



# Sanford Lake Association NEWSLETTER

P.O. BOX 212, SANFORD, MI 48657-0212

December 1st, 2009

## Be safe when ICE FISHING on Sanford Lake !

### Sanford Lake Annual Draw Down

Lake Draw down Planned !

Every year, **about mid-December**, the water level of Sanford Lake is drawn down. This is done by Boyce Hydro, which operates the dams in both Edenville and Sanford. The water is drawn down in anticipation of winter meltdown and heavy spring rains. When completed, the water level will have dropped between 2 and 3 feet. One of the benefits of this draw down is the fact that it kills off most of the zebra mussels in the shallow areas. When the time is right, the water level will be brought back to its normal level so that it doesn't negatively affect any fish spawning.

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### *Can Weevils cure Sanford Lakes weed problems?*

There is a CHANCE that a "natural" cure exists to eradicate the Eurasian Milfoil problem in Sanford Lake once and for all. Namely, there is a natural predator to the milfoil, which is a somewhat pricey insect called a weevil.

At the next session of the **Sanford Lake Improvement Board**, December 17th, the company that sells these bugs will give us a presentation of the viability of using these insects in our lake to solve this weed problem. It is costly, and may or not work, but if you are interested in this possible CHEMICAL FEE & PERMANENT "cure", show up at the December SLIB meeting and see what they have to offer and let the SLIB know YOUR thoughts.φ

### Is your life worth \$2 and 15 minutes? By Joe Manelis

Ice fishing can be incredibly dangerous, for the unprepared. The greatest danger is falling thru the ice into brutally cold water, and not being able to climb out onto the ice immediately, before the cold water saps your strength, which will only take but a very few minutes. It's "get out NOW or die"! You will lose your ability to climb out very quickly.

The answer is to have a readily available ICE GRABBER aid to help you GRIP and climb out onto the ice, and one can be easily self made for only a couple of dollars. If you think your life is worth the expense and the few minutes this will take, read on.

Start with 2 wooden dowels, about 1" in diameter, and about 6" long. In the end of each of these dowels, screw in a small cup hook. In the other end of each dowel, drive a good-sized nail, or put in a good sized wood screw, at least 1½" into the wood. Leave about 1" sticking out. Use a bolt cutter and cut off the head of each screw/nail. Now take a solid 6' length of string, and tie each end to the cup hooks on both dowels. NOW COMES THE IMPORTANT PART, string this thru your coat, sleeve to sleeve, just like your mom used to fasten your snow mittens when you were a little kid. This tool will do you no good unless you have it with you when needed, and readily available in a moment of panic.

If the worst happens and you do fall in, the dowels are right at your hands, and you grab them and use the pointed nail/screw ends to grab the ice, and climb out to safety. Immediately get warm and dry, seek medical help for hypothermia if needed.φ

***Have fun but stay safe!***

*Note: Joe Manelis, spent many years as a marine patrol sheriff department deputy and water rescue diver as well as a DNR water safety instructor in Saginaw, and has the experience to know the dangers and issues involved when venturing onto the ice in mid-winter.*

# THE SANFORD LAKE ASSOCIATION (SLA) NEEDS YOUR INPUT

The Sanford Lake Association (SLA) was first organized in 1998 to provide a forum for concerns about the stewardship of our lake and to bring together the citizens of Sanford in an effort to promote camaraderie and friendship among the neighbors in our town. Its continuing mission is to provide a collective voice for the common good of the property owners.

Following a period of relative inactivity (except for the annual fireworks display) and thoughts of dissolving the SLA, the acting board is attempting to revitalize the organization. We have several ideas for the future including: speakers of interest, lake improvement activities, an annual BBQ, and of course the continuation of the 4<sup>th</sup> of July fireworks.

The direction and continuation of the SLA is determined by its members. We need your input to keep the SLA fresh and active. We currently have 109 members. Almost 80 members have not renewed their membership for 2010. The board of directors is concerned that membership is down because we may not be meeting your needs. We would appreciate your ideas and suggestions on ways to improve the association. We are also in need of directors to help plot our course for the future. Won't you please take a few moments to give us some feedback?

## WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

Is the SLA meeting your needs/expectations? YES\_\_\_ NO\_\_\_

If not, please tell us how we can improve.

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Would you be willing to become a director to help lead us into the future? YES\_\_\_NO\_\_\_

If so, please provide information so can reach you.

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# JOIN THE SANFORD LAKE ASSOCIATION (SLA)

To become a member complete the enclosed application form, include \$20.00 dues, and mail to:

SLA  
P.O. Box 212  
Sanford, MI 48657-0212.

