



# School Section Lake POA Crier

Fall 2023 Issue

## From Our President...

by Laurie Kanouse

As most of you know, I recently went from Vice President to President of the Association. I'm happy to be part of a team that continues to work together to do what we can to help everyone enjoy our lake as much as possible.

Please make sure that Marlene has your email address so that you can keep updated with what is going on and when meetings are scheduled. We are always looking for volunteers to help with miscellaneous tasks so if you feel that you would like to help, please reach out.

I hope everyone has had a great summer so far and that you have been able to enjoy your time at the lake as much as you can.

Thank you to Gabe Sheppard for serving as our past president.

## Meet Your Neighbor

by Maxine Murdoch

The Annual Meet Your Neighbor Picnic, formerly held in a tent on Marlene Schalm's, was moved this year to a shelter at the Veteran's Park. Lake residents, their families and friends enjoyed Allan Morrison's wonderful beef brisket and hot dogs, along with an array of delicious sides.

The SSL Park Commission generously donated the use of the pavilion which was a great savings for us in terms of time setting up and tearing down as well as rental costs for the tent, tables and chairs from previous years. By identifying themselves as property owners,

entrance fees were waived and they were welcome to spend the day in the park. It was a great time to explore the recently updated Pavilion Store and facilities. We look forward to an even bigger crowd next year!

An abundance of prizes and gift certificates were awarded, thanks to the generous donations of our local businesses. Please patronize these businesses and thank them for their generosity.

Ace Hardware	King's Trading Post
Antiques and Uniques	K. J.'s Restaurant
Antler's	Lakeside Motor Sports
C. L. Pizza	Mancino's Lakeside Pizza
Becky's PT & Gym	Remus Repair
Conley's Bakery	Remus Tavern
Fates Food Market	SSL Veterans Park Store
Fifth Third Bank	Ten Hands Lavender Farms
Flair for Hair	Vibez Pizza
Gwin Girls Winery	Wade Family
Hansul's Marine	Young Farms Winery
Hixson's	

Also thanks to Laurie Kanouse for chairing the event, Alan Morrison for smoking the meat with his crew who packaged it, Ken Murdoch and Hannah Swanson for awarding the gifts, along with all the volunteers who helped Maxine Murdoch solicit the gifts and helped with the set up and cleanup.

## In Memoriam

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

Darlene Bunker passed away on August 12, 2023

Mary Henry passed away on August 12, 2023

Ted Bell passed away on September 1, 2023

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

## Water Quality

by Maxine Murdoch

Monitoring the water quality of our lake is done by Michigan Lake Front Solutions, along with the weed control. The end of the year 2022 water quality report can be found on our website: [www.schoolsectionlake.com](http://www.schoolsectionlake.com).

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, avoiding gasoline spills and by preventing leaves and lawn clippings from going into the lake. The lake is completely spring fed, with no inlet of a stream or river and only an outlet that runs when lake level is high. Let's all do our part!



Aaron Ronning caught this 26 inch pike in the east channel on July 2, 2023.

## SSL Facebook Page

by Christy Ishraidi, Kris Karcher and Janine Mills

Our Facebook Group remains a positive place to share information, pictures and items for sale.



## SSL Website

By Kris Karcher

Our website, [www.schoolsectionlake.com](http://www.schoolsectionlake.com), is where you can find info on upcoming events and lake info as well as helpful articles and important information.

## Fish Committee

by Jerry King

Way back in 2006, the avid fishermen on our lake became concerned with the overpopulation of stunted Bluegills. We formed a committee to explore solutions in concert with the Cadillac DNR fish biologist. He recommended the introduction of a predator fish such as Walleye or Catfish. We opted for Walleye! Studies showed it would take about 10 years to reverse the situation.

Each fall we apply for a permit specifying the species, quantity and source of the fishery supplying the fish. The DNR determines if the fish is compatible with the management goals established for the watershed, are disease free and do not pose a threat to the existing fish community.

So far, now 17 years later, it seems to be working! Thank you to all who donate and make this program possible. Come join us at the boat launch in October to send off a new batch of walleye. We will alert you via email as soon as the date and time are known.

## Fourth of July Fireworks

by Jennifer Murdoch

The Murdochs lit up the sky with their 58 minute fireworks display.

Amazingly, just two matches lit the whole show!



Countless hours on the computer were spent planning the timing of the fireworks so there were no lapses.



John put his degree in electrical engineering to good use spending 16 hours cementing the fireworks to the pallets and fusing them all together. John, Katie, Tony Allen did the purchasing

Thank you to all the lake members who donated generously to make it a great show! Thank you to all the Murdochs as well!



## Seventh Annual Poker Run

by Christy Ishraidi, Kris Karcher and Janine Mills

Our 7th Annual Non Motorized Poker Run had 40 participants and 5 host houses. This is such a fun way to meet your neighbors and have fun.



