This fall once again we have had another four foot drawdown of the lake. This drawdown was authorized by DEQ in order for the Drain Office to perform some dam repairs. As the water receded, it was confirmed that we have an abundance of Starry Stonewort. The drawdowns of 2010 and 2011 appeared to give us some control of Starry Stonewort in the following year, and we are hopeful that the boating season of 2014 will have less intrusion from this aquatic growth because of this 2013 fall/winter drawdown.

Starry Stonewort is not a rooted plant which gets its nutrients from the bottomland. It is an algae that gets its nutrients directly out of the water. Therefore, controlling how much nutrient gets into the water is vital. Fertilizer running off our lawns into the lake is one of the major contributors. It is imperative that everyone contribute to the effort to control nutrients that feed these invasive algae. If you must use fertilizer, please only use organic varieties.

Starry Stonewort also has a negative effect on the ecosystem of the lake by covering the bottomland where fish spawn and choking out other plants that provide cover for smaller fish. Unfortunately, to date, there is no chemical that kills Starry Stonewort, but a chemical mixture which provides some control has been developed.

A drawdown has been shown to provide a good kill of most aquatic plants by drying and freezing the root systems of the plants that are exposed. This should give the lake a reduction in near shore plants for most of the 2014 boating season.

The Board is working on a data driven approach to convince MDEQ to permit an annual drawdown as long as needed for the control of Starry Stonewort.

By Jack Rote
Lake Templene Photo Contest - Summer Winners and New Contests

We are pleased to announce the winners of the LTPOA Summer 2013 Photo Contest. The photos and the names of the photographers are posted on the LTPOA website at http://www.laketemplene.org/photocontest.php. They can be found under the tab On the Lake, then Photos, and then Contest Winners.

The Photo Contests for Fall and Winter 2013/2014 are continuing. A summary of the rules which remain the same are as follows: there will be three categories, Lake Activities, Wild Life, and Scenery, with 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners for each category. As in the summer contest, entries should be submitted to Yahoo Groups- LTPOA group. The winners will be posted on the LTPOA website. To simplify the posting of pictures, there will be only one album for each season’s contest on the Yahoo Groups site. For example, the title for the Fall contest is LTPOA PHOTO CONTEST 2013 FALL ALBUM. Please post pictures for all three categories in the one album for the season.

To enter the Photo Contest you must first load the picture in digital format (JPEG, GIF, BMP, or PNG) onto your computer. Go to the Yahoo Groups -LTPOA group and select Photos. Select LTPOA PHOTO CONTEST 2013 FALL ALBUM or the WINTER ALBUM for the next season. The steps to upload your photo depend on whether you have the old version of Yahoo Groups or the new Neo version of Yahoo Groups.

Old Version of Yahoo Groups
Select Add Photo; then choose the Select Files button. Now browse your files for the photos that you want to upload to this album and click on them. They will be shown under the Photo column. In the next column labeled Photo Name, put in a title for the photo. Choose a different title for each photo that you upload. You won’t have to put in your name because you can be identified from your Yahoo name which is automatically included.

New Neo Version of Yahoo Groups
Select Add Photos, and then browse your files for the photos that you want to upload to this album and click on it. Your photo will automatically be uploaded. Then select Post Photos. Now select Edit. Then highlight the name that your camera gave the photo and change it to the name that you want to give it for the contest. Then select Save.

Remember to check the LTPOA website for announcements of winners!

By Bob Manning

Plea for Donations to Support the 2014 Fireworks Show

The 2013 Fourth of July Lake Templene fireworks show proved to be a great success by a majority of accounts. It was all the private individual contributions that made the fireworks show possible. It came down to almost the last minute with the diligent effort of a few people that enough donations were collected just in time to finance the show.

It’s important to get a head start on the collection of funds for next year’s show to ensure that the same company can be reserved to do the show for Lake Templene again. With that in mind, the LTPOA Board is asking for anyone willing to make a voluntary contribution to the 2014 fireworks show send a donation as soon as possible.

Donations will be accepted continually through 2014. Please send your contribution to the LTPOA accountant at the address below to be held in a fund for the 2014 fireworks show. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Ms. Myra Musser, Norman & Paulsen, P.C.
127 W. Chicago Road
Sturgis, MI 49091.

LTPOA Board of Directors

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.

2014 planned schedule:
January - Paisano’s, Three Rivers
February - Prairie River Tavern, Sturgis
March - The Trading Post, Mendon
April - The Grille Tavern, Centreville
May - Blue Gate Inn, Shipshewanna

LTPOA Board Meetings

The LTPOA Board of Directors meetings are held the second Monday of every month, 6:00 PM, at Glenn Oaks Community College 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. Members may come to bring questions and concerns or just to observe and listen.

