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# Magician Lake News

## Newsletter of the Magician Lake Improvement Association

### Winter 2007

Are any of your friends or neighbors not members? Please ask them to join us. It will help spread the support costs and hopefully let us accomplish more.

### Magician Lake Improvement Association Membership Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Lake Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Check here if this is home.   
 Lake Address \_\_\_\_\_ Dowagiac, MI 49047  
 Home Address \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Make check for \$20.00 payable to Magician Lake Improvement Association and mail it and this application to Dick Morey, 50230 East Lakeshore Drive, Dowagiac, MI, 49047

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



### From the Desk of the President

Included in the winter newsletter you'll find the results of the survey, a synopsis of the region meeting and the conference your board attended and the answers to some of the questions you asked. Enjoy and think spring! Kay

### Region 3 MLSA September 30, 2006

43 lake associations from our region were represented at the annual fall MLSA meeting. Representatives presented topics and issues pertinent to their lake associations; some were old issues and some were new.

Under old issues, there remains the problem of Eurasian Milfoil and how to treat this aggressive weed – either chemically or biologically with weevils. Both treatments have positive and negative effects and do not necessarily eradicate the weed permanently, but rather keep it somewhat controlled.

Land development is also an issue as more and more pressure is put on townships by real estate developers to develop land that borders lakes and wetlands. It is important that individuals take an interest in local governments. All of us need to attend township, planning and zoning commission meetings and be aware of lake issues to protect our interests. We must make sure our local government officials know of our concerns over the environment, especially around our lakes and not sacrifice it for revenue.

Other new issues include; the problem of boat density and public access to lakes. This issue also comes with a new twist, the creation of “garage condos” constructed near public access sites. In these, individuals are able to store their boats next to the lakes, spend their days on the water, and then leave them during the night. More people, more boats using limited lake water!

Also the question of large houses being built on small lakefront properties where roofs and paving almost cover the entire lot and gutter rainwater is going directly into the lake. There is no permeable area for rainwater to be filtered by the ground before it becomes part of the lake aquifer. Pollution is much higher without rainwater being filtered by natural means.

Some lakes have sought to limit fishing tournaments to one or two a month. Some spray for mosquitoes, have “goose round-ups”, and some have printed membership directories. Many have collected for and sponsored fireworks, and all seem to be working on their web sites.

Dues structure for lake associations seems to range from \$15-35 per year. Special assessment districts have been established for several lakes, at this point, it is mostly for weed control but some are formed for augmentation.

### Correction

Mr. Spearing noticed an error in our reporting of the minutes in the last newsletter.

The phrase;

“Docking and any other lights are not legal”

Should have read:

“.....are not legal for navigation”

In other words, while out on the lake, running your craft with docking or spotlights on is not acceptable.

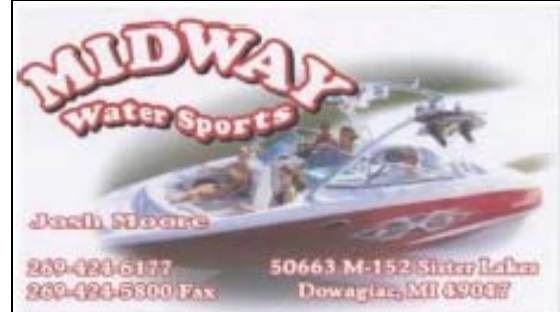
### Building and Zoning Permits

Keeler Township Building Inspector, Don Herter 782 7827 and Zoning Administrator, Allyn Anthony 424 5427 Are at the Keeler Township hall every Wednesday evening from 5-7

Silver Creek Township Building Inspector, Todd Herter, is there Tues 6-9 pm and Sat. 10-12. The office is open Tues. and Thurs.10-4:30 and Sat.10-12, 424 3045

### Contact numbers for Sheriffs

Marine officer in Cass, Deputy Phil Esarey (269) 445-1225, E-mail: [phile@cassco.org](mailto:phile@cassco.org) Cass County dispatch is 269 445 8644 and Van Buren Sheriff's 269 657 3101 When using a cell phone people contacting 911 have occasionally gotten a busy signal. Hang up and try again or have these dispatch numbers in your cell phone.



**MIDWAY Water Sports**  
 Josh Storie  
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 269-424-5800 Fax Dowagiac, MI 49047

### Region 3 continued

These fees are in the \$100-400 range. Treatment for weed control runs about \$20,000. per acre. Little Crooked Lake, which has been treating with 2-4D for about 10 years, is now finding a strain resistant to this chemical and has had to go to a more costly chemical. Many lakes are using Environ Science and Pro Lake Management, companies that help lake associations with problems.

