

A PRODUCTIVE PPLA MEETING

We're all human, most of all this writer and I apologize to those who showed up at our monthly meeting at the advertised 9:00 AM (Tri City Record, September 6, 2008). We thank those who had the fortitude to come back at the time we should have listed, 10:00 AM. Due to my error, we 'played' to a sparse, but enthusiastic crowd. In case I make that mistake again, write this down! The Paw Paw Lake Association (PPLA) meetings always begin at 10:00 AM!

Regardless the meeting was productive. After discussion regarding next year's weed treating and being notified our weed treatment applicator has found it to necessary to raise the cost of treatment by approximately seven per cent, the board decided to absorb that cost and not raise member's fees. It was noted; the process to initiate a Special Assessment District is a lengthy one and in this case involves two taxing entities. Certainly there will not be a decision made about any whole lake weed treatment for another year and possibly two.

As we go forward to offer treatment again, we also formed a committee to look at other weed treating possibilities. In all probability any other method may not be possible next year due to permitting, equipment or other issues.

The Board approved funding of 'up to \$4,000' for a Paw Paw Lake Garden Club program of public education and execution of buffer demonstration plantings on the lake. The PPLA along with the Garden Club and the PPLF will be stakeholders in this program. If you would like to participate in this program to spur the slowing down of nutrients into Paw Paw Lake, check the web at www.raingardens.org or www.jfnew.com for ideas on what you might plant on your shore, both sites are informative. We will link these sites to our own web site, www.ppla.info. You'll be hearing more about this project in the coming months. Ultimately we are stewards of the lake we live on and it will take an individual effort, working in consort with our neighbors to help bring it back to health.

We also approved the concept of asking a dive club to return to the lake for an ecological dive. Dives in the past revealed some very interesting detritus which was retrieved from the bottom and displayed on shore. We are hoping to work with the Paw Paw Lake Yacht Club in sponsoring this even next summer. This will be a great addition to our summer social activities while being good for the lake.

The board also approved, in concept, to fund, along with other partners an Economic Impact Study of our area. We are talking to the MSU Extension Service and others for help. We feel it important to procure a firm or University that is above reproach to do this study. This study will be an educational tool to help provide the rational for our City's and Townships to be proactive when dealing with lake quality issues. It is our goal to work with them as partners.

