



Lake Margrethe Property Owners Association

Ripples

President's Report of July 2014

The LMPOA has had another very busy year and I am happy to report that our membership has risen substantially over the last year. Our family members for 2014 will probably fall between 250 and 300 members for the calendar year. This increase is largely due to the efforts of board member and membership chairman, Harry Wojcik, who has managed our mailings and membership requests for the past year. Our family members help to defer the expenses for the increasingly costly water testing and treatments in order to maintain the environmental health of the lake.

Many members of your lake association board are leading the efforts to research and study problems including road end erosion, controlling Eurasian water milfoil, testing for phosphorus, chlorophyll, and water clarity. We are also in touch with DNR fisheries officials regarding the planting of walleye and great northern muskie and we maintain contact with our neighbors and partners at Camp Grayling. We believe that with due diligence and attention to problem areas in Lake Margrethe, we have enabled residents and guests to enjoy one of the cleanest and healthiest lakes in the state of Michigan. With the continued support of our family members, the LMPOA will continue its efforts to maintain and improve the beauty and quality of our lake. *Chuck*

Meet your LMPOA board members for 2014 & 2015 who volunteer their time and talents to assure the vitality of our lake. This will assure our children and grand children will enjoy the same pristine lake for generations to come:

- Chuck Spencer, President
- Sandra Michalik, Vice President
- Joe Porter, Treasurer
- Doug Dodge, Secretary
- (Ann DUBY, Accountant)
- Harry Wojcik, Membership
- Hal Helterhoff, Director
- Steven Erps, Director
- Roger Wilcox, Director
- Bob Wilson, Director

Your association's committees, projects, and ongoing duties include:

- Monitoring water quality
- Maintaining water levels
- Environmental issues & remedies
- Member communication
- Military liaison
- Governmental liaison
- Membership development
- Promoting lake safety
- Supporting fisheries development & DNR
- Support of the Lake Margrethe Foundation
- Annual kids' fishing derby
- Annual boat parade



Mark your calendar for the summer of 2015.

**Membership Meetings:
May 16
July 11**

**Fishing Derby—June 20
Boat Parade—July 4**



Milfoil: No Easy Answer

Eurasian water milfoil (*Myriophyllum Spicatum*) is a plant native to Europe and Asia that was first documented in North America in the mid 1940s. Since its introduction, it has spread to most states in the US and Canadian provinces. Unfortunately, Eurasian milfoil has invaded many Northern Michigan lakes including Lake Margrethe.

As Eurasian milfoil takes hold in a lake, it causes problems for the ecosystem and for recreation. It tolerates lower temperatures and starts earlier than other aquatic plants, quickly forming thick underwater stands of tangled stems and vast mats of vegetation at the water's surface. These dense weed beds at the surface can impede navigation – and no one likes to swim in areas thick with aquatic plants. The lake ecosystem suffers because Eurasian milfoil displaces and reduces native aquatic plant diversity, which is needed for a healthy fishery. Infestations can also impair water quality due to dissolved oxygen depletion as thick stands die and decay.

A key factor in the plant's success is its ability to reproduce through both stem fragmentation and underground runners. Eurasian milfoil spreads to other areas of a water body by fragmentation. A single stem fragment can take root and form a new colony. Locally, it spreads by spreading shoots underground.

What is LMPOA doing about this problem? Our first aquatic mapping of all plant life occurred in 2000, and resulted in the treatment of over 32 acres of Eurasian milfoil in 2003. Since this time we have treated the milfoil on a regular basis and have been able to prevent the most devastating effects. We continue to have some beds that need to be treated with herbicides. Our most recent inventory of aquatic plant life in 2012 revealed a stable environment of native plant life and confirmed control of Eurasian milfoil.

We will have treated about 11-12 acres on the lake in addition to the canal in 2014. Treatment will include the larger beds and bushes during the week of July 28th or August 4th, depending upon the weather. Signs will be posted on shore near areas of treatment. There are very few areas near shore. If you see yellow buoys on the lake you will know we are within a day or so of treatment. Please avoid these areas. We attempt to treat early or mid-week to avoid most boat, recreational traffic. Any specific concerns may be directed to: sandralmichalik@gmail.com

What is the cost of treatment?