By LTPOA Board
Lake Water Quality Control - Watershed Management & Weed Harvesting

The following has been printed in previous newsletters and is repeated to stress the subject’s importance. It is imperative that every homeowner on the lake follow the watershed guidelines!

Watershed Management
A 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. The LTPOA spends great sums of money trying to manage aquatic plants. Residents do not need to provide extra food for aquatic weeds by having fertilizer run off property into the lake. Please do your part in helping with weed control.

What can every property owner do?
- Create a plant buffer between the edge of lawns and the lake. This could be flowers, bushes, small trees, tall grasses or similar ground cover.
- Treat lawns with compost tea to establish beneficial microorganisms in the lawn soil. Typical treatments are four treatments per year for two years.

Weed Harvester
The plans for next year’s use of the weed harvester will continue with the following guidelines:
- 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 follow a similar daily schedule of operation in the 2014 boating season as it did in the 2013 season.

By Ray Reinertson

Lawn Maintenance Contract

The contract for lawn maintenance expired at the end of the 2013 season. This service provides for the mowing of vacant property, roadway easements, and parks. At the November 11th LTPOA Board Meeting, three proposals for new services were reviewed. The low bid of $15,000.00 by Custom Lawn Care of White Pigeon was accepted. Custom Lawn Care has provided this service since 2011 and also previously in 1996 through 1998. The other proposals reviewed were Grass Guys, Inc. of White Pigeon at $15,500.00 and First Impressions Lawn Care of Three Rivers at $16,000.00.

By LaMar Rodgers

Snowmen fall from heaven unassembled, Then are made in the cold by the warmth of young hearts.

Photo P3050463 as submitted to LTPOA Yahoo Group
Summer Photo Contest First Place Winners

Lake Templene Preservation Plan - Bottomland Removal Update

When the summer newsletter was published this past July, it was believed that the dredging program to remove accumulated bottomland from five different locations, especially above and below the Findley Rd. Bridge, was still the only option available for Lake Templene. The main issues being explored this summer were obtaining the DEQ dredging permit with bottomland arsenic levels higher than allowed and the disposition of an estimated 265,000 cubic yards of contaminated spoils on adjacent farm fields that are typically utilized for seed corn production. Many dedicated individuals continue working diligently to ensure the process of bottomland removal is done as efficiently and economical as possible.

It now looks likely that there is an alternative possibility of bottomland removal utilizing aeration as the tool. A lot of new information is being gathered that will be shared in a future newsletter. Recent Riparian Magazine articles, meetings with Restorative Lake Sciences and Lake-Savers personnel, plus discussions with property owners on other local lakes tells us that this option needs to be fully explored. Local lakes, including Paw Paw Lake in Watervliet, Austin Lake in Portage, Indian Lake in Dowagiac, Indian Lake in Vicksburg, and Maple Lake in Paw Paw, are utilizing aeration as a tool this year.

Aeration is useful in lakes with stagnant, low oxygen bottomland that consists of an accumulated organic layer that can be reduced with the addition of compressed air and, generally, augmentation with aerobic bacteria. The means for adding oxygen is by the use of shore based air compressors feeding a manifold distribution system of rubber lines leading to diffusers placed on the bottom of the lake. Over time, the oxygen is evenly distributed throughout the water column from top to bottom. On November 4th, a meeting was held between the Lake Templene Advisory Board, the Spicer Group, and Cardno-JF New personnel to begin the process of studying the possibility of utilizing aeration on Lake Templene.

Since the establishment of the Lake Templene Improvement Board (not to be confused with the LTPOA Board) and its advisory committee, Jack Rote, Tom Templin, Dennis Nemeth, John Amones and Bob Ulrich, many man hours have already gone into making this project successful and cost-efficient. We expect to formalize a viable bottomland removal project for implementation in 2014. Building a sediment trap just below the Nottawa Road Bridge has proven to be too expensive. The use of a long reach excavator from shore was not practical, and the water flow past the proposed location is too fast during high water periods to enable the debris to settle out, according to our consultants.

All property owners are welcome to attend the LTPOA Board meetings held at 6:00 pm on the second Monday of each month at Glen Oaks College. In addition, everyone is welcome to attend the Lake Templene Improvement Board meetings held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month beginning at 6:00 pm at the Nottawa Township Hall in downtown Centreville next to the post office.

By Bob Ulrich
The 2013 season has drawn to an end and once again we have had a wonderful season. The following is an outline of this season’s aquatic plant management program.

