



School Section Lake POA Crier

Spring 2019 Issue

From Our President...

by Dan Karcher

My guess is that the harsh winter has had many of us thinking about the arrival of spring for some time now. Well, we made it through and spring is finally here!

It's a beautiful site to see the blossoms on the trees and birds migrating back to our beautiful lake (maybe not the geese ☺). For many of us, the joys of being outside doing yard work and preparing for summer is one of the most enjoyable times of the year.

As spring gives way to summer I hope you can find time to attend our annual events which include the 4th of July (Independence Day) Boat Parade, Poker Run and Meet Your Neighbor Picnic. These events are intended to develop and foster a sense of community. I know my wife and I have developed lifelong friends because of these events.

Your new SSLPOA board has been busy with renewing contracts, getting educated and implementing a plan of action for 2019 which includes fish planting, weed control and monitoring water quality and levels.

I want to thank treasurer Jerry Ambrose, secretary Marlene Schalm, and vice president Gabe Shepard for all their work over the winter months. Your dedication and commitment to the lake is truly appreciated.

Please mark your calendars for our annual School Section Lake Association meeting scheduled for **June 8th at 9:00 AM** at the Township Hall in Mecosta.

Also, this is a friendly reminder to visit our website at <http://www.schoolsection.com/> and join our Facebook page for the most accurate information regarding other important dates and information.

Lets just have more fun!

The lake thawed on April 3, 2019!

We need YOU to attend!

SSLPOA ANNUAL MEETING

Election of Area Representatives

Guess speaker from DNR to discuss Canada Geese and the problems they present as well as answer related lake questions

Saturday, June 8 at 9:00 AM

Morton Township Hall, Mecosta

Coffee & Donuts will be served!!!

You Are Needed

by Jerry Ambrose

According to the SSLPOA Constitution, the Board Officers and thirteen Area Representatives comprise the SSLPOA Governing Body. There are several openings for two year terms. If you are interested in being involved in the governance of your SSLPOA, this is your chance! Just show up on June 8 and put your name in or contact any of the board members We are always interested in having more people involved!

Meet Your Neighbor

SATURDAY, AUGUST 10, 2019

**13th Annual "Meet Your Neighbor" Picnic
Saturday, August 10th 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM
Corner Buchanan & West School Section Lk Dr**

Enjoy a "FREE" lunch of Hot Dogs, Brats & all the fixings. You are welcome to bring a dish to pass, if you wish. This is a great time to get acquainted with property owners from all around the lake. Many thanks go to Laurie Kanouse for stepping up to serve as the chairperson of this event.

In Memoriam

We will miss our dear friends who have passed away.

Leo Perrin	December 12, 2018.
Jim Whipple	March 27, 2019.
Rolland Farr	April 1, 2019.

If you know of anyone we have missed, please contact Dorothy Metcalf or Maxine Murdoch.

3rd Annual Poker Run

by Dan Karcher

Saturday, July 27 is a date you'll want to put on your calendars. The poker run was so popular the last two years that it has become an annual event. Contact Dan Karcher if you would like to be one of the 6-7 host houses. The host can participate in the event as well. In fact, last year's winners were hosts. Details will be announced at the annual meeting.

Boat Parade Sat, July 6th

by Marlene Schalm and Kal Cotter

Us band 'o pirates be already getting' the ship ready! Plan to set sail on Saturday, July 6th at 7:30 PM. We be leadin' the parade a gain this year, 'n we be settin' sail from the North East side 'o the Southern cove..

The first 4th of July Boat Parade set sail in July of 1990 with 32 festively decorated boats. It had been a long time dream of Ardith Smith, who lived in Restmore Resort subdivision and was an active member/secretary of the SSLPOA.

Throughout the years Flag Ships have led the way, followed by the Statue of Liberty, Bartles and Jaymes, Uncle Sam, Gilligan's Island, Retired Grandparents, America I, vocals by the "Yankee Doodle Dandy" singers, live music, and a sax player with an electric keyboard, a six person water ski team and a Water Safety Officer who brought up the rear of the parade.

If anyone is able to find copies of pictures of past boat parades, please share them with Kris Karcher to be put on the website or on Facebook.



Watercraft Rules

All PWC (Jet Ski) operators born after December 31, 1978 must have a boating safety certificate available. A book of rules for operators of PWC or motorized boats may be obtained on the internet or at any Secretary of State office. Please be advised of the rules as they are enforced.

Boat Launch Gate

by Don Swanson

The new 2019 Ramp Gate Combination will be sent to you by e-mail in early May. Until that time, last year's code should be used. Please thank Lakeside Motor Sports for maintaining the ramp dock. There will be a number posted at the ramp to call for assistance.