## *MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_

Property Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

Township: \_\_\_\_\_

State, Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address (ONLY if different than above):

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State, Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

**DUES MUST BE ENCLOSED (\$20.00 per household per year)**

**Dues Include an Annual Subscription to *THE MICHIGAN RIPARIAN Magazine***

## ***SLA Picnic & Minutes 8-18-09***

SLA picnic/minutes from August meeting Our Meeting on August 18th this year was our annual Sanford Lake Association Picnic. We had a wonderful potluck dinner highlighting our director, Joe Manelis' fabulous pork sandwiches. We were thrilled with the turn out, approximately 85 people came to listen to our speaker, Frank Christie, the General manager of Boyce Hydro LLC the owner of the Sanford dam as well as the Wixom, Smallwood and Secord dams. Mr Christie spoke about how the Sanford dam was built in the mid 20's by Frank Wixom to create hydro electric power and almost 80 years later the three original turbines still produce enough electricity to power 1200 homes. The power is sold to Consumers Energy. IN 2006 the dams were sold to the W.D. Boyce trust, which is a firm from Chicago. Interestingly it was W.D. Boyce that started the Boy Scouts of America in the early 1900s. Out of that sale the Boyce LLC was created and they are now the stewards of the dam and a great deal of our lake. Lee Mueller, an architect and a member of the Chicago team (Boyce family trust)also spoke. He had a great deal of information about the flood plane mapping issue that was a hot topic at the general meeting. Many people had questions and concerns about their new insurance burden because of the flood plane mapping done by FEMA. The discussion ensued with examples of properties that appeared to be high on banks that were now included in the flood plane. Many people were bewildered and upset about the quick rezoning of flood plane properties and wanted to know how to approach FEMA(see article on flood plane issues). Mr Mueller was quite informative. After the speakers Jeff Menz (SLA president) held a short meeting and invited the public to become more active in our organization. We need more directors and talent to expand our association to do more for the lake home owners in Sanford. Lastly we discussed the possibility of moving the launch date for the fireworks in 2010 to Saturday July 3rd, with the rain date for Sunday July 4th. The member ship voted and passed the July 3rd date for next year's firework display.

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## **A Butt to love !** *By Joe Manelis*

Making "pulled pork" is not nearly as difficult as one would imagine. The most important ingredient you will need is TIME !

Start off with a semi boneless pork butt or shoulder, which usually can be had at Sams's Club for about \$1.25 pr/lb. A few days before serving, stuff the butt with 4 or 5 cloves of slivered raw garlic. Then RUB the butt (I love saying that) with Billy Bones rub mix, available at most local markets. Wrap it in aluminum foil, and let it rest for at least overnight. The night before serving, brown the unwrapped butt on a grill, using indirect heat for several hours, at about a temp of 325°.

The next step calls for a basting sauce, made up of equal parts (1 cup ea) of: Apple cider or apple juice, cider vinegar, and either beer or water (your choice). I prefer beer. To that basting sauce, add a fair amount of hot sauce, or hot pepper flakes, worchestshire sauce, ketchup, minced garlic, one stick of butter, and teaspoon of liquid smoke. Simmer this sauce for 20 minutes or so. Then take the browned butt, wrap it securely in HD aluminum foil, and add 1½ cups of basting sauce so it won't leak along with cut up onion half. Wrap tightly, and cook it in oven or grille, for 6 hours at a little less than 300°.

When it comes out, it will be falling off of the bone. You can take the remaining basting sauce, and heat it to boiling and thicken it with corn starch/water and use it for a vinegar based add on BBQ sauce, if wanted. Serve it pulled, and covered in thinly sliced onions.

Baked beans and potato salad as well as cole slaw will all work well with this meal Enjoy!

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### **SANFORD LAKE ASSOCIATION OFFICERS & DIRECTORS**

**Jeff MENZ, President**

595 W. Curtis Rd.  
Sanford, MI 48657

Tele: 689-6537

E-Mail: MUSKYMENZ@CENTURYTEL.NET

**Glenn MOOTS, Vice President**

E-Mail: MOOTS@NORTHWOOD.EDU

**Ellen PEDEN, Secretary**

3421 Sunset Way., Sanford

Tele: 687-2840

E-Mail: see below

**Bill GEBO, Treasurer**

3525 Sunset Way, Sanford

Tele: 687-7459

E-Mail: WLGEBO@GMAIL.COM

**Ellen PEDEN P/R & FIREWORKS**

3421 Sunset Way, Sanford

Tele: 687-2840

E-Mail:

ELLENPEDEN@CHARTER.NET

**Chris Streeter, Director**

3261 Genrich Dr, Sanford

Tele: 687-5661

E-Mail: Chris-Sue@CHARTER.NET

**Joe Manelis, Newsletter**

3250 N. Lakeside Dr, Sanford

Tele: 687-2233

E-Mail: JJMANEL@aol.comφ

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## **FLOOD MAPPING ON SANFORD**

### **LAKE** *by Ellen Peden*

Much to the surprise of almost 300 people who own property on Sanford lake in both Edenville and Jerome townships a new map was drawn by FEMA that indicated their properties were now in a flood zone. Most residents found this out after their mortgage companies instructed them to purchase flood insurance which increased their yearly rate by more than \$2000 dollars. The Edenville township board met to investigate the possibilities of reevaluating the flood zones. Some citizens thought that the studies had been very unreliable because FEMA failed to include some very important information in their study, namely that Sanford lake has a dam to regulate the lake depth and height at the banks. The dam also is equipped with architectural capabilities to prevent the lake from rising 6 feet by having a large break-away berm made of rock and stone that will release into the river below the dam in the event that the water rises to an unsafe level. Beneath the berm is a cement spillway that will maintain the integrity of the dam so that the high waters can pass through with no permanent damage.

