you can do to help preserve the beauty of our lake.

When we work on our lawns we often want them to be like the ones of our neighborhood houses, without weeds and very green. When you have lake property a traditional lawn can be a big problem. A mowed lawn sends rain runoff carrying fertilizers, pet waste, and lawn clippings to the water where they fuel algae blooms. A traditional lawn is also very attractive to geese that can easily see if there are predators in your wide open lawn. The geese will walk right up and make themselves at home without a second thought, bringing with them up to 15 pounds of droppings per goose in just one week! Planting native grasses and wildflowers on the water's edge or even simply letting the natural tall grasses and rushes grow (not mowing them down) will help to eliminate the rain runoff as well as discourage geese from coming on shore since a predator might be lurking behind them. There is also very little maintenance required for these native grasses and wildflowers so you will have more time to enjoy the lake.

Continued on next page

Farewell to a Gravel Lake Friend

We at Huffs Landing, as well as many lake walkers, will miss seeing the beautiful flowers, plants, and welcoming smile from Mary Jo Hanley. She passed away after a short illness, on Jan. 22, 2011. She loved people, her family, the lake, and playing cards. You could always get a compliment, a kind word, or maybe even a little joke from this wonderful, thoughtful person. During the summer, she could be found working on her flowers, chatting with neighbors, or spending time with her husband, Mike, and her beloved children and grandchildren at her Huffs Landing cottage. She was a long time "Gravel Laker", and will be greatly missed.

JERDON
REAL ESTATE, INC.

ESTABLISHED 1950

Floyd & Tom Jerdon
BROKERS

Lake Property Specialists

269-782-4000

32502 M-62 WEST - Dowagiac, MI 49047

Visit our WEBSITE!
www.jerdon.net



Lakescaping: Keeping a Balance between Nature and Function (continued)

Most families like to spend a lot of their lake time swimming and playing right at the water's edge. Lakescaping does not have to stop this enjoyable lake pastime. Bringing in sand to make a "beach" has been a common practice in recent years and although it's purpose is to help make our lake experience more enjoyable it is actually harmful to the health of the lake. The sand is eroded into the lake, slowly filling it in with foreign material over time. As the sand is swept into the lake it covers fish spawning and egg laying areas for frogs. The natural, sandy beaches of Lake Michigan or the Gulf of Mexico are not natural to Gravel Lake and can also take away songbird and even fish habitats. You can still have a beach like area but consider making that area a little smaller, skip the extra sand, and surround it with native grasses and wildflowers.

Naturally, lakeshores have debris, weeds (aquatic vegetation), and other things we are tempted to remove from our property. Fallen tree limbs and weeds are excellent places for bass and pan fish to hide, for turtles to sun, and for ducks to lay their eggs. Consider leaving much of this material alone, especially near the parts of your shoreline that are natural, so our animal neighbors have a place to stay as well.

Gravel Lake is an excellent choice for a summer home and a beautiful lake. Please help us keep it that way by making these few simple changes to your lakeshore. For more information you can visit the Department of Natural Resources and Environment (DNRE) website: www.michigan.gov/dnreinlandlakes or the Michigan Natural Shoreline Partnership (MNSP) website: www.mishorelinepartnership.org

Melissa Dunigan, Contributing writer

Sources:

"The Water's Edge: Helping fish and wildlife on your lakeshore property", 2010. State of Michigan DNRE and Minnesota DNR, Section of Fisheries. Cited with the permission of Michigan DNRE's MNSP

Happy Rock Resort



***Beautiful Gravel Lake**
***Weekly Rentals**
***Year Round**
***2 & 3 Bedroom Homes**
***Sandy Beach**
***Docks**
***Boat Launch**

32850 South Street
Lawton, MI 49065
269-423-5091 - 888-996-2628

Jim & Donna Rau / Proprietors



Southside of Gravel Lake
15355 96TH AVENUE
LAWTON, MI 49065
269-423-6011

Weed Treatment Update

Our contract for weed treatment has been renewed for another three years with Professional Lake Management. Weed treatments will have begun, likely, prior to the delivery of this newsletter. You should have received a treatment notification with your dues invoice. Please let us know if you did not receive an invoice - we'll be happy to send you one.

