



Greater Wall Lake Association

P.O. Box 56
Delton Michigan 49046



Issue 3 Vol 3 August 2007

Around the Lake

Your Board hopes that everyone is having a pleasant summer.

Fourth of July Boat Parade: Dom & Barb Court again led the annual boat parade on a very cool, windy day. 35 boats participated. Thanks to all!

Next GWLA board meeting is Thursday, Sept 11, 7:00 p.m., Hope Twp hall. You are always welcome to attend, give input or just visit our meetings.

Wall Lake Annual Meeting was held Saturday, June 16th at Hope Twp Hall. 43 riparians attended this important event.

Highlights:

1. Membership: 157 members as of 6/16/07
2. Audit Report: Financial books of the GWLA are in fine order, Everett Kuizema should be commended for his excellent job as treasurer.
3. Lake Management Report – Dan Hills (VP) reported Sonar treatment was applied to treat milfoil, can take up to six weeks for eradication.
4. Annual Trash Pick-Up has been discontinued due to lack of participation.
5. Reynolds Road Boat Launch - Clarification that this is NOT a public access. "...is dedicated to the use of the lot owners of the plat and adjacent plats."
6. Membership Dues -GWLA membership dues remain at \$35.00 per lake residence.
7. **SPEAKER:** Representative from Farm and Garden - Steve Elms

Information was shared regarding lake-front properties and fertilization. Highlights:

- Phosphorus is the strongest pollutant for bodies of water
- Michigan soils are naturally high in phosphorus and thus phosphorus is not needed for turf areas.
- Lake property owners are strongly urged to use phosphorus-free products for lake-front properties.
- Do not dump yard debris or pet waste into bodies of water.
- Inform Commercial Lawn Care companies to NOT use products containing phosphorus on water-front properties.
- FYI: A well-maintained turf grass buffer of 15' or more is the best filtration for preventing pollutants and chemicals from entering bodies of water.

Reminders

For the good of the lake

- Leaves – don't burn near the lake,
- Docks out – store well back from edge

GWLA Board

New elected representatives to the Board for 2007 – 2009 are North / West side Jim Wiswell and Sandi Monroe and South / East Side Joy Dunham (1 year term). Please feel free to contact any board member for information.

Thank-You to outgoing board members: Tom Austin, Don Thomas, Bob Heath

Newsletter

If you would like to get this newsletter in .pdf format emailed to you, please let us know by contacting any board member or bwiersma@kresanet.org.

Wall Lake Yacht Club: (WLYC)

Sailboat Race Dates:

Sunfish size (board boats) races Aug. 12, 26.

Bigger boats (14' and up) will race on Aug. 5,

All are invited to come out and learn to sail with us.

ALL Lake Sailing Day is planned for August 18, from 11:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. If you have any kind of sailboat, you are invited to join us for a fun day of learning and cruising around Wall Lake. Lunch will be served to attendees during the scheduled time. Anyone who would like to sail, but does not have a boat, may join as crew on many of the boats. Please call Ron Campbell at 275-6269 for details or to get in touch with other sailors.

We ask for your courtesy by staying clear of all sailboats at any time they are on the lake, since wake from powerboats cause water turbulence that hinders the vessels. Always go well **behind** sailboats, at least 150 yards!!

Courtesy, Courtesy, Courtesy – The name of the game while on Wall Lake! Whether you are on shore or on the water, always be aware that sound travels great distances your wake affects other boats and shorelines. Many other boats have right-of-way, **KNOW YOUR BOATING LAWS!!**

Bill Wiersma –**President** 623-2672

Julie Vandervoort -**Secretary** 623-8540

North / West Side Reps: Dick Fluke 623-2504; Maury Benton 623-3890; Bob Cove 623-2041; Bob Vander Veen; 623-5009
Jim Wiswell 623-8773; Sandi Monroe 623-4705.

South / East Side Reps: Ralph Krueger 623-4178 ; Tom Schaberg 623-5357; Alan Freid 623-5445;

Nancy Cotant Burroughs 623-5592; Joy Dunham 623-4688; Sandy Hubbell 623-8494.

Dan Hills - **Vice President** 623-8989

Ev Kuizema – **Treasurer** 623-5102

(Courtesy, Courtesy, Courtesy - continued)

Powerboats and Personal watercraft **MUST** stay clear of all other boats. Anchored boats have the **MOST** privilege, fishing boats and sailboats are next and powerboats and Personal Watercraft have the **LEAST**. Boats approaching from starboard (your right) also have right-of-way in ALL Instances.