The Edenville township board unanimously passed an assessment on October 6, 2009 to pay an engineering corporation, Lapham Associates, \$61,000 to prepare revised flood maps showing the correct elevations of the parcels with habitable buildings lying within the FEMA flood zone along the Titabawassee River in Edenville Township. Only those people who were found to be in the new flood zone will be assessed. Bob Johnson (Edenville's township supervisor) explained that a special assessment district was established. The assessment is about \$120.00 per year for two years and now that 56 people have signed contracts for the engineering study to include Jerome township the third year may be as little as \$20.00. There were many Jerome township citizens at the Edenville Township meeting that wanted to include Jerome so they too could benefit from the new survey when it will be presented to FEMA. At a meeting on November 2, 2009 Jerome township agreed to join in on an individual voluntary contract basis. Edenville and Jerome township did not ask FEMA to conduct their investigation, "they had no option" according to Bob Johnson. Their survey was conducted by having an engineer review aerial photographs (not topographical) and created an "approximation" with a marker to indicate areas that would be effected by a flood.

The new engineering study will use special topographical aerial photography which will produce a contour map including how many feet above sea level each area actually is. This will be a true reading not an approximation. The second and most important part of the study according to Mr. Johnson is the hydraulics study in the rivers which will analyze soil conditions and rain scenarios determining how much water can be discharged from the Wixom dam to the river and how much water can be absorbed. The topographical fly over study will occur around the third week in November, when the leaves are all down. The projected date for the completion of the entire study is April and will be presented to FEMA soon there after for their acceptance. The goal is to have property changed from a flood status of "A" to "B" or "X" which would mean greatly diminished insurance costs. Just having the engineering study performed will diminish the costs so it appears to be a winning solution to a very big problem.

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## **SANFORD LAKE IMPROVEMENT BOARD 2009 WEED CONTROL PROGRAM**

*by Bill Gebo*

Since 2007, the Sanford Lake Improvement Board (SLIB) has had the responsibility for managing the weed control program for the southern part of the lake (Jerome Township and Sanford Village). The management of the weed control program for the part of the lake within Edenville Township is the responsibility of the Edenville Township Board. In the next SLA newsletter, we will review their 2009 program.

This is the third year of the current four year SLIB weed control program. The main focus of the program is the control of invasive plants such as Eurasian Milfoil, and of nuisance native plants. During the 2009 program, the SLIB treated 163 acres of Eurasian Milfoil and 23 acres of coontail. In addition, 35 acres of nuisance native plants were harvested, and algae was treated. Treatments were done in May, July, and August. Plant surveys were done periodically over the summer to monitor progress.

Treatments and harvesting cost about \$70,000. The cost is paid by special assessment on the local property owners (\$130/yr for lake front property and \$65/yr for back lot property). In addition, Jerome Township pays 5% of the cost, Sanford Village 1%, and Midland County 10%.

The SLIB meets periodically throughout the year. Meetings are held at the Jerome Township Hall and are open to the public. The final meeting of the year is December 17 at 7:00 pm. In addition to the normal agenda, there will be a presentation by a company that utilizes a particular water weevil for milfoil control. Anyone interested in weed control issues should plan to attend. If you want more information on the SLB, refer to the Midland County website under "Departments". Click on "Drain Commissioner", and then on "Sanford Lake Improvement Board" (left side of page). In addition, the SLIB puts out a newsletter in the spring.ϕ

### **The Mission Statement of the SANFORD LAKE ASSOCIATION !**

*"Mission: The Sanford Lake Association provides a collective voice for the common good of the property owners."*

If you think this is a worthy cause, please please join us, by being a member, and actively participating in the SLA. Your voice CAN make a difference.

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### **MAPPING ON SANFORD LAKE**

*continued from left*

Bryce Hydraulic (the trust that owns the dams) is providing a hydraulic engineering study, they are involved in a 1000 year flood study and some of their findings will be important to Lapham engineering firm. Hopefully we will be hearing in the spring that FEMA has accepted the new findings and many of our neighbors will be able to breathe a sign of relief. ϕ

# A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

*By Jeff Menz*

## YOU are WANTED!

For quite some time now, the Sanford Lake Association Board has been operating shorthanded. According to our bylaws, the Board shall consist of five officers: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Public Relations Officer; plus four additional members or Directors. The Directors positions are the ones we need to fill. The Directors' responsibilities are as follows: attend all S.L.A. meetings, assist in any projects, cast votes, and be the eyes and ears of the S.L.A. We have several projects that we would like to pursue: a bigger and better newsletter, grant money, addressing shoreline erosion, and fish planting/habitat improvement (just to name a few). The bottom line is that, to accomplish these things, we need four new Directors. With this being the "off season", it's the perfect time to get involved and make a positive impact on our Association. If you would like to be a Director, please contact myself, or any of the Officers listed in this newsletter. Thanks for your consideration, and "see ya on the water" ☐

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Sanford, MI 48657-0212

