



Lake Templene Newsletter

Seasons Greetings

Fall/Winter Issue 2012



President's Message: Weed Harvester Ready for Use

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After the input from the floating plant committee, a number of boat concepts were reviewed. We only found one boat that would generally meet the requirements necessary to help with the needs here on Lake Templene. That boat design had some capability limitations and carried a \$100,000 price tag. Given the upcoming tax from the SAD, an additional fee on the LTPOA members for the harvester/skimmer boat would be too much of a burden. With the limitations and cost of commercial boats, we decided to undertake the construction of a boat designed to meet our unique needs. We also decided to fund the cost of building the boat by soliciting volunteer investors from LTPOA members. The final cost of the boat construction was \$30,000.

Initially, we had hoped to have the boat on the lake for a portion of this summer, but the reality of the situation prevented that from happening. The boat was taken for a maiden voyage early in October. The intention was to test it harvesting live aquatic plants and gathering floating plants. The boat performed both tasks as expected. We are confident that it will be another tool in our bag of tricks to manage aquatic plants. The plan is to use the boat to gather floating

weeds out in the open lake, gather floating weeds in proximity to shore, and harvest aquatic plants when appropriate.

Appreciation is extended to the following persons:

- David Munn** - for providing and operating the lift equipment to handle the boat
- David Harker** - for transporting the boat from the assembly location to the lake
- Melvin Hostetler** (of Dutch Woodcraft) - for providing the assembly location
- Sam Albano** - for the high quality manufactured parts he made for the boat
- Pat's Pontoon** (located in Three Rivers) - for providing technical support & guidance

A special thanks to **LaMar Rodgers** for the many hours he put into the project which would not have been a success without him!

By *Jack Rote*



Lake Drawdown - No approval by DNRE

As you are all aware, the DNRE did not approve a drawdown for this winter. The reason for denying the drawdown is a concern from fisheries that repeated drawdowns will have a negative impact on the fish population in the lake. There are several expressed concerns which relate mainly to damaging the food chain in the lake that support the fish population.

We are continuing efforts to gain annual drawdowns. One step being pursued is getting a study completed that was conducted by Glen Oaks College on the effects that drawdowns have on the food chain population. Another step is asking the contracted lake management company to highlight the negative effect that Starry Stonewort has on the fish population and the benefits that a drawdown appears to have in controlling Starry Stonewort.

There is a good chance we will get a drawdown next winter as the needed dam repair identified for this winter will have another year of wear.

By Jack Rote



Photo by John Hanson

Aquatic Plant Management – Lake Status Fall 2012

Lake Templene is a functioning ecosystem. Aquatic plants are a natural part of this ever changing environment. Each new season brings with it a new challenge which needs planning and management. Like our lawns and gardens, they must be managed or the result is wild growth. The LTPOA has, as part of its Lake Improvement Plan, a long history of successful aquatic plant management. As a result of a warm and ice free past winter, the spring of 2012 produced a bumper crop of aquatic plants. The onslaught of aquatic growth was recognized early and controlled as a result of a strategy developed in the fall of 2011 by the LTPOA's Aquatic Plant Control Committee. With the assistance of our Lake Manager and Applicator, the treatment plan was adapted to the climate change and the lake was treated accordingly. By the beginning of the boating season in late May, the lake was open, navigable, and accessible to all property owners. Additional treatments were applied in June, July, and August maintaining full accessibility to the lake through the 2012 season.

Stonewort has been a challenge the last 3 years since its arrival in Lake Templene. Along with other nuisance plants such as the Milfoils, Pond Weed, Coontail, Arrowhead, Naiad, Celery and others

that come and go, Starry Stonewort needs to be surveyed regularly and managed. Starry Stonewort, though a continual concern, has proven to be an unlikely ally as it has, in its spread, displaced and retarded the growth of other undesirable plants. Meanwhile, a coordinated effort continues to control the Stonewort. Aquatic Plant Control, as with other aspects of the LTPOA Lake Improvement Plan, requires yearlong planning and effort. This year's wild card is a denial for a drawdown. What effect this will have on the lake weed growth cannot be predicted. It will need to be monitored through the fall and spring.

