
STONY LAKE NEWZLETTER

A PUBLICATION OF THE STONY LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

| Spring 2024

President's Letter...Our Survey Says

For nearly 70 years, the Stony Lake property owners association (SLPOA) has strived to foster a strong sense of community and to provide opportunities for residents to become more engaged and invested in the collective well-being of Stony Lake and its residents. With each new year, your board assesses the previous year's successes and misses, looking for opportunities to improve upon the social events presented by the SLPOA.

I am proud to say that we have some very successful activities, like the Sparkler, Boat Parade, Ice Cream Social, Fishing Tournament, and the Poker Paddle. The Sailboat Races continue to draw more racers, to the delight of both the sailors and those who enjoy the beauty of the races from the shore in a comfy chair and their beverage of choice.

There is a lot of time and effort as well as some money (your dues) that goes into putting together all our events.

When we see dwindling attendance at an event, like the June picnic, and declining annual membership, it causes your Board to question member preferences and satisfaction. While ensuring the SLPOA remains vibrant and strong means keeping up with changes in member and community interests, it is also essential that we adapt to shifts in societal trends and maintain open lines of communication.

So, earlier this spring the Board sent out a survey to gather feedback on your interests and to hear your insights for the future of the SLPOA. In addition to your thoughts about our social events, we want your input for ensuring that the SLPOA remains relevant by looking for new ways to make introductions among residents and to promote engagement, especially with younger property owners. While we will always value our traditions, we should be open to change if it means improving how the SLPOA welcomes residents and

connects them to their neighbors and the broader Stony Lake community.

As I write this column, the Board is still receiving responses, so I cannot speak to the results. That said, on behalf of the Board, I want to thank everyone who has participated and to say to those that haven't responded that it is never too late to share your ideas with any member of the Board or to email your thoughts to stonylakepropertyowners@gmail.com.

With your help, the Stony Lake Property Owners Association can stay ahead of the curve and thrive!

– Jeff Larmore, SLPOA Board President

This Summer is Going to be Sweet! Kick it off on June 15!

It's a topic we read and hear about a lot these days – Americans are not engaging with each other. We don't go to civic functions, church gatherings, or social activities in nearly the numbers as our parents and grandparents did. We don't join fraternal organizations or participate in team sports. We are, as one quite famous book title put it, "Bowling Alone."

However – as neighbors at beautiful Stony Lake, we have the opportunity to buck this trend! We can do this despite any cultural, social, or political divides we have to cross, because we have one true thing in common: We love our lake.

In that spirit, the Stony Lake Property Owners Association Board of Trustees has made some tweaks to the traditional June kick-off event at the Benona Park and Ballpark in hopes of enticing more of our neighbors to gather on a balmy Saturday evening in June.

This Summer is Going to be Sweet is the name for a gathering centered around – Dessert! From 6:30-8:30 on June 15, the SLPOA will host a Dessert/Sweet Treat Potluck, possibly featuring a surprise offering from one of our awesome local bakeries!

Members are asked to submit their favorite Stony Lake related photos from 2023 for a slide show to run during the evening. Send to stonylakepropertyowners@gmail.com.

Other activities that are being discussed are a Stony Lake Trivia game, Bocce, Cornhole, Giant Noughts and Crosses – ideas are welcome! Details will be announced on the SLPOA Facebook page and website. Plates and napkins will be provided, bring a sweet treat to share and your own chairs and drinks. Come on out and meet your neighbors. And – if you'd like to be even more involved, contact the SLPOA Board at the email above. We need you!



Look at the expression on this youngster's face as he accepts his first place trophy in last year's annual Fourth of July Fishing Tournament. Isn't that why we gather together for these lake events with our neighbors? Make an effort to connect with your community this summer – It's going to be a sweet one! More information on the tournament and this year's other activities can be found inside this issue. Photo by Matt Ferguson.

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Sally Malnor, *Sparkler Race Director*

Please see website for contact info on trustees.

A Resource Guidebook for Stony Lake Homeowners can be found at www.stonylakepropertyowners.com/docs/2015StonyLakeHomeownersGuide.pdf



WHAT'S WITH THE NEWZ?

We pay tribute with our "newzletter" name to Swift Lathers, above, who published the Mears Newz from 1914–1970. The "world's smallest newspaper" was printed in Mears, Michigan, but had subscribers nationwide. Copies are available at the Oceana Historical Park Museum Complex in Mears, which includes his home office.

Send comments about and information for the "Newzletter" to Julie Stivers, jlcastivers@gmail.com.

