

Cass Marine Patrol Statistics

As of 8/16/09 they have logged 95 hrs, made 172 contacts, and issued 3 careless warnings, 14 navigational tickets, 40 navigational warnings, 1 PFD ticket, 7 PFD warnings, 2 registration tickets, and 21 registration warnings.

Curbside Recycling

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NEVER PUT YARD WASTE OR TRASH IN THE LAKE and please be considerate if you are burning this fall. Smoke not blowing toward your house may be blowing right into your neighbors.

Magician Lake Improvement Association is registered with the State of Michigan as a not for profit corporation. Officers are: Charlotte Poole, President, Craig McCoy Vice-president, Bill Boehnlein, Secretary, Dick Morey, Treasurer, and Kay Dukesherer, Jim Sullivan and Dan Kuruzar, trustees.

Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia Virus (VHS)

VHS can be transferred in your bait bucket and on your boat! This is a fatal marine virus that has spawned large fish kills in Michigan and other Midwestern states.

It's the law to prevent the spread of this and other diseases. Please practice the following guidelines:

- * Dispose of unused bait on the land or in the trash.
- * Empty live wells and bilges at the ramp.
- * Don't transfer live fish to water bodies other than

where they were caught.

If you are fishing in infected waters here is how to prevent the transfer of this and other diseases:

* Disinfect live wells and bilges with a bleach solution (1/2 cup bleach to 5 gallons of water) or use Virkon-Aquatic as soon as possible in available pre-measured packets and follow the manufacturer's directions.

* Allow your fishing and boating equipment to dry thoroughly (several days) before using in a different body of water.



From the Desk of the President

We trust that everyone has had a full summer of fun with gatherings by the shores of Magician Lake. We all know that July was a cool one, but it was certainly good for sleeping.

One another note, we cannot stress enough about being safe on the water and on the roads during summer. We have had some tragic accidents in the area, and hopefully we will continue to be diligent in our practice of safe boating and auto driving.

Do enjoy our autumn color on the lake. There are some spectacular sunrises, evening sunsets, and colorful reflections in the lake, along with slow picturesque rides down the Polk channel.

Being a member of MLIA means taking care of our great natural resource and your board is committed to doing so. If you have any questions or concerns please contact one of the MLIA board members.

Sincerely,

Charlotte Poole, President
Magician Lake Improvement Association

Magician Lake News

Newsletter of the Magician Lake Improvement Association
Fall 2009

MLIA Board Authorizes Lake Analysis

Over the past few years we have written articles regarding the problem of Eurasian Milfoil and other invasive plants and the problems they can cause. Many other lakes in our area already are experiencing weed problems and have actually set up assessment districts to pay for the treatment of these invasive plants.

The July newsletter reviewed what is being done in the Magician Lake Bay channel to treat Eurasian Milfoil and Curly Leaf Pond Weed and that some plants were found by the DNR access site. Based on this we have hired Professional Lake Management to analyze the entire lake and come back to the Board with a detailed evaluation and recommend strategy...meaning... do have other problem areas and do we need to treat now or wait and look at these areas in the spring to see if it has spread.

We will communicate PLM's finding and their recommended strategy in the next Newsletter or a separate mailing to current members. So renew your Lake Association membership if you haven't already.

If you have any questions please contact me, Dick Morey, at 424-5863 or call any other Board member.

Fishing Information

You must purchase a fishing license if you are 17 years of age or older. Children under 17 may fish without a license, but are still required to observe all fishing rules and regulations. Free fishing weekends occur twice a year – usually one in June and one in February for ice fishing. All residents and out-of-state visitors can fish without a license on these weekends only.

To find fishing sites by location, fish type and other factors, visit www.mcgi.state.mi.us/mrbis. Check out the weekly fishing report at www.michigan.gov/dnrfishing. To purchase a fishing license online, visit www.mdnr-elicence.com

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Annual Meeting held July 11th

The complete minutes of this meeting can be found at www.magician-lake.org. The meeting was held at Silver Creek Township hall and was called to order by President Charlotte Poole at 9:00 AM EDT with the pledge to the flag. There were over 70 members in attendance and 1 guest.

Dick Morey presented the budget which was subsequently approved by vote from the members present.

The invasion of Eurasian milfoil in Magician Channel was then discussed. Currently the channel association is bearing the cost for control.

Crooked Lakes augmentation was the next topic. It was reported that, while the permit was approved, it can't be executed because a protest has been filed. Some of the discussion included that amount of water that may be pumped for this and for the farmer who owns the well.

The parks and recreation plan for the Sister Lakes area was the next topic of discussion. This plan includes a streetscape and hiking and biking trails that would connect with other trails in the area

Bill Saunders reported that sewer use has dramatically increased. It is suspected that some people may have connected their gutter downspouts to the sewer. Anyone doing so is subject to a fine of up to \$500 per day. This increase in use may also result in an increase of the rates.

Guest Bruce Campbell, the Cass County Water Resource Commissioner was introduced. Bruce began by commenting that there are 3 new drains in the county making over 160 drains total in the county. He also noted that there are 20 lakes in Cass County that have a legal level and all 20 are very high right now including Magician and Dewey. Bruce also noted that his position is also responsible for soil and erosion and any changes in the land close to water require a permit from his office.

Additional topics discussed were cell phone coverage, the Cass County Sheriff Marine Patrol and the ramp at the former Blue Fin Marina.

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 AM EDT.

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Why the 100 Foot Rule?

According to the Michigan Handbook on boater safety **Improper Distance** is not maintaining a proper distance while operating a vessel or towing a person. To maintain a proper distance when you are operating at greater than "slow, no wake speed" (except in channels that are not posted), the vessel or persons being towed must not be within 100 feet of:

- o A shoreline (if operating in water less than 3 feet deep)
- o Any moored or anchored vessel
- o A dock or raft
- o Any marked swimming area or person(s) in the water"

One reason for this was evidenced last month when, on July 17th on Round Lake, two tubers were severely injured when a boat was towing 3 tubes. Turning caused the outside tube to cross the wake and collide with the other 2 tubes causing them to abruptly swing towards shore and collide with a wooden raft. Injuries included severe internal injuries, multiple abrasions, facial lacerations, and severe head trauma.

Please obey this very important law to prevent more injuries and even possible deaths. Remember not only does the boat have to be 100 feet away, but also who or whatever is being towed also has to stay 100 feet away. This means that skiers and wake boarders should not cut in close to rafts and piers. There may be someone out there swimming and might even be underwater and not visible. Safety is so important!

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How assessment districts are formed

Many Lakes form assessment districts for various reasons; weed control, dredging, pumping etc. Magician Bay Homeowners Association has just formed one to cover the cost of treating weeds in the bay. Your MLIA board has been discussing what we would propose if the Eurasian Milfoil found in the bay is found in other areas of the lake.

We need to point out here, that the MLIA has no authority to establish an assessment district. To initiate that process, petitions would need to be circulated and then filed with both townships declaring public support for the project. Each petition would need signatures from at least 50% of the area owners that would be in the newly petitioned district. The township board would then take it under advisement and if approved the Clerk would set up the district and the Treasurer would place the levy on our taxes. The levy would include the cost to the townships, of setting up the district and billing etc. in addition to any treatment costs.