



2344 Yankee Street, Niles, MI 49120
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Marine Patrol Statistics

Last summer the Cass County Sheriff's Marine Patrol Division reported that Magician Lake had 194 hours of patrol with 1,308 contacts, 117 tickets, 399 warnings, 56 complaints, and 1 boating accident.

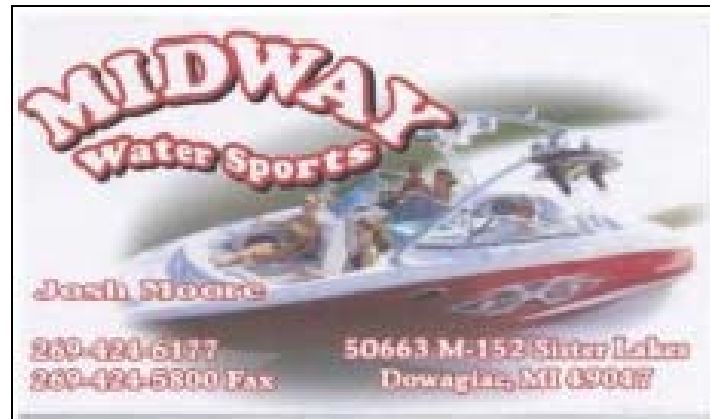
Volunteers Wanted

We again need pontoon boats to take the kids out for the weed count. The majority of you folks don't have your boats in before school is out. We need you early birds to volunteer. Call Dick Morey at 269-424-5863

Boater Safety

Boater Safety classes at Midway Water Sports are on May 20th and June 10th. 8:00-3:00, Call and register at the Cass County Sheriff's office Marine division 269 782-6689 x225.

Boater Safety is being offered at the Lawrence Community Center. Children must be at least 12 yrs old to take the boater's class and 14 yrs for the personal watercraft class. Classes are 8:00-3:00 EDT on 4/22, 5/13, 6/24, 7/8, 7/22. Call ahead to register. Lawrence Fire Dept. 269 657 2006 ext 271 and take a box lunch.



Magician Lake News

Newsletter of the Magician Lake Improvement Association
May 2006

FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT

In every newsletter we keep telling you how lucky we all are to be on this lake. A case in point: one of the scientists at MSU uses our lake for an example when making his presentations around the state. He says we are an example of a good lake, that is, one that has changed little over the years. But we need to pay close attention to those factors that could alter our water quality and fish and plant habitat.

DON'T:

Spread herbicides and fertilizer within 10 feet of the shoreline.

Use ballast in your boat within 100 ft of shore

Travel with any watercraft through shallow areas.

Put watercraft in the lake that have been in other waters without washing them thoroughly.

DO:

Plant some native plants next to the water and create a natural habitat for beneficial insects and amphibians.

Use phosphate free fertilizer.

Place some stones in a spot in front of your seawall for small fish to hide in or use stone for your entire seawall.

Wake board only in the deepest part of the lake.

Remove and destroy purple loosestrife.

Be Smart !! If you have information you'd like to share with me E-mail me at dukey@sisterlakescable.com also, watch for our meeting signs and please attend the annual meeting. - Kay Dukesherer

MLIA Web Site now available

Our lake association web site is now available. Just go to <http://www.magician-lake.org> to view the home page and navigate from there. That's a dash in between magician and lake, not an underscore. Let us know what you think of your site. We always are looking for ways to improve it.

Annual Meeting

9:00 A.M. EDT

Saturday, July 8th 2006

Silver Creek Town Hall

Coffee and Donuts will be served Please join us in making this YOUR Lake Association

Dues Time Again!

It's that time of the year when your lake association membership is due. Please take the time to either pay at our annual meeting on Saturday July 8th or send a check payable to Magician Lake Improvement Association to Dick Morey, 50230 East Lakeshore Drive, Dowagiac, MI, 49047 or use the envelope included with this mailing. Also encourage your friends and neighbors to renew too if they're already a member, or to join if they're not.



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Kelly Smit
Realtor

Magician Lake Improvement Association Inc. is registered with the state of Michigan as a not for profit corporation. Officers are: Kay Dukesherer President, Craig McCoy Vice President-Keeler, Bill Saunders Vice President-Silver Creek, Bill Boehnlein Secretary, Dick Morey Treasurer, Dick Stauffer and Dan Kuruzar trustees.

Magician Lake Improvement Association
62480 Climore Avenue
Dowagiac, MI
49047-8785



Magician Lake Water Testing Program

In the fall newsletter, I wrote that the water testing results would be up-dated in the May newsletter. The following information can be found in the Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program Book or logging on to <http://www.michigan.gov/deq> or calling Dick Morey at 269-424-5863.

A lake's condition is influenced by many factors, such as, the amount of recreational use it receives, shoreline development, and water quality. Water quality covers many aspects of lake chemistry and biology, such as, transparency, dissolved oxygen, chlorophyll-A and total phosphorus.

