

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.friendsofportagelake.com

Portage Lake Report



Spaghetti Dinner May 2nd

Working Together We Can Help Portage Lake

Dear Friends of Portage Lake:

I'm told that spring has finally sprung, but the weather has been so up and down that I'm not sure spring is really here. I enjoy the spring season and am anxious for the days a few weeks from now when we can begin putting in the dock and boats as we look forward to warmer weather.

I'd like to take this opportunity to invite you to our spring meeting. Please mark your calendars for Thursday, May 2nd for our spring fundraiser spaghetti dinner and informational meeting to be held at Klines Resort Clubhouse starting at 5:30 p.m.

We'd love to see you there and update you on the board's activities and the invasive weed control plans for this summer.

As a committee, we've been working on finalizing the invasive weed control program for 2013 and have been planning fund raising activities to raise the necessary funds. Please see our treasurer's report in this newsletter for where our funding currently stands. We continue to con-

duct our lake monitoring program to determine the quality of our water and where it is trending so that problems can be remedied if possible.

We have also been encouraging our neighbors to join as members of Friends of Portage Lake. Membership fees are very helpful in funding the invasive weed control program and members are a key part of the decision making process for our lake board. Please consider joining if you have not already done so (the 2013 annual membership fee is just \$25 per home/parcel).

Feel free to discuss our activities and plans with your committee representative. We welcome your questions and input and would enjoy having you join us at the May 2nd dinner and informational meeting.

Thank you for your continued support of our efforts as we continue to work to protect our great lake.

Mark Parks, President

Volume 4, Issue 2

April, 2013

2013 Board Members

Greg Dedes

Nancy Lane & Snug Harbor
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elayna13@aol.com

Kevin Hughes *Treasurer*
Davis Drive
chrisnkev19@comcast.net

Kathy Kauffman -
SE end of lake/Rivolake Dr
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Phil Kline
Klines Resort
lakefrontPhil@MSN.com

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Lake Ave.
dandmlewis2@gmail.com

Mark Parks - *President*
North end / E. Shore Lane
mark@jergensinsulation.com



Suggested Donation: \$6.00

Spaghetti Dinner

A fundraiser for Friends of Portage Lake

Klines Resort Clubhouse - Thursday, May 2nd

Serving Dinner 5:30 to 6:30 pm

Spring Informational Meeting: appx. 6:30 pm

Bring your friends and support a great cause!

