



2022 MLA NEWS

LETTER FROM MLA PRESIDENT

We welcome many new people to Lake Maple this year.

For the 2022 MLA President's message, I thought I would write about my 85-year history of living on Maple Lake. My childhood address was 305 North Gremps St. During WWII, I remember the lake having a lot of weeds, and I recall the village ran a weed harvester much like a large combine to collect weeds. Later they introduced carp that ate the weeds then had to harvest the carp. They were loaded into a large semi parked at the State Police post and hauled away.

The State Police post had a radio tower for radio communications placed in the south end of the lake on 4 pilings supporting a building about 12'x12' to house the radio equipment. There were 3 or 4 poles mounted on cement pilings to carry the wiring from the Post to the tower building. Later, the tower was relocated to Prospect Hill but the building remained. When I was a Sea Scout, about 12 years old, Harry Bush, the Superintendent of Public Works, also our Scout leader, asked for a volunteer to shinny up the flagpole and hang signal flags for Memorial Day, I had access to a boat, so I volunteered. Later the structure was removed along with the poles and concrete.

I remember on the south side of La Cantina Ristorante, across from the east branch of the Paw Paw River, there was an abandoned shack that someone had been living in, and that the lake had two marinas where docks were available to rent. Pursel's Marina was at the base of the Maple Island bridge (the building is still there). The other was located in the large 3-story yellow barn in the Plaszczak cove on the west side of the lake. Gasoline was also available at the Marathon station at a dock with a gas pump. Once or twice a year, Maple Lake had professional boat races between Maple Island and the power plant road.

Every 4th of July, the community had games and prizes for children on Maple Island. The one I remember most was a greased pole with a bell on top. At the base of the pole were quarters buried in flour. To dig for the money, you needed to first shinney up the greased pole, ring the bell, then you could dig for the prize. Of course, the flour would stick to you so we just dove in the lake to clean up. During the summer, everyone took

2022 MLA CALENDAR

Upcoming MLA Events

- Apr 21, Board Meeting 7 PM, Township Hall
- May 19, Board Meeting 7 PM, Township Hall
- Jun 16, Board Meeting 7 PM, Township Hall
- Jun 18, Sandbar Tie Up, 6:30
- Jul 16, Ladies of the Lake, 10 AM
- Jul 21, Board Meeting 7 PM, Township Hall
- Jul 23, Sandbar Tie Up, 6:30
- Aug 18, Board Meeting 7 PM, Township Hall
- Aug 20, Sandbar Tie Up, 6:30
- Sep 4, Maple Island, Potluck
- Oct 20, Board Meeting 7 PM, Township Hall
- Nov 17, Board Meeting 7 PM, Township Hall
- Dec 4, Christmas Dinner Party, 5:30 at La Cantina
- Dec 15, Board Meeting 7 PM, Township Hall

swimming lessons from Mr. Hackney, the lifeguard and swim instructor. The Island had a long swim pier on the north side of the island with a large swim raft out in the lake. I would ride my bike out and spend the day.

We had a club (guys) that we named Pot Lickers Beach. We spent several nights in an old tent that my dad had and we camped where Charlie and Ann Maxwell live now. Our water sports activities were surf boarding and eventually waterskiing. I taught my girlfriend, now my wife Adele, how to water ski towing her with my hydroplane (no observer). After graduating high school in '54, I joined the Navy and really did see the world in 3 years. I was deployed to the Mediterranean, the Far East and Australia. We were married 6/29/57 and we bought our lake lot while I was in the Navy. We built our house in '63.

There was a tragedy on our lake in '62, Veronica Lang and three priests drowned. They had been (or were going) to the fireworks at the north end of the lake in a boat that had a canopy top. It was raining and the boat was close to her dock when it overturned.

We were blessed with three sons, we all waterskied, weather permitting, after I came home from work in construction. Our eight grandchildren also followed our water ski enjoyment. We have had 65 wonderful years together on beautiful Maple Lake. We hope you enjoy it as well.



Frank Walters, President MLA Association President

INFORMATION FROM THE VILLAGE

The automated system that monitors the lake level is working. It is installed at the north dam and controls the gates up or down to keep a consistent water level. In the past, Village employees had to constantly monitor the dam and physically adjust both the north and south dams. It was not only physically demanding but also difficult to maintain a consistent lake height. This new system is a labor-saving device and should result in a more consistent lake height.

There will be additional natural shoreline added to the west side of Maple Island by contractors as part of a certification program they have to go through. Along with that, there are discussions ongoing about making the swim area on the north side more user friendly to encourage swimming there.

The Maple Island bridge will be replaced hopefully in the next year or so. Sadly, it has reached the point where repairs will not be adequate and the Village has received a grant toward replacement.

The buoys marking the shallow area at the south end of the lake will be reinstalled.

There have been improvements made to the weed boat over the winter to make it even easier to operate. The plan is to keep operating it as needed to control the weeds. The boat is owned by the Village but is not operated by Village employees, only by volunteers from around the lake, which results in a substantial savings. Additional volunteers are always welcome and needed ... training is provided. Doug Hickok will be in charge of volunteers this year and he can be reached at 269-806-4208.

The free concert series at the amphitheater will continue again this summer and is provided by the Village Downtown Development Authority.



COLLECTING AND DISPOSING OF FLOATING LAKE DEBRIS

Thanks to everyone for helping keep our lake free from floating logs, pier planks, timbers, tree limbs, etc. These items may be deposited at the white lift located at the north end of the lake near the power plant.

STAY INFORMED OF LAKE EVENTS AND ALERTS

Use the handy sign-up form on our website to stay informed about upcoming events and lake alerts. Follow the menu prompts to the Newsletter Signup section. It is FREE! If you see or know of something happening on/around the lake and want to share that information, contact Shirley Lund, 269-680-0333 or email to shirley@lundandlund.net

<https://maplelakepawpaw.com/membership.html>

2022 MEMBERSHIP DUES & Donations

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

Dues: \$30 ____

Dues + Donations: \$40 ____ \$50 ____ \$Other _____

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Lake Address: _____

Alternate Address: _____

Dues may be paid online at www.maplelakepawpaw.com or by mail.

Make checks payable to Maple Lake Association.

Maple Lake Association, 35145 51st. Ave., Paw Paw, MI 49079