

## 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](http://www.friendsofportagelake.com)

# Portage Lake Report



## President's Letter

Dear Friends of Portage Lake:

I hope you are enjoying a peaceful start to winter. The lake had nearly frozen over, but with the swings in temperature its opening back up again. I've heard it said that some brave ice fishermen have ventured out on Snug Harbor's early ice. I have never been one to take that risk unless there are several inches of ice!

I'd like to take this opportunity to update you on what we are doing as a committee and to invite you to renew your membership in Friends of Portage Lake or to become a member for the first time if you didn't join last year. The small annual membership fee of \$25 per home allows you to actively participate in decisions affecting our lake and helps provide some of the funds needed for our invasive weed control program. The deadline to join is July 1st for those who wish to vote at the annual September members meeting.

As a committee, we've been working on 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 conduct our lake monitoring program to determine the quality of our water and where it is trending so that problems can be remedied if possible. Our lake board has recently joined with the MDNR and other lakes to study issues related to the

waterways entering our lake. We are also working on planning community activities for 2013.

Please 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 as a member of Friends of Portage Lake. Thank you for your continued support of our efforts as we continue to work to protect our great lake.

## Michigan Lake & Stream Annual Conference

I'd like to encourage those who are interested in learning more about issues related to Michigan's lakes and streams to attend the ML&SA 52nd annual conference. This year's conference will focus on important issues facing inland lakes and streams, our

Great Lakes, your riparian rights, and the latest scientific and technological advances in managing aquatic invasive species. There will also be sessions focused on natural

shoreline protection and preservation as well as ideas for working with local government to protect our bodies of water. Our lake board is a member of the Michigan Lake and Stream Association and costs to attend the conference are reasonable.

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## 2013 Board Members

Greg Dedes

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

Elayna Grody - *at large*

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

Kevin Hughes - *Treasurer*

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

Kathleen Kauffman

SE end /Rivolake Dr  
[smikky@gmail.com](mailto:smikky@gmail.com)

Phil Kline Klines Resort

[lakefrontPhil@MSN.com](mailto:lakefrontPhil@MSN.com)

Marie Lewis - *Secretary*

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

Mark Parks - *President*

North end / E. Shore Lane  
[mark@jergensinsulation.com](mailto:mark@jergensinsulation.com)



## 52nd Annual Conference

April 26 & 27, 2013  
DoubleTree by Hilton  
Bay City Riverfront  
Hotel, Bay City  
[www.mymlsa.org](http://www.mymlsa.org)

Mark Parks, President

## Can't Keep Mute About the Mute Swan Problem

by Elayna Grody

Mute swans are lovely to look at and seem very graceful and gentle. However, that view becomes altered when an aggressive swan attacks you while you are enjoying a boat ride or as you walk along your shore. Unfortunately, in Michigan mute swans have become a nuisance.

### *A Little History...*

Mute Swans are not native to the United States but were brought over in the mid 1800's to beautify parks and large estates.

The first "ornamental" pair brought to Michigan was introduced in Charlevoix County in 1919. Over the years they escaped captivity and established populations across the country. Mute swans in the wild live about 19 years and can raise up to 5 young per year. With very few predators, their population has exploded in Michigan. From 2000 to 2010, the population went from roughly 5,700 to an astounding 15,500. In fact, Michigan has one of the highest populations of mute swans in the entire country.

### *Why are they a problem?*

**Mute swans are very aggressive** and show little fear of people. According to Michigan DNR, "mute swans are one of the world's most aggressive waterfowl species". It is a common occurrence for swans to attack people on boats as well as on shore. Weighing in between 20-

25 pounds and having a 7-foot wingspan, they can pack quite a wallop. Last year, a man drowned after a swan attack that knocked him from his kayak!

**Mute swans are harmful to native wildlife** populations, including rare

and threatened species such as trumpeter swans, common loons, native ducks and other many types wildlife and fish species. They do this by chasing other wildlife from their nests, damaging the ecosystem that other species rely on and out-competing with them for food.