The Plant Control Committee met on October 10 as it does each fall to review 2012 and plan a strategy for the 2013 season. Lake Templene is fortunate that it has one association overseeing the health and management of the lake. The LTPOA has the health and navigability of the lake as a primary objective and will continue to be proactive with these objectives.

By Dennis Nemeth

Ladies of Lake Templene Luncheons

All luncheons are held the last Thursday of the month starting at 12:00 noon. Please check the LTPOA website calendar or watch for the next Evite in your email in-box to learn about upcoming luncheon events. For more information or to be put on the email list contact Dolly at dolly61655@comcast.net or 467-4728.

Current schedule:

- January - Gibby's, Mendon
- February - Da Vinci's, Sturgis
- March - The Grille Tavern, Centerville
- April - Golden Buddha, Three Rivers

LTPOA Board Meetings

The LTPOA Board of Directors meeting is held the second Monday of every month, 6:00 PM, at The Grille Tavern unless otherwise announced. **All LTPOA members are encouraged to attend any and all of the monthly Board meetings.** You can get much information about lake management, planning, finances, and all Board activities if you come to regular Board meetings. It is important for the Board to get constructive input and ideas from residents as well. Members may come to bring questions and concerns or just to observe and listen.

By LTPOA Board

Lake Water Quality Control - Watershed and Floating Weed Management

Watershed Management



Michigan Public act went into effect January 1, 2012 which prohibits phosphorus fertilizers. It also prohibits any fertilizer within 15 feet of a lake unless there is a vegetative barrier. We spend great sums of money trying to manage aquatic plants and we do not need to provide extra food for the weeds by having fertilizer run off our yards into the lake.

What can we do?

- Create a non-grassy buffer between the edge of our lawns and the lake. This could be flowers, bushes, small trees, grasses or similar ground cover.
- Treat our lawns with compost tea to establish beneficial microorganisms in the lawn soil. Typical treatments are four treatments per year for two years.
- Use organic fertilizers, if needed, to establish green lawns. The lake water is high in nutrients, so fertilizers may not be required if irrigating with lake water.



Floating Weed Management

The LTPOA Board established a subcommittee to review floating weed problems. A survey was conducted and 64 responses were received. The surveys described the following conditions:

- Many residents complained of frequently having to clean their shores of floating weeds.
- Surface weeds caused boating problems.
- Floating weeds along shore edges and bays created unsightly views.
- Boaters were required to avoid areas of the lake inundated with weeds.

The committee's resulting decision was to investigate acquiring a craft that could assist in floating weed cleanup. Several companies were visited and their machines were reviewed for possible purchase. The conclusion was that none of the possible choices of available craft fit Lake Templene's needs. They were too expensive, too slow or too small. The only remaining option was to build a version that specifically met the needs of Lake Templene. The resulting craft is pictured on the front page and is also posted on the web site.

The plans for next year's use of the weed harvester will adhere to the following:

- Gather weeds in the main body of the lake on a regular basis to reduce boating problems and also to reduce floaters coming into shore.
- Provide a pickup service on a regular basis so residents who have cleaned their shores can off-load the weeds onto the harvester which will stay outside of the piers.
- The harvester will be used as part of our lake management aquatic plant control process. Specific weeds will be harvested instead of using chemicals.

The harvester will become the property of the Lake Association and operators will be trained to use it. The committee efforts are appreciated. Because of the extensive work put into the construction of the harvester, a special gratitude is extended to Jack Rote & LaMar Rodgers.

By Ray Reinertson



"Snowflakes are one of nature's most fragile things. But just look what they do when they stick together."

