



# LAKE LIFE

Volume 1

Issue 1

June 2010

[www.mlswa.org/lakemill-359](http://www.mlswa.org/lakemill-359)

## WELCOME

Here is the 1<sup>st</sup> edition of the new Mill Lake newsletter. We hope to publish several times per year. We would like your feedback and suggestions. What features would you like to see?

Some of the topics we thought might be of interest to all:

**Protecting Our Lake  
Did You Know?**

**News You Can Use**

**Historical Meanderings**

**Seasonal News & Events**

**Spotlight on Local**

**Businesses**

**Recipes**

Any suggestions on what we might call this publication other than "Lake Life"? Send any and all ideas to the construction crew:

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## PROTECTING OUR LAKE

Confessions of the uninformed (S. Brennan): I have been coming up to Lake Mill since I was six months old. The cottage originally belonged to my grandparents, then my parents and aunt. My husband and I took it over a few years ago after my dad's passing. I have to confess that through the years I have done quite a few things that I later found out were detrimental to the lake that I love so dearly. Because I was uninformed: I used fertilizer that contained phosphates; I added sand to the beach; I washed my dogs and my hair in the lake; I was tempted to remove part of the natural buffer at the shoreline to create more beach; we launched a boat that had been on another lake without first power washing the craft to remove unwanted plants and other living things.

I have since become aware of the detrimental impact such actions can have on the lake ecology. One of the main reasons Barb and I have decided to publish this newsletter is to share information about what all residents can do to maintain the quality of this precious resource we live on. Here are some key actions we can take:

- **Eliminate the use of phosphates.** Once in the lake, one pound of phosphorous can generate hundreds of pounds of aquatic vegetation. Lawn fertilizer and septic seepage are the primary sources of phosphorous. (The Michigan Riparian, Spring 2010)
- **Choose native plants in your landscape.** They can thrive w/o fertilizer and lots of watering, and have deep root systems to prevent erosion. Two local businesses that specialize in natives:

**MaryAnne's Michigan Trees & Shrubs, and Glorious Gardens.**

[www.maryannstrees.com](http://www.maryannstrees.com);  
[www.gloriousgardensmi.com](http://www.gloriousgardensmi.com)

- If you must fertilize choose products like Ringer or Greenview, or try composting.
- **Create a buffer zone along the lakefront to:** filter chemicals and pollutants from entering the lake; discourage geese; desirable wildlife. An excellent book about creating buffer zones is Minnesota Department of Natural Resources: Landscaping for Wildlife and Water Quality. 1/800-657-3757
- **Stop aquatic hitchhikers**, like zebra mussel and eurasion milfoil (aquatic plant which has already appeared in our lake and is being annually treated to reduce its spread).
- **Powerwash** boats and trailers that have been on other lakes before launching onto Mill Lake. Drain & flush engine cooling system, live wells, bait buckets, life vests, and other equipment.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

Approximately 60% of our trash could be recycled. Plastic bottles can last 100 to 1,000 years in a landfill. Our local garbage collectors, Best Ways & Allied Waste do not have a recycling program. We do have recycling locations in Gobles and Bloomingdale.

GOBLES	BLOOMNGDALE
Located at 1 <sup>st</sup> intersection East of the Shell station and North of the Fire Station. County Rd. 388 (D Ave) & 32 <sup>nd</sup> Street	Just west of County Rds 388 & 665 intersection. The flashing light in Bloomingdale. Near the maintenance shed.
Wed. 1-7 Sat. 9-5	Tues. 1-5 Sat. 9-5
Newspaper, paper, glass, tin, plastic scrap metal	Newspaper, paper, plastic, tin, glass, clean, non-food – contaminated cardboard.
\$10.00/year Buy annual pass from attendant. <b>No residency requirement</b>	\$1.00/visit regardless of amount. <b>No residency requirement</b>

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**VISIT YOUR LAKE ASSOCIATION**

**WEBSITE:**  
[www.mlswa.org/lakemill-359](http://www.mlswa.org/lakemill-359)

**LAKE MILL GUIDEBOOK**

Jim Cusack is taking the lead in developing a guidebook about our lake. After looking at examples about other Michigan lakes, Jim has asked for your help is gathering information about the wildlife in and around the lake. Please send to Barb or Sue a list of the birds, fish, animals and any other wildlife, aquatic or otherwise. We need your help in compiling this information as soon as possible..

**NEXT ISSUE:** Look for the next issue of your “new” newsletter in July. We will include:

- lake safety;
- local events, activities;
- ideas you send to us;
- and more

**SEE YOU AT THE LAKE ASSOCIATION MEETING**

**JUNE 19<sup>TH</sup>, 9:30 am at the Gobles United Methodist Church.**

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