

Our Purpose

This Association will support issues which concern the welfare and health of the Paw Paw Lake in general, including but not limited to the quality of the watershed and of the water, and shall plan and execute programs designed to enhance and maintain the watershed and water quality for a variety of recreational activities, including but not limited to swimming, boating and restoration of fish population consistent with sound environmental practices.

(Source: Article III, sec 1, PPLA Corporate By -Laws)

Our Mission

The PPLA provides a forum for members to address issues and determine appropriate actions in an effort to maintain and enhance the welfare and safety of the lake community, ensure the continuing health and recreational use of the lake, protect the riparian rights of property owners and build cooperation between the association and the greater community. Summer is finally here, the chill of spring is waning and the warmth of summer is upon us.

Important lake dates to remember:

June 9. & Sept. 25, PPLF-Sarett's Canoe Adventures. Explore the lake as the voyagers did in a voyager canoe with Sarett's own Chuck Nelson as your guide and host. Call 269-468-7634 for information.

June 11, The Paw Paw Lake Garden Club is holding a workshop with Pat Pennell from Rain Gardens of Michigan as the featured speaker. Learn which plants make a successful rain garden. You may call 269-468-7550 or email SYamgandy@aol.com for information.

June 30, Sheriff's Marine Safety Class. Open to anyone 12 years of age and older and it is free. You must register at marinediv@berriencounty.org. The time is 9 AM to 4 PM. Pre-registration is required, please include your name(s) date of birth(s), address and phone number(s). Please bring a sack lunch.

July 7, Next Monthly Board Meeting

July 21, PPLA Boat Parade. How better to meet with your neighbors and to show off your boat decorating creativity. The Parade starts at 2 PM from the Waterfront and ends at the restaurant with prizes, good food and drink and music. Anyone is welcome to participate and for more information, contact Kip Wright at aradobe@aol.com.

August 4, Is the PPLA Annual Meeting. We will also have a presentation about the Middfoil project. Marty Hilovsky will present a power point demonstration at the August Board Meeting.

August 25, PPLA Dinner Dance. A do not miss night of great food by the Panel Room and dancing to good music at the Paw Paw Lake Yacht Club.

Our first effort of the summer is the PPLA's attack on the Eurasian Water Milfoil infestation. This June, Pinecrest Industries, will be using three safe and effective herbicides to knock down the weeds for enhanced navigation and swimming. After 3 weeks, if necessary, Pinecrest will retreat problem areas a second time. An Important note: The treatment we use is permitted under MDEQ approvals.

If you treat your own weeds with chemicals, you must obtain an MDEQ permit.

In July the PPLF is planning to imbed Middfoil weevils in three test areas in the lake. The weevils are native and already in the lakes' ecosystem and this test will attempt to increase the number of the existing colonies. The benefit will be, if the weevils attack the Eurasian Milfoil as planned, to be a safe and effective alternative to chemically weed treating the lake. In theory the weevils will multiply and control EWM, eventually eliminating the need to chemically treat. On August 4, Marvin Hilovsky of EnviroScience will make a power point presentation to the Association. You may wish to note that date on your calendar.

Speaking of weeds, a new invasive species has found its way to northern Indiana, it is called Hydrilla.. It grows rapidly, it grows in deeper water and it mats so badly on the surface that ducks can actually walk on it! How do we combat it? The first line of defense is by making sure your boat is washed and dried every time you launch. See last page for an illustration.

If you have friends bringing a boat to the lake, insist they wash and dry it thoroughly before launching. Lake Manitou near Rochester IN has been shut down. Once Hydrilla* was discovered in that lake, no boat launching was allowed, not transients, not lake residents. You may wish to look up Hydrilla on the internet to help you identify it. If upon finding a suspected plant please contact dgl5650@aol.com for the proper procedures of capture and analysis. You may also contact this email if you spot suspected purple loosestrife.

Editorial Comment

After touring the lake and after receiving numerous phone calls and in personal conversations it is apparent the methods we are employing regarding weed treatment are not servicing the needs of our members, other residents or recreational users of the lake. It is the opinion of this editor that the voluntary weed treating we are doing is inadequate.

Even though we are treating over 53% of the shoreline (up from 38% in 2005) we may all come to the conclusion that, unless we treat the lake as a whole, the weed problems will just get worse. Changing the way of doing business is never easy but the time to act is fast approaching to seek a fairer and more efficient method of treating Eurasian Water Milfoil.

Whether the method is continued chemically treating the weeds or biologically treating them the cost must be borne by more than just members of this association. Not only is the health of our lake impacted (dissolved oxygen levels, increased algae bloom, less water clarity) it impacts the value of every home on the lake. More weeds, less water clarity will certainly have far reaching effects on each one of us.

For residents it means less value when we sell and for the townships it will mean less valuation leading to lower tax income. The Association needs to pursue measures which more fairly spread the burden to all residents. The values of our homes dictate we act in the best interest of all lake residents.

We are not alone; other lakes in our region have come to the same conclusion, Eagle, Bankson, Donnell and Diamond to name but a few.

Have you noticed the Phosphate Free Zone signs popping up around the lake? The signs are posted on property of those pledging to use Zero Phosphorous products. These signs are a continuance of a program of awareness. Studies have shown that phosphorus applied to area lawns is one of the engines which may encourage rampant weed growth and algae blooms in the lake. By using non Phosphorous products we can have an impact and help minimize the harm this element can do to the lake. Last year both Coloma and Watervliet Townships passed resolutions encouraging the use of no Phosphorous fertilizers. Along with the resolutions the PPLF is offering a \$5.00 discount at local hardware, feed stores and Fruit Exchanges to help you purchase Zero Phosphorous fertilizers. These coupons are available at your local Township office.

Speaking of Townships we have news from Lansing!

There is a movement underway in the State Legislature (HB 4780-88) to either curtail or eliminate townships. Initially the State would mandate the collection of local taxes, holding of elections, assessing and other township functions be handed to the counties, if passed. The issues are loss of local control and the ability to address grievances with directly elected officials.

Townships have existed since the enactment of the Northwest Ordinance Act of 1787 and has served our state well. Over fifty per cent of the state population resides in townships and townships tend to function more economically than do cities, counties or the state. Townships offer residents of rural areas local redress of issues which directly impact us as they offer the equivalent of town meetings. If you are interested in supporting local control of

our collective destiny, please contact our local representative, the Hon. John Proos at johnproos@house.mi.gov or the Hon. Neal Nitz at nealnitz@house.mi.gov to voice your opinion. Mr. Nitz sits on the committee which is hearing the proposed legislation.

BOAT SMART!

Our Health and Safety Committee advises the speed limit on the lake is 55 MPH during the day and “speeds not to include planing at night”. The definition of that is not to exceed a speed where a boat achieves plane (usually 14 MPH for most boats). The Sheriff’s Marine Division advises there will be zero tolerance for BUI (boating under influence), safety equipment (life jackets, etc.) and reckless operation (such as the 100 foot rule).

The busiest time of the year is here and your Association asks you to show courtesy to fellow boaters, sailors and fisherman and for safety obey the 100 foot rule, “No Wake Zones” and travel counter clock wise. Advise your guests of these simple yet important rules. **Stay Safe!**

A reminder our Annual Meeting is August 4, 2007. See you there!

As always you may reach us at P.O Box 206, Watervliet, MI, 49098 or by email at pawpawlk@aol.com

*Please turn page to view an illustration of the invasive weed, Hydrilla (*hydrilla verticillia*)
