

## Cass County Boater Safety Classes

May 9	Midway Water Sports	50663 M-152
May 30	Hudson Memorial	179 N. Jones St. Marcellus
June 6	Donnell Lake Cons. Club	16900 Lakeview Dr., Vandalia
June 13	Midway Water Sports	50663 M-152
June 20	Eagle Lake Marine	68777 Avenue A, Edwardsburg
July 11	Cass County Cons. Club	13710 US 12, Union
July 18	Indian Lake Yacht Club	55900 Indian Lake Road

Classes are for students that turn 12 in 2009. Pre-register by calling the Sheriff's office at 269-445-1240 and register with the Admin. Front desk. Have the student's name, phone number and date of birth at the time of registration.

Classes start at 8 AM and are done no later than 3 PM. Students should bring a No. 2 pencil, a sack lunch and something to drink. Anyone born after Dec. 31, 1978 must have this certificate to operate a PWC



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## Flood Waters and Boat Wakes

Between the rainfall we received last fall and the rain we've gotten so far this spring, the lake is as high as anyone can remember. Last fall, the culvert at Magician Lake Road washed out because of so much water. There have been reports of water damage to homes as well. Since this level is so high, we are asking that you show some concern for your neighbors and their property and minimize your wake until the level returns to closer to normal. Believe me your cooperation will be greatly appreciated!



## Magician Lake News Newsletter of the Magician Lake Improvement Association May 2009

### From the Desk of the President

The April loons with their eerie calls came back, so spring must be here as the loons are heading north for the summer. After our rather harsh winter it is good to see signs of yet another season and summer on the horizon.

With summer come thoughts of bright blue skies, clear blue water, and outdoor fun. Michigan has over 14,000 bodies of water and with this wonderful resource also comes a responsibility to preserve and protect. Please note in our newsletter the information on using fertilizer and shoreline protection when taking care of our watershed.

Please also keep in mind boating safety, personal watercraft rules, and do be careful if you are burning yard waste. Respect others and know the "rules of the road" when it comes to being a good neighbor given the increase and density of population and boats.

Remember to join us for our annual meeting at the Silver Creek Township Hall on Saturday July 11 at 9 a.m., renew your membership, invite others to join for only \$25/yr, visit <http://www.magician-lake.org>. as we seek your input to better serve your needs.

Sincerely,

Charlotte Poole, President  
 Magician Lake Improvement Association

### Upcoming Area Events

**Sun. May 24<sup>th</sup>** Pancake Breakfast 7:30AM-Noon  
 Sister Lakes Lions Club

**Fri. July 3rd (July 5th rain date)**  
 4th of July Fireworks/raffle, Sister Lakes Lions Club

Sat. July 4<sup>th</sup> Big Foot Parade 5:00

**Sister Lakes Business Assoc.**  
 Pancake Breakfast 7AM-Noon, Indian Lake Fire Dept.

### What is Compost Tea?

Every spring we issue warnings about fertilizing lawns that surround lake properties. First, we still advocate phosphate free fertilizer, but now there is a new product called Compost Tea which appears to be even better because this fertilizer does not contain nitrogen either. In the past, as one knowledgeable lake owner put it, "if it turns your lawn green, then probably it will turn your lake green too." However, there maybe is a solution to this problem with this product.


This product is made by Flowerfield Enterprises in Kalamazoo, MI and was brought to our attention at the Region 3 meeting MLSA. Several people present had used this product and testified as to its benefits for riparians. Compost Tea treats the soil and decreases harmful leaching into the surrounding water. It still produces the benefit of having a green lawn without having to constantly water and mow. It is a safe product that decreases harmful chemicals, pesticides, or other toxins and leaves lawns and surrounding water a safe place to play.

For more information Google "Compost Tea, Kalamazoo, MI" or go to their web site (<http://www.wormwoman.com/acatalog/compost-tea/flowerfield-compost>).



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Magician Lake Improvement Association  
 62480 Gilmore Avenue  
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## Fish Kills Common

Fish, soft shell turtles, frogs, toads, and crayfish die offs are common after long harsh winters such as occurred in Michigan this past winter. Lakes with excessive amounts of aquatic vegetation and mucky bottoms are prone to this. In fact, fish and other aquatic life actually die in late winter, but may not be noticed until months later because the water is still cold and they are temporarily preserved. Dissolved oxygen is greatly reduced by ice and snow when plants stop production. We have not seen many dead fish as of yet on Magician Lake, but as an FYI, this may occur in the spring as our waters begin to warm up.

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## Report from Region #3 Meeting of the Michigan Lakes & Streams Association.

