

Winter is upon us. Late November and early December dropped a significant amount of snow on us as a reminder to drive safely and enjoy the beauty of winter, unless of course you are leaving for warmer climates. Some housekeeping comes to mind before we leave or if we've stayed at the lake or have even arrived at our destinations.

Please note these important dates on your calendar.

April 1, 2009 PPLA and weed treatment dues and fees are due, (A membership application is included in this newsletter.)

April 4, PPLA Board Meetings begin at 10 AM (Watervliet Library) and will meet the first Saturday of each month through November. Use the First Street entrance.

May 14, PPLF/Coloma School's Eighth Grade Science Lake Ecology Tour

May 23 & June 27, PPLA/PPLYC/Berrien County Sheriff's Marine Division sponsored Boating Safety Classes at the PPLYC.

July 18, PPLA Boat Parade (rain date) July 25

Aug. 22, PPLA Dinner Dance

Sept.05, PPLA Annual Meeting

For 2009 our new president is Joe Stepich. Joe is a past PPLYC Commodore, most recently our Vice President and currently a Trustee for Watervliet Charter Township.

Ken Kregel, our new Vice President is actively pursuing a Clean Lakes/Clean Boats Program with our local schools, the ML&S and the Michigan DNR.

Dr. Ray Lechner is our newest board member; Ray is Superintendent of the Wilmette Schools. Please welcome Ray to our board.

The balance of your board is comprised of **Len Metheny Treasurer, Barb Van Hout**

Secretary; along with returning members Charlie Pater, Kip Wright, Scott Hoadley and Lou Presta.

We will offer weed treating again this year as any lake wide weed treatment system is in all likelihood over a year or more away. Last year 60 % of the lake shore was treated and in actuality the more we treat voluntarily, the better the invasive weeds will be controlled. We encourage you to join with us in our weed control program.

Surrounding counties have or are in the process of instituting residential bans on the use of fertilizers containing the chemical phosphorous. Ottawa, Muskegon, Allegan and Van Buren counties have seen the detrimental effect phosphorous has on their lakes and streams. The time has come for Berrien County to do likewise. As we all know one the primary reasons that Paw Paw Lake is choked with weeds is due to lawn and drain run off containing phosphorous.

Your support for this measure is important for the greater good clean streams would have on the environment. It starts with our willingness to use zero phosphorous in our lawn care and to then support our county officials to do the right thing and ban residential fertilizers containing phosphorous county wide. A letter voicing your support for such legislation to our County Representatives, Jon Hinkleman, Watervliet and Bob Wooley, Coloma would not hurt.

If we could control the amount of phosphorous that enters the lake it would have a positive effect in our continuing fight to control our weed infestation. The Berrien and Van Buren County Drain Commissioners are being asked to repair drains, install sediment traps and buffer areas adjacent to the drains to help forestall phosphorous from entering those streams and ultimately our lakes. The PPLA has donated \$4,000 to the **PPL Garden Club** for demonstration shore line buffer areas.

We wish everyone a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukah and Happy New Year!

