



**SPRING/SUMMER 2018 NEWS**

**LETTER FROM MLA PRESIDENT**

Happy Spring to all M.L.A. members. It looks like spring has finally sprung.

The Briggs pond dam is being repaired as I write this letter. It will be good to have that completed and return to normal.

Last year at our December board meeting, I asked the board members to think about what they would like to see happen to Maple Lake and bring their suggestions to the April meeting. This was accomplished and the suggestions will be posted on our website under minutes of the April 19th board meeting. We will discuss these suggestions in our upcoming meetings and see if we can implement any or all of the ideas. Please feel free to attend our meetings and make your own suggestions known.

I retired from the Van Buren County Marine Division after 20 years and NEVER recovered a drowning victim that was wearing a Life Jacket. Please use them!!

Enjoy your summer on our beautiful lake. Please join our tie-ups, The Ladies of the Lake gathering, and the M.L.A. picnic. (See the calendar on the right for dates and times.)

Frank Walters, President

**LAKE DRAWDOWN IMPACT STUDY**

Restorative Lake Sciences completed the 2017 drawdown impact study, "Lake Level Drawdown Impacts on the Sediments, Benthos, Select Physical Properties, and Aquatic Vegetation of Maple and Ackley Lakes." The study concludes that drawdown is good for Maple Lake. It is an easy, cost effective method to control weeds. The study also determines that a drawdown does not negatively impact Ackley Lake.

The entire 48 page report is available on line at: <http://www.maplelakepawpaw.com/pdfs/Drawdown-Impact-Study.pdf>

Maple Lake is planning to draw down again this year. Mark your calendars, the draw down will begin October 1, 2018.

**2018 Meetings & Events**

**M = Meeting: 7:00 pm Township Hall  
E = Somewhere on/or near Maple Lake**

- M** - May 17, 2018 Open Board Meeting
- M** – Jun. 21, 2018 Open Board Meeting
- E** – Jun. 23, 2018 Sandbar Tie Up, 6:30
- E** – Jul. 14, 2018 Ladies of the Lake
- M** – Jul. 19, 2018 Open Board Meeting
- E** – Jul. 21, 2018 Sandbar Tie Up, 6:30
- M** – Aug. 16, 2018 Open Board Meeting
- E** – Aug. 18, 2018 Sandbar Tie Up, 6:30
- E** – Sep. 2, 2018 Maple Island, Potluck, 5:30 on Maple Island, meat is furnished, bring a dish to pass.
- E** – Oct. 1, 2018 Draw Down Begins
- M** – Oct. 18, 2018 Open Board Meeting
- M** – Nov. 15, 2018 Open Board Meeting
- E** – Dec. 2, 2018 Christmas Dinner Party, 5:30 at LaCantina.
- M** – Dec. 20, 2018 Open Board Meeting

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## **VOLUNTEERS WANTED**

Did you see the new weed boat working last year and think that would be FUN! Did you wish you could drive the boat! **NOW YOU CAN!** No set schedules, no specific time commitments, just run the boat whenever you have some free time! Contact Roman Plaszczak to signup for boat operation training.

## **DEFENDING AGAINST THE CANADA GOOSE**

We can all agree that the Canada Goose is a beautiful bird but it can also be an annoyance. The goose is protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act which means dealing with the goose requires some ingenuity. The RIPARIAN offers some simple steps landowners can take to discourage the birds from your lawn.

- Grow your waterfront grass to a height greater than 3 inches tall. This only needs to be a 5-foot strip along the water's edge, not the entire lawn. The birds are cautious about landing where predators may be lurking in taller grass.
- Plant tall native plants near the shoreline. Again, the possibility of predators will discourage the birds from landing.
- Do not feed the waterfowl. This only encourages them to return.
- Place owl effigies (or any other bird of prey) along your shoreline.
- Add a row of string along the shoreline. The string should be 6 inches above the ground followed by a second row 6 inches above it. Perhaps you have seen samples of this technique used by the Village along the south park walkway.

