

Middle Straits Lake *Connection*

Spring 2022

**Letter from the MSLIA President**

Welcome both new and old lakefront neighbors and association members to "Living in the Middle".

This was another busy year for our association. Some great news to share right off the top is that Baypointe will remain a golf course for the foreseeable future. The development deal fell through due to numerous issues with wetlands, traffic patterns, surface water discharge and just the general problem of trying to build on top of a bog.

I have been President of the MSLIA for the past 18 years and after retiring from the working world, I have decided not to run for President again. I will remain active on the board dedicating my time to the Ecology committee that oversees fish stocking and weed harvesting. Thank you for all of your support over the years!

Spring is on the way and as usual the MSLIA has quite a chore list for the upcoming year. A few of the usual items on the “to do” list: Lake weeding, Water quality and clarity monitoring and testing, Fish stocking, the annual Fourth of July boat parade, and Fireworks. We are also planning the annual MSLIA summer party, along with addressing any lake issues that arise.

The MSLIA board meets the second Wednesday of each month at 7 pm to discuss lake issues. If there is any specific lake issue you would like us to address, please email lakeboard@MSLIA.org for meeting date / and locations. We welcome participation and as an all-volunteer organization we can always use more help.

I personally want to thank all of the MSLIA Board Members and Beach Association representatives for volunteering another year of their time, effort, and hard work for the good of our lake and the MSLIA. We have had a couple of new fundraising events spearheaded by our Social chairperson, Matt Barron and a few dedicated committee volunteers. Bowling will likely be an annual event and the upcoming Golf Outing is sure to be unforgettable.

Safe Boating and good Fishing,

Pete Saules - MSLIA President

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**MSLIA Merchandise – Jeff Carroll, Vice President**

Happy Spring MSLIA members! I absolutely love the day when all the ice melts off the lake. It provides assurance that warmer weather is on the way and that a summer of good times will follow. I am SO ready!

Some new MSLIA gear that you can look forward to:

Tank tops – these have been requested by many

I hope to see you all in “the bay” this summer!

Cheers,

Jeff Carroll – MSLIA Vice President

**Water Quality Report**

**Weed Removal**: Weed harvesting for the summer of 2022 is scheduled for the 2nd week in July. We schedule this time frame to achieve maximum harvest while cutting when weeds are at full growth. The contractor we are using is Mike’s Clearwater Harvesting Inc. We need the cooperation of all of the Eldora property owners to make sure that we have email addresses so we can notify the day of planned canal weeding. The harvester will not go down the canal if there are any boats due to a previous issue. Send your email via the contact page at [www.MSLIA.org](http://www.MSLIA.org) or email it directly to lakeboard@mslia.org

**Fish Stocking:** Fish Stocking for 2021 took place in October with Bass.  As in the past, we purchased the fish from Imlay City Fish Farm.  According to a DNR fish study several years ago, our fishery was healthy. We alternate stocking the lake with Pike and Bass, and we plan to continue working on our stocking program.

**Michigan Lakes and Streams Association:** MSLIA is a member of the MLSA which is a statewide organization of riparian organizations and waterfront residents. Visit their website to see the good work they do and resources that are available: [www.mymlsa.org](http://www.mymlsa.org)

**Surf Wake Study:** Many are concerned that the recent rise in surf-wake boats is damaging the shoreline. One of our members recently pointed out an interesting study that concluded that surf wakes are less damaging than wind-driven waves. One of the biggest contributors to shoreline erosion is ice movement in the spring as the lake begins to thaw and strong winds push the ice sheet into the shore. You can read the entire synopsis and find the link to the actual study at:

<https://boatingindustry.com/news/2022/04/26/new-peer-reviewed-paper-analyzes-wakesurfing-shore-impact/>

**Lake Ecology/Biology – Al Proulx**

**Fertilizer Ordinance Reminder:**

West Bloomfield has a fertilizer ordinance that protects our lakes from harmful runoff. **Do not fertilize prior to May 1 each year.** If you have questions, please contact the West Bloomfield Township Environmental Department. They have additional materials available. You can also contact the Detroit Landscape Association at [www.healthylandscapes.com](http://www.healthylandscapes.com/).