Newzletter production:

Julie Stivers, editor

Sally Malnor, Sparkler Section Coordinator

Mary Lulich, Pixel Grafex Studio,

production & printing

Stony Lake Newzletter Issue #13

Independence Day Weekend Starts on July 6 with Fishing Fun!

Fishing Tournament Chair Dan Brouwer reported that they had a record turnout last summer and some very impressive fish were reeled in. Special thanks to the parents who got up early and took the kids fishing! Be sure to read the notes below about this year's tournament for a new twist – possible Master Angler eligibility!

Adult Winners: (Determined by Weight)

First Place	Wesson Ferski	21 inch Smallmouth Bass
Second Place	Jake Fekken	20 Inch Smallmouth Bass
Third Place	Clare Miedema	18 3/4 Inch Bowfin

Children Winners (Determined by Length)

First Place	Nolan Zavislak	3.4 pound Largemouth Bass
Second Place	Scott Ferski	3.1 pound Smallmouth Bass
Third Place	Kassie Baker	1.71 pound Largemouth Bass

Join the Fun on July 6, 2024!

Adults and Kids 12 and under compete separately. Trophies will be awarded for first, second and third places in both categories. The tournament runs from 6-11 a.m. Fish caught prior to 6 a.m. will not be considered.

Check in your catch at Dan's dock, fifth cottage down the private lane from the swimming beach. A current Michigan fishing license is required and will be checked. Winning fish for adults will be based on weight, the 12 and under competition fish will be based on length.

All fish in the Adult category must be Legal Game Fish! All participants will only be allowed one rod! (Example: Trolling with 3 rods per person gives an unfair advantage from those casting from boat or docks!)

This year we will look at the fish in the 12 and under category to see if any of the fish caught are eligible for a Michigan DNR Master Angler Award. If they are eligible we will provide the necessary documentation that would be needed to receive a Master Angler award!

– Dan Brouwer



First Place in the 12 and Under competition went to Wesson Ferski, above left. The winner in the Adult category was Nolan Zavislak, right. Photos by Matt Ferguson.



The Anderson family took First Place honors in 2023 with their very nicely done entry Euchre Party. Photo by Jim Wildgen.



Always a favorite theme, the Bubble Bath float from the Foley family took second place honors in 2023. Photo by Julie Stivers.



A clever take on state sports rivalry, Lake Divided, earned the Miedema family the third place spot on the podium. Photo by Jim Wildgen.

Continue the Fourth Fun on the Sixth!

A Stony Lake tradition since the 1980s, the annual **Boat Parade & Ice Cream Social** is a family favorite. We had a good turnout last year and some great entries, so start thinking now about putting together a boat float.

Jeff Larmore and Matt Ferguson will again organize the parade, and Sharon Zoller the festivities at Ao Wa Kiya waterfront, on Saturday, July 6, 2024.

Boats will gather at Green Point in the middle of the lake at 1:45 for a 2:00 start. All creative ideas are welcome and all boats receive a participation medal. Trophies go to the top three votegetters. Voting will again be via the internet – look for more details including the URL link, QR code etc. around the end of June on the SLPOA website and Facebook page.

Ice cream and cake will be served at the Camp Ao Wa Kiya waterfront at 4:00 p.m., and trophies awarded. Parking is available at the camp – walk down the stairs to the waterfront. Or anchor your parade entry on the waterfront and wade in! (No docking available.)

It's a good time to pay your Association dues, and maybe pick up a hat as well, so you might want to bring along some cash or a checkbook! "We served four tubs of Country Dairy ice cream and four sheet cakes last summer, said event chair Sharon Zoller. "We served over 200 people who devoured every bit!"

Independence Day weekend fun continues on Sunday, July 7 with the Stony Lake Sparkler. More info on the next pages of this issue.



Ice Cream Social Chair Sharon Zoller, left, works with volunteer Penny Burmeister to serve sweet treats for Megan Bueschel. Volunteers scooped four giant tubs of ice cream in 2023.