Average treatment costs per year are around \$6,000-\$7,000. Although expensive, the alternative is worse.



What can I do?

- Know the difference Eurasian (left) and natural milfoil (right).
- Do not throw plants back into the lake. Take them on shore and let them dry and die. Better to remove plants from anchors rather than misidentify milfoil and throw it back in to root.
- When traveling from another lake, remove all plant life from your trailer and boat. There are other invasive species headed our way. Prevention is key!
- Join your neighbors as part of LMPOA and consider a separate donation to the Lake Margrethe Foundation Milfoil Fund, Checks may be mailed to P.O.Box 583, Grayling, Mi., 49738.

LMPOA MEMBERSHIP CONTINUES TO GROW—THANKS TO THE EFFORTS OF HARRY WOJCIK!



Family memberships total **292** in 2014.
25 new LMPOA members this year.
 (The number of eligible family memberships is about 350)

- The number of members receiving LMPOA communication by e-mail: 200...92 members have yet to provide their e-mail address.
- The LMPOA web page receives 75 visits per day in the summer season.
- 55 members are part of the LMPOA Facebook page.
- 68 gifts to the Lake Foundation and/or Milfoil remediation donations.



Michigan DNR Reports On Lake Margrethe Fisheries

Mark Tonello Report, DNR, Fisheries

tonellom@michigan.gov

Background: During our May meeting, LMPOA members expressed an interest in learning more about fishery practices on Lake Margrethe. By email, Mark gave us an overview of stocking practices and responded to the following questions.

"Here are several things to be aware of. We are continuing to manage Lake Margrethe for walleye. We stocked 45,585 fingerlings in 2011 and 69,298 fingerlings in 2013. Assuming they survived, the 2011 fingerlings should be approaching keeper size by this fall. The next scheduled

walleye stocking for Lake Margrethe would occur in 2015. We are continuing to stock Great Lakes Muskies into Lake Margrethe. We most recently stocked 2,000 in 2012. The next potential stocking would be the fall of 2014."

1. Why are we still planting muskies? Don't they eat the walleye we are most interested in?

For the most part, no they do not. While they may take a walleye once in a while, the muskies prefer soft-rayed forage like white suckers (which you do have in Lake Margrethe). There are many lakes all over the Midwest (Wisconsin, Minnesota) where walleye and muskie co-exist very well. The muskie population in Lake Margrethe is popular and we are getting angler reports from folks who are catching some whoppers. There aren't many lakes in Michigan where muskies would do well, but Margrethe is one of them. If we thought the muskies would negatively affect the walleye, we would not stock them. We realize that the walleye fishery is more popular than the muskie program, but we believe there's room for both in Lake Margrethe.

2. If there is a sucker problem, don't bass eat them? We don't see or catch suckers.

I don't believe there is a sucker problem. While we did catch some in the 2007 survey, they weren't overwhelming. Unfortunately no, bass don't eat them for the most part, but muskies and northern pike do. So it is important to have some white suckers in the lake. I'm not surprised you don't see them. For the most part, suckers stay deep and out of sight. Typically the only time you see them would be in the spring if they are spawning on gravel in the shallows.

3. Members really want an LMPOA representative to meet with you on a regular basis to gather data and become more involved in the decision making process. We need your help to determine what our options are.

Absolutely. I'd be more than willing to meet with LMPOA. We have a long history of working together and we appreciate your involvement and dedication to the lake.

4. Is it possible for me to go with you when you assess our fishery (shocking data, planting of species)?

Certainly. You could meet us when we stock fish. As far as accompanying us on fisheries surveys, there's no guarantee we'd have room on our boat, but if we're full you can certainly follow along in your own boat and take pictures, video, etc. The only issue here is that I don't know when the next survey will be.