## Boat Parade and Pictures

by Gretchen Johnson

Thank you to all the participants and observers!



# Financial Report

By Jerry Ambrose

Thanks to the 97 property owners who have paid their dues for this year, including the 58 who supported fish planting with donations totaling \$1,515!

Through your support SSLPOA works to build community with events such as the Meet Your Neighbor Picnic, the lighted boat parades, and the poker run and to ensure that our beautiful lake can be enjoyed for generations through weed control and water monitoring. SSLPOA also oversees the boat launch, and works 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 in the lake.

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 or in School Section Lake. There are some 225 property owners who have a connection to SSL. Dues are paid on a calendar year basis and used for the annual budget which begins July 1 of the year in which the dues are collected.

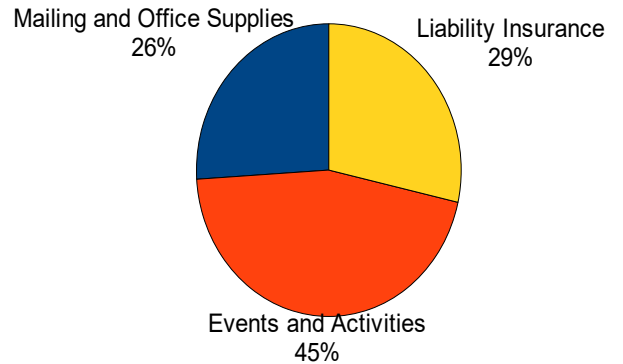
The current SSLPOA Budget (July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024) for activities other than fish planting and weed control is \$2,950. The Fish Planting program relies exclusively on donations and is projected to spend \$2,500 this year. Weed control (paid by the annual special assessment) is projected to cost about \$12,000.

Last year, 116 property owners paid dues, so we are down a little bit this year. If you still wish to pay your dues, simply send a \$20 check payable to SSLPOA, and include any donation you wish to make to the Fish Planting program. Please send it to SSLPOA, P.O. Box 115, Mecosta, MI 49332, and include your lake property address.

# 2022-2023 Fiscal Year Expenses

Mailing and Office Supplies	\$827.86
Events and Activities	\$1,447.97
Liability Insurance	\$909.00
Miscellaneous	\$0.00
Total Expenses	\$3,184.83

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



# Lake Visitors

Can you spot the heron and hummingbird enjoying themselves on a beautiful summer day at the lake?

Photo from Joanne Wilberding



# New Park Liaison Committee

By Gretchen Johnson

The Mecosta County Park Commission's five-year master plan for 2021-2025 includes references to expanded and improved lake access at School Section Lake Veteran's Park. The Park Commission has been working to upgrade facilities and enhance services at each of its county parks for several years. And this master plan builds on those efforts. But the Commission's plan to add camping sites and make improvements to the boat launch at Veteran's Park caught some of our property owners off guard. They expressed concerns about the potential environmental impact to School Section Lake and the safety risks that could result from increased boat traffic.

It's the mission of the SSLPOA to maintain, protect, and preserve our beautiful lake for future generations. So of course we share concerns about environmental quality and the safety of all who take part in swimming, fishing, and water sports on School Section Lake. We don't believe the Park Commission intends to harm the natural environment. But we also think it's our responsibility to stay informed and engaged about this and all efforts that could affect our shared quality of life. And we believe safety on the lake should be everyone's priority. So we've formed a Park Liaison Committee to stay abreast of Park progress and to work with the Park on the question of what constitutes excess boater traffic.

At the SSLPOA full meeting in July, Dave Cotton agreed to chair the committee that also includes Mark Hamler and Gretchen Johnson, with board president Laurie Kanouse as an ex-officio member. Our initial goal is to become better informed about the Commission's specific plans. Dave Cotton presented our newly formed committee to the Park Commission at its regular August meeting — while at the same time thanking them for hosting our annual Meet Your Neighbor picnic at Veteran's Park. Dave's presentation to the Commission included our desire to:

- continue to foster a positive partnership in fish stocking and weed control
- research the issue of excess boat traffic on the lake, and share our concerns and thoughts related to limiting additional boat saturation with the Commission.
- regularly attend the Commission meetings as a way to be more actively informed

