



# School Section Lake POA Crier

Fall 2020 Issue

## From Our President...

by Dan Karcher

It was a terrific summer despite the pandemic and all the restrictions that came with it. The only yearly activities that we had to cancel were the voter's annual meeting and the Meet Your Neighbor Picnic in August. Otherwise, everyone had a great time enjoying the Poker Run, the 4th of July boat parade and the Lighted Boat Parade on Labor Day weekend. I especially enjoyed seeing family and friends spending time together on the shoreline and on the beaches.

SSLPOA had a busy summer behind the scenes as well. The executive board met in September and then called a Board meeting a couple weeks later to discuss items that affect our neighborhood and lake.

A couple highlights were the safety concerns associated with the narrow point by the island, the survey by the Parks Commission, Gypsy Moth infestation, and the progress of the Lakeshore Preservation Committee. I'm excited about where we are going as a board and the amount of talented people who are serving.

Our lake and surrounding community have something special to offer year round. I truly hope you get a chance to enjoy some of the beauty that both Fall and Winter offer here at the lake.

Wishing everyone a very safe and enjoyable winter.

See you next spring.

## Veterans Memorial

Have you been to visit this impressive monument located next to the School Section Lake Park pavilion? We suggest that you take time to check it out, sit on the benches for a few minutes to meditate and thank our military for their unending service to our country.

The School Section Lake Memorial Project held a memorial dedication of the flags honoring the branches of the US Military on Saturday, July 25. This is a wonderful tribute to all the military branches, thanking them for their service. This project was sponsored by the VFW.



**We don't know them all  
but we owe them all.**

**Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps Coast Guard**

**Thank you all for your service.**

## Boat Parade and Pictures

Once again we had a fabulous Fourth of July Boat Parade of 19 decorated boats. Thank you to the organizers and to all who participated in this fun event.



We celebrate American Independence Day on the Fourth of July every year. We think of July 4, 1776, as a day that represents the Declaration of Independence and the birth of the United States of America as an independent nation.

## Meet Your Neighbors

by Laurie Kanouse

In order to comply with COVID-19 restrictions, the board decided it was best to cancel the 2020 Meet Your Neighbor Picnic. We are hoping that those restrictions will be lifted so that we can enjoy a nice picnic with everyone on August 7, 2021. Please mark your calendars and plan to bring your family and friends to enjoy a relaxing picnic with your SSL neighbors. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet people or to just spend time together with those who enjoy our lake. There is no charge to participate as the cost is covered by the association. Please remember to patronize the local businesses that generously donate fabulous prizes every year. We look forward to seeing everyone next summer for our 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Meet Your Neighbor event.

## Fourth Annual Poker Run

by Christy Israidi

The 4<sup>th</sup> annual poker run took place on July 25. Although there was a smaller number of participants this year, it was still a great event, with perfect weather once again. There were a total of 26 participants this year, as well as 6 host houses/boats, scattered around the lake. Many thanks to both the participants and the hosts again this year, to help make it a success.

Event winners this year were: 1<sup>st</sup> place – Katie Murdoch; 2<sup>nd</sup> place – Ben Murdoch; and 3<sup>rd</sup> place – Robin Wandel. There were big hands this year to take the top prizes; a 5 of a kind, followed by two 4 of a kinds. Congratulations to the winners!

## Labor Day Lighted Boat Parade

by Jennifer Murdoch

The Labor Day Lighted Boat Parade was another success! The parade set sail on Saturday, Sept. 5 at 9:00 PM under cool, clear skies. 19 unique brightly decorated boats participated. The boats featured flashing lights, American flags, music and dancing lights and more. Many homes and cottages were lit up brightly as well with many spectators cheering as the boats passed by. It was the perfect ending for another fun summer on the lake!

## SSL Website and Facebook

by Kris Karcher and Christy Israidi

Our Website address is [www.schoolsectionlake.com](http://www.schoolsectionlake.com).

This is a good place to go for general information.

We have a Facebook group named School Section Lake Owners & Friends. There are currently 370 members in our group. This is a place you can post pictures, ask questions, give notice of upcoming events and list items for sale or rent. It is intended to be a happy and positive page we can all enjoy.