5. I believe there is STRONG support of your department and that if monies were needed to improve our fishery it would be forthcoming. (Assuming we have the data to back up a plan.)

This is very much appreciated. We will keep it in mind.

Will road-end runoff become an environmental problem for our association?

Shown here is the ramp at the lower end of Summit Drive.

- A survey of road-ends to determine the potential environmental impact of unfettered run-off might have on the lake is underway.
- Cooperation of the township and county will be required to effect changes, if deemed necessary.

Photo taken in July 2014.





The expansion plan of our very important neighbor is creating some questions and skepticism. Board member Bob Wilson plans to discuss the effect, if any, on Lake Margrethe property owners with Colonel Perison, Camp Commander in the near future.

What if the Michigan DNR wanted to lease massive tracts of our trout streams and forests — land owned by you and me? What if the territory in question spanned three counties and contained environmentally crucial areas and hunting lands?

What if the DNR had little clue how the land was going to be used, but began making proposals behind closed doors anyway? What if the time line to a completed agreement were six weeks away?

Camp Grayling is the largest National Guard training facility in the nation. It's poised to expand its reach onto an additional 54,000 acres of public land, snagging prime fishing and hunting areas along the way.

The news comes from a memo obtained by the Free Press authored by Susan Thiel, unit manager of the Grayling Forest Management Unit, and reveals that the military has been in discussions with the DNR and expects an agreement this summer.

The memo was directed to around 40 DNR employees. It stated: "We were advised we need to have potential areas identified by May, with a verbal agreement in place by mid-July, then details of the agreement can follow."

Camp Grayling is 147,000 acres. The memo indicates the aim is to increase man-hours on the military installation from 200,000 to 1 million. In all, the plans swell the size of the training facility by 36% and camp use by 500%.

The memo continued: "With pressing deadlines, a small committee gathered last week and identified potential areas for expansion and listed resource concerns."

A referred-to map delineated a large section of the Manistee River on both sides for military use, as well as areas on the North Branch of the Au Sable River near Connors Marsh. Included is wildlife restoration territory such as endangered Kirtland's warbler habitat, lands purchased with Pittman-Robertson funds and state game areas.

Anglers of the Au Sable learned about the proposal from a copy of the memo it obtained and called a meeting May 22 with various organizations. Their concern is that the proper procedures for such a massive land transfer have been ignored.

"What really scared me is that they said they need an agreement by July," said Bruce Pregler, attorney and president of the Anglers of the Au Sable. "It's like a handshake agreement is being orchestrated, and no one told the public about it."

"The anglers are on this, we are monitoring it, and we will do everything in our power to make sure it's done by the book. I'm sure the residents of Lovells will tell you their windows rattle sometimes. What will so much additional traffic do? They deserve input."

DNR forestry chief Bill O'Neill said: "We are looking to be very deliberate on getting an application through a similar process to all land applications. In this case, where we're at now is working with the military to try to understand what they need."

Waving aside the deadline in the memo, he said: "There isn't even an application in yet, and we still plan to get public input."

O'Neill said there would be no net loss of hunting lands, as required by state law.

"We're not going to give 54,000 acres to anybody and have it taken off the table for hunting or habitat enhancement," he said. "We're going to do this by the book."

There's some debate as to what "by the book" means. When asked about an environmental impact statement, as required by federal law, O'Neill said: "Brig. Gen. Mike Stone told me they aren't required to produce a federal environmental impact statement because they're a state agency. We'll do our own environmental assessment."

However, the argument that the Michigan National Guard is a state agency, and not a federal one, might not cut it.

"Bill is a very good forester, but this isn't his department," said Marvin Roberson, forest ecologist with the Michigan Sierra Club, which also obtained a copy of the memo. "The Michigan department of military affairs (a.k.a. the National Guard) is a congressionally authorized and funded federal agency — even though it's under the jurisdiction of the state. If they expand — regardless of what type of land, they need to produce a federal impact statement, as required by the National Environmental Protection Act."

Federal courts have held that the National Guard and all its units are federal entities, subject to federal standards.

