

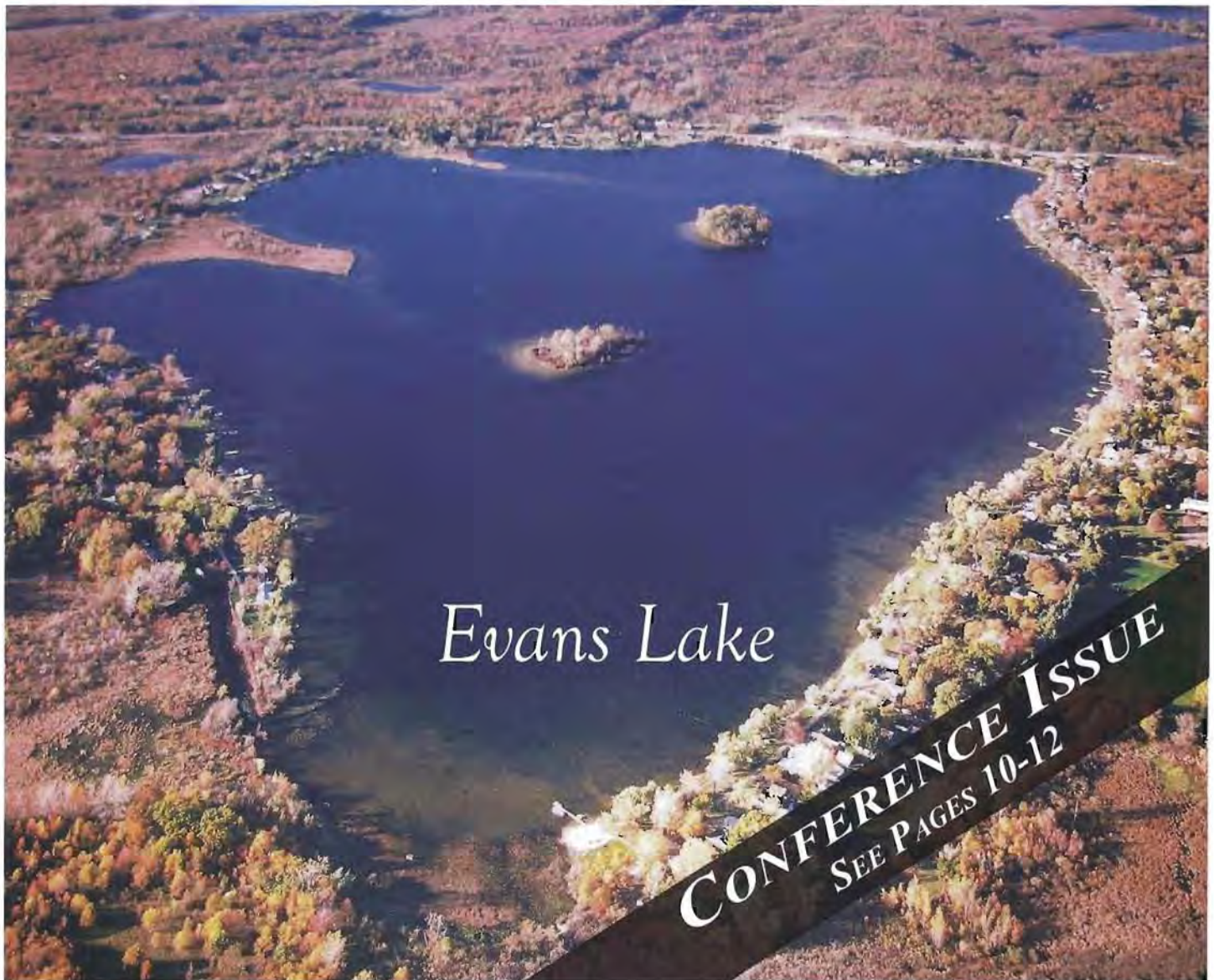
# THE MICHIGAN RIPARIAN

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DEVOTED TO THE MANAGEMENT AND WISE USE OF MICHIGAN'S LAKES AND STREAMS

Published Quarterly – February, May, August and November

*RIPARIAN* (r'-per-EE-n) adj. Relating to or living or located on the bank of a natural watercourse, such as a river, or of a lake or a tidewater.



Evans Lake

CONFERENCE ISSUE  
SEE PAGES 10-12

## Evans Lake is a 200-acre lake in Lenawee County, Michigan

Michigan has 11,000 inland lakes, ranging from five to 20,000 acres in size. 10,000 lakes are five to 50 acres; 889 lakes are 50 to 100 acres; 556 lakes are 100 to 200 acres; and 439 lakes are 200 or more acres in size. The total surface area of Michigan's inland lakes is 800,000 acres. The total number of registered motorized watercraft in the state is 1,000,000.



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## Lot owners in Lake Lansing subdivision exceeded scope of dedication

Plaintiffs Lily Gee, Robert Hollenshead, John D. and Marilyn Warbach, and Timothy and Bridget McCarthy filed suit against Jeffrey and Mary Howard seeking a declaratory judgment that defendants' actions violated their right to shared use of the Bass Street road end that ends at Lake Lansing.

The Ingham County Circuit Court found for the plaintiffs, stating that the "dedication did not grant individual lot owners the right to install a dock at the road end and that this right belonged to the subdivision owners as a whole."

The defendants had installed a dock at the Bass Street road end, and used the structure as a place to moor their pontoon boat.

The Appeals Court concluded that the lot owners within the subdivision may only temporarily moor their boats at the road end in accord with their right of navigation.

By installing a dock and mooring their pontoon boat there, defendants exceeded the scope of the dedication and infringed upon the rights of the other lot owners.

## Summer is Coming!

So are the weeds...

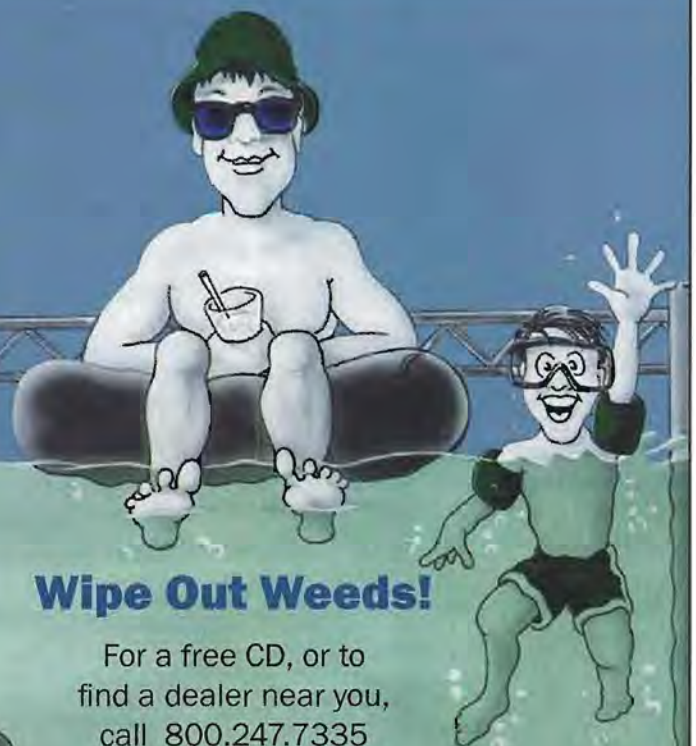
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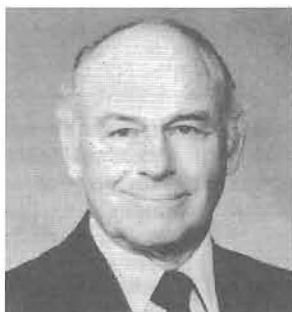
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## FROM THE PUBLISHER