Portage Lake Watershed: Where our Water Comes From

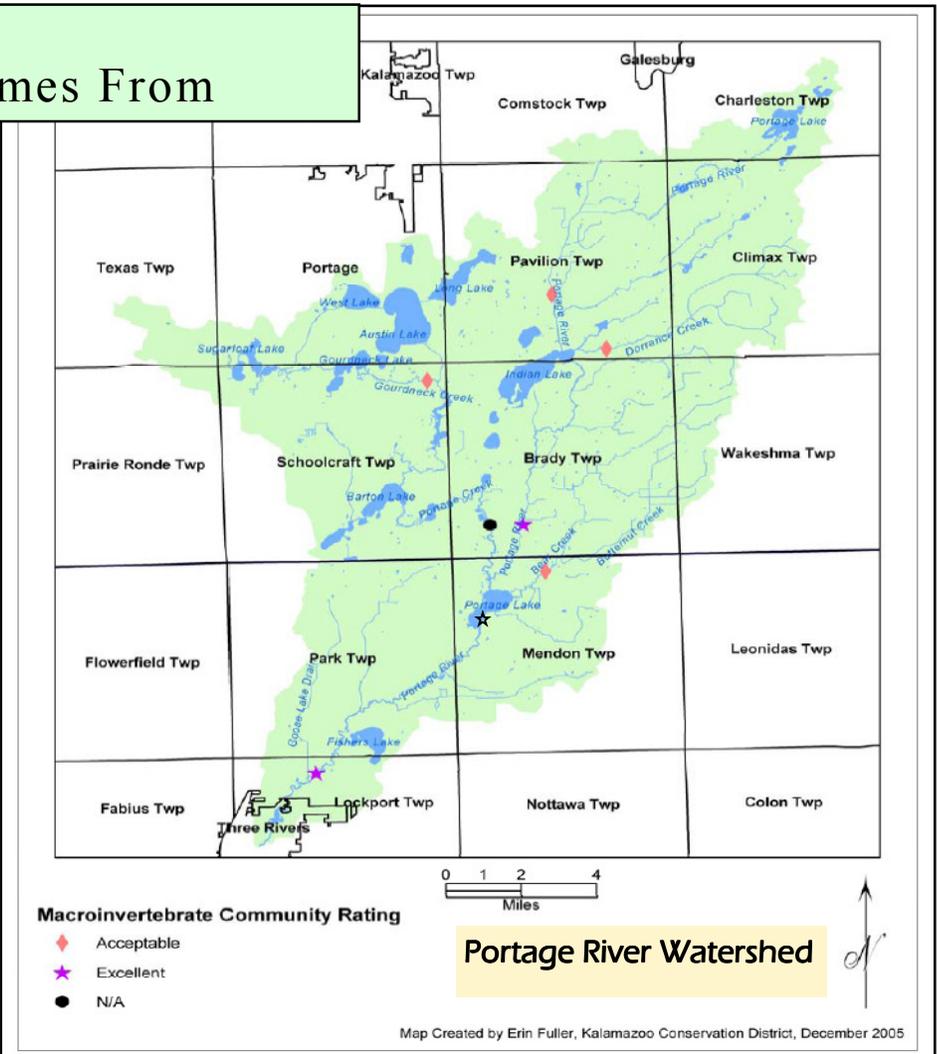
By Elayna Grody

Though you may not be familiar with the term "watershed", it is the driving force behind our lake water quality. A watershed is all the land that drains to a point in a river or a body of water. For us, it is both a point on the Portage River and the water body that makes up Portage Lake.

The Portage River Watershed includes approximately 125,539 acres or about 196 square miles of land. In that area any rain water or snow melt that occurs on that land flows into the Portage River - of which a majority of it flows into Portage Lake. Its boundaries extend north of Climax, west and south to include the City of Portage and a little west of 131, then traveling southeast to include Barton Lake and over to Vicksburg south to Portage Lake.

The land is made up of well-drained loamy soils with sandy sub-soils formed by the glacial outwash. As the water travels across the land, it picks up soil, fertilizers, oils, gas, metals, nutrients and other pollutants. These are all considered "nonpoint source" pollution because they do not come out of the end of a pipe or discharge location (a specific "point source"). Because the land is made up of a majority of "well-drained" soils, it is much easier for pollutants to get into our waterways. Pollutants also hitch a ride on soil particles. According to the 2006 Portage River Watershed Management Plan, "Primary resource concerns in the ... Watershed included cropland soil erosion and sedimentation, impaired drainage and water quality degradation due to improper animal waste disposal."

Major causes of nonpoint pollution within our watershed include channelization, row cropping and alteration of



riparian and streambank forested buffers. The major land use within our Watershed is agriculture comprising over 65%, followed by woods, wetlands and open water with about 30%. Although urbanization, residential, commercial and industrial use makes up a small portion, its uses can be more damaging to water quality. The practices of increased impervious surface, channelization and removing of the streamside woody vegetation are degrading to water quality.

Luckily, the portion of the watershed downstream of Indian Lake has not been channelized much and the forested stream habitat within the riparian zones is good. This forested buffer, including wetlands, helps to

"clean up" the water before it reaches our lake.

Because our lake receives waters from other jurisdictions, we need to be an active voice in what is happening upstream from our lake. To help facilitate this, the Lake Committee has a member on the Portage River/Little Portage Creek Watershed Steering Committee. It is also important to educate our neighbors upstream who have lands that drain to our lake, especially farmers. If you have friends or family members in the farming community that have land draining into our watershed, consider speaking to them about it.

To learn more, read the plan at: www.kalcounty.com/drain/new_pdfs/Portage%20River%20WMP_11-30-06.pdf



Too many “Portage’s?”

Our watershed begins at another **Portage Lake**, north of Scotts in Kalamazoo County. From here the **Portage River** flows south and is joined by **Portage Creek** just north of “our” **Portage Lake**. The **Little Portage River** once joined our river from the east just downstream, but was diverted to power a mill in Mendon, where it now joins the St. Joseph River.

Our “Portages” should not be confused with a different “**Portage Creek**” running north thru the cities of Portage and Kalamazoo, where it joins the Kalamazoo River. It is a highly contaminated superfund site.

New Tornado Siren to be Installed at Klines Resort

Portage Lake residents will soon be able to hear tornado siren warnings from a new siren being installed at Klines Resort.

The resort has contracted West Shore Services to install a Federal rotating electromechanical siren.

It will have an effective range of 6,400 feet at 70 dB. The resort’s old siren’s range was only 1200 ft. So you should be able to hear the new siren anywhere on Portage Lake, and within a one mile radius of the resort.

The siren comes with a battery backup that supplies at least 15 minutes of full operation after power is lost. It will be radio activated and tested by St. Joseph County Central Dispatch.

The siren will sound only in the event of a **tornado warning**. During an actual warning, the county plans to sound the siren for 3 minutes, wait 5 minutes, and then sound it a second time for 3 minutes to help insure that you are

aware of the danger and do not return to normal activities until the danger has passed. As the siren head rotates, the wail will increase and decrease as it turns toward you and away again.

Of course, you may be unable to hear the siren if you are indoors or if there is ambient noise such as boat motors, TV’s, air conditioners,

mowers, etc. that can mask the sound of the siren. So you should remain alert to conditions whenever storms are forecast, and keep a weather radio handy.



