

MLA NEWS

MURRAY LAKE ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2009



Presidents Notes

Alan Rumbaugh

Chili Cook off

On Saturday, February 14 at noon, our annual chili cook off will take place on the west boat ramp. We will have a generator to keep your favorite chili receipt warm and a fire to keep you warm.

We will provide cups for tasting and ballots for voting on each of the entries. Awards will be presented for each of the winners.

Bring your own drinks and join with your neighbors for a fun afternoon. We will look forward to seeing you with your crock pot of chili.

Storm Drains

As we get through winter, we have thaws and sometimes heavy rains with snow on the ground, blocking many of the storm drains designed to channel run off waters into the lake.

To help prevent flooding of yards and possibility of homes, it would be good if you would take the time and effort to clear the storm drains in your area. This will allow the run off to drain into the lake rather than areas it would not be welcome.

Hungry Beetles

Purple Loosestrife is a wide spread and serious problem affecting waterways, wetlands and lake edges through out North America. This plant can soon dominate many of the wetlands it invades because it tends to out compete native plants for space and sunlight. Biologists and ecologists are worried about the decrease in wetland bio-

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diversity brought on by the invasion of Purple Loosestrife.

MLA along with the help and guidance of the Izaak Walton League will continue to combat the problem again this Spring. We will be collecting tiny red beetles from neighboring lakes that are already actively eating the plants. These beetles were introduced in those lakes over the past few years. The beetles will then be distributed around our lake in locations of active growth. These beetles have been shown as an effective and safe method of lowering Purple Loosestrife populations. The beetles feed exclusively on these plant leaves and the growing tips, stunting the plants and reducing seed production.

We placed the beetles in a dozen locations last spring and will again do more plantings this spring. It will take a few years before a noticeable decline on this invasive plant is seen, but the lakes around us who have introduced the bugs show great improvement. If you would like to help collect beetles this spring, let one of the board members know, and we will contact you when the beetles are available for collection.

Bird Feeding

Chuck Foster

It's not too late to put out a bird feeder and get some new neighbors. It is surprising the variety of birds you can draw into your feeder. They are fun to watch and identify. Below is a list of the birds we have drawn in to our deck feeders.

White-breasted Nuthatch
 Red-breasted Nuthatch
 Black-capped Chickadee
 Tufted Titmouse
 Dark-eyed Junco
 American Goldfinch
 House Finch
 Common Redpoll
 English Sparrow
 American Tree Sparrow
 Coopers Hawk



Great Blue Heron resting on west side of Murray Lake.

Blue Jay
 Northern Cardinal
 Hairy Woodpecker
 Downy Woodpecker
 Red-bellied Woodpecker
 Mourning Dove
 Northern Flicker
 Evening Grosbeak
 European Starling

To view pictures of these birds and others taken by Maria Bajema on or near Murray Lake, type the following link in your internet browser:

www.birdperch.com/placeph1q.asp?stateID=22&countyID=22&placeID=360&currLev1=-1&currLev2=-1&pageNo=1

Or to view all her bird photos, go to: www.birdperch.com and choose from the menu.

Waste Pickup Fee Increases

Steve Ockaskis

Have you checked out your quarterly statement so that you keep your cost as minimum as possible. A telephone call to Waste Management, Pitsch, Red Creek, Sunset (Allied), and Green Valley revealed pretty much the same charge except for Waste Management which has a surcharge for fuel recovery of \$5-\$12 additional for the quarter. Most of the companies have a fee reduction of one

month or approximately \$16 if paying for the entire year. There may also be a fee reduction if you are a senior citizen. All it takes is one phone call to find the answers. At the worst, you find out that you are receiving the least cost possible. Personally I would prefer to have one carrier so that there is not the difficulty in getting around these trucks on Causeway. It would appear that the majority of these residents have switched to Red Creek.

"A penny saved is a penny earned."

Christmas Decorating Contest

Steve Ockaskis

This year five of Lowell High School Students judged our contest.

Results were:

First Place
Bob and Shirley Canfield

Second Place
Julie Dowling & Kim Zimmerman

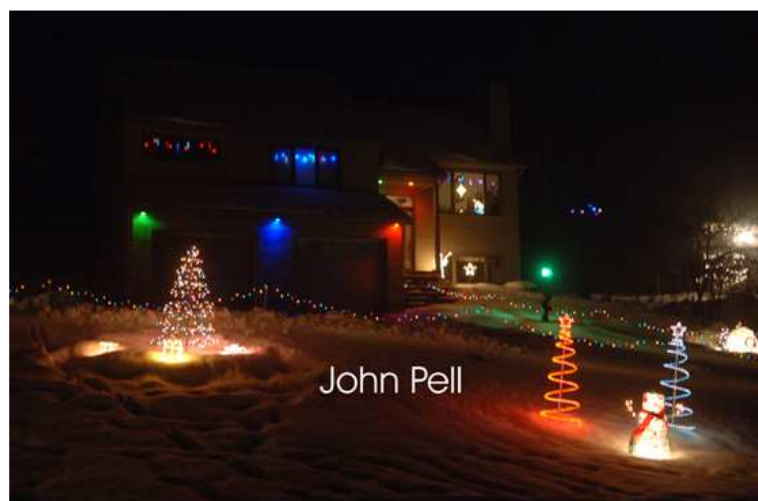
Third Place
John Pell

Fourth Place
John & Sherrie & Ashenbremer

Fifth Place
Gerald & Glenda Parker.

