

Magician Lake Water Testing Program

Our water clarity this summer was the worst in recent memory. Why?! There are three reasons for this problem. We started out in May with a clarity of 18 feet which is normal for our lake, but by July, you could only see a depth of 4 feet. During July, you probably noticed green algae which coupled with the dry, hot weather caused this reaction. Then add to the mix, the increased boat traffic seven days a week and our lake never had time to settle during mid week. Thus, the lake is constantly churned up and the clarity is reduced. I'm happy to say, by mid August, the lake was back to normal clarity depth of 7 feet. The following are depths that you could see in mid summer.

2003 - 16' 2004 - 10' 2005 - 4'

The spring issue will again update you on all water tests that your lake association does.



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



From the Desk of the President

We have met, and let you meet, several officials in our township to answer the questions you sent in this past year. The Assessor answered questions on summer taxes, and property taxes in general. He is currently assessing Magician Lake front at \$3100 a front foot and says that is conservative.

The supervisors from both townships answered our questions on various topics as did the marine officer and the community policing director. Some of these topics are covered in detail in this newsletter. Continue to call. We may not be able to solve all problems but are here to get you as much information as we can.

We continue monitoring the lake for exotic species and water quality. This board really works hard and puts in a lot of hours on your behalf. Thank them when ever you see them.

Kay Dukesherer dukey@mail.usa.com

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.

Heart Stopping News

Just before we are ready to go to press the news no one wanted to hear, happened. A 7 year old boy riding on a tube was hit and killed by a personal water craft on Donnell Lake. I see people taking chances every day. It could have happened here. I can't begin to imagine the pain for both families. What can we do to make sure it doesn't happen on Magician? Kay

Magician Lake News

Newsletter of the
 Magician Lake Improvement Association
 September 2005

This 19 1/2 inch Large Mouth was caught by Dillon, July 25th in Magician with "The Worm"



Vandalism

There has been a lot of vandalism around the lake this summer; mailbox damage, small thefts, and break-ins. Silver Creek Township is trying to set up a neighborhood watch. One of the things they are asking that we do is to take note of suspicious behavior. Some things to note are the date, location and time, vehicle description, person's appearance: size, hair, age, etc. We are hoping to get several neighborhood captains around the lake that can collect this information. If you would like to be a neighborhood captain, Ed Goodman is looking for people to work with him. Call him at 782 3947 or go to their next meeting Sept. 19th, 7:00 in the town hall.

Last call for Dues!

Your annual membership fees are **past due**. We don't want to lose any of you as a member so please send the \$20.00 to Dick Morey, 50230 East Lakeshore Drive, Dowagiac, MI 49047-8400. Make checks payable to Magician Lake Improvement Association. *And thanks to those of you who've already paid.*



Watercraft Registration

During the board's meeting with Sgt. Riley of the Cass County Marine Patrol, we learned that all of the funding for the Marine Patrol comes from watercraft registrations. No tax money is appropriated for the operations or equipment of the Marine Patrol. Watercraft with out-of-state registrations can be operated on Michigan waterways for up to 60 days. After 60 days, a Michigan Watercraft Registration is required. Please be sure that all of your watercraft is properly registered. Every watercraft that remains on our lakes for the summer with an out-of-state registration reduces the operating budget of the Marine Patrol, which in turn reduces their ability to provide those of us using these same waterways with the coverage we need. **BE SURE ALL YOUR WATERCRAFT IS REGISTERED IN MICHIGAN!!!**



2344 Yankee Street, Niles, MI 49120
1-800-793-1867

Next Free Trash Day 2005

The next trash days for Silver Creek Township will be September 8th, 9th and 10th. If you pick up a permit at the township before then, you may take a load equivalent to a pick-up level full to Big Boys Toys on M-51, 9:00 to 3:00.

Personal Flotation Devices

On Saturday July 23rd, the Board met with Sergeant Bill Riley of the Cass County Marine Patrol. Among the subjects discussed were the laws regarding infants & children riding in boats.

All children, from infants up to the age of 6 are required to **wear** a personal flotation device (PFD) anytime they are on a boat. It is not sufficient to have a suitable PFD on the boat, the child must be wearing it and have it properly buckled. Special Type II ("Heads-up") vests should be worn by infants and are available for children as small as 6 pounds. These vests have straps that pass between the legs to prevent the child from slipping out through the bottom of the vest, as well as additional flotation behind the neck to help hold the child's head clear of the water.