**Lakeshore Maintenance:**

Many of our residents utilize lawn services for maintenance and clean-ups of their property. Whether you hire it out or do it yourself, keep our lake clean by making sure leaves and grass don’t get blown into the lake. Did you know?... It is illegal to intentionally dump or blow leaves and grass clippings into the lake. Violators are subject to a misdemeanor and may be fined up to $2,500. You are responsible for any person or company that you hire so make sure they are abiding by the law!

**Lake Monitoring:**

Our association pays every year to be a member of the Co-operative Lakes Monitoring Program (CLMP). We submit lake samples for phosphorous analysis twice a year and take clarity readings multiple times throughout the season. Our data is then published every year by CLMP.

**Lake Safety – Bob Barbour**

Please be sure to follow the following rules while on the lake to keep everyone safe:

* Stay 50 feet from another boat at wake speed and 100 feet from shore and marked swim areas.
* Generally, drive around the lake in a **counter-clockwise** direction when underway.
* There is **no wake** on Sundays and Memorial Day, July 4th and Labor Day before 11:00 am and after 7:30 pm.
* **Personal watercraft, PWC (Jet Skis, wave runners, etc.) may not be operated by persons younger than 14. Consult the Michigan Boating Rules at** [**http://www.boat-ed.com/mi/handbook/**](http://www.boat-ed.com/mi/handbook/)**. Keep in mind that these craft are highly maneuverable, harder to see than a boat, and very dangerous in the hands of an inexperienced operator. They must adhere to all boating rules.**
* **14 and 15 year olds may only operate a PWC with a parent or guardian 21 or older on board, or no more than 100’ from their parent or guardian, and must have a Boater Safety Certificate**
* **Anyone born after December 31, 1976 MUST have a Boater Safety Certificate to operate a PWC**
* If you see a person operating recklessly, either approach the person and explain the laws, or call the Oakland County Sheriff at 248-858-9411 and report the violator.

**MSLIA Event Calendar – Social Chairperson Matt Barron**

The Social Committee has been really busy over the past year. The events that we planned were:

Fireworks – On July 9th we hosted our first lake-sponsored fireworks display. This was a huge success and is coming back this year.

Summer Party – Unfortunately we had to cancel the summer party due to ongoing health concerns, but it too is coming back this year

Winterfest – We had a well-attended, but chilly, winter party on February 5th at the east end of the lake. There was no chili cook-off but we hope to see that return this year.

Bowling – Another first-ever event that looks like an annual fund-raiser for our fireworks. We had almost the entire alley at Wonderland Lanes. Everyone had a great time and we raised several thousand dollars for the fireworks display.

THE MSLIA Annual Meeting is scheduled for Friday, June 3rd@ 7pm. The meeting will be held at the Bloomer Park pavilion and is a great opportunity for you to come out and meet the board members/neighbors, learn about what is going on in our lake community, volunteer, buy your favorite MSLIA merchandise, and share any concerns you may have.

The 10th Annual Independence Day Boat Parade will be held on the 4th of July holiday at 7pm (Sunday Night). As in previous years we will meet at the east end of the lake by Twin Beach Park so that we can then parade around the lake to show off the festive boat decorations and celebrate the USA! Invite your neighbors and friends out and be sure to get creative as there will be a Best Boat prize this year which will include the very popular MSLIA apparel and gift certificate for local dining!

**FIREWORKS!**

The MSLIA has contracted GEN-X Pyrotechnics to conduct a firework display that will be launched from a barge on July 8th. The barge will be positioned in the middle of the lake north of Bloomer Park. There will be a patrol boat to keep everyone a safe distance from the launch site. Thank you to everyone who has donated! If you know of anyone who might be interested in sponsoring this event please pass along their information. The goal is to make this an annual event, donations and sponsorships will help to make this happen. You can also include donations with your annual dues or send donations though PayPal at [**lakeboard@mslia.org**](mailto:lakeboard@mslia.org). Make sure before you hit ‘Send’ that it says ‘Paying a friend’ that way 100% of your donation comes to us and no fees are deducted.