Water Quality

by Don Swanson

We will begin doing our water quality testing soon. Monitoring of the quality of our lake water as prescribed by the DEQ is done monthly throughout the summer. Our last Water Quality Analysis showed the lake to be in extremely good shape. Please use phosphorous free fertilizer on your lawns to preserve the lake quality.

Weed Control Committee

by Jerry Ambrose and Jerry King

You will be notified a day ahead of time by signage on your front lawns. If we have enough advance notice Marlene will send out an email to everyone.

Scheduling depends on the weather and will avoid the weekend to minimize disruption to weekend fun. If you have questions feel free to call me any time.

SSL is on Facebook

by Kris Karcher

Our Facebook page currently has 197 members. It's fun to see all the pictures members have posted of the different seasons and activities. It is also a great place to ask for advice and post info. It is not a place to air grievances or complain about our neighbors. Let's keep this page positive. Negative comments will be removed.

Fish Management Committee

by Jerry King

On October 10, 2018, over 930 walleye were introduced to their new home at SSL. Usually the walleye are 6 to 9 inches long but they were bigger this year and cost \$2.47 per fish. We receive a 15% discount which is a nice savings. A special thank you goes to Jerry King who always takes care of this and stays until the tanks are drained. The walleye should be 15 inches for legal sized catching.

Our fish planting is totally funded by donations from property owners and the annual \$500.00 donation from our SSL County Park. Fish planting is not included in the SSL budget. If you would like to donate to the fish fund, you may send it with your yearly dues or pay at the annual meeting in June or at Meet Your Neighbor in August. All donations are greatly appreciated. For any questions, contact Jerry King.



Financing the SSLPOA

by Jerry Ambrose

Your SSLPOA oversees weed control, tests water quality and monitors the lake level, the boat launch and fish planting to assure that the lake remains a premier fishing area. Your SSLPOA also promotes community building with events such as Meet Your Neighbor, the lighted boat parade and the recently established poker run.

These activities are carried out by many SSLPOA members who dedicate countless hours to making them happen. However, money is still necessary to make them happen and the SSLPOA relies on dues, donations and the proceeds of the special assessment for weed control.

Fish Planting relies exclusively on donations. Weed control activities are financed exclusively from the proceeds of the annual Weed Special Assessment. These monies are used exclusively for these areas.

Other funds of the SSLPOA are reserved for boat launch repair and petty cash.

The annual budget for SSLPOA for all activities other than fish planting and weed control is just short of \$3,000 for the current year. An annual dues payment of \$20 is sought to generate these funds. 156 property owners (of 233) paid their \$20 dues in 2018. Let's everyone pay our dues this year!



Feeding Wildlife Causes:

- Poor nutrition
- Spread of disease
- Loss of instincts
- Polluted water
- Property damage
- Rabies and diseases in humans

You Can Help!

Please STOP feeding the wildlife. Feeding is more harmful than helpful.

- View wildlife from a distance and take binoculars to see animals up close.
- Plan your visit for early morning or evening hours when animals are most active.
- Share this knowledge with others.

To learn more about feeding wildlife, visit this website:

www.millcreekmetroparks.org/do-not-feed-wildlife/



Please respect the No Wake hours 7:30 PM to 11:00 AM

Newsletter Items

We hope you enjoy the newsletter and find it both interesting and informative. We publish one in the spring and another one in the fall. If you have an idea for an article, a picture or story to share, please contact us any time throughout the year. We are always interested in archiving stories from the past so they can be included in the newsletter as well as on the website. If you have any questions or comments, please contact Dorothy Metcalf or Maxine Murdoch.

Use of Email for Information

by Marlene Schalm

Email is a fast and easy method to get information to everyone whether it is addressing a lost/found item, a reminder of a meeting or collection of dues. If you have not already done so, please send your current email address to Marlene Schalm to be added to the group mailing list. By keeping your email address current with us and your mailing address current with the Morton Township tax records, you are assured of getting all of our mailings.

Welcome Newcomers

We welcome all our new neighbors! Please let us know if we have missed anyone.

Susan Godfrey, 9334 Buchanan

Gregory Litobar, 9554 W SSL

Michael Marek, 9551 W SSL

Roberta Hacker, 9561, 9583 W SSL

Gregory Bailey, 9647 Oak Ridge Pkwy

Paula Basney, 9970, 9991 Hill St.

Mary Hopper, 9910, 9820 Hill St.

Thad Lepek, 8741 Wood St.

