

Pentwater Lake Association

April 2009

Plain Old Pond Weeds

Tom Osborn, Chair, Water Quality Committee

We started this series about aquatic plants last year after a couple of meetings where our role in nuisance weed control in the lake was discussed. We have since written a couple of articles about the problem plants, especially the foreign invaders like Eurasian watermilfoil and curly-leaf pondweed, and some native plants that can sometimes become quite dense and therefore become a nuisance, such as water celery and coontail. It's quite easy to write about these plants, because so much has been written about them. They are the problems we are trying to control. They threaten the quality of our lake experience and a lot of our dollars and effort goes into preventing the complete takeover of the lake ecosystem by one or two exotic species with no natural predators. Most aquatic plants are quite the opposite, however. They are just there, innocuous at worst, and usually very underrated in the roles they play in the overall ecology of the lake. They provide the food and cover for the food of the fish we like to chase, and, in many cases, are the food itself for many of our waterfowl species.

They don't choke the water surface, catch our skis, clog our engines, or just gross us out. They are just there, in many cases virtually invisible, just the way (according to many) lake weeds are supposed to be.

Some types have floating leaves, some are totally submerged. Some have large, showy leaves; some have fine, delicate leaves. Some species can grow 12 to 15 feet tall, others can be measured in inches. All are flowering, yet the flowers would not be noticed unless you were looking specifically for them. Most reproduce both by seed and by overwintering vegetative buds known as turions. Pondweeds are scattered all about Pentwater Lake and are an important part of a healthy aquatic ecosystem.



Another common native aquatic plant known as pondweed is **Elodea**, also known as Canadian pond weed or **American waterweed** (also sometimes still called Anacharis, its former genus name). This is a common aquarium plant and it is probably through the aquarium trade that

it has been introduced to Europe, Asia, Africa, Australia, and New Zealand where it has often become an invasive nuisance and is considered a noxious weed. Here in North America it is one of the most common native aquatic plants and is generally looked upon very favorably. It provides valuable food and shelter for a range of aquatic animals, including invertebrates, waterfowl, and mammals such as muskrats and beaver. This is a flowering plant, with the small flower often being the only part of the plant that breaks the water surface, and it therefore reproduces by seed. However, its most effective means of reproduction is vegetative, with stems breaking off, often in late season, and rooting to form new plants. This plant seldom grows to densities here to be considered a nuisance (although it can), but it is often confused with the dreaded **Hydrilla**, a nasty invasive that is becoming a serious nuisance in lakes south of Michigan. We are on the watch for Hydrilla in Pentwater Lake, and are concerned that its introduction will take us to another level of problems caused by foreign invaders. Elodea and Hydrilla both grow with leaves in a whorled pattern around the stem, although Elodea always has just three leaves in each whorl, while Hydrilla has four or more leaves in each whorl. Hydrilla also has small mid-rib teeth on the underside of each leaf that makes it feel rough when pulled through the fingers. Elodea does not have these teeth and does not have the rough feel. We are not concerned with control of Elodea, but if we ever find Hydrilla, we will likely go after it with a vengeance.



Fig. 18. Potamogeton suberosus L. A. Fl. Folia. B. Fructus. C. Spica. D. Infloresc. E. Fl. in situ. F. Fl. in situ. G. Stigma et ovum. H. Fructus. I. Fructus in aqua. J. Fructus in aqua. K. Diagramm.

The huge, world-wide genus called **Potamogeton** has some 90 plus known species and is commonly called **Pondweed**. And Pentwater Lake is home to some eight..., or ten..., or maybe twelve species. They are typically so innocuous

that without an intensive survey you are not sure what you have. But except for the fore-mentioned curly-leaf pondweed (*Potamogeton crispus*—from Eurasia), pondweeds are among the good guys of the aquatic world. They provide great food for a number of invertebrates and waterfowl, and partly because of this, the populations seldom reach nuisance levels.