Negative posts or comments are not allowed and the admins try very hard to stay on top of them. Offending posts are deleted and posters risk being removed.

## Water Quality

by Chad Kanouse

Periodically throughout the year, our lake is tested for Chlorophyll, Phosphorous & Clarity of the water. MICORP (Michigan Clean Water Corp) provides the kits necessary for this testing and samples are mailed to them. Our samples are then mailed to MICORP and the results are returned to us. MICORP is funded by the State of Michigan and grants. In January we were notified that they had no funding for 2020 but hoped to be funded in 2021. As a result no testing was done this year.

School Section Lake continues to be one of the purest lakes in the area. You can help us continue to keep the lake healthy by using phosphorus free fertilizers, trying to avoid gasoline spills and by preventing leaves and lawn clippings from going into the lake.

Our lake is completely spring fed, with no inlet of a stream or river and only an outlet that runs when lake level is high. This is a great aid in keeping our water pure.

Please do your part to keep School Section Lake healthy and beautiful!

## Welcome New Property Owners

The School Section Lake Property Owners Association welcomes all those who have purchased property on the lake in the past year. The SSLPOA is a volunteer organization here to "maintain, protect and preserve" our beautiful lake for us and future generations to enjoy. Watch for the list of newcomers in our spring newsletter.

## In Memoriam

Our sincere condolences go to the families of our dear School Section Lake friends.

Gene Backlund passed away on June 16, 2020

Jo Miller passed away September 29, 2020

If you know of anyone on our lake who has passed away, please contact Maxine Murdoch or Dorothy Metcalf.

## Weed Control Committee

by Dan Karcher

One of the topics discussed at the last board meeting was the condition of our lake. Specifically, we wanted to know if there were any other treatments that would benefit the lake.

I called Michigan Lakefront Solutions and asked this question. Their response was that our lake is very healthy and in excellent condition and that no additional treatments are needed at this time.

The reason our lake is so healthy is the routine maintenance program started years ago that still continues. We can expect the quality of our lake to remain unchanged as long as we continue with our annual program and guard against invasive species entering our lake. This is great news.

## Purple Loose-strife

By Maxine Murdoch

If you have beautiful purple flowers blooming at your shoreline, this could be Purple Loose-strife, a very invasive plant that will gradually take over if left to grow. Please, for the health of the lake, do not let this plant flourish. This fall, encase the plant in a plastic bag to prevent the seeds from spreading and pull the plants out by their roots. In the spring and summer, watch for these plants and immediately pull them out by their roots.



## Gypsy Moth

Gypsy moth caterpillars are known for feeding on the leaves of oaks, aspen, crab-apple and many other types of trees. Gypsy Moths are cyclic and depend on the environment/weather for an outbreak. The gypsy moths have caused much defoliation in our county as well as many other counties in Mid-Michigan this year.

Around 1999, we had an infestation in the area of which the lake tried to collect enough money to spray our 247 acres. Many property owners did not choose to join the association and even though the amount at that time was going to be \$12.00/per property owner, many did not pay their share. The board then did a petition drive to put it on the taxes and it passed. We did this until 2006 at which time we had not had a problem for 2 years so the tax was not renewed. We have not had a problem for over 15 years. The present cost is \$85/\$150.00/per acre.

The Mecosta County Board of Commissioners were approached and have been working with the Mecosta/Osceola/Lake Conservation District. A decision was made that their forester will take a lead role in forming a group to discuss the issue. The DNR has no money allotted for Gypsy Moth Spraying in their budget.

What we as property owners can do this fall is to search our properties for cocoons on trees, under eaves, on lawn furniture, etc. When found, scrape them off into a bucket of soapy water. This will destroy the eggs and might cut down on next year's infestation. At this time, all we can do it wait and see what happens.

## Fish Committee

by Jerry King

We are on track for fall Walleye planting late October. The date will be announce on the Website for those who might want to see it.

We are always glad to continue this successful program and we appreciate the support from everyone who donates. The Mecosta County Parks feel this program is important enough to increase their annual contribution to \$750.00.

Thanks again to everyone. Good fishing!

## Walkers, Runners and Bikers

This summer has seen a remarkable increase in traffic on both East and West SSL Roads as well as on Buchanan and 90<sup>th</sup> Ave. It's great to see people exercising, walking their dogs and meeting their neighbors.