## **BOAT TAGS - 2019**

Check your boat tags and if they read 2018, they expired in March of 2018 and you need to get new tags.

## **LET'S THINK COLOR**

In winter, we decorate for the holidays. Let's also start thinking about decorating for summer. Consider adding a flower pot of colorful plants on your pier or waterfront. If something bigger is in your plan, perhaps a colorful shrub or tree. Let's show off the beauty of our lake to all those who come to visit!

## **OPEN LETTER FROM VILLAGE OF PAW PAW**

Dear Lake Association,

I wanted to take the opportunity to make you aware of some of the Village's efforts to promote and support the water quality and recreation opportunities of Maple Lake. Here's a snapshot of what we've been up to:

### **MLA Shirts, Hats & Calendars**

We have only a few shirts, hats, and calendars available. You can purchase these at any of our events or online at

[www.maplelakepawpaw.com](http://www.maplelakepawpaw.com)



### **Farmers Market**

Open Sundays  
May 7 – October, 2018, 9-2:00  
**Corner of  
Gremps & Paw Paw St.**

- The Village is working in conjunction with the USDA toward management of mute swans with the goal of reducing the impact of this invasive, aggressive swan species. This will help to curb the growing swan population and improve water quality and habitat for native wildlife.
- As a reminder, please do not feed the ducks, geese, or other waterfowl. Waste from these animals contributes to additional phosphorus in the water which spurs the growth of aquatic weeds.
- The Village was awarded a \$61,500 grant from the MDNR for site improvements to Sunset Park at the north end of the lake. These improvements will include a universally accessible boat launch, recycling bins, upgraded lighting, and more. We are working with our architect to get started and hope to have it completed by early fall. The MDEQ completed dissolved arsenic testing in Maple Lake following the breach of the Briggs Mill Dam in late October. The results of this testing found very low levels of arsenic that are not of concern. We are working on a sampling plan in conjunction with the DEQ to test the sediment that transported into the south basin of Maple Lake. The testing strategy is still being planned and we will keep you posted on the results when they become available.
- As we continue to plan further natural shoreline and bioengineering on Maple Island, we are working toward using plants that do not grow as tall as what we have planted in the past few years. This is to ensure that the water is still visible so that guardians can better supervise children while they are swimming or playing near the water.

If you have any questions about our activities that support Maple Lake, please give my office a call at 269-657-3148 or email me at s.moyer-cale@pawpaw.net. Have a great summer!

Sarah Moyer-Cale  
Village Manager

## **MAPLE LAKE ASSOCIATION MINUTES - APRIL 19, 2017**

Present: Frank Walters, Don Welch, Phillis Norman, Shirley Lund, Roman Plaszczak, Sue Foune, Nadine Jarvis, Mike Pioch, Anne Smith

Anne moved to approve the annual meeting minutes, Nadine seconded, all in favor.

Treasurer- Anne stated that we have a balance of \$7966.45. In January we had a check to Lacanitna for \$294 and another check for \$124. Roman moved to accept the report, Phyllis seconded, all in favor. Anne also said we owe Lakes and Streams \$100 for dues and made motion to pay them, Nadine supported, all in favor

Communications We sent money to the Water Alliance membership last fall. The renewal is January 1st to December. So we would owe \$100 for that membership. Anne moves we pay the \$100 to Waterfront Alliance, Mike seconded, all in favor.

Weed Control Don said the contract is in place for this year. Has not been out on lake yet because of weather. Everything is normal for this time of the year.

Calendars- Phyllis and Roman said there are a few calendars left at Lacantina, Anne said she would pick them up. Shirley suggested that we use them as a door prize at the next public event. We all agreed.