Poker Paddle is Playtime for All Ages

The third **Stony Lake Poker Paddle** last summer was a great hit, with more than 40 participants paddling to five of ten docks around the lake to pick up cards, hoping for a winning hand. Winners in the 2023 tournament were:

Best hand over 12: Nikki Brown

Best hand under 12: Emily Hills

Worst hand adult: Tom Pate

Oldest player: Chuck Dawson

Youngest player: Ben Hills

Traveled Farthest: Jason and Courtney Raehl (from Oregon); Tom Pate (from South Carolina)

Guessed the goldfish number: Jeff Hills

This year's event will take place on Saturday, July 27 from noon to 2:00 p.m. "I have put my order in for fair weather," said event chair Tom Owczarski (aka T.O.), "and look forward to another fun activity on our lake." Paddlers will pick up five playing cards at any of ten designated stops and end up at Ellen Jonker's for prizes and freebees. There will be plenty of free gifts for younger paddlers in the Treasure Chest at the Awards ceremony.

Stop by any of the participating docks, marked with a flag, and pick up a map of participating docks. Ten docks are planned as dealer stops, making the play accessible for most on the lake to easily reach five of them.



A big group of happy Poker Paddlers celebrated at the Jonker family dock. Photos by Matt Ferguson.



Winner for the best hand in the Under 12 category was Emily Hills, who received a Stony Lake Store gift certificate.



Nikki Brown accepts her prize of a Country Dairy gift certificate.



Last year's Independence Day race, photo by Jim Wildgen

Stony Lake is Made for Sailing!

White sails flashing in the sunlight on a spectacular Stony Lake weekend afternoon is a sight beloved by long-time Stony Lakers, newcomers, and visitors alike. Volunteer chairs Neal and Amy Miedema put in yeoman's work organizing and managing the racing.

Races begin at their dock on the northwest corner of the lake, fifteen houses east of the square swimming dock. "We race into the wind, typically heading west," explains Neal. "We race one long course when we have strong wind and two shorter laps when we have lighter winds. We will raise the skull and crossbones flag in the event of inclement weather."

Races are scheduled this year on July 7 (Sunday), and continue on Saturdays July 20, August 3, 17, and 31 (Labor Day weekend). Waivers must be obtained from and returned to Neal Miedema, neal_miedema@hotmail.com.

WOW! 2024 will be the Tenth Anniversary of the Stony Lake Sparkler!

by Sally Malnor, Sparkler Race Director

What a year we had in 2023 hitting records in maximum attendance and a Crystal Valley Care Fund donation which helps many people in need. Thank you to our fabulous Sponsors for making it happen - please make an effort to support them as a way to show our appreciation for their generosity. See a list of our community sponsors here: <https://stonylakesparkler.com/2023-sponsors/>

Join us for Our Tenth Year of The Stony Lake Sparkler on July 7, 2024!

All race details and on-line registration can be found at <https://stonylakesparkler.com/>

Key dates and times – Mark your calendars and Sign up Early in case we hit our 1000 runner max before Race Day!:

Friday, June 23 midnight – End of Guaranteed T-Shirts and Early Bird Discounted Pricing. So get those registrations in!

Saturday, July 6 – 9:00-11:00a.m. Packets available and late registration accepted until we hit 1000 runners – at the

Stony Lake Inn, 4722 Scenic Drive .

Sunday, July 7 – RACE DAY! Packet pick-up from 7:00-8:00 a.m. at Stony Lake Inn. One-Mile Fun Run/Walk begins at 8:00 a.m. Sparkler 5K begins at 8:30 a.m.

Come join us for great fun, food, and prizes, and to celebrate the racers, volunteers, and this wonderful community.

Our volunteers make this day what it is – email us at Malnorsb@gmail.com to volunteer

We hope to see you there!

–Sally Malnor, Sparkler Co-Chair



A check for \$24,849.60 was presented to the Crystal Valley Care Fund. Above from left, Jeff Larmore, SLPOA President; Deb Mitteer & Judy Kokx from CVCF; Sally Malnor & Kathy Sullivan, Sparkler Co-Chairs; Ruth Fleming, CVCF.



Overall winners Keegan Masters, from Petersburg, Michigan, age 17, and Jessie Jazwinski, from Shelby, Michigan, age 16, took home the grand prize of Fish Platters from Claybanks Pottery, with times of 16:15.9 and 18:25.0, respectively.



Winners in the Masters over 40 category took home Hardwood Cutting Boards. Chip Corwin, age 41, of Bloomington, Illinois came in at 20:03.0 and Katie Jazwinski, age 44, from Shelby, Michigan at 21:25.8.



The Over 50 Grand Masters prizes from Stony Lake Custom Birdhouses went to Dan Vander Schuur, age 51, of Hudsonville, Michigan at 20:52.5 and Carla Rodriguez, age 67, from Rockford, Michigan at 27:44.8.



The cake prize for most family members participating went to the Wadel family. All photos by Matt Ferguson.

