

LATE SUMMER MUSINGS

Submitted by

Bob Becker

Where did summer go? A few more weeks and meteorological summer will be over. Labor Day is upon us and many of our friends will be packing it up and retiring to their homes out of state. For Michiganders it is the beginning of the 'second season' of less traffic on the lake and the beginnings of the colors of fall. It is the time when the earth spectacularly begins her preparation for the long slumber of winter.

It is also a 'busy season', to wit, this Saturday August 23, 2008 is the Paw Paw Lake Association's (PPLA) annual dinner dance, hosted by Kip Wright and aided by the creativity of Janie Staggers. The theme is "Memories of the Lake" with music by the Mystic Blues. Cocktails begin at 7:00 with dinner at 8:00.

The rain date for our much anticipated PPLA's eleventh annual Boat Parade, is August 30, 2008 with registration at or a little before 1:30 at the Waterfront Restaurant. After registering with the official parade boat, the parade will begin at 2:00 PM traversing counter clockwise around the lake. If you're not participating, watch from your piers or shore, then come to the Waterfront to view the awards and listen and dance to Beat 66. Food and beverages will be available for purchase from the Waterfront during and after the parade. The Parade is open to everyone and any decoration will do. Have a 'classic boat'? Enter it!

Information about the dance and parade and other news of the lake can be viewed by going to our Web Site, www.ppla.info. The site is rapidly improving with links to weather and other area points of interest. John Phillips is our new web master and he has exciting things in store. We thank both John and Scott Hoadley, the PPLA Communications chair, for their work on this important communication tool.

There was a standing room only crowd at the Coloma Township Hall on Saturday as the Spicer Group spoke about the study of Big and Little Paw Paw Lakes and their watersheds. The representatives discussed needed improvements in the watershed, excess Phosphorous and nitrogen loading, dissolved oxygen degradation and the need for an educated public among other subjects.

They also discussed the importance of individual buffers along the lake front and rain gardens, which the PPLA has been supporting for years. Rain gardens, buffers and the use of zero phosphorous fertilizers will have a positive impact on nutrient loading and will help reduce the amount of phosphorous, nitrogen levels and improve lake quality. It seemed most of the attendees felt informed and perhaps left with a better understanding of the whole process.

Biologist and Project Manager, Courtney Marquette from EnviroScience, in her report advised the Middfoil weevil activity was not she would have liked to have seen. The areas where the weevils were stocked apparently did not show much promise and explained the experiment may not have worked for a variety of reasons or they may have simply moved to a different site. EnviroScience will return in the spring for another assessment and may look at restocking more weevils. The school is still out on weevils for Paw Paw Lake, but in a majority of the 100 lakes that EnviroScience has stocked there has been an excellent rate of success.