As in the past, the success of previous years' programs have left us in a maintenance mode and we are unlikely to need anything beyond spot treatments in problem areas. As a reminder, our weed treatment program is NOT designed to eradicate all weeds. It is only designed to control the non-native invader species of Eurasian Watermilfoil (and Curly Leaf Pondweed). A healthy lake (of our trophic state) will maintain a population of native species. Thus, we should always have weeds in our lake!

Please contact us if you see a problem on the lake.



REM MANAGEMENT SERVICES, INC.

P.O. Box 5132

Lansing, IL 60438

"Professional Services for Professional Organizations"

DANIEL S. McDEVITT

PRINCIPAL

www.rem-inc.com • E-mail: DMcDevitt@rem-inc.com

Phone: 708/224-8516 • Fax: 708/492-0570

A Veteran Owned Business



EDENS EXPRESS

M E S S E N G E R S E R V I C E S

773-235-5550

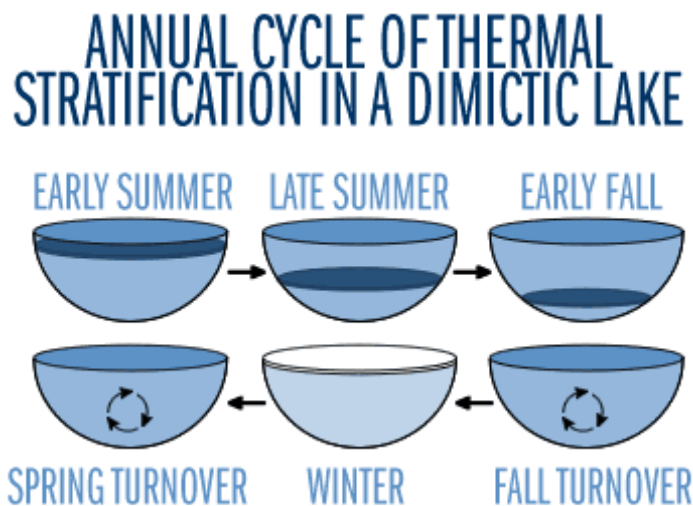


1422 W. Willow, Suite #102 - Chicago, IL 60642 - www.edensexpress.com

Limnology I: The Annual Thermal Cycle

There is no prerequisite of knowledge or understanding to enjoy the lake. Its mineral and biological characteristics are of no consequence to a beautiful summer day. One need not consider its origins and its history to splash in its waves or relax on its shore. But that's why I'm here, to overthink everything that goes into anything that anyone enjoys, to shine a light in a bright place. These sorts of investigations (and many others) comprise limnology, the study of inland waters. As an introduction to a small part of the fascinating field of limnology, a brief look at the annual thermal cycle should help you to understand the way that Gravel Lake behaves as the seasons change.

The annual thermal cycle consists of two basic periods, one when the lake's temperature is notably stratified (late spring, summer, and early fall), and one when the temperatures are mostly uniform. During the spring, when the lake is thawing, the water is mostly uniform in temperature, being near freezing from top to bottom. During this season, known as the turnover, all of the water can be cycled from top to bottom with relatively little wind energy. However, as the season progresses, the surface water is warmed by sunlight more than the deeper water, so the less dense and warmer water tends to stay near the surface, causing the water to stratify into a warm, well-mixed top layer (epilimnion), a thermocline region (metalimnion), and a cold, stagnant bottom layer (hypolimnion).



Source: <http://www.epa.gov/owow/watershed/wacademy/acad2000/pdf/limnology.pdf>, Figure 5

In a thermocline, the temperature of the water changes much more quickly with depth than in the regions above and below it; it will necessarily form when there is a well-mixed warmer region over a stagnant cooler one. Over the summer, the thermocline deepens as the surface water continues to warm. Then in the fall, as the surface begins to cool, the temperature becomes more uniform, causing the thermocline further deepen as wind more easily mixes deeper water, until another turnover takes place. Once the water is uniformly cold and the weather is freezing, the lake's surface will freeze, and the cycle will start over again in the spring.