(Continued on page 3)

From the President



The PLA Board usually meets every month of the year except for mid winter, but this year has required meeting every month, despite prolonged absences by several of our board members including myself. We have had extensive discussions and presentations on matters brought before the Board by board members, members of the Association, and nonmembers. Issues have ranged from revitalization and beautification of the dinghy dock, support for the sheriff's patrol boat stationed in Pentwater, the Village's new sewage treatment plant and disposal system, to the reworking of the Association's web site. We have also dealt with permit denials for seawalls and our annual social events. I have omitted many other issues including ongoing member campaigns and financial issues.

We would like to have your input. There are several ways for members and nonmembers to be heard. Pick up your phone or email any of the board members listed below. That's the easiest way. Attend our monthly meetings held at 7 p.m. on the third Tuesday of every month at the Village Hall on Hancock Street. Visit our website at www.pentwaterlakeassociation.org and write us a note there. Or attend our annual dinner meeting scheduled for June 26th at St. Vincent's Church on Sixth Street. That's a great way to visit old friends at the start of summer, make new acquaintances, enjoy a good meal, and listen to an entertaining presentation. In short, we encourage you to become an active member of your association and make a contribution "for the good of the lake."

Jerry Saylor, President

Officers

President, Jerry Saylor
 Vice-President, Tom Osborn
 Secretary, Norma Oly
 Treasurer, Paul Anderson

Board of Directors

<u>Until June 2009</u>	<u>Until June 2010</u>
Tom Osborn	Paul Anderson
Jerry Saylor	Charlotte Lindstrom
Don Van Zile	Kathy Timmer
	<u>Until June 2011</u>
	Lynn Cavazos
	Norma Oly
	George Richey

Pentwater Village Council

Juanita Pierman, President
 Jim Alfredson
 Jay Bryan
 Alvin Docter
 Jared Griffis
 Don Palmer
 Marilyn Sullivan

Jim Miller, Interim Village Manager
 Dick Hutchings, Marina Manager

Pentwater Township Board

Charles Smith, Township Supervisor
 Barbara Burke, Clerk
 Janice Siska, Treasurer
 Terry Cluchey
 Mike Flynn

Committees

Fish and Wildlife	Ron Steiner
Land Use	Paul Anderson
Water Surface Use	
Water Quality	Tom Osborn
Social	Lynne Cavazos
Membership	George Richey
Publicity	Norma Oly
Newsletter Editor	Charlotte Lindstrom

For more information about a committee or to get involved contact President Jerry Saylor at 231-869-5295 or jerry_saylor@yahoo.com.

Oceana County Sheriff's Department

Marine Deputy Tim Simon

Due\$ are Due!

It's that time of year again. PLA membership dues are \$25 for the 2009-2010 year, and it is time to renew your membership. Please send your check for \$25.

If you also want to receive the quarterly *Michigan Riparian* magazine, you can include its \$8 subscription fee in your check by increasing the amount to \$33. New members can join by completing the membership application form on page 9 in this newsletter and returning it with a check.

ON THE AGENDA

The board meetings of the Pentwater Lake Association are always open to our members. At recent meetings we have had several presentations of general interest.

January 13 **Grant for Sedimentation Control at Big Sandy Bend.** George Richey advised that this matter is still pending. Mark Kelly had planned to be present but was ill. Grant application options are being considered.

February 17 **Zie Group Web Site Presentation.** MaryLyn Leavitt, partner of the Zie Group of Ludington, discussed website ownership, editing options, cost/payment options, and procedural tasks. She and her staff members will work with us to create a new site or revise and update the current one. George Richey agreed to act as our board contact, and the board approved the appointment of the Zie Group to help us improve and maintain our web site.