Don Winne

### Do we want a government of law or of men in Michigan?

House Bill No. 6418, introduced by Reps. Gillard, Miller, Cushingberry, Polidori, Bennett, Sheltroun, Lemmons, Jr., Ball, Condino, Mayes, Kathleen Law, Kahn and Lemmons III, on Sept. 6, 2006, would empower local municipalities with power to exceed that of the courts of our state. Granting townships the power to adopt ordinances that would allow them

to issue a permit to a non-riparian to place a boat hoist on the bottomland of a navigable inland lake in Michigan would violate the common law as developed in court decisions over the past 140 years. (See *Lorman v. Benson*, Michigan Supreme Court decision on Jan. 9, 1860). The Supreme Court, in this case, determined that the "right to raft logs down a stream [the Detroit River in this case] does not involve the right of booming them on private property ... any more than the right to travel a highway justifies the leaving of wagons standing indefinitely in front of private dwellings or stores."

The courts of the state have determined that the right to anchor a structure on the bottomland of a lake is an exclusive right of a riparian property owner, and is permitted only on his bottomland. To permit the placement of a number of boat hoists on the bottomland at a road end would deny members of the public their legal right of navigation on the entire surface of a public inland lake. Judicial review of ordinances and statutes passed by legislative bodies in these United States has its beginning in the original 13 colonies of the Atlantic seaboard. "As early as 1780, the highest court of New Jersey, in *Holmes v. Walton*, refused to enforce an act of the Legislature as being unconstitutional ..."

Judicial review of legislative acts was of such importance in the American colonies that the framers of the U.S. Constitution in 1787 included Article 3, Section 1, that stated, "The judicial power of the United States shall be vested in one Supreme Court and in such inferior courts as the Congress may from time to time ordain and establish."

PUBLISHER DON WINNE

## IN THIS ISSUE

**Feature:** Those darn dams ..... p. 8

**Attorney Writes:** Some favorable riparian appellate cases ..... p. 9

**ML&SA News & Conference Registration Information** ..... p. 10-12

**Feature:** Aquatic mosses: are they in your lake? ..... p. 13

**Love My Lake:** Lake George by Dennis Zimmerman ..... p. 14

**Feature:** Evans Lake: working together ..... p. 16-17

**News From Lakes Around the State** ..... p. 19-21



# Lake and stream leaders' institute accepting 2007 applications

Michigan has a wealth of water resources, including 11,000 lakes and 36,000 miles of stream. Many of these lakes and streams have excellent quality and substantial economic and recreational value; however most of these water resources have no strategic plan to guide their development and use. As use demands grow, these waters will be increasingly susceptible to overuse and environmental degradation. The solution is collaborative management partnerships among the state agencies, local government, natural resource organizations and citizen stakeholders.

Many local stakeholders, however, are unfamiliar with water resource management options and do not have the educational experiences needed to be local leaders and management partners. For stakeholders to be active participants in community-based resource management, they must have access to appropriate training and informational materials.

To meet this need Michigan Lake and Stream Associations, Inc is partnering with Michigan State University to sponsor the Lake and Stream Leader's Institute. The Institute's goal is to develop local land/water resource leaders who will promote lake, stream and watershed management partnerships with state natural resource agencies and encourage and instruct other citizens in resource management.

The Institute employs a combination of classroom activities,

field experiences, homework assignments and an applied project. Participants prepare a poster of their applied project. After completing the Institute program, participants are engaged in an Alumni Program to promote communication, continued learning possibilities and opportunities for service.

The first Institute classes were held in 2002 and 2005. For the Class of 2007, the first one-day session will be held on May 17th at the Ralph A MacMullan Center on Higgins Lake. The second session will be a three-day event (August 2nd, 3rd and 4th) at Kellogg Biological Center, and includes many hours studying local lakes and streams. The final session is scheduled for September 14th and will be held at the Bengel Wildlife Center in Bath. At this last session the participants will present and discuss the poster displays for their projects. The session will conclude with a graduation ceremony.

If you want to become more involved in the management of your lake or stream resource, you can obtain additional information about the Institute and registration documents at MLSA's website ([www.mlsa.org](http://www.mlsa.org)) or MSU Extension's web site ([www.msue.msu.edu/waterqual/lakeleaders.html](http://www.msue.msu.edu/waterqual/lakeleaders.html)).

If you have questions about the Institute you may contact Howard Wandell at the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife at Michigan State University, 517-432-1491, [wandellh@msu.edu](mailto:wandellh@msu.edu).

## SAVE THE DATE!!!

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## What to do with aging, failing dam structures?

It seems that everywhere you look these days there's discussion in the media and conservation circles regarding dams. The recent failure of dams on the Dead River near Marquette has fueled discussions regarding flood events and dam safety. In the Manistee watershed alone, there are 63 known dams, some in severe disrepair. The issue of what to do with aging, outdated, and often failing dam structures is the topic of much discussion among conservationists, environmentalists, and resource managers alike. But before debating the pros and cons of dams, let's review some facts about dams in Michigan and the regulations that guide their operation and maintenance.

According to Michigan Department of Environmental Quality records, Michigan has over 2,500 dams, fewer than 100 of which are used to generate electricity. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) regulates dams used to generate hydropower. FERC requires those dams be licensed, maintained, and operated according to federally mandated guidelines, regardless of ownership and location. Of the remaining 2,400, 1,048 are regulated by the State of Michigan under parts 307 (Inland Lake Levels) and 315 (Dam Safety) of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act of 1994. The rest, approximately 1,250 or so, do not require regular inspections by the state because of their size (impoundment size less than five acres, head height less than six feet). So, we know there are at least 1,250 dams scattered throughout Michigan privately owned, privately operated, and will some day require their owners to spend money on maintenance or removal. If nothing is done with these structures, eventually they will all fail. It is important to note that alterations to dams not regulated by parts 307 or 315, including their removal, would likely still require a permit from MDEQ.

So, back to our original issue. What do we do with these structures as they age, become liabilities, and require attention? What happens when a dam that generates hydropower costs more to maintain than it produces in power revenues? These are questions being debated throughout the country as many dams currently in service have already exceeded their design life, and the answers are rarely easy.

When considering what to do with an aging dam, careful thought must be given to several key questions. What purpose does the dam serve? Are there structural issues and liabilities associated with keeping the dam in place? Is removal a viable option? What permits might be required for repairs or removal? What social issues need to be considered? Should a professional engineering firm be hired? Is there funding available? Obviously, the answers to these questions are different for every structure, and each dam needs to be considered individually.

