

Lake Somerset Property Owner's Association

Annual Meeting

1:00 p.m.
Sunday October 3, 2004

Board Of Directors

Tony Harsch (*President*).....688-9767
 Jim Weber
 (*Vice-President*)419-885-8338
 Marian Clapham (*Treasurer*).....688-4518

John Lichtle (*Secretary*)688-3400
 Colleen McNeal (*Bldg. Committee*)..688-4091
 Dennis Schober (*Security*)688-9462
 Chris Scheithauer (*Parks*).....688-4737
 John McAndrews (*Roads*).....688-3349

Building Committee

Colleen McNeal (*Chairperson*)688-4091
 Charlie Hummell – 14303 Blarney Cr., Box 22, Somerset 49281688-4236
 Doug Dollar – 14695 Bunratty, Somerset 49281734-260-5814

Meeting Times

Monthly Meetings

Every 3rd Saturday of the month (except in December), the Board of Directors meet in the Somerset Township Hall for the purposes of conducting the Association business. The meetings start at 10:00 a.m. and are open to the public. If the meeting time or place is changed, every effort will be made to notify the membership.

Annual Meeting

Each year on the first Sunday of October, we conduct our annual membership meeting. All members are invited to attend. Time and place is sent to all members annually prior to the meeting.

Membership

(a) Membership is subject to payment of annual and special assessments and to a member complying with published regulations and restrictions of the Association. The right to membership shall be automatically suspended for nonpayment of dues or assessments by May 1st of each year. Where membership has been suspended for nonpayment of said dues or assessments, the membership shall be reinstated upon payment of said dues or assessments, penalties and reasonable expenses of collection, subject however, to Article VII, Section 11.

(b) The right to membership may also be suspended by action of the Board of Directors for infraction of the published rules and regulations of the Association for a period not to exceed ninety (90) days.

(c) Any dues or assessments not paid on the due date, which is May 1st, are delinquent and shall, together with

penalties and reasonable expenses of collection, become a continuing lien on the property which shall bind such property in the hands of the owner, his heirs, his devisees, personal representatives and assignees. If the dues or assessments are not paid after a thirty (30) day grace period from and after May 1st, a penalty of One (1%) percent per month on the unpaid balance may be added to the amount owed for dues and assessments. In addition any reasonable expenses of collection, as are authorized by these By-Laws or by action of the Board of Directors, shall be added to the delinquent balance, and the Association may bring an action at law against the owner personally obligated to pay the same and/or to foreclose the lien against the property. In any such action, there shall be added to such dues and assessment, authorized penalties and reasonable expenses of collection, the cost of preparing and filing the complaint in such action, and in the event that judgment is obtained, such judgment shall include penalties, interest as allowed by the law, reasonable costs of collection, and reasonable attorney fees.

Boat Launch Keys

There is a locked chain across the entrance to the boat launch at Schmidtke Park. The following members have keys to the lock and can be contacted during times that guards are not in attendance at the park.

Tom Weaver688-9789
 Nick Bucurestan.....688-4656
 Chris Scheithauer688-4737
 Marian Clapham688-4518
 Warren Judson688-9847
 Al Hoffmanner688-9261
 George Martin.....688-3052

President's Corner

When you receive this issue of the fall Gazette, you know that it is about time to put away our summer toys and get ready for winter. As you all know, the weather was not kind to us this year. Between the wind and the rain, we couldn't get on the lake as much as we would have liked. It seemed that whenever we planned to have friends over, the weather would take a turn for the worse. All we can do is hope for better next year. Enough Crying.

The response to our spring Gazette survey was not as large as we had hoped, just under a 100 returns. Most of you who did respond had some interesting comments to most of the questions. That is what we were hoping everyone would do. I wish to thank all of you

who took the time and effort to fill out and return the survey.

One of the things that was made clear by the survey was that most of the members want some type of control on the storage of items on vacant lots. At this time the Board has not made a decision on how to address this problem. This topic will be discussed at our annual meeting on October 3, 2004 at 1 p.m. at the township hall. If you are unable to attend the meeting, I would appreciate it if you would send a note along with the ballot that is in this Gazette stating your feelings on this matter. We need all the input we can get to get this one right.

