



Rush Lake News

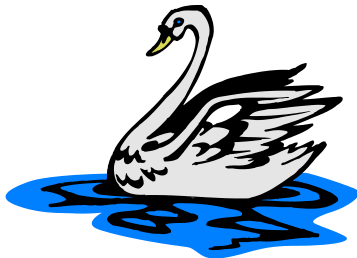


SUMMER 2017

Rush Lake Property
Owners Association

Phone: 734-878-0340
email: clerk@rushlakepoa.com
Website: rushlakepoa.com

SWAN PROBLEM ADDRESSED



At the May semi-annual meeting, members present took action to address the recent proliferation of Mute swans on the lake. A motion was passed, virtually unanimously, which stated that the Mute swans presently on the lake were a nuisance, and asked the Board to take action through some governmental agency to significantly reduce the swan population. During the discussion of the motion, members were told that there were approximately fifty-five swans presently on the lake. Many members stated that the swans were aggressive and interfered with their enjoyment of the lake. Mute swans are not a protected bird in Michigan and are considered an invasive species.

In the past, each spring and fall, usually about two dozen swans have migrated through our lake. They have stayed here for several weeks, and then left. In the spring migration, they usually are gone by early April, leaving a small number, some of which actually breed.

This year, for some unknown reason - perhaps due to changes in our weather - a huge number came and actually stayed on the lake into May. At the time of the May 3rd semi-annual meeting, there still were about fifty-five swans on the lake. Obviously this situation, if it continued, was untenable, and immediate action was needed.

After the semi-annual meeting, the Board contacted the USDA, informed them that the RLPOA had determined the swans to be a nuisance, and asked them to take action to reduce the swan population.

Within a few days a member

of the USDA came to the lake and, with the assistance of one of our Board members, took action at some existing swan nests to prevent the eggs from hatching. The USDA agreed to return as soon as possible to further address the swan problem. As of this writing, they have not been able to return.

However, within a couple of weeks of the meeting, virtually all the swans had left the lake, leaving about a half a dozen behind, the "normal" amount for the summer season.

The remaining swans included one particular pair, the male of which has been breeding on the lake for many years. A couple of years ago, his mate died leaving the male, known as "Mr. Macho", alone to raise two signets.

No further action is expected by the USDA this year as the immediate problem seems to have resolved itself.

Upcoming Meeting Dates



Monthly Board Meeting
Wednesday, July 5, 2017
6:30 pm (if needed).

Monthly Board Meeting
Wednesday, August 2, 2017
6:30 p.m.

Monthly Board Meeting
Wednesday, September 6, 2017
6:30 p.m.

Semiannual Meeting
Wednesday,
October 4, 2017
7:00 p.m.

All meetings are held at the
Hamburg Community Center on
Merrill Road.

2017 - 2018 Officers

President Lois Pescia
Vice President Eric Schaufele
Treasurer Lex Kinter
Secretary Joe Grech

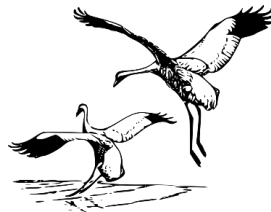
Board Members

Fred Clough
Christina Letzring
Peggy Pietras
Pam Sevonty
Steve Smith

Association Clerk
Teresa Kinter
734-878-0340

ANIMAL CORNER

THE SANDHILL CRANE



One of the benefits of Michigan life is being able to see the elegant, but quirky, sandhill cranes. They are very large birds, about four feet tall, are a dusty tan in color, and have a very distinctive call. They can be seen all around our lake, and particularly in the area where Pettysville Road meets Swarthout Road.

Courtship includes an elaborate “dance” with spreading wings and leaping into the air while calling. After mating, they nest in marshes and wetlands. They usually have one or two eggs. Their first flight is in about 65-75 days. Young remain with their parents for 9-10 months and accompany their parents on migration.

They are omnivorous and eat insects, roots of aquatic plants, snails, frogs, berries and seeds. They will eat large quantities of cultivated grains when available.

They migrate, and huge flocks – in the thousands – can be found spending the winter in several scattered areas of North America.

ATTACK YOUR LAKEFRONT WEEDS!



If you have weeds in the water in front of your property, you may be able to discourage them through an application of approved chemicals.

You can call Lake Pro, the company the Association uses, at 810-635-440, to discuss your particular problem and, perhaps, purchase chemicals which will assist you. Some members have had success is dealing with these undesirable lakeside weeds by applying chemicals purchased from Lake Pro.

