

Rush Lake News



Summer, 2014

WEED HARVESTING TO BEGIN

Our board is expanding our weed treatment/lake improvement plans for this summer to include both weed harvesting and herbicide treatments.

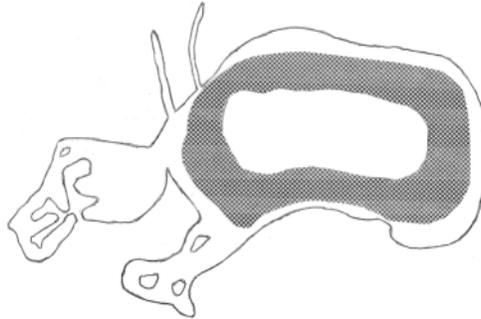
We learned in 2013 that the DEQ would no longer issue permits for herbicide treatments for native plants in the main part of our lake. Consequently, our treatment areas were quite restricted last summer, which resulted in weed growth.

It is important to note the DEQ will allow treatment of “invasive” plants such as milfoil (non-native to Michigan), but will not allow treatment to native plants such as pondweeds.

With this in mind, our board is moving ahead with a combination of aggressive herbicide treatments in the canal areas and weed harvesting in the main part of the lake.

In has been many, many years since we hired a weed harvester contractor for our lake. The harvester was used in the past to cut and harvest many acres of milfoil that infested Rush Lake. With aggressive management and treatments, we have been

RUSH LAKE



Shaded area to be harvested

successful at keeping the milfoil out of the main body of Rush Lake. In the absence of milfoil, we have seen pondweeds and chara take over.

The harvesting work is scheduled to begin the week of June 23rd. Our contract stipulates that the equipment must be thoroughly cleaned prior to launching into our lake. We will have 40 acres harvested for a cost of \$10,000. Our plan and goal is that once these weeds have been cut down, they will not re-grow during the balance of the summer season.

There is no herbicide treatments planned for the main body of the lake this summer.

Herbicide treatments will be completed this June in the Scotia, Baudine and Moon Shadows canals.

Waterfront property owners wishing to hire Lake Pro for special treatments of lily pads in front of their lot should contact them directly at 810-635-4400 and they will schedule and bill you.

IMPORTANT DAM HEARING SCHEDULED

The Board has been working for many months to obtain the necessary permits for the project to repair the lake’s dam.

One of the final steps in this complex process is the Board’s court Motion to Clarify and Modify the 1960 Court Order establishing the Rush Lake level. It will be heard at 10:00 am in the Circuit Court in Brighton on June 24th, 2014. This modification is needed to obtain a necessary DNR permit. The proposed change in the Order would not have affected, in any way, the actual lake level as it has naturally fluctuated in the past 54 years, and it will not have any affect on future lake levels. Once the new Court Order is received, the Board plans to obtain this final permit and begin work on the dam repairs as soon as possible.

Upcoming Meeting Dates

Monthly Board Meeting
Wednesday, July 2, 2014
6:30 p.m. (if needed)

Monthly Board Meeting
Wednesday, August 6, 2014
6:30 p.m.

Monthly Board Meeting
Wednesday, September 3, 2014
6:30 p.m.

Semiannual meeting Wednesday October 1, 2014 7:00 p.m.

Monthly Board Meeting
Wednesday, November 5, 2014
6:30 p.m.

Monthly Board Meeting
Wednesday, December 3, 2014
6:30 pm (if needed).

All meetings are held at the
Hamburg Community Center on
Merrill Road.

2014 - 2015 Officers

President Lois Pescia
Vice President Eric Schaufele
Treasurer Lex Kinter
Secretary Joe Grech

Board Members

Pam Sevonty
Fred Clough
Peggy Pietras

Association Clerk

Teresa Kinter
734-878-0340

Bob and Wanda Honored!

At the Semi-Annual Meeting in May, the Board honored Bob and Wanda McCotter for their valuable service to the Association over the past many years. Both of them retired from their positions on May 1st: Bob as Treasurer for almost 40 years, and Wanda as Clerk for the past 25 years. The Board honored them for their service with a plaque, a bouquet of flowers, and a gift card. Their service has been greatly appreciated and they will be sorely missed. We all wish them the very best in their retirement.

Nighttime Boating

People who enjoy boating after dark need to be extra cautious as sometimes there are people fishing on the lake. Although the Michigan Department of Natural Resources recommends that every boat display a white light while adrift at night, not everyone does. Boaters need to slow down to minimize the risk of a collision. Along with reducing the risk of an accident, slowing down will help to lower the noise level and thus be less of a disturbance to others.

