

# THE WALL LAKE SIGNAL

Volume 6, Issue 3

A PUBLICATION OF THE GREATER WALL LAKE ASSOCIATION, INC.

September, 2001



## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



It has been an interesting summer. Plenty of rain in the early part and too little in the latter part, just shows us the vagaries of Mother Nature. The lake was beautiful all during July, with skiing, tubing and just riding around the lake as daily activities. Living at the lake allows us to see the changes from year to year, to feel the pulse of resident's thinking and concerns, to participate in lake activities, to know life is good.

"The best thing about the future is that it comes only one day at a time." Abraham Lincoln.

Your Association held its annual meeting on June 23 at Hope Township Hall at 10:00 A.M. Approximately 45 lake residents attended the meeting. Coffee and sweet rolls were available. A summary of the meeting is as follows:

- The minutes of the June 10, 2000 annual meeting were read and approved.
- The Treasurer's report was presented and approved. As of May 31, 2001, the end of our fiscal year, the membership equity stood at \$8,135 compared to \$9,909 at the same time last year. The more material expenses were for the Riparian magazine subscriptions, the trash pick up and the newsletter production and mailing.
- The annual audit report stated the financial records were proper and in good order.
- A membership vote left the

annual dues at \$25.00 per household for the 2001-2002 fiscal year.

- The nominating committee reported on the ballot results for the new or re-elected Board members. There were 12 candidates from which 10 were to be elected. This year 10 instead of the normal 8 were to be elected due to the resignation of Russell Herr and Tony Crosariol moving from Wall Lake to Crooked Lake. Elected from the North Side were Tom Austin, William Cook, Richard Fluke, Jane Holman and Dean Williams. Elected from the South Side were Jim Bours, Mary Bowman, Everett Kuizema, Richard Leamy and Mary Thomas. Retiring Board members, Tony Crosariol, Barbara Marble, Russell Herr and Tom Ryan were thanked for their past service and individual contributions.
- Milfoil Control Committee report. The Eurasian Water Milfoil problem on our lake was first attacked by a committee of concerned Riparians in November, 1989. The first 2,4-D spraying treatment was applied to approximately 82 acres of milfoil weed coverage in 1990 at a cost of \$16,500. In June, 1998, 36 acres were sprayed at a cost of \$9,150, in June, 1999, 25.5 acres at a cost of \$6,375 and in June and July, 2000, 45.5 acres at a

cost of \$11,830. This year 123 generous residents donated \$9,518. for weed control and we thank you all. The lake was sprayed on June 13 with 2, 4-D covering 28.5 acres at a cost of \$8,977. We are studying alternative methods to fight this weed, including tiny weevils which eat the plant and micro-organisms (Microbes) which eats the plants food. We will keep you informed on these studies through the Wall Lake Signal.

- There was much discussion on Michigan Lake Districts.  
(See a summary in this Signal.)
  - Each year Association officers of the Board are selected at the July Board meeting. The nominating committee, with Tom Schaberg as chairman, assisted by Mary Bowman and Dick Leamy, were asked to present a slate of officers at that meeting.
  - Comments were made about the Yacht Club, 4th of July boat parade and the August 6 trash pickup.
  - Thanks was given to Roy Smith for storing, putting in and removing the rock marker buoys.
- On July 19, 2001, the first meeting of the new Board was held at 7:30 p. m. in the Hope Township Hall. The following items were discussed;
- The Treasurer's report indicated a general account cash balance of

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\$8,158. Estimating expenses for the remainder of the calendar year, a balance of approximately \$4,000 will remain at year end. This would be a little less than the year before. Funding is still an ongoing concern.

- A committee was formed to study the various alternatives to fight our weed problem. We will investigate weevils, microbes, 2,4-D and any feasible weapon.
- New officers were elected for the coming year; President, Jerry Bultema, Vice President, Dick Fluke, Secretary, Tom Schaberg, and Treasurer, Everett Kuizema.
- A second committee was formed to investigate further the advisability of creating a Michigan Lake District through the Township Board.

Other items covered in the meeting were; how to cover the cost of future issues of the Riparian magazine, the current status of a class action lawsuit filed against the Sewer

Authority, methods of future funding and future Board meeting dates.

Some calls have been received concerning disagreements between lake resident neighbors on lot lines, staking of boats, placing docks and setting of boat lifts. The Association has no authority to determine these placements and common sense plus compassion must prevail. Neighbors must work out the solution. Lot lines are determined by a surveyor as a final resolution.



## Current Board Members

### North Side

Tom Austin  
 Bill Cook  
 Russell DeBoer  
 Dick Fluke

Hal Gray  
 Jane Holman  
 Jack Slocum  
 Dean Williams

### South Side

Daleen Ashley  
 Jim Bours  
 Jerry Bultema

Everett Kuizema  
 Dick Leamy  
 Tom Schaberg

Mary Bowman M a r y  
 Thomas

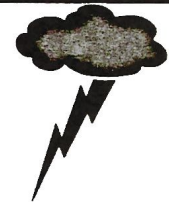
This is my final letter as President of the Association and I thank all the friends and associates that have helped make these last few years fun and interesting. As it is in life, we won some and lost some. With the good help of all Wall Lake Riparians, the preservation and continuity of our lake will prevail. Thank you, again.