If infants are brought on board in a carrier or car-seat, they should **not** be strapped or buckled in the device. The weight of the seat is sufficient to overcome the buoyancy of the PFD and pull the occupant to the bottom of the lake. Also, they are still required to be wearing a suitable PFD, **even** while in the carrier. Infant PFD's are available at area Marinas. See <http://www.boat-ed.com/mi/handbook/pfds.htm>.

Summary of Annual Meeting

We held our annual meeting July 9th. As part of this meeting the following budget was presented.

Opening 1/1/05__			\$2307
<u>Income</u>	220 Renewals	\$4,400	
	20 New Members	\$400	
	6 Advertisers	\$480	
<u>Total Income</u>		\$5,280	\$7587
<u>Expenses</u>	Recruitment	\$300	
	4 Newsletters	\$800	
	ML&SA	\$317	
	Riparian Magazine	\$1,440	
	ML&SA Conf.	\$750	
	DUHS Project	\$400	
	Water Testing	\$200	
	MLIA Insurance	\$1,063	
	Training	\$300	
	Signs	\$168	
<u>Total Expenses</u>		\$5,738	
<u>Bal. 7/9/2005</u>			\$3,588.03

It was noted that Bob Ausra resigned for health reasons and that Bill Saunders accepted his position as

Vice President – Silver Creek.

Membership status was 147 members of the 243 from last year had paid their 2005 dues. Concern was expressed that additional expenses may be incurred to solicit these dues.

It was reported that Keeler Township has a new zoning ordinance and copies could be obtained for \$15.00 at the township hall.

It was reported that there was a millage vote for Silver Creek in August to support fire and ambulance programs.

Both Township supervisors were present for the business meeting and were available following this meeting to answer any questions. Sgt. Bill Riley, Cass County Marine patrol was not present due to a miscommunication in the date of this meeting.

A total of 51 people were in attendance for this meeting which adjourned at 9:48 AM. Questions and answers followed and several articles discuss some of those issues.

Don't Trash the Lake!

NO ONE SHOULD EVER PUT ANY YARD WASTE OR TRASH IN THE LAKE!!!

There was a group from the east end of the lake, in Keeler Township, that reported they have a massive problem. Debris is accumulating on their beaches. Yard waste, mostly leaves, builds up to such an extent in front of their houses that each spring they have to hire workers to clean a huge 3 foot wide area full of leaves.

The directors met to see what we could do about it. First, the association is contacting all the yard service people in the area and asking them not to blow leaves into the water. If you see anyone doing this please call a board member.

We also looked to see if there were funds available for clean-up. The only way raise funds, is to form an assessment district and we pass on info on how this can be done in another article in this newsletter.

We also researched some past years and found that the lily pads that grow naturally in that area that trap the waste and send it to the bottom in a deeper part of the lake have been cut back by boat traffic.

IT APPEARS THAT THE THING WE LOVE MOST, BOATING, MAY BE SLOWLY TAKING ITS TOLL ON

OUR LAKE. PLEASE USE THE LAKE CAREFULLY

Most of the people at the meeting were unaware that our neighbors to the east and in a few other areas of the lake, had such a serious problem and we want to make you aware of it. Please be considerate.



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Realtor

How assessment districts are formed

Many lakes in our area have formed districts for various reasons: weed cutting, dredging, putting in wells to pump water into the lake, etc. Dewey is currently considering a well. We are lucky not to need these expensive "fix-ups" to keep our lake in usable condition. But, during the public comments section of our July 9, annual meeting, several people from the east end of the lake asked how our Association could help them clean up the leaves and trash that accumulate over the fall and winter at that end of the lake. Dick Stauffer, a township supervisor himself, explains the only way to get funding for such a project.

"Being from the southwest end of the lake, I had not heard of, or considered this problem, but their graphic depiction convinced me they have a very creditable complaint.

I need to point out here that our MLIA has no authority to establish an assessment district; such a district would need to be initiated by both Townships. The fact is that would be a difficult project to accomplish. To proceed, both township boards would require property owners to file a petition to demonstrate public support for a spring clean-up. A petitioner would need at least 50% of the land area subject to a special assessment in order to proceed. Also, consider that there are probably 500 parcels around the lake and a good many do not experience this problem. This is a daunting undertaking that would challenge the most committed lake property owner. If I can be of any further help to you please call me, Dick Stauffer at 269 429 1589"