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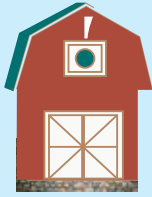


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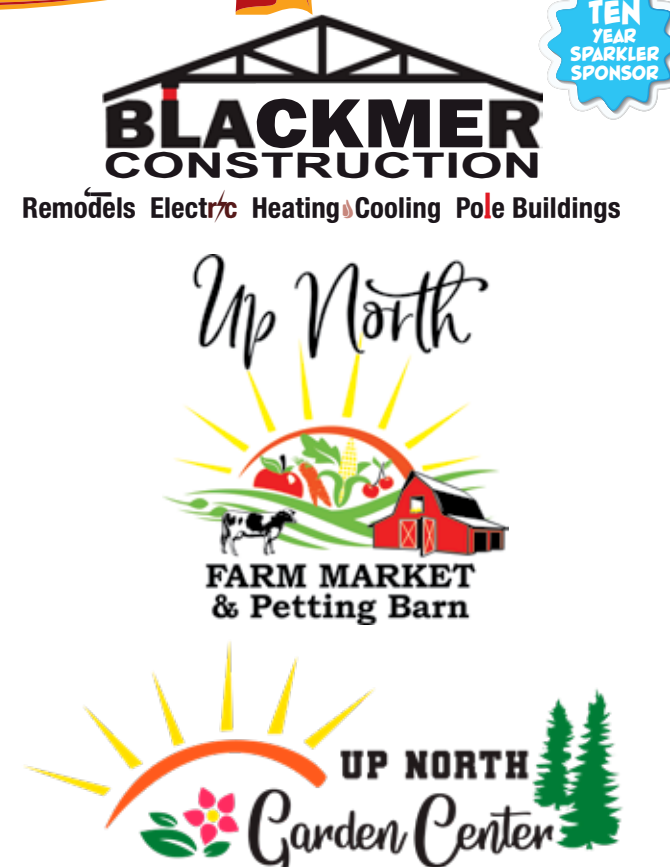
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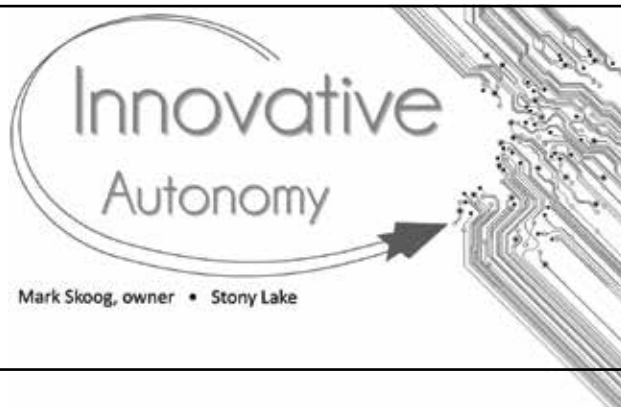
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Annual Meeting Family Photo! Join Us This Year on August 3

Among the many reasons to attend the annual meeting of the Stony Lake Property Owners on August 3, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. are meeting your neighbors, hearing reports on the activities and finances of the organization, picking up useful information about the lake – and getting in on a family photo for posterity!

Thanks to the professional photography of Matt Ferguson, we're accumulating a very nice record of the folks who made Stony Lake their full or part time home in the early 21st century.

Remember to bring your own chairs to the ball diamond park in beautiful downtown Stony Lake.

Thank You 2023 Volunteers!

SAILBOAT RACING

Neal & Amy Miedema, chairs
David Lattie, Carolyn Lehr

FISHING TOURNAMENT

Dan Brouwer, chair
Matt Ferguson, photography

BOAT PARADE

Jeff Larmore & Matt Ferguson, co-chairs
Sue Larmore

ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Sharon Zoller, chair
Penny Burmeister, Libby Brouwer,
Patty Mullens

POKER PADDLE

T.O. Owczarski, chair; Organizational Committee: Merry Rosenberg, Christine Fisher, Kate Schnipke, Megan Buescheland Ellen Jonker. Dock Dealers: Libby & Dan Brouwer, Christine Fisher, Ruth Fleming, David Layman, Nancy Matthews, Wayne Miedema, Merri Rosenberg, Julie & John Stivers, Kathy Sullivan and Kate Van Bokkelen. Awards Ceremony & Celebration Host: Ellen Jonker; Emcee: Dan Brouwer; Photographer: Matt Ferguson.