I hope to see most of you at the annual meeting.

Tony Harsch, Sr.

Board Candidates

There are three vacancies opening up on the board and three candidates have announced their intention to run. Steve Harris is the third candidate and I am awaiting a bio from him.

Anthony "Tony" Harsch

I have resided at Lake Somerset since 1994 and have served as a member of the Building Committee and as Chairman of said committee. For the past three years I have served as President of the LSPOA. The reason I choose to run again is because I have been heading up

the issue of revising our Restrictive Covenants, a matter I consider of great importance to this Association. There are just a couple of items that have to be resolved and we will be putting this to the members for a vote, I wish to see this project to its conclusion.

I thank you for your support.

Marion Clapham

I have been the treasurer of the association for the past 15 years and would like to continue for 3 more years. Please vote for Marion Clapham.

Community Council News

The mission of the council is to act as a liaison between residents and the association board. Each representative is a spokesperson for their subdivision. We welcome any volunteers or suggestions to help us promote a better community.

Andi Overmyer (688-3652)

Somerset Heights & Meckley's Subdivisions

Sheila Davison (688-4051)

Somerset Heights & Meckley's Subdivisions

Sharon Badders (688-3074)

Somerset Heights & Meckley's Subdivisions

Sue Prange (688-3710)

Hillandale & Gordon Subdivisions

Manessa Braman (688-3631)

Rolling Meadows Subdivision

Tracey Dear (688-9528)

Crestview Subdivision

2004 LSPOA Picnic

This year our LSPOA picnic was a huge success with an attendance of 255+ people! We

had great weather for awhile, delicious food, and lots of fun. Below are the lucky winners of this year's events. See photos on the following pages.

TURTLE RACE

1st: Braden Iveson
2nd: Max Weber
3rd: Jessica Pattenauode

BASKETBALL FREE THROW

5 Years Old & Under

1st: Cameron Saylor
2nd: JT Turner
3rd: Derek Allen

6 to 7 Years Old

1st: Austin Prange
2nd: Skylar Halliwell
3rd: Brett Burris

8 to 12 Years Old

1st: Paige Dotson
2nd: Rachel Glazier
3rd: Heather White

13 Years Old & Up

1st: Robbie Iveson
2nd: Brad Glazier
3rd: Mike Atwell

TUG OF WAR

The SOUTH finally won!

EGG TOSS

7 Years Old & Under

1st: Bryce Glazier
Skyler Halliwell
2nd: Derek Allen
Lucas Whipple
3rd: Mallory Bryant
Isiah Trowbridge

8 to 15 Years Old

1st: Robbie Iveson
Doug Haraszkiwicz
2nd: Todd Whipple
Branden Walker
3rd: Nathan Bradley
Matthew Brehmer

16 Years Old & Up

1st: Pete Kasper
Bob Glasgow
2nd: Sheri Glazier
Jen Selland
3rd: Brian Tochman
Tony Cromwell

GOLF CHIPPING

Females 12 & Under

1st: Makayla Pattenauode
2nd: Taylor Sumner
3rd: Jessica Pattenauode

Males 12 & Under

1st: Justin Dollar
2nd: Max Weber
3rd: Brett Burris

Females 13 & Over

1st: Sue Prange
2nd: Sheri Glazier
3rd: Renna Stevic

Males 13 & Over

1st: Doug Dollar
2nd: Steve Prange
3rd: Brian Utterback

HORSESHOES

1st: Jimmy Frank Miller
Ryan Miller
2nd: Dale Sumner
Doug Dollar

Thank You To Our Workers!

Below is a list of everyone who helped make our picnic a big success.

