

2016 MSU/MLSA LAKE CONVENTION
APRIL 28-29, 2016
(Edited for Brevity)

SESSION ONE

Aquatic Plant Identification

- This was a workshop to show a systematic procedure to follow to identify plants in Michigan waters.
- In Michigan, invasive weed species that are currently being seen are:
 - Eurasian Water Milfoil
 - Hybrid Eurasian Water Milfoil – very difficult to control. DNA testing is being used to identify the hybrid variety.
 - Curly Leaf Pondweed
 - Starry Stonewort (has a small star shaped flower about the size of a sesame seed.
- The following has not been found in Michigan yet, but we are surrounded by them:
 - Hydrilla – it is in Indiana and Ohio. Report it if found. It is so invasive, people have reported it can spread inches per day.

SESSION TWO

CLMP (Cooperative Lakes Management Program)

- Amongst other things, water temperatures by depth were discussed.
 - Warm zone is at the top
 - Thermocline is mid-depth and is a mix of warm and cold
 - Cold bottom zone is deoxygenated

SESSION THREE

Natural Shoreline Design Challenges

- It is recommended that shoreline be rebuilt naturally to prevent erosion and to beautify
- There are shoreline scoring techniques available to rate shorelines
- It is highly recommended to prevent vertical structures such as sea walls because they can drown turtles if they can't get onto the shore.

SESSION FOUR

Importance of Amphibians & Reptiles

- The health of amphibians and reptiles can help identify the health of a lake.

SESSION FIVE

Lake, Fish & Underwater Exploration

- Studies have been done to determine if catching bass off their nests reduce the populations has so far been inconclusive.
- Females lay eggs and leave the nest to feed.
- Males protect the nests. If gone for a very short time, the nest and its eggs can be destroyed by predators.
- Bass larger than 9" in length are reproductive.

SESSION SIX

Septic Systems on Lakes

- Everything coming out a house is now considered sewage except water softener water and storm sump water (foundation drains).
- Laundry water is sewage.
- System design was discussed but won't be discussed here.
- DO NOT use septic additives like Rid-X because it breaks down solids and lets them get into the drainfield. It eventually plugs the drainfield, requiring replacement.

SESSION SEVEN

Cliff Bloom, Attorney and Riparian Rights Expert

- Courts don't recognize "deeded access". This is a realty term but does not have legal standing.
- Riparianism was described. Riparian ownership boundaries vary depending on the shape of the lake.
- For the past 70 years, the courts have been determining the natural lake level. Exhaustive studies are required before the natural level can be set.
- Waterfront purchase agreements are binding. DON'T sign until you are sure everything is acceptable.
- Prescriptive Easement
 - If you give a neighbor written or verbal permission to use part of your property, they can't claim the property is theirs after 15 years. If they use it without your permission, they can sue to take ownership after 15 years.
 - Mowing does NOT constitute "use".
- Insurance
 - Recommends high liability amount for lakefront property.
 - \$500,000 is probably not enough.
- Local authorities cannot police boat size, type, etc. You have to trust that boaters use common sense for your lake.
- Lakes (like Muskellunge) that have posted high speed watercraft hours can call authorities to enforce the rules. Ticket can be issued.

Jack Freyling

Muskellunge Lake Association President