Transparency- Depth you can see using a Secchi Disk. In the spring of 2003, 2004 and 2005 the measured depth you could see was approximately 18' but by mid summer measurements were as low as:

Summer 2003 16 ft.

Summer 2004 10 ft.

Summer 2005 4 ft.

One reason for less clarity in 2005 is larger boats and increased boat traffic, usually 7 days a week. Thus, the lake cannot settle between weekends.

Total Phosphorus- The total amount of phosphorus in the water is used to predict the level of productivity in a lake. The 2003, 2004 and 2005 results show little change and the Index shows our lake at 36, 37 and 37 for those respective years, which is in the range of a well balanced lake.

Chlorophyll-A We began this test in the spring of 2004 and now have 2 years of results. This is the green photosynthetic pigment in the cells of plants, and the



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amount of algae in our lake is measured by the chlorophyll concentration in the water. Our Index is 44, which indicates a good quality mesotrophic lake.

Dissolved oxygen- We began this test in spring of 2004. A lakes oxygen and temperature pattern not only influences the physical and chemical qualities of phosphorus as well as the types of fish and animal populations. Dissolved oxygen remained high until midsummer, but by August oxygen is gone from 25' down in the deepest water. This indicates a normal reading and does not affect the fishing results of our lake.

At this point we do not have problems with invasive species of plants, but this could change anytime. Overall, Magician Lake's water quality is among the best in the state. Let's work together to keep it that way. Another good reference that discusses water issues is the Riparian magazine that you receive 4 times a year.

Thank you- Dick Morey

Thanks for your support

We'd like to thank all of you who support us with your dues and ads and invite you to be at our annual meeting. We will have a short program after our business meeting. It only takes about an hour and a half of your time once a year to catch up on how to protect your property value and keep your family safe. We also open it up to your questions and comments and try to follow up on all of them. Check out our new web site for further information.

Did you know?

Indian Lake is assessing \$4.00 a front foot for a chemical weed control program

MLSA Conference

The 45th annual conference was held April 28, 29 and 30 at Big Rapids. There were over 25 speakers who talked on a variety of lake and water related topics. Training sessions on the 4 water testing projects are given each year plus topics such as Recognizing Lake Management Benefits, Aquatic Plants, Watershed Problems and How Greenbelts Protect Lake & Stream Water Quality and Government issues such as Riparian rights and road-end issues.

Not only are the conferences educational but also you meet many Riparian homeowners from around the state that have similar interests as you, plus get up-dated on state and local legal issues.

Why not plan to attend next year? For additional information call 269-424-5863.



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Supreme Court

The Michigan Supreme Court upheld the lower court's decision in the Jacobs vs. Lyons Township case involving the mooring of watercraft at township sites. The over night mooring of water craft or water craft lifts on road ends and some other types of lake accesses will not be allowed. Bill 4576 which also prohibits overnight mooring but adds some protection of the public's rights to access the lake is still languishing in committee. View it at www.legislature.mi.gov/documents/2005-2006

Correction

We erred in listing the Silver Creek Building Inspector last issue. Jim Moses moved away some time ago. Todd Herter has been inspector for several years and Ed Goodman and John Peters are the electrical inspectors. Sorry for any confusion or inconvenience.

Managing Your Shoreline

There has been much discussion about managing your shoreline and creating a green belt area on your lawn. Most of us have the clean grass look all the way to the waters edge and most of us have had "sea walls" for decades, but there are options. There are ways to soften the look of your shoreline as people float by and these options can improve the look and the ecology system of our lake.

Seawalls One way to soften the look is to place "riprap" or medium size stones in the lake in front of your sea wall. If done correctly these stones cover up the hard look of the cement seawall, which also cuts down on the wave action against your seawall and back out to the lake.

Aquatic Plants Good aquatic plants can be placed in front and between the stones to give it a more natural look plus helps the ecology of the lake.

Greenbelt Area Designing and planting a shoreline might seem to be a big job but working on it a little at a time, a wonderful transformation can occur. To achieve goals, a plan and manageable procedure is to divide your property into small sections and plant one area at a time. Wild flowers which gives the natural look can first be planted on the corners of your property then a greenbelt with the natural wild flowers could be planted across the balance of your property

As an overview the use of natural and native plants are crucial in habitat restoration. In a landscaping project, native plants offer many advantages and help create a self-sustaining, low maintenance habitat over time. You can learn more about this by going to www.jfnew.com or www.jfnewnursery.com.

Love Wine?

There are ten wine tasting rooms within just a few miles of Magician Lake. St. Julian, Black Star, and Warner in Paw Paw, Karma Vista and Contessa in Coloma, Domaine Berrien and Lemon Creek in Berrien Springs, Round Barn in Baroda, Tabor Hill in Buchanan, and Fenn Valley in Fennville.. Many have gorgeous views of vineyards and wine tasting facilities. Some have food. Summer hours vary. Find them on the internet at <http://www.miwinetrail.com/> or in the phone book.