**FORE!!!!** As of the time this newsletter is being written there are only 5 slots open for our first golf outing scramble scheduled for Thursday May 26th. If you would like to sign up to play, volunteer, or sponsor a hole go to tinyurl.com/MSLIAGOLF2022

The annual MSLIA Summer Party will be a “raft off / float party” this year in the bay by the sandbar volleyball net. We are planning to hold it June 25th from 1pm – 5pm. Please help us spread the word to your neighbors and check the MSLIA website and Facebook for updates on the party.

*\*\*Please like our Facebook page* <https://www.facebook.com/Middle-Straits-Lake-Improvement-Association-282504370226/> *and provide the committee with your email address so that we can keep you updated with upcoming events.*

**Email Please!**

Make sure that we have your email address so that we can send you late breaking news and let you know when important events take place. To submit your email address go to MSLIA.ORG and select the Contact Us link, or simply drop us a message at [lakeboard@mslia.org](mailto:lakeboard@mslia.org)

**Treasurers Report – Chip Campbell**

The Association ended 2021 in a strong financial position. For 2022, we are attempting to hold expenses at zero growth year-over-year (excluding the one-time 2022 additional deposit we had to make on the planned 2023 fireworks), while pursuing dues collections and additional fundraising opportunities. We still have fellow members who have large outstanding balances that they owe all of us, and we will continue to address those, including placing liens on related properties. Again, thanks for your continuing support in keeping the financial health of our organization in great shape. We really appreciate the membership’s support in our fireworks fund-raising activities – golf outing, bowling event, Super Bowl Squares, and general contributions –raising over $8200 to date, and we still have the golf outing to go! Any further support here will help fund this undertaking. You can simply add the desired amount to your base association dues when you them mail in. Do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions about the MSLIA finances or your account. Also, as a reminder for those selling or buying a house on Middle Straits Lake, the status of the property’s account would be reviewed by the Closing Agent with us as part of the sale.

**Golf Outing Title Sponsor**

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**A big thank you to Doug Browne of Farm Bureau Insurance for continuing to sponsor our MSLIA events.  Farm Bureau offers an insurance policy,** [**The Lake Estate**](https://www.farmbureauinsurance-mi.com/uploadedFiles/Customer_Portal/Agent/AddtionalAWSPages/4539_-_Doug_Browne/4539-le-brochure.pdf)**, that is designed specifically for lakefront homeowners (back lots too), to cover your home, watercraft and shoreline property, golf carts, umbrella, everything you need.**

**Call the Doug Browne Agency at 248-486-1831 to complete your coverage and save money at the same time.**



**Lake News – Greg Andrick, Secretary and Mike Caruso, Government Relations**

**Lake Level Control**

Middle Straits water level is maintained by a large pump located west of Newton Road that pumps water from the Huron River into Lower Straits which then feeds up stream to Middle Straits Lake. This pump is maintained by Oakland County Water Resources Commission (WRC, formerly the Drain Commission) and its upkeep is paid by lakefront homeowners through a Special Assessment District which appears on your tax bill. This pump is over 50 years old but was fully refurbished over the 2017-2018 winter at a cost of approximately $26,000. This pump is able to push 4,500 gallons per hour, but it only can run when there is available water in the Huron River.

**Bay Pointe Golf Club**

The most recent Bay Pointe development deal fell through. There were many issues raised during the review process. Boating would be impacted for those that live on the canal and back bay, runoff was not going to be filtered, wetlands were going to need to be filled in to align Haggerty and the entrance to Bay Pointe and the flood plain is quite extensive.

**Boat Docking**

Westacres was granted a marina permit from EGLE (Michigan department of Energy, Great Lakes and Environment) for a total of 80 boats. Westacres has applied to West Bloomfield for a zoning variance to implement the marina. MSLIA has hired an attorney to represent us and file comments at the ZBA. MSLIA position is that Westacres original non-conforming use of 47 boats is the correct number.

**Boat Storage**

No more than two boats and/or watercraft together with their trailers may be stored in

the lake yard. If storage in the lake yard is not feasible, storage may be permitted in the

side or street yard subject to the regulations in Section 10-103 of the West Bloomfield

Township Code of Ordinances.

Docks, boat lifts, and boat hoists may be stored only in the lake yard.