LSPOA Picnic — Saturday, July 17, 2004

Attendance	255+
Awards, Equipment & Posters	Sue Prange
Tables	Sharon Badders
Food Organization	Lynn Dollar & Andi Overmyer
Park Preparation	Sheila Davison
Horseshoe Pits	Bruce Davison & Gary Brehmer
Check-In Table	Sue Prange

Turtle Race

Debbie Haraszkiwicz & Colleen McNeal

Kids Basketball

Sharon Badders & Christy Sumner

B-Ball Free Throw

Brad & Sheri Glazier

Egg Toss

Julie Iveson, Sharon Badders, & Christy Sumner

Golf Chipping

Bruce & Shelia Davison

Horseshoe Tournament

Gary & Kim Brehmer

Tug of War

Steve Prange

Photos

Sue Prange *
Sharon Badders

Pig Roast

Tim & Monica Cook

DJ

Ray & Jill Nadolski
(Good Times Karaoke)

If you would like to help with the 2005 picnic, please contact Sue Prange at 688-3710.

2004 Game Winners



Basketball Free Throw (6 & 7 Years Old):

1st Place: Austin Prange (middle)

2nd Place: Skyler Halliwell (left)

3rd Place: Brett Burris (right)



Turtle Race:

1st Place: Braden Iveson (middle)

2nd Place: Max Weber (left)

3rd Place: Jessica Pattenaude (right)



Egg Toss (8 to 15 Years Old):

1st Place: Doug Haraszkiwicz (back right)

Robbie Iveson (back left)

2nd Place: Todd Whipple & Branden Walker

3rd Place: Nathan Bradley & Matthew Brehmer



Egg Toss (16 Years Old & Up):

2nd Place: Brian Tochman & Tony Cromwell (left)

1st Place: Pete Kasper & Bob Glasgow (middle)

3rd Place: Sheri Glazier & Jen Selland (guess)



Horseshoe Winners:
Ryan Miller & Jimmy Frank Miller



Golf Chipping (Girls 12 years old & under):
1st Place: Makayla Pattenaude (middle)
2nd Place: Taylor Sumner (left)
3rd Place: Jessica Pattenaude (right)

Park Update Fall 2004

We continue to update and improve all of the parks. I would like to thank all members that help in keeping the parks looking great. Even the smallest thing like picking up trash that someone left behind is greatly appreciated. Every little bit helps!!!!

We had a Community volunteer cleanup day on April 17th 2004 at the Main park. We had a fantastic turnout. I want to thank all members that helped.

The boat ramp repair was completed in May. The ramp seems to be working well. To keep the boat ramp in great shape please **DO NOT** power load your boat onto your trailer.

As a reminder the Main park pavilion can not be reserved. It is on a first come basis!!

On a sad note We have had some vandalism at the parks. Please keep your eyes and ears open when near the parks!!

Thanks for a great summer!

Chris Scheithauer

Main & West Park Paving

I hope as you read this that you have noticed that the Main & West parks have been repaved. Last year we asked for a special assessment to cover the huge expense. The special assessment was NOT approved. The board felt it was a necessary project that needed to be

addressed . The board reviewed our annual income and savings and decided to proceed with the project. I hope you can see the vast improvements to both the West & Main parking lots. I hope you can see that LSPOA money is being put to good use.

Chris Scheithauer

Generosity

Brian Utterback from Crestridge builders has donated a Gazebo for the Island. We are planning to have the gazebo installed on the island by next spring!

Thanks Brian!!!

Special Thanks

We would like to thank Martin Hoffman for his financial donation to the Lake Somerset parks. Also I would like to thank Pete Kasper for his donation of spare dock parts. Both items are greatly appreciated.

5th Annual Boat Parade

Our 5th annual boat parade was held on July 4th with 23 boats participating but it was cut short by a fast approaching thunderstorm. Even though the parade made it only a short distance past the island, we were still able to get some pictures and award the prizes. Listed in the next column are the winners and the people who made this parade possible.

