



REGION NEWS

REGION 1 (Wayne, Washtenaw, Monroe Counties)

Regions 1 and 5 are holding their combined Annual CLMP Sign Up Rally at the Hamburg Township Senior Center on Saturday February 15th. Last year the Rally was attended by 40 citizens. Eleven area lakes were enrolled in the 2002 CLMP program.

We are very thankful that Hamburg Township elected officials are very lake quality friendly. The Township has appointed an eight member “Hamburg Environmental Review Board” (HERB). The Board is advisory to Hamburg’s Planning Commission and the Township Board.

The township also refunds to the lake associations with CLMP volunteers one-half of the cost of the registration.

Phil Paye, 2nd VP of Region 5, and I, Floyd Phillips, 1st VP of Region 1 have been appointed to the HERB Board.

Hope the readers may influence elected officials in their Regions to also support the CLMP program.
Floyd Phillips, 1st VP

REGION 2 (Branch, Calhoun, Hillsdale, Jackson, Lenawee Counties)

St. Mary’s Lake, Calhoun County

Woody Booher requests that associations willing to share their constitution/by-laws with his lake association contact him: wbooher238@aol.com. He is particularly interested in how “eligible membership” is handled.

For some time, St. Mary’s Lake residents have been trying to get a keyhole ordinance passed. The lake lies in two townships and one of them did pass it, but the other has found many reasons not to act. At a recent Michigan Townships Association meeting, keyhole ordinances were discussed and it was pointed out that a keyhole ordinance could be beneficial to a township. Perhaps this opinion will help St. Mary’s get their ordinance passed.

Sand Lake, Lenawee County

A drain project for Sand Lake initially created controversy because the extent of the project and its cost was unknown. Sand Lake residents, through a special assessment district, would have been assessed whatever amount was needed to repair a 60 year-old drain system. However, engineers determined that the 640-foot pipe from Sand Lake to a reservoir on the south side of US-12 could be cleaned and a plastic liner installed. MDOT agreed to pay 40% of the \$125,000 project (MDOT drains possibly contributed to clogging the pipe). The approximately 400 residents of the special assessment district will each pay \$200.

Lakes Preservation League, Devils Lake and Round Lake, Lenawee County

Work will soon begin on the 2003 Membership and Information Directory. It is distributed free of charge to all area residents and businesses (not just members), usually over the Memorial Day weekend. League membership is at an all-time high with 500 families currently members.

Devils and Round Lakes had a great Tip Up weekend, January 31, February 1-2. Friday evening the “red light” parade of snowmobiles circled the two lakes marking the beginning of the event(s). On Saturday and Sunday, a Poker Run, a Fishing Contest, and races were held. The ice festival ended with a “Suntan Bikini Contest” held in a local restaurant, and a drawing for cash prizes. The activities drew large crowds.

Sand Lake, Lenawee County and Wamplers Lake, Jackson/Lenawee Counties

Fishing enthusiasts donated funds to stock five area lakes with 7,000 walleye. Sand and Wamplers, ML&SA members, each had about 1000 fish planted. The fish range in size from 3 to 11 inches, and the fish should be up to legal size in two to four

years. The stocking program is led by Knutson's, a Brooklyn, MI store, and Knutson hopes the program will grow so that in the future additional area lakes can be stocked.

Kathy Miller, 1st VP, Region 2 Doug Genee, 2nd VP

REGION 3

With less than 40 days until spring it's time to start thinking about what we do on and for our lakes. All of your associations have received your registration forms for 2003 dues and information the CLMP program. Soon you will be receiving information about the Annual Conference held in April. My thanks to those who have taken care of these items already. It is a big help to MLSA.

Our spring Lake Representative meeting will be held on Saturday, April 19th at the Van Buren Library in Decatur from 9:30 AM-12:30 PM. Looking forward to seeing all of you at this meeting, as it is always well attended.

Received information on a management short course on the watershed of Allegan County, hosted by Allegan County and MSU Extension. It runs from March 4th through April 12th. For more information call Larry Johnson at 269 673 0370 ext. 12.

I have enjoyed reading the many association newsletters I've received this winter. Keep them coming. Give me or your directors a call if you need anything through MLSA.

Sue Vomish, 1st VP Region 3

REGION 4

We encourage Region 4 riparians and other interested people to join a committee to help formulate goals and objectives designed to move MLSA forward. We ask those who receive this newsletter to consider participating and to inform others of this opportunity to serve the association. Innovations with a vision to the future of what MLSA can become are welcome. The committees are identified as: Internal Communications and Services, Fundraising, Finance, Water Resources and Programs, Membership, Organizational Structure and Operations, Legal and Legislative, and Marketing and External Communications. Readers, whether in Region 4 or elsewhere, who are willing to help shape the future of MLSA should contact Pearl Bonnell, P.O. Box 303, Long Lake, MI 48743; Norb Vandersteen 989 831 5710 <nvan@pathwaynet.com>, or Franz Mogdis 989 831 5261 <fmogdis@montcalm.cc.mi.us>.

