



## NEWS & HAPPENINGS

CEDAR LAKE RECREATION  
ASSOCIATION, INC.

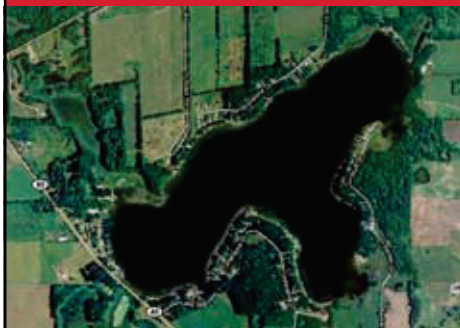
### 2011/2012 CEDAR LAKE RECREATION ASSOCIATION

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 VP Jerry Gilchrist 269-303-0721  
 Secretary Jenny Kindt 646-5006  
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#### AREA REPRESENTATIVES

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 Area 4 Gerald Spears 646-6019  
 Area 5 Kay Weist 646-9475  
 Ann Poehlman 646-3392  
 Area 6 Diane Battaglia 646-2658  
 Area 7 Sandy Percich 624-6914  
 Area 8 Barb Walters 624-3391



FALL • WINTER 2011



We are so fortunate in the Midwest to experience the beauty and colors changing each season. Here on Cedar Lake we are blessed to see nature's beauty. In spring, we view everything turning from brown to green. Then in summer, we enjoy watching everything continue to grow as we nurture it to the best it can be. During the fall harvest we see everything turning from green to brown again, putting all to sleep for the winter months. Clean off the skis and skates and have some winter fun on our lake. For those of you who won't be here to enjoy winter with us, have a safe journey to your winter homes, perhaps you'll smile when you see we're having a blizzard. ❀



#### EYE THE SIGN

The residents of Becker Beach/Bluff Dr. now have their names posted at the lanes entrance. It's much like a directory of who resides on the landing. Sue Kindt got the idea rolling by contacting home owners and John Biedakiewicz got his saws rolling to cut, paint and assemble the sign. Big thanks goes to them. ❀



Look for the sights and sounds of the sandhill cranes (*Grus Candensis*). Once nearly eliminated from Michigan, sandhill cranes have made a comeback and are becoming one of the state's most popular watchable wildlife species. They are one of just two crane species native to North America. Cranes are tall stately birds with a heavy body, long neck and long legs. Standing four to five feet high and possessing a wing span of six to seven feet, sandhill cranes are Michigan's largest bird. Long skinny legs and neck give a false impression of size; the males weigh an average of 12 pounds and the females around 9 1/2 pounds. Except for size difference, both sexes look alike. ❀



The annual boat parade was held on Saturday July 2nd led by parade marshal, Jerry Gilchrist. The long weekend was filled with many family gatherings and picnics as well as a spectacular fireworks display complements of generous lake residents. ❀

**SPRING MEETING •  
PORTER TOWNSHIP HALL • JUNE 9, 2012 • 9:00 AM**



## Cedar Notes...

*All residents are encouraged to support the advertisers whose fees are helping to defray the costs associated with this newsletter.*

*There have been reports of pets wandering off their property. Please control barking dogs and know there is a leash ordinance.*

*Julie Mason's time and talents are much appreciated. Without her skilled assistance this newsletter would not go to print.*

*Remember, all "Trading Post Ads" are FREE to Cedar Lake residents. To place your item(s) on the Trading Post contact Jerry Gilchrist: (269) 303-0721.*

*Dave Frank (269) 624-3600 has Cedar Lake logo merchandise available for sale. Great holiday gifts.*

*Diane Battaglia is the "new resident" Cedar Lake greeter. Please contact her of any new neighbors. Her phone number is (269) 646-2658.*

*We are sad to report the loss of Cedar Lake resident Robert Harvey. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family. He will be missed.*

## CEDAR LAKE SEWER PROJECT UPDATE By Mara Greenburg

Our August 20th CLRA meeting attracted a record number of residents curious to learn more about the much anticipated sewer project. We are pleased to confirm that since the meeting a grant is available from the State of Michigan to assist in funding the project. This funding, however, is available to us for a limited time; therefore we must push forward quickly to gather the remaining petition signatures needed to bring to the Porter Township Board for approval.

At the meeting, resident's questions were addressed by a representative from Wightman & Associates, the engineering firm that designed and managed the construction of the sewer system on Fish, Gravel, Finch and W. Saddlebag lakes, as well as the state-of-art waste treatment facility just southeast of Marcellus on Hemlock Lake Road.

Removal of septic systems and raised beds allow property owners to use these land areas for other purposes.

A statewide septic code is likely in the future deeming many current septic systems.

The State of Michigan is encouraging the installation of sewers and has made available a grant and various financing options encouraging residents to embrace this necessary project. Residents will have financing options of 30 to 40 years. Those residents with an annual income of \$25,000 will have the ability to defer these payments until the sale or transfer

of title of property. The billing of assessments will occur once a year as part of the Winter tax bill.

There will be four costs associated with implementation. A one-time Parcel Fee assessed to each property serviced by or with access to the system which is estimated at approximately \$750. A one-time Benefit Fee or connection fee assessed to each customer estimated at approximately \$8,500. A one-time Service Connection Cost, which means the homeowner is responsible for hooking up to the sewers from the house to the street and abandoning the existing septic system. The estimated cost for a 75 foot connection is \$1,275. The Monthly Operation and Maintenance charge to cover costs for the operation and maintenance is estimated between \$40-45.

