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Magician Lake Improvement Association

Anyone interested in becoming a member of our association can get a membership application at <http://www.magician-lake.org> or send your name and home and lake addresses and phone numbers and a check for \$25.00 payable to Magician Lake Improvement Association to Dick Morey, 50230 East Lakeshore Drive, Dowagiac, MI, 49047.

2008 Boating Safety Classes

May 10, 2008	Midway Water Sports
May 17, 2008	Howard Twp Fire Dept :
June 7, 2008	Donnell Lake Conservation Club
June 14, 2008	Midway Water Sports
June 21, 2008	Eagle Lake Marine
June 28, 2008	Marcellus Twp. Hall
July 5, 2008	Indian Lake Yacht Club
July 12, 2008	Cass County Conservation Club
July 19, 2008	Donnell Lake Conservation Club

The boating safety certificate is only valid for students that are older than 12 years. Students should have their 12th birthday in 2008 to pre-register. Students may pre-register by calling the Cass County Sheriff's Office at (269)445-8644 and register with the Administration front desk. Please have the student's legal name, address, phone number, and date of birth at the time of registration.

All classes start at 8:00am and should be done by 3:00pm. Students are required to bring a #2 pencil, a sack lunch and something to drink. Adults are recommended to take the class and anybody born after December 31, 1978 must have a boating safety certificate to ride a personal water craft.



From the Desk of the President

Welcome back to Magician Lake and another summer season of fun on the water! We wish everyone a safe season and as an association hope that people will be mindful of the boating safety rules, will take care not to pollute or damage our lake, and will remain vigilant about your property and that of your neighbor's in order to remain safe. Magician Lake is a wonderful natural resource that we need to protect and enjoy.

MLIA is here to assist you with questions, to keep you informed of the latest lake issues, to protect your riparian interests and rights, and in general promote being a "good lake front neighbor".

In order to continue these services we have found it necessary to raise our yearly dues by \$5.00 for the coming year (2008-09). As with everything, we have incurred additional costs for newsletter mailings, insurance, and fees for the *Riparian* magazine. We intend to use the increased dues wisely as we make decisions regarding our mutual lake interests. We try to be multifunctional and work on many projects at the same time and not solely devote our efforts to only one issue. Please feel free to share your needs and concerns with MLIA Board members and we will do our best to find answers and work to serve your interests.

Please join us on July 12, 2008 at 9 a.m., for the MLIA Annual Meeting at the Silver Creek Township Hall on Dixon Street where lake issues will be discussed and guest speakers will share with us information about ongoing projects and problems.

- Charlotte Poole

Silver Creek Township News

Township Meetings are the second Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m.

Ambulance service is now being covered by our Sister Lakes Fire Dept. 24/7 for the north half of Silver Creek Twp. This is supported with money voted on in a mileage assessment @ approx. (\$80,000/yr.)

Coloma Emergency Medical Service is covering the South half of the township for no fee to the township.

There is a \$500 scholarship to SMC, which the township gives to a student going to SMC in the fall. Applications are available at the Township Hall and Dowagiac Union High School
 Russom Park on Middle Crossing Road, is being purchased

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



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

By Silver Creek Township, in association with the City of Dowagiac through a Parks and Recreation Grant. This is where Little League Baseball is currently being played and lies within Silver Creek Township.

Silver Creek Twp. also is in the process of updating their recreation plan in order to qualify for further DNR grants that could support improved streams, fishing and hunting, and protection of wetlands.

Recycling – there is currently no recycling program in Cass Co. for recyclables and/or electronic equipment.

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

Trash Days

Silver Creek trash days are coming up; May 22nd, 23rd 9-4 and 24th 9-2, at the Township Hall. Get a permit from the Township Hall and bring up to a level pick-up load of "unwants" to the Township Hall. Old tires will be accepted, but there is a charge depending on their size.