MEMBERSHIP

Ruth Fleming

SPARKLER

Sally Malnor & Kathy Sullivan, co-chairs
Sparkler Committee: Jeff Larmore, Chris Kok, Suzy Polk, Megan Bueschel, Deana Fox. And the dozens of Race Day volunteers! You know who you are and we appreciate you very much!

COMMUNICATIONS

Maribeth Sala-Gietzen, chair
Matt Ferguson, photographer;
Julie Stivers, Newzletter

WATER QUALITY

Dave Zoller & Steve Lawwill, Lake Management Board; Matt Ferguson & John Stivers, CLMP monitoring.



PICNIC IN THE PARK. Sharon Zoller, food; Neal Miedema, music. Tent Raisers, from left, T.O. Owczarski, Jeff Larmore, Sharon Zoller, John Stivers, Dan Brouwer, Dave Zoller, Dave Prinsen, John Malnor, Gregg Modrack, Matt Ferguson.



Sparkler volunteers celebrate another job well done on Race Day 2023!

Newz From Around the Lake

The Oceana County Conservation District has two projects in the works that will help to improve and preserve the water quality of our lake.

Construction is expected to begin this spring to remove the remnants of the old Marshville dam, two old bridges, and three culverts, and restore 2,500 feet of instream habitat. Special attention is being paid to the protection and restoration of hemlock-shaded areas along the coldwater trout stream. The project is being coordinated and managed through a collaborative partnership between the Oceana County Parks and Recreation Commission, Oceana County Road Commission, West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission and the Conservation Resource Alliance.

In 2022, descendants of the local Hunter and Hedlund families donated a 40-acre parcel to the District that includes a cedar



The upper reaches of Stony Creek will be part of a new nature preserve. Photo by John Stivers.

swamp and upland habitats along upper Stony Creek. A master plan is in the works for parking, fishing access points, and looped trails that showcase the natural and historical features of the land while retaining the delicate ecosystem. Plant and

bird surveys have been conducted, unique natural features have been mapped, and partners have visited to see the unique beauty of the soon-to-be nature preserve. A tentative opening day is planned for summer of 2025.

Do Your Part with Native Plants

While large conservation projects go a long way toward maintaining good water quality in Stony Lake, neighbors can do their part by planting native species along the waterfront and keeping mowed areas to a minimum. Free magazines were distributed locally last summer spotlighting ideas for beautiful natural shorelines. They will again be available this summer at local stores, or email Julie Stivers at jlcstivers@gmail.com to get your free copy.

The Oceana Conservation District will host their annual Wildflower Plant Sale on May 24, and the Muskegon Conservation District on May 18. Check their websites for details and a list of available plants.



In Memorium

Robert “Bob” Rankin died in April 2023 three weeks after his 80th birthday in Lakeland Fla.. Born in Port Washington New York, the epicenter of Robert’s life was Stony Lake. Robert’s MasterCraft often could be seen going up and down the lake with good friend TJ Gosselin driving while wife, Jodi, spotted so Robert could barefoot and sky ski to his heart’s content. Robert taught lots of kids to water ski, including his niece, Sarah, and nephew, Thomas, who cherished their holidays with their cool Uncle Robert.

Sally Modrack passed away in January 2024. She and her husband Bill, who died in 1991, were long-term members of the Stony Lake community. She loved spending summers at their cottage with family and many longtime friends.

New Interactive Classes for Boater Safety

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources now offers boater safety and hunter education as interactive online courses, giving students an enhanced experience with real-life scenarios.

Boaters born after June 30, 1996, and most personal watercraft operators who operate a vessel in Michigan must have a boating safety certificate.

The interactive learning options are

offered in addition to existing traditional classroom and online learning options for both boater and hunter safety.

Boater safety students who opt for the interactive program will follow a storyline adventure that places them in real-life boating scenarios.

Approved by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators, the “I Learn to Boat” program allows students

to navigate the curriculum at their own pace and complete the required assessments, including a final exam.

The Michigan DNR recreational safety certificate is valid in other states, which often require an approved boater safety certificate to rent a boat or personal watercraft (such as a JetSki).

Register for a traditional classroom, interactive or online boater safety education course at Michigan.gov/RecreationalSafety.

STONY LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP



**Detach this form and
send with \$25.00 dues to:**

Ruth Fleming,
Membership Chair
2700 S. 64th Ave.
Shelby, MI 49455

☐ Check here if this is a renewal membership and your information has NOT changed.