Why would the Michigan National Guard attempt to avoid producing an environmental impact statement? Did the DNR suggest sensitive environmental areas as a starting point for discussions? Why did it take a leak for the public to become informed? What is the pressing deadline and who is doing the advising?

At stake are the environs many of us visit. We catch mighty steelhead and grouse hunt here. We hike here, canoe and hunt morels. We deserve better. So do our resources. The whole thing stinks of backdoor deals and lack of respect for the residents and the environment. When residents finally provide input, will it matter? I hope time will prove my cynicism faulty.

Contact the author at lydiaoutdoors@gmail.com.

by Detroit Free Press Special Writer Lydia Lohrer

Fishing Derby—Fun for Everyone!

- A total of 30 young fisher persons registered.
- Lunch of hot dogs, chips, and soda was provided thanks to the generosity of Roger Wilcox.
- Awards to each age group & everyone had fun.
- Special thanks to volunteers who donated their time and talents to assure a successful program:
 - Ken Michalik
 - Harry Wojcik
 - Roger & Nancy Wilcox
 - Mike & Kelly Bushre
 - And others who added help during the event and its preparation.



4th of July Boat Parade was another hit!

- Theme was movies. Winners to Wimpy's
- 1st. Tim Gignac & crew \$25 certificate
 - 2nd. Lori Krafft & crew \$20 certificate
 - 3rd. Ray Basile & crew \$15 certificate
 - 4th. Molly & Aaron Smith family \$10 certificate.
- The 2015 parade theme is "Fairy Tales" and will conclude again with a hot dog cook out at Camp Grayling's beach. Thanks to our Boat Parade Commodore, Doug Dodge, it will be another great summer activity on our lake.

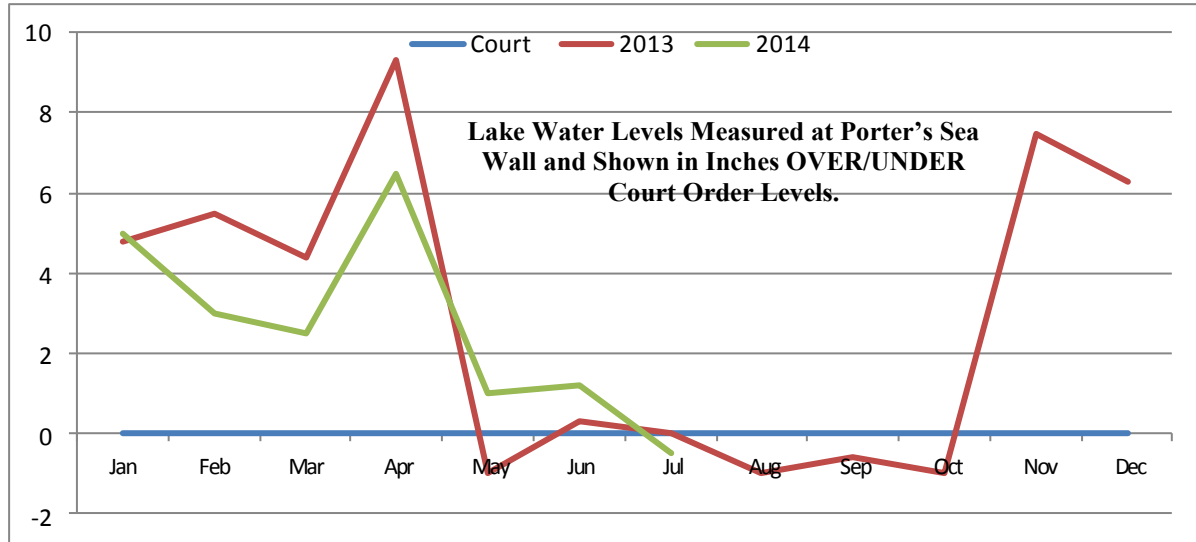


Be sure to check our web site for lots more great images of activities, both summer and winter, on and around the lake.

www.lakemargrethe.weebly.com

Lake Water Levels Monitored and Maintained at or near Court-Ordered Levels by LMPOA with the Authority of Crawford County.