At the present time, the Conservation Resource Alliance (CRA) is involved in several different projects involving dams in at least three different watersheds. Some are relatively straightforward, some less so. A careful analysis of owner objectives and related environmental impacts will generally be the driving force for

decision-making, particularly in the case of smaller structures not generating hydropower.

by **Mark Johnson**, biologist  
Conservation Resource Alliance, [www.rivercare.org](http://www.rivercare.org)

For example, consider a private landowner who owns property that has an aging dam structure that impounds three acres of water on a cold-water tributary. Let's say the structure is in disrepair and the landowner is not using the impoundment for recreation, and the dam is serving no useful purpose. As we discussed above, up to half of Michigan's dams may fall into a category similar to this scenario. While many small dams may have a recreational component, others serve only to impound sediment, fragment fish populations, and warm impounded water. This scenario may be the best case for a removal, and often groups like CRA can help a landowner find funding help to plan and implement a removal. But, with any removal project, positive environmental impacts must be weighed against potential negatives, such as downstream movement of contaminated sediments or upstream migration of invasive species such as sea lamprey. Now consider scenario number two. A dam owned by a small municipality is regulated by the Dam Safety statute, and needs serious repairs. A boat launch and park are present around the impoundment, which is used for swimming, fishing, and other recreation. While the dam certainly has negative environmental impacts, social considerations may very well outweigh environmental concerns, meaning that the dam owners have a decision to make, and removal may not be their best option. While dollars can often be found for removals, finding funding help for repairs to failing dams is much more difficult, leaving our municipality in the unenviable position of having to find funds for repairs or face possible legal action if mandated repairs aren't completed.

While these two scenarios are quite different, they are not atypical of many situations currently playing out across the state. Unfortunately, the state's responsibility of regulating dams for the safety of the public often puts them at odds with dam owners that feel they aren't financially able to fund necessary repairs to structures that have outlived their usefulness. The key to resolving these issues is good communications between owners and regulators, though it often boils down to dollars and cents. The finances will often steer owners toward removal, particularly in cases involving regulated dams where public safety is a concern and there is no revenue being generated, as may be the case with hydropower facilities.

While this doesn't even scratch the surface of issues to be considered when it comes to dam removal versus dam repair and retention, it should give some food for thought. These are complex issues that often pit wildlife concerns against fishery concerns, or social concerns against financial and legal. In the end, our streams and rivers are generally better off without dams and the negative effects that come with them, but when it comes to dams, one size definitely does not fit all!



## Some favorable riparian appellate cases

By Clifford H. Bloom, Esq.

Law, Weathers & Richardson, P.C.  
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Grand Rapids, Michigan 49504-5320



During the past few months, the Michigan Court of Appeals has issued a number of appellate decisions which are favorable to Michigan riparians. Although these decisions are "unpublished" (and hence, not technically binding precedent), they nevertheless offer guidance for how Michigan courts view the subject matter at issue and are often persuasive to trial court judges.

In *Gee v Howard* (unpublished case decided on November 9, 2006; Case No. 269732), a private road created by a plat ended perpendicular at Lake Lansing. The defendants (backlot owners) installed a dock at the road end and used the dock as a place to moor their pontoon boat. Nearby riparian property owners filed a lawsuit to prohibit the installation of a dock and permanent boat moorage at the private road end. The private road was dedicated on the plat "to the use of the lot owners." The Court of Appeals held in favor of the riparian property owners. The Court agreed that the private road end could not be used for boat hoists, "permanent mooring, sunbathing, lounging or picnicking. The Court also held that the private road end could be used for one non-exclusive dock for temporary mooring only, just as is the case with public road ends. See *Thies v Howland*, 424 Mich 282 (1985); *Higgins Lake Property Owners Ass'n v Gerrish Twp*, 255 Mich App 83 (2003); *Jacobs v Lyon Twp*, 199 Mich App 667 (1993). However, the Court of Appeals made an important distinction. It noted that under *Thies*, only the local governmental unit would have the right to build and install the one nonexclusive dock at a public road end for public use. No individual would have the right to install a private dock. See also *Higgins Lake*. In this case, only the subdivision lot owners as a group or whole had the right to install a dock at the road private end for temporary use, not an individual property owner. Unfortunately, the decision in this case still begs the question as to whether or not

100% of the landowners in a plat such as this must agree to the installation of one common dock, or whether a smaller group or subset of all property owners has the authority to install one dock for common use.

The *Gee* holding is consistent with the 2005 decision by the Michigan Court of Appeals in *Smith v Livingston County Drain Commission* (unpublished decision decided on May 5, 2005; Case No. 251523), which held that for public road ends, only the governmental unit that has been deemed to have accepted the dedication of the road is entitled to install one non-exclusive dock at the road end. The Court also noted that where a private road end is involved, only the subdivision lot owners as a whole have the right to install one nonexclusive dock for common use, not any individual lot owner.

*Koker v Michaels* (unpublished decision dated November 7, 2006; Case No. 270524), involved a private easement which granted plaintiffs (the backlot owners) the right to use defendants' riparian property "for the purpose of reaching the waters of Joslin Lake for boating, bathing and fishing and also ... for park purposes." The easement language was deemed unambiguous. Interestingly, despite the relatively broad language of the easement ("... for boating, bathing and fishing and also ... for park purposes"), the Court of Appeals found that the backlot beneficiary of the easement did not have the right to install a dock or permanently moor a boat at the easement. Rather, the easement language allowed only access to the lake (i.e., travel). Significantly, the Court also held that the phrase "for park purposes" means recreational activities normally enjoyed at a park and that such activities do not include building docks. In *Pheasant Ridge Development Co, Inc v Nottawa Twp* (unpublished case decided on December 28, 2006; Case No. 269453), over a dozen families jointly owned a riparian lot (which they used jointly in addition to their back lots). They used 18

docks and 36 boat slips on the jointly-owned lakefront property. The Court of Appeals held that such use of the lakefront lot was a multi-family use which violated the single-family zoning classification of Nottawa Township. The Court also held that the township's anti-funneling regulations did not apply, since it was not an easement situation and the lakefront property was jointly owned by the backlot property owners involved. This case stands for the proposition that anti-funneling regulations should be drafted to cover not only easement, private road, alley and park situations, but also arrangements where a lakefront property is jointly owned by backlot owners or a backlot property owners association.

In the November 2006 issue of *The Riparian*, there is a brief bulletin about *Chauvette v Owczarek* (an unpublished decision of the Michigan Court of Appeals decided on October 26, 2006; Case No. 262473). In that case, the Court indicated that backlot owners could not utilize a private road for permanent boat mooring. Although the Court of Appeals did not expressly address what constitutes "permanent" boat anchoring or moorage, the trial court below held that any overnight mooring or anchoring would be deemed prohibited permanent watercraft mooring or docking.

Finally, in *Pentz v Schlimgen* (unpublished case decided on December 19, 2006; Case No. 258130), the Court of Appeals again confirmed that a right of access generally does not mean the right to dockage or permanent boat moorage. Given the somewhat unusual fact situation in this case (a private road that ended just short of the water, with the dedicated "lake access area" located between the private road and the water), this case will probably not have widespread applicability on its face. Nevertheless, its discussion of what limited rights backlot owners generally have in similar situations is useful.

## Join us: 2007 forms are now online for Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program



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One of the benefits of your lake association membership in Michigan Lake and Stream Associations is that you are sent an advance notification of any Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) permit request from anyone attempting to change anything on your lake.

This includes building or expanding a marina, adding a boat ramp or access site, dredging or filling wetlands, building condos, installing a dock, adding mooring buoys, installing a sea wall, etc.

If an application is made to MDEQ for building a new marina, condo, etc., the MDEQ will attempt to notify adjoining property owners of this pending project.

My personal experience has been that they sometimes fail to get the message out. According to MDEQ reps, their address list for adjacent riparians is often obsolete, so they try to notify previous owners who are not interested, if they even get the message. They say they are short-staffed, and not really required to notify anyone - but they will do the best they can with the limited resources they have.

It is much easier to stop an undesirable project before it is started. That is why it is so important for you to keep your lake membership current in ML&SA because we screen all MDEQ permits requested and notify only those lake associations whose membership is current.