2013 River Cleanup Schedule

Contact SJCCD at 269-467-6336
www.stjoecountycd.com

- **Prairie River** – June 1: (4.7 miles starting at Hoshel Rd Canoe Camp.
- **Fawn River** – June 15: 4.5 miles starting at Fawn River Kayak.
- **Portage River** – July 13: 4.3 miles starting at N. Fisher Lake Rd.
- **Fawn River** – July 27: 3.2 miles starting at Sevison Rd.
- **Rocky River** – August 10: 2.7 miles starting at Flatbush Rd.
- **White Pigeon River** – August 24: 2.7 miles starting at Vistula Rd.
- **Nottawa Creek** – September 7: 2.8 miles starting at Fulton Rd.



The League of Michigan Bicyclists 2013 Pedal and Paddle Tour is coming to Three Rivers this May. Invite your friends to join the fun on bike, canoe and kayak.

For information and registration forms, go to: www.lmb.org



Save These Dates!

- **May 2: Spaghetti Dinner & Info Meeting @ Klines Resort Clubhouse, \$6 donation, serving 5:30 - 6:30 pm.**
- **July 4: Boat Parade**
- **August 3: FPL Pancake Breakfast: 8-10 am @ Klines Resort**
- **Sept. 7: Community Yard Sales**
- **Sept. 26: Annual Meeting & Elections**

Ice Fishing Contest A Success!

Winter finally arrived in late February, so it was on short notice that this year's ice fishing contest was announced to take place on February 23rd. The mild winter had not allowed us to set a date until the week before.

22 fishermen showed up to participate in this year's tournament. The entry fee of \$10 per person was paid out 100% in 3 categories:

- largest panfish was a 1.24lb crappie paid \$75;
- the largest 5 panfish had 4 crappie and 1 perch for 4.76lb - paid \$75.

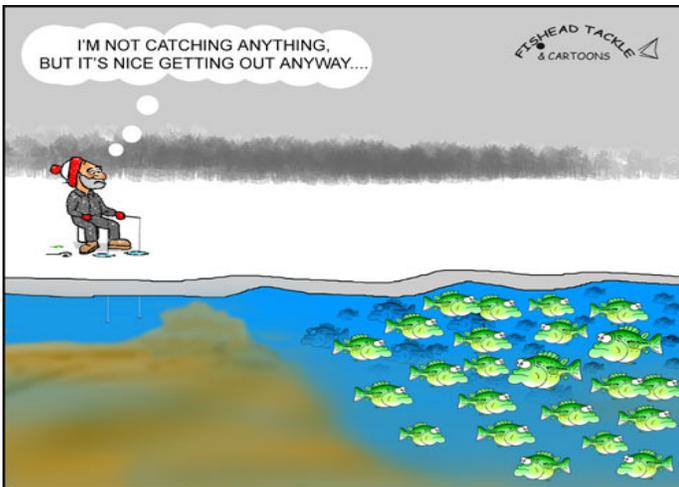
- for largest pike, only one was brought to the weigh-in: 27 inches paid \$75.

Most of the successful catches came from the public access area and the bigger fish were caught early.

The weigh-in took place at Brewster's Smokehouse where a lunch of pulled pork sandwiches were served. Double L Bait and Tackle had door prizes for everyone.

The ice fishing season sure did start late, but lasted well into March. This is the first year in a long time the shanty's had to come off because of the calendar, not the weather.

Kevin Hughes



Treasurer's Report

as of April 10, 2013

Previous balance \$5,466.86

INCOME

Memberships received \$675.00

Additional donations \$885.00

Thank you everyone!!

EXPENSE:

DNR permit \$400.00

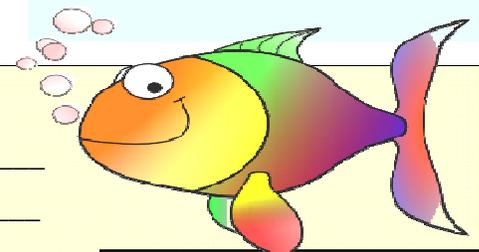
Current balance: \$6,626.86

This is a good balance to start the year, but it is well short of what we hope to raise in order to treat the entire developed shoreline, as proposed in this year's quote from PLM.

Now is the time to send in your 2013 membership fee of \$25.00. Please include an additional contribution if you can.

We appreciate your support in helping keep Portage Lake healthy and viable!!

Kevin Hughes, Treasurer



*Clip and return to:
Friends of Portage Lake,
Kevin Hughes, Treasurer
22705 Davis Drive,
Three Rivers, MI 49093*

I'm a Friend of Portage Lake!

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____@_____

Membership \$25 New or Renewal

Address of lake property if different: _____

Contribution: \$ _____ Volunteer: _____

Other: _____