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News & Happenings

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2026 OFFICERS

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Pres. Jane Harvey 727-776-1361
V.P. Joe Weist 574-850-8699
Sec. Laura Cornish Camble 269-808-7601
Treas. Bill Ehlebracht 847-401-5528

Area Representatives

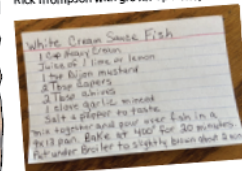
Area 1 Mary Chaps 630-452-2555
Area 2 Mark Harwood 708-906-4582
Area 3 Anne/Brad Meising 269-501-4477
Area 4 Lynn Werner 269-760-5775
Area 5 Mark/Kim Andrews 616-893-8394
Area 6
Area 7 Mara Greenberg 269-370-4588
Area 8 Deb/Dennis Foster 574-298-1428



Rick Thompson with grown up walleye



Mitchell Mason, Leland Fry just
home from Marines boot camp,
Sklyer Thompson, Master
Fisherman Rick Thompson



Fabulous recipe credited to
Peggy Becker. As Rick says "it's
the best sauce with a plier!"

Alert from SW X SW Corner CISMA - Cinnamon Vine Found at Cedar
Keep Your Eyes Peeled for an Invasive Plant - Cinnamon Vine

The CISMA Team of the Van Buren Conservation District are
Southwest Michigan's invasive species experts. This year, we are
turning our eyes towards invasive cinnamon vine. Cinnamon
vine grows quickly, "blanketing" large areas and crowding out
native plants. It spreads by seed and by dropping small
potato-like structures, known as bulbils, off the vine. It can also
spread via root tubers, which are thick, nutrient dense root
pieces that new vines can grow from. Starting this spring, the
CISMA Team will be surveying and treating known locations of
cinnamon vine in Berrien, Cass, and Van Buren counties. We will
also manage new locations of cinnamon vine, pending
landowner permission. Cinnamon vine has very shiny,
heart-shaped leaves, and it grows well in moist, disturbed areas.
The thin vines spiral counter-clockwise. Their small, spiky, white or greenish-yellow
flowers smell like cinnamon. If you think you have found cinnamon vine, please report
it to the CISMA Team.



You can do this easily using an app called iNaturalist. Make a free account, and then you
can make reports in minutes with a smart phone! You can also contact the CISMA Team
with any questions you have. If you think you have found cinnamon vine, email pictures
and location information to StrikTeam@VanBurenCD.org or call or text 269-366-7287.
To treat cinnamon vine, the CISMA Team will use backpack sprayers to apply aquatic-
approved herbicides on the leaves of this plant. These herbicides will have the active
ingredients glyphosate or triclopyr. Anyone treating cinnamon vine with herbicides
will be MDARD Certified Pesticide Applicators. Applicators will use techniques to reduce
herbicide exposure on off-target plants and in water bodies.

Thank you for helping your local Conservation District protect our shared resources
from invasive species!

CEDAR NOTES

Hi, I am Jane Harvey from Becker Beach, Area 5, and I am still humbled and thrilled to be your CLRA pres.

I want to acknowledge and thank Dane Terrill for his wonderful work as our water quality master. His dedication to making Cedar Lake better each year is a huge benefit to all who love our lake.

Kathy Dzuravsk is retiring from being Area 5 rep. We thank her for her service.

Thanks to Barb Walters for being our lake historian and producing another wonderful Lake history book version 2.

Many thanks to the rest of our board and Area reps for keeping up the good work.

Dave Shannon of Becker Beach, Area 5, has kindly dragged our directory out of an unwieldy Xcel program into a user-friendly Word program. This was a LOT of work and we are very grateful to him.

Kathy Potts, (past CLRA pres.) is our email master and David Fodor, our webmaster. Huge thanks to them for doing such great work, (usually on very short notice), at these important jobs!

Jean McLaughlin is our New Member Greeter. If you are new to Cedar Lake or know someone who is, please call her at 269-350-6159 for a great welcome. Thank you, Jean!

Lastly, thanks to Julie Mason, former Cedar resident, for making our newsletters beautiful.

If you have any questions or advise, please call me at this number 727-776-1361. If you have any photos or stories you would like to see in the next newsletter, email janemarharvey@yahoo.com or call or text the above number.

