

Cowan Lake

News & Views from the Lake
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NOVEMBER 2008

President Larry Nyquist Trustee Elaine Salisbury
Vice-president Patty DeMey Trustee Ed Hawkins
Secretary Terry Emiley Trustee Mike Latchaw
Treasurer Mary Kay Groening

Notes from Nyquist

Larry Nyquist, President

Hopefully everyone had a good summer! It doesn't seem possible that summer has come and gone. With winter rapidly approaching most everyone should have their docks out, which reminds us that Grattan Township has an ordinance about no permanent docks left in the lake. Also, I would like to thank Ralph Dixon and Marilyn Ziomkowski for their dedication and time spent on the Weed Advisory Committee. They have chosen to step down from the committee and we are in the process of filling the vacancy. We do continue to monitor our lake all summer, in part, thanks to Al Berry who started it many years ago, but also to Ralph Dixon, who has assisted for the past three years and to Dean Salisbury and Ed Hawkins who will continue to do the job.

In closing a reminder to residents of Cowan Lake and to their invited guests, that we must follow the conservation laws in order to preserve our lake. Also, to thank all those that work and help make our lake a better place to live. A little piece of heaven here on earth!

Association Dues/Cowan Lake Directory

Mary Kay Groening, Treasurer

The updated 2009-2011 Cowan Lake Directories are near completion and we hope to have them available at this year's Christmas Party. The directories are being printed for dues paying members only and will be distributed in January for those who do not attend the Christmas Party. With this being my first year as Treasurer, I will mention that I am quite surprised that we have only 35 residents who have paid dues so far this year. If you have not paid your 2008 dues please send your check for \$35.00 payable to Cowan Lake Park Association to Mary Kay Groening, 8355 Cowan Lake Dr NE. If you are not sure if you paid, please give me a call and I will check the records. Mary Kay 691-6318

Cowan Lake Park Association

Christmas Party

FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

When: Sunday, December 7th 3:00-7:00pm

Where : Grattan Township Hall - 12050 Old Belding Rd.

Bring: A dish to pass and your table service (Meat will be provided)
Also bring a wrapped “ white elephant” gift for the adult gift exchange game. More info on this fun event will be announced in a flier...coming soon!
Chairpersons: Sue Hawkins 874-1107 and Marilyn Ziomkowski 691-8017

Fall Lake Maintenance

Solar Bee: The tubes on the Solar Bees were dropped on September 18 th and the fuses are scheduled to be taken out sometime early in December.

REMINDER: If you invite snowmobilers to the lake this winter, please let them know about the location of our Solar Bees. Thank you.

FYI: Cleaning up the leaves from your shoreline will cut down the muck in the spring. Burning Leaves? Call Al Heintzelman of the Grattan Township Fire Department at 691-7735. The Township requires Burn Permits and there is no charge.

Virus Kills Fish in Michigan

When we last told you of the viral hemorrhagic septicemia fish virus, the reports were from Wisconsin. Now the viral fish disease, producing large fish kills, has been identified in Lake Huron, Lake St. Clair, the Detroit River, and in Budd Lake near Harrison, MI.

Prevention is a must!

What can YOU do to Protect Cowan Lake's Fish?

DO NOT transport live fish or bait from one location to another.

DISINFECT your boat (inside and out) and equipment with 1/3-cup bleach to 5 gallons of water – and do this away from any water body.

DO NOT empty bait buckets or live wells into lakes and rivers.

DO NOT use minnows in any Michigan waters unless they were purchased in Michigan, or you legally caught the minnows from the place you are fishing .

DO NOT use cut or dead bait from other Michigan waters.

DO give these instructions to your non-resident relatives and friends who benefit from your hospitality on the lake.

Weed Management Report

By Elaine Salisbury, Trustee

Weed Management Budget And To-date Costs Weed Management Budget 2008=
\$13,261.00

Permit fee to State of Michigan (paid in September, 2007) = \$400.00

Monitoring registration (Cooperative Lakes Management Program) = \$ 193.50

May 23 Algae treatment = \$ 738.82

July 1 Algae treatment = \$ 738.82

July 8 Algae re-treatment = 0.

July 20 Harvest = \$3,180.00

August 7 Algae treatment = \$ 355.00

August 21 Algae treatment = \$ 738.82

Sept. 3 Algae treatment = \$ 738.82

Total = \$7083.78

2008 Water Monitoring Results

Analysis of Chlorophyll a (Chl a) and Total Phosphorus (TP) samples taken in 2008 are shown below, along with the preceding 3 years, for comparison.

Chlorophyll a measures the relative amount of algae in the water. (Preferred < 6.)

Chl a May June July Aug Sept

2008 8.8 6.0 9.6 6.6 1.5

2007 2.9 8.3 10.0 samples damaged

2006 3.1 3.5 21.0 10.0 9.9

2005 1.0 16.0 11.0 12.0 7.1

Spring TP measures the nutrient enrichment in the lake. Late summer results show the trophic status (aging) of the lake. (Preferred=10-20 ug/l)

TP Spring Fall

2008 39 23

2007 35 31

2006 44 20

2005 33 22

Lake Concerns Brought to the Board

High Speed Boating —Cowan Lake has had a high speed restriction law (state/ county) on the books since October, 1978. Refer to your Cowan Lake By-laws.

Exceeding daily fish limits —For accurate information about limits on specific kinds of fish, look at The 2008 Michigan Fishing Guide , available at most bait shops or by calling the DNR (1-800-292-7800).

We do know that some neighbors can tell a pretty good fish story!

Boating and fishing regulations are enforceable by the DNR Law Enforcement division, although it's preferred that we monitor ourselves , rather than bringing the DNR onto the lake. Fishing too close to the Solar Bee— This equipment was purchased at considerable expense to all of us. To protect the lifetime of all its components, please avoid hanging on, tying on, stepping on, or anchoring within 20 feet of the Solar Bees.

Fishing too close to pontoons and docks—Reminder to Fishermen!

It is often common for bass fishermen to cast close to docks and pontoons as the fish take cover there. Please be careful and courteous when fishing close to other people's pontoons and docks. While the goal is to catch a fish, there are occasions when the lure gets caught on a dock, motor or pontoon. If the lure remains difficult to remove, please be considerate to make every attempt to remove it carefully without damaging anyone's property.

We purchased our homes on Cowan Lake because of its peaceful atmosphere for family enjoyment and fishing. Please be considerate of your neighbors and follow the State conservation laws and Cowan Lake By-laws. Thank you.

Condolences

To Gary DeYoung's family on the passing of his father and to Tony Messing's family on the loss of his sister.

Second Annual Cowan Lake Garage Sale Patty DeMey, Vice-president

The second annual Cowan Lake Garage Sale will be on May 29-30, 2009. Please be thinking of and saving items you may want to include in your garage sale. If you don't have enough for a sale of your own, be sure to check with a neighbor who could surely include your items into their sale. This was a very successful event this year and should draw even more customers next year as people spread the word. Be sure to mark your calendar for the last weekend in May is Cowan Lake Garage Sales Weekend!

Grattan Township Newsletter

In an effort to cut back on mailing costs, Grattan Township will be emailing their newsletter to Lake Association Members who receive the Lake Association Newsletter via email addresses. If you do not wish to receive the Grattan Newsletter via email, please contact Mary Kay Groening at newsletter@grattantownship.org