Apache Hills Seawall Reconstruction. Doug Reams appeared before the Board to request support for a permit to repair the seawall on Lots 7 and 8 in Apache Hills on Pentwater Lake. The permit was denied by the Michigan DEQ, but the decision is being appealed. The Apache Hills Covenant requires property owners to maintain a seawall in an existing line. The denial by the MDEQ is based upon the deterioration of the former seawall that allowed water behind it, in which fish and turtles, etc. have established residence, and its current policy of providing open areas of access by wild life to and from the land and water. Riprap was suggested as an alternative. The Board agreed to write a letter of support for the permit.

March 17 **Apache Hills Seawall Reconstruction.** Doug Reams was again present to update the Board on this matter. In April he will meet on site with the DEQ and Land & Water Management Department staff and it was agreed that certain members of our Board would attend that meeting to lend support.

Web Site. There was discussion of changes to be made to our web site to update and improve it.

Wastewater Treatment & Fishing Pier. It was noted that Wade Trim has reported to the Village that work is in progress on (1) the wastewater treatment project, with a Hydrogeological Survey Report to be submitted to the DEQ by June 30, 2009; and (2) the design of the new fishing pier at the dinghy dock site, with completion of the project expected prior to July 31, 2009.

Plain Old Pond Weeds (continued)

(Continued from page 1)



Common Duckweed

After discussing Pondweed and Waterweed, we should naturally go on to **Duckweed**, or **Lemna**. These are the tiny plants that can form virtual blankets of green over small ponds and backwaters of lakes in midsummer. There are often several species intermixed in those blankets. The plants are usually single or a few leaves, or fronds, with one or a few tiny rootlets trailing below them. They include **Water meal**, or **Wolffia**, the worlds smallest flowering plant. They do flower, but rarely and you almost need a microscope to see them. Their rapid mode of reproduction into massive mats is by a type of fission and budding. They overwinter by dropping tiny scales from the fronds which sink to the muddy bottom, awaiting the warm weather of the following summer. While these mats can become so thick

that it cuts off any light penetration below, they can also sustain enormous populations of small invertebrates. In fact, while ducks do feed on duckweed, they also get a lot of nourishment from the small insects and other invertebrates associated with the duckweed. Because of their small size, duckweeds are easily transported from one water body to the next on the bodies of waterfowl. Duckweed is difficult to control by the use of herbicides, and in our lake it is not an issue. Duckweed is often an important component of pond or marsh bioremediation efforts because they are very effective in the uptake of nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus.



Watermeal

News Around Town . . .

By Lynne Cavazos

HOW ABOUT A CUPPA?

In the mood for a cup of tea in lovely surroundings? Or maybe lunch or an early dinner? Call Suzanne Hutchings at the *Afternoon Delight Tea Room* in the Safe Harbor Inn at 174 Rutledge, Pentwater. Open from September 1st to June 30 from 12 noon to 6 pm Monday thru Sunday. Menu



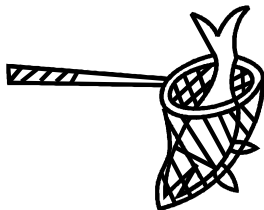
includes soups, salads, desserts, homemade breads, scones, muffins, and dinner selections. Call for reservations 231-869-2168 or 231-869-0194. Suzanne is also available for catering off premises year round.

SILVER HILLS ANTIQUES COMING TO PENTWATER

Don and Lin Hoekstra, owners of Silver Hills Antiques, have announced a move to the Gustafson Building in Pentwater from the current location near Mears. Opening will be May 8. Hours are 11 am to 7 pm Monday to Saturday and 12 noon to 6 pm on Sunday, with special hours during special events. The store will close following Octoberfest weekend, October 10-11. They expect this move to be permanent and already own a family home here. A very welcome addition to our shopping district!

FREE FISHING WEEKEND

Two days twice a year, families and friends can enjoy Michigan fishing for free (no fishing license required). This year the first weekend was February 14 & 15 and the second will be June 13 & 14. A good weekend to invite friends or family to visit Pentwater!