Scoop That Poop!

Please be sure to clean up after your pets. Pet waste left behind will eventually wash into storm drains, lakes or rivers without any filtering or cleansing, which can have an adverse effect on water quality.

While boating this season, let's all remember the 100 foot rule!

According to the boating laws, one is not to operate their boat or personal watercraft at greater than slow-no wake speed if the vessel or persons being towed are within 100 feet of a shoreline (if operating in water less than 3 feet deep), any moored or anchored boat, any marked swimming area or person(s) in the water, a dock or raft. Slow-no wake speed is the slowest speed at which it is still possible to maintain steering and does not create a wake. In addition if a personal watercraft is operating at greater than slow-no wake speed it must not cross within 150 feet behind another boat other than a personal watercraft

Boats and personal watercraft are also supposed to operate in a counter-clockwise direction except in areas marked by well - defined channels.

These two laws are probably of the most disregarded parts of the boating laws. Let's keep all of the boating laws in mind during the upcoming boating season! By observing all of the boating laws, we can all work to keep Rush Lake accident free!

COVER RECOVERED!

This winter a nice five foot long barbeque cover blew onto a member's yard.. If it's yours, please contact the Association's hotline at (734-878-0340)

Don't Leave Shore Without Them

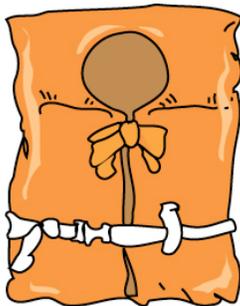
The U.S. Coast Guard requires that all boats must have at least one Type I, II or III PFD (personal floatation device) for each person on board. The PFD must be in good and useable condition and easily accessible. They must also be properly sized for each person.

If a boat is less than 16 feet long, or is a canoe or kayak Michigan's PFD law permits one to choose to have either a wearable PFD or a throwable PFD (Type IV) for each person.

For boats over 16 feet long, one Type IV PFD must be onboard and easily accessible in addition to the above requirements.

Children under six years of age **are required to wear** a Type I or II PFD when riding on the open deck of any boat, according to Michigan law.

Each person riding on or being towed behind a personal watercraft **must wear** a Type I, II or III PFD.



Boat Launch Key Floats Available

When a member is issued a boat launch key, it automatically comes with a blue anchor shaped float attached. Members may purchase key floats at any meeting for \$2.00 each. If you would prefer one sent to you, the cost will be \$4.00 each.



Hold That Fertilizer!

Before you fertilize your lawn this year, think about where that fertilizer will eventually end up. Most of us are within the watershed for Rush Lake and consequently what we put on our lawns usually will end up in the lake. If you fertilize your lawn, consider that you also will be fertilizing the lake. Those same nutrients that help your lawn to be lush and green will also help the plants in the lake to grow. If you feel the need to fertilize, have your soil tested first to determine what, if anything, that you really need. You might also consider planting native species as they are suited to this area without needing fertilizers. Just remember any fertilizers that you put on the lawn will also feed the aquatic plants in the lake.

Board Member Positions Open

Due to a resignations on the Association Board of Trustees, two position are now open. Anyone who is a property owner within the Association boundaries is eligible to be a Trustee. As a Board member, you would help to make the day-to-day decisions for the Association. Board members are asked to attend one meeting a month and work on various projects throughout the year. These projects may involve just a few extra hours or be a major project with considerable time involved. Each member is able to choose how much time they can devote but all Board members are asked to contribute some time beyond the regular meetings. No special qualifications are needed as the Board members are from a wide range of professions. With this variety on the Board, it allows them to bring many different ideas to their discussions. Anyone interested in this position is invited to the August 6th Board meeting at the Hamburg Community Center on Merrill Road. Why not join the other Trustees and help to keep the Rush Lake area a great place to live!

The Scoop on Poop

Goose poop, that is!