The owners of all developed residential lots within a subdivision having Township approved or

officially recognized access to, a navigable watercourse for boating purposes may petition the

Planning Commission to permit outdoor storage of not more than two boats and/or watercraft

together with their trailers subject to the requirements of Section 10-104 of the West

Bloomfield Township Code of Ordinances.

**Important Dates for 2022:**

Golf Outing Thursday May 26th Baypointe

Annual Meeting Friday June 3rd – 7PM – Bloomer Park pavillion

Summer Party Saturday June 25th – 1PM – Floating in Volleyball Bay

Boat Parade Sunday July 4th – 7PM – East end of lake

Fireworks Friday July 8th – at sunset

Boat Rally Saturday August 13th – Email Melissa Vey for details:

[mewrae@gmail.com](mailto:mewrae@gmail.com)

**Dues Reminder**

Thanks to everyone that pays their dues on-time, every year. This represents around 85% of our members.

You have heard it before, but this year liens will be filed on any properties that are 5 or more years delinquent in their dues. Letters went out this spring to inform those who meet this criterion and several have cleared their balance, but there are a few holdouts. Please contact our Treasurer at [cicampbell76@gmail.com](mailto:cicampbell76@gmail.com) if you have any questions. Once a lien is filed a property can not be transferred, sold or refinanced without having the lien released.

**Fireworks Donations**

The MSLIA would like to thank the following people who contributed extra funds toward the fireworks fund this year when they paid their dues. I apologize in advance if I missed anyone here.

**Diamond Club - $500 or more**

Mark and Erica Michon Jeff and Bobbi Carroll Matt and Connie Barron

**Platinum Club - $200 - $499**

Greg and Margaret Andrick

John and Michelle Bonnett

Dennis and Lori Bott

Jeff and Cathie Gallant

John and Christine Wisniewski

Robert and Rebecca McDonald

Mike and Kerry Tomczyk

Stuart and Kathy Rotenberg

**Gold Club - $20 - $199**

Jonathan and Rachel Serra

Luke and Trisha Bien

Chip and Debby Campbell

Jake and Lisa Cunningham

Jon and Tracy Nemeth

Alan and Sara Robertson

Mark and Nicole Vinckier

Larry and Susan Lankowsky

Matthew & Cheryl Caplan

Jerome & Linda Finkel

Kay & Mike Gorny

Art and Lisa Jalkanen

Thomas & Kathleen Jennens

Howard & Shari Lesnick

Timothy & Kimberly Loszewski

Larry & Valerie Kaplansky Morianti

Jill Redmon

Robert Reibitz

David & Stephanie Rossow

Pete & Karen Saules

Matthew & Michele Ureste

Mark & Christine Zrepskey

Patrick & Michele McHale

CEBIA Beach

Alfons & Linda Beshi

Dan & Linda Blank

Thomas Brehm

Mike & Laura Caruso

John & Deborah Cassidy

Curt & Andrea Chowanic

Mike & Jan Corrigan

Gary Faber

Lynne Garland

Mark & Joan Haskins

Mark & Susan Kerney

Betsy & Joe LaVela

Gail & Gene Laveroni

James/Brian Mann

Mary Myers

Alan & Holli Proulx

Jeff & Kelly Rockwell

Bob Sauer

Karen & Steve Schickel

Pamala & Brian Schmitt

Joel & Carrie Waterstone

Jason & Tiffany Bachmeier

Michael T Coraci

Michael Miller

Michael Stillman

Jeff & Jenny Payne

David & Maria Ziemkiewicz

Bob & Betty Barbour

Capinjola, Curtis & Heather Capinjola

Rick Cumbo and Grant Doherty

Richard G Firlik

Tracee Guibord

Richard & Kim Hedlund

Daniel & Cassandra Hoppe

Perry & Connie Johnson

Steve & Alice Lepsetz

Keith & Heather Lifton

Christopher & Bridget Long

Mike & Tracy McIlroy

Thomas Northey

Behrouz Pakray

Sean & Rachel Peters

Diane Razzaque

James & Zina Smietana

John Stockdale

Bruce & Katie Varana

Zeena Wazeer

Stuart Wish

Marcia Worthy

Robert & Barbara Ford

Howard and Teri Weingarden