Please put a telephone number on things you use at the beach and would like to have returned. Toys, lifejackets, cushions, yoga mats, expensive biodegradable shampoo....They often go for a swim.

If you have any questions or advise, please call me at this number 727-776-1361. If you have any photos, stories, issues or Lost and Found items you would like to see in the next newsletter, email janemarharvey@yahoo.com or call or text the above number.
www.cedarlakera.org. Go there!



Geese

Canada geese were nearly hunted to extinction in Michigan in the early 1900's. Breeding programs were set up, a prominent one at Kellogg Bird Sanctuary in Augusta, 30 miles away. They were very

successful and MI now has an overpopulation at about 300,000 geese. The majority of riparians on Cedar Lake feel that we also have too many geese. Those cute goslings turn into feathered fertilizers producing up to 1½ pounds of goose dung a day. This becomes a slippery and gross mess on many beaches, docks and rafts and translates to accelerated weed and algae growth. Therefore, Cedar Lake has a permit to destroy goose nests and remove eggs. No living geese are touched or harmed in this process. Goose Busters is the company that provides this service for us. Our first year of nest removal was 2024 and 3 nests and 13 eggs were removed. 2025 increased to 8 nests and 43 eggs. This year, 12 nests and 58 eggs were removed. We seem to have plenty of goslings on lawns and swimming so no fears of extinction on this lake, just controlling the expanding population is the goal.

Questions about our lake level, culvert or weir?

Historic and the latest information about drain activity can be found by typing into your search engine: Van Buren County MI Drain. Select Drain Commissioner. See Drain Commissioner Menu on far left of page, Scroll down to the 11th entry, Cedar Lake Drain and Lake Level and select.



Presently, the lake is at the legal lake level of 893.4 feet above sea level. This may feel a bit high but evaporation on warm days can remove 0.2 – 0.5 " of water depth per day so on our lake at 269 acres, that would be 1,452,000 – 3,631,500 gallons per day. Wow!

Presently, no beaver damming issues but beavers, beware! Don't mess around with our culvert!

We are saddened to report the loss of Cedar Lake residents:

<i>Dave Anderson Sr</i>	<i>Fred Carter</i>	<i>Bill Mauk</i>
<i>Sandy Cripe Blahuta</i>	<i>Ruth Herendeen</i>	<i>Jan Strong</i>
	<i>Lois Hess</i>	

Margaret Janislawski (Ryan Reeves mom)

*Our thoughts and prayers go out to their families.
They will certainly be missed.*

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Walleye Stocking



Trial of Rigero Bio-Health Pod System in Graham Cove

At the spring 2024 general CLRA meeting, members voted to try an alternative to petrochemical methods of invasive weed reduction. With a very generous matching donation from Dane and Jacqueline Terrill, CLRA bought two Rigero Nano Pod systems.

Attached to Terrill's and the Harwood's docks, these aeration systems have been dispersing beneficial bacterial inoculums during the warmer months since June 20, 2024. The goals were to reduce muck, remediate phosphorus, (making it unavailable for plants to use as fertilizer) and change the environment that promotes the growth of the invasive weeds we battle with expensive herbicides.

At the end of August 2025, Dane reported at the general meeting that he noticed a considerable reduction in muck including 9 inches less at the end of his dock. He believes we need better technology for more accurate measurements before CLRA makes further investments. There is still one spot of milfoil in the cove that may need chemical treatment, but overall invasive weeds are decreasing there. Dane is working to win grants that will help offset the cost of gathering more precise measurements, but he needs CLRA to be a true non-profit to apply for these grants. CLRA is in the process of changing our tax status to a 501(c)3. Again, we thank Dane and Jacqueline for making it possible to test this system and for monitoring and gathering the data to make it meaningful.

Rick Thompson tells a slightly different story. Do you know Rick? When his wife, Teresa, says she would like to have fish for dinner, he gets in the boat and brings home a 30" Northern. He is a fisherman. When he said he wanted to talk about what CLRA had done to the fish at his house in Graham Cove, the natural thing to do was break into a cold sweat and visualize white, stinky, dead fish bodies all over the beach. Rick explained that for years the cove has been a dead zone. Zero fish on his fish finder, but now...fish all over the cove, and 50 under his dock. Lots of bluegills 9" long and beautiful intense colors. He didn't want to jump to conclusions but says nothing besides the Rigero Pod system has changed.