If you are willing to sign the sewer petition please free to call me at (312) 330-1134 or email [maragreenberg@hotmail.com](mailto:maragreenberg@hotmail.com) so that I can have one of our resident volunteers bring the petition to you for your signature. You can also contact them direct, Cordell Jones 646-5511 [joneslawoffice@yahoo.com](mailto:joneslawoffice@yahoo.com); John Lyons 501-1917 [yourre@yahoo.com](mailto:yourre@yahoo.com); Sandy Percich 624-6914 [Sperich@aol.com](mailto:Sperich@aol.com); Dave Kindt 646-5006 [jenniferkindt@aol.com](mailto:jenniferkindt@aol.com) Judy Ladd 646-2261 [Studio266@aol.com](mailto:Studio266@aol.com); or Barb Walters 624-3391 [walters\\_barbara@comcast.net](mailto:walters_barbara@comcast.net).

IT IS CRITICAL THAT WE SAFEGUARD OUR HEALTH BY PROTECTING OUR DRINKING AND LAKE WATER. YOUR SIGNATURE IS IMPORTANT. ❀

## WEED PETITION

After years of dedicated efforts to control Eurasian Watermilfoil by a number of individual volunteers, it became very apparent that the time had come for professional help. At the 2011 Spring meeting a motion was made, seconded, and approved to proceed with the establishment of a special tax assessment for the purpose of engaging a professional firm to handle the control of exotic weeds on Cedar Lake. The Weed Committee followed up with several meetings to discuss the petition process, obtain updated quotes for the control of exotic weeds, and become familiar with the requirements for a successful petition process in Porter Township. The meetings were followed up with the circulation of a weed petition and required positive response was achieved. These results were presented to the township. At its

regular Board meeting of September 14, 2011 the Porter Township Board voted to proceed with obtaining estimates for the eradication or control of aquatic weeds and plants for Cedar Lake, pursuant to MCLA 41.721, et seq. On October 12, 2011 the first of three public hearings was held at which the control of exotic weeds and plants for Cedar Lake was reviewed. Andy Tomaszewski of PLM Lake & Land Management Corp, discussed weed treatment of the entire lake, applying restrictive product Sonar A.S. "Fluridone" for control of exotic plant species. Currently plans are for treatment to take place in April/May 2012. PLM Lake & Land Management Corp has been selected to provide the professional service required to address exotic plant species on Cedar Lake. ❀



## LAWN & LANDSCAPE OPTIONS

Before you start applying fertilizers and pesticides to your lakeside lawns and landscapes this fall or next spring, take into consideration the conditions you are creating and how your actions will affect our watershed. There are alternative practices and products that will produce beautiful lawns and landscapes without the detrimental nutrient leaching of chemical fertilizers and pesticides into the lake.

Listed below are some practices that will help build soil and beautiful lawns and landscapes. These practices will help reduce or eliminate the need for chemical fertilizers and pesticides.

**Core Aeration:** Mechanical means of pulling "plugs" out of your soil to help alleviate compaction. Compaction is caused from repetitive application of chemical fertilizers and pesticides, lawn mower and foot traffic, and seasonal weather. Many types of weeds indicate you have compaction in your soil. Resolving compaction issues will help reduce weeds allowing desirable plants to succeed. Core aeration also allows oxygen, water and nutrients to get down to the root zone.

**Compost Top Dress:** Adding a thin layer of high quality compost to your lawn and garden will increase organic matter (ability to hold water and nutrients), make nutrients more available because of soil microorganisms, and add small amounts of non-leachable nutrients and trace minerals to the soil.

**Overseeding:** Fall is a great time to get some "new life" growing in the soil, by adding new grass seed. Select the seed appropriate for your growing conditions (sunny, shady, irrigated, non-irrigated). Recommended rates are one-two pounds per thousand square feet. In addition, seeding bare spots or "worn" down areas will enhance your lawn in the spring and help out-compete weeds.

**Mulching:** Mulching leaves and grass clippings into your yard and garden is a great way to provide some nutrients (including nitrogen) and organic matter to your soil. Mulching leaves into flowerbeds and gardens is a great way to prevent weed seeds from germinating.

**Sustainable or "organic" lawn care practices** are a necessity around lakes and streams to eliminate the impact of leaching chemical fertilizers and pesticides. There is scientific data that proves leached nutrients, especially nitrogen and phosphorous, have direct adverse impact on water clarity issues, aquatic weed infestation, and eutrophication (aging) process of lakes and streams.

For more information about sustainable lawn and landscape practices, suggested readings include: *The Organic Lawn Care Manual* by Paul Tukey and *Teaming with Microbes* by Jeff Lowenfels. In addition, typing "organic lawn care" into a search engine will produce yards of information.

Article submitted by Dane Terrill at Flowerfield Organic Lawn Care, 10332 Shaver Rd., Portage, MI 269-327-0108. ❖

### KIDS CORNER

Lexie wrote from camp; Dear Meme & Papa, having so much fun, but wishing we were knee boarding on Cedar Lake. Don't go tubing without me. Love Lexi

Grace wrote; Dear Grammy & Papa, what I liked about the lake in the summer is all the tubing, fishing, and swimming and who can forget the nightly trips to Wild Patch and the Sunday morning trips to Pork Chops after church.

Philip wrote; seeing our grandparents, playing golf with Nano, water skiing and seeing the Clarks.

Nick wrote; spending time with my family, playing games, having fun in the lake and going out for ice cream.

Masons wrote; swimming & tubing all day, s'mores at night & getting ice cream from the ice cream truck!

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