



2016 Fall Edition

Lee Lake News

Welcome to the **Lee Lake News**. The newsletter will feature articles that will help keep our lake association residents informed on current news, activities, events, and people around the lake. We hope you will enjoy reading the newsletter. If you have any suggestions for articles or would like to get involved please contact us.

Contact Information

Board of Directors:

Lakeside Drive - Larry Vitale
Clark Road - Jan Kincaid
I-Drive South - Vacant
Lauralee Lane - Vacant

Lake Association Officers:

President - Mike Grenon
Call: 269-589-6689
Vice-President - Mark Casebeer
Call: 269-979-5221
Treasurer - Janie Evans
Call: 269-979-8695
Secretary - Diane Inman
Call: 269-979-2632

Web-Site

www.leelakemi.com

The Board Report

Your board has been hard at work in 2016. We are building a culture that focuses its effort on education and community involvement. Getting residents from around the lake to participate and work together to protect our lake's natural resources.

The lake associations biggest challenge has been the development of a plan that addresses the invasive aquatic species that are invading our lake. The board has the same concerns as every lake resident. No one wants to do anything that will harm our lake.

We established a Lake Preservation Committee that has been working closely with the board. During the associations monthly meetings we have had guest speakers that are educating our lake residents.

- Christina Laughner an Invasive Species Biologist from Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Jim O'Brien the Park Manager MDNR - Parks and Recreation Division attended the lake association meeting. Christina and Jim gave a presentation on invasive weeds. Christina talked about early detection and rapid response can make a difference in the methods and results for controlling invasive species.
- Christine Kosmowski Calhoun County Water Resources Commissioner discussed the roll of the Water Resource Commission with Lake Boards and treatment districts under PA 188. Kosmowski shared her experiences as chairman and board member for both Goguac and Homer Lakes who have invasive plant treatment plans in place.
- Brian Huggett, Executive Director Potawatomi Resource Conservation & Development Council. Brian explained why the CISMA was formed and some the goals of the Barry-Calhoun- Kalamazoo county CISMA. Brian stated that both phragmites and milfoil are detrimental to the natural habitat, animals and plants that inhabit that area.
- Restorative Lake Sciences (RLS) conducted a 2016 lake survey to compare results from the 2013 lake survey that RLS completed. The survey results, RLS treatment options and estimated costs were covered at the October lake association meeting.

What are the next steps? The lake association passed several motions at the regular October lake association meeting.

- To create a petition for creating a assessment district under Township Public Act 188 of 1954.
- Hire riparian rights attorney Clifford Bloom to help create the petition.
- The board plans on meeting with Newton Township officials to discuss their roll in the Township Act.
- We still need to take action for Restorative Lake Sciences to complete a required lake management plan with treatment options and cost for each option.

Once the above processes are completed we will then hold a lake association meeting to discuss all of our options. The membership will decide on a treatment plan, discuss the assessment district, terms and method of payment. We will then have attorney Bloom finalize the language in the petition. Once completed we will start circulating the petition for approval.



Community Events

The Lake Association has also focused on creating community events that will bring our lake residents together.

One of our recent improvements is to have a Board of Directors (per bylaws) that represent all sides of the lake. At our regular September lake association meeting we nominated Larry Vitale to represent Lakeside Drive; Jan Kincaid, to represent Clark Road. We are currently seeking people to represent I Drive S and Lauralee Lane. If you're interested please contact Mike Grenon.

Our 2016 July Fourth Boat Parade was a lot of fun. It started at 7 p.m. at the South end of lake and proceeded twice around the lake. We had almost 20 boats in the parade, many of the boats decorated to celebrate Independence Day. It was nice not only to see all of the boats but many of the lake residents out in their yard cheering and waving as the boats went by.



This year the judges (Sam Schultz, Jim Mikolajczyk & Mike Grenon) selected the pirate boat of Ron Bennett as the winner. They received a \$50.00 gift certificate! A big thanks to all the lake residents who participated to make this years boat parade a big success. Let's make next years parade even bigger!

On July 15th 2016 Lee Lake hosted a Landing Blitz. The Landing Blitz is a collaborative outreach campaign to raise awareness about preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS) through recreational boating and related activities. Our message about preventing the introduction and spread of AIS from the movement of watercraft and equipment between water bodies at both public and private boating access sites throughout the state.

We had a great turnout for the landing blitz. Quinton A. Merrill from Michigan State University Department of Fisheries and



Wildlife (Aquatic Invasive Species Outreach Specialist) and Beth Clawson, MSU extension educator brought a portable boat wash.

Quinton and Beth washed boats as they were leaving the lake while educating them about Michigan law to help prevent the spreading of aquatic invasive species. The boaters were receptive to the educational opportunity provided by Quentin & Beth.

We also had volunteers from around the lake to greet the boaters and hand out AIS materials.

The association held our 2nd annual fall picnic on September 18th. The picnic was hosted by Mark and Nancy Walters. An estimated 50 people attended the event. Each family brought a dish to pass; all the food was amazing! It was nice to see representation from everywhere around the lake. The weather was beautiful and we enjoyed having time to spend visiting and getting to know all of our neighbors.

Door Prizes were awarded to:

Sam and Jean Schultz- longest time on the lake - 63 years

Mike and Diane Axtielle- newest on the lake - less than 1 year

Art and Cindy Arizmendi- most children - 6

The association would like to THANK Mark and Nancy Walters for being gracious hosts; opening their home for the event and allowing the use of their beautiful new porch. A BIG thanks to Steve and Carol Brooks and Jim Mikolajczyk for helping set up and tear down.

We have such amazing neighbors and are so fortunate to live surrounded by people who demonstrate a sense of a community!



To learn more about our lake association please visit our website at www.leelakemi.com. The web-site is a great resource to learn more about our lake association.

We update our site regularly with:

- Membership meetings and event notices are posted on the Home page.
- The Lake Preservation page contains a wealth of information about our associations efforts in preserving our natural resources.
- All of the educational and community events mentioned in this edition of *Lee Lake News* are posted on our web-site with in-depth articles.

So you may be wondering, why do we need a printed version of our newsletter? We have an e-mail list. The truth is, we only reach about 65% of our residents through e-mail. If you would like to be added to our e-mail list please contact Janie Evans.