We are also looking for association members in Region 4 who are willing to serve as area representatives. Please contact Norb or me (Franz) if you would like more information.

Last, we solicit the input of associations in Region 4 for articles for inclusion in these newsletters. Generally the communication has been from us to you. We think this space should also include items that would be of interest to some or all association in the Region, e.g., implementation of anti-funneling ordinances, riparian rights issues, lake improvements, etc.,. The MLSA newsletter is published four times each year (Feb, May, Aug, Nov). Give us your lake articles by the middle of the month preceding publication and we'll incorporate them in the Region 4 News (See page 2 of the Newsletter for the VP addresses), Del Sipes, Newsletter Editor, always welcomes "Letters to the Editor" related to the Newsletter Editorial, The President's Report, or any other subject relevant to riparian issues or MLSA. Let's hear from you.

Franz Mogdis, 1st VP, Region 4 Norb Vandersteen, 2nd VP

REGION 9

The holiday rush is now over, and even though there is a winter storm watch on tonight, my thoughts are of spring and another summer of enjoyment on the lake. It won't be long and the "snow birds" will be returning and yes, the first Robin.

ML&SA's 42nd Annual Conference will be held April 25, 26, 27, 2003 at Shanty Creek Resort, Summit Village, Bellaire, Michigan. The Officers and Board members have worked hard and have again put together a fine program. The conference is open to both members and the general public and I am sure will be of the level everyone expects. Information will be forthcoming in the February issue of the Riparian, and also by visiting ML&SA web page www.mlswa.org.

Please set aside these dates now and make your reservations to attend this educational conference. Come prepared to ask questions on concerns your association might have, and attend workshops and sessions devoted to a variety of topics presented by experts in their particular field.

We are looking for items for our silent auction and we would certainly appreciate your donations. If you can help out on this please contact me as soon as possible.

The 2003 membership renewal forms have been sent out to all associations and you will notice that the dues for this year are \$75.00. Many of you have sent your dues in and I would like to remind those who have not, that they are payable now. MLSA needs your financial support early on so that we can provide the programs that you expect.

I hope that everyone took advantage of registering early for the 2003 Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program (CLMP). First year lake communities and volunteer samplers may only register for

the Secchi disk transparency, spring and summer total phosphorus projects. After they have demonstrated a proficiency in these projects in following years they may register for chlorophyll, dissolved oxygen/temperature and pilot projects. In 2003, pilot projects are being conducted for Aquatic Plant Mapping and Fish Age and Growth.

MLSA is **YOUR** Statewide organization and is run and managed by Volunteers. Volunteers are needed for projects, events, office work, committees, etc. If you are interested in playing a part in the future of MLSA, and can devote some time, no matter how large or small, please let me know and I will send you a survey form to list your areas of interest. **MLSA needs you!**

Last, there will be a Lake Representatives meeting this spring, and also Region 9 will join Regions 10 and 11 this coming September for the Fall Seminar. Details on these meetings will be forthcoming.

Hope to see representatives from all the associations in Region 9 and also new faces at the Annual Conference. Bring a friend! This conference will be a good one for sure.

Rex D. Keister, 1st VP, Region 9

REGION 10

(Alpena, Alcona, Oscoda, Otsego, Montmorency, and Crawford Counties)

We continue to grow. Region 10 finds itself with 24 lake associations for the year 2003 with an individual riparian membership of 2475. The continued growth is related to the number of concerns that have been brought to lakefront property owners.

I continue to find myself busy with many phone calls and meetings with present and prospective members of MLSA. We as an organization continue to be the minority doing the work for the majority of riparians. Please encourage your neighbors to become active members in MLSA and have them contribute to maintain our beautiful and wonderful Great Lakes

OTSEGO COUNTY

A lake water report was presented to the Otsego Lake Association and the interested public. It is part of the feasibility study commissioned to investigate the extent of sedimentation problems, particularly along the north, west and south shores, to explore methods of improving overall water quality, and to identify funding sources. Blair Webster, an ecologist, was hired to conduct the study. The Otsego Lake Association is gathering signatures on a petition to support a special assessment related to the study.

MONTMORENCY COUNTY

At an August 2002 meeting of the East/West Twin Lakes Asso-

ciation a Mr. G. Baton and Mr. A Kerilak gave a report on the hazard caused by old submerged railroad pilings on East Twin Lake. These gentlemen were requesting financial support from the East Twin riparians and acknowledgment of the situation from East/West Twin Association. A DEQ permit was finally issued in December 2002 allowing the harvest of the submerged pilings in the spring of 2003.

The scope of the "Twin Lakes Septic Systems Impact Initiative" was to gain knowledge of the current conditions of onsite septic systems on East/West Twin Lakes and use these findings to guide future decision making in regards to wastewater treatment alternatives that will pose a lower risk of non-point source pollution to surface water. The study is a positive step toward protecting water quality of East and West Twin Lakes. It will help sustain a healthy recreational and economic environment for future generations. The study was prepared by the District Health Department #4, the Northeast Michigan Council of Governments, assisted by Albert Township, Twin Lakes Property Owners Association, and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality.