FREE DAYS AT TRANSFER SITE

Pentwater Township has established June 6 and October 3 as free days at the Township Transfer Site, located behind the Trading Post off Monroe Road

PLANT SALE

Remember the date – Saturday, May 23 – for the Pentwater Garden Club’s annual spring plant sale at Bell Park, 9:00 to noon. Mostly perennials, all locally grown.



GARDENER’S FOLLY IS MOVING

Gardener’s Folly is moving to the 150 S. Hancock Building on April 6th, gaining new space for new product lines, including Lilly Pulitzer, Voluspa Candles, Fringe Studio, Maison de Vie, Dash & Albert Rugs, and others.

CHANGES TO THE MASTER PLAN

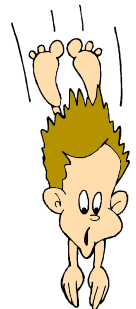
The Village and Township Planning Commissions have recently reviewed the Pentwater Master Plan and approved a few revisions. A draft of the revised Master Plan has been submitted to the Village Council and Township Board for approval, and a copy is available at the Library and on the Village web site (www.pentwatervillage.org).

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DISPOSAL

After competing its second successful disposal day, the Oceana Conservation District has announced that this will now be an annual event. The day selected is the second Saturday in August, beginning with August 15, 2009. Mark your calendar now.

NEW VILLAGE ORDINANCES

Effective March 6, 2009, the Village has reclassified from a Class B to a Class C civil infraction: (1) diving or jumping from a bridge, dock, seawall or pier and (2) parking violations at the launch ramp. Penalties for Class C are: first offense \$100, second offense within one year \$200, third offense within one year \$500. Also, a new \$50 fee will be levied for weddings on the Village Green to help defray additional maintenance costs.



More News Around Town . . .

WINE AND ART BY THE WATER



On Sunday afternoon, May 17, the Pentwater Women's Club will sponsor their 3rd annual wine tasting to raise funds for college scholarships for Pentwater High School graduates. Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. Advance tickets are available at the Durand Wine Company and Our Gallery.

ANNUAL STRAWBERRY SOCIAL

Our annual strawberry shortcake social will be held again this year on Thursday, August 13th, during the weekend of Homecoming in Pentwater. This delicious treat will be sold at the Village Green on Thursday evening from 6:00 to 9:00 pm while the crowd gathers for the special concert of the combined Village and Clown Bands that kicks off our big Homecoming Weekend festivities.



JUNIOR SAILING CLUB

Weekly Junior sailing lessons begin June 22 thru August 21 at the beach area next to the Village launch ramp at 191 Lake St. Registrations will be accepted beginning May 1st.



SPRING DINNER MEETING

Wednesday, May 27, is the date for the Pentwater Historical Society Spring Dinner to be held at the VFW Hall, 6 pm social hour, 7 pm dinner. Tickets are \$15.00 each. Dr. William M. Anderson, former Director of the Michigan Department of History, Arts, and Libraries, will speak on Women of the Civil War.

BOATING SAFETY CLASS

The Michigan Boating Safety Certificate class is offered annually under the sponsorship of the Oceana County Sheriff's Department, the Pentwater Yacht Club, and the Pentwater Sportfishing Association, and is scheduled this summer on Thursday and Friday, July 9 & 10, from 8 am until noon. The certificate earned by completing this 8-hour class is required for:

1. Youths 12 years of age and older to qualify for operating a motor boat in excess of six horsepower.
2. Individuals born after 1978, when operating a personal watercraft (Jet Ski).
3. Adults of any age accompanying youths when riding personal watercraft.

The class is open to all individuals age 12 or older interested in boating safety. There is no charge. All instructional materials and break refreshments will be provided.

CHANNEL DREDGING

At the Village Council meeting on March 9th, President Juanita Pierman announced that the dredging bill passed the U. S. House and needs to pass the U. S. Senate so Pentwater Harbor will be dredged this year.