Continued on next page


Limnology I: The Annual Thermal Cycle (continued)

The thermal cycle, and particularly the turnover seasons are important for lake biology and chemistry. During a turnover, the deep water replenishes its dissolved oxygen for use by plants, plankton, and fish, and the surface water replenishes its dissolved nutrients that accumulated in the deep stagnant water for use by plants, diatoms, and algae. Because of these important changes, activity levels of specific types of plants, algae, and diatoms peak at different times of the year, at different temperatures and depths. These peaks affect food availability for different kinds of plankton, which in turn feed small fish, which in turn feed game fish. It is also important to note that outside nutrients are naturally introduced at certain times of year according to their own cycles, and the lake reacts to these, too. It is because of the immense interconnectivity of lake ecology and nutrient flow within the system and from outside, that introducing a seemingly small amount of nutrient or contaminant can exhibit an observable butterfly effect on the entire system. Understanding lake ecology is a necessary requirement for responsibly maintaining it, so I encourage you to research limnology on your own.

For a full primer of limnology, visit: <http://www.epa.gov/owow/watershed/wacademy/acad2000/pdf/limnology.pdf>

Marc Mascarello, Contributing writer

Two Witches and a Broom



**RESIDENTIAL & BUSINESS
CLEANING SERVICE**

Larinda Rockafellow
269-357-3491

Cindy Mroczek
269-838-5504



CHRISTIANSON'S greenhouse

49 different herbs,
77 vegetables, 124 flowers
Each One Naturally Grown

41219 CR 352 · Decatur · 269-423-6039
www.christiansongreenhouse.com

Treasurers Report

Beginning Balance as of 1/1/11 **\$16,863.73**

Deposits

Koozie, Towels and Tee-Shirt Sales	\$396.00
2011 Membership Dues - 19	\$501.00
2011 Membership Dues - 10	\$665.00
2011 Membership Dues - 4	\$171.00
2011 Membership Dues - 2 & 1 Beach Towel	\$95.00

Total Deposits **\$1,828.00**

Expenses

The Michigan Riparian	\$352.00
Michigan Waterfront Alliance	\$100.00
Superior Imaging - Gravel Lakers	\$622.88
Michigan Lakes and Stream Membership Dues	\$175.00

Total Expenses **\$1,249.88**

Checkbook Balance as of 4/20/11 **\$17,441.85**

Other Assets:

Certificate of Deposit - Maturity Date 6/12/11	\$5,195.46
Certificate of Deposit - Maturity Date 6/12/11	\$5,195.46
Certificate of Deposit - Maturity Date 11/12/11	\$5,250.87

Total Other Assets **\$15,641.79**

Total Funds **\$33,083.64**



**SPECIALIZING IN
LAKE COTTAGES**

**TODD J. NUNEMAKER, AIA
ARCHITECT
574-773-7434
www.agapedesigns.com**

HIGH'S MARINE **423-7065**
Since 1954

**Your One-Stop
Boating Shop!**



Sales
New & Used

Lund Fishing Boats Bennington Pontoons
Bryant Runabouts Caravelle Powerboats
Future Beach Recreational Products

Service

Turn-key Service!

Storage

Full Service Department, Oil & Filter Change,
Tune Up, Winterize, Storage, Shrink-wrapping,
Pickup & Delivery

**Parts
&
Acces.**

Skis, Tubes, Kneeboards, Ropes, Vests, Fishing
Rods & Gear, Fishfinders, Electronics, Parts,
Accessories, and that's just the beginning...

1-877-99-BOATS
www.highsmarine.com

Shop our online store - View our entire boat inventory



Scan with your
smart phone

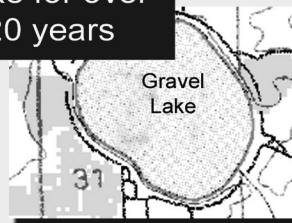


Southwest Michigan's Premier Dock & Lift Headquarters



Sales and service of
all major docks,
boatlifts and water
front accessories

Serving Gravel-
Lake for over
20 years



12097 M-60 • Jones, MI •
269.244.1446

e-mail: info@odonnellsdocks.com

For an on-line quote, go to:

Only 20 money-saving
minutes away

www.odonnellsdocks.com

Authorized dealer for



HEWITT



ShoreStation

Everything Perch!