Hazardous waste collections are as follows:
 Cass county: at the Fairgrounds May 31st 9-12 Call 445 4438 for an appointment. There is an approximately \$1.00 a pound charge. They will take tires but no: motor oil, car batteries, propane tanks or appliances, including TV's and computers.
 Van Buren County: at 801 Hazen in Paw Paw 657 8213 on Sat June 14th. Call for an appointment. No tires.
 Be sure to dispose of unused yard chemicals, paint thinners and oil base paint at a HW site. Call before you go.

Annual Meeting July 12, 2008 at 9:00 AM

The MLIA annual membership meeting is July 12, 2008 starting at 9:00 AM. It will be held in the Silver Creek Township Hall on Dixon Street.

Michigan Lakes and Streams Conference

This year's conference had many sessions in which lake and stream front owners would take an interest. Have you ever thought about saving the family cottage for your children and/or grandchildren? A lawyer spoke on this topic where he was advocating an LLC combined with a trust in order to pass along your lakefront property in the best way possible if that happens to be your goal as owners.

A high school science teacher near Howard City, MI, who works with his students to do extensive studies of water in the neighboring streams and lakes said we need to pass on to our children and grandchildren the legacy of appreciation of water and nature. He stated, "that very few of his students actually have an experience of visiting a stream or a lake let alone living by one, and yet Michigan has an abundance of this natural resource."

In the area of exotic species, Michigan remains on an "hydrilla watch" as this "lake take over" plant has now been found about 60 miles south of Magician Lake in Indiana. If hydrilla makes it to Michigan (and it is thought to be just a matter of time) we need to be vigilant and take quick action, otherwise this aggressive plant could dominate the lake, impede water flow, and reduce boating, fishing, and waterskiing activities. Eurasian Milfoil and Curly Leaf Pondweed are two other exotic species of plants that have not yet reached Magician Lake, but we need to keep our eyes open for these two as well. Please wash off your boat and personal watercraft if you bring these vehicles from one lake to another to prevent spreading exotic plant species, exotic animals, and deadly viruses.

Exotic species are still being dumped from the ballast water of ships coming into the Great Lakes, but a law was recently enacted by Congress to change that in 2012. Many of the exotic species have made dramatic and rapid changes to the fish life of the lakes. The Great Lakes are currently experiencing a rapid decline of salmon because of a rapid drop in alewives. What we enjoy today may be gone in a relatively short time if we do not do better job of protecting the Great Lakes and in turn, our own lakes and streams.

New laws are being formed about how much water can be withdrawn from streams and groundwater. The new laws would have procedures to determine if the withdrawal of water could cause an adverse impact upon residents and fish population. The state is struggling to pass these new laws that will strengthen our ability to protect our great natural resource of "WATER". Owners of property on lakes and streams also have the right to oppose the withdrawal of water if it negatively impacts their riparian rights and interest such as lowering water levels or reducing fish populations.

Federal EPA Boating Bill

The following is from a letter from Margaret Podlich Vice President, Government Affairs, BoatUS received by a resident of Dewey Lake from BoatUS.

"Dear BoatUS Member,
We need your help now to pass NEW federal legislation in the Senate that would provide a permanent exemption for recreational boats from the upcoming EPA discharge permit requirement. Remember that if we don't get legislation passed, we all need to get EPA permits to operate our boats effective 9/30/08!

We appreciate the time that many of you have already taken to let your Senators or Representatives know your support of S. 2067 or HR 2550 "The Recreational Boating Act of 2007." **Now there is a new Senate Bill #2766 "The Clean Boating Act of 2008", which is more politically viable, and our best chance to eliminate the permit requirement before it comes in effect on September 30, 2008.**

Please pick up the phone or email today and ask your Senators to sponsor and vote YES for S 2766. Although Congress is on recess this week and next, we need their staff to hear from us so that this bill can move as soon as the Senators are back in Washington.

