



# B.P.I.L.A

## BIG PINE ISLAND LAKE ASSOCIATION

June 2008 Newsletter



### BPILA BOARD MEMBERS

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691-7116

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691-7057

**Secretary**

Lisa Zigmont  
691-7995

**Treasurer**

Paul Mulheisen  
691-8501

**Newsletter**

Pat Talbott  
691-8501

### Note from the President

Spring has been a busy season, and I have received a lot of input from area residents regarding our lake community. The BPILA Board has been actively involved with the progress to our sewer situation and the recent treatments for weed growth on the lake.

First, the sewer condition has improved and Grattan Township has done a good job in maintaining a working system while minimizing any disruption to the service. I applaud them for their efforts, however, there is still a lot of work to be done. I will keep you posted on this issue through e-mail.

Second, there is a Lake Improvement Board that governs the treatments to our lake. This board consists of two Grattan Township members, the County Drain Commissioner, and an active lake resident recommended by the BPILA Board.

Any resident that has riparian rights to Big Pine Island is assessed \$135 a year on

their winter taxes. These funds are used to treat the lake for weed control. This includes both chemical and mechanical methods. They work with Progressive AE, an engineering firm that determines what applications are needed to maintain a quality lake environment. Progressive AE then contracts with Professional Lake Management to apply the chemicals and/or harvest the weeds.

To get on our BPILA communication list or to make any inquiries, please send an e-mail to me at [bpilapresident@comcast.net](mailto:bpilapresident@comcast.net). If you do not have an e-mail address, please contact myself or one of the board members listed in the left-hand column to leave a phone number where we can contact you.

**HAVE A FUN, BUT  
SAFE SUMMER!!**



### DATES TO REMEMBER!!!

Special Grattan Trash  
Collection Day  
July 19, 2008

Primary for Township Board  
Elections  
August, 2008

Township Elections  
November, 2008

### Annual BPILA Fireworks Display

The annual BPILA Fire Works Display will be Thursday, July 3rd.

Your neighborhood representative will be knocking at your door or placing flyers in your mailbox requesting your donation towards this year's fireworks. We hope you will support this event, and join us in our traditional Independence Day celebration!!!



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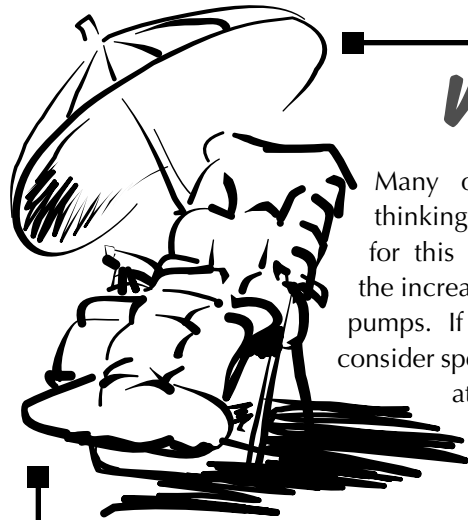
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Association**

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## Vacationing in your own front yard

Many of us may be re-thinking our vacation plans for this summer because of the increased cost of gas at the pumps. If so, you may want to consider spending your vacation at home.

For those of you who in the past might have had the opportunity to travel outside of the

US, you may have noticed that in many countries in Europe, even in the countryside, there is an absence of the sights and sounds of nature. Even in the Spring and Summer in such areas as the mountains of Italy or the hills of France, you will go to sleep and wake up to silence – there are no birds, frogs or crickets to signal the coming of evening or the rising of the sun in the morning. The few birds flying overhead are usually crows or blackbirds; there is no rustling of small animals in the grasses or trees. There are few insects. The vegetation is sparse; trees are few. Although the Europeans are working hard to preserve their environment, much has already been lost.