Gravel Lake has a plentiful wildlife population both on land and in the water. A common fish that swims in the waters of our lake is the Yellow Perch or the *Perca Flavescens*. This fish is a small to medium sized and has 6-9 bands of dark coloring running vertically along its body. These fish have interesting coloring and can range from a dull yellow to bright amber, mostly on their underbellies. If you find a perch that has particularly beautiful coloring it is probably a male, as they are more vibrantly colored. Yellow perch are found near vegetation or at the bottom of fresh clear-watered lakes, ponds, rivers and streams and they do best in mild temperatures between 65-72°F.

Typical of a fish, perch feed on small insects like crickets and may scavenge the bottom of the lake for leeches, grubs, or crayfish tails. With this type of diet it is no surprise that perch are not the largest of fish. They normally do not exceed 12 inches in length or a weight of one pound. However, the largest perch on record was 4 pounds and 3 ounces!



Female perch normally mature at 2-3 years old while males are at full maturity about one year earlier. Spawning happens in the springtime when the water temperatures are lower, around 40-50 degrees F. A single perch will lay nearly 23,000 eggs! The female will swim in a circular pattern and release a long strand of eggs in a gelatinous covering. Within seconds after the females release, at least two male perch, and as many as five, will follow the female and release milt, or seminal fluid, over the eggs. This female lacks the motherly instinct, as she does not stick around to oversee her eggs, and leaves immediately after. The males however will remain in the area, but they do not actively protect the eggs. The eggs will hatch into larval perch in 3 weeks from spawning.

Perch are fish that tend to stay in schools. Because they are not the best swimmers, the schools help to replace their poor skills, and slow paced swimming by aiding in catching prey. Generally though, the older the perch is the more time he or she spends outside of the school. An aged perch leads a more solitary life.

When fishing for perch, crickets, worms, or small minnows make great bait. Their small size and poor swimming abilities make them an easy catch!

Tricia Barker, Contributing writer

Sources:

<http://www.thefishsite.com/articles/241/species-profile-yellow-perch-perca-flavescens>

<http://www.fishweb.com/recreation/fishing/fishfacts/fish/perch/perch.html>

http://www.tnfish.org/SpeciesFishInformation_TWRA/Research/YellowPerch_PercaFlavescensInformation_ADW.pdf

Cherry Cobbler



Ingredients:

1 ½ cup sugar
1 cup unsalted butter
1 ½ t baking powder
1 t vanilla extract
1 t almond extract
4 eggs
3 cups flour
2 cans cherries

Chip's Ad

1. Heat oven to 350° F. Beat sugar, butter, baking powder, vanilla extract, almond extract, and eggs for 3 minutes. Add flour. Spread 2/3 of batter into a 9x13 pan. Spread cherries over batter. Drop remaining batter by tablespoons onto cherries.

2. Bake for 45 minutes.

3. Put a powdered sugar glaze on top. To make the glaze, mix 1 cup of powdered sugar, 1-2 T of milk, and vanilla extract to taste.



GRAVEL LAKE MERCHANDISE

T-shirts, hats, and towels for sale.

T-shirts: \$15 (\$12 for kids)

Hats: \$10

Towels: \$25

Limited sizes and colors available.

Contact Suzanne Reed at 269-808-0327 or
Carlie Stogis 630-461-6200 to purchase items

Take to the water with **BIGGER, BETTER COVERAGE.**

*Receive discounts for multiple policies and coverage
for all types of drivers and boats at Nationwide.®*



From Willow Beach HEIDI KUSSURELIS AGENCY

2405 S. Main St.

Ann Arbor, MI 48103

866-613-6736 (Toll-Free)

kussurh@nationwide.com

Licensed in Michigan, Illinois & Ohio



Nationwide®
On Your Side

Call me today for a quote.

Auto Home Life Business



Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company and Affiliated Companies. Life insurance issued by Nationwide Life Insurance Company. Home Office: Columbus, Ohio 43215-2220. Nationwide, the Nationwide Framemark and On Your Side are federally registered service marks of Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company.

Cottage For Sale – \$215,000.00

Chamberlain Beach



32375 Chamberlin Drive
Lawton, MI 49065
Call Pat Beebe (269)207-9815

Air conditioned cottage sleeps 5 comfortably and the finished air conditioned loft over the garage sleeps 5 comfortably.

Located 8 miles South of I-94. Exit 60 Lawton/Paw Paw exit.