- Swans and ducks eat aquatic plants then defecate into the lake, which recycles the nutrients already in the lake. On the other hand, geese will eat elsewhere (farmer's field, golf courses, etc.) and then defecate into the lake, which will add to the lake's nutrients, and contribute to weed growth.
- The daily nutrient output of four Canada Geese is equal to that of one cow.
- Geese can average 1,200 pounds of poop per year.
- There are estimated to be about 3 1/2 million geese in the United States, which translates into 7 million pounds of goose poop across the country each year.
- On the average, geese can defecate anywhere from 28 to 92 times per day.
- 1.3 % of each goose dropping is phosphorus.
- Goose droppings have been linked to the spread of diseases and bacterial infections.

discourage geese from coming to Rush Lake. One method of discouragement is to not feed the geese. Although, the little ones are very cute, don't feed them as it will only encourage them to return looking for handouts. We can also give some thought to the geese when landscaping our yards. If from a goose's viewpoint while sitting on the water, he can see your green lawn, he will be inclined to feed there. Plant a short buffer strip along the water's edge and this will keep the geese from seeing the green grass. Shrubs or other plants scattered around your yard will make a goose uncomfortable as he doesn't know what may be hiding in those plantings. By discouraging the geese from coming to our lake, we can greatly help protect our lake water quality.



**Are you going
the wrong way?
By Michigan boating
laws,
boats must travel in a
counter-clockwise
direction**



With this information, we all need to do everything we can to

Please take a minute...

With the busyness of summer, we often forget that our Association parks have a few rules in order to make them pleasant places for us all to enjoy. Please take a minute to review what our bylaws have to say about the parks.

- No pets shall be allowed in parks at any time.
- Parks are closed at 11:00 p.m.
- No boats shall be stored or moored within the fenced area of a park.
- No boat shall be stored or moored by chaining to the fence of a park.
- No boats shall be anchored in the swimming area.
- No water skiing in swim area.

Consideration should be given by park users and swimmers after 9:00 p.m. or before 9:00 a.m. so as not to disturb the neighbors.

Is A Child's Life Worth Saving 42 Seconds?

The speed limit on all of the Association roads including Rush Lake Road is 25 mph. Far too many people go much faster than that but do you realize if you go 35 mph instead of 25 mph for the distance of one mile, you save 42 seconds? Just 42 seconds is all that you gain by going 10 miles an hour over the speed limit for one mile! With so many children in the area, is that 42 seconds really worth speeding for? Please, let's all slow down and spend that extra 42 seconds so our children will be safer!

Boat Noise

Michigan Lakes and Streams in a partnership with Michigan State University is currently working to develop an instrument to test the level of noise emitting from boats. Until now, marine officers have been very limited on how to determine the level of noise accurately and in a manner that would be admissible as evidence. With this new instrument, they would be able to accurately measure a sound over varying distances and have the results able to be used as evidence. While this will not affect the majority of our boats it will enforce the noise level limitations already on the books. We will be monitoring this new instrument and will keep every-one posted as it is developed.

Boaters – Do You Litter?

A number of boaters in Rush Lake have been observed tossing their trash into the lake. This trash either ends up in someone's yard or continues to drift around the lake. Wherever it ends up, it would be much better for all concerned if one would take the trash home with them and dispose



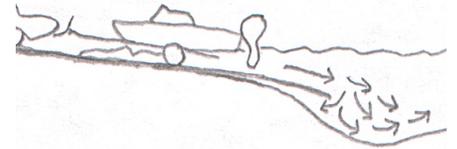
it properly. If not disposed of properly these items, can continue to float around the lake for a long time to come.

Did you know it takes 1 million years for a glass bottle to naturally decompose?

- Monofilament line – 600 years
- Plastic bottles – 450 years
- Newspapers – 2 – 6 weeks
- Plastic six pack rings – 400 years
- Waxed milk carton – 3 months
- Tin – 100 years
- Aluminum – 400 years
- Plastic Foam Cup – 50 years
- Biodegradable diaper – 1 year



No Power Loading



Please do not power load your boat at the boat launch. Strong currents from the boat's propeller can cause severe erosion and wash out the end of the boat ramp. This can also cause damage to boat trailers and eventually cause serious damage to the boat launch resulting in costly repairs. Please always winch your boat onto your boat trailer.



Michigan State Law says:

No boating in restricted areas. Please do not anchor or operate your boat in any Rush Lake swim area!

Laughter is the shortest distance

*between two
people*



**Rush Lake Property Owners Association
P.O. Box 78
Pinckney, Michigan 48169**

Stamp

Mailing Label

Just A Reminder!

Account balances must be paid in full by July 1, 2014, or a 10% penalty will be applied to all unpaid balances. Payments must be postmarked by July 1, 2014 or they will be considered late and a penalty will apply.

Please do not leave boat trailers
or boats stored in any
of the parks or park areas.
These items will be removed if

left in these areas.

**Have An
*Email Address?***

**Would you like to receive periodic updates,
reminders, or notices of interest from the**

ASSOCIATION? If you would like to be added to those who receive Association emails, please send an email to rushlakepoa@yahoo.com asking to be added to the list.