

## 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](http://www.portagelakefriends.org)

# Portage Lake Report



*Spring is Here...*

## Time to Think About Summer Events

Volume 2, Issue 3

May 2011

### **Patriotic Boat Parade: July 4<sup>th</sup> 1:00 PM**

Last year 18 boats participated in our 1<sup>st</sup> annual parade. Bob and Joan Cole took home the "Patriotic Cup." Now is the time to start thinking how you can decorate your boat.

You just might have your name engraved on the cup and be able to display it proudly this year. If you are not in the parade, sit along your shoreline and cheer and wave as the boats pass by.

### **Natural Shoreline Landscape Workshop: Date to be determined**

This is a workshop that shows how natural landscaping can help reduce runoff, deter geese, stabilize soils, and improve fish and wildlife habitat. It also shows how to enhance an existing rock or sea wall for the benefit of our lake. If you are interested in attending this workshop, contact Kevin Hughes.

### **Friends of Portage Lake Community Yard Sale: September 10<sup>th</sup>**

We thought it would be a good idea to have a community yard sale. If you are thinking about having a yard sale this year, keep this date in mind. If we have enough people, we will do some advertising and make some maps showing where all the sales are around the lake. This is not a fund raiser; the money is yours. Of course, you can donate some of the proceeds to Friends of Portage Lake☺.

If you have any questions, or additional ideas, contact Kevin Hughes: 269-649-9535 or [chrisnkev19@comcast.net](mailto:chrisnkev19@comcast.net).



## Committee Members

Greg Dedes

Nancy Lane & Snug Harbor  
[greg@cornerstonecm.com](mailto:greg@cornerstonecm.com)

Elayna Grody

[elayna13@aol.com](mailto:elayna13@aol.com)

Kevin Hughes Davis Drive  
[chrisnkev19@comcast.net](mailto:chrisnkev19@comcast.net)

Dave & Kathy Kauffman  
SE end of lake/Rivolake Dr  
[smikky@gmail.com](mailto:smikky@gmail.com)

Phil Kline Klines Resort  
[lakefrontPhil@MSN.com](mailto:lakefrontPhil@MSN.com)

Terry Large East Shore Ln  
[sherryk1@msn.com](mailto:sherryk1@msn.com)

Marie Lewis Lake Ave.  
[dandmlewis2@gmail.com](mailto:dandmlewis2@gmail.com)

Mark Parks North end  
(except E. Shore Ln)  
[mark@jergensinsulation.com](mailto:mark@jergensinsulation.com)

## Stunning Spring Colors Coming to Your Yard – Not Flowers but Birds

by Elayna Grody

If you have never thought about birding, or had just a slight interest in it, this is a good time to try it out. With spring, we get a flush of very beautiful birds migrating through our lake area as they fly from their winter homes in Central and South America to their breeding grounds in Northern Michigan and Canada. The best part is all the males, and some females, are in their brightly colored breeding plumage will colors and patterns that are amazing.

We are lucky on the lake because most birds follow waterways as they migrate north. The Portage River is like a bird passageway that leads them up to their breeding grounds. This means many of the birds that other people go out in search of actually travel right through our yards. Plus, we get the benefit of having both land birds and water birds, so the variety is even greater.

The influx of birds has already started with the many varieties of ducks, grebes, gulls, terns and loons coming through our area. The swallows have already started as well with tree swallows and rough-winged swallows. The purple martins that we put houses up are on their way soon, too.



Blackburnian Warbler

The most eye-catching are the warblers. These you will notice as little birds that quickly move about the tree limbs searching for insects. Though these will be more prevalent the first three weeks of May, some early ones include Pine warblers, yellow-rumped warblers, and yellow warblers. Here's hoping you see a Blackburnian warbler or Cape May warbler outside your window. Other stunning ones include the Magnolia, Canada and Bay-breasted Warbler. See, here and learn more these birds at [www.allaboutbirds.org](http://www.allaboutbirds.org) – a great website run by Cornell University.

All it takes is a \$10 bird book and a pair of binoculars to be on your way to enjoy the beautiful birds that are right out your window and you are on your way to hours of enjoyment. I suggest keeping a list of the birds you see out your window and in your yards. You will quickly be amazed at how the variety of birds you see will grow in number.

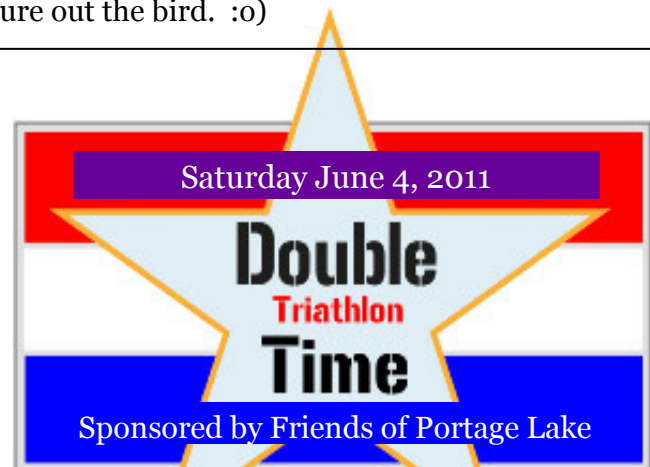
And if there are any birds you see, or hear, that you need help identifying, just shoot me an email. I will gladly help. In fact, just today my friend sent me a bird song sound recording that she took with her phone of a bird in her yard to see if I could help her know what it was. I didn't even know phones could do that, but it was pretty awesome. And, yes, I did figure out the bird. :o)

### Doubletime Tri to Lead Regional Youth Series

Calling all youth: the Doubletime Tri kicks off a 5 state series of sprint races designed to encourage participation by athletes ages 19 and under. USAT is promoting these races to help identify and generate elite youth athletes.