Name: _____

Newzletter Mailing Address: _____

Other address: _____

Preferred Phone #: _____ Other Phone #: _____

Email: _____

Make checks payable to SLPOA.

☐ Check here if you'd like to volunteer for SLPOA



JOIN YOUR NEIGHBORS TODAY – SUPPORT THE SLPOA!

We wouldn't be able to enjoy our community activities each summer without the support of our Stony Lake neighbors who pay their association dues each year. Activities and our corporate costs, such as insurance and filing fees, are paid by membership dues and some activity revenue.

*Membership is open to property owners on the lake or adjacent within a half mile of the lake.

*Dues are \$25 per year. Use the form above to send membership to our treasurer,

whose life will be made much easier if most people pay by June 1. OR...

Use our convenient account at PayPal to pay with a credit card online! You do not need to have your own account at PayPal – just go to our website and click on the PayPal icon. In the Comments section, add the address for Newzletter mailing, if it's not the same as your credit card address.

• Members names and other information are listed in the password-protected Directory on the SLPOA website. Check to make sure you're listed, and

that the information is correct. If you don't have the password, e-mail stonylakepropertyowners@gmail.com and we'll send it to you.

If you aren't receiving our e-mails and wish to do so, send an e-mail and we'll add you to our list. If you don't get them, check your spam filter. Add us to your contacts list.

• Be sure to check the website, Facebook page, and the SLPOA Board next to the Stony Lake Store for latest information about all activities.

STONY LAKE – KEEP HER HEALTHY

"There are some troubled lakes out there," warned Matt Ferguson in his water quality report at the SLPOA Annual Meeting last August. "But not our little Stony. She's a darling little lake, the kind you would take home to meet your mother. With primarily eastbound wind and westbound water, she flows well. She's cool, she's deep and she's beautiful. She's 278 acres, 43 feet deep, half a mile wide by two miles long. As lakes go, she's quite a dish."

Matt, along with John Stivers, venture out on the lake many times each year from April to October (those April ones are a bear!) to collect samples for testing at MSU as part of the Michigan Lake & Streams Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program.



Thanks to volunteers over the years, we have data collected back to 2004, which enables scientists to evaluate the aging process of our lake and make informed decisions about the best way to treat it. A summary of this data can be found on the SLPOA website, or at the MiCorps website, micorps.net.

In 2010, the Stony Lake Improvement Board was established, and a professional

engineering company engaged to collect data and manage annual harvesting of plant overgrowth and control of invasive non-native water plants. Minutes from Lake Board meetings are available by emailing Board Chair Dave Zoller at dzoller@hotmail.com. Contact Dave with questions about treatment and harvesting.

Matt ended his annual report on a lyrical note: "Fed by a large watershed to the north, filtered by the marsh, then spring-fed in several spots along the way – finally she dances with the big lake. Please do your best to take good care of our little Stony Lake and share good practices with friends and family. She's our friend. She's the lake other lakes would like to be. KEEP HER HEALTHY."



8050 W. Stonycroft
Shelby, MI 49455

Dates to Remember this Summer!

JUNE 15 DESSERT POTLUCK

Benona Twp. Park
6:30-8:30 p.m.

JULY 6 FISHING TOURNAMENT

6:00-11:00 a.m.

BOAT PARADE

Gather at Green Point

1:45 p.m.

ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Camp Ao Wa Kiya

Waterfront

4:00 p.m.

JULY 7 STONY LAKE SPARKLER

Stony Lake Inn Parking Lot

8:00 a.m.

JULY 7 SAILBOAT RACES

2:00 p.m.

JULY 20 SAILBOAT RACES

2:00 p.m.

JULY 27 POKER PADDLE

12-2 p.m.

AUG 3 ANNUAL MEETING

Benona Ballfield

9:00 a.m.

AUG 3 SAILBOAT RACES

2:00 P.M.

AUG 17 SAILBOAT RACES

2:00 p.m.

AUG 31 SAILBOAT RACES

2:00 P.M.

CHECK WEBSITE AND COMMUNITY BOARD NEXT TO STORE FOR INFORMATION.

KEEP IN TOUCH!

- Visit our Website:
stonylakepropertyowners.com
- E-mail us: stonylakepropertyowners@gmail.com
(Be sure to add us to your contacts list so our messages aren't filtered!)
- Check the SLPOA Board next to the Stony Lake Store
- Find us on Facebook – Stony Lake Property Owners Association

BECOME A MEMBER!
NOW YOU CAN USE PAYPAL,
SEE PAGE 15 IN THIS ISSUE!

