

Our Mission

To learn, study and monitor the condition of Portage Lake and take steps to keep it healthy and viable.

Friends of Portage Lake

www.portagelakefriends.org

Portage Lake Report



Potluck & Public Meeting Feb. 10

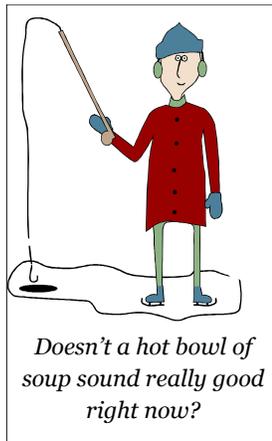
Calling All Friends!

You're invited to our first public meeting of the year, to be held on Thursday, February 10, in the fellowship hall of West Mendon Church.

A chili - soup potluck kicks things off at 6 pm. This is a great chance to visit and get better acquainted with your lake neighbors! A selection of chili's and soups are being prepared by some of the great cooks at Klines Resort. Bring a dish to pass (something to go with soup, like salad, cornbread, veggies, or dessert) and your own table service (don't forget a soup bowl).

If you can only come for the meeting, that's OK too. We'll get started after potluck, probably around 6:45 pm. We'll have coffee on, and maybe some left over dessert for any of you who miss potluck.

On the agenda are reports from six of our committee members, updates on our first year's progress, and a preview of plans for the year ahead.



In addition, we've invited Scott Banfield from Aquatic Enhancement, to explain our weed treatment results and planning, and Scott Brown from the MLSA, who will share what's happening around our state.

Of course, this is also an opportunity for each of you to ask questions, share concerns, and look at ways you can get involved.

West Mendon Church is located at 22994 Portage Lake Road. Hope to see you there!

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Committee Members

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Did you know? Michigan Enacts Law Limiting Use of Phosphorus Act 299 Restricts Phosphorus Use on Turf Lawns beginning Jan 1, 2012

In the final days of a lame duck session, the Michigan legislature passed and Governor Granholm signed a bill limiting the application of phosphorus on turf lawns in Michigan. Michigan now joins Illinois, Minnesota, New York and Wisconsin in restricting the use of phosphate based turf lawn fertilizers. The passage of the legislation is considered a major milestone in the protection of Michigan's freshwater resources. (from MLSA news)

Chairman's Report Looking Ahead to 2011

2010 was an exciting year for our lake community. In addition to passing the one-year mark since the formation of the Friends of Portage Lake Committee, we began a lake monitoring program, helped host the first annual Double Time Triathlon, resurrected the annual July 4th boat parade, and conducted our lake's first invasive weed treatment.

With your generous donations and support of the fundraising activities that were held, we were able to raise the necessary funds to treat just under 5 acres of our lake which contained Eurasian Milfoil.

In 2011, we plan to continue the lake monitoring and invasive weed treatment programs as well as fundraisers and community activities. As was done last year, we have scheduled an informational meeting

for **February 10th at 7:00 p.m.** following a potluck at **6:00 p.m.** at the **West Mendon United Methodist Church.**

I hope you will plan to join us as we review treatment plans for the coming year as well as potential activities and fundraisers.

Committee membership and structure will be discussed as well as other topics of interest. Please mark your calendars for this important meeting.

As our committee considers all that has taken place in 2010, we are very thankful for your overwhelming level of support and involvement in making our lake a better place to live. We look forward to what is in store for the year ahead!

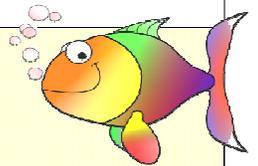
Mark Parks

Website of the Month

www.stjoecountycd.com

The St. Joe County Soil Conservation District has announced ambitious plans for 2011. Visit this site to learn about their natural shoreline workshops, river cleanup projects, 2011 tree sale, annual meeting, and more!

I'm a Friend of Portage Lake!



- Contribution enclosed: \$_____ (Thanks!)
- Send me emails with copies of this newsletter and other information.
- Other: _____

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____@_____

Clip and return to:

*Friends of Portage Lake,
c/o Kathleen Kauffman,
56112 Angevine Road,
Mendon MI 49072*

Want to learn more?

Attend the **Michigan Lake and Stream Associations 50th Annual Conference**, April 15-16 at Boyne Mountain Resort.

Registration forms are online at www.mlswa.org

Cost is just \$65 for 2 days of informative speakers, activities & special events!



Save These Dates!

Doubletime Triathlon June 4

2nd Annual Boat Parade July 4

Friends Pancake Breakfast
8-11 am Sat, August 6

"Clean your closets" Community
Yard Sale Day Sept. 10