USGS has been using GPS to map and test some lakes for clarity. They had done ours as a test and we got that information from them. It was a very informative meeting and we came away feeling very lucky. Charlotte and Kay

## Results of the Survey 2006

1. Have you ever called the sheriff's patrol regarding a boating issue? Yes 10 No 55
2. Have you ever taken note of a registration number of a boat other than your own? Yes 8 No 56
3. Do you think you would call if you witnessed a dangerous behavior on the part of a watercraft operator? Yes 53 No 9
4. Do you have numbers for the Marine Officer dispatch handy in your home? Yes 13 No 48  
In your boat? Yes 4 No 59
5. Have you or someone staying at your home ever been in a watercraft accident? Yes 5 No 59
6. Do you think the lake is:  
as safe as in past years 19 a little more dangerous 32 much more dangerous 12
7. When do you see the worst problems? majority said weekends, a large number said sunset or just after, many said both.
8. How do you think the problems should be addressed? You answered many ways including:  
Heavy Fines, More patrol on weekends, Limit motor size and/or horse power, Enforcement! Hire some extra patrols. Give tickets! Work with township to set specific lake regulations. Require a renewal of boater's permits and give a test. Start a community patrol that could give warnings. Everyone knows when the patrol leaves the lake. Officers occasionally need to come back after sunset. Have people take cell phones with them when boating and call when they see something. Ticketing is not enough. Can violators be kept off the lake for a while? Hand out leaflets at the access and elsewhere. Put up signs.
9. Did you know a watercraft operator can be ticketed for operating any type watercraft with an alcohol level of .08 or higher? Yes 60 No 6

### Water Quality (again please circle)

1. Have you ever put yard waste in the water?  
Yes 0 No 63 Years ago but no longer 3
2. Do you think we have: more weeds than 5 years ago 27 less weeds 9 about the same 23
3. Do you fertilize your lawn? Yes 40 No 25
4. Do you know how to get 0% phosphate fertilizer? Yes 40 No 25
5. Would you pay a little more for a bag of no phosphate fertilizer knowing it would help our waters phosphate level? Yes 60 No 4
6. Have you made a conscious effort to keep lawn products away from the shoreline?  
Yes 55 No 2 I use a lawn service 9
7. If you use a lawn service have you mentioned these concerns to them?  
Yes 7 I figured they already knew 2
8. Are you currently a member? Yes 66  
But only 3 had ever asked a neighbor to join.
9. Do you enjoy the newsletter? Yes 66

10. Do you use the web site? Yes 4 No 60 Didn't know about it 10  
What do you think the most important issues are that a lake association should be concerned with?

#### 1. Water Safety, (tie) Water quality,

Other issues: Water level, Watercraft speed and density. Boat noise, Fish Stocking, Condo development, Control of Water Access sites. Invasives (zebra mussels, weeds, etc.) Better cell phone reception, Over-building (large homes on small lots), Regulating new sea wall construction.

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### Fertilizing this spring

To your credit, you all said you would use a zero phosphate product on you lawn. If you don't have your own source here are some:

<u>Gods Green Earth</u>	13.99 Winterizer
2824 South 11 <sup>th</sup>	22.99 Crab Preventor
Niles, MI	16.49 Weed and Feed
269 683 7432	14.99 Lawn Food
<u>Dussels Farm Market</u>	Fert-a-loam
21765 M 60	Corn Gluten
Cassopolis, MI	Alfalpa Meal
269 445 8715	All organic products
<u>True Value Hardware</u>	Scotts
56216 M 51 S	7.99 Lawn Food
Dowagiac, MI	7.99 Weed and Feed

### Brief History of Polk's Land

Grandfather Edmund Robert Polk and Grandmother Agnes Mary Little Polk raised a family of five children...Wesley, Arthur, Robert, Mary and Edna. The children were born in LaGrange, Illinois, in a large, rambling house, which is still in use and remains painted the original yellow. Grandfather was an entrepreneur who dealt in horses, real estate, and various other business ventures. Both he and Grandmother owned property in Illinois and Michigan, and Grandfather liked to trade, and sell, his plots of land. Prior to summering at Magician Lake, the family would travel to Muskegon, to a tract of land called Idlewild, on Lake Michigan. Many family photographs record their happy times there.