CLERK'S NEW EMAIL ADDRESS!



Please note: the RLPOA Clerk has a new email address:

clerk@rushlakepoa.com

The old @yahoo.com address no longer valid.

PLEASE PICK UP YOUR WEEDS

We have received complaints of members cutting off weeds in front of their property and not being courteous enough to rake the debris onto shore. This is particularly a problem when done in a canal. Weeds that are cut in a canal, and not removed, end up floating directly onto other **homeowner's property**. Obviously this is very discourteous.



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If you choose to cut weeds in the lake, please do the right thing, rake them onto your property, and dispose of them yourself.

Also, some of our members have been dumping lawn clippings and leaves directly into the lake. Keep in mind that those actions put organic material into the lake, and simply add more phosphorus to the waters which aid the growth of weeds and algae.

Please be courteous to your neighbors by disposing of any weeds you cut from lake, and, never put lawn clippings, tree cuttings, or any other organic materials, into our lake.

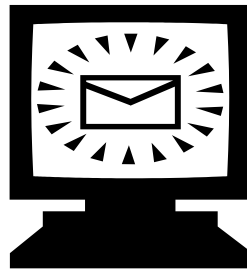
COYOTES FOUND IN HILLSIDE PARK!

There have been sightings of several coyotes in Hillside Park! Fortunately no one has been bitten primarily because they actually are harmless decoys put in by your Board to try to scare away the geese. Goose poop is not welcome in any of our parks..



Apparently, the geese haven't been too concerned about these predators because they continue to visit the park's green lawns in defiance of their nemesis, the coyotes.

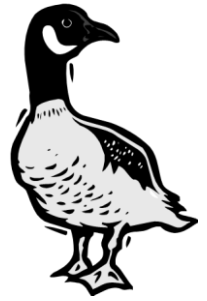
It seems that the Board will have to go back to the drawing board!



Sign Up Today!

If you haven't already signed up for Association emails, you are missing out on important updates, news, and vital information. If you would like to be added to the list of recipients, please send an email to our clerk at: clerk@rushlakepoa.com and ask to be added to the list.

Please don't feed the waterfowl



Waste produced by waterfowl can be a significant source of nutrients in the lake. Research has shown that one Canada Goose can contribute approximately a half pound of phosphorus to a lake each year. When you multiply that by the number of geese that are on the lake on a regular basis, their waste can contribute a significant amount of phosphorus to our waters. This action contributes to an increase in plant and algae growth in the lake.

Additionally, in locations where the geese gather, e-coli counts can rise making the water unsuitable for swimming, fishing or boating.

Besides the negative effects on the lake, feeding of waterfowl does not help them consume a balanced diet leading to wing deformity in goslings. And as you feed the waterfowl they lose their fear of humans and can become very aggressive especially during nesting season.

The sentence: "The quick brown fox jumps over a lazy dog" uses every letters of the alphabet!

HAVE A BLIGHT PROBLEM?

Does your neighbor's yard look like a junkyard?



When you look over your side fence, do you see an old stove, a large pile of trash, or a old boat that hasn't been used for years?

Don't give up hope. There is something you can do about it, but it takes some action by you to get rid of this neighborhood blight. Success will be more likely if you band together with other neighbors to rid your community of this nuisance.

Your Board is keenly aware of the many blight problems in our area. They constantly hear complaints from members about these kinds of problems. They have contacted Hamburg Township about this issue, and provide you here with some useful tips.

Hamburg Township has blight ordinances which cover the subject of junk in general in yards. Specifically, unlicensed vehicles and boats must be



stored indoors. Many kinds of objects can be part of a blight

nuisance: items like old washing machines, abandoned bicycles, old piles of wood, old ladders and furniture, inoperable machinery, and, of course, unlicensed cars or boats.

Obviously it would be wonderful if every resident kept their yard clean and tidy, but the reality is some people simply don't care about how their yard

looks, and so blight problems develop.

Residents need to contact Hamburg Township and complete a blight complaint form with them. They will begin an investigation of the matter which can lead to a formal citation given to the offending party. Hamburg Township Supervisor Pat Hohl states that over 110 citations have been issued in the Township in just the last year for blight problems.