The annual spring meeting of region three of MLSA was held on April 4th at the Webster Memorial Library in Decatur Michigan. New MLSA state officers were verbally introduced including our own Sue Vomish from Twin Lakes, who is the new state president and Dick Morey from Magician Lake who is our regional VP. Officers were also concerned about recent legislation that is being considered where jurisdiction for wetland issues would transfer from the state DEQ to the federal level. Visit <http://www.Michigan.gov/deq> for the latest details on this issue. Some 28 different lakes were represented as we discussed positive and negative issues related to lake living in southwest Michigan. Lakes are still battling invasive species such as Eurasian Milfoil, zebra mussels, kabamba, and other weeds. However, add to the nuisance the issue of Canadian geese and now attacking mute swans. Some lakes have up to 50 nesting swans that are bigger, more aggressive, and more of a problem than geese have been. Even though Michigan does not have laws regarding the number of boats/acre, boat density is also a concern in some overused lakes as well as the noise it creates. Other lakes have had success by being involved with zoning and planning boards in township government in order to protect from over development and subdivisions while others have found

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ways to limit fishing tournaments, and pass ordinances against phosphorus use in fertilizer. All lakes are concerned about high water levels, possible high e-coli levels, and damage done to shorelines given the increase in our water table in southwestern Michigan. On the positive side, lake associations do participate in annual picnics, garage sales, boat parades, poker runs, fireworks displays, wine and cheese parties, as well as operate viable websites, and produce valuable newsletters. A new Yahoo group also acts as a forum or blog for discussion at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/mlsaregion3>. One lake association brought up the issue of legal representation at a reduced cost – visit <http://www.law.mus.edu/clinics/sbnp> and learn about how 2nd and 3rd year law students from the MSU College of Law can help out with issues under the supervision of experienced faculty who are members of the State Bar of Michigan. This lake association also gave another web site that offers space and help to non-profit organizations to find answers to questions, grants available, workshops, etc. by visiting <http://www.kpl.gov/ONEplace> Next fall's seminar will be Saturday, Sept. 26th in Decatur, followed by a fall workshop on October 16th in Lawrence, MI.

## MLSA CONFERENCE

The Michigan Lake & Stream (MLSA) Conference was held in April at Houghton Lake. This annual Conference had many speakers on numerous topics and was attended by 300 to 400 Lake Association members like you. As a Magician Lake Association member, you have access to many MLSA benefits, as well as our informative Newsletters and The Riparian Magazine. You can visit the MLSA web site at [www.mlswa.org](http://www.mlswa.org). Topics at the Conference this year included your legal (Riparian) rights, lakeshore management, water quality, treating invasive species and many others. Next years Conference will be held in downtown Lansing at the Radisson Hotel. In the meantime, visit the web site.

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## Silver Creek and Keeler Townships Building and Zoning Information

### Building & Zoning Inspector's for Silver Creek

Office Hours - Tues. 6-9 pm

Sat. 10 am-12 pm Phone - 269-424-3125

Building Inspector - Todd Herter 269-208-3109

Zoning Inspector - Ed Goodman 269-782-3947

### Building and Zoning Inspector's for Keeler

Hours at Twp. Hall – Wed. 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Building Permits Don Herter - Phone: (269) 782-7827

Zoning Administrator - Allyn Anthony Phone: 269-424-5427

## Crooked Lakes Augmentation Update

As of April 2009, the augmentation project for Big and Little Crooked has been put on hold even though the DEQ granted a permit to proceed in January 2009. Members of an opposition group residing at Crooked Lakes have retained an environmental lawyer from Grand Rapids who is in the process of looking into the legality of the studies presented to the DEQ for review used in the permitting process. Just as the Crooked Lakes Association submitted an appeal to review the initial denial of this original permit request, so has the opposition submitted an appeal to review the reversal of this original permit denial. Magician Lake may be affected by this outcome. If anyone wishes to monetarily contribute to and/or verbally support this appeal please contact Tim McKernin at - [tim@mckerninexhibits.com](mailto:tim@mckerninexhibits.com)

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## Phosphorous Legislation

Update from the *Dowagiac Daily News*. 1/7/2009

“Governor Jennifer Granhold has signed legislation that will help protect Michigan’s vast water resources, including the Great Lakes by significantly reducing the amount of phosphorus contained in household dish and laundry detergents sold in Michigan”

## Community Awareness Seminars

Silver Creek Township presents seminars once a month related to topics important to you and your neighborhood. In April Mr. Louis Csokasy spoke on the Cass Co. Roads. Did you know that:

- Michigan roads are primarily supported by the state through a gas tax not property tax?
- Silver Creek Township and other townships throughout Michigan make major contributions to county road commissions in order to support our roads?
- Dead deer phone calls are one of the most prominent phone calls they receive?
- If your mailbox is knocked down by a county plow, you can receive a new mailbox, post, and \$20.00 to reinstall it?

Other speakers will be Terry Proctor, County Administrator, on May 18th and Ernest Sarkipato, from the MDEQ, who will discuss FEMA Flood Insurance Program on June 15. All meetings are held at 7 p.m. at the Silver Creek Township Hall

## MAGICIAN WATER QUALITY

In 2009, we again will do the water testing on our lake. We do weekly transparency testing in the 60 ft deep basin, 8-10 dissolved oxygen tests over the summer, monthly chlorophyll, and spring & fall phosphorus tests. Over the last 6 years we have performed these tests and there has been no change in the water quality. We still compare very favorably with the top quality lakes in the state. The annual report of Magician Lake and all other tested lakes will be available at the July 11 annual lake membership meeting.

However, of great concern is the Eurasian milfoil found last summer in the Magician Lake Bay Channel. This will be treated over the next 5 years and let's hope it is contained. This invasive plant has a tendency to spread very rapidly, so it is the responsibility of us all to keep an eye open. If you see a plant and don't know what it is, please call a Board member. Unchecked... this plant can get so thick that a boat cannot get through it and then it becomes very expensive to treat an area, or even the entire lake.