CENZO'S FILES FOR A VARIANCE

Kevin and Lisa Henley, the owners of 'Cenzo's Market, have recently requested a zoning variance in order to build three to six hotel rooms above the store on Sixth Street. In a letter to the editor, published in the March 19 issue of *Oceana's Herald-Journal*, Lisa Henley stated that their plan is to add two floors over the store, the second floor to provide "an informal terrace for our customers and guests to enjoy breakfast, lunch and dinner 'takeout boxes' from 'Cenzo's, while enjoying the natural beauty of Pentwater lake views and marinas." The top floor would have suites to accommodate over-flow guests for residents or extended stays for seasonal visitors, and would rent for one week up to one month.

Rothbury Festival 2009

The July 2-5 weekend has been confirmed for the 2nd annual Rothbury Festival celebrating music, art and action to be held at the Double JJ Ranch. There will be an impressive line-up of musical talent, including *The Dead*, *Bob Dylan and His Band*, *the String Cheese Incident*, and 63 other groups, plus "Think Tank" buzz sessions with scientists, scholars, political leaders, etc. to learn how to find a green job, make your home and office energy efficient, grow your own organic food, and more. For more information and tickets go to www.rothburyfestival.com.

Pentwater's Artist Palette

Our Continuing Series on Pentwater Artists...by Norma Oly

Summer residents and snowbirds may wonder what local Pentwaterites do throughout the long winter that has just passed us by, but Pentwater artisans keep busy each and every day. With the new addition last year to the Pentwater Artisan's Learning Center at 780 East Park Street, artists and members now have room not only to pursue their many talents, but to teach what they've learned to others as well.



Sue Hopps Barb Davidson

This past winter, the cars that filled up the center parking lot each day, tell a lot about the story. **Wood-working** members are still

busy on their projects Tuesdays through Saturdays, and artist Gene Davidson is always willing to share his knowledge with those members. But beginning on January 7th, several new art classes were established for the first time by Co-chairs Sue Hopps and Barb Davidson.

Long known as area artists, the two women have put together a schedule of classes for members that offers something for everyone. The four to six week classes filled up surprisingly fast, and they are all taught by local artists. In fact, the only class that had an opening yet in February was the **glass cutting** class. Offered on Tuesdays at 1:30 p.m., the class is still small in number, but PLA member Caroline Denlar says, "There is nothing like having individualized help when I had to learn new, precise cutting techniques for the stained glass snowflake project I have been working on."



Beth Sturr Caroline Denlar Sue Hopps

Sue and Barb stayed busy organizing the Monday through Thursday offerings. A **stained glass** class meets on Mondays from 2-4 p.m. Taught by Ann Cameron, the beauty and variety of these pieces is amazing. She orders all of the supplies, which can then be purchased right there at the

Center. From large stained glass windows to beautiful, delicate window hangings, members and students love what they are creating. As well keeping their designs for their own enjoyment, many artists give them as gifts or donate them to locally sponsored events such as the



Barb Davidson



? Ron Connell Sue Hopps Caroline Denlar

Women's Club Wine Tasting/Scholarship Auction in May or the Pie Bake-Off Scholarship Auction in July.



L-R: ? Sue Hopps, Juanita Pierman, Vicki Poplstein, Harold Sytsma, Caroline Denlar, Beth Sturr, Ameer Engle, Jean Mack

Harold "Harry Potter" Sytsma, teaches **pottery** classes from 6:30 to 9 p.m. on Tuesday evenings. "Because he's the pottery teacher, we like to call him Harry Potter," jokes Sue. Harold enjoys teaching the students how to load the kiln and frequently stops to explain specific processes to them. Learning to use all of the equipment that is housed at the Center is important. "We need to be very careful loading the especially large and beautifully decorative pieces," he cautions.