Homework discussion-Shirley is concerned about the west side of the island and the erosion. Boats hit the bank on the island and it does damage. Boaters go there because the water is deep there so boaters can back out. The goal is to do the core logs around the whole island. We want to make sure we leave an area for little kids to swim from the island. We can also put in plants that are shorter. Phyllis wants to know more about the "floating island idea" that collects debris in the

water. DEQ was asked if they know anything about this idea and they did not. Nadine wants to be able to get her boat to her dock. One idea discussed before was that we would dredge material and make an island in the south basin. It is difficult for homeowners in that area to use the lakefront and an island would interfere even more. Don, wants to make sure we do the lake draw down again. We need to know how much silt did come into the lake. When we let the lake down this year we did not have a good freeze, then the dam failed. Roman said it will go down in October. Don hopes we get a multi-year permit. The drawdown study supports the drawdown. Sue, wants to see Ismonds (Briggs Pond) and Maple Lake dredged completely. Then work on buffer strips upstream as well. We all discussed how expensive dredging is and how the testing of the soils determines what we can do with it. It may have to go to a landfill, if it is not too high in arsenic we can place it locally. Sue asked about putting it in Briggs pond but it is very full as well. Roman said the village has been checking with DNR and DEQ and that there is no money for dredging. Sue wants to look into creating a wet land in Briggs pond area and placing dredged materials in Briggs pond. Maybe that would interest DNR or DEQ in grants for this. Roman said the village has created a committee for short term and long-term plans for the lake. They are meeting every month. Last month they met with the state about what we can do, is there money or grants available. Some state staff suggested things to do along the river. We asked about a permit for spreading materials in an island or on the shore. They said no to these ideas. They met with the weed contractor, John Tucci, Jennifer (the consultant) on lake management. They are meeting with all the professionals related to the lake for any new ideas, theories or suggestions. He wants to invite Southwest Mich Planning Commission and state fisheries to accumulate more information and make short and long-term goals. Phyllis said that maybe the state would be interested in a very big project. Roman wants the state to see we are being proactive in cleaning the lake. Lake Templene in Centerville is another lake with similar issues. Mike discussed about public relations. Kids today don't even think of using the lake. How do we get them on the lake to use it? Mike said he will try to get some of the teenagers he knows involved in paddle events or boating events on the lake. We need to get new people active in the association and people that move in involved. Mike said he will head up the teenage involvement. Maybe we can do something the same day as a Float day and target kids to come in and use it. Frank offered his boat to take young people on the lake even teach water skiing to them (no tubing) Frank wants to see the lake level go back down to where it was historically. He said the last 6 or 8 years we have raised the level of the lake. He thinks it should be lowered about 6 inches. Nadine said that would impact the south area and Frank said they would have to dredge to get their boats out.

#### Village Updates

Roman commented on improvements at the boat launch. They have a grant for \$60,000 for lighting, and accessibility into kayak and canoes, and a new launch. He is not sure when it will start but he thinks the state is getting bids for the work. The dam is being repaired currently. There was a delay for a crane to get here. The pilings are going in. The hope it will be done in about 2 weeks. The mute swans, the DNR is doing an aerial survey for the nests. They use oil on the eggs. Over time their numbers will go down and the trumpeters will come back. He also said the village has spent so much money on the dam they are looking to cut costs. The weed boat will not be operated by village employees this year. They are looking for volunteers to run the weed boat. The village will do a training program on the weed boat, they will supply all the fuel and supplies. So far, we have 4 volunteers to operate the boat. Mike volunteered. Anne volunteered. Maybe someone can organize the shifts, where it is used, etc. We can operate it anytime we want and want to leave it in the water. They are looking for more volunteers. Roman thinks it can work out well. Would like to start cutting in June or July when. They will set up a training to show how to use the boat. Drawdown status is that DEQ will let us drawdown this fall so we do not need a new permit. Anne asked if we know how bad the south basis is. We do not know. The council is deciding on whether to renew the aeration this year. The aeration reduced the weeds so we would like to see it continue if possible. Maybe we could provide a little more money out of the assessment. Frank will talk to the township to see if they would increase the contribution. Mike made motion to allow Frank to see if we can contribute more, Phyllis seconded all in favor.