In the year 2006, there were 6,088 permits of various types requested of MDEQ. Out of this number, we sent 852 notices alerting member lake associations of the request for work on their lake. Also, we sent 54 MDEQ public hearing notices to ML&SA vice presidents who then contacted your association to assure you had been informed.

Hopefully, this service helps you prevent unwanted activity on your beautiful lake.

Another great service that the ML&SA offers to its members and to residents of Michigan is the ML&SA Annual Conference. The 46th Annual Conference is scheduled for April 20, 21, and 22, 2007, at Boyne Mountain Resort in Boyne Falls. The conference includes workshops, school project displays, scientific information, lakes and streams management, legal issues, lakes associations' programs, exotic creatures and plants invasion, shoreline protection and much more.

So if you're concerned about lake issues, are interested in helping to protect your own lake or stream, or have questions that you want answered by ML&SA open-form experts, check out pages 11 and 12 for more information about this great annual event and how to get yourself registered today.

We hope to see you there in April!



## ML&SA's 46th Annual Conference

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All roads take you to Boyne Mountain Resort in Boyne Falls, Michigan, for the 46th Annual Conference of the Michigan Lake & Stream Associations, Inc.!



The Grand Lodge at Boyne Mountain.

TOPICS OF MOST CONCERN TO RIPARIANS AS REPORTED BY INDIVIDUALS ATTENDING LAST YEAR'S ANNUAL CONFERENCE INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

1. Controlling aquatic plants.
2. Safety in water use.
3. Lake management.
4. Working with local government.
5. Waste-water facilities.
6. Riparian rights and doctrine.
7. Shoreline management, buffer strips.
8. Watershed management.
9. Waterfowl issues – Canada geese and seagulls.
10. Groundwater use and protection.
11. Road-end issues.
12. Surface water quality.
13. Invasive plants and animals.
14. Dams in Michigan.
15. Marinas on inland lakes.

The Conference Committee is currently choosing specific topics and experts to present seminars on many of the concerns listed above.

When topics have been selected and speakers confirmed, the program schedule will be made available to lake associations and the public through ML&SA's newsletter and other media.

If you have a topic that you'd like to see covered at the conference, please contact your regional vice president or an officer of the board and let them know. See page 10 of this magazine for your regional vice president's contact information.

Registration forms for the conference can be found on the following two pages.

We look forward to seeing you at beautiful Boyne in April!





# PLAN NOW TO ATTEND ...

# April 20, 21, & 22, 2007

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(If your reside on a lake or stream)

Association, School, or Company Name you may be associated with \_\_\_\_\_

**Note: Meals are NOT included in these registration fees.**

	PRE-REGISTRATION By April 14, 2006	REGISTRATION AT the CONFERENCE	
♦ FULL CONFERENCE (2 or 3 days)	\$ 65.00	\$ 75.00	\$ _____
♦ ONE DAY ATTENDANCE – ONLY	\$ 35.00	\$ 40.00	\$ _____
For Which Date:			
Friday, April 20 <sup>th</sup>	_____		
Saturday, April 21 <sup>th</sup>	_____		
Sunday, April 22 <sup>th</sup>	_____		
♦ REGISTERED STUDENT- Full Conference (per person)	\$ 10.00	\$ 15.00	\$ _____
♦ CLMP LAKES MONITORING PROGRAM – (April 20, 2007 = training session only.....No Charge.....Does <b>NOT</b> include meals)			

CHECK/MONEY ORDER † MASTERCARD † VISA † DISCOVERY † AMERICAN EXPRESS

Check Number \_\_\_\_\_ Check, Money Order, or Credit Card Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ Pin # \_\_\_\_\_

PRINT Name as it appears on Credit Card \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card Holders Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number of Credit Card Holder ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Credit Card Account Holder X \_\_\_\_\_

**Please Note:**

**Mail ML&SA registration form to:**

Michigan Lake & Stream Associations, Inc. P. O. Box 303, Long Lake, MI 48743-0303

Michigan Lake & Stream Association, Inc.





## BOYNE MOUNTAIN RESERVATION FORM

**Group Name:** Michigan Lakes and Streams Association

**Dates:** April 20-22, 2007

Reservations must be made utilizing this form and be received by **April 5, 2007**. Reservation requests received after this date will be taken on a space available basis at current room rates.

When making travel arrangements, please note the check-in and check-out times are on the second page with the room descriptions. Check in and check out takes place at the Mountain Grand Lodge Front Desk for all room types.

**Accommodations:** Please indicate your 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> lodging preference below. If room type requested is not available, the next available room type and rate will be confirmed. **We cannot guarantee specific rooms/units.**

**To better serve all of our guests, reservations cannot be accepted by phone or on-line.**

ROOM TYPE	ACCOMMODATIONS			INDICATE 1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> CHOICE
	SINGLE	DOUBLE	MULTIPLE	
Clock Tower Lodge	\$132.67	\$95.95	\$84.08	
Edelweiss	\$132.67	\$95.95	\$84.08	
Boynehof	\$132.67	\$95.95	\$84.08	
Mountain Villa One Bedroom	\$132.67	\$95.95	\$84.08	
Mountain Villa Two Bedroom*	\$132.67	\$95.95	\$84.08	
Mountain Villa Three Bedroom*	\$132.67	\$95.95	\$84.08	

Rates are based on the Full American Plan which includes lodging and three meals beginning with dinner on day of arrival through lunch on day of departure. Rates are per person, per day.

Rates are inclusive of all taxes, gratuities and service fees.

\*Mountain Villa rates are based on the number of persons per bedroom, not per condominium unit. Two Bedroom Unit: Single occupancy = 2 persons; Double occupancy = 4 persons; Three Bedroom Unit: Single occupancy = 3 person; Double occupancy = 6 persons.

Boyne Mountain is a smoke free facility.

**Tax exempt individuals:** Please present the state tax exempt form at check in. Indicate your method of deposit below. Personal funds are not exempt from state tax or local assessments.

- ☐ Company check is enclosed with this registration form.
- ☐ Please use my personal credit card to guarantee the reservation. A check will be mailed from the company or presented upon arrival.

**Deposits:** A deposit equal to the first night's lodging is required with each reservation. Please make check or money order payable to Boyne USA Resorts or include a credit card number. The card will be charged upon receipt of form. Do not send cash.

**Cancellation Policy:** Cancellation and changes affecting arrival/ departure dates must be made 7 days prior to arrival date in order to receive refund of deposit, less a \$10.00 administrative fee.

### Please mail or fax to:

Boyne USA, Inc.  
Central Reservations Department  
P.O. Box 19  
Boyne Falls, MI 49713  
Fax: (231)549-6844  
Phone: 1-800-GO-BOYNE

**GROUP RESERVATIONS CANNOT BE  
ACCEPTED OVER THE PHONE**

### PLEASE PRINT

ARRIVAL DAY/DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
DEPARTURE DAY/DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
SHARE WITH: \_\_\_\_\_  
NUMBER IN PARTY: \_\_\_\_\_  
NUMBER OF ADULTS IN PARTY: \_\_\_\_\_  
AGES OF CHILDREN 18 & UNDER: \_\_\_\_\_  
NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
COMPANY: \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE / BUSINESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE / HOME: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
BOYNE REWARDS #: \_\_\_\_\_  
SPECIAL REQUESTS \*: \_\_\_\_\_

*\*Boyne USA Resorts does its best to accommodate requests, but cannot guarantee them.*

### PAYMENT METHOD

☐ CHECK ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ American Express ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ Diners Club ☐ Discover  
CREDIT CARD # \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

*All reservations must be guaranteed by check or credit card deposit.*

*Checks/money orders should be equivalent to one nights' stay, payable to Boyne USA Resorts.*

*Credit card imprint is required at check-in for all guests.*

*Please provide tax exempt form at check in.*



# LOVE MY LAKE ...

"Love My Lake" is a new feature of The Michigan Riparian. In each issue, we invite subscribers and readers to tell us why they love their lake and to share one or two photographs. If you'd like to feature your lake in a future issue, please follow the format you see below to answer the nine sets of questions and submit them via e-mail to [editor@churchill3c.com](mailto:editor@churchill3c.com) or via "snail mail" to: Love My Lake c/o Jennifer Churchill, P.O. Box 44, Carson City, MI 48811. Please also e-mail a large-format (300 dpi) jpg or tiff photo of your lake, or snail mail a regular photo. Photos will not be returned, so please mail us a copy. We look forward to hearing about your lake!