Brandyn Edwards, 8691 Wood St.

KS Land LLC, 8590 Wood St.

Christopher McCall, 8700 Wood St.

Steven Garrison, 8784 W SSL

Michael Carpenter, 8950 W SSL

Weed Spraying Background

by Jerry Ambrose

Since 2001 we have been spraying the weeds. The following information explains the reason why it is necessary.

1. We have a weed problem in our lake that continues to need attention. Our lake has become infested with Eurasian Watermilfoil. Once established, it creates a monoculture by "shading out the native vegetation that grows and supports native aquatic plant life."

- It is a non-indigenous water plant that floats on the surface and forms large mats of plants, which lower the oxygen levels in the water below them, killing fish and making passage by boat very difficult.
- In the advanced stages, as the milfoil spreads, the appearance of the lake is changed from blue to yellow-green and has the look of being "dead".

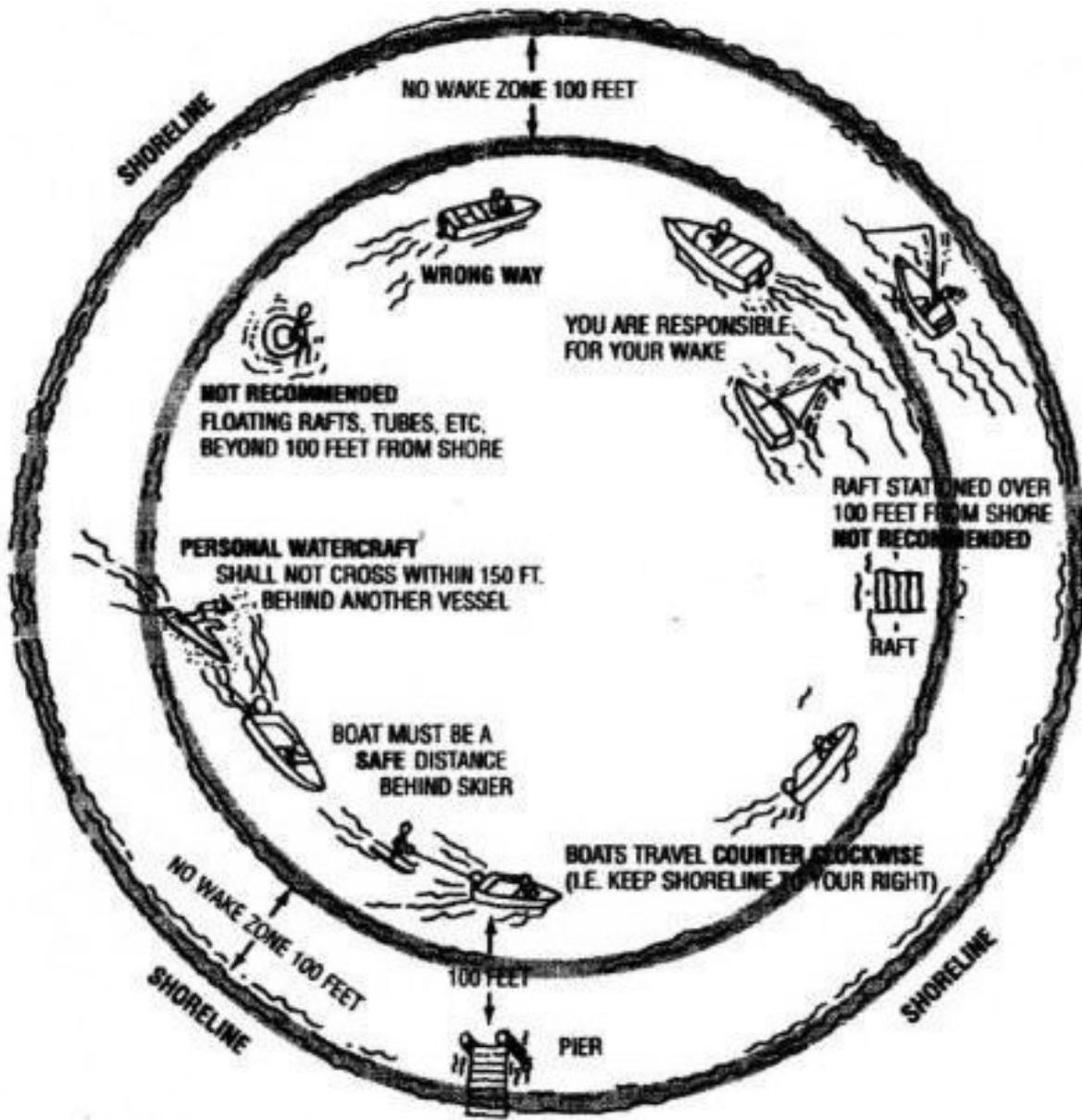
2. We are using the weed spraying project recommended by professionals most beneficial to destroy the following two areas:

- The 16 acres of Eurasian Watermilfoil in our lake.
- The 18 acres of nuisance plants along a 5 feet contour next to the shoreline of School Section Lake located in Morton Township, Mecosta, MI.