We are thankful for the nice new bike lanes that have improved the safety of Buchanan and 90<sup>th</sup>. However, the SSL roads are narrow and have no shoulders, presenting safety issues. Walkers, runners and bikers need to obey the "Basic Pedestrian Rules" on all roads.

It has been brought to our attention that many walkers are not aware that they should be walking (and running) facing traffic. This gives them the option of moving out of the way if necessary to avoid any oncoming vehicle that is not driving responsibly. Cars and trucks are much quieter these days and sometimes we can't hear a vehicle approaching.

After dark, early morning and at dusk, white or florescent clothing should be worn by all walkers/runners.

WALK OR RUN **AGAINST** TRAFFIC



BIKE **WITH** TRAFFIC



Drivers, please slow down when you see children, animals, walkers, runners or bikers. The speed limit on our SSL roads is 25 MPH. Drive safely!

**NO NEED TO SPEED!**

# 2019-2020 Audit

by Maxine Murdoch

On July 8, 2020, I performed the annual audit of the SSLPOA's Financial Records for the 2019-2020 year. Joining me in attendance was Jerry Ambrose. The bank statements were reviewed and the balances verified as well as all entries for expenses and income.

## Financial Report

by Jerry Ambrose

Thanks to the 129 property owners who paid their dues and made donations for 2020! Your support enables the SSLPOA to promote the health, welfare and safety of our lake. There are 275 property owners who either have lake front property or deeded access to School Section Lake.

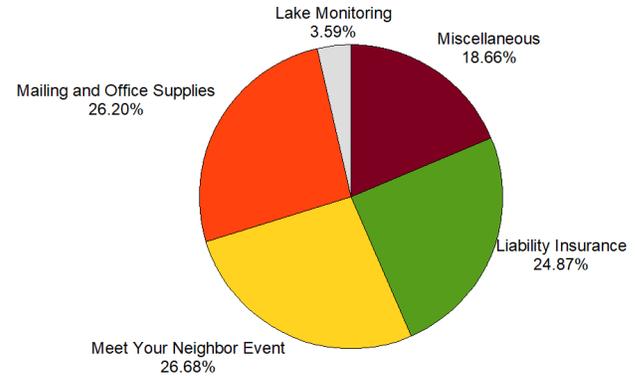
It's never too late to pay your dues! Simply send a \$20.00 check payable to SSLPOA and include any donation you wish to make to the Fish Planting Program. Mail to SSLPOA, P.O. Box 115, Mecosta MI 49332. Please include your property address.

Your SSLPOA oversees weed control activities, tests water quality, monitors the lake's water level, oversees the boat launch. By monitoring the amount and quality of the fish through our annually October planting, we assure that the lake remains a premier fishing area. We also promote community building with annual events such as Meet Your Neighbor, the boat parades and the poker run.

The SSLPOA annual budget for its activities other than fish planting and weed control is \$3,300.00 This pays for the on-going expenses. The Fish Planting Program relies exclusively on donations and has received nearly \$1,900.00 for this year. This assures us that we will maintain our successful Fish Planting Program. Weed Control activities are budgeted at \$12,000.00 this year and are financed exclusively from the proceeds of the annual weed Special assessment levied on 275 property owners. These funds are kept in a separate account and cannot be used for anything other than weed spraying.

Membership in SSLPOA is open to any property owner with deeded access to SSL who is interested in promoting a safe and enjoyable experience at SSL. Dues are paid on a calendar year basis and used for the annual budget which begins July1 of the year in which the dues are collected.