## Dennis Zimmerman loves living on Lake George

**1 What is your name and MLSA affiliation (association you belong to)?**

Answer: Dennis Zimmerman, an individual MLSA member, and member of the

Lake George Property Owners Association.

**2 What is the name of your lake and where is it located (county and general region of Michigan)?**

Answer: Lake George (134 acres), Lincoln Township, Clare County.

**3 How long have you lived on lakes? How long have you lived on this particular lake?**

Answer: First started weekendening on Lake George with family in the spring of 1958. Purchased my place on Christmas Eve 1973, Permanently since Oct. 1974.

**4 How would you describe your lake? Very rural? Developed? A village or town feeling, or more remote?**

Answer: Lake George is for all intents & purposes "built-out." The surrounding area, however, is very rural, but that's changing. When I first relocated permanently to Lake George, I became only the fourth year-round riparian resident, and there were appr. 200 dwellings on a shoreline of appr. 24,460 feet. Today, there are 322 "homes" along the shoreline, and appr. 55 are used as full-time residences. There are times when this location can seem very remote (which I like), especially in

the winter, or during any of the 8-10 power outages a year. The local joke is that we are trying to pick the exact time for our 9th Annual July 4th Weekend power outage.

**5 What do you love most about living on a lake? What do you love most about this particular lake that you now live on?**

Answer: There are many things that I love. First is the opportunity to watch the seasons change; all of the colors and all of the extremes are most apparent around a lake.

Second is the peace and tranquility, combined with a more reasonable pace. Third is that everyone is a bit more friendly on the lake.

**6 How is life on a lake different from a "non-riparian" lifestyle?**

Answer: Probably the biggest asset is the "secret" that most people don't realize. Boating? Skiing? Fishing? Swimming? None of these!!

In fact one of the very few things that planners agree on is this; the biggest recreational use, more than all others combined is .... "looking at it."

**7 What riparian-related advice would you give to someone thinking about moving to a lake, or who has just recently moved to a lake?**

Answer: Take a little time to check it out first, and make sure a given lake's size and population and recreational carrying capacity fits your expectations, and

check out the neighborhood to see if you can fit in.



This photo of Lake George is taken from northwest to southeast. The winding body of water in the upper center is Lake George, and the lake at the bottom is Shingle Lake. Also shown are Bungo and Bertha lakes. All four lakes are in Clare County.

**8 What types of activities do you and family members do on your lake? Kayaking? Fishing Birding?**

Answer: Currently, the only activities I enjoy on the lake are riding on the pontoon, looking at the lake, and swimming. I still have a speedboat, built to pull tournament skiers, but it hasn't been in the water since the fall of 1986.

**9 Do you find that family members visit more frequently when you live on a lake than when you don't? Do you have any funny anecdotes to share?** I've lived here now long enough, that I can't honestly say if I get more visitors because of the lake.



# Michigan Lakes & Streams Foundation

YOUR GIFT LIVES FOREVER.

## WHAT IS THE MICHIGAN LAKES & STREAMS FOUNDATION?

The Michigan Lakes & Streams Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, charitable organization established in 2004 by Michigan Lake & Stream Associations, Inc. (MLSA) to provide an endowed fund for developing a stable and permanent financing source to help support MLSA's many programs and initiatives.

## WITH AN ENDOWED FUND

An endowed fund ensures the principal from all gifts will always be there to help provide funding to MLSA. Only interest earned will be utilized. The principal will remain untouched.

## WITH SUPPORTING MLSA

MLSA's membership consists of more than 300 Lakes & Streams Associations statewide, representing more than 100,000 members interested in

protecting the future of Michigan's water resources. For 45 years, Michigan Lake & Stream Associations, Inc., has labored on your behalf - most likely without you even knowing about it. On a national, regional and state level, MLSA represents its members through involvement in a variety of programs and issues involving state waters. Some of the key issues MLSA is currently dealing with include:

- Riparian rights • Lake and stream water quality • Controlling invasive species • Lake/stream watershed management • Other MLSA activities - MLSA is actively supporting numerous programs; MLSA is also your voice in Lansing, representing you.

## HOW CAN I CONTRIBUTE?

There are four ways you can make a difference in the future of Michigan's lakes and streams:

FOR 45 YEARS, MLSA HAS PROVIDED ALL OF THESE BENEFITS AND RESOURCES TO ITS MEMBERS AND THE CITIZENS OF MICHIGAN ON A LIMITED BUDGET - RELYING ALMOST ENTIRELY ON VOLUNTEERS. IF WE ARE TO CONTINUE TO BE EFFECTIVE AS THE LEADER IN THE STATE IN PROTECTING OUR WATER RESOURCES FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS AND CONTINUE TO BE YOUR VOICE IN LANSING AND CONTINUE TO DEFEND YOUR RIPARIAN RIGHTS ...

... WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!

1) You can leave a percentage of your estate through your will to the Foundation. No matter what kind of assets are in your estate, and regardless of the value, the percentage you specify will be given by your personal representative. 2) You may also wish to name a fixed-dollar amount or other specific property as your gift. This ensures a definite gift regardless of other bequests. 3) After bequests are made to other heirs, you can leave whatever is left from your estate to the Foundation. This assures that others are taken care of first, but that something goes to the Foundation that is important to you. 4) Make a cash contribution any time.

Consult with your own attorney or accountant for further ideas on the most appropriate way to make your bequest. FOR MORE INFORMATION, contact Franz Mogdis, President of the Board of Directors of the Foundation, at 989-831-5261; or Pearl Bonnell, Treasurer of the Foundation, at 989-257-3583.



## Cygnnet Enterprises, Inc.

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Offering herbicides, algaecides,  
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# How it all got started in Evans Lake



Bat houses are an excellent way to naturally control the mosquito population.



Working as a team, members of the Evans Lake Fish Committee create bluegill spawning grounds.

Cold beer and salted peanuts ... it's how we get things done. At the fall Michigan Lake & Stream Associations meeting at Jackson Community College in Jackson, I was asked to write an article on how we've accomplished fish stocking and habitat projects on Evans Lake, which is located in the beautiful Irish hills in southeastern Michigan. It's a private lake with a volunteer land owners association (the ELLOA) consisting of approximately 120 families.

The Fish and Conservation and Preservation Committee (otherwise known as the Fish & Habitat Committee) started off to gain support and to create attention with positive effects on wildlife.

We started with cold beer and salted peanuts ... and an idea to build wood duck houses for the lake, thereby creating contributions for the fish stocking program. People and businesses sponsored the wood duck houses for \$50 each. Currently, we have 10 wood duck houses on Evans Lake; eight out of 10 have produced baby wood ducks. Anyone sponsoring a house receives a congratulatory birth certificate.