Thanks to the year-round efforts of Joe Porter our lake's summer levels reduce shore erosion and provide excellent boating and recreation. The flow at the Portage Creek dam is an ongoing winter issue for LMPOA.



A Few Last Interesting Items

Retired Michigan Supreme Court Judge Alton Davis, a great supporter of our annual LMPOA fishing derby, reports that the bullhead caught by his 8 year old grandson Benjamin in our 2013 fishing derby was judged the "prettiest fish" and later turned out to be a state record bullhead. It earned him a master angler's patch from the Michigan DNR and a state record certificate. Congratulations to Ben!

Judge Davis goes on to say at the age of 67, and fishing since a youngster, he himself has never won a patch or certificate for his prowess with the rod and reel. He will just have to keep trying.

For those LMPOA members who have never visited the Portage Creek dam that helps control the lake water level, shown below is a picture.



More great photography by LMPOA member, Len Bingert

Circa 1900, if you lived in the village of Grayling, and rented a horse and buggy for the trek to the lake on a summer weekend you might spend the day sailing the lake on the Hanson-Sailing Company steam boat. A very old image of the boat with 20 or more aboard is to the right.



LMPOA Business Page

Association Balance Sheet - As of June 30, 2014			
Current Assets:			
	General Account	\$ 10,439.01	
Total Assets		<u>\$ 10,439.01</u>	
Liabilities and Equity:			
	Opening Balance	\$ 7,134.51	
	Retained Earnings	\$ 1,997.04	
	Net Income	<u>\$ 1,307.46</u>	
Total Equity		<u>\$ 10,439.01</u>	

Lake Margrethe Endowment Fund as of May 31, 2014			
	Endowed Funds -	\$ 98,324.91	
(Accruing interest of 3-5% per year)			
	Reserve Required by Trustee	\$ 33,859.52	
	Grant Funds Available	<u>\$ 51,926.50</u>	
Total Value of the Fund		<u>\$ 184,110.93</u>	
A total of 68 donations were made in the period Jan - Jun 2014			
	Endowed Donations	\$ 1,435.00	
	Milfoil Directed Donations	<u>\$ 4,135.00</u>	
Total		<u>\$ 5,570.00</u>	

LMPOA Membership Status as of July 2014

- Total Paid Family memberships - 292
- Riparian & Lake View properties - 230
- Riparian & Lake View members - 155
- Other Eligible members - 137

ANY PERSON WHO OWNS , LAND WHICH IS LOCATED BETWEEN THE SHORES OF LAKE MARGRETHE AND STATE LAND SHALL BE ELIGIBLE TO MEMBERSHIP IN THE ASSOCIATION AS A VOTING MEMBER. EACH FAMILY SHALL BE CONSIDERED AS ONE MEMBERSHIP AND PAY ONE UNIT OF ANNUAL DUES; HOWEVER, HUSBAND AND WIFE SHALL EACH HAVE ONE VOTE. OTHER PERSONS INTERESTED IN SUPPORTING THE OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSOCIATION MAY BECOME NONVOTING ASSOCIATE MEMBERS SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

Editor: Marshall Roe
mroe@aol.com

- **Family memberships (\$25.00)**
- **Milfoil Remediation Gifts**
- **Lake Endowment Funds**

LMPOA
PO Box 509
Grayling, MI 49738

Enclosed is the 2014 Ripples Newsletter

Visit us on the Web at www.lakemargrethe.weebly.com and Facebook at "LMPOA."

Ripples is being mailed to those members without Internet access.

If you receive this by US mail & have e-mail, PLEASE PROVIDE IT!

Next Lake Margrethe Property Owners membership meeting:

May 16, 2015

9:00 AM

Grayling Township Hall

"Our Lake...Our Responsibility"

Lake Margrethe Property Owners Association
PO Box 583
Grayling, MI 49738