BOAT PARADE COMMITTEE

Organization

Sue Prange

Judges

Tom & Lori Stegeman

Awards

Doug & Lynn Dollar

WINNERS

1st Place:

The Utterback Family

2nd Place:

The Cross Family

3rd Place:

The Clark Family

Outstanding Entry:

The Davenport Family



1st Place: The Utterback Family



2nd Place: The Cross Family



3rd Place: The Clark Family



Honorable Mention: The Davenport Family

Additional pontoon parade pictures are elsewhere in the Gazette

Water Quality Report

August 2004

This year we received our herbicide application permit in time to properly treat. I do not expect significant delays in the future because the DEQ has doubled its staff and, accordingly, has significantly increased its fees. However, the permitting process is a significant "Catch 22" because we are estimating our next year's requirements after a presumed successful application knowing that other plants will replace the previous targets. Our plant survey for our second application this year showed the need for an amended permit that we received in 3 working days.

Our second application targeted EWM (Eurasian Water Milfoil) and Coon Tail with 2,4-D, and WC (Wild Celery) and algae with Hydrothal 191. About 90% of our applications were in the western half of the lake, so you may see plants at the surface that Larry Henning and Glen Martin are pursuing with the harvester. We need everyone to help control WC that is starting to go to seed around early August. It produces a small bud and subsequent white flower on the end of a thin "corkscrew" stem. WC rakes out easily from the roots but is difficult to harvest because the flexible corkscrew stems are pushed down by the flow produced by the forward motion of the harvester. We want to get the flowers and seeds out of the lake!

Our WQ (Water Quality) monitoring data have shown that our WQ is deteriorating in terms of clarity (Secchi Disk readings by George Rausch and Dan Doyle), algae (Chlorophyll a measurements), and phosphorus (direct measurement), which are not independent. Clarity decreases with increased algae (small particles in the water column and mats on the bottom and surface), and phosphorus increases the growth of algae. Nitrogen (nitrates and nitrites) is also increasing and promotes rooted plant growth. These are serious observations because reduced sunlight penetration can cause catastrophic WQ deterioration by promoting the release of phosphorus from the bottom sediments adding to that existing in the water.

This release is typically identified by the odor of hydrogen sulfide (e.g., rotten eggs) in the bottom sediments. Consequently, we need to balance clarity against weed growth. If clarity decreases, we need to increase plant growth to pull the nutrients (nitrogen and, particularly, phosphorus) out of the water column. This involves greater use of the harvester or stopping the nutrients from entering our lake.

Nutrients get into our lake from the following sources listed in descending order of my estimates:

1. The inlets — Goose Creek and the Farm Inlet;
2. Residential runoff — lawn fertilizer;
3. Septic system leaching from properly operating septic fields — a bad septic system is a potential disaster that we must get corrected;
4. Wildlife waste — Do not attract the geese, ducks, etc.

The Board is actively pursuing the external sources to reduce nutrients entering our lake, and passed a new rule requiring the use of only phosphate-free fertilizer about the lake and a minimum 10 ft. buffer where no fertilizer would be used. Many residents are successfully using lake water only to also provide more than sufficient nutrients to maintain an attractive lawn. The USDA (NRCS Hillsdale County Soil Maps) lists most of our soils as unacceptable for septic fields because these high sand soils do not filter phosphorus well (although the Health Dept. accepts them because they percolate fast — but they know about the lake problems) and most soils do not filter nitrogen.

We must reduce the nutrients entering our lake and you can help significantly by properly maintaining your septic system, minimizing your use of lawn fertilizer, and not attracting wildlife to the lake. The Board is working to reduce external sources of nutrients. Until the clarity improves, we will have to use weed growth and the harvester as the last resort to avoid further deterioration of our water quality.

Please help us!

Al Hoffmann

Editor's Notes

I have been creating the Gazette for over five years now. Sometimes I need help in filling its pages. I write this column on some topic of general interest but, like today, I might have a hard time getting the creative juices flowing.

Want to help? Send me something I can use in the Gazette.

Jokes? I love 'em. Keep it clean and relatively short. I'll be sure to give you credit for your submittal.