Residents' workshops, garages and time - including Jerry's Blacksmith Shop & Leroy's Fix-It Shop Complete with Live Entertainment and Ice Cold Beer - were used as resources to get the wood duck houses built. All of the materials were donated by local businesses and Evans Lake residents, such as Hardwoods of Michigan located in Clinton who donated oak planks for crappie cribs, and local lumberyards in the surrounding areas donated rough-cut cedar for habitat homes.

The Fish Committee bank account started with just \$1,000 - and after four years, we have grown the account to \$6,000 and have stocked Evans Lake with fish every year. With just seven fish committee members - Jeff Fineske, Chuck Case, Joe Talamonti, Gary

Miller, Jerry Haag, Doug Secord, John Ost and Cheryl Slusher, plus countless volunteers, we go door-to-door soliciting donations, selling American flag and habitat homes, and holding one-day raffles and 50/50 drawings. The monies from these activities are in addition to the option to designate a portion of the ELLOA dues to the fish stocking program. To our surprise, we've even had donations from estates of those who lived on the lake and passed away. The Brooklyn Area Chamber of Commerce has also been very generous.

We had two goals when we first started the stocking program: Our short-term goal was to stock Evans Lake, ensure good fishing, and maintain existing game fish, as well as add new fish such as walleye, red ear sunfish and small mouth bass. Our long-term goal was to have healthy year-round fishing, increase the walleye and panfish population as well as other predators, and continually create habitat and help educate our land owners on the value of habitat and its effect on wildlife.

It's important to get to know the people in your organization. Everybody has a skill or trade that can help; plus it's always nice to be included and recognized for your individual gifts. The Boy Scouts, Webelos, and Cub Scouts and their families, along with Holcim Cement Plant in Dundee, participated in a huge wetlands project. The Holcim Cement plant is an international company that was concerned about wildlife projects and was happy to help us out. We supplied them with 30 wood duck houses along the Macon River, 70 bluebird houses, six hen houses, four bat houses at various locations around the grounds surrounding the plant, and three floating nesting platforms for swans and Canadian geese in their ponds.

The geese took immediate possession of the platforms. When one family would leave a platform, another family got on immediately. The final project was to construct a colony bat house on top of a hill, which was raised by ropes pulled by Scouts of all ages and their parents. It was as big as a totem pole.

With the overwhelming success of the wood duck house project, we branched out into building

**by Jeff Fineske**

Fish Committee Chairperson  
Evans Lake Land Owners Association



Crappie cribs are made of non-polluting materials - oak spokes, white plastic buckets and concrete.



Just some of the thousands of walleye stocked into Evans Lake.



other habitat/wildlife homes. We currently build butterfly houses, wren feeders, bluebird feeders, oriole feeders, two different sizes of bat houses, squirrel feeders and mallard hen houses ranging in price from \$5 to \$50. 100% of the profits goes to support our fish fund. It all started with building relationships: Michigan DNR, Michigan DEQ, Jones Fish Hatchery, Michigan wildlife biologists, local sportsmen and Evans Lake neighbors. Building relationships takes time and effort, but it's worth the hard work. Fish stocking in the last four years has included 6,250 walleye, 50 gallons of fat head minnows, 850 red ear sunfish, and 200 small mouth bass.



Setting a wood duck house in the wetlands that surround Evans Lake.

Red ear sunfish are natural predators for zebra mussels, which are a prob-

lem for many natural inland lakes. The small mouth bass were put in place so if the large mouth bass virus got out of control, we would have another type of bass in the lake. Based on our annual surveys, Evans Lake fish show continued growth, good size, good color and healthy appearance. We use the long winter days to build bass buckets, crappie cribs, habitat homes and to monitor wood duck and hen house progress. We take advantage of the lake being frozen over in winter to use donated four-wheelers and augers to check on habitat homes and wood duck houses and to set bluegill spawning grounds. It's important when fish stocking to determine what

your needs are, what your lake contains, and what your lake will support. This information can be figured out by your local sportsmen, your local DNR representatives, and fish hatcheries. Some things to determine during the winter time when your fish committee has a meeting: if your lake has structure on its bottom, if it has rock ledges, if it's excessively weedy, where your fish spawn vs. boat traffic, what you can control and what you cannot control.

Try to determine a plan that suits waterskiers, personal watercraft users, fishermen and boaters. Remember to keep it light, keep it positive and keep it fun.

#### EVANS LAKE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- \* Planting 150 lbs. of seed-producing plants for wild birds
- \* Releasing more than 80 pheasants into the wetlands surrounding Evans Lake
- \* Building underwater structures to support fish habitat
- \* Creating more than 500 bluegill spawning grounds
- \* Connecting to the National Bluebird Trail
- \* Helping to create an 800-acre wildlife preserve
- \* Planting duck potato plants to help existing wildlife
- \* Planting bulrush weeds to prevent erosion
- \* Planting willow trees at various locations on Evans Lake to stop erosion from personal watercraft and inboard motors (willow trees have a strong root system, are extremely flexible in storms and thrive in wetlands)
- \* Encouraging a natural shoreline wherever possible by ensuring breakwalls are built properly by putting rocks in front of steel walls and letting bulrush weeds grow naturally.

Are Canada geese a problem?  
Who are you going to call?

## GOOSE BUSTERS!

**Chris Compton, OWNER**

**Phone: 1-800-521-8777**

**Cell Ph: 1-248-467-0109**

**Email: [goose-busters@yahoo.com](mailto:goose-busters@yahoo.com)**

***Deadline for DNR permits is June 1, 2007.***





# ML&SA SCHOOL PROJECT: MONITORING LAKES & STREAMS

## THE PROJECT ...

Our mission: Partnering concerned riparians with local high school students in an effort to promote environmental awareness and quality testing of local waterways.

Our goal: Creating a partnership between lake association members and local high school students and providing the students with the opportunity to work alongside community members who care about the lakes and streams being tested.

Project focus: To be technology-driven. To be community-driven. To be educationally strong!

## EDUCATION BOARD ESTABLISHED ...

Working with the Michigan Lake & Stream Association's board we have created an Educational Committee where we meet quarterly to discuss ways to improve, expand, and continue the good work we've started. We've had our first meeting, and are looking at the future of the educational project. We are trying to create ways that make the project more user-friendly for those already participating and making it educationally strong. We have made it our goal to improve our web site and offer a variety of helpful information that is just a click away. We are encouraging not only those who are part of the project to come into the site and browse, but are directing prospective schools to the site as well. It will be under construction for a while, but come back often.

## WE'RE DOING ALL THIS TESTING NOW ... WHAT DOES IT ALL MEAN? ...

After talking with different students who were involved in the project, as well as some of the teachers involved, it seemed that some of the students were doing excellent testing and getting quality results; but if you asked them why they were testing a specific ion, or what the results meant, then the answers varied. In an effort to make sure students (and teachers alike) knew the importance of each testing parameter, a booklet entitled "So We're Doing All This Testing Now ... What Does It All Mean?" was put together. This booklet will soon be available as a free download on ML&SA's web site at: [www.mlswa.org](http://www.mlswa.org).