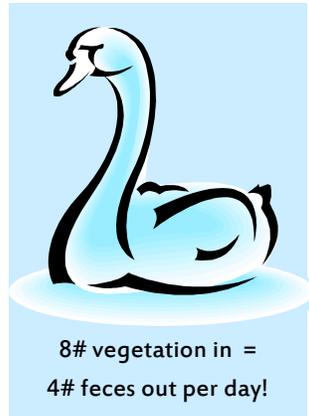
**Mute Swans destroy wetlands** - remember the article about how

important our wetlands are for protecting and cleaning up our lake water? Well, mute swans can eat up to 8 pounds a day of vegetation and can destroy even more by trampling. Multiply the damage by the 50 - 70 mute swans we have at the north end of the lake and you have quite a lot of damage going on. And what eats, must poo. Each swan can excrete more than 3-4 pounds of feces per day. The feces not only add more nutrients into the lake, which increases our invasive plant problem; but it is also pretty gross to step in along the shore.

### **Is there anything that can be done?**

The Michigan DNR has a management plan to reduce the number of mute swans in the State. If you have a nuisance swan on your property, you can contact them about how to handle it. Lake landowners can also apply for a permit to addle swan eggs or to remove nests. Egg addling makes the egg unviable and can help to slow the population increase.

For more information, check out [www.michigan.gov/muteswans/](http://www.michigan.gov/muteswans/)



8# vegetation in =  
4# feces out per day!

### Three Types of Swan, Easy to tell apart:



Mute Swan

Trumpeter Swan

Tundra Swan

There are two native species of swans in Michigan, plus the non-native mute swan.

How do you tell the good from the bad? Mute Swans have orange bills with a black knob on the top of their bill.

The native Trumpeter and Tundra swans have all black or nearly all black bills without any knob.

## PLM Awarded 2013 Lake Treatment Contract; Offers Service to Treat Individual Waterfronts

Friends of Portage Lake is again planning to use Professional Lake Management (PLM) for the treatment of invasive weeds this summer. If you would like to see their proposal, please visit our web site where you can download this and other information, at:

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

For those of you who have a serious weed problem directly in front of your home, and which is not scheduled for treatment as “invasive,” it is possible to hire this to be treated independently. Our relationship with PLM makes it possible for you to contract weed control programs tailored to your specific needs. PLM is available to discuss specific treatment options for property owners that will supplement the treat-

ments of invasive targeted by the Friends of Portage Lake. By combining individual requests with the services contracted by the Friends of Portage Lake, Professional Lake Management will be able to insure a coordinated effort that maximizes efficiency and eliminates charges that might otherwise cause redundant applications.

By tagging onto our permit application you SAVE MONEY by avoiding individual filing fees!

If interested, please contact your area representative or log onto

our website and use the “contact us” feature. Be sure to include your name, address, phone number and email address.

We will compile a list of interested owners and forward the information to Professional Lake Management. PLM will contact you directly to discuss treatment options and pricing. All payments and services will be made directly with PLM.

All requests for property specific treatments should be made to either your area representative or through the website, by March 4, 2013.

Greg Dedes



### ICE FISHING CONTEST ON PORTAGE LAKE STILL IN QUESTION

The winter of 2011-2012 never allowed us to have an ice fishing tournament as there was never good safe ice covering the lake. For those of us that like winter and all that it is “suppose” to offer us, it sure was a disappointing year. As I write this on January 6, 2013, there is still a lot of open water. They have been getting out just off the public access, but the forecast for this week is upper 40’s and rain...sad...sad...sad...sad!!

If the weather/ice allows, we still hope to hold at least one tournament this year. There will not be a newsletter out to let everyone know about it. So if you are interested in participating, email or call me so I can let you know if/when it (let’s think positive) WILL happen.

Kevin Hughes [chrisnkev19@comcast.net](mailto:chrisnkev19@comcast.net) 269-649-9535



Remember when we had ice?

## Doubletime Tri Leaves Portage Lake

The Doubletime Triathlon race organizer informed us in October that the race will not return to Portage Lake, and will instead run from a new location in 2013.

Jim Mishler and Spirit Racing has been responsible for the race from its beginning in 2010. A set portion of the registration fees were given to Friends of Portage Lake in return for our volunteer support and the use of our facilities.

Mishler also provided our web site. As he also discontinued this service, we were faced with the job of creating a new one. Board member Greg Dedes took on the project, and we now have a great new site at a new address:

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

The triathlon was an important fundraiser for us, and the revenue will be hard to replace. Perhaps

more importantly, the race offered an opportunity for neighbors around the lake to work together for a good cause.

I'd like to say "Thanks" to all the great volunteers, sponsors and participants from our three years hosting the race. You were all fantastic, and I will miss your involvement and enthusiasm.