Pentwater's Artist Palette (continued)

A **glass beading** class is also held on Tuesdays, from 2-4 p.m. PLA member Juanita Pierman, formerly a graphic design artist, said "Creating beautiful pieces of jewelry is both fun and relaxing for me." Although her creations are detailed and very intricate, "the work is fun when you can do it amongst friends." On the last Tuesday evening of each month, members of all of the classes have also decided to get together for a pot luck dinner so that they can continue working without having to stop to go home to eat. "Besides," states Sue, "its just fun getting to know each other a little more. Last month we had thirty-two people all together!"



Ronnie ? Harry Walter Sue Connell Carol Oxford

Tuesday is definitely the busiest day for the artisans. Sue Connell (in the lab coat) teaches **drawing** classes with **colored pencils** from 2-4 p.m. and teaches **oil**

painting classes during the same time period on Thursday afternoons.

Sue said, "artists often make it look simple, but it takes time to master the shading and perspective techniques used in this medium." The



Dave Rodwell Emily Saylor Bev Weber students are very focused and there are often times of quiet solitude within this large room.

Wednesday afternoon offers **knitting** from 2-4 p.m. and also **basket weaving** from noon-2 p.m. There are currently eight members in the basket-weaving class taught by PLA member Beverly Kelly. "I've been doing this for fifteen

years, and teaching for ten," states Bev, "but I can't bear to sell any of the baskets I make." Although she has given several away as family gifts, "they are



L-R: Judy Jankowski, Elaine Roose, Joe Primo-zich, Gene Jankowski, Bev Kelly, Emily Saylor

each close to my heart," and she has used many of them for illustrative purposes in her classes. PLA members Elaine Roose and Joe Primozich were almost finished with their large, hand-woven baskets, each with their own decorative designs and reed colors. "Basket-weaving does not hurt your hands at all," said Elaine, "but we often have to bend over to weave or tighten the reeds just right, so we have to straighten our backs out frequently." Judy and Gene Jankowski, Bev's only husband and wife team, made their first baskets ever this month and were surprised that the weaving process didn't take as long as they thought it would. Bev keeps supplies on hand and they can be purchased right there, but students may also bring their own supplies to class.

In addition to the classes scheduled above, Tuesday evening offers a **glass fusing** class and Thursday afternoon offers a **weaving** class. Sue noted that these and other classes will be reintroduced and posted for members again in April. Membership applications are available from the Pentwater Artisan Learning Center and for additional information, Sue may be reached on her cell phone at 231.638.7125 or via email at shopp@charter.net. Group tours may also be arranged and scheduled. Adult memberships are \$120 per year from July 1st to June 30th and Junior memberships for those who are 13-18 years of age) are funded by scholarships. Members who apply in mid year are able to receive prorated fees.

So you see, winter residents have done much more than shoveling, snowblowing and ice fishing in Pentwater this past winter!

Never be afraid to try something new. Remember that amateurs built the Ark. Professionals built the Titanic.

- Dave Barry

2009 PLA Annual Dinner & Meeting

Friday, June 26th, 6:00 p.m.

The PLA Annual Dinner and Meeting will be held on Friday, June 26, 2009. A BYOB Social Hour will begin at 6:00 PM, followed by dinner at 6:30 PM. The cost for the meal is \$16.00 per person. Tickets may be ordered by mail (see order blank on page 12) and will also be available June 1st through June 19th from Caroline Denlar, 869-2561.

Please order your tickets by Friday, June 19th, as this is the cutoff date required by the caterer. It also ensures adequate time for purchase of supplies and food preparation. We appreciate your cooperation.

St. Vincent's Church on Sixth Street will again be the location for the dinner and meeting.

There will be a short business meeting followed by a program presented by Tom Rau, retired Coast Guard and author of the *Boat Smart Chronicles*. His entertaining lecture is titled: Boat Stupid Tricks, a Call for Mandatory Boating Education.

We hope to see you all there!

Lynne Cavazos, Social Committee Chair



Members of the Newsletter Committee meet for lunch:
Lynne Cavazos, Norma Oly, Charlotte Lindstrom, Caroline Denlar



Did you spot the above sign on Long Bridge Road in February?