## WATERSHED MONITORING PROGRAM GOES GLOBAL ...

In the summer of 2003, project director Randy Cook took the project global as he traveled to Loma Alta, Ecuador. The Comuna of Loma Alta is situated in the Chongon-Colonche mountains of coastal Ecuador, approximately 150 miles northwest of the port city of Guayaquil. It is comprised of four settlements: Loma Alta, El Suspiro, La Unión, and La Ponga. Its inhabitants are poor farmers with family incomes of less than \$100 a month. Their crops include tomatoes, watermelons, cucumbers and paja toquilla, the fiber used to make "Panama" hats. The own a beautiful yet highly endangered fog forest that is rich in endemic plants and such rare and varied wildlife as howler monkeys, kinkajous, ocelots, toucans and hummingbirds. The forest is also the source of the watershed upon which thousands of local people depend for their very survival. Working with the nonprofit organization People Allied for Nature, Randy spent two weeks in Ecuador and trained students in each of the four villages how to perform water-quality testing. The four teams collect data every other month. The manual was translated into Spanish for their use. Randy also wrote an elementary curriculum that was translated into Spanish and used

by more than 300 elementary students.

## ECUADORIAN PROJECT EXPANDS ...

During the summer of 2004, Randy returned to do a re-

resher training and introduce dissolved oxygen testing and sulfate and phosphate ion testing. In July 2004, as a result of PAN's efforts to encourage additional communities to join Loma Alta's conservation initiative, the neighboring village of Dos Mangas invited a team of Loma Alta students to test their river. The students enjoyed the field trip and successfully performed all eleven tests. The students will return every few months to build a database on the quality of the Dos Mangas River, which will then be compared to that of Loma Alta's Valdivia River. The Dos Mangas leadership graciously asked us to come visit their community and make a presentation to their "asamblea" (town meeting). We hiked their beautiful "Cascadas" trail and concluded that the forest was definitely worth saving. We also tested their river water and prepared a report on our findings to present to the asamblea.

## NATIONAL & STATE SCIENCE STANDARDS CORRELATED FOR PROJECT ...

As education is becoming increasingly aware of standardized tests where students need to perform well, and teachers must align their curriculum with national and state science standards, we have prepared a document (soon to be posted on the web site) showing how the project aligns with Michigan's state technology plan, the National Educational Technology Standards, and the Michigan science curriculum framework.

## E. COLI AND FECAL COLIFORM PROJECT TO BE IMPLEMENTED ...

In an effort to make sure that we are a well-rounded educational activity that is concerned with all areas of water quality, we have added an excellent stream project (which has been growing), and we wanted to include a very important aspect of water-quality monitoring: the microbiological aspect of testing for E. coli and fecal coliform. Coming soon will be a complete testing manual that includes correlation to science standards, information about E. coli that can be used in the classroom as an easy-to-read-and-understand text, and a comprehensive lab guide explaining proper collection techniques and how to read the media for E. coli and coliform colony enumeration. The guide will be available to all the participating schools, and on ML&SA's web site. A grant from the Waksman Foundation will allow 10 schools to participate in the initial E. coli testing with Petrifilm E. coli/coliform count plates being provided for the initial testing.

Project director Randy Cook can be reached at Tri-County High School in Howard City by phone at 231-937-4338 ext. 120 or e-mail at [rcook@mlswa.org](mailto:rcook@mlswa.org). Director of operations Pearl Bonnell can be reached by phone at 989-257-3583 or by e-mail at [pbonnell@mlswa.org](mailto:pbonnell@mlswa.org).





# NEWS FROM LAKES AROUND THE STATE

## **Road ends and alleys**

**KLINGER LAKE ASSOCIATION**

**St. Joseph County**

Klinger Lake has several public road ends and alleys that end at the water's edge. The following is a summary of Michigan laws applicable to these road ends and alleys. The public have the following rights: 1) The right of access to the water; 2) The right to navigate (boat) and fish on the entire surface of the water, and to anchor temporarily while engaged in these activities; 3) The right to swim in the entire body of water; 4) The right to construct one non-exclusive dock at the road end to aid in access to the water, IF permitted by the authority governing the road. The dock can be constructed by the governing authority, or by an individual; either way, it is a "public dock" available to all.

However, it is a violation of Michigan law for the public to do the following: 1) Interfere with the reasonable use of the road end and water by others; 2) Anchor or store boat on the road or in the water, except temporarily while boating or fishing; 3) Install or anchor a boat hoist, raft or any other device on the bottomland, except a dock at the road end, if permitted; 4) Use the road and connecting dock for shore activities, such as lounging or sunbathing, or any activity except to enter and leave the water, unless such an activity is permitted by the dedication of the road or alley.

The above laws are court case laws and confirmed by many decisions by the Michigan Supreme Court and appellate courts over a period of 125 years.

## **Elk Rapids dam report**

**ELK-SKEGEMOG LAKES ASSOCIATION**

**Antrim County**

*Dean W. Ginther, President*

Recently, Antrim County received a proposal from a private hydroelectric power operator to purchase the hydroelectric operation at the dam. This would include maintenance as well as power usage and would relieve the high expense exposure now a county responsibility. However, the dam structure itself and control of the water level of Elk Lake will remain in the hands of the county. The water level is protected by law and will not change in the future. ESLA is monitoring this situa-

tion and will keep its members informed as the negotiations proceed.

## **Heroic rescue**

**MOON LAKE ASSOCIATION**

**Decatur, Michigan**

*submitted by Sally Thomsen*

Early in the morning on December 1, I heard the sound of a dog's desperate barking coming from the lake. I turned by yard light on and witnessed a daring rescue, performed by three courageous (but cold) neighbors. Peter Olk, Jane Shirk and Terri Lemmens maneuvered a canoe through icy water to rescue a black lab. The lab broke through the ice approximately at 12:30 a.m. After being in the frigid water for an hour, the semi-conscious dog was dragged by a rope and encouraged by Jane, while Peter paddled and broke ice with a shovel back to the shore. The dog was then carried into Peter's house, where the animal (and Peter) slept for the night on the floor under an electric blanket. The dog is now okay and was reunited with its owner who lives on Duck Lake. Our thanks and appreciation to the kind efforts that Peter, Jane and Terri took that night to save a beautiful pet. Way to go guys!

## **MDOT M-22 settlement**

**CRYSTAL LAKE & WATERSHED ASSOCIATION**

**Benzie County**

*Bob Appleford, President*

Crystal Lake & Watershed Association (CLWA) objected to several construction procedures taken by MDOT in connection with the M-22 reconstruction project (Pilgrim Highway and Crystal Drive) in the summer of 2005; including use of phosphate fertilizers, exposure of steep slopes, failure to clean five culverts, and failure to adequately contain sediment in runoff flowing directly into Crystal Lake. MDOT agreed not to use phosphate fertilizer, but refused to take other corrective measures. CLWA then commenced suit in Benzie County Circuit Court in April 2006, alleging that MDOT violated the Michigan Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control Act (SESCA) and the Michigan Environmental Protection Act (MEPA). At the urging of Judge Batzer, the parties agreed on the terms of a consent judgment. MDOT has complied

with several corrective measures, including cleaning five culverts in May 2006. For more information on this situation, contact CLWA at info@CLWA.us.

## **Aeration's dramatic results**

**TWIN LAKES PROPERTY OWNERS' ASSOC**

**Lewiston, Michigan**

*John Roose, President*

Aeration of East Twin Lake is working, according to the latest testing results (Dec. 2006 association newsletter). Just days ago, the year-end report for the second full year's aerator operations was received. "I am very encouraged by the findings," stated Alan Kiriluk of East Twin Lake. "At the conclusion of 2006, six different lake sites were tested for the presence of sediment. On average, 2.4 feet of sediment remained at each location. This is a sediment decrease of 44.2% from the first measurements taken in June 2004."