If you have pictures taken around the lake such as a nice fish, huge turtle, or something else of interest, I would like to see them. Send me something for a caption also.

So, if anyone has something they would like to contribute to our newsletter, send it my way at ptochman@comcast.net.

Pete Tochman

Building Control Committee

We would like to welcome any new members to our association and to remind everyone that the Building Control Committee must approve all new structures including houses, garages, decks, sheds, pools, and fences. Any structural changes to the property must be submitted.

The Building Control Committee meets every 2nd and 4th Monday of the month to review

proposed plans. So submit your plans early to avoid delays. Please submit your plans to any of the Building Control Committee members.

If you have any questions, please contact any of the committee members listed below:

Charles Hummel.....688-4236
Nick Bucurestean.....688-4656
Colleen McNeal (*Chairperson*).....688-4091

Dogs Still On the Loose!!!

We continue to have complaints from members about dogs running loose.

The animals have been known to leave doggy surprise's in the neighbors yard. (Not fun when you mow your yard in bare feet) Yuck!

Reports of dogs chasing joggers have been reported!!! You may love your pet but your neighbor might not!!

Please control your pet with a leash or electric fence.

Enough Said!!!!!!

Michigan Boating Rules

Requirements for Towing Skiers: It is illegal to tow skiers, wakeboards, or any device of this type between:

- One hour after sunset and one hour before sunrise if towed behind a vessel
- One hour before sunset and 8:00 am if towed behind a PWC.

Hot Topic

Personal watercraft: It is illegal to operate a PWC between one hour before sunset and 8:00 am. Check the weather channel for legal sunset!!!

For the most current Michigan boating rules:
<http://boat-ed.com/mi/handbook>

Big Bird?



"A great egret — these birds were never seen around here, but are becoming more common in the past 2-3 years."

George Rausch

More Pontoon Parade Pictures



Impartial Judges?



Ancestors on the Fourth of July?



No Friends?



Happy looking bunch

Fishing Excitement



No Fear?



Cool cats?

Fishing Report

Fall 2004

The summer of 2004 is fast disappearing. This year (so far) was a rather cool and wet one, which we needed badly to replenish the low water tables both here and for the great lakes. I'm sure many who were looking forward to a nice HOT summer were probably a bit disappointed.

For the most part, the fish in Lake Somerset apparently had a great spawning season, evidenced by the large number of small panfish, bass, crappies, and cats now swimming around.

Panfish – All of the panfisherman I've talked to agree that the gills and sunfish are getting much larger than a few years ago. The fish caught off the beds in May and June probably averaged 7-8 inches. During this time it is possible to limit out (25 fish) in about an hour or so, if you can find the beds. The water was a bit murky during this time, so it was pretty difficult to actually see the beds as in past years. Panfish beds are usually found in about 5-7 feet of water, with the bigger fish at the deeper side. I find that a small bobber set to 3-4 feet with a waxworm does the trick. You should use a small hook (number 9) or better yet use a small ice fishing jig. I use an ultra light rod with 4-lb line. Using the jig and a small bobber (about the size you ice fish with) and no sinker, doesn't spook the fish as much. When the water warms up the larger fish tend to migrate to the deeper water. The thermocline (where the water becomes much cooler) runs around 12-15 feet in Lake Somerset and this is the depth you should target for the bigger fish. I personally use an ultralight rod with a 2 hook spreader and a small bell sinker (again waxworms are my favorite bait). I fish directly over the side in about 12-15 feet of water and wait for the tap of a fish biting. Remember these fish bite very lightly — and if you are not holding the rod — you will miss many of them. I've found it best to "wait" for the fish to come to you — don't try and chase them around — it's not as productive. These fish tend to roam around the lake in schools and once they start to bite — the action is fast — the faster you can take the fish off and rebait — the better. Using the 2 hook setup results in many doubles and a limit catch can be had in a short time. These deeper water fish are mighty good eating.