Verna M. Kelley



Photo by Nancy McKena

Special Assessment District Lake Care Management Tax Implementation



Word has been received from the Nottawa and Sherman Townships that the Lake Preservation Plan Special Assessment District (SAD) will be on the winter real estate tax rolls. **Therefore, lake front property owners will not be invoiced for lake care management through the L.T.P.O.A. annual dues and assessment invoices starting year 2013.**

At the L.T.P.O.A. Fall Membership Meeting on October 21st, a proposal to increase the fee for lake care management was made and passed by the majority of members present. Lake front developed lots will be assessed at a maximum of \$300, an increase of \$105. With the establishment of SAD, the lake front lot assessments are being moved from the L.T.P.O.A. invoice system to the township tax rolls.

Lake Care Management fees for developed back lots will be assessed at a maximum of \$185, an increase of \$65. Undeveloped

back lots will be assessed at a maximum of \$146, an increase of \$51. This is the first increase since 1989 and will eliminate the need to charge an emergency aquatic management fee for the 2013 billing cycle. The Board of Directors will evaluate the fee on a yearly basis and only use the emergency assessment under extenuating circumstances as in past practices.

Also, seven park properties owned by L.T.P.O.A. will be included in the SAD. These parks are being taxed because they allow back lot owners access to the lake. The park assessments will be divided equally among back lot owners for a total fee of \$35 for each lot.

If you have any questions please contact Tom Roberts at 269-467-8609 or Susan Leist at 269-467-7142.

By *Tom Roberts*
Treasurer



Lake Preservation Dredging Update

Both Nottawa and Sherman Township boards have concluded the public hearing phase of establishing a Special Assessment District (SAD) to fund the three part Lake Preservation Program including the dredging portion. Both boards have agreed to establish the districts for a 5 year period specifying lakefront property owners with developed lots to be billed at \$750 annually and lakefront property owners with undeveloped lots to be billed at \$375 annually. The fees are for dredging and fishery enhancement projects. The 2012 winter tax bills will include the special assessments.

It is estimated that the earliest the actual dredging above and below the Findley Road bridge can begin is the fall of 2013, immediately after Labor Day. In the meantime, there is a full year of preparatory work that will be completed. For example, two mechanical dredging contractors have been interviewed within the past few months and have toured the project sites as part of the project discussion. Both will provide written general proposals on how they believe the 46 acre project should proceed. In addition, an appointment was held on October 31, 2012, with LTPOA consultants, The Spicer Group, for their viewpoints on the best way to begin the permit process and the development of specific engineering plans to obtain the most value for the money being spent. To ensure project success, all steps of the processes in preparation for the dredging will include guidance from professionals with the necessary expertise.

It is intended, at the present time, to remove six feet of sediment from ten acres; four feet of sediment from 18 acres; and two feet of sediment from the remaining 18 acres. Our best estimate, based on previous quotes, is that mechanical dredging will cost about \$5 per cubic yard and hydraulic dredging will cost about \$7.50 per cubic yard of sediment removed. A number of decisions remain to be made over the coming months.



Photo by Bob Manning

By *Bob Ulrich*





In the next few months you will see some big changes on the Lake Templene website. Some of the navigation functions will be reorganized to make it easier to find frequently visited web pages. In addition, the home page will be redesigned to reflect the qualities and values of living on Lake Templene. This will include pictures and videos contributed by lake residents.

Photo Display:

Collection of photos will be an on-going process to display new faces, events, activities, and scenery with each season change. If you have pictures taken on and around Lake Templene that you are willing to share for the website, please send them to bob.manning@comcast.net or contact Bob Manning. So far over 130 pictures have been contributed. A photo contest is in the works. Association Members will be able to vote for their favorite photo and the winner will be awarded a prize. More information will be announced in the near future.

Vendor search project:

A search function with a database of vendors that provide services or products in the Lake Templene area is being developed. This will provide the ability to search for vendor contact information such as mowing service, boat repair, dock installation, electricians, plumbers, appliance sales and service, and many more products or service providers. This tool will not only help lake residents find services or products needed, but may also provide an additional source of funds for LTPOA lake management costs through the sale of vendor listing/advertising space on the website. An announcement will be made when the project has been completed and implemented.