## **Walleye stocking update**

**PAINTER, JUNO & CHRISTIANA LAKES ASSOC.**

**Cass County**

*Clint Draeger, President*

The lake association has completed the third and final year of our program. In October, we added 2,000 walleyes to our lakes. This makes a grand total of 5,500 walleyes. Last summer, we had numerous reports of 13- to 18-inch walleyes being caught. This is very encouraging, knowing that our walleyes are surviving and growing. This means by next summer, we could perhaps have some 20-inch walleyes in the lake.

## **Community park planned**

**HIGGINS LAKE FOUNDATION**

**Roscommon County**

The concept of a community park on the west side of Higgins Lake is moving steadily forward with the latest amendments to the Gerrish Township Recreation Plan. At a public hearing in mid-September, Gerrish Township officials unveiled new design features for a public recreation area based on the anticipated purchase of the Higgins Lake Boat Yard located in the far southwest corner of the lake. The township has completed a grant application seeking state funds to create community park that would



# NEWS FROM LAKES AROUND THE STATE

incorporate the following features: a) fishing pier with handicap accessibility, b) bird observation station, c) designated swimming area, d) family picnic and playground area, e) boat storage for both day and winter periods, f) vehicle parking with lake access for ice fishing and snowmobiling, g) public boat launch for day use only, h) restrooms and meeting facilities for hunter, boater and snowmobile safety classes, i) seasonal mooring of watercraft with fueling facilities at dockside. The community park will also incorporate free mooring for the Roscommon County Sheriff's Marine Patrol. The design will expand public lake access and improve recreational facilities.

## Remember phosphates

**DERBY LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOC.**

**Montcalm County**

*Ed Housler, President*

We all need to be very conscious that phosphorous is bad for the lake. Phos-

phates help the plant life thrive, even the bad plants which are of most concern. There are ways that we can help reduce increasing levels of phosphorous, by using phosphate-free fertilizers on our lawns, phosphate-free laundry detergents and phosphate-free dish soaps. We need to eradicate the bad weeds and not help them make our lives more difficult.

## What is ROKS?

**GULL LAKE QUALITY ORGANIZATION**

**Hickory Corners, Michigan**

*Brian Winne, President*

An exciting, new "study away" program entitled ROKS is available this fall to students through the Kellogg Biological Station, Michigan State University Extension Program. This program will combine course work, mentored internships, seminars and discussions with leading research scientists and the opportunity to live in-residence at KNS, one of MSU's hidden treasures located on Gull Lake.

the students will have an opportunity to work collaboratively with the Gull Lake Quality Organization, gaining professional experience, interacting with community members and providing important data on the shoreline management practices of riparians on Gull Lake. This two-credit course will inventory, compile and report on the status of local lake shoreline management practices.

## Light pollution

**BIG BROWER LAKE IMPROVEMENT ASSOC.**

**Kent County**

*Gale Satterlee, President*

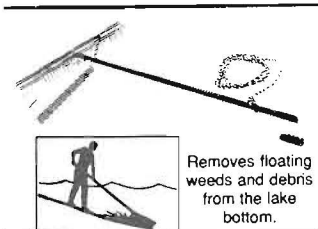
The association board has received a number of complaints about light pollution. The source of the pollution is large outdoor lights, especially spotlights and mercury vapor lights. Light pollution becomes even more pronounced after the leaves fall in autumn. Please do not leave large outdoor lights on all night. They reflect across the lake. Please do not

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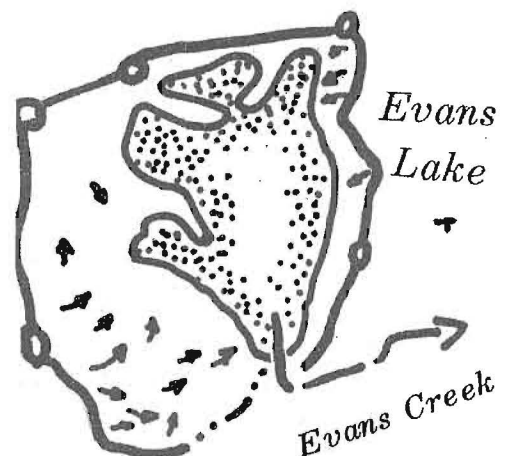
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## ON THE COVER: Details about this month's feature Evans Lake

Evans Lake is one of the 995 lakes in Michigan with 100 or more acres. Michigan has 889 lakes that are 50 to 100 acres in size, and 11,000 lakes that are five acres or more in size. The five counties with the greatest number of lakes 100 acres or more in size are Oakland (49), Iron (41), Gogebic (36), Marquette (34), and Schoolcraft (34). If all lakes as small as one-tenth of an acre are counted, Michigan has 35,000 lakes. These kettle lakes were created by melting ice blocks from the Wisconsin glacier 10,000 to 12,000 years ago.

The surface area of Evans Lake is 178 surface acres (according to a Department of Natural Resources 1974 atlas), its maximum depth is 43 feet, it has a 4.03-mile perimeter and includes a 338-acre watershed area. The watershed perimeter is 3.41 miles, with a ratio of lake area to watershed area of 1:1.90.





# NEWS FROM LAKES AROUND THE STATE

leave motion sensor lights on all night. Blinking lights are disturbing neighbors. While astronauts can easily locate Las Vegas from outer space, here's hoping Big Brower Lake is a spot where the only light bouncing off the lake in the middle of the night is the Northern Lights.

## Lake level records

### **BALDWIN LAKE ASSOCIATION Union, Michigan**

*Alice Ann Troy, President*

This is the first year that we have been able to monitor the new marker installed late last year. We think most people will be surprised that the average lake level for 2006 was 755.04 feet above sea level, which is .04 feet above our legal lake level. We recorded a lake high of 755.24 feet (2-3/4" above normal) and a low of 754.88 feet (1.06 below normal). The high was taken after a heavy rainy period and the low was taken when no rain had fallen for many weeks. We will need a few years of data to determine what action may be

needed to maintain our lake level. With this information, it appears this year was a fairly normal one relative to water level on Baldwin Lake.

## Weed management status

### **TRI-LAKES ASSOCIATION**

#### **Mecosta, Michigan**

*Kevin Doyle, President*

Weed control in our tri-lakes (Blue, Mecosta & Round) is done under parameters set by the MDEQ, and involves chemical spraying to control exotic invasive species such as Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM) and curly leaf pondweed, and mechanical harvesting of native plants, primarily eel grass. Historically, most of the weed problem has been in Round Lake. Some mechanical harvesting has been done in the Lake Mecosta canal, and in some coves and along the outlet river to the dam. Certain chemical applications are not allowed within 75 feet of any wells, or within 250 feet of shallow wells - limiting what we can do in the Lake Mecosta canal

and in some of the coves where cottages are built close to the shore. Through the 2001 season, costs for chemical treatment and harvesting did not exceed \$45,000 per season. In summer 2002, we renewed the assessment program for another 5-year period, continuing to collect about \$51,000 per season. Also in the summer of 2002, weed growth was significantly more intense, and our cost increased to nearly \$50,000. We thought this was an unusual event due to an early onset of spring. We negotiated a three-year contract for chemical control, and had confidence we could keep total control cost to within the \$51,000 assessment collected. Unfortunately, what we experienced in the 2002 season was an anomaly, and over the past three seasons we have spent \$15,000 more than collected, wiping out most of our accumulated fund balance in the lake board account. Now permit fees are increasing from \$800 per season to \$2,400 per season, and chemical and hourly harvesting costs keep going up.

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