

2007 REGION 5 ANNUAL REPORT: April 2007 - April 2008

Lake Associations in Gratiot, Ingham, Genessee, Livingston, Saginaw & Shiaswassee Counties

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MEMBERSHIP:

During Year 2007, 20 lake associations from Region 5 were paid MLSA members. Overall, Region 5 lost one membership and gained 2 new memberships from lake associations. One of the memberships gained was from a previous member who was not current in Year 2006 and the other was from a new lake association. I wish to thank all the associations that paid dues and/or contributed to the MLSA in 2007/2008 for their support and participation. Region 5 wishes to encourage our regional lake associations that have not yet renewed or obtained memberships for Year 2008 to do so as soon as possible. **The MLSA depends upon money from your memberships to put on programs such as the annual conference.** In addition, if you know of any lake residents, government officials, or community residents in Region 5 who may be interested in joining MLSA (individual memberships or corporate memberships), have them contact me for MLSA membership information.

MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES:

From April 2007 through April 2008, Region 5 held one (1) fall conference and one (1) lake representative meeting.

September 8, 2007 Fall Conference: Approximately 30 people attended the Regions 1, 5, and 6 fall conference in Howell MI at the Howell Nature Center. Attendees shared a continental breakfast and lunch and listened to presentations from several outstanding guest speakers.

Presentation Topics and speakers included:

- Lake Boards presented by Rebecca Simpson from the Livingston Co. Drain Commission
- Special Assessment Districts presented by Jan Roncelli from Bloomfield Township
- Practical Lake Management for Lake Associations presented by Scott Brown-MLSA Region 2 Vice President
- Algae-Types & Management presented by Howard Wandell-MSU
- Volunteers Can Make a Difference- Clean Boats/Clean Waters Program presented by Mary Bohling and Bindu Bhakta from Michigan Sea Grant-SE MI
- Managing Shoreline Property to Protect Water Quality presented by Melvadean. (Mebby) Pearson, an AmeriCorps G.W. Educator for Macomb & St. Clair Counties

If you have topics that you would like to see included in the next MLSA Region 5 Fall seminar, please provide them to Ginny Himich.

February 16, 2008 Lake Representative Meeting: Region 5 held a lake representative's meeting jointly with Region 1 and the Hamburg Township CLMP participants at the Hamburg Township Senior Center in Whitmore Lake. Approximately 15 people attended the meeting.

- As part of the meeting, Howard Wandell discussed the Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program;
- Scott Brown, from the MLSA, spoke about invasive species-in particular Starry Stonewort, an algae species that is becoming more prevalent in Michigan lakes.

REGIONAL NEWS:

The MLSA is sorry to announce that Mr. Paul Dominick, the MLSA Region 5 2nd V.P., has withdrawn from office due to his busy schedule and family commitments requiring his attention. I know we all join in thanking Paul for his contribution to the MLSA and wish him well in his future endeavors.

If anyone wishes to become more active in the MLSA and has the time to devote to volunteer work, please contact me to discuss the 2nd V.P. position.

REGIONAL PLANS:

Region 5 hopes to build membership in the MLSA through additional lake association, corporate, and individual memberships. We also plan to host a fall conference in October, 2008 and at least one lake representatives meeting in February 2009. If you have suggestions for future MLSA Region 5 activities, I welcome your suggestions.

REGIONAL NEEDS:

- The MLSA Region 5 encourages you to provide me with your email address. At the current time, I do not have a complete list of email addresses for our Region 5 member associations or for individual MLSA Region 5 members. Email is a very effective way to pass along important MLSA updates and information to help you keep informed about water-related business. E-mail addresses should be directed to: himichv@michigan.gov. Thank you for your help!
- Region 5 would like to receive news about important events/happenings on your lake so that we can share the information with our regional membership. If you have something to share, direct it to: himichv@michigan.gov. Your news/event may help other members solve similar problems. And, it's a great way to share your successes!