

THE AUSTIN LAKE
RIPARIAN



Spring, 2008

P.O. Box 44
Portage, MI 49081

Mark your Calendars! Annual Meeting Set for May 8, 2008

The annual meeting of the Austin Lake Riparians will be held at 7:00 PM on Thursday May 8, 2007 in the Lake Center Elementary School gym. This is an excellent opportunity to meet your lake neighbors and become involved in keeping the lake quality up.

Agenda:

- President's Report
- Guest Speaker:
 - John Tucci from Clean-Flo
- Minutes of 2007 Annual Meeting
- Treasurer's Report
- Old Business
 - Weed Control
 - Pfizer's Discharged Rate
- New Business
 - Election of Board Members
 - 3 full Terms
 - 1 Two year terms
 - Website Report

Lawn Care

As you plan your lawn care this season, keep in mind that phosphorus fertilizers can run off into the lake. Phosphorus is a common source of lake weed growth.

County Drain Commissioner

If you have been watching the news, you know that Bill French, Kalamazoo County's Drain Commissioner, suffered a stroke and is unable to fulfill his responsibilities. The County has appointed Pat Krause as temporary Drain Commissioner. His term expires at the end of 2008 and he has recently decided to seek election for the position next year. On Pat's recommendation, the County is creating a new Deputy Drain Commissioner position.

Our president, John Crago, has been in contact with Pat and brought him up-to-date on our lake level concerns.

Did you know...

Portage City Council has assigned councilman Larry DeShazor to represent our lake? Come meet Larry at our Annual Meeting on May 8.

NELSON HARDWARE

We sell a full line of Scotts
LawnPro brand phosphorus-free
fertilizer, safe around the lake!



9029 Portage Road
327-3583



M - F 9-6, Sat. 9-5, Sun. 11-5

Purple Loosestrife

Purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) is a nuisance exotic weed that is extremely invasive in Michigan's wetlands. Although colorful, this plant is extremely undesirable because it prevents many desirable native wetland plants from becoming established.

Purple loosestrife is a perennial herb 3-7 feet tall with a dense bushy growth of 1-50 stems. Showy flowers vary from purple to magenta, possess 5-6 petals aggregated into numerous long spikes, and bloom from July to September. Leaves are opposite, nearly linear, and attached to four-sided stems without stalks.

Kalamazoo County, as well as Austin Lake, has been battling this plant with beetles whose only food is the Purple loosestrife .



As its name implies, the purple loosestrife flower is purple.

Austin Lakes's Best

Your local connection

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Lake Level and Weeds

In the past, Austin Lake has suffered from significant low water levels. At one time, Pfizer's manufacturing processes discharged in excess of 6 million gallons per day into our lake, which help maintain the water level throughout the boating season. Current discharge rate is 1.9 million gallons per day; far less than that required to maintain good water levels. In addition, weed infestation has created concerns in some areas of our lake. Your riparian board is looking into what can be done to improve our lake quality and ease the summer low water problem. We will keep you informed of our progress by news letter and more timely through the Austin Lake web site.

www.austinlakeriparians.org

Lake Facts

Austin Lake has three outlets. One outlet (to Portage Creek) has a dam set to 856 feet above mean sea level (MSL). Another outlet (to Long Lake) has a dam also set to 856 feet

MSL. The last outlet (to West Lake) is a channel with no dam.

Austin Lake is 1090 acres. Long Lake is 575 acres. West Lake is about 560 acres (including a 110 acre wetland).

It takes 325,872 gallons of water to raise one acre of lake water one foot. Thus, to raise all three lakes (Austin, West and Long) one foot would require about 725 million gallons. If a deep well pump were to run for four months, it would need to pump about 6 million gallons per day to raise the three lakes one foot. It makes you appreciate what Pfizer has done for us!

Trailer Rental Procedures

The Austin Lake Pontoon trailer is located at **Right -Way Rental, 8324 Portage Rd.**

Fee: \$25 per 2 hour use, paid in advance. Renter will be required to pay for any damage incurred to the trailer.

Availability: Right-Way Rental is open 8:00 AM –5:00 PM Monday through Saturday. Make reservation and payment in advance for Sunday use.

Call 327-1578 for your reservation.

Note: when renting a pontoon trailer from **Right-Way Rental**, residents must ask for the Austin lake Pontoon Trailer in order for the Austin Lake Riparian Association to receive an use-contribution. The pontoon rental income is the only fundraiser for our lake association, and without it we may have to seek other means to raise operating funds — with membership dues a last resort.

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RIPARIAN 
P.O.Box 44
Portage, MI 49081
Website: www.austinlakeriparians.org

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Attention Renters:
Please pass this newsletter on
to the property owner.
Thank You!

Austin Lake Riparians Board of Directors

John Crago - President - expires 2008	323-2425
Don Mordas - Vice President - expires 2008	492-9181
Sarah Lincoln - Secretary - expires 2009	327-5504
Jeff Cross - Treasurer - expires 2008	321-8992
Wes Carpenter - term expires 2010	323-3522
Seth Giem - term expires 2010	327-4012
Christine Linden - term expires 2009	327-3425
Keith Newburry - term expires 2009	324-9301
Norm Young - term expires 2008	324-6199

Other Positions:

Chris Linden - Website	327-3425
Norm Young - Newsletter Editor and Website	324-6199

Website: www.austinlakeriparians.org

NELSON HARDWARE

DOCK SALE!!! 20% OFF DOCKS

Save on all docks both in-stock and special order
through April 30th. Dock hardware available at our
regular low prices, same as last year. Shop locally!

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