

NEWS & VIEWS FROM THE LAKE

Published by the Cowan Lake Park Association

February 2011

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Official Website
www.cowanlake.org

From the President

Mike Latchaw

It's not spring yet but we are past the halfway point of winter. We can start to plan and think about spring. We will need to fill 2 empty association board positions during our Spring general membership meeting. Please contact me or one of the other board members to let us know if you are interested. We also want to know if you have any issues to discuss at the meeting. The Annual Spring Membership Meeting is the one day of the year that we gather all at once to vote on things that matter to us.

The solar bees have now been programmed to automatically shut off on December 1 each year and turn back on April 1. Solar Bee has replaced both of the flashing lights, as part of our maintenance agreement. The water test results for all of 2010 just added more proof that they were a good investment for keeping our water quality good.

The Weed Committee is already planning for 2011 by gathering information from PLM and by reviewing the results from homeowner surveys that were collected last fall. We will be having the lake surveyed as soon as the ice is out, to see if we have any Eurasian Milfoil present. If you have any specific questions that you would like answered, please ask any weed committee member or board member. I want to extend my thanks to the weed committee, for their willingness to respond quickly to the many issues that are presented to them.

We do have the annual ice festival scheduled for February 5. The details will follow here. This is the only planned lake entertainment event for 2011 so far.

Last fall we gathered people's opinions about other potential activities for 2011. There were many ideas where we had at least one person state that they would be willing to host the activity, and several that were interested in attending. If you are one of these willing hosts then please contact me. We can prepare an event reminder to post on the lake website. It doesn't have to be a huge event with lots of work to have fun.

The last thing that I wanted to mention was that our most important asset here on Cowan Lake is our neighbors. We might disagree on weed control or be bothered by a barking dog, but when it comes to really important things we are there for each other. If your boats dies on the water, if you fall outside of your house, or if your house burns down, you don't even have to ask and people will flock to help and support you. Thanks to all of our neighbors and friends for making Cowan Lake a great place to live.

Mike

Cowan Lake Ice Party

& Tip Up Tourney

Saturday, February 5th

8:00am - 1:00pm

Entry Fee - \$10.00 per person

Trash Can Chili @ 1:00pm

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT:

Randy Wrona – 8191 Cowan Lake Dr – Cell: 616-617-4766

Mike Latchaw – 9836 10 Mile Rd – Cell: 616-250-1564

Tony Messing – 9730 10 Mile Rd – Cell: 616-540-4141

SEE YOU OUT THERE!

Thank You!

We had two members resign from the board this past fall. The Cowan Lake Association would like to thank Ed Hawkins and Linda Toloui (Mosley) for their contributions and service as board members.

Board Openings

Note: We have two vacancies on the Cowan Lake Board. If you are interested in serving as a board member, please contact Mike Latchaw or one of the current board members if you are interested. This will be on the agenda for the Annual Spring Membership meeting. The date for the Annual meeting will be noted in the upcoming Spring newsletter.

Website: www.cowanlake.org

Updates have been made to the website. Also keep in mind if you need to buy/sell items it is a good resource for classifieds. Contact Mike Latchaw our webmaster at mlatchaw@msn.com or call Mike at 250-1564

Our thoughts and prayers....to our neighbors Barb Lee, Florence Cooley and Terry Emiley. We wish you all well.



News & Views from the Lake

Weed Management Report

Elaine Salisbury

Survey responses regarding weed management included a number of requests for more information on specifics of chemical treatment. Our questions and PLM's answers (in bold) are below:

To PLM: We've just been reviewing the survey responses regarding weed management, etc. and would like clarification on a few things:

1) Contact herbicides – In PLM's October, 2010 letter to the residents, this sentence raised some questions--*“Contact herbicide treatments may be considered in areas where harvesting cannot be utilized such as areas of EWM growth and/or tight to shore (within docks) that have nuisance levels of native plants, pending DNRE permit.”*

Q. Specifically what herbicide would be used for the non-EWM nuisance plants?

A. The herbicides that may be used would be Reward (Diquat) and/or Aquathol K/Hydrothol 191 combo (Endothal).

Q. What restrictions would apply?

A. Like all herbicides treatments there would be a Reward: 1 day swimming restriction, 3 day restriction on using water for ornamentals & turf, 5 day restriction on using water for domestic purposes or agricultural irrigation.

Aquathol K/Hydrothol 191: 1 day swimming restriction, 14 day restriction on using water for domestic purposes or agricultural irrigation or livestock watering.

Q. Would that treatment be done before or after harvesting?

A. If the treatment is needed than it would most likely be completed before harvesting occurred. The weed treatment may have residual effects on plants further from the docks therefore potentially reducing the amount of harvesting required. Also, any native plants that have died but remain standing in the water column can be removed via harvester where accessible.

Q. Will those dead weeds drop to the bottom and become muck if they are not raked up?

A. Plants are primarily made of water. Therefore, when plants die they breakdown or disintegrate into water and organics. Every year this occurs when the native plants die-off naturally on their own. Plants are organic material and will contribute to muck accumulation or ageing of the lake over time.

2) PLM MD Pellets (an individual option for treating one's own shore area—information at www.plmcorp.net)

Q. How does a resident go about getting the DNR permit to use muck-digesting (MD) pellets?

A. Residents can go to this website to print a copy of the permit application required.

(http://www.michigan.gov/deq/0,1607,7-135-3313_46123_46124---,00.html – Notice of Intent)

The permit is very easy to complete and does not require a fee. If the resident hires PLM to conduct the application, then PLM will handle the acquisition of the permit.

Q. What is the cost? **A. Costs for the MD Pellets is as follows: \$100.00 (10lb), \$350.00 (40lb), \$400.00 (50lb).**

Q. If lot frontage is 60-80 feet, and they want to go out 50 feet, what quantity of pellets would they use? **A. The MD pellets are to be applied at 25lbs/acre. Therefore, a treatment of that size would require around 2lbs of pellets.**

Q. Beginning what time of year?

A. Dependent on weather, but May is a good estimate.

Q. How frequently applied?

A. Monthly

Q. How much each time?

A. Same amount each time.

Your Weed Management Team meets in February to look at the survey opinions, PLM's information, and options for summer 2011. They will then advise the Lake Association Board, who will bring a recommendation to the May Annual Membership Meeting.

We did not meet with the Lake Board Chairperson in November, 2010 to ask for adjustment of the weed assessment. The reason for maintaining the current assessment was the potential for added costs of E-milfoil treatment and possible chemical contact weed treatment.