Be sure to check the website regularly for current news, information, and announcements. The website is the most cost effective way to keep LTPOA membership informed. Be sure to watch for announcements regarding any new changes being implemented. It is hoped that everyone will try out any new changes and provide helpful feedback.

As always, click on the *webmaster* link at the bottom of the Home Page to send comments, problems, or requests for service.

Yahoo! Group:

The Yahoo! Group for Lake Templene is meant to be a social interaction group. **It is not an official source of information unless something has been specifically posted as a notice by an authorized LTPOA Board member.** The Yahoo Group is meant to be a place where family, friends, business associates, or anyone who wishes to share information, images, stories, or more on the web, only with other residents of Lake Templene, is able to do that. The Lake Templene Yahoo Group has been active for about ten years and remains a social "chat" mechanism for its members to reach each other. It has served as a great tool for discussing concerns, exchanging personal activity information, and selling items between residents. The Lake Templene Yahoo Group will continue to be supported as the resident interaction tool it was meant to be.

*By Tom Roberts
Web-Site Chairman*

Addendum Signing Update

In an ideal world, there would be no need for restricted covenants. But visit a lake or community without rules or an association and it will not look like Lake Templene. All Lake Templene developments have covenants currently in effect. All former reported violations have been addressed by a letter or a phone call. Most violations have been resolved; some letters have been ignored. Some method of enforcement is needed to leverage compliance when rules and guidelines protecting the safety or beauty of the developments are ignored. This signed addendum will protect you and your property.

Presently, CURVES END, HICKORY HILLS III, HIDDEN RIVER HILLS, HIDDEN RIVER HILLS II, and CANADIAN SHORES have completed the addendum signing. Their addendums will be registered at the Recorder of Deeds office. In the future, covenant violations in these subdivisions will be handled and only in these subdivisions. It is important that you see your shore captain or me if you have not signed the addendum. I will notarize all signatures.

Let's help keep Lake Templene a beautiful place to live.

By Leslie Van Gelder



Photo by Bob Manning



Natural Shoreline Buffer Zones for Water Quality Management



A central theme that the LTPOA has been impressing upon homeowners through articles and announcements over the last few years is **every lakefront home should have a vegetation buffer along the shoreline because it helps maintain lake health and water quality.** These buffers filter runoff before it enters the lake, help stabilize the shoreline, provide habitat, and can enhance the landscape of a lakeshore property.

It is imperative that every property owner on Lake Templene care about the runoff and erosion of any property. Runoff and erosion from waterfront property carries pollutants such as sediments and phosphorus into the water. Where there is runoff and erosion, pollution is higher and/or unintended concentrations of nutrients that contribute to invasive aquatic weed growth are higher. Erosion sediment can clog fish spawning beds, hurting reproduction, and they can bury beneficial plants. Eroded soil particles often contain nutrients from fertilizers, toxic chemicals such as pesticides, or oil and anti-freeze from cars. Erosion leads to property damage, loss of fish and wildlife habitat, and reduced water quality and clarity.

Native buffers slow and filter water runoff, trapping sediments and filtering other pollutants before they can reach the lake. When it rains or snow melts, water runs off streets, driveways, rooftops, and lawns across the landscape and picks up various pollutants like oils, greases, nutrients, fertilizers, pet or animal waste, grass clippings, leaves, fire pit ashes, septic overflow, and sediment. Without an effective buffer, these enter the lake along with the water runoff. Several of these contaminants are capable of accelerating the growth of undesirable aquatic plants and algae. Others might in-



Example of natural green space buffer - by Bruce Van Gelder
crease muck accumulation or contribute harmful bacteria, rendering the water quality less than desirable for aquatic fisheries or human activities.

Enjoying a waterfront property in an environmentally friendly way does not require leaving it undeveloped. What must be considered is how to landscape with special consideration for the unique characteristics of the site that contribute to runoff, limit as much as possible the area covered by impervious surfaces, manage unavoidable water runoff to minimize its impacts, and rely on natural plant buffer zones at the shoreline to reduce and filter the water entering the lake.