Newly remodeled since 2007.

- New roof on cottage
- New siding on cottage and garage/loft
- New doors & windows on cottage and garage/loft.
- Updated kitchen
- Updated bathroom
- Over/Under washer dryer
- Finished loft over the garage
- City Sewer
- Good well, clean drinking water
- 50' feet of lake front
- Hard sandy bottom lake front
- Cottage lot size 50' X 120'
- Garage/Loft lot size 50' X 135'
- Rewired with 200 Amp Electric Service & power to garage/loft
- 300 acre all sports lake
- Move in ready

Gravel Lake Association

Membership Form: January 2011 - December 2011

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 2009 \$35.00

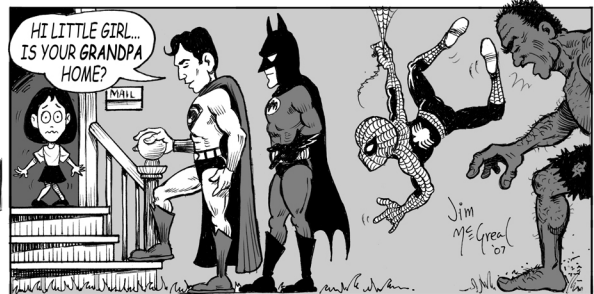
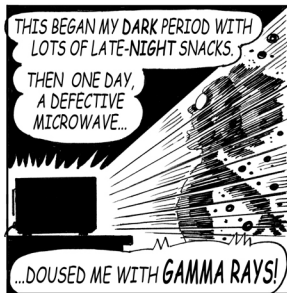
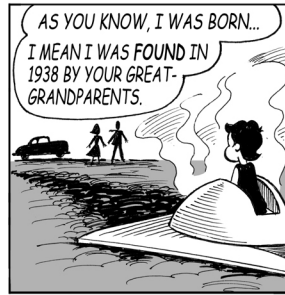
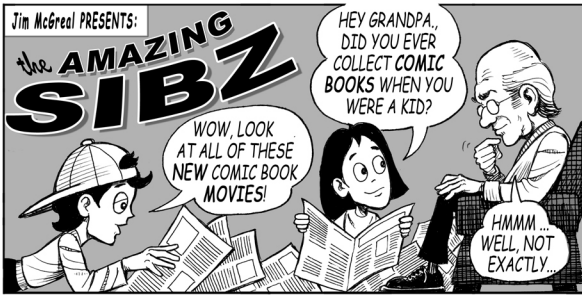
Optional Riparian magazine \$ 8.00

Additional donation _____

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

Total Enclosed \$ _____

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



©2006 SIBZ - Created by Jim and Pat McGreal

www.sibzcomics.com

jim@jmcstudios.com



Classified ads — Free for paid members!

A reminder to all dues-paying members that classified ads on the website are a free benefit of your membership. This includes advertising your personal business. Links to websites or color advertising can be discussed as well, but may entail a fee. Questions and ads can be emailed to Jim McGreal at jim@jmcstudios.com.

Board of Trustees Contact List

OFFICERS

President	Craig DeSimone - cucad4@hotmail.com
Vice President	Suzanne Reed
Secretary	Kathy Brooks
Treasurer	Janice Pinkos - fampinkos@aol.com

OTHER CONTRIBUTORS


Editor, Gravel Laker	Jamie Paramski - jamie_paramski@hotmail.com
Fundraising Committee	Carlie Stogis- (chair)
Internet Operations	Jim McGreal - jim@jmcstudios.com
Weed Treatment	Greg Kitzmiller

TRUSTEES

Chamberlin Beach	Bruce Melton
Dugan's Landing	Kevin LaLone
Gebhard Beach	Carlie Stogis
Huff's Landing	Dan McDevitt
Idle Ease Beach	Jeanette Garrison
Lewis Beach	Ken Hochsprung
Sandy Beach	Tom Flavin Mark Fortney Jennifer Kitzmiller Greg Kitzmiller
Streeter Beach	Debbie Dorsey Donna DeRosa
Willow Beach	Marcia Addington
Winkler Beach	Paul Galassi Pat Murray

Gravel Lake Association

P.O. Box 531
Lawton, MI 49065
www.gravellake.org



Apply Address Here