

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



Chairman's Report...

Invasive Weed Control Is Top Priority

I'm excited for the summer weather and the chance to get out on the lake on a regular basis. I'm thankful that everyone was OK following the Memorial Day weekend tornado. Many neighbors still have lots of work ahead to clean up and recover from the powerful storm.

This is a good time to revisit our treatment goals for the lake. Some folks have wondered why more weeds are not disappearing following the treatments. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) will only allow a lake organization such as ours to treat invasive weed species. We cannot treat native plants, of which we have many. Short of the problems native plants cause for boating and swimming, they are a very important element of a healthy lake system. If removed, the water quality and fish population can decline drastically.

Unlike native plants, invasive species tend to overtake the entire lake, upsetting the

balance. They are difficult and expensive to control once they multiply beyond a certain level. We are fortunate to have very limited populations of the invasive plant Eurasian Milfoil. This year's plan called for two treatments over approximately 5 acres total. However, it should be noted that it is difficult to ever completely eliminate an invasive species due to its ability to leave seeds behind and re-grow, so the goal is to treat it wherever it's found to keep it at bay.

Cabomba is the other invasive species that has made a home in our lake. See Greg's article on page 3 for recent developments on treating Cabomba and our plans to do so.

Please feel free to discuss the invasive weed control plans with any of your committee representatives. We welcome your questions and input. Thank you again for supporting our treatment efforts for this year as we continue to work to protect our great lake.
Mark Parks

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Landscaping with Native Plants

Saturday, July 16, 10 am to noon

You're invited to a workshop on how to use native plants to protect your shoreline, discourage geese, and more!

Workshop will be held at Elayna's home at 52068 Lake Ave.
For information, contact Elayna Grody at elayna13@aol.com

Learning about Zebra Mussels

by Elayna Grody

Hopefully, you are not like me and discovered zebra mussels in the lake by cutting your foot on them. But you may have noticed them encrusting your dock, boat or rocky shoreline. Though I have known about zebra mussels since the early 1990's, I thought it was great that our lake had "dodged the bullet" and did not have them. Then about 5 years ago they painfully appeared.

Zebra mussels are small clam-like animals named for the stripes they sometimes have on their shell. They attached to hard surfaces with little hair-like threads and grow to about 2 inches in length. Once established, they will proliferate until they cover the entire surface of the object. Spawning zebra mussels can produce from 30,000 to a million eggs a year. With few animals that eat them, the mussels breed faster than predators can consume them.

The zebra mussel first came to North America in 1988 in the Great Lakes. They actually traced the single ship from Europe that traveled to the area and then released its ballast water which contained the young larvae of the species. From the Great lakes, the zebra mussel quickly traveled to rivers and small lakes like ours by being attached to boats that were trailered from one water body to another.

Zebra mussels damage docks and boats. They can get into your engine's cooling system causing overheating and other problems. Deterioration of dock pilings has increased when they are encrusted with zebra mussels. Continued attachment of zebra mussel corrodes steel and concrete.

Because they are filter feeders, they affect fish and other wildlife populations and alter plant populations. Though they do have the benefit of making the water clearer, they limit the food available to larval fish and other wildlife. The clearer water also permits sunlight to go deeper into the lake. This can stimulate plant growth - including the growth of invasive plants such as the Cabamba and Eurasian water milfoil that we are trying to control.



Once zebra mussels become established in a water body, they are impossible to eradicate with technology currently available. Many chemicals kill zebra mussels, but the zebra mussels are so tolerant and tough that

everything in the water would be killed off using the high potency of chemical required to destroy the mussel. Removal is accomplished with mechanical scrapers, hot water, air, chemicals, and sound. Though new methods are constantly under investigation, at present, there is no single, ideal solution.

Our lake has a soft bottom with not many items to which the zebra mussels attach. So that limits their number somewhat. Unfortunately, we need to keep our eyes out for the zebra mussel's relative, the quagga mussel that lives on soft surfaces as well as hard. Though similar in appearance, it can be easily distinguished. If placed on a flat surface, zebra mussels are stable on their flattened underside while quagga mussels will fall over.

The best solution to invasives is preventing them from coming here in the first place. Zebra mussels, water milfoil and Cabamba all got to our lake by dirty boats. Educating boaters is an important step in protecting our lake and keeping it healthy.

Pancake Breakfast Aug. 6

Enjoy a great breakfast and support a great cause at our Friends of Portage Lake Pancake Breakfast.

Everyone's invited!

Klines Resort Clubhouse

Saturday, Aug 6 from 8 to 11 am.

\$5 per person, \$2.50 age 12 & under.



Visit booth at Resort Yard Sale... Quilt Raffle July 9

July is a big month on Portage Lake. As Friends of Portage Lake we have lots of fun activities to enjoy. I have done one of my favorite activities in recent months that I hope will raise more funds for our lake treatment plan.