## SAFETY TIP OF THE MONTH

### “LIGHTNING”

From the Kalamazoo Gazette



#### IF YOU CAN HEAR THUNDER, LIGHTNING IS DANGEROUS!

While lightning can be fascinating to watch, it is also extremely dangerous.

Each year in the United States, lightning kills an average of 87 people and injures about another 300. The

true number of persons who are injured or die due to lightning, is likely as much as 30 percent more due to undocumented injuries and deaths.

Last year in Michigan, there was one lightning-related death and 16 persons were reported injured by lightning. Total reported damages

amounted to over 3.2 million dollars. Yet, because lightning usually claims only one or two victims at a time, and because lightning does not cause the mass destruction left in the wake of tornadoes or hurricanes, lightning generally receives much less attention

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than other weather threats.

During a thunderstorm, each flash of cloud-to-ground lightning is a potential killer; it's only a question of whether a person is in the path of the lightning discharge.

Lightning deaths can be prevented only if people are aware of the dangers and seek shelter in a building or car.

Lightning can strike as much as 10 miles away from the rain area in a thunderstorm; that's about the distance that you are able to hear the thunder from the storm. That is why this year's main message for National Lightning Safety Week is: if you can hear the thunder from a storm, you are close enough to be struck by lightning. Where organized sports activities are

taking place, coaches, umpires, referees, or camp counselors must protect the safety of the participants and viewers by stopping the activities sooner, so that the participants and spectators can get to a safe place before the lightning threat becomes significant. Last year, in separate incidents, several children were struck while rushing off a soccer field.



## DELTON AREA SEWER PROBLEMS PERSIST



by  
Dean Williams

Problems for the Southwest Barry County Sewer and Water Authority apparently persist, according to a June 28, 2001 article in the Hastings Banner. The article states that the cost to address the problems could be as high as \$750,000. The question is, will those connected to the sewer system have to pay those costs? The Battle Creek Enquirer has also reported (July 13, 2001 issue) that a class-action suit has been filed by sewer customers against the Sewer Authority for spilling raw sewage.

The authority was criticized last year for allegedly mispending \$1.7 million but was cleared of wrongdoing by the State Department of Treasury after a second amended and restated contract was presented and reviewed. The sewer system has been plagued with problems since it's beginning and the Authority itself severely criticized.

In a recent Sewer Authority meeting the subject of privatization of operations and maintenance was discussed. A motion to request proposals from qualified O&M firms

was defeated by a vote of 2 to 3. Hope Township and Barry Township were the negative votes. One firm's estimate on savings from privatization of operations and maintenance related costs ran as high as 10-20%. It is possible, also, that plant performance could be enhanced.

Concerned individuals wishing to follow these developments are hereby advised that the SWBCSWA meetings are on the fourth Monday of each month at the Barry Township Hall at 9:00 A.M.

## AN ALTERNATIVE TREATMENT FOR MILFOIL

by  
Dr. Cabbage

Information on use of weevil in lake St. Helen;

Lake St. Helen, located in Roscommon County Michigan, has a surface of 24,000 acres with mean and maximum depths of 5.8 to 25 feet. Very little of the shoreline is developed, with 70-80% left in its natural state. The emergent wetland, scrub-scrub wetland and the deciduous

forest dominate these underdeveloped areas.

Highly organic sediments cover most of the lake bottom and ZEBRA MUSSELS occur in high density through out the lake. Richfield Twp. and Lake St. Helen began a five-year stocking program, which started in the summer of 1998. Initial and follow up surveys are to be performed by

ENVIROSCIENCE each year along with each stocking event. Interim reports will be generated every year for Richfield Twp. and the Lake St. Helen Association, with preparation of a final summary report in Oct. 2002. The 1998 initial survey and stocking were performed on June 30, while the following survey occurred on Sept. 11,

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1998. A total of 13,500 weevils

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were stocked in four sites through out the Lake. Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) biomass declined in all stock areas, while the weevil population increased from June to Sept. in most sites. Initial data indicated that the 1998 stocking event in Lake St. Helen appeared to be successful, and the establishment of a stable weevil population had occurred. The stocking of 16,000 weevils in June 1999 has resulted in heavy damage to three additional beds. The weevils appear to have peaked in July and were beginning to decrease in number and reproductive effort by mid Aug. **BEDS STOCKED DURING THE SUMMER OF 1998 DID NOT APPEAR IN THE LAKE IN 1999, AND SIMILAR RESULTS ARE EXPECTED IN 2000 OF THE BEDS**

### STOCKED THIS SUMMER.

The healthy community of native plants found in Lake St. Helen should increase the likelihood of the continued EWM decline as they begin to compete with the milfoil for light and nutrients. Wild rice beds have been reported growing in the lake where in previous years there had been only EWM. The over all data indicate that the first year of stocking in Lake St. Helen has been a success and that preliminary results of the second stocking are also quite positive. The weevil population is increasing rapidly and will benefit from continued stocking over the next three years. The third stocking was performed on June 8, 2000, 14,000 weevils were stocked in five areas through out the lake.