Lake Templene was treated 4 times through the summer to control aquatic plants.

- **May 16th**, the lake was treated with 3 different chemicals or chemical combinations to manage early appearing noxious aquatic plants and to ensure navigability on the lake.
- **June 7th**, a second treatment was applied to the lake. This treatment focused on Starry Stonewort with additional treatment of noxious aquatic plants north of the bridge.
- **July 15th**, the lake was treated a third time with the focus on Starry Stonewort, the emergence of Vallisneria, and of course some Milfoil.
- **August 12th**, the lake was treated a fourth and final time for the season with a primary focus on Starry Stonewort with other reoccurring regulars.

We were able to successfully manage the lake through the 2013 season, but are beginning to find areas where navigation is becoming more difficult to maintain. Starry Stonewort is the game changer. Milfoil, Vallisneria, Coontail, Pondweed, we can stay ahead of with herbicides until we are able to put a more comprehensive integrated management plan completely in place.

Starry Stonewort, we were told from the beginning, would be a challenge. It is the most challenging plant to control in the history of lake management. It spreads rapidly and there is nothing to date available to eradicate it. Treating with copper, we can cut it back and burn channels through it, but this provides only short term relief. Drawdowns have been an effective means to reduce and push back Starry Stonewort. This winter, we have again drawdown the lake expecting to see some improvement in Spring. Meanwhile, we keep our ear to the ground for effective herbicide breakthroughs. This season, we did some test sites with Komen Crystals, a new product recommended to us by the Lake Manager and Applicator. Hopefully, we will see positive results from this product. The board continues efforts to get an annual drawdown approved through the D.E.Q.

Management of the lake through herbicides is becoming more difficult. Chemical treatment has been a tactical approach to aquatic plant management until more strategic tools can be put in place. The Lake Preservation Plan for Lake Templene has long recognized the need for a variety of tools such as harvesting, bottomland removal, biomass reduction, watershed management, drawdown and herbicide treatments to provide good aquatic plant control and lake management. The board has worked diligently toward a more integrated approach to managing the lake. This progress has included studies of the lake, core samplings, dialogs with consultants and contractors, permitting, dialog and negotiation with permitting agencies, court hearings, reducing outside boat traffic, herbicide treatment, development of the Special Assessment District and the Lake Board. All these efforts, beyond just herbicides treatment of the lake, have moved us toward implementation of a comprehensive and integrated Lake Improvement and Management Plan.

Aquatic plant management, within effective lake management, is a dynamic process, ever changing with the current nature of the bio system that is Lake Templene. With the success we have seen this year and previous years we look forward to a good 2014 season on the lake.

By Dennis Nemeth

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**Vice President’s Corner**

**E-MAIL ADDRESSES WANTED**
The Association Board would like to rapidly send homeowners and property owners any significant lake news. This could include immediate weed treatments, lake level concerns, or boating issues. One of the fastest ways to do this would be by e-mail. By using e-mail, printing and mailing costs would be drastically reduced. When newsletters are eventually sent only via e-mail, the Association would save on these costs as well. The process of obtaining e-mails is underway. The list is growing. More e-mails are needed. If you have not done so, please send your e-mails to Leslie Van Gelder at: bevangelder@aol.com

**ADDENDUM UPDATE**
When your shore captain asks you to sign the covenant addendum, it is important to do so. The majority of the owners in your development will need to sign. This includes every owner of each home or lot. Without the signatures, maintenance issues are the only concerns that can be addressed. The addendum will help keep our lake a beautiful place to live and enjoy.

**WINTER STORAGE**
Summer has ended, cooler weather has arrived, and boats have been taken off the lake. Boats and trailers may not be stored outdoors within any Lake Templene property. Please find a place to store all your watercraft until next spring.

By Leslie Van Gelder
Ice Fishing Safety Tips

Lake Templene is popular for summer fishing, but it is not unusual to see anglers scattered around the lake in the dead of winter thoroughly engrossed in ice fishing. Luckily, to date, there have not been any reports of accidents involving ice fishing on Lake Templene. To keep this record intact, the following guidelines taken from DNR publications are presented as safety reminders for those of you who enjoy ice fishing.