All that snow is paying off. The Corps of Engineers is predicting lake levels 5 to 8 inches higher this summer

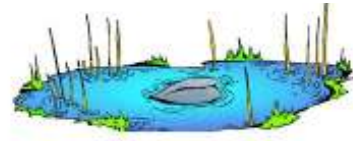
PLA Members Enjoy E-mail Updates

A number of PLA members have received occasional e-mail updates on PLA board meetings and sometimes a note about the weather or lake condition, too!

If you would like to receive information on current issues and meetings, please send an e-mail to:
oly@oceana.net

DOES MY PROJECT REQUIRE A LWMD LAND/WATER PERMIT?

Will your project be on or near a land/water interface including, but not limited to: a lake, river, Great Lake, pond, dam, wetland, floodplain, drain, ditch, swamp, shoreline, stream, creek or marshland?



Will intake or outlet pipes or discharge structures be laid, repaired, or replaced?

Will your project be in a high risk erosion and/or critical dune area(s)? Or will the activity be in a designated environmental area(s)?

Will you be creating a new, or expanding or drawing down an existing lake, pond or storm water treatment basin?

Will materials including, but not limited to, concrete, tree stumps, dirt, sand, and soil, be dug up, moved, graded, dredged, excavated, and/or used as fill?

Will you be building a new, or maintaining, repairing or replacing an existing driveway, bridge or culvert?

Will a dock, pier, buoy(s), boat well, boat launch, boat hoist/lift, boardwalk, fence, or deck be built, repaired or replaced?

Will a dam, embankment, dike, spillway, or other structural control be built, repaired, altered, and/or removed?

Will a seawall, bulkhead, revetment, riprap, or groin be built, repaired or replaced?

Will utilities, such as, but not limited to, septic systems, sewers, water mains, cables, and/or pipelines, be laid?

Will a wall, breakwater, water fountain, bubbler, or other structural foundation be built or set up?

Are you constructing, modifying, and/or expanding a new or existing marina?

If the answer to any of the above questions is “yes”, you must submit a completed joint permit application to the MDEQ.

If the answer to all of the questions is “no”, an MDEQ/USAC joint permit may not be needed.

However, if your project will be impacting any area(s) where land meets water and it was not mentioned above, then be sure to contact staff at the following address **before** initiating any activity:

**Permit Consolidation Unit
Land and Water Management Division
Department of Environmental Quality
525 West Allegan, 1st Floor, South Tower
P. O. Box 30204
Lansing, Michigan 48909-7704**

**517-373-9244
DEQ-LWM-PCU@michigan.gov**

VILLAGE OF PENTWATER DESIGN GUIDELINES

The Pentwater Downtown Development Authority (DDA) and the Village of Pentwater are in process of developing a set of flexible but basic guidelines for businesses wishing to improve the façade of their buildings or locate new properties in the Village of Pentwater. The DDA 2007 survey results indicated that the owners in the DDA Zoning District clearly supported the need for guidelines that would reflect the historical nature of Pentwater. The design guidelines of this document seek to accomplish the following:

- Support a small town atmosphere that is a creative, friendly environment for families to shop, bank, worship, obtain services, dine, enjoy events, and to socialize.
- Enhance the appearance of Village structures and provide continuity of design.
- Encourage design that will last into the next century.
- Take into consideration the original structure of the buildings.

A draft of the Design Guidelines document is available at the Village office. A town meeting will be held at the Friendship Center at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, May 19th, to hear comments from businesses and residents.

RIPARIANS AND ESTATE PLANNING

By Clifford H. Bloom, Esq.
From the Michigan Riparian, August 2008

What do many riparian property owners have in common? They may want to “keep the property in the family” after their deaths. Successful generation-to-generation transfers of riparian, hunting, and vacation properties do not just happen. They require careful estate planning with the assistance of an attorney who specializes in that area.