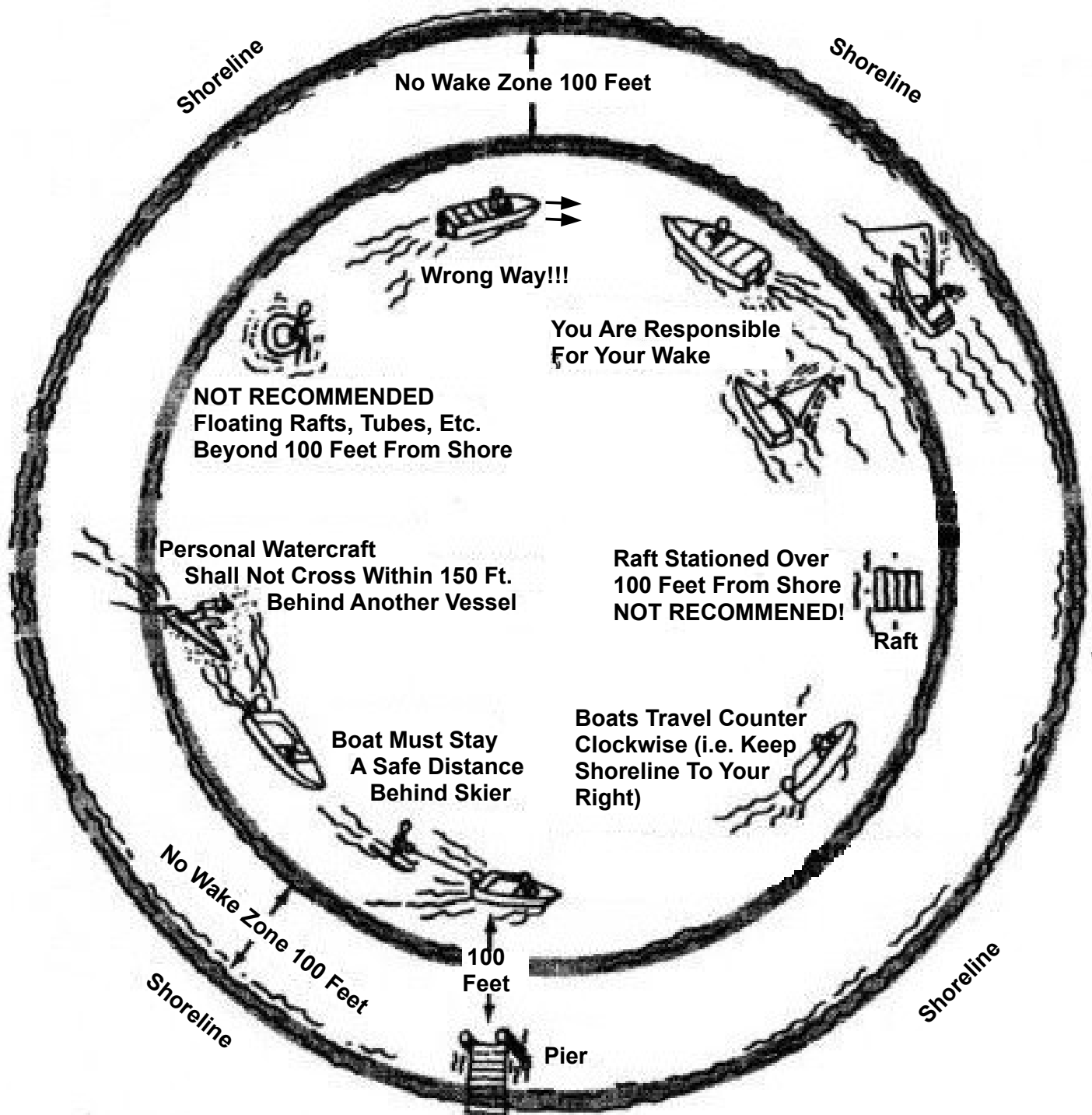
Also at this meeting, Superintendent Jeff Abel shared current and historic boat counts for School Section Lake. Of the boats with a motor greater than 50hp, his research showed, more than 89% belonged to property owners and not campers at the Park.

Our Liaison Committee is just getting started, but we will work hard to be better informed about what's happening at the Park and how it may affect us all. Look for updates here in our newsletter and on our website as we gather more information.

## *Update:*

Gretchen and Dave met with Jeff Abel and Park Commission Marketing Manager (and SSL homeowner) Mary Hansen on 8/31.

- We confirmed that the park is adding up to 41 additional campsites (most within the existing camping footprint but 5-6 immediately adjacent to the Park Manager's trailer for staff).
- There are no changes planned for the boat launch under any of the improvement phases currently in place or anticipated.
- Planned improvements to the septic system were hastened by failures of the old system and should reduce environmental impact.



**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.

Photo Courtesy of Mecosta County Parks

School Section Lake Property Owners Association  
Laurie Kanouse, President  
P.O. Box 115  
Mecosta MI 49332



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## **Fall 2023 Newsletter**

### **TENTATIVE DATES TO REMEMBER FOR 2024:**

**Annual Meeting: Sat, June, 2024, 9:00 AM, Twp. Hall TBA**

**Independence Day, July 4<sup>th</sup> Boat Parade: TBA**

**Poker Run: Sat, July, 2024 TBA**

**Meet Your Neighbor: Sat, Aug 10, 2024, 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM**

**Labor Day Lighted Boat Parade: TBA**

**Recycle each Saturday from 9:00 AM-Noon**

**Located in the Morton Township Business Park**

**on 9 Mile Road**