This comes with news that last year's Doubletime winner - Kaleb VanOrt - is pursuing a spot on the US Olympic team. Racing in Miami last month, Kaleb had the top 10km running split of 31:04, placing him in an elite group of racers eyeing the 2012 games.

We have the perfect course for racers of all ages, and we expect our 2nd year to double the size of last year's race. So whether you participate or spec'tate, come support this great race!



*Pre-register by May 13: \$45\**

*After May 13: \$55\* (\*plus USTA fee)*

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

*Chairman's Report*

**Our Work Continues; LLC to be Formed**

We had a great winter on the lake with solid ice for ice fishing and even ice skating if you could keep up with clearing off the snow! With a cold start to our spring, we're looking forward to warmer temperatures so that we can put the boats in the water and get out on the lake again.

Our committee is busy working on many areas for 2011. We are continuing the lake water quality monitoring program and plan to treat again to manage invasive weeds. We're also planning fundraisers and community activities.

We enjoyed meeting with those who could attend the potluck and annual information meeting held on February 10th at the West Mendon United Methodist Church. We reviewed our plans for the coming year and a presentation was given by Scott Banfield of Aquatic Enhancement on our invasive weed treatment program. Many good questions were asked of Scott and a great deal of treatment information was provided. Our committee also explained our decision to establish an LLC (limited liability corporation) for the Friends of Portage

Lake Committee. The formation of an LLC allows the committee to obtain insurance needed for committee projects and community events as well as establishing a format for electing new members, etc. If you have questions on this issue, please contact me or your committee representative for further information.

A letter went out to you recently noting the fact that we need to raise additional funds to support the invasive weed treatment program again this year. Your participation in this fundraising is strictly voluntary, but we have determined that if each property owner would contribute \$60, we would meet our goal for the funds needed. The fundraisers we coordinate provide roughly half of the funds needed for the treatment program and the remaining funds come from your donations. We invite everyone who enjoys Portage Lake to contribute as you feel you are able.

I look forward to enjoying our beautiful lake with you in 2011. Thank you for your continued support.

*Mark Parks, Chairman*

*Thank you*

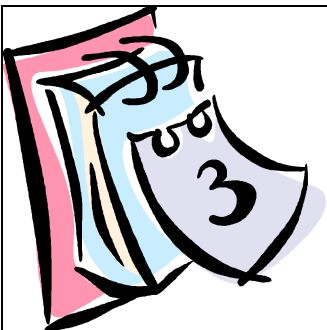
We would like to thank all of you for your kindness and support during our most recent loss of Terry's father, George Large, and my mother, Ginny Yoder.

During a time like this we realize how much our friends mean to us. We have been blessed to have such wonderful and caring "Lake Friends".

Sherry Large

**2011 Invasive Weed Treatment Plan**

- Feb: Apply for permit
- March-May: Research cobomba treatment options. Apply for trial permit.
- May: Survey lake and map growth areas
- May: Send notice to riparian owners in treatment areas.
- May-early June: 1st treatment
- July: Survey lake and re-map growth areas.
- July: 2nd treatment where needed
- October: Annual management report and recommendations for 2012



**Save These Dates!**

- |                        |                      |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| Doubletime Triathlon   | Sat, June 4, 2011    |
| 2nd Annual Boat Parade | July 4, 2011         |
| Pancake Breakfast      | Sat, August 6, 2011  |
| Community Yard Sale    | Sat., Sept. 10, 2011 |

## Fishing Contest a Success

On February 19<sup>th</sup>, sun and cold greeted 24 fishermen and women as they headed onto the lake with hopes of catching the "Big One." Each paid \$10 to enter the contest with a chance of winning \$80 in one of three categories.

The fish cooperated that morning, as most anglers brought fish to the weigh in at Brewster's in Mendon. Here the anglers enjoyed a delicious lunch of smoked pork sandwiches, wings, and fries. Double D Bait and Tackle then raffled off enough prizes that almost everyone took home something to add to their ice fishing arsenal.

- Winning panfish: 0.81# crappie
- Winning Northern pike: 26 inches (only one caught)
- Winning 15 panfish: 6.5#

Next winter we hope to expand and have a contest each month. Only 235 days to winter!!



## Inside this issue:

2011 Events	1
Birding	2
Doubletime Returns	2
Chairman's Report	3
2011 Treatment Plan	3
Become a friend!	4
Treasurer's report	4

## Treasurer's Report

Thank you for the great response to the donation letter sent out in March. With our balance of over \$4,000 from last year, we are only short \$900 to meet our basic 2011 goal. However, if cobomba treatment is approved, additional funds will be needed.

We have received many notes of appreciation for our committee and I want you to know how much that means. We are all passionate

about what we do for the lake and it is nice to know that we have your support.

I'm sure some of you have not yet sent in your donation, so we hope to meet that goal in the next few weeks.

Thank you again to everyone. We look forward to a wonderful summer on the lake.

Sincerely;  
Kathleen Kauffman

## Budget Report

Balance forward: \$4,096

### 2011 Fundraising Goals

Triathlon: \$1,600

Pancake Breakfast: \$600

Gifts/Donations: \$3,000\*

TOTAL \$5,200

### Projected Expenses

Lake Treatment: \$7,490

Insurance/other: \$900

Trial Cobomba Treatment  
(if approved) \$1,950

TOTAL \$10,340

\*Additional needed to do  
the trial cobomba treat-  
ment: \$1,050

## I'm a Friend of Portage Lake!

Contribution enclosed:  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(Thanks!)

Send me emails with copies of the  
MLSA newsletter

Volunteer to help at fundraisers

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