Thank you to everyone for your participation and congratulations to the winners.

As a side note, Russ Graves took a year off this year. We expect him to make up for it next year.



Foreign Exchange Program

Steve Ockaskis

Has your family ever thought of hosting a high school student for the next school year or even for one semester. By doing so you not only give an experience to another youngster but you have so much to gain through this learning experience. You do not need to be anything but a family who will welcome another into your home and help them to feel part of your family. The host family is responsible for room & board and can receive a \$50 tax credit for each of the 5 or 10 months in

your home. If interested, contact Steve Ockaskis at 897-4830 for additional information. We took in an exchange student this past fall after having our children being out of the home for the past 18 years. I liked the experience so well that I became a field representative for the organization. Currently there are 69 students who have submitted personal profiles for your perusal. I welcome any inquiries!

MLA Membership Info

Please fill out the membership card and send it along with your check for \$20 made out to: Murray Lake Association. Because we have such a high membership rate, the annual dues are only \$20. Please help us keep it this way.

Your \$20 supports the following activities:

General Lake Maintenance:

- Water quality testing
- Water level monitoring
- Weed monitoring
- Lake junk removal
- Dumpster day when members can dump almost anything!
- Street sign upkeep
- Event signs

Community Events:

- Community garage sale
- July 4 boat parade
- Winter chili cook-off
- Garden tour
- Summer picnic
- Christmas decorating contest

If you received this newsletter electronically, please fill in the membership dues form at the end of page 5 and send it in.

Communication:

- Frequent emails on items of interest to lake residents
- Quarterly newsletter
- Annual membership meeting
- A directory of Murray Lake residents published every 3 years—the latest will be available for members in late February, 2009

Murray Lake Calendar

| | | |
|---------|---------|--|
| Feb 14 | Noon | Chili Cook-off at boat ramp |
| May 12 | 7:00 PM | Annual Spring MLA Meeting Grattan Township Hall |
| June 6 | | Garage Sale |
| June 13 | | Dumpster Day—Murray Lake Marina |
| July 4 | | 4 th of July Boat Parade |
| July 18 | | Garden Tour |
| Oct 13 | | Annual Fall MLA Meeting |
| Dec 19 | | Christmas Decorating Contest |



IMPORTANT CONTACTS

| | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------|----------|
| Marine Patrol | Don Hamilton | 632-6220 |
| Deputy Sheriff | Joe Taylor | 632-6230 |
| DNR Boat Ramps | Bill Clark | 754-0250 |
| DEQ | Bob Day | 356-0030 |
| Environmental Response Div. | Ellen Earhart | 246-1720 |
| KC Road Commission | John Rice | 242-6900 |
| KC Animal Shelter | | 336-3210 |
| Grattan Shelter | Frank Force | 691-8450 |
| Vergennes Township | Tim Wittenbach | 897-5671 |

If you do not have a pre-printed membership card, please clip off the form below and send it with \$20 to:
 Steve Ockaskis 4287 Causeway Dr NE, Lowell, MI 49331-9748

Membership Information:

First Name(s): _____

Last Name(s): _____

Lake Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____

Zip: _____

Email Address _____

(if you desire relevant lake information)

Enclosed: 2009 MLA Dues of \$20

MURRAY LAKE ASSOCIATION

| Title | Name | | Phone Number |
|-----------|----------------|--|--------------|
| President | Alan Rumbaugh | | 897-0450 |
| Treasurer | Steve Ockaskis | | 897-3157 |
| Secretary | Judy Spooner | | 691-7156 |
| Director | Arvin Leisman | | 897-5111 |
| Director | Chuck Foster | | 691-7293 |
| Director | Bucky Curtis | | 691-7869 |
| Director | Bob Imhoff | | 897-5290 |
| Director | Mike Stephens | | 897-7228 |
| Director | John Bajema | | 691-7151 |
| Director | Gene Beerens | | 897-0000 |
| Director | Mike Beudry | | 987-9591 |
| | | | |

The Murray Lake Association is made up of dues paying members. We encourage you to support your lake association by becoming a member and getting involved by attending meetings, helping with events, writing a column in the newsletter, or simply making suggestions so we can continue to improve our lake community.

3598 Causeway Drive
Lowell, MI 49331