Shirley discussed her numbers from the website traffic. Shirley would like to send out a spring newsletter and wants to get it out right after the next meeting. The riparian has a great article about Canadian geese. She will put that in the

newsletter. Also, some text from the drawdown summary. Advertise the need for weedboat drivers. Anne suggested the minutes go out with the newsletter as well so people can see them. The calendar will be on there as well.

Shirts and hats and sales. Phyllis looked at prices for the hats, shirts and so on. She passed out information from the current vendor and a new vendor. Phyllis said the t shirts lose us money. The current vendor is less expensive than the other one. Phyllis has a few shirts and visors right now. Anne made motion to not order any right now, Don supported, all in favor.

Frank said no one wanted to go to the Crystal State conference this year.  
May 5th is the Region 3 lake meeting in Decatur. At Library at 9am.

Grant Applications Sue has done some research on this. We need to decide on a project to work on like invasive species, the coordination efforts and so on. It is a big effort. There is a Michigan Invasive species grant available right now. The Great Lakes initiative money is going to big projects on the great lakes or pcb's in bigger rivers and so on. There are smaller grants that we can try to apply for. We should start compiling information and see if there is something we can apply for. Roman asked if any of the private foundations talked about dredging, Sue said no she did not see anything on dredging. But they do focus on freshwater issues. Roman said the DEQ said that we are too far from Lake Michigan for dredging dollars. Grants are a lot of work.  
Our Next meeting is May 17th at 7pm.

Public Comment Mr. Waite mentioned there was some allocated lake money but it was for Great Lakes projects. He asked about the swans. He asked if were presented the information to manage the eggs as well as shoot the swans. We said it was just for the eggs. There was not an option presented about shooting them. Roman also said there is no shooting a fire arm in the village limits as well.  
Phyllis asked DNR about using drones to scare swans or geese. Usually dogs are used and if a drone was used it could not be used to injure a bird. We are not sure about the rules on this.  
Anne commented she saw two loons on the lake.  
Ken commented that there may be proposed legislation about the use of drones near police or government buildings. The macrovertebrae study is May 6th and that is a good function for parents and kids to do on the water. He said that the 2 Rivers Coalition has been doing a Paw Paw River Pathway project to open the river from fallen trees and so forth. They did some last year and will do some more work this year in order to paddle the river. There will be a number of paddles this year usually in July. We told Ken that we would like to do a river paddle on July 29th. He also, mentioned when doing these paddles getting a liability waiver signed is important and getting the parents to sign one for a kid can be difficult if they are not there. He mentioned that someone donated a kayak to him and wanted it to be used for kids programming. Frank asked about the Maple lake Circle paddle. Ken said he needed help because of many other paddles he works on. He asked if the lake association would help organize and promote it. We did not commit to this yet.

Chuck Lund said that he would like to see more color on the lake from plants. It would be great if lake residents planted some colorful plants or flowering trees/shrubs around the lake. We all said we could try to promote that.

Ken also suggested the idea of a buoy near the island to reduce boats beaching there. Frank said there is a permit for a buoy, they are regulated. Roman also commented on rip rap and the DNR has said that can help reduce erosion and it holds silt.

In a general discussion on attracting younger people to the lake kayaking is very popular and many young people get ideas of what to do thru breweries. Maybe we could advertise future events that way.

Shirley made motion to adjourn, Anne seconded, all agreed.

Submitted by Mike Pioch

## 2018 Membership Dues:

\$30 (minimum); Additional Donations Are Appreciated

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Lake Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Alternate Address: \_\_\_\_\_

MLA is a nonprofit organization and your membership dues and donations are tax deductible.

**Dues may be paid online at [www.maplelakepawpaw.com](http://www.maplelakepawpaw.com) or by mail:**

Maple Lake Association

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