In conclusion, the stocking of 43,000 weevils have increased in

density from 1999 to 2000 and also over the course of the summer of 2000, indicating a stable population of weevils in the lake. As has happened in the past, several beds stocked during the first two years of the project has been decimated by the summer of 2000. Although the overall number of native plant species had decreased from 1998 to 2000 there is still a healthy community of plants in the Lake. These native species should continue to increase the likelihood of a EWM decline as they begin to compete with milfoil for light and nutrients. **THE OVERALL DATA INDICATES** that all three years of stocking in the lake have been quite **SUCCESSFUL**. The weevil population is stabilizing and thriving, and will, certainly benefit from two additional years of stocking.

## DISCUSSION ON MICHIGAN LAKE DISTRICTS

Information Supplied by Dr. Douglas Pullman

Your Board has had some discussion on the advisability or nonadvisability of forming a "lake district". Michigan lake residents are able to use several statutory "vehicles" to create and implement lake management programs. The formation of a "lake district" is the element in each of these vehicles. Benefits of a lake district would include 1. management of the whole lake, 2. equitable cost sharing and 3. flexible programming including planning, monitoring, weed control, water quality management, dredging and other lake improvements.

Lake Improvements Boards and Township Board Lake Management Programs are the two most common types of lake districts.

Sharing of costs is accomplished through a Special Assessment District. Persons who own property within the special assessment district are assessed for the costs of lake management. Typically, this would include persons who own lake frontage and those who possess deeded access to the water. Assessments appear on winter property tax bills. Budgets and plans are usually established for three to five year periods. Assessments can be reduced if budgets are not met but cannot be increased without new hearings.

There are several differences between the Lake Improvement Board and the Township Lake Management Board.

### Lake Improvement Board Overview-

#### A. Petition Requirements-

1. Requires signatures of 2/3 of the property owners in the proposed Special Assessment District

#### B. Studies and Hearings-

1. Requires a nutrient budget study which may be irrelevant and very costly.
2. Requires the signature of a Registered Professional Engineer which may not be needed or relevant.
3. Requires a Hearing of Practicability to present the proposed management plan.

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4. Requires an Assessment Hearing where assessment formula is presented.

C. Board Membership - One member from each of the following:

1. Drain Commission
2. County Commission
3. Township Board
4. Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
5. Lake Residents (one or two)

D. Permissible Activities-

1. Act is intended to provide a mechanism to address water quality problems but is used for a very wide range of lake improvements.

Township Lake Management Board  
Overview-

A. Petition Requirements-

1. Requires the signatures of property owners possessing more than 51 % of the land area in the proposed Special Assessment District.

B. Studies and Hearings -

1. There are no specific requirements
2. Public comments are usually received at a regular meeting of the Township Board, the mangement plan and assessment formula are commonly presented at this time.

C. Board Membership

1. Township Board members (Planning and other decision making often is delegated to an

appointed committee representing the lake property owner community).

D. Permissible Activities-

1. Act is intended to provide a mechanism to conduct lake improvements related to weed control but is commonly used to conduct a very wide range of lake improvement activities.

E. The township board retains authority for the management of the lake but is more likely to only respond to the recommendation of an appointed lake management committee.

So the basic advantage to a lake district is the ability to generate more funds, equitably from all lake residents and the basic disadvantage is the giving up of control of the lake to an outside entity.

## ADDRESS CHANGES

by

*Jim McManus, Planning Director*

The Barry County Planning Department will begin sending letters to the residents of Wall Lake in the fall of 2001 notifying them of their address changes. These changes are required to be completed to the Barry County Address Ordinance, which was adopted in 1997. We anticipate that we will begin on Cordes and Reynolds Roads and eventually work our way around the lake. Please note that nearly every home on or near

Wall Lake will need to have it's address changed. In addition, several roads will have to be renamed because of duplication within the County. These include 1st Street, 2nd Street, 3rd Street, Cherry Lane, and possibly, Lakeview Drive. Homeowners on those roads should begin considering new road names right now that we can use during this process.

When you receive your letter, you will be given approximately 3 months

to notify everyone you need to before the address change goes into effect. Therefore, while the address letters will go out in October, the actual change will not begin until January of 2002. Therefore, no one's address should be impacted before Christmas. If you have any questions about this process, please call me at the Barry County Planning Department (616) 945-1290

### BUCKLAND AGENCY

*Gary W. Buckland*

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