If those beneficial bacteria are benefitting the fish, the whole eco-system must be improving. Bravo Rigero!



Mitchell Mason, Julie Mason's son, with a Cedar lake northern. Not a bluegill but this northern has probably enjoyed many bluegill!

Cedar Lake Lidded Cups & Can Koozies Available

Lidded 16oz cups are \$20.

Can koozies are \$6.



Please call Area 4 Rep, Lynn Werner (269-760-5775) for info and to order. Lynn's daughter makes them and also gives a percentage to CLRA.



If a goose battles a beaver, who would win? Now we know!



Cedar Lake logo gear can now be custom ordered. These items make great gifts for family and friends!

You'll find the link to order at Cedarlakera.org which will take you to our Cedar Lake online store at our vendor's website.

CLRA will receive \$5.00 for each item purchased and there is a \$13.00 shipping/handling fee for each order, which can include multiple items, and is shipped directly to the address provided.



And now a message from a Cedar Lake Snapping Turtle... As Told to Jim Harvey

I hope all of you had a wonderful winter in your warm cozy homes overlooking my frozen encased mud bed Brumation. This is my 25th year in Cedar, I was hatched in a field just off of 96th Ave. and spent my first three years in Gravel Lake. It was late in the summer of 2004, I had just lost a friend in a motorboat accident and decided to find a better place to live that had a nice mix of swamp area, open water and less development. I made my way to Little Cedar and then used the beautiful metal tunnel under the death trap, you 'humans' call roads, to make my way to Cedar Lake.

Last year, after a most delicious Thanksgiving dinner of a fishermen's discarded perch that didn't survive the hook removal process, I decided to spend the winter in the remote southeast corner of the lake, where there is zero pesticide or fertilizer runoff. Yes, I'm not a fan of weeds either, which is why I hang out mostly where phosphates are not being used to fertilize lawns or farm fields. I know a Leatherback in Little Cedar that can tell you horror stories!

I've been up and moving around for a few months now, and while I dig this cool start to 2026, the wife is still in the silt where I left her, refusing to come out until the weather warms up and I can assure her there are a few piers in that have a ramp. Yes, we had a little post hibernation fun during that warm snap (turtle humor) in April and she is expecting this June and might need help getting up on the piers and rafts. Before you know it, she'll be making her trek past hundreds of feet of perfectly safe places to lay our eggs and instead will dig a hole a few feet from a roadway putting her and our hatchlings in jeopardy! BTW, for those of you who see us crossing your roads we do appreciate it when you help us across. Just make sure you advance us in the direction we were heading and do not touch our shells just behind our front legs, it is extremely ticklish.

I hope all of you have a fun and safe 2026, my friends and I will be watching you from above and below, so please do not pollute our beautiful Cedar Lake OR litter around it. You don't want to upset us, I have some REALLY big friends who could make sure you never have another nice relaxing swim again.

PS, if the Pikes turn on you, it wouldn't be pretty either, and yes, we have treaties with them, they are jerks with BIG teeth!



Michigan House Bill 5532 changes to Senate Bill 812 in 2026

Wake boats. So much fun but now there is plenty of good science that shows they can also be so destructive. Eroding the shoreline, destroying fisheries, damaging beach structures, docks and moored watercraft, degrading water quality, these are some of the problems that are caused by the wakes of wake boats.

Senate Bill 812 would change the rules governing them to no closer than 500 feet to shore and no shallower than 20 feet water depth.

This will be a bit tricky on Cedar Lake requiring careful driving right down the middle while also going counterclockwise. Although Bill 812 has been referred to the committee on Natural Resources and Agriculture and is not yet a law, we do have slightly high water this spring so some cottages in low areas are particularly vulnerable to huge wakes (as are turtle nests). Being conscientious about our driving might make neighbors less likely to need a law to govern how we use our boats.

Now seems like the right time to **SURF THE MIDDLE!** Your neighbors and turtles Thank You

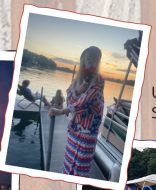


CLRA Rummage Sale 2025

A kind Lake neighbor donated so many great treasures that Joe Weist

came out of retirement and held one more barn sale. With his wonderful wife, Karolyn, he picked up, sorted out, displayed, advertised and worked this sale for a few weekends in July. About \$700.00 was made from this venture and Joe donated it to the fireworks fund so we all will benefit.