Obviously it would be useful if you could provide the Township with photographs documenting the blight. Also, it is particularly helpful if multiple neighbors actually file a formal complaint, then let the government do their job of enforcing these ordinances

You have several ways to obtain the necessary forms:

1. Hamburg Township by telephone at 810-231-1000,
2. Go the Township offices at 10405 Merrill Road, in Hamburg.
3. Visit the Township website at: www.hamburg.mi.us,
4. Or, if you want to obtain an anonymous blight form, email the RLPOA Clerk at clerk@rushlakepoa.com.



***SOME MALE SONGBIRDS
SING MORE THAN 2,000
TIMES A DAY***



**Don't Let
Your Dog
Run Free**

According to the Michigan Leash Law, all animals in public must be on a leash. Obviously the primary target of this statute is dogs.

With the warm weather of summer comes more frequent reports of dogs running loose. Our members don't appreciate other people's dogs running loose on our streets or in their yards.

Also, remember when walking your dog, be sure to take along a bag to pick up any mess created. Dog poop bags are available in our of our parks.

For any problems with any animal, contact the County Animal Control at 517-546-2154.

Please do not



play on buoys

IMPORTANT BOATING AND JETSKI REGULATIONS

There have been complaints about some of the boating and jetski actions on the lake that disturb other boaters. We need to keep in mind that there are numerous regulations governing the use of jetskis and boats, and we should strive to abide by them. You can access all the regulations on these issues at the Michigan DNR website at:



http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-10365_10884---,00.html

Obviously each boat must carry life jackets for each passenger, and everyone riding a jetski must wear a life jacket.

Also, one of the most important boating and jetski regulations relate to the legal age of the vessel's driver, so here they are:

WHO MAY OPERATE A BOAT:

If less than 12 years of age, it is legal:

if powered by a motor no more than 6 horsepower = no restrictions

if powered by a motor between 6 and 35 horsepower = needs a boating safety certificate on board, and is directly supervised by a person at least 16 years of age.

If born after July 1, 1996, it is legal: = if the person has a boating safety certificate on board.

If born before July 1, 1996, it is legal: = without restrictions.

WHO MAY OPERATE A PERSONAL WATER CRAFT

(PWC, aka jetski, wave runner):

If less than 14 years of age, it is not legal:

If 14 or 15 years of age, it is legal:

= if they have a boating safety certificate

AND: is accompanied on board by a parent /guardian ,or a designated 21+ year old person,

OR + if they are operating the PWC within 100 feet of a parent/guardian or a designated 21+ year old person

If 16+ years of age and born after December 31, 1978, it is legal: =if they have a boating safety certificate.

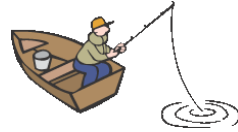
If born before December 31,1978 it is legal: = always, no age restrictions



BOATING ETIQUETTE

WHEN ANCHORING CLOSE TO SHORE

When anchoring close to shore, be sure to be aware of how your actions impact the shoreline homeowners!



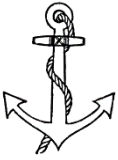
Fishing, in particular, can be actually dangerous to others and their pets. Keep in mind when fishing near shore, casting towards the shoreline can leave hooks on the lake bottom which then can be snagged by swimmers or their pets. Shoreline homeowners use their offshore waters for swimming and recreation, and your fishing nearby can create a dangerous situation for them and their family.

Also, your mere presence so close by can be quite distracting to others on the shore who are simply trying to enjoy their lakeside experience.

Please be courteous to everyone!

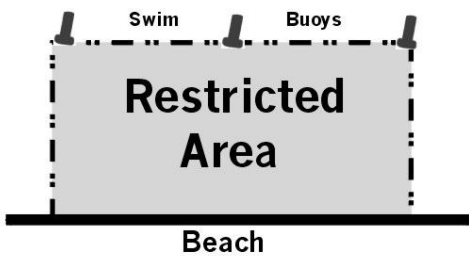
FOUND!

A pink and grey "River Drifter" blow-up boat has been found. If it's yours, clerk@rushlakepoa.com



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**Rush Lake Property Owners
 Association
 P.O. Box 78
 Pinckney, Michigan 48169**

Mailing Label



**Michigan
 State Law says:**

No boating in restricted areas.

**Please do not anchor or operate your
 boat in any Rush Lake swim area!**

***PLEASE DON'T GO
 THE WRONG WAY!***

**Are you going
 the wrong way?
 By Michigan boating laws,
 boats must travel in a
 counter-clockwise direction!**



***PLEASE DON'T GO
 THE WRONG WAY!***