We are very fortunate to be able to spend our summers in Michigan, and especially on such a beautiful lake as Big Pine Island Lake. On any day you can watch blue heron, green heron, kingfishers, osprey, swan, and geese, not to mention smaller birds such as goldfinch, bluebirds, chickadees, and so many other species of

bird. There are woodchucks and chipmunks burrowing under the ground, and squirrels dashing along the rails of our decks, and sometimes a few deer crossing our lawn in the early morning. Our Big Pine Island Lake neighborhood is a vibrant ecosystem, and a wonderful habitat for all of these creatures.

That is why it is so important that we work to preserve this gift of ours. There are small things you can do each day that will make a big difference in maintaining the quality of our lake and the natural environment that surrounds it. Here are a few:

- Avoid use of fertilizers containing phosphorus;
- Pull up any Purple Loosestrife that grows in your garden or along the border of the lake. It is an invasive species of plant that threatens our wetlands.
- Reduce the amount of turf in your yard, and plant grasses and flowers with root systems that filter contaminants and slow down the run-off into the lake.
- Trees are nesting areas for birds, small animals and especially for large fowl such as the Blue Heron; if you need to remove a tree, consider planting another to replace it.

So this summer enjoy the sights and sounds of Big Pine Island Lake, and remember: You may never have to look further than your own front yard!!

(To obtain a brochure entitled "Landscaping for Water Quality" contact the DEQ at [www.mi.gov/deqnp](http://www.mi.gov/deqnp))

## Welcome aboard, Dan!

Dan Bailey has been appointed by the BPILA board to be our new Lake Improvement Representative to the township board.

Dan attended a two-day training in April of this year sponsored by the Michigan Lake and Stream Assoc and the DEQ. Dan's job entails taking weekly samples of our lake water, and sending these samples to the DEQ for testing and monitoring of our lake quality. This way the DEQ is able to measure the health of our lake over time. Dan sees his first goal as representing our interests in maintaining the quality of our lake. He hopes to ensure

that there is a d e q u a t e communication between the township, the

DEQ, and the management companies who treat the lake. For further information or concerns, you can contact Dan at his email address: [danbailey@tm.net](mailto:danbailey@tm.net). BPI Lake measurement and information can be found at [www.micorps.net](http://www.micorps.net).

W e l c o m e ! ! !

## Friends & Family & Neighbors

### Do You Know About "Friends and Family and Neighbors"?

FF&N is a group of concerned people in the Grattan area who are interested in making our community a better place to live. They meet on the second Monday of each month at 10:00 am at the Grattan Township Hall. They are involved in such projects as arranging for annual flu shots at the township hall; providing Bingo with the senior meals; supporting the purchase of equipment for the fire department and organizing events for our annual Memorial Day celebration.

The FF&N wants to thank all of the people of BPI Lake who attended their First Annual Golf Outing. The profits from this outing went towards the building of the Veterans Memorial in Grattan Township. There are plans to build the first phase of the memorial this year. Next year's golf outing will be the last Saturday in May. Put this date on your calendar!!

## LAKE WEEDBEGONE WEED REMOVAL

Due to a high demand for services, call by **April 30, 2008** to sign up for weed removal services for the 2008 season.

Did you battle with the weeds in your swim area this summer? Tired of the back braking work getting the lake weeds cleaned up? Looking for a solution to your shoreline weeds? **LOOK NO FURTHER!**

Spend your time enjoying your water front instead of fighting the weeds in your swim area.

#### Advantages:

- No more swimming with lake weeds wrapped around your legs.
- Make your beach look more appealing.
- Increase the property value of your lake front home or cottage.

As a lake front property owner I understand your needs and concerns and have developed a weed control program that will safely and effectively reduce and eliminate weeds in your swim area.

## IN & OUT DOCK SERVICES

Tired of the hassle of putting your dock in and taking it out in the fall? Let us do it for you!

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON SERVICES AND PRICING CONTACT JEFF @ 616-318-6754**

Other Products And Services Available:  
Aeration Equipment and Seawalls

References Available Upon Request



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Have questions or concerns? Contact your BPILA president at [bpilapresident@comcast.net](mailto:bpilapresident@comcast.net)