According to *The Michigan Riparian, Fall 2012*, a study conducted in 2007 determined that poor lakeshore quality was the biggest problem facing lakes today. More than one third of the lakes studied were identified as having poor shoreline habitat. The assessment also revealed that lakes with poor lakeshore quality were three times more likely to exhibit poor biological health (US EPA, 2009).

As a responsible waterfront property owner, practicing prescribed property management techniques for clean water support is imperative. There are sources for information and assistance whether the property is being newly developed on a previously undeveloped waterfront lot or whether the property has already been developed and landscaped for many years. Sources include the Michigan Natural Shoreline Partnership at www.mishorelinepartnership.org, Greening Michigan Institute of MSU Extension, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality.

By Dolly Padgurskis



Example of native plant shoreline. Photo by Jim Brueck



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Presentation Cleaning offers spring and fall cleanings for your Home or Office. We have a team that manages offices, and our company has experience in construction cleanup. Our goal is to leave you feeling like you are in good hands. We personally

make it our priority to make sure that your place is perfectly clean, showcase clean!

I have been cleaning in the Kalamazoo and St. Joseph County area for over 28 years. I began helping my grandmother with her cleaning business when I was just a child. She taught me all she knew, and often reminded me our task was to do every job as perfectly as possible. Because of her devotion to her cleaning, I also learned to take pride in my work, and to enjoy what I do for clients, some of whom I have had as customers for longer than 23 years!

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Glen Oaks Community College Fitness/Wellness Center



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New Year's Special!

Purchase an annual membership in January for \$100 and receive a free year of towel service.
Purchase a semester membership for \$90 and receive a free semester of towel service.

Winter Semester Activities

- ◆ ◆ January 7-31 Join the 50 Mile Club
 - ◆ ◆ February 25-March 8 GOCC Fitness/Wellness Center Triathlon
- more details available in the Fitness/Wellness Center

The Fitness/Wellness Center at Glen Oaks Community College is a 2500 square foot fitness facility located on the South end of the Concourse Level. The facility has all new cardio and weight equipment and is the most up-to-date facility in the county. Additionally, the Center has 2 flat screen televisions with Dish Network programming and Sirius XM radio with individual cardio machine sound systems that allow for greater enjoyment during the workout experience. Capable and qualified staff members are always on duty and available to meet the needs of all patrons.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Everyone using the Center is required to have a towel when working out.

Also users must scan in and out with a valid ID card that is available with membership.

All users must have a current health release on file, and abide by the Fitness/Wellness Center dress code.

GROUP FITNESS CLASSES

Zumba, Boot Camp and Yoga are three community group fitness classes offered at the Center. Classes generally run in 6 week sessions and are \$50 a session (depending on the class). Classes are open to anyone and usually meet in the evenings and late afternoon.

Contact the Center for dates and times.

HOURS AND FEES

Winter hours for the Center are

Monday thru Thursday from 8 am-8 pm
and Friday from 8 am-4 pm.

(Center is closed when campus is closed)

Fees for using the Center are \$5 a day, \$30 for a month, or \$200 for the year.

Hours of operation and fees are subject to change.

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Coffee club



You are invited to join us at the next meeting of our coffee club, held the last Tuesday of every month. Discussing current events, the economy and investing, in a relaxed, informal setting, is a great way to get to know one another. **The coffee's on us!**

<p>Please call 651-1287 to let us know you're coming.</p> <p>Hosted By: Kelly Bibb Financial Advisor 100 S. Lakeview Sturgis, MI 49091</p> <p>Edward Jones®</p>	<p>Last Tuesday of every month 9:00 a.m.</p> <p>Great Lakes Chocolate Company 100 W. Chicago Road Sturgis, MI 49091</p>
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If your address or other information changes, please use this form or use the above email address to notify the LTPOA as soon as possible.

*Please mail the form to :
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*Attention:
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