Illinois

Senator Barack Obama (D)
Senator Dick Durbin (D) (202) 224-2152

Indiana

Senator Richard Lugar (R) (202) 224-4814
Senator Evan Bayh (D) (202) 224-5623

Iowa

Senator Charles Grassley (R) (202) 224-3744
Senator Tom Harkin (D) (202) 224-3254

Michigan

Senator Carl Levin (D) (202) 224-6221
Senator Debbie Stabenow (D) (202) 224-4822

Wisconsin

Senator Herb Kohl (D) (202) 224-5653
Senator Russ Feingold (D) (202) 224-5323

For more information and how to contact your officials electronically see:
http://www.boatus.com/gov/alert_0308.asp

Thanks for your ongoing help with this issue.

Margaret Podlich
Vice President, Government Affairs, BoatUS
GovtAffairs@BoatUS.com > GovtAffairs@BoatUS.com,
or call 703-461-2878 x8355

A lake carries you into recesses of feeling otherwise impenetrable. ~William Wordsworth

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Kelly Smit
Realtor

Soil Testing

Spring is a time when rains wash great amounts of fertilizer into the lake. We put a granulated form onto the grass simply because that's what we do. That's what we have always done. But I would like to recommend that we as a group reevaluate this practice.

The MSU and the county extension offices have agreed to handle soil sampling for us. Follow the instructions below and you may save yourself some money and time along with our lake.

Go to 4-6 different areas in your yard and, from 6 inches below ground, gather a little over 2 cups total soil, from all 4-6 areas. Mix together and spread out on newspaper to dry. When dry put 2 cups in a baggie and staple a paper with your name, address, phone, e-mail, the collection area, (lakeside, back etc.) the word lawn, (and, if you know, type of grass i.e. bluegrass, fescue, rye). Add a check for \$9.50 for each sample made out to Michigan State Univ. (I suggest you do at least 2 samples as our front yards are often very different than our backyards.) Drop off at my house 31585 Krohne or the MSU office on Hillandale just south of Napier. Call 944-4126 if you have any questions about sampling. Results will come by e-mail or mail. - Kay Dukesherer

Membership Fees Due by July 31st

The dues for 2008 – 2009 should be paid before July 31, 2008. This covers your membership thorough July 2009. At the MLIA Board meeting April 21, 2008, the board voted to increase the membership fee by \$5.00 to \$25.00 for the annual fee. This is still well below most other Lake Associations.



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Crooked Lakes Augmentation Well

This is an update on recent activities regarding the Crooked Lakes Augmentation Well Project. The purpose of the project is to raise the lake water levels of both Big and Little Crooked Lakes to enhance lake use by property owners. Information for this update comes from Joseph Parman, Drain Commissioner of Van Buren County and Jeffrey Van Belle, Drain Commissioner for Cass County.

A Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) Public Hearing on the Project occurred on October 24, 2007 at Sister Lakes Elementary School. Information from that hearing was used by the MDEQ in issuing a four-page denial of the Project on December 17, 2007. The letter had several items including a list of problems that the Augmentation Project might cause including lowering water levels of nearby wells and lakes. The report also said that additional information was needed before the application could be reconsidered for approval by the MDEQ.

After a meeting with MDEQ representatives by the Drain Commissioners, it was decided to provide the MDEQ with additional information regarding the project and that an appeal of the denial would be filed with the MDEQ. On February 8, 2008 Mr. Parman received from the MDEQ a letter outlining the specific information requested by the MDEQ. On March 12, 2008 the Crooked Lakes Project submitted new information to the MDEQ as requested except for a wetlands impact study and data from a 72-hour well test which have yet to be completed. Mr. Van Belle indicated that they have decided to move ahead with the 72-hour well test and that a more comprehensive public announcement of such a test will be made ahead of time to improve communications. The Drain Commissioners from both counties will underwrite the estimated \$20,000 cost of the well test that will occur either this summer (2008) or next fall. The Well Augmentation Project continues with the support of both Drain Commissioners.

Both Drain Commissioners encouraged concerned residents to contact them regarding questions about the project. Mr. Parman's telephone number is 1-269-657-8241 and his email is parmanj@vbco.org. Mr. Van Belle's phone is 1-269-445-4428 and his email is jeffreylv@cassco.org



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