As for the redears we planted a couple of years ago — the grandkids just caught a couple of 5-6 inchers off the dock. A few guys have said they've caught a couple in the 6-7 inch range. For the past



couple of years we have a large number of big (approaching 9 inches) pumpkinseed sunfish in the lake and these can be mistaken for redears. The best way to identify the pumpkinseed from the redear is to look at the ear flap — if it has red all the way around it — it's a redear — if the red is only in one spot — it's a pumpkinseed. The pumpkinseed is also more brightly colored with greenish lines under its mouth. These redears should be pretty good size by next summer.

The bass have been very plentiful — although they seem to be on the smaller size than in past years. It's not unusual to pick up 10 to 20 fish in the 12-15 inch range in a few hours of fishing in the evening. I've only taken a couple over 18 inches this year. These fish should provide us some excellent bass fishing in the next year or two. Rubber worms, spinnerbaits, and tube jigs fished over the weed beds or in the deeper water near the weeds account for the bigger fish.

Crappies are plentiful this year — but again these seem to be on the smaller size. I've heard of only a few over 11 inches being caught this year. Again maybe these fish will give us a great 2005 fishery.

Walleyes are currently doing their late summer disappearing act. I caught few small ones in May and June and lost a couple of larger ones that surprised me on the bluegill rigs. The walleye fishing should improve with fall.

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Pike were not as plentiful as in past years, but continue to surprise the unwary bass fishermen. I don't know how many (probably at least a couple per week) I lose because they bite through the line. I'm surprised half the pike in this lake aren't dragging around lures with them!

The catfish are still very plentiful and big. Almost every kid that I take fishing manages to catch a big catfish. These fish are "suckers" for just about any kind of bait. Just this week big cats were caught by kids using hot dogs, and yesterday part of ham and cheese sandwich did the trick! These fish sure provide the kids with a lot of excitement.

In July we put 800 pike into the lake. These fish averaged 6 inches at planting and should reach 12 inches or more by this fall. In the past we usually stocked the larger fish in the fall — but last year pike for stocking were not even available — so when the fish man called with these I thought we'd better grab them. We will also plan to stock some walleyes later this fall.

Enough — I'm getting carried away again. Remember if anybody has any questions or comments on the fish in the lake — give me call at 688-3384 or better yet stop by and yak for awhile.

George Rausch

OFFICIAL BALLOT — OCTOBER 2004

Lake Somerset Property Owner's Association

INSTRUCTIONS: Please read carefully

Select 3 candidates for office. Write-in candidates are allowed.

DO NOT put your name or address on the ballot. However, you **MUST** have your name and return address in the upper left hand corner of your envelope for your ballot to be counted. You may also bring your completed ballot to the Annual Meeting. ALL ballots will be tallied at the meeting.

- Tony Harsch
- Marian Clapham
- Steve Harris

This ballot prepared in accordance with Article IV, Section 1-3; Article VII, Section 1 through 11, Rules and Bylaws LSPOA as approved at the Annual Meeting, May, 1979. You may vote in person or by proxy in accordance with the above rules.

Number of lots owned _____



FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED

Somerset, MI 49281

P.O. Box 41

Lake Somerset Property Owner's Association

Attention Ice Fisherman

Soon the winter season will arrive. Just a friendly reminder!

All L.S.P.O.A ice shanty's must have your name, lot # and address on the outside of the shed!!

Chris Scheithauer

Pontoon Removal

If you need to have your raft removed this fall, call Larry at 688-3968, Glen at 688-3861, Mawby at 688-3869, John at 688-4140, or Bob at 688-4771.

To Receive Your Boat Sticker

1. Send your registration with your dues payment.
2. From the guards at the main park on the weekend.
3. Call Marion at 688-4518.
4. Assessments on all property owned must be paid prior to launch.

Please take the time to put lot numbers on all your boats. Several paddle boats have been found with no way to notify the owners. The guards have numbers for anything and everything at the Main Park (4 for \$1.00).

PLEASE NOTIFY LSPOA

**WHEN YOU BUY OR SELL A LOT SO WE CAN KEEP
OUR RECORDS UP TO DATE.**