The results of poor estate planning (or no estate planning at all) can be disastrous. When a property owner simply adds other family members to the deed (particularly without a formal side agreement governing how the property will be maintained, managed, etc.), it can later split families apart, result in property going to a former spouse who has divorced a family member, or lead to unpredictable results and significant tax consequences.

Where proper estate planning does not occur, it is fairly common for members of the next generation to inherit property as “tenants in common” or a similar arrangement. Absent the proper restraining documents, any inheriting co-owner has the right to “partition.” In Michigan a co-owner has the right to force either a sale of the property and division of the proceeds, or physical division of the property against the wishes of the other co-owners.

Other potential pitfalls can include:

- * The inability or refusal of a co-owner to pay his/her fair share of taxes, maintenance costs, upkeep, etc.

- * Unending disputes regarding who can use the property (and when), whether an addition should be added to the building, how the building should be decorated, etc.
- * Problems caused when a co-owner wants to be bought out, such as disagreement over price, terms, etc.
- * What to do when a co-owner goes bankrupt or his/her creditors attempt to seize the property interest.

These and other issues can be dealt with in a well-crafted succession plan that includes:

- * Co-owner buyout provisions.
- * Dealing with divorce, bankruptcy, and creditor situations.
- * Property usage rules.
- * Voting provisions among co-owners.
- * Allocating usage times among co-owners.
- * How to handle building maintenance, additions, improvements, etc.
- * Tax consequences.
- * Provisions for eventual termination of the arrangement.
- * Possible endowment fund.
- * Conflict resolution techniques.

If you want to keep your property in the family, act now. Hire a skilled estate planning attorney, and effectuate a good estate plan soon.

MICHIGAN "The Water Wonderland"

Great Lakes: 38,075 square miles of surface area

Great Lakes Shoreline: 3,121 miles

Inland Waters: 1,194 square miles of surface area

Inland Lakes: 11,037

Rivers and Streams: 36,350 miles

In Michigan you are never more than six miles from a lake or stream.

Stand anywhere in Michigan and you are within 85 miles of the Great Lakes.

From Michigan Boating Guide, Michigan DNR

KEEP DEER AND OTHER ANIMALS AWAY FROM YOUR PLANTS

The Oceana Conservation District has available an excellent product to help keep deer and small animals from nibbling on your shrubs and trees.

The product is called Plantskydd. It is a blood based product that keeps deer from eating your plants. It is recognized by the EPA as an environmentally safe product and is exempt from EPA federal pesticide registration.

Plantskydd contains no synthetic additives, is non-toxic, and is not harmful to animals or the environment when used as directed. The product emits an odor that browsing animals associate with predator activity, so they avoid plants which have been treated.

Plantskydd is available at the OCD office. For more information please call the District between 8:00 am to 4:30 pm Monday through Friday (861-4967).

From the Oceana Conservation District Winter 2009 Newsletter

Membership Application

PENTWATER LAKE ASSOCIATION

Membership Application

P.O. Box 825

Pentwater, Michigan 49449

Date _____

Applicant Name: _____ Spouse Name: _____

Local Address:

Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Mailing Address:

Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone(s): Local (_____) _____ Mailing (_____) _____

Email Address: _____

Dues: Yearly Family Membership (one vote), from July 1 through June 30	\$ <u>25.00</u>
Subscription to Michigan Riparian Magazine, published quarterly (optional) \$8.00	\$ <u>.00</u>
Total (Make check payable to Pentwater Lake Association, Inc.)	\$ <u>.00</u>

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Pentwater Lake Association
P.O. Box 825
Pentwater, MI 49449

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Pentwater Lake Association
P.O. Box 825
Pentwater, MI 49449

Please send me _____ tickets (\$16.00 each) for the Pentwater Lake Association Annual Dinner Meeting at St. Vincent's Church on Friday, June 26, 2009. (Appetizers at 6:00 -- Dinner at 6:30 -- Meeting about 7:15 -- Program at 8:00)

My check in the amount of \$ _____ is enclosed.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: (____) _____