So many thanks to Joe and Karolyn for all the hours that went into another successful sale and the many that they have done before.



Uncle Sam



4th of July Boat Parades "Olympics" 2024 & "Christmas in July" 2025

Very creative people + great weather + a beautiful lake = Amazing boat parades!

Themes of The Olympics (2024) and Christmas in July (2025) had great participation and enthusiastic shore support. Immediately following the parades, thanks to Mark Harwood and family, Cedar Lake had some of the most impressive and hi tech fireworks imaginable! We appreciate the Harwoods for continuing and expanding this exciting Cedar Lake tradition and if you are inspired to pay it forward, Mark's # is 708-906-4582.



2026 Lighted Boat Parade will be Saturday July 4th, 8:30 pm, beginning at Laura Cornish Gamble's house, Area 7, top of the T, north east end. Rain date Sunday, July 5th same time and place. Cash prizes for top 3 boats. Theme is **Patriotic Happy Birthday USA!**



POKER RUN 2025

2025 Poker Run Better Than Ever!

Much gratitude to Wade & Mary Bent for another amazing poker run! 215 tickets were sold to lucky boaters some of whom split \$390 for winning poker hands and all had fun at the creative and yummy host docks with a great potluck and prize ceremony, (including \$1000 of donated raffle prizes from local businesses), following the card gathering.

An amazing amount of time and effort goes into this event and we send lots of appreciation to the Bent family. Here's hoping they are moved to give us another Fun Run in 2027!



Poker run Steve Strong dressed and ready to amuse. He was a volunteer on the tiki bar poker run dock.

We Look ForWard to 2027!



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Street Corn Pasta Salad

Makes 8 - 10 servings

Ingredients:

- 2 tsp. salt
- 1 lb. ditalini pasta
- 1 Tbsp. vegetable oil
- 6 ears corn cut off the cob (4-5 cups)
- 1 poblano pepper, diced
- 6 thinly sliced green onions, whites & greens separated
- 1 tsp. black pepper
- 2 finely chopped garlic cloves
- 1 cup mayonnaise
- 1 cup crema or sour cream
- Zest and juice of 3 limes
- 1 cup crumbled Cotija cheese (about 4 oz)
- 1 cup fresh cilantro, chopped, plus more for serving
- 2 tsp. chili powder
- Hot sauce (optional)

Cook the pasta 1 minute longer than the package directs. Drain and rinse with cold water.

Meanwhile, heat oil in a large cast-iron or stainless steel skillet over medium-high heat. Add the corn, poblano, green onion (white part), 1 t. salt, and ½ t. pepper.

Cook, stirring occasionally, until corn begins to char, 5 to 7 minutes. Stir in garlic. Remove from heat and transfer mixture to a large bowl. Let cool 5 minutes.

Add mayonnaise, crema, lime zest and juice, and remaining 1 t salt and ½ t. pepper to the corn mixture and fold to combine.

Fold in the Cotija, cilantro, chili powder, pasta, and green onion (green part). Sprinkle with more cilantro and serve with hot sauce (if using).



Environmental Assistance Center (EAC)



Last spring, 2025, Cedar Lake had an incident in Area 2 and Area 4 in front of a few houses, that some folks thought looked like blue green

algae, a microscopic bacteria also known as cyanobacteria. In warm and stagnant water, this algae can produce dangerous toxins after 48 hours. Our esteemed water quality master, Dane Terrill, thought the culprit might have been quickly warming air temperatures and no wind to move the surface water and possibly fertilizer runoff nearby. Before anyone from EGLE could test, waves mixed the water and all signs of blue oily film were gone.

No one remembers an algae problem like this in the past, but the CLRA board and reps would appreciate lake residents letting us know if they see any blue-green, brown, bright green or red oily film on the lake surface.

Here is the contact info for the Michigan Environmental Assistance Center, the single point of entry into all EGLE environmental programs. 800-662-9278 open 8 am to 4:30 pm.

Please send photos and location to EGLE-Assist@Michigan.gov