

2008 Boating Safety Classes

Boating Safety Classes are done for this year. There is a possibility arrangements with the marine patrol could be made to take the test with them proctoring the exam but there are no more classes this year.

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Winter Address?

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Magician Lake News Newsletter of the Magician Lake Improvement Association August 2008

From the Desk of the President

My how quickly summer goes by! We trust that you have enjoyed yet another year of fun, family and friends and it might be time to just relax and enjoy some cooler "fallish" weather without all the commotion that summer brings. Thanks to those members who made it to our annual meeting. If you forgot or were busy, remember it is always the second Saturday in July and we hope to see you in 2009! One thing that we would like you to do now, is to be sure and fill out the latest survey of our membership and return that ASAP. You should have received the survey with this newsletter and your responses are important to us. Please take a few minutes to complete and return it to Kay Dukesherer.

This is one way we determine your feelings on issues concerning Magician Lake as well as get to know a little about our membership and their needs.

Let me wish you a safe Labor Day weekend. The MLIA board is pleased with our membership numbers. We have many new members as well as renewals. If someone you know has not renewed or has not been a member, please tell them the value of being informed about this place that we all talk about when we say, "We are going to The Lake!"

Sincerely,
Charlotte Poole, President
Magician Lake Improvement Association

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Deadly fish virus in Lake Michigan

According to the Herald Palladium (7/21/08), for the first time VHS (viral hemorrhagic septicemia) has been found in southern Lake Michigan and an inland Ohio reservoir which leads to major fish kills. Once more, it was probably transported in ballast water of ocean going freighters that enter the lakes through the St. Lawrence Seaway. In 2005 and 2006, VHS caused major fish kills in Lake Ontario, Lake Huron, Lake Erie and Lake St. Clair as well as northern Lake

Events around Sister Lakes

Date	Event	Sponsor/Location
Sun. Sept 31st	Pancake Breakfast 7AM-Noon	Indian Lake Fire Dept.
Sun. Sept 31st	Pancake Breakfast 7:30AM- Noon	Sister Lakes Lions Club
Sat. Sept 7th	Bigfoot Monster Golf Tournament 9 AM at Spruce Ridge Golf Course	Sister Lakes Business Assoc
Wed. Oct. 22nd	Dowagiac Dogwood Fall Event. Hear author Richard Russo, winner of 2001 Pulitzer Prize for novel <i>Empire Falls</i> .	Call toll free 866-490-2847 or 269-782-1115 locally for tickets and more information.

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Michigan. State and federal officials have banned the transporting of fish and bait among lakes and require the cleaning of boats, jet skis, and fishing equipment, which helped to limit the spread of the virus in 2007.

However, now the threat seems to be continuing. "Guys will go and fish Lake Michigan, and within a week they will be on another big lake," reports Steve Robillard, Illinois Department of Natural Resources fisheries biologist. "There's a chance of it getting in there and affecting walleye fisheries or other game fish."

VHS, which has no effect on human health, causes a fish's eyes, skin, and gills to hemorrhage. Please be diligent about not spreading this disease, and if you see a large fish die off on Magician Lake, please report this to the DNR or call one of your MLIA board members.



Michigan Lake Improvement Association
62480 Gilmore Avenue
Dowagiac, MI
49047-8785

MLIA Annual Meeting

Our annual meeting was held on July 12, 2008. The meeting started at 9:00 AM and adjourned at 10:37 AM.

The meeting started with the approval of the minutes from last year's annual meeting. Dick Morey then presented the 2008 MLIA budget which was approved.

Charlotte Poole then gave an update on the Crooked Lakes water level augmentation project. She reported that the Crooked Lakes Association had satisfied all the concerns expressed by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and all that remained was to perform a 72 hour draw down test to determine any impact on surrounding wells or lake levels. If that test is successful, the project may go forward.

Craig McCoy then reported on the status of the site that was formerly Blue Fin Marina. He stated that the zoning board did approve a change from non-conforming commercial to non-conforming residential which will allow multi-family structures to be build. The planning commission eventually approved a 4 unit building lakeside and nothing behind. The initial request was for 6 units lakeside and 4 units behind. Two piers will be allowed with a maximum of two boats per side according to Craig.

Charlotte Poole noted that there are currently two waste disposal companies providing recycling services and they are Michiana Recycling and Reliable.

Charlotte also noted that all members whose dues are paid for the 2008-2009 season will receive a membership decal to put on their mailbox or where ever they want.

Sgt. Phil Easrey then addressed the attendees with a summary of statistics on contact hours, number of contacts, citations, etc. He stated that last year there were 3 persons who had drowned and 2 boating accidents but so far this year, no incidents. He also reported there are more budget cuts despite the fact there are over 1,700 boats in the area. He also reported that the Marine Division had to give the stated over \$66,000. And they were allocated about \$22,000 for their budget. He recommended that anyone who is concerned to contact their representatives.

Dr. Charles Cabbage then gave a brief presentation about environmental issues for riparians. He showed several lake areas that have Eurasian milfoil and the results of weevil treatments.

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Invasive Species Report

If you were not at our annual meeting, or were not aware, it has been reported that Magician Lake may have the invasive species of weed called Eurasian Milfoil. This is a first time sighting of this weed at Magician Lake, which has been pervasive in most lakes throughout Michigan. We have just been lucky up until now considering all the boating traffic we receive, and have a public access. This weed is transported by boats, motors and jet skis moving from lake to lake.

Eurasian milfoil has been spotted in the West Bay Channel. Bill Saunders, of the Channel Association, has sought professional advice, and is in the process of forming an assessment district in order to treat this weed next spring before it takes over the channel and eventually causes havoc with boating on the lake. Keep informed and updated on this issue via your MLIA newsletters. Please be careful when transporting watercraft from one body of water to another. We all need to be diligent to clean off watercraft and empty water from jet skis, so we don't transport additional unwanted "guests" on top of the zebra muscles, and now the Eurasian Milfoil that we seem to have present.

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