

It has been a great run for me. Four years as president of the PPLA has been a fulfilling time. Together, we have accomplished many projects. Settling the Nature's Cove dispute; working on repairing our relations with both Townships and working with state and other local officials in a positive manner to help preserve and enhance the lake.

Our member ship is strong and our finances are too and more residents are helping us manage Eurasian Water Milfoil as evidenced by more shore line being treated year after year.

Last year, we began the process of educating both lake and township residents alike on the benefits of rain gardens and buffer areas which help keep nutrients from the lake. The efforts of PPLA's Board were the genesis of an area Garden Club to continue this good work

We are making strides working with Condo Associations and have worked to bring condo residents into the Association as full members. This act of inclusion has spurred the membership of our condo neighbors into our organization. This year five condo associations have signed on to date, to weed treat, with Nature's Cove joining the PPLA and treating their waterfront for the second year. This past year, for the first time, we elected a condo resident to the Board.

My wife and I have made the difficult decision to sell our home and to move off the lake. This necessitates resigning my position as president and as a board member, when the move is complete, a decision neither of us has entered into lightly. Regardless, that does not lessen our love for the lake or for this wonderful area we have called home for over ten years. This move will not lessen our commitment to a healthy lake as we know all too well; a clean, safe and healthy lake is what attracts people to this corner of the world and protects and enhances home values for everyone.

In one of the first press releases I wrote noted that Paw Paw Lake could be likened to a factory, creating jobs and enhancing the quality of life for many of our area residents. The lake is one of the economic engines benefiting this area. I believe that no less than I did in 2005. It was true then and it is true now.

I would like to thank past and current board members who have given wise counsel and support over the last few years. I would like to thank our members, who have given their support too. Working together I know the success we shared will continue!

Dates to Remember:

Now: Purchase zero phosphorous fertilizers
Did you remember to sign up for Weed treatment and Membership?
May 15 Plant rain gardens and buffer areas
June 2-7 Weed treating week
June 7 Boating Safety Class – 9AM PPLYC
June 23 Gordon Knutson Golf Outing
July 19 Annual Boat Parade
Aug 23 Annual Dinner Dance
Sept 06 Annual Meeting,

Paw Paw Lake Shirts continue to be sold. They will be on display at our meetings and available at the Boat Parade, July 19, 2008. If you can't wait, email Kip Wright for more information, you may contact her at ARADOBE@aol.com. The Subject line should read "PPLA Shirts".

In this issue is a copy of a pamphlet published by the Michigan Lakes and Streams Association. This pamphlet outlines and explains your riparian rights as shoreline owners. It is a handy thing to have for your reference.

Lt Martin Kurtz, Commander of the Sheriff's Marine Division will be our featured speaker at our June 7, 2008 meeting. If you have questions or comments for Lt. Kurtz, this is your chance to air them.

Remember the 100 foot rule, to travel counter clockwise around the lake for safety and remember the tolerance for alcohol and reckless boating is 'zero'. Complying with these simple steps, you help make this beautiful lake safe and enjoyable.

A special thanks to the Paw Paw Lake Yacht Club for providing a berth for the Sheriff's patrol craft. This is the third year the PPLYC has provided mooring in cooperation with us and our collective efforts to help keep Paw Paw Lake safe.

Our weed treating sign-up as of today is a tad behind last year. This winter we had good ice cover and that should help with our fight against weeds. However, the more shore coverage we can apply the more successful we will be. If you have not yet signed up for treatment we invite you to do so. This our best chance for a weed free summer!

Finally, my last pitch is for everyone to plant shore line buffers and rain gardens. When installing or repairing your sea walls lay down rip rap to lessen wave action and to provide habitat for young fish, reptiles and their food sources.

Enjoy this Lake Season. Become involved!