Dues

A reminder that **your dues were due in June**. Please don't forget to keep your membership up to date. The GWLA does it's best to represent everyone on the lake, and in turn, needs support from everyone on the lake. Encourage your friends and neighbors to pay their \$35.00 dues. Send a check to GWLA P.O. Box 56 Delton MI 49046.

Keep Us Up To Date

Have you recently changed your mailing address, email address or any other pertinent information that would keep us from getting important information to you? Keep us informed at GWLA PO Box 56 Delton MI 49046, by email TRAustin2@aol.com or bwiersma@kresanet.org.

Zebra Mussels

So far so good!! Keep visitors' boat use to a minimum and make sure they are DRY, DRY, DRY, before allowing them into Wall Lake.

FISH STORIES

by Bob & Sandy Heath

Another in our series of lake resident historical reminisces ..
(...continued from last issue)

As I got older, the "point" was the best place to go for a swim, and it still is. All age groups and swimming abilities could be satisfied with the Point with one side shallow for a long way out and the other side dropping off steeply and deep. In the early sixties I learned to play golf from another "teacher" resident, John Arnold, who lived off the lake but up the small hill from my house. He and his wife Lillian still live there in the summer months. He still plays a lot more golf than I have time for at this point in my life.

During the sixties was also known as the big drought. By 1966-67 the lake level was so low; the distance from our house to the lake edge, normally only about 75 feet, was back then over 200 feet. Somewhere I have an old picture of a friend standing on a large rock that was about six feet from the shore on dry land at the time. That same big rock is now about four or five feet below the water. As the water level was dropping and the rock got closer to the surface, it must have sheered the cotter pin off of a hundred boat motors. It was always scarred from propeller hits. Speed boats mostly, pulling water skiers and not paying attention to how shallow it was getting. On the South end of the lake along Wall Lake Drive it stays pretty shallow for a long ways out. I remember boats (vacationers) running up on "muck islands" that formed when the lake was at the lowest point. I'd go out with my row boat sometimes and help some of the smaller boats that beached themselves get off. A lot of work but was easier to pole yourself along instead of rowing. I'd stick the oar into the muck and push, sometimes almost losing the oar as it sunk out of sight in the muck. Our house was almost without any water in front of it. I could row west toward the M-43 side and see less than two feet of water

below me until I reached the channel that runs along the M-43 side. The point at that time was a large sandy beach area and made a great place for sun bathing, girl watching and of course swimming. Fortunately nature turned the corner and the lake level came back up to where you see it now. It is as high now as it was in 1957 when I moved here. I'm sure the dam has something to do with it staying as full as it does now.

I moved away for a few short years when I married by wife Sandy in 1970. In 1975 Sandy and I got an offer from my folks I could not refuse. We moved in on 15 July 1975, exactly one month before our daughter Kris's first birthday. I had the opportunity to raise my young daughter here and watch her splash about and learn to swim in our lake much like I did. It was fun to relive my younger years through her. I've also seen the lake's boat technology change from outboard motor boats and some speed boats to now mostly speed boats or float boats and the advent of the personal water craft is the rage now.

The quality of the lake has made a noticeable change for the better over my lifetime here. There was a time not that long ago where some of the cottages had open pipes running raw sewage into our lake. That along with the "old time" practice of placing septic tanks and drywells in the front yards. The seepage from them was just as bad as the open pipes into our waters. The installation of the sewer system (I was against it for a long time) was the smartest move we were forced to make. It was not easy but I am now a believer and happy to have it.

I've gone on longer than Bill probably wants to edit to fit this into the paper. My recollections are strictly my own and may not agree with everyone's memory of the same events. I have loved my life here and will miss you all very much. Thanks for being a good neighbor for us. With any luck we will find a buyer this spring that will enjoy the lake as much as Sandy and I have had the opportunity to.

Keep the lake clean and private. The families coming here after you will be grateful to you in the long run.

(Send your articles, and reflections to bwiersma@kresanet.org) Max. 400 words or less per issue, all will be edited.

Web Sites you might wish to visit:



- o **GWLA Temporary Web Page**
<http://www.geocities.com/gwla2006/>



- o **Department of Environmental Quality**
<http://michigan.gov/deq/>
- o **Department of Natural Resources**
<http://michigan.gov/dnr/>



Boating Rules & Safety are available at:

- o http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,1607,7-153-10365_10884---,00.html
- o <http://boat-ed.com/mi/handbook/>

DON'T FORGET TO SHARE THE NEWSLETTER WITH YOUR HOUSEHOLD.