On June 23, 1910 E.R. Polk purchased the Magician Lake property from Mary H. Southwick for a sum of \$3,460. The property was a grain farm prior to the sale; the land was left fallow under Edmond's ownership. The Polk's, with the help of their sons and daughters, developed a summer resort, providing rental cottages for the season. Of eight original cottages, built one per year, beginning in 1911, seven are still in use as summer homes. The cottages had no electricity, and were supplied with blocks of ice cut out of the lake in the winter and stored in the ice-house. As a child I remember when all the oak ice-boxes were dumped to make way for the new Frigidaire's. Oh, to have all those old ice-boxes now!

Behind the original 8 cottages there was a swamp that sported beautiful, bright yellow cowslips each spring. The fields behind the family cottage, where the old white house stands now, were blanketed with waving, yellow daisies. What a treasure to discover one solitary cowslip plant at the edge of the channel last spring (2006) where the swamp once was!

On April 19, 1930 Edmund and Agnes gave the Magician Lake

### Polk (Continued)

property and business to their son, Arthur Eugene Polk. A quit-claim deed was filed for the sum of one dollar. Edmond R. Polk passed away in December 1936 and Agnes in October 1950.

The love of the land by magical Magician Lake has spanned many years, and new generations of Polk's, and other families near and far. Many changes have taken place over the years, many faces have come and gone, and still others return, year after year, to enjoy the peace and tranquility of Magician Lake.

Cynthia Polk Muller



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### Augmentation Project

On December 20, 2006 the MLIA Board members and others met with Crooked Lake Association members to discuss the topic of Crooked Lakes water augmentation project using an agricultural well located just northwest of Magician Lake in Van Buren County.

After summarization and discussion of what has taken place on the part of MLIA members and Crooked Lakes Association members with regard to letters and visits to townships and drain commissioners, etc., here is a list of items that we feel the MLIA membership should be made aware of.

1. The Crooked Lakes Association with the assistance of Peerless-Midwest Corporation has "tested" an existing agriculture well located just northwest of Magician Lake and is proceeding with a plan that would allow pumping of water from the well to augment (i.e. raise the existing water level) of the two Crooked Lakes.

2. The Crooked Lakes Association has petitioned both Cass County and Van Buren County Boards of Commissioners and has received approval to proceed with the plan under guidance of the Van Buren and Cass County Drain Commissioners. (Approval occurred in Nov and Dec. 2006)

3. The Crooked Lakes Association must submit their water augmentation plan to the DEQ for approval. The preparation of those documents is currently being prepared by Peerless-Midwest Corp. (as reported at the time of the meeting).

4. A study conducted by Peerless Midwest for the Crooked Lakes Association found that the well could pump approximately 1000 gal per minute to provide water to the Crooked Lakes and bring the water level up closer to the government determined lake levels which are now estimated to be down about 5 feet. This pumping would not (in their opinion) affect other local lake levels or residential wells.

### Augmentation (Continued)

5. The Crooked Lake Association estimated it will take "several" months of pumping before an acceptable lake level is reached.

6. This project will be constructed during early 2007 with a target date to begin pumping water of approximately March 1, 2007. The Van Buren and Cass County Drain Commissioners would monitor the impact of the project on lake and residential well levels independently

Concerns raised by MLIA representatives at the meeting were-

1. Pumping from a well which is several hundred feet from Magician Lake is still a concern. How much pumping can be done without affecting Magician Lake level and residential wells? Even though there seems to be evidence that pumping would proceed without harm, we have our continued doubts.

2. We are pleased with the fact that Magician Lake levels and residential wells will be monitored by the Van Buren and Cass County Drain Commissioners. Crooked Lake Association members also assured us there is an "off" switch on the pump. However, that still leaves the issue of how much does the lake level have to go down before action is taken or when and if residential wells do become affected how does one prove it is the augmentation project that is the cause of the water drop? At this time there is also no firm description of the monitoring plans and tools to be used.

3. MLIA presented the fact the DEQ now has 60 to 90 days to act on any augmentation request. This process now has new guidance requirements, which may affect Crooked Lakes' proposal. Crooked Lakes Association members were unaware of the new DEQ requirements. If this applies to them, Wightman and Associates probably would be handling this, since they are the firm submitting all documents leading up to turning on the pump.

4. The MLIA is also concerned that both Round Lake and Dewey Lake Associations have expressed strong interest in augmentation projects, especially if the Crooked Lakes project is met with success. With each well that would be used to pump water into a lake, the chances of Magician Lake and its residents being affected would increase in our opinion.

At the end of the two-hour meeting, we were pleased to see a cooperative approach to this situation on the part of both the members of Crooked Lakes Association and MLIA. Currently, there are not laws to prevent the process of augmentation if all guidelines are met. MLIA will remain vigilant of this process and will keep our membership informed of future developments.



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