Ice Fishing Basics

- No ice is totally safe. Ice thickness varies across a lake. Avoid areas where there is flow (feeder streams and springs) or in-water obstructions (bridges, docks, protruding stumps, plant growth). Ice is usually thinner around these objects and plants.
- Always fish with a partner or in an area where several other anglers are present. At the very least, leave information with someone where you intend to fish and when you plan to return.
- Place a cell phone in a plastic bag to protect it from moisture in case you get wet.
- Wear a personal flotation device or take along a floating throw cushion in case of immersion.
- Always carry an ice spud, awl and/or chisel to check ice as you proceed and for assistance if immersion occurs.
- Avoid going onto the ice if it has melted away from shore. This indicates melting is underway, and ice can shift position as wind direction changes.
- Carry a safety line that can be thrown to someone who has gone through the ice.
- If you see open water in the lake and the wind shifts. Get off.
- Heated fishing shanties must have good ventilation to prevent deadly carbon monoxide poisoning.

If You Fall In the Water

- Remain calm! Not easy to do, but panic is the main reason some people fail to survive immersion accidents.
- Slip off your boots, if possible, to better tread water.
- Use ice awls or chisels to pull yourself out of the water.
- If no ice awls or chisels are available, try swimming out by letting your body rise up to firm ice and crawl out, grabbing onto whatever uneven edges are available.
- Do not stand. Stay flat, distributing your weight on the ice. Roll away from the hole or point of entry.
- Keep your clothes on once out of the water to help keep yourself insulated.
- Get to a dry, warm location as soon as possible. Seek medical attention immediately for injuries, hypothermia, or frostbite.

If Someone Else Falls Into the Water

- REACH for and hold out a stick or fishing pole to the immersed person if it is safe to do so without jeopardizing your own safety.
- THROW a rope or floatation device to the person.
- ROW or push a boat to the person and
- GO call for help as soon as possible.

For more information go to [www.michigan.gov/dnr](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr). Find the Fishing tab and look for the articles titled [DNR-Going Ice Fishing ? Always Play It Safe](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr) and [DNR- Ice Safety Tips-Michigan](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr) or any of the other related articles.

By Dolly Padgurskis
There is a divide among the winter residents of Lake Templene: those who by choice or necessity stay throughout the harsh Michigan snow season and those who flee to warmer climates for weeks or months, otherwise known as snowbirds. Now is the time of year snowbirds are packing up and preparing for their long winter escapes to head for sunshine and warmth available mostly in southern and southeastern states. Yes, some of you are not really snowbirds, but just choose to take extended vacations during the worst part of the winter.

Though those of us who stay through the long winters do not feel much sympathy for the troubles basking in the warmth of the southern sun may bring our escaping neighbors, everyone wants you to return to find everything in your homes intact and in good condition, just as it was when you left. So, even though some of you may already be experts at securing and preparing your homes for long absences, these tips may serve as reminders and may help all residents embarking on long absences keep their homes secure while away.

**Home Security Tips While Away**

- Make it appear you are home while you are away. Put lights in main living areas on timers and set them to simulate occupancy. Light and moderate noise deter burglars.

- Don’t broadcast your absence. Tell only your trusted family, neighbors, and contact person that you will be gone. Keep your everyday answering message on your phone. Never leave a message or post on Facebook or other digital media that you are away on vacation and the date you will return.

- Leave shades and blinds as you usually do. Take care not to expose attractive belongings easily to outside viewing.

- Light up the porch and yard with timed controllers. Add motion sensor lights in dark areas and pathways to discourage entry.

- Have a snow plowing service maintain walkways and driveways or a lawn service maintain landscaping if your absence spans changes of seasons.

- Be sure exterior doors are equipped with very good locks, ones that are considered pick resistant.

- Trim all trees and shrubs that are near doors and windows that may provide a hidden space for a burglar to work and enter the home.

- Remove all secret keys from outdoor locations. Only give a duplicate to your trusted contact person or neighbor.

- Have your mail forwarded, held at the post office, or collected by your contact person or neighbor. Keep in mind that errors occur and it is still a good idea to have your mailbox and porch occasionally checked.

- Have your contact person or neighbor regularly check your home to look for unexpected changes, deliveries of newspapers, packages and fliers, or to note anything else that may be a concern.

- Though it sounds elementary, check that all doors and windows are secured before leaving. Doors or windows have often been left unlocked or even open in the haste of packing and leaving on a tight schedule.

This is a summary of the most important tips for securing your home for an extended absence. These were compiled from [www.wikihow.com](http://www.wikihow.com) and [www.Oprah.com](http://www.Oprah.com). There are many more extensive books and articles available at the library, book store, and online, that provide much more information about preparing your home both inside and outside for an extended absence. Enjoy safe travels and returning to a safe and secure home!

*By Dolly Padgurskis*
Information Change Form

Name__________________________________________

Spouse’s Name___________________________________

Old Address_____________________________________

New Address____________________________________

City______________________ State_________________

Phone #______________ E-mail_____________________

Subdivision___________________ Lot_________________