NOTE:

- If these weeds are not removed as soon as possible (especially the invasive Eurasian Watermilfoil) the lake will become clogged with overgrowth.
- They will destroy the natural weeds beneficial to fish life and will become so dense that the use of motor boats will come to a stop!





PLEASE INSTRUCT YOUR GUESTS ON “SAFE” BOATING!

We trust all property/boat owners are familiar with the laws for boating on School Section Lake.

It is very important any guests you may have are also aware of these rules of the lake.

Please keep this sketch in a visible place to inform and remind anyone who may be new to boating on our lake. These boating rules are for all boats, pontoons and Personal Watercraft (i.e. Seadoos, Jet Skis, etc).

**SCHOOL SECTION LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSN.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS – 2018-2019**

NOTE: Updated April 18, 2019

Officers:

President:

Dan Karcher-20

Vice President:

Gabe Sheppard-20

Treasurer:

Jerry Ambrose-20

Secretary

Marlene Schalm-20

Representatives:

Doug Murdoch-20

Marty Foster-20

Janine Mills-20

Jerry King-19

Margo Miller-20

Steve Hill-19

Kris Karcher-20

Kurt Cotter-20

Marvin Bell-19

Duane Mooreland-20

Christy Ishraidi-20

Diane Diehm-19

Maxine Murdoch-20

Don Swanson-19

Dorothy Metcalf-20

Laurie Kanouse-20

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STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

Meet Your Neighbor – Laurie Kanouse

Finance Committee – Jerry Ambrose
Maxine Murdoch

Fish Planting Project – Jerry King

Newsletter – Dorothy Metcalf, Maxine Murdoch

Park Liaison – Dan Karcher

Water Quality Management – Chad Kanouse

Launch Gate – Don Swanson

Web Site Master – Kris Karcher

SCHOOL SECTION LAKE COUNTY PARK:

Jeffrey Abel, Supt. Mecosta Co. Parks

Laura Odette (Manager)

2019 SSLPOA MEMBERSHIP DUES and FISH FUND PLANTING

by Jerry Ambrose, Treasurer

“Through education and commitment we dedicate ourselves to maintain, protect and preserve our beautiful lake for future generations.”

Please support your School Section Lake Property Owners Association with your 2019 dues and donations!

The mission of your SSLPOA is to maintain, protect and preserve our beautiful lake for future generations through education and commitment. For many years the SSLPOA has been actively involved in efforts to assure that our lake remains clean and vibrant and that property owners have a voice in matters affecting life on and along the lake, something which in the long term will enhance our enjoyment of this wonderful area, not to mention enhancing the values of the properties on and near the lake.

Your SSLPOA buys insurance coverage for volunteers and oversees weed control activities, tests water quality, monitors the lake’s water level and the boat launch. We work to assure that the lake remains a premier fishing area by monitoring the amount and quality of the fish in the lake and by annually planting fish. SSLPOA also promotes community building with events such as the Meet Your Neighbor Picnic, the Lighted Boat Parade and the recently established Poker Run.

Membership is open to all property owners whose special assessment finances the weed control activities overseen by the SSLPOA. As the use of the special assessment funds is limited strictly to actual weed control activities, other financial support is necessary for the other activities of the SSLPOA.

The 2019 dues for SSLPOA, as it has been for the past many years, is \$20. Donations are also sought for fish planting activities. More information on SSLPOA activities and financing can be found on the SSLPOA website (schoolsection.com).

Please support your SSLPOA by sending your \$20 dues payment and your donations to the Fish Planting Fund to SSLPOA, PO Box 115, Mecosta MI 49332. Any questions, please email schoolsectionlake@gmail.com or contact any Board member of the SSLPOA.

2019 SSLPOA Dues and Donations

Mail to: SSLPOA, PO Box 115 Mecosta Mi 49332

Name: _____

Address(es) of Lake properties: _____

Subdivision: _____

Mailing address if different from Lake address:

Email and/or phone: _____

Payment Amount: Dues: **\$20** Fish Planting donation: \$ _____ Total: \$ _____
Make checks payable to SSLPOA