GREAT LAKES COMMISSION SEMINAR

In October 2002, I attended a Great Lakes Commission Seminar at Saginaw Valley College. The Commission was established in 1955 as an eight state compact agency that guides, protects, and advances the common interests of its membership in the areas of environmental quality, resource management and economic developments. It is comprised of state officials, legislators and governor appointees. The member states are Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin.

The primary goals of the Commission are also those of inland lakes: 1) Achieve zero discharge of toxic and waste materials, 2) Increase citizen/riparian participation, 3) Improve local land use planning, 4) Control exotic species, 5) Maintain quality habitat, 6) Responsible stewardship, 7) Protect and restore important habitat and many more similar goals.

A reminder to all MLSA Region 10 Associations: Our MLSA 42nd Annual Spring Conference will take place April 25-27 at Shanty Creek Resort in Bellaire, MI. Also, our Region 10 Fall Seminar will be held in September 2003, most likely in Gaylord. Dates and times will be forwarded to you ASAP.

I would like to thank each Region 10 association president for their continued support and the outstanding individual participation of their membership.

Leo Schuster, 1st VP, Region 10

REGION 11

Looking forward to another productive year for MLSA in Region Eleven. Several Region 11 associations have already paid their

membership dues for 2003 and I'm sure you're wondering why the change in dues structure.

As you all know, MLSA is growing, and has been branching out into new programs to involve young people, especially those of high school age. MLSA is encouraging them to be more aware of Michigan's precious waterways. These extra-curricular programs are funded by grants. However, many ways by which MLSA helps its membership are not funded by grants.

Providing the Annual Conference, printing educational material, holding Lake Representative Meetings, and other non-grant-funded endeavors is paid for by your MLSA membership dues. Now to continue these programs we need to raise more money through changing our dues structure and new memberships.

Over the years MLSA has grown, but we are still working with the same few people who helped it to grow. The driving force for those few people have been Don Winne and Pearl Bonnell. So now it's time to help them by adding staff members to relieve them of many self-assumed extra duties that are so very time consuming, so they can continue to do the important job they began doing for MLSA *“helping us to help you, its members.”*

When you buy a new car, or new home, you have to see what you can afford with the money you have and how you are going to pay for it. That's what we are trying to do now with the new dues structure. Bear with us for a while. We'll bring you up to speed as soon as possible on the dues changes. It will be some time this year.

I'm hoping to set up a Lake Representative meeting sometime the first part of April. I'll notify you by mail, or keep a watch out in your local newspapers, TV, or on the radio. If you have any suggestions for topics you would like to hear more about, contact me at 989 742 3104 or write to me at Cecile Kortier, 18200 Valerie Drive, Hillman, MI 49746. I'll try to accommodate your requests. See you in the Spring!!

Cecile Kortier, 1st VP

REGION 15

For the second winter in a row, “Big Snow Country” is not receiving the normal snows that we usually get. After an unusually rainy October that brought lake levels to new highs, and a warm December, we are finally getting some colder weather. We have had 31 inches of snow to date, most of it melting by the middle of December.

The Forest Service is seeking input in the process of revising the Ottawa Forest Plan. It is the guiding document for how the forest is managed. The existing plan was approved in 1986 and has been updated periodically through the amendment process. 30% of Long Lake lies within the Sylvania Perimeter Area and some of our properties abut the Ottawa. In addition many other lakes in our area have Ottawa Forest lands or boat landings on their lakes. It is important for us to participate and input our concerns as the plan is formulated. We plan to attend the first meeting to be held in Watersmeet on January 30, 2003.

Karen and I will be attending the 42nd Michigan Lake and Stream Associations annual conference in Bellaire, Michigan on April 25th, 26th and 27th, 2003. We encourage all our lake association members and others to attend this interesting and educational conference. It is a worthwhile and “fun way” to spend a weekend listening to noteworthy speakers, viewing exhibits, networking with other members and participating in the excellent social functions. All this is done in the interest of protecting and preserving your lake. We hope to see you there.

Arny Domanus, 1st VP, Region 15

APPOINTMENTS TO AQUATIC NUISANCE SPECIES COUNCIL

In mid-December Governor Engler appointed four members to the newly created Aquatic Nuisance Coordinating Council. The Council will be responsible for improved coordination between the relevant state departments, the federal government, other Great Lakes states, existing Great Lakes institutions, and the general public.

Appointees are Dennis Zimmerman, President of the Michigan Lake and Stream Associations, and Chris Goddard, Executive Secretary for the Great Lakes Fishery Commission. Both gentlemen were appointed to represent the general public for a term expiring December 16, 2003.

The other two appointees are William Taylor, Associate Director of the Michigan Seagrass College Program at Michigan State University, and Thomas Johengen, Director of the Cooperative Institute for Limnology and Ecosystems Research at the University of Michigan. Both gentlemen were appointed to represent the general public for a term expiring December 16 2004.

**DON'T MISS THE CONFERENCE
EXHIBITS . . . HOSPITALITY GATHERINGS
RESOURCE CENTER . . . SILENT AUCTION
& THE EXCITING MERCHANDISE CENTER**