Frankly, I don't see how a new venue will ever match our wonderful location and volunteers. From the parking lot crew and golf cart shuttles to the registration, food tent and race course volunteers, you are the best!

Thanks again!

We're looking for new fundraising ideas for 2013. Please let us know if you have any suggestions.  
*Phil Kline*

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### I'm a Friend of Portage Lake!



- Contribution enclosed : \$\_\_\_\_\_
- Volunteer for Pancake Breakfast Crew
- New Membership (please attach membership form)
- Renew Membership (please attach membership form)
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

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

### Treasurer's Report

Our 2013 budget is in development, but we know it will be a challenge to raise the funds needed to do everything in this year's proposal. The good news is we are entering the year with a balance of **\$5,466.86** (as of Jan 15, 2013).

Your membership/renewal and contributions are needed to insure we continue to build on the progress we have made to date. Thanks for your support!



### Save These Dates!

- Ice Fishing Tournament.... tba
- Soup Potluck/Meeting tba
- Portage River Cleanup tba
- 3rd Annual Boat Parade July 4
- Friends Pancake Breakfast 8-10 am, Sat, August 3
- Community Yard Sale Sept. 7
- Annual Report & Elections 7 pm Thurs. Sept. 26



# 2013 Membership Information Friends of Portage Lake

Complete bylaws are available on-line at [www.friendsofportagelake.com](http://www.friendsofportagelake.com)

Friends of Portage Lake, Inc. is a not-for-profit Michigan Corporation. It is organized on a membership basis. In order to be a member, a person must meet all of the following qualifications:

1. Own or rent a lot or parcel with lake frontage on (or permanent recorded access to) Portage Lake in St. Joseph County, Michigan.
2. Be reasonably current in paying all dues and assessments (as "reasonably current" is determined by the Board of Directors). As a rule, this means dues must be paid by July 1 to vote at the annual meeting in September.

**Voting Rights.** Each lot or parcel which qualifies for membership and for which all dues/assessments are paid current shall have one (1) membership and only one (1) vote. If there is more than one owner of any such lot or parcel and they cannot all agree on their vote for a particular membership vote, the vote for that lot or parcel shall not count (i.e. a vote for a particular lot or parcel cannot be split or fractionalized).

**Multiple memberships:** If a landowner owns two or more full lots or parcels, each parcel or lot shall have one (1) membership if separate dues/assessments are paid for each lot or parcel owned. However, if the owner of two or more full lots or parcels desires to combine two or more of such lots or parcels for purposes of only paying the dues/assessment for one lot, then the landowner shall have only one (1) membership for such combined lots or parcels. However, the vote cannot be split between two voting areas.

**Voting areas:** Directors will be chosen to represent seven (7) areas around Portage Lake as follows:

- |   |                               |                                    |
|---|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Davis Drive                             | East Shore Lane and north end | Klines Resort                      |
| Lake Avenue                             | Snug Harbor & Nancy Lane      | South end of lake & Rivolake Drive |
| One at large member chosen by the board |                               |                                    |

To the extent reasonably practical, each of these 7 areas shall be represented by one member of the Board of Directors. If there are 7 members of the Board of Directors, one member of the Board of Directors shall be elected from each of the 7 areas of the lake. If there are fewer than 7 members of the Board of Directors, reasonable efforts should be made for the membership of the Board of Directors to be as geographically representative of the 7 areas as possible.

*Contributions to Friends of Portage Lake, Inc. are NOT considered charitable contributions for income tax purposes.*

## 2013 Membership Application/Renewal

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address of qualifying parcel (if different): \_\_\_\_\_

This is a(n) (check one);  Membership Renewal  New Membership  Additional Parcel

Voting area (check one):  Davis Drive  East Shore Lane and north end  Klines Resort  
 Lake Avenue  Snug Harbor & Nancy Lane  South end of lake & Rivolake Drive

*I certify that I currently own, rent or lease the above lot or parcel qualifying for membership in Friends of Portage Lake, Inc. I hereby apply for membership and agree to abide by its bylaws.*

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Applicant(s) Signature(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to "Friends of Portage Lake" & mail to:  
*Friends of Portage Lake, c/o Kevin Hughes, Treasurer*  
*22705 Davis Drive, Three Rivers, MI 49093*

Annual Dues:	\$ 25.00
Additional Contribution:	\$ _____
Total Enclosed:	\$ _____