I've created a patriotic red, white, and blue quilt for some lucky person to win. The quilt will be on display at the Klines Resort Pancake Breakfast on July 4th and on July 9th at the Klines Resort Yard Sale. The raffle will take place at a Friends of Portage Lake booth at the end of the sale.

Tickets will be available at the yard sale with all sales going to benefit our lake. Hope everyone comes out to help our cause. Thanks for your continuing support. *Marie Lewis*



*Marie displays the patriotic quilt she is donating to the raffle.
Thanks Marie!*

Clipper TM Approved for Cabomba Treatment in Cove

Clipper TM has been approved by the MDNR and is now properly registered and available to treat Cabomba in Michigan.



Cabomba is the non-native invasive plant that has all but taken over Snug Harbor and parts of the north end of the lake. Cabomba can easily be recognized by its resemblance to a green bushy raccoon tail. Aquatic Enhancement and Survey, the company currently performing treatment for the Eurasian Milfoil, has proposed a trial treatment for the 2.5 acre cove at a cost of \$1,947.

According to the proposal, "The goal of the first treatment would be to test the potential efficacy of treatment for this plant on Portage Lake and also provide practical control within the cove. This site was selected because it contains relatively dense Cabomba growth that is likely to interfere with docking and movements of watercraft. The cove is also relatively isolated from the open lake and will provide relatively good containment for the applied chemicals".

Given the late approval, we were not able to effectively budget for an application in the 2011 season. Based on current fund raising projections and with continued support from all, we hope to be prepared to treat in 2012. If the results are positive within the cove, then the Friends of Portage Lake might consider expanding its use to the other growth areas within the open waters of the lake.

I hope to follow up personally with the cove residents later this summer to review the product information and I will be asking property owner's for permission to treat. If you have any questions about the proposed treatment plan, or would like printed copies of the linked documents at right, send emails to gregdedes@gmail.com or call in the evenings at 475-5191.

We are excited about this potential treatment opportunity and hope that we can achieve the necessary support to open up these waters for the enjoyment of all.
Greg Dedes



Save These Dates!

2nd Annual Boat Parade

1 pm Monday July 4

Quilt Raffle @ Klines Resort Yard Sale on July 9. Drawing at 12 noon.

Pancake Breakfast

8 to 11 am Sat, August 6

Community Yard Sale

8am to ? Sat, Sept. 10

Want to get rid of stuff without doing a sale? Anyone wishing to donate to a "Friends" yard sale is asked to bring donations to 24450 Michigan Ave on Friday from 5-9pm; no clothing please.

Clipper Herbicide Links

Follow these links to learn more about the Clipper product.

For key findings from the studies performed under Federal Experimental Use Permits:

<http://www.valent.com/professional/products/clipper/loader.cfm?csModule=security/getfile&pageid=50167>

Specific application information and MSDS sheets can be viewed at:

<http://www.valent.com/professional/products/clipper/index.cfm>

ANNUAL JULY 4TH BOAT PARADE



JOIN "FRIENDS OF PORTAGE LAKE" FOR
OUR JULY 4TH BOAT PARADE!

DECORATE YOUR BOAT IN A PATRIOTIC
STYLE!

BE CREATIVE! YOU MIGHT WIN THE "PATRIOT CUP" TRAVELING TROPHY. YOUR NAME WILL BE INGRAVED ON IT FOR 2011 AND YOU WILL BE ABLE TO DISPLAY IT PROUDLEY !

ANYONE IS WELCOME TO JOIN.

TELL YOUR NEIGHBORS & JOIN THE FUN!

TIME: 1:00 PM starting in front of the light house.

ROUTE: We circle the lake to show off your style.
Re-gather for presentation of trophy.



For More information contact:

Kevin Hughes

Email: chrisnkev19@comcast.net

Phone: (269) 649-9535

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Doubletime Triathlon Report



Congratulations to this year's overall winners **Dan Van Sweden and Megan Smithergill James!** Both finished in under an hour to lead a field of 126 athletes across the finish line.

Thanks to all the great volunteers, and to race organizer Jim Mishler. With your help, the race produced \$1,072 for the Friends of Portage Lake.

We had a great event and look forward to a bigger and better future. Next year's race is tentatively set for June 9th.

Treasurer's Report

A personal note of "thanks" to all who donated to Friends of Portage Lake for the 2011 season. Your generosity and support has allowed us to proceed and to ultimately complete our 2011 water treatment plan.

We continue to rely on donations and fund raisers to meet our weed treatment goals each year, and so far our expectations have been exceeded. A full financial report will be published following our August pancake breakfast fundraiser. Hope to see you there!

Thank you again for donating, for volunteering and for attending our fundraisers. We could not do it without all of you!

Kathleen Kauffman

I'm a Friend of Portage Lake!

- Contribution enclosed:
\$ _____ (Thanks!)
- Volunteer to help with Pancake
Breakfast August 6
- Send me emails with copies of the MLSA newsletter
- Other: _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ @ _____

Clip and return to: Friends of Portage Lake, c/o Kathleen Kauffman,
56112 Angevine Road, Mendon MI 49072