# 2019-2020 Fiscal Year Expenses



Lake Monitoring	\$137.00
Mailing and Office Supplies*	\$1,001.00
Meet Your Neighbor 2019	\$1,019.00
Liability Insurance	\$950.00
Miscellaneous**	\$713.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$3,820.00</b>

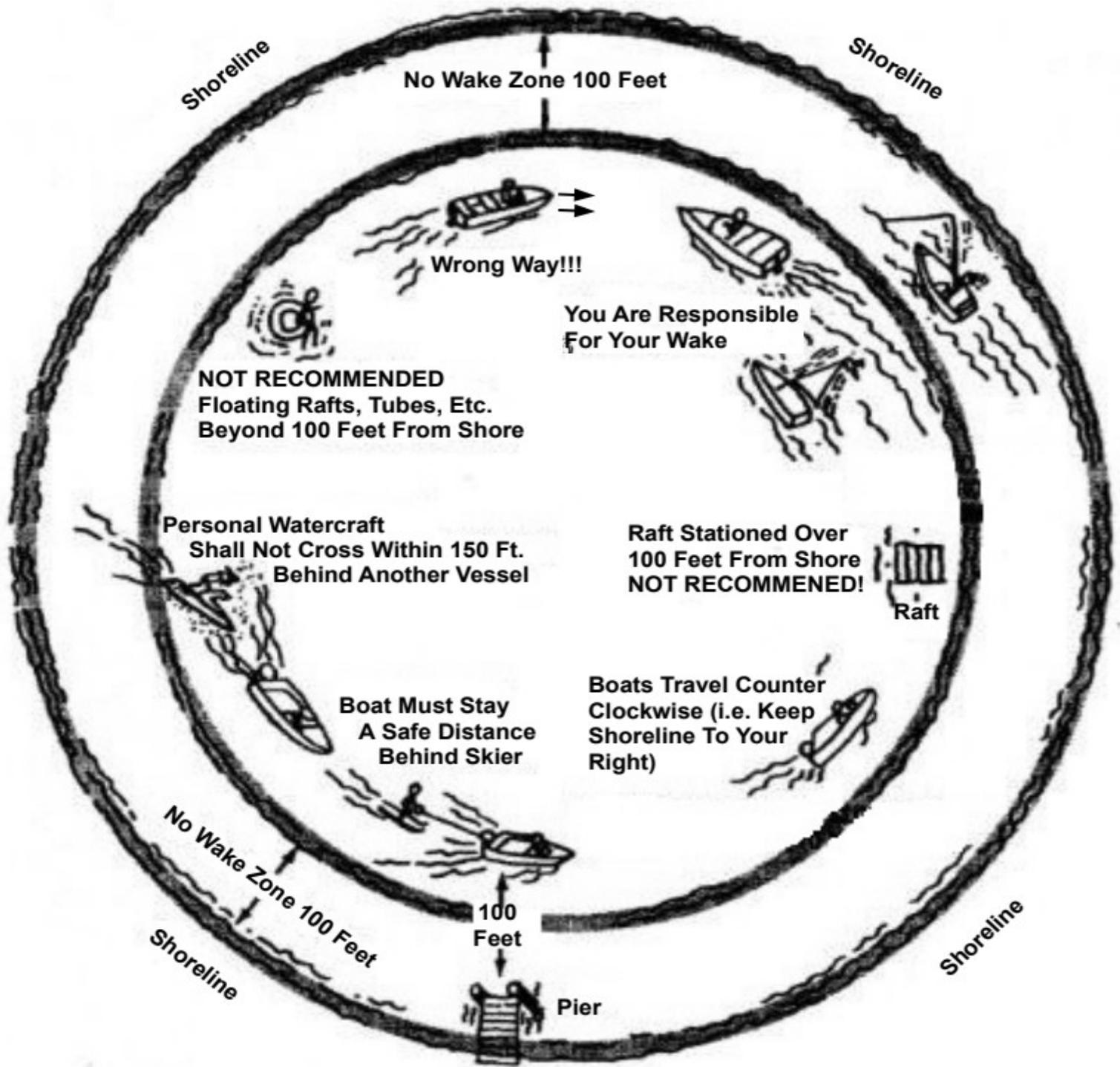
**Lake Monitoring includes water testing, riparian subscription, MI Lake and Stream dues, MI non-profit dues.**

**\*Mailing and Office Supplies expenses include postage, printing, PO box and office supplies.**

**\*\* Miscellaneous dues include approximately \$650.00 for boat launch improvements.**

## Boat Launch Gate

The combination to the Launch Gate will be in the spring newsletter. Contact Don Swanson at 517-204-4097 with any questions.



## No wake hours: 7:30 p.m. to 11:00 a.m.

It is very important for property owners, their friends and renters to follow these State of Michigan Rules for everyone's safety.